



PHA Reporter

Fall 2008

A Newsletter for Members of the Professional Handlers' Association

Volume 9, Issue 2

Promoting Yourself and the PHA



Michael Scott

Summer has come to an end and fall is upon us. It is amazing how time goes by so fast!

I am writing this message just after our fall PHA board meeting. As I reflect on our conversations at the meeting I once again am amazed how active certain zones are throughout the year, participating in many aspects of our sport. We need to keep raising the bar to promote PHA's visibility.

The financial climate of our country is on all our minds. We are a luxury service for our clients, and as times get more difficult it will affect our businesses. Keeping that in mind, we have to work extra hard at our profession and remember we are a luxury!

The PHA Board works hard to come up with new ideas to advertise its members. Not only do the activities performed by members help promote the PHA, but so do certain tools like the PHA Web site, which is updated regularly by Mike Blanchard. Be sure to use all these things to help yourself and the organization. Be proactive and available with needed information.

Michael Scott
President, PHA

PHA Introduces Hall of Fame

The Board of Governors recently voted and approved the founding of a PHA Hall of Fame. PHA members who have shown guidance and leadership through the years are eligible to be inducted. The requirements for nomination are as follows:

The original class of 2008 will have begun Association membership prior to 1980. The sitting Board of Directors shall nominate members at the spring meeting. At the following fall Board meeting, voting for inclusion shall proceed by ballot voting. New Hall of Fame members may be added yearly with an 85 percent agreement of the current

Board of Directors present at the time of voting. There will be no proxy votes. Each year the eligible member's class will increase by two years; thus the second Hall of Fame class (2009) will have

membership begun by 1982. As the time catches up, the eventual lag will always be 10 years behind the current election year. Anyone may be renominated for future ballots. The most important issue for advancement toward Hall of Fame nomination for the Professional Handlers' Association is dedication to the Association.

2008 Hall of Fame Inductees

In appreciation and recognition of sustained efforts of these Professional Handlers' Association members and their determination for the success of the organization, the Hall of Fame wishes to introduce the following members with permanent and lifelong gratitude. Their guidance and

Their guidance and leadership through the years has kept the Professional Handlers' Association a strong and vibrant group to which membership was and is an honor.

See Hall of Fame, page 2

Board of Governors Elects New Officers and Members

At its October 7 meeting, the Board of Governors elected the following members to serve as officers in 2009:

President, Michael Scott; First Vice President, Michael Blanchard; Second Vice President, Rick Krieger; and Secretary/Treasurer, Nina Fetter.

Coming up for re-election in 2009 are Board members Fred Olson of Zone 1, Michael Blanchard of Zone 5, and Ollie Click of Zone 6.

The Board elected to the class of 2012 members Sue Whaley of Zone 2, Nina Fetter of Zone 3, and Deanna Hanna of Zone 6.

Meanwhile, Handler Patricia Clark of Zone 1 has applied for membership.

In other business, the Board of Governors has invited these handlers to become members: Laura Reeves and Heather and Colton Johnson, all of Zone 5, Michelle Yeadon of Zone 6, and Holly Leftwitch of Zone 6A.

Pennies from Heaven


Submitted by Deanna Hanna

I found a penny today,
Just laying on the ground.
But it's not just a penny,
This little coin I've found.

Found pennies come
from heaven,
That's what my Grandpa
told me.
He said, "Dog-Angels toss
them down."



He said, "When a Dog-Angel misses you,
He tosses a penny down,
Sometimes just to cheer you up,
To make a smile out of a frown."

So don't pass by that penny,
When you're feeling blue.
It may be a penny from
heaven,
That your dog has tossed
to you. 



Hall of Fame

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leadership through the years has kept the Professional Handlers' Association a strong and vibrant group to which membership was and is an honor. Past, present and future honorees set a precedent of personal leadership and outstanding efforts in keeping the Professional Handlers' Association a worthy profession.

At the October 7, 2008, meeting of the Board of Directors, the following past and present members were inducted into the PHA Hall of Fame for 2008.

