The Dog Scout Scoop

Official Newsletter ~ Dog Scouts of America

Published for DSA's responsible dog-loving members and for the friends of dogs everywhere

Volume 22 Issue 2 March/April 2019



Notes from National

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Deadline: for the next newsletter is

May 15th

Please e-mail your news, articles, and pictures to thescoop@dogscouts.org

Troop Administration Update

Free Troop Promotion

As mentioned in the last newsletter, we're discussing options for increasing awareness of our troops through social media. To that end, we'd like troop leaders to send the following to our Facebook Admin., Kelly Ford, so she can create an advert to highlight your troop:

- 1. 2-8 high resolution photos of your troop, the photos can be group shots, active shots, whatever you like. Not all photos may be used, but Kelly will pick the ones that work the best and fit as many as possible in.
- 2. Your troop's number
- Your troop's name if you have one
- 4. The location your troop serves
- 5. A catchy one-liner (you can use the catch-phrases from the DSA Handbook, but you it will be more fun if you are original)
- 6. Contact information—either your troop's website, Facebook page or an email address

E-mail to dsa.troop219@yahoo.com by May 1st



Take advantage of this opportunity to promote your troop to a wider audience

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Make a Difference at the 2019 Leadership Retreat!

By Barrie Lynn Wood and Sally Hoyle

We are changing things up for the annual Leadership Retreat and we hope you are up for the challenge! As DSA members we know that each and every one of you has unique talents, skills and experiences that make you especially qualified to attend the Retreat. This year's Leadership Retreat will be held May 17-19 at the Michigan camp. The weekend will be full of fun activities and games, trying new things with your dog, sharing information and ideas with one another and enjoying the company of both old and new friends.

This year we are changing the format of the retreat, allowing for a very open exchange of ideas and information. Attendees will not be required to deliver a presentation but there is the opportunity for those who have a topic or activity they would like to share. Everyone will contribute to the success of the weekend in some way. The retreat has a lot to offer to individuals with all levels of DSA experience. In the past we have had attendees from many parts of the country and hope to have quite a bit of geographical diversity this year as well.

But what is leadership anyway? As a non-profit and all-volunteer organization, DSA depends on our members to keep us running. We are blessed to have members that are passionate about our mission and eager to share what we are all about with others. So for us, leadership is defined by the actions of our members all across the country.

In addition to sharing the mission and vision of DSA our members and those who step up to volunteer have a number of things in common. First, they are **motivated**. They LOVE DSA and want to share that love with others. They recognize the need for DSA to continue to grow and be viable for many generations to come. They share ideas with others and enjoy figuring out ways not just to keep things going as they are but focus on how to build on our successes.

These individuals are *empathetic*. They are able to put themselves in the place of others, understand their concerns and solve problems. They recognize where the potential for problems exist and they share these concerns with others. They are *creative*. They use their imaginations to develop and present solutions to others. They find inventive ways to further the mission of DSA and they encourage others to do the same. They are not constrained by what is, but instead focus on what can be.

They are *improvement focused*. No matter the success of any troop or DSA as a whole, they see that we can always improve. We can be better tomorrow than we are today. They recognize that successes are meant to be built upon. Failures are viewed not as an embarrassment; not as something to be relegated to the past, but as something to dissect and find the parts that are valuable and worth continuing to explore.

They are **risk takers**, not recklessly but strategically. They make decisions, own mistakes and rectify situations as needed. They are always looking toward the future, are ahead of their time and see opportunities where others can't.

Our members are *team focused*. They recognize that no one person has the best answers and find that truly listening to others and implementing their suggestions only leads to more success. They recognize the expertise of others and are happy to learn from them. They like to *serve*. Serving the

Leadership Retreat (cont.)

community in the way the community needs is important to them. They serve individuals by lending their time and skills and helping to raise others up. They serve DSA by giving back, both financially through fundraising and by giving of themselves.

In short, the definition of leadership has nothing to do with hierarchy, position or title. It has only to do with an attitude of enthusiasm for achieving our common goals and the conviction to share that enthusiasm with others. Leaders are not just troop leaders. DSA is lucky to be filled with members who share the qualities described above.

