

NEBCA News
P.O. Box 383
Sunderland
MA 01375

EDITORS

Denise A. Leonard
(413)773-5232

Kristen P. Whittle
(413)665-3802

NEBCA OFFICERS

President

Steve Wetmore
(802)765-4466

Vice President

Becky Peterson
(413)624-5562

Sect'y Treasurer

Doug McDonough
RFD 1 Box 2280
Brooks, ME 04921
(207)525-3223

Assistant Sect'y

Lynn Deschambeault
(603)939-2255

TRIALS COMMITTEE

CHAIRPERSON

Becky Peterson
Bell Rd. Box 395
Leyden, MA 01337
(413)624-5562

NURSERY TRIALS

COMMITTEE

CHAIRPERSON

Lynnette Milleville
Sand Hill Rd.
Portland, CT 06480
(203)342-4279

DOGS OF THE NORTHEAST : ROBIN NASD 33490

by Beverly Lambert

Vergil Holland's Robin (NASD 33490) was bred by Edgar Gould. Robin's sire Roy (Robin) ISDS 66722 produced some good working dogs, although some of them tended to be a little hard for trialing. Denise Leonard's Corey and Barbara Leverett's Glen examples of top working dogs that have also done some trialing. Robin's mother Jill (ISDS 96982) was a granddaughter of Gilchrist's Spot (ISDS 24981) and McTeir's Ben (ISDS 56646), repeating the very popular cross of Spot and Wiston Cap bloodlines.

Vergil picked out Robin at a couple of days of age and took him home to work at 8 weeks. By 10 weeks of age Robin had gone to work on the large cow farm Vergil was then managing. The young puppy would walk down the feed bunks holding the cows back while Vergil spread out their feed. From his start on sheep, the puppy worked very cleanly, holding his sheep together and never allowing any to escape the flock. He also had the nice square flanks that characterized his later work. In spite of his natural talent he was not an easy dog to train. He would take off after the sheep and not care very



Vergil Holland's Robin

much how Vergil thought he was performing. After about 3 or 4 months of struggling, suddenly at 12 months of age Robin's whole attitude changed - he decided Vergil was the boss and they never had another major disagreement. The rest is history as Robin went on to place 5th at the Cummington Sheep Dog Trial and win Skowhegan at 15 months. He placed 6th at the Blue Grass in Kentucky at two years of age.

Robin's success as a trial dog was crowned in 1983 when he was the NEBCA High Point Trial Champion at only two years of age. He went on

to be Reserve Champion in 1984 and 1987, when he was also 11th at the USBCHA National Finals. During his short career Robin won many of the trials in the Northeast and placed in just about all of them.

Robin is now retired from trialing and is working several hundred sheep on a large farm in Hobart, New York. Vergil says that Robin is indispensable on the farm where he will work for almost any handler. Robin can no longer be spared from his daily work for trialing.

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THE EDITOR'S BARK

We apologize for the tardiness of this issue of the NEBCA News. Denise's advancing pregnancy leaves her tired and her first priority is to her family, farm and

job. Unfortunately the NEBCA News comes last! Kristen's ever expanding farm also leaves her short of time. For these rea-

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Editor's Bark continued...

sons, we have decided to pass along the responsibility of the editorship of the NEBCA News. We are quite fortunate to have two qualified members that have volunteered for this position. In 1990 your new NEBCA News editors will be Lynn and Gene Sheninger of Boonton, NJ. Both Lynn and Gene have experience with word processing on computers and with bulk mailing. Of course most important of all they are willing to give it a try.

We have thoroughly

enjoyed the opportunity to turn the NEBCA News into the publication it is today. However, this has also resulted in the NEBCA News becoming a very time consuming project. Rather than return it to its former style, we decided it would best serve the membership if we could find some budding editors to take it over.

We will put out the next issue (Dec. 1) before turning it over to the Sheningers. All questions, help, articles, ads, etc. should then be addressed to them.

Finally, we wish to

thank those of you who have submitted articles. We will either print them in the next issue or turn them over to the new editors. Please continue to send in those articles!

Also, it is not too early to consider your membership and/or breeder's listing renewals. The enrollment period for the breeder's list is No-

vember 1 through January 15. A form is included in the back of the newsletter. Be sure to send your renewals to Lynn Deschambeault as she will be taking over the secretary's job in 1990. Her address is on the renewal form.

Talk with you in December.

-KPW & DAL

1990 Calendars are hot off the press. To get yours contact Steve Wetmore, Spring Valley Farm, P. O. Box 54, Strafford, VT 05072 (802)765-4466. Prices are \$6.00 plus postage for a single calendar and \$5.00 each plus postage for 10 or more. Contact Steve for postage rates.

Dogs of the Northeast continued...

Robin is not a large dog but well built with plenty of strong bone and muscle. He has a heavy black and white coat with quite a bit of freckling. According to Vergil he is an affectionate and responsive dog, easy to handle at home or on the trial field.

Robin was bred several times to his kennel mate, Sugar. This breeding has produced some very good dogs including Iain Francis's Pip, Vergil's Meg and Mike Fulton's Kate who won the Ranch Class at the Middlesex County 4-H Fair in her first trial. Bred to Beverly Lambert's

Kate he produced several good working dogs including Lark who placed 5th at the Fryeburgh Fair at only 18 months. His progeny have inherited his natural outrun and good balance and distance on sheep. He has also passed on much of his sheep sense which allows a good dog to lock on to sheep at the top of the outrun and keep them quiet and moving easily. Robin also passed on much of his precociousness with many of his puppies starting to work at 8 or 10 weeks of age. While Robin will be missed on the trial circuit, we will no doubt be seeing his offspring there for many years to come.



