



ERIE KENNEL CLUB

NEWSLETTER

MARCH 2012

Exciting Things 2012

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Cindy Stubenhofer

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Chuck Moyer

Lou Norman

Roberta Cutshall

Michelle Vincent

NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Cindy Stubenhofer

BREEDER REFERALL

Cindy Stubenhofer

ekcbreedreferall@juno.com

[m](mailto:ekcbreedreferall@juno.com)

SUNSHINE CHAIR

Melanie Shufan

(814) 825-9393

COMMUNITY RELATIONS

Anthony Stefanelli

Dear EKC members:

As most of you know, discussions and dreams of having a place to train—a place to call home—have been going on for years. At one time, the club did own a property but there was little chance of being able to maintain it without significant income. The property was sold and the revenue safely tucked away in a bank. In 2009, Dave and Debbie Anthony took our All-Breed Conformation and Obedience Trials to a place of prominence on the national stage. For the first time in its history, EKC had significant income. The show has grown each successive year and we now have a signed contract with the Bayfront Convention Center through 2018. This dramatic change of fortune has brought the dreams of owning our own home to a very real possibility. There are not a lot of properties that fit our criteria but the search committee has visited a few places and one or two have promise. We are eligible for no-cost consulting from Gannon University Small Business Development Center, whose staff will guide us through creating financial projections so we can verify feasibility. In addition, we also qualify for a mortgage through Economic Development Council of Erie County. By our preliminary calculations, we believe the club can easily afford a \$200,000.00 property.

By now, you have received the survey we sent to active local members and we are anxiously awaiting your feedback. If you have not already done so, please return your survey. This is a very important step if EKC is to acquire a property. If the survey reveals little support, the Search Committee will be disbanded and the club will continue as is. On the other hand, if the survey shows support for property acquisition, the committee will follow through the necessary steps and submit a proposal to the members. Please be assured that no decision about purchasing a specific property will be made without membership input.

I would also like to take this opportunity to inform those who are not able to attend meetings about our efforts to promote the club.

In March we formed a Steering Committee to identify problem areas and to offer solutions to the board and membership. Utilizing the brain storming model, we identified several issues.

Membership participation and recruitment

We have a large list of ideas and our next meeting will be focused on prioritizing and implementation. We did, however, create a new Membership Application that reflects our perception of a value statement and requires sponsors to be accountable for recommending someone for membership. The Board of Directors unanimously approved the application at the April meeting and you can view/download it at www.eriekenneclub.com. In addition, the committee determined that we should encourage member interaction, discussion, and camaraderie. Meetings should be more interesting and more fun. As a first step, Janet and Lou Norman brought refreshments to the April meeting. We enjoyed a few sweets and soft drinks after the meeting and this simple action promoted socialization that we have not often seen.

Mentor and Education

The committee is compiling a list of members who agree to serve as mentors for new and less experienced members. When someone asks for assistance, we will pair them with one of the volunteers. An Education team will arrange for speakers at regular meetings, organize seminars as well as formal and informal training classes.

Leadership and Continuity

In order to improve continuity, we are asking each officer to outline duties and tasks for their position. These documents shall be in a folder to be passed to successors and also added to the back of the by-laws in order to maintain a central location. Further, we are asking chairpersons for events to outline specific tasks which will be maintained as stated above. In case of an unfortunate event, these written documents will ease the transition to a new chairperson. These events shall include, but not be limited to, AKC trials, Cabin Fever, Summer Picnic, and the Christmas Party. It does not have to be as complete and complex as the one maintained by Debbie Anthony for the All-Breed show, but it does need to have a basic guideline. Further, we will develop a written instrument to record the transfer of information and equipment to successors.



Rare Breed Enthusist learns from EKC Run-thru Handling Classes

Blue and I went to the Orlando Rare Breed Show in February and he did great! Blue is a German Breed called the Biewer and just turned 9 months two days before the show. There were 8 shows and he won 29 ribbons, a bowl and 2 platters. His wins included two Best Junior Puppy in Show and one Reserve Best Jr. Puppy in Show. I was so proud of him!

I want to thank Cindy and Bonnie and all the others who helped me get this little boy ready. I especially want to thank Nancy Stadler who saw the potential in Blue 2 weeks before I left for Florida and gave me great advice and instruction. Nancy also went out of her way to make sure the little dogs had their space for practice as sometimes the big dogs tend to take over. I took Nancy's expertise to heart and practiced w him at home and also had an extra 10 days to work with him in Florida before the show. THANK YOU NANCY!

Norma Hiller

Normajeon Photography

www.normajeonphotography.com



Serenity's
Little Boy
Blue
Owner
Norma Hiller



More about the International Canine Kennel Club

Norma Hiller's Blue is a German Breed recognized by the ICKC which is an alternative club from the AKC. AKC standards are used for AKC recognized breeds unless clubs request different standard to be used. FCI standards are followed on other breeds.

For more information go to home page for ICKC: http://www.internationalcaninekennelclub.com/Home_Page.html

pictures from the Valentine*s Classic Show

http://www.internationalcaninekennelclub.com/ICKC_Valentine_s_Classic.html