



TAILS OF THE PLAINS

December 2011

Officers 2011-2012

Carol Bishop,
President
Carolyn Archer,
Vice President
Melody Boren,
Secretary
Jeri Berryman,
Treasurer

Board 2011-2012

Terry Hetzel (1)
Scott Spencer(2)
Carol Brand (2)
Christi Ferguson (3)
Gail Hefley (3)

WELCOME

New Members:

Lauren Chiapetta

Karla & Bill Bradsher

Newsletter

Terry Hetzel

Email brags, club news, articles, etc **by the 28th** to be in the next newsletter to:

terry8410@suddenlink.net

please note in the subject line: For Newsletter or Brags

Sunday agility practice at the agility field is at 3:00 pm

MEMBERS only

EXCEPTION: Dec 18 will be at 1 pm then cleaning & loading equipment

Agility Trial

Please volunteer to work our Agility Trial December 30, 31 & Jan. 1. No experience necessary. **We need a pick-up with enough power to pull our loaded equipment trailer.**

Sunday, Dec. 18 Early agility practice at 1:00 pm, then clean & load equipment.

Contact Trial Chairman Andrea Wright at andiewright@aol.com

Contact Chief Ring Steward Carol Bishop at carolturbojet@gmail.com or 674-9718 to help in the ring on trial days.

THANKS in advance for your support !

Calendar of Events:

NEXT MEETING

Tues Dec 13 at 7 p.m.

AOTC Building

Dec 18 Clean & Load Eq.

Dec 30, 31 & Jan 1

Agility Trial

Jan 4 Title info to Janet

Jan 10 Club Meeting

Feb 4 Awards Banquet

RSVP to Gail Hansen at jandg3216@gmail.com

Feb 14 Club Meeting

MINI SEMINARS coming up:

December - Guest speaker from Great Plains Ag Credit

January - Carol Hillhouse, DVM: Feeding and Nutrition

Agility Equipment Issues

As a reminder, the use of the agility field is for club members only. All members are responsible for the care of our equipment. Some of our equipment has been damaged due to what appears to be inappropriate handling (moving equipment with too few people, not knowing how to properly move certain pieces, dragging equipment across other pieces.) Also, equipment has also been left out on the field. Any equipment that is pulled out of storage or jumps off the fence must be returned to their rightful place once training is completed.

Please keep a watchful eye and any safety issues or damaged equipment should be reported to any member of the agility committee, club officers or board members as soon as it is noticed.

Please NOTE: The contact equipment will be painted on Saturday, Dec.12 weather permitting.



Our annual Awards Banquet is set for Saturday, February 4, 7:00 pm at Saltgrass Steakhouse. Price is \$17 plus tax/tip per person. Full menu will be available at the club meeting.

RSVP to Gail Hefley at jandg3216@gmail.com with the number attending. Please put in the Subject line: RSVP Awards. Hope to see you there.

Merry Christmas



CHRISTMAS PARTY

Our annual Christmas party will be held at our December 13 club meeting.



Please bring your favorite party snacky food to share with all.



We will have a gift exchange. If you wish to participate in the gift exchange, please limit to \$10 and bring wrapped.



Please **do not** bring your dog to this meeting. (one of the few times we ask no dogs due to the food)



Please come early to help set up tables and food and drinks.

Cobalt and Trey's recommendation for leaving your dog(s) at home (see photo below).....warm house, full bellies, soft couch, snuggling companion. Stay Home! Life is Good !





2011 TITLES

DEADLINE FOR TITLE PLAQUE INFORMATION - WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 4, 2012

When you and your dog earn competitive AKC titles in obedience, rally and agility, AOTC recognizes your achievement with a plaque which is presented at our annual awards dinner. If you have gotten any of those titles this year please send me the following information by Wednesday, January 4, 2012.

1. Dog's name as you want it on your plaque (registered name, call name or both)

Example: MYSTIC VICTORY LANE
"TORY"

2. Titles and the month and year each one was earned

Example: CD July 2011
RN Aug. 2011
NA Oct. 2011



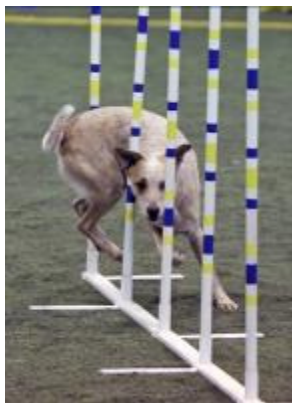
If you already have a plaque, all I need are the titles and the dates they were earned. Please e-mail this information to me any time between now and the January 4 deadline.

