

THE LOST COAST HOWLER



EDITOR - LAUREN WENDT



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Some clubs mark milestones with speeches and plaques. We mark ours with tunnel dust, celebratory barks, and volunteers who somehow turn coffee and camaraderie into a finely tuned machine. The Lost Coast Kennel Club thrives on wagging tails and wagging spirits — and this past season, you showed up in every way.

But amid the joy, we've also felt the weight of loss. Our beloved member David Lindberg passed away in a tragic accident, leaving an ache in our hearts and our circle. His presence — thoughtful, steady, kind — will be sorely missed. We hold Sylvia in our thoughts, wrapping her in love and support during this difficult time. We honor David not only for his contributions to the club but for the warmth he brought to our community.

Looking ahead, we carry both celebration and remembrance. Whether you're in the ring, behind the scenes, or cheering from the sidelines, your spirit continues to build something extraordinary. Let's keep chasing joy, sharing kindness, and remembering that this club is more than events — it's a family.

See you at the next trial, and until then: hold your dogs close and your people closer.

 Deb Lake, President, Lost Coast Kennel Club

Board of Director Officers

Deb Lake
President

Patty Mendes
Vice President

Kris Smith
Secretary

Jill Otto
Treasurer

Members of the Board

Michelle Dostal
Debbie Tull
Kurt Pires

JOINS US!
AUGUST 19, 2025
BOARD MEETING 6:30PM
REGULAR MEETING 7:00PM
HELD VIA ZOOM

Lessons From a Chicken

What does training a chicken have to do with your dog's agility run? Or scent work success? More than you might think.

Recently, seven LCKC members (along with 12 others) attended Chicken Camp—a workshop I was lucky enough to host with instruction by legendary trainer Terry Ryan! I have attended 4 camps over the years and always leave with my brain buzzing and training skills sharpened.

Here's the big takeaway that it seems most students had: **what we think we're teaching an animal, and what the animal is actually learning, can often be two very different things.** At Chicken Camp, students learned how to close that gap—how to train in a way that's crystal clear to the learner (whether that's a dog, parrot, horse, or yes, even an elephant).

We practiced breaking behaviors into smaller steps. Timing our reinforcement down to the split-second. Making sure the learner is ready, motivated, and engaged. It's about making success as easy as possible—then stringing those successes together into something remarkable.

Why chickens? They're fast, unforgiving, and give instant feedback on your skills. They don't politely "fill in the blanks" when your timing is sloppy. Some dogs are that way too—and if you've got one, mastering these principles is a game changer.

Here's the truth: the skill level your animal can reach is tied to the skill you bring as a trainer. When you know exactly how to communicate, frustration disappears, and when you know what motivates, your learner thrives, and training becomes something you both look forward to.

So, the next time you step into the ring—or even just into your backyard—ask yourself: Is my dog actually learning what I think I'm teaching? Am I being as clear as possible? After Chicken Camp, I'm much more confident that the students who attended can say "yes!"

A HUGE thank you to Terri Little and Redwood Coast Montessori High School for allowing us to host chicken camp at their amazing school. This camp took a lot of help from various folks in our dog community and I am very grateful!

Lauren Wendt
LCKC Newsletter Editor



PC: Jeremy Clements

**NEXT BOARD & GENERAL
MEETING
TUESDAY AUGUST 19, 2025**

Board meeting will begin at 6:30pm
General meeting will begin at 7:00pm
Meeting will be held via zoom.
Link will be sent out via the io group.

All members are welcome and encouraged to join!



Biggest Lost Coast Kennel Club Scent Work Trial Ever!

Labor Day Scent Work Trials
August 30th, 31st, & September 1st
Cutten Elementary School, Eureka, California

Set up Friday, August 29th at 5:00 p.m.

Every Scent Work class is offered—All Odor Elements (all levels), All Handler Discrimination (all levels), and Detective—all three days. Five judges will be officiating. Trials are currently full, but some members on the waitlist may get in as spots open.

For the first time, we'll be using the **Agility Gate** app to manage running orders and class flow. With 21 different classes in separate search areas each day, it's a complex puzzle—Agility Gate should make it easier for both participants and volunteers.

