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THE DOD MILITARY WORKING DOG PROGRAM

Rod Sparkowich
MWD Breeding Program Technician

The 341st Training Squadron is aggressively looking to expand its sources of stateside dogs for entry into the Department of Defense Military Working Dog Training and Breeding Programs. As we reach out to people in the community for assistance with filling our needs we would like to provide you some information about our program.

The 341st Training Squadron at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas is home to the Department of Defense Military Working Dog (MWD) Program. The squadron is responsible for training Military Working Dogs to detect drugs and bombs, and perform patrol functions in support of worldwide missions. Additionally, the squadron is responsible for the training of all handlers, kennelmasters and specialized mission function dog teams for the DoD. The unit also supports the Transportation Security Administration canine detection program with joint use training facilities and procurement of their working dogs.

The squadron also boasts a robust logistics mission and is responsible for the procurement of all dogs for the DoD and TSA as well as the kenneling and care of an average of 800 dogs daily. Veterinary care for all dogs entering the program is provided by the US Army Veteri-

nary Corps at a brand new, \$13 million dollar state of the art veterinary hospital.

In 2005, the squadron began an operational breeding mission to help fulfill the DoD's need for working dogs. The dog of choice, the Belgian Malinois, is whelped, reared, and trained at Lackland Air Force Base and then sent off to field units. The program, in its third operational year is "ramping up" and is set to begin aggressively seeking its goal of providing 100 dogs per year for the DoD. The life cycle of a puppy bred and whelped by the Breeding Program looks like this; Age 0 to 9 weeks of age, the puppies are whelped at our whelping kennel and are cared for by our dedicated whelping care attendants. The puppies are handled using the US Army Bio-Sensor module, socialized to persons at appropriate ages, exposed to various sounds in order to desensitize and are in play yards with kiddie playground equipment. Veterinary support is nearly continuous and exceptional. At about 7 weeks of age the litters are subjected to a standardized Puppy Aptitude Test to preview temperament. At 9 +/- weeks of age the puppies are placed into Foster Homes to be raised as a well socialized puppy. This placement seeks to provide the



puppy with the most supportive environment for its development. The puppies remain in foster care until they are about 6 months of age. During the time in Foster Care, the foster family is teleconferenced weekly, offered help in basic puppy rearing and instructed on basic obedience. Each puppy is returned monthly for a check up and temperament testing. Their physical and behavioral growth is tracked. The puppies are returned at about 6 months of age to enter into Adolescent Training with Breeding Program Puppy Trainers. The Puppy Trainers spend 40 hours per week on drive building, grip development, and environmental and social stability. Most important is ball or play drive. As most of the trainers who are familiar with drive development are aware, aggressive object possessiveness is not helpful, it must be play. Once drive is raised appropriately, the dog will begin searching for the

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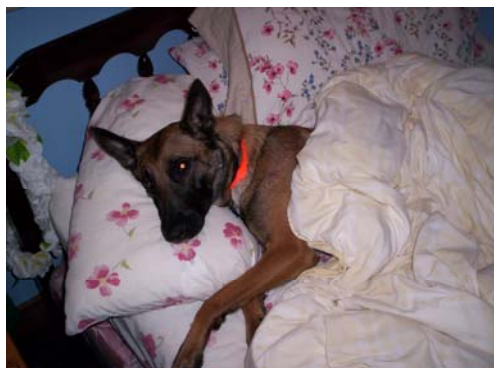
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DO DOGS DREAM?

Dreams are the brain's way of processing experiences in our lives. Dogs certainly have experiences so do they have dreams as well? I'm sure we all have seen our dog(s) sleeping with their legs giving an occasional twitch and their eyes are moving behind their eyelids. Obviously dogs cannot tell us what they are thinking, but is it logical to think that they have dreams?



