



COMMON SCENTS

March/April, 1992
Vol 16., No. 2



Lenape Tracking Club of Central New Jersey

TENTATIVE DATES TO REMEMBER

TED

Saturday, April 25, 1992

TED Follow-up

Saturday, June 6, 1992

TED Follow-up

Sunday, July 12, 1992

TED Follow-up

Saturday, August 15, 1992

Tracklayer Certification

Saturday, August 22, 1992

Certification Match

Sunday, September 20, 1992

Tracking Test

Sunday, November 1, 1992

WHO'S WHO

OFFICERS

President
Vice President
Secretary
Treasurer

John Etchells 908-236-2423
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COMMITTEES

Tracking Experience Day
Tracking Test Secretary
Newsletter

Linda Riley
Linda Riley
Pat Etchells

; FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK: ;

The first thing I would like to do as president is thank Fran Wilmeth for the fine job she did over the last three years. Because of her illness, she was unable to hear the praises at the annual dinner - and in addition, I want to share them with all of you. During Fran's term of office, the club did much to further tracking in New Jersey and the Northeast. We became certified to hold tracking tests, and we held two of them in addition to our "normal" certification matches. We also started a successful tracklayer's certification program, and we continued to hold our very popular tracking experience days. Without Fran's leadership and guidance, I am sure we would not be as far along as we are.

This year's annual dinner was held on March 28th at the Coach and Paddock Restaurant in Clinton and was very enjoyable. I would like to thank Pat Paulding for making the arrangements this year. Everything was delightful, and it was nice to see all our tracking friends again. This year we had something major to celebrate. We had seven members receive tracking title awards, and two of them started tracking at last year's T.E.D. I believe this may be a record for the club. We also handed out certificates to the sixteen members who qualified as tracklayers back in August. In addition we awarded this year's Gaines medal for good sportsmanship to Fran for all the work she has done in forwarding the efforts of the Club. We also announced a new club award offered by Florence Miktus in honor of her late husband John. This award is open to all Lenape members who have earned both an American and a

foreign TD and an American TDX. This is certainly one award we would like to see club members try for and win!

It is finally spring and time again for for Tracking Experience Day, and we have our 36 slots filled. We decided to keep our entry limit this year because we are at a new site and want to be sure that the day meets with our standard of excellence for conducting such a seminar. Since Fran will not be able to join us at this year's event, Linda Riley, Peg Forte, Joanne MacKinnon, Pat and I are trying to function as a committee to fill her shoes. The presentation will be done by Joanne, Peg, Vicky Brown and Edie Braginton and myself. Linda has been receiving the entries and will be assigning teams to groups. We are planning to break the group into six teams for the "feet-on" portion of the day. We would like to assign three club members to each team so that the participants can maximize their tracking practice; therefore, we have been contacting members to come and help. If we have not gotten to you yet and you would like to help - either as a team leader, assistant or as an extra pair of hands, please call Linda Riley; we need your help to make this another successful T.E.D! I hope to see as many of you there as can possibly make it.

Keep on trackin'!. See you all at T.E.D.

John Etchells

Summer Workshop on Canine Behavior for High School Students

By Professor William Carr

Beaver College will offer a workshop for 8 - 10 high school students who wish to gain research experience by working with a faculty member on projects having to do with the role of olfaction in the control of behavior in dogs. Projects completed during the summer or early fall may be presented at "science fairs" next year.

No tuition will be charged. Students need only provide their own transportation and an obedience-trained dog. (A few exceptions to the latter requirement may be made.) Projects can be conducted at Beaver or off-campus. For students working on campus, the instructor or an assistant will be on hand to provide help and supervision. No formal start/end dates for the workshop are planned. Rather, as soon as they are accepted, students will meet with the instructor to plan

their projects (during evenings or weekends) while their schools are still in session.

