

NEBCA News

The Official Publication of the Northeast Border Collie Association, Inc.



Summer 2005

Volume 23, Issue 2

www.nebca.net

June 2005

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LOOK BACK!

Glen prepares for the second gather at Kingston SDT, 2004.

Photo by TTL Action Photography

Dear NEBCA Friends,

Thank you so much for your thoughtful and generous support since my accident in December 2004. You'll never know how much you've helped fill these long, long days of recuperation. Your visits (four legged also) calls and cards have meant so much to me and are greatly appreciated. I am now having pool therapy two days a week and that really helps. I'm looking forward to seeing you all this summer. I'll probably in a wheel chair, but I can still do the paper work from there (buddy says he'll post the scores for me). We are aiming for the Hopkinton trial in mid May as our first outing. You are a wonderful group and I thank God for you all !

Betty Murray

NEBCA NEWS

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The NEBCA News is the official publication of the Northeast Border Collie Association, Inc. Four regular issues are published with supplements issued during the trial months as needed.

Issue	Mailing Date	Submission Deadline
Spring	Mar 1	Feb 1
Summer	June 1	May 1
Fall	Sept 1	Aug 1
Winter	Dec 1	Nov 1

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Display Ads: Prices are for camera ready ads. Display advertising will only appear in the 4 quarterly issues:

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1/2 Page	\$50	\$150
Full Page	\$75	\$225

Classified Ads: Annually \$10 or \$3 per issue (NEBCA members)

Trial Listings and Tributes: FREE

Send all artwork and classifieds to
Fiona Robertson
creeksidefarm@sympatico.ca

Send all checks payable to NEBCA
and send to NEBCA Treasurer:

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NEBCA Bylaws & Rules

The bylaws and rules of NEBCA are available online at www.nebca.net. If members require hard copies of the NEBCA bylaws and rules, please make your request to the secretary:

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Membership Information

NEBCA members will receive the newsletter, can borrow from the NEBCA lending library and may participate in NEBCA sponsored events.

Annual membership dues: \$20 individual or \$25 farm/family, and renewals are due by Jan 1. New members may join at any time and if joining after Oct. 1, will automatically be paid though the following year.

To join, send your name and address along with your dues to the secretary, Maria Mick. Make checks payable to NEBCA.

Contribute!

Please send your articles, tributes, and photos to: Fiona Robertson, 4565 Rte 108, Canton de Hatley, QC J0B 2C0
Or send by Email (preferred):
creeksidefarm@sympatico.ca

Tips on taking digital photos for NEBCA News: Set your camera to the highest resolution before you take the picture. The photo will use more memory, but will look best in print. When sending these large files by e-mail, please zip them first.

You can also scan prints to send by e-mail. Again, choose a higher resolution before you scan and zip the file to send.

You may also send your prints by snail mail to the Editor. Enclose a self-addressed stamped envelope if you want your photo back! (Note: use a regular US stamp—I cross the border almost weekly, so can mail from a US postbox easily.)

Articles will be accepted based on relevance to the working Border Collie and the mission of the Northeast Border Collie Association. All articles may be edited for content.

Tips for sending articles / trial results etc. Send in text (.txt) or word (.doc). Please don't overly format your work, as I cannot cut & paste into Publisher without lots of re-formatting first!
Please don't send in Excel, save your excel files as .txt (in WordPad) and then send! Thanks!

A Long Road

By Joanne Krause

Is there an age when a Border Collie will stop learning? I'm not sure anyone can answer that question. A lot would depend on the dog. I only have one dog to base my experiences on.

I was at the Connecticut Sheepbreeders Trial when a friend of mine gave me a blanket with a Blue Merle puppy wrapped in it. I have always loved Blue Merles and he was the cutest little ball of fluff I'd seem, beside his half brother, Shade! That's how the journey started. Little did I know what a journey it would be!

I am one of those people that never gets rid of any of my dogs. He was quite a challenge from the start. When he did his gathers he would go straight up the middle, slice and grip. What do I have here? His gripping excelled. He was the kind of dog people would question. Too much to handle! Many more dogs out there with fewer problems. But with some advice from a fellow handler we persisted and took care of the gripping problem along with a few other things. But the question was always there, maybe everyone was right. I should give up on him!

As time went on we moved and I became a caregiver to my ailing mother. Unfortunately my training and trailing stopped. This went on for about 4 years. All the time my Border Collie was getting older.

When I finally started to train again I wondered was he too old to learn? The first 3-4 trials were not much fun! We walked off the field every time. It seemed that I was always in the letters not the numbers! That's it, I would retire



him. Maybe he was not able to take the stress of trialing. I was told that he was blowing me off big time. Being the kind of person that doesn't give up easily, I persisted.

