

# THE LOST COAST HOWLER



EDITOR - LAUREN WENDT



## PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

Anyone else feeling like they’re on an emotional roller coaster in the dead of winter? February has that special talent for making us wonder if we’re thriving, surviving, or just waiting for the sun to remember we exist.

And let’s be honest—February may be the shortest month, but it absolutely overachieves. It gives us Valentine’s Day, Groundhog Day, surprise sunshine, surprise hail, and the annual tradition of pretending our New Year’s resolutions are “on pause.” It’s also peak season for cabin fever, comfort snacks, and dogs staring at us like “I don’t care what the weather is doing, we’re going outside.” February keeps us guessing, and maybe that’s part of its charm.

Life has its ups and downs, and I won’t pretend I have all the answers—some days I can’t even keep track of my own car keys. At rally practice at Kim’s, my car locked me out not once but twice. Mike rescued me with his key fob, drove all the way home... and then it happened again. I swear I was living in my own personal Groundhog Day reboot and Mike needs AAA pay.

Now, speaking of things repeating themselves, it’s time for our reminder: **we need to move the agility trailer from Nielsen’s Feed Store in Ferndale.** Nielsen’s did not sell as expected.

### 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!**  
**FEBRUARY 17, 2026**  
**MEMBER MEETING 7:00PM**  
**HELD VIA ZOOM**

They're selling off inventory and will be closing, and I'm concerned we may eventually get locked out. If anyone has a possible landing spot for the trailer, please let us know.

And for those planning to enter the Spring Scent Work Trial, timing is everything. If you want a real shot at a trial slot, **mail your entry on Friday, March 6**. Not earlier, not later—March 6 is the magic day.

If you're feeling a little wobbly this month, you're not alone. Be gentle with yourself, get outside when you can, and let your dog remind you that joy can be as simple as a walk, a treat, or a good sniff.

Spring is coming. Eventually. Probably. But until then, we've got each other.  
Warmly,

-Deb Lake  
Lost Coast Kennel Club President



## Letter from the Editor

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Lately, it feels like things are moving at warp speed! While that certainly has its ups and downs, it also means there is a lot of exciting work happening behind the scenes. I haven't had much time to slow down and reflect, but I'm happy to share a few highlights.

Archie is now seven months old, and her detection training is becoming increasingly complex, with both interior and exterior search work well underway. It has been incredibly rewarding to watch her confidence, problem-solving, and independence develop as the training challenges grow.

I'm also busy preparing for an upcoming four-day workshop (I'll be seeing some of you there) and getting ready to welcome an intern from a dog training program at the State University of New York. He will be spending the next two and a half months with me, learning the ins and outs of detection dog training as well as the realities of running a small training business.

On top of that, I recently welcomed a new foster dog who found herself in the shelter, she has some truly exceptional potential for detection work. She will be staying with me until I

can place her in an appropriate working role, which I suspect won't take long. She's a bit of a unicorn.

I'll also be working with a few generous club members to complete my canine fitness certification. Thank you so much to those who volunteered to help with that process.

Looking ahead, I'm preparing to trial Finn in both Rally and Obedience at the upcoming Shasta Kennel Club trial next month, and I'll also be presenting a half-day workshop on marker training during the event.

I'm sure I'm forgetting a few things, but even on the busiest days, I'm still grateful for the work I am able to dedicate to both my own dogs and my clients' dogs grow, progress, and succeed. Small steps and small wins truly do add up.

Thank you to this club, our community, and the many people who make it possible to do such meaningful and rewarding work with our dogs.

-Lauren Wendt  
LCKC Newsletter Editor



**NEXT GENERAL MEMBER MEETING  
TUESDAY FEBRUARY 17, 2026**

General member 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!

Board Meetings are now being held the second Tuesday of the Month at 7pm.  
All members are welcome to attend but only board members can vote.



\$15 individual and \$25 household/family  
Checks can be mailed to:  
Lost Coast Kennel Club  
PO Box 6808  
Eureka CA 95502

**ANNUAL CLUB DUES**

Details and payments <https://lostcoastkc.org/members-only.html>



## Our Spring Scent Work Trial Is Coming Up! May 2-3, 2026

Redwood Coast Montessori School  
1611 Peninsula Dr., Arcata (Manila), CA

Entries can be mailed starting March 6<sup>th</sup> (not any sooner)  
Click [HERE](#) to view the premium.

