
GOLD COUNTRY ENGLISH SETTER FANCIERS

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It is 8:55 in the city of Fairfield, Ca. and my air conditioning is still running. There were no long conversations with my neighbors in front of the house this weekend (even though I am still trying to convince my friend Robert to come out of retirement and help me replace my kitchen cabinets). And funny enough, it was just too darn hot for a sane person to do much of anything out of doors. I even woke up early on Saturday and again on Sunday with the idea of taking the dogs for a run at the marsh. But at 7:50 in the morning it was over 80 degrees. So it's a short walk up to the car dealerships, (with my "Camelback" on, the one with two bladders – one for me and one for the dogs), back to the house and into the air conditioning.

This has been a very busy month for us in the Fancy. For those of us who attended the MBESC Specialty and the Del Monte K.C. shows, the GCESF's had some good days and great days. My knees are still drying out from kneeling in the grass so much the 3 days we were down there. MBESC did a wonderful job. The weather could not have been better; the judges were good. It was also pretty awesome having three very experienced English Setter breeders as judges for our Sweepstakes. I am sure they all saw different things they liked about our dogs. It was also very interesting to meet folks new to the fancy. If you ever have the opportunity to show a new person some grooming tips and how "you use a pair of 44-20's or a stripping tool", just remember, that person watching you is just like you were 20 years ago. Please take the time to help a novice handler. In 1985, I once had a breeder/handler come up to me when my first dog won his first point. He said, "Congratulations, if you're still around 5 years from now, let's talk about this one". He smiled and walked away. Now we are both a bit older and he and I are much grayer. A lot of folks have come and gone, but some novices actually stay around, learn the breed, and develop their own line with the help of their mentors. No matter how long you are in the "Fancy" you never quite have it all down pat.

Our next meeting is Sunday 30 July at the DeCells. Hope to see you all there.

GCESF MINUTES FOR June 7, 2006

Minutes for the general meeting held on Wednesday, June 7, 2006, in Antelope, CA. President Sandi McCue called the meeting to order at 7:20.

Minutes for April meeting approved as written.

Attendees: John and Sandi McCue
Cheryl Bibb
Mari Anderson
Scott and Sharon Woodland
Maryl Aldrich

Treasurer: Report will be attached to newsletter.

Secretary: Received confirmation from AKC that our specialty has been closed out. We also received a thank you note from Dawn Ronyak.

Rescue: No new report

Council of Dog Clubs:

OLD BUSINESS

2006 Specialty: The club would like to extend a special heart-felt thanks to those members who helped make our 2006 specialty so successful:

Denise – for your organizing, schlepping and time as show chairperson

Scott and Sharon – for the terrific trophy photographs

Kathy and Mary – for the great trophies

Mary – for attending the Camellia Capitol meeting

Lois Gorman – for the yummy hospitality food

Joan – for helping to get and coordinate an obedience judge and ring stewards

Sandi – for getting us a ring steward at the last minute and for being a great ambassador for our club.

Attached to the meeting minutes is a copy of Denise's specialty report, with her comments, suggestions, and observations.

Sandi has requested a report from each specialty committee that includes:

- 1) Total money spent for that particular committee
- 2) Suggestions for improvement

Motion was made, seconded and passed to send special Thank You cards to the judges and stewards for our next specialty.

DISCUSSION ITEM FOR NEXT MEETING:

Schedule of next specialty

Review of committee reports

Suggestions for improvement

2006 Obedience Workshop: Norma sent an email expressing her concern over the apparent lack of assistance with putting on the obedience workshop. She felt that perhaps the club members might be “burnt out” and would prefer a “fun day” instead of the workshop. Scott and Sharon Woodland assured the club that they are working on getting judges and stewards and will be putting together the flyer. Maryl will put on the handling class. Lois will be doing hospitality. Cheryl will be doing the raffle. Joyce has reserved the park.

