



# Seward County Kennel Club

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

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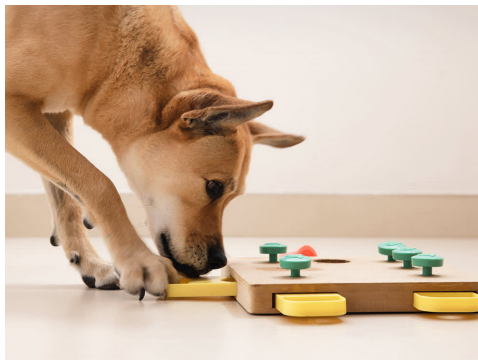
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#### NEWSLETTER EDITOR

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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.

## THE CANINE MIND: ACTIVE SENIORS HELP KEEP YOUR AGING DOG SPRY IN HIS GOLDEN YEARS



One of life's richest experiences is raising a dog from puppyhood through adulthood, and into its senior years. Puppies are full of energy and wonder, and each and every day, they are excited about the world around them. Adult dogs are in their prime for organized training and physical activities.

Where special love and attention is needed is when our dogs become seniors. These special, loving creatures with cloudy eyes and gray muzzles may have a loss of mobility or

physical skills, and their minds may not be as sharp as they once were.

Prominent fashion designer Diane Von Furstenberg's comment on aging applies to both pet owners and their dogs: "Aging is out of your control. How you handle it, though, is in your hands." With careful planning, dog owners can ensure their older dogs will have enriched, quality lives.

### WORKING IN RETIREMENT

Research from the University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna showed that mind games help older dogs stay mentally agile. This is especially important for dogs who had a full-time job in their younger lives. Michael Burkey, a K-9 officer from Michigan, has worked with police dogs from beginning training until after the dogs retire from law enforcement.

"K-9s commit themselves to extensive training sessions that encompass a comprehensive range of tasks such as obedience, tracking, building and article searches, scent detection of narcotics and explosives, as well as handler protection and arrest assistance," Burkey says. "Stopping all training and activities when my dogs retire is simply not an option."

For his retired dogs, Burkey modifies daily training, "I wanted to preserve my dogs' vitality and mental activity well into their senior years. When they no longer did scent-

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## NEXT MEETING Sept 21, 2023

Seward Civic Center 616 Bradford St, Seward, NE 68434

No Special Program - General Meeting 7:30pm

# MEETING MINUTES

Seward County Kennel Club

July 20, 2023

Civic Center- East basement, Seward, NE

Members present: Mary Bristol, Tabitha Dvorak, Cindy Hill, Vicki Nolte, Tanya Williams, Chris Corum, and Morgan Ehlers. Guests present Sam and Jacob Hill

Meeting called to order at 7:38 pm

Report of President: none

Report of Treasurer: Balance read. We are to receive \$200 refund from the spring class due to the roofers. Motion made by Cindy to approve the treasures report. 2nd by Tanya. Motion passed.

Report of Secretary: Premium list and entries being accepted for Barn hunt trials September 1-3rd at Companion Dog Club in Omaha.

Newsletter: None

Website: Cindy reported that she is working on putting a link for the apparel store on the website.

Performance: Obedience class will be Sept 11- Oct 23. Halloween/costume party will be on the 16th. \$350 building rental for fall classes.

Cindy- registration

Tabitha- class dates, putting ads in the paper and getting the building reserved.

Morgan- scarves and certificates.

Mary agreed to teach puppy class.

Show: Tabitha reported contract has been signed for 2024 Fast Cat. Working on obtaining another obedience judge.

Old business: Scholarship committee meeting August 17 at 6:30pm at the Seward Civic Center.

The concession stand made \$1,500. Motion made by Morgan to donate SCKC's 10% portion of concession stand profit to St. John's for their mission trip. Motion 2nd by Tanya. Vote and motion passed. SCKC donation will be \$150.

Overall champion and reserve sponsorship of gift cards to

Petco. Tabitha will get gift cards and submit a bill to the club.

New Business: Discussion on other possible venues for the spring show. Butler county, Crete County, Filmore county fairgrounds.