Vergil Holland and his dog Robin

Photo by Boursier Photography

ROBIN NASD 33490 VERGIL S HOLLAND, MA VERGIL S HOLLAND, MA	{	SIRE	ROY (ROBIN) ISDS 66722 EDGAR A GOULD, MA H INGHAM, UK
		DAM	JILL ISDS 96982 EDGAR GOULD, MA

CRAIG ISDS 44115
J V FOX, UK

JUNO ISDS 52860
H INGHAM, UK

JERRY ISDS 85133
D LAMB, SCOT

FLY ISDS 72226

ROY ISDS 21287
ALAN JONES, WALES
NIP ISDS 28138

R WOOD, UK

GLEN ISDS 32001

H INGHAM, UK

MEG ISDS 40717

H INGHAM

BEN ISDS 56646

D. METEIR, SCOT

CHRIS ISDS 69415

J SINCLAIR

SPOT ISDS 24981

J. GILCHRIST, SCOT

BETT ISDS 56449

W REID, UK

Robin's pedigree

BC FARM SMARTS

by Kristen Whittle

The Border Collie's initiative or —"farm smarts", as I call it—can be both a help and a source of great frustration. Their ability to think a problem through and come up with a course of action on their own is at times amazing. I often leave Bekka at a pen door to hold the sheep in a pen. Sometimes I'll run off to another part of the barn to get something and leave her there. One time the phone rang while I was in my office getting something. I had left Bekka watching a pen of about 20 young lambs. It turned out to be my mother on the phone, which quite often turns into a long winded conversation. I had been gone some time (20 min.) when all of a sudden these lambs came around the corner and started filing into my office. I could hardly hear my mother over the noise and told her I'd better hang up and find out what was going on. When I looked out the door, there was Bekka patiently working all these lambs up to my door. All I can figure is she decided I'd forgotten about her, and since she'd never just leave her post, she'd brought the animals she'd been charged with watching to

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Deadline for the next NEBCA NEWS is October 15, 1989, for articles, news, events, etc. and November 1, 1989, for ads.

BC TRACKING by Dee Woessner

When I got a Border Collie puppy last summer, I planned to use her for obedience work and tracking. Tracking is as much a natural instinct as herding, and so seems less arbitrary than standard obedience work. It's also a lot more fun for both dog and handler, so we started with tracking first.

The American Kennel Club offers tracking tests and awards "Tracking Dog" and more advanced "Tracking Dog Excellent" titles. To pass a test for a TD title, the dog must follow a track 440-500 yards long laid by a person walking and find a glove or wallet dropped by the tracklayer at the end of the track. The track is 1/2 - 2 hours old, with the start marked by 2 flags 30 yards apart, giving the direction of the first leg.

The test is open to Border Collies whose owners want to go to the trouble of getting an ILP number (Indefinite Listing Priviledge), which involves filling out a form, and sending a photo, a pedigree and \$25.

When Abbie was 8-9 weeks old, I started two "pre-training" games to get her ready for tracking. For the first, my husband would hold her collar while I ran around the corner of the house or into the edge of the woods, waving and calling to Abbie as I went. I'd stand there for a few seconds and then he'd release her, saying "Find it!" When she rushed up to me I'd praise her and make a fuss and let her know how clever she'd been. As she got the idea, I went further into the woods or hid behind bushes by the

house so she couldn't just run in the direction she's seen me go and find me by sight but had to use her nose to decide which way I'd gone. She loved this game. After a few lessons, he sometimes let our five-year-old black Lab go at the same time - Abbie often beat her.

We played the other pre-training game in the house. I'd get her to play tug-of-war with a rag, tease her with it, get her to want to grab it. I was surprised to find that she had to learn to play this way; rag-killing didn't seem to happen naturally as it did in other breeds I've trained. When she was all excited, I'd make her sit and stay (which she learned very quickly as part of the game) and go into the next room to hide the rag. At first, I'd just put it around the corner of a dresser or table somewhere she could see it as soon as she went into the room. I'd send her with "Find it!" When she picked it up, I'd call her to me and we'd play tug-of-war again. As soon as she had the idea, I started hiding the rag: between books on the bottom shelf of a bookcase, on the floor under the edge of the bedspread, some place she needed to use her nose to find it. She soon learned to snuffle her way around a room. She loved this game too. She soon knew what "Find it!" meant and could retrieve a variety of articles.

I started her with more formal training at about three months. I made her a harness from old cotton webbing belts from a garage sale. Since she was still small, I tacked in a couple of folds

to let out as she grew. Abbie wanted to play this tracking game, and wasn't bothered by the harness at all. Although for the first few weeks I walked close to her (later, in tests, you have to be at least 20 feet behind), I attached the long line we would use in a test. To keep the 30-foot line from tangling, I crocheted it in a chain stitch, which made a bulky, but quite light line.

Since the dog needs to be able to separate your track from others, it is much easier to use an area that hasn't been walked on too recently. Tracking is a good thing to do early in the morning. (When training my first tracking dog, that was very early as we used a city park.) Training on grass that isn't too short is best; a lawn due for a mowing is just right to start.

I had a friend hold Abbie while I walked out in a straight line. I put in 2 flags as I went, about 10 feet apart, and then walked another 20 feet or so. Turning to face her, I waved a glove and put it on the ground and walked back over the same path to make the scent stronger. After waiting a minute to let the memory of just where I had dropped the glove fade, I took her to the first flag and said "Find it!" No problem at all - of course she knew where it was, she's a brilliant Border Collie. Since this was a toy that she knew, she brought it back to me and wanted to play tug-of-war. Each time I rewarded her with a brief game.

(Some people use food

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Tracking continued...

hidden in the toy, but I prefer to use that as a last resort. Otherwise, in a test, a dog may not pick up the glove, as it would if it wanted to play, but just ignore it. The dog knows, even from a distance, that there is no food. You might not notice the glove yourself until you walk over it. A dog not indicating the glove fails, according to the rules. The indication can be anything from sitting or lying down by the glove to a brief touch with the nose - but you have to be able to see it from 20 feet behind the dog.)