Also, **voting will be held at the December meeting for AOTC's Outstanding Member Award.** This is your chance to recognize a member who you believe best exemplifies good sportsmanship in the world of dog sports and who has made outstanding contributions to our club. Be thinking about your choice.

Janet Nelson
jandjnelson@mac.com

In addition to title bars and plaques, the club offers special awards in obedience (the Sharon Cutrell Award) and agility (the Nelson Agility Performance Award). Forms are located on the AOTC website \ Awards tab \ Information for Special Awards. Please submit to Janet Nelson for consideration for these special awards.

The question has been raised about the club recognizing titles earned besides obedience, rally or agility, such as AKC therapy, conformation and CGC. Since AOTC is an AKC obedience, rally and agility club, our club policy has been that only award bars and plaques for those 3 areas will be paid for by the club. **Members can individually contact Custom Trophies** regarding other titles to get the same design, fonts, etc for other title bars.



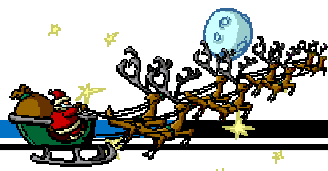
BRAGS

Sophie did some wonderful things at the SPOTC agility show despite an injury to her back toe. She ran fast, barked a lot and had

fun. We were able to complete the last two legs of Excellent Fast with two first place ribbons and a beautiful title ribbon too. Sophie also had a great JWW run with a fifth place finish. Looking forward to the AOTC New Years show. ~ Carolyn Archer

Tango got his CDX title the first day of the Golden Retriever Specialty in Norman, Oklahoma, the weekend before Thanksgiving. Holding a 5 minute out-of-sight "down" on a dirt surface with little birdies pecking all around was a new experience for the boy, but he handled it like a pro. He probably occupied himself thinking about the junior cheeseburger "jackpot" he'd be sharing with sister Sadie when it was all over. ~ Elise Lavin





LOST Dog TIPS

Dear AOTC friends, I had a scary experience last month when my boys escaped the back yard when our gate was blown open early one morning. I learned a lot in a short amount of time in the search for my boys. My hope is that none of you have to go through having a dog on the loose, but if you do I have compiled a list of things that will help you get that escaped convict back home as soon as possible.

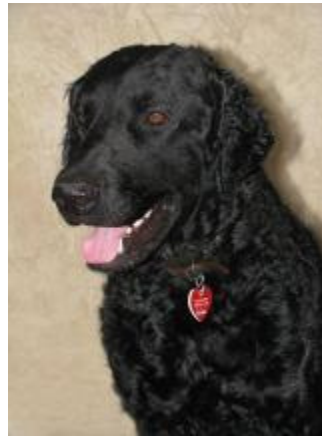
~Christi Ferguson

PS I have to give a High Five to the following club members who came to my rescue - driving around in the cold, hanging flyers, talking to homeless people, making phone calls and encouraging me: Carolyn, Terry, Elise, Scott and Ricki . AOTC members ROCK!

Pre-Disappearance:

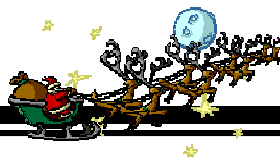
Micro-Chip: This is a device the size of a piece of rice that is implanted under your pets skin usually between the shoulders. A micro-chip is passive in that it will not 'track' your dog, it has to be read by a scanner. The cost for this is minimal and any new information must be updated with microchip provider, contact your veterinarian for more info.

Socialization: Wow, where to start on this subject! Proper socialization can be life saving for your dog. Both of my guys were picked up by good Samaritans and were kept over night with other pets and children. A dog that has some basic manners (don't jump up, sit, stay, NO, etc) will help keep your dog safe until you can locate him.



Clear, focused Photo: You need a photo that shows your dog clearly.

Contact information current with your Veterinarian, groomer, boarding facility, etc. Also keep your veterinarian's information on your PHONE. Also add the Small Animal Emergency Vet Clinic to your contacts 5127 Canyon Drive Amarillo 79110 806-352-2277.



Immediately after Disappearance

Don't Panic!

LOST Dog TIPS

Do a quick neighborhood search, asking mailmen, workers, lawn maintenance people, walkers, bikers, homeless people if they have seen your dog.

Take your lovely dog photo and make quick flier. Dogs photo, contact number. Short and Sweet. **NOTE: At this point your phone number is available world wide.** IF you wish, a pay by the minute phone might be a good investment, 3 weeks after our ordeal was still getting phone calls from very nice strangers.....Don't give to many details, chances are you will have to give a VERY detailed description before the Good Samaritan will let you have your dog back!!

