

PROGRAM FOR 9 APRIL

An introduction to Canine Rehabilitation

Presented by Joseph DeLucia DVM

Join us for this lecture on this new discipline of veterinary medicine. Dr DeLucia will talk about treatment as well as sports medicine. Dr. DeLucia has completed the certification course in Canine Rehabilitation at the University of Tennessee and has done his internship at the world renowned Tops Veterinary Rehabilitation in Chicago. He opened his rehab referral practice, Valley Veterinary Rehabilitation, last month. He will be sitting for his certification exam in June at UT and will be among the first graduation class of 20 veterinarians in the country that have completed the program.

Dear Jack —Edna Nelson died March 21 in Wayne. She had lived in Wayne for 17 years, before that in Pequannock. Her husband, Howard died years ago. Edna joined Ramapo several months after we did, and was a very active, supportive member for years. Her original bitch had 1 litter, and produced a quality bitch. She showed the dogs in both obedience and confirmation.

**By the bye- neither Walt House nor Chuck Taylor are listed in the roster. We have not received Christmas cards for the past 2 years and wondered. Did the club have mail returned, or what? We are about to sell the office property in Wayne, which means we will have even less motivation to get up that way. However It is Interesting to see how the club appears to have come full circle and is definitely in the upward cycle again. Say “hello” to all, especially the “old-timers”!
Joanne Nykamp**

Pease note the email address of the GROWL collator and change your books!

GROWL Collator. The way you send it is the way you will see it
Emile Jack Berlet Phone (201)327-6059
1100 Ramapo Valley Road Fax (201)995-0443
Mahwah, NJ 07430-2410 Email- eberlet@optonline.net
All contributions must be in by the 20th of the month

RAMAPO KENNEL CLUB NOMINATING COMMITTEE 2003

Candy Wisnieski, Chair

Arlene Sardo

Randy Paladino

Alternates: Helen Berndt, April Rothwell

The 2003 Nominating committee respectfully submits the following slate for the consideration of the membership. All nominations are for terms of one year, except where specified.

OFFICERS OF THE CLUB:

President: Joanne Silver

Vice President: Jack Berlet

Recording Secretary: Pat Paladino

Corresponding Secretary: Shirley Irwin

Treasurer: Jackie Makoujy

BOARD OF DIRECTORS Class of 2006:

Jerry Iermiero

Keith Paladino

AKC Rep for a three-year term: Rose Radel

Continuing Leadership;

Board Class OF 2004: Lena Tamboer, Ruth Henningsen

Board Class of 2005: Joan Murko, Candy Wisnieski

Immediate Past President: Betty McDonnell

As stipulated by the Constitution of Ramapo Kennel Club, this slate is submitted for the April General Meeting of the club with the election of officers to follow at the Annual Meeting of Ramapo Kennel Club in May.

RAMAPO KENNEL CLUB

March 12, 2003

General Meeting Minutes

The Meeting was called to order at 8:10 p.m. by President, Betty Mc Donnell.

Recording Secretary Pat Paladino advised the minutes from February, 2003 were printed in the GROWL. Minutes were approved as published Jack Berlet and Joy Messinger.

Our Guest for the evening was Lynn Deny and her breed in Newfoundland/Lancier.

Corresponding Secretary Shirley Irwin advised all members and guests to please sign the roll call sheet on the back table.

Shirley also advised that there were several information sheets on the back table.

Treasurer Jackie Makoujy was absent, there was no report.

Sunshine Lorraine Fennemore was absent but Betty Mc Donnell reported that fruit baskets were sent to Sue Cone, her Father passed away and to Bob Haycock who is recovering from open heart surgery.

Point Show Ruth Henningsen reported that we have received AKC approval for the 2 days, Sunday and Monday, October 12 and 13, 2003. We will also be using the lower fairgrounds. Ruth is working on completing the judging panel and as Superintendent, we will most likely be using Jim Rau Dog Shows.

Obedience Classes Candy reported that regular classes will be starting Ann! 1 and 2, 2003

Show Handling. Class last week was canceled due to the weather and tomorrow's class will go on weather permitting.

Match Show: Christine Haycock has received AKC approval and approval for the use of the Veteran's Home in Paramus, NJ. The date is Saturday, June 7, 2003. Christine reported that she still needed a judge for the Working Group. Gay Kuehnel-Hisatake a new member volunteered to Judge the Working Group for our Match Show.

