



# THE SPOTLIGHT



The Newsletter of the Musical Dog Sport Association, Inc.  
Created By Freestylers For Freestylers

Volume 3, Issue 2

Winter 2008

## Wish You Were There? The First MDSA Live Titling Event

*This event was dedicated to the team who brought a smile to each of us –  
Carolyn Scott and Rookie.*



*MP Jackson and Stella, topping off a routine that earned them the first ever MDSA Novice Title.*

The Musical Dog Sport Association was proud to hold its first ever live titling event on November 2, 2008 at the Cape Canine Fun Center in Dennisport, Massachusetts. The Capering Canines of Cape Cod sponsored a well-planned, fun and friendly event that has set the bar high for future MDSA live events. We wish all our MDSA friends could have been there in person to enjoy an event that was a *long* time in the making, but we've put together this edition of The Spotlight in hopes of giving all of you a taste of what it was like to participate in an MDSA live event.

Next time, make plans to join us!

*"Who would have thought a year ago that Stella and I would hold a Freestyle Novice Title by now? Definitely not me! My sweet girl is now the first MDSA Titled Canine, and to have earned that Title at the first MDSA Live Event is a wonderful dream come true. We have made history! We could not have done it without the friendship and support from MDSA's members and dogs, and are very grateful for all the educational MDSA online workshops. It surely is great to 'learn with the best'. Thank you, Stella, for your unconditional love and for believing in me. You are my brightest Star and I am so proud of you." - MP Jackson / Charlotte, Vermont*



## A Look Back at 2008



In addition to the first Live Event in MDSA history, **the really big news this year was MDSA's first ever titling event.** The June 1 Video Event was a big success with 38 entries, 34 of them in the Novice Class, 3 in Rookie Class and one in the Veterans Class. Twenty-six teams earned a qualifying score that earned them a ribbon and a leg in their goal of achieving a Novice Freestyle Dog Title.

The MDSA ended their second Video Event of 2008 on November 1. The entries are being processed at this time. There were 27 entries received, 22 Novice, 2 Rookie Class and 3 Veterans Class.

The popular Online Workshop also had a good year, thanks several members willing to share their time and expertise. Each month the MDSA hosts interesting topics led by talented presenters. In July Karen Johnson led a pertinent workshop on "Attention & focus, synchronization, relationship (visual bond) between dog & handler". In September Carol Ballou presented a workshop called "By Design", expanding on creative heeling, choreography and music editing. October brought Nancy Tanner to lead a workshop, "Keep it interesting," how to keep your training interesting and creative without falling into a rut, both for you and your dog, strategies for being a creative trainer and watching for signs that your dog `needs something new to do,' how to make a plan, morph that plan, and come up with new ideas. Judy Gamut gave us an excellent workshop in December, "Choreography and Flow". You can find all of these workshops in the archives of the Online Workshop. If you are not a member of the MDSA Online Workshop, where have you been! Join right now by clicking on the link on the right side of the page at [www.musicaldogsport.org](http://www.musicaldogsport.org) and following the instructions.





## Give the Gift of Freestyle!

Still searching for the perfect gift? MDSA is now offering another perk for members. MDSA Gift Certificates are now available for purchase for friends and family. Our gift certificates can be used for entry fees to MDSA live and video events, membership fees or toward the purchase of any product on our website.

To purchase a gift certificate or for more information, contact the MDSA Products Manager, Emily Pyle at [emilypyle@sbcglobal.net](mailto:emilypyle@sbcglobal.net). You can pay for your gift certificate by check, money order or PayPal.

**To pay by check or money order**, make your check out to the Musical Dog Sport Association and mail it to: MDSA Products, c/o Emily Pyle / 2026 Gable Hollow Lane / Katy, Texas 77450.

**To pay by PayPal**, go to [www.paypal.com](http://www.paypal.com).

If you have a PayPal account, sign in. If you are new to PayPal, you must first register and set up an account. Next, go to the **Send Money** tab at the top of the screen and follow the instructions. Send the money to the email address, [musicaldogsport@comcast.net](mailto:musicaldogsport@comcast.net). **Important** - In the subject or message line indicate that the payment is for a **gift certificate(s)**.