We are excited to offer all levels and elements of Odor and Detective classes at this trial. Our goal is to provide local scent work teams with more opportunities to earn titles, especially for those who prefer not to travel or for whom travel is not always affordable.

The premium list is now available through this [LINK](#) or this QR code and will also be posted on the LCKC website.



Entries open March 9. To improve your chances of getting in, **please mail completed entry forms to the Trial Secretary on Friday, March 6.** Last year, the trial filled within two days of opening.

This year's trial will be held at a new venue, Redwood Coast Montessori in Manila. We are partnering with the school to support Friends of Redwood Coast Montessori, their fundraising group. Students will be offering a hot lunch as part of the fundraiser.

We are also pleased to welcome judges Liz Carter and Kelly Boyer, whose course designs will bring a fresh and engaging challenge to the searches.

As with any scent work trial, we rely on volunteers for set-up, tear-down, and throughout the event. **Volunteering is a great learning opportunity—especially for anyone new to scent work**—and a fun way to support the club and spend time with fellow Lost Coast KC members.

We plan to hold a mock trial for volunteers, including Agility Gate, at Sunnybrae Middle School around the second weekend in April.

To volunteer or learn more, please contact Marilyn Cottrell at [m81cottrell@gmail.com](mailto:m81cottrell@gmail.com).

## **PRACTICE DATES 2026 – TENTATIVE\***

Held at Humboldt County Fairgrounds in Ferndale

**Practices are open to non-members**, there is no official fee. Donations are accepted, suggestion is \$5 per dog which that covers everything the dog practices that day. Participants must sign a yearly liability waiver, and sign in on the daily sign-in sheet .

**April 12, 1pm** Midway Lawn –Conformation, Obedience, Rally, Scent work

**April 26, 11am** Track – Fast CAT\*

**April 26, 1pm** Midway Lawn – Conformation, Obedience, Rally, Scent work

**May 10, 1pm** (Mother’s Day) Midway Lawn – Conformation, Obedience, Rally, Scent work  
Alternate if FCAT gets rained out on Apr 26.

**May 17, 11am** Track – Fast CAT

**May 17, 1pm** Midway Lawn – Conformation, Obedience, Rally, Scent work

(May 24 – could be alternate for May 10 to avoid Mother’s Day)

**June 7** – Practices TBA (Woofstock weekend)

**June 14 11am** Track – FCAT

**June 14, 1pm** Midway Lawn – Conformation, Obedience, Rally, Scent work

**June 21, 1pm** (Father’s Day) Midway Lawn – Conformation, Obedience, Rally, Scent work

CAT – TBA

\*Needs to be approved by the Fairgrounds

This avoids May 31 – Memorial Day weekend

There are only three weekends in June this year

Updates will be made monthly as needed. Please check lo group for additional updates.

### **HUMBOLDT DISC DOG 2026\* PRACTICE AND TRIAL DATES**

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

- April 25 practice
- May 9 practice
- May 30-31 trial
- June 13 practice
- June 27-28 trial Crossover Crown
- August 15 practice
- August 29-30 trial
- September 19-20 Triple Crown
- October 3 practice
- October 10-11 trial – Monster Mash

\*Upon approval of Rio Dell Fire BOD



## Spotlight on Libby: Tempusfugit Liberty Justice For All RE SIN DDG CGC

Every so often, a dog comes along who embodies everything we love about the Miniature American Shepherd: brains, beauty, heart, and a work ethic that doesn't quit. This month, we're celebrating **Libby - Tempusfugit Liberty Justice For All RE SIN DDG CGC**—a young dog already making her mark in all the right ways.

I am proud to announce that **Libby has officially completed and passed all Miniature American Shepherd breed health requirements. She has her CHIC number.** This is a major milestone for any dog, and Libby cleared it with the same confidence and enthusiasm she brings to everything she does.

Standing at **15.5 inches**, Libby is perfectly sized and beautifully balanced. But it's her temperament and talent that truly shine. She has a strong work ethic, a reliable off switch, a kind, steady disposition, and a level of biddability that makes training a joy. She's the kind of dog who tries her heart out, reads her handler beautifully, and brings a spark to every activity.

Around here, I call her **my Garbo 2.0**—a tribute to the dog who set the bar high and a nod to the promise Libby carries forward. She has big pawprints to follow, and she's already stepping into them with grace.

