



TEETER TALES

The official newsletter of Kruisin' Kanines

www.kruisinkanines.com

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August AKC Trial at “The Dome”

Our August AKC trial is almost here! There were many times when I did not think we would be able to have this trial as finding a suitable facility proved to be long and difficult. Our venue this year is a bit different from the usual sports complexes that we are used to in this area, it is an air dome.



Google street view of 422 Sports Plex, Pottstown, site of the August 11-12 Kruisin' Kanines AKC trial.

An air dome is any building that uses internal air pressure to inflate a flexible material envelope. Air is the main support of the structure, not metal or wood. The principle of an air dome works in much the same way as the tires on your car. The internal air pressure in a tire is greater than the outside air pressure. The greater the internal air pressure in the tire, the more strength the tire has against outside forces like a car pushing against it. The dome shape creates the most volume for the least amount of material. The internal pressure must be greater than any external pressure. Actually, it only needs to be 0.0036 greater than the external air pressure! All entrances and exits to a dome must be in some form of an air lock, either two sets of parallel doors or a revolving door. Will it collapse if a door is left open? Yes, but it will take three to four hours for that to happen, so we have nothing to worry about in that respect.

Having our trial in a dome does present some new challenges. There are no walls on which to hang course maps, ring schedules or results. There is netting, so we will be using clothes pins to hang what we can and tables outside the rings for workers schedules. There is a garage door size

entrance for bringing in equipment, but that too is a set of parallel doors. The second door cannot be raised until the first door is completely down. There are two other entrances/exits. One is another set of parallel doors that operate like the equipment entrance, the other is a revolving door. There are four emergency exits that are not air-locked, but would provide quick exit in case of an emergency. There will be Sportsplex employees on hand to help people navigate the entrances for the first few hours until everyone is accustomed to the airlock system.

Please make every effort to support this trial in any way you can. We have not had a two ring trial for several years and the revenue it could bring in will help Kruisin' Kanines to continue its program of dog sports.

— Sherry Wilson, Trial Chair

See you at The Dome!

Board & General Membership Meetings

Board meeting 6:30pm,
Membership 8:15pm,
August 1 at the Barn.

Work Days: Friday, August 10, at noon at the barn, & after 3pm at the Dome to set up rings. Sunday, August 12, 5 pm at the Dome to break-down trial.

Trial: August 11-12 at the 422 Sports Plex, Pottstown

Seminar @ the Barn

Operant Conditioning and Beyond: Skinner, Pavlov and the role of stress in canine performance

Jacqueline Wilhelmy, VMD, DACVB, CCBC-KA, will speak about operant conditioning, classical conditioning, and the limbic system. Learn what they are and how they apply to dog training. Join us for an interesting presentation and Q&A session. Cost is \$10, includes pizza! BYOB

Email kruisinkaninestrainingdirector@gmail.com to register!

AKC Trial August 11-12

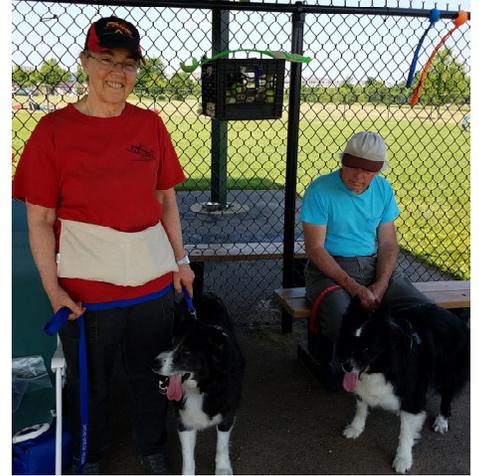
422 Sports Plex, 1400 Industrial Hwy, Pottstown, PA 19464

Closes July 25

Volunteers Needed

Friday-Sunday!

June Demo at Warminster Community Day





Laura Hirth, Ryder, and Boo did a bang up job of mowing the fields and outdoor ring this summer!

