



American Working Malinois Association



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Message from the President Anne Camper, April 2008

The executive board of the AWMA has been busy since the first of the year. In this message I will provide you with a synopsis of what's been accomplished, and I think you will agree that we've been active in a variety of areas. I can honestly say that this board works together extremely well. Several of the issues we have dealt with have been subject to healthy debate. We have our differences of opinion, which is certainly appropriate, but when a decision is made we pull together.

Building on progress from the past two years, the World Championship/National Events committee has finalized the criteria for selection to the FMBB IPO team. These criteria remain unchanged from last year with the exception that the time period in which points are accumulated was updated; the time period will be from the second of February of the prior year to the first of February of the year that the team will be selected. We have also implemented guidelines for the team members and team captains that should provide consistency from year to year. Shari Lipski, the chair of this committee, has been instrumental in drafting and revising these documents as well as the agility team selection criteria, and I would like to thank her for her tireless work. We now also have an agility liaison with the American Belgian Malinois Club who was selected by their executive board. I'd like to welcome Lisa Dewey in this capacity and we look forward to productive interactions and collaborations.

On a related note, we have selected the 2008 IPO and agility teams. Ivan Balabanov and Qenny ot Vitosha have an automatic slot because of their victory last year. By virtue of their placements at the 2007 AWMA Nationals, Steve Gregalunas (Eli vom Teufelhund) , Mike Morgan (Bacchus vom Drachenherz), and Greg Doud (L'Flair ot Vitosha) are also team members. Selected on the point system was Marina Shukh (L'Simba du Loups du Soleil). The inaugural agility team members are Anke King (Trisorts Grand Wizard) Shari Lipski (Tisa du Banc des Hermelles) and Norman Minarik (Moonquests One Giant Leap). We wish all of them the very best in Slovenia.

You may have noticed that we now have a map of the regions and the associated regional directors and clubs on the website. Clubs have a voice on the general board through their delegate at the national meeting, and members who are not in a local club have a voice through their regional director and the directors at large. If you have any comments, concerns, or recommendations for the executive board, please contact these people and they can bring your thoughts to the board for discussion. I would also like to announce that we have a new member club, the Midwest Working Dog Association located in St Anne, IL (Kankakee County). Officers are: President/Training Director Waine Singleton, Vice Pres Kenneth Johnson, Secretary Tanisha Clayton, Treasurer Charlene Clark, and Sgt of Arms Harold Cherry.

One of the more difficult issues we dealt with was the topic of what breeds should be allowed to compete at the AWMA National Championship. The by-laws state that local clubs can choose what breeds to allow, and although this is completely appropriate for local trials, it caused difficulties with consistency from year to year at the National Championship. The motion that was passed by the Executive Board at the end of January was as follows: Entries at the 2009 AWMA National Championship shall be limited to dogs listed as Belgian Malinois in their scorebook. From 2010 on, this restriction shall extend to allow entries only from Malinois with registration papers issued by an FCI-recognized registry. The vote was eight yes, three no and two people did not vote. For the 2008 AWMA National Championship, the decision on what breeds to allow will still be with the host club. Most of you have probably read what I posted on the discussion board related to this decision, but I have paraphrased that message here. As far as I know, we are the only country with an FCI recognized registry (AKC) where the varieties of Belgians are individual breeds. This means that we have individual breed clubs for the Belgian Sheepdogs, the Tervs and the Malinois. In the US, there is also the United Belgian Shepherd Dog Club (UBSDA) that is UKC affiliated that has the varieties as one breed. At the time we were formed, UBSDA had been selecting people to send to the FMBB even though those dogs needed to be AKC/FCI registered. They were also the club associated with the AWDF in the beginning. Because the AWDF only accepts one club per breed, we needed to get going as a Malinois only organization. Initially we were accepted as an affiliate member in the AWDF until the time that UBSDA dropped out and we applied for full membership. In the meanwhile, Tami McLeod attended the FMBB meeting and had the AWMA accepted as the organization that represents the US. Again, there is only one organization per country allowed in the FMBB. Because of all of this, we can send Malinois to the FMBB (FCI papers required for the dog) and we are the group that is a member of the AWDF and can send a team to that national event (FCI papers required for any winners to go to the FCI Worlds). When we started discussions on what breeds to allow, there were obviously some strong opinions on both sides. The general input from the discussion board was Malinois only. The general input from the general board meeting was Malinois only. But there were also people who felt strongly that all breeds should be allowed, especially because this would permit us to have the other Belgians participate and if others could enter it would increase the competitiveness. There was discussion about the fact that there hasn't been an overwhelming deluge of other breeds, including the other Belgians, that have entered in the past and therefore it shouldn't be a problem to allow them to compete. A counter was that these other breeds have their own national events. Since DVG is now a member of the AWDF, there is an avenue for the other Belgian breeds to compete at the national level. There was also considerable debate about the large number of unregistered and non-FCI-registered Malinois in this country and whether they could compete at the Nationals. There was discussion on two different occasions about finding a way to allow this to happen. For the unregistered Malinois, the decision-maker was that being able to prove that a dog is a Malinois is (fortunately or unfortunately) based on registration. To accept dogs that are not registered as Malinois puts the burden of making the decision on the AWMA Secretary, who sends out the scorebooks. On a related note, there was also considerable debate about including the dogs that are registered with UKC or other groups that are not FCI recognized. The argument was that only FCI registered dogs are allowed to compete at the FCI and the FMBB and in the US this typically means dogs registered with the AKC. Since we are affiliated with the AWDF and the FMBB, it would then follow that we should be supporting the breeding and competitions for FCI registered dogs.

As I stated on the discussion board, I am fully in support of the AWMA becoming an all-Belgian club in the future. There are many logistical issues with changing the nature of the organization that would need to be explored before any steps are taken in that direction, including by-laws changes, potential changes with affiliation with the AWDF and the FMBB, and probably others I haven't thought of. If we go this route later on, the door would once again be open to the other Belgians being able to compete at our Nationals. Obviously, this is not my decision to make and before we started down this path there would be input sought from the general membership.

