

# *Paws to Dance*



The Newsletter of the Canine Freestyle Federation, Inc.  
August 2011

## **The Onion and the Tennis Ball**

*Editor's Note: During Elaine Nabors' recent workshop we were asked to contemplate two objects on a table and think about how they were the same and how they were different. Then we were asked to think about how they related to canine freestyle. Some of us were a little puzzled by the assignment. Others found ourselves unable to expound on both parts of the assignment. Here are the ideas that were shared and developed later in the day.*

Both are spheres. Both are unique. Like freestyle, they are both correct for what they are. They are the same in that they are three dimensional with shape in more than one plane. But the onion has more horizontal interest and the ball is equally vertical and horizontal. The onion has more color and interest.

The onion is layered, easily peeled, deep purple and its outer layer is smooth. The tennis ball is softer, has a fuzzier surface, is not so easily peeled. The onion is more versatile (it can be sliced, chopped, minced, etc.) and is useful even in smaller portions.

While the shapes of the objects are essentially the same, because the two are different "species", the presentation is unique for each. Relative to freestyle we can have the same movement, but different teams and therefore different visual experiences.

The onion is made by nature. The tennis ball is made by humans. Behaviors and choreography offered by the dog are more like the onion as opposed to the handler designing the choreography.

Both are round (mostly). The onion is pointed on one side, smooth and shiny. The ball is fuzzy. The onion is red. The ball is green. The onion is bigger than the ball. The onion is wet and smelly. The ball is dry and has no odor. It is solid and bouncy. All dog/handler teams have differences in weight, bounciness and density.

The tennis ball is made of several layers surrounding a void. The onion is made of layers upon layers of varying thickness and color and at the very core there will be some layers of varying shapes. The onion has an interesting center and a variety of uses.

*Continued on page 7*

## CFF Nominating Committee Report

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 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.

**Our slate consists of: President: Gaea Mitchel**

**Treasurer: Carl Tennille**

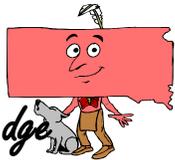
**Membership Chair: Barbara Long**

**Director: Ann Holder**

I want to thank my committee; I could not have done this without them! Cathy Nirenberg

This slate is presented with my thanks for a job well done by the Nominating Committee, headed by Cathy Nirenberg. Her committee members were Debbie Crain and Susan Colledge, with Fay Taylor as alternate.

Gaea Mitchel, President



### *Dances With Woofs South Dakota*

By Dawn Madge

Hey everyone! Greetings from the beautiful Black Hills of South Dakota which are peaceful and serene most of the time, however, the Sturgis Motorcycle Rally is in full swing and all you hear is the ROAR of Harleys ...thousands of them! Summer has gone by terribly fast and has been full of travel The Doxies and I attended the Elaine Nabors seminar in Mebane,

North Carolina and all I can say is WOW, WOW, WOW-We LOVED it!!! Elaine is absolutely wonderful! Doogie and I learned so much and had so much fun! It was great to see friends we don't often get to see. I just got back to Rapid City and can't wait to try some of the things we learned.

We are busy preparing, fine tuning and polishing for our show the first weekend of November. We will get information out about that soon.

### Notice from the Judging Committee

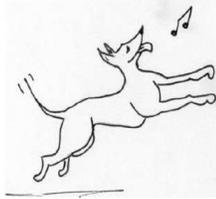
Ann Holder, Chair

It has been brought to the attention of the Board by several CFF members that in the past there have been instances of apparent training in the ring between the honoring and the opening shape. It is important that all members refer to the CFF rule book section titled Performance Guidelines and familiarize themselves with them. The instructions for honoring say, "the team then moves immediately to the starting or opening position (shape) for the presentation." The honor and direct moving into the starting position is the beginning of your routine and creates an impression on the judges and tally scribes. Failure to follow the rules may have an adverse effect that could be reflected negatively in the scoring areas of training, teamwork, and/or artistry.

