

## GPSSC Officers

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Gloria Anderson  
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Beth Ross's Jack Herding  
Submitted by: Beth Ross

## GPSSC 2008 Specialty

The Greater Pittsburgh Standard Schnauzer Club is proud to announce the plans for our 2008 specialty.

The show will be held in conjunction with WPKA

Saturday

Sweeps: Cheryl Crompton  
Specialty: Rodger Hartinger

Sunday – Supported Entry

We are also going to be holding a banquet for those coming. The details will be emailed and posted on the website in December.



Mary Lu and Bob Quehl 'sDogs  
Submitted by: Mary Lu Quehl

## Genetic Issues In Our Breed

Our breed has few genetic issues compared to other pure bred

dogs and way less compared to those “Designer” dogs, as the new mutts are known. I was recently asked to help a friend look into boxers. Knowing little about their health issues, I went to their national and regional clubs looking for information. On one personal web site they referred me to a list from the Association of Veterinarians for Animal Rights detailed list of Congenital and Heritable Disorders in Dogs (Dodds, Hall, Inks, 2006). The first thing I did was look into the mission statement of this group. Their mission statement told me not to trust them as a source, but as I continued to research problems in boxers and decided to see what they had to say about our breed, I realized that there are a lot of breeders who must not be reading the mission of this group before linking prospective puppy people to this document.

On the AVAR's About page on the web site, it was founded to help protect those animals that are raised by humans from the abuse that we humans don't even know we are doing to our pets. Does this sound familiar? It reminds me a great deal of PETA's mission. I will let you judge for yourself. Here is the exact quote from their About page.

“In 1981, the Association of Veterinarians for Animal Rights was founded by Neil C. Wolff, D.V.M. and Nedim C. Buyukmihci, V.M.D. These veterinarians were concerned that the nonhuman animals they were trained to care for, treat, and heal in veterinary medical school were routinely being used and abused by society, sometimes for the most trivial of reasons. They recognized that the veterinary profession, under the banner of 'adequate veterinary care,' often supported practices which were completely contrary to the well-being of the animals. Thus, the AVAR was formed to educate the public and the veterinary profes-

sion to secure higher ideals of humanity and policy toward all nonhuman animals.” (AVAR, 2006)

As my curiosity got the better of me, I went through the list of diseases that are associated with our breed. I have gathered the list from the 334 diseases they say can be inherited in dogs. There are 18 listed for our breed.

**“Addison's disease (hypoadrenocorticism):** a disease characterized by inadequate secretion of cortisone from the adrenal glands. More common in Old English sheepdogs, standard poodles and bearded collies. (See #159a.)

**Atresia of nasolacrimal puncta:** a condition where the holes on the inside of the lower eyelids (puncta) are too small or closed so tears spill over the lid instead of draining to the nose.

**Cataract:** as in humans, a change in structure of the lens of the eye leading to cloudiness and usually to blindness.

**Conjunctivitis:** an inflammation of the conjunctival membrane of the eye.

**Factor VIII deficiency or hemophilia A:** the most common severe inherited clotting disorder of humans and nonhuman animals. Inherited as a sex-linked recessive trait (carried by females and manifested in males). Affects most dog breeds.

**Hemophilia A:** a blood clotting disorder due to deficiency of coagulation factor VIII (this is the most common type of hemophilia in dogs). (See #121.)

**Hypothyroidism:** a common endocrine disease where the body produces an abnormally low amount of thyroid hormones. An autoimmune destruction of the thyroid gland which affects more than 50 dog breeds. (See #192, 312.)

**Lymphocytic thyroiditis:** an autoimmune disease causing inflammation and destruction of the thyroid gland, which becomes infiltrated with lymphocytes (white blood cells) and leads to hypothyroidism. This is the most common endocrine disease of the dog and has an inherited predisposition. (See #166, 312.)