We have approached the ABMC to see how we might be able to assist with ABMC Rescue (<http://www.malinoisrescue.org/>). ABMC Rescue is a 501c3 arm of the ABMC devoted specifically to rescuing and rehoming Malinois from a variety of situations, including shelter surrenders, strays, and requests from owners who can no longer care for their Malinois. This group does its best to place these dogs in foster homes until permanent homes can be found. Temperament is assessed to ensure that the dogs can be rehomed, the foster homes and permanent homes are screened, and the dogs are spayed/neutered prior to placement. Working with them seemed to be only logical, since it is probable that dogs ending up in the system are the result of breeders and owners of working dogs as well as those sold/placed as pets and conformation dogs. To assist with their efforts, there will be a new site on the discussion board for this group and others to post information on dogs in need of homes and those who need transportation. I encourage you to check this site routinely to see if you may be able to help them in any way possible. You can also assist by making a tax-deductible donation that supports vet care and other dog care associated monetary outlays.

Some of you may recall that we have wanted to investigate the possibilities of the AWMA attaining status as a charitable organization. There were two options available – 501c3 which allows tax deductible contributions and tax exempt status to the organization, or 501c7, which allows the organization to be tax exempt if less than 30% of the income comes from sources other than the membership. As a point of reference, AWDF and USA are both 501c7 organizations. After extensive investigations, including consulting an accountant who deals with charitable organizations and discussion with the treasurer of USA, it became apparent that it will not be possible for the AWMA to attain 501c3 status. We then looked at the pros and cons of pursuing status as a 501c7 organization. With the number of members we currently have and our low dues, 30% represents only about \$2000 in contributions. If we exceed this amount, we lose the tax status. We would also be required to have a much more complicated mechanism of bookkeeping than what is presently required. As you will see below, we are presently embarking on a fund raising campaign. If we raise more than the 30%, it will be obvious that it is not in our best interests to pursue 501c7 status. If we don't reach this goal, we can determine if we should pursue this option. This will be brought up at the general meeting for discussion.

We have put together an ad-hoc committee (Shari Lipski, Les Flores, Christopher Smith, Anne Camper) that was charged with finding fundraising mechanisms for the AWMA. There are several areas where we can use additional resources, including general expenses, support of the AWMA National Championship and the organization that takes on the responsibility of hosting the event, and resources to assist the FMBB teams. The work of this committee is still underway, but there are a few things that are reasonably well finalized that I can bring to your attention. We will be offering banner ads on the webpage for a nominal donation of \$100. These ads will be in place for a full year, running from National Championship to National Championship. Sponsors can specify where they want their donations to go or make a general contribution. Shari Lipski is contacting a variety of sponsors specifically for contributions to assist the FMBB team. We will also be asking the membership to make contributions in return for some very nice t-shirts or sweatshirts embroidered with the AWMA logo. These shirts will also be for sale to the general membership. Thanks are due to Mohawk John Wiitanen for doing the legwork to get the logo digitized and finding the place to do the embroidery for us. He will also do the shipping and handling.

As part of the fundraising effort, the executive board discussed a membership drive to raise awareness of the organization and to recruit new members. As part of this, we voted to have a decreased

membership fee for a month, and the word went out via a variety of discussion boards and email lists. After the word was out, we realized that the executive board had erred because the by-laws state that the membership dues are set by the general board. There were three possible options – to cancel the membership drive, to attempt to amend the by-laws retrospectively, or to admit our mistake and continue with the membership drive. After considerable debate within the executive board, it was decided that the only tenable solution was to admit the mistake but continue with the drive since there was already widespread dissemination of the information. Shortly afterwards, the board sent a letter to each of the member clubs apologizing for the action and outlining why the first option was exceedingly difficult and the second was essentially impossible. A copy of this letter was posted by a member on the discussion board, and later a description of why it was essentially impossible to retrospectively modify the by-laws was written and posted by our by-laws committee chair (Warren Jones). I need to make it perfectly clear that the executive board was in no way deliberately trying to circumvent the by-laws. This was an honest mistake that caused a tremendous amount of controversy and hard feelings, even though the intent was honorable. The board has apologized repeatedly for this mistake, and I hope that those of you who bear resentment for this action can leave this behind and focus on the positive things that the group has accomplished. There will be a complete report of the outcome of the membership drive at the annual meeting, but for now, it appears that we have attracted approximately 40 new members.

While I am on the topic of membership, you will soon be receiving your membership renewal notification. Dues should be paid by June 1. And I hope that you will consider making a donation to the AWMA in return for one of the great new t-shirts/sweatshirts that we will have available!

A major issue facing our member clubs is the cost of insurance, which has been going up. We have been requiring member clubs to carry liability insurance for a variety of reasons, but the most important is to protect you from the possibility of extremely expensive litigation. Bob Miller has done some investigation to find out what options may be available, especially for clubs that function as an AWMA/USA or AWMA/DVG organization. It appears that if a club uses the same name for both organizations, they need only one policy, but our understanding is that the membership must also be the same. He also investigated whether it was possible for clubs to insure through RV Nuccio instead of Sportsmen's, because the former's costs are much lower. The problem with RV Nuccio is that they will not insure an organization that uses any kind of firearms, including blank pistols. I brought up the issue of insurance at the AWDF annual meeting to see if AWDF can negotiate better rates for the member organization's clubs. This will likely need to be the topic of one of the future AWDF conference calls, and I will keep you informed of any outcomes.