## Next Video Events: June 1 and November 1, 2009

Mark your calendar for the next video titling events in 2009. Questions about titling events are always welcome. Just ask them on our discussion lists or e-mail one of the Executive Board members (see the back of this newsletter). Entries for this MDSA video event are due June 1 and November 1, 2009, respectively. We invite you to participate in the video event for a leg, an MDSA title or just for fun. Either way, you will help shape the future of our wonderful sport.

### Details for the events

All who enter titling events for the first time begin in the Novice Class (single dog). These events will also offer titles for Standard for those who have successfully completed their Novice title. You must have 2 qualifying events (legs) to earn a Freestyle Dog title. You may earn legs for MDSA titles at video or live events. Titles are awarded to a dog and handler team. Performances for each qualifying leg must be earned with a *new* routine, *new* choreography and *new* music. Only *one* entry per dog in a titling class is allowed per event. Each performance will be evaluated or scored with the *MDSA Performance Guidelines* providing the basis for the evaluation. A DVD of the teams entering will be sent to all exhibitors. The DVD - a thank you to those who entered and a wonderful learning tool - will not be sold.

This event will also offer non-titling, non-competitive opportunities in the non-regular classes of Rookie (single dog or team) and Veterans (single dog). The Rookie class is open to MDSA members only. You may also enter a routine in the Novice class and choose to not be scored; you will be able to mark your form as such.

The *Video Event Entry Form*, *MDSA Performance Guidelines* and the *MDSA Novice and Standard Score Sheets* are available on the **Publications** section of the MDSA Web site at [www.musicaldogsport.org](http://www.musicaldogsport.org).

### November 2008 Video Event Update

November 1, 2008 was the deadline for our second MDSA Titling & Fun Match Video Event. Thank you all for entering the event. It was another great success, with a total of 28 entries (23 in the Novice division, 3 in the Veteran division and 2 in the Rookie Team division).

All teams have been notified that we received your entry. If you have not yet heard from MDSA about your entry, please send an email to [musicaldogsport@gmail.com](mailto:musicaldogsport@gmail.com).

We're busy compiling all the videos into the event DVD for the judges. Stay tuned for more updates.



## LIVE! A Whole Different Ballgame ...



We asked the competitors how competing live was different than video or doing freestyle demonstrations in their community.

### **There's an audience!**

Obviously there was the audience. Sure there are onlookers at local demos, but this just felt very different in a competition setting. Things we never had to think about before were now center stage, for example would our dogs be distracted or worried about the audience in such a quiet room and controlled space? How would they react to clapping or someone shuffling in their chair? Nearly all the competitors felt the feedback from the audience was encouraging and really helped them relax and have a good time. Some of the audience members were not involved in freestyle and this was their first exposure to it, so their clapping and comments, in particular, were rewarding to hear.

### **The right attire makes a difference.**

Several of the competitors found themselves looking at their attire a little more closely. Some participants felt that attire can make you feel less inhibited and less self-conscious and can add to audience enjoyment because it completes the picture of the music, choreography and importantly the team. Alan Cheever, who danced in formal attire with Danny, his Scotty, chuckled, "The audience may not always appreciate the training that you have invested, but your attire can show that you're thinking of their enjoyment." Many of them noted that less is definitely more. You want to look like the event is special and deserves some dignity and respect, so you don't want to have attire that is too complicated, overwhelming or takes attention away from your dog. Elaine Baird, a special award judge, noted that "the simplest visual cue, as in a simple, matching collar on a dog and a simple, small scarf on a person, adds one more step in demonstrating an emotional bond."

### **Keep it simple.**

Most competitors agreed that their choreography was not what they expected, or practiced! Moves were missed and the dogs could definitely perceive the nerves of the handlers. This led to some missed cues and a little onstage frustration. Most agreed that keeping their routines simple would allow for greater success in the ring; there would be less for dog and handler to remember and they could just have more fun, which is the ultimate goal of freestyle. Many noted they tried to pack their routines with just way too many elements and many of them were just too complicated. One performer stated "We need to micro manage our routine, work it in smaller sections to perfect it and work on attention....a lot!" Some noted they need to find a way to add a pause or two to their choreography or simpler transitions were a good way to "catch-up" with yourself and give your dog some time to "think through the nerves." One participant stated "From my perspective, I know what is coming next but she does not and needs some time to figure that out. Sometimes we forget that." Still others realized that they needed to add some strong heelwork patterns to their routines and remove some of the extra "tricks" to simplify their choreography and give the audience some time to enjoy how their dog moves out across the floor to the music.

