

**Attendees:** Goellen Stretesky—Natrona County, Bob Pierce—Johnson County, Kay Pierce—Johnson County, Jessica Flanagan—Carbon County, John Cosner—Campbell County, Carrie Jo Calvert—Fremont County, Autum Werner—Converse County, Kate Hoffman—Laramie County, John Iske—Laramie County, Terry Stretesky—Natrona County, Johnathan Despain—State 4-H Office, Robyn DeVries—State 4-H Office

**Purpose of Committee Defined By Members:**

- Creation of Dog Leaders Manual
  - Manual would allow all leaders to apply same rules/guidelines across the State
  - Similar to horse book
- Resolve differences between county and state processes
- Gain ideas on running dog program
- Learning experience
- Define priorities
- Direction of program
  - Opportunities for kids
  - Prepare kids for state
- Communication
  - Inform everyone on what is occurring
  - Everyone has same answer to questions

**Action Items:**

**Motion 1:** **Agility-** Level 1 jumps will have standards (posts) that will not exceed 24 inches and the handler is not allowed to jump the jumps with the dog.

**Motion 2:** **Agility-** Adding level 5 and 6 in Agility be discussed through-out the year and be implemented for the 2008-09 fair season.

Jessica will take pictures of the equipment by level and send them to Johnathan to be posted on the State 4-H web site.

Jessica will create entrance, exit and center supports for the dog walk.

A volunteer will be assigned to straighten the **tunnel** after each agility run to ensure that a dog does not get trapped in the **tunnel** this year at State Fair.

**Motion 3:** **Agility-** Adjust the Agility rules to add where the date states the dog must be one year of age add by May 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Motion 4:** **Agility-** Dog Walk-Level I and II the dog walk and A Frames must be 1/2 of the standards level of what they are for 3-6. Dog Walk height for Level I and II will be 2 ft. The A frame height will be between 2.5 ft and 2'10". The Dog Walk height for levels III-IV will be 4 ft. The A Frame height will be within 1" of 5'6".

**Motion 5:** In the general rules of the State Fair Book, include: All dogs must be six months of age by May 1<sup>st</sup> to compete at Sate Fair and be one year of age by May 1<sup>st</sup> to participate in Agility.

**Motion 6:** Agility- Rule 5 of section 4 of the State Fair book to be removed. Rule to be removed is: Bench Committee—will handle all protests related to the 4-H Dog Agility Section.

**Motion 7:** Agility- Rule 5 of section 4 of the State Fair Book should be added and read: Permanent jump height cards will be presented at the State 4-H Dog Show at time of check-in, which heights will be used for agility classification.

Creation of a Dog Rulebook for distribution to Dog Leaders and Educators.

**Motion 8:** In the State Fair Book, rule 6 of section 2 should state: A dog having 3 qualifying scores of 170 at the County Fair must advance to the next level of Obedience. Once the level of obedience is selected the member may not drop back to the lower level with the same dog.

**Motion 9:** In the State Fair Book, rule 3 of section 2, the current content be removed and be replaced with number 3 from the Casper, February 4, 2006 minutes. Data to be removed: No dog can compete in any one class more than two years in a row. Members advance from On Leash A to Novice A or from On Leash B to Novice B. On Leash B is for the dog or exhibitor with previous experience in the class. An exhibitor who begins in the A group with a dog stays in the A group for each class. The same is true for the B group. The information to be added: Members advance from On Leash A to Novice A or From On Leash B to Novice B. Class that end with a B are for members and/or dogs who have competed at that level in an A class with another dog and/or member. An exhibitor who begins in the A group with a dog stays in the A group with that dog for each class. The same is true for the B group.

**Motion 10:** The next meeting will be held on September 13, 2008, in Casper at the Agriculture Resource & Learning Center (ARLC) from 10-4.

### **Review of meeting at State Leaders Conference in Worland:**

Placement of dog on table during confirmation was brought up as an issue for discussion. The Dog Development Committee did not discuss this issue.

A county presented the desire to have kids jump over jumps with their dogs during agility. Per the minutes from the January 26, 2007 Dog Committee Meeting in Jackson there was consensus that youth in level 1 can jump the jumps with their dog. Youth in other levels would not be allowed to jump with their dogs. Discussion occurred regarding the safety of this for the youth and the dog and could the jumps be constructed in a different manner to allow the leash to go over the jump without knocking it over. John Cosner made a motion that level I jumps have standards (posts) that will not exceed 24 inches and the handler is not allowed to jump the jumps with the dog. Motion was seconded. Motion passed.

### **Agility Issues:**

Questions presented to Goellen regarding agility.