**Lymphosarcoma:** a cancerous condition involving the lymphatic system. One of the more common canine cancers.

**Osteochondritis dissecans:** a specific form of inflammation of the cartilage of certain joints which causes arthritis. (See #221a.)

**Osteochondrosis:** a group of developmental diseases resulting in abnormal formulation of joint cartilage. Commonly involves the shoulder, stifle, hock or elbow. (See #221.)

**Perianal adenoma:** a cancer arising from a cell of a gland found near the anus.

**Pulmonic stenosis:** a condition where one of the valves of the heart does not open properly.

**Retinal dysplasia:** a condition where the retina is malformed.

**Skin neoplasms:** any number of tumors arising from cells of the skin.

**Stomatocytosis:** disorder where red blood cells have a mouth like shape leading to frequent bouts of hemolytic anemia, and increased red cell osmotic fragility. (See #13.)

**Thyroiditis:** an autoimmune inflammatory disease of the thyroid gland. (See #166, 192.)

**von Willebrand's disease:** a type of bleeding disorder caused by defective blood platelet function. Occurs in 59 dog breeds but most often in Doberman pinschers. An autosomal trait affecting both sexes.” (Dodds, Hall, Inks, 2006)

Now, I have heard of some genetic issues in our breed. I even remember Liz Hansen talking about research in von Willebrand's disease at a national in St. Louis, but I don't remember her saying this was found in standard schnauzers. If I were a person looking to purchase a puppy and found this list for any pure bred dog that I was thinking of purchasing, I don't know that I would not change my mind depending on which breed I was looking to get. There are few breeds on here with little or no inheritable diseases, but that makes sense as almost all

breeds have some form of genetic problems. It also takes someone reporting these diseases to this group before they add the disease to the list for a breed. I found an older list from 1997 that only showed standard schnauzers with ten or twelve of these diseases. I did not see epilepsy or cardio myopathy on the list, yet I know both exist in our breed. At least I knew of cases in the past 10 years for each of these diseases.

I do agree that there is a thyroid issue in our breed on occasion as are some of these other diseases, but I believe the issue may also be partly environmental, just as cancer can be. I have watched news stories about my area of the country and the higher rates of cancer in dogs that are found here. It makes me wonder what exactly we are doing to our air and how much of the diseases we find in humans and animals are created by humans in the first place with our pollution.

The disease list from AVAR is a prime example of why getting information from the internet is not always the best way to gather honest information. It is information like this document that can lead people to think along the same lines as PETA when it comes to pure bred dogs.

It is also why the health survey the SSCA is working on is very important. The actual list of diseases for our breed won't be known if breeders and owners alike don't report their dogs health issues. I am very interested in this survey and getting as much data as possible from it. The health survey will teach all of us breeders what we need to look out for, what kind of testing we really need to be

doing to ensure happy healthy puppies for future generations.

Author: Diane R Mitchell

Reference: About (2006) Retrieved September 29, 2007 from <http://www.avar.org/about.asp> Dodds DVM, W Jean ; Hall DVM, Susan; Inks, Kay: Guide To Congenital and Heritable Disorders In Dogs (March, 2006). Retrieved September 28, 2007 from [http://www.avar.org/pdf/publication/brochure/dog\\_disease\\_guide.pdf](http://www.avar.org/pdf/publication/brochure/dog_disease_guide.pdf)



Beth Ross's Kodi Herding  
Submitted by: Beth Ross

## Don't Hate the Mail Man

Recently, I was told by one of my puppy people why their dog hates the mail man. He does not mind the paper person but, he barks a great deal and scares the mail man and any substitute mail person or paper person who comes by.

Well, the reason for not liking new strangers is easy to answer. They are just that, strangers. A dog that was bred to guard will bark at all people it does not recognize. The standard schnauzer will also bark at anyone who shows fear toward them.

