



American Working Malinois Association



AWMA Magazine

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AWMA Member Profile

A special recognition is due to Rosellen Westerhoff, for her work creating the AWMA logo that we all know very well. On behalf of the AWMA organization, Thank you!

How did you first become involved with the AWMA and how long did it take to come up with the design?

I began in the sport of Schutzhund approximately 16 years ago. Throughout this time I have pursued my love for art through the illustration of dogs in and out of the sport of Schutzhund. At this time I am beginning my art and portraits of dogs full time and a web site is in the process of being developed and will be up at www.artbyrig.com in the near future.

Approximately 5 years ago, Ivan Balabanov asked for my assistance in designing a logo for the AWMA. The design of the logo came about through illustrating Ivan's ideas. The design process from rough sketches to finished product, both black and white and color designs, took approximately 6 weeks. I feel very fortunate that I could provide assistance to the AWMA.

What sport are you training your own dogs for?

I train for the sport of Schutzhund; for me Schutzhund is a family affair. My daughters ages 10 and 12 both train their Malinois for the sport and enjoy it greatly. My husband does the helper work and lays tracks and is the chief person on the support staff. We enjoy training together and watching the progression and team work of the children and their dogs.

What are things that you would like to see happen for the AWMA organization in the future?

I would like to see the AWMA organization grow in membership and clubs so that there will be more opportunity to trial. At this point in time in Schutzhund, we view everything we do with dogs as a family oriented activity. Keeping it affordable and supporting the youth; who also love training and trials is also something I hope can be achieved in the AWMA organization of the future.

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A WORD FROM THE EDITOR...

Hello all,

The summer is here! I hope everyone is not having too much trouble training in the summer heat. Again, I want to thank those of you who have helped me put this issue together. We are all busy with our lives and I appreciate the time those of you that have volunteered to write articles, or answer interview questions, have given to this magazine. And thank you for

your patience with the schedule of the newsletter. It is still new for us so we are all trying to work together to figure this out. Nancy Fredian Pritz, who is new to the Malinois breed, has been very helpful with suggestions and ideas for the magazine. She will be contributing on a regular basis a section dedicated to interviewing malinois owners in all working sports. **I encourage all members to be a part of this magazine!** Dana Miller is our new website coordinator and I am very excited to be putting together the newsletter with her. She is very enthusiastic about updating our website and I know she will do a great job.

I also wanted to say that I am excited about my new position as Secretary of AWMA. I care about the organization and it's members and I hope that I can bring the support we need to keep the AWMA moving forward.

And lastly I want to congratulate all of the competitors from our country that competed at the 2006 FMBB World Championship back in May. We are proud of ALL of you!



Desiree Shaw with her Malinois

Regards,

Desiree' Shaw

dezireeshaw@yahoo.com

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Urban Tails

Swiffer Wet Jet

For some time now there has been an email circulating the internet claiming that Swiffer Wet Jet, a cleaning product by Proctor and Gamble, is harmful to house pets. The email states that a women's German Shepherd dog died after licking the residue left behind from the swiffer wet jet. It claims that the cleanser contains antifreeze, therefore making it dangerous for dogs and cats. The Animal Poison Control Center released a statement that the product does not contain any ingredients that would make it toxic. According to the manufacturer, the product is made up mostly of water with a 1-4% addition of propylene glycol n-propyl ether and isopropyl alcohol. Propylene glycol, which is generally recognized as safe by the FDA, is different from ethylene glycol which is the dangerous ingredient in antifreeze. The manufactures of the wet jet claim that the product is specially formulated to clean the floor without leaving behind a residue. This internet rumor has been disproved by the ASPCA, veterinarians, and scientists, making it safe to assume that the Swiffer Wet Jet can be safely used in the homes of pet owners.

Febreze Fabric Spray

A few years ago a rumor about Febreze began. It is a similar story to that of the Swiffer Wet Jet rumor that the product is harmful to house pets. This emails states that the product contains harmful ingredients that have caused dogs to become ill, and even causing the death of some dogs and some birds. This rumor has been tested by multiple vets and scientists to conclude that Febreze is not dangerous to pets. The American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals issued the following statement, "All information reviewed to date suggests that there is no evidence that Febreze represents any risk to pets when used according to label instructions." These are only two of the many rumors that are spread via the internet. Before you forward any email that questions a products safety around animals on to other pet owners be sure what it states is actually correct. And of course, before using a new cleaning product in your home make sure that it has been proven safe around house pets.

References:

American Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (ASPCA) <http://www.aspca.org>

MSNBC <http://www.msnbc.com>

Human Society of the United States <http://www.hsus.org>

<http://www.homemadesimple.com>

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PUPPY ANNOUNCEMENTS...