Policy Change

With only 4 membership meetings per year, members must attend at least 1 every 6 months to meet requirements for Active Membership. Please also help prepare for trials, which represent the club's major sources of revenue. Their success depends on the efforts of Kruisin' Kanines members. We need your help!

Board Business

by Sherry Wilson, President

Now that membership meetings are held only quarterly, I will be providing a short synopsis of what the Board is working on so that members can stay informed. The board is discussing the following:

- Forming an AKC nose work trial committee
- Forming a marketing/publicity committee
- Examining number of board members in relation to club members
- Outside private rental to another agility business
- Pro-rating credits for instructors and assistants



DOG BLOOD TYPES

Do you know that dogs have blood types? Of course you do if your dog ever needed a blood transfusion, but I actually never thought about it before. An April 28, 2018, article in *The Intelligencer*, written by Dr. Dana Koch, explained all about it.

People's blood types are determined by antigens (proteins and sugars). Human red blood cells have either antigen type A, type B, both (AB), or type O. Type O people are considered universal donors because they have neither A nor B antigens and their blood will not be rejected when given to people with types A, B, or AB blood.

Dogs have 12 blood types. The most common is called Dog Erythrocyte Antigen (DEA) 1.1. About 40% of dogs have that type. Luckily, dogs don't usually have antibodies against antigens found in other dog blood types without previous exposure. If a dog is DEA 1.1-negative, and receives an infusion of DEA 1.1-positive blood, it will probably develop antibodies to it and may not be able to have another transfusion of that type again. DEA 1.1 positive dogs are considered universal recipients, and DEA 1.1 negative dogs are considered universal donor dogs. Dr. Koch notes it is best to use blood from donor animals that either lack DEA 1.1 or match the recipient. Interestingly, Dalmations were recently discovered to have a newer blood type.

Cats have three groups of blood types: A, B, and AB, with most of them in the United States being type A. Refer to the article for interesting feline facts.

Dog donor blood is obtained throughout the United States. Around here, the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine has an animal blood bank and storage facility. Donor blood is usually separated into red blood cells, plasma, and other blood components so that more than one transfusion is gleaned from one donation (and one donor can help more than one patient). This may minimize the risk of various types of transfusion reaction, too.

In case you're interested in contributing to the blood bank, donor dogs must be 1-6 years old, weigh no less than 55 pounds, be in excellent condition and health, have a good temperament, and taking no medications other than heartworm and flea/tick preventives.

For more information, visit: <https://www.vet.upenn.edu/veterinary-hospitals/ryan-veterinary-hospital/services/internal-medicine/penn-animal-blood-bank>



PART 2: DOG'S EYE VIEW... Colour & Jumping: a study in Bar Colour

By Nicki Gurr BSc, BEd, Masters Judge AAC/UKI

From Part 1, May/June issue: I am NOT an Ophthalmologist. I am NOT a Veterinarian. I am just a curious individual (that many years ago enjoyed studying neuro- and biopsychology) with 17 years experience watching dogs training and competing in Agility. My goal with this topic is to compare how dogs see the world vs how we see things, and to relate them to the sport of Agility. I hope that this information may influence choices made [when] designing/choosing equipment for this sport.

The second half of this Vision Study compares striding to jumps with black bars vs white bars. The test subjects were dogs that typically take off early, or add strides, when approaching straight-on (perpendicular) jumps. Three sequences that emphasized these approaches were sent to participants. They were set up on grass/sand surfaces. Bar colour recommended for these surfaces was black (grass and sand take on yellow tones on a dichromatic spectrum and black is a bold contrast). Bars were taped solidly, without contrasting strips, to make them as prominent as possible.

TEST ONE: 90 degree approach to a jump out of a tunnel. Distances 15' - 18'. Bar colour: White and Black. [Note: each test has an accompanying video. Visit <https://www.animationagility.ca/bar-colour-comparison-in-dogs-that-add-strides-or-take-off-early> to watch.]

