



Dog Committee Meeting Minutes
November 16th, 2013
Merrimack County 4-H Office Boscawen, NH

Introduction

In attendance were:

- Heather Aveni, Hillsborough County
- Tina Aveni, Hillsborough County
- Rhiannon Beauregard, State Program Coordinator
- Barbara Buckingham, Hillsborough County
- Jolee Chase, Hillsborough County
- Austen Furness, Merrimack County
- Danielle Furness, Merrimack County
- Sarah Gardner, Merrimack County
- Shelley Garrity, Belknap County
- Kate LaChance, Belknap County
- Tara Mullen, Merrimack County
- Brianna Russell, Merrimack County
- Julie Walker, Work Study Assistant

Representing:

- Belknap County Snazzy Sniffers
- Club Sandwich 4-H
- Crazy 4 Canines
- Creative Critters
- Merrimack County Rolling Bones 4-H Club
- Perfect Paws
- Pups R Us
- University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension

After introductions Rhiannon thanked all for attending.

4-H Dog Events in New Hampshire

Several canine events open to 4-H youth were discussed. They include:

- 4-H “All About Dogs” Weekend
 - Held annually in June at the Hillsborough County Youth Center in New Boston, NH



- Organized by Merrimack County Rolling Bones 4-H Club
- Open to all youth including those not affiliated with 4-H
- The weekend is comprised of demonstrations and clinics that examine proper fitting and showmanship techniques, obedience training and general knowledge
- Overall, the event helps to unify and prepare exhibitors before the start of the show season and enables youth to bond and develop confidence. The event is a popular event every year and is highly recommended by all those who attend.
- New Hampshire Shows
 - Belknap County 4-H Fair
 - 4-H Dog Show
 - Qualifying event for Eastern States Exposition
 - Deerfield Fair
 - 4-H Dog Show
 - Hillsborough County Agricultural Fair
 - 4-H Dog Show
 - Hopkinton State Fair
 - 4-H Dog Show
 - North Haverhill Fair
 - 4-H Dog Show
 - Qualifying event for Eastern States Exposition
 - Sandwich Fair
 - 4-H Dog Show
 - Stratham Fair
 - 4-H Dog Show
 - Qualifying event for Eastern States Exposition
- New Hampshire Farm and Forest Exposition
 - Venue for live demonstrations, education exhibits and displays to promote the NH 4-H Dog program.

Other 4-H Dog Events

Several other events open to New Hampshire 4-H youth were discussed and include:

- New England 4-H Dog Clinic
 - Tolland Agricultural Center Vernon, CT
 - Open to all 4-H Dog Project participants
 - Activities include obedience and showmanship workshops and general knowledge classes geared toward the Eastern States Exposition Dog Show curriculum
- Massachusetts 4-H Dog Camp
 - This event is held in May at 4-H Camp Farley in Mashpee, Massachusetts
 - Open to any youth enrolled in 4-H Dog Program



- Workshops include basic showmanship and obedience but also include more diverse classes such as canine massage and scrapbooking.
- AKC Junior Handler Clinic
 - Held in November in West Springfield, Massachusetts
 - Open to any junior exhibitor and mixed breed dogs
 - Participants will receive hands-on instruction from professional handlers

Website and Paperwork

Ms. Beauregard brought the topic of the update UNHCE 4-H website to the attention of those in attendance. Questions, comments and criticisms were welcomed and the following concerns were raised:

