The State 4-H Dog Advisory Committee met Sunday, September 9, 2012, in the Normandy Barn at the Indiana State Fairgrounds in Indianapolis.

The meeting was called to order at 11:09 a.m. by President Ron Gibson. Chris Roeder moved to accept the June 6, 2012 Minutes. Sue Barlow seconded. Motion passed.

Steve Patterson, State Fair Director, felt that our Saturday morning vehicle problems are a timing issue since most are entering the fairgrounds at the same time. Parking was an issue throughout the entire fair. Next year, the dog show is expected to be scheduled on the last weekend of the fair, but we won’t know for sure until after the State Fair Board Meeting. Pepsi Coliseum renovation starts in October.

Thanks to Rae Ann O’Neill for a great job as Show Manager in Cindy Barnett’s absence. Cindy read Rae Ann’s report. Rae Ann said she has a new appreciation for the behind the scenes work. She suggests that we create a list of items for the registration packets in order to be consistent from year to year. She also suggested that we have a written safety plan.

Rosie Spurling asked what would happen if an exhibit arrives after vet check? Procedure is to call Ron or Cindy. If a valid reason for being late is determined, the State Fair vet can be called upon to check the dog. Rosie reported there were a few spectators with dogs who were turned away – these were supposedly friends of exhibitors and wanted to enter the crating area with their un-entered dogs.

Barb Johnson said we need a plan for the holding of exhibitor packets until we’re sure the exhibitors are absent. Once it goes to Auditing and an exhibitor is marked as a No-Show they’re no longer eligible for awards and it’s important to be sure before marking an exhibitor as such.

Jane Huge requested a reminder to the Yahoo Group whenever the 2013 entries are open.

Friday setup: We were short on drill team score sheets and a few other score sheets were run off in the Auditing room. It was suggested to do something special for the paper Program that is handed out next year for the 50th show. Some mats were damaged before delivery to the show, by a fork lift.

Unloading Zone: Tim Bauer said it was a disaster in line – there were 4 cars wide for over an hour. The line just didn’t move like the previous year. There was a constant line of cars until 11:00. Tim suggested we could use more volunteers to be in charge of push carts. We need to emphasize that vehicles need to be moved within 15 minutes. Cindy said “what if we think outside the box”? … could all vet check be done before the start of classes?

Registration – no problems reported.

Rob Myers’ Obedience Report: A big Thank You to the 141 volunteers that gave from 1-38 hours over the 3 days. The new ring layout seemed pleasing to most, even though there was some congestion at the entry area. The 2B class was the largest it’s ever been and our plans to divide the judging between 3 judges failed because of communication with judge #1. We wanted him to judge 2 exercises, and he judged 3, so it ended up not saving any time. The Veterans Class was awarded incorrectly, and corrections have now been made. Special thanks to the folks from Hendricks, Madison, Henry, Hamilton, Randolph, and Jefferson for working at the entry points to the exhibitor area.

Agility Report: Chris Roeder said that the agility veteran designation needs to be indicated on the score sheet label. Sue Pfrank noted that the agility veteran column was omitted when the Entry Department sent the file to Colleen. Double fencing around the rings is preferred, but there was less distraction from spectators than last year.
Drill Team Report: Sue Barlow reported the teams liked the one-ring setup and the location, however it does keep the agility volunteers from setting up for the Sunday show. We need to remember to give the agility volunteers time to remove equipment before starting drill team setup in the agility rings. Drill Team Leaders are working on clarification of the music section of the score sheet. Alice Taylor asked if there were any opportunities for Drill Team demos during the State Fair? Steve Patterson noted there may be some opportunities.

Auditing: Barb Johnson said there were several volunteers from multiple counties and all went well. Barb requests that the judges check out with Auditing to make sure that all score sheets are complete and to find out if Auditing has any questions for them.

Ron Gibson reported an issue with an exhibitor’s shoes that were questionable for obedience. He suggested that exhibitors check well before show time if the exhibitor wonders if a deduction will be taken … or just wear shoes that are definitely appropriate.

Showmanship: Jean Ann Randle sent a written report. She suggested some changes in the number scheduled per hour and changes in our call-back system. We discussed posting a time for the call-back announcement. Sue Barlow suggested it could be time for a Showmanship Guide update.

Project Interact – The supervising Educator thought it was the best it’s been in years. Winners’ photos – The photos may be in the Media Department – the search is on! We requested that the Top Dog scores be posted.

