

# *“The Latest Scoop”*

CHESAPEAKE VIRGINIA DOG FANCIERS ASSOCIATION

JULY/AUGUST 2011

## **August Meeting Notice**

(There is no meeting in July)

Date: Wednesday, August 10, 2011

Time: 7:00 PM

Place: Monarch Bank Meeting Room  
1034 S. Battlefield Blvd. (intersection of  
Hanbury Rd. & Battlefield Blvd.)

Chesapeake, VA 23322

Take Hanbury Rd. WEST exit off the By- Pass.

Board Meeting 6:15 PM.

Board members please advise Phyllis Sayers if  
you cannot attend.

## **President's Message**

A hardy welcome to all of our new officers and board members. We are already hard at work for the club with goals for the New Year. We have established a membership committee headed up by Susie Ochsenein. The life of any club is held in the hands of its members which is the reason for our concentrated focus in the New Year. We are also looking into the feasibility of a juniors handling program with this in mind.

We enjoyed our June meeting with Dr. Wendy Smithey from Great Bridge Veterinary Hospital. Dr. Smithey enlightened us in the aspects of canine rehabilitation. We appreciated the goodie bags that she gave at the conclusion of her talk. The club now looks forward to a presentation by Dr. John Harvey of the Great Bridge Vets on the subject of canine dentistry in August. In the upcoming months we will learn about canine first aid, as well as an insight “Through the Eyes of a Judge.” At the October meeting we will celebrate those members who have dogs that have earned their championship or grand championship. The handling classes have been such a hit that we are planning on continuing them into the fall. Sarah Wooten has done an outstanding job with the classes and will be looking for instructors to

give the classes in the future. Be sure to sign up. The classes are one of the club's ways to generate operating funds.

Jill Wright has been hard at work updating the website. Be sure to send her your show, obedience, rally, herding and agility wins so that we can share them through our “Braggs” section. Pictures are also a vital part that we want to share so be sure to include them. Do you have a new litter? What better way to spread the news than to share with your club members! Include those with your braggs too.

As a club, we are focused on our forthcoming September 2012 AKC Licensed Show. Committees are being formed and we need your help. We invite you to become a part of this exciting event. Please consider being part of this endeavor by letting me, the Show Chairman, or Karen Lathem, the Assistant Show Chairman, of your interest. Our approval from AKC has been received and the contracts signed with MBF and the City of Chesapeake. This is going to be a great show with your help!!

We welcomed a new member in June. Roger Noreau comes to us from upstate New York. He has had both large and small breeds, however, with his move to Virginia is getting his “puppy fixes” from friends with dogs. He has a wealth of knowledge from his experience in showing and club activities. He has already placed his hat in the ring and will chair one of our show committees. Thank you, Roger, for stepping up to help with our 2012 show.

Enjoy these warm summer days but always remember that you and your dog need plenty of water to stay cool. Good wishes to those who will be in the show ring during the summer. Our next newsletter will come in September and cover September and October news. Until then, we hope to see you on Tuesdays at handling classes and at our August meeting.

Phyllis Sayers  
CVDFDA President

## The Not so Friendly Skies

Commercial airlines are not deliberately cruel or even particularly careless when it comes to shipping dogs; they just aren't set up to deal with pets efficiently. Unless a dog is small enough to carry on board the plane, air travel is a risky way for it to go.

The basic problem is that to an airline, your pet is just an especially bothersome piece of baggage. And as everyone knows, baggage slip-ups are inevitable, given connecting flights scheduled too close together, long delays and human error in a stress-filled, overloaded system. When a mistake means your luggage goes to Minneapolis while you go to Atlanta, you'll survive the inconvenience. But if your dog goes to the wrong city or is forgotten on a luggage carousel, it may not survive.

Put simply, a lot of things can go wrong when a dog goes on a commercial flight. Most problems occur on the ground, not during a flight.