Leonard Brumby
Laddie Carswell
Ollie Click
Clint Callahan
Tom Crowe
Jane Forsyth
Robert Forsyth
Ray McGinnis
Fred Olsen
Ray Scott
Bill Trainor
Tom Tobin
Joe Waterman
Ted Young



The Reason a Good Assistant Doesn't Change Out Of Her Show Clothes

Submitted by Dinah Baggenstos


The reasons a good assistant doesn't change out of her show clothes are very simple. Though they may seem a little, oh, shall we say, interesting and unique, they are justified and worthy of an essay.

The first reason is that often a hardworking, loyal and intelligent assistant doesn't have time to be worrying about her personal comfort while poor dogs are cooped up inside those meddlesome crates in a blazing hot box van. Instead, her first priority is the comfort of her charges and that is always the first thing on her mind after a long day of dashing from ring to ring. No, she doesn't rest her wary eyes or fill her aching stomach. She continues on like a soldier. How noble of her.

The second reason is that she knows there aren't enough hours in the day to spend quality time with each individual dog. She realizes that every dog is special and deserves the love and petting he should receive, whether he is on the road with a handler, or in his backyard with his owners. She spends hours at night of her own time, scratching every dog behind the ear and giving loving encouragement to go to the bathroom.

The third reason that she doesn't change out of her clothes is because she wants to look presentable for her employers at all times. What would happen if the president of the United States stopped in, cameras and all? Would you want a sloppily dressed assistant broadcast around the country as working for you? I think not.

Another reason is to get revenge on a mean mother. The assistant's mother grounds her right before leaving for the weekend shows. How does the assistant take revenge? By getting her "dry-clean only" clothes as dirty and disgusting as possible before her return. Won't the girl get in trouble? No, no. The classic excuse, "that slobbery Flat Coat, Boomer," will do.

The last, and certainly the least, reason is the ongoing bet between the assistant and her young friends regarding who can keep their show clothes on the longest. The prize: the admiration of all those that couldn't take the clinging nylons or the choking ties. She doesn't just do this for herself, oh no. She does it to bring even more pride to the Baggenstos setup. Gosh, what a great assistant. 

Thought for the Day

Submitted by Deanna Hanna

Put yourself among the very best dog handlers in the world.

Have a PHA pin and a card that prove you have earned the right to have them.

Ask yourself, "Do I always live up to what is expected of me as a member?"



Request for Articles

Carol Green requests that PHA members send her articles for the next issue of *The PHA Reporter*. Please send them to her at mamag4evr@yahoo.com.

Redesigned PHA Web Site Serves Users

Since it was launched in August 2004, the PHA Web site (www.PHADogHandlers.com) has become a popular site that benefits members and those looking for professional handler information and services. New features added regularly help to ease navigation.

A "quick click" link to PHA forms was added to the home page. This feature allows visitors to download and print PHA documents. Other features previously added include the listing of handler identification numbers to member listings in the PHA


Handlers Directory and a link on the Member Interest page so visitors can view past issues of *The PHA Reporter*.

Here are highlights of activity on the PHA Web site:

- The PHA Directory is the most popular section visited, followed by the section that discusses the hiring of a professional handler;
- Since August 2004, about 58,000

people visited the Web site and viewed over 542,000 pages; and

- On average, over 270 visitors visit per day, viewing more than 2,500 pages of information.

Please contact Kathy Bowser at kathy@phadoghandlers.com if you have comments about the Web site or ideas on how we can improve and add value to the site. 



Rewriting the Dog Show Dictionary

Professional handlers use a distinctive jargon when it comes to describing their work. Here are some new definitions for old dog show terms.

Angulation – Degree to which dog handlers will bend over backward to impress.

Balance – (a) How to arrange the checkbook so your husband won't know how much money you spent on dog shows last month. Usually done in the bathroom with the door locked; (b) Ability to simultaneously hold coffee, Danish, leash, treats and entry form.

Bitch – (a) Proper name for a female dog; (b) Name often heard at dog shows, not always to describe a female dog.

Blind Retriever – When you can't see the toy under the furniture.

CGC – Canine Gastrointestinal Catastrophe (aka GAS).

Coat – The hairy covering of a dog that usually falls out about one week before the Specialty show.

Crabbing – What you do when the judge doesn't like your dog.

Dam – (a) A female dog with puppies; (b) Expression frequently overheard at dog shows as losers leave the ring.