One afternoon my son and I went to a different field. I got out of the truck and was going to hold sheep for my son. All of a sudden, this dog of mine took off and rung the sheep about 4 times. He was having so much fun! I was so mad. I took off after him yelling and chased him

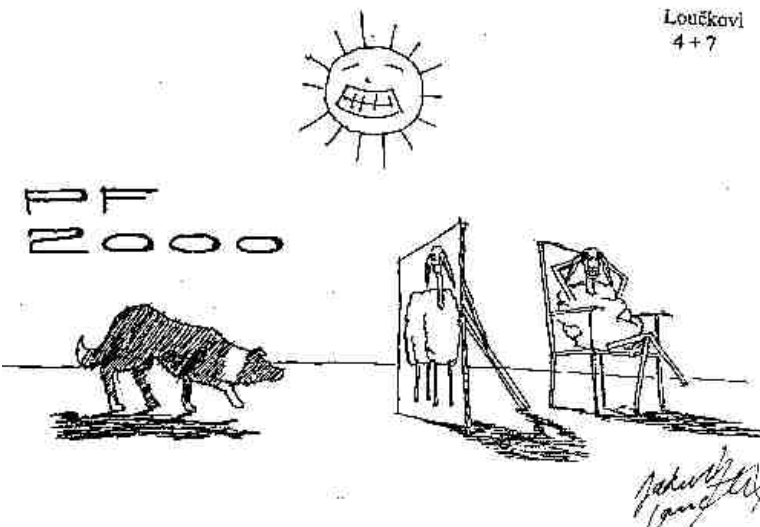
clear across the field. He decided he didn't like this and it wasn't as much fun as he thought. He wanted to go home. He went to the truck waiting for me to open the door. This wasn't what I had in mind. We went back on the field. He was a perfect angel. The test would be the next trial. We got a 20-10-20. At last we were in the numbers! He has for the most part been consistent with his out runs.

The highlight of my trialing experiences was when we won the Long Road Trophy at the Novice finals. It was a thrill and something I will never forget. This is probably what NEBCA had in mind when they instituted the Long Road Trophy.

Some Border Collies need a little more time and patience. I know we are all in this for different reasons, but for the people who have that dog they just can't seem to give up on, there is always hope! It amazes me at the age of eight he is still learning.

I don't know how long Wick and I will go down this road, but it has been a journey and he has taught me a lot.

Happy training and trialing! Be persistent!



c2000 Dale Simpson/Rick London

London's Times



A Few Thoughts About **LYME DISEASE**

By Sue Schoen, VMD

Lyme disease is caused by a spirochete (spiral-shaped bacterium), *Borrelia burgdorfi*, that is carried by the teensy tiny deer tick. I think we see a lot of it in our practice. I test and treat dogs for it every week. Almost all the dogs we treat recover uneventfully.

Lyme disease can cause lameness and/or flu-like symptoms in dogs. My favorite description of a Lyme patient was "stiff, lethargic, but eating fine." Often Lyme positive dogs have a high fever. Their joints are hot and swollen, especially the carpi (wrists). Lyme disease does not cause vomiting, diarrhea, coughing or sneezing. The signs can be so mild the owner doesn't notice. Often, it is hard to distinguish between a soft tissue injury and Lyme disease. Some dogs have recurrent or chronic problems (arthritis type signs), but often the disease seems runs its course with no lasting problems. The notable exception may be a severe form of kidney failure. It is not proven that Lyme disease causes this problem; however, it has been seen in many dogs which are Lyme positive. Fortunately, this syndrome is not common because it cannot be treated.

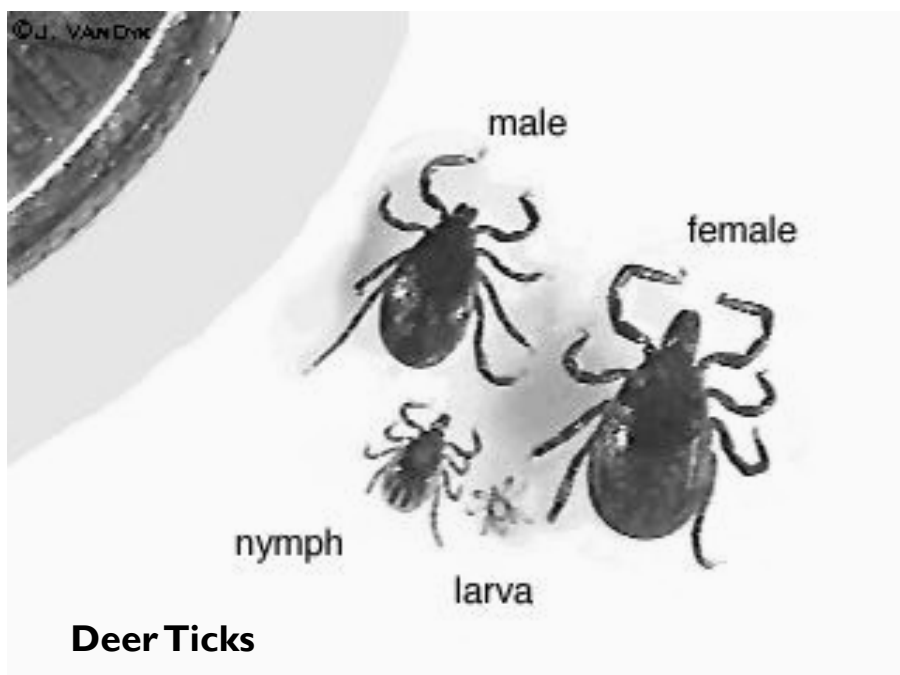
We may over-diagnose Lyme disease, but I am convinced we see a lot of it in our area. There are other immune-mediated and tick borne diseases which cause arthritis. There are many unfit, arthritic dogs who are having a bad week and their owner is convinced it's "the Lymes". Lyme is the first test we reach for, and if it's positive, and the dog responds to treatment, we say "Oh good, that was just Lyme." Maybe the dogs that don't respond have a weird form of Lyme, or, maybe they are coincidentally Lyme positive and have another problem. There are a lot of unknowns.