## Guild News—Staccato Notes

### Canis Major Guild

By Julia Gregory



What a happy, busy summer we've had! We've hit on a couple of successful fundraisers that have kept us busy. This spring we started offering lunch to participants at the Obedience Club of Chattanooga's O/R matches. It's pretty simple stuff ... sandwich, popcorn, drink and a home-made baked goody – all for \$5. People seem glad not to have to go off site to eat and since they build their own sandwich, they get just what they want. We also ran a dog wash at Grooming-dale's , Chattanooga's Premier Pet Spa and Salon! Many thanks to owner, Andrea Killebrew and former Canis Major Guild member, Mel Carvour for sponsoring and supervising this damp event! Twenty dogs may not sound like many to YOU, but my feet and back were finished at the end of the day! The money raised that day doubled our treasury! We can have another show now!

Two of us attended Elaine Nabor's seminar in Mebane, North Carolina. Elaine helped us with dozens of ideas for teaching and training. She also helped us learn how to stir up our OWN creative juices so that we can be innovative and original when we choreograph our routines. These few, little words don't come anywhere close to describing the elation we felt as we grew creatively under Elaine's sure touch. I hope that some of the other contributions to this newsletter will better convey the energy, joy and hopefulness we felt, being a part of that tremendous learning experience.

Apparently it's DEMO SEASON!! We were guests at the second annual "Dog Tent" at the Wilson County Fair, Tennessee's largest county fair, just east of Nashville. Since this was smack in the middle of August, we were apprehensive about the heat, but the Nashville Kennel Club knows how to do things! There was a tent for shade over bleachers, crating area and perform-

ance area. There were pools of ice water, misting fans and cooling wraps for the dogs. The sound system was great and the performance space was nearly regulation size!! The dogs did really well! We're signed up to go back next year! Still coming up we have demos at the Hamilton County Fair (that's here at home), Bark in the Park, Paws in the Park in Chattanooga and Paws in the Park in Atlanta at Centennial Park – very exciting! Our Atlanta sisters are definitely pulling their weight in the demo department.

We have several teams preparing to celebrate in Virginia in November so classes are busy and run long. I can't think of a better way to spend a Sunday afternoon. We hope we'll see many of you there.



### Misha Guild, Utah

By Susan Colledge

Our little group did a demo at the Veterans Home on August 11. Only three of our six could make it. We are losing our two young members (Susan is in 3rd grade and AJ is in junior high) because their mother came today to get them to take them back to Arizona with her for the school season. We wish she could have waited one more day so they could have done the demo. Both of them have worked very hard with their dogs and routines this summer and we have enjoyed having them with us immensely.

## Guild News More Staccato Notes



By Eugenie & Kasie  
Podojil

The North Coast Freestylers have been active in promoting the introduction of canine freestyle to our area with performances, classes, and an active group of Guild members who work hard creating new routines and polishing established routines.

Another introductory freestyle class was held culminating with an Evening of Sharing in which the “graduating” class members presented phrases and improves incorporating what they had learned, and Guild members performed their established routines or routines on which they were working. Following the performances we all enjoyed refreshments and conversations sharing our interest and ideas on freestyle.

Throughout the spring and summer, the class sessions have been immediately followed by practice sessions of the Guild members. Here we have worked with music choice for new routines -- as prospective songs are tried out it has been smile-provoking and just amazing to see the dogs react to the different songs. They so clearly show their “choices” by their tail-wagging, enthusiastic movement, and just more general enjoyment of particular songs! We have also worked on improves, focused on “what-if’s” and often discovered unique phrases and ideas to incorporate into our routines. Of course we continually practice our already established routines, and even tweaking them when a new idea emerges ... which it often does! The on-going process of creation of a new routine challenges our creativity, and with the support and suggestions of our fellow members we embrace this part of our evenings.

North Coast Freestylers performed for the PAWS Adoption Event on May 21<sup>st</sup>. Sue Ann Branstein

performed two routines, one with Saily and one with Caesar, and Janet Dayton and Rain performed. The performance space was a challenge as it was high grass and large clods of dirt! Sue Ann and Janet and their talented partners rose to the occasion and gave wonderful performances.