An EEG (electroencephalogram) is a piece of equipment that researchers have used to study canine brain wave activity during sleep. At first, dogs fall into a light sleep where they can be easily awakened and their breathing is regular. Once they enter into a deep sleep their brain activity increases and they are a little less easy to wake up. Once in this deep sleep they begin REM (rapid eye movement). REM sleep is where dreams occur in humans. This is where you may notice leg twitches and soft noises come out of the dog's mouth, or when we may normally say the dog is dreaming of "chasing a cat." Some say dreams are our imagination at play; does this mean that dogs have an imagination?

Of course these are questions that we will never know the answer to, however, it is amusing to watch them in their dream-like states. Next time you see your dog sleeping take a moment and watch them. There is something peaceful about a sleeping dog....



REFERENCE:

Professor's House.
December 2008

<http://www.professorshouse.com/pets/dogs/do-dogs-dream.aspx>

Pets.ca

December 2008

<http://www.pets.ca/pettips/tips-77.htm>



MEMBER ADVERTISING

Are you an AWMA Member who has a dog related business?

Do you have a litter of Malinois you would like to advertise?

Take advantage of your membership and advertise for free in the AWMA Online Magazine!

The Magazine is available for viewing to everyone who visits the AWMA website.

Please feel free to contact Desiree' Shaw (dezireeshaw@yahoo.com) to get your business in the next issue.





THE DOD MILITARY WORKING DOG PROGRAM

BY ROD SPARKOWICH, MWD BREEDING PROGRAM TECHNICIAN
CONT'D. FROM COVER PAGE



stock may be considered. All animals submitted for the breeding program must have exceptional pedigrees, and must be able to pass an exhaustive medical battery of tests and the Consignment Test. Also, and maybe more importantly, the AWMA membership can train and present dogs for consideration to the Consignment Staff, proving that US Breeders and trainers are second to none for working dogs.

The staff at Lackland remains ready and willing to

play object, (Kong or Ball) co-located with an odor designed to begin detection training. During this time we will have the pups doing "open area searches" to help them learn to quarter into the scent cone. As the drive and search focus develops we begin "controlled aggression" training. Most know it as bite work or protection.

Once in training, the pups are evaluated weekly by the trainers and undergo a monthly re-evaluation to determine progress. At about 11 to 12 months of age the pups are submitted to the Consignment Staff, who will test these dogs the same as they test any dog for formal entry into the program. Pass is pass, fail is fail. With our pups we have the luxury of waiting a month or two if we feel it is within the ability of the dog to attain a passing at Consignment. We also have the ability, as a result of a dog showing (for example), no ball drive, to have the dog eliminated from further training. I should note here that the DoD is not in the business of procuring Patrol only or Protection only dogs. All dogs are dual purpose detection and patrol.

Our Consignment Staff selects dogs based on clear standards that are available to anyone. The Consignment Staff test 600+ dogs per year, just to be able to fill the DoD's needs, normally only accepting about 30%. So how can the AWMA Community help the MWD Breeding Program? We are presently seeking 10 proven females for brood stock and 3 proven males for in-house stud dogs. On a selective basis, unproven breeding



assist in the procurement of dogs from American sources.

www.lackland.af.mil/units/341stmwd/index.asp

This is the URL for the 341 TRS. It has all of the contact information for adult dog submissions, as well as for any potential breeds offered for consignment.

In addition, interested persons can contact me or Ms. Tracy Shaw, for more information on potential breeding animals.

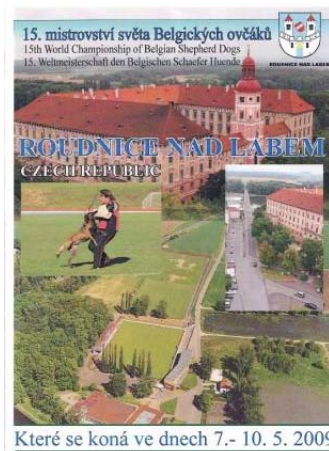
Rodney.sparkowich@lackland.af.mil

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Sincerely,

Rod Sparkowich
MWD Breeding Program Technician
Lackland AFB, Texas, 78236
210-671-2156

2009 FMBB World Championships



Don't forget, forms are due **February 1st**, to declare for a position on the **AWMA IPO**, **Mondio**, or **Agility Teams** that will be competing at the 15th Annual FMBB World Championships. The event will be held in Roudnice Nad Labem, Czech Republic on May 7th through the 10th.