Motion was made seconded and passed to continue to put on the workshop. There will be a short meeting of the obedience workshop committee at Sandi’s motor home on Saturday at Gridley prior to show time. One of the topics will be adding Rally to the obedience workshop.

DISCUSSION ITEM FOR NEXT MEETING:

Gratis entry(s) for workers at the workshop

2006 Supported Entry at Richmond Dog Fanciers (8/5 & 8/6): All is in place. Since we are supporting the entry with extra awards, sweeps and the “Meet the Breeds” event, let’s try to get as many entries as possible.

NEW BUSINESS: Scott will scan a copy of the By-Laws and post it to our website. Review of the by-laws indicated that 20% of the membership is a quorum. We have 36 members so 7 is a quorum. By-laws also confirmed that meetings can be held in the greater Sacramento Valley.

DISCUSSION ITEM FOR NEXT MEETING:

How/when to schedule our meetings to ensure convenience for majority of membership.

2007 Hunt Test: Will need a status check from chairpersons at next meeting.

Seminar: Denise will be attending a seminar in Houston on the ins and outs of putting on a specialty. She will report on the seminar to the club. Motion was made, seconded and passed to reimburse Denise for the registration fee of \$45.

2007 Specialty: Cheryl presented our show secretary’s proposal for the 2007 specialty. Sandi will review.

DISCUSSION ITEM FOR NEXT MEETING:

Need to review proposal and vote on acceptance to “lock in” fees.

Sandi will check with DeCell’s to see if they are willing to host the July meeting/pool party. Attendance is highly encouraged as we want a preponderance of members available to review discussion items.

Meeting adjourned at 9:25.

BRAGS AND CRIES:

Mari – “Emily”, Ch. Cobblestone Sealed With A Kiss, CD, JH, CGC, was Best in Veteran Sweepstakes at our specialty. She also earned her 3rd pass in Rally Novice to complete her RN title with 2nd place in Rally Novice B.

“Cole”, Cobblestone Summertime Blues, was WD/BW at Reno KC for his first points, a three point major, from Bred By Exhibitor.

Scott & Sharon – Both “Katie”, Cobblestone’s Moonlit Kiss, RA, JH and “Max”, Ch. Cobblestone In a Tuff Spot, CD, RA, JH, NAP, OJP, finished their Rally Advanced titles at our specialty. In addition, Katie qualified for her second leg toward her Novice Obedience title. At the TRACS Agility Trial, Max got his second Open Standard Preferred leg. At the same trial, Amber, Timberline’s Calif Amber Flame, CD, RN, JH, OA, OAJ, OAP, OJP finished her Open Jumpers Preferred title.

Sandi McCue – “Maddie”, Ms. Madeline Kaye McCue, was Best Junior at our specialty.

Cheryl Bibb – “Ice”, Oakley’s Ice, passed away at the age of 14. He was always a gentleman and wonderful boy and will be sorely missed.

Upcoming Events:

July 30	Next GCESF meeting: Pool party at DeCell’s
July 14 th	Monterey Specialty
July 15 th and 16 th	Del Monte Kennel Club All breed dog show
August 5 th and 6 th	Richmond Dog Fanciers All breed dog show GCESF supported entry
August 20 th	GCESF participation in “Meet the Breeds” GCESF Obedience Workshop

GCESF Specialty – May, 2006

Show Chair’s observations & comments

- o Personally, I think this was one of our nicest and best run specialties in recent history (pretty much smooth sailing thru-out).
- o All the folks involved with the show did a stand out job! My compliments all around.
- o GCESF got more compliments on this show than I’ve seen/heard at any show that I’ve chaired or been involved with. My guess, about 70-80% of the exhibitors (along with several spectators) made a point to both thank and compliment GCESF on a great show.
- o Having obedience/rally in the afternoon (following breed competition) appeared to work well. It was definitely warm, but having it under the trees seemed to keep it from being unbearable.
- o You got a larger audience/support for obedience/rally by having it after conformation.
- o We need to ensure the ring dimension (at set up) meets with the requirements for rally and obedience. Translation – we need to make sure to tell Camellia Capital what those measurements are so we get the correct spatial arrangement.

