

TATTLETAIL

NEWSLETTER OF ALBANY KENNEL CLUB

OFFICERS

- **Penny Kretchmer** - *President*
pennybgl@nycap.rr.com
- **Corey Heenan** - *Vice President*
revewhippets@gmail.com
- **KC Gottschalk** - *Secretary*
kcg4@me.com
- **Jeannette O'Hanlon** - *Treasurer*
JOHanlon@msn.com

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Greetings Albany Kennel Club Members,

Hope this finds you, your family and your animals well! These are different times we are having. Who would of thought at the beginning of the year we would have to live in these hard times. Missing friends and family it's all so sad. Please don't forget to reach out to us in the club if you need anything.

We are cancelling the regular June meeting. Hoping the next few weeks will bring better times and we can all get together for a club picnic in July. We will let you know time and place in June.

Our conformation show is still on and this year we are excited to add an AKC Temperament Test. Thanks Jeannette.

I have been in contact with the Big E and they can't wait to get started up with events again. The first with be the Big E Fair in September. I am working with them to make sure we will all be safe. Please let me know if you have any questions or suggestions.

Please Stay Well and be Kind!

Penny

518-339-2075 or pennybgl@nycap.rr.com

UPCOMING MEMBERSHIP MEETINGS

Albany Kennel Club Meetings take place on the first Tuesday of the month @ 7:00PM in the back room at the Gateway Diner:

June 2, 2020

July 7, 2020

NO MEETING IN AUGUST

September 1, 2020

JUNE MEMBERSHIP MEETING

The June Membership Meeting will be held at 7:00PM **either via a conference call, or will be cancelled due to COVID-19.**

Decision will be made as we get closer to the meeting date and contingent on the opening up plan for New York State.

July's meeting will be held at a club picnic. Details to follow in an e-mail.

MATCH SHOW

Due to the coronavirus, the 2020 Albany Kennel Club's Match Show, chaired by Corey Heenan has been postponed until Saturday September 19th. We are planning to remain at Towasentha Park in Guilderland, contingent on availability for that date. We are also looking at adding events such as Meet the Breed and CGC testing. If you would be willing to volunteer in any capacity or have any other ideas to share, please contact Corey.

OCTOBER POINT SHOW

- ☼ The Albany Kennel Club will be holding its yearly Point Show in conjunction with Troy Kennel Club on October 16th, 17th and 18th in the Better Living Center at The Big E.
- ☼ Show chairs Penny Kretchmer and Don Gillett report that all is on track. Please contact Penny or Don if you wish to lend a hand as a volunteer. I am certain that they have many volunteer opportunities for you!!
- ☼ Temperament Testing has been added as a new feature of the show.
- ☼ Jeannette O'Hanlon is in charge of trophies. Please consider sponsoring a trophy. Pledge Sheets are located on this page to the right of this box. Donations are due no later than the June meeting.
- ☼ Paul Sargent is in charge of advertising. The prices for the 2020 Point Show on October 16th & 17th, 2020 are as follows:
 - Outside Cover: \$75
 - Inside Cover: \$50
 - Full Page- Member: \$28
 - Non Member: \$38
 - Half Page- Member: \$19
 - Non Member: \$21
 - Quarter Page- Member: \$10
 - Non Member: \$12
 - Pictures/Drawings- Member: \$13
 - Non Member: \$12

(please be sure to include your name and mailing address on the back)

The due date for the advertisements, will be sometime in August. Those interested can bring their ad to our Albany Kennel Club meetings or mail it to Paul.

ALBANY KENNEL CLUB TROPHY PLEDGE

____ **Friday October 16, 2020**

____ **Saturday October 17, 2020**

Breed _____

Class _____

Trophy Description _____

Name: _____

Phone Number: _____

It is agreed there are no verbal understandings in any way part of this pledge. It is further agreed that in the event the undersigned does not provide the above described trophy in sufficient time to be presented at the above named show(s), the named club has the right to substitute a trophy of equal value or description and bill the undersigned.

Signed: _____

Date: _____

WEB SITE

Visit our website at:
albanykennelclub.net
 or

Update from Barb on the Canine Rescue Masks

All units are in. Service stickers have been placed on compartment doors and companies have been instructed. The Fire Chief will forward a news clip from California which shows the same type units in action. There should be enough units to ensure availability at all fires. Once weather gets better we can stage a news shoot with dogs engine and personnel in front of apron.

