

Winter

NEBCA News

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TRAVELS IN AUSTRALIA *by Anne Barclay Priest*

A year ago I took a trip around the world, the title of which was "visiting friends in exotic places." It so happened that I had friends at choice spots just south of the equator all the way around. In Australia I stayed on a sheep station in Terip-Terip, a small village about an hour from Melbourne. My hosts were Bruce and Denise McLennan. I met them through my friends, the Nettletons, and they are a wonderful, warm and hospitable family with two daughters. There are two Border Collies, a pet pig named Ethel who drank out of the swimming pool and a shy peacock who hid in the woods the whole time I was there. They run 2000 Merinos on 2000 acres. I couldn't believe the sparsity of the grass. It was totally brown and very thin. I finally couldn't control myself any longer on the second day there and had the gall to ask Bruce if the sheep were getting enough to eat. He laughed and of course said yes. Merinos do very well on very little. They all had been shorn recently and he showed me the shearing shed where there was still some wool that hadn't been shipped off. What gorgeous wool—more like silk. He got \$14.00 (Aust.) per kilo ('88), which translate to just over \$4.50/lb US. On the other hand, he didn't seem to mind much that he only had an 80%

*Mustering sheep. photo by Anne B. Priest*

lamb crop. Since they don't need a sheep barn because of their climate, lambing is out in the field with very little shepherding.

Bruce thoughtfully kept out a group of sheep to cull so that I would have something to do and could see the operation of a sheep station in a small way at least. We went out to gather the sheep on his motorcycle, his two dogs running alongside, me clinging to Bruce for dear life. We bumped along from pasture to pasture. I had to get off to open and close the

gates between each one, and we finally located the sheep he wanted. Before bringing them in Bruce wanted to show me something. We rode to a bunch of gum trees and there was a Koala bear 'way up on top. What a pleasure! We climbed back on the motorcycle and returned to the sheep. What a great way to gather! I tried to visualize myself motorcycling on Blue Island, bumping over rocks, running into trees and eventually tumbling off a cliff into the Atlantic. Bruce sent

*continued on page 2...***IMPORTANT NOTICE**

This is Kristen's and Denise's last newsletter. Your new editor's will be Lynne and Gene Sheninger, Wayside Farm, 213 Split Rock Rd, Boonton, NJ 07005, 201-299-9785. All correspondence, articles, ads, etc., should be addressed to them. All deadlines listed in this newsletter are their deadlines.

THE EDITOR'S BARK

I can't believe this is the last editors bark I'll be writing. There are definitely mixed feelings about relinquishing the NEBCA NEWS to new blood. There is relief in alleviating a large responsibility from our busy schedules, curiosity to see in what direction its new editors take it and yes, some sadness in giving up a project that has been enjoyable, educational, and quite satisfying.

Since it is both the end of the year, not to mention the end of the 80s, and our last editorial, we thought we'd also get in our last editorial "two cents" worth! With the annual meeting coming up, ALL NEBCA MEMBERS need to start to think about important issues to be addressed. We are asking that all members that have topics of discussion in mind please send them to our president, Steve

Wetmore, (address on front). This will help to prepare an agenda. We have done this in the past and found it to be quite helpful. Some of our suggestions follow.

We believe there is a need to find an individual to volunteer for the position of full time score keeper for the Nursery trials, much as Eleanor Jagger keeps track of the Open trial scores. We feel that this person should not be a member of the nursery trials committee, as this task is a large one in itself.

We think that it is time to reevaluate how a trial becomes a qualifier for the Championship Trial. It is important that the qualifying trials are run in such a way as to assure the competitors as good a run as possible. The sheep should be dogged well enough so that they are neither

fighting the dogs nor charging all over the place and the course should be well thought out to prevent impossible situations. These and other factors contribute to the success of a trial. We are not saying that a trial should go so smoothly that all scores are 90 and above, but that the qualifying trials should be a fair test of the dog's and handler's skill, should give a good show to the public and should assure the quality of the dogs qualifying for the Championship. The NEBCA policy used to be that a new trial be run at least one year before it became a qualifier, but unfortunately that policy was changed two years ago. Because it takes some time to work the "bugs" out of a trial, perhaps it is time to rethink our current policy and possibly require that a new trial not be a qualifier until it has run smoothly for one year.

We also think sportsmanship needs to be addressed again. Last year we discussed animal abuse in light of the radical animal rights movement in the country. And we think that it was a very successful year with superb behavior on the part of everyone with regards to their public display of dog training and discipline. However, instead of stories of dog abuse, what we've heard too much of is stories of poor sportsmanship. Lots of complaining, at times quite loudly and at times with just plain bad language. Criticism is a wonderful tool if used effectively. What can we do to correct existing problems that contribute to the frustration that usually proceeds un-

sportsmanlike behavior? Bring your ideas to the annual meeting.

All in all we think this has been a banner year. BCs ARE getting out into the public eye. There is no turning back. We are doing a pretty good job of policing ourselves, so that others will not try to do it for us. (Thanks but no thanks!) And we must continue to, so that all you handlers that put so much time and energy into this sport will continue to get as much back.