I have a man who rents a garage from me who was afraid of my dogs. When in their yard, they can see him, but were not allowed down to meet him for a very long time. Then one day, I was walking

a puppy and went down to get the rent from this man, and he realized that my dogs are just like any other. They just sound rather fierce when they bark, even the puppy. I walked each of my dogs down to visit him for a while and he stopped to pet them and talk to them. They still bark at him when he comes to the garage and when he walks up to my house, but they no longer spend hours out there barking at him.

Greeting and being friendly with your dog is one way that a person you don't allow into your home can get to know your dog and stop all the noise. In my experience, that it is a rare occasion when a mail person or paper carrier is willing to be friendly with a barking standard schnauzer.

There is another way to stop this behavior. Find a favorite food of your dog, chicken can be better than treats as they are high in fat. Remember to reduce the amount of dog food you are feeding by the amount of food used for training. (In the case of any of my girls, I think dog food would work fine, since they are all chow hounds and will eat anything.) When the stranger comes around every day, feed your dog the really yummy food and use it to distract them. Do this until the dog is waiting for the treats at the sight of this person. Pretty soon, you can reduce the amount of treats you are sharing with your dog because they will be quietly waiting for the treats.

Now if you have a dog like my older male, you might have a harder time getting them to stop anything for food. He won't take treats unless he is calm, and then half the time he gives them to one of my

girls! For him, food is not the motivation, petting is, but that won't stop his mouth from going off.

Author: Diane R Mitchell



Beth Ross's Jack Herding  
Submitted by: Beth Ross

## The Media Biased? Never!

I recently read an article from the American Dog Owners Association stating that they did a study on the news and how they are biased against pit bulls. Can you imagine that?

Pit bulls have a bad reputation, but if handled properly and bred correctly by responsible breeders, they are wonderful loving pets. It is a shame to see how the media has harmed the reputation of this breed. I have seen the evidence of this harassment on Judge Joe Brown, where he actually went as far as to show the number of humans killed by pitbulls versus other breeds. It was terribly biased against the breed, with Rottweiler's in second place.

The article showed five cases and the media coverage on all of them. Four were for mixed breeds with no pit bull in them. These four had at most 2 newspaper articles about the incident. The fifth did have a pit bull and was covered over 250 times! It is amazing how

the media can single out one breed of dog and cause mass hysteria about it with little knowledge. People who don't understand dogs, will hear of this and expand on the image the news has given the pit bull.

I am thankful that our breed has not been singled out in this matter. I know that when confronted with a bad attitude about pit bulls, I try to explain to the person that the breed is not the issue, it is the owners. If every dog person tried to do the same, we might be able to reduce the bad effects of prize winning journalists and anchors!

Author: Diane R Mitchell

Reference: Press release, National Canine Research Council Examines the Pit Bull Paparazzi: Fear vs. Fact; <http://www.prweb.com/releases/2007/8/prweb549276.htm>



Beth Ross's Jack Herding  
Submitted by: Beth Ross

**GPSSC.ORG**

Check out our new website! For those who did not attend the August meeting, we have a new website. It is [www.gpssc.org](http://www.gpssc.org) and has many sections. It has an **About the Breed** section, which gives a short history and description of the breed. A **Breeder Referral** section which lists our few breeders and their information. **Latest News** is for those exciting things we are

doing to try to raise money for our club and the 2009 specialty. The **Calendar of Events** will be updated regularly with meeting info so that members can remember when the meetings are without having to call someone. **Club Forms** has all of our club forms that could be needed so we don't have to re-print them all the time. **Related Links** has links our members suggest as well as those links that are in our newsletter, so that members who want to follow those links no longer have to type them in!

We could use more detail in all these sections, but need some of our members to step up and give us some more detail. Any suggestions will be greatly appreciated. Just send them to Diane Mitchell at [dianamyt@zoominternet.net](mailto:dianamyt@zoominternet.net).

Many thanks to Mary Lu Quehl for writing up our introduction and about the breed pages!

