

OVERview™

A QUARTERLY PUBLICATION "PROMOTING COMPETITIVE EXCELLENCE IN DOG AGILITY."™



A publication of
United States
Dog Agility
Association, Inc.
10310 Cimmaron Trail
Dallas, TX 75243
972.487.2200

Brenna Fender
Editor
Bfender@usdaa.com

Valerie Evans
Art Director

Contributors:
Tania Chadwick
Brenna Fender
Maria Friedler-Cooper
Leona Hellesvig
Rachel Sanders
Kenneth Tatsch



2010 Winner
DWAA Maxwell Award

©2011 United States
Dog Agility Association, Inc.
All rights reserved. No portion of
this publication may be reproduced
in any form in any media without
the express written permission
of United States Dog Agility
Association, Inc.

Major Addition to Staffing at USDAA*

USDAA SIGNS ON A NEW EXECUTIVE TO BROADEN SCOPE AND QUALITY OF SERVICES



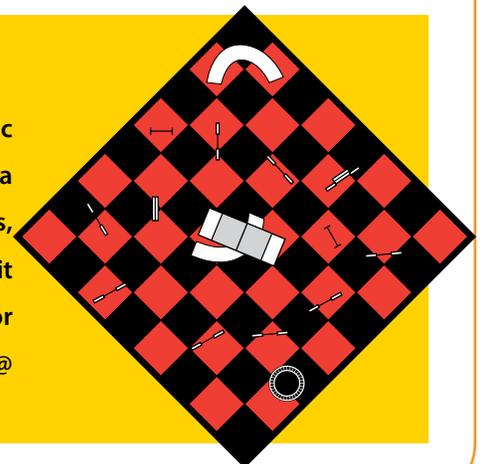
Hartman (left) is welcomed by President Ken Tatsch.

Andy Hartman joined USDAA in February as Vice President. Hartman has a career-long background in communications and marketing and has served as Director of Agility for the American Kennel Club the past few years. His skills made him a good fit with USDAA's growing needs. USDAA President Kenneth Tatsch says, "I'm confident that Andy's nature and philosophy are aligned with USDAA's philosophy of inclusiveness, fun and sport. The USDAA community is its own culture, and Andy and his wife Cindy, as current competitors in USDAA events, genuinely get it."

Hartman is a welcome addition to the staff at USDAA. "We look forward to growing the organization further as we move ahead with more resources in place," says Tatsch.

It's "How You Play the Game"...

Join us for the rules and course design clinic coming to Oregon May 19-22, 2011. This is a great learning opportunity for current judges, potential judges, competitors, and instructors. Visit <https://www.usdaa.com/article.cfm?newsID=1544> for more information or contact the USDAA office at info@usdaa.com or at 972.487.2200, ext. 102.



Visit us at www.usdaa.com

for more expanded news and information on the sport of dog agility.

OVERview™ contains abridged articles from the Subscriber Services News pages at www.usdaa.com. If viewing this issue electronically, click on any article title where you see an asterisk (*) to enjoy it in its entirety at USDAA's Subscriber Services.

OFF THE LEASH

Kenneth Tatsch, President, USDAA

USDAA appreciates the loyal groups and competitors who have been a part of our community for years. We also recognize the ongoing need to introduce the fun and excitement of dog agility sport to others. We expect that you will see a number of notable and exciting advancements at USDAA during the coming year.

Through the first quarter of 2011, the USDAA office has been very busy. To better handle the demands of ongoing operations, we have added two new hands-on executive team members to enable us to address a wider array of needs. Layne Vincent joined us in January as head of technology services to handle our Internet projects and other technology plans, and Andy Hartman joined us in February in support of general operations and communications. The addition of new staff members has allowed us to make progress on several projects: the long awaited new rulebook, programming on Lifetime Achievement Awards, and requested improvements to the Group Services area of the website. Each of these projects is nearing completion and will appear on the website shortly. We have also begun a review of older policies and look forward to releasing new updates in the near future.