Distemper – Shown by those competitors who just lost to someone they can't stand.

Dog – To chase a judge from show

to show in an effort to attain more breed wins.

Double Bind – Finding two toys under the furniture.

Elbow – Method of getting to ring-side quickly when late.

Expression – "Sweet!" look adopted by hungry dogs while staring ravenously at chunks of liver.

Fancier – Degree to which some gentlemen handlers dress more than others.

Feathering – What winners are accused of doing to judges' nests.

Force Fetch – Dog drops the toy under furniture, scratches at the carpet until you're forced to "fetch" it.

Front – Part of the dog often facing the outside of the ring.

Guard Hair – An activity in which one watches intently as the dog's hair falls out, in clumps, just after entries are mailed.

Heel – (a) What you feel like when your dog beats the one you had just sold to an eager novice; (b) Expression often screamed to attract the attention of deaf dogs.

Hock – A way of financing your dog shows, using jewelry such as wedding rings.

Kennel – Where you go when the kids fight and your husband is in one of his moods.

Litter – Trash left all over the building and parking lot after a dog show.

Mask – What to wear when you have to show your gorgeous pick of the litter that fell apart a week before the show.

Muzzle – What to put on your kids at a dog show to prevent them from calling your competition what they overheard you call him last night.

Nose prints – Cute marks left all over your French doors.

Outcrossing – What your husband tells the minister you are doing out in the kennel with the dog and the bitch.


Points – Minute, invisible awards for winning that you cannot convince your spouse are more important than cash prizes.

Puppies – Small, dog-like food processing machines with the ability to stink up an entire house and collectively deafen a band of magpies. (These creatures have not yet been perfected, as they come with leaky systems and can also be dangerous to weak hearts and bank accounts.)

Qualifying Score – Justifying the 170.5 you got in obedience today.

Ribbons – What competitive exhibitors with distemper (see above) will cut you into when your dog places over theirs.

Specialty – Whatever your dog is good at, like bringing home dead cats or chewing on walls.

Utility – The kind of vehicle you need to haul around your dogs. 

News From PHA Zones Around the Country

Zone 1 from Rick Krieger

In an effort to cut costs, many clubs within Zone 1 have been doing their own setups instead of using members.

Another member is needed to assist with the setup of the 2009 Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show.

Zone 2 from Sue Whaley

Zone 2 would like to thank John Ashbey for the pictures he took of PHA members in Roanoke, Va., this past August.

Members set up for shows at the Labor Day Circuit in Raleigh, N.C.

PHA members organized a Juniors program at the Memorial Day Circuit. Forty-four junior handlers were assisted by PHA members and members of the Virginia Beach kennel clubs.

Zone 3 from Nina Fetter

Zone 3 will have grooming area setups at the Central Ohio Cluster and Lansing, Mich., shows.

A \$1,000 gas card raffle is being held; only 500 tickets are being sold at \$5 per ticket.

Zone 4 from Carol Green

Zone 4 clubs have been doing their

own setups in an effort to save money.

Zone 5 from Genia Cox

Zone 5 is happy to announce that Karen Newman is back to showing dogs and doing very well.

Tom Stanfield has asked members to do another Juniors program at his show.

Entries have been down, and two kennel clubs in the area have disbanded.

Zone 6 from Dinah Bagginstos and Deanna Hanna

The emergency telephone directory for the Zone has been completed and distributed to PHA members and the area AKC representative.

Board members are asked to provide a contact cell phone number to the Zone Board.

In July, Zone 6 set up the grooming area at the Portland shows.

Upcoming setups include Willamette Valley in a few weeks and Albany in February.

To help evenly distribute workload and actively involve members, responsibilities are being assigned to individual

members. Other zones are asked to consider this measure as well.

Zone 6 would like to suggest that all members assist other PHA members traveling to your area. Supplying items and equipment will alleviate the travel burdens of fellow members.

Zone 6A from Lynda O'Connor

Holly Leftwich has applied for membership and her application will be voted on at the upcoming meeting.

Bruce Schultz is to be married and will be living in San Diego, Calif.

Lynda O'Connor was married this past year.

Mark Stephenson underwent surgery and will be unable to participate in this year's match.



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