The State 4-H Dog Advisory Committee met Saturday, September 19, 2009, in Room D of the Farm Bureau Center, 225 S. East St., Indianapolis, IN.

The meeting was called to order at 1:10 p.m. by President Ron Gibson. State Fair Director, Steve Patterson presented his show report. Needs that Steve has presented to the State Fair Board include an improved sound system, to have trash removed, more dog potty areas, more bleachers that are adequately spaced, move photographer to the south end, Top Scholar test area needs more computers, and to review tabulation area needs. Dog show highlights in Steve’s report include the large entry, use of the picket fencing to define public and exhibitor areas, the volunteers who run the event, that the facility was clean and ready for the dog show, and that parking was wonderful in the 38th St. lot. Steve explained that one of the delays before the awards was that we were waiting for the computer-operated fans to be turned off. He also said there were some unloading hold-ups because of some cars being left for too long in the area. Expect time limits being imposed next year.

Jean Ann Randle suggested that our older 4-H’ers might be able to help with supervision in the Vet Check line while parents park their cars. It would be nice to have more carts available for moving equipment. The designation of exhibitor and public areas worked fine. Sharon Reese received comments from the public on the good dog behavior and how quiet the dogs were. The Leader Dog people were happy with the location of their booth. Joe Reese suggested signs on the public side explaining the classes they were watching. Sue Barlow suggested a list of phone numbers for the county Extension Offices at the Public Information Booth. We may want to have handouts for the public explaining our obedience and agility competition. Dixie Harnishfeger suggested that the Action Demo area needs to face the public side.

Show Manager, Cindy Barnett presented her show report which was a compilation of suggestions and comments received throughout the show weekend. It included suggested changes to the Premium Book, Confirmation letter, and 1A score sheets. (Cindy’s complete report follows these Minutes.)

Joe Reese asked about the possibility of a corporate sponsor to buy electronic timing equipment. Colleen Brady said the procedure is to develop a list of potential sponsors and then talk to the State Fair officials. Chris Roeder suggested renting the timing equipment since we only use it two days each year.

LeeAnn Pollock moved to change Terms and Conditions # 6, first sentence, to read as follows: “In any given year, a 4-H dog must be shown at the same obedience and agility level or higher at the State Fair that the dog was entered in as a part of the county 4-H dog program.” Rob Myers seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Dog Show review:

- Sue Barlow suggested that we consider taking the time to honor our 10-year and final year 4-H dog members before the awards ceremony. She suggested that the 4-H’ers could sign up at the Information Booth during the day so that we would have their information.
- Colleen Brady said that the cutoff date for late entries or corrections to entries will be moved back to August 1. The only corrections that will be made are input errors made by the data entry staff.
- Chris Roeder suggested that the entry form contain separate lines for dog’s height at withers and dog’s jump height.
- Carol Garringer asked that the Entry Office staff pay attention to the county name on the entry form as some of our exhibitors show out of their county of residence.
- Sue Barlow submitted a list of additional comments for the Showmanship score sheets that she would like to see discussed. Her list follows these Minutes. Discussion will take place at the October meeting.
- Regarding the Vet Form, Dixie Harnishfeger suggested that the parent and child information be placed on one side with the Vet information on the other side.
- It was suggested that we state in Rule # 1 that all signatures are required on the Vet Form.
- Sue Barlow suggested a show evaluation form be placed in the exhibitor packets.
- Two comments regarding showmanship attire were received – one about an exhibitor’s and one about a judge’s attire.
- The 2A judge had the exhibitors place their leash on the ground during the Stand for Exam.
Indiana
4-H Dog Advisory Committee

Barlow suggested that some of the Drill Team judges could be former leaders and participants. Barb Johnson moved that Sue Barlow compile a list of potential volunteer Drill Team judges. Carol Garringer seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

Colleen Brady asked if the resource materials used for the Top Dog Scholar test were used and readily available to the county clubs. Cindy Barnett said that 118 4-H’ers took the test and there were two perfect scores. Kristin Montgomery asked that the questions and answers be posted after the show.