Naturally, Abbie thought this was great fun. On any given day, we would do this no more than 3 times. With these easy little tracks, I might spend a few minutes training 4-5 times a week. Later, when the tracks were harder, we went out at most twice a week, to keep things fun and easy. It's important to keep the dog motivated, as it is very difficult to force a dog to track.

I wanted her to distinguish "Find it!" and "Track!" for later use, and I started using them separately. "Find it!" means there is something nearby to find, right in this area. "Track!" means get your nose down and follow the line of the track. The two commands are useful - in a test, if you think you are close to the glove and you can tell the dog to pay attention, slow down, and look, you may prevent a dog intent on the track from overshooting the glove. While talking to a dog during a test is legal, too much patter may just distract it from working. In a more practical way, you can use "Find it!" if you drop

something in a place where you have been walking all over, so there is no clear track to the lost item - the dog will just search the area for you.

For a week or two we did straight lines, using the "Track!" and "Find it!" commands. I waited a little longer each time between laying and running the track as the scent on the ground changes as it gets older, and I also made the tracks longer.

I like to introduce turns to the track as soon as I possibly can, when the track is about 5 minutes old and 50 - 60 feet long. (Other people do this part differently, and do at least 15-minute-old and 200-yard-long straight tracks first.) I think that when the dog makes a turn, using its nose to find the corner, then you have a dog that understands the idea and you can progress very rapidly through older tracks and multiple corners.

If a dog is tracking with its nose down and sniffing, it's clearly ready for corners. But Abbie has a very good nose and didn't feel the need to drop her head when she tracked - she would just trot along with her head held high. When I tried her on a corner, it was clear that she was using her nose even if it was high in the air.

After a few tracks with a corner, I had my tracking partner cover Abbie's eyes, or, when I was working alone, I tied her out of sight. As she learned to work older tracks, I just left her at home while I laid a track.

It is very important that you start using

"blind" tracks as soon as you can. Once you have introduced corners, then you should have a friend lay tracks out of your sight. You have to learn to trust your dog. (I had to re-train my first tracking dog when I laid too many tracks for her myself. I would correct her when she started to make the wrong choice, instead of letting her learn to work out the correct answer. She lost her confidence and decided to leave it all to me - which certainly doesn't work in a test. It took quite a few blind tracks to get her working properly again.)

Once we were running blind tracks, Abbie progressed quickly through older and longer tracks. Since it was a mild winter we were able to track most weekends, stopping only when there was snow on the ground. (My tracking partner balked at going out in heavy rain after she almost lost her Beagle in a deep puddle!)

Before entering a tracking test, the dog must be certified, which means it's passed a test just like a tracking test, without the gallery of spectators, the pressure - or the \$25-\$35 entry fee. Since there are more people trying to enter their dogs in tests than there are places, this keeps them from being filled by dogs that have little chance of passing.

When Abbie passed her certification test, the lone spectator asked how I could read her, as she has an odd tracking style, very different from my Lab (and very different from most any other dog!). I told her that it was like watching an S-curve that had a little arrow in it

everytime it crossed the track. The direction stays perfectly clear, even though the dog is all over the place. This style makes corners tricky though, and I knew before-hand that if I failed it would be due to forgetting to back up when her casting indicated she'd overshot a corner. (The rules say you can't "guide" a dog, but you can back up if the lead is slack. If you can read the dog, you can often tell just where it lost the track and move back to that area. This is useful on a test or in a "real-life" situation.)

A few weeks later I entered Abbie in a tracking test in Pennsylvania. A dog training club organized the test near State College, on the grounds of the Agricultural Experiment Station. All the handlers met half an hour before the test, some talking like mad from nervousness, some scared into near silence. Handlers drew numbers for 4 TD and 4 TDX tracks, to keep the assignment of dog to track fair. (This is like trialing - you have the luck of the draw. It doesn't matter much with the TD tests, but in the TDX test the tracks vary quite a bit.) Handlers and dogs not being tested stood with the small gallery - even more than trialing, tracking is a sport you have to know well to enjoy watching. (It doesn't help that you have to stand so far away the dog is almost invisible.)

The judges gave the first dog and handler plenty of time, but finally the whistle blew, signaling failure. We were second. The two judges pointed us at the flags

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Dee Woessner's Abbie tracking

Photo by Richard Weltzin

and away we went. Abbie was all business, and did far less casting than on the certification track. She roared right along and I was trotting to keep up. Corner, right around it. Another corner, a long leg, and casting all over. Back up. Found the corner. Another long leg. More casting, lost track. Back up. Away she goes on another leg - hey, I could see the tracklayer's path myself there for a bit, bent grass, Abbie right on it. Then, inexplicably, we were headed right toward the road. In the first level of tracking tests, the track doesn't cross obstacles. All of the track is laid in a grassy field: no woods, roads, streams, or walls, all obstacles that can show up in the more advanced test. I was sure that we had missed the glove. I dragged my feet, said "Find it!" at two-second intervals. Abbie started casting. I stopped, backed up. She found a corner, turned parallel to the road. I was tired - I could hardly breathe, between running along after the pup and sheer nervousness. This was the

longest track ever! We had gone a thousand yards, at least. Then, all of a sudden, Abbie headed off on a diagonal. I gave up scanning the ground for the glove, knowing it was behind us, and just followed, sure that she was following the tracklayer back home. Along we went - and then she pounced on the glove! I fell on the ground, gasping, and we rolled around and played tug-of-war. It was wonderful!

The moment I took the harness off, she started mousing like a fox, leaping into the air and landing with her front paws together. The judge commented that there must have been mice all along the track and not just at the end, and was impressed that she had waited until her job was over to play. She passed her test at nine months, the youngest dog entered. (Only one other dog passed, also in the TD test). Abbie seems to enjoy tracking so much that I will continue training her for a TDX test (800-1000 yards, three articles to find, 3-5

hours old, obstacles to cross, and conflicting tracks crossing the main track.)

