



Indy Dog & Disc Club Newsletter

June, 2014 Vol. 1

www.indydoganddisc.com

Check out the new logo! Thanks, Jim Dumond, IDDC's new merchandise director, for designing the new T-shirt for IDDC, and thanks, Abbey, for being such a great doggy model!

At most events we bring ice along for our dogs, but during the most recent **QUAD AND GRETCHEN INVITATIONAL** held at Darrough Chapel Park in May, mother nature brought the ice in the form of hail and cooler temperatures, but no one seemed to mind as everyone was having too much fun to notice their wet shoes and paws. Like the previous year(s), Kirby McIlveen and Rob McLeod won the open divisions of the Quad, but IDDC rocked the women's novice division with Jill Best, Mary Jo Corso, and Robin Herman pulling in 2nd, 3rd, and 4th place. (First place went to Sharon Anderson and Bling.) Way to represent the club, gals!



Crites & Hemingway, photo by Marshall Smith

The competition for the Gretchen was fierce, but special mention has to be made of a new team that took first place in the novice division. Barrett Crites and his female pittie mix, Hemingway, are brand new to the sport. Barrett adopted Hemingway last August from Luv A Dog Rescue, which had rescued Hemingway one day prior to her scheduled euthanasia. Barrett wasn't looking for a disc dog; he didn't know anything about the sport. He just missed having a dog – it had been ten years - and she looked like she'd fit the bill. But soon after Hemingway moved

in with him he realized she had a quite a bit of drive. He'd throw a toy down the hall, and she'd quickly bring it

back to him, wanting him to throw it again. He tried a frisbee with her, googled "disc dogs" and found videos of "Wallace the Pit Bull" on the internet. 100 destroyed discs later Barrett saw an IDDC demo at the Mutt Strutt in April, and decided to try a play date where IDDC

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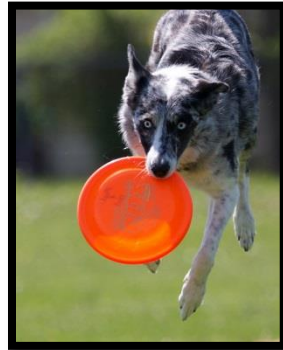
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Rick Kimball

members encouraged him to try his hand at Freestyle at the Gretchen. Little did he know he would come away with first place, and when I spoke to him at the competition, you could tell he was pretty hooked on disc doggin'. As for Hemmingway, it looks like she is hooked as well! Looking forward to seeing more of this team in the future.

Other photos from Gretchen Invitational, courtesy of Marshall Smith



Bailey Hartsock & Lucy



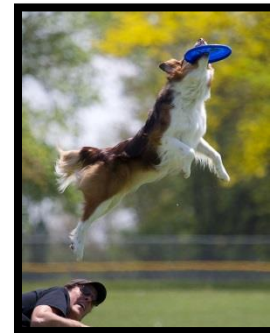
Colt (Mark Gose)



Jordan Bybee & Rambler



Pat Daugherty & Rocky



Jeff Scheetz

2013 HOWLIDAY PARTY AND ANNUAL AWARDS

The weather kept some away (sorry to miss Marshall & Margaret Smith!) so there were fewer attendees than usual, but there was still enough food to feed an army. No one left hungry! And when it was too cold and icy to throw the disc outside, a game of musical chairs and egg on a spoon races were played instead. Two new pups to the IDDC gang were introduced and quickly assimilated into the pack: Don and Alice Lang's puppy, Maddie, and Bailey Hartsock's new aussie pup, Blair. Pat Daugherty was the lucky winner for the volunteer buck drawing, taking home a \$25.00 Pet Supply Plus gift card.

- Best Freestyle.....Rick Kimball & Dugan**
- Best New Freestyle.....Jill Best & Logan**
- Most Improved Freestyle.....Julie Rhea & Tulip**
- Best Toss N Fetch.....Rick Kimball & Dugan**
- Best New Toss N Fetch.....James Dumond & Jackie**
- Most Improved Toss N Fetch.....Mary Jo Corso & Dreamer**
- Overall....Mark Gose & Colt**
- Overall Dog.....Logan**
- Junior Handler.....Margaret Rhea**