Also needed was a Pre-Novice Obedience, Judge, Linda Lovestad volunteered to judge as well as judging the Best Adult in Match

There will be Rosettes for Best Adult - Best Puppy, High in Trial and Best Junior Handler.

Joanne Silver advised she will purchase the gifts for the judges.

Ring Stewards will also be needed that day, if you are interested please see Christine.

Awards: Elaine B anon,, wished to remind everyone that the deadline for the Awards is April 15, 2003. Also, any nominees for the Good Sportsmanship Award are welcomed.

Betty Mc Donnell asked those members present how they felt about having programs every month after the General Meetings? Should we have programs? Just refreshments? or perhaps a program every other month? People leave after the meeting and do not stay for the program. Based upon the members present, perhaps programs could be held during the months of September, November, January, March and April.

The program for April will be a presentation about Pet Therapy by Dr De Lucia of the Valley Animal Hospital.

Refreshments for the next meeting will be provided by Jack Berlet, Christine Haycock and Betty Mc Donnell. THANK YOU!!~

There is a listing in the GROWL of the books, tapes, videos available through the Club's Librarian, Joy Messinger. If you are interested, please contact Joy and she will get the book / video, for you and bring it to the meeting.

Joy also advised that many of the items in our Library were donated by the wife of Stuart Cochran, including several breed videos.

Beverly Lynn reported that Antoinette Coviello still fields many calls and inquiries for the breeder referral program.

Candy Wisnieski reported of pending legislation regarding the Pit Bull Bill and the addition of other breeds, including Dobermans, Rottweilers and German Shepherd Dogs.

Candy also reported that the debarking law has been dropped, temporarily, in the state of Maryland.

It was suggested that perhaps Joan Murko would consider writing a column for the GROWL about pending legislation and what we could do. Rose Radel stated that the AKC provides by state information to Joan on breed specific bills. it is up to the members to write to the Assembly

Rose Radel our AKC Representative reported on the election of the new AKC Directors, elected were Pat Haines, Carmine Battaglia and Patty Strand. Robert Kelly was not elected but he did receive a nice acknowledgment ~r his work.

The Search for the First Dog film company who were at our Point Show stated that they were pleased with the footage they received at our show and are interested in doing a sequel. The Origin of Dogs can be seen on the National Geographic channel. Dr. Brisbane will try to get us a copy.

There will be an increase in the recording fees for the AKC.

Rose also received a disc of the October, 2002 Parent Club Conference. Keith Paladino has offered to make several copies for the Ramapo Kennel Club library. Also, Rose received a video on AKC inspections, it is a 20 minute video.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:11 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Paladino
Recording Secretary

**RAMAPO KENNEL CLUB ACHIEVEMENT AWARD NOMINATION
CALENDAR YEAR JAN. 1,2002 THROUGH DEC. 31,2002**

Reg. Name of Dog _____
Dog ____ Bitch _____
AKC# _____
Breed/Variety _____

Owner(s) _____

Address _____

Breeder _____

Owned by member(s) _____ Bred by Member(s) _____

Handled by Member(s) _____

*Indicate name of RKC Member who is to receive the award.

CATEGORY

HIGHEST ACHIEVEMENT AWARD

BIS (All Breed) Show _____ Date _____ Country _____

BIS (Specialty) Show _____ Date _____ Country _____

High in Trial Show _____ Date _____ Country _____

Best in Field Trial Show _____ Date _____ Country _____

CHAMPIONSHIP AWARDS

Bench Show Champion Show _____ Date _____ Country _____

Obedience Trial Champion Show _____ Date _____ Country _____

Field Trial Champion Show _____ Date _____ Country _____

OBEDIENCE DEGREE AWARDS

CD Degree Show _____ Date _____ Country _____

CDX Degree Show _____ Date _____ Country _____

UD Degree Show _____ Date _____ Country _____

TD Degree Show _____ Date _____ Country _____

TDX Degree Show _____ Date _____ Country _____

OTHER AKC TITLES (Herding, Field, etc.)

_____	Show	_____	Date	_____	Country
_____	Show	_____	Date	_____	Country
_____	Show	_____	Date	_____	Country

Photo copies of all AKC Titles must be sent with entry. No awards will be given without photocopies. **NO EXCEPTIONS!** Non-AKC Titles will only count towards the breeders award and certificates of achievement. Temperament testing *is* a Non-AKC Title.