On June 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> the North Coast Freestylers held a performance each day for a large, dog-loving audience at Working Dog Weekend, an animal event in northeastern Ohio that showcases the myriad of activities in which dogs participate. Once again the condition of the performing surface was challenging as it was an outdoor horse arena with clean-up the initial priority! Routines were performed by Janet Dayton and Rain, Sue Ann Branstein and Saily and Caesar, Kasie Podojil and Boris, and Eugenie Podojil and Cyrano. The audience enthusiastically received what was probably their first experience with canine freestyle, and our performing teams enjoyed the opportunity to bring that experience to them.

In July, Leila Widgren and Janet Dayton had the opportunity to take part in the two-day seminar presented by Elaine Smith-Nabors on “Exploring the Balance.” The choreographic concepts presented and explored in the sessions -- from warm-up routines, to depth-building the choreography, to relationships with our canine partners -- will be shared with our members in the weeks to come.

We look forward to continuing our working sessions, learning new concepts, and performances to share the routines with our canine partners.



By Pat Rapaport

Hi Everyone- You have a new kid on the block in North Carolina reporting for Paws to Dance. After many years of diligent reporting by Shari Bryant, Shari has decided to take a break from reporting for the Newsletter and she asked me to step in for her. I might say that will be difficult since Shari has done such a great job. Who would have known that the newsletter that I enjoyed reading for the past few years would be one that I would be writing for today? I am fairly new to freestyle but enjoy watching and maybe actually participating in shows someday. I live on the coast of NC so attending club meetings in Durham, which is 3 hours away, is a full day event for my goldens and me, but well worth the long drive.

This late spring and early summer was filled with planning activities for Elaine Smith-Nabors seminar that was offered on July 30 and 31, 2011. Many, many thanks to all the members who volunteered their services to make this event a big success and a very special thank you to Elaine. The following is a summary provided by Sarah Jinnah of the weekend's activities.

*I think all would agree that the seminar given by Elaine in Mebane last weekend was certainly an inspiration and a challenge. Elaine skillfully engaged everyone to participate in brainstorming the different aspects of the creative process of canine freestyle (positive reinforcement of candy was appreciated!!)*

*We learned about the depth and dimensions of freestyle associated with different levels. Engrained in my mind are the onion and the tennis ball and the way their properties compare to freestyle.*

*The layered cake was a wonderful illustration of how we add to the layers of freestyle as we grow and move to different levels, exploring the*

*depth of creativity that can be acquired with your canine partner- the top of the cake being level four. It was wonderful to watch participants work on phrases, each team producing a unique performance for the same exercise. Elaine talked about being open to behavior your dog offers and using it. "The possibilities of are endless". It was helpful to get individual advice on warming our dogs up and Elaine talked about keeping focus on your dog, giving him your complete attention and trusting him.*

*I know Harry enjoyed the half twist come fore, his momentum increased as we turned. Auditors demonstrated with human partners, the various come fore twists to better help us understand the move.*

*One of the images Elaine talked about was thinking of your dog as the paintbrush, and you are guiding the brush. I found this very helpful with some of the more flowing moves. The straight crisp lines may be thought of as being made by a crayon.*

*Our final challenge was to prepare a performance from the image of an X which has different colors denoting change of pace, level and direction. It was wonderful to see the different routines each person came up with and Elaine helped us all learn from each routine.*

*It was a wonderful weekend spent with old friends and meeting new. The support and friendship within this group is amazing.*

*Thank you Elaine for an incredible two days of teaching, you are so generous to give your time to help us better understand the complexity of this sport.*

The next big event for the Guild will be the shows that we co-sponsor with Sirius Guild on November 12 and 13, 2011 in Stafford, VA. Hope to see many of you there.

By Renee Filep

As you can see, the Sirius Guild got “serious” and adopted a logo! We’ve also been seriously working on the run-throughs and upcoming trial with our fabulous neighbors to the south, the Carolina Canine Freestyle Guild.



Run-throughs will be held on Sunday, September 18, from 1- 4 at the trial site Colonial K-9. Please see the website (events or Sirius Guild forum discussion) for more information on how to sign up with Brandy Clymire. 10-minute slots will be available for \$15. Colonial K-9 is also available for rental on weekdays for \$50 an hour, 1-hour minimum. Please call Theresa Mathern at 540-657-4K9S to book a time. The website (with directions) is [www.colonialK9.com](http://www.colonialK9.com).

