

Paws to Dance



The Newsletter of the Canine Freestyle Federation, Inc.
August, 2004

A Lesson From Mebane

by Nancy Smith



I attended the retreat in Mebane, North Carolina in June, and was wonderfully excited by all the enthusiasm I saw in all the participants. It was so good for me to meet people whose names I've seen, and to meet so many unique and talented dogs, as well.

I taught one of the classes at the retreat, and wanted to give a recap of what we did. The class was called "Motivation in Choreography", and we focused on what goes on in your head before you even begin to choreograph your routine.

Are you by any chance an artist? Of course you are, if you are doing freestyle. You are doing exactly what an artist does. You are communicating your vision to an audience. In freestyle in particular, the vision is your relationship with your dog at a particular moment in time, and you want the audience to feel certain feelings.

First, think about the first time you saw a freestyle performance. I remember vividly watching a demo at a Gaines Regional, years ago now. I cried. I thought I must be going crazy, but I bawled like a baby. I have since found out that I'm not the only one. The demo gave me a feeling. This was *different* in a very fundamental way from anything I'd experienced in any other dog sport. The closest I'd ever come before this was maybe in watching a really, really good heeling performance. So what was the difference? Why was I affected so profoundly?

Teamwork. Interactive teamwork. That was the thing.

So when you are at the very beginning of creating a freestyle performance, have that in the back of your mind always. What else should you consider? Think of these words: *movement, relationship, team, performance, communicating, picture, pleasing, what and why, at this moment*. This all helps you in creating the how (your routine).

Here's a step-by-step "instruction manual" of questions to ask yourself before you begin to choreograph. It is helpful to actually write down your answers so you can refer back to them if you get stuck at any time while building your routine. *(Continued on page 8)*



From Your President

We are finally settled into our new home and it's everything we had hoped it would be. . Thank you for your patience for the missed deadlines and my slow responses to questions. June is still a bit of a blur to me. Being homeless for nine weeks has that effect. The CFF Retreat in Mebane was the perfect place to recover from all the stress and chaos of those weeks. It was a wonderful weekend. Mary Sullivan and Marge Hetrick once again produced an outstanding program of classes and events. For me the highlight of the weekend was the adjudicated match and the "works in progress" presentations, which followed.

Canine Freestyle as a sport requires the dog to be shown to his best advantage in a creative and artistic manner. On that Sunday at the adjudication I saw excellent dog work and choreography presented artistically. Each presentation was uniquely different and each presentation expressed the delight the team had in working together in harmony and joy.

CFF's training discipline uses technical training to establish and develop the mutual trust and confidence in both the dog and the handler to achieve artistic expression. Both dog and handler must be willing to share, to give and to accept, harmonizing to achieve oneness. It's similar to the harmonizing voices of a chorus or instruments in an orchestra. Artistry in Canine Freestyle is to produce that oneness effortlessly and joyously, trusting each other to present the essence of the relationship with spontaneity and freshness. It is working together to achieve perfection. It is not imitative; it is not demeaning, but a glorious celebration of achievement together. To the presenters that day thank you for sharing your wonderful dogs with us and thank you for bringing the "joy" of freestyle back into my life. And "yes" I cried.

Joan

Raffle for Guild Baskets

The First Florida Freestylers, Canis Major, and possibly others are preparing baskets of goodies to be raffled off at the October 2, 2004 Show. The baskets will contain items from the area that the guild covers and/or doggie items (for example items might include a hand made leather lead, dog toys, home made goodies, Florida citrus, freestyle video, CDs, etc). The proceeds will be split between the guilds providing baskets and CFF. The tickets are \$ 1.00 a piece or 5 for \$ 4.00. An individual can only win one basket,

The number of baskets and the number of tickets sold will determine the odds of winning. Drawings will be held at the October 2, 2004 show. You do not need to be present to win. For tickets send request with check to any of the following::

Carl Tennille	Ann Holder	Fay Taylor
14430 Overlook Ridge Lane	945 Indian River	809 Fairmont Avenue
Beaverdam,. VA 23015	Cocoa, FL 32922	Signal Mountain, TN 37377

Pictures and a partial listing of item in the baskets will be on the CFF web site.



