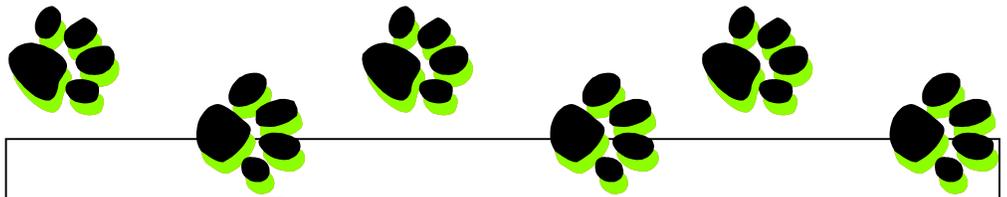


# Sportsmen's Dog Training Club of Detroit, Inc.

October,  
2009



Pat Diefenbach,  
Editor  
tiswa2@aol.com



## *K-9 Kapers*

### **Humanity and Pets Partnered Through the Years - H.R. 3501**

**Excerpt from The Little Rock  
Animal Care Examiner  
September 18, 2009**

For many people, pets are family. Sometimes the only family they have. For others, pets are their children. There are tax deductions to families for their dependants. Pets are dependants. So, why not give tax deductions for pets?

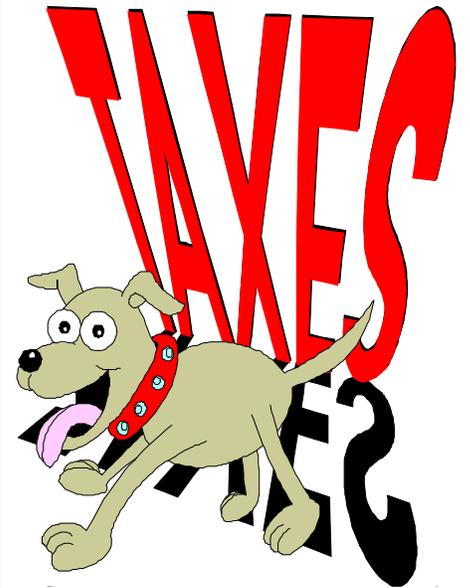
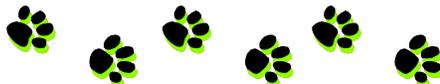
This was probably what motivated Congressional Representative Thaddeus McCotter (R, MI) to introduce H.R. 3501, or the HAPPY (Humanity and Pets Partnered Through the Years) act.

...

The Happy Act would amend the IRS code to allow pet owners to deduct qualified pet care expenses. These would include the cost of veterinary treatment, pet care services, and pet-related products, up to \$3500 per annually.

...

The passing of H.R. 3501 would allow pet owners to provide the pets in their families with better, more consistent care, potentially extending the lives of their pets. The tax deductions would also encourage the creation of more pet-related jobs.



**Are you doing  
something  
new or different  
with your dog(s) ?**

Write about it !  
Photograph it !  
Draw it !



Send it to me !!!  
Pat  
tiswa2@aol.com

# KATE'S FIRST DUCK

by Judy Dahlke



Kate is my nine month old Lab and is in training for hunt tests.

When Kate was five months old, at the urging of two good friends, I took her to training sessions being held at Farpointe Retrievers. We have been going twice a week all summer. The group of dogs and handlers' experience range from puppies (two of which are Kate's littermates) to master hunters.

Kate had been retrieving bumpers on land and in the water fairly well, when it was time to introduce her, along with the other novice dogs in the group, to birds. The method used is to take a literally dead duck, get the dog excited about it, and have them retrieve it.

Now, you would think a Lab, who retrieves anything and everything, would not have a problem. In fact, most retrievers do not have a problem. But, once in a while to a young dog, ducks are large, smelly, oily, and not as exciting as a Frisbee, a slobbery ball, or a bumper. If the dog is not interested in picking up the duck at first, you get silly with the duck, trying to make it the most interesting thing in the world, throw it up in the air, and do just about anything to get the dog to retrieve it. Picture five people making complete fools out of themselves with dead birds in their hands trying to get their dogs enthusiastic. Eventually all of the dogs picked up their ducks and paraded around with them.....except Kate. No matter what I did, Kate was not even remotely interested. Finally, she sat down, turned her back to the duck, and watched the older dogs work. G-R-E-A-T!

