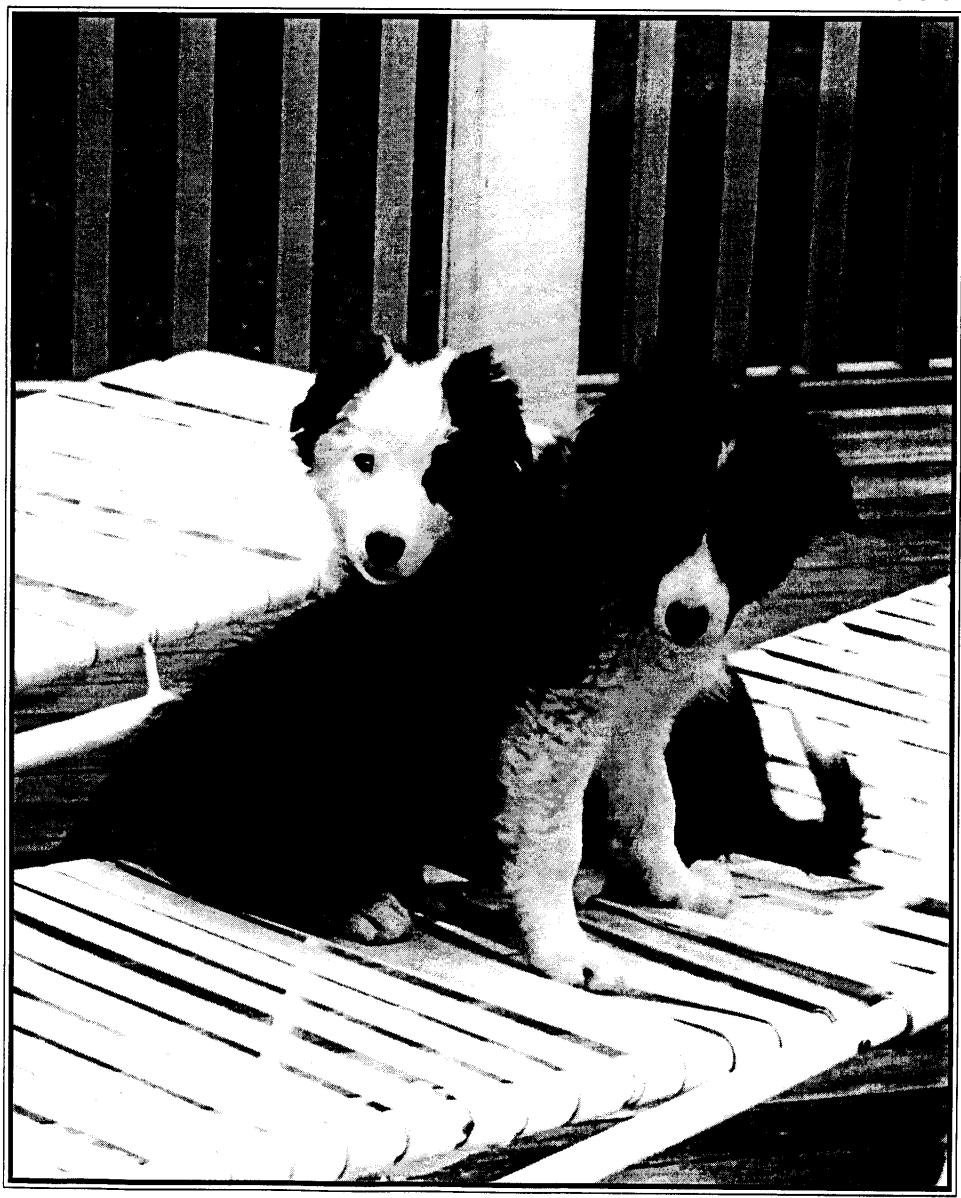
NEBCA



NEWS

Summer 1999



NEBCA°



An Official Publication of the North East Border Collie Asso

North East Border Collie Association

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> Warren Mick 750 Meadowdale Road Altamont, NY 12009

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Our Thanks to this Issue's Contributors:

Alice Allen Kate Broadbent Kate Collins Walter O. Cottrell Millie Curtiss Cokie Hamm Sylvia Hollister - Tafts University School of Veterinary Medicine Sally Lacy Beverly Lambert Barbara Leverett Donald McCaig Warren and Maria Mick Amanda Milliken Susan Myshka Red Oliver Helen Phillips Carolyn Smiles Jackie Spencer Jim Varnon

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The North East Border Collie Association was formed to promote the breeding and training of the Border Collie as a working dog. This group is dedicated to preserving the Border Collie as a stock dog for any livestock or poultry.

- NEBCA Officers -

President • Cheryl Jagger Williams

Culleymont RR1, PO Box 1374 Hop Bottom, PA 18824 (570) 289-4733

Vice-President • Denise Leonard

389 Adams Road Greenfield, MA (413) 773-5232

Secretary • Warren Mick

750 Meadowdale Road Altamont, NY 12009 (518) 861-5854

Treasurer • Joanne Krause

571 Westchester Road Colchester, CT 06125 (860) 267-6125

Board of Directors –

Barbara Leverett

1512 Burrell Road St. Johnsville, NY (518) 568-2833

Eve Marschark

Ivyrose Farm, PO Box 397 3118 Farm School Road Bedminster, PA 18910 (215) 795-2023

Becky Peterson

41 Bell Road Leyden, MA 01337 (413) 624-5562

Steve Wetmore

Spring Valley Farm PO Box 54 Strafford, VT 05072

- Open Trials Commitee Chairperson –

Beverly Lambert

280 Hebron Road Andover, CT 06232 (860) 742-5300

- Nursery Trial Committee Chairperson –

George Northrop PO Box 119, Taft Hill Road Royalston, MA 01368 (978 249-4407

Amendment to the motion of January 30, 1999 concerning the participation of Maryland in NEBCA events.

The NEBCA Board of Directors has spent many hours this spring looking into this motion. As we see it, the issue here is NOT to exclude Maryland from being our NEBCA friends and guests but to clarify an ambiguous, vaguely worded motion. The Board of Directors has searched this issue in its entirety, approaching it from several directions. A few of these result in some extreme measures, which the Board of Directors feel may undermine the continuity and camaraderie of NEBCA.

In the process, we have become familiar with Robert's Rules of Order which fully supports our actions. Most of our discussions were done by e-mail and have led us to a consensus that we need to clarify the motion. The motion proposed here by the Board of Directors makes a clarification that we feel will serve NEBCA the best. We ask for the support of this clarified motion by the NEBCA members."

At the annual meeting on January 30, 1999 the following motion was presented: Beverly Lambert motioned that NEBCA give members residing in Maryland full privileges for 1999 and that at the Board of Directors propose a bylaw change at the 2000 Annual Meeting which would add Maryland to the NEBCA region. The main effect of this change would be to allow Maryland members compete in the year end events. Ellen Raja amended the motion extending the period privileges were given to two years and postponing the proposal to change the bylaws until 2001. The amended motion passed.

In keeping with the spirit of the motion, to have MD members in the organization on a trial basis to determine the impact, the clarifying motion amending the previously accepted motion is as follows: "That NEBCA members residing in Maryland may compete in the NEBCA Nursery Finals, The High Points Competition, and the Fall Foliage Championship Trial in 1999 and 2000. The Board of Directors will initiate a By-law amendment to add Maryland to the NEBCA region and be voted on prior to the 2001 annual meeting."

If this motion does not pass, the previous Maryland motion will stay in effect with the following interpretation. "That the motion allows for Maryland members to have all membership rights and to compete in all 3 year end events. Hosting a sanctioned trial is not a membership right but is limited by region."

Signed,
The NEBCA Board of Directors
Barbara Leverett, chair
Steve Wetmore
Becky Peterson
Eve Marshark
Cheryl Jagger

Reminders:

• The next NEBCA meeting will be held on May 29th at the Cummington Fairground following the Nursery trial.

BORDER COLLIE EYE CLINIC

On Saturday, May 29th,1999, in conjunction with the Sheep & Woolcraft Fair Sheep Dog Trial in Cummington, MA., Opthomologist Dr. Donavan, who conducted the eye clinic in 1997, will again check your dog's eyes for \$ 15.00 after your dog runs at the trial. Other breeds are welcome for the test at a slightly higher cost. The clinic commences at 8:30 am.

A micro-chip inplant or tatoo procedure is tentatively planed, but we need at least ten interested owners. For more information, or micro-chip inplant/tatoo sign-up, please contact Kate Collins or George Northrop at (978) 249-4407.

• Dear Members,

Starting with the next (Fall) issue, please submit all items for publication in the NEBCA News to:

Carol Campion, 109 Hammond Hill Road, Hampton, CT 06247 Tel. (860) 455-9416

For the benefit of those who are not familiar with Donald McCaig's books (Nop's Trials, Eminent Dogs - Dangerous Men, An American Homeplace, Jacobs Ladder) or never had the chance to get a chuckle or some sort of enlightenment out of his articles in national magazines or the sheep dog web sites, a short introduction:

Donald McCaig, called by James Herriot "Simply, a great writer," praised by the Washington Post, New York Times and the papers who review his books, he is considered on parwith Wendell Berry and John McPhee. He gave up his fast track in the New York advertising world to move in 1971 to a farm in Virginia's upper Cowpasture River Valley to operate a sheep farm with his wife, Anne.

Donald McCaig has graciously agreed to provide us with a series of stories and letters to the Internet sheepdog list that allow us to experience on a regular basis the man whose love for the land, the people, and the animals put him into a class of his own.

Some novices may welcome a few ideas about what they might do before they run.

The Zen of Getting Ready to Run

By Donald McCaig

Watch the sheep during a very good run. Notice where the handler puts his (her) dog. It will tell you where the sheep want to go. It is not unusual for trialwise sheep to adopt a consistent strategy to beat the dog - heavy on one side so the dog is drawn into a position where he can't possibly cover as they bolt to the uncovered side for the exhaust. At the Blue Ridge one year, instead of a drive panel, the sheep were pushed up a nearly sheer twenty foot cliff. By the second day they'd learned that if they started up the cliff and paused the handler would send the dog around to catch them at the top and while the dog sailed around, they could come back down the wall and off the course. If this trial has such a danger spot, identify it and plan to deal with it.

Six dogs away. Walk your dog, let him empty. Don't play alpha dog or insist on unusually good manners. Put him up.

Four dogs away. Bring the dog to the fence during the lift/fetch. As soon as he's seen the sheep, take him away and put him up.

Three dogs away. Step away from your friends and as the dog executes the course, mentally command it. It will improve your timing and may even help you remember your commands.

Two dogs away. Bring your dog out to the fence again. Show him the sheep at the lift again. If he's nervy,keep him on lead. You don't want to be disciplining your dog moments before he takes his final exam.

Walk him away and keep him quietly with you (Don't blather at him!) until the sheep before yours are off the course. The trial organizers will be trying to hustle everybody along but I have never seen a handler dq'd because he was walking toward the course and I have seen dozens who came on too soon and had to withdraw because the sheep weren't off. That's no big deal, of course, unless your dog runs to the exhaust or your own mental preparations are destroyed.