Janet Kutsenkow thought the ring layout was great. Jane Huge relayed that one judge wanted a holding area between the rings. Steve Patterson asked about ownership rules and we confirmed that the dog is supposed to be living with and being cared for by the 4-Her.

On behalf of the Nominating Committee Chairman, Tim Bauer reported that the current officers have been nominated for another term.

Janet Kutsenkow moved to adjourn the meeting. Lynda Arbuckle seconded. Meeting adjourned at 1:50 p.m.
**Director’s Report . . . Steve Patterson, ISF Director**

The 2012 4-H Dog Show was held on the last Saturday and Sunday of the fair. This was the fourth year with the show being held during the State Fair and on the last weekend.

**Needs:**
- Review of the Bicycle Rodeo and its timing
- New shavings need placed for area on Saturday night – clean out as needed
- Other dogs on the fairgrounds – policing needs to occur
- Is the display areas needed for the booths?
- Contracts need to be tracked
- Picket fence was ok, but more could be utilized – can bike rack be utilized in place of fencing?
  - If so, check with Hendricks Co. 4-H Fair
- Exhibitors need to be advised that they can bring fans
- Sound for the awards continues to be reviewed
- Person responsible for Awards monitoring
- Continue to improve unloading of crates from vehicles

**Great:**
- Access to the building early on Friday morning
- Vet Check registration area
- Meal vouchers
- Dog restroom on east side
- Computer program was great
- Unloading of over 300 vehicles of equipment in less than 3 hours time
- Picket fence set-up was great – need more fencing
- 4-H Dog pins through sponsorship was appreciated
- Parking in the 38th Street lot is greatly appreciated. Many happy exhibitors with this opportunity
- Event is within the State Fair – not pre or post fair
- Crating and layout

**Obedience Report . . . Rob Myers – Obedience Chairman**

Indiana State Fair 2012  
4-H Dog Obedience Report (plus)

ALL ABOARD was the cry heard around the state as all cars were headed to the 49th Indiana State Fair 4-H Dog Show. I am always so excited once a year to take this trip and see the grand vistas that await from the viewing car.

The day before many workers were on hand to lay the lines and drive the stakes at the West Pavilion switching station. There were no hobos in sight for everyone came together in a Grand Central effort to prepare for the next two days. Pfrank watched over those building the rails that soon many would be utilizing and Bauer craftily maneuvered the fork truck unloading the first railcars from their supplies. One hundred and forty-one registered volunteers each gave from 1 to 38 hours during 3 days THANK YOU ALL!

Saturday morning arriving early on the Exposition Flyer were Patterson, Gibson, Myers, Sobczak and newcomer Rae Ann O’Neill ready to greet and help get things off to a smooth start.
Rosie and Wanda arrived on the Cannon Ball ever ready to take charge at their respected gateway.

Platt & Quick de-boarded the Green Mountain Flyer geared up to take on their new leading role in registration.

Tumbling out of the Knickerbocker Janet Kutsenkow was ready to see to all details that needed tending and this year brought along her husband Marty to announce for the passengers.

Seen getting off the Morning Star Brinkerhuff & Roeder headed for their novel appearances as co-engineers at the agility yard and standing by conductor Pollock was all set.

Early in the morning head Switchman Tim directed the passenger cars to their appropriate stalls for unloading and everything was working well until 9am when an unprecedented preponderance of exhibitors showed up all at once, lined 4 abreast and 25 deep. Tim did his best to keep the lines moving. Because of this unforeseen circumstance many made for a Beeliner to get through vet check.

I briefly spoke with our new engineer Angie Lee, running the VET Check Express and she felt for the most part this area ran smoothly. There are always a few grumblings from those who are impatient or nervous but the benefit of safety, no parasites, no in-season dogs, and the importance of teaching 4-Her's about healthy dogs is worthwhile, and the proof is years of epidemic free showing. (maybe the swine barn should take notice!)

The new layout to the obedience yard seemed pleasing to most that I talked with. While I designed this arrangement I cannot take credit for the original concept, in fact I did not like the idea at all, but wanting to be a team player I did my best to make it work. The exhibitors seemed to have no trouble with the new interurban design. Jonella did a fine job working the cross arms at entry point to the staging area and soon caught on that the 3AB out of sight exhibitors needed to be let through too! There was some congestion at the entry point and I am not sure that this can be remedied without all family member’s cooperation to watch from the bleacher areas. A week or so before the show the Advisory Board arranged for the Orange Blossom Special, with a record number of 2B exhibitors we brought in a 3rd judge to help speed up that class, but our plans were derailed by unrealized communication with the # 1 2B judge. I hope we can retry with better results next year code name A Street Car Named Desire.

