From the President

It is hard to believe that it is September already. Where did the summer go? Yes, we had many canine adventures this summer. There will be many more in the fall of 2017! We will enjoy the future ones as we have treasured the past.

I wish that the same could be said for all canine and handler teams. The tragedy of Hurricane Harvey has caused unimaginable hardship for residents of Texas and Louisiana (with and without canine friends). *The board took action on this, see page 3.* Please join me and contribute to the charitable organization of your choice to help those devastated by this horrible event.

On a lighter note, our general membership meeting will be held Tuesday, September 12. I hope to see you there!

Enjoy your canine friends!

Howard Etzel
MNDTC September AKC Agility Trial

MNDTC will host an AKC agility trial Sept. 23 and 24 at Penn State Ag Progress Grounds in Pennsylvania Furnace, PA. All classes will run in the Ag Choice building. The adjacent ECM pavilion will be used for crating.

It is hard to beat Centre County’s fall scenery and we are hoping for some ‘just right’ weather to match. Refreshments will be provided via a MNDTC-run concession, offering a wide array of nutritious energy sustaining choices and an appropriate amount of junk food.

Entries closed on Saturday, Sept. 2, but we still need volunteers!

As trial chair, I am looking for volunteers to help with set-up on Friday, Sept. 22 and then each day of the trial through clean up on Sunday. You do not have to be entered in the trial to help in any capacity! A link to a Google sign-up sheet will be sent out in a Late Breaking News email or you can send an email to me at revelryk9s@aol.com.

If you have not yet helped at a MNDTC event or an agility trial in particular, do not worry. We train on the spot and offer all kinds of worker rewards as our way of saying thank you.

MNDTC applicants can use this weekend as activities toward membership.

Questions? Please do not hesitate to ask!
Hope to see you all in September!

Mel Eng
814-237-7918
revelryk9s@aol.com

Welcome New Members!

Provisional Members:
Becky Norris
Cheryl McMillan
**MNDTC Board Actions and Announcements**

The board approved the following proposal at its August 2017 meeting.

**Proposal: Seminar/Workshop/Private Lesson Policy**

The Education Committee or any club member can bring in a non-member to offer in our training building member-only private lessons, member-only workshops/seminars, or workshops/seminars that are open to both members and non-members. All visits must be approved in advance by the Education Committee (which will then seek board approval), and all club members must be offered the opportunity to enroll. Students will pay MNDTC, and the club will pay the instructor, retaining a per-student cleaning fee for private lessons and member-only workshops/seminars. For all workshops/seminars, club instructors may audit at no charge; the auditor must notify the workshop organizer in advance. Instructor vouchers may be used to request reimbursement for workshops/seminars up to the annual maximum as noted in the class voucher redemption policy; all such voucher requests must have prior board approval, and fees must be prepaid.

The board took the following action at the September 5, 2017 meeting.

**Special Donation**

The board voted to donate $500 on behalf of the club to AKC Pet Disaster Relief. This was a special donation; our regular donation process will continue, with club members deciding on those donations at the November meeting. The board chose AKC Pet Disaster Relief because it is nationwide in scope. In addition to Hurricane Harvey, a new hurricane, Hurricane Irma, is headed for the United States. The donations will be much appreciated at this time of great need.

About the Program: The program’s genesis was in response to the devastation after Hurricane Katrina in 2005 where many people stayed in harm’s way because emergency response plans did not accommodate pets. AKC Pet Disaster Relief’s life-saving trailers will enable local Emergency Management organizations across the country to plan, prepare and respond to disasters that impact people and their pets.

Ready to Roll Out Help: The AKC Pet Disaster Relief trailer is stocked with essential supplies to house at least 65 pets the critical first few days after a disaster is declared. The trailer has lighting and is wired for electricity to run off either a generator or 110v power supply.

A generator is on the trailer as well as crates, pet carriers, bowls, collars and leashes, microchips, a microchip scanner, fans, cleaning supplies, maintenance equipment, administrative supplies, training materials and much more to allow emergency personnel to put together co-location or lost-and-found pet shelters.

https://www.akcreunite.org/relief/

In other business, time was spent on the draft of bylaw changes and will be reported when complete.

**January 2018 Club Election**

The Nominating Committee has nominated the following candidates for the club’s January annual election:

- President: Janet Lewis
- Vice President: Tracey Dooms
- Secretary: Sandy Roth
- Treasurer: Lois Albright
- Board members: Christie Black and Howard Etzel

Any club members who would like to make additional nominations can do so at the November general meeting.
## A look back at the July Agility Trial

The air-conditioned B & D Creekside Activity Center in Latrobe provided a “cool” setting with two turfed rings for the MNDTC July agility trial. Some handlers took their dogs for a dip in the surrounding creek after their run.

Teams competed in Standard, JWW, Premier, Time 2 Beat, and FAST classes. A last minute decision to offer a B Match proved worthwhile, as we were able to generate some additional revenue. Our own Howard Etzel graciously offered to “judge” the Standard B match, which created the perfect practice opportunity for young dogs who get distracted with a judge in the ring.