Annual nominations for CFF Board of Directors and Officers

CFF's annual election for positions on the CFF Board of Directors will occur in November. CFF's Constitution and By-Laws read as follows:

SECTION 3.

Elections. Elections shall be held in the month on November in the years in which Officers and Directors are to be elected. The election shall be by mail ballot from among those nominated in accordance with Sections 4 of this Article. The nominated candidate receiving the greatest number of votes for each Board position shall be declared elected. Members of the Board shall take office on January 1st following their election and each retiring officer shall turn over to the successor in office all properties and records relating to that office within 30 days after the election.

SECTION 4

Nominations. All candidates in a CFF election must be CFF members in good standing and must be nominated. During the month of June the Board shall select a Nominating Committee consisting of three members and two alternates, not more than two of whom may be members of the Board.. The Membership Chair shall immediately notify the committee members and alternates of their selection. The Board shall name a Chairman for the Committee and it shall be such person's duty to call a committee meeting which shall be held on or before August 1st.

The Committee shall nominate one candidate for each office and position on the Board to be filled on a given election, and after securing the consent of each person so nominated, shall immediately report their nominations to the Membership Chair in writing. Upon receipt of the Nominating Committee's report, the Membership Chair shall before September 1st notify each member in writing

of the candidates so nominated.

Additional nominations may be made in writing to the Membership Chair signed by any five members in good standing provided that the person so nominated shall present to the Membership Chair a written statement signifying willingness to be a candidate at the time of the nomination. Such additional nominations must be received by the Membership Chair on or before October 1st. No person may be a candidate for more than one position.

The Nominating Committee for this year is:

Elaine Smith, Starke FL, Chairman
Jeanine Brown, Durham, NC
Shari Trythall, Annville, PA

Alternates are:

Susan Colledge, Roy, UT
Dawn Madge, Rapid City, SD

The positions open for election this year are Vice President, Recording Secretary and one Director. The nominations of the Committee are:

Vice President	Jeanine Brown
Recording Secretary	Sally Kirschenman
Director	Ann Holder
Director (to complete Jeanine Brown's term as a Director)	Fay Taylor

Please send any additional nominations to Membership Chair, Brandy Clymire, 9020 Isle of Laurels, Spotsylvania, VA 22553 by October 1, 2004 in accordance with Section 4(c) of the Constitution and by-Laws printed above.

CANINE FREESTYLE FEDERATION, INC.

FREESTYLE SHOW

Lee District Recreation Center

6601 Telegraph Road

Alexandria, Virginia

Saturday, October 2, 2004 6:30 PM

(Approximate start time)

For information contact Carl Tennille, Secretary;

14430 Overlook Ridge Lane

Beaverdam, VA 23015

Directions **From the north** take I 95/I495 across the Woodrow Wilson Bridge into Virginia to Telegraph Road (Exit 2A) Go south on Telegraph Road approximately 2.5 miles and turn left into Lee District Park. Follow signs to the trial site in the Recreation Center, which is on the right.

From the south take I95 north to Exit for Franconia Road go east about 7 traffic lights to Rose Hill Drive, (large shopping area) turn right and follow straight ahead to park entrance.

From the west take I66 to I495 towards Alexandria/Richmond. Continue on the Beltway passed the exit for I95 south until you reach Telegraph Road (Exit 2A) then continue as above.



Canis Major

by Julia Gregory

Here in Chattanooga, just as in the minds of all the freestylers who attended, the retreat is uppermost in our minds right now. Two Canis Major members drove through the Great Smoky Mountains to be inspired by, invigorated by and rededicated to this grand sport. We are busy incorporating into our routines, and those of our fellows, many of the ideas and training techniques we learned.

We have begun regular Saturday morning classes too. Formerly, we met once each month for an entire Sunday afternoon. We found that this schedule allowed us too much time to “goof off” between days of reckoning. So now, we see each other for an hour and a half every Saturday that any two of us can get to the training building. Someone, usually Melodi, takes responsibility for presenting a framework for the class and working everyone through in a timely fashion. The next step, of course, will be to commit to classes for the average dog owner whose dog has the basic obedience skills to progress.