I'd also like to report on the state of the AWDF from my perspective. With the recent appointments and election of Michelle Testa as secretary and Sean O'Kane as treasurer who join Al Govednik (president) and Lyle Roetemeyer (vice-president) and directors-at-large Glenn Stephenson, Gary Patterson and Vera Reeves, the AWDF now has a complete board that is incredibly dedicated to ensuring that the organization is sound and strong. This board has been instrumental in ensuring that we have a positive relationship with the Working Commission of the FCI. Al has worked extremely hard to have AWDF judges recognized by the FCI, and three of these judges officiated at the recent AWDF Championship. In addition, Al and Lyle have committed personal time and finances to travel to Europe on several occasions to attend the FCI Working Commission meetings. AWDF has been recognized by the FCI Working Commission as the organization in the US that is preserving the working abilities of our breeds. At a more local level, the AWDF executive board and club delegates (I serve in this capacity along with Les Flores) have had regular telephone conference calls to disseminate information and make decisions. Michelle Testa has been prompt in posting these minutes on the AWDF website and I have been informing you of their availability on our discussion board. The recent annual meeting at the AWDF Championship was equally productive, and those minutes should be available in the near future. There were two topics that are of particular interest to our members. One is standardization of the entry process to the AWDF Championship. The process to enter the AWDF event has been somewhat confusing because entries must go through the member clubs (e.g., AWMA, DVG, USA, etc.), and each club selected

its own deadlines for receiving entries. Another twist occurs if the host club extends the deadline, which then leads to additional confusion for the member clubs and those who wish to enter. Starting next year, there will be a more standardized approach to submitting applications that will be clearly stated on the entry form, and all organizations will have the same due date. The second topic was scorebooks. Part of the discussion was triggered by the requirement next year that all entries at the AWDF Championship have an AWDF scorebook. However, the scorebooks are not issued directly by AWDF but come from the member clubs, including DVG. For this and other reasons, it is appropriate that there be more coordination between the member clubs on how scorebooks are issued. This will be a topic of a conference call in the near future. The AWDF is considering implementing a spreadsheet that will track where scorebooks are distributed. Another discussion point is how each organization determines if a dog is listed as a specific breed or as a mix.

You may have noted that the AWMA has a reciprocity agreement with USA for titles; they passed the following motion: *Motion by Mark Przybylski that USA recognize the AWMA (American Working Malinois Association) judges program and titles awarded by their judges as prescribed in E-ballot #26-05 (Entry in AWDF Affiliated Breed Club Trials). The AWMA has an acceptable judges program that mirrors our own, the titles would be accepted in the same fashion that we accept titles earned under DVG judges and the titles would be accepted as progression in pertaining to performance titles (ie. SchH1 to SchH2, etc.) Titles earned under an AWMA judge will not be recognized for German Shepherd Dogs in any context that applies to breeding, breed surveys, breed shows, and registration with USA. These titles will also not be recognized for the USA SchH3 Club or the USA Sports Medals Program. Titles earned under an AWMA judge will not be recognized for entry in the USA-GSD National Championship.* The AWMA is currently the only breed organization in AWDF that has this agreement, and we should thank Glenn Stephenson for his work to have this enacted. After the AWDF meeting, I talked with Lyle Roetemeyer about how the AWMA can better interface with USA, especially with disseminating information about rule changes, etc. Improved direct communication is important not only for us but for all AWDF organizations. In the near future we'll be determining how best to make this happen.

The AWDF Championship is now in the history books, and once again, competitors representing the AWMA had impressive performances. Details are provided in a separate article I've prepared on the event. Our competitors and organization were highly complimented for the quality of the dogs, level of training, and for the team's polished presentations. I would specifically like to thank Mike Morgan, Southeast Regional Director, for organizing the second annual AWMA get-together on Saturday night. The attendance was great – all of the helpers participated as well as the majority of Malinois competitors and supporters. At one point there were close to 60 people present, with an average of around 40.

The next major national event is the North American and FH Championships held April 30 - May 4, 2008 and hosted by Merrimack Valley Working Dog Club in Concord, NH. Shortly after that is the HOT, Obedience and Youth Championship on June 19-23, 2008, hosted by OG Buckeye in Akron, Ohio. The AWMA National Championship is on schedule for Sept. 26-28, in Olympia, Washington, and will be hosted by the Cascade Working Belgian Shepherd Working Dog Club. We'll have more updates on our Championship as they become available, but according to everything I have heard, this promises to be a first-class event that you won't want to miss.

In closing, I would like ask everyone's cooperation with messages on our discussion board. The discussion board is there to disseminate information, but it is not limited to the membership, nor was it designed to conduct club business. It is simply a forum for exchange of information that can include club business as well as personal comments, opinions, etc. As with other electronic means of communication, on occasion there are derogatory or inflammatory statements that are not conducive to constructive interactions. These comments also reflect badly on the organization that sponsors the website, which is the AWMA. We don't censor messages (except for extremely inappropriate content) because we do believe in freedom of speech. Therefore, if you have issues with individuals or with the members of the executive board, I would encourage you to contact them directly rather than on a forum that is visible world-wide.

The AWDF Championship and Team Challenge



April 4-6, 2008 in Gadsden, Alabama

I attended the competition this year to participate in the annual AWDF meeting, to watch the competition, and to spend some time with the excellent slate of competitors that the AWMA fielded. Coming from the frozen North where winter has yet to let loose its grip (it also snowed the day I got back) even the rain was a welcome change. And did we have rain. On Friday it alternately drizzled and poured. The final flight of the day was cancelled due to the possibility of strong winds and tornadoes that fortunately did not materialize. Saturday was also characterized by drizzle and rain. But by late morning on Sunday the clouds lifted and the sun finally came out.

The AWDF annual meeting was held Thursday morning and the draw night was that evening. After all was done, seven GSDs and two Rottweilers pulled from the IPO3 competition, leaving a total entry of one BH, 4 IPO 1, 5 IPO 2, 38 IPO 3 and 10 FH dog/handler teams. The AWMA was represented by the sole BH (100%), two of the IPO 2s (40%) and thirteen (34%) of the IPO 3 teams. DVG had one Malinois at the IPO 1 and 2 levels and two IPO 3 dogs. In addition to the German Shepherds, there were one Doberman, one Dutch Shepherd, two Schnauzers (one IPO, one FH), one Boxer, one APBT and one American Bulldog to make it a multi-breed event.