On Saturday, August 9th, we held a **mock trial** to prepare new and returning volunteers for set-up, hide placement, timing, judging, and especially gatekeeping with Agility Gate. It was a success—21 dogs ran, many volunteers pitched in, and everyone gained valuable experience.

Thanks to Kurt Pires who is fine-tuning Agility Gate before the trial.

Marilyn Cottrell is coordinating volunteers: contact m81cottrell@gmail.com or 707-601-5964 to help out.

Volunteers are essential to a successful trial—especially when they're also competing.

Hospitality: We provide snacks, drinks and lunch for volunteers and judges. If you can bring baked goods or snacks on Friday or during the trial, they'll be greatly appreciated. Homemade treats like zucchini bread or cookies are especially popular.

School Supply Drive: We're grateful to use local dog-friendly schools in the Cutten-Ridgewood district. Please help us thank them by donating to our Giant Yellow School Bus collection box at the gate. Items like art paper, notebooks, markers, and paints—or cash—are always welcome.

Volunteer Drawing: Organized by Sara Borok, this is our way of thanking volunteers. Donations of new or gently used items—dog-related or not—are welcome (treats, toys, beds, training gear, Scent Work items). Bring donations on set-up day or trial mornings.

Questions:

Trial chair is Susan Hutchison: sahutchison1938@gmail.com

Trial Secretary is Teresa Locatelli: squishamber@gmail.com

Run orders and final trial info will be emailed about a week before the event. For more complete info check out the premium list [HERE](#).

We're looking forward to seeing everyone Labor Day weekend for a fantastic Scent Work trial!

The LCKC Scent Work Committee is grateful to receive a gift of an iPad tablet to do Agility Gate on for our Scent Work trial events from What A Concept Dog Training! Owners Marilyn Backman and Janet Mohorovich are both long time members of LCKC. I think some scent work is in someone's future too! We look forward to seeing them at our SW trials!

Thank you WACDT!

Marilyn Cottrell and Susan Hutchison



In Memory of LCKC Member David Lindberg



David and Bart at the LCKC FitDog Walk on July 26, 2025

HUMBOLDT DISC DOG 2025 PRACTICE AND TRIAL DATES

Rio Dell Fire Department, 50 W Center St,
Rio Dell CA 95562

- August 23-24 trial
- September 6 practice
- September 20-21 trial
- October 11 practice
- October 18-19 trial - Monster Mash



LCKC Membership Appreciation Picnic 2025

Sunday, September 28th at Rohner Park in Fortuna

We get to have fun and party with our dogs and other dog people. We get to celebrate our successes with others who are celebrating theirs. We get to enjoy the magic in being a part of this fantastic organization.

Here are some activities you can expect at our Appreciation Picnic.

Goodie Bags: Jill Otto is putting those together. She can use help with those. As long as you don't eat too much candy! Call Jill to volunteer.

Set up/take down: 3 people needed to take charge. Call Beth to volunteer or for more information.

Membership Appreciation Drawing: Sara Borok and Beverly Chang. Contact one of them to donate something. No ugly sweaters please.

Egg race: Need two people to manage the activity. We will use plastic eggs to avoid the mess and waste of the dropped eggs. Contact Beth to volunteer.

Achievement Circle: Cathy Wright. Bring your ribbons medals and trophies to show off. You and your dog deserve it.

Food: Deb and Mike Lake. Yum!

Team Challenge: Beth Rogers, Kim Gradin, Kris Smith.

We need one timer and two helpers. Call Beth.

Right is a photo that will give you a hint about the challenge. (extra hint: distance).

Cheers, Beth



A Story About Choices

Ruby sat back and started to scratch as we lined up at the start line. She hadn't done that in quite some time and I took note.

"Go."

We started our run, well, at least I was running...Ruby was slow to start over the first jump. I could see out of the corner of my eye as we covered the first few obstacles that she was shaking her head, another clear sign she was nearing her emotional threshold. This was our third run of the day, and the third day of the agility trial. Ruby and I ran the course and made no mistakes. We were easily 10 seconds over course time.

Science Britannica defines threshold as "the lowest point at which a particular stimulus will cause a response in an organism". Dogs who are under threshold appear undisturbed by activities, sights and sounds, but over time these experiences can begin to build a stress response. As a dog approaches their threshold they might begin to show signs of calming and avoidance, such as head shaking, scratching, yawning and sniffing. When a dog reaches threshold it doesn't take much to push past the ability to cope with stimuli, even something under different circumstances they might perceive as negligible. A dog over threshold would be unable to perform tasks, may run from the ring, act out in undesirable ways or become fearful or agitated.