We are practicing madly for Dog Daze. This is a canine event at the farmer’s market downtown. In a festival atmosphere, under a pavilion, we’ll join the Obedience Club of Chattanooga in providing constant dog sport demonstrations for an entire Sunday afternoon. We’ll try to keep our heads long enough to snap a photo or two to share.

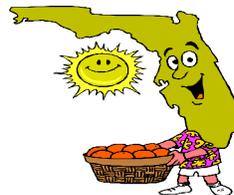
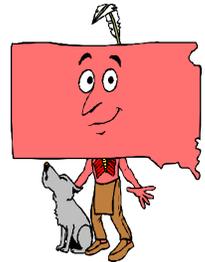
We are also planning a workshop for late fall featuring Elaine Smith of First Florida Freestylers Guild. If you’ve ever had the pleasure of watching Elaine perform with her partner Itchy, you’ll know that she is an innovative trainer, intuitive artist and gentle companion. We are eager to learn from her. There will be an adjudicated match at the conclusion of the workshop. If you’d like to attend, please contact Fay Taylor at geofay@bellsouth.net.

Dances with Woofs South Dakota

By Kay Bedeau and Julia Gregory

Since Dawn Madge has spent a large portion of her summer vacation away from home studying Freestyle back East and attending her Dachshund national specialty in Indiana, your Editor was unable to track her down and extract a report from her. Kay Bedeau, a fellow freestyler from nearby Hot Springs, South Dakota, was kind enough to relay the latest doings of the Dances With Woof Guild.

The garage sale held in June in conjunction with the local UKC club was a howling success! Once the proceeds were shared, Dances With Woofs had a nice nest egg to fund their show coming up in November. In preparation for that show, Dawn’s freestyle class members are finishing up their choreography and polishing routines. They are seriously focused on this opportunity to show the world their wonderful dogs. They invite you to brave the interstate and visit the Black Hills of South Dakota to join them for this celebration. Hospitality is their middle name!



First Florida Freestylers Guild

by Gaea Mitchel

Five members of the First Florida Freestyle Guild traveled to Mebane, NC for the second CFF Freestyle Retreat. All were thrilled with the weekend, first-timers and returning participants alike. We spread out between the classes so that we would be able to share the entire program. (The hardest part about the retreat is deciding which of two good topics to attend at each class time.) Everyone was thrilled to be able to put faces to the names we know so well, and to get to know more about members from other parts of the country. The adjudicated match was particularly helpful. As we all know, the more eyes the better when evaluating a routine. This time we had *lots* of eyes, some of the best in the world! We are eagerly looking forward to our next guild meeting, on August 14, to exchange information and ideas from the retreat and get to work on changes to our routines.

Guild News More Staccato Notes



The Gold Coast Freestyle Guild

by Judy Gamet



As the rest of the country was immersed in CFF's wonderful retreat, those of us on the West Coast who couldn't attend had our first official meeting as a full status guild. The following officers were elected by the members present; Nacina Dawn, co-chairperson & demo coordinator; Judy Gamet, co-chairperson & training director; Laurel Putnam, vice president & technical advisor; Margine Webb, secretary; and Lori Jackson, treasurer. Karen Jackson was representing the Sonoma & Solano County members, Kathleen Hinds representing the Contra Costa County members, Vange Leonis representing Alameda County members, and Jane Yuster representing the San Francisco Bay Area and myself representing the Napa area and Sacramento. As founder of this guild, I was flabbergasted by the incredible talent, intelligence, and creativity of this group! I'd like to especially thank Jane Yuster for having our yahooist up and running within 24 hours!

The month of August will be devoted to increasing CFF memberships and developing interest in canine freestyle. Several workshops are being held here in the SF Bay Area in August, the Deep Peninsula Dog Training Club, Half Moon Bay, and Pt. Reyes. If you live in this area, feel free to contact me for the workshop information. Sebastiani Winery is celebrating its "Sebastiani Canine Festival" during the 2nd week of August in the town of Sonoma. This well known winery happens to be dog friendly, allowing dogs on the grounds as well as allowing the employees to bring their dogs to work! We will be performing demos on the mornings of August 11, 12, & 14. If you are interested in performing with us, be sure to contact Nacina Dawn: nacinasdestiny@yahoo.com

We all are preparing for the first CFF match

sponsored by the Gold Coast Freestyle Guild on November 13 at Tony LaRussa's Animal Rescue Foundation in Walnut Creek, Ca. Feel free to contact me early this fall for flyers and entry forms. Hope everyone enjoys the rest of your summer!