Naturally, one of the retrieving exercises for the young dogs that session was to have the dead duck thrown into the pond, have the dog retrieve the duck, and come back to shore with their bird.

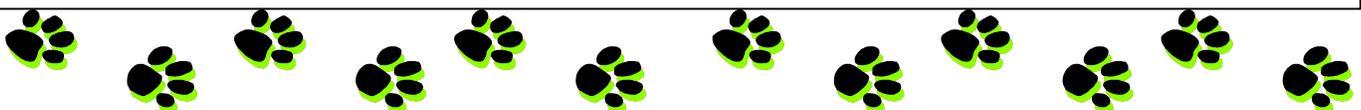
When it was our turn, I took Kate and the duck to the shoreline. When asked if Kate had picked up the duck, I answered with a very quiet "no". "That's ok. They usually pick the duck up in the water" was the response I got. The reasoning behind the response is, in water both the duck and the dog's head are at the same level so all the dog has to do is open his mouth, close it around the duck, make a U-turn, and swim back to shore.

So the duck is thrown, Kate launches into the water, gets the duck (Hooray!), makes a U-turn, and swims back. When Kate gets out of the pond, she gently places the duck on the ground, stares at it as if to say "I can't believe I put that yucky thing in my mouth!" and walks off, leaving the duck. Clean up in Aisle 9!

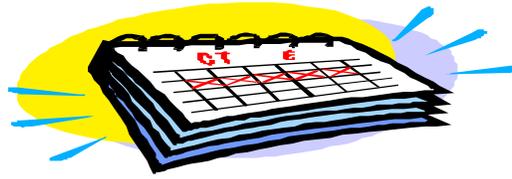
Since then I am happy to say Kate has not had any problems bringing back ducks on land or water. Whew!

Kate earned a WC and has two out of the needed four passes for a JH title.

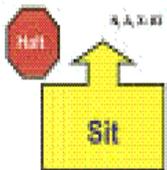
## Kate's first Rally Novice leg



# MARK THIS DATE



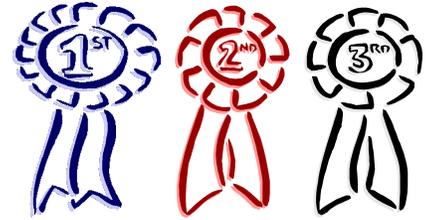
|   |   |                    |
|---|---|--------------------|
| SDTCD Rally & Obedience Fun Matches                       | 11/13/09, 12/11/09, 1/15/10, 2/19/10, 3/19/10, 4/16/10, 5/14/10, 6/18/10, 7/16/10, 8/13/10, 9/10/10, 10/15/10, 11/19/10, 12/10/10 |                    |
| CGC Testing<br>Wednesdays, 11:15 AM<br>Thursdays, 8:30 PM | 10/21/09, 12/16/09<br>10/22/09, 11/19/09, 12/17/09  |                    |
| SDTCD Obedience Demo at Oakland Cty KC Show               | January 23 – 24, 2010   | Rock Finc, Novi    |
| Nancy Kleinhans Agility Seminar                           | November 21 – 22, 2009  | SDTCD building     |
| Laura Romanik Seminar                                     | January 16, 2010  | SDTCD building     |
| Laura Koutsky Workshop                                    | June 26 – 27, 2010  | SDTCD building     |
| Connie Cleveland Seminar                                  | June 16 – 17, 2011  | SDTCD building     |
| SDTCD AKC Obedience & Rally Trial                         | October 23 – 25, 2009   | SDTCD building     |
| SDTCD AKC Obedience & Rally Trial                         | February 26 – 28, 2010  | SDTCD building     |
| SDTCD AKC Obedience & Rally Trial                         | October 29 – 31, 2010   | SDTCD building     |
| SDTCD Agility Trial                                       | March 6 – 7, 2010   | Cobo Hall, Detroit |
| SDTCD Agility Trial                                       | June 5 – 6, 2010  | Total Soccer, Novi |