Lyme disease is treated with a course of doxycycline (or tetracycline) for 28 days. If the dog is a puppy, or is pregnant, I use amoxicillin because the tetracyclines disrupt enamel formation in developing teeth. Often dogs are better within a few doses. The questions are: Was the dog going to recover in a day or

two anyway? Did the antibiotics clear the disease? Or is the dog feeling better because of the anti-inflammatory properties of doxycycline? Who knows.

If your dog has symptoms that are sus-

even if they are not symptomatic. I don't ever want to have to explain my failure to treat to a client whose Lyme positive dog has just developed terminal kidney disease.



picious of Lyme disease your vet can test him. There are three kinds of tests. One tests for the dog's antibody response to the bacteria. It only tells you that a dog has been EXPOSED, not that he has the disease. But, if your dogs shows classic signs and has a high antibody titer, it's fairly suggestive. If your dog has been vaccinated he will have a titer, so always let your vet know. If your dog has been vaccinated, your vet can use one of two tests. One is called the Western blot. This test can tell whether your dog is positive because of natural exposure to a tick or if it is a vaccine response. The newest test is the 3-way combo test that includes Lyme, Heartworm and *Ehrlichia canis* (another tick borne disease). This is done at the vet's office and can also distinguish between vaccinal response and natural exposure. There is supposedly a significant false positive rate (7-10%).

Ok. So I treat all clearly positive dogs

I use Frontline religiously every month, although I know it is not completely effective. Other people use Advantix or Preventic collars. I pick ticks off my dogs all the time from mid March to November. I vaccinate my dogs with the Merial recombinant vaccine. The vaccine is not perfect but I figure it is better than nothing and in my experience it causes little harm. But let's not get started on the vaccination thing.... Finally, I do the three-way combo test every year when I test for heartworm. If my dogs were positive I would treat them. And probably test them in 6 months or so to see if they had become negative.


About ticks. It supposedly take about 24 hours of attachment and feeding to transmit Lyme disease. Frontline supposedly kills ticks within 24 hours thus preventing transmission of disease. Frontline does not repel ticks, so you will find recently attached ticks on your

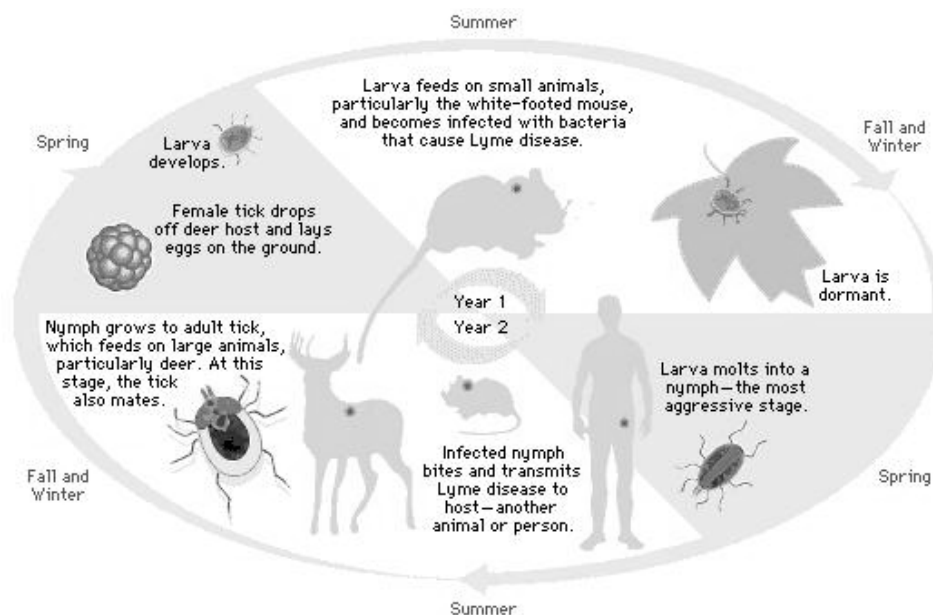
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A Few Thoughts About *LYME DISEASE*

(Continued from page 4)

dog. They just should not be “blown up ones”. When I find a tick I yank it out and dispose of it anyway I can. My greatest dilemma is finding a tick on a dog when I am in bed. Do I leave it till morning? Or get up, and toss it in the toilet. The best bet is to talk your spouse into getting up and throwing it away for you. I don't worry about the head staying in. I don't worry about getting Lyme disease from the tick. Some dogs, especially pups, will develop a red spot where the tick was. This doesn't mean they have Lyme disease (as it does in humans). It means they have sensitive little puppy skin.

I hope you and your dogs avoid Lyme disease and if one of you does get it- I hope it is a mild course. 