One thing is especially nice about tracking. You can start with a very young pup, long before it is ready to work much on sheep. This may not matter to a person who has 6 or 8 dogs in training and has trouble finding any extra time, but to a person like me with a couple of dogs and an urge to get right to work with a new pup, it can be great fun.

I think tracking is good for a pup because the training teaches it to listen while you play together - both fun and obedience are involved, just as in herding.

Tracking and herding have other similarities. In both, the dog is doing something a person can't do, whether it is knowing where a track goes or heading a sheep. You learn to have faith in your dog's special skill, as it comes to obey you and as the dog has to make decisions of its own, where to turn a corner, when to move to balance a stubborn sheep. The dog has to be under control

and can't be distracted by other dogs or noises or mice in the field. In both jobs the dog is working away from the handler, only 20-30 feet away in tracking, but out there in front, learning self-control. In neither can the dog look at the handler more than momentarily; it has to concentrate on the job, but should be listening.

Now that we have sheep around, Abbie has been learning to herd. I haven't seen any sign that the tracking hurt her herding at all. We still do some tracking too; she knows which lesson is coming by whether I pick up a stick to work the sheep or her harness for tracking. I'm sure she knows the difference - for tracking she gets excited and prances around, but for herding she leaps in the air and squeaks.

(Anyone wanting to try tracking could get one of the several books available. They are especially useful for the discussion of scent and how it is affected by various conditions of weather and terrain - a complex subject. I like "Scent and the Scenting Dog" by W. G. Syrotuck.)

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BOOT

by Beverly Lambert

This is the first in a series of articles about the life and training of a Border Collie. Boot, the star of the series, will be followed through her puppyhood and early training into the nursery trials and, hopefully, success as a trial dog.

Boot's story begins before her conception in the selection of her parents. Most Border Collies will work stock, but how they work the stock and their personalities at work and at play vary a great deal. In selecting Boot's parents (Jet and Lark) the hope, as in any breeding, was to enhance the good qualities of each dog and compensate for their weaknesses. It was hoped with this breeding to produce an easy to train dog with a good deal of natural ability and enthusiasm about working. The success or failure of this plan will depend upon both the combination of genes and the subsequent handling and training of the pups.

Baby Boot was born at 5:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 1st. It was easy to pick out which puppy to keep as Boot was the only female puppy in a litter of seven pups. She is a very dark pup with no white on her face. The first few weeks of Boot's life were spent in a whelping box in the kitchen of our home. This gave us an opportunity to handle Boot and her brothers a great deal. Early, repeated contact with people is important in developing a well socialized, outgoing dog.

At three weeks of age Boot and her brothers

learned to escape from the whelping box and so they were moved to a small room off the back of the barn. They began to eat a little solid food and their mother went back to the daily work of herding her flock of sheep.

By five weeks of age Boot was outside everyday playing. Boot and her brothers had already been for several rides in the car in an effort to accustom them to this strange behavior while they were still young enough not to be bothered by it. Their mother had pretty well weaned the puppies by this time but she still spent the night with them. All the puppies were allowed to run free around the farm for several hours every day. They were called frequently and petted and made much of whenever they came to anyone. They were also learning to come to their kennel to eat when they were called. One or two puppies were brought into the house every evening to accustom them to inside manners.

By seven weeks of age Boot was already making dashes at the sheep during feeding and watering. The sheep for their part kept well clear of the young pups. The puppies had learned to lay in wait by the house door to mob any person or dog brave enough to come outside when they were loose. Most of the Boot's brothers went to their new homes during this week. Boot now roams over the yard around the house looking for trouble and learning about life on a farm. She is confined to her kennel when we are not able to supervise her

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MINUTES JUNE 17, 1989

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 by President Steve Wetmore. The Secretary's and Treasurer's Reports were read and accepted.

Several possible sources of sheep for the Championship Trial were mentioned. It was decided to leave the final number of sheep to be run in the Championship and the source of those sheep up to the Trials Committee.

Pat Canaday moved and Iain Francis seconded that \$200 be given to Beverly Lambert to buy video cassettes on training stock for the NEBCA Lending Library. The vote was unanimous to do so.

It was moved to

forgive Dave Webster's confusion about when the NEBCA Membership year began and give him the points his dogs earned at the Connecticut Trial even though he had neglected to renew his membership. Beverly moved and Walt Jagger seconded it. Voted unanimously. It was also agreed that the newsletter would print that all memberships expire on December 31st except for those new members joining after July 1st and that nonmembers cannot earn points.

Meeting was adjourned.

We regret that we have not received for publication the minutes from the meeting held on May 28. Anyone interested in them should contact either the secretary or the assistant secretary.



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BOOK REVIEW

A WAY OF LIFE:

Sheepdog Training, Handling and Trialling

by

H. Glyn Jones with
Barbara C. Collins

Glyn Jones is a well know dog trainer, breeder and handler in Wales. This new book written in conjunction with the former editor of Working Sheep Dog News is a condensation of a life-time of thought and study of Border Collies.

The book is worthwhile reading for anyone with an interest in Border Collies. Not only is it a clear training and handling manual but it is also an interesting history of dog trialing in the United Kingdom. The book is full of amusing stories of dogs and handlers that Glyn Jones has met in his many years with dogs.

Boot continued...

many activities. Boot has begun to learn her name and sometimes even comes when she is called. Boot is now at the stage that most people could expect when buying a well bred, carefully nurtured Border Collie puppy. During the next few weeks she will learn the basics of "civilized" behavior and her early obedience lessons (come and down). Her training on sheep will have to wait for her body to grow and her "herding" instinct to materialize. From this point forward her success or failure as a working/trial dog will be the responsibility of her trainer.

Next issue early training.

Mr. Jones breaks the training of the dog down into simple steps that can be easily followed thanks to his clear diagrams and illustrations. He raises his own puppies and has a good understanding of the difference between a kennel raised dog and a house pet. He starts with the ten week old puppy learning its name and works up to the dog's early trials. I believe this is the best book I have ever seen for beginners.