# RALLY RESULTS

|                     |             |                             |    |   |
|---------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|----|---|
| <b>Kim O'Neill</b>  | <b>Drew</b> | <b>Portuguese Water Dog</b> |    |   |
| DKC                 | 2/28/09     | Adv B                       | 97 | )   |
| DKC                 | 2/28/09     | Exc B                       | 84 | 4 <sup>th</sup> place ) 3 <sup>rd</sup> RAE |
| Port Water Dog Spec | 9/15/09     | Adv B                       | 98 | 4 <sup>th</sup> place )                     |
| Port Water Dog Spec | 9/15/09     | Exc B                       | 87 | ) 4 <sup>th</sup> RAE                       |
| <b>Kim O'Neill</b>  | <b>Izze</b> | <b>Portuguese Water Dog</b> |    |   |
| SDTCD               | 2/20/09     | Adv A                       | 97 | 1 <sup>st</sup> place 1 <sup>st</sup> leg   |
| DKC                 | 2/28/09     | Adv A                       | 92 | 1 <sup>st</sup> place 2 <sup>nd</sup> leg   |
| Gtr Lansing OTC     | 8/6/09      | Adv A                       | 99 | 3 <sup>rd</sup> place 3 <sup>rd</sup> leg   |
| Port Water Dog Spec | 9/15/09     | Adv B                       | 95 |   |
| Pontiac KC          | 9/5/09      | Exc A                       | 94 | 1 <sup>st</sup> place 1 <sup>st</sup> leg   |
| Port Water Dog Spec | 9/15/09     | Exc A                       | 70 | 1 <sup>st</sup> place 2 <sup>nd</sup> leg   |





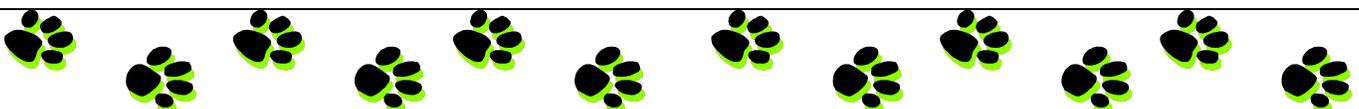
## OBEDIENCE RESULTS

| <b>Cheri Berger</b>      | <b>Cedar</b> | <b>Golden Retriever</b> |       |                       |           |
|--------------------------|--------------|-------------------------|-------|-----------------------|-----------|
| Livonia KC               | 8/29/09      | Util                    | 195   | 2 <sup>nd</sup> place |           |
| Livonia KC               | 8/30/09      | Open                    | 196.5 | 4 <sup>th</sup> place |           |
| Pontiac KC               | 9/5/09       | Open                    | 196.5 |                       | )         |
| Pontiac KC               | 9/5/09       | Utility                 | 192   | 4 <sup>th</sup> place | ) UDX #12 |
| Pontiac KC               | 9/6/09       | Open                    | 198   |                       | )         |
| Pontiac KC               | 9/6/09       | Utility                 | 194   |                       | ) UDX #13 |
| Fort Detroit Golden Spec | 9/11/09      | Util                    | 193.5 | 2 <sup>nd</sup> place |           |
| St Clair KC              | 9/12/09      | Open                    | 194.5 |                       | )         |
| St Clair KC              | 9/12/09      | Util                    | 189.5 |                       | ) UDX #14 |
| St Clair KC              | 9/13/09      | Open                    | 197.5 | 4 <sup>th</sup> place | )         |
| St Clair KC              | 9/13/09      | Util                    | 190.5 |                       | ) UDX #15 |
| Eng Spr Span Spec MI     | 9/17/09      | Open                    | 195.5 |                       |           |
| Eng Spr Span Spec MI     | 9/19/09      | Open                    | 196.5 | 2 <sup>nd</sup> place | )         |
| Eng Spr Span Spec MI     | 9/19/09      | Util                    | 195.5 | 2 <sup>nd</sup> place | ) UDX #16 |
| SMOTC                    | 9/26/09      | Open                    | 198   | 2 <sup>nd</sup> place |           |
| SMOTC                    | 9/27/09      | Util                    | 193   |                       |           |