1- I would like to see the addition of a Jumpers Class added to agility. In Jumpers there are only jumps, weave poles, and tunnels. This makes equipment costs cheaper and usually safer for dogs. We could develop lower levels that didn't require weaves poles. Per the minutes from the February 4, 2006 Dog Committee Meeting in Casper there was consensus that there was a need to add a level 5, equal to a AKC Novice Class, and a level 6, a jumps, tunnels and weaver course only, to the dog program. Discussion occurred questioning if those levels were currently

needed. The counties should be contacted to determine if there is currently a need. Carrie Jo made a motion that level 5 and 6 in Agility be discussed through-out the year and be implemented for the 2008-09 fair season. Motion was seconded. Motion passed.

2-In any agility, I would like to see the Obedience High Jump replaced by a panel jump. The panel jump looks the same to the dog, but the bars are displaceable. Thus, making them much more safe. Jessica Flanagan, the Agility superintendent at State Fair, just purchased new agility equipment in Carbon County which she will be bringing to State Fair. The jump she purchased is a panel jump.

It was suggested to have pictures of the agility equipment posted on the State 4-H web site by level so parents, leaders and educators know what the equipment being used looks like. These pictures should also be used in the Dog Manual. Jessica will take pictures of the equipment by level and send them to Johnathan to be posted on the web site.

3-Last year at State Fair the dog walk was not safe enough to support a large dog. The dog walk was flexible and bounced which caused the dog to slow down when crossing. The dog walk will be adjusted for State Fair this year. Jessica will create entrance, exit and center supports for the dog walk.

4-Last year at State Fair the broad jump was not up to specifications—there should be 2 sets of standards for the jump and there was only 1 set. The equipment purchased by Carbon County includes a new broad jump that will correct this issue.

5-Last year at State Fair the shoot was not tied down so a dog got trapped in the shoot. The issue was not that the shoot was not tied down but that the shoot should be straightened out after each run. A volunteer will be assigned to straighten the shoot after each agility run to ensure that a dog does not get trapped in the shoot this year at State Fair.

6- I would like jump heights to stay low in agility. Unfortunately, we have young dogs whose bones aren't all the way done growing at a year of age and older out of shape dogs running. Kids often forget that higher isn't better for the dog. Also, keeping the heights the same in all four levels would sure make it easier on judges, superintendents, and ring stewards to keep things straight. The current AKC rules require dogs to be 15 months of age and NADAC 18 months of age. Per the minutes from the January 26, 2007 Dog Committee Meeting in Jackson there was to be an addition to the agility guidelines that states no dogs under one year of age by May 1<sup>st</sup>. So dogs at State Fair would be at least 15 months of age. Jessica made a motion to adjust the Agility rules to add where the date states the dog must be one year of age add by May 1<sup>st</sup>. Motion seconded. Motion passed.

7- I would like the dog walk to stay only two feet off the ground verses the now standard AKC four feet. Since some classes allow leashes and we have green dogs I would rather they only fall two feet verses four. On the same line it would be a good idea to have the A-frame only be 5 or 6 feet tall for the same reasons. Per the minutes at the January 26, 2007 Dog Committee Meeting in Jackson—Dog Walk-Level I and II the dog walk and A Frames must be 1/s of the standards level of what they are for 3-6. Dog Walk height for Level I and II will be 2 ft. The A frame height will be between 2.5 ft and 2'10". The Dog Walk height for levels III-VI will be 4 ft. The A Frame height will be within 1" of 5'6". Carrie Jo made a motion to accept the minutes with the following adjustments: change 1/s to 1/2 and change Levels III-VI to Levels III-IV. The passage will read: Dog Walk-Level I and II the dog walk and A Frames must be 1/2 of the standards level of what they are for 3-6. Dog Walk height for Level I and II will be 2 ft. The A frame height

will be between 2.5 ft and 2'10". The Dog Walk height for levels III-IV will be 4 ft. The A Frame height will be within 1" of 5'6". Motion seconded. Motion passed.

Suggestion to counties on how their dog walk could be adjusted to meet the new height requirements is to take their walk apart and place on milk cartons.

### **State Fair Advisory Board Update from Johnathan:**

A request has been made in the past of needing a location at State Fair to leave the dogs for an extended period of time. State Fair is willing to get a location for this but they need to know what type of facilities would be needed for this. Does the facility need to be locked, policed, if so policed by someone with dog knowledge? The need for this may be limited. After discussion, it was decided that if a county(s) wanted to take advantage of the offer from State Fair they should contact Johnathan and he would work with State Fair and the County(s) to determine the needs.

There will be a new arena, half horse stalls and half small arena, in use at State Fair this year. The new arena includes 2 wash basins which could possibly be used to wash dogs if needed. The Horse Arena that was to be built where the dog show is held is still in need of funding so it will not be built in the near future. So the location of the dog show will not change.

### **State Fair Book Changes:**

The section included in the State Fair Book was reviewed. Carrie Jo made a motion that in the general rules of the State Fair Book, include: all dogs must be six months of age by May 1<sup>st</sup> to compete at Sate Fair and be one year of age by May 1<sup>st</sup> to participate in Agility. Motion seconded. Motion passed.

Autum made a motion that rule 5 of section 4 of the State Fair book to be removed. Rule to be removed is: Bench Committee—will handle all protests related to the 4-H Dog Agility Section. Motion seconded. Motion passed.