Mr. Jones prefers to teach his dogs a fairly mechanical type of outrun rather than relying on any talent with which mother nature may have endowed the pup. This will help beginners who are uncertain how to teach this most crucial skill. More experienced trainers are in a better position to evaluate their dog's natural ability and determine how much outrun must be taught and how much can be left to instinct. Certainly with the Jones approach your dog will be able to get to its sheep when its training is completed.

The later part of the book includes trialing tips from this top handler as well as his comments and insights into trialing in this country and the United Kingdom.

The book is well written by an informed and very humane trainer. It should be required reading for any dog handler. It is certainly the first book that I could unreservedly recommend to any beginning dog trainer confident that they could understand all of the author's instructions.

VIDEO REVIEW

1988 SUPREME CHAMPIONSHIP

Each year the International Sheep Dog Society holds competitions in England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland. The top qualifying dogs at these competitions then compete at the Supreme Championship. The top dogs at the Supreme have a final runoff to determine that year's champion. The final run is over an 800 yard course with a double lift. The dog that wins this trial is that year's Supreme Champion. This is the highest honor in the world of sheep dog trialing.

The NEBCA Library owns a video of the top 8 runs of the 1988 Supreme Championship Finals. This VHS video tape is of good quality. The picture is clear although the camera used was not of sufficient quality to pick up all of the action at some of the great distances the dogs were working. It is possible, however, to see the kind of work needed to be competitive at that level of trialing.

Each dog is required to make two gathers of ten sheep each. The twenty sheep are then driven around a standard course. The handler and dog must then separate 15 sheep from 5 marked sheep. This shed is very difficult and is in large part the determining factor in who places where. There were only a few dogs able to complete the shed in the allowed time. The winning run was beautiful. You didn't need to be a judge of any quality to pick it as the best of the 8 runs on the tape. The dog was always

in command of his sheep and seemed to know just what he was about. Several of the other runs were also well done up to the shedding ring where things could very quickly fall apart. At least one dog had a draw of sheep that were sufficient to bring tears to the eyes of any experienced handler.

While a bit more sophisticated equipment would have given a better final product, this tape is sufficient to show what competition at the International level looks like. As always when watching expert handlers at work it is easy to learn a lesson or two. The dogs are of course great. Watching someone else run is never as much fun as doing it yourself, but for those of us unlikely to get to the International for a while, this should do the trick.

The NEBCA Library has multiple copies of this book and this video available to loan. Contact Beverly Lambert RFD 1 Box 2280, Brooks, Maine 04921 with your request. Be sure to include \$3.00 to cover the cost of postage.



"Border" Lambs!

Photo by Becky Parsons

TRAINING TIPS *by Beverly Lambert*

Q: How do I teach my dog to wear?

A: To teach wearing let the dog get in position holding the sheep up to you and then start backing away from the sheep so he has to keep them moving toward you to hold them together. This is wearing - you're backing up and the dog moves to keep the sheep up to you. Don't turn around. Walk backwards while the dog wears the sheep so you can watch the dog and be ready to correct any mistakes. As soon as you stop watching he is sure to make a mistake. It is while wearing that your dog perfects his balance and learns quite a lot about sheep, so do miles of wearing. Try to go to different places as the dog becomes more expert. Take the sheep for a walk in the woods or down old roads. Try to keep the work interesting and challenging for the dog. Let him learn to figure out things on his own. Give him problems and let him solve them, but always be there ready to help. Try to think of every mess your sheep get into as a training opportunity for your dog.

Q: How do I get from wearing to everything else?

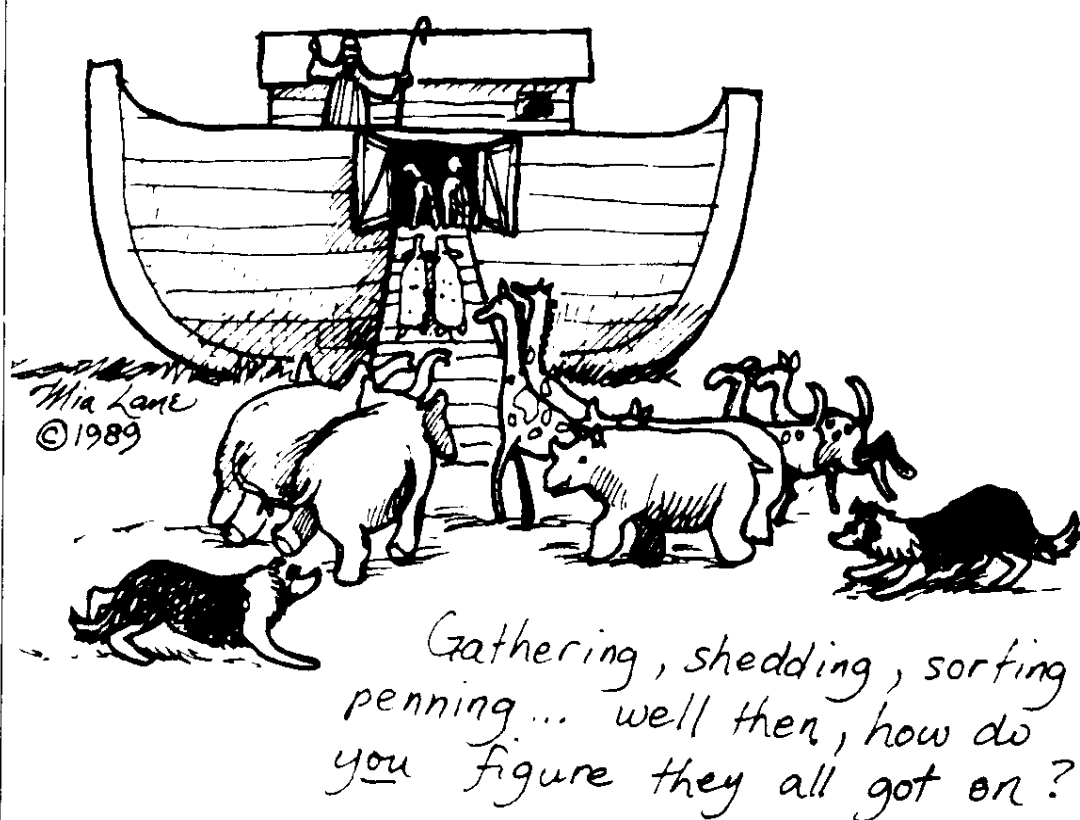
A: When you go out to the sheep to practice, walk out with the dog beside you. When you get close to the sheep and they start to move away encourage the dog to go around them and head them off so he can wear them up to you. This is the beginning of the outrun. If the dog runs straight at the sheep lay him down and get between him and the sheep