Photos from:

www.kwic.com/~pagodavista/schoolhouse/species/insects/tick.htm



The Tick Jar

When traveling with my dogs to tick infested areas, I prepare a “tick jar”. In a hotel room, this means using the nice little water glass provided along with a little dollop of the complimentary shampoo mixed with water. If I find a tick on my dog, I remove it using tweezers and drop it into the prepared tick jar. Not only does the soap kill the tick (toilet water alone doesn't, necessarily!), it provides a nice decorative accent to any bland hotel bathroom. And don't worry about leaving the tick jar on the counter for the length of your stay, housekeeping won't touch it!

Fiona Robertson

NEBCA Trials - New Listings!

Long Shot Farm SDT

Church Hill, MD

June 15

One Novice & Open trial
Sherry Smith, 410-758-3363
longsht@dmv.com
www.nebca.net

NEW Dates for Ontario Trials, Nation Valley & Ewesful Acres

**These two trials will now be held without conflict with the Kingston Grass Creek trial **

Nation Valley SDT: Fri July 29 (N/N, P/N); Sat & Sun, July 30-31 (Ranch & Open).

Entry Forms: www.workingbordercollies.ca/nvsdt.htm.

Ewesful Acres SDT: Mon Aug. 1 (N, P/N, Ranch & Nursery); Tues. & Wed. Aug. 2-3 (Open)

Entry Forms: www.nebca.net

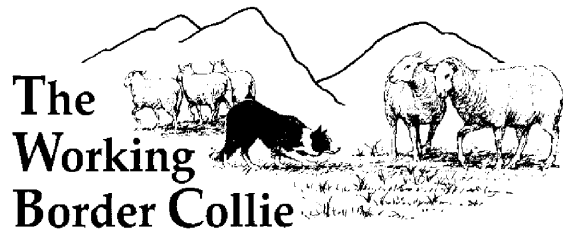
(More trials on page 6)

NEBCA Trials - New Listings!

(Continued from page 5)

Bramble Hill Farm
Novice Trial
Amherst, MA
Oct 10, 2005
 (Columbus day)
All NEBCA novice classes
 (N/N, P/N & Ranch)
USBCHA nursery
 (if entries warrant).
Fun runs
 time and sheep allowing).
Prizes: Ribbons to 5th place
 in Ranch, 8th in N/N & P/N.
Judge: TBA
More Info & Entry Form:
Bill Foshier 575 S. Pleasant
 Street, Amherst, Mass. 01002.
 Email: bill@sheepscapes.com

SHEPHERD'S CROOK
FARM TRIAL
Woodville, Ontario
July 23-24 2005
Two Novice & Open Trials
Info: Larry & Sylvia Forster
 larsyl@eagle.ca, 905-344-8375
 Ian & Shona Mutton-Talbot
 ian_shona@hotmail.com,
 705-357-3427

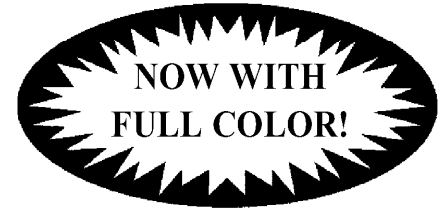


The Working Border Collie

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Thinking of buying an RV? One handler's opinion...

By Lori Cunningham

I never considered owning an RV before I began to travel for dog trials. I had no desire to camp for fun. I started trial-ing about 7 years ago and am currently on my third travel trailer. I use it solely to travel and stay on site at trials.

Being an absolute trailer novice, I started out with a very small 13 foot trailer which had no bathroom, refrigerator or heater, but it was easy to tow and park, and provided a dry place to sleep. After two years of bathing in my sink, I upgraded to a 21 foot self contained trailer (self-contained means it has a bathroom!) Last year, I upgraded again to a 28 foot trailer with a slide out room. Everyone's preferences and priorities are different, but here are my thoughts on what's important to look for when you're shopping for a trailer and some of *my* likes and dislikes.

How much can your vehicle tow?

Check your owner's manual. The im-printed stamp on your bumper which says your bumper is rated to tow 3500 lbs may not mean your mini van can safely tow a 3500 lb. trailer. Your owner's manual will give you the correct numbers. You will have to know your engine size and axle ratio. Your owner's manual will provide you with a maximum trailer weight (of a fully loaded trailer) your vehicle can manage as well as a Gross Combined Weight Ratio (GCWR) which is the maximum your vehicle plus a fully loaded trailer can weigh. When you shop for RV, you'll notice every trailer has a square white sticker on it somewhere (tongue, side or back) which provides information about how much the trailer weighs both empty and loaded, as well as

tongue weights and axle weights. The size and weight of the trailer will deter-mine what type of hitch and hitch acces-sories you will require. Don't try to tow more than your vehicle can handle. It's extremely dangerous and will cause endless problems with your vehicle.