- The recommendation to relocated extraneous showmanship guides was made. This was duly noted and the materials in question will be moved to “Project Resources.” Essentially the “Show Information” section will contain only “Exhibitor Responsibilities” and “New Hampshire Guide to 4-H Dog Shows.”
- The design for a new scorecard was discussed and an electronic copy of the revisions will be provided by the Furnesses.
- The suggestion was made to remove the “Washington State 4-H Rally Obedience Guide” from the “Show Information” section and from the website entirely. This decision was based on the lack of rally competitions in New Hampshire 4-H and to eliminate confusion.
- Changes to the “NH 4-H Dog Show Health Sheet” were debated and included the following:
 - The question of required vaccines was raised. Currently, the state of New Hampshire only requires that competition canines be vaccinated against rabies and have a current vaccination records. Many members of the committee disagreed with this policy, citing that show dogs should also receive vaccinations against distemper and parvovirus. The concern was also raised that in order to reduce the risk of the transmission of zoonotic diseases animals should also be confirmed free of parasites including fleas and roundworms. Changing these requirements is not under the jurisdiction of the committee so Ms. Beauregard offered to consult the state and federal veterinarians concerning the matter. It was then suggested that individual event coordinators are able to make their own health requirements as long as the requirement can be rationalized and the event is not sponsored by the state.
 - Furthermore, the committee proposed that “Required for Eastern States Exposition,” in reference to distemper, be added to the form. This would eliminate confusion concerning eligibility when registering for the Big E.



Any and all changes to the health form will be submitted to and reviewed by Ms. Beauregard before submission to the website.

- Many committee members made the request to include showmanship patterns to the “New Hampshire Guide to 4-H Dog Shows.” The addition will be made.
- Several Oregon State materials were brought to the attention of the committee based on their educational merit. Upon review, Oregon State video resources and record book templates will be made available on the website.
- The suggestion was made to remove irrelevant links from the site, emphasizing on the agility pages.

In conclusion, the revised website was well received overall and was found to be far more user friendly. All members look forward to seeing the aforementioned updates implemented.

Quizzes

It was brought to the attention of the committee that many 4-H youth and leaders are growing frustrated and discouraged by their performance on the general knowledge quizzes at state competitions. The consensus was reached that poor results were often a result of discrepancies between show superintendents. After much discussion it was suggested that a subcommittee may be formed to oversee and encourage more uniformity amongst test makers. Furthermore, a packet should be developed for superintendents to outline test making strategies and offer sample questions. The provided literature should emphasize and promote use of proper resources as listed in the Dog Project Guide Book. Hopefully these steps will alleviate some of the discrepancies and frustration.

Eastern States Exposition 4-H Dog Committee

Laura Lewis of Merrimack County is no longer a representative for the committee. On the committee the youth member seat remained vacant until Tara Mullen volunteered for the position at the meeting. This nomination was confirmed.

Purpose of the Committee

As the meeting drew to a close, Ms. Beauregard asked the committee for feedback concerning what roles the committee should play and what changes should be made. Many were in supported of the utilization of more technology for future meetings including recording the proceedings and broadcasting the footage on the internet. This would ensure that all concerned parties could be present and informed regardless of distance, illness or prior engagements. As a whole, the members of the group emphasized that the committee should work toward the common goal of unifying the New Hampshire 4-H dog program. This could be attained through better communication. Furthermore it was decided that the committee will convene biannually,



once in April and again in November. It was also noted that members would prefer to receive the tentative agenda beforehand so that they may review it and prepare.

2013 Eastern States Exposition Results

In the final minutes, results from the “Big E” were announced. The highlights from the show include multiple top four placements in Fitting and Showmanship, and Obedience. Top honors went to New Hampshire exhibitors in both Quiz Bowl and the Knowledge Test. The High Scoring All-American dog and handler and the High Scoring Off Leash Obedience team were Erin Davies and Chubbs. Holly Lewis received the highest overall score for the On Leash category. Brandy Coderre was named 4-H Ambassador to the Public while Tara Mullen was awarded the 4-H Dog Alumni Award. The Kennel Award went to Meghan Lapointe and Tara Mullen. All were pleased with the results.

Conclusion

At the close of the meeting several topics of discussion were tabled until April. These issues include IEP handling, age requirements and vaccination records. Members are welcome to discuss these matters and present questions and comments at the next meeting. With that the meeting was adjourned.