Judy Gamet

modynamics@jccomp.com

Sirius Guild

"Where Every Dog Is A Star!"

by Ann Priddy



After spending four days in North Carolina at our wonderful canine freestyle retreat Carol Maupin and I drove home all fired up with new training ideas and plenty of enthusiasm. My enthusiasm was quickly dampened when, as I went to put the key in the lock, I noticed water running out from under the front door. Thus began my saga of the great flood of 2004 at 2122 Clover Road. There is no way to describe the feeling you get when you open the door to see the inside of your home covered with standing water. (Well, it wasn't really standing. There was a pretty good current as it merrily cascaded through the dining room and down into the furnace.) Stunned is probably the best description. Needless to say, dog stuff took a back seat very quickly as simple things like finding a place to live took precedence. So, the Sirius Guild Report is very, very short at this time.

Many of the instructors at the retreat were Sirius Guild members (Something we are very proud of), and of course two extra special ladies in our Guild, Mary Sullivan and Marge Hetrick, were the coordinators of the event. After expending so much time and energy on the retreat, things have

been a little quiet as we "rest on our laurels".

Classes are still going on are some of the obedience clubs, and while these don't strictly count as official Guild activities, the instructors are Guild members and the curriculum is CFF focused. It is from these classes that we get many of our new members. My own obedience club has 3 classes going each week!

We are starting to hear the pitter patter of little paws in the Sirius Guild as members are getting new puppies. The latest arrivals I have met are Brandy Clymire's cute little Cavalier and Betty Swenson's smiling Border Collie pup. It will be interesting to watch and see how these little fellows grow up in "freestyle" homes.

We are planing to have a Guild get together / picnic in the early fall where more of us can get together.

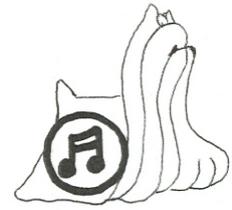
That's all for now from the "waterfront"

Editor's Note:

They need our help in Utah. The two guild logos that you see with Susan's report are brand new. Our freestyling colleagues in the Misha Guild can't decide which one they like best. What do you think? Send your input to Susan at scolledge@dsmail.net. Thank you!

Misha Guild, Utah

by Susan Colledge



The Misha Guild is continuing to meet each week. Right now we are trying to prepare for the Pet Expo in August. We will have a booth and also perform each day at the Expo.

Tessa and I had a wonderful time at the retreat and hope to bring some of what we learned back to the guild. What a great job everyone did -- M&M, all the instructors, the facility, the food, Cameron, etc.



It was a weekend I will remember fondly. It was so good to see friends again

and meet new friends.

Susan and Tessa



photo by B. J. France

Photo Gallery from Retreat a

Photos by B.



Working together, playing together, just being together, that's how it starts.



IMAGE



A well-

at Mebane, North Carolina

J. France



s, two loving hearts ...

...we'll still work it out somehow.



OF

ONE



deserved rest.

Lesson from Mebane (continued from page 1)

1. Describe how you *felt* the last time you saw a great routine.
2. Think about your dog, trotting around freely in your yard. Describe his *movement*.
3. Think about the end of the last successful training session you had with your dog. (Obedience, agility, tracking, freestyle, it doesn't matter what you were training.) Describe your *relationship* with your dog at that moment.
4. Picture yourself walking down the street. Describe your *movement*. (Be honest. You are a part of this team.)
5. Look at yourself and your dog in the mirror together. Describe this *team*.
6. Think about what technical moves your dog enjoys and executes well. What are they?
7. Describe how your dog looks when he is *performing* these movements.
8. Describe how *you* look when your dog is performing these movements. (Again, be honest. Bent-over "butt shots" to the audience *never* look good!)
9. Picture yourself and your dog heeling in a straight line. Now picture this team heeling in an arc. In a spiral. Making turns. Moving parallel. Moving backwards. What looks most *pleasing*? Least pleasing? *Why*? If possible have a friend watch you. What do they see? Get their opinion. Have them describe it using particular and specific words, and not just generalities. "That looks nice" is not particularly helpful to you. Remember, what the audience sees is the important thing.
10. *Why* is probably the most important question to answer. What does the movement communicate? The answer to the what may give you insight into the why.
11. Now go back to the *picture* of you and your dog heeling. Let music come into your head. Describe the music specifically. What is the genre? What is the tempo? What instruments are playing?
12. Finally, write a short paragraph that describes what it is that you most desperately want an *audience* to know about you and your dog *at this moment*. What you want to say about your two-year-old dog is probably something very different than the story you want to convey when your dog is eleven.

