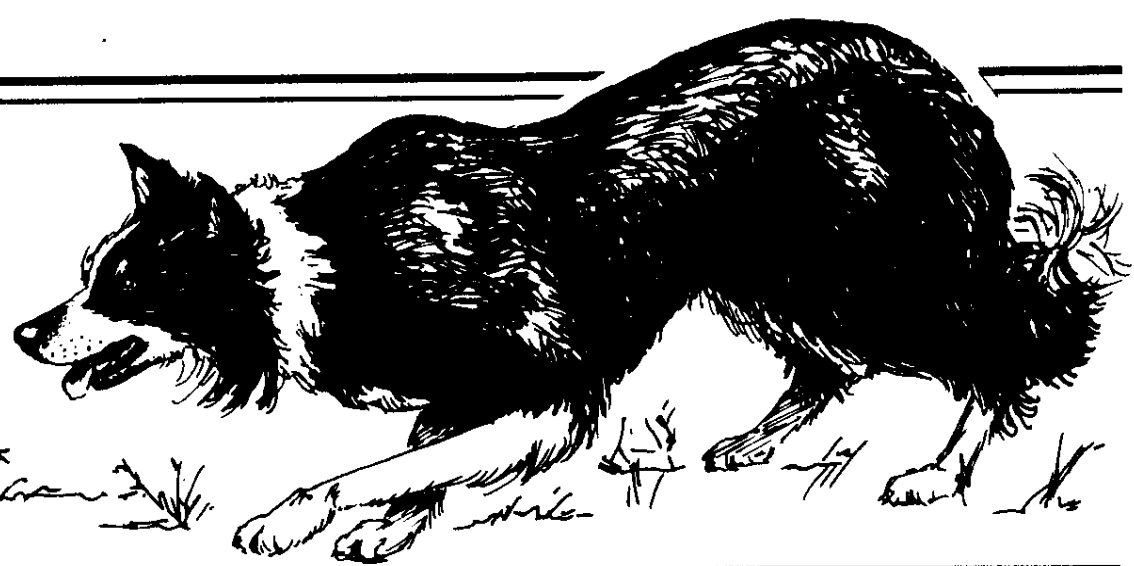


NEBCA

News



WINTER 1990 AN OFFICIAL PUBLICATION OF THE NORTHEAST BORDER COLLIE ASSOCIATION VOLUME 8 • NUMBER 4
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'TIS THE SEASON

FOR 1990 -- THE HIGH POINT COMPETITORS



A Likely Crew -- Top 10 in the Northeast. L to R: Walt Jagger-Queen & Dot, Beverly Lambert - Lark & Jet, Betty Levin-Kelty, Roger Deschambeault-Cap&Sue, Amanda Milliken- Jack, Cheryl Jagger Williams-Nell

by Gene Sheninger

What a competition!! Right down to the last runs on the last trials of the season, there was a race for first place. On September 29, Walt Jagger placed second with Queen, and Beverly Lambert placed fourth with Lark. At the end of the day, Queen had 112 points and Lark had 106.

Then comes the Freyburg Fair Sheepdog Trial -- the next day. Lark has a great first run. Queen has a not-so-good run; she doesn't place in the top ten. She is out of the running. Lark is well up in the standings. She has a chance to beat Queen -- if she can only place fourth or better after her second run. All she needs is six points to tie Queen and seven points to win the entire year. Lark places fifth for the day, adds six points to her total, and ends up tied with Queen with a total of 112. What happened??

Could Lark have placed a mere one place higher? Certainly! She was beaten with an identical score by her mate, Jet. The fourth place spot was awarded to Jet on the basis of his outwork. Now it is clear. Beverly could have laid off in her runs with Jet, and she would have been assured of winning with Lark. But she is an honest competitor. Jet deserved his chance, too. The tie for the entire season's placing was a result of honest competition among honest competitors.

These are the TOP DOGS OF THE NORTHEAST in the order that they placed in 1990. (For a full listing, write to the editors)

1	Walt Jagger	Queen	112
1	Beverly Lambert	Lark	112
3	Walt Jagger	Dot	93
4	Beverly Lambert	Jet	83
4	Roger Deschambeault	Sue	83
6	Cheryl Jagger Williams	Nell	74
7	Walt Jagger	Jill	70
8	Roger Deschambeault	Cap	67
9	Betty Levin	Kelty	66
10	Amanda Milliken	Jack	59
11	Mike Canaday	Sandy	57
12	Mike Canaday	Ben	51
13	Cheryl Jagger Williams	Kim	49
14	Mike Canaday	Tibby	46
15	Lynn Deschambeault	Daisy	43
16	Gene Sheninger	Nap	40
17	Jim Clark	Maggie	39
18	Dave Webster	Cap	38
19	Dave Webster	Gill	36
20	Roger Deschambeault	Tyson	28
21	Lynn Deschambeault	Dandy	28
22	Amanda Milliken	Hazel	28
23	Gene Sheninger	Bonnie	27
24	Becky Peterson	Queen	26
25	Eve Marschark	Spin	25



And the tie goes to Queen with Walt and Lark with Beverly

EDITORS' NOTES

With the Holidays upon us, it feels pretty good to relax a bit from the pressures of the Border Collie World and think about what this year has meant to each of us. Of course, there is really not very much relaxing that can be done, but the Christmas and Hanukkah Seasons mean so much that it feels good to throw ourselves into preparing for it.