Students may propose their own projects or select one already underway at Beaver. Topics include: tracking behavior, identifying the scents of individual people, kin recognition, and olfactory acuity. Students may work on their own flexible schedule, beginning as early in the summer as possible. The group will meet weekly for two hours to discuss their projects and other topics. Applicants entering 10 - 12th grades in the fall are preferred, but others will be considered.

For more information and an application form, call Professor William Carr at (215) 886-3580, after 8:30 any evening.

How to Manage an Upsetting Situation

by Dolores M. Holle, VMD

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One of the most common problems you face as a dog owner is the onset of acute diarrhea in your canine companion.

Diarrhea can be caused by bacteria or viruses. It may also occur after your dog eats garbage or "people food." If your dog develops diarrhea with no other signs (i.e., depression, lethargy, vomiting), here is how you can aid in his or her recovery.

- Offer no food for 24 to 48 hours. Food within an inflamed intestine acts as an irritant and causes increased damage to cells living there. This results in a decreased ability to digest and absorb nutrients present in the GI track and an increased amount of diarrhea. Restricting food intake allows the GI track to rest so inflammation can subside.

- Offer a small amount of water or commercial oral fluid replacement, such as Pedialyte or Infalyte, frequently. This will help prevent dehydration by replacing the fluids lost through diarrhea. Commercial fluid replacements have the advantage of also replacing electrolytes like sodium and potassium, which have been lost. Products like Pedialyte and Infalyte are available in the baby products section of the grocery store.

The normal maintenance amount of fluid a dog requires daily is approximately 30 ml per pound per day, or 1800 ml for a 60-pound dog. This is roughly two liters or eight cups. If your dog loses fluid through diarrhea add the amount lost to the total amount of daily oral fluid intake. So, if the fluid lost by your 60-pound dog amounted to three cups, you would need to supply the normal maintenance amount of eight cups, plus three cups for the additional loss - a total of 11 cups. To

meet these needs, you could offer three cups of fluid, four times a day. The important thing to remember is that when your dog has diarrhea, he or she will have a greater than normal requirement for oral fluids.

- After 24 to 48 hours, feed a bland diet in small amounts three or four times a day for three to five days. The bland diet can consist of a commercially prepared intestinal diet, or a combination of boiled rice, pasta or potato with boiled chicken or beef, or cottage cheese. The chicken or beef must be lean; skim any fat that accumulates in boiling. The ratios for the diets are one-third cottage cheese to two-third boiled white rice, potato or pasta, or one quarter chicken or beef to three-quarters boiled white rice, potato or pasta. After three to five days of the strictly bland diet, gradually wean the dog over the next four or five days back to his regular diet.

- Give Pepto-Bismol in tablet or liquid form at the dosage recommended for adult humans four times daily for two to three days. The anti-prostaglandin contained in Pepto-Bismol may modulate intestinal electrolyte secretion, helping to control diarrhea. Other Kaolin and Pectin-type drugs do not contain anti-prostaglandins.

Diarrhea that does not respond to these steps requires further investigation. If symptoms persist, take your dog to your veterinarian. If possible, provide a fresh stool sample.

Dolores M. Holle, VMD, is staff veterinarian at The Seeing Eye.

Can Dogs Distinguish Between The Odors From Identical Twins

by Laurella McClelland, June Oswald, Judith Levicoff, and William Carr

Dogs affect the lives of people in many ways and studying their behavior enables us to understand their needs and special abilities. Therefore, it isn't surprising that for many years and in many places throughout the world, dog owners and researchers have worked together to answer interesting questions about the behavior of dogs.

Since the summer of 1988 we have worked with students and faculty at Beaver College (Glenside, PA) on a number of projects having to do with the dogs' keen sense of smell. We would like to share with readers our experience while working on one of the project designed to answer the question: Can dogs discriminate between the odors from identical twins? Such twins are called monozygotic (or simply MZ-twins) because they develop from a single fertilized egg, also called a zygote.