Lastly we would like to address what we see as another problem. We know that we are neither alone nor a majority on this one. The subject is that of prize money. I'm sure most of you are aware that ever increasing purses were viewed as a threat to the integrity of the sport by our fellow handlers overseas a few years back. So much so that the ISDS got behind it and they were able to convince the trialing sport to keep its prize money minor to the prestige and satisfaction of winning at a trial. A friend of mine from England visited recently and was both amazed and disturbed by the cash we offer. In Great Britain, he said, we might give a crook or something else made by a local craftsman. I do think it's something we must think about. It certainly does change the sport to a certain degree. Anyone that denies this does not have their eyes open. I'm not even saying that it makes trialing "bad". That is a judgement call. There is no rule saying that we have to follow in Great Britain's footsteps.

continued page 11...

Travels in Australia continued...

the dogs around the sheep and we rode behind them all. Merinos flock readily and the dogs aren't too challenged. Merinos also cast, which is to say they fall down and don't get up. One did so and Bruce had to get off his bike to lift it up and prod it along. As Merinos get older their wool loses its quality, and so we were culling by looking at their teeth. We were working with a group of about 100 sheep, squashing them into a sorting chute with a two-way gate at the end. The dogs worked outside the chute, keeping the sheep pressed to the front. We drenched the ones he was

keeping, sending them through on opening of the sorting gate as they were done and shedding off the culls through the other opening. The whole culling operation took less than half an hour.

The following day the McLennans took me on a picnic where we could see the vastness of the Australian countryside. A large herd of kangaroos leapt away at the bottom of a long field. Another thrill!

The second part of Anne's travelogue, her travels in New Zealand, will be run in a later issue.

NEBCA JUDGING CLINICS, PART 2 *by Douglas McDonough*

In 1985, 1987 and 1988, NEBCA organized judging clinics to inform interested members of the detailed rules for judging sheepdog trials. This summary article examines Lifts and Fetches.

According to Bruce Fogt (B), the Outrun cannot be judged until the Lift is completed. If the sheep lift straight on to the handler then the dog is in the correct position. A perfect lift is worth 10 points and must be smooth and straight from wherever the sheep are to the handler (fig.1).

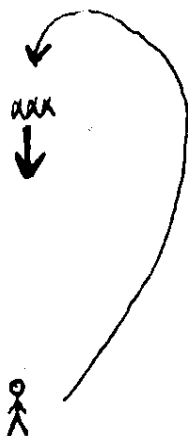


FIG. 1

If the dog overran the sheep, lose 1 1/2 points or more depending upon severity of the overrun. If the dog stops short, lose 2 or more depending on severity. If the dog pushes up hard to a release pen, lose 5 points. You have to judge by how the dog is acting as it is not always possible to judge just from the sheep, especially when using a release pen. When using a pen, the lift should be judged as when the sheep

Deadline for the next NEBCA NEWS is January 15, 1990, for articles, news, events, etc. and February 1, 1990, for ads.

attempt to move away from the dog. Bruce suggested setting up mental point zones for judging the direction that the sheep travel during the lift. (fig.2)

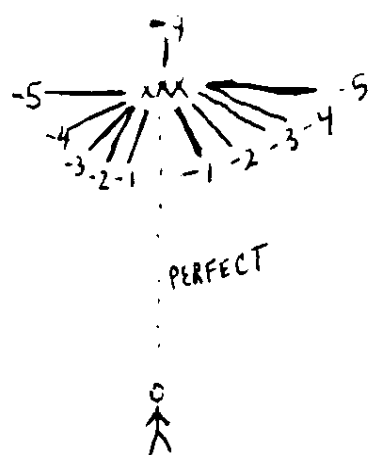


FIG. 2

A little off perfect would be -1/2; more off would be -1 or -2, etc. Sheep lifting straight away from the handler is -9. These point zones allow the judge to point all lifts uniformly. Sheep leaving the lift at an incorrect angle means the outrun was also wrong (dog short or overran) and usually results in an equal deduction from the outrun AND the lift. This will also result in a loss of points on the fetch since the sheep will be off line on the beginning of the fetch.

Ralph Pulfer began his judging clinic segment on lifts by saying that since ISDS rules say that the main feature of the lift is the ability to take control of the sheep in a firm and quiet manner without disturbing them, he deducts nothing from the lift if the dog obeys this rule. Thus, on a lift like this (fig.3), he deducts nothing if the lift was good according to the above rule, even if it was in a wrong direction. In this example, he would deduct -3 or -4 for the dog stopping short on the

outrun, then he'd deduct -3 or -4 off start of the fetch for being off line.



FIG. 3

For a lift like this (fig.4), where the dog appears to overrun the sheep then walks up to the sheep diagonally, but the sheep lift straight to the handler, there is no deduction since the dog was obviously right.

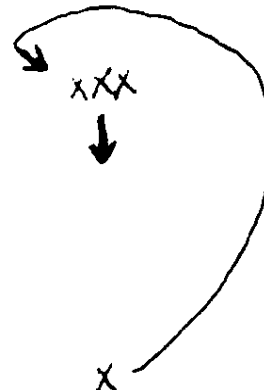


FIG. 4

The judge has to decide how much running of the sheep was caused by the dog and how much the sheep would have run on their own. In response to a question, Ralph (R) says that he doesn't go back and change scores for sections of runs but if he thinks he was too lenient on outrun points, he will hit harder on lift points. For a lift like this (fig.5), where the dog over runs the sheep, corrects itself, then walks straight up to the sheep who lift straight to the handler, -3 or -4.