Our obedience ring porters gave 5 star assistance to both the judges and the exhibitors and they make my job much easier, thank you.

The obedience guide mentions unsafe foot wear and lists a few examples of such. A couple of exhibitors were cited for inappropriate foot wear. Tennis shoes would always be your best choice to avoid quandary.

Thought to be in the caboose, Dr. Brady was actually at the Top Dog Scholar area. This option to exhibitors nurtures a learning experience to the majority of basic dog and 4-H knowledge to those that avail themselves.

It was the Scenic Limited that took exhibitors to the Project Interact area. Refurbished this season it was met with enthusiasm from the 4-Hers and the general public enjoyed the interaction.

Those wishing to participate in Drill Team loaded the Twilight Express and as always the kids and dogs don’t seem to mind the late hour, seems the parents and spectators just don’t like taking the Night Owl home.

Johnson and Nelson had some switched signals in the auditing yard that were caught after awards were over, hopefully this has now been taken care of without a head on collision!
Sunday turned out to be a beautiful day for a dog show and many exhibitors returned to take the Broadway Limited to the showmanship yard where Jean Ann Randle in her debut performance as Showmanship engineer illustrated how a well-designed rail yard should be organized.

Many 4-her’s took the Shoppers Special train ride to Suzy’s Sitting Service and Sales seeking show day products.

Toot the horn and ring the bell for appreciation to the folks from Hendricks, Madison, Randolph, Hamilton, Jefferson and Henry counties coming in on the Safety Express. Your toil as crossing guards provided a safe, and maneuverable environment for exhibitors & staff during the active show hours.

I only spoke with one overly disgruntled person this year and was able to assist her to the appropriate train to board . . . the Lunatic Express for Nairobi.

So once again we came to Mecca to celebrate our passion and love of children and dogs. Yes, there were a few bumps on the ride but there always are when riding a train, but for the overall majority the trip was a grand experience. The advisory board’s focus is steadfast in betterment to the whole and my hope is that the folks who only ride the “Me train” will someday board with us on the Treasure Island Special for the panorama of children & canine enjoying themselves in a weekend created just for them is a trip worth taking.

Submitted in true fashion
Rob Myers
Obedience Chair

Showmanship Report . . . Jean Ann Randle – Showmanship Chairperson

It is with great excitement that I present my first Showmanship Report. I felt Sunday's show went well once we, the volunteers and exhibitors, got into the groove of things. I know that sometimes change is hard to accept, but I stood my ground and after a few classes, the exhibitors figured out they were going to have to do it my way.

Judges: I was thrilled with all three judges.

Dawn whizzed through her entries. She has a unique ring procedure that is efficient and no nonsense. My suggestion if she returns next year is to give her six classes per hour instead of four, she had a lot of down time.

Theresa ran behind all day, but she was very thorough and did a tremendous job of bringing out the best in each exhibitor. If she is to judge again next year, I would suggest giving her three classes per hour instead of four.

Rob ran just slightly behind. He is an excellent judge for calming the exhibitors and because of that, I would love to see him judge the Sr. class. Four classes an hour works well with Rob’s system of eliminating the need for call-backs.

Call-backs: I don’t know how many questions I answered regarding call-backs, but a bunch. Call-backs is not a new concept and the exhibitors should know that they will happen after all the classes are finished. I don’t know if this year was any different than any other year, but it seemed to me the exhibitors and parents were asking for an exact time for call-backs, which, of course, I could not give.
My suggestion, is to have the judge select those exhibitors he/she feels deserve to be in the finals and tell them before they leave the ring. This is how the showmanship rings are run in swine, cattle, sheep, etc., and would eliminate the exhibitor (parent) frustration of not knowing. The big difference between regular livestock showmanship and dogs is that only champion and reserve champion are awarded in the livestock classes as opposed to 1-25 in dogs.

This year there were 24 Intermediate classes. The judge can select one or two from each class, but there may be some classes the judge doesn’t feel anyone deserves to come back. The goal would be to have 25-30 exhibitors come back in three or four classes organized by the judge.

