

Mullaney hopes to spread new dog game in Colorado

Written by Holyoke Enterprise
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Rich Mullaney is pictured at left as he oversees his dog Mikey during a session of Treibball.

Treibball is a game/competition where a dog herds eight large balls of varying sizes into a soccer size net. To develop rules and promote the new game, the American Treibball Association (ATA) was organized and incorporated in 2010. So the sport is very new and growing fast.

According to the ATA, "Treibball (pronounced Tribe-ball) is a new, positive-reinforcement, competitive sport for dogs of all ages and sizes who love to play chase games or who just love to herd. Fun and communication between the human and canine partners is the true essence of the game.

Treibball consists of the dog working off-leash and obeying the handler's commands (verbal cues, whistles or hand signals), to use his nose or shoulders to drive eight balls into a goal, within 10 minutes.

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The American Treibball Association, with leadership from leading dog trainers, has been working hard over the past several years developing a training curriculum and Treibball Rules for the United States. The association is now working to train others to certify them on the approved curriculum to continue to spread the sport.

Several trainers from Wildland Dog Training, headquarters in Brighton, recently attended an American Treibball Association Academy held in Brighton in November. These dog trainers are now certified to train others in the sport.

According to Rich Mullaney from Akron and recently certified ATA Trainer, "Treibball is a great activity for dog owners and active dogs of all ages. I am looking for ways to bring this new sport to northeastern Colorado. I am hoping to have training sessions and competition in the region in the years to come."

For more information on Treibball, contact Wildland Dog Training at 303-652-7460 or Mullaney at 970-345-2711.

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