As mentioned, this is a controversial issue. There are some members strongly in favor of this or a similar plan. It is a system used in Scotland and England for judging the nursery trials. It was brought up that it might be ok for nursery trials where "there is nothing to lose". In Scotland the nursery trials are as important as the open trials, if not moreso, because it is in the nurseries that one sees the up and coming dogs for the year, and where many of the sales take place. So this is not a good argument against the plan. However, there are members who are strongly opposed to the plan, thinking it would create hard feelings among the handlers. Others feel that having to judge will put a handler in the position to know just how a judge feels when there are complaints about his judgements, and will thus reduce arguments.

Several alternate suggestions have been thus far put forth. The placings in the Championship Trial should determine the judges; a committee should select the judges from those they think qualified; there should be teams of two judges each for each trial and the average of their scores would determine the placings; we should try it for several trials to see if we like the system before going all the way with it; and so forth.

Whatever your opinion, we hope you will come to the next meeting and help decide this important issue. -Ed.

REPORT ON THE PUPPY DAY AT WATER-MOON FARM ON AUGUST 7, 1983

by Pam MacBrayne

We had a small but enthusiastic group of eight people plus Crawford and Candy Taisey and Denis and me. By the time we got the fences fixed and the sheep in place we began to look forward to people arriving.

Crawford did a superb job working with the people and their young dogs. Between his dog and Bess (ours) we were able to keep the sheep pretty well under control. Our ewes have two speeds: stop, and go like hell and the young dogs were a bit overwhelmed as the sheep bounded from one corner of the field to the next. So Crawford's brilliant idea was to work the lambs. This made a great deal of sense, because the lambs hadn't been worked by dogs and therefore didn't fear them, so they didn't bolt.

We put the dogs on leads, and someone other than the owner held the lead. The owner stood on the opposite side of the sheep from their dog, and that way we were able to work on "come bye", "way to me", "move up" and "down". The success of the day was due in great part to Crawford and his calm training techniques.



Right, a Highland Shepherd and his dog.



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NORTHEAST BORDER COLLIE ASSOCIATION

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