



Working Dog News

SUPPORTING TRAINERS,
HANDLERS, JUDGES AND
REGIONAL CLUBS.

1st Quarter 2025



UPCOMING EVENTS

See what's happening
for [Working Dogs](#).

Working Dog Forum at The National

Want to join this year's Working Dog Forum but you are not able to come in person? Tune in and participant in our Live Stream!

Thursday April 30 6PM EDT

[Watch on the 2025 NCA National Specialty Page](#)

If you are attending The National in person this year, Come to the obedience ring area at 1:00 p.m. on Friday May 2 near the entrance road to the hotel. Our New England trainers will demonstrate several different dog sports you can do with your Newf and will then tell you how to get started with your own training for the sport as well as the equipment you will need. We will be highlighting Water Rescue, Draft Work, Obedience, Rally, Scent Work, Trick Dog, Therapy Dogs, and the newest AKC sport, Fetch Dog. Come see how much fun these sports can be for you and your dog and learn how to get started! You don't need to have your

Get Working at The National!

Opportunities abound for you are your Newf to participate in many activities this year in Warwick:

Monday Draft Test - [BDD/DD & DDX](#),
[entries close April 9th](#)

Tuesday Draft Test - [BDD/DD & DDX](#),
[entries close April 9th](#)

Tuesday Regional Obedience & Rally Trial -
[entries close April 9](#)

Wednesday National Obedience & Rally Trial - [entries close April 9](#)

Wednesday Specialty Carting & Wagon Exercises - [entries close April 15](#)

Wednesday Evening - Working Dog Forum - no registration required!

Thursday Working Dog Team Relay - Entries are full - come and cheer them on!

Friday CGC & Trick Dog Testing - [entries close April 1](#)

dog with you to learn something new.
Registration is not needed for this fun event!

Friday - New England Sampler - no
registration required!



Our Dogs. Our Children. Our Future.

Our Newfoundlands have such a wonderful and rich heritage. Saviors of the people in high seas - the protector of Peter Pan and Wendy - and Best Buds to children all over.

As we consider that heritage, the new Stewards of the Children policy enacted by the NCA makes complete sense and should be a small step that could indeed mean soooo much. Read the full details of the NCA policy here:

[NCA Stewards of Children Policy](#)

Unfortunately, it is becoming more and more common that public events that may involve children can generate unwanted interest. This behavior has sadly become commonplace, which is especially unfortunate due to the fact that we are a “dog club family” filled with our friends and neighbors.

When I began my work with my first draft test, I focused on terrain, dog friendly parks and all the many pieces of maneuvering items that make for a challenging course. Never did I once consider the potential dangers that may be waiting for our test committees and volunteers (with the exception of a twisted ankle!) I completed the Stewards of the Children training prior to our HCNC draft test in March, and I found it very helpful and eye opening from an event management aspect. Public parks and areas are just that – Public. We cannot control who else is at our event. BUT we CAN control our preparedness. It is incumbent on us all to be more aware and participate in educating and protecting our dog club friends.

Important Information for ALL Regional Working Event Committees!

Per action by the NCA Board of Directors, **every water test and draft test committee** needs to have **one** of the three committee members fully trained in the Stewards of the Children

training program for **new NCA event applications after October 31, 2025**. At that time, **every event submitted for approval** must also attach the certificate of completion from this training from one of your three committee members for your event to get approval.

Stewards of Children® - Darkness to Light

For those of you who have already submitted your upcoming test paperwork, we encourage you to review this material and consider completing the training now. If you complete the training, please submit a certificate of completion to workingdog@ncadogs.org so we can record that information.

Please READ, ACT and SEND IN your certificates as you complete the training. While it won't be required right away, it is valuable information for your event committees!

The WDC **strongly encourages** all judges and working event committee members to take part in this training. More eyes opened and awareness of our surroundings are just a small way we can make a difference in our events for all.

Don't Wait! Training Complete? Send it in to the NCA!

Email a PDF copy of your certificate of completion to workingdog@ncadogs.org for recording purposes. Certificates will need to be submitted with test applications from now on!