This was truly a first class event. The judging was fair, consistent and appropriate for national level competition. Johannes Grewe (tracking), Glenn Stephenson (obedience) and Mark Przbyski (protection) presided – the FCI Working Commission recently recognized these three USA judges as FCI judges. The caliber of training, the performance of the dogs, and the manner in which the handlers presented their teams was excellent. Judges and helpers alike commented on how impressed they were, and I agree. It was obvious that the AWDF event had matured to a competition that would be at par with any other national event in the country. Even though the weather could have been better for the humans, the conditions were generally good for dog training. The competitors that were deluged during obedience looked a bit miserable and a few of the dogs shook to remove excess water, but the field stayed relatively safe and slipping did not seem to be an issue. The only weather-related catastrophe was the FH tracks. These were held Friday afternoon and started right about the time the heavens opened up. Out of ten competitors, only two had qualifying scores of 92 (Daniela Bedenice and GSD Olesko) and 96 (Carlos Rojas and GSD Ikke).

Tracking was held on the same fields used for the last USA National event. The grass was green, lush, and about six inches tall in most locations. I watched tracking on Friday morning, where the only issue was that three dogs were given re-tracks because there were some problems with the tracklayers fouling neighboring tracks. The obedience field was set up with the jumps back to back. The only two somewhat unusual aspects of the protection setup was that the back half helper's sleeve was in the corner downfield from blind 6 on a chair, and this seemed to cause a few dogs some problems. The other interesting twist was that during the back transport the helper made a right turn towards the fence and the spectators and attacked shortly before reaching it. There were a number of competitors who were closer to the helper than five paces and there was no room for forgiveness in this situation. Front half helper Lotus Perkins did a great job of handling the dogs in these close quarters. With his speed and athleticism, the dogs had to take off on the escape bite to catch him. He was extremely consistent throughout the competition and gave each dog a chance to show its ability. Back half helper Jim Laubmeier was also very consistent and safe, even though the field was slippery with rain and mud and many dogs came in fast and straight. I was unable to watch the 1's and 2's, but knowing how fast Mohawk John's dog Jack comes in on the long bite, I am sure that Charlie Purdham did a great job as well.

Before I give a report on the AWMA competitors, I'd like to acknowledge a few extraordinary performances that I witnessed. James Honda and Aran had a stellar obedience routine in a virtual downpour. He was also one of the few protection routines where it also poured. Another notable team was Mike Deihl and Erriz, who had a powerful protection routine. In obedience, another crowd pleaser was Montell Brown and his Schnauzer Quentin who obtained a well-deserved 97V in obedience. Les Flores' Dutch Shepherd Aaron was most impressive in the protection work and definitely stopped the helper.

I was able to watch the BH and most of the IPO 3 routines, but was out on the tracking fields when the IPO 1 and 2 teams were on the field. I'll try to give an overview of most of the routines, but if I don't specifically mention someone or their dog, it isn't due to lack of respect, but more likely due to an overfull brain and sketchy notes. New member Daniela Benedice did a very nice job of showing her dog for his BH. The heeling was quite nice and the dog handled the traffic routine with no problem. I was not able to watch Ozzy and Paula Daigle, I know they had a few issues in obedience but the team put on a nice performance in protection. Mike Morgan and Bacchus, who will be representing us at the FMBB this year, had a fantastic obedience routine, correct, animated and fun to watch. The only problem he had in protection was incorrect position during the side transports and at the halt. Mark Saccoccio and Joker were a great team. Mark hasn't had Joker for all that long but you wouldn't know it from the performance. This dog has matured considerably since the AWMA Nationals where he won the helper's choice award. There was a minor issue in protection on the long bite where Joker was apparently focused on the photographer rather than the helper, but back half helper Jim Laubmeier got the dog's attention back where it needed to be. Wendy Schmitt and Jersey had some tough luck in tracking, but a very nice obedience routine. Wendy has recently converted Jersey from ring to IPO, and has acquired all three titles in the past ten months! There was a minor bobble in protection when the dog missed blind 5 and then was off focus for 6, but after being resent he did a great job. Kristina and Wyatt had solid performances in all three phases and this big powerful dog was fun to watch. New member Mark Natinsky and Edison had a very, very nice obedience routine; the dog was completely focused and the heeling picture was beautiful. He then followed up with a v rated protection performance. I think this team has a great future ahead. Rosellen Westerhoff and Ura also had a solid performance. Ura missed her sit out of motion and the remainder of the point losses in obedience were for minor issues. The helpers appeared to push her particularly hard in protection but she rose to the occasion and put up a good fight. Ura had two sons in the competition, Kaapo with David Thomsen and Kaden with Dre' Hastings. Both of these very young dogs were a joy to watch. Kaden may have won it all except for some slight secondary obedience problems in protection. I anticipate that both of these teams will continue to be very successful and I look forward to watching them in future national level competitions. Reed Raleigh and V'Caesar were entered in their first IPO 3 competition at this trial and they were able to attain that goal. Shawn Thompson and Ceven, another young dog, had very solid scores in all three phases. Here again is another team that should have a bright future. Lynnea Gillette and her rocket dog Mowgli were once again a great team as well. I first met this dog at the AWMA Nationals and really like his solid temperament and the intensity he brings to the field. Angel Ayala and Zenos had a few minor issues in obedience but a strong showing in protection. This older dog obviously loves the work.

Team AWMA ended up in second place based on the performances of Mark and Joker, Dre' and Kaden, and John Wiitanen and Jack. We also were the recipients of the High in Trial, High IPO 3, High Malionis, High Youngest Handler and High Protection trophies (Mark and Joker), High Obedience trophy (Mike and Bacchus), second and third place IPO 2 placements (John and Jack, Paul Kenschak and Falco), High Senior Dog (Angel and Zenos), Youngest IPO 3 Dog trophy and 4th Place IPO 3 (Dre' and Kaden), and Highest Female Team and Female Malinois honors (Rosellen and Ura).