When I filled out my entry I knew that four days was likely going to be too much for Ruby. I told myself I would "scratch (withdraw)" if Ruby showed me that she was ready for a break from the energy of the agility trial.

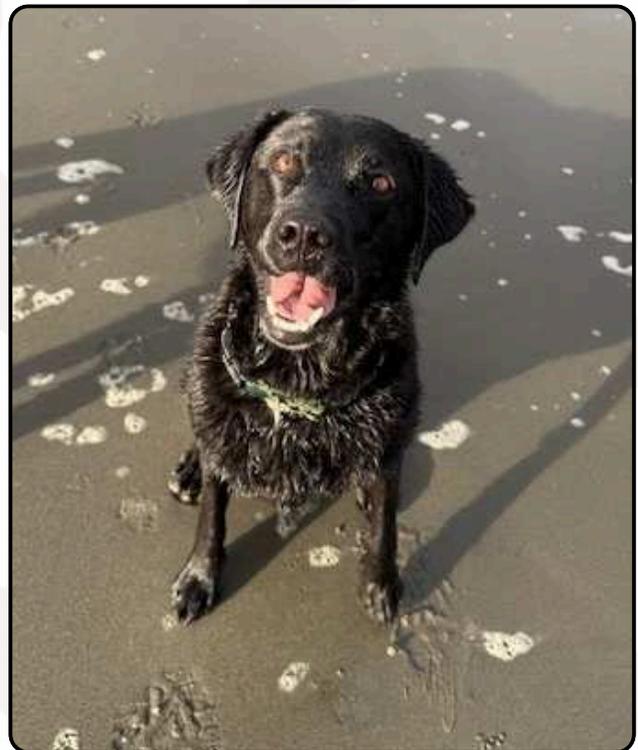
Clearly, in that moment she was telling me that she was done. So, I listened. I withdrew from the remainder of our runs that day, and after a contemplative drive home, I decided that I would also throw in the proverbial towel for the next day...the last day of the trial. I made a promise to my dog, that I would pay attention to what she was telling me and that I would respect her needs.

On Sunday morning, while sipping my coffee, I signed into Agility Gate to look at the course maps and run orders. "We can do these! These courses look like so much fun!"

It is so much harder to scratch runs when there is the promise of another day, especially when the reason isn't injury or soreness. With a sigh, I crossed Ruby's name from each of our runs for the rest of the trial.

I have no idea how the day would have turned out for us in agility. What I do know, in those moments, I made the best decision for Ruby based upon a foundation of emotional well being, feelings of safety and trust. Ultimately, it was the best decision for our team.

Submitted by Laurie Sperry



LCKC Members at Chicken Camp



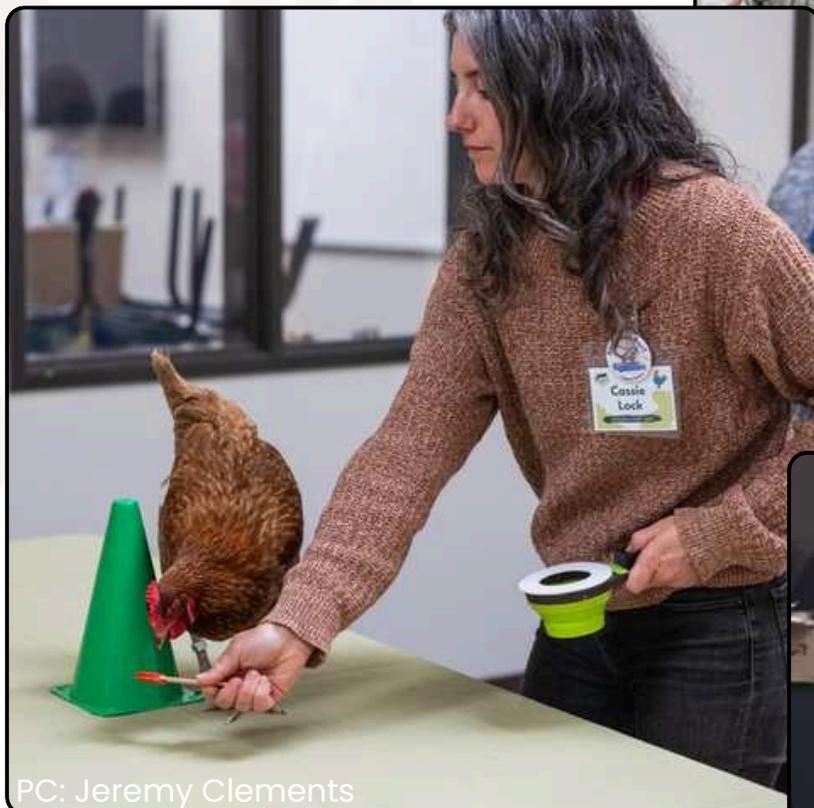
From left to right: Beverly Morgan Lewis, Cassie Lock, Lauren Wendt, Jeremy Clements, Marilyn Cottrell, Pat Stolte, Michelle Dostal