Carrie Jo made a motion that rule 5 of section 4 of the State Fair Book should be added and read: Permanent jump height cards will be presented at the State Fair Dog Show at time of check in which heights will be used for agility classification.

### **Rulebook for Distribution to Leaders and Educators:**

Committee members asked Johnathan if the State 4-H Office could create and distribute a book of Dog information until the new Dog Leaders Manual is completed. This book would consolidate guidelines and other desired information from all disciplines of the dog show.

Information to be included in the rulebook:

- Guidelines/Rules
- State Fair Book data
- Score sheets
- Data from State 4-H web site
  - 1<sup>st</sup> year
  - Novice
  - Open
  - Guidelines
  - Jump heights

- Hand singles
- Course layout
- Minutes and motions from today's meeting
- Agility pictures
- Resource section in the future

Discussion was had on the best method of distributing the information—3 ring binders so replacement pages can be sent when needed or a bound book and new booklets would be distributed when updates were needed. That will be looked at. Sending the information via PDF was also suggested.

### **General discussion:**

The question was raised if the motions made today will be implemented for this year's dog show? Yes. Minutes from this meeting will be distributed to educators, committee members and dog leaders. The minutes will be structured to have action items at the top so leaders know the changing issues. There is a list serve for Dog Development Committee members to utilize when communicating with each other. Anyone who would like to be added to the list serve should contact Johnathan to get added.

The superintendent and judge(s) will have the final decision making authority on how the Dog Show will be run. If the order of the show needs to be altered because weather conditions need to be taken into consideration for the care of the animal and handler, they have the authority and the support of the State 4-H Office and the Dog Development Committee to do so. An example would be having sit and long stay occur early in the morning while the weather is cooler.

Judges: It would be nice to have an updated list of possible judges and what they felt qualified to actually judge. An addition of a judge evaluation form by superintendents might give us valuable input as well. An attempt was made to create a list of potential judges by distributing a request of names to different kennel clubs without much success. At this time it would be good to resend the request out. Would a program that would certify people from within the state to be judges be beneficial? The State 4-H Office is looking at a way of creating a way to rate judges used across the state. Counties can give feedback on the judge's performance for others to access before hiring them to judge at their fair.

Concern about the safety of the see-saw in Agility was raised. The Dog Development Committee will review the issue at a future meeting.

### **Obedience Issues:**

Autum made a motion that in the State Fair Book, rule 6 of section 2 should state: A dog having 3 qualifying scores of 170 at the County Fair must advance to the next level of Obedience. Once the level of obedience is selected the member may not drop back to the lower level with the same dog. Motion seconded. Motion passed.

Jessica made a motion that in the State Fair Book, rule 3 of section 2, the current content be removed and be replaced with number 3 from the Casper, February 4, 2006 minutes. Data to be removed: No dog can compete in any one class more than two years in a row. Members advance from On Leash A to Novice A or from On Leash B to Novice B. On Leash B is for the dog or exhibitor with previous experience in the class. An exhibitor who begins in the A group

with a dog stays in the A group for each class. The same is true for the B group. The information to be added: Members advance from On Leash A to Novice A or From On Leash B to Novice B. Class that end with a B are for members and/or dogs who have competed at that level in an A class with another dog and/or member. An exhibitor who begins in the A group with a dog stays in the A group with that dog for each class. The same is true for the B group. Motion seconded. Motion passed.

### **Parking Lot:**

Dog ID Form. Dog ID Certificate is on the front page and the back is a dog training/co-owner contract that requires a notary. There is a need to discuss the intent of the forms. Johnathan will check into liability issues and check with other states to see how they handle co-owner and leasing issues. Some states do nothing regarding ownership and they require certification that the youth completed the training.

Tracking of accomplishments of the youth and not the dog. If a dog has advanced to higher levels and then a new handler which has not shown before will be showing that dog, the dog can drop one level for obedience. Task force was created to look at this issue: Chair is Jessica Flanagan, members include Kate Hoffman and Autum Werner. The task force will collect ID forms from counties and create an ID form that will be utilized across the state.

Chip ID for Dogs. Where do we stand with chipping our dogs? Should we include a question on the Dog ID form if the dog has been chipped and what the number is?

Thank you to Carrie Jo for working on the Wyoming Junior Dog Show Rulebook. Please read through and note any changes needed. Committee members will review as a group at a later meeting. Bob and Kay Peirce found a good Showmanship Book from Purdue that may be added to the book in the future.

Jessica made a motion that the next meeting will be held on September 13, 2008, in Casper at the Agriculture Resource & Learning Center (ARLC) from 10-4. Motion seconded. Motion passed.

Thank you to Goellen and Carrie Jo for all of their hard work toward the dog program.

Motion to adjourn. Motion seconded. Meeting adjourned at 3:25.

Submitted by Robyn DeVries

## **ATTENDING- Dog Development Committee Members**

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