

Minutes of Companion Animals Program Committee Meeting
May 3, 2007

Present: Christine Bingham, Jean Bingham, Lynda Brockert, Nancy Duemling, and Anne Crotser.

Chairperson Christine Bingham called the meeting to order.

The minutes of the last meeting were approved with one clarification: Old Business item E. referred to changes that needed to be made to update the K-9 Karnival Program: change the date to 24th, add Rally Obedience Clinic to front page title, correct names of presenters and donors on pages 2 and 3.

The treasurer's report was approved as presented.

Armada Fair

Anne reported that the Armada Fair book and registration will be totally on line. Kathy hasn't seen a preview of it so we don't know if the committee's suggested changes were adopted. We do know that the Fair Board rejected Kathy's request that youth that can't be present on Sunday for the judging of non-livestock projects because they are attending another 4-H function be allowed to enter their projects and fill out a questionnaire in lieu of talking with the judge. The Dorothy Murmyluk award will not be in the Fair book; the committee will be giving the award ourselves. Discussion about the need for a 2nd 4-H Superintendent followed.

Rally Obedience Workshop

Anne reviewed the results of the program cancellation survey. Five of the six dog clubs responded. The most common reasons for not attending were conflict with family obligations and conflict with work, school, and church activities. We decided that the Committee should select a date for the 2008 K-9 Karnival at our September meeting and get it on the 4-H calendar before the Craft Workshop and other countywide activities were scheduled. It was suggested that moving it back to the end of February might be good since attendance seems to be higher at activities during the cold weather of winter. Christine reminded us not to pick the first weekend in March because of the tack sale.

Cat Club

Anne reported that the Cat Club had a very successful April meeting. Three new members joined and the two women who have been running a feral cat neuter/release program in Clinton Township attended. Jessica Makowski was selected as President and the club reviewed fitting and showing procedures.

State 4-H Spring Dog Clinic/ State Dog Show

The state 4-H staff reported that over 80 youth attended the clinic on April 28th. The 2007 State Dog Show information is now available on line.

CGC Test

Nancy Duemling indicated that she is thinking of offering another CGC Test opportunity at Wolcott Farm in Sept. or October.

Clover sprout policy

Nancy Duemling raised some safety concerns about clover sprouts showing dogs they can't control. She has learned that some states do not allow 5-8 year olds to show dogs at all. We reviewed the State 4-H general guidelines about clovers showing animals and an e-mail Anne received on the subject from Elizabeth Wells from Ottawa County. We discussed the possibility of either having an adult in the ring with the clover sprouts or having only one youth and dog in the ring at a time. No decisions to change our current practices were made, except to be sure that judges were aware that they could do either of the above if they had a concern about whether a youth could safely handle their dog.

The meeting was adjourned at 8 p.m.

Anne Crotser, Acting Secy.