

DALMATIANS IN OBEDIENCE

By Cathy Murphy

7 TRACKING DALMATIANS: The Dalmatian Club of Southern New England is the first Regional Dalmatian Club we know of to run an actual tracking clinic for it's members. Last October 21, on a lovely October Sunday, twelve people with eight Dalmatians participated in such a clinic to learn the basics of tracking with their dogs.

Instructor Candy Martin of Northborough, MA. presented a short introduction to AKC Tracking and enumerated the requirements needed to pass the "TD" (Tracking Dog) title. The instructor then proceeded to have each handler lay a track and teach them how to walk in a straight line in a field. This is not as easy as it sounds! Other goals worked for at this clinic were teaching the handlers how to motivate their Dalmatians and proper leash handling.

Tracks were laid by the owners of each Dalmatian on the spacious grounds of the Wrentham State Hospital. Candy then evaluated each team as they progressed through the steps necessary for basic training in tracking. At the conclusion Candy proclaimed that all the Dalmatians had been able to track. Six of the eight participating members of the Dal Club of Southern New England are DCA members or are applying for membership. Betty Ann Barbour, Prue Stuhr, Unda Dean, Don and Sara Pruyne, David Pitcher, Debbie Fowler and Carol Sigh were the DCSNE members participating in this clinic.

The Dalmatian Club of Southern New England found this to be an easy event to sponsor and could even be a fund raiser for Regional clubs. Plus, by introducing more Dalmatian owners to Tracking, even more support of the DCA Tracking Test would be sure to follow. For more information about setting up a Tracking Clinic contact Prue Stuhr, 340 Bigelow Street, Marlborough, MA. 01752-1063.



DCSNE Tracking Participants 10/21/90

Candy Martin, Instructor, Standing

(Left to Right) Betty Ann Barbour and "Mel"; Carol Stigh and "Sarah-Lea"; Prue Stuhr and "Brambles"; Unda Dean and "Dozer"; Don Pruyne and "Windy"; Sara Pruyne and "Cheeca"; David Pitcher and "Chloe"; Debbie Fowler and "Mundy".

BITS AND PIECES: Darlene Chirolas of Urbana, IL, writes that her Honeylane's Mr. Fuji C.D.A.D. earned his T.D. November 4, 1990. This makes three generations of TD titled Dalmatians for Honeylane. Darlene has a new puppy "Kipuka" to start tracking by December and have ready for the Spring trials. Kipuka also took a Group 1 in her first puppy match.

Another TD earned at Greater St. Louis Training Club is Centurion Cierra, owned by Elaine Dodson and Elaine Lindhorst. As of January Gazette we have at least six new TD Dalmatians for 1990. Tracking is just becoming more and more popular. Every Dalmatian owner we have heard from who is doing tracking with their dog tells us first of all how much their Dal just LOVES to track. The dogs KNOW when they are going for a tracking session and just can't wait to get on that track! We all know what good noses Dalmatians have, and this is one activity where the handler is in the background. If the dog couldn't do it or didn't want to do it, it would really be difficult to teach. From everything we've heard, most all Dalmatians seem to be natural trackers, and if the owners are willing to take some time and also get some exercise in the outdoors, many many Dalmatians could easily acquire the TD title.