Her future is bright, and I couldn't be more excited to see where her journey leads. **Stay tuned—Libby is just getting started.**





My adventure with K9 Ody was highlighted in a recent Times Standard article written by Heather Shelton. I've had so many amazing opportunities to train conservation detection dogs over the years and Ody is at the pinnacle.

Ody has been part of Conservation South Luangwa's Anti-Poaching K9 Unit since 2023. I raised and trained him from 8 weeks until about 16 months old.

I made the trip with him to Zambia. I am in regular contact with his handler who gives me updates about how he is doing.

Ody is trained to detect a number of trafficked wildlife parts such as elephant ivory, rhino horn, pangolin scales, bush meat, as well as firearms. He is used to search vehicles at road blocks and in sweeps of houses of suspected poachers and wildlife traffickers.

To me there is nothing better than good dogs helping further conservation efforts and helping in the fight against wildlife trafficking!

-Submitted by Lauren Wendt

Introducing Pembrats Spirit of David at St. Johns aka Gryphon. He's a well bred Lancashire Heeler out of the St Johns kennel on Columbus, Ohio. (I haven't seen weather that cold since I was a child in northern Indiana.) He is a confident, happy, energetic boy. I think he's going to be a blast to train.

-Submitted by Beverly Morgan Lewis





My Border Collie earned his FCAT9 on January 18 in Elk Grove at an event put on by the Hound Association of Northern California.

-Submitted by Janeann Erickson

Cider and I traveled to Grant's Pass OR to the Sunnyside Dog Sports barn hunt trial. It was a crisp 25° all 3 days. But that didn't deter Cider as he qualified in 3 more legs in the Masters class to earn his Barn Hunt Master title.

-Submitted by Jamye Weseloh



Davia and I spent January 24–25 attending the two-day Schutzhund Kevin workshop hosted by the Redwood Coast Schutzhund Club. The focus on clarity, engagement, and precision gave us a fresh set of tools to add to our regular training sessions. Kevin’s approach to handler mechanics and reward timing made an immediate difference for Davia, I on the other hand was a little slower on the uptake LOL—Davia is such a joy to work with and with each training session you can almost see her confidence level grow.

Protection was also part of this workshop, but for us, the real value came from the focus on obedience foundations: cleaner cues, better energy management, and exercises that build reliability without losing enthusiasm. It was a great reminder that strong IGP work starts with thoughtful, consistent obedience, and showed me areas I need to improve on.

For any Lost Coast Kennel Club members who have ever been curious about IGP/Schutzhund—whether the obedience, tracking, or protection components—the Redwood Coast Schutzhund Club is a welcoming place to explore the sport. Visitors are always encouraged to come our weekly training day, ask questions, and see how the training system works. If you’ve got a dog who loves to work or you’re looking for a new training challenge, we’d love to have you join us sometime.

-Submitted by Dan Wake





We had a fantastic turnout for our Dia del Galgo/FIT Dog walk at the Arcata Marsh in Humboldt County, CA USA. We had a total of 31 dogs accompanied by 28 people.

The walk is our way of drawing attention to the mistreatment of the Galgo Español in Spain. February 1st marks the end of the competitive hunting season and a time when tens of thousands of unwanted dogs are turned into rescues, abandoned to get hit by cars or starve to death, tortured, or killed. The numerous rescues throughout Spain are overwhelmed, but they fight on. They rely on rescues throughout the world to help get the dogs adopted. It is very expensive for Spanish rescues to provide the veterinary care and house the dogs until they are rescued. It is very expensive for the volunteers from the other countries to fly to Spain and bring back the dogs to the local rescues.

We adopted our first two Galgos (Abby & Filina) in 2018. They had been cared for by Scooby-Medina. They were transported to the U.S. by Daphne Legacy Tour and we adopted them through Greyhound Friends for Life. We adopted Brasa in 2022 through Save a Galgo Español (SAGE). She came from Fundacion Benjamin Mehnert. If you are able in these difficult times to donate to one of these rescues, please do so. Also, if you are considering adopting a dog, please see if a galgo would fit into your life. They are amazing, gentle, playful, 30mph couch potatoes.

Thank you, Debbie and Beth

Jim and I are new foster parents for a 5 year old English Springer Spaniel, Madam Curie, call name will be Maddie. We picked her up in Crescent City yesterday and so far all is going well. Her owner was an older gentleman that had passed away.