Motion for adjournment made by Tanya and 2nd by Vicki.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:20pm.

Seward County Kennel Club

August 14, 2023

Seward Civic Center

Members present: Linda Soukup, Tanya Williams, Mary Bristol, Tabitha Dvorak, Diane Nitz, Chris Corum, Jon Thomas, Kayla Thomas and Morgan Ehlers.

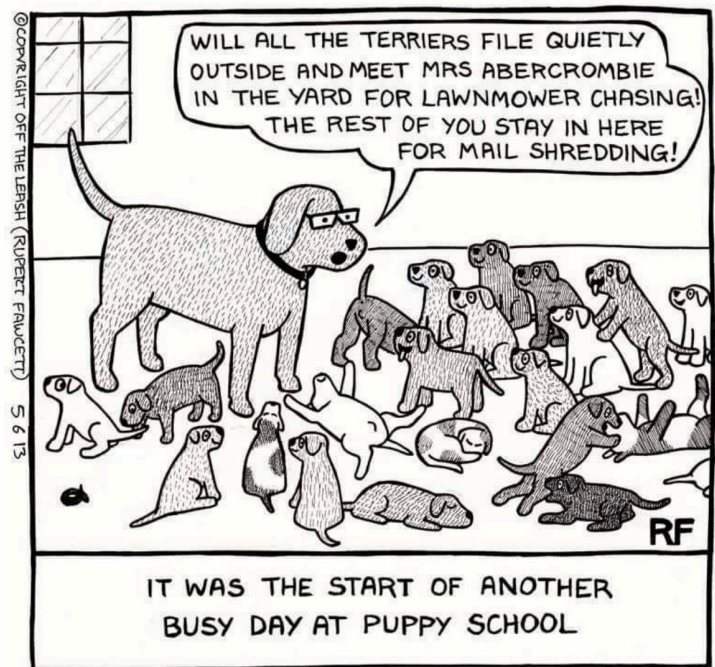
Meeting called to order by Tabitha at 7:22pm.

Highlights of the July meeting minutes read. Motion to approve minutes made by Diane and 2nd by Chris. Motion passed.

President's report: none

Secretaries report: none

Treasurer's report: Balance of read. Motion to approve



treasure's report made by Diane 2nd by Linda. Motion passed. Sent security deposit \$100 for May 3-5 and September \$350 for classes.

Show:

Special attraction events for spring show:

- Beginning puppy Saturday
- Veterans Sunday
- Rent a ring: Friday 3-5pm and Saturday 30mins after obedience show is over. \$5 for 6mins.
- CGC on Friday 5-6pm
- PeeWee: motion made by Kayla to up the limit to 15 kids. 2nd by Diane motion passed.

Rebecca Rivera makes rosette heads and frames them. She only charges the cost of the frames. Diane made motion and Chris 2nd to have Rebecca Rivera to do all rosettes for 2024.

Tabitha still looking for 1 obedience judge.

Performance- Fall class- Lester agreed to teach basic. Tabitha got the ad in the paper.

Old business: Continued discussion on alternative venues

for the spring show. Seward may have some construction projects that may inhibit us from using the 4-H building. They are redoing the horse and rabbit barns. Crete would be an option. Tabitha will investigate the Lancaster event center.

Scholarship: 500-word essay on animal related experiences. 12pt font double spaced. Scholarship would be offered to the surrounding counties including Butler, Jefferson, Saline, Seward, York, and Polk. Deadline: March 1st. 3.0 GPA high school student. Applications and essays will be sent to an email SCKCscholarship@gmail.com (pending availability) link on the website. Bold.com is a free website for non-profit to build the scholarship for us. Scholarship committee will choose the winner.

4-H overall all showman sponsorship: Champion showman Ava Schepres. Reserve Champion Alessandra Wagner. 15 participants.