So there you have it. When you begin to choreograph, always be honest, and be brave. Follow these simple rules, and you'll be able to put on a performance that will speak to people. They will not forget.

Trophies!

It's time to send in your trophy pledges for the Fall Show to be held Saturday, October 2, 2004. Please consider supporting the sport by donating a trophy or donating to the general trophy fund!

Trophy Given For: _____

(example: Highest Scoring Doodlehound in Level II)

Description of Trophy: _____

Offered By: _____

Donation to the General Trophy Fund: Amount
\$ _____ Make check payable to CFF, Inc.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____

Email: _____



Mail your pledge to:
CFF Trophies
C/o Nancy Smith
3018 Pinewood Avenue
Baltimore, MD 21214-1424

You can deliver your trophies to the above or to
:

Carl Tennille
14430 Overlook Ridge Lane
Beaverdam, VA 23015-1781

Thank you!
Canine Freestyle Federation, Inc.

***September 13, 2004 is the deadline for
advertising in the Fall Trial Catalog
Don't put it off—Order today!!!***

CATALOG ADVERTISING

Catalog advertising will be accepted until Sept. 13, 2004.

Full Page; 4-1/2" x 7-01/2" = \$30.00

Half Page; 4-1/2" X 3-5/8" = \$20.00

Quarter Page; 4-1/2" x 1-3/4" = \$9.00

Business Card = \$9.00

*Photo additional \$10.00

Sponsor's/Brag Page!

Show your support on the Sponsor's/Brag Page! - \$3.00 for one line. Example:

Here's wishing all the exhibitors the Joy of Freestyle!

Jane Doe & Fido

Payment must accompany advertisement. Please make checks payable to CFF, Inc.

CFF reserves the right to decline any advertising for cause!

Please send to:

CFF Catalog Ad

14430 Overlook Ridge Lane

Beaverdam, VA 23015-1787

**FREESTYLE RUN THRU
SATURDAY SEPTEMBER 18, 2004**

9:30 AM

\$ 3. 00 per run

Brand new training facilitate, fully matted (1/2 inch rubber mats); 30' x 44' with two small pillars; mirrors. Fenced area for dogs to run. All proceeds to CFF

Just north of Richmond, VA at 14430 Overlook Ridge Lane; Beaverdam, VA
Directions From I95 take Ashland VA Exit Route 54 west (thru Ashland) and go about 9 miles to a right on Scotchtown Road. Go approximately .2 miles to a Y and take a left (Ebenezer Baptist Church is in the Y) and go approximately 1.9 miles to a right on Overlook Ridge Lane. Then go approximately .7 miles to the last house on the left before the cul de sac For more information call 804-883-1174

Canine Freestyle: Artistic & Technical

by Ann Priddy

"You cannot have technique without artistry, neither can you have artistry without technique." - Dick Button

During the Ladies Long Program at the US Figure Skating Nationals, commentator Dick Button made the above statement. This is something of which we, in Canine Freestyle, should be very conscious. You and your dog may be an excellent heeling team and have a wide range of skills but unless you have mastered the artistic portion of your presentation you will not be as successful as you may wish. Conversely, unless you have mastered the technical skills necessary you will not be able to pull off the artistic presentation of your program.

In any artistic endeavor you need to master the vagaries of your chosen medium to successfully express your art. On the other hand even if you have great skill in using your medium, unless you have the ability to express yourself artistically, the work will lack the life and spark needed to take it to its fullest potential.

