



theBark

THE BCNC NEWSLETTER : SEPT-OCT 2012

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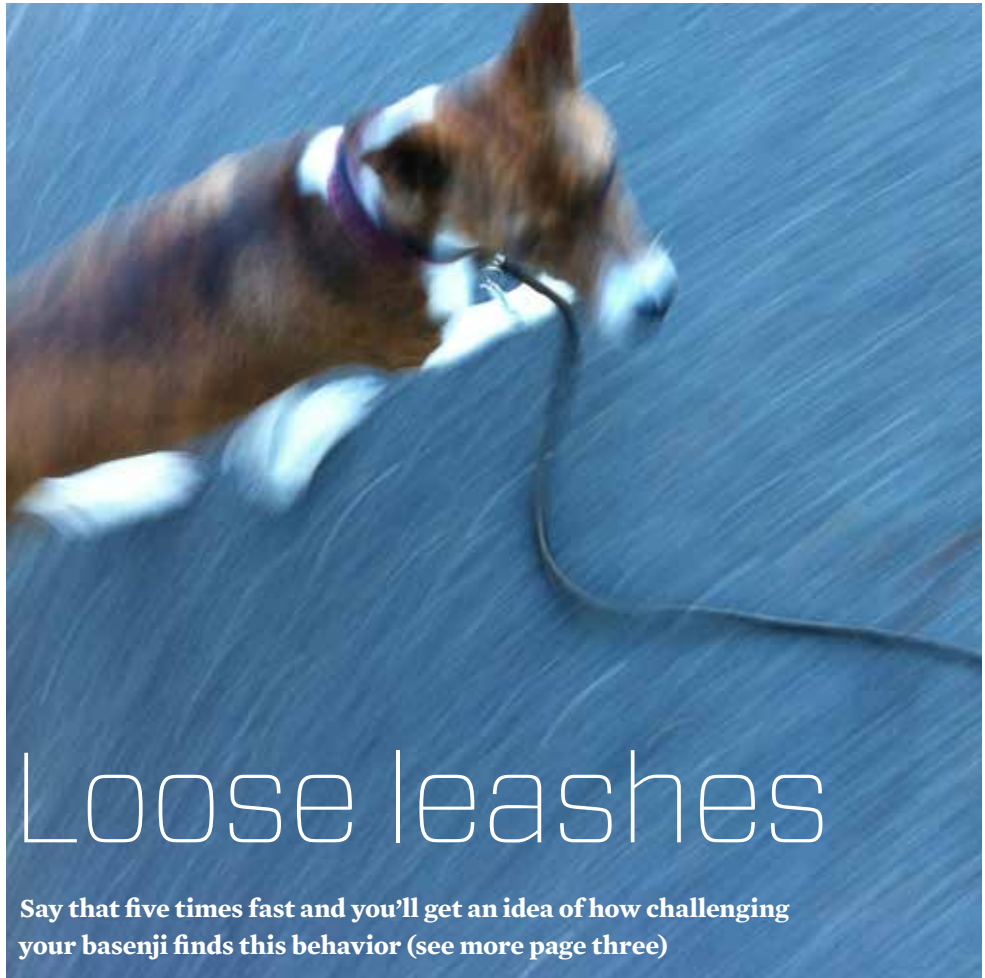
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Loose leashes

Say that five times fast and you'll get an idea of how challenging your basenji finds this behavior (see more page three)

CLUB MEETINGS

SAVE THE DATE The October club meeting will be held at our club's specialty show on Saturday, October 20. If you aren't entering your dog, come watch as owners and hounds from the west coast compete in obedience and agility as well as conformation.

Share your photos, wins, and stories for inclusion in the newsletter (euniceockerman@gmail.com or post on [the club's FB page](#)). If you don't send them, you'll get pix of the editor's dogs!



Coursing—not just for sighthounds anymore!

CAT: *fund-raising*

BY DONNA TROYNA

The Coursing Ability Test (CAT) is a great event for dogs of all types to get a chance to run by itself and have a lot of fun—just ask the border terrier who encountered a deer on the field. At first the border terrier did not know which to chase, the bags or the deer. Chose the deer and the result was priceless: a deer being chased by a border terrier. And the best part was once the terrier knew she was not going to catch the deer, she ran back to the lure and brought it home to the finish! Standing ovation from the crowd! And, FYI, the terrier did get its title this weekend!