Greet the judge, give your name and the dog's name. Take a deep breath. For the next few minutes those sheep are yours.

ext Saturday we will host our 14th sheepdog trial and as in previous years I'll be spotting sheep for the novice handlers.

Like them, I've walked to that post for the first time and imagine that I have an idea of their hopes and fears.

Let me provide some generalized reassurances: everybody hopes your dog lays down a beautiful run; unless you lose your temper or are rude nobody will think less of you (or your dog) if you wreck. After many flamboyant novice wrecks I would have bought the dog on the spot. Some dogs I wish I had.

It is easy to forget when you walk to the post how difficult a task you are attempting. In recent years I've seen Herding champions, top Herding trainers, Herding Judges (attested by other organizations) attempt our novice/novice course. If any have

likely will) abandon the post, walk halfway to the sheep and send your dog again. If that fails move nearer. NO SHOUTING! When your dog gets behind his sheep and brings them to you, exhaust them if you are capable, leash your dog if not. Thank the judge as you leave the field.

- b) Dog crosses over at your feet. Hush up. This mistake doesn't always scramble a dog's brains and he may be okay hence forth.
- (c) Dog bullets straight up the middle and blows the sheep apart. Promptly run, DON'T WALK to your dog. Hush up. Until you are very near, your dog won't take your commands no matter how loud. Leash your dog. Thank the judge as you leave the field.

The First Time You Go to the Post

(Part 1 of 5)
By Donald McCaig

finished the course, I was not present that day. In Virginia, novice/novice trial dogs can earn seventy points and most of those points - the outwork - are the most important points earned in open. Two years ago Samantha Furman's novice dog's score wasn't surpassed until the open dogs ran and Sam had one of the few pens of the day. Novice/novice does not translate "easy".

Because I'd like to see you run well (and hope I won't have to pluck our sheep from the river) I've a few tips.

If you are a handler who trains on a few dogbroke training sheep, please, before you enter my trial arrange to spend a day at a working farm working with real sheep, doing a real outrun. You might have to travel a few hours; no doubt you'll hate to ask and feel guilty for imposing, but most sheep farmers (with working dogs) will accommodate you. After all, somebody accommodated us.

Walk to the post quietly. Do not yatter at your dog. No doubt you will have determined which side the dog should be sent. If your dog has a strong preference for the other side, let him have his way.

While I hope your dog does a lovely outrun, he may not.

(a) If your dog doesn't leave your feet. First try exciting him with shrill cries. If that fails (as it

(d) Dog starts to cross over halfway out. This crossover does scramble a dog's wits so you must do something about it. We are all tempted to hope the dog will correct himself at the last minute (the trial equivilant of filling an inside straight). Correct your dog. He will have the bit in his teeth and the longer he is not corrected the less correctable he will be. AS SOON AS HE IS ON THE WRONG TRACK, DOWN HIM. Don't try a flying redirect, your inexperienced dog won't take it.

You'll be lucky if he downs. Cry his name. It's the strongest command you have and perhaps the only command he will hear. Try it soft, try it loud, try it in-between: DOWN HIM.

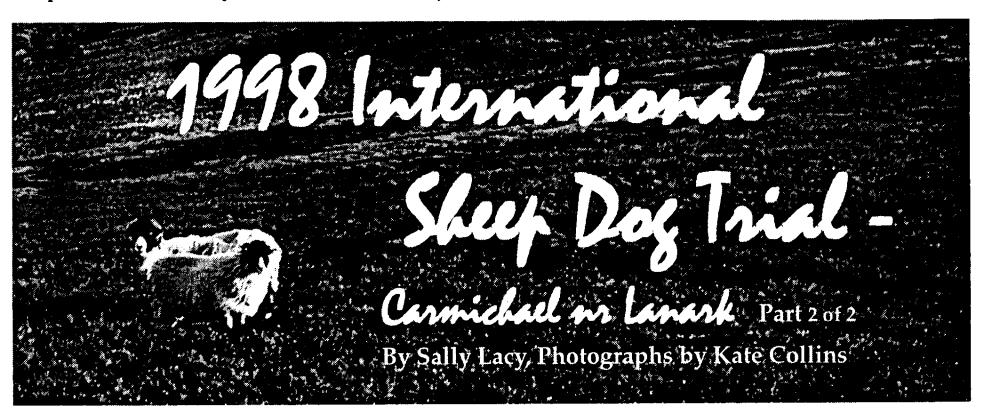
Then take a deep breath. Count to five. Let the dog (and yourself) get off the wrong track. Wait until he looks back at you; wondering what next. Don't be afraid to use a recall whistle before you resend. Often that will break the dog's concentration and he can more easily be redirected.

If you remember that your dog is learning as you are what a trial is (is it a good place for a handler, fun for a dog?) and that you and he have a good many years of trialing ahead of you – and if you remember to thank our judge, you'll be welcome at my trial next year too.

We needed to be up early to get into the car park in time to see the first dog in the Supreme. They ran in catalog order, beginning with Neil McVicar and Jan. The first outrun was to the right. Dogs started out wide to the right from the post and disappeared several times into dips before getting to a thin tree line. The sheep were set about 550 yards or so

brought them carefully through the fetch gate. She went back readily to the left but curved down when she hit the fence line. He must have guessed where she was because his whistles turned her back up to where he could see her and he gave a sharp left whistle. She saw the first lot which had drifted closer to her, looked very hard at Neil for an

John looks very composed. "He's very good at this," said my Scots neighbor. I think of his unfaulted shed in Monymusk. He got 8 off but then he couldn't get an uncollared sheep to leave without its collared best friend. Finally 3 more went. He was able to get only one more away from its special friend before time was



over the top of the hill and sometimes the set-out person's head could be seen by us, who were higher than either handler or judges, but not always. A post was on the horizon where the sheep were presumed to be behind. I have no idea how a lift could be scored, as the instant of contact could not be seen. They were well on the fetch when they came over the brow of the hill. After working the sheep in the direction they had been dying to go for two days, the dogs were to turn back to the left. Well, they all turned, but from then on there were endless variations on how to flounder up and down that wall indented with deceptive rolls and dips. It was not so painful as watching sheep defeat a dog, but clearly the hill was a match for all but three or four dogs.

It was said that the second lot of sheep were 900 yards away, and I don't doubt it one bit. They were certainly out of sight of the stands and those who really wanted to know what a dog might be doing. Neil McVicar's Jan ran first and took several redirects to find her first lot,

eternity and then shot out to the left like a rocket, lifted her second lot just right. It took about 11 minutes to get to this point. He couldn't keep the second group above the fetch gate as they were drawn low by the first lot. The rest of the fetch and drive went pretty well. He had only 8 minutes to shed, and may have hurried. He got them down to 8 sheep, when they all ran out of the ring to join the shed sheep. Despite having only 2 minutes left, he was down to one uncollared sheep when time was called. Groans. (343)

John Templeton is unmistakable, tan tweed coat, cloth cap, crook tucked under his right arm and musical whistles made by the fingers of his left hand. John had Spot bring the sheep through the fetch gate and then let them drift a bit before giving two strong whistles to start the dog back. The dog needed strong whistles to get him to lift, and then they came at a good clip, nicely through the gate all the way to the valley before he regathered the first lot. This took 10 minutes. The drive was well handled. In the shedding ring

called. (492)

Paddy Byrne's dog, Sam, charmed me once again. His first gather was finished and he ran strongly back to get his second bunch. He didn't go far enough and disappeared over the top of the hill short of the sheep, came back at a full gallop and went down the hill to the left fence, back up the hill, still galloping, and took the redirects to go wide and wider, then closer and finally to the sheep. He had a good fetch, and was still running full bore on the look-back for the first sheep. He had only 11 minutes left for the drive and had the steam to hurry them along. He looked fresh and eager to shed. There were only 5 minutes left. He had a good first cut and quickly worked it down to six left. He made an amazing catch of an errant collared sheep. He did get the last one off, but it wasn't pushed far enough away to change its polarity. The crowd gasped as it decided to rejoin the sheep in the ring. My Scots neighbor said we might have cost Paddy and Sam the shed. (359)

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Roddy McDiarmid gave a safety whistle on the first outrun, nice lift and fetch. His dog didn't start wide enough on the turn back, so he gave it a series of widening flanks. The dog didn't take every one, but they kept him from turning in. His second fetch took skill, as the first lot stopped on the wrong side of the fetch gate, tempting the second group to cut short of the gate. It was going well, they were around the post, past the gully and almost to the drive gate when the dog dived into the flock and was disqualified.

Remember how old Aled
Owen's Bob is: two years and six
months. He needed redirect
whistles for both outruns, but found
both lots of sheep. Aled really had
to yell at the dog to get him to turn
the second lot toward the middle of
the hill, as the dog was bringing
them down way over to the left.
Drive was nice. Now the real fun
began. His shed was going well, the
last two were let go and he set the

dog to hold the five while Aled chased those two away. Bob didn't hold and the five raced after their companions. He re-started the shed with 6 minutes to go, and did it quickly in three. Alan was very excited at the pen, but he finished with one minute to spare. (346)

I think everyone was wishing
Roddy and Dot
well. On the first
outrun, she needed
to be stopped and
turned out, but she
had a nice lift and
fetch. After several
false starts she

caught on to the look back and was well away. She went to the fence and Roddy worked her up the fence line and then left and out and back far enough for the gather. Sheep

came over the top nicely. He needed to keep the sheep high as the first group had drifted to the left of the fetch gate. Dot was not happy, she thought the left flanks were for her to gather the first sheep and she let the second bunch come below the fetch gate. Finally she got her big flank to regather. Really nice finish to the fetch and a turn and start on the drive. The stands were quiet waiting for the sheep to emerge from the gully. Dot was struggling and suddenly ringed the sheep at the same point that Mirk had gripped. The stands buzzed and then settled down to watch. She was back in control, though she was having a hard time keeping them together. Roddy made a conservative turn after the drive gate, letting the sheep go ten yards beyond and working them slowly around for the cross drive. There was a good line and pace; the sheep didn't want to be hurried.

I worried aloud that time was slipping away. My Scots neighbor said, "It looks as if she is getting sick Martin Walsh had to retire his dog when she got stuck somewhere near the car park while he was trying to help her get up the hill to find the second lot of sheep.

After Bobby Henderson's unexciting, gentle, exquisitely crafted qualifying run with nine-year-old Sweep that lead the pack, there was hope, expectation and knowledgeable concentration on the workmanship of this duo. It was said that this would very likely be Sweep's last chance at the prize. Here are my notes: A couple of redirect whistles on the first outrun. Nice lift, fetch maybe a bit high but controlled. On the look-back Sweep reached the fence line and turned down, but then followed it back up the hill to the open part of the hill where Bobby could see him again and give him a turn-out whistle. He needed one more direct to get him behind the out-of-sight sheep. Very nice fetch. The first sheep had drifted to the right of the stob, drawing the second lot in the right direction. Sweep just needed to turn them through the fetch gate, then had to



of it." Dot was letting the sheep be slack. Two of them tested her spirit after the cross-drive gate and she couldn't stand it. Another DQ disappointment which we all shared.

hold them to the center line until they drew abreast of the first sheep. Good regather, fetch and turn. Accurate drive away, conservative turn, a little wide but flowing.