In CFF our chosen medium is not pen and ink, but movement, specifically the movement of our canine partners and our movement to enhance the dog. The goal as stated in our definition is to show the dog to its best advantage. Training is the tool we use. The choices we make in presenting the dog and our own movement, is where our artistic expression comes through. The four levels of CFF competition are structured so the handler can choose the level that best fits the teams artistic and technical skills.

Why is all this important? Art is meant to be seen. Because Canine Freestyle is a sport unlike other dog sports in that it requires an audience. Our

performances are meant to be seen. We must keep in mind that the audience is giving us their time and attention. We should strive to always give our audiences our best, a performance that is balanced both artistically and technically.

The Benefits of Canine Freestyle

by Judy Gamet

I was asked to write this article for a rescue organization, this was part 1 of a 2 part article introducing them to canine freestyle. As you will see in this piece, my heart is devoted to the senior dogs, the overweight dogs, and the retired competition dogs. Canine freestyle has given me a "path" to share with these dogs and handlers which helps them regain their lives! I will be pass on this article in full to any of you who would like to share it with others who might be interested or in need of inspiration! Respectfully, Judy Gamet, Gold Coast Freestyle Guild

Sometimes the most inspiring events take us totally by surprise. Held up by a slow moving freight train, what could have been a frustrating delay turned into a blessing not only for myself and my "pack" but also for every dog who's lives we've contacted since. Along side of the train tracks were half a dozen horses playing in a pasture. One horse would dart into the group, turn, and dash back out as the others followed him. To witness the beauty that was inherent in the power, grace, and agility of these animals was breathtaking! In over 30 years of teaching dance to humans, I'd never seen a more beautiful "dance".

I had already been introduced to the world of canine freestyle, but after this experience, I desired to show the world this same beauty through the movement of dogs. Bella, my 6 ½ year old rottweiler was in desperate need to lose 20 pounds. (see Bella's story at www.dogscandance.com) She has severe hip dysphasia in one hip, an artificial hip since 8 months of age for the other, and quite advanced arthritis. We set about losing the 20 pounds by improving the quality of her diet to all fresh foods and increasing her activity by (continued on page 10)

Benefits (continued from page 9)

developing a freestyle program designed to improve her strength, flexibility, and agility. Today at age 11, Bella continues to teach canine freestyle classes with me at least 4 times per week. I encourage any of you with senior dogs, overweight dogs, retired competition dogs, or even young adolescent dogs who need to succeed at “something”, to try canine freestyle.

Conditioning Your Dog With Canine Freestyle

The benefits of canine freestyle can be seen physically, mentally, and emotionally in the lives of these lucky dogs. Walking is great exercise for both dogs and people, but because it only uses certain sets of muscles in one manner, freestyle utilizes muscle groups that perform movements in many different directions (forward, backward, sideways, turning / spins). The entire body is toned. Freestyle also encourages a balanced frame, working the dog both in “heel” position and on the “right”. On a personal note, I found Bella’s strength improved a lot from working on backing up when I thought this would be a move that she wouldn’t be able to perform. Don’t let anyone fool you, the handler gets a good workout also, walking forward, changing pace, moving backwards, etc.

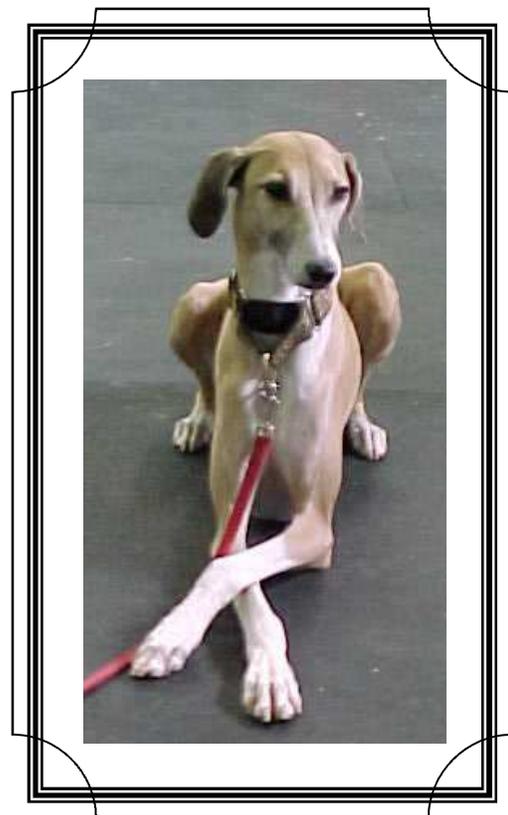
The mental benefits of freestyle are unlimited. I have seen shy or challenged dogs gain tremendous self confidence from participating in freestyle classes and demonstrations. Darcy, a handsome, black golden retriever mix, was told he would never be able to go out in public due to his shyness. Last year, Darcy performed in front of over 500 people at the Dressage in the Wine Country event. He also continues to enjoy participating in agility and has become a tremendous obedience “heeling” dog. Lori Jackson, his owner shared that Darcy, having been raised with a female golden from the age of 7 weeks old, was more bonded to his canine companion than to her. Freestyle changed all of that.