Non-Regular Awards and Requirements

Additional Non-AKC Awards (CGC, TT, etc., applicable for Certificate of Achievement only)

_____	Show	_____	Date	_____	Country
_____	Show	_____	Date	_____	Country
_____	Show	_____	Date	_____	Country
_____	Show	_____	Date	_____	Country
_____	Show	_____	Date	_____	Country

AENNCHEN ANTONELLI / GILMA BLAUVELT MOSS BREEDERS AWARD

1. Award to be won by a club member who is the breeder of record of the dogs winning the most titles in each calendar year. Dogs do not need to be owned by the club member. It is the total number of titles won which determines the winner, not the number of individual dogs.
2. Any recognized titles shall be included, i.e. Champion, Obedience, Field, Working Dog, etc.
3. Titles may be won in any country of the world.

LEE ABRAHAM AWARD FOR BREEDER OF THE YEAR

Presented to the owner of the bitch who:

1. Produced the most champions (bred by owner from one bitch only) during the calendar year.
2. Only American Kennel Club Championships to count.

MILLIE MC CABE AWARD FOR STUD DOG OF THE YEAR

Presented to the owner of the Stud Dog who:

1. Produced the most "Champions" during the calendar year.
2. Only American Kennel Club Championships to count.

WILLIAM KLEINMANN'S MEMORIAL AWARD

This Award is figured from January 1, 2000 thru December 31, 2002 for the June 2003 Award. This award Will be based on the greatest number of dogs defeated in breed competition (up to and including Best in Show) by a single dog handled by its Owner. Dogs owned or co-owned by a Professional handler are excluded. If the dog is owned and bandied by more than one member (neither of which is a Professional handler), both members will share the award equally.

RAMAPO KENNEL CLUB

GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD

The following rules govern the choice of the winner of this award each year.

1. This Award is presented to the Ramapo Kennel Club member who has Provided dedicated service to the club and the sport of pure bred dogs.
2. Award is given to a club member who has been nominated by the membership and approved by the board of Directors and Officers.
3. To be presented at June Awards Dinner. Recipient only may be told to insure their being present.

Eligibility for Ramapo Kennel Club Awards

In order to apply and receive any Achievement Awards, members must fulfill at least tow of the following:

1. Work the Point Show
2. Work the Match Show
3. Attend two (2) Club Meetings
4. Work at Obedience and/or Show Handling Classes
5. Work on a Club Committee
6. Participate in a Public Education Demonstration through the Club.
7. Participate in *A* Pet Therapy Session through the Club

(Life Members or members living more than 60 miles from show functions are exempt)

In addition, to give recognition to a greater number of members, Achievement Awards will be limited to three(3) consecutive winds by a member.

All award entries must be received by APRIL 15Th, 2003 with photocopies of Wins and Titles to;

ELAINE BARONE
10 BIRCH ROAD
KINNELON, NJ 07405-2505
E-mail elaineb.bowow@juno.com

YOU MAY E-MAIL ME YOUR LETTERS FOR THE “GOOD SPORTSMANSHIP AWARD”.

Feel free to e-mail me your awards ONLY if you can scan the forms and certificates required. Thank you and look forward to hearing from all of you.

RAMAPO KENNEL CLUB: INFORMATION ON CLASSES

“A well balanced dog has a title at each end.”

CLASS LOCATION: AMERICAN LEGION HALL LITTLE FALLS, NJ
DIRECTIONS, routes 46 or 80 to Rte 23 south. At first light after Willowbrook Mall, turn left on Maui Street. Go approximately mile and turn left on Van Ness Ave. (Town Tavern is on corner) American Legion Hall is 1/8 mile on left.

A COPY OF A VETERINARIANS CERTIFICATE OF CURRENT IMMUNIZATIONS IS REQUIRED FOR ALL CLASSES. PUPPIES WILL BE ACCEPTED AT THE AGE WHEN IMMUNIZATIONS ARE DEEMED SUFFICIENT BY THEIR VETS.