Author: Diane R Mitchell



Beth Ross's Jack Herding  
Submitted by: Beth Ross

## **Guarding**

Have you ever wondered what your dog is thinking when you go to take a bone, food, or even something they have of yours away from them? How about them protecting a location or person in your house to the point where the other

family members can't go near that person and no one can go near the location? Do they growl, bark, even threaten to bite, or do they just drop the item and leave it for you?

First, let's cover what level of guarding your dog is at. There are usually ten recognized levels (Rodier, Lisa, 2007).

The first two levels are nothing to worry about. The dog is relaxed and will let you have the item (Rodier, Lisa, 2007). There are no teeth showing or growling. The dog may keep eating, but will let you have the item it is chewing on (Rodier, Lisa, 2007).

Level 3 shows tension in the body that can be seen by the speed of the tail as well as the tension in the muscles (Rodier, Lisa, 2007). The dog is starting to guard its food a bit. You will probably still be able to take the food away, but the dog won't be as happy about it. If you continue to have this little bit of tension and it does not escalate, then I would not be too concerned about your dog's manners.

Level four would begin to worry me as the dog is definitely tense and stops eating to protect its food (Rodier, Lisa, 2007). This is the beginning of trouble. Level five is where the dog will gulp their food to keep you from getting it and will hover over the food bowl without moving until he is done (Rodier, Lisa, 2007). Six escalates to a low growl and moving the item to a more protected place to eat it (Rodier, Lisa, 2007). In level seven, the teeth come out and the dog is snarling at you (Rodier, Lisa, 2007). Not a pretty sight for any owner to see. Levels eight through ten are where the teeth really come

into play. The amount of teeth you would feel on your skin would escalate from barely touching to drawing blood (Rodier, Lisa, 2007). The bites are swift and the dog goes back to protecting its food, but you have been warned to stay away.

If your dog is between a 4 and 7, I suggest you start with some training techniques. These DO NOT include yelling at your dog, hovering over the dog, stomping your feet or waving something to hit the dog with, nor any kind of physical correction (Rodier, Lisa, 2007). I know this because my first show dog was a resource guarder and I got her from the point of grabbing food and running away and snapping at me when she had a bone I wanted to take away to where she would let me take food from her bowl and hold her bone or take it away as I chose. The training was not easy and it took a long time to get to the point where she would let me do these things, but with constant attention to what is going on in the house and what the dog has, it can be done.

Food guarding is the most common type of guarding and from level 4-7, there are things you can do to help keep things from getting worse. The first step is to keep things the dog guards away from their reach until you are ready to let them have the item. The second step in food guarding is to make sure the dog thinks you are eating the same food they are and ALWAYS make them think you get to eat first. Don't let the dog eat before you do. The pack leader would never let a lesser pack member get the first or best bites of food. If you only put a

small amount in the bowl and then gradually add the food as the dog is eating, this can help as well, just be careful that the dog is not getting worse as you do this.

For location guarding, first try keeping the dog away from the place they are guarding. Evaluate the location to see if they are really guarding food that you may not have noticed. Often dogs will protect the place where their dog food is stored. On the other hand, if the dog is guarding the bed or a couch, the first step is to make that place less desirable for them to be. Let's say the dog won't let you on the couch to sit next to your loved one. The first step I would take would be to have everyone sit on the floor or the person the dog is protecting to get up and sit elsewhere every time the dog guards that place. If the dog is on a person's lap when they are guarding, that person should stand up every time the dog begins to guard them. These techniques can work with consistency and effort. If the issue gets worse, I suggest consulting a professional trainer for more advice.

For a dog who is an eight or higher, I recommend speaking to a professional from the beginning as that dog will need more work and the trainer can figure out what the main problem is. It could, after all, be you and not the dog causing the problem.

Author: Diane R Mitchell

Reference: Rodier, Lisa; On Guard?; The Whole Dog Journal Volume 10 Number 10 October 2007



Beth Ross's Kodi Herding  
Submitted by: Beth Ross

## Entertaining The Schnauzer Mind

Winter is here! It is really cold outside and neither you nor your faithful companion want to go outside, but your companion is not happy because there is nothing to do indoors. So, how do you alleviate the boredom?