I can’t thank our working members enough for all they did to keep the trials moving along smoothly: building courses (oh, so many courses!), setting bars, running for ice and the million little jobs that are needed for a successful agility trial.

Hats off to all who helped and to all who attended. We look forward to seeing you at B & D Creekside next year!

Donna McGrath
Trial Chair

## Agility News from the AKC

**Updates to AKC regulations beginning Jan. 2, 2018:**

**Addition of the 24 Inch Choice jump height division and removal of 26 Inch:**

At the July 2017 AKC Board meeting, the board approved the dissolution of the 26 Inch jump height and the addition of the **24 Inch Choice height** to replace it. This mandatory height division must be offered in all levels of the regular titling cases. The new 24 Inch Choice jump height is for dogs entered in the regular division that measure 22 inches and under only, whose handlers choose to enter 24 inches. Dogs that measure 22 inches and over that are required to jump 24 inches will stay in the current 24 Inch jump height. As is currently done with the 26 Inch class, the course times for the 24 Inch Choice will be the same as the 20 Inch height in all classes. The jump height should be noted as either 24 Inch Choice or 24” Choice for awards purposes.

**Pause Table Changes:**

The height of the Pause Table (within 1 inch) will be required to be:

- 8 inches for dogs in the 8 Inch jump height;
- 12 inches for dogs in the 12 Inch jump height;
- 16 inches for dogs in the 16 Inch jump height;
- 20 inches for dogs in the 20 Inch and 24 Inch jump height.

Preferred class requirement: The Pause Table shall be set at:

- 8 inches for the 4 and 8 Inch jump height;
- 12 inches for the dogs in the 12 Inch jump height;
- 16 inches for the dogs in the 16 Inch jump height and
- 20 inches for the 20 Inch division.

Betsy Geertson's Jesse
In the wake of Hurricane Harvey, here is an article written by the Center for Disease Control and Prevention on "Disaster Preparedness for Your Pet." [https://www.cdc.gov/features/Petsanddisasters/](https://www.cdc.gov/features/Petsanddisasters/)

**Disaster Preparedness for Your Pet**

If a natural disaster strikes, what will happen to your pet? Be prepared: make a plan and prepare a disaster kit for your pet.

Leaving pets out of evacuation plans can put pets, pet owners, and first responders in danger. Even if you try to create a safe place for them, pets left behind during a disaster are likely to be injured, lost, or worse. It is your responsibility as a pet owner to find out what type of shelters and assistance are available in your area to accommodate pets and to include pets in your disaster plan to keep them safe during an emergency.

Have you included pets in your disaster plan? Don’t wait until it’s too late. Start today by:

- Making a plan and
- Preparing a disaster kit

By doing so, you are protecting the health of not only your pet, but yourself, your family, and others in your community.

To get started, familiarize yourself with the types of disasters that could impact your area and consider your options for providing care for your pet(s).

**Make a Plan**

Disasters can happen without warning, so be prepared for these events:

- Make sure your pet(s) wear collars and tags with up-to-date contact information and other identification.
- Microchip your pet(s) – this is one of the best ways to ensure that you and your pet are reunited if you are separated. Always be sure to register the microchip with the manufacturer and keep your contact information up to date with the microchip company.

- Purchase a pet carrier for each of your pets (write your pet’s name, your name and contact information on each carrier).
  - Familiarize your pet with its transport crate before a crisis.
  - Practice transporting your pet by taking them in for rides in a vehicle similar to one you would be evacuating in.
  - Practice catching your pet, if needed.
- Keep a leash and/or carrier nearby the exit.
- Ensure proper equipment for pets to ride in the car (carriers, harnesses, pet seatbelts).
- If you do not have a car, make arrangements with neighbors, family and friends. You can also contact your local government to learn about transportation options during a disaster.
- Decide where you and your pet are going to stay. Based on the severity of a disaster, you may have two options for your pets:
  - Sheltering in place
  - Sheltering in a facility away from home (during an evacuation)

**Sheltering in Place**

When sheltering at home with your pet, make sure the room chosen is pet-friendly in the following ways:

- Select a safe room, preferably an interior room with no (or few) windows.
- Remove any toxic chemicals or plants.
- Close off small areas where frightened cats could get stuck in (such as vents or beneath heavy furniture).
Sheltering during an evacuation