and force him to go wider by being in his way. As he starts to get around to the far side of the sheep you should move in the opposite direction so that he ends up in good position to begin wearing the sheep. As he becomes more expert at this you can send him from further away from the sheep. Don't get too far from the sheep too fast. A good short outrun practiced until the dog really understands it will lengthen out fairly easily. A dog who has a poor short outrun will never learn a longer outrun well. Get it right on the short ones and then go for longer. When trialing dogs, 50% of the score is in the gather (outrun, lift and fetch). A dog will not have a good gather without a good outrun. This is the foundation for that outrun. Take the time to get the short outruns right and the long ones will certainly come. A young inexperienced dog is not ready to work sheep any great distance from his handler even if he manages to get out to them so take time. This is an area where people tend to be in a big hurry to go for distance. The early phases of the training tend to be the slow ones. With young dogs not only are you teaching them but you are waiting while they gain sheep experience, trust in the handler, and maturity, so a great deal of patience is required but it pays off in the end. A dog who has been given plenty of time in the early phases of the training usually moves through the more advanced phases with fewer problems than a dog with inadequate early work.

Q: What do I do with a dog that keeps crashing into the sheep and grabbing them?

A: This depends a lot on the dog. A young puppy with little experience may just need a couple of lessons to calm down. A hardened delinquent can be a nightmare to a professional trainer. Most dogs with this problem fall somewhere on the puppy side of this spectrum. If using a firm NO hasn't worked then you must teach the dog to go down and stay down when you tell him to. Then you don't allow the dog to get so close to the sheep that he wants to dive in. The trick here is stopping the dog before he gets into the position that he will dive in from. Stop him before he goes for the sheep, not after he charges. Even the best trained dog can't always be stopped from grabbing a sheep if he has his mind made up - that's why even the well trained, experienced dogs are occasionally disqualified for gripping. Don't

let your pup get into a position where you know he will grip. When you tell him to stop don't let him do anything else until he has stopped where you told him to, even if this means the sheep get away. This is a lesson that sinks in pretty fast. Don't get angry. Get him to stop and then walk after the sheep and start the lesson again. It is pretty hard for a puppy to grab a sheep if the pup is stopped and the sheep isn't, so teach the puppy to stop and then don't let it get too close to the sheep. If this doesn't work you need to figure out if it's because you haven't taught the dog to stop or if your dog has a real gripping problem. If it is the later I would try to take the pup to a clinic or a lesson with a professional trainer and get another opinion on the best way to proceed. If you haven't taught the pup to stop when you tell it to, then keep working at this. A stock dog that can't be stopped is no good to anyone.



UPCOMING TRIAL AND CLINIC DATES

Those with an asterisk are qualifying trials for the NEBCA Fall Foliage Championship Trial and NEBCA High Point Champion. Those qualifying trials held after the 1989 Championship will count towards the 1990 Championship Trial.

***September 16 & 17:** Ivy Rose Farm Open & Nursery Trial, Bedminster, PA. 2-1 day open and a nursery trial. Part of the Pennsylvania Triple Crown. Contact Eve Marschark, PO Box 397, Bedminster, PA 18910, (215)795-2023.

***September 23 & 24:** Pittsburgh Township Bi-Centennial Sheep Dog Trials, Kingston, ONT. Contact Amanda Milliken, RR 2 Kingston, ONT, K7I 5H6, (613) 546-7900.

***September 30:** New Hampshire State Championship, Ctr Conway, NH. Contact Roger Deschambeault, Nearfield Farm, HRC Box 16, Ctr Conway, NH 03813, (603) 939-2255.

***October 1:** Fryeburg Fair Sheep Dog Trial, Fryeburg ME. For information contact Wayne Bartlett, PO Box 270, Denmark, ME 04022. (207) 452-2460.

October 7 & 8: NEBCA Fall Foliage Championship Trial, Bangor, ME. Contact Beverly Lambert, RFD 1 Box 2280, Brooks, ME 04921, (207)525-3223.

***October 14 & 15:** Fern Hall Sheep Dog Trial, Crystal Lake, PA. Nursery on Sat & Open on Sun. Contact Bill Robinson, RD 1, Carbondale, PA 18407, (717)222-3676.

***October 21 & 22:** Bedford Open, Bedford, PA. Part of the Pennsylvania Triple Crown. 2 1-day open trials. Qualifying for 1990. Contact Jack Monsour, Box 309A, Bedford PA 15522 (717)623-8243.

October 21 & 22: Jack Knox Clinic at Keswick Farm, Fitzwilliam, NH. Contact Sally Lacy, PO Box 487, Fitzwilliam, NH, 03447 (603)242-3017.