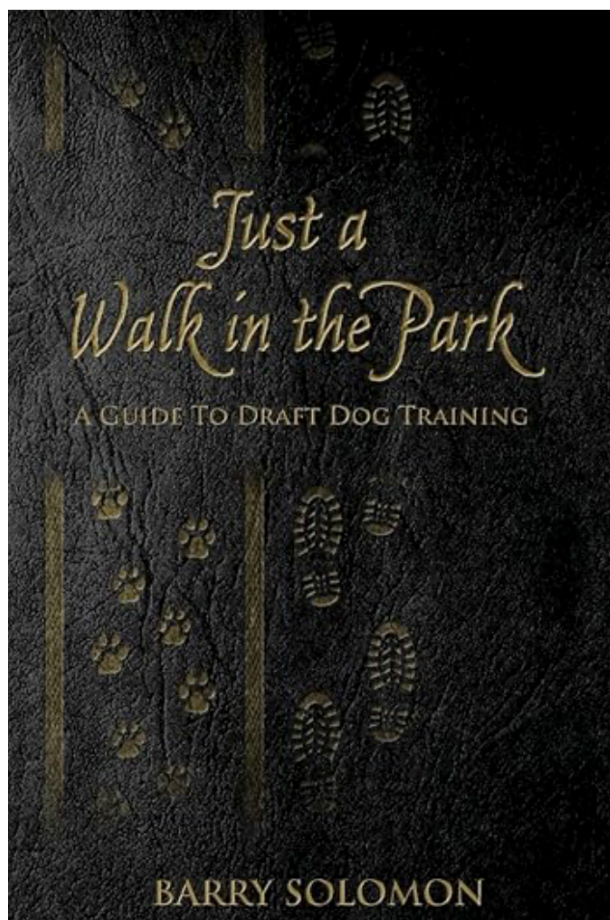
Questions? Concerns? Feedback?

As always, please contact us at the WDC and we will be glad to answer your questions or take your feedback to the NCA Board.



FEATURED ARTICLES

CHECK OUT THESE RESOURCES FROM FELLOW TRAINERS



Draft Reference from our Berner Friends

Just a Walk in the Park is a great new addition to the dog trainer's library. Whether you are new to the idea of drafting or an experienced veteran, this book is for you. *Just a Walk in the Park* is written in a conversational style that feels like training tips from a friend. It's easy to understand and enjoyable to read... a true "walk in the park". If your four-footed buddy could read he'd say "Buy this book and let's go carting!"

~ Ruth Nielsen, BMDCA Draft Judge

Just a Walk In the Park is a lovely book with a wonderful sentiment and so much more. It is perfect for a beginner to truly understand the equipment, the processes, and the tests so they are more able to learn about drafting with their dog. It is also a good refresher for people who need a little more help and understanding of the fine points. *Just a Walk In the Park* shares the mechanics and love of the game better than any I have seen.

~ Valerie Horney, BMDCA Draft Judge

A portion of the proceeds from every book purchased will benefit the NCA Charitable Trust, creating a safe and healthy future for every Newfoundland.

[Buy The Book](#)

Gearing Up to Get Wet!

Check out some of these great resources while you're waiting for the water to get warmed up this spring:

[Getting Started In Water Work](#)

[Coaching The Reluctant Rescue Dog](#)

[Conditioning for Water Training](#)

[Knowing When To Take A Break](#)

and

[Water Work Video Library](#)





Regional Clubs

Are you conducting any workshops or training in the summer that you want us to promote? Send us your info workingdog@ncadogs.org and we will get it in the next Working Dog News – please submit your items by May 30 to get in the next issue!

Judges Corner

Judges! Please make sure you are listed correctly on the judges list for water and draft work. If not, please contact Benita Edds and let her know what needs to be corrected.

Observer judges! Do NOT forget that once you ask a club if you can come do observation at their test, SUBMIT your paperwork to John Jackman!

Want to become a judge? Learn how! Reach out to John Jackman about what the steps are and how you can get started!



Test Committee Reminders

We celebrate all test committees for their hard work and dedication to working events!

REACH OUT if you have questions! Send an email to us:

workingdog@ncadogs.org

Please make sure you are sending Patti Pigeon (Draft tests) and Dwight Gorsuch (Water tests) hard copies of your working event requests - Include also the certificate of your committee member who has been trained with Stewards of the Children training

We Want Your Feedback!

What are you interested in for working news articles?



Website references?

Live streaming conversations for working dogs?
Do you have a training group in your area that
would welcome folks to come join you for water
or draft work?

Are you willing to be a point of reference for
connecting with members in your area that are
available for training?

Please fill out this brief survey to give us your
input!

[Take The Survey](#)

[Download Important Contacts](#)



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