Do you recognize yourself in this description? Do you find yourself identifying with the words above? If so, you are in good company! You are someone who belongs at this year's Leadership Retreat! Just as each dog has a specialty or "best trick" we believe that every person has special knowledge that is valuable to others. We want you to share your best trick with us!

You can register for the retreat or ask questions by contacting Barrie Lynn Wood at troops@dogscouts.org. There is no cost to attend the retreat other than lodging. Each person is asked to contribute to a meal over the course of the weekend and we share responsibilities for meal preparation. We always end up with an abundance of super yummy food. The deadline for registration is April 20.

We hope to see YOU at the 2019 Leadership Retreat!



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Rainbow Bridge

Ragdoll's Finding The Magic CGC, "Quinn"

December 22, 2014 – March 20, 2019
Service Dog
Dog Scouts of America Scout Troop 230, Tyler, Texas

On March 20th, 2019 we lost my service dog, Quinn DSA, to a couple of unusual illnesses that are not normally seen in her breed or at her age (usually they're seen in much older dogs). We were aware of the common health issue with Pomeranians, the collapsing trachea, so we were watching Quinn very closely and

doing everything there was to help her breathe but it turned out it wasn't her trachea that was the problem. Instead her larynx had frozen closed and she could not breathe, which meant surgery was required to try to detach it and reattach it to the cartilage on the side of her throat. During the surgery appointment, the vet told us that there was a chance Quinn might not survive the surgery because her liver enzymes were sky high —meaning it would not be filtering out the toxins from the anesthesia and that would then limit oxygen to her heart (this also is not normally seen in young healthy dogs like Quinn). To the hopes of giving her a chance to breathe normally we decided to go ahead with the surgery, that was all we could really do at the time; the only alternative was that to take her home again and have her die in our arms and I could not watch her suffer like that any longer—she deserved a chance if there was one.

The surgery was successful and Quinn was in recovery doing well when her heart just stopped and the vet could not get it to start again. We lost Quinn the day after our 53rd wedding anniversary. We had so many good times with her and she brought so much love to me that I had to share her story in case anyone else's dog is dealing with breathing issues and this has not been considered.

Quinn was almost one year old when I got her and was the best Service Dog ever; she was so tuned in to me and helped me in so many ways. She had learned to let me know when the dryer stopped and when the microwave beeped and was always alerting me when my phone rang. She was so much fun too. While

training at Petco she had a difficult time with the sit-stay

command. We worked and worked with her and still every time I would walk away, her little feet would begin to move so fast to follow me, she earned the name "Treadmill" — so every time we would go into Petco I would tell them that "Treadmill" was here.

Quinn earned her CGC and Service Dog titles, then passed her Dog Scout test and earned three merit badges. Right after this, she kept trying to tell me something by running up my legs and licking my neck but I had no idea what she was saying until all of a sudden my chest began to have a major pain in it and I ended up in the hospital for four days due to a heart attack. She could tell before I could if I was experiencing something that needed attention.

She had so much love to give and was always ready to go for a ride in the car with me. She went everywhere I went. Even my doctor told me that I couldn't come to my appointments without her, she was loved by so many. She was very good at "herding" us where she wanted us to go and was always excited when she did something special for treats. She was so little, but in that little package was one big dog personality. I loved her so very much and will miss her every day. Even though my heart is broken, I know she is no longer suffering and is at Rainbow Bridge playing with my other three Poms and two more that were friends of ours that are also there.

Thank you to all who made life fun for Quinn and myself, it was a fantastic ride while it lasted.

Sandie S. Barham

Scout Scoop & Troop Tales

Troop 119—TX

Cindy Ratliff

2019 got off to a great start with already NINE new troop members to start off the new year! What a fantastic way to get the year off on the right foot! We are excited to get to know these new members and get them involved with the activities of the troop!

Our January began with what has become an annual troop hike in January. We're all still pretty much recovering from the holidays at that point and don't know what the weather will be doing for the month so we generally plan a troop hike for the first month of the new year. We had a really nice turnout and a great day with sunshine, temps in the low 60s and a cool breeze for our outing. We got to meet some of our new members and welcome them, too. We hiked at one of our troop favorite parks for about 3 miles and had a nice afternoon with our troop friends.