***October 28 & 29:** Cumberland Valley Open Sheep Dog Trial, Carlisle, PA. 2 1-day open trial and an open ranch. Part of the Pennsylvania Triple Crown. Contact Nathan Mooney, 245 Alters Rd. Carlisle, PA 17013 (717)249-5695.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

The membership year runs from January 1 to December 31 for each year. Renewals are due on January 1, 1990. The only exception is for new members who have joined after July 1, 1989; they need not renew until January 1991. Use the form at the back of the newsletter to renew and be sure to send dues and renewal to the new secretary:

Lynn Deschambeault
Merlynn Kennels
HRC Box 16
Ctr Conway, NH 03813
603-939-2255

1989 FALL FOLIAGE CHAMPIONSHIP TRIAL

The 1989 Fall Foliage Championship Trial will be held at Bass Park in Bangor, ME. The City of Bangor is acting as the sponsor for this year's championship trial. The trial will take place on October 7th & 8th and will begin at 12:00 on Saturday, October 7.

This year's judge is Mr. Doug Lamb from the United Kingdom.

The trial will be managed by Beverly Lambert with assistance from Roger Deschambeault and Steve Wetmore.

There are hook ups at the Civic Center for anyone wishing. There will be a small charge. There are also plenty of local motels. Finding a room should not be a problem.

The trial will be a part of the Bangor Expo, a craft-antique show, which takes place on Sunday, October 8th. There will be no admission charged to the trial.

We are looking for help in running the trial. Anyone wishing to help with the sheep or with secretarying at the trial should get in touch with Beverly at 207-525-3223, evenings.

There will be an awards banquet on Saturday evening after the last run for handlers, family and trial crew. Any others wishing to attend the banquet should get in touch with Beverly as there is only a limited amount of seating available. There will be a \$10.00 charge.



Becky Parsons

BREEDER'S DIRECTORY

The Breeder's Directory runs from January 1 through December 31. The enrollment period for all renewals or new listings for 1989 is November 1, 1989 through January 15, 1990. All listings MUST be paid and received by January 15, 1990. This will include both the newsletter and the calendar. The fee is \$10.00 for 5 lines. Make check payable to NEBCA.. Use the format the end of the newsletter or send money and listing to:

Lynn Deschambeault
Merlynn Kennels
HRC Box 16
Ctr Conway, NH 03813
603-939-2255

NO LATE LISTINGS WILL BE ACCEPTED

CLASSIFIED

Classified ads cost \$1.50 per issue or \$5.00 per year (4 issues—no changes) for 50 words or less. An additional fee of \$.20 per word will be charged for longer ads. Payment MUST accompany ads. Send all submissions to NEBCA NEWS, PO Box 383, Sunderland, MA 01375. Deadline for the next issue is November 1, 1989.

BREEDER AND IMPORTER of Top Quality Dogs. Books, including The Farmer's Dog and Sheila Grew's Key Dogs. Whistles and a nice selection of imported show crooks. Contact Edgar Gould, Cooperlane Farm Enterprises, Shelburne Falls, MA 01370, 413-625-6496.

BC Farm Smarts continued..
help look for me.

She quite often does this with escapees. If she finds some sheep loose, which was a common occurrence for a while, she marches them around the farm until she finds me. One of my employees once watched Bekka bring 5 sheep from outside into the wing where my office is. She looked into my office and I wasn't there. So she gathered them back up and marched them into

SHEPHERDESS SHOPPE: Featuring clothing with Border Collie insignias and Border Collie Items; Visors, Hats, Jackets, Sweaters, Key Chains, Pins, etc. A new line of Woolrich items available. For information call or write Cheryl Jagger, RD Box 77A, Hop Bottom, PA 18824, (717) 289-4733.

SHEEP FOR SALE: Polled Dorset ewes—dog broke—also a few Dorset/Border Leicester ewe lambs left—2 white/1 black. Come try before you buy! Call Kristen (413)665-3802. Leave message.

BORDER COLLIE TRAINING SERVICES both for handler and dogs. For information call or write Cheryl Jagger, RD Box 77A, Hop Bottom, PA 18824, (717) 289-4733.

each of the other wings. No Kristen. The last he saw, she took them back outside. He didn't see where she went after that. But she found me in the trench silo loading silage with the tractor. I drove down to the pasture they had escaped from and she brought them along behind me. I didn't find out about the grand tour until later when the employee asked me if I knew what Bekka had done with her little flock.

A LITTER OF PUPS born around the end of June. Barbara Leverett's Glen and Jan. Both parents are excellent workers with good temperments. I've been getting good reports about last year's litter. Contact Barbara Leverett, St. Johnsville, NY (518)568-2833.

BORDER COLLIE PUPS born 4/4/89. Sire: Jack Monsour's Duke and Tom Conn's Bess. Excellent sheep herding background, nicely marked, black & white, good temperament. Call Peg Sims, RD #1 Box 211, Veneus PA (814)354-2802.

BORDER COLLIE PUPS whelped May 17th. Five males—one female out of Imp Lyn by Imp Tweed, son of Dryden Joe. Both good working dogs with excellent dispositions. Edith Overly, 1011 Edmonds Rd., Framingham, MA 01701 (508)877-2294.

BORDER COLLIE PUPS born June 26. Dam: Sungam Kristie (Viv Billingham's Laddie X Sungam Jill, a Thomas Int. Ch. Craig daughter) Sire: Dryden Kip (George Redpath's Spot X Dryden Dot, a Gilchrist's Spot daughter) Both parents are intelligent, stylish workers and have had eyes and hips checked. Older pup of this breeding is an eager learner, able to do useful work at 7 months. Contact Sally Lacy at (603)242-3017.

BORDER COLLIE PUPPIES born 6/1/89 out of Beverly Lambert's Lark (Lambert's Kate/ Vergil Holland's Robin) and Cooperlane Jetta (grandson of Dryden Joe). These are the two most naturally talented dogs I have ever worked with. Both have great natural distance and balance. Jet won the Blue Ridge Open Sheepdog Trial at two years of age. Beverly Lambert 207-525-3223.

DISPLAY ADVERTISING

Prices are for camera ready ads:

	single issue	1 year(4 issues)
Business Cards		
(2"x 3 1/2")	\$15	\$50
1/4 Page	\$35	\$100
1/2 Page	\$50	\$150
Full Page	\$75	\$225

*non-members add 20%

*If choosing the yearly price, ad may not change for the entire four issues without an additional fee. Payment must come with ad.