1998 International Skeep Dog Trial - Carmichael on Lanark - continued from page 7

Easy flow on the cross drive, another conservative turn at the cross-drive gate. Shed was brilliant. Good first cut. Dog had to thwart a ribboned ewe's escape attempt. Dog was quiet, as was Bobby, in sorting. Finished the shed with four minutes to pen, but they did it smoothly in only one. (597)

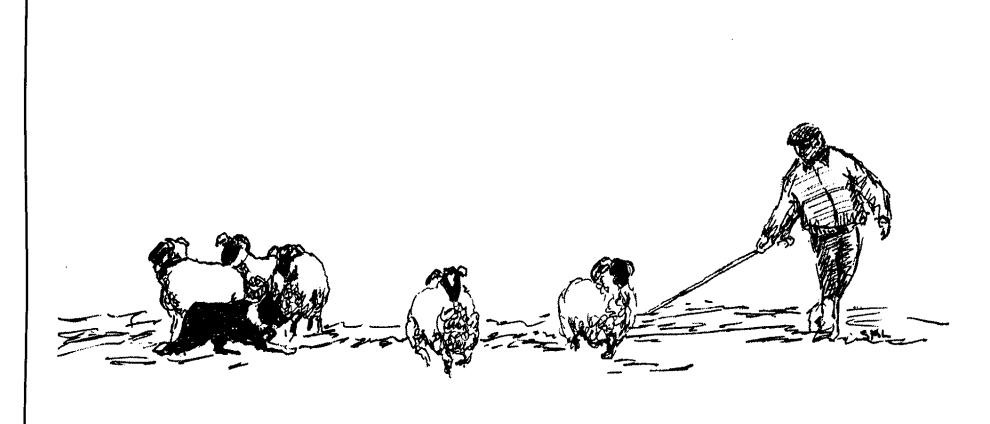
John Brennan's red Meg made what I thought was a perfect outrun for the first sheep, diagonally out to the top of the tree line and then around behind. Came over the top nicely. The sheep were pushing to the left and the dog wouldn't cover her side in time to get the fetch gate. John stopped her, the sheep ran on for a while until contact was broken and then she was able think about responding to verbal look-back commands. Finally, whistles got her going. Once again, she didn't want to let go of the group. She had to go get

just about level with the fetch gate. It looked as if he might have had to turn them up a little before he headed them down through the fetch gate. Good regather. Except for a dramatic turn uphill and then downhill and then back up through the cross-drive gate, the drive went pretty well. They had thirteen minutes to shed. Five in the first cut, then one, then six. Roy had to stop the rest from running out of the ring and settle them down. One off. One left when time was up. (278)

Denis Birchall came on in his trademark Irish hat, with 9-year-old Jan. There were maybe 15 or more redirects and probably a crossover as the sheep came over the hill to the right of where Jan had disappeared. She had a good look back start. The sheep came over the hill to the left but she covered them and put them on a good line to the fetch gate. The first group was grazing on a good sight line. The sheep

quickly and skillfully and almost got the shed done in one minute. Only the last one, which was ready to run off, kept him from completing the shed. We all cheered. (345)

As Denis has an identifying hat, so Bobby Dalziel has an trademark teal and black ski jacket, the same one he has worn in the International since he won it first with Wisp. Four-year-old Cap is of his breeding, Wisp and Dot, both of whom have been in the International for Bobby. The run had a promising start with a good shape to the outrun, with only one safety whistle, nice line to the fetch gate. Remember that he had been sent left the day before. Did that influence the dog's mind? He started his go-back a bit too far to the right and the dog thought it was a right-hand look-back. He brought Cap over to the left and started over. This time it was just about perfect. Only one safety whistle when the dog was out of Bobby's sight. On the fetch he kept giving check whistles to



Pat Byrne, Sr., of Ireland calling Sam through, toshed off two unmarked sheep in the qualifying round at the 1998 International nr. Biggar, Scotland.

the first group of sheep which were by then way to the right of the cross-drive gate. She barely got to the shedding ring before time was up. (368)

Aled Owen's Roy seemed pretty excited. Who can blame him? Three turn-out whistles near the top of the first outrun, and the sheep came over the hill off line to the right and the dog wouldn't cover for either a whistle or a shout. He had a nice go-back but this time the sheep ran downhill and the dog wouldn't cover the left side until

had to be pushed through the gate. Good regather. All this took about 19 minutes. They were extremely conservative and deliberate on the drive. Denis was late in bringing Jan down to cover the sheep at the cross-drive gate and it was missed well low. In the shedding ring he made the first cut to the left and had the dog in the back instead of holding. He got 3 or 4 more off, but his gamble failed as a ribboned one ran off about 13th. The next time he made the first cut to the right and kept the dog on the heavy side. He worked

slow the pace, right through the fetch gate. The first lot was way to the right of the field. Collected them and then the second group were to the left of center. Another gather and they were finally able to complete the fetch with 16 minutes left of 30. Excellent turn and flow. He was conservative on the drive turn, misjudged the cross-drive gate and put the dog too high. About half went through and half were low. Drive finish was controlled. The stands settled down to watch another master in the shedding ring, anticipating some clever work. The first cut was about 8, the other 7 ran to them

1998 International Steep Dog Trial - Carmichael on Lanark

in single file and all Bobby and Cap had to do was cut off the flow and they had their shed. The grandstanders were delighted with their good fortune, not disappointed that they were not privileged to see complicated sorting and holding and letting go. They had 8 minutes left to do the pen, all the time in the world and it was

absolutely classic. The dog cut off all avenues of escape and held his ground. Bobby then tapped his stick on the ground and finished persuading the ewes to go in. Time to spare. (591)

Ron Fitch and Sweep took the field for England. I know nothing about him, but I found him a pleasure to watch. A Northamptonshire farmer with a dense

shock of steel-gray hair, a comfortable tan tweed sport jacket, and Wellingtons, he worked calmly no matter what the impending disaster, and there is always disaster looming. I never heard his voice. Sweep is 5.

He had an excellent first outrun, with one safety whistle. The lift was to the left, but he worked them back on line toward the fetch gate. The dog was confused and ringed the sheep just before the gate. He tried so hard to figure out where he was to go on the lookback, turning this way and that and finally heard a flank whistle and was off on a good line, a really nice start to the fetch. All of a sudden, he ringed the sheep again shortly before the fetch gate. Regather was awkward as the first group was not far off the line and the dog went back and forth to put them together. There was a nice turn and drive away, but then Sweep tried to jigger the sheep just before the drive gate. Ron caught him in time and got the sheep through. The last gate was also a problem, sheep either too high or too low and the gate was missed. This shed provided a positive entertainment. Ron didn't know that one of the ribboned sheep had run off in one of his cuts. As he turned his attention to the others, the sheep with the red ribbon stopped, reconsidered and then bolted back to the sheep in the ring. Ron didn't turn a hair and kept on working until he ran out of time.

The Welsh voice in my ear said, "That's one for the books, you'll never see the likes of that again." I believe he's right. (384)

Gordon Watt, the Irish captain, and King had a pretty nice start. King needed some help to get to the sheep and to work the sheep back on line to the fetch gates. He had the best start to the look-back yet. And then it all went wrong.



The dog ran up the hill, down the hill, time and again, always short of the second group. Finally, Gordon called the tired dog with a big heart off from the top of the hill and retired.

What was left? The day we wanted to last forever was ending. Johnny Wilson came on the field with his fiveyear-old son of Spot. Went on a nicely shaped outrun. Must have been very deep as it took a lot of whistling to get him to the lift. Good fetch and fetch gate. The stands were dead quiet, waiting for Johnny's signature whistle and swallow-tail look back. Perfect. Rob whirled around and needed no further whistles until the lift. Johnny doesn't seem to mind a faster pace on the fetch. Slowed Rob down just before the fetch gate. Dog thought he was being asked to regather and let five sheep slip low of the gate. Back to work and then picked up the first lot to the left of the fetch line. Brought both groups to the center but they were reluctant to stay

together. Perhaps pushing them too hard? Good turn and drive-away. Still fast. Wobbles on the line. The sheep started to string out and some nearly missed the gate. A quick flank to save the gate. Still fast on the cross drive, sheep stringing out sideways, put back together, group split and were put back together. Another dramatic save at the cross-drive gate. Strung out wide after the turn. There was quick work in the shedding ring. Good catches and let go's. Rob provided a thriller when he caught a determined redcollared ewe on the dead run and turned her back. A very strong dog. He finished the shed with eight minutes to pen, which was just about picture perfect. (552)continued on page 26

Brace Competition

Paddy Byrne and Sam

How many times have you heard somebody say of a dog, "This dog has power", or "No power". What is this ellusive quality?



Jim Varnon on "POWER"

You mentioned once that a lot of people would not recognize a powerful dog when they saw it, because they frequently confuse fear-aggression with power.

It made me think back to an article that I read by Candy Kennedy several years ago. She wrote that at one time she had thought that power was the ability of a dog to walk straight up to a sheep and grip it on the nose, and that later she came to think that power involved not having to grip in a similar situation.

I've learned over the years that in any debate about sheep dogs you ain't gonna be in any trouble at all if you agree with Candy. I think she's absolutely right. What she's pointed out is the basis for the judging guideline that requires a penalty for any grip no matter how difficult the sheep are being. You have to leave room for the dog who, when faced with the same situation, is able to handle it without resorting to a grip.

How would you define power?

Power is almost an intangible and, as is the case with most people who aren't articulate enough, I am going to have to resort to example to illustrate it. I think that "power" in a dog is analogous to "presence" in a person. Those of us on the North side of fifty will remember when school teachers paddled kids butts. The kids kept it secret because they would get another lickin' at home if papa found out about it. We also remember the one prim and proper old biddy who taught fourth grade who never resorted

to the paddle. Yet when she walked into a room, immediately you could hear a pin drop. There was another teacher who paddled three or four kids a day, yet she had no respect from the kids. Every time she turned to write on the blackboard someone (this someone was usually me, in my school) threw a piece of chalk at her back. The former is the human equivalent of a dog with power; the latter is representative of the weak dog who must resort to gripping to handle the situation.

Can you assess power in a young or only partly trained dog?

I believe that you can get a general feel for the dog's attitude, whether it is outgoing and positive in its

approach to strange situations. But I don't think there is any way to predict what his ability will be with any degree of accuracy.

How about when the dog is on the trial field, or in another situation where a dog isn't actually being challenged?

It can be assessed, but there is much more going into the mix than the dog's innate power. There's the training, the handler's knowledge of sheep, the handler's ability to cover for his dog. An experienced handler will attempt to keep non-fighting sheep between his dog and any sheep that has a propensity to fight. The dog moves sheep that the same dog, in the hands of another handler, couldn't have moved. The dog's power was not a factor.

Do you think that power and confidence are related? Does that mean that a dog becomes more powerful as it becomes more confident? Can a dog's power change with time and training or is it something hard-wired into a dog? Or would you say that there is a relationship between trialing ability and power?