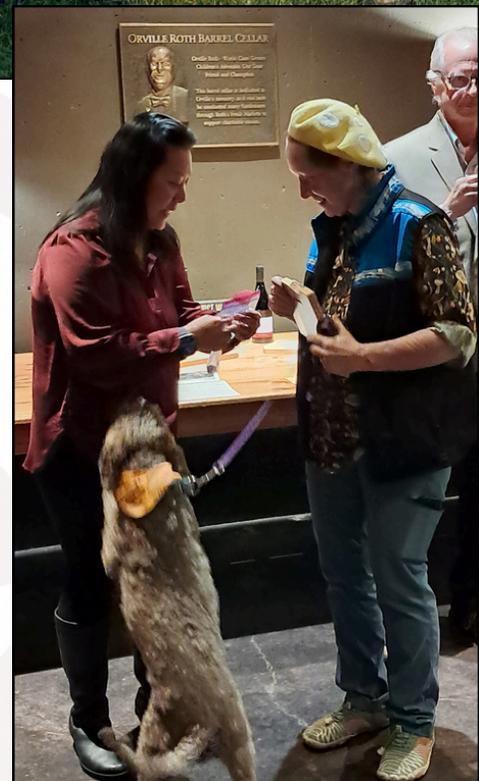


We have not been able to socialize yet but will be soon, people and dogs. Letting her adjust to her new surroundings first. Training starts now and classes with HumDog in March.

-Submitted by Abby Wasetis



Vinnie Rocked it again at the Joriad Truffle Hunting Competition in Eugene, Oregon. We got 3rd place!!! First and Second place tied with 15 truffles each, we found 13.  
Nara actually found 2 truffles in the woods and one of the "hides" in the arena.  
-Submitted by Sara Borok





Recon got 2nd in interiors. Third fastest Novice A dog overall.

He blew through Novice A buried just over 8 seconds. Can you believe he was 5th! We now have two legs in buried.

Moved up to Novice B. Novice B Interior he rocked with a 2nd place. Playing in B with the big boys and introducing himself. First elite Novice Interior leg.

First time in Advanced Containers and he was oh so close.

Best part of the weekend, he knew what we were there for and we had a great time.

This is a puppy I bred and Co own, he is 11 months old.

-Submitted by Marietta Christensen

The Board meeting was called to order by President Debra Lake at 7:00 p.m. Present: Board members: Michelle Dostal, Debra Lake, Patty Mendes, Jill Otto, Kurt Pires, Kris Smith, Debbie Tull.

Non-Board members: Beverly Morgan Lewis, Tina Moulton, Sherry Pavlich.

Minutes of the Last Meeting: The minutes from the December 9, 2025, Board meeting were approved as published. (Patty/Debbie T)

Report of the Treasurer: Jill said we don't have Andrea's financial reports yet due to family emergency. She went over the bank statement. Dues are coming in, but slowly. She will have a meeting with Andrea at the end of the month. Fees for our events are being paid. Andrea sent AKC documents to the Board via email to clarify how to log superintendent/secretary reports. We will itemize in our books as Andrea has been doing. Andrea will tag those with the name of the super/secretary to identify the source. The Treasurer's Report as presented was approved (Debbie T/Kris).

#### Unfinished Business

☒ Agility Entry Fees – Beverly said Lorie Abbott (Agility Secretary) suggested that we raise our agility entry fees due to the AKC raising their fee by \$1 this year and another \$1 in 2027. We charged \$22 per run last year; some clubs are up to \$25. (Our conformation fees went from \$35 to \$37.) The Board agreed to go up to \$24 to cover both years. Last year we had a package rate of \$450 if they entered everything (24 runs). Will raise to \$475. MSAC (Kurt/Jill) to raise the Agility entry fee to \$24 per run and raise the package rate to \$475. The Fast CAT entry will stay the same, as it went up last year.

☒ HumDOG Dog Expo – Applications are out. Agreement for LCKC to have a booth and make our usual donation, which equals their trophy donation to us. Beth is putting together a new club brochure, for Expo and other uses. Staples is the best price so far. Will put QR code on it that leads to our website. Beth will send a draft to the Board. We need to set up a Secretary email – Kurt will put a test email account on the website. Tina can be the main person at the booth.