Emotionally, the bond that is created from the fun in freestyle is like no other. Nacina Dawn states, “My life was completely changed the first time I ever saw freestyle. I have always been very close to my dogs and figured I had the best

relationship possible. But I had no idea. The depth of trust, attention, confidence and joy we have developed as a team, since first starting to dance has overwhelmingly amazed me. It is so satisfying to see how happy my dogs are to “work” with me and show off their grace and beauty.”

No matter what condition your dog is in today, take those steps to increase their activity and joy. Bella went through two life saving surgeries this past year. (To this date, she has lived without a spleen for over a year) Had it not been for the great physical condition she was in , and her desire to go to work and teach other fellow dogs, this story might have ended differently.

Judy Gamet, B.S. Dance Education, minor in health education has developed fitness and dance programs for humans since 1979. Having raised and trained rottweilers for the past 15 years, she has now expanded these dance programs to include her love for canines. Judy and her dogs participate in Rally Obedience, Traditional Obedience, Tracking, the sport of Schutzhund, and Conformation. She currently lives with 3 rottweilers, all of which participate in Canine Freestyle!



***Paws To Dance* is published four times a year,
in February, May, August and November.**

**Deadlines are the 25th of the preceding month.
DEADLINE for the next issue is October 25, 2004. So
Please! Try to be timely.**

Editor

Julia Gregory

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**The contents of *Paws To Dance* represent the opinions of the
authors, not necessarily those of CFF.**

The Editor's Corner

by Julia Gregory

What a pleasure it has been to build this issue of *Paws to Dance*! This organization is blessed with artists of all kinds. Ann Priddy, Judy Gamet and Nancy Smith wrote clear, flowing articles that were effortless to edit. B.J. France sent hundreds of beautiful photographs for us to enjoy. All the Guild reporters responded like champions. I like this job!

BUT NOW ...

... I want to up the ante. In this space, I'd like to start a regular feature called "You Might Be a Freestyler If ... " or perhaps "How Canine Freestyle Has Changed My Life". One such entry might go something like this ...

You Might Be a Freestyler If ...

...when cars serve in and out of rush hour traffic, nearly colliding, you see the symmetry, the image of one and resolve to incorporate that move into your team's routine.

I can't do this unless every single member helps. This experience really happened to me. I know that each of you has had similar moments. Shall we do it? Drop me a line at the email above. Thanks for reading!

Dear Journal

by Bogey - A Rescue Dog

Dear Journal,

I competed in my first Freestyle show! However I don't think Mom was too pleased with my routine. It wasn't actually the one we practiced for months and months. I decided to change it at the last minute and forgot to tell her. I can't tell if running through the crowd or stealing the ham biscuit from the table was the problem. I whispered to her as we walked into the ring, to follow my lead. If she had of, she would have gotten to eat a biscuit and frankly I didn't see a single other dog do that. Oh well, I did have a blast though. I personally thought the place needed some shaking up so I gave them that good old Aussie grin and ran through the joint. If Mom could just remember her part, I think we could make it all the way to Animal Planet!

Sincerely,
Bogey



CFF, Inc.
c/o Julia Gregory
222 Parks Road
McDonald, TN 37353

FIRST CLASS MAIL

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CFF Board of Directors

President

Joan Tennille
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