Actual Trailer Length and Width

Some manufacturers measure their units differently so check to see if the stated length is the actual living area, or the length from the tongue to the bumper. Width makes a huge differ-ence in the "feeling" of space, even an extra 6 inches makes a big difference. Most units are between 7 & 8 feet wide. You will be amazed at how much more spacious an 8 foot wide trailer feels vs. 7 foot wide. You may be able to tolerate

(Continued on page 8)

NEBCA Classifieds

BORDER COLLIE STUD SERVICE: "Glen" (ABCA 136198/CBCA 471) - 2003 NEBCA Supreme Champion, 7th place 2002 USBCHA National Open, 13th place 2001 USBCHA National Nursery. At the age of 6, Glen has placed in nearly 90 Open trials, winning 14. CEA/CF genetic test "normal". Grandson of Berhow's "Nick" (3 time National Champ), very biddable & stylish worker.

Imp. "Jim" (ABCA 207627/CBCA 2141), grandson of Dalziel's International Champion "Jim", classy in appearance & working style. Both dogs eyes clear, hips OFA certified. Warren & Maria Mick, Altamont, NY (518) 861-5854, or mickwa@capital.net.

STANDING AT STUD AT BITTERSWEET FARM:

Stuart Davidson's Whiterose Kep. 1999 winner of the Scottish National. Three time Scottish International team member; 4th and 11th at Internationals; Outstanding Hill Dog.

"...Whiterose Kep has been a much sought after sire with many of his offspring showing up well in recent nurseries and continuing into Open trials"

International Sheepdog News-June-2003

Sire of: Johnny Wilson's Glen-2001 Scottish Nursery Champion; Ian Zoerb's Peg-2004 Western Canadian Champion; Neil Campell's Moss-3rd place Scottish Nursery 2003.

Grandsire of: Ewan McKinnon's Glen-2003 Scottish Nursery Champion; Johnny Wilson's Sweep-6th place, 2005 Scottish Nursery.

DNA/CEA tested clear, Hips Good

Pedigree available online at:
<http://www.canadianbordercollies.org/Pedigrees/WhiteroseKep.pdf>

Thanks to Stuart Davidson for enhancing our North American bloodlines with three great dogs: International Champions, Craig & Star, and Scottish National Champion, Kep

Contact: Carol Campion
carcampion@yahoo.com
860-455-9416

BITTERSWEET FARM: Training services for dogs & handlers: Expand your dog's experience with a variety of fields, sheep and situations. Quality pups, started & trained dogs sometimes available. Dogs taken in for training on a limited basis. Contact: Carol Campion at carcampion@yahoo.com 860-455-9416

MERLYNN KENNELS BORDER COLLIES and Katahdin Hair Sheep. Merle and black and white puppies, occasionally started dogs. All breeding stock OFA certified and eye checked. Proven producers of trial and obedience winners. Katahdin Hair Sheep originated in Maine, excellent for working dogs, no shearing, no tail-docking necessary. Lynn Deschambeault, Merlynn Kennels, 342 Hio Ridge Rd., Denmark, ME 04009. (207) 452-2898.

IVAN WEIR BORDER COLLIES: *Where Champions are born.* Clinics, private lessons, and judging. Ivan Weir, 176 Lyndhurst Rd., RR #1, Seeleys Bay, Ontario, Canada. K0H 2N0. (613) 387-2696.

BORDER COLLIE TRAINING SERVICES AVAILABLE: Take advantage of lots of sheep and a large variety of working areas. Lessons and pups available. Handling Border Collies for over 20 years. References available. Barbara Leverett, 1512 Burrell Rd., St. Johnsville, NY, 13452. (518) 568-2833.

PUPPIES BORN IN LATE APRIL: Dam Imp. Mossie (Daughter of Aled Owen's Roy, Supreme International Champion 1999) and Sire Andy Nickless's Glen. Glen is off Scottish Team Member Davidston Cap (M Caul) and out of Gael (NG McEwan). Mossie was imported from the UK in whelp. To see more about Glen, visit www.workingsheepdog.co.uk. For more information about the puppies, please contact Kim Baumgart at (716) 676-2565 or e-mail at jimandkim@gentleshepherd farms.com.

PUPPIES BORN IN MID-MAY: Dam: DOT; lines go back to C. Smart's Rock and Jade, Bwlch Taff (G.B. National Champion), Davy (GB International Champion). Sire: MOSS (bred by Carol Campion); lines go back to V. Morris's MAC (Great Britain National Champion) and Dalziel's WISP (Great Britain International Champion). Both parents hips and eyes clear. \$650. Amy Dunnington 401-295-7689

PUPPIES BORN IN MAY: Dam: SKYE (bred by Carol Campion); lines go back to V. Morris's MAC (Great Britain National Champion) and Dalziel's WISP (Great Britain International Champion). Sire: ROY; grandson to T. Wilson's IMP.ROY, whose lines go back to International Great Britain Champion T. Longton's BESS and C.S.Jones's BWLCH TAFF (National Great Britain champion). Both lines are natural outrunners and drivers, with good balance; biddable. Rough and medium coats. Both parents hips and eyes clear. Puppies are \$650. Gypsy G's Kennels, Lori Goodman 401-294-7816; leg100455@cox.net; website-breeders.net

SHEEP FOR SALE: Purebred Montadale and Scottish Black-face lambs; also Montadale and Scotty crosses (ewes/wethers).