New members, Lise Ann & Squiggy



January hike is underway



Marshal ready to backpack





Mozzie & Gary take a break



New member, Maegan, & Charlie take a break



Keenan sporting his new wheels



Leslie, Leah & Kira



Rouen, Debbie, Tim & Roger

Troop 119—TX (cont.)

In February, we joined up at an area park for a Photo Scavenger hunt.

Troop members & guests split up into several teams and took on a list of 60 items to hunt for within a one-mile park trail. Teams had just under an hour to photograph as many of the items on the list as possible, then return to the command post before the allotted time ran out. Teams received one point for each list item photographed and could earn up to 10 bonus points for collecting up to 10 stray poops. We have a pretty competitive bunch and everybody gave it their best shot to come out on top. The winning team was able to record 49 listed items but got 9 bonus points for poop pick up. The winning team members got to choose a nice bag of treats for their dogs. It was another beautiful day in the park and we all enjoyed the fun while getting to meet more of our new members!



Harper sitting on a stone ledge



Casper sitting by a doggie poop station



Gizmo on a tree stump





Malu poses with a poop bag in a color other than black



Lacey on a park bench



Austin on a picnic table

Troop 119—TX (cont.)



New troop dog, Oakley, thanks mom for joining Dog Scouts!



Marshal lying beside a doggie drinking fountain



Oakley in front of a park map





Recreation of Abbey Road cover



Sasha lying beside a dandelion



Tom collecting bonus points for his team

We are looking forward to the upcoming March meeting when we'll introduce the Parkour I badge.

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Troop 157—FL

~ Broward Paw Patrol

Teresa Irvine

Walk4TheAnimals

On March 2, 2019 several of our troop members supported the Broward County Walk for the Animals event, which is a 1.25 mile walk along the New River in Ft. Lauderdale. This year Ripley and Teresa raised \$700 and joined the Humane Society Animal Assisted Therapy pack. All donations received went towards the Humane Society of Broward County programs providing shelter, aid and responsible adoptions to animals entrusted to our care, and educate the community about respect and kindness to all animals. It was a beautiful day to get out and spend time with your furbabies, while supporting a great community cause.



DSA Written Test

One of our troop's goals for 2018 was for more of our members to earn their Dog Scout badge. During the last two months Teresa, Dawn, Judy and Linda have been engaged in reading the materials necessary to complete the DSA written test. We are happy to say the humans have reached their goal in completing the written



Written Test Prep



Jessie the Moderator

portion of the test. Jessie was the perfect moderator too as she was available for inspiration and love. Next will be to get the checklist for the dogs completed!



DSA Sparky's Turkey Trot Medals 2018

It was fun to receive our Sparky's Turkey Trot Medals and take a picture with them on. This was the second year we participated in the walk.

Peanut-Clover-Ripley-Jessie-Oreo

DSA Leave It Challenge

Christine and her pups (Grace and Clover) did a great job with the "Leave It Challenge", shown here. We all know how important the "Leave It" training is and something that should be reinforced, since it can save your canine's life.



Troop 183—FL

Shirley Conley—Troop Leader

In February Troop 183 had fun on the agility equipment, jumping, climbing, tunneling and weaving. Some dogs worked with the equipment as the focus, others on responding to handler cues in a new location, which they found to be distracting. One of our new participants has a dog with some physical limitations, so we directed them to focus on tunnels, low-height jumps and a lowered pause table. We provided them with a number of short sessions on the

course and kept an eye on their dog's form to monitor for fatiguing.





Congratulations to Nim Conley on earning the lure coursing badge and Tachi Conley on earning both the lure coursing and backpacking badges by video submission in February

In March we worked through the signs for a Rally FrEe Novice course. While we had fun, we decided it might take a little more time and some more training to learn all the Novice level signs and have our dogs perform them without a lure.

We also talked about the possibility of doing some training videos and working through a couple of signs at a time—something we might work on in the airconditioning during the long hot summer months!











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Troops 198, 233 & 237—CA

Leah Lane—Event Coordinator

The San Francisco Bay Area Troops are off and running with the New 2019 Year! It has been a very wet beginning in the Bay Area for 2019, so on February 2, Troop 237 decided to stretch their dog's brain muscles with a painting work shop at Metro Dog in Richmond.



Cecilia holds the canvas as Baymax creates his masterpiece.