- o We need to request that Camellia Capital deliver the obedience equipment ringside. If other clubs need to use the equipment first, we need to notify Camellia Capital of our start time and make the request for delivery.
- o If we're going to repeat our use of the "under the trees" ring for obedience/rally next year, we also must take into account the 10 foot clearance "rule" outside the ring and block the area where cars might park.
- o The obedience ring stewards were awesome. We should consider using them again next year, freeing up club members to either show or do other things instead.
- o If someone volunteers to ring steward (or do any task for that matter), whomever they volunteer to MUST get all their contact information (that includes email, phone numbers, AND mailing address). Whoever gets the information should then forward it to the show chair so the chair can call, write, etc. and confirm participation. We definitely DON'T want to discourage anyone from volunteering - we just need to be sure we can get back in contact with them.
- o Whatever GCESF does, DON'T change show superintendents - Jan & Leah are worth their weight in gold!!! They stayed on top of every question, concern, and problem that arose both before and during the event.
- o GCESF should decide if they want the photograph once, twice, or three times during the course of the day. There are 3 potential photo opportunities (sweeps, conformation, & obedience). Show chair then needs to provide a schedule to the photographer and clearly define expectations (big show grounds vs. one show chair in search of the elusive photographer - not a desirable task). Our photographer is also the show chair for Camellia Capital and is typically running around madly on Friday getting ready for Saturday's show.
- o Consider having some type of water, ice, cooling "delivery/set-up" during the late morning / afternoon "festivities" - ice chests with ice or ice water designed for people to dip towels in or grab a small bucket (of ice) to add water to. Maybe even a kiddie pool with small amount of water (and smattering of ice) that dogs can get to (before or after competition). Also - people water, more so than other drinks, water is a must. It would be a nice perk that most everyone would be appreciative of.

WELL DONE EVERYONE!

Dates to remember in the upcoming months:

Dates for the ESAA National Specialty and the ESCNE Specialty:

Sept 24th is the H.T.; 25th, 26th Agility; 27th Futurity and probably Obedience; 28th, 29th National; 30th and Oct. 1 ESCNE.

Hunting season is just around the corner. Just in case someone “makes you a present” one morning of a “game bird you just have to try”, here’s how you can make sure that you prep, store and cook your gift safely. (Thanks to Orvis.com for this tidbit.)

The Meat Thermicator

Probe-style Meat Thermometers

Probe-style meat thermometers are the most accurate and easy to use thermometers for wild game. An easy-to-read, precise digital temperature is given instantaneously in degrees Fahrenheit so you can determine when the optimum internal temperature of cooking meat has been reached. Knowing the exact internal temperature is the secret to meat cookery perfection.

Most probes are less than 1/8 inch in diameter, minimizing any loss of juice from puncture. Probes are often retractable and can be set to the proper thickness of meat, so that if one is cooking a steak 1 1/2 inches thick, the needle can be set at 3/4 inch. Many versions of probe-style thermometers exist on the market today. They are more sensitive, accurate, and far easier to use than older, traditional thermometers. Even if you are not a game cook, these instruments will save you the cost in ruined charcoal-grilled steaks or beef roast in no time.

Tips for Prepping and Cooking Pheasant

PHEASANT

Hang 5 or 6 days under refrigeration. The skin and feathers are similar to a chicken's. The skin is reasonably firm and pheasant can be dry-plucked or dipped in scalding water and wet-plucked. Pheasant does not pluck well on a mechanical duck plucker. Clip off wings at first joint, legs at joint, and neck close to body. Pheasant may be frozen in feathers in 1/2-gallon freezer bags. Liver and heart may be sautéed or used in pate.