Puppies due end of April 2006!!! 1 Windrush Jamis Takela x A'Bete Visage Noir vom BMT. Kela is IPO2, certified patrol and narcotic detection

dog. Vis's accomplishments can be seen on <http://www.workingdogworld.com>. For more information contact Don Cates at 812-963-3464.

Donnertal Malinois have a few males left. Father (Qenny Ot Vitosha winner of AWDF Nationals in '05 and '06) Mother is my brood bitch (Sukie.) The females are spoken for and we may have 2 or 3 males left at this time. Discounts given to competition homes (AKC, IPO, Ring, Police, etc.). Now accepting deposits.

I expect this litter to be very drivey, hard working, strong grips, and excellent trackers. Last litter was very successful and have a great range of qualifications within that litter (i.e. Police, IPO, S&R, Field Trials, etc.) If your looking for your next competition dog it's right here. We will also have another litter late this year from an A'Litter female (A'Hazel von Donnertal.)



We are very excited about the future of the A and B litter and have plans in place for all of them.

For more information please contact Mike Baker at:
330.936.3631
malinois@neo.rr.com
www.greatlakescanine.com

Remember, any AWMA member can advertise puppies or breeder information at no cost! Email dezireeshaw@yahoo.com

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Meet the Board

by Nancy Pritz

Meet the Board is a continuing series of articles whose purpose is to introduce the AWMA membership to the Board of Directors of the organization through personal interviews.

For this issue we spoke with Christopher Smith, from the Los Angeles area of California. Christopher is an AWMA Board member, and also serves on the Nominations and Sponsorship committees.

Christopher became a member of the AWMA in its second year of operation. He had grown frustrated over the years with the USA's (United Schutzhund Clubs of America) refusal to allow breeds other than the German Shepherd to compete at the national level. He decided, he explained, to direct his energy toward an organization that would promote his chosen breed – the Belgian Malinois – and even host a national some day. This wasn't an easy decision for Christopher since he had been a USA member for years, as his father had before him. But he felt that he could help the fledgling organization grow and develop in a direction that he felt best suited the breed and its capabilities.

As a trainer with many years of experience with different kinds of dogs under his belt, Christopher picked the Malinois as his chosen breed a few years ago because he loved the energy and the willingness to work that he saw. He hasn't looked back since. Christopher explained that he really enjoys the kind of people who own Malinois. "It's a tight-knit group" he explained, "they're open with each other about their dog's good points and flaws. It makes it easier to evaluate breeding stock because you really feel like you know the dogs that are out there. With some other breeds, most notably the German Shepherd, there is a great deal of secrecy because the owners are so economically invested in the dog. They don't want anyone to know their dog's flaws because they've spent so much money on the dog and its career. With a Malinois, you can buy one for a reasonable amount of money from excellent lines and the dog will enjoy a long and healthy life." He also noted that most Malinois people train their own dogs, versus using a professional trainer, making the whole experience of training and trialing more enjoyable, because the owner is more personally committed to the dog and its outcome. In the past, in addition to his client's dogs, Christopher has trained Rottweilers and Dobermans for Schutzhund and personal protection, as well as showing in American Kennel Club ("AKC") obedience and conformation competitions. The dog in the above picture is his Maxim Brix, IPO3.



Christopher Smith with his Malinois, Maxim Brix, IPO3

Christopher would like to win the national championship some day, but for now he enjoys watching others climb to the peak. His days are busy running a pet dog training business at night and driving miles each evening doing house calls for his many clients. During the day he watches his toddler daughter. When he can, he trains his three Malinois for Schutzhund competition.

We spoke to Christopher about some training philosophies. Specifically, we asked him which component of Schutzhund training did he consider the most difficult; tracking, obedience, or protection. But Christopher didn't find any particular area harder than the other...the tough

part, he explained, was balancing outstanding performance in each area at the same time. "You see," he said, "each dog has a certain inborn potential in each area. Pressure the dog is feeling in one of the phases will wash over negatively to another area. So if you start to push a dog past its potential in one of these areas, it will affect your scores in another."

What makes a good decoy? In Christopher's opinion, there is a difference between a good training decoy and a good trial decoy. A good training decoy, Christopher believes, must have humility. You have to be able to let the dog win when it's called for, and you have to carefully develop each dog individually. A good trial decoy, on the other hand, has to have a big ego, is capable of showing off at a trial, and is even arrogant.

Christopher encourages all AWMA members, and people considering becoming members, to jump in and have fun. Learn and bond with other people with similar interests. Don't worry about making mistakes or the fact that your dog's not perfect, just get out there and have some fun.

Regarding the AWMA, Christopher emphasized that the organization is interested and willing to hear feedback and ideas from all of its members. He encourages everyone to get involved and make this your organization.

Thanks for your time, Christopher!
And good luck to you.

Author Nancy Pritz shown with Ekimov von Schoerling. Nancy is training Kimo for AKC obedience and tracking, as well as Schutzhund.



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