I should also mention that we had a very enjoyable the AWMA get-together on Saturday evening. This was the second annual function, building on the more impromptu event that we held at the suggestion of Sean Rivera at last year's AWDF. After that positive experience, several board members decided that this would be an excellent tradition to establish at all national events, with it being

organized by the regional director in the area where the event is held. As director for the southeast region, Mike Morgan arranged for us to meet at a local sports bar, where we commandeered several large tables for around three hours. There was food, beer, and good conversation. Clark Niemitalo was unable to do helper work at this trial because of his back, but he was there and brought the rest of the helpers to the party. Glenn Stephenson, the obedience judge and our director of judges, was able to join us for a while as well. At one point we had close to 60 people present and I believe that all of the Malinois competitors and supporters were there.

There are a few other things that are noteworthy. Of the dogs representing the AWMA, all but a very few are US born, and most were handler/owner trained. Many of our handlers are young with their first or second dogs. Several other handlers have had other breeds, but were competing with their first Malinois. The majority of these dogs are parts of the family as well as top-level competition dogs. I think this exemplifies the AWMA – excellent US bred dogs with balanced temperaments, strong training mentoring, and some up and coming trainers and handlers. I anticipate that this trend will continue, and that the AWMA will consistently field top-level dog/handler teams. Congratulations to all of the competitors, it was an honor to be there to watch all of you and I wish you all the best in the future.
Anne Camper



Message from the Editor:

Hello All AWMA Members!

Up here in Maine we are wondering if spring is ever going to come! I hope everyone else is having some better weather! I have to say that the dogs sure love the snow. Mine especially love it when it is time to shovel because usually someone will throw the snow for them to catch. They bark and get so excited that sometimes they will try to bite the shovel while it is still on the ground!

Well, as far as scorebooks go, the first quarter we issued 13. That is a pretty decent number for the first quarter of the year. I want to remind everyone that when you receive an AWMA scorebook, United Schutzhund Clubs of America requires you mail the book to them to for a recognition stamp so you may trial with them. This is a regulation of theirs that AWMA has no control over. I believe it is very inexpensive and they are very good about getting the book sent right back to you. If you have any further question about this you can contact the USA office or myself directly.

A second reminder I would like to give when filling out your scorebook applications is to please print clearly. I would hate to misprint information due to trouble deciphering handwriting.

I also wanted to be sure everyone knows that any active member of AWMA is able to advertise in the online newsletter FREE OF CHARGE! I know many of you sell equipment or have puppies to advertise yet few have taken advantage of this opportunity. Please contact me to get your info in the next issue, which we hope to have out in July.

And finally, you knew I couldn't finish up with out saying this...but please feel free to contact me regarding any pictures, stories, or ideas that you want to see in future issues! Thank you to those who do help put things together. We work on this online newsletter for the members so we need the members input to make it work!

Thank you for your time,
Desiree' Shaw
AWMA Secretary
AWMA On-line Newsletter Editor

Properly trained, a man can be dog's best friend.
--Corey Ford, American writer



MEMBERS ADVERTISING

Are you an AWMA Member who has a dog-related business? Do you have a litter of Malinois you would like to advertise? Take advantage of your membership and advertise for free in the online newsletter! The newsletter is available for viewing to everyone who visits the AWMA website. Please feel free to contact Desiree' Shaw (dezireeshaw@yahoo.com) to get your business in the next issue.

We now have an online apparel shop!
Check it out soon!

http://www.cafepres_s.com/ivanbalabanov

Ivan Balabanov's Online shop

Welcome to my store!

Own Ot Vitosha dog, or train the way we do? Be part of my team!

www.malinois.com/otvitosha



2008 AWMA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

The championship is coming together! Please check out the website for updates. The host club has added pictures of the articles, information on the host hotel, judges, etc.

Please visit

www.awmachampionship.com

for more info!

ADOPTERS, PREPARE TO MEET YOUR MATCH!

The following is a “canine-ality” test developed by the ASPCA to match potential adopters with a dog. (please go to www.asPCA.org/meetyourmatch for more information)

MEET THE CANINE-ALITIES

A dog’s score from the Canine-ality™ Assessment places the dog in one of three color-coded categories (purple, orange, or green) representing the dog’s level of persistence in pursuing something that he or she wants.

Each color category includes three Canine-ality™ descriptions that tell adopters how individual dogs are motivated. The evaluator chooses the Canine-ality™ that best fits the dog based on the animal’s score and on the evaluator’s determination of the dog’s source of motivation internal, external, or social (i.e. human attention) while conducting the assessment.

The Meet Your Match™ Canine-ality™ Manual and Training Guide provide templates that shelters use to create the purple, orange, and green cage cards with Canine-ality™ names and descriptions.



Couch Potato

Like the easy life? Then I’m the perfect match for you. I’m a relaxed, laid-back kind of dog who enjoys long naps, watching movies, curling up on laps, and walking very short distances from the couch to the food bowl and back. (Internally motivated)



Constant Companion

Looking for an emotionally secure, mutually satisfying, low maintenance relationship? I am all you need. Let me sit at your feet, walk by your side, and I'll be your devoted companion forever. (Socially motivated)



Teacher's Pet

I've got the whole package — smart, fuzzy, four legs, love to learn and live to please. Go ahead, teach me anything. Sit, stay, balance your checkbook, I can do it all. Keep me entertained and I'll be yours forever. (Externally motivated)



Wallflower

Shy yet charming canine searching for patient owner with relaxed lifestyle. Looking for gentle guidance to help me come out of my shell. Treat me sweet and kind and I'll blossom. (Internally motivated)



Busy Bee

I'm a naturally playful, curious, and trusting canine. Take me for a big walk every day; give me something to do. After my job's done, I'll curl up in front of the fire with you in the evenings. (Externally motivated)