Handlers wishing to declare for a position can find the selection criteria and forms on the AWMA's website under upcoming events.

www.WorkingMalinois.com

For more information about the FMBB or the Championships, please visit the FMBB website.

www.Fmbb.net

Not competing but you'd like to see the event? Great! Join the 2009 teams and experience the event first-hand. For more information about traveling to the event and reservations, please contact Shari Lipski, WC Committee Chairperson, at shari@malinoisdogs.com.



FROM THE PRESIDENT, ANNE CAMPER

Happy New Year to everyone and their Malinois! In retrospect, 2008 was a very busy year for the organization. We made changes to the by-laws to streamline our organization, created procedures for hosting club trials, established our regions and regional directors, implemented a successful fundraising campaign, established relationships with the US Mondio Ring Association to send a mondio teams to the FMBB in 2009, and a host of other achievements. We had our inaugural agility team attend the 2008 FMBB and we look forward to sending another team this year.

One other major success was the AWMA National Championship hosted by the Cascade Working Belgian Shepherd Dog Club. What a fantastic event. Sitting here in the midst of a cold, snowy Montana winter it is wonderful to reflect on the competition. The camaraderie, levels of performance/teamwork between dog and handler and venue were excellent. Les and Dara and their club members went out of their way to be sure everyone had what they needed. The barbeque was great – we all had a chance to mingle, talk, joke, and share our nerves prior to the competition. What was particularly gratifying to me was the way that all of the handlers helped each other during practices and while preparing to go on the field for the competition. No one lacked for a helper during practice, someone to place the send-away article, take a toy at the gate to the field, etc. There were a number of spectacular performances that were definitely of national caliber. Congratulations are due to all of the competitors, but in particular to the first four places who have automatic slots on the FMBB team if they choose to declare. They are Mark Natinsky and Edison of Vitosha (1st place, 289 pts), Dre Hastings and Kaden of Vitosha (2nd place, 288 pts), Marina Shukh and L'Simba du Loups du Soleil (3rd place, 286 pts) and Steve Gregalunas and Eli v. Teufelhund (4th place, 285 pts). I believe that all of these dogs are handler-owner trained which is a great tribute to AWMA's tradition of raising and training puppies to adulthood and the podium.

Our annual meeting was held in conjunction with the Championship, and we elected a slate of officers and filled openings on various committees. Many thanks to those of you who volunteered your time to serve the organization. We have a new treasurer, Kristina Carmody, who replaces Marina Shukh. Terry Miller has taken over the responsibilities of secretary from Desiree' Shaw. Dre' Hastings has replaced Mike Baker as a director. I want to thank Marina, Desiree' and Mike for their contributions and I look forward to seeing you at upcoming events.

I'd also like to remind everyone that the World Championship/National Events Committee will soon be making the selections for the IPO, agility and mondio teams for the 2009 FMBB competition to be held in the Czech Republic. We are also seeking volunteers to serve as team captains; if you are interested in participating, please contact Shari Lipski, chair of the WC/NE Committee.

There are also a few changes regarding entries for the upcoming AWDF Championships that everyone should be aware of. AWDF scorebooks will be required for entry. If you received your scorebook from AWMA, you already have an AWDF issued scorebook. If your scorebook was issued by DVG or USA, you must acquire an AWDF scorebook, and I recommend that you obtain it from the AWMA if you plan to enter your Malinois as a part of the AWMA team. Another important change is that no entries will be accepted by the club hosting the AWDF Championship. If you wish to participate as part of the Malinois team, they must be sent to Terry Miller, the AWMA secretary. Entries must be complete and be received by Terry on or before April 25; no incomplete or late entries will be accepted. We will be certain that all requirements for entry are on the AWMA website. Get in touch with me if you have any questions about entering this event. Last year we had a great showing at the AWDF Championship, and I hope that many of you are able to enter and compete in the upcoming event.