The NEBCA NEWS is published quarterly as the official publication of the Northeast Border Collie Association. Four issues are published on March 1, June 1, September 1 and December 1. Subscription is by membership to the association. Annual membership dues are \$10.00 per individual or \$15.00 per farm. To join, send your name and address along with your dues to Doug McDonough, RFD 1 Box 2280, Brooks, ME 04921. Make checks payable to NEBCA

NORTHEAST BORDER COLLIE ASSOCIATION

Membership Application

Membership runs from January 1 to December 31; renewals are due by January 1, 1990. Any new member joining after July 1, 1989 need not renew until January 1, 1991.

NAME

DATE

ADDRESS

CITY/STATE

ZIP CODE

PHONE

BREEDER'S DIRECTORY enrollment period – November 1, 1989 to January 15, 1990 ONLY!
NO LATE LISTINGS WILL BE ACCEPTED

Maximum five lines:

Mail to:

Lynn Descambeault
Merlynn Kennels
HRC Box 16
Ctr Conway
NH 03813

Annual Membership–Individual \$10.00

Family or Farm–\$15.00

Annual Breeders Directory–\$10.00

TOTAL

Make checks payable to NEBCA

OVERHEARD AT THE TRIALS

by Beverly Lambert

While watching the Rhode Island Sheep Dog Trial a couple of years ago I chanced to be standing next to a couple of elderly ladies. The older more dominate of the pair was insisting that the sheep were all trained and were obeying the handler's commands. She was also amazed at how the well-trained dogs followed the sheep right around the field. Her companion suggested that the dog was obeying the commands and forcing the sheep around the course. The two women argued for some time before the elder turned to me for verification of her trained

sheep theory. I explained what the trial was all about and that the sheep didn't know any commands. Just as I was turning to leave, the handler at the post, who was having a hard time with his young dog, roared out "LAY DOWN". Needless to say the dog ignored him, but one of the ewes, having had enough, laid down. As I walked away I could hear the elderly lady shout triumphantly, "See, I told you the sheep were trained!"



THE WORKING BORDER COLLIE, INC.
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Bruce Fogt, Publisher - Casey Johnson, Editor

BREEDERS DIRECTORY

This listing of breeders of Border Collies is for informational purposes and in no way represents an endorsement of these breeders by the North East Border Collie Association.

Pat & Mike Canaday
RD 2 Box 365
Meadowdale Road
Altamont, NY 12009
518-861-6049

Gwen Cassel
O'Brae Border Collies
P.O. Box 198
Edmeston, NY 13335
(Please call information)

Roger Deschambeault
Nearfield Farm
HRC Box 16
Ctr Conway, NH 03813
603-939-2255

Lynn Deschambeault
Merlynn Kennels
HRC Box 16
Ctr Conway, NH 03813
603-939-2255

Edgar Gould
Cooperlane Farm Ent
Shelburne Falls, MA
01370
413-625-6496

Dayle & Joan Hamilton
RFD 1
34 Brown Brook Road
Southbury, CT 06488
203-264-6348

Ketecho Farm
Vergil & Bonnie Holland
RD 1 Box 131
Hobart, NY 13788
607-538-9160

Walt Jagger
Sheepy Hollow Farm
Box 233
Hop Bottom, PA 18824
717-289-4663

Beverly Lambert
Douglas McDonough
RFD 1 Box 2280
Brooks, ME 04921
207-525-3223

Mia Lane
Forget-Me-Not Farm
RR 1, (Adolphustown)
Bath, Ont, K0H 1G0
613-373-2616

Janet E. Larson
Caora Con Kennels
6 Pinecrest Lane
Durham, NH 03824
603-868-5313

Denise A. Leonard
Tanstaaf Farm
389 Adams Road
Greenfield, MA 01301
413-773-5232

Dick & Barbara Leverett
Long View Farm
RD 2 Box 308 Burrell Rd.
St Johnsville, NY 13452
518-568-2833

Betty Levin
Old Winter Street
Lincoln, MA 01773
617-259-8799

Kay Lorraine
1942 W. King St.
Owosso, MI 48867
517-723-1174

Len & Eve Marschark
Ivyrose Farm
PO 397 Farm School Rd.
Bedminster PA 18910
215-795-2023

Alex McKinven
Cessnock Farm
North Hatley
Quebec, J0B 2C0
819-842-2975/4119

Gabrielle Merrill
Misty Lane Border Collies
Brownfield, ME 04010
207-935-2520

Tim & Lynnette Milleville
Sand Hill Road
Portland, CT 06480
203-342-4279

Sylvia Murray
Fleece and Feathers Farm
294B Cossaduck Hill Rd.
N. Stonington, CT 06359
203-889-7777

David & Janice Onyon
Valley View Farm
P.O. Box 264
Townshend, VT 05353
802-365-4045

Becky & Hoop Peterson
Orchard Valley Farm
Bell Road Box 395
Leyden, MA 01337
413-624-5562

Anne P. Priest
Blue Island Farms
191 Old Mountain Road
Port Jervis, NY 12771
914-856-3209

Cindy L. Warner
Turn-Around Farm
Box 132 Palmiter Rd.
Harpursville, NY 13787
607-656-7608

John H. Weikel
Highland Farm
RR 4 Box 266
Mt. Vernon, IN 47620
812-783-2675

Steve Wetmore
Spring Valley Farm
P.O. Box 54
Strafford, VT 05072
802-765-4466

Kristen P. Whittle
Little Brook Farm
334 Russell Street
Sunderland, MA 01375
413-665-3802

Wieninger's
Star Route Box 106
Rte. 23A
Hunter, NY 12442
518-263-4772

Cheryl Jagger Williams
C.J.'s Acres
RD 1 Box 77A
Hop Bottom, PA 18824
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