Goofball

I'm a fun-loving, happy-all-the-time, glass-is-half-full kind of dog looking for someone who loves to laugh and play around. Must have a great sense of humor and some time to spend with me. I'm a dog on a mission to please you. (Socially motivated)



Life of the Party

I think everything is fun, interesting and meant for play, especially you. Anything you do, I'll

want to do too. With my own brand of surprises, life with me will keep you constantly on your toes, and the fun is guaranteed. (Socially motivated)



Go-Getter

Want to get more exercise? Action is my middle name. My “Let’s GO!” lifestyle will keep you motivated to get outside and move. I’ve got tons of energy; and just like the sun, I’m burning and working 24 hours a day, seven days a week. I’ll run for miles, chase a ball for hours, and still want to play at the end of the day. (Externally motivated)



Free Spirit

Intelligent, independent, confident and clever, I prefer making my own decisions but will listen to you if you make a good case. We’re partners in this adventure. Treat me like one and we’ll both live happily ever after. (Internally motivated)

**Where does your Malinois fit in? Where would the majority of Malinois fit in?*

www.aspca.org/meetyourmatch

NOT EVEN THE DOG IS SAFE FROM PRANKS!

desiree’ & carrie with carma covered in tp!



BRAGS AND WAGS

(SPOTLIGHT ON OUR MEMEBERS)

ajax & carrie



mondio ring jumps

kali & york napping!



york driving the rv 😊

mohawk & jack



"attack" jack!



A farm fuzzy...

A farmer had some puppies he needed to sell. He painted a sign advertising the 4 pups and set about nailing it to a post on the edge of his yard. As he was driving the last nail into the post, he felt a tug on his overalls. He looked down into the eyes of little boy.

"Mister," he said, "I want to buy one of your puppies."

"Well," said the farmer, as he rubbed the sweat off the back of his neck, "These puppies come from fine parents and cost a good deal of money."

The boy dropped his head for a moment. Then reaching deep into his pocket, he pulled out a handful of change and held it up to the farmer.

"I've got thirty-nine cents. Is that enough to take a look?"

"Sure," said the farmer. And with that he let out a whistle. "Here, Dolly!" he called.

Out from the doghouse and down the ramp ran Dolly followed by four little balls of fur. The little boy pressed his face against the chain link fence. His eyes danced with delight. As the dogs made their way to the fence, the little boy noticed something else stirring inside the doghouse. Slowly another little ball appeared, this one noticeably smaller. Down the ramp it slid. Then in a somewhat awkward manner, the little pup began hobbling toward the others, doing its best to catch up....

"I want that one," the little boy said, pointing to the runt.

The farmer knelt down at the boy's side and said,

"Son, you don't want that puppy. He will never be able to run and play with you like these other dogs would."

With that, the little boy stepped back from the fence, reached down, and began rolling up one leg of his trousers. In doing so he revealed a steel brace running down both sides of his leg attaching itself to a specially made shoe. Looking back up at the farmer, he said,

"You see sir, I don't run too well myself, and he will need someone who understands."

With tears in his eyes, the farmer reached down and picked up the little pup. Holding it carefully handed it to the little boy.

"How much?" asked the little boy.

"No charge," answered the farmer, "There's no charge for love."

The world is full of people who need someone who understand.

This nice little story has been circulating the Internet via email. Stop and think for a moment, as you read this, about the amount of compassion you carry with you throughout your day.

If you pick up a starving dog and make him prosperous, he will not bite you. This is the principal difference between a dog and a man.

--Mark Twain

HOW TO PHOTOGRAPH A PUPPY

<http://www.funnydog.net/html/>

1. Remove film from box and load camera.
2. Remove film box from puppy's mouth and throw in trash.
3. Remove puppy from trash and brush coffee grounds from muzzle.
4. Choose a suitable background for photo.
5. Mount camera on tripod and focus.
6. Find puppy and take dirty sock from mouth.
7. Place puppy in pre-focused spot and return to camera.
8. Forget about spot and crawl after puppy on knees.
9. Focus with one hand and fend off puppy with other hand.
10. Get tissue and clean nose print from lens.
11. Put cat outside and put peroxide on the scratch on puppy's nose.
13. Put magazines back on coffee table.
14. Try to get puppy's attention by squeaking toy over your head.
15. Replace your glasses and check camera for damage.
16. Jump up in time to grab puppy by scruff of neck and say, "No, outside! No, outside!"
17. Clean up mess.
18. Sit back in chair with lemonade and resolve to teach puppy "sit" and "stay" the first thing in the morning.



WHEN IN PUBLIC WITH YOUR MALINOIS WHAT IS THE MOST COMMON BREED (OR MIXED BREED) YOUR DOG IS CONFUSED WITH? HOW DO YOU RESPOND?

"I was trying to get this woman to understand the word, "Malinois" : she got mad at me and said "MALLOWMAR??!! That's a cookie!" and marched away. Now I just say Belgian Shepherd unless talking with military/law enforcement personnel.

-Martha

"[I've] been asked more than once if my mal is a greyhound...it's always my pleasure to say he is just as fast."

-Evette

"Like the previous person, everyone asks me if greyhound/shepherd mix, or I get "she looks too shepherd!" And when I say Malinois, they say, The weirdest breed I got was some sort of Collie complimenting me on how well behaved or how they'd like this breed, so I often reply she's



she's a small to be a real "malimut?" mix. Usually people obedient she is and a mutt."

-Christie & Aleko

"I most often get asked if she is some kind of "shepherd mix". I long ago gave up trying to explain "malinois" so I simply say "she is a Belgian Shepherd." What is weird is when some people say, "oh yeah, I think we had one when I was a kid." ??? (Yeah right, I'm sure you would remember having a Malinois!)