Contact: Barbara Armata 518-875-6471; Taffaway@aol.com

Got something to sell? Looking to buy? Looking for a trainer? Classified ads are just \$3 per issue for members! Send ad to creeksidefarm@sympatico.ca and send payment to NEBCA c/o treasurer, Maria Amodi (for address, see page 2).



Thinking of buying an RV? One handler's opinion...

(Continued from page 6)

a shorter trailer if it's a wider one.

Living Area Configuration

The more you shop, the more you will see the same basic floor plans repeated. My preference is to have the maximum amount of open floor space, so I tend to like units with a bed on one end and bathroom at the opposite end. Another popular arrangement is to have a living area on one end, bath in the mid section and bedroom at the opposite end. This option provides more privacy. My second trailer had a bed set into a corner of one end. Everyone told me I'd hate it and believe me, I did. In fact, almost everyone I know who has this floor plan hates it. It's a huge pain to change bedding, and was a factor many dealers commented on as hurting trade in value. If possible, find a bed that you can walk around on 3 sides. If you're looking at small trailers with no permanent bed, consider the amount of hassle required to convert a couch or table into a bed. Don't take the dealer's word for it, try doing it yourself. Some items convert much easier than others.

Another big factor for me was carpet. I wanted as little as possible. My dogs stay inside the trailer & linoleum is infinitely easier to clean. Also, I learned with my second trailer that there is common problem with moisture damage in many lightweight models with linoleum floors. Damage usually shows up when the unit is 4-5 years old. Dealers change out the linoleum & buyers don't know about more serious moisture damage in the floor & under frame. If you're buying a used trailer beware of new linoleum as it may be hiding a bigger problem.

Slide outs create significant space, but also add weight and a potential for leaks. Fortunately, most of the bugs with slides seem to have been worked out over the years & nearly all the service department staff I spoke with reported relatively few problems with slides.

Toilet/Shower Set Up

Some smaller trailers have a combined shower/toilet area. While in my opinion, having any toilet/shower is better than having none, most people prefer a separate shower.

Windows & Ventilation

Remember your trailer's A/C runs off an electric hookup, so if you're not hooked up or plugged into a large generator, you won't have A/C. Check for window placement & how they open (out or slide) for ventilation. Also pay attention to window placement in relation to the awning arms and door. Windows that open out are better for keeping rain out, but may interfere with awning arms & propping doors open, and thus are useless much of the time. My new trailer has some windows that slide and others that open out depending on their location.

Roof Vents, Front Windows, Roof A/C

Most water leaks show up around these areas. If you're looking at used trailers, check for water damage or signs of recent caulking that may be hiding water damage. Many new trailers are built without front windows. Several dealers I spoke with reported this as their biggest problem area for leaks, so I opted for no front window in my latest model.

Tire Size

Some lightweight units use 13 or 14 inch tires. While they may suffice on the smallest units, 15 inch tires are best. If buying a used trailer, look for uneven tread wear on smaller tires. Could be evidence of a bent frame. Also, double check if a spare is included. Many new units don't have a complimentary spare & believe me, you need one! Look under a used trailer for signs for frame repair, rust or badly configured electrical wiring.



How about driving this hundreds of miles to your next trial?!

Furnace, Water Heater and Refrigerators

How do they light? Most new units light from inside...easy, just push a button. Many older units have to be manually lit from the outside. Also, better refrigerators have a separate refrigerator/freezer area. Those that are combined in one door may have problems with condensation & mold.

Size of tanks (LP, fresh, black & grey)

Remember that your furnace & refrigerator will run off the LP tanks unless you're hooked up to an electrical source. Check number of LP tanks & size. Also, where are LP tanks

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Thinking of buying an RV? One handler's opinion...

(Continued from page 8)

located? Tanks stuck in an interior storage compartment are awkward to fill and waste storage space. I prefer LP tanks mounted on the hitch. Also check where the battery is mounted. Note the size of fresh water tanks as well as the "dirty" water storage tanks. Water use varies hugely from person to person. Remember big water tanks, when full, will add considerable weight to your trailer.

Depreciation considerations

When I was trailer shopping, I checked N.A.D.A. depreciation percentages on several different models. There's a BIG difference. Logically, better units will depreciate less. If you see an unusually high depreciation rate, likely it's a troublesome model. Also, models with canvas slides have higher depreciation rates than hard sided models. Talk to folks who have owned them. While they provide more living space and may be more economical, I don't know anyone who bought a second one after owning one!

Financing

Most banks charge a significantly higher interest rate on RVs than they do on cars. It's worth shopping around. I found

one that financed all titled vehicles at a car rate. It was a considerable interest savings. Also check with your accountant to determine if the interest on your self-contained RV is deductible in the same way as mortgage interest on a second home may be.

Dealers

Ask your dealer frankly what models he sees most commonly back for service and what the problems are. I visited several dealers and heard a lot of the same responses, and quickly marked those models off my list of possibilities.

Remember there is an enormous mark up on new trailers, so feel confident in having some serious negotiation room when you sit down to work up a deal. When you think you've reached the bottom dollar price the dealer will accept, try getting him to throw in some accessory extras and have them installed. (Hitch accessories or roof vent covers are good examples.) There's also a big mark up on them, so it's really not costing him much & may save you hassle on something you would have to buy anyway.