The titling event is also quickly approaching. The premium is available on the website and will be mailed soon. The infallible Cameron Foster will be videotaping and Jim Poor will be there for photography and portraits. Marian Hardy is our trophy chair, and Janet McBrien is the volunteer coordinator. Please contact these ladies to help make November 12 and 13 awesome! We will be having a raffle for a quilted, doggy theme jacket. Volunteers and the judges will be getting free tickets, but tickets will available at the event. We are also selling polo shirts with our embroidered logo. The shirt is ivory, with the logo in dark yellow and blue at a cost of \$25. Please e-mail me at [Luvmyzap@yahoo.com](mailto:Luvmyzap@yahoo.com) if you would like to pre-order one. Some will be available at the trial, but in limited sizes and a quantity, so pre-ordering is preferred. The retreat is just around the corner- wouldn't it be great for all the Sirius Guild to have the same shirt?

Chili and Zig, the Border Collies, have asked that I also share a new way to practice and beat the heat... dance in the sprinkler! Now there's an interesting improv!



By Marcia Barkley

Our biggest excitement here in the last quarter was a visit from Joan and Carl in May. Most of our Guild members had never before had an opportunity to learn from Joan, and I dare say all of us who walked into the facility that morning walked out having learned quite a lot! It was an intense few hours as Joan both provided theory and gave us the opportunity for practical application; there was discussion of concepts, and demonstration of technical skill; and several working teams had an opportunity to have their performance routines “tweaked.” A handful of us were there as auditors, and at least one auditor said later that she sort of wished she’d brought her dog, but being able to watch everyone else was pretty enlightening too. Our only regret is that the Tennilles live so very far from California!

Our Guild meeting in June included work on some new exercises in tracing floor patterns, and on the movement of our own bodies – sort of “how to move gracefully without falling on your face.” In September, the meeting will include a workshop, guided by our own Chris Bond, that focuses on helping our *dogs* learn body awareness – I believe Chris calls it “proprioception.” It promises to be another very useful opportunity to learn.

September will also see us buckling down to serious planning for our titling event on December 3<sup>rd</sup>. We’ll be having just a one-day event this year. Our judges will be Elaine Nabors and Kristin Sicotte, and the current plan is to also have them spend some time with us, the following day, learning more about how to teach canine freestyle. One way to strengthen our Guild is through presenting more classes; and even for those members not teaching or planning to teach, we know that a workshop like this will increase our own knowledge and understanding of CFF’s core concepts.

*Continued from page 1*

Similarities: rounded shape, relatively smooth surface (not knobby). Differences: color, shape (onions have protrusions), weight, bounciness, size, texture, layers (or not), markings (tennis ball has seams while onion has lines), onions have stickers (points of emphasis!). Freestyle: shape, line, color, movement (or not), weight, emphasis, visual texture.

Both are spherical. Many movements are circular and flowing in CFF. There are layers to an onion and none in a ball. CFF needs layers.

They are the same because they represent a circle or round shape – one larger than the other. The onion relates to canine freestyle because it is so beautiful that it makes you cry and sometimes my choreography just plain stinks. It's hard to peel, but once peeled and prepared it tastes great. It can be as smooth as it is round yet it can be chopped up. The tennis ball is smooth and round, can roll fast or slow, in different directions, yet be bouncy and lively. It can bounce high or low as in choreography; high points and low points, slow or fast, always changing direction. They are both still at rest yet move when put into motion.