Obedience Chairman, Rob Myers reported that set-up went well, some groups had to be reminded to minimize their crating area, there was some over-scheduling in the 3 A/B ring, two exhibitors missed their show times, and parent and leader volunteers monitored the entrances. Also noted was the Lifetime Pass Award that State Fair Director, Steve Patterson presented to Pat Fry for her dedication to the 4-H dog program. (Rob’s complete report follows these Minutes.)

Showmanship Chairman, Kim Bachert could not attend the meeting but sent her report: “The showmanship portion went great this year! I want to thank all of my helpers (Bob Wise, Brittany Jones, Penny Conover, Penny’s friend, Sherry Mitchell, and Terri Holt)...without their help, I don't know how I could ever survive State Fair with my mind still intact!! If there are any suggestions for a better show, please don't hesitate to contact me directly! I also want to thank all the parents, handlers, and leaders...everybody seemed so on top of things and very knowledgeable of procedures this year...it really shows all the hard work that people are putting into the 4-H dog program... Again, thank you all for this being a very successful year and being patient with all the new changes! Have a great training season and see you all next year!”

Agility Co-Chairman, Sharon Reese said that the Friday trial went well. She had a good response from kids and parents.

Carol Garringer complimented the steering committee on a good show and thanked them for the time spent organizing and planning for all the changes.

Discussion of preparing an Agility Guide was tabled for a future meeting.

Nominating Committee Chairman, Pat Fry announced the committee’s nominations for officers: President – Ron Gibson, Vice-President – Rob Myers, and Secretary – Sue Pfrank. There were no nominations from the floor.

Pat Fry moved that the meeting be adjourned. Jean Ann Randle seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 4:20.

Next Meeting: Saturday, October 17, 2009 at 1:00 p.m.
(meeting site to be announced)

Respectfully Submitted,
Sue Pfrank, Secretary

In attendance: Steve Patterson (State Fair), Colleen Brady (Purdue), Cindy Barnett (Purdue), Ron Gibson (Clay Co.), Rob Myers (Tipton Co.), Barbara Johnson, Kristen Montgomery, Loni Montgomery, and Chris Roeder (Johnson Co.), Sue Pfrank (Vigo Co.), Joe and Sharon Reese (LaPorte Co.), Jean Ann Randle (Carroll Co.), Carol Newberry and Susan Barton (Jackson Co.), Pat Fry (Cass Co.), Carol Garringer (Adams Co.), Penny Conover, LeeAnn Pollock, and Clarissa Dooley (Fulton Co.), Dixie Harnishfeger (Hendricks Co.), Sue Barlow (Marion Co.).
Show Manager’s Report . . . . Cindy Barnett

Score Sheets – 1A
Stand – add to major column: “no stand”
Recall – add to major column: “no stay”
Recall – add to minor column: “backing away”, “guiding”
Recall – “handler’s arms not at side” ? (exercise done on lead)

State Fair Premium Book
Agility/Off leash/Beg B – delete “teeter totter” from obstacles
Top Dog Scholar – need to add: “5 questions from the State Fair premium book”
Add? – “No changes made after judging has begun”. Do we need to state a time?

Tickets/Food Vouchers
Need to provide tickets for vet students and Extension Educators
Need to provide parking passes for vet students and Extension Educators
Food vouchers – thanks! Need to determine who gets how many

Schedule
3A, 3B, Veterans – ran late. Too many scheduled for time allowed?
Finished Sunday at 5 pm
Beg B agility ran an hour behind
Awards began at 7 pm on Sat
Drill team began at 8 pm on Sat

Confirmation letter to 4-Hers
Needs to state day/date of judging
Need to add: “Do not leave dogs alone”
Delete “walk dogs near Expo”

Building set-up
Do not block doors
Move 2 bleachers from 4-H side to public side
Need LOTS more space for doggy potty area. Area on west side of building needs to be watered down Saturday night after show. Bring in sod? Put in wash racks?
Put on east side of building?
Sound system hard to hear in certain parts of building

Armbands
Do we need to make them all 4 digit numbers?

