



American Working Malinois Association



AWMA Magazine

Volume 3, Issue 2, August 2007

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Letter from the Editor

Summer is almost over! Here in Maine this year I thought it was never going to get here. Back in April, I thought I could start planning to go tracking regularly...and we had four huge snowstorms! Well, a lot has happened since our last issue. The AWDF Championship (way to go malinois!), which Anne Camper has written an article about for those who were unable to attend. The FMBB World Championship, way to go USA! Way to go Ivan and Quenny the 2007 FMBB WORLD CHAMPIONS!!!! All of the competitors did a great job that everyone should be proud of! Those competitors go through a lot to get ready for a competition like that. Forget the stress of *training* for a world championship, you first have to gather the finances, plan an overseas trip (with your dog), and plan to be gone for at least one week. Then to get over there, train with your dog and have a showing as these competitors did, and still have fun, is what makes us all proud. Here is a list of the competitors for the USA AWMA Team:

Ivan Balabanov
Greg Doud
Mike Morgan
Cari Cole
Marina Shukh

For a complete list of scores and competitors, you can see the results link from the AWMA homepage.

I am sure everyone is excited about the upcoming 2007 AWMA Nationals. A reminder that this event is for all titles (BH-IPO III) and all experience levels are encouraged to attend. For more information, please follow the link from the AWMA homepage.

As the AWMA Secretary, one of my responsibilities is to issue and keep a record of scorebooks. I am excited to report that in 2006 AWMA issued 36 scorebooks. That is up from 29 in 2005. Think about that next time you trial with your scorebook..."am I trialing with an AWMA scorebook?"...☺

We have a few new AWMA Member clubs to announce. The "San Diego Working Malinois Cub" is the most recent club. They are located in San Diego, California. Contact Sunny Baik at 619-972-6753 or maligator1004@aol.com if you are interested in joining their training team.

The "Motor-City Malinois Club" joined at the end of last year. Contact John Wiitanen at 1141 Oakwood, Ortonville, MI 48462, 248-425-2515 mohawkjohn19@charter.net.

"Yellowstone River Dog Club" also joined at the end of last year. Contact Bruce Westerhoff P.O.BOX 115, Worden, MT 59088 406-967-2456 brwesterhoff@netzero.net if you would like to join them.

Finally, yet importantly, I want to invite all of you to participate in this newsletter. This organization is made up of volunteers, people who work full time, train their dogs, spend time with

their families, and still find a spare minute to contribute knowledge, experience, and creativity to advancing the AWMA. We all work together for the members, trying to offer support and togetherness for the Malinois community. Any ideas, pictures, random thoughts would be appreciated. Please feel free to contact me.

Regards,
Desiree Shaw
AWMA Secretary



Message from the President

There have been a number of very positive things that have happened within the AWMA since our annual meeting in October. The board has been active in refining policies and procedures, including clarification of the criteria for being selected as a member of the team to the FMBB. At present, we are working on documents that describe the responsibilities of the team members and team captain so that there is more information available to those who are able to represent us abroad. Mike Baker has been instrumental in exploring mechanisms for creating regions so that there can be more opportunities for coordinating efforts between members where there are not sufficient numbers to form local clubs. We have had several new clubs formed, and we welcome them and their members to the organization. Other work is underway, and there will be a full report at the annual meeting at the Nationals at the end of August.

In the realm of competition, our members have been incredibly successful. Ivan Balabanov and Qenny won the AWDF Nationals and the FMBB. Lynnea Gillette and Mowgli had a great performance at the AWDF and she was on the podium in third place. Team AWMA was in first place. Our team at the FMBB was also very successful, with an overall third place. When you consider the demographics, this is quite remarkable. Compared to the critical mass that exists in other breeds (particularly the GSD) and other countries, there are fewer of us competing, the vast majority of our dogs are handler-owner trained from puppies, most dogs have been bred in the US, and we have many successful first-time trainers/competitors.

However, with this success comes increased visibility and responsibility. Our breed is not “immune” to breed specific legislation. It is critical that we act responsibly with our dogs at all times – at not only competitions, but also everywhere where our dogs are visible to others. Please realize that your actions reflect upon not only yourself and your dog, but upon our organization and the sport, we all enjoy and wish to preserve.

There have been two threads started on the discussion board regarding the WDS program that has been established by the AKC. As members of the AWDF, the AWMA is committed to continued involvement with that organization, and the WDS program is in direct competition with the AWDF. However, I have been working with the American Belgian Malinois Club's board to ensure that we establish and maintain good relationships with them – there are too few of us to go the route of other breeds where seemingly insurmountable differences have developed between organizations. Jim Moses of the ABMC was our guest at the AWMA Nationals this last year. I attended the ABMC's National Specialty in May in Utah and spent some time talking with their members. When their new board takes office in a short period of time, I will again be in touch with them. At present, they do not offer WDS competitions, and whether they decide to do so is still under consideration.