How about Obedience or Agility class? For those who will venture to drive in this wonderful weather, I suggest taking a class together. If that is not an option, what else can you possibly do?

Well, here are a few ideas...

If you own a treadmill, teach your schnauzer to use it. The method I use is to hold the dog's leash and use food as a reward. Start the belt moving slowly and don't let the dog go off the front or sides of the machine. Once the dog is reasonably comfortable, speed up the belt. If you have a show dog, I recommend finding the perfect movement you want in the ring and keeping the machine on that speed. Slowly increase the time the dog is on the machine as they build muscle to go with the exercise.

If you don't have a treadmill, how about teaching your dog a new trick? Teaching some tricks

are not easy, but each dog has it's own talent, so use what the good Lord gave you to work with. Here are some examples

Isee is very springy and loved to jump on me. I used that ability and while holding a treat in my mouth, caught her as she jumped up for it. I did this until she learned that if she jumped on command she would get a treat.

I remember 14 years ago, trying to teach Music a trick of shaking hands, but she always put her paw up to mine when I held it straight up like I was doing a High Five, she refused to let me actually shake her paw, so I stuck with the High Five. Promise paws at my hand when she wants petted, so I am teaching her the same trick.

Music would also stand on her hind legs trying to get a treat from me, so I just moved the treat behind her head, so that she had to turn around. This eventually evolved into the Dance.

My first schnauzer loved to take anything we had handled and carry it in her mouth. I taught her to carry the outgoing mail to the mail box. She felt important because she was doing a job!

So, take those natural talents of your favorite furry friend and teach them a trick or two. It will occupy some of their time and keep them out of trouble!

Author: Diane R Mitchell



Beth Ross's Kodi Herding  
Submitted by: Beth Ross

## Greater Pittsburgh Standard Schnauzer Club

### Meeting

September 8, 2007

A meeting of the GPSSC was held at the home of Diane Mitchell and John Casebar and on Saturday, September 8, 2007. The following members were present:

Diane Mitchell  
Chris and Beth Basista  
John Casebar

Jill Watson  
Mary Lu Quehl (via phone)

The meeting was called to order by our president Diane Mitchell.

The following items were discussed:

### 2008 Specialty:

It was noted that the approvals for the 2008 Specialty and Sweeps-takes have been received from the

AKC. Cheryl Crompton has been approved to serve as our sweeps-takes judge. A written confirmation has been received from Ms. Crompton agreeing to serve in that capacity.

It was suggested that we look into holding a dinner the evening of the specialty. The Holiday Inn in Greentree was suggested as an option given that a number of exhibitors had stayed there last year.

### 2009 National:

#### *Herding*

The question of whether to offer herding was discussed. Diane noted that the expenses may be less than originally anticipated given that the needed fencing can be secured through the fairgrounds. Also by holding two days of herding we could generate more money in entry fees. Holding instinct testing for an additional fee could also offset the cost of offering herding. However, the costs may still exceed the revenue brought in by entry and instinct testing fees.

#### *Banquet*

Options as to where to hold the banquet were discussed. There are a number of banquet facilities in the immediate area. The option of catering the meal at the show site in one of the fairgrounds buildings was also discussed. Given the overall logistics, the type of building available at the show site and

restrictions on alcohol, it was determined that it would be best to hold the banquet off site at one of the banquet facilities in the area.

## ***Ways and Means***

The need to begin to solicit auction items was discussed. Pet food manufacturers and catalog companies specializing in pet items were identified as good candidates.

## ***GPSSC 2009 Specialty***

Diane indicated that we needed to select a judge for the GPSSC Specialty as soon as possible. A number of suggestions had been made. Diane will investigate the options and attempt to reach a consensus.

## **New Business:**

Diane proposed that we change our web site. She suggested it be hosted through GoDaddy.com. The yearly cost would be \$8.95. This would allow the web site to be more easily updated and also offer more features than we currently have access to. Those members present unanimously agreed to this change.