Thanks again Dave

AWARDS CELEBRATION

- ✘ At May's membership meeting, the club voted to move our Awards Celebration to take place in conjunction with our December Annual Meeting.
- ✘ Members who earned titles in 2019 are eligible for a plaque or to have it updated if you already possess a plaque. The Club will pay for one plaque. If you wish to have an additional plaque, the member will pay for that.
- ✘ Members who have been with the Club for less than one year, will receive a certificate for titles earned in 2019.
- ✘ Please have information to Barbara by the October membership meeting or the Point Show. Please attach a sheet with your dog's name and titles earned. BE LEGIBLE!!!

AKC PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: May 19, 2020

AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB WELCOMES THE INTRODUCTION OF THE HEALTHY DOGS IMPORTATION ACT OF 2020

New York, NY- The American Kennel Club (AKC®), the world's largest purebred dog registry and advocate for all dogs, is pleased to express strong support and gratitude for the introduction of the Healthy Dog Importation Act of 2020 in the U.S. House of Representatives today.

The organization would like to thank Congressmen Ralph Abraham (LA-5), Ted Yoho (FL-3), and Kurt Schrader (OR-5) for sponsoring this bipartisan legislation that will ensure all dogs imported into the United States are fully immunized; free of infection, parasites and

contagious diseases; and are individually certified as such by an accredited veterinarian.

"AKC is grateful for Representatives Abraham, Schrader and Yoho's leadership in sponsoring the Healthy Dog Importation Act," said AKC President & CEO, Dennis Sprung. "In the last several years, zoonotic diseases such as rabies, canine influenza and distemper have been carried into the U.S. by dogs imported without basic veterinary checks or valid health certificates. With an estimated one million dogs entering the U.S. annually, this represents a ticking time bomb for animal and public health. The basic health certifications that this bill requires for every dog imported will protect the health and wellbeing of all dogs in our nation - and the humans who care for them."

The AKC also thanks the National Animal Interest Alliance (NAIA) for their long-time leadership on the issue and the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) for their support.

As our country works diligently to end the COVID-19 pandemic and prevent the spread of other zoonotic diseases, this legislation is an important step in addressing concerns about recent documented incidents of unhealthy dogs being brought into the U.S.

For more information, visit the [AKC Government Relations Pet and Public Health pages](#).



brags

Two of Jeannette & John O'Hanlon's dogs have made the **top 5 in their breed for the 2020 AKC Agility Invitational. congratulations!!!!**

Ranking # 2 and #3 in the country are:

American Staffordshire Terrier #2 - MACH Esoteric's Tacoma Third Time's A Charm CDX BN RE MXB MJS XF CA TT THDN RATO CGCA TKA (Cricket)



CRICKET

American Staffordshire Terrier #3 - Esoteric's Alainn Lilah CD BN RI MX MXB MXJ MJB NAP NJP XF SWA SIAE RATN CGCA TKA (Lilah)



LILAH

DID YOU KNOW

10 Things I've Learned From AKC Sports

By [Daphna Straus](#)

Apr 28, 2020 /

reprinted from the AKC website



The Cardigan Welsh Corgi's makeup is perfectly suited to moving cattle, and yet it is so congenial and sweet-faced that it would be a cherished companion even if it never did a day's work.

The [cancellation of swaths of AKC events](#) as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic has left many of us wistful and impatient for their return. With no shows to enter and plenty of absence to make the heart grow fonder, I found myself pondering what I got out of them in the first place.

1. I learned how to drive.

Where I'm from—New York—a car is a luxury, but it's a necessity to get to dog events. Whether I was mastering the hills of San Francisco to get to the San Francisco Dog Training Club, cruising along Route 80 to [Top Dog Obedience School](#), learning the back roads to [Port Chester Obedience](#)

[Training Club](#), or staving off white line fever on the way to a Specialty, [AKC events](#) made me into something of a road warrior. We really get our miles in for our dogs.

2. I learned how to be on time.

When it comes to AKC events, if you're on time, you're late. I learned how to build time into my departure plans to be sure I had ample time to warm up my dog and be ring ready without extra stress.

3. I learned persistence.

We lose more than we win in dogs. We have more NQs than Qs and placements. From every NQ in [Obedience](#) I gained a lesson for improvement. As they say, "there will always be another dog show." Always an opportunity to do better next time.