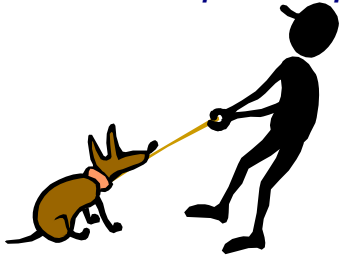
John Wiitanen and Paula Daigle, along with Motor City Working Dogs, are organizing this year's national competition in Michigan over Labor Day weekend. It is shaping up to be an event that you cannot afford to miss. There should be plenty of opportunity for socializing as well as a first-class facility for the competition. I encourage you to send in your entries, and if you cannot compete, please come along for the fun.

Moreover, as always, if there is anything you would like to have brought before the board or if there are any issues that you wish to discuss, please contact me. We are always open to your input.

Anne Camper
AWMA President

Highlights of the AWDF meeting held in conjunction with the AWDF Championship

From anne camper-awma president



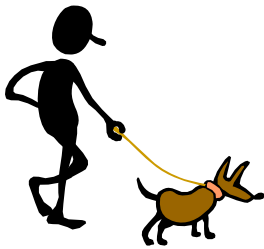
I attended the American Working Dog Federation annual meeting as a delegate for our organization. There were a number of things discussed at the meeting that I thought would be of interest to the general membership, and those items are presented here.

Members of the executive board of the AWDF attended a judge's workshop provided by the working commission of the FCI. There are now four AWDF judges that are FCI approved, including Glenn Stephenson. It is hoped that having some of our judges available to participate in international events will help raise awareness of the working dog sports here in the US.

DVG is now a voting member of the AWDF. This brings another significant block of IPO competitors into the organization.

A discussion point of interest was about scorebooks, and whether there could be a unified scorebook across all of the organizations. The situation is even more complicated now that DVG is a member. There will be continued discussion about the issue. We talked about whether it was necessary for USCA to continue to require submission of AWDF scorebooks to be stamped and recorded. Lyle Rotemeyer of the USCA stated that they would continue to require this so that when the scorebook was presented at a USCA trial that the judge would have assurances that it

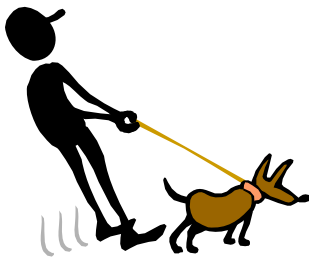
was a legitimate. It does not look like there will be any “give” on this issue. However, it was voted that all participants at next year’s AWDF Championship would be required to hold an AWDF scorebook for their dogs.



Another important topic was the honoring of sanctions against individuals across all AWDF member clubs. It was decided that each member organization would be entitled to handle this as they see fit. Our organization has chosen to require that new and renewing members state that they are not under sanction by another organization. When a member club sanctions someone, that information will be sent to the AWDF secretary. Someone who is sanctioned is then prevented from entering the AWDF Championship by becoming a member of another organization.

Other potential activities/functions for the AWDF were discussed, including the possibility of having club mentoring programs, tracklayer training, and FH championship, and an FCI style obedience competition. There was also talk about creating an American working dog title.

You can read a few more highlights in the AWDF’s President’s Message at <http://awdf.net/presidentsreportapril2007.html>.



Brief Overview – AWDF Championship, March 29 – April 1, 2007

Held in Farmington, MO and hosted by the St. Louis Schutzhund Club

Judges:

***Markus Neutz,
Obedience***

Miran Mars, Tracking

***Nathaniel Roque,
Protection***

The competition was held at the Farmington High School in a new stadium on an Astro turf field. The St. Louis Schutzhund Club had everything ready to go and the event was very well run. The weather varied from foggy to downpour to warm sunshine – just what you might expect for the spring. The facilities were excellent and the footing appeared to be great even during the periods of rain that occurred throughout the trial. I did not get a chance to watch any tracking but I was able to see most of the AWMA obedience and protection routines along with a respectable number of other AWMA members who had made the journey to cheer on our team. It was great to spend some time with all of you in the stands.

I would first like to congratulate everyone who competed. I wish I could write a paragraph about everyone, but my notes are not that good and I did not get to watch the entire group. However, there are a few performances that I would like to recount – if I have not mentioned your name directly, please do not take offense! There were 14 AWMA members competing, and two other malinois were there as representatives of DVG. We had the second largest entry behind USA. And I must say that we put on one heck of a show, with two

handler/dog teams on the podium at 1st place (Ivan Balabanov and Qenny of Vitosha) and 3rd place (Lynnea Gillette and Mowgli du Loups du Soleil) and our team taking first place overall.