Good luck shopping!



NEBCA Meeting Minutes

Submitted by Maria Mick, Secretary

NEBCA Meeting, Cummington SDT, May 28, 2005

Meeting called to order 5:22p.m. with approximately 29 members present.

1. Secretary's Report – Maria Mick

Membership stands at 242 members as of 5-26-05 including 87 family memberships. This number is down by approximately 30-40 from the end of 2004.

2. Treasurer's Report – Maria Amodei

Overall balance for the club is \$17,563.05.

Motion to accept report made by Jim Allen and seconded by Kate Collins

3. Open Trials Report – Warren Mick

The 2005 Fall Foliage Championship will again be held at the Bramble Hill Farm in Amherst, MA with sheep provided by Bill Foshier. A judge has not yet been selected. The trial date is tentatively set for Fri-Sat-Sun of Columbus Day weekend. Bill is planning to run a novice trial on Monday. It is recommended that a different site be selected for 2006, perhaps in the western end of the NEBCA region.

4. Novice Trials Report – Joanne Krause

This year's Novice Finals will be held in a large parking field at fairgrounds in Hopkinton, NH. The date is tentatively set for September 17 & 18. A judge has not been selected yet.

5. Calendars Report – George Northrup

2006 Calendars are available now, along with a few 2005 calendars (for a reduced price). Take some to sell at your trials.

6. Fund Raising – Joanne Krause

T-shirts and hats will be available soon, perhaps mid-June. An attempt will be made to track income from purchases of items from members vs. non-members for tax purposes.

Old Business

1. Open vs. Ranch Runs – Betty Levin

The merits of the current rule, which permits members to run the same dog in both ranch and open (until the dog places in open) was discussed. A straw poll was taken and the results were in favor of continuing this practice.

New Business

1. Dog Hip Study – Sally Lacy

ABCA to help fund a study comparing various methods of hip evaluation. The study seeks dogs from 8 months – 12 months, and then to track the same dogs at 2 years. See Sally for details.

Motion to adjourn made by Bruce Smart and seconded by Dave Young.

Meeting adjourned at 5:42 p.m.





Trial Results



Longshot Sheepdog Trial, Church Hill, MD March 31st to April 3rd 2005

Many thanks are due to our distinguished judge Bobby Dalziel and pen manager Deb Crowder as well as to the team of volunteers who worked for 4 days through sun, warmth, rain, wind and cold to produce yet another outstanding and challenging trial.

Novice 1

1. Donna Stonebeck Claire
2. Avis May Kit
3. Judy Gambill Jaz
4. Carol Lockhart Lil
5. Darlene Muhly Jesse

Novice 2

1. Donna Stonebeck Claire
2. Judy Gambill Jaz
3. Avis May Kit

Pro Novice 1

1. Elayne Holbrook Zak
2. Tara Dier Stella
3. Emma Court Kane
4. Maggie Chambers Dixie
5. Darlene Muhly Jesse
6. Chris Bowen Dot
7. Maggie Chambers Shane
8. Sharon Nunan Cutter
9. Ron McGettigan Tom
10. Caroline Reichard Lark

Pro Novice 2

1. Caroline Reichard Lark
2. Chris Bowen Dot
3. Nancy Obernier Jan
4. Sharon Nunan Cutter
5. Sharon Nunan Sweep
6. Emma Court Kane
7. Chris Bowen Jake

8. Darlene Muhly Jesse
9. Maggie Chambers Shane
10. Nancy Obernier Scott

Ranch 1

1. Nancy Obernier Nick
2. Linda Tesdahl Strike
3. Julie Poudrier Kat
4. Janet Harvey Jess
5. Penny Tose Riley
6. Lori Cunningham Ethan
7. Pam Gardner Kia
8. Tara Dier Earl
9. Susan Allen Corrie
10. Carol Lockhart Gwen

Ranch 2

1. Deb Kramer Tal
2. Julie Poudrier Kat
3. Penny Tose Riley
4. Pam Gardner Kia
5. Randy Mumford Judy
6. Linda Tesdahl Strike
7. Pam Gardner Ferrell
8. Janet Harvey Jess
9. Pat Warne Nell
10. Susan Allen Corrie

Nursery 1

1. Pat Shannahan Riggs
2. Linda Tesdahl Strike

Nursery 2

1. Nancy Obernier Nick
2. Patrick Shannahan Riggs

Open 1

1. Bev Lambert Pippa
2. Bev Lambert Bill
3. Penny Tose Jordan
4. Lori Cunningham Tess
5. Sally Molloy Zak
6. Linda Tesdahl Peg
7. Stu Ligon Nap
8. Eve Marshark Rue
9. Polly Matzinger Lily
10. Gene Sheninger Jen

Open 2

1. Polly Matzinger Charlie
2. Gene Sheninger Jess
3. Linda Tesdahl Peg
4. Bev Lambert Bill
5. Stu Ligon Nap
6. Penny Tose Jordan
7. Linda Tesdahl Jaffe
8. Nancy Obernier Ben
9. Bev Lambert Maid
10. Gene Sheninger Jen



2005 NH Sheep and Wool Festival, Hopkinton, NH May 14-15

The 2005 NH Sheep and Wool Festival has come to a close, the weather was perfect on Saturday, and Sunday was only interrupted with a few hours of steady rain. All and all the weekend went well. The sheep were provided by Roger Deschambeault and worked evenly for all competitors. I would like to thank everyone for helping; I was amazed at how everyone was extremely anxious to help with whatever was asked of them. I especially want to thank my wife, my daughter, Rob Drummond and Bud Ames for all their help. The exhaust pen was worked tirelessly by Steve Phillips, which is always a thankless job. I'm sure I forgot someone so please don't be offended. After running my first dog trial I now know all the time and effort that goes into a trial, looking forward to next year. Thanks everyone.