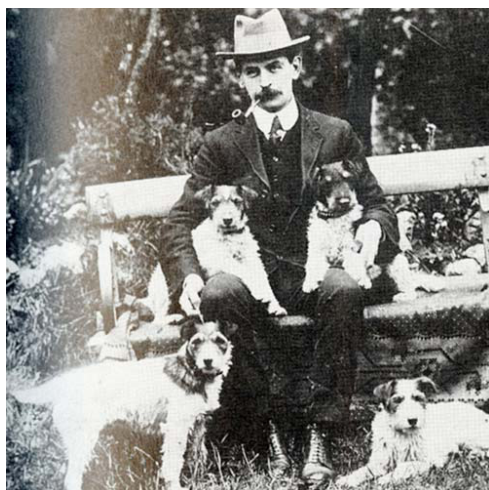
New business: None

Motion made by Linda to adjourn meeting. 2nd by Kayla.

Meeting adjourned at 8:20pm.

## BREED SNAPSHOT: PARSON RUSSELL TERRIER

The Parson Russell Terrier is a bold and clever terrier, swift enough to run with horses and fearless enough to dig in and flush a fox from his lair. Independent problem solvers, PRTs can have their own ideas on how to go about things. PRTs stand 12-15 inches at the shoulder, and weigh 13-17 pounds when in peak condition. Their intelligent expression, mostly white coat, and beautifully balanced body give PRTs the adorable looks of a plush toy come to life. But don't be fooled by all that cuteness, PRTs are tough little guys built for England's traditional sport of foxhunting.



They're fast enough to follow the hounds and fearless enough to dig into the ground and flush a fox from his lair.

### History

The Parson Russell Terrier was developed in the south of England in the 1800s to pursue fox both above and below the ground. The breed was named for Reverend John "The Sporting Parson" Russell, who had two passions in life: his ministry and his hunting dogs. His terriers were bred to work together with foxhounds in pursuit of the clever fox. Russell created them to be independent problem solvers, and to this day PRTs can have their own ideas about how to go about things.



*ACTIVE continued from front page.*

related police work, such as searching for narcotics and bombs, I was able to have them participate in nose work, a civilian sport in which they transition to finding birch, anise, clove, and other scents. To maintain their physical abilities, they no longer climbed ladders or walls, but they were able to do agility when jumps were lowered. With modifications, it was easy for my dogs to do activities that they cherished.” In his book, *Enjoy Old Age: A Practical Guide*, behavioral scientist B.F. Skinner’s advice for humans also applies to dogs. He suggests adding some novelty, but stresses the importance of remaining active, having routines, and continuing their favorite activities. Certainly, this is a formula that could support older dogs in staying cognitively sharp.

Other ways to maximize your senior dog’s quality of life include staying current with veterinary checks so you can be sure your dog is pain-free. Adequate nutrition and a proper diet are key factors in making certain your dog feels as well as possible, and making minor adjustments to the dog’s environment may make tasks easier.

Physical activity is extremely important. “Use it or lose it” applies to muscles and joints. Slow walks, taking breaks as needed, help maintain mobility. Another good exercise for keeping your dog moving easily is swimming. When in the water, provide supervision and consider adding a life jacket in case your dog gets tired. Very basic canine conditioning exercises such as *paws up* on a low platform can build a maintain strength.

### COGNITIVE WORKOUTS

Mental stimulation (sometimes called enrichment) is as important as physical activity for the older dog. Canine puzzles that conceal treats can be used. Training, such as trick training, can be simplified to ensure success. The trick *get in the box*, that once involved the dog jumping, can be modified so the dog simply must step into the low lid of a box to be successful.

Novelty (such as providing a new toy, puzzle, or training game) keeps the mind active, but for the senior dog, routine is also important. Plan daily activities that the dog can look forward to, such as nightly session where you brush and massage the dog.

Finally, the key to providing significant quality of life for the senior dog is remembering we all need a reason to get up in the morning. “My dogs always had an unwavering love for their work,” says Burkey. “By providing appropriate, adapted training that is suitable for aging dogs, I was able to safeguard their well-being and provide a continued purpose in their lives. We all need a purpose, and that includes our dogs.”



*Mary R. Burch, PhD. AKC FamilyDog. September/October 2023*

### Seward County Kennel Club

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