Over the Sept 29 and 30th weekend our club, in conjunction with the Monterey Bay Coursing Association (MBCA), hosted three trials. The BCONC ran almost 150 dogs and the MBCA another 35 or more for about 185 total. It was a successful fund raiser for our club. And there were many happy dog owners whose dog went home with a CA (three successful runs), CAA, (10 successful runs), and one dog earned a CAX (25 successful runs) titles.

For those of you that have not seen this event, it is a blast watching non-sight hounds run. And yes sight hounds can run too! Congratulations to Della Stehm on Winifred's, Trii Me's, and Serenity's (her whippet) CAAs. I believe Lori Baxter's kids got their titles, as did Ann

Patterson-Hines's Crystal, and Connie and Doug Bright's Katie (three runs and done!). Keep Dec. 29th and 30th date open—we are hosting another CAT event.

In addition, the BCONC shocked the coursing world with the presentation of our very own Honda generator. Yes, our club has made the jump and now we finally own one. Next four fund raisers are dedicated to the purchase of a new trailer. Our current trailer was already packed to the ceiling and the new equipment is the proverbial straw. Anyone have any leads on a good one that is tall enough you do not hit your head, and has rear and side opening doors?

Huge thanks to the club members that helped out over the hot weekend: Jeff Sheldon, Della Stehm, Lori Baxter, and Ann Patterson-Hine, and of course Connie and Doug Bright! 🐾

*upcoming*EVENTS

AKC All Breed JC/QC Test/Trial
Hollister, November 3 and 4

AKC CAT test
December 29 and 30



Keeping loose

If your dog enjoys daily leashed walks
and the occasional off-leash adventure
you may find that your enjoyment
diminishes as their excitement grows.

BY EUNICE OCKERMAN

On leash, one of mine likes to lurk just behind my right knee and burst forward, intent on something at least three feet out of range (can you hear my shoulder pop?). The other could mush with the best Iditarod team (upside: a walk is a total body work out!). *Pulling* works. It's self-rewarding behavior for the dogs—they get where they want to go faster. And where we walk is full of scents and sightings of deer, jack rabbit and coyote. Lots to check out our dogs say; pick up the pace my friend!

ALL OUR DOGS, past and present, were enrolled in puppy and obedience classes. They learned basic household obedience and to walk politely on leash. When we lived in Sunnyvale, our daily walks were on sidewalks in suburban neighborhoods. They had a weekly three mile off-leash run along the southern edge of the bay. Their on-leash behavior was tolerable.

Our move to Sacramento County landed us in a new environment. Oddly less opportunity for off-leash runs but miles of trails, away from traffic, for on-leash walks just minutes from our home.

New scents and stimuli easily trumped what was left of their training. We needed a refresher course for dogs and us. We found a trainer, Cindy

Smith, *The Right Steps*, who accepted adult dogs. I audited a class and felt her training approach would work with our dogs.

This time my husband took training responsibility for one dog and I the other. We found that realistic expectations kept us focused, and training together brought consistency to our efforts.

The end result after two six week sessions? We aren't perfect, nor are our dogs. A hundred percent loose leash is still elusive.

However with Cindy's approach they soon remembered that walking politely produced treats, praise, and forward motion. They learned that a taut leash produced a cheerful "oops" and a complete halt. Forward

progress began only when they chose to return to our side.

The "find-it" command has worked wonders. "Find-it" is our go-to tool for redirecting behavior. That scary dog coming down the trail? That noisy truck rumbling by? We toss a treat on the ground, call out a cheerful "find- it," another, and another, until our dogs are too involved in sniffing out tidbits to attend to the passing dog or truck. "Find-it" also works to redirect their frenzy after spotting deer or jackrabbits. "Leave-it" is a work in progress (lots of interesting stuff on the trails!) but helpful nonetheless.

Best of all, the four of us now have a shared language to build on. Our next adventure is nose work! 🐾



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2012 calendar

oct - nov - dec

Saturday, October 20

BCONC Specialty

Closing date : 10 03 2012

Pleasanton County FairGrounds

Club meeting

Sat & Sun

November 3 & 4

AKC Lure Coursing

Hollister, CA

Contact Donna Troyna

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December DATE TBD

Holiday Meeting



PAT GEMBURA WVC SUMMER SPECIALTY PHOTO BY GEORGE WOODARD