| <b>Cheri Berger</b>      | <b>Echo</b> | <b>Golden Retriever</b> |       |                       |                     |
|--------------------------|-------------|-------------------------|-------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Livonia KC               | 8/30/09     | Open                    | 198   | 2 <sup>nd</sup> place |                     |
| Pontiac KC               | 9/5/09      | Open                    | 197.5 | 3 <sup>rd</sup> place |                     |
| Pontiac KC               | 9/6/09      | Open                    | 199   | 3 <sup>rd</sup> place |                     |
| Fort Detroit Golden Spec | 9/11/09     | Open                    | 197.5 | 1 <sup>st</sup> place | HIT                 |
| Fort Detroit Golden Spec | 9/11/09     | Versatility             | 196.5 | 1 <sup>st</sup> place | 1 <sup>st</sup> leg |
| St Clair KC              | 9/12/09     | Util                    | 197   | 2 <sup>nd</sup> place |                     |
| St Clair KC              | 9/13/09     | Open                    | 197   |                       | )                   |
| St Clair KC              | 9/13/09     | Util                    | 194   |                       | ) UDX #26           |
| Eng Spr Span Spec MI     | 9/17/09     | Open                    | 197.5 | 3 <sup>rd</sup> place |                     |
| Eng Spr Span Spec MI     | 9/19/09     | Open                    | 195.5 | 3 <sup>rd</sup> place |                     |
| SMOTC                    | 9/26/09     | Open                    | 196.5 |                       | )                   |
| SMOTC                    | 9/26/09     | Util                    | 192   |                       | ) UDX #27           |

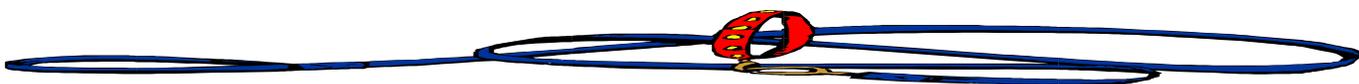
| <b>Jerry Catalina</b> | <b>Rex</b> | <b>Golden Retriever</b> |       |                       |                     |
|-----------------------|------------|-------------------------|-------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| Livonia KC            | 8/29/09    | Util A                  | 191   | 1 <sup>st</sup> place | 1 <sup>st</sup> leg |
| Pontiac KC            | 9/5/09     | Util A                  | 185   | 1 <sup>st</sup> place | 2 <sup>nd</sup> leg |
| Pontiac KC            | 9/6/09     | Util A                  | 187.5 | 1 <sup>st</sup> place | 3 <sup>rd</sup> leg |
| Ann Arbor KC          | 10/3/09    | Versatility             | 190.5 | 3 <sup>rd</sup> place | 1 <sup>st</sup> leg |

continued on next page



## OBEDIENCE RESULTS – con't

|                     |             |                             |       |   |
|---------------------|-------------|-----------------------------|-------|---|
| <b>Kim O'Neill</b>  | <b>Izze</b> | <b>Portuguese Water Dog</b> |       |   |
| Livonia KC          | 8/30/09     | Nov B                       | 191.5 | 2 <sup>nd</sup> place 1 <sup>st</sup> leg |
| Pontiac KC          | 9/5/09      | Nov B                       | 191.5 | 2 <sup>nd</sup> place 2 <sup>nd</sup> leg |
| Port Water Dog Spec | 9/16/09     | Nov B                       | 182   | 3 <sup>rd</sup> leg                       |
| <b>Rene Sutton</b>  | <b>Maxi</b> | <b>Golden Retriever</b>     |       |   |
| SDTCD               | 2/22/09     | Open B                      | 184.5 |   |
| Livonia KC          | 8/31/09     | Open B                      | 198   |   |
| Pontiac KC          | 9/6/09      | Open B                      | 192.5 |   |