There is an almost indistinguishable difference between power and confidence. Again it is related to the ability of the handler, not to create power in the dog, but to make it appear the dog is powerful by allowing the dog to draw power and confidence from the handler. For example, Jack Knox is the indisputable expert at building confidence in a dog. Watching him work with a dog that in other hands might not be





so great, is akin to what it would have been like to have been a fly on Beethoven's wall as he wrote his fifth symphony. His Jan (who Jack inexplicably insists on referring to as "John") won the USBCHA Nationals two years in a row, and is a case in point. I'm convinced that her power was a confidence that she drew from Jackie, and that without him she would have been only an average dog. I'm sure Jack will disagree with me, but that's because he's such a class guy that he would never take credit for himself. I have tapes of Jack being interviewed by TV reporters after that second consecutive Nationals win. They were trying to draw a picture of him as a great handler, but he took the interview away from them with his characteristic modesty. He related the story of how the BC had made him what he is, had brought him to this country and that he owed everything to them.

Could one say "power" is the fortuitous combination of "presence" & "technique" (style, desire to push) and patience (experience, confidence) that enables the dog to master even reluctant sheep with the least amount of struggle?

Presence is something I have always wished for but have never been able to develop. Some people have it and some don't. My late wife worked with me in our business. She was five feet two inches and never hired or fired employees and never raised her voice. I'm six three and was the screaming hatchet man for hirings and firings. Yet the employees exhibited no particular fear of me but shook in their boots when she spoke. Go figure. It's presence and power.

Could natural confidence be confused with hardness or lack of sensitivity?

My Gel, who had more raw power than any dog I have owned, won the '81 Bluegrass by ignoring my commands and taking six minutes to shift the sheep off the top. He was the only dog that didn't take one bunch of six and create six bunches of one on the second day. In this case his power was in his good sense not to wade on in and scatter them.

What is power? I'm not sure you can give one definition that covers all examples. It requires a life-time of experience and all of our opinions must change as we learn, if we're smart.

On the Importance of Understanding

BODY LANGUAGE

By Red Oliver

One can talk theory and philosophize about reading animals by their body language, but it takes years and years of intimate "laying on of the hands," so to speak, to be able to really read stock. For example: What percentage of the trialers do you know can run their eye over a flock of, say, 200 sheep, scattered nicely about a quarter of a mile away, and pick out any that might be

lame, not by the way they walk, but by the way they stand? How may can pick out the slightly sick ones, or the rams, or the ones that are about to go into labor?

In trialing, the very best handlers can "read" stock, and they will send their dog to a point (maybe a slight side flank, or a hurry up command, or perhaps even a wide fast flank) where the person who can't read "The judge ought to be able to judge the dog's outrun by cupping his hands around his eyes so that he see the sheep, but not the dogs."

stock would say, "why did he do that?" And of course the answer is that the handler read the stock, and because he should; he sent his dog to a point to prevent the stock from doing what they were about to do, before they did it. That's reading stock.

In an interview with one of the seasoned handlers in Britain, the oldtimer said something like this: "The judge ought to be able to judge the dog's outrun by cupping his hands around his eyes so that he can see the sheep, but not the dog. If the sheep graze, the dog is too wide. If the sheep move away, the dog is too tight. If the sheep stand still but watch the dog from the moment he turns out on the flight/fear zone (this is what "eye" does for the BC), but don't move, the dog is right. In this last instance before the dog begins his lift, both the dog and the sheep have weighed each other, and both know who is boss.



Needless to say, body language is a super way to communicate with your dog, since that's one of the main ways dogs speak to each other. Paying attention and understanding the animal's behavior is taking advantage of that message.

The Country Code for Dogs

(Notice on a vet's bulletin board in Methlick, Scotland.)

Before you take your dog into the country, be sure it knows elementary obedience.

Keep your dog on a lead until you are confident that it is under control and keep the lead on at all times where there are farm animals.

Never allow your dog to chase anything – it is a habit which is hard to break.

Never allow your dog out on its own – and make sure you know where it is at all times.

Keep your dog off cultivated fields.

Know what to do in the case of an accident happening to your dog in a place where veterinary attention is not immediately available.

Study the country code for yourself, and train your dog in country awareness.

The Older Dog

As your dog grows older, you should take some caution in exercising him.

The older dog slows down in all his capacities, much like an older person.

But unlike a person, the older dog throws caution to the winds and overextends himself.

He may drop dead from exhaustion. In the heat of the summer, particularly, the older dog should not be overexercised, or he may become a victim of heat prostration or heat exhaustion.

Remember that an old dog doesn't like to admit that he is old. He will carry on as long as his strength holds up, and then he will collapse if too much is expected of him.

What is Giardia? By Jackie Spencer

Giardiasis is a disease caused by Giardia lamblia. It is the most commonly identified waterborne illness in humans in the U.S. The causative agent is a one-celled protozoan that has flagella (whip-like tails) for movement.

Giardia exist in 2 forms. In the upper part of the small intestine they have an actively feeding form. When they are carried to the large intestine during normal intestinal activity, they form cysts that have a very tough outer coat made of *chitin*, the same material found in the exoskeletons of insects and other animals. This material protects *Giardia* from harsh environmental conditions when they are shed in fecal matter.

The incubation period of *Giardiasis* in humans is 6-20 days. Although some cases are taken care of by the immune system, others require treatment with Flagyl (generic name is Metronidazole). Sometimes the cases become chronic. Asymptomatic carriers are a big problem because they show no signs of disease, but regularly shed infective cysts in their feces.

Humans and dogs get *Giardia* from drinking contaminated water, as well as one-to-one contact. Known sources of the cysts are beavers, raccoons, muskrats, as well as cats, dogs and humans. While only 10 cysts are required to start an infection, an infected individual can shed 300 MILLION at one time.

Unfortunately water treatment via chlorination has no effect on the cysts. Only water filtering will work.



"Humans and dogs get Giardia from drinking contaminated water, as well as one-to-one contact."

How will I know if my dog has Giardia?

Clinical signs range from none in asymptomatic carriers, to mild recurring diarrhea consisting of soft, light-colored stools, to acute explosive diarrhea in severe cases. Other signs associated with giardiasis are weight loss, listlessness, mucus in the stool, and anorexia. These signs are also associated with other diseases of the intestinal tract, and are not specific to giardiasis.

How can I be sure my dog has Giardia?

Diagnosis is confirmed by finding the cysts or motile stages in feces. A negative report does not rule out Giardia. Because cysts are only passed periodically, several fecal examinations may be necessary to diagnoses this parasite. At least three fecal samples, examined over a period of seven to ten days, should be examined.

Websites that offer more information:

Giardia: http://www.travelhealth.com/giardia.htm

Giardia lamblia:

http://martin.parasitology.mcgill.ca/jimspage/GIARDIA.HTM Giardia and Cryptosporidium:

http://www.state.me.us/dhs/eng/water/giarcryp.htm

No matter how hard we try to protect our dogs from close encounters with motor vehicles and other hazards, some dogs sustain broken bones. But Dr. Karl Kraus, associate profes-

sor and orthopedic surgeon at Tufts University School of Veterinary Medicine, has teamed up with biomedical engineer Harold Wotten to develop two bone-immobilization devices that help dogs to recover more

bone fractures.

"Bones heal very nicely if they are held rigidly in place," explains Dr. Kraus. A splint or

quickly from certain severe

cast may sufficiently immobilize a bone that is merely cracked or broken cleanly into two separate fragments. But when a bone is fractured into many pieces (comminuted) or when it pierces the skin, exposing the wound to environmental contaminants (an open fracture), immobilization becomes much trickier. Such breaks usually require surgical intervention and either internal- or external-fixation techniques.

Internal fixation involves the use of metal plates and screws to hold bone pieces together. While this technique provides rigid immobility, its invasiveness increases the risk of infection and further traumatizes already damaged tissue. External fixation consists of pins inserted into or through the bone above and below the fracture from the outside. Connecting rods fastened perpendicularly to the pins with clamps create a rigid framework. Used most often for severely fractured leg bones, external fixation dramatically reduces the risk of infection. "There's also less surgical trauma, so blood supply to the bone is maintained, and fractures tend to heal rapidly," notes Dr. Kraus.

But even external-fixation devices have drawbacks. "Pin loosening is the number-one problem", says Dr. Kraus, followed by bone damage from pin insertion. Mr. Wotton and Dr. Kraus have developed two new external-fixation devices that address these



problems. The Secur-Aim[™] tool allows veterinary surgeons to predrill holes for quicker and more precise pin placement with less tissue damage. And the Secur-U™ clamp has a specially beveled bolt that gives it holding power equivalent to a spot weld.

Dr. Kraus recently used these new devices on ten canine leg fractures and compared the outcomes to published descriptions of outcomes using traditional external fixators. With the new components, he achieved a 30-percent reduction in surgery time, a 40-percent reduction in initial bone-healing time, and a 60-percent reduction in the amount of time the fixator had to remain on the animals. "Most important, after 7 weeks in place, only 6 percent of the pins showed any signs of loosening," says Dr. Kraus.

To make these new external fixation available to the veterinary community, Dr. Kraus has formed Securos, Inc. Ask your veterinarian about more information or call Securos at (508) 347-8092. 🐉

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HEALTH

Epilepsy, a Disease feared since Antiquity: Two Accounts

Floss by Alice Allen

If you depend on a good Border Collie to help on your dairy farm, it becomes an insurmountable challenge to perform the chores without a dog. As our Border Collie Kit neared her eighth birthday we felt it was time to have a young one step in her paw

prints to avoid that possibility. In Spring of 1996 we were lucky to find a beautiful, eight-week old female only a few towns away. We named her Floss.

Our dream of having a young dog to help Kit with our herd was not to be. Shortly after Floss' first birthday she experienced her first seizure. Our lives would not be the same after that 1996 Christmas Eve. It was the beginning of a six hundred-day journey through the

anxiety and heartbreak of living with and loving a BC with idiopathic Epilepsy.

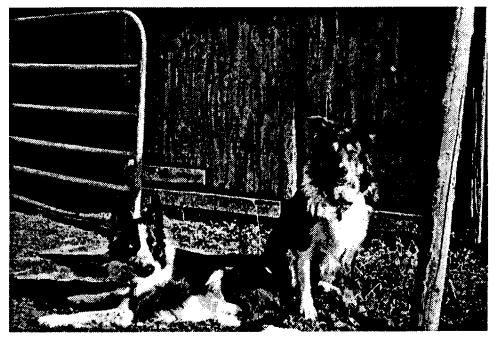
We were in contact with our veterinarian within minutes of Floss' first seizure. Dr. Cottrell was very comforting and reassured us this particular seizure might be only a onetime event but he stressed to let him know immediately if an other one occurred. It appeared to us the first seizure lasted an hour when in reality it was probably less than one minute: The rigidity, eyes rolled back in her head, foaming at the mouth, thrashing legs all were too terrifying and left us with a feeling of utter helplessness.

After the seizure she was very disoriented while my husband Larry and I both held her and tried to comfort her.

When the second seizure occurred in less than ten days, Dr. Cottrell began drug therapies, monitoring

frequent blood tests, diet changes, acupuncture, and the up and downs which ended with Floss being put to sleep on September 5, 1998.