We should spend much of this column with reminders. First, the ANNUAL MEETING: Please spend some time reviewing the proposed changes to the Nursery Trial Rules in preparation for voting on them. We believe that the Nursery Trials Committee has put in some hard work to develop the options they are proposing. They deserve a lot of credit. You should also think about changes you may feel are necessary for Open Trials, your opinion on the changes proposed in the last issue for the Fall Foliage Championship, and MOST

IMPORTANT, changes or additions you would like for the Newsletter. One comment we have heard often enough to attempt to do something about is the desire for more information on NON-TRI-ALING Border Collies. However, for that, we need a lot more help from prospective contributing editors in our membership.

Second, this is the last issue that you can receive from your 1990 membership. Your membership must be renewed by January 1, 1991, or we cannot promise that you will receive any further issues. Please renew now to avoid missing the next issue of the Newsletter.

Third, we are still looking for photos for the 1992 NEBCA Calendar. Look for the specifics elsewhere in this issue.

Finally, if you want to be listed in the Breeder's Directory in the Newsletter during the 1991 year and on the 1992 Calendar, you MUST get your money into Lynn Des-

chambeault by January 15, 1991. The enrollment period for the Breeder's Directory is between November 1, 1990 and January 15, 1991. If you miss this period, you will not be able to get on the list until 1992. These editors' have been able to make minor address changes through the year, as necessary, but we cannot add names to the list once it has been set up.

NOTE:

More on our plans for the 1991 Newsletter: During 1990 we published nine editions -- 4 primary issues and 5 supplements. Our intentions for 1991 are to keep it about the same. The only major change is that we are going to put out a TRIALS SUPPLEMENT in April (much like the one put out by Kristen and Denise in 1989) as one of our annual supplements. As they did, we will charge \$15.00 for a full-page camera-ready ad.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS
HAPPY HANUKKAH
AND
HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL**

PYOMETRA AND HEARTACHE

by Barbara Rosensteel

Nan was my first and only Border Collie. We have learned many things together since we started working sheep at the Rutgers University sheep farm a few years ago. We stumbled into and worked through our first trials together (I would add that attempting to train and handle Border Collies, and eventually enter trials was something I think we would not have been able to do without the moral support, friendly advice, and unselfish help that so many of you have given us). Well, I probably don't have to explain to most of you the special feelings that are attached to that first Border Collie. That is why, when I almost lost her to

illness last year, I wanted to write an article explaining the disorder that almost claimed Nan for others who were not familiar with it (as I certainly was not) so that they may be able to diagnose it in their own dogs at an early stage.

When Nan was six years old she developed pyometra, a severe infection of the uterus that most commonly occurs in bitches over six years of age. I would have noticed immediately that she was a very sick dog, except that I had just had her bred for the first time and didn't know how to recognize and separate the signs and symptoms of pregnancy from those of illness. Pyometra can develop in bred and unbred bitches. Perhaps breeding activity may increase the chances of a pyometra-prone bitch to develop the infection due

to the physical pushing of bacteria towards the uterus (this is just my thought which I have not seen verified in the books I referenced). However, breeding does not "cause" the disorder nor is it introduced by the stud dog or by anything in the breeding environment. So, while Nan's breeding activity did not cause the infection, her pregnancy, or, more specifically, my lack of knowledge concerning the same, delayed diagnosis almost to the point of her death.

The chronology of Nan's infection starts in early 1990, after she returned home from being bred. I should have written this immediately because I now forget the exact time frame of events, however, on we go. Within a week or two of returning home, Nan

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SEE YOU AT THE ANNUAL MEETING!!!

Gene & Lynne Sheninger

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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. Supplements will be issued during the trialing months. 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, RR 1 Box 897B, Bridgton, ME 04009. Make checks payable to NEBCA.

DISPLAY ADVERTISING
Prices are for camera ready ads. Display Advertising will only appear in the 4 quarterly issues:

single issues 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.

NURSERY TRIALS COMMITTEE PROPOSES CHANGES - 1991 SEASON

by Eve Marschark

What a year 1990 has been for the Nursery Trial Dogs! NEBCA had 12 Qualifying Trials this season and had a full 67 dogs competing in the three classes. The breakdown was: 17 Novice/Novice dogs; 25 Pro-Novice dogs; 17 Ranch dogs and 8 who moved into Open. Of these dogs, 22 had moved their dogs into the next class by earning the required 10 Points. (Certificates will be ceremoniously issued at the Annual Meeting.) The level of competition in the nursery levels has improved tenfold over the years since these "young-dog" classes were formed. Testimonial that they have in fact enhanced the performance of the Border Collie! With new faces appearing all the time, these classes have also served as a welcome invitation to onlookers, anxious to try their hand at the sport in a less threatening manner than the ominous "OPEN" competition.

What we are now faced with is the challenge of working out some bugs in the system. During the trial season, the Nursery Trials Committee had been asked to informally poll the nursery competitors. Were they pleased with the points system. How about the number of points needed to move the dog up? The number of points given to a dog who only scored 7 points out of a possible 90 points in his class?

