

DOGSTOCK 2010  
Annual Protection Training Seminar  
*By Carissa Kuehn*

Lincoln, California: home to pastoral fields and ranches, railroad tracks, rodeos, the Fighting Zebras, and the 6<sup>th</sup> annual Dogstock Protection Training Seminar. On June 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, approximately 40 handlers and their dogs from across the western U.S. descended upon the Placer County Schutzhund Club training field in Lincoln for Dogstock 2010. For two full days participants enjoyed personalized training sessions with some of the top helpers in the country, and relaxed between training with great camaraderie, good food, fun raffle prizes, a top-notch police K9 demonstration, and plenty of that classic California sunshine.

**Saturday**

The early morning sun rose quickly into the sky, bathing the stadium-sized grass field and brand-new bleachers in its warm glow. It was guaranteed to be a warm day, but a stiff breeze picked up and kept the temperature in the low 90s, creating only a few minor problems of its own when anything not nailed down inevitably tried to become airborne. Check-in and registration began at 7 a.m. and continued unabated throughout the day as more handlers and spectators rolled in for the event. Helpers were quickly listed on the whiteboard, and handlers were able to choose the helper they wished to work with that day. There were many excellent helpers to select from: Joel Monroe, Dave Deleissegues, Gary Park, Shane Garrehy, Mario Fernandez, Martin Vollrath, and Zoltan ‘Zoli’ Nagy, Lauron Williams, and John Riboni. Up-and-coming helpers Tim Cutter and Tyler Pluss also assisted in working various dogs over the course of the day.



*Spectators enjoyed the new bleachers at the PCSC field.*



*Above: John Riboni and Lauron Williams work together to give Teresa Cowart's Ecco vom Fuchsgraben a perfectly-timed grip.*

John Riboni kicked off the protection training, working the first dogs of the day around 8 a.m. Training continued non-stop through lunch and onward toward dinner, with the helpers working in rotating shifts on the field and providing each handler and dog with individual training and personalized tips. Teamwork was clearly evident as the various helpers worked together to create the most optimal training session for each dog.



*Right: Tyler Pluss and Dave Deleissegues show some nice teamwork on an escape bite.*



*Above: Shane Garrehy and Imo vom Riegelhaus square off in the blind.*

*Right: Joel Monroe takes a time out from working the big dogs to play with the puppies.*



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*Gary Park smiles at the crowd while working Elfi von Landgraf.*

As the day marched on, handlers and spectators alike spent time catching up with old friends, making new acquaintances, watching the training from the covered bleachers or sun-shade on the field, browsing the merchandise of different vendors at the event, or trying their luck with the raffle and silent auction. Dogs entering or exiting the field after a successful training session were able to enjoy a cooling dip in one of the plastic wading pools—known as the ‘Doggie Spa’—with some dogs taking to the water more eagerly than others. Young dogs and their people socialized throughout the grounds, taking in the action and acclimating to the new sights and sounds. It was a rare person indeed who could resist the urge to befriend the cute little puppies!



*Above: Ferox v Tehillah takes a dip in the kiddie pool after a session on the training field.*

*Right: Denise’s puppy Ijax makes a new friend.*



Placer County Schutzhund Club members and volunteers worked very hard to provide a delicious lunch for all those who were present. Authentically-Hawaiian chicken teriyaki bowls were the main lunch course, with home-made chocolate chip cookies and pumpkin bread for dessert. Dinner was an even more extravagant affair, featuring deliciously marinated pork loin barbecued by Kolby Harris of Harris Brothers Barbecue, paired with a variety of salads and fresh fruit. The tantalizing aroma of barbecue wafted throughout the grounds, drawing hungry spectators away from the action and over toward the dining area.



Training was halted for dinner and the field was cleared as people eagerly fell in line for food. As people milled around waiting for that delicious barbecued pork loin, a silver Dodge pick-up and two police cruisers with screaming sirens and blazing lights suddenly dashed onto the field. An agitator in a body suit lay hidden in the bed of the pick-up truck, leaping

up to fire 'shots' at El Dorado County officer Mike Roberts, who promptly deployed his Malinois, Bakus. The dog skillfully leapt into the back of the truck and subdued the agitator.

*Above and right: El Dorado County K9 Bakus leaps into the truck bed to apprehend agitator Steve Coburn.*



*Below: Roseville PD K9 Apollo and Officer Miskewycz subdue the agitator.*



Spectators were then treated to more K9 demonstrations, including several escapes, take-downs, and even an attack on handler Mike Roberts. Roseville PD officer Scott Miskewycz deployed his German Shepherd Apollo on the attacker, and the dog quickly took him down and subdued him. This allowed Roberts to extricate himself and attend to Bakus, who was in the process of apprehending another fleeing suspect. Roberts also demonstrated the control he had over his dog, later performing a call-off on a fleeing agitator; with one command Bakus quickly turned back and returned to heel, a move that was met with great cheers of appreciation from the audience.

After the police K9 demonstration came dinner, the raffles, and the silent auction prizes. George Suarez from southern California held the winning ticket for the 50-50 raffle, and even helper Dave Deleissegues scored a raffle prize after taking a quick break between working dogs to locate his raffle tickets. This year's raffle hosted a variety of prizes donated by businesses, individuals, clubs, and schools. Prizes included five-pound canisters of K9 Showstopper and K9 Superfuel, organic dog

biscuits, customized wooden cutting boards, a leather leash and agitation harness, gift certificates, a nice training equipment bag, and a Foothills K9 Association gift basket.