The new veterans program began March 1 with much success. Several of our older canine competitors got out and had a fun time on the course again. We expect that more of them will be enjoying themselves at a trial near you in the future as a result of this new program.

The IFCS World Team qualifying season is underway, with special international qualifying classes being offered at regional tournament events and designated qualification trials. These are listed on the website event calendar.

We are confident that you will appreciate and enjoy the changes to come, and look forward to a rewarding 2011.

Sincerely,
Ken

USDAA Receives National Publishing Award*

USDAA OVERVIEW™ NEWSLETTER RECOGNIZED
BY DOG WRITERS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA



The USDAA OVERview™ was named the *Best Electronic Magazine* in the 2010 Dog Writers Association of America annual writing competition. The Maxwell Medallion was accepted by newsletter editor Brenna Fender at the DWAA's awards banquet in New York City on February 13, 2011. This

was the OVERview's second nomination but first win.

The USDAA OVERview is published on www.USDAA.com quarterly and is a digest of select articles appearing on the USDAA subscriber news page along with some exclusive content. "Brenna and graphics artist Valerie Evans have worked hard on the OVERview since it was introduced a few years ago, and we are excited to have their work recognized by their peers through the Dog Writers Association of America," says USDAA President Kenneth Tatsch.

Issues of the OVERview are available for download in the Forms & Documents Library under *General Information* at www.USDAA.com.

And the Winner Is...* *By Leona Hellesvig*

The Bloomington Obedience Training Club's fall junior handler league came to a close in December with a final Christmas party/competition. Winners for this league term are:

Advanced League Champion

Brooke Knotek and Lady (Border Collie)

Senior League Champion

Katie Beckfeld and Kaija (PWC)

Intermediate League Champion

Vanessa Taylor and Bilbo (Beagle)

Beginner/Elementary League Champion

Nicole Lemke and Cody (Golden Retriever)

First Place Team

Katie Beckfeld and Kaija (PWC), **Holly Hepp and Grace** (Min. Poodle), **Jazzmyn Nielsen and Lexi** (GSD), and **Alexa Doer and Cisco** (Aussie mix)

Overall League MVP

Katie Beckfeld and Kaija

Congratulations to everyone!



USDAA VIDEO SERVICES

are now available on
www.cynospport.tv.

Log in and see what's on demand!

Pets Paradise Trial Report*

USDAA PRESIDENT KEN TATSCH TRAVELS TO COSTA RICA TO JUDGE

Pets Paradise in Costa Rica, a USDAA affiliate since 2006, held a local trial in December and invited USDAA President Ken Tatsch to judge. Tatsch appreciates the opportunity to visit with USDAA groups abroad to forge stronger relationships while helping them to grow. It is much harder for groups in other countries to keep up with the trends in competition without direct contact with other USDAA groups. Different cultures can play a role in the manner in which some aspects of the sport develop, but that adds to the unique qualities that can make events in other countries a great experience for the occasional traveler.

These local events are "friendly and fun," says Tatsch, and very welcoming to competitors from other areas. Pets Paradise members even assist with finding



Andrea Bolaños, Sylvia Martinez Cortes, Rosa Cristina Ulloa, and Ken Tatsch working at the trial site.

Continued on page 5...

Letter from the Editor

Time is flying in this new year; it's already spring! In my part of the world, Florida, flowers are blooming and the agility season has reached a feverish pitch. But many of you have been snowed in for a long winter, and I hope you spent some of it browsing the subscriber news page on www.USDAA.com, reading our most recent offerings of training exercises, holiday-themed training games, interviews, goal-setting advice, motivation ideas, book reviews, and more. Highlights include an exclusive excerpt from Linda Mecklenburg's newest book, *Developing Handling Skills for Awesome Agility Teams*, and a three article series by Misa Martin teaching handlers of excessive barkers how to overcome this problem.