PC: Jeremy Clements



PC: Jeremy Clements

Practicing our mechanics before we get the real chickens on the table!



PC: Jeremy Clements

Using a targeting behavior to get the chicken to go around a cone.



PC: Stasia Allen

Training a red-blue color discrimination task.

Lauren Wendt and her dogs Benny and Goose had a wonderful time as always with Humboldt Dash and Splash. Such a fun and supportive group of people! Thanks to LCKC member Jeremy Clements for the amazing photos!



We had a great mock trial!!! Cathy Wright put together a gem of a practice. The hides were fun and challenging. Kurt Pires created a teaching event to launch LCKC into the tech savvy and time saving Agility Gate gate steward program. That is a keeper!! The weather was perfect and Bayley nailed her Interior hides, carefully finding threshold hides right off the bat thanks to all the coaching, encouragement and training this summer from Lauren Wendt, Momentum K9.

-Submitted by Marilyn Cottrell

LCKC Support of the Humboldt Bay Marathon

LCKC staffed 3 stations for the Marathon. We handed out snacks, water and electrolyte drinks. All the while hooting and hollering at the Marathon Runners.

The highly essential Trusdale traffic point with Sara Borok and Marilyn Cottrell, the super safety Herrick Ave. Aid Station, Deb Tull and Deb Lake and the Take numbers and write down times, Tooby Turn Around crew, Kurt Pires and Mike Lake.



Marilyn Cottrell and Sara Borok at Truesdale



Kurt Pires and Mike Lake at the South end turn around aid station.



Deb Tull and Deb Lake (unofficially The Debs Dynamic Duo Aid Station).



Group Photo Caption: Members of the 2025 Fast CAT crew. Those not shown include Sherry Pavlich, Sigrid Munson, Theresa Chase, Matt Chase, Jane Patterson, Janeann Erickson, Pam Jewell. Photo courtesy of Terry Tuttle Photography.

From Debbie Tull, Fast CAT Chair

I am so proud to be part of the LCKC Fast CAT crew! We have once again finished a very successful season. Our five “practices,” that require full set up of fencing and lure equipment, allowed additional club and community members to see if their dog was interested in chasing the lure and several of those became hooked on Fast CAT like the rest of us. The practices also provide an opportunity for volunteers to sharpen their skills, which was evident when the time came to put those skills to work.

We followed the practices with two long weekends in July. I heard over and over from exhibitors how organized and friendly our group is and that we are their favorite Fast CAT. We were once again approached by another club wanting our group to run their Fast CAT for them. What an ultimate compliment.

Our dedicated volunteers show up every day with smiles on their faces over long weekends. Several volunteers were sharing volunteer time with other events and often also running their dogs in other events. That takes great dedication and it is much appreciated.



Copper and I participated at a Community Partners event with Furry Friends Therapy Dogs. We also attended National night where neighbors gather at their local parks to meet police, Fire, and learn about different organizations like Casa, Foster Care, Hospice and others. A lot of kids with food, face painting and a group of ukulele musicians for entertainment. Submitted by Chris Irvin



Doonahshee Brasa De Encanta, Brasa, earned her AKC ATT title at the Lost Coast Kennel Club tests during our All Breed Shows in early July. It was a fun activity even though walking on the metal fence was a challenge.