Through the seizures – sometimes several per day – through all those blood samples, bi-weekly trips to the veterinary hospital for acupuncture whose main goal was to lessen the frequency, duration, and severity of the seizures. Floss



Alice's Dogs

remained a sweet and loving dog until the burden of the disease became too much. Her eyes lost their sparkle, her stare vacant, she frequently stumbled and fell, and her zest for life faded. The quality of life for a Border Collie was gone. There is no cure for Epilepsy and we were losing her.

After Dr. Cottrell euthanised her, we gave permission for a post mortem. Her brain and pertinent tissues were sent to the Cornell pathology lab for further study. It is our hope that in loosing Floss new insights into this dreadful disease could be gained, and hopefully their owners will not suffer as we had.

Floss

by Dr. Walter O. Cottrell

Floss was an example of the most challenging seizure patient. No opportunity was lost to investigate the cause of her malady, or to palliate its effects. Like most Border Collies she was courageous, asking no quarter from her vicious foe. The course of her disease was like so many, with small triumphs among many demoralizing setbacks.

It was possible to see why the ancients worshiped this disease, coming as it does from some unknown source, acting almost willfully for equally mysterious reasons, and ultimately destroying its victim.

The people with whom Floss shared her tragically short life were examples of the most selfless and dedicated humans a dog could ever call friend. Looking back, in spite of the unspeakable horror and heartbreak that they suffered, I think that all they would ask of those who come after is that they look into their hearts, and put aside any petty thoughts of fortune or gain that might be found there. And that they turn instead to the difficult work of ensuring that any individual being considered for entry into the esteemed ranks of breeding Border Collies be able to stand harsh scrutiny where this certainly heritable disease is concerned.

14 Summer 1999

Tweed

by Millie Curtiss

Tweed came home with me on Christmas Eve. He was 9 1/2 weeks old, the last of the litter to be sold. I wondered why, since several weeks before he had caught my eye with his half-black, half-white face, so like his grandfather.

Tweed's puppyhood was normal; he accompanied me to work every day until spring and warmer weather; then he stayed in the outdoor kennel with the other BCs. At age 1 1/2 he spent two months with a trainer to be started on sheep.

His first seizure came just before age two. I checked the dogs in their kennel prior to leaving for work and heard an unusual knocking sound coming from Tweed's kennel. Upon opening the door I saw his stiff body and jerking legs. The sound was from his feet hitting the kennel door. Horrified, I ran to call the vet. The seizure lasted only a few short moments. I lifted him into the car; he was unresponsive. When we arrived at the vet's office he had begun to awaken and was very dazed. After taking an extensive history and ruling out trauma, ingestion of toxins or other allergens, the vet took blood samples checking out a myriad of other illnesses or causes. Medication for Epilepsy is not usually administered after the first seizure, so Tweed was sent home on observation.

Less than a week later another seizure. Meanwhile all the blood work came back negative. Tweed was started on Phenobarbital and I started reading anything I could find on canine epilepsy. After two weeks the seizures reoccurred and became more frequent and the Phenobarbital dosage was increased.

I continued to work Tweed on sheep; some days he was absolutely brilliant; other days, very confused. I researched diets, naturopathic remedies, drugs, acupuncture, added vitamin B6 to his diet, kept *Rescue Remedy* on hand in case I witnessed any pre-seizure symptoms. I joined the *Canine Epilepsy* list. And kept hoping for a miracle.

In mid-December Tweed had an early morning seizure which I did not see. Something about his post-seizure behavior alarmed me and I left him at the veterinary hospital on my way to work to remain under observation. When I called at noon, Tweed had two more seizures. At three o'clock I called; he had several more despite intravenous medication. The vet requested to keep him over night. At five o'clock he went into *status epilepticus* (seizures falling so close together that the dog does not regain consciousness.) At this time he was drugged deeply to stop the seizures.

For the next twenty four hours the vet tried to let Tweed come out of the drug-induced state, but each time he would again begin seizing. At five o'clock the following day as I held him in my arms, he was euthanized.

At an 1997 AKC Canine Health Foundation conference, canine epilepsy was found to be one of the three top concerns out of 80 diseases reported. There are several research projects now in progress at veterinary schools, funded by grants from the Morris Animal Foundation and the AKC to learn more about the part genetics play in this devastating disease.

If you require more information, you might want to check out Drs. John J. McDonnell and Kim E. Knowles Canine Epilepsy, or refer to the websites www.akc.org/epilepsy htm or www. citilink.com/~houle/canine.htm

If you do Border Collie Rescue or (wish to, please join the North

American Border (American Border Collie Rescue Network (NABCRN)

As our name implies, we are a resource network and nation-wide (US and Canada) support system for Border Collie Rescue people. We operate without profit and independent of any breed organizations. For information, the NABCRN List, or to be listed, phone or write:

NABCRN, Box 843, Ithaca, NY 14851 USA (607) 659-5868



Border Collie Rescue Services:

Sharon Nunan(PA)

3329 Foulk Road Boothwyn, PA 19061 (610) 497-4378 home (215) 863-4586 work

Nancy Cox Starkey (MD)

12985 Colonial Drive Mt. Airy, MD 21771 (301) 253-4732

Mary Ann O'Grady (CT, NY)

 $\bullet \bullet \bullet$

BC Rescue/Placement 266 Walnut Tree Hill Road Shelton, CT 06484-2906 (203) 925-0853

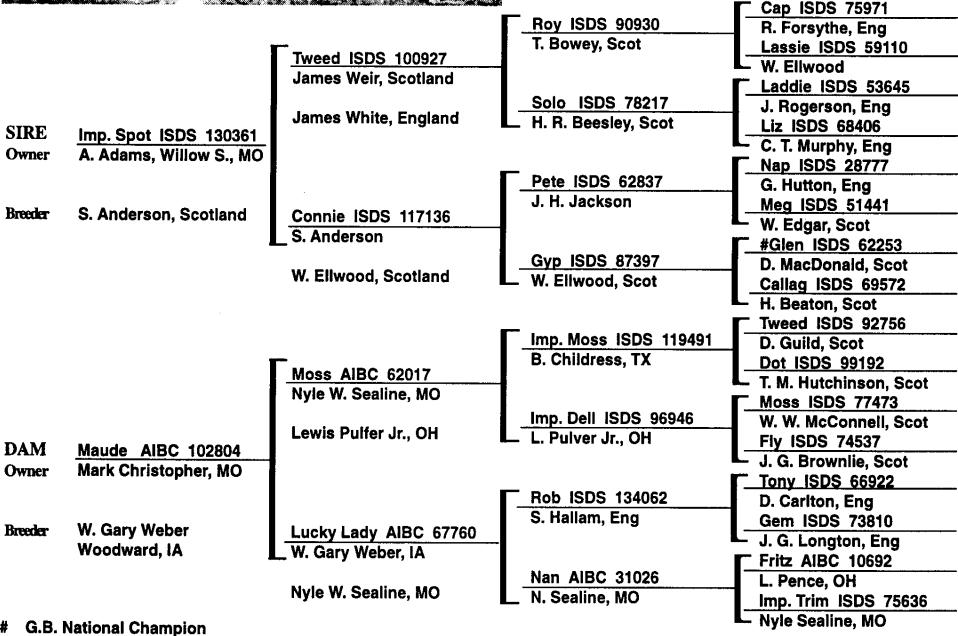
NEBCA CHAMPIONS



ABC No: 35579

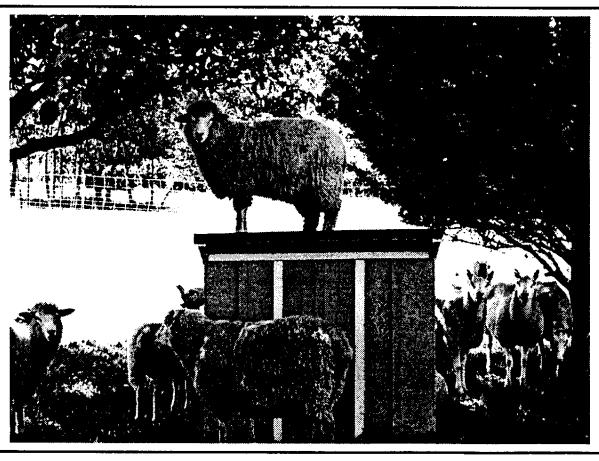
Name: TIM

Sex: Male Age: 6 Years
Owner: Warren Mick



"My wife and I have trained several sheep and goats to do tricks, including all the sheep for a very successful series of TV commercials advertising wool. We have found that their standard of intelligence is higher than that of a horse. I have even found them much easier to train than some dogs. They cannot, of course, be tought to do many things that dogs can be taught, but that is due to their having different instincts, not lack of intelligence."

Excerpt from "The Farmer's Dog" by John Holmes



Sam and Jess

By Carolyn Smiles

This past February my husband and I celebrated our 25th anniversary by traveling to Ireland and Northern Ireland. What beautiful countries and people. While there we visited a family in County Armaugh, whose son had stayed with us last summer as part of an educational program.

This is a short but sweet story about Sam, a sheep farmer and father of our exchange student, and his dog Jess.

Sam and his wife Isabelle's sheep farm is located southwest of Belfast amidst the greenest and most

gorgeous rolling hills and pastures I've ever seen. Despite it being late winter and coming from Vermont, we thought it quite spring like. Upon meeting our former guest's parents – two lovely folks we'd never met before – we were hugged and graciously led into the warm kitchen and treated to tea, hot scones, brown bread, and biscuits.

We talked about the troubling situation in Northern Ireland, their hopes for the decommission, music, and of course sheep. Sam and Isabelle used to run a large sheep farm, but now entering their senior years, cut the flock to the more manageable size of a hundred fifty ewes, most of whom were lambing during the weeks of our stay. After Sam mentioned how a while back a truckload of his spring lambs were blown up by a terrorist on the way to market, he told us a tender

Jess and Sam - Photo by Carolyne Smiles

small anecdote about Jess, his friend and helper.

Jess, a rather small tricolor Border Collie lives out in the cement barn, former birthplace and home to Sam's grandfather and father. On a rainy, late afternoon this winter, Sam, whose vision has greatly diminished over the past year, gave Jess the "come by" command to gather and bring the sheep in from the pasture. When Sam could no longer see either Jess or any sheep in the approaching darkness, he called and called to no avail. After a while, discouraged by his failing eyesight and the absence of both dog and sheep, he went inside the kitchen to warm up and to fret.

Isabelle returned home later that evening to hear Sam carrying on about the missing dog and

sheep. Going out to the barn later at night, Isabelle found Jess eyeing and keeping under control the huge flock of sheep. Jess had traveled a long way into the fields despite the rain and without much light to bring Sam's sheep home. Isabelle went back to tell Sam and all ended well.

Sam retold this story with such affection and a glow that it warmed our hearts. Although we were not able to see Jess work because of the lambing, we did get to meet her and saw the bond between her and Sam. Sam is wondering how he might still be able to see Jess while his eyesight further deteriorates. He

said she needs more white on her tail.

In the next few years Jess will have to be Sam's eyes more than ever. She'll surely be up to the task.