- Best New Move.....Robin Herman & Nano (take one leg and push your dog over the other leg)**
- Most Entertaining.....Doug Levy & Yates**
- Keeping It Fun.....Robin Herman**
- Most Embarrassing Moment.....Chip Hershey (Mispronouncing Codex as Kotex)**
- Best Mental Attitude.....Julie Rhea**
- Best IDDC Event.....Indiana Disc Dog Classic**
- Distinguished Service Award.....Sheridan Gilchrist**
- Volunteer of the Year.....Jill Best**

PUPSICLE

On Sunday, February 23, the Pupsicle was held at Alpha K9 University in Fishers. This event is IDDC's kick-off for the year's competitions, and competitors were anxious, if not a little rusty, after sitting idle throughout the long winter of snow we had experienced in Indiana. That week still brought some ice and snow, and the forecast kept some of the regulars from attending. But despite expected snowfall we still had 24 handlers and 24 dogs show up to play, some of them newbies to the sport, which is always fun to see. We were also excited to see the veteran team of Robin Herman and Skeeter doing some great moves and giving a great performance. Skeeter surprised us all, and possibly Robin also, judging by her reaction. This little dog that sometimes shuts down mid-routine was going full tilt without stopping, earning first place in pro freestyle, and third place in pro overall, which is a combination of freestyle and toss-n-fetch scores. First place overall pro went to Mary Jo Corso and Dreamer, first place overall intermediate was earned by Stacy Simison and Jetta, and first place novice overall went to James Dumond and Jackie. There was also some personal ribbing and higher stakes for the married couples. Mary Jo Corso beat hubby Rick Kimball in a 4-20 tiebreaker to earn the first place overall pro, and rumor has it that novice player James Wetzels would be cleaning the bathrooms the following week because he lost to his wife by one point in their toss-n-fetch rounds with their dog, Dixie. Also introduced to the Pupsicle this year was the 4-20 game. In the 4-20, you have 4 discs and 20 seconds to show off your best moves. The catch – you can't pick up the disc off the floor. If your dog doesn't hand it to you, you are out of luck. We hope to be doing more of this game in the future. Get your timers out to practice as 20 seconds flies by pretty fast, especially if your dog either 1) drops all discs on the ground and not in your hand or 2) holds on for dear life!

DEMOS

good part of IDDC's events are more than the competitions. Watch for club emails (and the web-site) for opportunities to come play with your dog in a friendly environment with no timers or scorekeepers. IDDC demos usually include a little bit of freestyle, some toss-n-fetch with spectators, and often a silly game or two with the crowd cheering you on. You'll also get volunteer bucks for participating that you can use to help pay entrance fees or buy IDDC merchandise. The following photos were taken at the Mutt Strutt Demo, courtesy of Mary Jo Corso.



Rick Kimball & Reggie

Tony Hoard & Q



Chip Hershey & Trixie

FYI – HOW MANY OF YOU KNOW ABOUT VESTIBULAR DISEASE?

This past February, Chip Hershey made a two a.m. emergency vet trip with Lexi, thinking the worst had happened and that he might have to make that awful decision to let Lexi go. Thankfully, she was diagnosed only with vestibular disease and loyal Lexi is still happily hanging out at Chip's side. Unfortunately, since the symptoms presented with Vestibular Disease are the same as more terrible conditions such as brain tumors or strokes, it's a very scary situation when your dog shows these signs, and even scarier when you are faced with the option of euthanasia. How do you know what to do?

In Ideopathic, or "Old Dog" Vestibular Disease, the dog acts like it has had a stroke. The vestibular system in dogs, comprised of the brain and ear, is responsible for balance. When it malfunctions, due to either an ear infection or unknown causes, the dog is very much like a sea-sick person on a rocking boat. He will tilt his head to one side, walk drunkenly or fall down, circle in one direction, lose his appetite, vomit suddenly, and have difficulties getting outside to potty. His eyes will rapidly roll from side to side (known as nystagmus.) These symptoms are the same that present with strokes and brain tumors, so how do you know which is which and if you should be considering euthanasia? A qualified vet will do blood work, check for ear infections, and look for other obvious signs that something more serious has happened. An MRI could also be performed, but it is quite costly, and if it is Vestibular Disease, the symptoms usually subside in three to five days. The vet may prescribe anti-nausea meds, and extra care is needed to help the dog eat and drink (hand feeding is often necessary) and assistance getting the dog outside for elimination needs. The dog may have episodes in the future, and the head tilt may never completely go away, but it is important to note that the dog is not in pain and can still lead a happy life. Thankfully Chip and his vet worked with Lexi to rule out the worst case scenario, and Lexi is with us today, holding her orange pacifier disc in mouth and watching with faithful eyes on her beloved owner.