R. says that if a dog needs commands on the

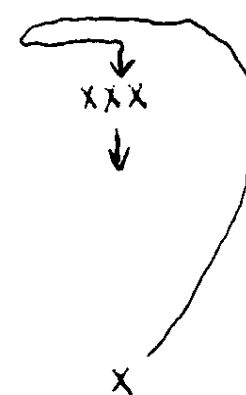


FIG. 5

lift, for the first few commands -1/2 pt. per command. Dogs needing several commands, -1 pt. per command. A dog zig zagging to the lift with commands, more than -1 per command (for a probable total of -2 to -4). A dog moving REAL slowly is O.K. A dog zig zagging on lift without commands is O.K. If dog runs too tight on lift and sheep split away, -8 on lift. If one sheep (perhaps eating) jumps at lift, no deduction if dog didn't cause. It is up to the judge to decide.

B. said that a dog that needs commands on the lift (usually for hesitation) loses 1/2 to 1 pt. for each command. Hesitation without commands is usually 1/2 pt. lost. A dog zig zagging towards the lift (dog hesitant to make contact) loses 1 pt. for each jag off the straight approach. If the sheep jump away from the dog but go in the right direction (not a smooth lift) lose 2 pts. If the sheep jump in the wrong direction lose 2 pts. plus a loss of point for lifting off line. A fast lift can cost 1 to 5 points depending upon how fast the sheep move. On the outrun and lift, the judging is primarily based on the actions of the dog. In the other

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Judging Clinics continued

phases of the work the position of the sheep is more heavily relied upon. When lifting from a pen the lift is made when the sheep attempt to move away from the dog.

B. said a dog stopping short (fig.6) and moving in on the sheep who lift smoothly but 90 degrees off line is a loss of 5 pts. stopped short and 5 pts. lifting off line.



FIG. 6

If the sheep are drifting (fig.7) the dog must run far enough to cover the sheep. If the sheep lift straight to the handler then the outrun was correct.



FIG. 7

Although B. would like to cut points for a dog being stopped at the end of the outrun by the handler, Bruce says that J.M. Wilson said this was no loss of points and so he makes no deduction.

The FETCH, where the sheep travel straight to the handler, is usually worth 20 pts. Fetch gates are usually 12 ft. long and have a 21 ft. opening

between them. For judging, B. mentally divides the field into quarters along the fetch line (fig.8).

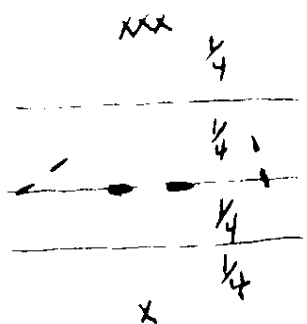


FIG. 8

These quarters help the judge to estimate the distance the sheep travel while off line. B. then divides the field into point zones (fig.9).

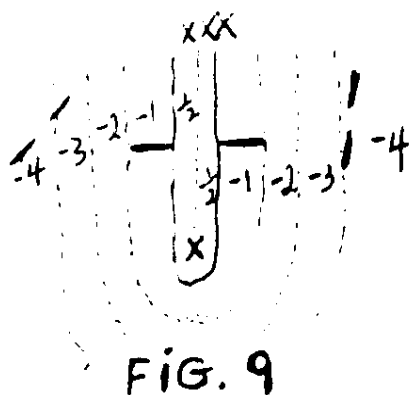


FIG. 9

A perfect line resulting in no loss of points in going through the fetch gate is the center of the opening or about 3 ft. on either side of this line. Sheep still going through the gates but off the perfect line would be subject to loss of points: -1/2 pt. off line while still inside fetch gates. The quarters that the field is divided into are a measure of distance to help the judge determine how long the sheep have been traveling off line. Off line slightly for 1/4 of the field is -1/2 pt.; one-half of the field is another -1/2 pt. Sheep off line a little bit the whole fetch would thus be -2 pts. Sheep zig zagging (fig.10) lose points each time they

go off line. How many points lost depends upon what point zone they zag into. Loss of points on the fetch are for the whole bunch of sheep — one sheep off line in the 1 pt. zone might = -1/2 pt.

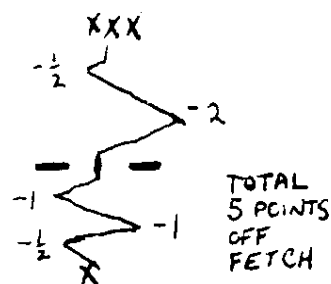


FIG. 10

B. said if the sheep miss the gate lose 5 pts. (fig.11). Any time that the dog crosses the course between the sheep and the obstacle that the sheep are headed for, it's a loss of -4.