### **Go with the flow.**

A common comment was that many of the dogs missed some of their cues. Sometimes the handlers were nervous and gave very late or just plain muddled commands. Sometimes the dogs were nervous or distracted and missed what was otherwise a good cue. Several of them realized they just needed to keep going and find a way to ad-lib and not dwell on the missed opportunity. With a good ad-lib the audience might never know you missed something! Jan Weiner related that one of the judge's comments was "Tobey missed some through cues, but it didn't disrupt flow." That was because Tobey substituted an around for the through, and Jan just ad-libbed and kept on going. It seems that ad-libbing is a skill to acquire especially when your canine partner does some creative choreography!

### **Nothing beats a supportive group of competitors.**

Finally, nothing can replace the support and camaraderie of fellow competitors. Everyone noted this as one of the truly unexpected joys of performing live. Everyone was a cheerleader for each other, clapping when they came back to the crating area after their performance. You had fellow friends to celebrate your successes, commiserate with the mistakes and someone to bounce off ideas for improvement. The MDSA spirit was alive and well with not only the dogs and their handlers, but also the community of competitors. Several of the participants noted they were surprised to realize they were not competing against each other, rather they were competing against themselves to have the best performance they could. For many, this made competing live truly a *fun* experience. Katie Tracanna summed it up nicely when she said her favorite part of the event was "Listening to applause from the back room after each person finished their performance. It was like 'Dancing With the Stars'...only we had better partners."



*The competitors from left to right: Nancy Bates and Ariel, Leslie Lichtenstein and Amber, MP Jackson and Stella, Janice Sawyer and Sunny, Ann Golding and Teddy, Jenny Ruth Yasi with Tigerlily, Alan Cheever with Danny, Jan Weiner and Tobey, Katie Tracanna and Wiley, Dana Sambogna and Shelby. Even though Carolyn and Rookie were not physically with us that day, they were there in spirit...and in photo...Ann holds a picture of our favorite team.*



## Reactive Dogs React to Freestyle



Dogs of all shapes and sizes gathered for the first MDSA Live Event. There were small dogs, large dogs, pure breeds, mixed breeds, happy dogs, smart dogs and even reactive dogs. Reactive dogs might have fears or situations that make them nervous. Reactive dogs might, well, *react* to the things that make them uncomfortable in different ways like barking, hiding or stop working altogether. Sports like freestyle can be a great outlet for these dogs because it builds confidence and teaches the dog how to focus on you and his job instead of getting too worried about what's around him. The Live Event was carefully staged to allow for all dogs to have a successful experience. We wondered what some of the participants felt and how those who do freestyle with reactive dogs tried to make the event a positive experience.

**Dana Sambogna and her two-year-old Border Collie, Shelby**, have been working on her reactive issues since Shelby was very young. Shelby doesn't like other dogs to violate her space, so a crowded show site could easily be a very stressful situation for Shelby. Dana takes Shelby to weekly freestyle classes where the other students are aware of Shelby's issues and do not let their dogs violate her space. This has helped Shelby feel safe in a crowded freestyle environment. Shelby did great with the other dogs at the event. She did become spooked over a gentleman in the audience that was staring at her, just moments before they started their routine. The event coordinators and the judge allowed her an extra few minutes to walk Shelby around the ring so she could relax and regain her composure and they went on to have a very solid and successful performance. Dana felt that proofing her dog at more live demos for fun may help, and she might let audience members at these demos give Shelby some treats so she learns to stay calm in a similar environment. One thing Dana has learned training with Shelby is to stay calm and upbeat. Dana said "If you show stress over their reaction to their fears, it will confirm to them that they SHOULD be fearful." Although this is hard in a live environment, Dana feels that exposing her dog to her mom's nervousness will show Shelby that it's OK and they can work through it together and still have fun. Judging by the way Dana was able to very quickly and effectively calm Shelby in the ring is a testament to all the work they've done together to support each other.

**The Cape Canine Fun Center**, where the event was held, made every effort to make all dogs feel safe and accommodated, and even provided the reactive dogs crating spaces a little farther away from the main body of dogs. Imbi Kiiss, the director of the Center, has had a lot of experience dealing with all types of dogs. It was her suggestion that the competitors be courteous to each other and that only one dog should be allowed in the performance space at a time. This way, none of the dogs had to deal with the issue of interacting with strange dogs directly before and after performing. The audience was also respectful for the teams that asked applause be held and cameras put away, this was a big help for many dogs, too.