*Editor's Second Note: One workshop participant took her notes home and developed her idea in detail. Thank you Leila Widgren!*

The onion reminds me of CFF freestyle. As a raw product, the onion may be not that palatable to some people. CFF makes the onion palatable and even tasty and something that one wants to stop and savor. As a beginner, we learn to showcase our dogs using basics with simple movements. Just like the hometown cook preparing onion rings uses basic culinary skills, the routines are enjoyable and each team uses the basic foundations to showcase the dog. The onion rings are a basic recipe, yet enjoyed by many. Moving into the next levels of CFF, the handler takes the basics and further trains her dog and showcases more skills in a deeper sense of choreography, peeling back the onion and learning, just as an experienced chef does, to prepare his "dish" with much more care, skill, and finesse. The highest levels of CFF freestyle allow the "master chef" to prepare the onion into an impeccable dish and allow him to put layers of complexity both into his training and into his choreographic presentation. The showcasing of the dog at this level is one that incorporates all of the founda-

tions and the depth of choreography with the ultimate in artistic expression of the team.

Each of the levels of cooks, chefs, and finally master chefs take the onion and make a dish that is enjoyed by different people and make full use of the culinary skills available at each level. So too, CFF freestyle takes what the handler and dog have to offer at each level and allow each team to stand on their own merits with joy-filled celebration of their skills and their relationship showcased in their own personal creation.

The tennis ball reminds me of two things – growing and possibilities. In order to grow as a team in this sport, one has to have CFF buddies to bounce things off of. Without feedback, suggestions, and support from your CFF buddies, the team cannot grow and move forward. You need to be like a tennis ball and bounce things off of your buddies.

When one thinks of tennis balls and which dogs enjoy playing with tennis balls, there is stereotyping that some dogs seem to have a natural ability and interest in tennis balls. When was the last time you saw a border collie or a lab playing with a tennis ball?

When was the last time you saw a Shih Tzu playing with a tennis ball? The tennis ball reminds me not to stereotype. It took me a long time to teach my Tzu to chase and retrieve a tennis ball and now he enjoys it immensely!!! A tennis ball reminds me not to stereotype and limit myself but to think of all of the possibilities that we have as a team in the sport of CFF freestyle!



Elaine assists a workshop participant in ANOTHER workshop this summer in South Carolina. Busy lady!



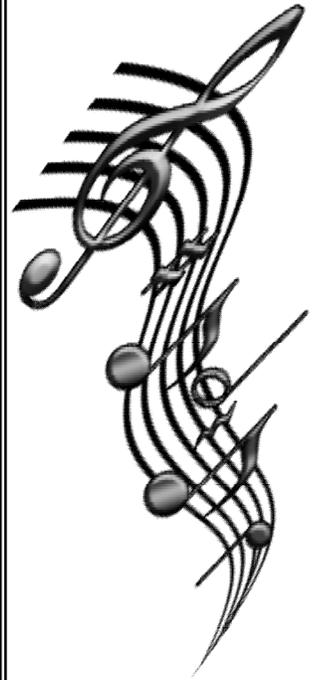
## CFF Retreat Scholarship – 2012

The Canine Freestyle Federation Board of Directors is pleased to announce a scholarship opportunity for the upcoming 2012 Retreat. Responses will be considered by the board, and the winner will receive full tuition towards the retreat registration.

Please submit your response (or any questions) to Renee Filep via e mail at [Luvmyzap@yahoo.com](mailto:Luvmyzap@yahoo.com) or via regular mail at  
Renee Filep  
507 Tinsley Dr.  
Radiant, VA 22732

The closing date for submissions is  
**Wednesday, November 30, 2011.**

The topic is: **How will you use what you learn by attending the CFF 2012 Retreat to help promote and strengthen CFF in the future?**



**Canine Freestyle Federation, Inc.  
Freestyle Titling Event**

**Sponsored by  
Sirius Guild**

**Saturday, November 12, 2011  
Carolina Canine Freestyle Guild  
Sunday, November 13, 2011**

**Location: Colonial K 9  
30 Big Spring Lane  
Stafford, VA 22554  
[www.colonialK9.com](http://www.colonialK9.com)**

Performance space is 40 x 50 ft  
Ring is fully matted with permanent 3/4" rubber mat

**Mail all entries with fees to Show Secretary  
Renee Filep, 507 Tinsley Dr., Radiant, VA 22732**

Entries **close** at 6 p.m., **Saturday, October 22, 2011**, at the Secretary's address after which time, entries cannot be accepted, cancelled, altered, or substituted.