OBEDIENCE CLASSES 2002-2003

3 EIGHT-WEEK SESSIONS STARTING: SEPTEMBER 17th, JANUARY 14TH & APRIL ~
REGISTRATION PERIODS: 8/15-9/6; 11/15-1/7; 3/1-3/31

SCHEDULE: TUESDAY EVENINGS	WEDNESDAY EVENINGS
6:00-7:30 Instructors' Training Session (Therapy Class TBA)	6:00-6:30 set-up
7:30-8:15 Beginners	6:30-7:30 Puppy Kindergarten
8:30-9:15 Novice II	7:30-8:15 Beginners
9:30-10:30 Open	8:30-9:15 Novice I
10:30-10:45 Clean-up	9:30-10:30 Instructors Open Floor/Utility
	10:30-10:45 Clean-up

FEES: \$100. For each Beginner/KPT Class, includes equipment. \$90. All others
DISCOUNTS for shelter/rescue dogs, club members, dogs repeating a class
PRE-REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED FOR ALL CLASSES. FOR INFORMATION OR IN CASE OF
INCLEMENT WEATHER, PLEASE CALL CANDY WISNIESM AT 973 783 9436 OR E-MAIL:
AWISNIESKI@AOL.COM

OBEDIENCE CLASS CALENDAR: CGC/THERAPY TESTS 12/04/02 & 6/10/03

FALL: Tuesday Classes Meet: 9/17, 10/1, 10/8, 10/15, 10/29, 11/5, 11/12, 12/3
No Class: 9/24, 10/22, 11/19, 11/26

Wednesday Classes Meet: 9/18, 9/25, 10/2, 10/16, 10/23, 10/30, 11/6, 11/20
No Class: 10/9, 11/13, 11/27

WINTER: Tuesday Classes Meet: 1/14, 1/21, 2/4, 2/11, 2/18, 3/4, 3/11, 3/18
No Class: 1/28, 2/25, 3/25

Wednesday Classes Meet: 1/15, 1/22, 1/29, 2/5, 2/19, 2/26, 3/5, 3/19
No Class: 2/12, 3/12

SPRING: Tuesday Classes Meet: 4/1, 4/8, 4/15, 4/29, 5/6, 5/13, 5/20, 6/3
No Class: 4/29, 5/27

Wednesday Classes Meet: 4/2, 4/16, 4/23, 4/30, 5/7, 5/21, 5/28, 6/4
No Class: 4/9, 5/14

ORIENTATION SESSIONS FOR NEW STUDENTS: 9/10, 1/7, 3/26
HANDLERS ONLY; NO DOGS

GUESTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME AT RAMAPO ACTIVITIES. PLEASE ASK YOUR
INSTRUCTOR FOR DETAILS OF MEETINGS, SHOWS AND MATCHES.

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CONFIRMATION SHOW HANDLING CLASSES 2002-2003

REGISTRATION IS ON-GOING AND STARTS AUGUST 1,2002

SCHEDULE: THURSDAY EVENINGS

6:00 – 7:00 Open Floor

7:00-7:45 Beginners: \$40. Per 5 lesson series
11/7

7:45-8:30 Open: \$7. Per dog drop-in
12/19

8:30-9:15 Open &/or Open Floor

As buildings that allow
Dogs are valuable, site rules will be
Posted and strictly enforced
Thanks for cooperating.

CALENDAR:

Series 1: 9/5, 9/12, 9/19, 9/26,10/3

Series II: 10/10,10/17, 10/24, 10/31,

Series III: 1/14,11/21, 12/5, 12/12

No class: 11/28

Holiday Break

Series LV: 1/9, 1/16, 1/23, 1/30, 2/6

Series V: 2/13, 2/20, 2/27, 3/6, 3/13

Series VI: 3/20, 3/27, 4/3, 4/10, 4/17

Series VII: 4/24, 5/1, 5/8, 5/15, 5/22

Open Only: 5/29 & 6/5

ALL BEGINNER CLASSES MUST BE PRE-REGISTERED FOR REGISTRATION
INFORMATION

OR IN CASE OF INCLEMENT WEATHER, PLEASE CALL MARION HAYCOOK AT
(973)256-0834

OR JOY GRAEME MESSINGER AT (973)239-1131

RAMAPO KENNEL CLUB ACTIVITIES 2001-2002:

GUESTS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME. Please ask you instructor for information on:
RAMAPO MEETINGS AND MONTHLY PROGRAMS; RAMAPO's OCTOBER POINT
SHOW;RAMAPO EYE CLINICS; RAMAPO MATCH SHOW; THERAPY & SCHOOL
VISITS; AND CLUB MEMBERSHIP

Lost Dogs/Cats and Scam Artists

By Ruth Darlene Stewart

Aladarbeagles@hotmail.com

Several years ago I had a rescue cat disappear, he got out and was just gone. I ran an ad in the local newspaper and a few days later a “long distance” truck driver called me and said he had found my cat on a road about 1/2 mile across a field from my house. He said he was on the side of the road scared and he caught him and put him in the cab of the truck. He identified the cat correctly as I asked him questions about the found cat. The truck driver said he was in Birmingham and would ship my cat to me if I wired him 100.00 dollars.