## CONFORMATION RESULTS



|                      |  |                                   |                  |
|----------------------|--|-----------------------------------|------------------|
| <b>Shirley Baker</b> | <b>Star K's Mile High Dangerous Daphne "Dani"</b>  | <b>German Shorthaired Pointer</b> |                  |
| 5/___/09             | Mt Pleasant  |                                   | BOB              |
| 7/12/09              | Marshall   |                                   | BOB Group 1      |
| <b>Shirley Baker</b> | <b>Mi-Ti's Three Cheers "Quincy"</b>               | <b>Doberman</b>                   |                  |
| 7/___/09             | Waukesha   |                                   | WD 5 pt major    |
|                      |  | <b>NEW AKC CHAMPION</b>           |                  |
| 8/22/09              | _____  |                                   | BOB              |
| 8/23/09              | _____  |                                   | BOB              |
| 8/29/09              | Pontiac  |                                   | BOB              |
| 8/30/09              | Pontiac  |                                   | BOB Group 1      |
| <b>Liz McCloud</b>   | <b>Mi-Ti's Image Is Everything "Lenny"</b>         | <b>Pointer</b>                    |                  |
| 9/5/09               | Pontiac KC   |                                   | BOB Group 2      |
| <b>Kim O'Neill</b>   | <b>Hunter's I'm in the Issone Go Green! "Izze"</b> | <b>Portuguese Water Dog</b>       |                  |
| 5/1/09               | MI Gun Dog   |                                   | Best Female      |
| 5/1/09               | MI Pit Bull Terr Club                              |                                   | BOB Group 3      |
| 5/2/09               | MI Pit Bull Terr Club                              |                                   | BOB              |
| 5/2/09               | MI Pit Bull Terr Club                              |                                   | BOB 2 Top Ten Pt |
| 5/3/09               | MI Pit Bull Terr Club                              |                                   | BOB 2 Top Ten Pt |
|                      |  | <b>NEW UKC CHAMPION</b>           |                  |



# AGILITY RESULTS



|                          |              |                             |     |                       |                     |
|--------------------------|--------------|-----------------------------|-----|-----------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Michelle Caldwell</b> | <b>Washu</b> | <b>Labrador Retriever</b>   |     |                       |                     |
| STDCD                    | 3/1/09       | Nov A Standard              | 95  | 1 <sup>st</sup> place | 2 <sup>nd</sup> leg |
| SDTCD                    | 5/30/09      | Nov A Standard              | 100 | 1 <sup>st</sup> place | 3 <sup>rd</sup> leg |
| JBWC                     | 7/5/09       | Lvl 1 Standard              |     |                       | (CP1-R)             |
| JBRC                     | 7/5/09       | Lvl 1 Hand Games            |     |                       | (CP1-H)             |
| Weimaraner Club          | 7/19/09      | Nov B JWW                   | 95  | 1 <sup>st</sup> place | 2 <sup>nd</sup> leg |
| CDTC                     | 8/23/09      | Open Standard               |     | 2 <sup>nd</sup> place | 1 <sup>st</sup> leg |
| SCCA                     | 9/6/09       | Lvl 1 Full House            |     | 1 <sup>st</sup> place | 2 <sup>nd</sup> leg |
| <b>Kim O'Neill</b>       | <b>Drew</b>  | <b>Portuguese Water Dog</b> |     |                       |                     |
| SDTCD                    | 2/28/09      | Nov Pref                    | 100 | 1 <sup>st</sup> place | 2 <sup>nd</sup> leg |
| SDTCD                    | 3/1/09       | Nov Pref                    | 100 | 1 <sup>st</sup> place | 3 <sup>rd</sup> leg |
| Cap City Canine          | 8/1/09       | Nov Fast Pref               | 55  | 1 <sup>st</sup> place | 3 <sup>rd</sup> leg |
| <b>Kim O'Neill</b>       | <b>Izze</b>  | <b>Portuguese Water Dog</b> |     |                       |                     |
| MI Dog Agility           | 5/16/09      | Ag 1                        | 200 | 1 <sup>st</sup> place | 1 <sup>st</sup> leg |
| MI Dog Agility           | 5/16/09      | Ag 1                        | 197 | 1 <sup>st</sup> place | 2 <sup>nd</sup> leg |
| MI Dog Agility           | 5/17/09      | Ag 1                        | 193 | 2 <sup>nd</sup> place | 3 <sup>rd</sup> leg |
| SDTCD                    | 5/30/09      | Nov B Standard              | 100 | 1 <sup>st</sup> place | 1 <sup>st</sup> leg |
| SDTCD                    | 5/31/09      | Nov B JWW                   | 100 | 1 <sup>st</sup> place | 1 <sup>st</sup> leg |
| S MI Weimaraner          | 7/17/09      | Nov B Standard              | 100 | 1 <sup>st</sup> place | 2 <sup>nd</sup> leg |
| Cap City Canine          | 8/1/09       | Nov B Standard              | 95  | 1 <sup>st</sup> place | 3 <sup>rd</sup> leg |
| Cap City Canine          | 8/1/09       | Nov B Fast                  | 50  | 3 <sup>rd</sup> place | 1 <sup>st</sup> leg |