What we heard over and over was that young dogs were being moved up too quickly, in just a matter of a few trials. Also, folks said that they didn't want the points if their dog didn't really deserve them (low % of points scored at the trial). Our President, Steve Wetmore, asked that the NTC come up with a set of proposals to present at the Annual Meeting. After hours of discussion and deep thought we have come up with the following. What we would like to ask each of the general NEBCA members, is that you take a minute to read the proposals and decide which ONE you will vote for at the meeting in January. While there might be other possibilities, they cannot be con-

sidered hastily in the fervor of a meeting and so you are asked to present "new" concepts for our 1992 Trial Season, not our 1991 Season. We spent a lot of time on this and are excited at the results of our efforts. Take a look!

PROPOSAL A:

- 1-2 dogs competing
0 points for 1st place
- 3-6 dogs competing
2 points for 1st
1 point for 2nd
0 points for 3rd
- 7-9 dogs competing
3 points for 1st
2 points for 2nd
1 point for 3rd
- 10 or more dogs
4 points for 1st
3 points for 2nd
2 points for 3rd
1 point for 4th
0 points for 5th

A dog would also have to earn at least 50% of the possible points in the class in order to get nursery points. This way a less-than-honorable run will not move a young dog up too fast just because of circumstance. In the same way, if there were only 2 dogs competing, the 2nd place dog will not be given a point merely for showing up!

The number of points to move a dog up into the next class would stay at 10 points.

PROPOSAL B:

- 2-3 dogs competing
1 point for 1st
- 4-5 dogs competing
2 pts for 1st
1 pt for 2nd
- 6-7 dogs competing
3 pts for 1st
2 pts for 2nd
1 pt for 3rd
- 8-9 dogs competing
4 pts for 1st
3 pts for 2nd
2 pts for 3rd
1 pt for 4th
- 10 or more dogs
5 pts for 1st
4 pts for 2nd, etc.

The number of points needed to move a dog up would change to:

Novice	12 points
Pro-novice	15 points
Ranch	15 points

By altering the system from both ends, so to speak, it would slow down the rate at which a young dog moved through that level of competition. These groups are easy to

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BOOT -- Part 6 (June -- August)

by Beverly Lambert

By mid-June Boot was doing complicated outruns with ease and fetching the sheep straight to me from 200-300 yards away. It was time for the next big step in her training--experience. Up to this point Boot has been living on a big farm on a dirt road in the middle of nowhere. What she can do here on her sheep with ease will be much more difficult for her on strange sheep in an unfamiliar field surrounded by hundreds of people. It was time to start taking Boot to dog trials.

It will probably cost me a couple hundred dollars, minimum, to get Boot up to running open trials. This is the amount of money I have to spend on entry fees while Boot and I get accustomed to each other in strange settings. If I lived a little closer to other farms and could get Boot out more often on strange sheep I am sure it would not be nearly as expensive. But Boot must learn about strange sheep somewhere. Because of where she lives and how I spend my weekends Boot will get this experience on the trial course. This is part of the process of training Boot. Now that she has a good gather and some understanding of flanks



Boot and Beverly approaching the Post

and driving I am ready to start broadening her experience with a little on-the-job training. At this stage in her training we are not entering trials to compete. I will not ask anymore of Boot than I know

she is capable of doing. If she gets into trouble I will go and help her or we will quit. She is in the trial to learn, not to try and win a ribbon. She has

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THE VERSATILE BORDER COLLIE

by Patricia Kuchma

Windy's Will O' the Wisp-"Windy"
Whelped 3/4/77
Imp. Gould's Roy Robin 66722
x Imp. Linton Shonnag 69443

We did some amateur shepherding for several years, working with various "borrowed" flocks. Windy is fast, tough, and intense, with a lot of eye. Unfortunately, most of these flocks were not "dogged", were very flighty, and really not conducive for training an over-eager B.C. with a very novice handler! Somehow, we managed to get some control and to learn whistled commands but, in spite of the problems, it was still fun.

Throughout this time and still today, she has also been my obedience competition dog. Her obedience training, to this day - she is now 13-1/2 years old - has not stifled her interest in sheep, or affected her style. She has achieved her novice, open, and utility level obedience titles, qualifying in three straight trials each time. Currently semi-retired, she occasionally competes in the Veterans class.

She loves working, but tends to be a bit vocal at times - the other competitors usually know when Windy's in the ring! Attesting to the Border Collie's vitality, Windy earned her Utility title at 12-1/2 years, the Open title at 11-1/2 years, with both titles requiring jumping obstacles.

She loves scent hurdle racing - jumping four hurdles in a row, scenting for the object I have handled among a group of other handler's wooden dumbbells, picking up mine, and racing back over the four hurdles as fast as she can, typical B.C. fashion. Teams consisting of four dogs and handlers compete against other teams for the fastest times. It's a lot of fun, and being that Windy is one of the fastest, we're always being asked to participate.

I've taught her to pull sleds and wagons, alone or in tandem. She leans into the harness, husky style, and when she was younger, used to know the "gees" and "haws".

As a registered Therapy dog, she wiggles her way to the delight of the nursing home recipients. Being a small B.C., she's been allowed up on the beds, "scuttling" up to lick hands and faces.

Retrieving bumpers from lakes, rivers, and at the beach, she marks the fall and will swim determinedly directly to snatch the bumper and quickly turn back, delivering to hand.