POTTY ADVICE 101!!

Many of the veterans know this info already, but if you are a newby to the sport, you might be unaware of the penalties for your dog taking an elimination break during your round in a competition. Depending on the format, you may or may not get to continue, and even if you aren't penalized for a potty break, it's not a great idea to waste time when you could be scoring points. It's also a nuisance for other players because a marked field, even if it's cleaned up, is a distraction for the dogs that follow. They will want to sniff and check out the spot, and possibly add their own markings. But just how do you prevent your dog from taking a leak? Sometimes you can't. But there are helpful training hints to get your dog to eliminate beforehand which will increase your odds for an uninterrupted round. First of all, walk your dog before your turn, EVERY TIME, even if you think he doesn't need to go. Throw a few discs to get him running, which normally stimulates a bowel movement. The excitement of the game, hot temperatures, extra water and food intake, being crated for long periods of time – these all contribute to extra waste production, and just because Fido is a two-poops-a-day dog at home doesn't mean he won't need to go more often at a competition. Some dogs get so excited about the frisbee that they refuse to go beforehand; they are too busy barking and whining to get out and chase that disc. If so, you need to build "potty time" into practice time. When you are practicing throughout the week, start off the practice sessions with your potty command, wait for Fido to go before you throw that first disc, and don't give in. He will learn that you aren't going to play unless he eliminates first. Pottying *before* playing will become an established behavior, which will give you better odds for having a pee-free routine!

AND WHILE WE'RE ON THE SUBJECT OF POOPING...

did you ever wonder why your dog circles around before eliminating, or lying down to sleep? It has often been thought that this is an instinctual behavior carried over from their ancestral days in the wild. Moving in a circle helps flatten out the vegetation, making for a cleaner process, or perhaps checking out the environment for other animals before settling down. But a new study done by German and Czech scientists, published December, 2013 in the *Frontiers in Zoology* journal, showed that dogs, not unlike other animals, are sensitive to earth's magnetic field. (Animals such as birds and sea turtles use magnetic fields in their migration patterns.) The scientists looked at 70 dogs of 37 different breeds over two years, tracking 1,893 defecations and 5,582 urinations, and found that during calm electromagnetic weather, dogs consistently eliminate along the north-south axis and avoid east-west orientation. In other words, they may be circling so they line up their hind-ends to face either north or south. Who needs a compass when you go hiking in the woods– just take your dog! FYI, dogs did not show this preference when on a leash or walking along a road/sidewalk, so remember that if you decide to do your own personal study.



IN MEMORY



From the start, Bruno was always such an impatient dog, especially if he thought frisbee time was near....as though he always knew his time on this earth would be far too short. My life and my heart are so much richer... and now will never be the same. BTW, I told him they only threw LONG up there.

Run free my handsome boy, run free.Sheridan Gilchrist

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Event	Location	2014 Date	Format
Play date	Behind Stan's Sign Design, 6373 Rucker Rd, Indianapolis	July 6th, 3:00-6:00 p.m.	Play date – come to learn and share (free)
Indiana Disc Dog Classic	Holland Park, Fishers, IN	June 28-29th	UFO Major / AWI Qualifier
Skyhoundz NC Regional	New Castle, IN	July 19-20th	Skyhoundz NC Regional
Itty Bitty Disc Competition	Frankfort, IN	July 26th	Fun! (free)
Indiana Fall Series	Fishers, IN	Sept – Oct, dates to be announced	Fun games & competitions! (free)

Remember you can pre-register for competitions on our website, indydogandisc.com, and payments can be made through paypal. Hope to see you all there!



Letter from the editors, Daisy & Tulip...

Mom just let us outside to potty. Good grief, it's been HOURS but she hasn't taken a break from her computer until we barked at the door. And just so you know, both of us faced south when doing our thing. Not sure why, but we think it had to do with the neighborhood kids playing next door. Anyway, the weather has been GREAT lately, and we are having fun chasing the plastic. We hope to see all our friends in a couple weeks at Fisher's Freedom Festival. See you then!

