

Agility Organization

Compiled by Brenna Fender

UPDATE

Agility Association of Canada

By John Willis

Everyone is busy getting in training sessions or working on those "little issues" in preparation for the upcoming Regionals. Good luck to all! Remember that, although we all want the required points to qualify for the Nationals, the Regionals are a chance to say hello, meet others in your region, and have some fun with your dogs. Also remember to offer to help out, even if only for a short time or a small job—there is always something that needs doing at these busy events. This is true for the Nationals as well.

Our new administrator has been busy since the start of the year working on many tasks and getting things organized efficiently. One function involves the new web pages at www.aac.ca, which will be updated regularly with new information and functions to better keep the agility community up to date on AAC news and events. We hope you like the new look. Thanks go to our previous website administrator who has done this job on a voluntary basis for a long time.

All members should have received the new rule book by now and we trust that the changes made will be easy enough to follow. We also hope to have eliminated some of the gray areas by better explaining or modifying them. The biggest changes are to Team Relay and Starters Standard events. In Team, two boxes will now be used instead of the previous one exchange area. Also no baton is required. In Starters Standard, refusals will now count except on contacts, weaves, and the table. These new Starters-level faults do not apply to the Gamblers or Snooker classes. Other changes that have been made apply more to course design regarding electronic timing and further clarifying the Steeplechase event.

Planning for the August 16-19 Nationals is well under way. It is a three-day event this year plus a warm-up day that will offer fun events as well as the opening ceremonies. The host group has been hard at work and it will be an exciting time for all.

Judges have been named and the Nationals website (www.aacnationals.ca) is being updated regularly. Check it often to see any new details or events and don't forget to offer to help out if you can.

Good luck at your Regionals and see you at the Nationals!

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American Kennel Club

By Sharon Anderson

The new year has started with a bang with snow covering equipment in some areas and beautiful weather in parts of the country that usually are snowed in. Regardless of inclement weather, many agility trials are being held throughout the country.

The statistics for 2006 are out and they show continued growth for agility. The final number of agility entries topped out at 745,852 with 1,956 trials held during the year. There were 578 MACHs, 248 MACH2s, 116 MACH3s, 70 MACH4s, 49 MACH6s, 19 MACH7s, 16 MACH8s, 10 MACH9s, 1 MACH16, and 1 MACH17, totaling 1,108 MACHs earned in 2006. The highest MACH was earned again by Keeshond MACH17 Molly CD. The Top MACH Dog was once again Robin Kletke and his Papillon MACH13 Pinpaps Jonquil of Skipnlana, a.k.a. Tigger, with an outstanding total of 7,877 points. Linda Mecklenburg and Border Collie MACH6 Super Star, a.k.a. Stellar, were in second place with 5,001 points.

AKC agility is proud to support the Junior Handler program. Scholarships to college, technical, and veterinary schools are given to juniors up to 18 years old. More juniors eligible



for scholarships are entered in the agility program than in other programs. Based on exhibitors that sent in junior handler sheets from the agility trials, there were 212 juniors competing in 2006. My guess is there are many more juniors out there.

Information about the 2008 AKC Agility Nationals will be announced at the Ohio AKC Agility National Championship. The dates to gather scores are December 1, 2006 through November 30, 2007. Be sure to watch your local TV listings

for the airing of the Ohio Nationals filmed by Animal Planet. Clean Run and J & J Dog Supplies will once again be sponsors for this event.

In 2007, the second AKC Agility Invitational will again be held in Long Beach, California, with the same hotels and facility as in 2006. Make your plans now to attend this unique and fun event with so many different breeds represented. Like last year, Animal Planet will film the finals and Clean Run and J & J Dog Supplies will be sponsors.

The World Agility Championships will be held on September 28-30, 2007. The trip to Hamar, Norway is taking shape. After the flight into Oslo, the bus ride to Hamar takes about an hour and a half. It appears that many supporters will be taking a beautiful overnight trip to Bergen. Watch the AKC website for full package information for supporters. Coach Nancy Gyes and Assistant Coach Kathie Leggett are busy preparing their plans for the team to be picked in June. The World Team Tryouts will be held on May 4-6, 2007, at the Hopkins Pavilion in Minnesota.

Watch for the Crufts results on the AKC website; daily reports will be sent from England. Marcus Topps and his Border Collie, Juice, will have the opportunity to represent the AKC/USA.