As I love upland bird hunting, I thought why not take her and encourage her to "find birdies". She was never noise shy and the shotgun blasts never phase her. I initially taught her to hold pheasant wings, later to finding a wing or bird-scented bumper thrown and hidden in a field. Her enthusiasm for this new activity was overwhelming. We went to some fun field trials where she aptly displayed her new interest - at one, she tracked a running hen, disappeared, then returned shortly, proudly delivering the live bird to hand.
continued page 7
We hunted often on a private

Letter to the Editors

Having just completed my second season competing in the novice classes, I would like to say thank you for the support that I and the other novices have received from the more experienced handlers. Without the suggestions and comments so freely given, the novices would find it much harder to improve the performance of themselves and their dogs.

Two incidents are still burned in my mind. At Fern Hall in 1989 some runs were being ruined by sheep that were lying down. I heard an open handler telling a novice that one way to get the ewe up was to drive the others to her. Sure enough, when my turn came, it happened to me. So instead of panicking, I knew what to do; the lazy ewe got up, and we were able to complete the run. The second occurrence was at your trial [Rockaway Township Sheep Dog Trial 9/1-3] this year. Skye and I stood at the post but our draw of sheep could not be held and, before we could start our run, one broke away to the exhaust pen. When the replacement group was put out, my stubborn little dog was determined to fetch that ewe. I sent her on an out-run to the other side but she crossed back to the exhaust

pen ignoring the bunch at the end of the field. Needless to say we did not get a blue ribbon for that run. Afterwards a couple of experienced handlers took the trouble to tell me of better ways to deal with such a problem and how to train the dog to handle it. I look forward to the next time with a lot more confidence.

So to those of you who have gone out of your way to help those of us with less experience, I would like you to know that it is very much appreciated. I hope that you will continue to do so.

Yours truly,
Bruce Smart

BEN

We would like to extend our condolences to Mike and Pat Canaday on the loss of their dog, Ben. Ben placed in the top ten in nine trials during the 1990 season, placing first at the Empire State Open Sheep Dog Trial and was in the top eighteen points earning dogs, qualifying to run in the 1990 Fall Foliage Championship Trial. His presence will be sorely missed on the trial field. We hope to feature an article about Ben in an upcoming issue.

NEBCA ANNUAL MEETING

The NEBCA Annual Meeting will be held on Saturday, January 12 at 10:00 a.m. at the Sunderland Fire Station, Sunderland, MA. (Snow date is January 19.) 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 toward 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 on Rt. 47 North. Take an immediate right before the Town Hall. The Fire Station is in back.

DO NOT BLOCK THE FIRE STATION DOORS!

Use the membership form below for new members or a renewal. Renewals are due on January 1, 1991 for current members. Be sure to send it to Lynn Deschambeault. Any new member who joined after July 1, 1990 need not renew until January 1, 1992. Breeders List Deadline is January 15, 1991

Northeast Border Collie Association Membership Application

NAME _____ **DATE** _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY/STATE _____ **ZIP CODE** _____

PHONE _____

BREEDERS LISTING:
(maximum five lines)

Mail to:

Lynn Deschambeault
RR 1 Box 897B
Bridgton, ME 04009

Annual Membership -- Individual \$10.00

Family or Farm --\$15.00

Annual Breeders Directory -- \$10.00

Make checks payable to NEBCA

TOTAL

UPCOMING FUTURITY ENTRANTS

by Beverly Lambert

1991 FUTURITY

Joe	Gwen Cassel
Mindy	Lynn Deschambeault
Boot	Beverly Lambert
Robin	Gene Sheninger
Lit'lbrook Gael	Kristen Whittle
Jesse	Susan White
Roy	Becky Peterson
Loch	Gwen Cassel
Glen	Pat Buckley
Dice	Pat Buckley

1992 FUTURITY

Hope	Beverly Lambert
Litter of pups	Gwen Cassel
Megan	Denise Leonard

According to the records, the above dogs are paid up and eligible for the Futurity. If anyone has a question about a dog that they think has been paid up, please get in contact with Beverly. The purse for the 1991 Futurity stands at \$1150 as of 10/23/90. In order to remain eligible to compete in the 1991 Futurity, payments of \$25 each must be received by 1/1/91 and 6/1/91. Send checks, payable to NEBCA Futurity, to Beverly Lambert, Dickey Hill Road RFD #1, Brooks, ME 04921

SECOND ANNUAL TRIAL AND CLINIC SUPPLEMENT

Here is your chance to avoid the effort and expense of mailing out your ads and entry forms for your Clinic or Trial. The NEBCA NEWS gets to over 300 members. The APRIL ISSUE is going to be a special TRIAL SUPPLEMENT that will be mailed First Class to every NEBCA Member.

We are accepting full-page camera-ready Trial or Clinic ads for the modest fee of \$15.00. The ads will be printed on one side of the paper only, so handlers and other participants can clip them out.

As before, it is recommended that you include the following information:

1. Trial name, date and time
2. Trial location and directions
3. Entry fee and premium list information
4. Contact person, address, & phone number
5. Classes, deadline, and entry form

The DEADLINE for these ads is March 1, 1991. Your ad must be accompanied by a check for \$15.00 made payable to NEBCA. The issue will be mailed out on April 1, 1991.