One of the items discussed at the annual meeting was about the vision of the AWMA. Now that we have many of the operational functions of the organization in place, it is definitely time to consider where we want to go and what we want to be in the future. What should we be? What can the organization do to help the membership? How do we grow sensibly? How do we recruit Malinois handlers and trainers who are not presently members? Please think about these issues and send me your thoughts!

As a start, I'd specifically like to ask each of you to consider forming a local AWMA club. Not all of your members need to have Malinois, not everyone needs to be ready to trial. Club structure and requirements are very straight-forward and can be found at <http://www.workingmalinois.org/membership/formingclubs.shtml>. I would also like to have you consider entering our judge's program. I personally believe that our organization would be greatly strengthened if we establish greater credibility with more qualified judges. The requirements for being a judge can be found at <http://www.workingmalinois.org/judges/>. Specific questions about the program should be sent to our Director of Judges, Glenn Stephenson.

For those of you in the frozen North, I hope you can find a safe, dry place to do some training until you can get into the swing of things again in the spring. For those of you in the South where this is prime training time, I'm thinking of you as the snow is coming down once again.

Anne



Anne with 'Bekqa' d'Ile du Chien, IPO 3.



Anne with Bazouka ('Zouka') van de Trinekesdreef, IPO 3



NEW AWMA SHIRTS!

The new AWMA T-shirts are in and they are NICE!

The shirts are high quality, heavy cotton with the AWMA logo design embroidered on the left chest.

The stitching is very well done and really "pops."

These shirts are a fundraiser for the AWMA organization. Show your support and superb sense of style by ordering your AWMA shirt today!

<http://www.workingmalinois.org/shirts/index.shtml>



FROM THE SECRETARY, *TERRY MILLER*

Hello members,

I am pleased to accept the position of Secretary for AWMA. I inherit this position from Desiree' Shaw who is facing new challenges with school. We hope to see her remain involved with AWMA in other areas including this newsletter. I thank her for keeping good records and helping me during this transition.

The new year will bring growth and changes and more members participating in trials at all levels from club trials to world championship events in both IPO and other sports, such as Mondioring. For 2008 we issued 39 scorebooks and I have received 2 more requests for the new year. This is up over the previous year which issued 25 scorebooks.

Starting this year, entry in the AWDF Championship requires an AWDF approved scorebook and the breed clubs such as USA are now issuing AWDF scorebooks to their members. The AWMA already issues AWDF scorebooks, so this is not a change for us. But starting this year the AWDF scorebook you receive through AWMA will be stamped on the front with our logo next to the AWDF logo.

As your secretary I will work to ensure our competitors have proper procedure and paperwork for entering events. Please check the deadlines and allow plenty of time for the checking and processing of all entries.



Terry & her dog IBD

FROM THE EDITOR, *DESIREE SHAW*

Don't forget if you have any articles, ideas, pictures, that you'd like to submit for publication in the newsletter, please send them to me at dezireeshaw@yahoo.com.



I applaud the member clubs for their extra efforts in promoting the Malinois in work and sport. You are our backbone and help guide the future of our organization. I encourage all members to start or join an AWMA member club and help AWMA to grow with your participation.

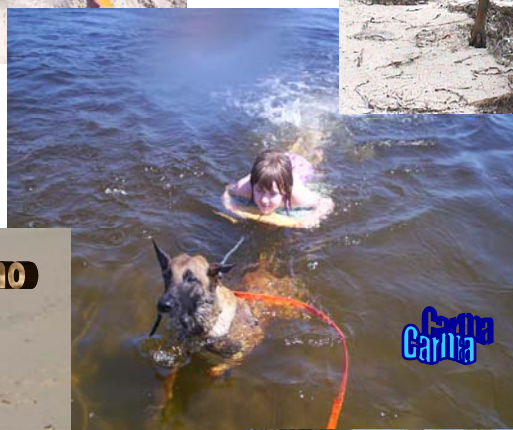
Good luck and wishing you many happy training days in 2009.