Roasting: Place in open pan with splash of water, breast up. Cover breast with 4 full strips of bacon. Place in a preheated 350° oven for 35 to 50 minutes, depending on size. Test with Probe-style thermometer. Internal temperature should be 130° to 150° when done. We recommend 140° for best flavor and moistness.

Add to your First Aid Kit

I am always looking for neat and worthwhile products to add to my First Aid Kit for the Dogs. While “shopping” at Orvis, I found a product called:
“3M Liquid Bandage For Dogs and Cats”

3M Pet Care Liquid Bandage provides a unique, protective skin shield that doesn’t sting when applied.

- Ideal for minor cuts, scrapes, abrasions, and irritations on paws and skin
- Alcohol-free formula soothes and promotes healing
- Breathable, waterproof protection
- Dries in seconds and lasts up to 24 hours

If you run your dog in the field or agility, how many times have they gotten a nasty scrape or cut on a leg or their paw? This might be the trick to have in your bag to keep a cut on a paw, pad or leg from getting worse till you can get Rinny to the vet!

Old dogs, old guns and old folks

THERE IS AN OLD SAYING "YOU ONLY GO AROUND ONCE, MAKE THE MOST OF WHAT YOU HAVE". HOWEVER, THIS YEAR I have really fallen off of the Band Wagon getting my dogs to the field. I only live 10 minutes from a monstrous game preserve and I cannot for the life of me come up with a good excuse. Oh, I could say, I've had meetings at work on my days off (I have). I had a 3 day conference to attend in Anaheim (I did) but skipped it and went to a 3 day dog show circuit. I had puppy buyers come by the house to have their dogs groomed (they did and they took a bit of time to do). I have just not had the time. I feel guilty as the devil. BUT, now I have a puppy and he has been so much fun showing that I really need to stop making excuses and get him out to the field and work some birds. The National is coming and I sure want to have him ready for the National Hunt Test. But I want to keep his coat up for the Futurity.

When you're pulled at both ends, what do you do? Well, I guess enjoy the time you have with them. You look forward to wins in the show ring (had a couple of nice ones) and you hold your breath and enjoy the first time the puppy makes contact with the first planted bird that is shot over him or her for the first time. You take all of the time to fine tune your "yard work" so you're not too embarrassed when the setter youngster crosses into the "other guy's field" who has a 150 pound dog on a 10' long line and scares up a rooster who was already running from the "big fat dog". You take the time to go to "handling class" so you and the puppy learn to become a team, so you can quick stack that dog when the judge pulls you out with the well-groomed Open Dog or Bitch shown by a handler for the points. You only have one chance to make a first impression and you've paid your money. How about the first time you groom a dog for a novice handler or a puppy buyer: to you it's easy; to the novice groomer or puppy owner it's "which scissors to use and how short do I cut what". The first time that dog goes home with a "show trim", the owner says "so that's how you do it". You are the mentor to the new dog owner. We have all had a mentor at one time or another. That's how we have all learned about the breed that is the English Setter.

So in the next month or so, I'm gonna hope for some cool weather on my days off. I need to get out and run this young dog. I also promised a friend that I would help him with his dog. I have to say his puppy is pretty birdy. I sure don't want to be shown up by him in October.

We only go around one time – let's make the best of it.

You know, a good friend had a dog cross the "Rainbow Bridge" a week ago. Mari Anderson's "Junior" is now in a place where dogs don't miss doubles, where they never have to get wet when they head into a ditch to pick up a "runner" and they never miss the "Major". Maybe, just maybe, there will be a lot of time to spend with them again. But for right now, I'm gonna enjoy my time here with these guys.

I apologize if I ramble a bit. Crusader and Gaines succeeded in falling asleep at my feet and I just didn't have the where with all to wake them up.

Hug these guys. We will always have their memories and pictures, but for right now we have them with us here. Ya only go around once. Make the most of it.

See ya at the dog shows.