Come up with a short description of your dog that you will use for online ads.

Good Example: Lost Dog – Paramount area, Brown lab, male, 65 pounds missing 11-2-11. Very friendly – REWARD OFFERED

Bad Example: Our dear flupsy wupsy got out of our yard the other day. My 8 kids miss him so much, my baby just cries and cries. Flupsy is 7 years, 3 months old and is a purbread aysemtrical bushy long coated yapper. He is a beautiful mocha color with 3 white nails on his right front paw, he has a cowlick right beside his tail and on and on..... You get the point. You need to keep some of the unique facts about your dog for identification, also don't put YOUR name and address on any ads! Phone number ONLY – Be smart, there are bad people out there.

Lost Dogs (806)670-7410



(This is what my quick flyer looked like, this was posted to Facebook, Craigslist, and later printed for distribution.)

One of the perks of being an AOTC member is the vast network of dog lovers at your disposal. An email (with photo) sent to the Yahoo group will get the word out quickly that your pooch is on the run! Ask for help, beg for help.

Social Media is your friend! Post your Lost Dogs picture on Facebook, ask your friends to do the same. While on Facebook add your Lost Dogs photo to AmarilloPaws, Amarillo Globe News, ProNews 7, AOTC, Animal Lodge, Willow Creek Kennels, Panhandle Pet Savers, and any other local dog oriented sites you know of. **Get the word out quickly!**

Craigslist! FAST – FREE Post in both the Pets section and the Lost/Found with photo. This was an great resource when my guys were gone, received several emails from strangers with suggestions and encouragement. One fellow's mother is homebound in my neighborhood and he moved her recliner in front of the window so she could keep her eye out for the boys, can't put a price tag on that!



After you have all the above bases covered it is time to take care of the more time consuming things!

LOST Dog TIPS

- Have your flyer printed as a photo. I printed 75 4x6 full color photos for \$8 at Walgreens, these were handed out and posted on telephone poles and at stores, handed out as neighborhoods were canvassed.
- Globe News will post lost and found ads for free online and in print, the turn around is 24-48 hours. You can add your photo online for no charge also.
- Take photos to Amarillo Humane Society 3501 S Osage (they have an online form you can fill out and attach photos, but this process did not work when I tried it)
- Amarillo Animal Control – They WILL NOT call if they have picked up your pet. They close each evening at 7, I recommend that you walk every cage area right before closing.
- Take flyers to groomers, vets, pet stores, etc in your area, I gave a flyer to every person at Petco – who better to be on the look out for my guys than pet lovers. Be Creative!

American Classifieds 376-8663 and Suddenlink 5800 SW 45th also offer lost & found services, but I am not familiar with them, I found this resource later.

Post Escape:

- Remove ads from FB, Craigslist, and other online resources. Remove flyers that were posted (no fun, but necessary) Post Good News update on FB.

Send Thank You notes to the Good Samaritans who helped find your pooch! I offered a reward that was refused by both families that found my guys, so I made a donation to the Amarillo SPCA and Amarillo Humane Society in honor of them.

Saying Good-bye to Grandma-ma

My tribute to Turbo: On November 15th, 2011, I had to say goodbye to my sweet girl. She was known by Turbo, Satellite, but mostly by Grandma. There is no words to describe the empty place in my heart since she is gone. She was so sweet, mild mannered dog. She loved everyone and nothing ever bothered her, she always just went along with whatever was happening at any given time. Turbo didn't know how to sit, down, come, heel or any of the other things we teach our dogs but she was the best little doxie in the world. Grandma was with Jimmy and I for 14 1/2 years, she was his dog and I know he is happy she is with him. I miss her little sweet face, her tail that never stopped wagging, her waddle when she walk, her snoring at night and her little bark. Turbo has left a whole in my heart so big that I will never fill it. She brought me so much joy, laughter and love that I can't even begin to describe how I feel at this time. I will close by saying little Grandma dog I miss you and I love you so much, there will never be another girl like you. Don't forget how much your mom loved you. Bless you little girl for all that you gave me. ~ Carol Bishop



Minutes from Club Meeting of November 2011

Called to order at 7:10.

October minutes approved. Treasurer's Report approved.

Committee Reports

Obedience: Lisa will teach clicker class. Participants must have experience in at least one class. First class December 1 at 7 PM. April 20,21, and 22 have been selected as dates for 2012 obedience trial. Rally will be on the 20th, with obedience on the 21st and 22nd.