First off, Ivan and Qenny's performances were beautiful to watch, even though it was the first flight on a foggy morning and the light quality was not very good. Qenny exhibited his typical precise execution of the obedience exercises including a scorching fast send away and hit-the-deck down. His protection routine was focused and intense, impressive to watch.

Ivan and Qenny's 96 pt. protection routine was second to Ray Metallo's Bronco (GSD) and Kristina Caromody's Wyatt Earp (BM) 97 points. Kristina's dog was a powerhouse and definitely "stopped the helper" on the escape bite. He is a big dog and used every bit of his size to dominate the situation.

Lynnea Gillette and Mowgli showed like a true team. Mowgli is a young dog with lots of potential. I found it particularly rewarding to watch a young woman with a handler-trained dog perform with so much poise. I think there are great things in the future for them.

I first met Mike Morgan and Bacchus at the AWMA Nationals in Marietta. Bacchus is Mike's first IPO dog, and is handler owner trained. Mike came in with a very respectable sixth place overall, with an identical protection score as Lynnea and one point lower in obedience. They are scoring consistently well at national competitions, and this one was not exception.

Greg Doud and Flair had a beautiful obedience routine, with the exception of an unfortunate back-bounce of the dumbbell that put it too close to the wall for Flair to make the return. This hurt them point-wise and kept them out of the top five or six finishers. Nevertheless, his protection routine was typical Flair and yielded a score of 94.

If you have ever had the opportunity to watch David Dembouski and Gus perform, you know that their protection scores do not do justice to the incredible power that this dog has. He is a handful and lost points for control, but it was a crowd pleaser nonetheless.

Sean Rivera and Bronson's Fekkai Rouge had the highest tracking score of the competition. I did not see it but heard that it was a thing of beauty. This is a nice solid dog with spirited obedience and solid protection work. I anticipate much success for this team.

I am sure that most of you have heard about the situation that arose with Marina Shuhk and her dog Simba. Simba's foot was injured during an altercation with another competitor's shepherd just outside of the stadium, as he was being exercised off-lead. The injury prevented him from continuing in the competition. The situation led to Marina being issued a warning about having her dog off lead. Unfortunately, he was off lead again that night in the hotel hallway and growled at a St. Louis club member. Consequently, Marina was brought before the event's grievance committee and was suspended from entering next year's AWDF Championship and suspended from all AWDF events for a year. The suspension from all but the AWDF Championship reverted to probation upon receipt of a letter of apology from Marina, which she submitted to the board of the AWMA and the AWDF.

There are a few other things worthy of mention. I thoroughly enjoyed watching Markus Neutz judge obedience. He did not miss a thing. It was also obvious that he appreciated performances by an animated, happy working dog. As usual, Nathaniel Roque did a great job of judging the protection routines. It was a pleasure to spend some time talking with him between flights. The helper work was consistent and safe and the work was the same at the end of the trial as it was at the beginning. The trophies were beautiful, and the first place crystal trophy Ivan received was fantastic. The venue was first class. The host hotel had a great bar, and there was plenty of socializing each night after the competition. On Saturday night, they were showing some of the videos taken during the trial, including shots from the "hold and bark camera" that was positioned at the top of the #6 blind. The AWMA competitors and spectators had a get-together that night and monopolized a large table for many hours; we need to be sure that we arrange to do this farther in advance next time!

Although I do not have the details on all of the teams, I know that the majority the AWMA teams consisted of dogs that were handler owner trained from puppies. The vast majority are US bred. Moreover, several of the handlers were competing with their first IPO dogs. What an accomplishment! Congratulations to everyone. Here is to continuation of our domination.

Congratulations,
Submitted by Anne Camper



MAD MALINOIS MOMENTS

Please send your "mad malinois moments" to dezireeshaw@yahoo.com

My malinois did not understand when my boyfriend and I decided that she did not need to sleep on our bed anymore when she had a perfectly good dog bed on the floor. After an hour of kicking her off, her jumping or sneaking back on, and me having to keep kicking her off, I brought myself to close the bedroom door and gate her off in the kitchen (right outside my bedroom door). The next morning when I opened the door she was spread out having a nice sleep on her dog bed...which I assume she began after she left us a big pile of #1 & #2 right in front of the gate.

That was a Mad Malinois Moment in my house© Desiree' Shaw

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FDA APPROVES THE FIRST DRUG FOR OBESE DOGS

January 5th, 2007 the FDA released an article announcing the approval of Slentrol (dirlotapide), manufactured by Pfizer Inc., a prescription drug for the management of obesity in dogs. Slentrol reduces appetite and fat absorption for a result of weight loss.

Surveys have showed that 5% of dogs in the U.S. are obese, and another 20%-30% are defined as overweight. A dog that is 20% over its ideal weight is generally classified as obese.



How many overweight Malinois have you seen?©

For more information, see www.fda.gov