CLASSIFIED:

Classified ads cost \$3.00 per issue or \$10.00 per year (four issues and all supplements - no changes) for 50 words or less. \$.20 per word will be charged for longer ads.

THE SHEPHERD'S DOGGE, quarterly journal of the Border Collie and his ancestors, devoted to sheepdog culture and lore, historic and contemporary, featuring interviews, photographs, art, stories, poems, cartoons, articles, reviews and more. \$12.50/year to the Shepherd's Dogge, Woolgather Farm, 75N Bear Hill Road, Merrimac, MA 01860.

BORDER CORNER Border Collie specialty shop. Inventory includes clothing, posters, notecards, a wide selection of books, jewelry, imported figurines and much, much more. For information contact Kathy Kemper, 212 Salem Drive, Everman, Texas 76140, (817)568-2515.

REGISTERED BORDER COLLIE PUPPIES from top working/trial dogs (all dogs OFA good). Stud service available. Training services for dogs and handlers. Beverly Lambert, RFD 1 Box 2280, Brooks, Maine 04921 (207)525-3223.

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-Williams, RD 1 Box 77A Hop Bottom, PA 18824 (717)289-4733.

BORDER COLLIE TRAINING SERVICES both for handler and dogs. For more information call or write Cheryl Jagger-Williams, RD 1

Box 77A, Hop Bottom, PA 18824 (717)289-4733.

BORDER COLLIE AND HANDLER TRAINING SERVICES: Vast open fields and plenty of sheep. Training clinics, judging clinics and demonstrations offered. I also have for sale several "well-dogged" sheep, ideal for training puppies -- \$60.00. Contact Vergil Holland, Ketecho Farm, RD 1 Box 131, Hobart, NY 13788 (607)538-9160.

LITTER DUE first of October out of Imp. Betsy and Dandy (former NEBCA Champion), both very powerful, well-bred dogs. Both PRA(-) and OFA Cert. Tri-color, black & whites and blue merles expected. Copies of pedigrees available. These pups will be excellent working, pet or obedience prospects. Call after 10 p.m. or leave message 1(207)452-2898 or write Lynn Deschambeault, Merlynn Kennel, RR 1, Box 897B, Bridgton, ME 04009.

BORDER COLLIE PUPS: 1 B/W male, 2 females (both tri-colored), beautifully marked, happy & sociable. From proven, working lines and parents. Would make great obedience, pet or working dogs. Hips and eyes always checked. Call Eve Marschark (215)795-2023 before 9 p.m.

TWO WORKING DOGS. One female - started. Bidable, eager worker, great with kids and other dogs. One male, red tri-color, has trialed successfully and could be run in the Novice class. Reliable outwork, steady worker. Must see. Both have hips and eyes clear. Contact Eve Marschark (215)795-2023.

BORDER COLLIE PUPS due November 20th, out of Star (J. Jamison) and Kastle (J. Kubas). Star is a Mirk/Zip (J. Monsour) breeding. Kastle is out of Eve Marschark's Rin and D. Foor's Lad. Both dogs are excellent workers with exceptional temperaments. Call John Jamison (412)834-7424 or Jan Kubas (412)836-2738.

BORDER COLLIE PUPPIES out of Wick (Albin's Spin X Drake's Spot) by Averitt's Imp. Tosh (Frame's Di X Jardine's Don) line bred to Templeton's Moss are due November 13. Both parents are trial proven with good dispositions. John Weikel, RR 4 Box 266, Mt. Vernon, IN 47620 (812)783-2675.

BORDER COLLIE PUPPIES Due 12/26/90 out of Beverly Lambert's Lark and Jet. Lark was 1990 NEBCA High Points Co-Champion. Both parents have won many open trials. Previous pups of this breeding are now making a very good showing in Novice Trials and include Gene Sheninger's Robin, Becky Peterson's Roy and my Boot. Pups should be easy to train with a good natural gather and wide flanks. Both parents are OFA Good. Beverly Lambert 207-525-3223.

TWO MALE PUPS. TWO STARTED DOGS. Available now. Contact Roger Deschambeault, Nearfield Farm, HCR Box 16, Ctr. Conway, NH 03813 (603)939-2255.

FOR ADOPTION: 5 year-old female black and white Border Collie - rough coat; spayed. Has been to two clinics, softer type temperament. Out of McGregor and Gould's breeding. Must give up due to family crisis. Please call Graham Buck at (914)736-1661 home or (914)245-4024 work.

AVAILABLE FOR COMPETITIVE OBEDIENCE PLACEMENT: 2-1/2 year old, spayed, tri-color female. Small, quick, serious/happy, very responsive yet independent. Would also do well in agility. Hips and eyes clear. O'BRAE (607)674-4541.

PRICES SLASHED! AM OVERSTOCKED! (NOT going out of business) Only five Greyface ewe lambs left for sale. All twins or triplets. Dog broke - have been training my new young dog on them. They are Border Leicester x Scottish Blackface and carry the lovely Leicester wool. Will have fast-growing fat lambs when bred to a terminal sire. Call Anne Priest (914)856-3209.

LENDING LIBRARY

The Lending Library will be at the Annual Meeting. Please return all outstanding books or videos at that time.

Nursery Trials continued

remember and would not reward a 2nd place dog in a competition of only two dogs. 50% of the possible points must be earned.