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned.

Our next meeting is tentatively scheduled for Saturday, October 27, 2007 at the home of Jean Cotter

Respectfully submitted,  
Jill Watson  
Secretary, GPSSC



Ch. Halcyon's Minnie Pear  
Submitted by: Diane R Mitchell

## **Weighty Issues**

In our country today, there is a lot of talk about how people are overweight. There has also been a lot of discussion about our pets being overweight as well. It seems that we think our pets need to eat as much or more than we do. What most people don't realize is that for every extra pound our dogs carry, we are taking years off our dogs lives. Their lives are short enough, we need to control how overweight they really are. Do you even know how to tell if your pet is overweight? With a dog, you should first be able to feel their ribs and their body should have a waist. If the waist is not easy to see and you can't feel the ribs on your dog, then you had better start an exercise routine for your pet. Below is a picture of a dog who is overweight followed by one who is not. Notice the outline of both and how one has a body much wider than it's head. The other looks well proportioned.

Once you have decided to reduce your dogs weight and increase their lifespan, begin to cut back on those wonderful calorie increasing treats you are giving your pet. There are better alternatives for your pet than those treats

that you can find a coupon for. Try making beef flavored ice cubes using the reduced sodium fat free beef bullion, or use some juice from that last big meal you made at home. If that does not work, try carrots or other vegetables. Dogs really do like veggies! Just ask those of us who have had to chase them out of our gardens. My dogs don't go in the garden just to look for critters. They also try to steal tomatoes beans, and dig up the carrots. However, if you are going to feed your pet veggies, think of trying organic. Our pets will live longer and so will we if the foods we eat don't have pesticides in them. As a parrot owner, I made a discovery of the worst kind of vegetables to buy if you don't want pesticides in your system. A great list of what not to purchase can be found at <http://www.landofvos.com/articles/kitchen3.html>. Some of the information in this article, might make you change your own diet. If you think you dog won't eat veggies, give them a try. All of my dogs love carrots. Music used to get into the refrigerator to steal them. She was also looking for meat, but she rarely found any in mine. There are probably some of us who still want to purchase treats for our dogs. Some other things to consider when buying treats would be the list of ingredients. Avoid those with artificial preservatives or colors. These things are not healthy for humans much less pets. There are many good treats available with few of these types of ingredients.

If you don't give your dogs treats, or there are few calories in their treats, like carrots or ice

cubes, then look at what else is going into your dogs mouth. Is someone giving your pet table scraps? With kids around, sometimes it is hard to keep them from sharing their dinner with the dog. I know as a child, I found that our dogs liked things that I did not such as liver. It was easier to give mine to the dog without my parents knowing than they thought! Try to reduce the amount of table scraps your dog gets. I know my dogs get some popcorn as does the bird, but I make sure there is no butter or as little as possible on the pieces they get.

Next, take a look at how much dog food your furry friend gets each day. Add that into the correct number of calories. Is it more than the recommended daily allowance? A 30 pound dog should eat about 1,635 calories a day (Calories, 2007). For every half pound, take off or add 25 calories (Calories, 2007). If so, cut back a bit. If not, then remember that each of our pets, like humans have a different metabolism and perhaps your pet needs fewer calories than the average dog each day. A less active dog will need fewer calories than one who works herding sheep for example.

Once you have decided to reduce your dog's weight and increase their lifespan, begin to cut back on those wonderful calorie increasing treats you are giving your pet or cut out the table scraps. If those are not options, just cutting back on the dogs food a bit will help. One thing to remember, if you are giving your dog treats or table scraps, you might want to reduce their food by the amount of treats or table scraps they are get-

ting. My dogs get a lighter dinner when we have obedience class than on a night when they don't get as many treats. Holiday's are no exception either. I take out dog food for the table scraps I give the dogs. I have also taught my husband to do the same thing. We have split our dogs meals into 2 per day and each of us feeds one of those meals so we can each account for the amount of table scraps and treats we give our dogs. As a last resort, there is always reduced fat dog food available. Just keep in mind that the type of food you feed and the ingredients in that food will also play a part and like treats, artificial flavor and preservatives should not be the main ingredient in your pets food.