On the public news page, located at <https://www.>

usdaa.com/news.cfm, we've also had lots of new material. In addition to announcements, we offered extensive coverage of the Carolina Piedmont Agility's 4-Star event. The first 4-Star event of the year was live streamed and lots of supporting articles, including course analyses of some of the classes, are still available online. Visit <https://www.usdaa.com/article.cfm?newsID=1677> for one example.

In addition, we've been giving our youtube channel a bit of a workout, including videos from 4-Star Events. Check it out at <http://www.youtube.com/user/USDAAVideos>.

Thanks for continuing to support USDAA.com by reading, subscribing, and contributing. Please contact me at bfender@usdaa.com if you have any comments or questions. Enjoy spring!

—B. Fender

Focus Forward*

By Marla Friedler-Cooper

TEACH YOUR DOG TO TAKE STRAIGHT LINES ON COURSE

How many times have you seen dog after dog get a refusal when running what seems like the easiest part of a course: three or four jumps all laid out in a row? The dogs don't understand how to find a line and take it so they look back at their handlers to see where they should go. It is important to teach your dog to keep going in the same direction they (and you) are headed unless you give them a turning cue.

I teach straight line running while we are on a walk. I will toss a small treat right in front of the dog and say, "Go." I will do this several times and then I will test the dog by saying "Go" and waiting to see if he starts to lunge ahead for the food before I toss it. If so, success and on to step 2! If not, back to a bit of luring. What I want is for the dog to focus ahead when I give the verbal cue and not look back at me. I'll play this game when my puppy is small and will continue to make it more challenging, tossing the food farther and farther ahead of the dog so he has to go on a straight line farther before getting the reward.

Next, I will play this game off leash and with a toy. I will say, "Go" and then when the dog starts to go out for the pass, I'll toss the toy. Note that if your dog knows you are playing this game and goes out for the pass before you cue him with a verbal or physical cue, you should not throw the toy. You do not want to train the dog to take off ahead of you without a cue.

Once your dog gets the hang of the Go game, you can play the acceleration/deceleration game. You will add body motion with your verbal cue and then try the body motion alone. Once your dog is confident in understanding both physical and verbal go cues, it is time to introduce deceleration.

For deceleration, I put something the dog wants out ahead of a dog (piece of food or a toy), but I stand halfway between the dog and the treat or toy. I give the dog a release word and the dog is to stop by my side since I am still. This game is easier to do with a buddy so that the treat or toy can be picked up if the dog blows past you. Another possibility is using a Treat 'N Train or food container so that the dog can't get the food unless you open it. I train my dogs to leave it when they are pups and I also train a no reward marker so that if they blow by me, I can either say "Leave it" or "Oops" and they will not take the reward on their own.

The idea is that the dog should not run by you when you are standing still but should continue forward if you are running with him, even if you are way behind. You can then mix it up and challenge the dog with longer distances. As long as I am continuing forward and/or saying "Go," my dog should continue in a straight line. If I give any sort of deceleration cue (stop or turn) my dog should come off the line.

The 2010 Cynosport/USDAA Championships 3-DVD Set

is available for purchase from www.lightfootlivery.com or by phone by calling the USDAA office at (972) 487-2200, ext. #105. Commentary on each event was done by internationally known competitor Julie Daniels and USDAA president Kenneth Tatsch. The final rounds of the \$10,000 Dog Agility Steeplechase® Championships, Grand Prix of Dog Agility® World Championships, Performance Grand PrixSM Championships, and the Performance Speed JumpingSM Championships are included, as well as the Veterans All-Around Showcase and the 2010 Performance Versatility PairsSM and Dog Agility Masters® Three-dog Team Championships relay. Don't miss this world class competition on DVD!



What is “IFCS”?*

HOW TO TRY OUT FOR THE US TEAM

by 2012 team coach

Rachel Sanders.



Every two years, USDAA sends a team to compete at the International Federation of Cynological Sports (IFCS) World Agility Championships. The championships have been held every two years since 2002.