Fraternal twins are dizygotic: they develop from two eggs fertilized by different sperm.

For many years, the prevailing view was that dogs can discriminate between the odors from any two people unless they are MZ-twins. However, Dr. Peter Hepper at Queen's University in Belfast (UK) recently showed that dogs can even discriminate between the odors from MZ-twins, at least under certain conditions. In his experiment, four dogs previously trained to perform the Scent Discrimination Test first sniffed a T-shirt that had been worn by one twin (the sample) and then were rewarded for selecting another T-shirt worn by the same twin (the match) rather than one worn by the other twin (the lure).

When tested with adult MZ-twins living in different houses and eating different foods, the four dogs responded correctly on 84% of 50 trials each, which is significantly better than chance expectancy. However, when tested with infant MZ-twins living in the same house and on the same diet, they responded correctly at only chance level (49%). Dr. Hepper concluded that dogs can discriminate between the odors from MZ-twins provided that dietary and perhaps other environmental differences are also present in the two odors, in addition to the odor that identifies each of us as a unique person.

We decided to repeat Dr. Hepper's experiment using a rather different technique. We reasoned that if dogs are truly unable to discriminate between the odors from our MZ-twins, Sara and Julie Wharton, who live together on the same diet, then they should treat the odors from the two twins as though they came from the same person. Shirley Barnes and LeaAnn Ziolkowski (Beaver students) and Judith Levicoff tested June Oswald's Scamper, a 3-year-old male Labrador and Laurella McClelland's Corry, a 9-year-old male Papillon. Both dogs had passed the AKC's Scent Discrimination Test many times.

Each dog received 5 trials per weekly sessions for 7 weeks, making a total of 35 trials. During a trial, each dog sniffed a plastic dumbbell previously handled by one twin (the sample), and then was rewarded for selecting a dumbbell handled by the other twin (the match), rather than a dumbbell handled by an unrelated person of the same sex and approximate age (the lure).

To our surprise, both dogs responded at chance level (50%) during the first 15 trials. One dog's performance remained at chance level throughout the 35 trials while the other dog's performance gradually changed so that he retrieved the match on 14 of the last 15 trials (93%). Thus, it seems clear that, at least initially, our dogs did not treat the odors from the two twins as though they came from the same person. How can we resolve the difference between Dr. Hepper's findings and ours?

The two experiments differed in several respects, and we have no way of knowing which of these accounts for our differing conclusions. Two factors seem especially important. First, Dr. Hepper rewarded his dogs for distinguishing between the two twins - for telling "which is Twin-A and which is Twin-B". On the other hand, we rewarded our dogs for not distinguishing between them - for treating the twins as though they were one person. Since other experiments show that animals may be able to detect a difference between two stimuli without being able to tell "which is which", our method of testing might be more sensitive than Dr. Hepper's. Second, Dr. Hepper's twins were only 2 - 3 months old and their diets (they were either breast-fed or on the same formula) and other environmental conditions were much more similar than those of our twins, who were teenagers. These environmental differences may have made our twins smell different.

An obvious next step is to conduct another experiment, involving the odors from 2 - 3 month old MZ-twins like Dr. Hepper's in which some dogs are tested using his method and others are tested using our method. The outcome of this experiment might resolve the present issue.

One might ask: Why bother to resolve the issue, especially since it provides no solution to any practical problem? The fact is that researchers view such work as their "hobby" which they enjoy, just as readers enjoy training and testing their dogs. By working together on projects of mutual interest, we add to our understanding of canine behavior to the benefit of all.

If you have any comments or questions about the project or if you wish to help with this or other projects now in progress, please write to us, in care of Dr. William Carr, Department of Psychology, Beaver College, Glenside, PA 19038.



HOPE MEAKER's Flat Coat Derby is enjoying her nine babies - seven girls and two boys!

News wanted!!! Send your tidbits to PO Box 326, Lebanon, NJ 08833