-Desiree'

"All I can say is that when asked what kind of dog do I have and tell them that I have a Belgium Malinois is that I usually get a What? This isn't anything new since I used to get the same response when I had a Beauceron. I used to say that I have a what dog, and when they said "oh come on, what kind of dog do you really have"; I would say the breed name and then get that familiar "WHAT DOG"...I told you so:) I think most people get the Malinios mixed up with that Artic breed a Malamute. Speaking of wolfs, I do think that they can easily get confused with coyotes. It's something that I'm paranoid about when doing search and rescue out in the woods with them."

-Allen

"Cory (C-litter) used to be mistaken for a Great Dane when he was young (maybe because of the light tan color and black mask; and his ears were quite floppy for a while before he was a year old). Zora (imported by Ivan) is very dark and many people ask me " How old is your Shepherd puppy?" or "Is she full shepherd? Is she full grown?" I answer something like yes, she is a full Belgian Shepherd and 8 years old. If they look like a dog person I may go into the whole explanation about the four types of Belgian Shepherds. One person told me his friend has a Belgian Shepherd and they are black so my dog could not possibly be a Belgian Shepherd. Some people have asked me if Zora is part dingo or coyote. In fact, my toddler may be confused and has pointed to a picture of a coyote in a book and a poster with a picture of a coyote on it that the park service put out at the start of a local hiking trail and said "Z dog" (he does not know how

to say Zora yet). Once when we were hiking we saw a coyote puppy on a hill above us, and it started howling and looking towards where Zora was running. We joked that even a coyote mistook her for one of its kind..."

-Susanna Suomensari Hemphill, Cory of Vitosha and Zora van Joefarm



THANK YOU FOR SHARING!!

FUNNY BONE

You Know You Are a Dog Person When...

- ✓ You have a kiddie wading pool in the yard, but no small children.
- ✓ Poop has become a source of conversation for you and your significant other.
- ✓ You can't see out the passenger side of the windshield because there are nose-prints all over the inside.
- ✓ You keep eating even after finding a dog hair in your pasta.
- ✓ You have dog hair stuck on tape on wrapped gifts.
- ✓ You visit relatives only if there is a dog show nearby.
- ✓ You remove all the seats from the van except the two in the front so you have room for crates...

<http://www.nanceestar.com/DogHumor.html>

Malinois Tails

By Gary A. Shaw

Boy that stuff smelled good. I can't understand why the Food Guy got so upset when I rolled in it. I know all the other guys loved it. I could tell by the jealous way they sniffed my tale. Such a nice day, maybe we'll go play that game where he leaves food in his footsteps and then gets really happy when I eat it all! Sometimes I wonder if my Food Guy is the brightest bulb in the box. He can be pretty easy to please sometimes, when I understand the game and get it right. Sometimes he gets this funny look on his face and I realize he finally gets it. All he had to do was explain it to me that way in the first place. Jeez. I'm pretty lucky though, from what the other guys tell me. My Food Guy is really pretty patient, even if I find other things a little more fascinating than what he's doing at the time. Some of the other Food Guy's get

really mad about me wrong, my upset but he about better me things. I once another food guy a physical than once, the didn't exercise. I'm not means but I do look forward to play together. one where get to else's Food Guy. have to run funny looking know are empty



that. Don't get Food Guy can get usually thinks ways of teaching heard him tell that if he had use correction more dog obviously understand the sure what all that know that I sure the games we Especially that go bite someone Sometimes I around these tent things that I before I am

allowed bark and bite. Like I said, my Food Guy might not be the sharpest tack. I could easily tell him which one of those tent things the guys in - it's always the last one (once again, no rocket scientist filling my bowl)! Then there's the one where I get to chase that wooden thing. At least 2 out of three times he seems to throw it over something that I could easily just run around but noooo, I have to go over them both ways! Oh well it's better than not getting to play with him at all. It seems like no matter how many times I make mistake's I still get to lay on the couch with my Food Guy at night while he pats me and stares at this funny moving picture frame. Most of the time he just stares quietly at it but there's times when a whole bunch of Food Guy's come over and eat lots of food and yell at whatever is going on in the box. I don't understand it mostly, but I do know that when the phrase yelled has the word "ref" in it I should stay out of the way (as in "C'mon ref are you blind?", which sounds a bit insensitive to me by the way. The least they could do is get him a dog). Yeah, as Food Guys go mine's pretty good to me. Hey, here he comes now! What's he got? Wait! That looks like a bucket and hose!



Obviously, it is hard to find accurate horoscopes, especially when they pertain to Malinois! Take what you want from these, you might find that parts of your horoscope may apply. Have Fun!

Aries

March 21 to April 20

Aries dogs are brave and courageous. Your Aries dog has the tendency to be the leader of the pack. He is adventurous and energetic by nature, always ready for escapades. His confidence and impulsiveness might even get him into precarious situations! His pioneering nature let's him explore new areas, your shopping bag, or your neighbor's garage. The Aries dog wants to be the one and only dog in a household, and the pride of the neighborhood. Lack of attention will put him in a bad mood. This dog needs an action-oriented, fun-filled day of play. Obedience and behavior are not his favorite game. Be benevolent; do not spoil him too much.

Taurus

April 21 to May 20

Taurus dogs have an easygoing nature and love food. Your Taurus dog is a huge softie. He is loving and cuddly. Everybody adores his kind nature. Your Taurus dog is a quiet, loyal, and faithful companion. He does not enjoy exercise, rush and activity. But, he loves lounging around, or a nap at his cozy bed. Pampering and patting your Taurus dog is mandatory! Taurus dogs are patient and reliable, special with kids. They want a regular daily routine and feel most comfortable in a secure, peaceful home. Although unlikely to fight, if sufficiently provoked they never give up. Try not to let this happen. Your Taurus dog adores food. Therefore, avoid over-feeding him. Finally, try to understand him; he is not stubborn - he is just lazy!