Author: Diane R Mitchell  
Reference: How Many Calories Should A Dog Intake Daily? Retrieved on October 21, 2007 from <http://www.blurtit.com/q766388.html>



Promise climbing on John Caseber  
Submitted by: Diane R Mitchell

## Cookies

What makes a good dog treat? How can we be sure the treats we are feeding our dogs are healthy for them and not just a fatty poisonous mess? If you are buying treats at the store, there are some things you can look at to ensure they are a healthy treat for your dog. Artificial colors and preserva-

tives can cause cancer (Kerns, 2007). I doubt they only cause cancer in dogs either. Too much sugar can cause diabetes in humans and dogs. Eating too much fat can cause pancreatitis (Kerns, 2007). Many allergic reactions can be to unhealthy ingredients in treats.

Some things to consider when purchasing treats at a store are the list of ingredients, price, and how widely the product is produced. Some treats that are sold all over the world or produced overseas might not be the best choice for your dog.

First, avoid treats made in a foreign country as their regulations may not be as strict as the USA's. Proof of that occurs almost daily with the recall notices on the news. As stated before artificial colors and preservatives should be avoided. Artificial preservatives include BHA and BHT as well as sodium nitrate (Kerns, 2007). You can avoid treats with meat by-products (Kerns, 2007). Any treat that says 'Animal fat' or 'Animal protein' should be avoided as well (Kerns, 2007). Salt is another flavor that you might want to avoid. In humans, it can help increase weight and it works the same way in dogs. Corn syrup and sucrose are two ingredients to avoid as well (Kerns, 2007). There are better options for sweeteners than those.

There are some things that you can look for when buying commercial treats for your pet. If the list of ingredients shows some form of real meat product like chicken and not just animal protein (Kerns, 2007). Look for whole grain products rather than something that just says starch (Kerns,

2007). There are natural preservatives as well. These include vitamin E and C which are sometimes called mixed tocopherols (Kerns, 2007). It is still better to find treats with no preservatives than those with. Natural sweeteners also exist. Molasses and honey are two decent ones (Kerns, 2007). I often use applesauce instead of water for my home made dog treats to give it a bit more sweetness without any artificial sweeteners.

Home made dog treats are always a good way to go because you know where the ingredients came from and they are usually healthier than store bought treats. So, if you are looking for a good way to give your dogs a reward, and petting is not good enough, try baby carrots, making the treats, or checking the ingredients on the back of the package if you must purchase dog treats. The type of treat you give your dog can help keep them healthier and I doubt they will miss all the bad ingredients anyway.

Author: Diane R Mitchell

Reference: Kerns, Nancy; A real Treat (October, 2007). Whole Dog Journal Volume 10 Number 11.



Promise in guard mode  
Submitted by: Diane R Mitchell

## 2009 SSCA National Specialty

### **Committee**

Show Chair – Diane Mitchell  
Treasurer – John Caseber  
Ways and Means – Mary Lu Quehl – PSSC offered to handle auction, silent auction, and raffles  
Trophy – Diana Wall  
Sweepstakes  
Obedience/Agility/Rally  
Herding – Diana Barber  
Education  
Publicity  
Webmaster - Kathleen Stoltzfus  
Hospitality – Jill Watson  
Banquet – Anna Marie Appel & Kathy Fitzgerald  
Luncheon

### **General Information –**

Show would be held 5/23/07 with Memorial Day Cluster in New Castle, PA.

Host hotel – We will be choosing and making a contract with one of the 3 close hotels next May. None of them accept any contracts earlier than that.