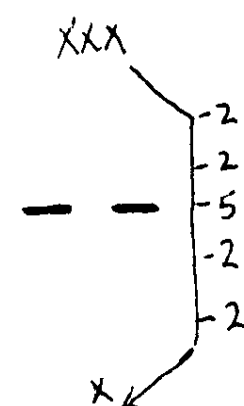
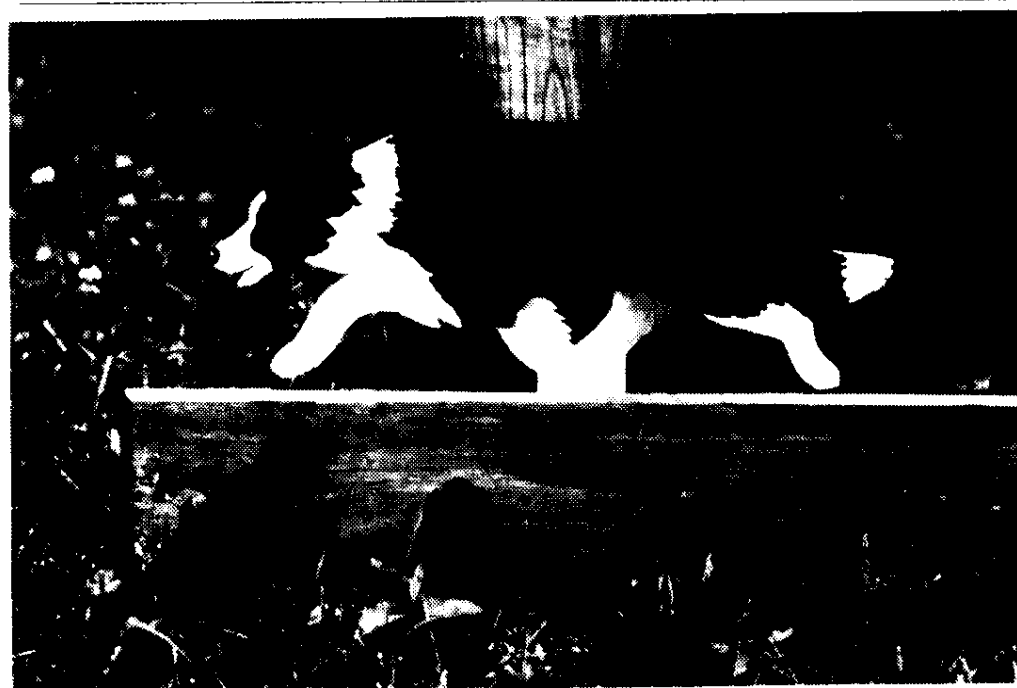


FIG. 11

The dog heading the sheep and unnecessarily stopping their line to the obstacle (but not crossing the course) = -1 or -2. If sheep bolt down the field angling away from the fetch gate, it's O.K. for dog to stop them and put them directly back on line—the only points lost would be for off line. If sheep bolt straight down the field for the handler with the dog left laying down on the lift, -1 or -2 for dog out of contact.



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R. said that for this fetch (fig.12), if the dog keeps trying to turn the sheep onto the line for the whole distance, he would probably only deduct -1/2 pt.



FIG. 12

But for the exact same fetch (fig.12 again), if the dog follows the sheep the whole way (thus is driving them off line), lose -6 pts. R. deducts -2 pts. whenever (fig.13) sheep get out beyond the panel.



FIG. 13

However, for this second time out beyond the panel (fig.14), he would deduct -3 because the handler had the chance to correct it so this is worse than the -2

deduction. R. stressed that all penalties are circumstances at hand by decisions of the judge based on the actions of the sheep and dog.



FIG. 14

Sheep miss fetch gates (fig. 15). R. deducts -12 if dog following sheep; -7 if dog trying to turn them. On the fetch, it is O.K. for the dog to head them to a stop in order to turn them before the f. gate.



FIG. 15

B. said the fetch ends when the sheep cross the fetch line behind the post. B.'s point zones are continued down the field and around the post so deductions for too wide on the turn depend upon

what zone the sheep have moved into. If the sheep turn in front of the post or turn the wrong way around the post lose -2. If the sheep are bolting on the turn and the dog heads them lose 4 pts. for crossing the course (fig. 16).

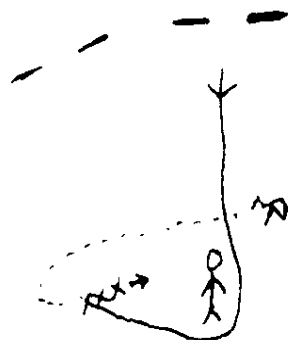


FIG. 16

This is better than losing the sheep. A wide turn is usually 2 points off the fetch. If the sheep continue to stay out there for the beginning of the drive then -2 off drive as well. If the sheep stop to graze, dog is out of contact and lose -1/2 pt. or more if it persists. Dog barking while working usually = at least -1 pt.

R. repeated that every phase of rules is under the circumstances at hand rule, trying to emulate practical shepherding. R. said it is usually better for handler to turn the sheep around the post about 10 ft. out behind the post. Most judges will deduct -1 pt.,

but it is safer. With unbroke sheep, turn them 20 ft. out from back of post. If turn sheep in front of post, -4 if close to post, up to -10 if turn way before post. Turn wrong way around back of post = -6. Sheep running around post, heavy to exhaust (fig.17), bolting off line, perhaps only -1/2 pt. or -1.



