



Seward County Kennel Club

A CLUB FOR PERSONS INTERESTED IN DOGS AND THE SPORT OF DOGS.

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Information for the newsletter, including brags, needs to be submitted by the first week of the month to be included in the next newsletter. Please email submissions to the editor.

GOLDEN RETRIEVER SAVES FAMILY'S LIFE HOURS BEFORE DELIVERING 10 PUPS



As her Golden Retriever entered the last week of pregnancy, Melody Lyons had made all the checks on her list. Like most breeders, she wanted to be ready for anything. Whelping box set up; heat lamps installed; milk replacer on the shelf. The veterinarian gave Carly a check-up and thought delivery would happen in about five days. But that evening Melody realized that you can never be prepared for a disaster. Just 24 hours later, her life would be changed, and her dog declared a hero.

Sounding the Alarm

The Lyons live in a very rural area of northeast Ohio known as the Trail community. February 4 was an extremely cold day, with temperatures barely rising over zero. There had been snow early in the day. Melody's long-time

companion, Joe Brand, came home late from his accounting office, pushed snow off their driveway, and turned in not long after. Melody stayed up later to watch television with Carly. When she went to bed, Carly stayed downstairs to sleep, as she always did, Melody said.

"Carly likes it cooler and she sleeps near the front window so she can look for deer," Melody said. Melody slept in a separate bedroom, so she did not disturb Joe, who was sleeping at the end of the hallway upstairs. Sometime in the early morning hours, Joe was awakened to Carly pushing her head under his arm. It was very odd since she rarely came upstairs until around 7 am. He thought she needed to go out as she had to potty

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NEXT MEETING August 19, 2021
Seward Civic Center 616 Bradford St, Seward, NE 68434
No Special Program - General Meeting 7:30pm

MEETING MINUTES

SCKC July Minutes - The Seward County Kennel Club met on July 17 at the Seward Fairgrounds pond shelter for our annual Dog Lover's Day picnic. Members present were Tabitha and Troy Dvorak, Cindy Hill, Vicki Nolte, Linda Soukup, Tanya Willaims, and Gerold and Diane Nitz. Canine guests were Jake, Kirby, Benny, Jessie, Audie, California, Illinois, Topsy, Cabo, and Edie.

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by president Tabitha. In the absence of our secretary, Cindy read the minutes from the newsletter. Motion made by Tanya and seconded by Cindy to approve the minutes, motion carried.

President's report: Tabitha reported that the club received a check from the FastCAT trial for \$1386.00. Nothing further to report.

There was no treasurer's report.

Obedience: Fall classes are tentatively scheduled for Sept 13 thru Oct 25, pending rental of the building.

Show Committee: Discussed the possibility of having a raffle. We will think about it and discuss further in the future.

Old Business: Tanya has done some research regarding what is needed to offer a scholarship(s). We would need to determine who gets it, for what, how much, and how many scholarships we would offer, specific criteria. We may need to talk to the school and see where the need is. We will discuss more at future meetings.

New Business: Laurie Gressly at Ridgewood Care Center has requested an agility and/or obedience demo for their residents. We will try to work something out for them.

It was mentioned the memorial service for Howard Wurst will be at 2:00 pm on Aug 1 at the United Methodist church in Milford.

There being no further business, a motion was made by Tanya and seconded by Vicki to adjourn. Meeting adjourned at 7:34pm.

Submitted by Diane Nitz

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more frequently as her girth increased. As he went downstairs, Carly was acting "very freaky," and then the smoke alarms sounded.

Up in Flames

He looked into the living room where he saw an upholstered chair in flames. "It looked like a burning bush; there were flames to the ceiling," Joe said. "I yelled at Melody to get up and get the fire extinguisher, and I went down to the basement to get a hose."

Melody ran down with the extinguisher and sprayed it on the chair, but said "at that point, it just pushed fire all over," she said. "I saw the fire go across carpet."

When Joe hit the flames with the water, a large plume of smoke enveloped the room. "The smoke knocked me backward," he said. "I yelled for Melody and Carly to get out of the house." Joe tried once more to enter the house to retrieve their phones and other important items, but the windows blew out and



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2021 SCHOLARSHIP SURVEY for SCKC Members

This survey will be discussed at the meeting. Please contact Tanya Williams with scholarship questions.

Value of scholarship:

\$500

\$1000

other \$ _____

How many scholarships offered per year: 1 2 other _____

Residence of recipient:

SE Nebraska resident

other _____

Course of studies:

Animal Science

Vet Tech

Grooming Course

other _____

Year of study: Freshman Sophomore Junior Senior

Criteria of recipient (rank top 3 choices):

Financial need

Merit

Skills

Academics

Ability

Other _____

Who will manage and choose scholarship winner(s):

SCKC appointed committee

Hire professional management service

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he knew that they needed help. They got in their truck with Carly and drove “like crazy” to Joe’s mother’s home, which was just up the road. They called 911. “By the time fire department got there, the house was already destroyed, flames eating the place up, and fire trucks couldn’t make it up the lane because of the ice,” Melody said. “It was an absolute tragic mess.” The fire cause was undetermined.

Carly will forever be their hero for saving their lives. She gave them extra time that enabled them to get downstairs and out of the house before the fire spread. “If she had not gotten Joe up, we would have been consumed,” Melody said. “Forty minutes and the place was gone.”

Ten Healthy Puppies

Joe is a certified public accountant, and Melody works as office manager and bookkeeper for the business in the town of Winesburg, Ohio. They have an apartment above the office so were able to move in there. “We cried and tried to get some sleep,” she said. That afternoon, their secretary brought a children’s wading pool for the puppies – not her beautiful whelping box, but it would work. And then Carly gave another gift to the couple when she started delivering that evening. No one is sure if it was time for her to deliver or if the stress and excitement of the day took its toll, but Carly went into labor around 5 p.m.

She had her first puppy at 8 p.m. and finished whelping around 2:30 a.m. – almost exactly 24 hours after the fire started. She had 10 healthy puppies – six girls and four boys.

The couple said the community has reached out to them, donating clothes and other items that they lost, and they hope to rebuild their farmhouse. They have moved into a rental with more room for Carly and the puppies in the meantime.

They plan to keep a puppy from the dog that saved their lives. Carly was always a rambunctious, mischievous puppy, but the 2-year-old has matured into a thoughtful adult. “She is such a Dennis the Menace of dogs, but it is absolutely true that Golden puppies do turn into Golden Retrievers, and she just did,” Melody said.

Having the puppies has been a silver lining in an otherwise bleak story. Carly has been a constant comfort, and the puppies are a guarantee to put a smile on their faces.

“We have both been hit hard, but if we did not have the puppies, it would be a lot harder,” Joe said.

Penny Leigh, April 13, 2021, akc.org

Seward County Kennel Club

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