Will be making minor adjustments in ring configuration, etc., but overall I was pleased. Of course, the credit goes to my fine volunteers and the judges.

Agility Report . . . Chris Roeder & Billy Brinkerhuff – Agility Co-Chairpersons

The agility portion of the 2012 Indiana State Fair 4-H Dog Show was quite the success. It would not have been possible without the hard work of many people. Billy and Chris appreciate everything done to ease their transition into their new roles this year. We had a lot of fun and can’t wait for next year.

Set Up - Excellent work delivering equipment, crates and unrolling mats. Thanks to Tim Bauer and the Friday set up volunteers.

Some of the equipment storage crates came out of storage severely damaged this year. Thanks to Steve Patterson for agreeing to have the equipment crates rebuilt or repaired.

We were short two mats. Thanks to Billy Brinkerhuff for bringing some extras.

We delayed unrolling mats and setting up equipment to make sure volunteers who arrived at 2 pm would have something to do. Could we have the volunteers arrive earlier?

Utilizing the agility rings for drill team meant we could not set up for Sunday on Saturday evening. We were also rushed to get out of the agility rings on Saturday. Can Drill Team wait until after the Obedience and Agility awards now that Auditing is blazing fast? Is it necessary to utilize the agility space for drill team?

Agility Entries and Scheduling - Addition of dog breed to score sheet label was very helpful. Thank you.

Dog height reporting was better than previous years. There were still some dogs with the jump height recorded as the dog height. The dog breed information on the label helped highlight potential issues.

Agility Veteran needs to be recorded on the label. Being an obedience veteran doesn’t mean the dog is an agility veteran.

Dog were distributed well in the time slots. We were able to maintain the schedule both days. Well done, Sue Pfrank.

Judges - Karen Moench and Sue Pfrank did an excellent job. They were consistent in their judging and clear in their score sheet marks.

Course design was flowing with the correct level of challenges for each class. Equipment moves were minimized between levels.

Both judges were very personable with the exhibitors and ring crew.

Both judges kept their rings under control and moving smoothly.

We need to review with the judges some differences in 4-H agility judging from UKC judging.

Ring Flow & Layout - Running order posters and gate sheets were huge help. Thanks to LeeAnn Pollock for providing.

The queuing area was very calm, quiet, and clear of extra equipment and people. Thanks to Billy Brinkerhuff and Carolyn Pfrank for keeping the equipment neatly out of the way. Thanks to all of the
volunteers working the gates and check in tables. They kept the exhibitors flowing to the rings with minimal distraction.

We had less issue with the audience hanging over the fence. We still had some problems. Additional signs and repeated announcements requesting the audience to stay back from the fence improved the situation. Some form of double fencing would help eliminate the issue.

We successfully utilized bar setters in the rings to speed up the flow of exhibitors. Less time was wasted waiting for someone to run out to reset bars and fluff chutes between runs.

**Score Sheets and Table Stewards** - The new score sheet layout and legends, consistent with the Agility Guide, made the Table Steward jobs much easier. Thank you to Sue Pfra nk and Barb Johnson for the design and input.

Table Stewards learned the job quickly and performed diligently. Questions concerning the Judges’ marks were returned to the Judge for clarification with a few runs.

Very few score sheets came back from auditing with questions or need for clarification.

**Equipment** - We need to alter the bar jumps to include all of the jump heights. Thanks to Ron Gibson for providing precision manufactured wood blocks to create the 4” jump height this year. Billy Brinkerhuff has the bar jumps at his home to upgrade pending approval of the necessary expenditure.

The pause tables can’t be adjusted to the 4” jump height. We are legal by UKC rules to use an 8” table.

We only have one set of weave poles. If we run Advanced A and B simultaneously in opposite rings, we need to have a second set. Thanks to Scott Roeder for bringing a second set of weave poles from Johnson County at a moment’s notice. Thanks to Carolyn Pfra nk for finding and delivering a spare ticket and unloading pass to the gate, so he could quickly get the weave poles onto the fairgrounds and to the agility rings.

It is noted that we will need to re-tape the tire within the next few years.

The two sets of electric timers worked very well. The volunteers running the timers found the job to be very easy. Thanks to the Agility Club of Indianapolis for loaning us the timers. We hope to continue this relationship as the electronic timers help speed the flow of exhibitors through the rings.