- Contact your local emergency management office and ask if they offer accommodations for owners and their pets.
- If accommodations are needed for your pet(s):
  - Contact local veterinary clinics, boarding facilities, and local animal shelters. Visit the Humane Society website [https://www.cdc.gov/Other/disclaimer.html](https://www.cdc.gov/Other/disclaimer.html) to find a shelter in your area.
  - Contact family or friends outside the evacuation area.
  - Contact a pet-friendly hotel, particularly along evacuation routes.
- Make plans before disaster strikes for where you and your pets will go. Be aware that pets may not be allowed in local human shelters, unless they are service animals.
- Check with:
  - Family or friends outside the evacuation area.
  - Pet-friendly hotels
- [www.bringfido.com](https://www.bringfido.com) or call 877-411-FIDO
- [www.dogfriendly.com](https://www.dogfriendly.com) or call 888-281-5170
- [www.doginmysuitcase.com](https://www.doginmysuitcase.com) or call 888-254-0637
- [www.pet-friendly-hotels.net](https://www.pet-friendly-hotels.net) or call 866-966-3046
- [www.petswelcome.com](https://www.petswelcome.com)
- [www.tripswithpets.com](https://www.tripswithpets.com)

Prepare a Pet Disaster Kit

Prepare a disaster kit for your pet(s), so evacuation will go smoothly for your entire family. Ask your veterinarian for help putting it together. Here is a checklist to get you started.

Some examples of what to include are:

Disaster Supplies for Pets

- Food (in airtight waterproof containers or cans) and water for at least 2 weeks for each pet
- Food and water bowls and a manual can opener
- For cats: litter box and litter
- For dogs: plastic bags for poop
- Clean-up items for bathroom accidents (paper towels, plastic trash bags, bleach-containing cleaning agent)
- Medications for at least 2 weeks, along with any treats used to give the medications and pharmacy contact for refills
- Medical records
  - Rabies vaccination certificate
  - Current vaccination record
  - If your pet has a microchip, a record of the microchip number
  - Prescription for medication(s)
  - For cats, most recent FeLV/FIV test result or vaccination date
  - Summary of pertinent medical history; ask your veterinarian for a copy
- Sturdy leashes or harnesses
- Carrier or cage that is large enough for your pet to stand comfortably and turn around; towels or blankets
- Pet toys and bed (familiar items to help the pet[s] feel more comfortable).
- A handout containing identification information (in the event you get separated from your pet)
  - Current photo of pet
  - Pet’s descriptive features (age, sex, neutered/non-neutered status, color(s), and approximate weight)
  - Microchip number
  - Owner contact information (cell phone, work phone, home phone)
  - Contact information of a close relative or friend,
- A handout with boarding instructions [443 KB], such as feeding schedule, medications, and any known allergies and behavior problems
• Documents, medications, and food should be stored in waterproof containers

Protect Yourself from Injury and Illness
• Disasters are stressful for humans and pets alike. Practice safe handling of your pet, because your pet may behave differently during a stressful situation.
• To avoid common diseases that pets can transmit to people
  o Wash your hands before and after handling your pet and its waste
  o Wash your hands right after handling pet food or treats
  o Wash your hands after picking up your pet’s stool or cleaning a litter box
  o Avoid letting your pet lick your face or hands

Diseases Pets Can Transmit to People During a Natural Disaster
Natural disasters can contribute to the transmission of some diseases. Exposure to inclement weather conditions, stagnant water, wildlife or unfamiliar animals, and overcrowding can put your pet at risk for getting sick. Some of these illnesses can be transmitted to people. Some common disaster-related diseases that pets can pass to people are listed below.

Rabies is a virus that affects the nervous system in both animals and people. Rabies is transmitted through bites from rabid animals or through contact with their saliva. To protect you and your pet:
• Keep your pet up-to-date on rabies vaccine
• Report any bite wounds to medical personnel immediately
• Practice safe handling of pets in a stressful situation
• Keep your pet in a carrier or on a leash
• Do not allow your pet to interact with other animals

Ringworm is a condition caused by a fungus that can infect skin, hair, and nails of both people and animals. Ringworm is transmitted from animals to people through direct contact with an infected animal's skin or hair or through touching an object where an affected animal has been. To protect your family from ringworm:
• Wash your hands after touching any animal
• Do not let your pet interact with other animals
• Use disinfectant to clean the cage and litter box

Leptospirosis is a bacterial disease found in the urine of infected animals that can cause kidney damage and affect other organs. It is transmitted through contact with infected urine or contaminated water, soil, and food.
• Talk to your veterinarian about vaccinating your pet for leptospirosis
• Wash your hands after coming in contact with urine
• Avoid stagnant water, especially after flooding occurring after natural disasters
• Don’t allow pets to play in or drink contaminated water

Diseases spread by mosquitoes, fleas, and ticks: Mosquitoes, fleas, and ticks are common pests of stray animals and can be a problem immediately following a disaster situation. Their bites irritate the skin and may also carry a variety of diseases (Lyme disease, West Nile virus) harmful to both humans and animals. To prevent illnesses associated with mosquitoes, fleas, and ticks:
• Keep your pet up-to-date on heartworm and flea and tick preventive treatments
• Keep your pet away from wildlife and stray animals
• Wash your pet’s bedding regularly

Visit Healthy Pets Healthy People for more information on diseases animals can transmit to humans.
Congratulations!

I told Wager to Find It. And he did!
A UD title in three consecutive trials.

Way to go MACH Wager, UD.

~Marliene Froke