FIG. 17

This is up to the judge. Crossing the course at the handlers post (fig. 18) may = only -1 to -2 if heavy pressure to exhaust. Ralph lets the

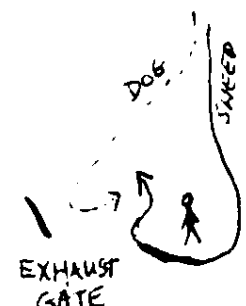


FIG. 18

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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

BREEDER'S DIRECTORY

The Breeder's Directory runs from January 1 through December 31. The enrollment period for all renewals or new listings for 1990 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:

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NO LATE LISTINGS WILL BE ACCEPTED

1989 NEBCA FALL FOLIAGE CHAMPIONSHIP TRIAL

27 dogs ran

Judge: Doug Lamb from Scotland

Champion: Walt Jagger	Tweed
Reserve Champion: Bev Lambert	Jetta
3rd: Walt Jagger	Jill
4th: Lynn Deschambeault	Daisy
5th: Mike Canaday	Sandy
6th: Beverly Lambert	Mac
7th: Cheryl Jagger-Williams	Kim
8th: Roger Deschambeault	Sue
9th: Beverly Lambert	Kate
10th: Becky Peterson	Fly

Best Gather: Walt Jagger	Tweed
Best Drive: Cheryl Jagger-Williams	Kim
Best Pen: Roger Deschambeault	Sue
Best Shed: Walt Jagger	Tweed

A special award for Most Potential went to Jamie Huntsberger and Alec. Alec was not competing in the trial but displayed enough savvy all day to catch the eye of the judge when he was asked to select the dog for this award.

Another special Hard Luck award went to Lynette Milleville and Magic. Magic received this award for a particularly difficult draw of sheep.

We hope to have a write up on this years trial for the next issue.

NEBCA HIGH POINT AWARDS

Champion: Walt Jagger	Dot
Reserve Champion: Roger Deschambeault-Cap	
3rd: Walt Jagger	Jill
4th: Cheryl Jagger-Williams	Tess
5th: Walt Jagger	Tweed
6th: Cheryl Jagger-Williams	Kim
7th: Roger Deschambeault	Sue
8th: Mike Canaday	Ben
9th: Beverly Lambert	Jetta
10th: Mike Canaday	Kit

ed. note: Mike Canaday's dog Kit met with a freak accident this summer after qualifying for the championship and her high point award. She was a truly memorable dog and her keen presence at the trials will be missed. We would like to extend our condolences to the Canadays and hope to spotlight her career in a future issue.

TRAINING TIPS *by Beverly Lambert*

Q: How do I get my dog to work further back from his sheep?

A: When the dog is working the sheep most of his attention is on the livestock. If he is really pushing them and not paying any attention to you it is very effective to run through the flock and straight into the dog. Give him a good surprise. After a couple of successful surprises, the dog tends to pay more attention to how close he is. I have also found that a feed bag with a couple of soda cans in it makes a good noise if shaken at a dog running around the flock too close. He will widen out around this and give you a chance to get through the flock and be ready for his coming in too tight on the other side. Dogs which show signs of being naturally wide on their sheep should not be forced to work wider. These dogs will widen themselves out and if you force them out they will finish much too wide and out of contact with their sheep. Sometimes a dog has to work close to the sheep to move them if they are very sluggish. Its good to get to different sheep and see if your dog is able to compensate for the difference in flocks.

Q: What should I do to prepare my dog for trialing?

A: Assuming that your dog is trained up to the standard of the trial in which you wish to run, the most important step in preparing a dog for trialing is giving it a chance to work strange sheep. If you can't get to another sheep farm then you should try and take

your sheep to a strange field and work the dog on them away from home. Inexperienced dogs do not perform the same way away from home as they do on sheep they know in familiar surroundings. The many novice dogs that fail to listen or obey in Novice Trials are not being willfully disobedient as much as they are reacting to enormous amounts of stress. I have never seen a dog that didn't mess up its first few times away from home. This doesn't have to be on the trial field if you do your homework.

Q: What should I expect at my first dog trial?

A: Don't expect to win. No matter how good your dog is at home running in a dog trial is going to be a new experience for you both. If you find that your mouth is dry at the post and your knees are shaking remember that your dog probably is feeling a doggy version of the same thing. Try to get the dog through the course without anything unpleasant happening. He is nervous and unsure. Try to make this first trialing experience as pleasant and fun as possible. If the sheep won't go into the pen quit, and drive them to the exhaust pen. If the dog loses them at the top, run down and help him. Try and think of the first couple of trials as training exercises for you and your dog. Don't be competing with the more experienced handlers and dogs, there will be plenty of time for that later when you are both a little more

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NEBCA ANNUAL MEETING

The 1990 NEBCA annual meeting will be held on January 6, with a snow date of January 13, at the Sunderland Fire Station, Sunderland, MA. There will be a pot luck lunch so please bring your favorite dish to share. Questions concerning meeting location, directions, cancellation due to weather, etc., should be directed to Kristen Whittle (413)665-3802. Anyone wishing to make suggestions for the agenda should contact either the NEBCA president, Steve Wetmore (802)765-4466 or the various committee chairpersons.

DIRECTIONS: From I-91 north or south take exit 24 and follow signs for rt 116 towards Sunderland. Go over the Connecticut River and you will come to a set of traffic lights. This is the intersection with Rt 47. Go left onto Rt 47 north. Take an immediate right before the town hall. The fire station is in back.

DO NOT BLOCK THE FIRE STATION DOORS!

Any pictures submitted for the 1990 calendar, which have not yet been returned, will be available at the annual meeting. See Kristen Whittle.

YOUR DOG'S HEALTH: HIP DYPLASIA

This article originally appeared as two articles by Janet Larson in her publication. It has since been edited by Lin Reuther and additional information has been included.