Poppy tells Mom Connie,
"I'm in the zone!"



Conner & Karlie watch the other artists and wait for inspiration.



Copper says, "Hey, I could make some money with this!!



Toby poses to have his picture painted.



Charlie tells mom, Katherine, that treats are inspirational.



Here Charlie is telling mom Katherine about his picture as Lulu tells mom Teressa," Look, I can do it too!"



Teressa and Lulu get help from Kristie.

On February 3, Troop 198 decided to get out in the rain and have some fun with a Mall Walk About at Stanford Shopping Center in Palo Alto.



This is puppy Sprockets first mall walk training, but he and Patty lead the way with Wyatt, Duncan and mom Leah following close behind as the rain drops fall.

First stop is a large sculpture where everyone can practice recall through a challenging obstacle.



Leah holds Raylan's leash
while mom Angela calls him
through and Susan and
Cowgirl capture the action on
their phone. Wyatt and
Duncan watch from the side.



Out the other side, Raylan finds for his reward.



Next is Nemo's turn, this is his first mall walk he is happy to run to Hanh as she calls him to come.



Next is Crystal's turn, she says, "I'm ready, here I come!"



Next puppy Sprocket give is a whirl, as Patty gives him some encouragement and promises him a treat.



Another exercise to practice is a stay on a raised platform. First timer, Nemo, is having a good time and mom Hanh is proud of her little man!



Nemo jumps down and give Cowgirl and Susan a turn on the bench and behind Odin and Kate practice too.



Sadie, Bailey and Crystal practice on another bench.



Wyatt & Duncan in their raincoats are saying, "We got this" while, Crystal & Bailey receive praise from Scott and Carlotta for being such good dogs!



Wyatt & Duncan share their bench with puppy Sprocket & mom Patty while to the left, Odin and Cowgirl look like they are practicing being book ends on the right.



Wyatt, Duncan and puppy
Sprocket hold their platform
stays as mom Patty watches
and Sadie poses while mom
Lennie snaps her picture in
the background.
Smile Sadie!



Raylan practices his platform stay on a pillar as mom Angela proudly watches, what a good dog!

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After the platform stay practice the group gets ready to go and find a dry spot to warm up with some hot drinks and bakery treats.





From left to right we have Jaime with Taz chatting with Hanh and Nemo and Kate with Odin and Susan with Cowgirl congratulate each other on a training well done.

Cowgirl says, "That was fun, let's do it again!"

On Feb 10th some of the San Francisco Bay Area Dog Scouts attended a fund raiser at Pup Plaza, an initiative of Silicon Valley Pet Project. For a donation, you could have your pups picture taken by professional photographer Suszi McFadden of Fuzzy Beastie Photography for Valentine's Day.



Wyatt and Duncan decided to forgo the Valentine's Day theme and finally got a professional picture taken in the Dog Scout vests and kerchiefs. They ran into lots of old friends and made some new ones at the photo shoot and introduced lots of people to the wonder world of Dog Scouts!



On Feb 26th Dog Scouts joined a ranger led hike at Martial Cottle Park in San Jose.

Here is Rod working with Stretch and Janet working with Molly on the "Watch Me" command.

> Wyatt & Duncan made lots of new friends on the walk, these two young men loved hearing all about Dog Scouts.





Odin loves to sit in Kate's lap, it is so much more comfortable than a hard chair.

On Feb 26th, Troop 198 had their monthly meeting Sports Basement in Campbell, who graciously offer us a warm dry space to meet for free!

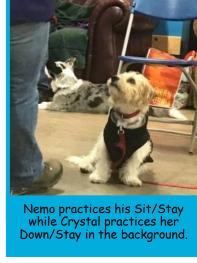
After everyone was seated, Troop leader Donna talked about the requirements for the Dog Scout Test and the AKC CGC test.



Here Nemo and Hanh listen to all the requirements.

OK, now time to practice.







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After practice, the next order of business was for puppy Sprocket to take his Pup Scout Test which he passed with flying colors.





Sprocket says, "OK, enough of the formal photo, let's celebrate!"

Since it was getting close to St. Patty's Day, we decided to celebrate by taking some fun St. Patty's Day photos.