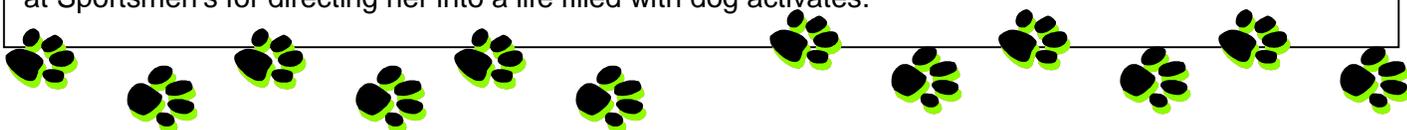
## Interesting Conversation

by Cherie Berger

At the St. Clair KC Obedience trials this past weekend, Rene and I were conversing with one of the judges, Judy Brown from Houston, Texas. She was judging both obedience & conformation that day. Judy told us how she took her first dog, a very wild, male, Doberman Pinscher to obedience class in the early 1970's at Sportsmen's in Ferndale.

She told us how her dog was so wild and out of control, she was very embarrassed and did not plan to return to another class. Then at the end of the class, she was given a little plastic trophy for the "Most Improved" on the first night. Well that did it, she was so thrilled with this token of her potential that she stayed on. After her class she sat and watched the next class and was amazed to watch me with my Golden Retriever "Boomer" doing hand signals and jumps.

She said that after that she was totally smitten by the "obedience bug". She took her first Doberman on through Utility. Later earning many HIT's on her Dobses & Goldens. She credits her basic beginner class at Sportsmen's for directing her into a life filled with dog activities.



## WHAT ELSE... ???

What else are you doing ? Hunt tests, earth dog, tracking, lure coursing, water events, carting, dock diving, ... E-Mail me (tisa2@aol.com) your **2009** legs and/or titles and I'll list them here. I hope I came close to listing this information correctly, since I don't know what most of it means !  
Pat

|   |   |  |  |  |
|---|---|--|--|--|
| <b>Judy Dahlke</b><br>Huron River Lab Ret Club<br>_____<br>MI Flyway<br>MI Flyway | <b>Kate</b><br>8/9/09<br>8/22/09<br>8/2/309<br>9/19/09<br>9/20/09 | <b>Labrador Retriever</b><br>_____<br>Junior Hunter<br>Junior Hunter<br>Junior Hunter<br>Junior Hunter | 1 <sup>st</sup> leg<br>2 <sup>nd</sup> leg<br>3 <sup>rd</sup> leg<br>4 <sup>th</sup> leg | WC<br><br><br>JH title                             |
| <b>Kathy Kennedy</b><br>MGA Trial<br>Lansing<br>_____<br>On the Rebound           | <b>Link</b><br>7/5/09<br>10/___/08<br>_____<br>9/5/09             | <b>Whippet</b><br>Lure Coursing<br>Tracking<br>Whippet racing<br>Flyball                               | Best in Field  | Fch title<br>TD title<br>CRX title<br>FDCh-S title |
| <b>Kathy Kennedy</b><br>AADTC<br>_____<br>MGA Trial                               | <b>Bella</b><br>5/___/09<br>_____<br>5/___/09                     | <b>Whippet</b><br>Tracking<br>Whippet racing<br>Lure coursing  | Best in Field  | TD title<br>CR title                               |
| <b>Kathy Kennedy</b><br>_____<br>_____  | <b>Swift</b><br>8/___/08  | <b>Whippet</b><br>Whippet racing   |  | CRX6 title   |