**Janice Sawyer and Sunny, a three-year-old Papillion**, performed for their first time in this Event. Sunny is reactive to new people and other dogs. They used the opportunity to warm-up in the ring to run and bark a little, if necessary. Janice then regained control of Sunny with some heeling and did a trick to leave on a high note. She cautions: "Don't enter the ring until you are sure the judge is ready. The extra time working on keeping your dog's attention may make it difficult by the time the routine starts."

Some with reactive dogs had a little shutdown, but all the dogs were able to bounce back quickly and enjoy the day. Everyone agreed that it was a positive learning experience, they have ideas about what else they can practice to help their dogs do even better the next time.

So, with a little planning from the event hosts and the respect and cooperation from fellow competitors and the audience, a freestyle event can easily accommodate *all* dogs so that everyone can have a good time and a positive experience. So, keep working slowly and steadily on the things that make your dog nervous. If Dana, Shelby, Janice and Sunny can do it, so can you!



## Personal Perspectives



### Remembering to Have Fun

*Jan Weiner – MDSA Member*

I've always loved to dance. I have a picture of myself at 7 years old, a skinny little girl with long blond hair and a sparkly tutu. I loved it. Fast forward 50 years and it would seem that I would be a natural. After all, I love to dance and I love my dog! But, I have acquired some wisdom in life and realize that that was then and this is now.

I must say that I struggled with the idea of entering the Live Event. First, because of the time involved. I was one of the “worker bees” in the Capering Canines and the Event itself was a lot to plan.

Secondly, I just wondered if I would be good enough. Yes, I have done many demos and my dogs and I have always enjoyed them. But demo audiences do not have a judge! I remember a while back, Carolyn Scott asked if it would make any difference as to how we would feel about our dogs if we competed or not. Of course, it would not. No matter what, I knew I would still go home with my best friend who would NEVER judge my performance.

So, I “put my money where my mouth was” and signed up. I had been doing our routine for a while but the minute I signed up I felt I should tweak it. I'm not sure how good or bad that was since I didn't change much and Tobey is very forgiving and generally goes with the flow (I would never take him to an animal communicator, however, since I don't think his comments about these things would always be positive!).

The day finally arrived and I volunteered to go first so I could continue to help with the Event after performing. I did some warm-up with Tobey, took him around the ring, did a sound check of our music and we were ready to go. I felt like you do as a kid when you get on the roller coaster and know there is no turning back, you just have to ride it to the end! The music started, my feet moved and we were dancing, and I was actually having fun! All the practice and hard work were paying off.

Oops, we missed some cues...I felt a little frustration swelling but I thought “Hey I'm the only partner Tobey has so just go with it!” I did and he did too. I did not hear anything but the music while we were on the dance floor. My concentration was totally on my Tobey. I tried to stay relaxed and focused. We hit our closing pose, it was over. Suddenly I could hear all the people and see the whole area. It was like a curtain was lifted. I looked at Tobey. He was smiling and wagging his tail. What a guy!

As I left the ring I knew we had done our best and I was so proud of us both. I felt like that little girl in the tutu who just danced for the joy of it!



**“ I felt like you do as a kid when you get on the roller coaster and know there is no turning back, you just have to ride it to the end! ”**

## Magic in the Air

*MP Jackson* – MDSA Executive Board Member

Stella and I arrived in Yarmouth on Friday night. The Boston traffic was a nightmare and Stella was very intrigued by the big trucks and the loud "honkers". I had made a travel audio CD before we left with silly songs like "Girls Just Wanna Have Fun," "Boogie Wonderland" and "Shake Your Groove Thing" and I sang to Stella my whole way down (poor girl!). Everyone stayed out of the way of the Mad Singing Dog Mobile and I had the whole highway to myself.

Then came Sunday. The extra hour of sleep was just torture for me. I finally settled down in my room, thinking of my good cyber friend Barbara Walls and how she would say to me "Now, don't screw this up, just have fun." Yes Barbara, I went back to bed with Stella right next to me and read a book. I have no idea what the book was all about. I took Stella to a park before we arrived at the "Capers." My poor little country girl had problems understanding the crabgrass with sand and seashells was actually the place to go potty!