Showmanship
Show by size?
Do judges receive a copy of the showmanship guide?

Obedience
At table provide: obedience guide, “orders” sheet, AKC jump heights for advanced
Food/Drinks
Need to provide bottled water for judges
Coffee was nice – necessary?

Signs
Where was the sign for the family picture area?
For award photos need: Excellence A, Excellence B, Drill Team-Limited, Drill Team-Unlimited

Action Demos
Participation was way down this year – why?
Move to outside of 4-H area
Put bleachers or chairs in front of podium

Dog Vendors
Do we want to invite any? We have the space.

Agility
As soon as DQ, 4-Her should be dismissed

Info Area
4-H info – Need 6 tables for 2010
Public info – Was it worth setting up?

Top Dog Scholar
118 4-Hers this year. Used 4 computers. 6 computers would be better
Add “test” to entry form?

Computer Program
Rob will work on updating the computer program for 2010. Barb Johnson and Jan Cochard will help.
Several computers and several people should be working on results. We should not have to wait more than 15 minutes for results.

Parking
Need to have volunteer(s) to monitor parking at end of building on Saturday morning

Results
Post results on Sunday?
After show on Saturday, we need a list of “no shows” for Sunday – need 2 copies, one for showmanship and one for agility
Is agility list checked against obedience list on Saturday?
Submitted by Sue Barlow

After judging numerous shows this summer and using the new comment sheets, I found myself writing in many times the same comments that used to be on the previous comment sheet (and the original score sheet with points). I believe there is plenty of room to add them to the current portrait version of the comment sheet and with some creativity, the landscape version, as well.

I would like a discussion at this State meeting about adding the following comments:

In the section – All Go Round / Entrance and Exit – add Lacks Smoothness and add Dog Uncontrolled

In the section – Line Up and Stack – add Inefficient Set Up – Dog Uncontrolled – Dog Inattentive – change Handler Inattentive _______ to read Handler Inattentive (and under that on the next line) To dog _____ To Judge _____

In the section – Exam of Dog – move Coat not Repositioned under Feet not Repositioned And add in the last column – Teeth and Gums – Toenails – Eyes – Ears

In the section – Individual Gait – add Dog Uncontrolled

In the section – Appearance & Attitude of Handler – add Posture – Showmanship Finesse – Knowledge of Ring Procedure

If more helpful comments can be checked, hopefully the handler will gain more useful information. Writing out comments on a clip board while walking in a sawdust arena sometimes makes my handwriting unreadable. I will still use the open comment section when needed but found that it was a most useable area for writing my positive opinions of the handler’s performance and sometimes left little room for the missing critical comments. Positive comments such as good courtesy turn, good stack, good presentation, etc, etc. are also sometimes needed and helpful.

To contribute to this Showmanship discussion, contact one of the following people:

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Obedience Chairman’s Report  - Rob Myers

Ship’s Log, Friday, Aug. 21st

I, Lieutenant Myers, being one of the first to arrive ship side, was greeted by Fleet Admiral Patterson. Soon other crew members began to show up. Commanders Pfrank and Holt, Lieutenants Bachert & Reese and our Captain Gibson, with a staff in hand.

Midshipmen began the task of placing the life line, also known as perimeter fencing. Commander Pfrank read from the navigational maps. The chantey of song was not that of music, but the labored breaths of volunteers who willingly gave of brawn and within a few hours most everything was in place for the journey that laid ahead for our young passengers and their families. Ensigns Ms. Holt and Fry along with midshipmen readied the boarding armband passes and welcome packets for our guests.