## Dog Show People – Newcomers Field Guide Linda Hazen Lewis – continued from the last K-9 Kapers

This is a very tongue in cheek look at the people found at dog shows. To a novice, a dog show can be a daunting experience. The initial impression is often one of a single-purpose county fair where many grim-faced people run about with numbers on their arms and dogs in tow, and where, if one can judge by their facial expression, only about 1 in 20 of them is actually having fun. Following is a short list of the most frequently encountered personages at a dog show, and how to identify them by their typical plumage, temperament, demeanor and call.

### PEOPLE WITH DOGS

[Professional Handlers](#)

[Owner Handlers](#)

[Junior Handlers](#)

[Obedience Exhibitors](#)

### PEOPLE WITHOUT DOGS

[Judges](#)

[Stewards](#)

[Official Photographers](#)

[Other People at the Dog Show](#)

[Breeder Spectators](#)

[Non-Breeder Spectators](#)

[AKC Field Representative](#)

**PROFESSIONAL HANDLERS:** Professional Handlers (PHs) are those who show dogs for a fee, so the dogs' owners are spared the joys of kneeling in the mud in their own business suit, or having their last pair of pantyhose split on the second day of a 10-day circuit. PHs can be discerned from other exhibitors by several methods. One is their somewhat officious and aloof manner around ringside (which is difficult to master when you have muddy knees and/or split pantyhose). Outside the ring, PHs rarely acknowledges anyone except the judge (whom they know personally), other PHs (whom they know personally), and their own kennel help (whom they either know rather too personally, or who are from foreign countries and have unpronounceable names, or both). Kennel help, (continued on the next page)



by the way, are those nubile young men and women who race back and forth from the grooming area to ringside like orbiting comets, bringing dogs to their PH to show and taking already-been- shown dogs back to their crates in a never-ending cycle. This is called "learning the business". Meanwhile, the PH stands there, dog less, squinting at the competition and deciding whether to get his or her armband the usual half-second before going into the ring, or give the steward a real shock and get it a whole minute ahead of time. PH plumage is the nicest seen among those at the dog show, besides that of the judges and the junior handlers (q.v.), because the kennel help are the ones who do the dirty work outside the ring. PHs has no reliable call, but do sometimes change color abruptly in the ring when they don't receive the award they expected. Generally leaving speedier in motion when leaving the ring than when they entered it.