PROPOSAL C:

(Carol Champion came up with the following, creative idea. This one's really different folks, so give it time to settle in before you react. We think it has some real promise!)

Going back to the original premise that the Nursery Trials were created to: (1) provide young dogs (and young handlers) a place to begin their trialing careers without the highly competitive pressure of the Open Class; and (2) move the young dog along when his level of competition improved beyond his class; we propose a system of merit rather than a system based on placement in a specific trial.

Under this proposal, a dog earns nursery points based on the score he got at the trial. A dog would have to earn at least 50% of the possible points and respectively, the nursery points earned reflect a percentage of work done.

Out of 90 Points Possible:

Score	Points
82 to 90	5 pts
73 to 81	4 pts
64 to 72	3 pts
55 to 63	2 pts
46 to 54	1 pt

Out of 80 Points Possible:

Score	Points
73 to 80	5 pts
65 to 72	4 pts
57 to 64	3 pts
49 to 56	2 pts
41 to 48	1 pt

Under this system, any number of dogs can earn nursery points at one trial. The handler still has the satisfac-

tion of having placed well in the trial yet is not risking moving his dog too quickly if the dog didn't do quality work (as exhibited by a very low score). As an added benefit, a small degree of competitiveness is removed since handlers are not competing for the same nursery point.

The number of dogs running in the class should have no bearing on the quality of work done by the dog anyway. Good work is good work! Here it is rewarded. By this system, the dogs that get high scores would still get the points by either (this or the old) system, since they probably would have gotten points for their high placing the other way. So the qualified dogs would have the same amount of time in a class, but the inexperienced dogs would not be prematurely pushed by the old "reward" system (which in some cases wasn't a reward). (i.e., how do you feel about a dog who scored 25 out of 90 receiving a nursery point? It happened this year. Last year 2 points were awarded for a score of 20 out of 90 possible.) The number of points needed to move a dog up would be 15 or 20 per class.

The dilemma of luck-of-the-draw remains within all systems and is still part of the game. A trial with exceptionally cooperative sheep or one with unbelievably contrary sheep would in any case not truly reflect the caliber of dog given any system.

So, think about it ... talk about it ... call us about it ... but have your vote ready for the Annual Meeting! Proposal A, B or C?

In addition, we would like to encourage those truly "YOUNG" handlers (16 yrs. and under) by offering them their own class. Maybe a Youth Novice. Our idea is that at the end of a trial, a

separate class be offered to those under 16 in which they can run any dog (regardless of level) through a course consisting of an outrun, lift, fetch, wear and pen. The charge could be free or no more than \$5. We could offer an end-of-year recognition for this special class for kids. What do you think?

Windy continued

hunting club's property, getting strange looks from the members with their German Shorthairs and Brittanies. She actually worked as well or better than most. She's intent, works an area well, will go into cover, and retrieve directly. Unfortunately, she doesn't always get her reward, as I am not an accomplished shooter. You know when she's on to a bird, as she stiffens up, slowing down, creeping in, almost glowing. I command her then to move in, she flushes the bird, marks the fall, and delivers to hand, sitting in front. Occasionally she has to try a few times at the pick-up - a full grown cock pheasant is a mouthful!

Our most special day came in October of 1987 at a local club's fun field trial (American Kennel Club sanctioned trials will only allow specified hunting breeds to compete). It was cold and it rained all day, but it ended up worth the wait.

As Windy was 10-1/2 years old at the time, she had to compete in their Gun Dog Stake - 4 years old and over - seasoned hunting dogs. It was soon our turn. A large cock pheasant was placed, hidden in a huge field. Windy and I proceeded out. She began to quarter. I directed her occasionally (using a few herding commands), moving slowly across the field. She caught bird scent, slowed down, and located the direction. She seemed to suddenly

Other issues will be addressed in brief as well. We hope to see you at the Big Meeting! On behalf of the Nursery Trials Committee, I would like to wish you all a healthy, joyful holiday and a promising year ahead in all you do!!!

Yours in BC's,
Eve Marschark

glow, creeping in, staring fixedly ahead. She stopped, then I commanded her to flush the "birdie". I prefer this style, as one can then be prepared for the bird bursting out. I had someone else gunning for me, an accurate shooter. Windy eyed the bird's ascent, marked its fall, and was off to retrieve. She returned promptly to me, occasionally stepping on a few tail feathers, sitting in front, a perfect delivery to hand. We had many compliments afterwards. I think Windy even felt the praise.

We waited all afternoon and finally it was time for the placements. They began the awards in reverse. Suddenly, I heard my name being called for first! I couldn't believe it! I was thrilled and honored. Tuning in to my excitement, Windy added her pleasure vocally. Our pictures were taken amid congratulations. Then it was time to head home, drenched and cold, but very happy.

We returned the following year. The same judge was back also. He remarked upon seeing us that he "gave that dog first place last year. She was the best dog I judged that day." We got our usual quizzical looks, but basically everyone was friendly and hospitable. We didn't get first this time, but Windy did a nice qualifying performance - at 11-1/2 years Windy was a bit slower, but all the desire and enjoyment were still evident, and we had another very enjoyable day in the field.

Boot 6 continued

years of competing ahead of her; this is not one of them.