Elise and Gayla held CGC testing and all 5 dogs were great.

Agility: Need lots of help for the New Year's trial. Need a ¾ ton truck to pull trailer. We also need hospitality volunteers for Friday and Sunday. On Sunday December 18 we will have early practice at 1 PM and then clean and load equipment.

Therapy: No Report

Education: No Report

Unfinished Business

Christmas party will be at our December meeting on 12/13. Please bring finger food and a gift for the gift exchange if you want to participate. Please leave dogs at home.

The awards banquet will be February 5 at Saltgrass. Email Janet Nelson with title information by January 4.

New Business

Club shirt order deadline Nov 8. Caps are still available for \$5.

1st Reading: The Shennum family, Kenneth Wingrove.

2nd Reading: Bill and Karla Bradsher, Lauren Chia-petta.

Adjourned at 7:45.

Board Meeting Minutes of November 2011

Called to order at 7:57.

October minutes approved.



Unfinished Business

Vote for Outstanding Club Member is ahead.

Club has contract with the ANB Center through 2012

Carolyn Archer is teaching an agility foundation class on Thursdays at 8 PM starting December 1.

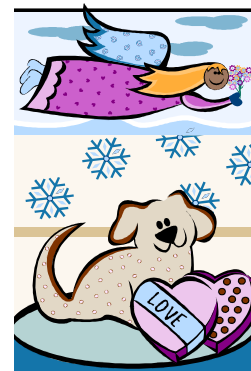
Dr. Carol Hillhouse will speak at our January meeting on dog food.

The porta-potty at the agility field has been stopped through the winter months.

Please help support our annual supply drive for the Amarillo SPCA. Please bring your items to the December meeting, and Gail will make sure they are delivered.

- Below are some suggestions from the SPCA:
- BLEACH
 - PINE SOL
 - TRASH BAGS (39 gallon & tall kitchen size)
 - PAPER TOWELS
 - NON-LATEX GLOVES
 - BLANKETS or TOWELS (new or used is fine)
 - LAUNDRY SOAP
 - TREATS and CHEW TOYS (favorite toys are ones that can be put in the dishwasher and shared; no stuffed animals please)
 - DISH WASHING SOAP
 - MONEY
 - TIDY CAT LITTER

The dogs and cats at the SPCA thank you!!!





REMINDER: MAILED correspondence must be sent to the club's PO box. Mailing address is: AOTC

ATTN: (whoever) i.e. Jeri Berryman, Treasurer

**PO BOX 32272
Amarillo, TX 79120**

**ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS
using the club building**

PLEASE do not adjust the air conditioning. It is programmed to automatically come on and go off for class times. If you have special times you need to use the club building and need the air conditioning, please contact Judy DeShong.

PLEASE check BOTH doors at the club building before you leave the training building. If you go out the second door by Judy's ring, you have to slam it shut to get it to lock. If you don't, the wind will catch it and blow it wide open. Please secure the building when leaving. THANK YOU.

Check out AOTC on FACEBOOK (at Search just type in Amarillo Obedience Training Club and click LIKE)

see more behind the scenes photos and news about the club
Thanks Gail for the great job in updating/maintaining the club's face.

Last one to leave the AOTC building, please check the following:

HEATER must be MANUALLY turned on and off. Please turn heater down to 40 when leaving the building.

A/C is set to automatically come on and go off for class times.

Lights are off. All doors are locked

Gate is locked (DOUBLE CHECK, please spin the tumbler to ensure lock engages)

As a reminder, We no longer have a janitor. PLEASE clean up after yourself and others!

Want More Info...

Gail Hanson-Hefley will be coordinating special request topics at the monthly club meetings. Email Gail at jandg3216@gmail.com with your requests for demos, mini-training, seminars, info sharing, want to know, etc.

AOTC training facility : 9785 Amarillo Blvd., West, Amarillo, TX

AOTC agility training facility: 8009 E Farmers Ave , Amarillo, TX

AOTC website: www.aotcdogs.com

AOTC Yahoo group: <http://pets.groups.yahoo.com/group/aotcdogs>

AKC website: www.akc.org

AOTC Agility : direct questions to Carolyn Brand at labradored@cablone.net

AOTC Obedience : direct questions to Teresa Tucker at tatucker5004@yahoo.com

AOTC Member Directory updates: Jeri Berryman at aggiefan316@hotmail.com

AOTC Education Coordinator: Scott Spencer at scottproperty@sbcglobal.net