

Kennel is site of competition

Mount Holly Kennels of Hayesville and the Possible Dream Foundation are sponsoring the Hayesville North Carolina Service Dogs of America Association 2006 Spring Festival Working Dog Event and Exhibition this weekend.

The event is scheduled to begin at 1 p.m. Friday, May 5 and continue through Sunday, May 7. The event will be held at Mount Holly Kennels, located at 556 Possiblity Mountain Trail in Hayesville, which is located in Shooting Creek off Bethabara Road.

This family-oriented event, under the auspices of the United Kennel Club, promotes the sport of working dog competition.

The Spring Festival will open with a demonstration of canine obedience conducted by the mentally and physically challenged children of the Possible Dream Foundation. These children play a role in the care and training of the Mount Holly dogs, which are trained to assist and serve as companions for the handicapped, or are trained in search and rescue and for other specialized needs.

The kennel operation represents an expansion of the Possible Dream Foundation's mission to provide opportunities for special needs individuals.

In 1998, Camille Geraldi, began the Possible Dream Foundation to provide her children with an ongoing learning experience that would enrich their lives and serve as a role model for others who face mental, physical, behav-

ioral and developmental challenges. Geraldi attended a training program with Rocky Mountain Command Dogs and became certified as a dog trainer. Joined by certified dog trainer Bill Finks, Geraldi has passed on her knowledge to teach her special needs children and adults how to care for highly trained service dogs and providing daily care such as feeding, grooming and socialization. The children and adults also work with the dogs to teach basic obedience, wheelchair work and more advanced skills.

The Foundation recently joined forces with Service Dogs of America and the United Kennel Club. Through these partnerships, Geraldi is working on developing

standards for training handicap assistance and companion dogs.

Also on hand to kick things off will be dog tracking and drug detecting exhibitions conducted by Perry Littrell, Kippie Ledford and David Dallas with the Maggie Valley Police Department. Dog Protection will be demonstrated by Jack Rayl.

The competition continues Saturday. A highlight of the day will be an old fashioned pig roast and barbecue and a dance social featuring Dixie Cool, Kevin Ledford and Brett Palmer. Following the food and dance, Ivan Hogsed will conduct a multiple breed dog auction at 8 p.m.

For more information, call (828) 389-0770.



Champ Geraldi works with Buddy, a golden doodle, a new breed crossed with golden retriever and poodle. A multi-breed dog auction is set for 8 p.m. Saturday.

Mt. Holly Kennels to hold Dog Event

Mt. Holly Kennels and The Possible Dream Foundation, Inc. are sponsoring the Hayesville North Carolina Service Dogs of America Association 2006 Spring Festival Working Dog Event and Exhibition, Friday, May 5 through Sunday, May 7. The event will be held at 556 Possibility Mountain Trail in the Shooting Creek Community.

This family oriented event, under the auspices of the United Kennel Club, promotes the sport of working dog competition. The inspirational mentally and physically challenged children of The Possible Dream Foundation open the

Event with a demonstration of Canine Obedience. Dog Tracking and Drug Dog Demonstrations with Perry Littrell, Kippie Ledford, Officer David Dallas of the Maggie Valley Police Department and Dog Protection with Jack Rayl are also featured.

On May 6 at 6 pm, there will be an old fashioned Pig Roast and Barbeque and a Dance Social with entertainers Dixie Cool, Kevin Ledford and Brett Palmer at 8 pm. A lively Multiple Breed Dog Auction with auctioneer Ivan Hogsed begins at 7 pm. For further information, call (828) 389-0770