RESULTS: Black bars produced fewer strides overall than white bars. The unintended "environmental noise" was a significant finding in the importance of minimizing equipment, etc, on perimeters of a ring. As shown in the test dog, without background objects competing for the dog's focus, both jumping efforts at 15'/16' with black or white bars, was relaxed and appropriate. Added strides were eliminated.

TEST TWO: A Circular sequence with straight on (perpendicular) approaches to a tire and jump. Three dogs

ran this setup: two on grass, one on silica sand. All dogs used black bars. One dog was able to compare performance on an orange tire with narrow black markings to be "tiger striped," and a black tire (by wrapping black fabric around it).

RESULTS: Orange vs black tire: The black self-healing tire was never "broken." It was performed approximately 6 times. The orange tire was "broken" in the majority of attempts (only the first attempt is shown). The "white" bars used had blue striping on them so had more visible contrast than solid white bars. That said, the black bars produced fewer strides. All three dogs had more balanced striding and fewer strides with the black bars on this setup.

TEST THREE: Soft slice approaching and exiting a tunnel.

RESULTS: More data needed (of course!) but this dog had [fewer] strides on black bars than white bars.

TEST FOUR: Set up distance from a jump. White bars were run first. Black bars produced fewer strides on the bigger distances and also better "intent"/balance approaching the bar.

CONCLUSION: Yes the test group was small, but the trend in all dogs showed fewer strides taken and better balance in striding to a black bar. When white bars were run first, black bars improved the performance when run second. When black bars were run first, the white bar pattern was similar/closer to the black—suggesting possible patterning to white after running black but not vice versa. In slow motion the intent of the strides appears different as well. The dogs are sometimes more forward/driving towards the jump vs pulling back and "guessing" about the take off. Dogs without early take off/adding strides ran the loop setup and performed confidently as well. The black bars produced confident jumping in all of the dogs, and in the dogs that had early take offs (ETOs) the black bars



Reprinted with permission from Nicki Gurr. To read the full article and see all photos and captions, visit <https://www.animationagility.ca/dogs-eye-view/>. To view videos, visit: <https://www.animationagility.ca/bar-colour-comparison-in-dogs-that-add-strides-or-take-off-early>

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produced better performances.

Sighting bars at speed should be as easy as possible, given how quickly the dogs are navigating a course and making choices. If bar colour can make that choice easier for them and SAFER for them, then it needs to be considered seriously in choosing tape colours for jump bars *and* tires. The “straight on” (perpendicular) approaches are the most difficult if colours or lighting conditions are compromised. Slices are easier for the dogs to assess take off spots. Using dark bars on straight-on approaches is where dark bars should be used first, if there are not enough available to use on every jump. Bar colour, surface colour, lighting/shadows will all play a role in how a dog can “sight” a jump bar. [Go to web page to see an example of too little information on the jump bars relative to the depth of the double jump for this dog.]

Environmental “noise,” such as strong fencing colours, stored equipment not in use, etc, needs to be minimized. Choosing an area that can be tarped/covered in a colour that blends with the environment, would greatly reduce the risk of this. Most surfaces appear in yellow tones (grass/sand/dirt) so choosing coverings in orange/red/green/yellow/pink would be good choices. The same rule applies for ring barrier. Minimize the use of white fencing and use colours like dark green or orange to blend in with the environment.



This dog is unable to determine what to actually jump thru. The inner tire is not defined. The tire frame should not dominate the colour of the tire. For example, a blue tire

frame is very dominant. A tire painted in yellow and red is far less dominant. The wrong part of the equipment is being emphasized. This dog jumped over the red strap - next to the red stripe on the tire. That all appeared as “floating shadow.” This frame in red, and the tire solid blue would be an entirely different message. This dog jumps its regular tire (black) very well, suggesting the colour is causing conflict.