Imbi's training center is just beautiful. Everything was decorated with music notes, freestyle pictures and raffle baskets. All the volunteers did a wonderful job making us feel welcome with hugs, smiles and welcome bags of goodies. Every handler was very, very responsible for their dog(s) and very aware of other dogs needs. I won't even start talking about the wonderful food and snacks they provided all weekend.

Emily called us all in the ring, her big smile and excitement was contagious, and made us feel better. Katie, Jan and Imbi explained to us how everything would work and it was very helpful to me as I am an "organization freak". Jan and Tobey went first (how brave) and I believe Jan's smile and Tobey's wagging tail calmed us all. Now we surely were there to have fun and strut our stuff. What I admired the most was the support and friendship of every other freestylers in the group. Imbi, organizing it all, calling us, her willingness to help, calming us down, was just priceless.

I personally know I would not have been able to go on without everyone else's support there. I worked 6 months for my opening move and it did not happen! Within 3 seconds, my routine fell apart. A few weeks ago, I would have panicked, that day, I just smiled, ask Stella to wait and repositioned myself, kept on going. I have to admit I was so nervous last week, but once I got in the ring, I was fine.

I enjoyed every routine, everyone's smile, every dog's wagging tail. I know everyone had worked really hard to present their routine live, and I am glad they were all there with me. It was a very special moment for us all, and we will have wonderful memories to cherish. Ann and Teddy was the last team to go, and what a team! The audience was clapping nonstop and humming to the music. Teddy is such a Ham (ster) he would do a move, stop and look at the audience saying "See, did you like that, do you want more, am I cute or what?" What a great dog and a fun team, and what a wonderful way to end this Event. Thank you Ann and Teddy.

The "Capers" had a special award committee to decide on the prizes. It was great that they included everyone, from the happiest dog, to the best spinner, the most promising team, the most photogenic dog, the best senior dog and such. Emily also presented the Judge's Choice Award, "The One That I Want", to Katie and Wiley. Those two surely are a truly MDSA vision team, displaying bonding, teamwork, movement and fun.

Before I drove back to Vermont that afternoon, I took Stella to the beach. She had never seen the ocean and I had told her we would go. She thought it was the coolest place, and started to chase the waves and the ducks. It was fun to see my girl, back to her little self. I wished everyone could have been a part of it, there was "magic" in the air that day. I know you were all with us in spirit and that Rookie was watching over us!

**“ I wished everyone could have been a part of it, there was magic in the air that day. I know you were all with us in spirit and that Rookie was watching over us! ”**



## Training Notes



The setup for a live event is a little different than a video event or a demo. Participants were not allowed to bring food into the ring even for warm-ups before the event. They were allowed to play or let their dogs sniff the ring before the event began, though. We asked the competitors what they did to “warm-up” their dogs the day of the event and if they felt the combination was a good one. Here are a few of their thoughts. Do you know what your dog needs for a good warm-up? How much is too much? How would you warm-up your dog in his working space when you can’t have food? These are good things to think about and experiment with in advance of a live event.

“I lay on the floor beside her and scratch her head. You know, it didn’t warm her up AT ALL! But maybe if I’m lucky that cuddling history will have a relaxing effect on us in future live events.” – *Jenny Ruthi Yasi*

“I took Stella into the ring and let her look at everything and sniff the area to make sure nothing bothered her. Then I asked for a basic move – a spin – but the move did not happen in the performance. I might do the same routine the next time, but I think I might also take her outside for a little bit.” – *MP Jackson*

“Tobey is a therapy dog, so I know it’s important for him to meet and greet his audience beforehand. With the permission of the event coordinators and the judge, I took Tobey to meet the audience members, judges and people doing the videotaping and running the music during the group warm-up period. Besides a little time in the ring, this helped him settle and focus prior to the performance.” – *Jan Weiner*

“I actually don’t like to warm up my Pomeranian, Teddy, too much since he comes out of the crate like a bullet. I like to try and keep his motivation high so we do very little.” – *Ann Golding*

“My Scotty, Danny, needed a warm down! I think the overall level of excitement at the event had him way too high (he got the zoomies during his performance). Next time I might stay outside the building or maybe give him a longer morning walk to help him focus his energy.” – *Alan Cheever*

“Next time I’ll grab my clicker before I even let Wiley Coyote out of the crate. I’ll use his clicker and food rewards for attention and behaviors during a brief warm-up before entering the ring. When I enter the ring, I think a lap around the ring verbally marking for attention will be helpful. Wiley may benefit from surveying the surroundings before starting the performance. I think I’ll also play a quick motivation game of asking for a short sequence and rewarding before taking him into the ring.” – *Katie Tracanna*