4. I learned patience.

Success in our events comes with a side of waiting around. Waiting for Best of Breed or Groups. Waiting for sits and downs. You've gotta be in it to win it, so stick around.

5. I learned how to be creative and resourceful.

Since I never had a yard for a practice ring, I set up jumps in Central Park. The long alley behind my building served well for down-and-backs. Flocks of pigeons stood in for Indian Runner Ducks.

6. I learned the downside of procrastinating.

Sure as the sun will rise tomorrow, entries will always close two weeks ahead. Waiting too long to enter adds the extra expense of online entry fees (now inevitable for those of us always out of stamps) and the risk of being shut out altogether. This is a rule that never changes, and yet, I still wait until nearly the last minute almost every time.

7. I learned how to get organized.

Have a full tank before setting out for a show, lest you miss your ring time or confuse your dog with the smell of fuel on his scent articles. Wash and dry those articles the night before a trial. Pick out your outfits and get your show gear packed up the night before, too. A frantic, last minute search for that lucky show lead could cancel out its good vibes. Load driving directions up ahead in case you lose your signal along the way. AKC events helped me pull myself together!

8. I learned the importance of setting goals and the joy that comes with achieving them.

While so much in life remains out of our control, our dog events give us wonderful opportunities to pursue challenging and fulfilling objectives while having fun along the way: a home-bred champion, an OTCH, a MACH, or [any number of titles](#) that reward instinct and breeding for purpose.

9. I learned the value of volunteering.

Being a ring steward, match secretary, parking attendant or any other seemingly thankless job is truly important. Without helpers to perform these tasks, the show can't go on. It is satisfying to play a role in something bigger than yourself.

10. I learned that we humans can get along with everyone and anyone—no matter our differences—because we are all working toward similar goals.

Our sports build camaraderie between rich and poor, young and old, men and women, gay and

straight, rural and urban. We build deep and lasting connections with others by training and [showing our dogs](#). The dog show community sets a tremendous example to others by building strength through the diversity we celebrate in our [clubs](#), events and friendships.

Till we meet again, ringside!

Quarterly Article

Could Dogs Help Detect COVID-19?

By [Miranda Carney](#)

May 14, 2020 | 5 Minutes

Reprinted from AKC Website



Dr. Otto with Labrador Retriever Moxie. Photo by Sabina Louise Pierce

As states begin to open and the demand to test and screen for [COVID-19](#) grows, researchers are enlisting all the help they can get — including dogs.

Led by Cynthia M. Otto, director of the Working Dog Center at Penn's School of Veterinary Medicine, eight [Labrador Retrievers](#) are being trained to sniff out the coronavirus.

[Training dogs to sniff out disease](#) is far from new. In fact, Otto says this new project builds off of programs UPENN already has. "We've been working with medical detection dogs since 2013. We have a program where we're evaluating whether dogs can help us in the early detection of ovarian cancer, we've looked at diabetes alert, and we also have a project looking at bacterial infections and the ability for dogs to help us to make those diagnoses. We feel that we're really well-positioned to take this and apply it to the next new and important disease, and that's certainly COVID-19."

Such a big undertaking can't be done alone. Otto and the University of Pennsylvania Working Dog Center have partnered with other organizations to bring in the best scientists both from the university and other programs, including Auburn University and [Medical Detection Dogs UK](#).

How Long Does Detection Training Take?

So how do you train a dog to detect COVID-19? It's not easy. "There are many, many steps," Otto says. "Our first step is to ask the question: Is there a unique odor associated with COVID-19 infection?"

That first step is critical. If there is no odor associated with the virus, there would be no point in going any further with training the dogs. So Otto and her team are beginning by working with physicians to collect samples from patients who have been tested for COVID-19 — both positive and negative.

"We're taking the samples from positive patients, showing them to the dog, letting them sniff them, and then reward them for sniffing those samples," Otto says. "So we let them

know there's something in there that is a good thing."

Sound familiar? This sort of training is similar to that done in [Scent Work](#), Otto says. It's also the same process used to teach dogs the odors of explosives or narcotics. But there's an added challenge in medical detection. Dogs must be able to not just find the odor, but to discriminate between whether the odor is in the sample or not in the sample.