**MSAC (Jill/Debbie T) LCKC will have a booth at Dog Expo, for \$20.**

**MSAC (Kris/Jill) to approve the purchase of 500 triple fold club brochures.**

**MSAC (Debbie T/Kurt) to approve four \$25 gift certificates for HumDOG fundraising (Dog Expo and CPE).**

New Business

- ☒ 2026 Holiday Party dates/places – We prefer December 12 at the Unitarian Fellowship Hall. Back up of Rio Del Fire Hall is possible. Will recommend to membership for approval so we can reserve early.
- ☒ Fair racing dates – the Fair is applying for racing dates starting July 22 nd which could effect us because horses might be on the track during our agility weekend. We need to keep track of those negotiations.
- ☒ Nilson's for sale – At least the Nilsen's in Ferndale is for sale, maybe all of them. We need to pay attention and find out if we can still park the agility trailer there, and make sure the new owner knows that the trailer is not part of the sale. We might need to move it suddenly. Discussion of how the sale might effect us – Trailer, straw bales for barn hunt. It would be best to find a source of two string bales that are lighter. Maybe local field hay? Eel River Hay a possible alternative.
- ☒ Fast CAT Handler Guidelines – Kris said that the proposed Guidelines, written to encourage safety of our volunteers, were distributed via the email group, and should be approved by the membership because they would become a club document. The Board approved the Guidelines and approved bringing them to the membership for a vote.
- ☒ Ring fencing – Tina said she will be getting white plastic chain and stakes for the extra show ring, and for the division between rings 3 and 4 which is taken down for Groups.

Announcements:

- ☒ The Board agreed that the Board and Regular meeting will continue to be on the second and third Tuesdays of the month (except December) and that both will start at 7:00 p.m.

The Board Meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.  
Respectively submitted by Kris Smith, LCKC Secretary

The meeting was called to order by President Debra Lake at 7:00 pm.

Present: Teresa Chase, Marilyn Cottrell, Michelle Dostal, Kim Gradin, Susan Hutchison, Debra Lake, Mike Lake, Beverly Morgan Lewis, Suzi Martin, Patty Mendes, Tina Moulton, Jill Otto, Bobbie Pires, Kurt Pires, Beth Rogers, Kris Smith, Deb St Myers, Debbie Tull, Dan Wake, Cathy Wright.

Minutes of the Last Meeting: The minutes from the November 18, 2025, Regular meeting were approved as published (Jill/Dan).

Report of the President: Deb Lake said we are in the second month of having separate Board and Regular meetings, and it is working well; we are not pressured at the Board meetings to get things done, and we get more done. At the last Board meeting we raised agility entry fees to \$24/run and \$475 for the package; we approved the purchase of new brochures which will include a QR code to the website, we approved the purchase of \$100 in gift cards for HumDOG fundraising; we approved purchase of 50 Fast CAT transfers to be put on clothing, etc.; and we approved bringing the Fast CAT Handler Guidelines to the membership for approval. She is happy with the newsletter, and we had a great post holiday party. She thanked the Board for their work with the club. The Board members thanked Deb for her leadership, and keeping us headed in the right direction.

Report of the Secretary: Kris shared thank you cards for our donations to Friends For Life and Canine Health Fund. She sent a thank you note to Richard Wilmot, who has been our chief ring steward for many years. Since he declined to do the four shows in three days schedule, we are using someone else this year.

Report of the Treasurer: Jill reported on our bank statement. Andrea is facing family issues so there is no financial report. Jill will move money from PayPal (memberships) to the checking account. We have been spending money on AKC applications and trophies. About 50 people have paid dues.

Report of Committees:

PRACTICES

Kris said the first club ring practices are scheduled for April 12 at the fairgrounds, and the first Fast CAT practice on April 26 on the track (in addition to ring practices). The barn hunt practices at the Hutchison's will start in May, and the Lakes will start their non-club barn hunt practices also in May.

B-OB SHOWS/RALLY/Fast CAT 2026:

Shows: Tina said we are trying to find the last few judges. Getting organized to submit the premium list by the end of February. Cathy said we have a good start on trophy sponsorships, and has had a meeting to decide what to offer. She will post the list on the email group. The Friday morning show doesn't offer NOHS, so no NOHS trophies are

needed. So far, trophies will be baskets of human and dog treats, custom cutting boards with a photo of the winner, coolers. Please reach out to businesses you know for sponsorships – you can print out the form. Report what you have gotten in the email thread so there aren't duplicate requests. Needed by the last week in February.

