

**Companion Animal Committee
Minutes of October 8, 2009 meeting**

Attendees: Anne Crotser, MSUE; Rob Kitchen, Alarro and Armada Fair member/dog show superintendent; Jim Jerse, 4-H dog show superintendent; Allisha and Michelle Humenny, K-9 and Kompany; Neva, Rhein, School Section; Nancy Duemling, K-9 and Kompany.

The meeting was called to order at 6:40 pm by Anne Crotser. There was no treasurer's report or minutes of last meeting offered.

The election of officers was postponed due to the small attendance and lack of representation of all dog clubs.

The proposed bylaws change reducing the required number of committee meetings from 6 to 2 was discussed. Meetings may be scheduled by vote of the committee or if called by the chair or staff liaison. The motion was passed.

A brief report on the Canine Good Citizen event was given. Net profit was \$46.10.

Jim Jerse and Rob Kitchen led a discussion of proposed improvements for the fair. Discussion of the judging of project books was held. It was suggested that Jim speak again to Lynda Brockert and also different project area judges to get an idea of their approach. There was also some discussion about Cloversprout project books, and whether the books should be reviewed with the children by the judge or a teen leader.

It was clarified that if someone is showing more than one dog, they must complete a project record book for each animal, but the forms should be combined into one book for judging, as members can only receive one premium for a project book entry.

Nancy Duemling suggested that in addition to agility, some explanation of classes should be offered to the crowd prior to obedience and showmanship classes. Cards could be created in advance with the appropriate descriptions of classes that could be read to the audience before dogs enter the ring.

Rob Kitchen indicated that rally could be approved as a fun class on Saturday, following agility and costume. The fair is likely to open at 3 pm on Monday next year, but the dog show will remain on Tuesday and Saturday. Project judging day will move from the Sunday before fair to Saturday. This will mean continued conflicts with the state dog show.

Nancy Duemling led discussion of changes to the Dorothy Murmyluk award scoring. The suggestion to extend points awarded for obedience and agility through 1 point, rather than stopping at 5 points was accepted. The group also approved adding difficulty level points to showmanship, in accordance with obedience and agility. The final version of the change will be voted on at the November meeting.

The group discussed doing a workshop. It was felt that a general one for all companion animals was not of interest. Perhaps something dog-specific that the kids would attend and work with their animals would be possible, but nothing was definitely set in motion at this time.

The meeting adjourned at 9:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Nancy Duemling