

Obedience trials set for Fairgrounds Sunday

By Lem Mosso
outdoors writer

Kennel club shows like the one March 9 in Detroit's Cobo Hall are beauty contests, when you get right down to it. They're aimed at improving the breed. They're also excellent spots to study breeds and shop for puppies. But there's another kind of show dog lovers ought to be acquainted with the obedience trial. And a good one is coming up this Sunday, Feb. 23. It's the Sportsmen's Dog Training

Club of Detroit all-breed obedience trial in the Community Arts building of the Michigan State Fairgrounds, Woodward south of Eight Mile, Detroit. Judging in five rings begins at 9 a.m. and continues all day, with the high-scoring dog being decided around 4 p.m.

Club secretary Mira Jilbert of Troy lists three basic classes — novice, open and utility. There also is a class for "junior" handlers.

Obedience trials are a stiffer kind of competition than kennel club shows.

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Often owners of dogs who have won their show championships will take to the obedience ring.

You'll come to admire the teams which successfully complete the long "down stay" exercise, where the owner tells the dog to lie and to stay, and then leaves the room. The dog can't move without losing a batch of points. It's an inspiration.

ANOTHER boat show is on, this time at Summit Place mall, Telegraph north of Elizabeth Lake Road in Waterford Township.

Hours are 10-9 daily six days a week and 12 noon to 5 p.m. Sunday beginning today and running through Sunday, March 2.

Eight commercial exhibitors will show sailboats, powerboats, canoes and equipment. Other exhibitors are the

Oakland County Sheriff's marine division and U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary.

MANY SPECIAL exhibits are gracing the Outdoorama '88 Sports Show besides the hunting and fishing booths. Outdoorama, sponsored by Michigan United Conservation Clubs, is at the State Fair Coliseum in Detroit from Feb. 21 to March 2.

Continuous seminars on this weekend will feature state experts such as former Sen. Kerry Kammer on black bass, Tom Schneider on steelheads, DNR fisheries biologist Ron Spiller, and Lake St. Clair charter captain John Minor on walleyes and muskies.

The Michigan Wild Turkey Classic Classic is Saturday, March 1. The People's Republic of China has sent a photo

exhibit on the elusive and reclusive panda.

Lumberjacks and retrieving dogs will be back by popular demand.

Ticket prices are \$4.50 general admission, \$2 for kids under 12 and senior citizens (weekdays only). MUCC is a non-profit federation of conservation and outdoor sports enthusiasts.

HURON-CLINTON Metroparks have a string of nature center programs this weekend. They're free, but there's a vehicle admission at the park gate. Register in advance by calling the parks office at 1-800-552-6272. Here's the lineup: Stony Creek, northeast of Rochester — "Snow Isn't All Bad," nature walk at 1 p.m. Sunday, Feb. 23.

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