Gemini

May 21 to June 21

Gemini dogs are enthusiastic, curious, and entertaining. Your Gemini dog really tries to be a -good dog-. Just sometimes, his curiosity and keen power let him forget the rules. He loves to communicate with others by eye contact, intense body language, or well-intentioned sounds. Your Gemini dog is an amusing clown. He loves to show off, and provides you endless hours of fun. Teaching him many tricks will help you to keep his restlessness under control. This energetic, innovative dog gets bored quickly, so avoid monotone routines. Be prepared for anything with this dog! Provide him action and new impressions. Walk your Gemini dog in different surroundings; take him to the swimming pool, the shopping centre, a camping tour. He will accustom easily in new environments. Gemini dogs love big families. If you have the space and time, consider having a second (quiet) dog.

Cancer

June 22 to July 22

Cancer dogs are sensitive, caring home dogs. Highly emotional and intuitive, your Cancer dog knows how you feel, or what you want. The Cancer dog is the most sensitive of all signs. However, this perfect house sitter can be a bit moody and aloof at times. Possessively he will protect you, your children, and your environment. So, warn the postman and strangers! Do not yell at your Cancer dog. Avoid any family upsets or emotional distress. This sympathetic, tender dog would not fare well as a result. Your cancer dog enjoys the comfort of a tranquil home. He does not need outside adventures. He is happy when playing with the kids or sitting in your lap. This dog needs to be with you! Left alone at home he feels unsettled, and uncomfortable.

Leo

July 23 to August 22

Assertive and expressive, the Leo dog deserves respect. Your dogs demanding nature puts him constantly in the center of the family's attention. Assumingly he waits for fresh and tasty food, regular grooming, and patting. He enjoys being the king of all.

He is extremely affectionate, faithful, confident, and proud. Your Leo dog is fiercely loyal, and cannot endure if you ignore him. He needs attention, praise, and adoration.

But, let him earn it, do not provide it for free. Give lot of attention during a training session; praise him for fulfilling a task, so you will not to loose your Alpha status. Leo dogs are excellent working dogs. They need a job and appropriate exercise.

Virgo

August 23 to September 22

Virgo dogs are diligent, clean, and reliable. Your Virgo dog is loyal and attentive and expects the same trustworthiness from you. He loves routine and all things in order. So, stay on time for feeding and walking him. Virgo dogs are the cleanest and most orderly of all dogs. While alone, they can spend hours for grooming their coat. There will be never horrendous surprises when you return home. Is your dog humble, with a natural shyness? Give him a task, and he will work from dawn to dusk, and enjoying being helpful and valuable. Virgo Dogs are the best herding dogs and working dogs, regardless if Border Collie or Yorkshire Terrier. They get pleasure from doing the same thing over and over again. Virgo dogs are prone to intestinal problems. They can be fussy, choosy eaters. Feed your Virgo dog only fresh, delicious food. It will be worth the extra money.

Scorpio

October 23 to November 22

Scorpio dogs are emotional, intuitive, and absolutely loyal. Your Scorpio dog is highly sensitive, enormously sympathetic, loyal, and protective. He is usually meek around your guests, but can be fierce against anyone who threatens you. Your Scorpio dog loves or hates with an ardent intensity. He is either somebody's best friend or worst enemy. Once he is your friend, he will defend you to the death! Whoever mistreats or abuses him, will be his enemy for life! Same as their human counterparts, Scorpio dogs never forget or forgive! Scorpio dogs never go the middle way. No other sign has such incorruptible, perceptive senses.

Sagittarius

November 23 to December 21

Sagittarius dogs are explorers and hunters. Your Sagittarius dog will make you smile, whenever you are sad. His amusing character will enlighten your day. He is active, trustworthy, and reliable. Your dog is happy by nature, loves to play and jump around in the field. He is an outdoor dog that needs plenty of exercise and a lot space to roam off leash! This bundle of energy wants to explore the surroundings, catch rats, or chase birds. A farm would be the perfect environment for him. If you live in a city, provide him plenty of time in the park. Always take your Sagittarius dog with you on journeys. This ideal travel companion will enhance your trip.

Capricorn

December 23 to January 20

Capricorn dogs are patient and well behaved. Your Capricorn dog might be loath to exercise, he does not need to run and romp. What he enjoys is a real job. He wants to feel needed. Pulling a sled, finding your keys, or protecting your kid makes him happy. Patiently he will wait until you give him a task. Your Capricorn dog can amuse himself by watching your daily family routine. He is a disciplined, dedicated member of the pack. This dog will be fine alone at home, while you have to go out. Well behaved he will wait for your return. The Capricorn dog requires kindness, warmth, and harmony. More deliberate than other signs, the Capricorn dog can reach an old age.

Aquarius

January 21 to February 19

Aquarius dogs are gentle, individualistic, and a bit wacky. Keeping your Aquarius dog happy is a challenge. He is for sure not humdrum or average. None of your neighbor dogs exhibits such individuality. Your Aquarius dog does not need cuddling, grooming, or sitting in your lap. This smart rebel wants to keep you surprised and excited. He is an affectionate, sociable, and amusing companion. This independent and inventive dog has his own rules. He learns very fast, but will do things only when he wants to do it. So, do not force or bother him. Provide him the freedom he needs to express himself. Your Aquarius dog has no serious behavior problems. He loves people and other pets. His eccentric nature helps you to keep your sense of humor.

Pisces

February 20 to March 20

Pisces dogs are quiet, gentle, and intuitive. Your Pisces Dog is a sensitive, adaptable, and intuitive dog. He is calm and peace loving. He feels most comfortable in a quiet, tranquil environment. This sweet, sympathetic mommy dog just wants to please you. Your Pisces dog does not need a big garden. He wants to be close to you. It makes him happy to follow you like a shadow. Intuitive your dog can sense when you are sick or upset and will sit beside you to make you feel better. Because of his caring nature and noble character, he gets a lot of sympathy and rewards. Pisces dogs are excellent swimmers. They love water and will jump in every puddle. Their favorite living place would be near a lake, or near the beach.

<http://www.doggiesparadise.com/dog-horoscopes.shtml>