1999 CLINICS

June 5 - 6, 1999

Training Clinic at Janet Larson's in Lee, New Hampshire Instructor:

Cheryl Jagger Williams
Contact: Janet Larson at
(603) 659-7046

June 12 - 13, 1999

Training Clinic at Janet Larson's in Lee, New Hampshire Instructor:

Cheryl Jagger Williams
Contact: Janet Larson at
(603) 659-7046

June 26 - 27, 1999

Training Clinic by **Kathy Knox**Maplewood Farm, Colchester, CT
Contact:

Joanne Krause at (860) 267-6125

July 9 - 10, 1999

Kent Kuykendall Clinic

at Briar Patch Farm in Clinton, CT For more information contact

Mellissa DeMille at (860) 669-7578

e-mail: mellissa@sheepdog.com

July 10 - 11, 1999

Alasdair MacRae Handling Clinic at Hop Bottom, PA

Contact: Cheryl Jagger Williams at (570) 289-4733

July 15th, 1999

Alisdair MacRae Judging Clinic at Bittersweet Farm, Hampton, CT \$50/person

Contact: Carol Campion (860) 455-9416

or Mellissa DeMille

e-mail: mellissa@sheepdog.com

October 16 - 17, 1999
Cheryl Jagger Williams
Training Clinic at Springfield, PA
Contact: Louise DiMarcello

at (610) 296-5273

1999 UK Trials

July 29 - 31 Welsh National SDT Abergele, Clwyd

August 5 - 7 English National SDT Kenton, Exeter, Devon

August 12 - 14 Irish National SDT Cork Racecourse, Cork

August 19 - 21 Scottish National SDT Annan, Dumfriesshire

September 9 - 11

International Sheep Dog Trials Trawscoed, Aberystwyth, Wales

September 18 - 26, 1999 • USBCHA/ABCA NURSERY & NATIONAL FINALS • Middletown, Virginia

Reminders for Trial Managers:

NEBCA Sanctioning rules require that an open trial may not have a limit of the total number of dogs entered, but may have a limit of dogs per handler.

If a high limit does exist, the trial may remain a Qualifying Trial as long as no NEBCA member from the Northeast Region is turned away before the entry deadline.

In order to keep our point system updated, submit the results of NEBCA sponsored trials to:

> Roger & Heather Millen 1049 Babcock Hollow Road Cortland, NY 13045

> e-mail: rpm1@cornell.edu

LOW-COST LIABILITY INSURANCE for NEBCA Trials or Clinics

NEBCA offers a low-cost liability insurance for any member hosting a trial or clinic (\$50.00 per day). Contact Joanne Krause at (860) 267-6125 for more information.

1999 NEBCA TRIAL SCHEDULE

May 29 - 30, 1999

Sheep & Woolcraft Fair SDT

Cummington Fairgrounds, MA
One day Novice & One day Open Trial
USBCHA
Becky Peterson

41 Bell Road, Leyden, MA 01337 (413) 624-5562

June 5 - 6, 1999

Misty Lane Sheep Dog Trial

Center Conway, NH
Two days of Open, N/N, Pro-N, Ranch,
USBCHA Nursery
Gabe Merrill
RFD 1, PO Box 20, Brownfield, ME 04010
(207) 935-2520

June 17 - 20, 1999

PA Championship SDT

Hop Bottom, PA
Two 1-day Novice Trials
Two 1-day Open Trials
USBCHA, Purina
Walt Jagger

Box 233, Hop Bottom, PA 18824 (570) 289-4663

June 26 - 27, 1999 Autumn Hill SDT

Union Bridge, MD Two 1-day Novice Trials Two 1-day Open Trials USBCHA

Mary Brighoff

9512 Bessie Clemson Road Union Bridge, MD 21791 (301) 898-1132

CHANGED from Oct. 16-17 to:

June 26 - 27, 1999

Mountain Meadow Nursery Trial

Lebanon NH

Two 1-day Novice Trials

Bud Ames

46 Eastman Hill Rd, Lebanon, NH 03766 (603) 448-5429

CHANGED from July 2-4 to:

July 3 - 5, 1999

Bittersweet Farm Trial

Hampton, CT. Two 1-day Novice & Open Trials Carol Campion 109 Hammond Hill Road Hampton, CT 06247 (860) 455-9416

1999 NEBCA TRIAL SCHEDULE - continued

July 16 - 18, 1999 West Branch Sheep Dog Trial

Pottsgrove, PA
Two 1-day Novice & Open Trials
Allan Lynch
RD #2 Box 168, Turbotville, PA 17772
(717) 649-6212

July 17 - 18, 1999 Hawkridge Farm Sheep Dog Trial

Morton, Ontario
Two 1-day Novice, Nursery & Open Trials,
USBCHA
(only Open is NEBCA sanctioned)
Jen Tidma
RR1, Seely's Bay, Ontario
(613) 387-2669

July 17 - 18, 1999 Kelmscott Farm Sheep Dog Trial

Camden, ME.
Two 1-day Novice, USBCHA Nursery &
Open Trials
Mindy Empey
RR 2 Box 365, Lincolnville, ME 04849
(207) 763-4088

July 23 - 25, 1999 Lenoxville International SDT

Lennoxville, Quebec Two 1-day Novice & Open Trials USBCHA USBCHA Nursery only on 7/23 Dave Young 32 Flanders Rd, Sawyerville, QC J0B 3A0 (819) 889-3276

July 30 - August 2, 1999 Nation Valley Sheep Dog Trial

Navall Farm, Winchester, Ontario
Two 1-day Novice & Open Trials
USBCHA
Werner Reitbock
Box 424, Winchester, Ontario K0C 2K0
(613) 448-3266 e-mail: werner@intranet.ca

August 4-5, 1999 (Tentative)

Renaissance Farm SDT

Sydenham, Ontario Two 1-day Novice & Open Trials J. P. LaLonde RR 1, Sydenham, Ontario, K0H 2T0 (613) 376-3659

August 7 - 8, 1999

Pittsburgh Township Dog Trial

Grass Creek Park, Kingston, Ontario One day Novice Trial, Novice, Pro-N, Ranch & USBCHA Nursery Two 1-day Open Trials, USBCHA (only Open is NEBCA sanctioned) Amanda Milliken RR 2, Kingston Ontario K7L 5H6 (613) 531-9405

August 14 - 15, 1999 (Tentative)

Western Ontario SDT

Palmerston, Ontario Two 1-day Novice & Open Trials USBCHA Margaret Lambkin RR1, Palmerston, Ontario N0G 2P0 (519) 343-5573

August 20 - 22 1999

Leatherstocking Sheep Dog Trial

Cooperstown, NY Two 1-day Novice & Open Trials Chalmers Means RD 2 Box 190, Otego, NY 13825 (607) 432-4903

August 22, 1999 (Tentative) NY State Championship Dog Trial

Altamont Fair, Altamont, NY One day Open Trial Mike Canaday 889 Meadowdale Road Altamont, NY 12009 (518) 861-6049

August 27, 1999 Truro Sheep Dog Trial

Truro, Nova Scotia, Canada 1-day Open and Novice Trials Judge: Amanda Milliken USBCHA Anne Hamilton (902) 897-7480

Anne Hamilton (902) 897-7480 e-mail: fred.hamilton@ns.sympatico.ca

August 27 - 29, 1999 (Tentative) Keystone State Stockdog Trial

Willow Grove Naval Air Base Willow Grove, PA Two 1-day Open and Novice Trials Purina, USBCHA Eve Marschark (215) 795-2023 or Nancy Ortiz-Sharp (215) 453-9068

August 28, 1999 Eastern Points Island

Nova Scotia, Canada 1-day Timed Points Trial - only for Pro-N and up (no fences, only ocean) Island pot luck barbecue. RSVP necessary Bill or Hilary Flower (902) 634-4833 e-mail: flower@ns.sympatico.ca

August 28, 1999 Scottish Festival Open Trial

Quechee, VT One day Open Trial USBCHA Steve Wetmore PO Box 54, Strafford, VT 05072 (802) 765-4466

August 29, 1999

Ross Farm Museum SDT

New Ross, Nova Scotia, Canada One day Novice & Open Trial USBCHA

Hilary Flower (902) 634-4833 e-mail: flower@ns.sympatico.ca

August 29, 1999 Spring Valley Open Trial

Strafford, VT One day Open Trial Steve Wetmore PO Box 54, Strafford, VT 05072 (802) 765-4466

September 2, 1999 Lancaster Fair Sheep Dog Trial

Lancaster, NH
One day Open Points Trial
USBCHA
Roger Deschambeault
2440 East Conway Rd,
Ctr. Conway, NH 03813
(603) 939-2255

September 4 - 5, 1999 Blue Hill Fair & Northeast US SDT

Blue Hill, ME Two 1-day Open Points Trials Jim Davidson North Country Farm, Round Pond, ME 04564 (207) 677-2224

September 4 - 6, 1999 (Tentative) New Jersey State Sheep Dog Trial

Fosterfields, Morristown, NJ.
Two 1-day Novice & Open Trials
Gene Sheninger
332 Split Rock Rd, Boonton, NJ 07005
(201) 299-9785

September 11 - 12, 1999

(Tentative date)

NEBCA Novice Finals

September 17, 1999 NH Highland Games

Loon Mountain, NH.
One day Open Trial (points)
Lynn Deschambeault
RR1 Box 897B
Denmark, ME 04022-9607
(207) 452-2898

September 20 - 21 (Tentative) Eastern States Exposition SDT

West Springfield, MA.
Three Separate Open Trials
USBCHA
Joanne Krause
571 Westchester Road
Colchester, CT 06125
(860) 267-6125

continued on page 20

1999 NEBCA TRIAL SCHEDULE - continued



End of 1999 Open Season

October 2 -3, 1999 Brush Run Farm SDT

Charleroi, PA Two 1-day Novice & Open Trials **USBCHA** Allison Gebaurer 66 Zippay Road, Charleroi, PA 15022 (724) 483-7432

October 2, 1999 (Tentative)

NH State Championship Dog Trial

East Conway, NH One day Open Trial **USBCHA** Roger Deschambeault 2440 East Conway Rd. Ctr. Conway, NH 03813 (603) 939-2255

October 3, 1999 (Tentative)

Fryeburg Fair Sheep Dog Trial

Fryeburg, ME One day Open Trial Gabrielle Merrill RFD 1 Box 20, Brownfield, ME 04010 (207) 935-2520

CHANGED from Oct. 22-24 to:

October 8 - 10, 1999

Cumerland Valley Championship

Carlisle, PA

One day Novice & USBCHA Nursery,

2 Days Open

Nathan Mooney

245 Alters Road

Carlisle, PA 17013

(717) 249-5695

October 9 - 10, 1999

(Tentative date)

NEBCA Fall Foliage Championship

October 23 - 24, 1999

Maplewood Farm Halloween Trial

Colchester, CT Two 1-day Novice Trials Joanne Krause 571 Westchester Road Colchester, CT 06415 (860) 267-6125