The next championships are being held in Fort Worth, Texas, May 11-13, 2012, at the Watt Arena at the Will Rogers Equestrian Center in the heart of the Fort Worth Cultural District. The process for selecting the 2012 US team started on January 1 of this year. The 12-member team is selected based on the points they accrue from placements at a team selection event. There are 15 events named as team selection events or 4-Star events (seven regional events, seven local events with 4-Star status and the 2011 USDAA Cynosport Games). The points come from the four Dog Agility Masters team classes (not relay), the Grand Prix, and the two new International Handlers Challenge Classes (IHC Standard and Jumpers), plus the Steeplechase event at the Cynosport Games.

In preparation for this year's selection process, there is a new team website (www.IFCSTeamUSA.com) which acknowledges past team members as well as contains all 2012 IFCS Team related information and reports showing the points standings. A Yahoo! group has also been established for anyone interested in

following along with the team selection process, fundraising, and the contenders for the 12 team spots. The Yahoo! group is IFCSTeamUSA2012.

Anyone interested in competing for a team spot needs to file an intent to compete form before they compete at a team selection event or at the latest by March 31, 2011. The handlers can then choose which three events (plus the 2011 Cynosport World Games) they wish to compete at for points. The make-up of the events can be one 4-Star local event and two regional events, or three regional events. Once a handler/dog has competed at an event, their points are logged into a database and can be viewed by anyone accessing the team website.

We hope to make the 2012 USDAA/IFCS World Team the best team that USDAA has ever entered in international competition. Whether you are trying for a spot on the team, supporting the team with donations and fundraisers, or cheering the team on, USDAA is grateful for your support. Keep your eyes on the web for more updates on this upcoming event.

For more information on IFCS, please see the complete version of this article on USDAA.com by clicking on the title above.