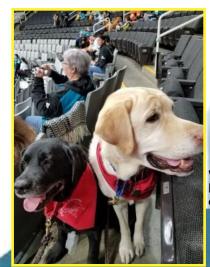








Our next Bay Area adventure was going to Pucks & Paws put on by the San Jose Barracuda Ice Hockey Team.



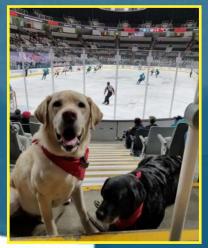


The photo booth was not really set up for large dogs, but Leah as able to lift Wyatt up on his hind legs to get him into the photo frame.

Wyatt says, "Hey, they have popcorn over there, can we get some?"



Duncan wasn't tall enough, so it took a one, two and lift to get him into the picture frame.



Great shot of the action behind Wyatt & Duncan, although, Wyatt would have really enjoyed it if he could have joined in!



And Crystal made the Jumbo Tron, but they got they put up the wrong name and listed her puppy brother's name Sprocket. Oh, well....

So many new things to do and adventures ahead, can't wait to see what happens next!

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Troop 217—MI ~ Motor City K9's

Sally Hoyle—Troop Leader

Our troop recently got together for several activities, and as always, we have had a lot of fun. In February we met to do some shaping as we have had a lot of focus on tricks recently. It gave us the opportunity to see what everyone has been working on with their dogs and to lend a little support where we might be running into challenges. We believe that getting someone else's eyes on a situation can help us to figure things out and everyone offered suggestions to help out others. It's always fun to get ideas from others on new things to try as well.



Little Moose was so cute showing us how she is learning to push her very tiny little shopping cart. She has a lot of tricks in her repertoire but used to time to work on overcoming distractions. She's such a small dog but makes up for that with her huge personality! Darby worked on a number of tricks in preparation for her Tricks badge, and she did earn her Manners badge that day!

Maia is quite the accomplished trickster so she needed a new challenge. She and Katie started working on learning to go through simple mazes. We set them up for success by starting with some fencing and are continuing to work on the concept with smaller profile items. The goal is to eventually have them do more complex mazes using very low profile soccer cones. It might take a while but we are determined!

Mackenzie used the time to work on all of the tricks she knows in a more challenging environment. She needs to be able to focus in the face of distractions all

around her and this was the perfect opportunity to do some work. She also worked on sending to a mark and we got some great suggestions from others on how to perfect the skill and be able to accomplish it from even greater distances.

Several weeks later we met to do some scent work. Julie Benson came with Shelby to give pointers and do badge check offs for both levels of the badge for those who were ready. Our newest members, Laurie and Chuck Marion came with their dog Lillie and we were glad to finally get to meet them all.

Every dog got to give it a try no matter their experience with scent work. Lillie and Mackenzie, the youngsters were challenged with the environment but they both did really well. Mackenzie was brand new to the game and was able to find her very first hide! Darby made quick work of earning the Scent Detection badge with two pretty quick finds.

Carrie and Darby with Darby's Scent Detection and Manners badges.

Troop 217—MI (cont.)

Katie gave the Advanced Scent Detection badge a try but was pretty distracted by the antics of little sister Mackenzie at the other end of the room. She'll get another go at it soon without that pesky little sister around. Sassy had no trouble at all and was able to earn the badge! It's really fun to watch Sassy work and it's always great to pick up something by watching another dog work.

Maia was along to do some scenting just for fun as she has already earned both badges. We kept giving her more and more difficult challenges with hides way above her head and also with multiple scents at the same time. We weren't able to stump her though as she's really a pro!

We finished up the day doing some quick work on mazes. We have already moved on to lower profile objects and are pretty satisfied with our progress to date. Shelby got to give the maze a try for the first time and she just flew through it from start to end!



Michelle and Sassy with Sassy's newly earned Advanced Scent Detection Badge.

On a bright sunny afternoon we met in the park to celebrate Mackenzie's 1st birthday. Where did the time go?! It seems like just yesterday I could pick her up but those days are pretty much over now.



We were also thrilled that day to meet our newest little Cadet Scout, Jaxson. Jaxson is the most adorable little Corgi puppy! Mom Diane Baughman is over the moon with her new little one and was happy to share him with the troop. We all had to take turns holding him to get our fix of puppy snuggles.