### **Motor home parking**

There are 30 sites that have complete hook ups for motor homes but only available on a first come first serve basis, however they are not as close to the building we would be using. We have been told we can have reserved parking for motor homes around the building we will be using which will only

have 30 amp electric with smaller motor homes close to the building allowing for larger motor homes behind. There will be some water, but not enough for all users. The cluster does have someone come to collect waste from holding tanks for \$25 during the show.

We have 2 bids from vendors on ways and means items.

Logo



### **Schedule of events**

#### **Thursday 5/21/09 –**

Supported entry by KSSC  
Annual Board Meeting - can either be at a restaurant 3 miles from the show site or on the show grounds.

Herding - Diana Barbar is ready to go and just needs to know if we should go for 2 days of herding.

Welcome packets distributed from the host hotel hospitality room as well as at the show grounds.

#### **Friday 5/22/09 –**

PSSC Specialty  
Breeders round table – at the show site in the room off the judges lunch room.

Dinner at the show site catered by one of several places

Educational seminar (need ideas for this) – at the show site – possibly with good

dentist vet or holistic medicine also received a call that Penn Hip might be available to give a lecture that is down to where we regular folks can understand. The health survey may also be done by then and we might have an actual SS problem to find an expert on.

## **Saturday 5/23/09–**

SSCA Specialty, confirmation classes, obedience

Agility held at another location about an hour from the show site

Annual Membership Meeting – at a banquet facility yet to be decided.

Awards Banquet – same location.

Auction – same location

Need to decide on a sweeps judge

Trophies – Diana suggested we have a print done to help reduce the amount needed for trophies. She is getting ideas together and will let us know. She can't start asking for donations until after the 08 national, so we have to wait for that before we begin to collect money.

## **Sunday 5/24/09 -**

GPSSC Specialty  
Obedience

Agility held at another location about an hour from the show site

## **Monday 5/25/09**

Supported entry by PVSSC

Agility held at another location about an hour from the show site

We also have a person willing to do CGC, but need to figure out where we can put them, possibly on Sunday.



Bonnet dressed for Halloween  
Submitted by: Diane R Mitchell

## **Rescue Remedy**

What exactly is Rescue Remedy and how does it work? First, it is a group of flower essences mixed together into a spray. The mixture is supposed to help calm a dog down, but it is also supposed to help when a dog is injured, revive newborn puppies including those who were delivered by caesarean section, relieve breathing problems, speed healing of wounds, and improve mental focus in a dog. The essences contained in this mixture seem to be able to do a lot of things and it is supposed to help even when mixed with a dog's water. If there are more than one dog in the home, flower essences won't hurt the dog they are not intended for if put in a communal water bowl.

What flower essences are in this product, and what do they do? Star of Bethlehem is supposed to be used to help a dog overcome shock. Rock rose will help reduce fear or panic in a dog. Impatiens will help reduce tension and keep a dog from being agitated. Cherry plum is supposed to help the animal keep control of its emotions. Clematis will help keep them from fainting.

There are many other flower essences that are supposed to work to help calm a dog down when it's owner leaves the house. They have mixtures that will curb aggressive tendencies to making a dog more lively available on the market. One thing is for certain. I know people who swear by Rescue Remedy. It is said to help a dog through fear of thunderstorms as well.

Only Natural Pet has an essence available for almost any kind of problem your pet may have. I have decided to get some Rescue Remedy to keep on hand in case I ever need it for one of my dogs. I am still skeptical about the whole flower essence thing working, but am willing to give it a try. I have decided to try one that will help keep harmony among my two older girls so that I don't have to worry about them getting into a fight over things in the yard. Perhaps it will work and this skeptic will change her mind. After all, I believe that strange things sometimes work such as animal communication, so we will see.

Author: Diane R Mitchell

References: Puotinen, C JMore Good Energy (November, 2007). Whole Dog Journal Volume 10 Number 11.

Only Natural Pet Store  
<http://www.onlynaturalpet.com/default.aspx>



Promise napping, one leg in the air  
Submitted by: Diane R Mitchell