I was initially skeptical due to the fact the rescue cat was still very timid and I could not imagine him just letting someone pick him up. So instead of wiring him money I suggested that I arrange for my friends in Birmingham to meet him at a place of his choosing and they would give him 200.00 cash and take the cat. He immediately started saying he must get on the road, behind schedule, could not wait etc. I then refused to wire him money without proof he had my cat

The end of the story is that he did not have my cat I later learned via the police and news media that this is a nationwide scam.

Just a few weeks ago there was a dog lost at a local show. The handler was contacted just as I described and did indeed wire money to the person. The person that supposedly found the dog was again a “long distance truck driver” and he was in another state with the dog. The dog *was* not sent to the handler and later found in a neighborhood next to show grounds.

Here are a few hints from the Police to help avoid this type scam.

When you place an ad in the Newspaper, or put-up flyers; keep the information general. An example of what to say is: Lost orange cat near McDonald road around 3/02/99.

An example of what not to say is: Lost male Manx orange cat with collar the night of 3/02/99 has *tattoo/microchip*.

The second example gives the potential scammer too much information. The first ad will get much more attention and then you can ask leading questions of the rescuer.

Here again are some examples of correct questions.

Do you have a female cat? The scammer would answer-Yes. Then you would say “well sorry that is not my cat, he is a male.”

Do you have a cat with a busy tail? The scammer would say- Yes. Then again I would have known it was not my cat. My Manx did not have a tail.

Is there a tattoo on the inside of left ear? Answer from scammer-Yes, Again, this is not my animal-he does not have a tattoo.

Did he have a red collar on? Answer from Scammer is -Yes. Well no that is not my cat his collar was blue?

I hope you get the idea. You ask question trying to make the scammer answer wrong. If someone has truly found your lost cat or dog they will have the right answer.

If you are contacted try and get a number from your caller or some way of tracking this type person. Just remember that there are terrible people that will take advantage of other people in search of their lost pets.

CD and HIT for Teddy at Connecticut Collie Specialties Weekend

At Collie Club of New England, Teddy earned his first leg in Novice B with a first place. At Collie Club of Connecticut, Teddy earned his second leg with a first place and High in Trial!

At Hartford Springfield Collie Club, Teddy earned his third leg and Companion Dog title. Teddy, 'Tartanside Adventure CD (Am., ASCA), **CGC-TDI, HIC, BPDx, TDIA, PAT, VCCX**' is owned and trained by Elizabeth M. Smith

'This article from NYTimes.com 'has been sent to you by ViMan Bregman

"When Dogs Must Fly" March 9, 2003

By HOPE REEVES

'DOG owners often struggle over what to do with their pets 'when they travel. But though many pet owners and breeders 'happily fly their dogs hither and thither, there also 'exists a vocal contingent of animal rights activists who strongly discourage the practice. The American Society for 'the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals and the Humane Society 'warn of the dangers of flying dogs in the cargo holds of 'planes .including overheating or freezing, suffocating and 'being mishandled, lost or loose .and suggest avoiding it 'if possible.

“‘It’s a hit or miss thing .like playing Russian roulette,’ ‘said Lisa Weisberg, A.S.P.C.A. senior vice president for ‘government affairs and public policy. “Your dog could ‘arrive fine or not at all” Yet each group acknowledges ‘that sometimes flying with your dog is practically ‘unavoidable, and therefore each offers advice on how best ‘to keep Fido safe.

'In the Cabin

'Animal experts agree that the best way for your dog to fly 'is with you, in the cabin. Except for Southwest Airlines, 'which does not fly animals at all, the major airlines allow pets that meet certain conditions to be carried on as hand 'luggage. Most allow only one to two per cabin per flight; 'reservations are required, and the dog must be in a carrying case approved by the Department of Agriculture; 'many over-the-counter ones qualify. The container must be ~big enough for the dog to stand in but small enough to lit 'under the seat in front of you. The maximum size is about ~23 inches by 14 inches by 9 inches, which translates into a ~dog of 20 pounds or less, but may vary by airline.

'Some airlines and destinations may require that a veterinarian issue a health certificate within 10 days of 'transport; no airline will fly dogs under 8 weeks of age. 'The airlines ask that only well-behaved dogs that do not 'haw an offensive odor, bark a lot or require constant 'attention be taken on board. Taking a pet out of the case 'during the flight is not allowed. Some airlines do not 'allow carry-on pets on trans-Atlantic flights.