Even if you plan carefully and everything goes as planned, air travel is frightening and stressful for a dog. And you often can't cope with problems as they come up, because you and your dog are separated during the critical times.

What about mildly tranquilizing your dog? The answer depends on the dog's temperament, health, and metabolism. Tranquilized dogs may be more susceptible to breathing problems, especially if they get overheated. And tranquilizers slow down an animal's metabolism, which is also affected by the change in pressure during flight. A less drastic alternative is motion sickness medication, which a veterinarian can prescribe. Talk to a vet who's familiar with your animal before you decide on a strategy

### SHORT NOSE? STAY ON THE GROUND

When you fly, leave your Pekingese, bulldog, or pug at home. For these pug-nosed breeds, breathing is never easy - is just too difficult at high altitude. That's according to the Air Transport Association and the American Veterinary Medical Association. Some airlines don't accept dogs of these breeds if the temperature may be warm.

### REPORTED PROBLEMS

Airlines are required to report any incident involving an animal who is injured, lost, or killed to the Secretary of Transportation. Complaint figures are published in the Department of Transportation's monthly publication, *Air Travel Consumer Reports*, available on the Web at [www.dot.gov/airconsumer](http://www.dot.gov/airconsumer). Very few problems are reported

### How Dogs Travel on Airlines

Some airlines don't accept pets at all, or allow them only in the passenger cabin. Others offer three options. From most to least desirable, they are:

- in the passenger cabin
- as excess baggage, or
- as cargo.

### Airline Liability Limits

Whenever you ship a dog, you run the risk that the dog will be injured. What you may not realize is that unless you buy extra liability coverage for a dog you ship by air, and something does happen to the dog, you may get stuck with the airline's decision about how much it will pay for your loss - no matter how much you lose.

*International flights.* Claims for damage that occurs during international flights are covered by special rules

### CHECKLIST FOR AIR TRAVEL

- Did you book the most direct and reliable flight?
- Does the airline know you're bringing an animal, and do you know all the airline's rules?
- Have you obtained health or vaccination certificates, if necessary?
- Is the kennel big enough for the dog to stand up, lie down, and turn around in comfortably?
- Is the kennel sturdy and well ventilated? Have you lined the bottom with shredded paper or other absorbent material?

- Have you securely attached your name, address, phone number and any special instructions to the outside and inside of the kennel?
- Have you labeled the kennel "Live Animals" and "This End Up" in letters at least an inch high?
- Is the dog wearing an identification tag and a snug but comfortable collar (not a chain collar, which could get caught on something and choke the dog)?
- Have you obtained adequate liability coverage for your dog from the airline or an outside insurer?

*For more information see: "doglaw.hugpug.com"*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

**September 14** 7PM General Meeting  
Suzie Parsons: Canine First Aid

**October 2** AKC Sanctioned Match in conjunction with Bark in the Park. We will be presenting an AKC grant check to the Greater Atlantic Search and Rescue. We will also be providing information on AKC Responsible Dog Ownership.

**October 12** Awards Dinner

**November 9** 7PM General Meeting  
Al Bianchi "From the Eyes of a Judge"

**December 14** Holiday Party

## SWEET POTATO DOG CHEW

A vegetarian alternative to rawhide ...

**Ingredients:** 1 large sweet potato, washed and dried

### Instructions:

Preheat oven to 250 degrees.

Line baking sheet with parchment paper.

Cut off one side of sweet potato lengthwise as close to edge as possible. Place cut side down and slice rest of potato into 1/3" slices.

Place on baking sheet and bake for 3 hours turning when halfway through.

Cool completely on a wire rack.

Keep them refrigerated for up to 3 weeks or frozen for up to 4 months.

CVDFA Website: <http://www.cvdfa.org>

Club Members: Send Brags to [wrightus4@cox.net](mailto:wrightus4@cox.net). Include your name, dog's name, award, show, show location, date, and picture (if available).