Terry





THINK WARM THOUGHTS....



LIKE HAVING FUN AT THE BEACH!

"LET SLEEPING DOGS LIE..."

Idiom definition

...maybe so they can finish their dream?...

"If someone is told to let sleeping dogs lie, it means that they shouldn't disturb a situation as it would result in trouble or complications."

<http://www.usingenglish.com/reference/idioms/let+sleeping+dogs+lie.html>

"Let sleeping dogs lie: to not talk about things which have caused problems in the past, or to not try to change a situation because you might cause problems."

<http://idioms.thefreedictionary.com/let+sleeping+dogs+lie>



W.T.F.?

WHERE'S THE FUN?

Has your AWMA club held a seminar or trial recently and want to let others know how much fun it was? Feel free to send in pictures or write a short paragraph or story about your AWMA event so others can read about it in the online magazine. Share the fun!

For upcoming events please visit <http://www.workingmalinois.org/events/>

If you could ask your dog ONE question,
what would it be??

"Are you happy?" (Desiree)

"How can I best motivate you?" (Nancy)

"What are you looking at when you stare behind me?" (Christine)

"Do you enjoy doing bite-work or playing with the Frisbee more?" (Lindsay)

"When we are doing agility do you ever hurt?" (Susan)



2009 AWMA Board of Directors

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Desiree' Shaw

World championship & National Events Committee

Shari Lipski

Christopher Smith

Gregory Doud

Dana Miller



Was that a skunk?!!

Skunks have a range that spreads virtually all over the United States. While generally a solitary species, they have no problem coming close to houses, sometimes to root in the lawn for grubs or sometimes to enter a garage or basement in search of open bowls of cat food. While reluctant to squirt, after an elaborate display intended to scare away a would-be predator, they will squirt a noxious liquid with great accuracy from 7 – 15 feet away. This spray can burn the eyes and the overwhelming odor can cause the dog to foam at the mouth. Even a human, with their comparatively poor sense of smell, can smell the after-math of a skunk's defense system from a mile away. Imagine what it smells like to your dog! With most dogs, the experience of getting sprayed by a skunk is not one they will want to experience more than once. In fact, the only predator that will regularly hunt skunk is the great horned owl, a species with a notoriously poor sense of smell.



If a skunk sprays your dog it is important to take fast, decisive action. To delay is to allow the oily excretion to spread to more surfaces and objects and to sink more deeply into your dog's fur and skin. There are a number of remedies, but it would appear that the one with the most popular support is as follows:

1/4 cup baking soda
1 teaspoon liquid dishwashing soap
1 quart 3% hydrogen peroxide

Mix & use on dog while foaming furiously. That neutralizes the thiols (the smelly part) and the detergent removes the oily substance that holds the smell in the dog's fur. Do not store any of the mixture, because it could explode in a closed container. It can be used on other objects to clean off the skunk substance/smell, but keep in mind that the peroxide can affect the color of some objects, and possibly even lighter fur. The tremendous advantage of this product is that it can be made up with items that most folks have in the house already and does not create an additional expense.

There are additional remedies such as tomato juice, mouthwash, and even regular shampoo. It is generally believed that these methods are much less effective than the recipe provided above. Tomato juice was long believed to be effective, but is now thought that it is merely the experience of olfactory fatigue, or "getting used to it", that causes the belief that the odor is diminished.

The time to buy your skunk shampoo is not after your dog gets sprayed, but to have it on hand before. If you would rather go with a commercial product, there are a number of commercial enzymatic products available. Try these web sites to learn more.

<http://www.antiickypoo.com/c-antiickypoo.html>
<http://www.petco.com/product/5988/Nature-s-Miracle-Skunk-Odor-Remover.aspx>
<http://www.dog-training.com/ppp.htm>

Good luck and may you never need the information in this article!

*Written December 2008
- Nancy Fredian Pritz*