Two weeks later we focused on her favorite activity, Fast CAT. Brasa earned her FCAT2 when she accumulated over 1500 points on her 2nd run of the weekend. Pretty good for a 9 year old galgo.



Terry Tuttle Photography



Submitted by Beth Rogers



Teagan and Rhona enjoyed their Fast CAT runs at the LCKC Agility weekend. I thought Teagan needed a few more points to earn her DCAT, but the title came in the mail, so she got it on that Sunday. Boohoo - no pretty ribbon and photo at the awesome LCKC photo stand. Thanks to Terry Tuttle for the great photos.

Submitted by Kris and Bayard Smith

If you missed Chicken Camp, you really missed out. I thought I knew a lot about clicker training. But this seminar expanded my knowledge and understanding exponentially. I'm so thankful I had the opportunity to attend. I'm very grateful to Lauren for bringing this world-class training to our little corner of the world. So world-class, that people literally came from around the world to attend, the furthest coming from Nurenberg Germany, just to attend the seminar. Pictured with me is the renowned Terry Ryan and my camp chicken that I named Rosa.

Submitted by Beverly Morgan Lewis



At the LCKC Rally trial Misha qualified in 2 Rally Advanced courses.

In the LCKC agility trial Misha moved up from open to excellent in JWW, and moved up from excellent to masters in standard.

Submitted by Rosalind Hussong on behalf of Kiyomi Bird

Otis B Driftwood earned his FCAT title July 19. Our thanks to the entire volunteer team at FastCAT for their "it takes a village" approach to the sport, one dog at a time. Otis never met a releaser he didn't like, and he sends a special shout out to Gus Sperry, who released him for his qualifying run, just as he had released Otis for his very first fun run many years ago.

When not running with the wind, Otis enjoys Therapy Dog visits around the county. He is just a few visits away from a Therapy Dog Advanced title and continues making connections at St. Joseph's Hospital, PACE in Fortuna, our local college campuses and going on field trips with Boys and Girls Club of the Redwoods.

Submitted by Jeanne Sapunor



🌞 On July 4, 2025, the fireworks weren't just for Independence Day—they were for Libby! Officially titled *TempusFugit Liberty Justice For All BN RN CGC RA*, she earned her Rally Advanced title at the Lost Coast Kennel Club show. One cone, one certificate, one very accomplished Miniature American Shepherd. Way to go, Libby! 🏆

Submitted by Deb Lake



Vinnie pulled off his first 3 qualifying runs in agility!!! And Nara got her barn hunt novice title this last month in Ferndale!!!
Submitted by Sara Borok



Nika (Veronika v TeMar CDX, DCAT, RA, CGCA) received her BH title and a medal at Redwood Coast Schutzhund Club's USCA trial. Nika and Cosmo both took part in an informative tracking seminar with USCA judge Al Govednik, hosted by RCSC.



Submitted by Jane Patterson

July was a month of firsts for Ruby and Lola. Ruby debuted in conformation, winning two group 1sts and one 2nd at the All Breed Show, then earned her Instinct and Novice titles at her first barn hunt.

Lola excelled in agility, achieving FAST and Standard Novice titles and two qualifying Jumpers runs, including a 1st place. She also enjoyed FastCAT and may have scored enough for her FCAT3.



Submitted by Teresa Chase



Tanza earned his Excellent FAST title at the LCKC agility trial.

Submitted by Robin Garber



Here is Miss Zuzu with all her accomplishments over the LCKC weekend. She competed in Agility , BarnHunt and Fat Cat. We had a lot of fun. We are developing into a great team together

Submitted by Deb St. Myers, Agate English Cocker kennel

August - October 2025 LCKC Practice Schedule

These are the tentative dates for planned practices, but there may be changes. Please pay attention to the notices that come out via the I.o. group before each practice day.

Note that the times are not always the same.

Date	Location	Time	Activity
August			
24	Ridgewood School	Time TBA	Conformation, Obedience, Rally, Scent Work
October			
5	Ferndale Fairgrounds, track	10 am (set up)	Fast CAT
		11 am	Fast CAT runs start
	Fairgrounds midway lawn	1 pm	Conformation, Obedience, Rally, Scent Work