Entrants are responsible for obtaining the current CFF *Regulations for Freestyle Competition* (July 2009) and being familiar with them. To receive a copy, send a SASE and check or money order payable to CFF Inc. for \$5.00 to CFF Inc., 10603 Seven Oaks Drive, Spotsylvania, VA, 22553.



The Canine Freestyle Federation presents

# The Potpourri of Freestyle

## April 19—22, 2012



### Canine Freestyle Federation 2012 Retreat Chattanooga, Tennessee

#### Outstanding Instructors

Elaine Smith -Nabors  
Kristen Sicotte  
Ann Holder  
Chris Bond  
Betty Swenson  
Jim Moore  
Janet McBrien



#### Explore Movement as Material

To shape a team  
To craft a presentation with music  
To share and celebrate dog work  
"The potpourri of freestyle"

### Freestyle titling event on Friday April 20th

Scholarship Available: See page  
9 or the Website for more details

#### Fees and deadlines

Early registration-by January 31, 2012

CFF members: \$150.00 Non-members \$175.00

After January 31, 2012

CFF Members \$175.00 Non-members-\$200.00

Visit [www.canine-freestyle.org](http://www.canine-freestyle.org) for  
further registration information

## Of Heart Dogs, Relationship and Freestyle

Last winter was a rough one for me- both my parents have had some very serious health scares and my grandmother, who recently had her 99<sup>th</sup> birthday, has been in a definite and steady decline. Additionally, my Chili, normally an overly enthusiastic Border Collie, is now showing flecks of gray on her muzzle, slower retrievals of her beloved Frisbee and hesitation to jump up on the bed. So when our faithful editor, Julia Gregory, shared with us her thoughts and heart in “The Death of a Team” recently, it really struck a note. My mind has been churning on mortality- the good, the bad, and the ugly. So, gentle readers, as the passing of time forces me to recognize birth and renewal, I’m using this opportunity to vent the distilled fumes, air my emotional laundry... and I promise to not get too overly dramatic and morbid.

### Heart Dogs

In the past year, we’ve lost several shining stars from our freestyle community. Some only performed once or twice, some experienced the joy of many joyful and inventive performances, some were the team’s first freestyle dog, some the second. When I think back fondly on Cash (Janet McBrien’s Welsh Terrier), Bombur (Julia Gregory’s Cardigan Welsh Corgi), Pearl (Janet Dayton’s Greyhound) and Konan (Kristen Sicotte’s Azawakh) I can’t help but marvel at the diversity of dogs we see in CFF. Each had a very different energy and way of moving and expressing themselves, but I’m certain all were “heart” dogs. What is a heart dog? Many years ago, an agility friend, Averill Ring, wrote a wonderful article for a local shelter newsletter about heart dogs. In it, she describes how although a person may have many dogs, there is always one that is foremost in the heart and mind. It may not be the prettiest, smartest, best trained, first or oldest, but it’s the one that for whatever personal, and maybe unknown reason, is the most loved. It’s the dog that takes up the biggest piece of your heart, and leaves the biggest hole when they pass.

Anyone who has had more than one dog knows what she meant, whether those dogs lived in the same pack, or followed each other through time. The human soul seems to only be able to have one heart dog at a time. I’m not saying that you don’t love the other dogs. Each is remarkable in his or her own way, but we appear to have the capacity to unconditionally “heart” one. When that heart dog passes, whether suddenly, through age or by that most painful of decisions, it feels like a piece of you is gone. Of course, we eventually heal and find another heart dog, sometimes very different from the first. We adapt to change, as does our heart, and the variety makes us all the richer.