Hip dysplasia is not something many border collie breeders are concerned about at this time. They feel it only strikes show dogs, not animals that have been selectively bred for their working ability, speed and stamina. The typical response of the working dog breeder, when asked about hip dysplasia is that their dogs are working just fine and they have never had any problems so why go looking for trouble. Unfortunately, you cannot always tell if a dog has hip dysplasia just by looking at how it moves. That fact combined with alarming statistics—in the ten year period from 1974 to 1984, 21% of all Border Collie x-rays evaluated were dysplastic (that is on a comparable level with 24 % for German shepherds and Black Labs, the two breeds most commonly stricken)—mean that we Border Collie enthusiasts can no longer ignore the problem.

What is hip dysplasia? "The hip joint is a

ball and socket joint and is composed of at least three different types of tissue: bones, muscles and connective tissue. All of these elements of the hip joint are present in the newborn animal. The final composition and structure of these elements and the total construction of the joint are achieved during the development of the animal body. Normal development of the hip joint, from birth to maturity is determined by synchronous and congruent growth of all the involved tissues. Studies have shown that hip dysplasia is not a congenital condition (present at birth) but rather is a hereditary, quantitative, developmental syndrome." (Reference 1)

In normal development, the femoral head (the "ball") fits snugly into the well-cupped pocket (acetabulum). "Dysplasia literally means abnormal development. In hip dysplasia, the congruity of the two part (acetabulum and the femoral head) is disturbed, resulting in altered mechanical function. This loss of congruity is seen on x-rays as a separation of the head of the femur from the acetabulum (subluxation). The result of the subluxation is a widen joint space, with abnor-

mal stresses and forces being placed on the articular surfaces of the acetabulum and the femoral head. The hip joint attempts to compensate for these abnormal forces by changes in bone size, shape and structure (remodeling), and changes in the articular cartilage and synovial fluid. Radiographically, these changes are seen as a remodeling of the femoral head and neck, shallowness of the acetabulum and acetabular rim and edge changes. The end result is a form of arthritis called osteoarthritis of degenerative joint disease. Radiographically, hip dysplasia can vary from slight subluxation to severe degenerative joint disease." (Reference 1) See Figure 1.

Symptoms of hip dysplasia. Symptoms may run the gamut from barely detectable to severe enough to warrant putting the dog to sleep. Many times the only signs are stiffening of the rear end in later years, often just thought of as "old age". The Border Collie is a tough dog. It can withstand far more pain than many other breeds. Hips that would totally cripple the average dogs may not

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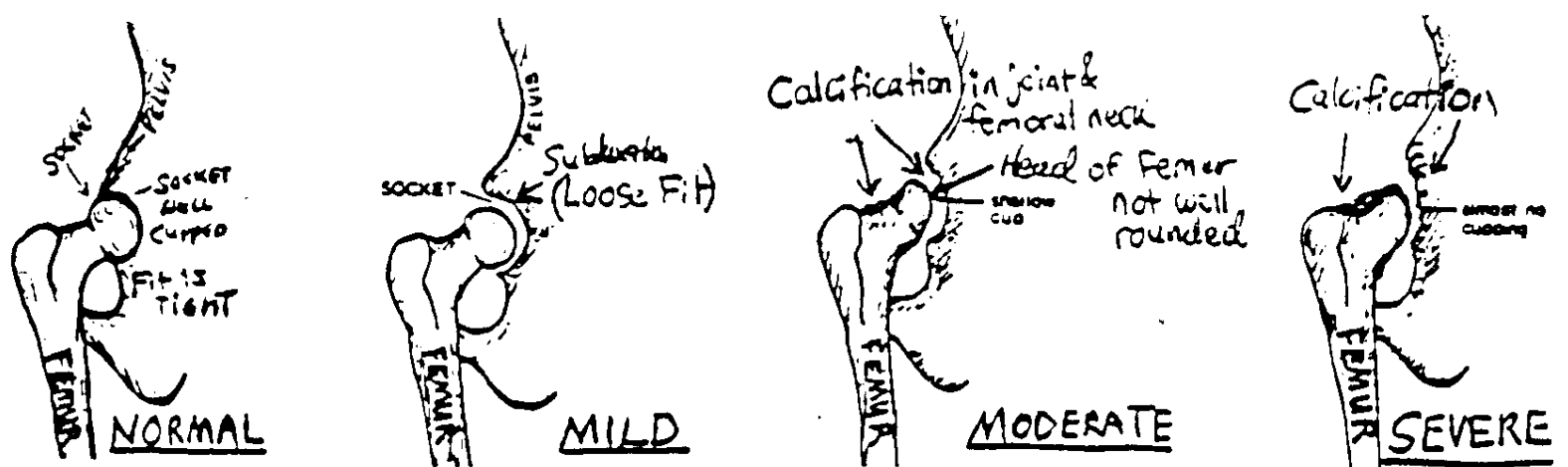


Figure 1

Hip Dysplasia continued...

effect the Border Collie at all. A Border Collie working stock is often so intent on his charges that it will not feel even severe pain of a badly cut pad or fractured leg, let alone deformed hip joints. This very trait, courage, is one of the things that makes our breed great. Usually, the more severe the hip dysplasia, the more the dogs shows physical symptoms from slight gait irregularities (short, choppy strides, swaying gait, bunny hopping, throwing weight onto forequarters, roaching of the back, difficulty getting up to outright hind leg lameness, either intermittent or continual. These severe symptoms can show up in very young dogs, 3 to 12 months old, who are acutely affected.

Diagnosis of hip dysplasia. The only reliable diagnostic tool for hip dysplasia is x-raying. There are no acceptable biochemical test at this time. Palpation has not proven reliable, as evaluation of joint laxity varies with individual skill as well as the breed, age and extent if the problem in the individual dogs. Observation of gait or work performance also has proven unreliable.

Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA) Specific criteria for diagnosis on an x-ray of the hip have been developed and recognized by the veterinary profession. Each breed of dog has an established standard of what the hips should look like at a specific age. While an owner's regular vet can take the x-rays (which must be taken while the dog is chemically restrained—by anesthesia or tranquilization to assure

a properly positioned film with good contrast), it is important to have the x-rays read by the specialists, the Orthopedic Foundation for animals.

The OFA is a not-for-profit foundation established in 1966 to study and help control orthopedic diseases. "It offers a central registry service for all breeds. It has the world's largest collection of hip radiographs as a reference source. Each radiograph is independently evaluated by three veterinary radiologists (Diplomates of the American College of Veterinary Radiology) and assigned a classification based in the radiographic appearance of the hip joints. Because of the differences in body size and shape and pelvic conformation, the OFA classification are based on comparisons among other individuals of the same breed and age. Hip Phenotypes range from excellent to severe. Evaluations of excellent, good or fair phenotypes are considered as being within normal limits and receive an OFA registry number. Borderline is considered a transitional finding and is of an indeterminate status with regard to normal or dysplastic; a repeat study is recommended in six to eight months. Dysplasia is graded mild, moderate, or severe. Ratings of borderline or dysplastic do not receive an OFA registry number." (Reference 1)

It currently costs \$15.00 to have OFA read an x-ray and evaluate it. The vet cost to take the x-ray ranges from \$25.00 to \$40.00.

OFA at this time is evaluating over 20,000 pelvic x-rays of dogs over 24 months (the minimum

age at which a reliable reading can be made, since hip dysplasia is age-dependent), and 1600 x-rays of dogs less than 24 months of age (for preliminary evaluations). No breed with more than 35 x rays read is free from some incidence of hip dysplasia. Since so few Border Collie x-rays are submitted, and x-rays of obviously severely dysplastic dogs are not submitted, the 21 % level of hip dysplasia in our breed may be an understatement of the true incidence.

There have been occasions when regular veterinarians read hip x-rays and felt they were dysplasia clear and the dog later turned up dysplastic. It is important, therefore, to have the specialists at OFA read the x-rays. The additional \$15.00 is a small price to pay for the expertise and extensive registry of x-rays on many many breeds, and more Border Collies x-rays than any given vet could have.

What can you do if your dog has hip dysplasia? The first thing one should do if a dog is dysplastic is to have it neutered, or at least be certain **not** to breed it so that it can never pass on the problem to future generations.

If it is an older dog, the problem can be treated as one would treat arthritis—decreased exercise, rest when sore, perhaps aspirin for pain if the vet recommends it. Younger dogs can be operated on, given artificial hips. This operation costs about \$500.00 per hip, and the dog must have restricted exercise all its life (in other words, even with reconstructive

surgery, the Border Collie cannot be allowed to work). In more mild cases of hip dysplasia, a pectineal-myotomy (cutting of the pectineal muscles) can alleviate pain and restore the dog to a normal life, but again, it will not have the range of motion of a normal dog.

What can be done to prevent hip dysplasia? The OFA research has shown that hip dysplasia is caused 50 % by genetics and 50 % by environment. Too few studies have concentrated on possible environmental factors. Only two — physical stress and nutrition for young dogs—have been well identified.

Puppies and young dogs should, of course, have exercise, but should be protected from over-exercising, being run into by other dogs during play, etc. Puppies should not be allowed to jump on or over things or get in and out of vehicles without help until they are about 10 or 12 months of age. A dog who is injured at a young age could end up with orthopedic problems later in life.

Studies have shown that animals raised on high calorie, maximal growth feeds developed more joint problems than littermates or control groups raised on a more middle-of-the-road diet. This finding leads to the following recommendations to avoid nutritionally-induced dysplastic problems:

1. Avoid feeding super high nutritional or maximal growth puppy feed.

2. Do not overfeed! Border Collies eat less for their size than many other breeds. A healthy

pup will be a somewhat thin pup—with ribs and spine fairly easy to feel.

3. Do not over-supplement! A good balanced dog food will have everything the puppy needs. Especially avoid calcium supplements.

While these practices may help alleviate severity of dysplasia, they cannot mask the genetic make-up of the dog. And dysplasia is 50 % genetically caused. Control of hip dysplasia has been found effective only when **selective breeding** is practiced.

Breeding recommendations: "The following breeding program is paraphrased from several studies and has been shown to be effective. The degree of success requires cooperation, honesty and openness among breeders.

1. Breed only normal dogs to normal dogs.

2. The normal dogs should come from normal parents and grandparents.

3. The normal dogs should come from litters in which more than 75 % of the siblings are normal.

4. Choose a sire that has a record exceeding that of the breed average for producing normal progeny.

5. Choose replacement bitches that have better hip conformation than that of their parents and that of the breed average.