The big prizes in the silent auction—which were also donated for the event—included an adjustable 1-meter jump from All K-9, a blow-out breakaway blind in Tom Riche’s colors from Full Grip Gear, and a nice wine basket featuring a Wine Dogs book and two Spanish varietals (Grenache Blanc and Tempranillo) from D’Alfonso-Curran wines in Santa Barbara County. Laura Bollschweiler was delighted to win the wine basket and the beautifully-photographed Wine Dogs book. Deleta Jones was victorious with her bid for the 1-meter jump, while the SoCal Working Dog Association scored the breakaway blind to match their current set of blinds. As specified in the auction, the amount of the final bid for the blind was then donated to the Riche family, in honor of Tom Riche.

After the raffle and dinner came the much-awaited Dumbbell Toss event. This year’s Dumbbell Toss proved to be entertaining as always. While the gentlemen tried to abide by the rule of “ladies first”, the women’s diplomatic ‘rock-paper-scissors’ way of determining first toss was apparently taking too much time, so the men stepped up to the line. There were a few interesting tosses here and there, including a near-hit with a waywardly-thrown dumbbell. At the end of Round 1 Dave Deleissegues had secured the longest throw, but Lauron Williams came out strong in Round 2 and beat out Dave’s final toss, taking first place for the men’s division and taking home the cash prize. Then the women took their places at the yellow tape, while the men watched a little nervously and stepped back a few yards to a safe distance. The women put in a strong performance as well, with Carissa Kuehn and Wendy Schmitt vying for first place. It looked like Kuehn would take the gold at the beginning of Round 2 until Schmitt’s final throw rolled a few inches further, securing her the first place spot and cash prize for the women’s dumbbell toss.

After the Dumbbell Toss, the field was cleared and set up for the Protection Tournament, which began promptly at 9 p.m. under the stadium lights. Lauron Williams was the selected helper for the Dogstock Protection Tournament, demonstrating a powerful presence in the blind, good speed on the escapes, strong drives, and smooth catches on the long bites. Martin Vollrath turned in yet another memorable performance as the tournament protection judge, providing fair and educational critiques for the various handlers and their dogs. PCSC President Mark Hamilton bravely volunteered to clock each dog with a radar gun on the long bite as they charged down the field toward him and helper Lauron Williams.



*David Greene’s Luigi du Dantero launches himself at Lauron Williams. Williams turned in a strong performance as the helper in the Protection Tournament.*



Tyler Pluss and his Malinois Inca du Loups du Soleil put in a nice Schutzhund 1 routine, scoring 94 points and taking first place for the Schutzhund 1 tournament, and generating a tough-to-beat speed of 30 mph on the long bite. Teresa Cowart wowed the crowd with her GSD Ecco vom Fuchsgraben, turning out a strong 96-point routine to clinch the top spot in the Schutzhund 3 tournament. When all the dogs had competed and had their long bite speeds recorded, Bryan Dewe’s GSD Zeplin emerged at the

*Schutzhund 1 tournament winner Tyler Pluss and Inca du Loups de Soleil warm up on the blinds.*

top of the list, securing the Fastest Long Bite award with a blazing 31 miles per hour.

Festivities continued on into the night and wee hours of the morning, with many of the handlers camping out at the field overnight under the beautiful stars. Whether it was in a tent, camper, truck bed, or comfy hotel room, participants eventually settled in for a few hours of sleep before another day of protection training.



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### Sunday

The morning sun rose much too early, and with it came the promise of another warm day full of that wonderful California sunshine. Hot coffee, breakfast burritos, Danishes, pumpkin bread, and fresh fruit were available for the early morning risers and for those who have the misfortune of NOT being morning people. Training began very early in the day, not only to beat the heat but to be considerate of the many participants who had long drives ahead of them that afternoon.

As Sunday rolled on, the remaining helpers dutifully worked the dogs, rotating on and off the field in shifts. Lunch was a quick affair of pork loin sandwiches, teriyaki chicken, fresh

fruit, pasta and green salad, and of course more home-made cookies. Friends old and new began to bid each other ‘Farewell and safe travels!’ as people packed up and headed back home. The final ‘adieu’ was bid as the late afternoon sun began its slow descent to the west, and so ended another successful Dogstock protection seminar.



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*Tim Cutter displays a nice drive on Denise’s Hexxer vom Haus Tyson.*

### With Heartfelt Gratitude

To all our fantastic helpers—thank you for donating your time, your talents, and your expertise; you helped make this event one of the premier training events on the West Coast!



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*Martin Vollrath receives a nice full grip on the sleeve from Teresa Cowart’s young dog Arex vom Holtz Tal.*

To the El Dorado County Sheriff and the Roseville Police Departments—thank you for the excellent demonstration of the skill, training, and power of your dog-handler teams!

To all the PCSC club members and volunteers—thank you so much for all your hard work, dedication, and preparation. This event could not have taken place nor run so smoothly without your efforts!

To all our participants and spectators—thank you for making the trip and supporting our Dogstock event! We hope you all had a wonderful, enjoyable, and educational time, and we look forward to seeing you soon.

PCSC also wishes to extend a huge ‘Thank you!’ to everyone who donated items for this event:

Animal Nutrition Center in Roseville  
Whitney High School Construction Tech class  
Full Grip Gear  
All K-9 Training Equipment  
K-9 Training Equipment  
Mario Fernandez  
San Jose German Shepherd Dog Club  
New Beginnings Pottery  
Shelley Fritzsche of Tehillah Shepherds  
Kris Curran and Bruno D’Alfonso of D’Alfonso-Curran wines  
Foothills K9 Association

And to all of those who were unable to make it this year—we are looking forward to seeing you at Dogstock 2011; don’t miss it!