Rally/Obedience: Michelle said there is nothing new.

Fast CAT: Debbie T said applications are in for both weekends. Beth said if you were an integral part of the team, please respond to the call for volunteers.

AGILITY, BARN HUNT, Fast CAT 2026:

Agility: Beverly ML said the applications are in. Discussion about clarification of the terms with the fairgrounds regarding RV parking and who does it for which weekend.

Fast CAT: Same as above. We will not host a Coursing Ability Test this year, we're not ready. Perhaps some practices. If you know of an appropriate field, speak up.

Barn Hunt: Mike said they are looking for a source of two string bales. Deb L said Nilsen's has been sold to a conglomerate in Florida. We need to figure out rental of bales for barn hunt and storage of the agility trailer. We need to make sure the buyer is aware that the trailer is not part of the transaction. It will remain a feed store. May affect Eureka and Ukiah as well.

SCENT WORK TRIALS 2026

Spring Trials May 2, 3 – Cathy said plans are going well, pressing to get the premium list out, working with school related groups to provide food. Doing a walk-through on February 1 after the Galgo walk. There will be 130 runs available each day, input from local people make it look like it will fill very fast, so enter ASAP. Mail entries Friday March 6 to be received on March 9. Will be taken by first received, not by postmark. There will be a mock trial, hopefully at Sunnybrae Middle School, in early April. Practice for volunteers, Agility Gate users, as well as exhibitors.

Labor Day Trials – Susan said that five judges are confirmed. Has to contact AKC due to technical issues on their site in order to proceed. Next committee meeting will be Jan 28 to discuss how many pro bono runs to give judges.

MEMBERSHIP APPRECIATION PICNIC 2026

FIT DOG – Kimber said the Fit Dog walk will be with the International Galgo Day walk February 1 at the Arcata Marsh. Beth said meet at the G Street parking lot at 11:15, or at Klopp Lake at 11:30 for a shorter walk.

NEWSLETTER: Viewing the PDF was a problem for some before, but that has now been solved. Send in your brags! There is a place to announce events for other clubs.

WEBSITE: Kurt said he's still in the process of changing from Weebly.

CHAT GROUP: Beth said all is good.

MEMBERSHIP: Beth said she hasn't received 2026 membership information yet.

BYLAWS: Kris said there is no new progress.

Election of New Members: none

#### Unfinished business

☒ 2026 Event Contracts – Jill will go to the fairgrounds office this week to pay and get copies of the fully signed contracts. She will discuss the racing schedule (if they get their dates it will impact our agility trials).

☒ Shed – set-up, cleaning/organizing day, dig trench – We need a day of good weather with no conflicts with other activities. Mike will dig a trench. Maybe a new floor with a moisture barrier? Final plans TBA in February.

☒ Dog Expo – has been cancelled due to increased venue fees and labor demands. CPE is still OK because it's at a different location.

#### New Business:

☒ Fast CAT T-shirts – The Board has approved purchase of 50 special limited edition anniversary transfers with LCKC Fast CAT graphics, to be put on clothing or other items provided by each person. Thank you to Tina for donating her time to order and apply the transfers. They cost \$15 (\$5 for the transfer, \$10 for the club). Bring your shirt to the Galgo walk.

☒ Holiday Party 2026 – We need to schedule it soon. Beverly will ask for December 12, 1-5 at the Unitarian Fellowship Hall.

☒ Fast CAT Handler Guidelines – These were written for the safety of volunteer handlers at our events. It should be displayed at our meets. Dogs get amped up by Fast CAT and can behave differently from normal. Suggestion to have an article about Fast CAT in the newsletter with a link to the guidelines on the website. Important to make sure people know they are expected to bring two handlers and two leashes – what the club provides is back-up for those that don't. It will become a club document, so should be voted on by the members present. **MSAC (Teresa/Mike) to approve the Fast CAT Handler Guidelines.**

#### Announcements:

☒ Cathy would like to find a handler for her dog at the Shasta shows.

☒ Starting in February, Beverly ML will have classes on Tuesday night and will be late to meetings. She needs to change her class schedule due to new Redwood Acres changing fees and policies.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Kris Smith, LCKC Secretary