6. As the frequency of dysplasia is lowered, raise the standard for selecting superior sires and bitches.

The recommended program is basically the same selection scheme

used for improving other quantitative traits such as body conformation and temperament. Some breeders use these principles on a regular basis, and they recognize that they must not focus on a single trait to the point of exclusion of other traits that also must be considered." (Reference 1) Of course, for the Border Collie, this means we must keep **WORKING ABILITY** in mind, as we always have. However, the same dogs that are producing top working dogs both here and abroad are the ones producing hip dysplasia. To totally reject these lines for breeding would be a serious mistake—we would lose the gains made by breeders over the past two hundred years. We must, however, keep our eyes open, and make sure the individuals we do breed from these lines are normal, and that their offspring are tested, also. **ALL** Border Collies come from five families—these families **ALL** go back to "Old Hemp". Dogs with hip dysplasia have turned up in **ALL** the major bloodlines. It is virtually impossible to find a dog in this country who does not, for instance, go back to one of several popular sires at least once in five or six generations. Far enough back in any pedigree you will find many common ancestors. In fact, the Border Collie is one of the most inbred breeds in existence today—but the emphasis has been on performance, not conformation. This close breeding brought about the rapid improvement in working ability, but is also responsible for many previously hidden recessive defects coming to the surface.

In Border Collies

right now, finding an OFA rated male to breed to is really difficult and what if that OFA rated doesn't offer everything we want to bring into the breeding? First try to talk the owner of the stud dog of choice into x-raying and OFAing. If they won't there are two choices. Walk away or take a chance. If you plan to use an un-x-rayed dog, make an in depth attempt to find out what he has produced hip wise. Just one offspring being clear is not enough. You need several examples, from different dams. Do believe the saying "the proof is in the pudding." You may find out 6 month or 6 years later that there was something in the "pudding" that was hidden at first!

Note also, however that **NO MATTER HOW CAREFUL** a breeder is as far as x-raying his breeding stock, cases of hip dysplasia will still show up in the get of normal parents. They themselves do not have the disease, which is recessive, but are carriers. They will throw it to some, but not all, of their pups. The chances of buying a normal pup are astronomically increased by making sure **BOTH** parents are OFA clear. If a breeder is doing all that is possible to eradicate the problem in his dogs, he shouldn't be criticized if there are isolated cases in his puppies. Most reputable breeders will replace any dysplastic pup free of charge.

In the current situation, it's the potential buyers who can and must influence the future of the Border Collie. Buyers who demand to see certification of both hip and eye conditions can help us keep our breed sound in

body.

Conclusion: Hip dysplasia is a problem that Border Collie people should face squarely. No one wants to produce a physically sound, dysplasia-free Border Collie that lacks instinct either—we should get all sides—physical and instinct—to that working ability. This will take time and cooperation between Border Collie breeders, owners and buyers.

References:

1. Alaskan Malamute Club of America Newsletter. Reprinted from KalKan Forum, Fall 1985, Vol. 4, No. 1.

2. Canine Hip Dysplasia by Fred Lanting Alpine Publications, Inc., 214 19th St., S.E., Loveland, CO 80537 (303)667-2017.

3. Orthopedic Foundation for Animals, Inc. University of Missouri—Columbia, Columbia, Missouri 65211. For \$1.00 they will send you a very informative booklet.

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Judging Clinics continued

handler get up to 10 ft. away from the post if working unbroke man-shy sheep. R. also lets the handler get away from the post to help stop sheep that are bolting down to the handler on the fetch. He hits only a light fault if sheep turn between handler and post or if most sheep go behind post and 1 sheep turns in front of post. R. added that the decision to give a handler and dog a rerun is one of the most difficult and dangerous decisions that judges and/or course directors make. Course directors can give reruns but they can't change a judge's scoring.

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 Lynne & Gene Sheniger, Wayside Farm, 213 Split Rock Rd., Boonton, NJ 07005. Deadline for the next issue is February 1, 1990.

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Training Tips continued...

experienced. There is only one first trial. Try to have fun and enjoy it. There are almost always a few experienced handlers around at novice trials. Ask plenty of questions of these handlers before and after your run. They will probably be flattered that you asked their opinion. They will almost never offer it if not asked!

Looking for pictures for the 1991 calendar. Send all submissions along with SASE for their return to Kristen Whittle, Little Brook Farm, 334 Russell Street, Sunderland, MA 01375. Pictures should be labeled with the dog's name, the owner's name, the photographer's name and the submitter's name.

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 Lynn Deschambeault, Merlynn Kennels, HRC Box 16, Ctr. Conway, NH 03813. Make checks payable to NEBCA..

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Editors Bark continued...

Perhaps it is already too late for us to go backwards to smaller entry fees and prizes. The pressure is already on to "bring home the bacon". But lets not do this with our eyes closed either. We've seen entry fees jump from \$10 to \$40 at a few trials. And prize money up to \$1000! But it becomes a catch 22. The higher the cost of trialing, the greater the need to make money at these trials. As a result we have seen a growing number of "professionals" in this country that make their living at working, training, breeding and trialing Border Collies. Hey, this is great, only in America, right? But where does that leave the amateur, the majority?

Those who can't afford to put out a couple of hundred dollars in entry fees each weekend, not to mention gas, car maintenance, lodging and someone at home to take care of all that livestock?

We are entering another decade. Another exciting decade I'm sure. And we need to think about where Border Collie trialing will be in the years to come. What will we say in the year 2000?

Take care and see you next year,...next decade.

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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
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413-625-6496

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RFD 1
34 Brown Brook Road
Southbury, CT 06488
203-264-6348

Ketecho Farm
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RD 1 Box 131
Hobart, NY 13788
607-538-9160

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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

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Tanstaafl 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
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Strafford, VT 05072
802-765-4466

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Wieninger's
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Hunter, NY 12442
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