“I didn’t do too much of a warm-up with Shelby other than perform a few simple moves with some toy rewards. Shelby thrives on being successful to build her confidence, so I keep my warm-ups really simple.”  
– *Dana Sambogna*

Warm-ups are a reflection of how well you know your dog and their reactions to stress, excitement, distractions and training in general. Some dogs get a little too “flat” with too much warm-up, so some simple exercises with rewards – not necessarily their freestyle moves – just to get their focus and attention may be all that’s needed to keep them focused yet happy to perform. Some dogs soak in the energy of their surroundings, so a little extra work going through sequences might help them focus their energy and bring the exuberance to a level that they can perform well yet still sparkle. Others might need play time to build confidence, motivation and excitement. This Live Event it was a learning experience for everyone. But Janice Sawyer summed it up when she said “Just always remember: freestyle is fun and dogs are smart.”



# Live Event Awards and Recognitions



## Titles Earned

MP Jackson with Stella.  
This is the first MDSA Novice Title to be awarded!

## Qualifying Scores

MP Jackson with Stella  
Nancy Bates with Ariel  
Jan Weiner with Tobey

## Special Event Awards

### You're The One That I Want Award (Judge's Choice)

*For the team that best exemplifies the spirit of MDSA Freestyle  
A pottery treat jar donated by the Capering Canines of Cape Cod*

- Katie Tracanna with Wiley

### Musicality Award

*For the team that best matches their music  
Dance collar made and donated by Katie Tracanna  
Musical notes leash donated by MP Jackson*

- Leslie Lichtenstein with Amber

### Most Bonded Award

*For the team with the best interactive attention  
Gift card donated by MP Jackson*

- Katie Tracanna with Wiley

### Longest Traveled Award

*For the team that came the longest distance to participate*

*Gift card donated by MP Jackson*

- MP Jackson with Stella

### Fancy Footwork Award

*For the team with the most creative choreography*

*Amazon.com gift card donated by MP Jackson*

- MP Jackson with Stella

### Happiest Dog Award

*For the team having the most fun during their performance*

*Amazon.com gift card donated by MP Jackson*

- Alan Cheever with Danny



*Judge Emily Pyle hard at work*

*Special award judges Sandy Taylor and Elaine Baird also hard at work!*



### Encore Award

*For a non-qualifying team with a lot of heart*

*MDSA pre-paid entry and copy of 2008 Video Titling Event donated by MP Jackson*

- Ann Golding with Teddy

### Memorable Opening Award

*For the team with the most unique opening pose*

*Pottery candy dish donated by Katie Tracanna*

- Dana Sambogna with Shelby

### Grand Finale Award

*For the team with the most unforgettable closing pose*

*Pottery candy dish donated by Katie Tracanna*

- MP Jackson with Stella

### Photo Op Award

*For the team with the most unique move*

*Photo Stamp Kit donated by MP Jackson*

- Nancy Bates with Ariel

### Most Enthusiastic Spin Award

*For the team with the most joyous spin*

*Backpack tote bag and t-shirt donated by Nancy Tanner*

- Jenny Ruth Yasi with Tigerlily

### Bright Future in Freestyle Award

*For the team with a young dog with a bright freestyle future*

*Backpack Tote bag and t-shirt donated by Nancy Tanner*

- Janice Sawyer with Sunny

### Super Sonic Senior Award

*For the team with an older dog who can strut their stuff*

*Photo frame and dog toy donated by Jean Auen-Drahos*

- Jan Weiner with Tobey

The Capering Canines wish to thank all the above donors as well as all who donated items for our raffle, gave their time and efforts to help plan and run the event as well as money to help us pay our expenses.

Included are: Karen Lewis, Jo Gaebel, Jenny Ruth Yasi, Cassie & Candy Buell, Leslie Lichtenstein, Dana Sambogna, Alan Cheever & Peggy Arthur, Pam Martin & the Top Dog Freestylers, Sheryl Benson, Katie Tracanna, Jan Weiner, Jean Auen-Drahos, MP Jackson and Imbi Kiiss. A special thank you to our judge, Emily Pyle for her patience, wisdom and good humor. We would like to thank the MDSA Board for the ribbons the qualifying teams received. Thanks to the Capering Canines of Cape Cod for donating a pottery cookie jar for "Rookie's You're the One That I Want" award.