### Relationship and Freestyle

I met Cash when I first became friends with Janet, and he was part of her life’s picture- a “love me, love my dog” kind of thing. So when he passed, I mourned, not just for Janet’s loss, but mine too. Cash truly was the first Brightluck Welsh Terrier, the first performance dog in Janet’s life, and sire to many of the other Welshies. But I hardly knew Bombur, Pearl or Konan, and although I consider their human partners friends, I must admit we are not close friends. Geography puts them on the outer circumference of my life, where I enjoy seeing them, miss them when I don’t and know we are kindred spirits through freestyle. This is why I feel the loss of their dogs, because freestyle is so intensely about our relationships with our dogs. Our motivation with each performance is to show a piece of that dog, and to express the joy we have in sharing our lives with such wonderful, familiar and strange animals. When freestyle works, it’s like a spot light on the private, hidden emotional world you share with your canine partner. That’s why trust is so important- we are sharing ourselves in a way most people would never understand. When it’s clear and works, it’s magical; when it doesn’t, it’s devastating because we’ve failed to share that relationship. We know its there- we want the audience to know it too. Of course, our dogs can be heart dogs without freestyle, but isn’t it wonderful that we have a vehicle by which to show how special our dogs are

that communicates it so completely and efficiently?

### A Dog's Life Span

As I write this, Chili is snoozing at my feet. I can't help but notice that the white hairs that have snuck into her eyebrows give her face a more quizzical, whimsical expression than her nearly tens years would suggest. It seems so woefully unfair that our dogs lead such short lives! What if it's a form of reincarnation? Not for the dogs, but for us. Their shorter lives allow us to experience several canine partners throughout ours. Jon Katz writes of the "second dog syndrome", where a trainer has trouble working with a new dog because subconsciously they expect the dog to "know" what the previous dog did. That may be true, but I think each new partner brings new variables and flavors to the experience of sharing our lives. We get the amazing opportunity to try again, learning from our mistakes. Each relationship is seasoned by the experiences we had with the previous, hopefully evolving into better and better relationships. We are enhanced by each heart dog, and that in turn enhances our relationship with each subsequent dog. Many of us, like Julia, have a pack waiting for us at the Rainbow Bridge. Maybe they have to wait so that we have the time to become the partner they TRULY deserve. Good thing dogs are so understanding...

So farewell, Cash, Bombur, Pearl, Konan and so many other dancing dogs... and hello to all the new partners they will help create.

Submitted by Renee Filep... in memory of Zap and Lulu

Register by Mail (Check payable to <b>Sirius Guild</b> )
Name _____
Email _____
Phone _____
Number of 10 minute Slots at \$15 _____
Total _____
Enlosed _____

## Sirius Guild Run-Throughs Sunday September 18, 2011

at Colonial K-9, 30 Big Spring Lane, Stafford, VA 22554  
([www.colonialk9.com](http://www.colonialk9.com))

### \$15 FOR 10 MINUTES.

Preregistration is preferred to ensure your spot (prepayment is NOT required but recommended).

Email your name and contact information, number of 10 minute time slots requested to Brandy Clymire [heypresto@verizon.net](mailto:heypresto@verizon.net)—reference Sirius Guild in the

subject line. You can use your 10 minutes to walk through your music once or twice, then run your dog through once or twice, just to practice in a different space or however you like.

To guarantee a spot, preregister and mail a check for the number of slots you require, payable to **Sirius Guild** and Mail to:

Brandy Clymire,  
10603 Seven Oaks Dr.  
Spotsylvania, VA 22553

#### DIRECTIONS to Colonial

**From Points North:** Take Rt. 95 south to exit 140 (Va 630) Stafford. At light turn left onto Va 630-Courthouse Rd. Go approximately 1 mile to US Rt 1. Take a right onto Rt 1 and go about 2.2 miles. At light turn left onto Eskimo Hill Rd (Va 628) and look to make an almost immediate left onto Big Spring Lane at the bend in the road. Go about 1/10th of a mile- the road will fork. Stay to the right and we will be on your left side.

**From Points South:** Take Rt. 95 north to exit 136 Centreport Parkway exit (Stafford Airport) towards US Rt 1. Turn right onto Centreport Pkwy and go approximately 3/4 ths a mile to US Rt 1. Take a right onto Rt 1 and go about 2.5 miles. At light turn right onto Eskimo Hill Rd (Va 628) and look to make an almost immediate left onto Big Spring Lane at the bend in the road. Go about 1/10th of a mile- the road will fork. Stay to the right and we will be on your left side.

For more information contact Brandy Clymire at [heypresto@verizon.net](mailto:heypresto@verizon.net)



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

**FIRST CLASS MAIL**

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