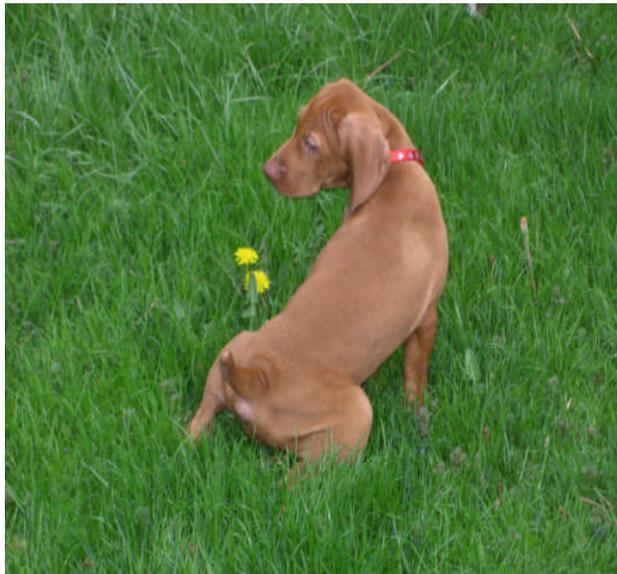
**OWNER-HANDLERS:** Owner-Handlers (OHs) are people who show their own dog(s), rather than hiring a PH. They are roughly divided into two groups: Experienced OHs (EOHs) and Novice OHs (NOHs). We will discuss them separately. At first glance, EOHs may be difficult to differentiate from PHs. Their plumage is similar and their general look of competence, control and 'cool' is the same. The way to tell them apart is outside the ring. EOHs always have a dog with them because they don't have kennel help to bring them their dog at ringside. Also, EOHs do talk to people and usually gravitate to, or form on their own, small circle of other EOHs almost from the moment they arrive on the grounds. (The really well established EOHs are generally prominent breeders, and they often arrive at the show with their very own personal circle of communicants, called "disciples". ) EOHs know everyone who has their breed and they know all the dogs in their breed by registered name, call name, pet name, pedigree, show record and degree of quality (which they are constantly critiquing). This allows them to chatter on freely in rarified terms about the latest breedings, wins, dogs and people without a newcomer having a clue as to what they're talking about. (By contrast, the PH might not even remember the name of the dog they have on the end of the lead at any given moment). If an unknown competitor shows up, EOHs give their dog a quick visual once-over and then talk about it behind their hands. EOHs never buy a catalog. They arrive at the show in enormous motor homes with six ex-pens bungeed on the front, even if they're only showing one Chihuahua that day. However, they only bring their dog and a small bag of equipment to ringside. Distinctive call: "Can I see your catalog a minute?" NOHs, on the other hand, are easily picked out. They arrive at the show three hours before they are due to go in, with their St. Bernard stuffed into the back of the family Toyota . To ringside they bring the dog, its crate, its bowl, a water jug, a bag of dog food, a large blanket, three chairs, a Coleman cooler, four kids (two fully ambulatory, one in a stroller and one an infant), the spouse, and a portable TV. They always have their armband on three breeds before theirs is to be judged, and they always buy a catalog (which is how they meet EOHs). For all their advance preparation, NOHs are often the last ones into the ring because by the time their class is actually called, they've passed out from exhaustion. NOHs are generally either overdressed or underdressed for the occasion, and have been known to show their dogs on flat collars and chain leashes. For all that, their typically sweet, earnest, and somewhat addlepat temperament is among the best one will meet up with at a dog show, although after ! the eighth time one of them is late for his or her class, it starts to wear thin. The distinctive call is raucous and usually shouted across the ring to the family: "Hey, Honey, look...we got fourth! Isn't that GREAT????!!!"

**JUNIOR HANDLERS:** JHs may be confused, at first, with kennel help. However, this is only because of the similarity in age and intensity of the facial expression. The plumage is distinctly different. While kennel help are invariably in white grooming smocks with paw prints and clots of hair stuck to them, JHs are by far the most impeccably dressed people at the show; including the judges; the show chair and the AKC field representative (q.v.). The average JH looks like a recent appointee to the ambassadorship of Great Britain, and a whole class of them filing into the ring evokes images of an opening session of Congress, but more dignified. The JHs' expression and demeanor is unique in the world of dogs: In the standing line-up, they stare intently down at! their stacked dogs with a slight frown that says, "I'm very constipated, and so is my dog." This effect is only interrupted by piercing glances up at the judge, at which point the expression changes instantaneously to a disconcerting and maniacal sort of rictus, which says, "All better!" This transformation is exaggerated even further when the judge has the JH gait the dog. The JH then goes into high gear, somehow running the dog around in a circle but never unpinning the judge from that death's head grin. It is a skill worth watching, but weirdly reminiscent of the scene from The Exorcist when Linda Blair's head creaks slowly around backward. Throughout the entire performance, their clothes never wrinkle. JHs are the only exhibitors who routinely congratulate each other on their wins, although it may be done through jaws clenched so tightly that one can almost see the child's orthodontia shifting. JHs do not have a readily identifiable call, as custom forbids any audible ! reaction whatsoever. Noises are strictly the purview of the parents o f the JH, who are at ringside. (They are the ones with the paw prints and clots of dog hair stuck to them.) These calls range from high-pitched screams of delight (when the child wins) to a sharp but hushed squawk of "Andrew! Bring that dog over here!" (When the child doesn't win).





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**Thought for the day...  
Handle every stressful  
situation like a dog.  
If you can't eat it  
or hump it,  
pee on it  
and walk away.**

Author unknown