AUTHOR'S NOTE: Improving contrast for our dogs can cost as little as \$10 for a couple of rolls of black or dark blue Duct tape. (If surface is black, blue tape.) Small

amounts of contrast colour can be used for club colours as long as 75% or more of the bar length is strong: black or blue. I judge quite regularly. In a recent assignment I observed 12 dogs in that trial with signs of ETOs. They accounted for approximately 20% of the dogs in that trial. That's a very significant number! Safety. Confidence. Success on course. All great reasons to improve the visibility for ALL dogs. Just like people, there is a scale in visual acuity. Improving our ring's appearance from a dog's perspective will help ALL DOGS. From the local trial to the world stage—all dogs deserve to have the best chance for success and safety. Imagine if a bar stays up instead of comes down because of easier sighting? I am now using black bars in all of my puppy classes. I want all my youngsters to start off with the best odds of becoming confident jumpers. The least useful colours on bars/weave poles are re/yellow/pink/orange/green. Poles stand out best when coloured with black or blue.

“My 2 year old border collie has ETS symptoms and we were featured in Nicki's study in part 2. We have been working with black bars for about 3 weeks now and the difference in my dog's jump performance is night and day.”

For dogs that have difficulty sighting the bars/taking off early or adding strides on approach, training with black or blue bars *may* improve their ability to sight the bar/choose where to take it off. Since 95% of our dogs' training time is *not* in an agility trial ring, I think it is key to make the training environment as successful as possible. In doing that, our dogs may be able to make associations from the home environment into the trial ring. With increased awareness, trial rings will hopefully add more dark bars to their rings and less red/yellow/orange/pink and green bars. [See web page for more examples and videos.]

And while we're on the topic of making things easier to identify, tying in with the black theme...a small black snooker-style flag midline on either side of the teeter. Let the dogs know on approach *This is the teeter, not the dog walk!* As mentioned in the first article, the yellow zones get lost against the footing and overhead/external light sources can make it *very* challenging to determine teeter vs dogwalk. Small black flags would stop the uncertainty.

This study has been REALLY interesting and I hope useful for all of us training/teaching/hosting events. To clubs that take the plunge and tape their bars, I give you two virtual thumbs up! Drop me a line if your club is adding black bars! I'd like to start a black bar agility list.

This study is dedicated to the dogs for trying their best when the obvious isn't so obvious. ALL dogs deserve to have the best colours used on equipment to allow safety and success!

Happy Training!



MACH 1 for Sally Hunter & Bryce

Bryce earned his MACH June 30, 2018. Going into the York Kennel Club trial at Yellow Breeches we had 18 QQ's. We needed two days of clean runs to complete his title. We trial often and he qualifies frequently. This has been a year and a half journey since he started getting double Q's last summer. We are becoming a great team. I have been in agility for about 15 years, starting with Gweni, my wild black girl, and her brother Duke. I've never had a dog come close to this grand title until Bryce. He's a great teammate but has forced me to be patient, to give him lots of encouragement, and to build his confidence each time we're in the ring. It's been a roller coaster ride for both of us.

On day one, we had early runs and he was clean and fast in both, earning another 25 points. Day two was a long wait with our first run not until early afternoon; he ran great and we got another clean run. He earned another 26 points.

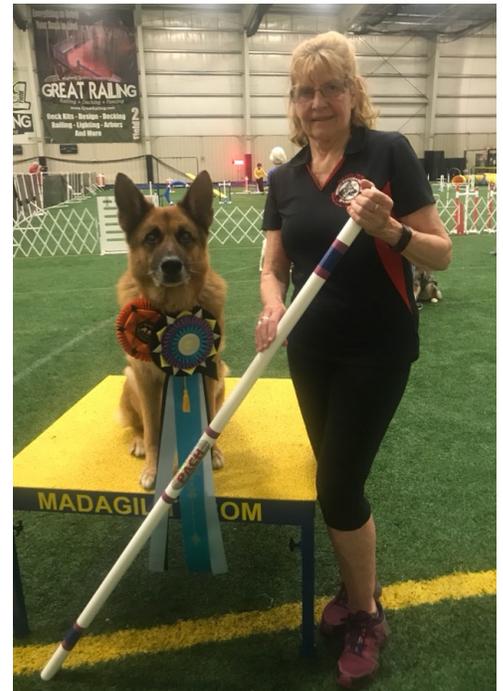
Keeping his interest and energy up for a late afternoon run has been a challenge, but when we went into the jumpers run, which is not his favorite, he had good focus and energy. We crossed the final jump and he was clean! Our 20th QQ and MACH title! Bryce had gone 4 for 4, clean runs back to back.