Nursery trials will serve a two-fold purpose for Boot and me. First and foremost they will give Boot badly needed trialing experience. Secondly they let me evaluate Boot's prospects as a trial dog and our training program. Where is Boot weak? What areas of training do we need to work on? Most importantly, has Boot the makings of the kind of trial dog I like? A really good trial dog has to like going to dog trials and performing for an audience. I am always tenser working at a trial than I am at home. The dogs can feel that tension and will be much more on edge than they are at home. This makes some dogs very excited and rather wild. These dogs can make good trial dogs but they will never be as dependable as the more relaxed dogs that enjoy the competition and they require a lot more training. Other dogs respond to the tension by listening more carefully and responding more quickly to the commands. The only way to find out how a dog will respond to trialing is to try it.

So on the 8th of July Boot's hoped-for trial career was slated to begin at the Bittersweet Farm Nursery Trial in Conn. This was a good beginning trial for Boot as it was a good size course with the sheep clearly visible to the dog and not an enormous crowd to distract her from her work.

Boot's daily lessons at the farm continued to follow the same course they had all spring. We didn't do any special work to prepare for the dog trial.

At the trial Boot and I approached the post just as we always do at home. I kept her on my right side for a "way to me" outrun. I kept her by my side until she had seen the sheep and had had a chance to forget about the crowd behind her and get her concentration firmly centered upon the job ahead of her. Then I sent her a way with a good firm "shhh". Boot's outrun was her usual faultless wide cast. She slowed on the balance point and came on to her sheep quietly at the top. When the sheep began to run for the exhaust pen behind the handler's post she was a little unsure what to do and started a very wide "way to me" cast. I whistled her "go by" which after a short argument she took quite well. Unfortunately by that time the sheep had knocked the tent down on the judge and one of them jumped over the fence into the exhaust. Boot immediately gathered up the remaining sheep and brought them to me at the pen.

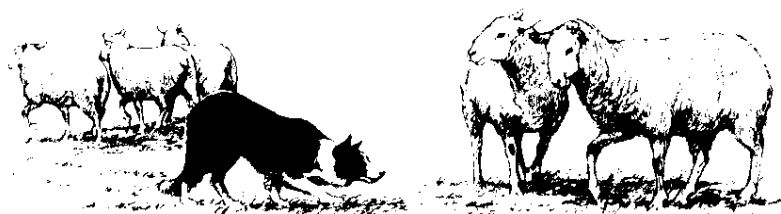
While Boot's debut was not a glory filled victory, it was very satisfactory from my point of view. Boot had had a wonderful time. She loved it. Her gather at the trial was the same as her gather at home.

She had quickly adjusted to the different sheep on the fetch and while she had not obeyed me as quickly as she might have, she had listened and did respond to all of my commands. She showed no hesitation about working around the judge's falling tent or the crowd. Boot at home and Boot on the trial field were going to be the same dog, responding in the same way to my commands. Now to go home and work on a response to the commands!

By September Boot had run in several trials, performing a little better at each trial as her training progressed. Her grasp of the flank commands improved gradually all summer until by September she was taking the correct

command about 90% of the time. The really tricky, crucial times were the 10% she got wrong. I am now using Boot for all of my farm work. Sometimes it takes me twice as long to get the job done and the sheep end up in some strange places but Boot keeps trying. Boot's formal training has largely ended for this year. I will take her out 2 or 3 times a week to work on her flanks a little bit and start teaching her to shed. But the rest of her training will take place as she works for me around the farm. Next spring she will begin to compete in Nursery trials as preparation for her career as an open trial dog.

NEXT ISSUE BOOT LEARNS TO STOP AND TO SHED:



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BREEDERS DIRECTORY

The Breeders Directory runs from January 1 through December 31. The enrollment period for all renewals or new listings for 1991 is November 1, 1990 through January 15, 1991. All listings **MUST** be paid and received by January 15, 1991. This will include both the Newsletter and the calendar. The fee is \$10.00 for five lines. Make checks payable to NEBCA. Use the form included with this Newsletter or send check and listing to:

Lynn Deschambeault
Merlynn Kennel
RR 1, Box 897B
Bridgton, ME 04009
(207)452-2898

Nan continued

went off her feed and had an excessive thirst. At the same time, she began to vomit and became lethargic. I was very concerned but delayed action for several days since I thought it might be morning sickness. The symptoms of morning sickness in bitches include depression, lack of appetite, and vomiting. Seemed to fit the bill, but after the symptoms worsened after several more days I was less certain. Other symptoms arose. She began to urinate in her box and in the house. Nan, a very willing dog who comes to me at the merest request, now had an overwhelming lethargy in which she could walk to me only in short steps, her back hunched up, her head down. Within a very short time, she seemed incapable of even that movement. I was in the house with her and asked her to come a few short steps to me. She looked at me in a way I can only describe as imploring, as if she wanted to come to me but just could not. My heart sank. This was not morning sickness. I immediately called the veterinary hospital and told them I was bringing Nan to them NOW.

Even as I left her with the veterinarian I still had no idea what was wrong with her. The next day the vet called and said that she had an advanced case of pyometra, the uterus had burst spreading infection through her body, and they would have to perform surgery at once in order to have any chance at all of saving her. She had surgery followed by two-week stay at the vet's and survived due only

to Border Collie stamina and the excellent skill and caregiving of the veterinarians. But it was a close one.