And finally, to all the participants for your good-will and patience! All the dogs were a joy to watch and each brought a unique flair to their dance.



*Little dogs with attitude! Ann Golding with Teddy and Janice Sawyer with Sunny*



*Ariel is having a blast strutting her stuff!*



## Wanna Host Your Own Live Event?



*Katie Tracanna – MDSA Executive Board Member*

So, you have an active group of freestylers who'd like to compete in MDSA? Why not host a MDSA Live Event? If you have a location and a great team of eager folks then you're halfway there.

Our adventure started a few months ago, when we approached MDSA about hosting a FUN match. Being a very persuasive board, they quickly turned the weekend into a Live Titling Event! Were we up for the challenge? You bet!

After we suckered...er...persuaded our judge to join us, we assembled our team of volunteers. From event organization to facility make-overs, everyone came together to make this event happen. Our goal? To make sure that everyone had a wonderful time and left satisfied with their role in MDSA history.

We worked hard but from start to finish, we had a blast hosting MDSA's First Live Event.

If you're thinking about hosting a Live Event, I urge you to put your plan into action. You will not work alone as a Live Event Manual will be available to guide you thru the process of hosting an event. In addition, you'll have the support of the Executive Board and all the MDSA Members. So, express your interest to a MDSA Board Member (see the last page for email addresses. Let them lead you on a journey of a lifetime!



*Alan and Danny at warm-up. Danny is so excited he's a blur!*



*Shelby, cool..calm..and focused on her mom, Dana.*



# MDSA 2008 Membership Update



Here is the list of new members that have joined since the update in the last issue of The Spotlight. *Let's give a warm MDSA welcome to all our new members!*

Each member plays an instrumental role in the development of MDSA. Memberships are currently being processed for 2009, but it's never too late to join or renew. If you know of someone who forgot to renew their 2009 membership, please remind them of how important their participation and support is to the future of MDSA. MDSA has a strong education and outreach effort with our online discussion group, workshop and instructor's list. Please visit the MDSA Web site at [www.musicaldogsport.org](http://www.musicaldogsport.org) to view publications and find more information about the services offered by MDSA. Go to the MDSA Web site at [www.musicaldogsport.org](http://www.musicaldogsport.org) to download a membership application or renewal form. For help or additional information, please contact Katie at [Charliesamclaus@comcast.net](mailto:Charliesamclaus@comcast.net). or call 508.385.9039.

*Katie Tracanna - MDSA Executive Board*

Name		Address			
Janet	Bain	5131 E. Oakmont Drive	Tuscon	AZ	85718
Susan	Dearholt	1929 Van Buren Ave SE	Bemidji	MN	56601
Marion	Jonassen	21 McIntyre Cres	Georgetown	ONT	L7G 1N5
*Amy	Podojil	556 Percussion Path	Wadsworth	OH	44281
Bonnie	Hess	931 Valley Road	Lancaster	PA	17601
Nancy	Rosen	1107 S 5th	Bozeman	MT	59715
Ann	Golding	11 Settlers Path	Sandwich	MA	02563
Melissa	Zitembo	8 Red Oak Acres	Merrimac	MA	01860

\*Address Change

## MDSA Executive Board

The MDSA held its first election of officers and board members in November. The newly elected Executive Board is as follows:

### President

Carolyn Scott ([ranlyn@swbell.net](mailto:ranlyn@swbell.net))

### Vice President, Circle of Friends Program Coordinator

Pam Martin ([TopDogPam@aol.com](mailto:TopDogPam@aol.com))

### Secretary

Jo Monfort ([jmoncamz@wcoil.com](mailto:jmoncamz@wcoil.com))

### Treasurer, Products Manager, Spotlight

Emily Pyle ([emilypyle@sbcglobal.net](mailto:emilypyle@sbcglobal.net))

### Board Members

Candace Crouch ([Kayakcandy@aol.com](mailto:Kayakcandy@aol.com))

MP Jackson ([mpjackson@gmavt.net](mailto:mpjackson@gmavt.net))

Nancy Tanner ([Nancy@pawsandpeople.com](mailto:Nancy@pawsandpeople.com))

### Board Member, Membership, Spirit of Sharing Program Coordinator

Katie Tracanna ([CharlieSamClaus@comcast.net](mailto:CharlieSamClaus@comcast.net))