October 30 - 31, 1999

Hope's Farm SDT

Springville, PA

Two 1-day Novice & Open Trials

Louise DiMarcello 25 Davis Avenue

Malvern, PA 19355-1514 (610) 296-5273

NCBCA Benefit Trial for CEA Research

> March 20-21, 1999, Advance, NC

Saturday Ranch		
1. Sam Furman	Jill	74
2. Mary Brigoff	Val	71
3. Edith Overly	Gail	67
4. Sally Lacy	Chess	64
0		
Open	D:II	1114
Kent Kuykendall Fig. 1. The state of the state o	Bill	111*
2. Florence Wilson	Lad	111*
	roken in run	
3. Kent Kuykendall	Coon	108
4. Sam Furman	Tucker	92
5. Dee Lee	Sparks	91
6. Ben Ousley	Kyle	87
Sunday Ranch	ì	
 Mary Brigoff 	Val	81
2. Dee Lee	Clyde	79
3. Sally Lacy	Chess	<i>7</i> 5
4. Sam Furman	Jill	62
	•	
Open		
 Kent Kuykendall 	Coon	98
2. Sally Lacy	Tru	96
3. Kent Kuykendall	Gyp	95
4. Ben Ousley	Kyle	92
5. Ben Ousley	Anne	91

Lad

90

6. Florence Wilson

7th Annual Lennoxville International **Sheepdog Trial**

July 23-26, 1999

Bishops University, Lennoxville, Quebec, Canada

Judge: H. Glyn Jones, Wales (author of "A Way of Life")

Friday p.m.:

USBCHA Nursery

Saturday/Sunday: NEBCA N/N, P/N., Ranch, USBCHA Nursery

NEBCA/USBCHA Open, USBCHA Nursery

For more information and Entry Forms via snail- or e-mail, contact trial secretary

Fiona Robertson

4565 Rte. 108, North Hatley, Quebec, J0B 2C0 (819) 842-4227 e-mail: creekside@videotron.ca

OR

trial managers David & Mary Ellen Young at (819) 889-3276

Entries close July 17th, 1999

20 Summer 1999

TRIAL RESULTS

Bellwether Grazing Project Sheep Dog Trial Lee, New Hampshire April 24 - 25, 1999

Judge: John Atkinson, Yorkshire; Trial Manager: Kate Broadbent

The first annual Bellwether Grazing Project Sheepdog Trial was held at the Burley Demeritt Farm in Lee, NH. The weather was clear and quite cool with a strong wind blowing most of the weekend. The field was full of sharp little hills that, in every class except Novice/Novice and Pro/Novice, assured that on the fetch the sheep and dog would be out of sight of the handler for quite a while. In some cases the sheep were invisible for only about 15-20 seconds; in other cases 4 or 5 minutes. It was a challenging field for all of the classes (especially as the out of sight section included a water obstacle that the sheep really hated).

The sheep were from 500 wethers that graze the power lines in New Hampshire during the summer. They weren't at their very best since they had just arrived from their winter vacations in Florida and were a bit tired from the trip but they put the dogs to a fair test all weekend.

The trial was very ably managed by Kate Broadbent in her first endeavor as a trial manager. Special thanks also go to David Henry who loaned his sheep for the event. It was a wonderful chance for all of us easterners to have a crack at some moderately western sheep and we all appreciated it very much.

Beverly Lambert

Saturday, April 24th

Hal VanDeCarr Rocket 64 Brenda Buja Dice 51 Kate Collins Buddha 51 Janet Larson Maya 45

Novice/Novice

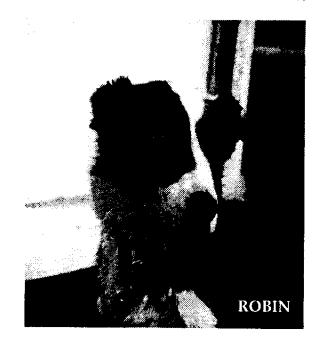
Pro-Novice

1.	Bud Ames	Luke	64
2.	Bruce Smart	Dolly	62
3.	Sue Schoen	Jet	62
4.	Kate Broadbent	Coal	60
5.	Bev Lambert	Sage	59
6.	Denise Leonard	Kate	58
7.	Carol Campion	Sam	58
8.	Sylvia Forster	Waif	57
9.	Roy Robinson	Scottie	56
10.	Hilary Flower	Pearl	53

Ranch

1. Ed Hobart	Joy	77
2. Hilary Flower	Jill	66
3. Amanda Milliken	Gin	62

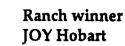
Nursery				
1. Bruce Smart	Dolly	62		
2. Amanda Milliken	Gin	62		
3. Kate Broadbent	Coal	57		



Open - 33 dogs

1.	Mike Canaday	Robin	95
2.	Mike Canaday	Smut	88
3.	Amanda Milliken	Eucher	85
4.	Sally Lacy	Tru	85
5.	Bev Lambert	Nell	84
6.	Kent Kuykendall	Bill	82
7.	Amanda Milliken	Hazel	81
8.	Lynn Deschambeault	Pip	74
9.	Ellen Skillings	Paige	73
10.	Maria Mick	Ken	72





Pro-Novice winners LUKE and Bud Ames



continued on page 22

1998 TRIAL RESULTS

Bellwether Grazing Project Sheep Dog Trial - continued

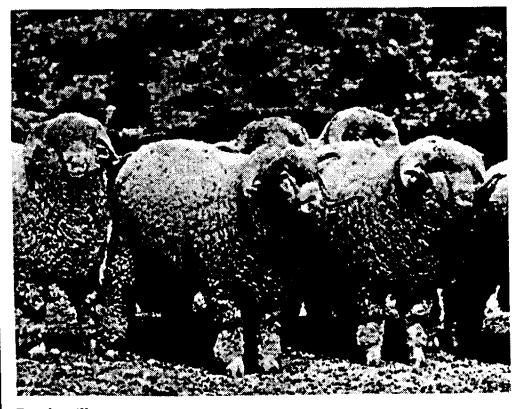
Sunday, April 25th

ıma	64	Nursery	
ce	60	1. Amanda Milliken Gin 66	
ocket	55	2. Bruce Smart Peg 63	
ola	55	3. Betty Levin Folly 47	
ıgh	45		
		Open - 36 dogs	
aig	74	-	
aif	69	1. Amanda Milliken Hazel 9	8
ige	66	2. Kent Kuvkendall Bill 9	0
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olly	63	J. 20, 2000	88
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		8. Bev Lambert Cap 8	33
		9. Warren Mick Craig 8	32
in eg	66 63 49	10. Kent Kuykendall Leah 8	31
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More on the Sheep at the Grazing Project SDT

by Amanda Milliken

Kate Broadbent's trial, in Lee, New Hampshire was met with a little rush of internal commotion among handlers, many of whom saw their chance to have a kick at the sheep for the National Finals. The sheep were Rambouillets wethers, two years old. They had wintered in Florida and Kate had given them all new trims just for the trial — how accommodating can you be, or how long is it since you had your hair done or cut for a sheep dog trial?



Rambouillets

The trial field was difficult insofar as it was hilly and a little complicated. Wide runners got trapped by the holding pen going to the left and wide runners got trapped by the holding pen in overshoots to the right. The sheep were cruelly, but easily spotted by people on foot, just below the crest of one of the many hills. Crafty dogs got to them right away. Ones with fewer miles on them missed the first time. The lifts were critical (not that they are not always, but more so here).

The sheep were typical rambouillets, with their high headed, erratic turns from side to side, making good lines tricky. They had been dogged enough throughout the grazing project to know to challenge a dog or at least determine if it was a force with which to be reckoned. Dogs that gave any ground in their lift were done quickly. To complicate matters, there was a charming blind spot in the fetch which I am told featured a marshy swale (I did not go out and look.) Sheep and dog disappeared out of sight for upwards of ten seconds which is a long time of blind gathering. Many dogs never brought the sheep out of the swale at all, followed by saddened walks up the field from the post, to salvage dog and sheep.

Sometimes, into the drive, the sheep challenged the dogs just to see if they really had to pack up the eating and do as the dog said. They could almost always be taken around the course, and those who did it too slowly, or lacked authority, lost to the clock.

1998 TRIAL RESULTS

Cooperlane Farm Nursery Trial Shelburne, Massachusetts May 2nd, 1999

Judge: Michael Dathe; Trial Manager: Edgar Gould

Perhaps it was the beautiful weather, lovely location, or Edgar and Helen Gould's hospitality, but at this year's Nursery trial a record number of contestants (and visitors) showed up to pitch themselves and their dogs against Edgar's "fabled Horned Dorsets".

A heartfelt thanks to Michael Dathe for his day-long fair and even judging. For the N/N class Michael added



Looking for sanctuary.

the tricky step of having sheep and dogs settled after moving them through the drive panel while the handler goes to the pen. Edgar's sheep – known for their superior intelligence – immediately, if not sooner, out-figured their opponents and headed straight for the exhaust gate. It is my belief that the sheep and the barn opposite the field are somehow magnetized, accounting for the severely curved lines the sheep were inclined to take.

Our thanks to Ellen Skillings and George Northrop for a wonderful job setting out sheep all day, and to all the volunteers who helped in various capacities, making it a memorable day.

Special thanks must go to Edgar for giving inexperienced handlers his time, advice, and the encouragement which is highly appreciated.

E. Carleton

Novice/Novice - 23 dogs

		<u>_</u>	,
1.	Janet Lindsey	Kelly	58
2.	Carlene Eitapence	Anna	57
3.	Brenda Buja	Dice	56
4.	Greg Hamm	Maya	54 1/2
5.	Wendy Werner	Kate	54
6.	Evelyn Enos	Zelda	53
7.	Kim Jarrell	Zoe	52
8.	Kate Collins	Buddha	51
9.	Joan McGrath	Gyp	51
10.	Mike Nunan	Jed	51



Cooperlane Farm

Pro-Novice - 17 dogs

1.	Bud Ames	Luke	76
2.	Emily Yazwinski	Tarr	73 1/2
3.	Denise Leonard	Kate	7 3
4.	Carol Weigand	Ty	69
5.	Carlene Eitapence	Floss	66
6.	Mary Anne Fallon	Spy	65
<i>7</i> .	Mary Ames	Sam	61
8.	Denise Leonard	Rose	59
9.	Gwen Cassell	Ute	57
10.	Wendy Warner	Abby	56

Ranch - 6 dogs

1.	Becky Peterson	Libby	84
2.	Carlene Eitapence	Lass	76
3.	Becky Peterson	Taff	7 5
4.	Lana Petty	Sioux	65
5.	Greg Hamm	Gaelen	56



Janet Lindsey's KELLY

The Versatile BORDER COLLIE

by Janet Larson

It's important that I begin this review by saying quite honestly that it would be highly unusual for me to write a negative review about any book that includes a photograph of my dog on the cover. "Great cover/lousy book" doesn't sound politically correct. In addition, since this is a book written by one of our very own members, I was favorably disposed to like it before I stopped drooling over the cover and turned to page one.

Those formalities aside, I have to say honestly that, while I wanted very much to like the 1999 edition of *The Versatile Border Collie*, I feared it would just be a rewash of the 1986 version – simply new paper, pictures, ar

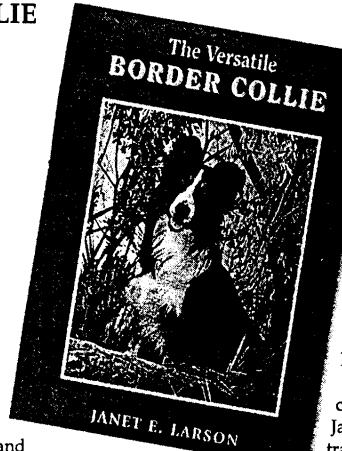
the 1986 version – simply new paper, pictures, and some updated stuff. Well, it's not. It is a stand-alone, very new and much rewritten book sporting 100 pages more than the earlier version, and is a wonderful source of information for the Border Collie enthusiast.