Dogs can learn an odor fairly quickly, but it gets harder — the dogs must be able to understand the odor can occur in the background of a person's odor. "If they can identify that, we want to look at: Can they identify that when we're moving? Can they identify that when there are many people around?" Otto says.

Taking it to the Real World

If that all works, Otto says they can start thinking about taking this into operational usage. Otto and her team have to determine how best to take these dogs into the community and places such as the airport to evaluate how they could help detect individuals who might be positive in a real-world scenario. "Especially those who aren't showing symptoms because those are the ones we really need to identify," Otto says.

Right now, the dogs are being trained with practice scents, until the physicians that Otto is working with are able to send over COVID-19 samples. Otto estimates this will be within the next week or two. After three to four weeks of exposing the dogs to those samples, the researchers should be able to determine whether or not there is a scent associated with the virus.

Training in the lab includes teaching dogs the process. Otto's lab uses a scent wheel isolated from other stimuli or odors. The dogs learn to go into the room by themselves, sniff each container, then either stop and indicate the scent is present or not present.

And [what breeds are best suited](#) to sniff out COVID-19? Labrador Retrievers were chosen for a reason. “First, we know these Labradors have been selected for generations for their olfactory performance and hunting,” Otto says. “We know they have the genetic potential and we are selecting them based on their behavioral aspects that we think will be successful.”

There’s a second reason this breed was selected. Taking these dogs out into the operational setting means choosing a dog that the majority of possible users would be most comfortable with. “When we talked to people that might be potential end-users, they felt more comfortable bringing Labradors into a big public setting rather than [German Shepherd Dogs](#) or [Belgian Malinois](#), which many people might be afraid of,” Otto says. “So it’s that calming effect that a Labrador brings as well as the effectiveness.” Many breeds, however, are equipped.



Labrador Retriever “Miss M” trains in the lab using a scent wheel. Photo courtesy of Penn Vet Working Dog Center.

Is This Safe?

When it comes to safety, Otto and her team have already thought ahead. Even though [the risk to dogs is very small](#), they are still training the dogs to detect odors at a distance, which protects both the person being screened and the handler as well. The dogs will also be monitored and tested for antibodies throughout. Some of the center’s partners include the Army Chem Bio-Center and other agencies who are looking at the best decontamination procedures.

“I think the other piece that’s really interesting is that if we’re using the dogs to screen rather than taking a swab of a person, no one has to take their mask off,” Otto says. If a healthcare worker sticks a swab up someone’s nose, they may end up coughing or sneezing with their mask pulled down. With a dog, everyone keeps their mask on and there is nothing to stimulate a person to sneeze or cough. The handlers of the dogs will be even further away from those being tested, at the end of a six-foot leash in full protective equipment.

The Nose Knows

If all training goes successfully, the biggest issue becomes demand. There is already a huge [shortage of detection dogs](#) in the United States for explosives work. There’s also a shortage of testing and screening. Pair those together, and almost everyone will want a COVID-19 detection dog. Whether it’s to screen at a company or screen before entering a restaurant, Otto anticipates there won’t be enough trained dogs to keep up with the demand.

The question becomes: are there enough dogs to do this? And if there are, are the dogs performing both accurately and safely?

“I think people are very excited and I think a lot of individuals [would love to train their dogs](#) to help in this mission, but we have to make sure it’s safe for the people, it’s safe for the dog, and that they’re performing in a way that we can rely on the information they’re giving us,” Otto says. If a dog is inaccurate and dismisses someone as not infected when they really are infected, it becomes worse than not knowing in the first place. If a dog indicates someone is fine, that person may act with fewer precautions.

The goal is for these dogs to streamline regular testing. So these dogs can help

identify the people who should be prioritized for testing. "We know the dogs are very sensitive and very accurate but we want to make sure we're confirming that and that we have the most information possible."

While there is still a long journey ahead for Otto and the eight Labrador Retrievers being trained to sniff out COVID-19, Otto is optimistic about the potential of her research. [A dog's nose](#) is a powerful tool, Otto says. There have been many attempts to create electric noses, but nothing comes close to the ability of dogs.

The AKC is here to help dog owners adapt to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Find answers to all your coronavirus concerns, plus at-home activity ideas, training tips, educational resources, and more at our [‘Coping With Coronavirus COVID-19’](#) hub.

**Wishing you and
yours continued good
health and the
comforting
companionship of
your canine friend**