Ship’s Log, Saturday, Aug. 22nd

Cruise Ship 4-H K-9 Adventure is to set sail at 0900. Our guests began to arrive pier side being delivered in vessels of all types, Toyota canoes, Chrysler schooners, Chevy windjammers, and Mercedes yachts. After unloading passes were issued and the vessels were moved to the 38th Street jetty for mooring during the ship’s cruise. All 4-legged guests were sent to medical before being allowed to board. Commander Holt kept the lines straight and orderly.

Acting on orders from Captain Gibson to keep the ship on time, at a minute till 0900 I cried out to the announcer to Aweigh and from the crows nest he hoisted the colors and the Pledge of our Allegiance to 4-H rang out, down and through the Grand Salon. As the ship eased away from port, the grunts and gentle hum of the propeller could be heard as that of children bustled to ring side; we were under way.

Smiles on the faces of the ship’s stewards greeted our guests at each ring.

Parent volunteers were posted at entrances to keep pirates from entering our sanctum and to keep our 4-legged guests from jumping ship.

A trip to the hold revealed Ditty bags and furniture of the guests were in some instances laid askew and prudence of space was not taken into account. Leaders are again reminded to minimize space of crating areas, being a good steward to one’s neighbors.

By 1200 hours it became apparent that the waves of exhibitors had slowed some of our new judges down, something that I am sure Vice Admiral Barnett noted in her journal. The commanders had been used to the old salt judges’ expedience, which is something that comes with experience. Also noted is that there was some over scheduling in the 3 A/B ring.

Fleet Admiral Patterson ordered meal tickets to be issued to the judges and crew and when time permitted those sailors headed to the Galley where a State Fair’s worth of opportunity awaited their palette.

Admiral Brady could be found throughout the day tendering between our ship and the “Good Ship Llama”.

The announcer spoke out that the ladies’ head was broken; a problem that was soon remedied. However, the same cannot be said of the dogs’ potty area. While handlers did their part of picking up what they could, the blades of grass acted as unrelenting absorbing sponges that held on to fecal...
material without pardon. This repugnant problem has been brought to the attention of all officers and will be resolved before another cruise sets sail.

At 1300 hours, the ship had turned and was headed back to port; half of our journey for the day was over.

Passengers and guests were able to take in educational opportunities at the Action Demo area. Photo opportunities were apparent with the professional photographers large set up. New to the cruise was the information booth located on the observation deck for our “fair go’er” friends who were not allowed admission to the Grand Salon. For the first time, fair-goers were able to view the goings on of a dog show.

This log does not include the activities of Agility, for that consult with Lieutenant Reese.

Approximately 1530 hours, a dark cloud began to appear just as land came into view. Eight bells were heard, but not by all. It was discovered at the 2A ring that two guests had not appeared for last call and were deemed overboard. Disappointment and heartache was the bitter ale for these two handlers capsizing their dreams while their comrades from the same scheduled group rejoiced in the flavor of performances. This was a hard lesson for the young of mind and body. Note of this unfortunate event has been taken and measures to help prevent it happening again will be implemented, however it will remain the handler’s responsibility to be ringside when needed.

Officers’ decisions often sway toward the exhibitor, but a hand on law must not be lessened in the name of justice. The PA system was nominated to “walk the plank”, however sound fault is delivered to the structure of the vessel.

Before awards were given, one of the steadfast crew was recognized. Pat Fry has seen the dog show evolve over the past 46 years and one thing that is unwavering is the volunteers’ commitment to make the dog show the best they know how.

The harbor in view, the sounds of a slowing propeller were heard. Shouts from the engine room rang out, a tooth in the cog of auditing was stuck, slowing the old, worn gears of a computer and program that is years old. Lieutenant Zaiko forged on with doing the best she knew how and when the results came, they were well received.

While waiting in the harbor, the Drill Team Competition started. There was excitement in the crowd and proud parents and leaders looked on.

At the end of the day, the ship docked and the guests de-boarded. Grog was ordered for the crew, but alas! We were docked at the Indiana State Fair, a dry county!

The sky told of what lay ahead of us. Red sky at night, sailor’s delight. Sunday proved to be a much more relaxing cruise.