While some of the chapter titles are the same in both books, the content is often quite different. The initial chapter, "Why a Border Collie" was seven pages in the first edition. In the new version fully 25 pages are devoted to the characteristics of the BC and the various activities – including herding, obedience, agility, narcotics detection, flyball, frisbee, hunting, Schutzhund, tracking, service, conformation, sled-dog racing, TV and movies, and Search & Rescue in which Border Collies are involved.

The six and a half pages originally devoted to "Origin and History of the Breed" have been expanded to 20 in the new book. It is a well-researched, fascinating story, covering the first sheepdog trials in 1873. The first dog show in Great Britain was held in 1860 and five "colley" dogs entered. By 1885, more than 100 collies were entered at the Crystal Palace. Larson points out that the collies she saw pictured in Cassell's *Illustrated Book of the Dog* published in 1881 could easily have been modern Border Collies.

The chapter on the history of the breed continues through the establishment of the Border Collie name in 1911, the two forerunners of all current Border Collies – Old Hemp and Old Kep – and closes with the modern bloodlines so familiar to us all.

The chapter covering breed standards is greatly expanded and includes ABCA, AIBC, AKC, UKC, USBCC, British, and Australian standards. The photographs illustrating this chapter attest to the tremendous versatility of appearance in the breed. Janet included photos showing ear sets, a page devoted to tail carriage (featuring Ch. "Wayside Start Me Up" in show pose), herding, doing agility, and at play, explaining how the activity of the dog often determines the way the tail is carried. Four lovely color plates portray the variety of markings and colors which can be found on the BC. Most dogs are identified; a lot carry performance titles, and many are breed champions.



I personally was
familiar with much of the
information contained in
the chapters on Health
Problems, First Aid, Basic
Training, and Formal
Obedience Training, but the
numerous photographs –
exemplifying the diversity of
the breed – held my interest as
I scanned the pages.

While it shouldn't be considered a "complete" guide, Janet's explanation of how to train your dog to herd are quite good and do provide an excellent outline to follow in a training

regime. The chapter devoted to herding trials is also very enlightening, explaining the skills required by trial dog, in addition to regulations of AKC, AHBA, ASCA, and ISDS-type trials in the US, UK, and Australia.

Obedience, Schutzhund, flyball, and agility have each their own descriptive chapters, as well as confirmation under the heading of Dog Shows. Janet presents an overview of the "championship scene", even including diagrams of some of the more popular patterns judges use in having exhibitors gait their dogs.

Other chapters cover breeding, hereditary defects, care of brood bitch, whelping, and puppies.

As with the previous version of *The Versatile Border Collie*, I felt that some of this information is generally available and might have been omitted. But it is important to mention that I (the reviewer) have been involved with BC's for a long time and familiar items or topics are not necessarily so to others.

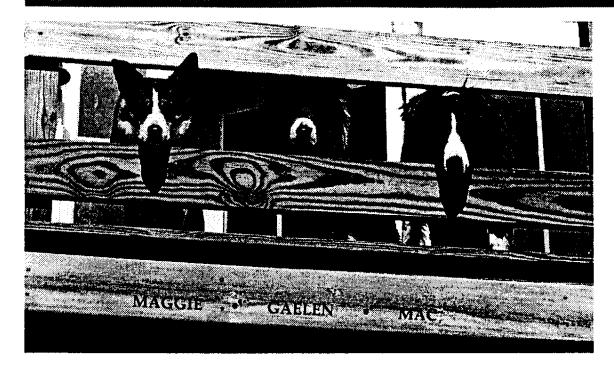
In addition to what I said about more general information in some chapters, the great variety of photographs more than make up for the lack of intrigue.

The Versatile Border Collie is more than a coffee table book: It is a valuable resource for many Border Collie owners and simply delightful to look at – at least if you enjoy different types, styles, and colors of Border collies.

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24

NEBCA LIBRARY



Is it really almost summer? It'll be great to start trailing again.

The Library is the busiest I have ever seen it. It's nice to see all the terrific materials we offer enjoyed by so many people.

I am pleased to announce that for the first time in almost two years we have been able to add some new items to our Library. Many of these wonderful items would not have been possible for the Library to acquire without the generous donations we received from many people. I would like personally to thank each person who remembered the Library when the opportunity presented itself.

- Emily Yazwinski, who donated Alasdair Macrae's New Audio Whistle Tape, and
- Molly King, who donated the 1998 International Supreme Championship.
- Warren Mick, who donated an autographed copy of Bruce Fogt's "Lessons from a Stockdog", and also the 1995 International Supreme Championship.
- Lastly, Jan and Robin from Dulca Scenes, a video company from Kentucky, who donated six weeks of BBC's "One Man & His Dog", as well as giving a terrific package deal for the '94, '96, '98, and "Best of the Best" National videos. The time and effort given by Dulca Scenes made it possible to add a considerable number of videos to our collection. Their sincere interest in the Border Collie world really shows.

To everyone who helped make the NEBCA Library even better - THANK YOU!! Your thoughtfulness has been very much appreciated.

I look forward to seeing everyone on the trial field, as well as hearing from members through the Library. Good Luck! And have a great season.

Susan Myshka



For a complete list of library holdings refer to the "Winter" NEBCA News or contact Susan Myshka.

NEW BOOKS and TAPE:

Colin Gordon

One Man's Opinion An Approach & Guide to Sheepdog Trials

John Holmes

A Farmer's Dog

Eric Halsall

Sheepdogs, My faithful Friends

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Derek Scrimgeour

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- * 1996 Best of the Best Nationals (includes run off between Macrae & Wilson)
- * 1998 Nationals (2 tape set: top 20) 1998 International Supreme Championship
- * "One Man & His Dog" BBC of America (tape A and B; includes 3 weeks shows)

*Donated by Dulca Scenes Video

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1998 International Skeep Dog Trial - Carmichael on Lanark - continued from page 9

It was over. While waiting for the judges to finish adding and checking scores and allotting bonus points, Bobby Henderson once again brought out Sweep to represent Scotland in the driving contest. I was curious about what the technique is to get 75 sheep through a 21" opening with no supporting fence at a distance of 250 yards from the handler. Bobby's sheep were not in a wedge shape, so he directed Rob to put them in a position so the right flank was even with the opening, and then he flanked Sweep around to maneuver the left flank back behind the ones that were already streaming through the opening. "So that's how you get 75 sheep through a gate," I murmured. My Scots neighbor smiled, "Sometimes they are in a tighter bunch." And they were for the driving champion, Welshpool farmer, Henry Hughes and Ben.

It seemed a popular win, Bobby Henderson had never won an International and is regarded as a "complete dog man and a gentleman." It takes 20 minutes just to call him to the table and give him all the cups and shields he had won. Bobby Dalziel could hardly be closer to Bobby Henderson, just seven points behind him in a contest with 680 points possible.

Nobody can foresee how hard or easy it would be to get the shed, so handlers sometimes hurried through the outwork to give themselves more time in the ring. Others were very careful on the outwork and didn't leave enough time for the shed. The first three, the two Bobby's and a Johnny, had a deceptively easy time in their sheds.

Slanting afternoon sunshine turned the grass emerald. Clouds gave contrasting deeper color. The photographs of the scene are gorgeous. A cock pheasant highlighted and gleaming sat on the stone dyke beside the lane out of Carmichael Farm. A fitting farewell.

1998 International Supreme, September 10-12,1998

Kate Collins and Molly King, companions

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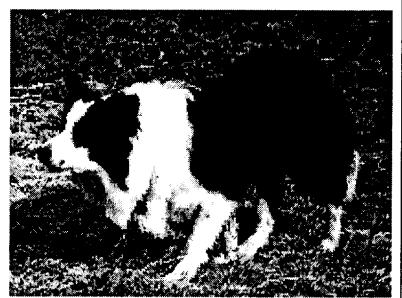
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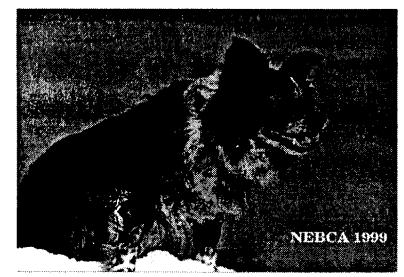
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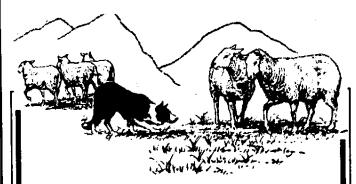
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Walt & Eleanor Jagger Sheepy Hollow Farm PO Box 233 Hop Bottom, PA 18824 (570) 289-4663

Joseph & Jean Kennedy Borderline Farm 575 Willow Street W. Barnstable, MA 02668 (508) 362-3005

Chris & Sue Kroemmelbein Lilly Hill Farm 156 Gallmeier Road Milford, NJ 08848 (908) 996-6163 or 996-3339

Beverly Lambert & Douglas McDonough 280 Hebron Road Andover, CT 06232 (860) 742-5300

Janet Larson 76 Lee Hook Road Lee, NH 03824 (603) 659-7046

Barbara Leverett 1512 Burrell Road St. Johnsville, NY 13452 (518) 568-2833 Betty Levin 16 Old Winter Street Lincoln, MA 01773 (781) 259-8799

Allen & Margaret Lynch RR2, Box 168 Turbotville, PA 17772 (717) 649-6212

Eve & Len Marschark Ivyrose Farm PO Box 397, 3118 Farm School Rd. Bedminster, PA 18910 (215) 795-2023

Alex McKinven Cessnock Farm RR1, 26 University Road North Hatley Quebec JOB 2CO, Canada (819) 842-2975

Gabrielle Merrill Misty Lane Border Collies RFD 1, PO Box 20 Brownfield, ME 04010 (207) 935-2520

Maria & Warren Mick 750 Meadowdale Road Altamont, NY 12009 (518) 861-5854

Roger & Heather Millen Fetch Gate Farm 1049 Babcock Hollow Road Cortland, NY 13045 (607) 835-6584 e-mail: rpm1@cornell.edu Dave & Betty Murray RR1, PO Box 628 W.Charleston, VT 05872 (802) 895-4154

Becky & Hoop Peterson Orchard Valley Farm 41 Bell Road Leyden, MA 01337 (413) 624-5562

Gene & Lynne Sheninger Wayside Farm 332 Split Rock Road Boonton, NJ 07005 (973) 299-9785

Ellen Skillings 10 Purington Lane Colrain, MA 01340 (413) 624-0271

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

Richard Williams & Cheryl Jagger Williams Culleymont RR1, PO Box 1374 Hop Bottom, PA 18824 (570) 289-4733

Breeder's Directory
Listings: \$ 20.00 yearly.
Renewable
January 1st

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