He's only 6 years old and we look forward to many more clean runs. Thanks to our breeder Karen Gunzel, who told me when I got him, "He'll be your MACH dog!" Only a few years later, those words rang true.



MACH 15 for Konnie & Iako vom Windy Ridge

PACH 1 for Konnie & Iako vom Windy Ridge



Hogan and Hawkeye having fun doing their favorite summer activities—playing frisbee and retrieving sticks in Lycoming Creek, where Sherry Wilson likes to fly fish.



Congratulations!



Sherry Wilson handling both Hawkeye & Whiskey. Five runs with 4 Q's the first time running Whiskey. What a great handler!! Photo by Judi Schroeder.



Jeanie Burton's Megan earned her Intermediate and Advanced tricks titles.

UPCOMING EVENTS

July

27 — Seminar: Operant Conditioning and Beyond, 6:30pm @ the barn

August

1 — Board (6:30pm) and General Membership meetings (8:15pm) @ the barn

10 — work day, noon at the barn, & after 3pm at the Dome to set up rings.

11-12 — AKC Trial, Pottstown, PA

12 — work day, 5pm at the Dome to breakdown trial.

Weekly Club Events 2018

Every Sunday: Run Thrus all day, unless another club event is scheduled.

For a detailed look at all Classes and Events, visit www.Kruisinkanines.com, and click: [Kruisin' Kanines Calendar](#).

For Barn Use Schedule, click on: [Barn Use Calendar](#)

For general information, visit www.kruisinkanines.com

Training Schedule *

Monday

Ring 1

Fancy Handling 7:00 pm (Jeanie Burton)
Fancy Handling 8:00 pm (Jeanie Burton)

Ring 2

Beginners 7:00 pm (Joanna Fleming/Kris Bartell)

Tuesday

Ring 1

Skills and Handling 6:45 pm (Linda Goldman)
Contacts and Weaves 8:00 pm (Jeff Abel) **NEW Addition!**

Wednesday

Ring 1

Skills and Drills 6:30 pm (Kim Sectar)

Thursday

Ring 1

Intermediate 10:30 am (Rosemary McQuate)
Intermediate - 2 11:30 am (Rosemary McQuate)
Master Class 6:30 pm (Jessica Ajoux) 7/19, 8/9, 8/30, 9/20, 9/27, 10/11.
Master Class 8:00 pm (Jessica Ajoux) 7/19, 8/9, 8/30, 9/20, 9/27, 10/11.

Ring 2

Tricks Class 7:00 pm (Dina Melendez). You can earn your Tricks titles!

Note: Nosework classes currently on hold. Watch emails for info on possible Sniff & Go events in the interim.

* Schedule subject to change. Check website for most up-to-date information.

The Board

President: Sherry Wilson

Vice President: Konnie McCaffree

Treasurer: Betty Skilton

Secretary: Terri Natishan

Directors:

Diane Carney
Joanna Fleming
Anne Ford
Linda Goldman
Sally Hunter

Kruisin' Kanines holds General Membership meetings quarterly. The Board of Directors meets once a month. If you would like to attend either meeting, please check the Kruisin' website calendar for dates and times.

Teeter Tales is designed and edited by Allison Walker and is published every other month. Send stories and photos to awwalker2@gmail.com