Pyometra typically occurs after the heat cycle. During the cycle, increased progesterone levels cause a thickening of the uterine lining. Hormonal imbalance, especially increased progesterone levels, is believed to be a causative factor since it creates the conditions favorable for the development of uterine infection. The increased glandular secretions are an excellent medium for bacterial growth. The most likely source of uterine contamination is the normal vaginal flora, which can more easily enter the uterus when the cervix opens during the heat cycle. In other words, it is a "self-infection" in which the normal bacteria in one part of the body get into a part where they are not supposed to be and, in this case, get there when conditions are extremely good for their proliferation. The predominant bacterium involved is *Escherichia coli*, an exceedingly common and abundant bacterium in warm-blooded animals.

Open-cervix and closed-cervix pyometra can occur. The signs of open-cervix pyometra include:

- lethargy
- depression
- frequent urination
- excessive thirst
- lack of appetite
- a reddish, thick vaginal discharge

If diagnosed early in this stage there is an outside chance that the uterus can be purged of infection, antibiotics administered, and the bitch can live to breed again. However, in the majority of cases of pyometra, ovariectomy is the treatment of choice. In closed-cervix pyometra it is the only treatment.

Closed-cervix pyometra is a more severe illness as the infection is "bottled-up" in the uterus and leads to several additional system dysfunctions. The symptoms include all those listed for open-cervix pyometra, with the exception of the vaginal discharge, plus the following:

- anorexia
- abdominal extension
- enlarged uterus
- diarrhea
- vomiting

Vomiting usually occurs as a result of toxemia and altered renal function. Signs can rapidly progress to severe dehydration, shock, coma, and death.

Nan had an advanced case of closed-cervix pyometra. The survival rate may be in the range of 30%. So, I am extremely fortunate to have her with me today. I remember with gratitude the people who helped us through this time (you know who you are).

If you notice any of the above symptoms in your un-bred bitch, take her to the veterinarian immediately. If you notice them in your bred bitch, do not take the chance that it may just be morning sickness and do not hesitate (as I did out of a lack of knowledge). Drop everything and get her to the veterinarian that minute.

Nan regained her health and vigor and was able to compete in several nursery trials in 1990. I and a very healthy Nan look forward to seeing you at the trials next spring.

Information on the etiology, clinical findings, diagnosis, and treatment was taken from the Merck Veterinary Manual, Sixth Edition, 1986 (Merck & Co., Inc., Rahway, NJ).

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 1, 1991. Use the form at the back of the newsletter to renew, and be sure to send dues and renewal to the Secretary:

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1992 NEBCA CALENDAR

We need more pictures for the 1992 calendar. Pictures of B.C.'s at work or at play. Send all submissions to Kristen Whittle, Little Brook Farm, 334 Russell Street, Sunderland, MA 01375. Pictures should be labeled with dog's name, photographer's name and the name of the person submitting the photograph. Send SASE along with photograph to have it returned.

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 Northeast Border Collie Association

Edward Bell
Bell's Border Collies
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Canfield, Ontario N0A 1C0
(416)774-3283

Stephanie Calder
Singing Falls Farm
RFD #4
Skowhegan, ME 04976
(207)474-2852

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

Gwen Cassel
O'Brae Border Collies
126A Fusch Road
Columbus, NY 13460
(607)674-4541

Border Corner
Kathy Kemper
212 Salem Drive
Everman, TX 76140
(817)568-2515

Gary & Diane Czekalski
Second Wind Kennels
RD #1 Box 63
Hop Bottom, PA 18824
(717)289-4823

Lynn Deschambeault
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RR 1, Box 897B
Bridgton, ME 04009
(207)452-2898

Roger Deschambeault
Nearfield Farm
HCR Box 16
Ctr. Conway, NH 03813
(603)939-2255

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

Sheldon & Donna Hamblin
P.O. Box 1017
West Falmouth, MA 02574
(508)457-0558

Dayle & Joan Hamilton
34 Brown Brook Rd.
Southbury, CT 06488
(203)264-6348

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

Beverly Lambert
Douglas McDonough
Dickey Hill Road RFD #1
Brooks, ME 04921
(207)525-3223

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

Richard & Barbara Leverett
Long View Farm
Box 308 Burrell Rd.
St. Johnsville, NY 13452
(518)568-2833

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

Eve Marschark
Ivyrose Farm
Farm School Rd.
Bedminster, PA 18910
(215)795-2023

Alex McKinven
Cessnock Farm
RR 1
North Hatley, Quebec
J0B 2C0
Canada
(819)842-2975

Gabrielle Merrill
Misty Lane Border Collies
RFD 1 Box 20
Brownfield, ME 04010
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Nutmeg Farm
Sand Hill Rd.
Portland, CT 06480
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North Stonington, CT 06359
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Sunset Garden Border Collies
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Westport, CT 06880
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Leyden, MA 01337
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Blue Island Farms
191 Old Mountain Rd.
Port Jervis, NY 12771
(914)856-3209

Gene & Lynne Sheninger
Wayside Farm
213 Split Rock Rd.
Boonton, NJ 07005
(201)299-9785

Crawford Taisey
207 Main Street
Freeport, ME 04032
(207)865-3852

Stephen Wetmore
Spring Valley Farm
PO Box 54
Strafford, VT 05072
(802)765-4466

Kristen P. Whittle
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334 Russell Street
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