Pets Paradise

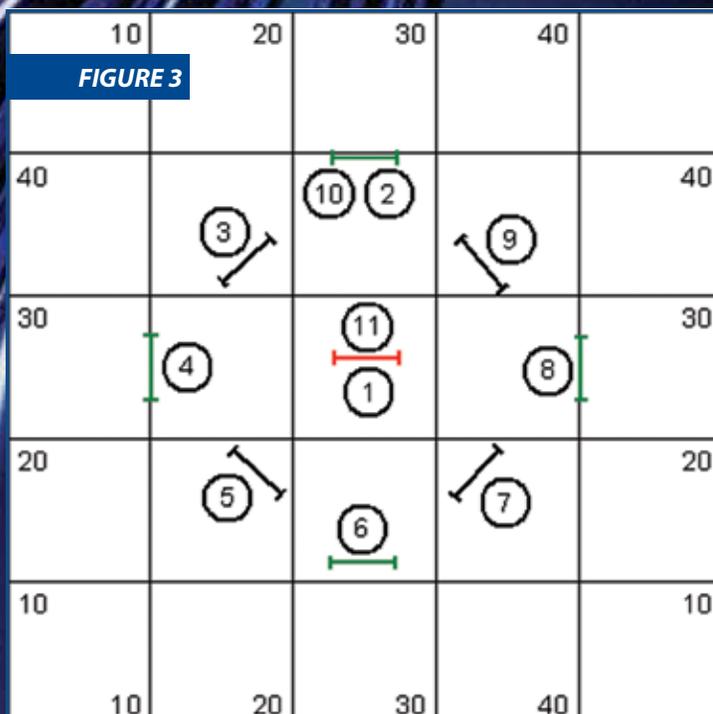
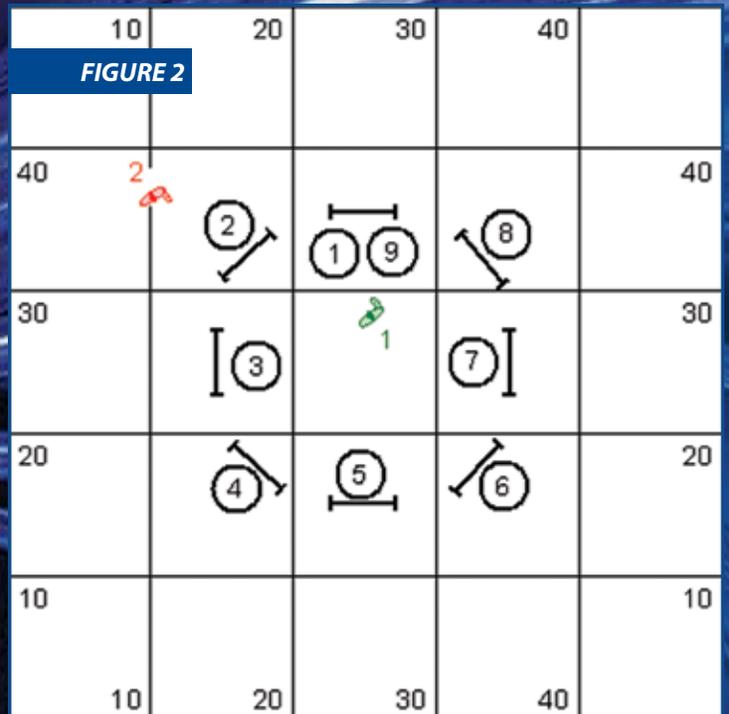
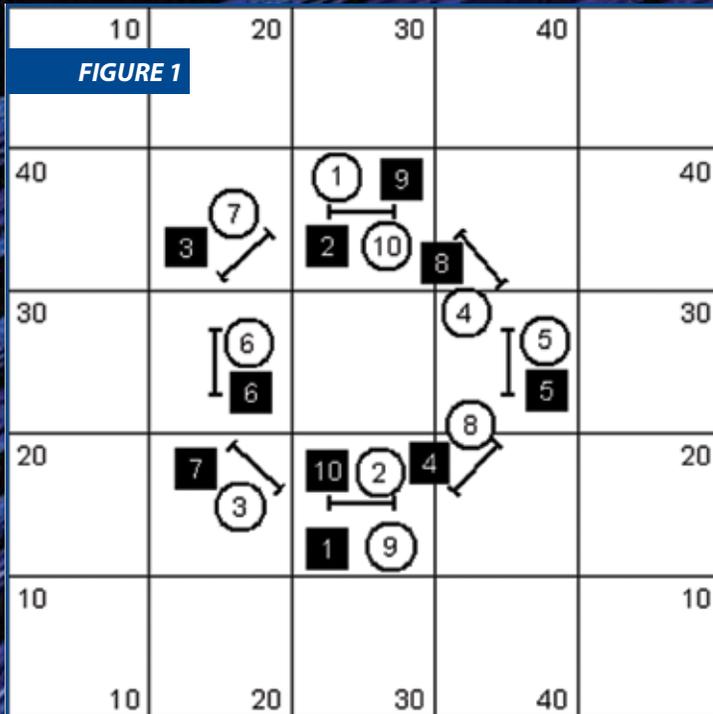
...continued from page 3

hotels or other accommodations for out-of-towners and can help travelers who wish to extend their stay make contact with tour operators.

Pets Paradise representative Jory Freimann says, "Inspired by challenging courses made by Ken this last weekend, the dedicated group in Costa Rica managed to have a high spirited event. The weather was perfect for an outdoor show; all we needed was sunscreen." Freimann says that, since the show was small, everyone had to work a bit harder in order for things to go smoothly, but, he says, "that doesn't take the fun away!" Freimann adds, "We are very proud and happy to be part of the USDAA family." USDAA is very happy to have Pets Paradise in our family too!

Training Idea with a "Familiar Ring"*

By Tania Chadwick



This is a basic circle of jumps that I was first introduced to by Chris and Jeff Bolton in the mid-90s. Some even called it the "Circle of Death" because it looked simple but challenged you to get to the right spot to handle the next jump.

I have designed some serpentine and threadle exercises. Make sure you try going clockwise and counter clockwise and being inside (green handler icon) and outside (red handler icon) of the circle.

I changed the set-up slightly in #3 by adding a jump in the middle and pushing out four jumps. Try the exercises again in this formation.