We look forward to spending quite a bit of time getting to know Jaxson better this spring and spending more time together as a troop as we'll be able to get outdoors!



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Troop 219—CT ~ The New England Explorers

Kelly Ford—Troop Leader, CRN Secretary and Trails Titling Program Coordinator

We are jumping for joy over the accomplishments of our Dog Scouts. Danica Joy DSA earned her Retrieve badge and Wyatt DSA earned his Dog Care badge. Both scouts earned their badges by video after a great deal of hard work.

[Badges]







Thanks to some great weather we had our annual First Day Hike on January first. This year we went to Gillette Castle State Park. We were joined by some new friends and enjoyed a hike around the castle grounds.

Troop 219—CT (cont.)



Squirrel Appreciation is an annual event on January 21st. Due to some freezing temperatures; we rescheduled, and appreciated the squirrels on February 2nd at Tri Town Forest. This was the first time our little Troop had hiked here and the trails are beautiful! They are wonderfully marked and clear for hiking. There for some flooded areas that were frozen over, but these made for amazing pictures. We plan to come back in the spring.



Valentine Hike at Hartman Park: We celebrated Valentine's Day hiking with our friends and exploring new trails. Hartman Park is a lark preserve with well-marked trails and oodles of interesting ruins to explore.

We especially like the flume river crossing and the three chimneys. We found a series of letterboxes called "Have a Heart".

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Troop 219—CT (cont.)

We celebrated St Patrick's day with a hike at Pleasant Valley Preserve in Old Lyme CT. The preserve was very peaceful with beautiful clear streams that would be perfect for playing in when the weather is warm. We found 4 letterboxes including a St Patrick's day stamp!





Contact Dog Scouts of America

Learning new things that we may be more helpful

Website: dogscouts.org

Facebook: facebook.com/DogScouts

Yahoo Discussion List:

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https://groups.yahoo.com/neo/groups/DSA TalkList/info

Spring is here; have you planned for an awesome Scouting summer?

> Show up, participate, practice and share.

Take the initiative—arrange a scouting activity for your troop!

President: Lonnie Olson — DogScoutCamp@gmail.com (Also for Dog Scout Calendar, Sparky's Camp Store, Dog Scout Camp (MI), Camp Scholarships)

Mini-Camp Mentor: Sally Hoyle — sally.hoyle@yahoo.com

Dog Scout Obituaries: Chris Kloski — ChrisBill1966@gmail.com (Memorial recognition and engraving)

Membership: Shirley Conley — membership@dogscouts.org

Troop Administration:

Barrie Lynn Wood and Cyndi Stone — troops@dogscouts.org (Starting a troop/Troop Leader Tests)

Treasurer/Donations: Barb Whiting — bwhitingdsa@comcast.net

MERIT BADGE RECOGNITION PROGRAM

Video Evaluation: DSAVideoEval@gmail.com

Recording Secretary: Julie Benson — bensonjulie@earthlink.net Evaluator Certification: Chris Kloski — ChrisBill1966@gmail.com

TITLES/COMPETITIONS

Hosting/Competing: Sally Hoyle — sally.hoyle@yahoo.com Trail Dog Titles: Kelly Ford — DSA.Troop219@yahoo.com

(Also for competition registration numbers)

Newsletter: Shirley Conley (Editor) — thescoop@dogscouts.org

Website/Communications: Sonja Klattenberg — webadmin1@dogscouts.org

(Also for newsletter distribution)

Dog Scouts of America (DSA) was established in 1995. It is a non-profit organization with people dedicated to enriching their dog's lives and the lives of others with dogs. Founder Lonnie Olson has made it her life's ambition to experience as many dog sports and skills as possible with her dogs.

If you believe that dogs really enjoy learning new things and spending time with their owners, you're our kind of dog person. Dogs were not meant to be "furniture." Working dogs want to work. Without having an acceptable activity in which to use up all of the energy that comes "built-in" with a dog, our canine companions often get into trouble.

By better understanding how your dog thinks, how he learns, and what drives his behavior, and by participating in a variety of dog sports and activities, you will become a more responsible dog owner.

We hope to prevent misunderstandings, communication failures, and behavioral problems which often lead to dogs being given up as a "lost cause."