'If you cannot carry your dog on board, either because the 'cabin pet space is booked or because the dog is too big to 'fit under your seat, the major airlines, except Southwest, 'will allow you to check the animal as luggage in the cargo 'hold. Because many plane bellies are pressurized but not 'temperature-controlled and because flight delays are 'unpredictable, the airlines do haw restrictions on when 'dogs can fly.

'Delta and American will not ship dogs between May 15 and 'Sept. 15, when heat can be extreme, or if the temperature 'drops below 45 degrees at the destination. United will not ship an animal when the temperature is forecast to exceed '85 or to drop below freezing, and US Airways may place an 'embargo on animals at any time due to extreme heat.

'Some airlines will lilt the winter restrictions with a 'certificate from a veterinarian issued no more than 10 days 'before departure stating that the dog can withstand 'temperatures lower than 45 degrees for a prolonged period. 'Certain dogs .including adult pit bulls, Doberman 'pinschers, American Staffordshire terriers, bull terriers 'and Rottweilers .are embargoed on some airlines, and more 'stringent weather restrictions can be applied to 'shod-nosed dogs with the potential for breathing problems, 'like pugs, boxers and Shih Tzus. The airlines do not allow 'pets to be checked at curbside, and recommend that 'passengers checking animals arrive a bit earlier than 'usual. Fees range from \$75 to \$100 on most airlines, but 'Continental charges \$99 to \$329, according to weight. (The 'fees help pay for its new Pet Safe program, which includes 'personal handling in climate-controlled vehicles and a '24-hour animal help line for information and tracking.) 'International rates vary, as do restrictions on an

animal's 'entry to a state or country. Its a good idea to check with 'the state's agriculture department or the country's 'embassy.

Also, each airport may have its own temperature 'regulations. The airlines recommend that you inform yourself before flying and contact the freight department a 'day before departure and again on the day of departure to check the forecast. A hot or cold spell at either end could put an end to your dogs vacation plans.

'Pet owners who fly regularly with dogs learn to nag, 'according to Trudy Kerr, a small breeder in Calgary, 'Alberta, and the host of trawling dogs.com, a dog lovers' 'Web site. She recommends that you keep asking "Is my dog on? Can you check to see if he's O.K.~ by radioing the 'baggage crew while still on the ground.

'The airlines maintain that they follow all requirements of the Animal Welfare Act, a 1966 act of Congress (with many 'amendments) outlining the proper treatment of animals during transit. The Air Transport Association, the 'airlines' industry organization, says that its own well-publicized estimate that some 99 percent of the >500,000 animals flown per year arrive without problems was 'misconstrued to mean that 1 percent, or 5000, are lost, injured or killed. They say the number reflects only trips 'with problems, which often means the animal does not fly at 'all because of weather or lack of a health certificate or improper crate. The A.T.A., along with serious animal 'experts, offers advice on how to make flying safer for your dog. 'the rules say they will force the airlines to take better care of pets. Opponents, including the airlines and the American Kennel Club, say the demands are onerous and too expensive.

If the rules are adopted, according to Michael Wascom, Air 'Transport Association spokesman, they will probably cause some airlines to stop carrying pets altogether.

Making Flying Safer

Get the dog a medical Checkup before travel and make sure 'all vaccinations are up to date, especially for dogs over 7, which should have liver and kidney functions checked.

Make sure your dog is wearing a collar with a tag giving 'both its name and your name and address.

Book a direct flight if possible.

Use a U.S.D.A.-approved shipping crate big enough for your dog to stand, sit and 'change position comfortably. Make sure the crate fastens 'securely so the animal cannot escape, but do not lock it. 'Line the bottom with towels for comfort and to absorb 'accidents. Write "Live Animal" on top of the crate and use 'arrows to indicate which side is up. Freeze water in a bowl 'secured to the crate so it will not spill during loading 'but will soon melt for drinking.

Do not tranquilize the dog, which can hamper breathing. If 'it is necessary, check with a vet.

Be a pest. Tell every airline employee you see that your pet is in the cargo hold so that added considerations or attention can be provided during loading and unloading.

Ask to watch your dog being loaded on and off the plane.

If there are extended layovers or delays, ask that the dog 'be taken off the plane or tarmac.

Additional comfort to pet owners may be on its way via the 'Federal Aviation Administration, which has proposed that 'the airlines be required to report to the public all animal