David Lewis and Family

Saturday NN

- | | | |
|-----------------------|--------|----|
| 1 Matt Mason | Tag | 55 |
| 2 Ellen Rusconi-Black | Stevie | 51 |
| 3 Joyce Westcott | Moli | 44 |
| 4 Bert Cowgill | Zak | 33 |

- | | | |
|----------------|-------|----|
| 5 Matt Mason | Jay | 30 |
| 6 Martha Walke | Sweep | 26 |
| 7 Gail Puzzas | Zoe | 23 |
| 8 Joanne Kraus | Lucy | 17 |

Saturday PN

- | | | |
|----------------------|-------|----|
| 1 Claire Garwood | Rhoss | 72 |
| 2 David Lewis | AJ | 71 |
| 3 Lynn Deschambeault | Chip | 71 |

(Continued on page 11)



Trial Results



2005 NH Sheep and Wool Festival, Hopkinton, NH, May 14-15

(Continued from page 10)

4 Greg Hamm	Espirit	68
5 Patricia H. Murphy	Jack	54
6 Dee Woessner	Spot	64
7 Steve Wetmore	Pace	60
8 Rob Drummond	Maggie	58
9 Peter Vandercar	Russ	57
10 Bert Cowgill	Moss	45

Saturday Ranch

1 Bruce Smart	Missy	67
2 Roger Deschambeault	Jet	64
3 Chris Bowen	Jake	63
4 Bud Ames	Dirk	63
5 Warren Mick	Rock	62
6 Kate Collins	Jan	58
7 Chris Bowen	Dot	55
8 Gabe Merrill	Jill	49

Saturday Nursery

1 David Lewis	AJ	80
2 Roger Deschambeault	Jet	65
3 Warren Mick	Dale	60
4 Lynn Deschambeault	Chip	
5 Sue Schoen	Tyne	

Saturday Open

1 Sue Schoen	Willie	
2 Roger Deschambeault	Trim	
3 Michael Dathe	Cooper	
4 Roger Deschambeault	Ken	
5 Steve Wetmore	Gyp	
6 Chris Bowen	Dot	
7 Warren Mick	Jinty	
8 Lynn Deschambeault	Di	
9 Joan Worthington	Sam	
10 Bruce Smart	Dolly	

Sunday NN

1 Ellen Rusconi-Black	Stevie	72
2 Gail Puzzas	Zoey	72
3 Valerie Pietraszewska	Leat	68
4 Joyce Westcott	Moli	62
5 Joanne Kraus	Lucy	62
6 Matt Mason	Tag	62
7 Martha Walke	Sweep	57
8 Jeff Philbrick	Tess	56
9 Matt Mason	Jay	55

2 Day Novice Champion:

Ellen Rusconi-Black & Stevie

2 Day Novice Reserve:

Matt Mason & Tag

Sunday PN

1 Steve Wetmore	Pace	72
2 Greg Hamm	Jamie	69
3 Warren Mick	Tap	68
4 Peter Vandercar	Russ	65
5 Lynn Deschambeault	Chip	63
6 Patricia H. Murphy	Jack	63
7 Greg Hamm	Espirit	60
8 Dee Woessner	Spot	56
9 Sue Schoen	Tess	56
10 Carlene Eitapence	Kodi	54
Rob Drummond	Maggie	53

2 Day ProNovice Champion:

Lynn Deschambeault & Chip

2 Day Reserve ProNovice:

Steve Wetmore & Pace

Sunday Ranch

1 Ed Hobart	Picasso	81
2 Roger Deschambeault	Jet	79
3 Kate Collins	Jan	65

4 Bruce Smart	Missy	58
5 Steve Wetmore	Pace	57
6 Gabe Merrill	Jill	53
7 Dee Woessner	Spot	50

2 Day Ranch Champion:

Roger Deschambeault & Jet

2 Day Reserve Ranch:

Bruce Smart & Missy

Sunday Nursery

1 Warren Mick	Dale	79
2 Roger Deschambeault	Jet	78
3 David Lewis	AJ	77
4 Lynn Deschambeault	Chip	66
5 Dee Woessner	Dibs	37

2 Day Nursery Champion:

David Lewis & AJ

2 Day Reserve Nursery:

Roger Deschambeault & Jet

Sunday Open

1 Warren Mick	Jinty	
2 Joan Worthington	Sam	
3 Greg Hamm	Gaelen	
4 Lynn Deschambeault	Di	
5 Peter Vandercar	Katie	
6 Maria Mick	Ben	
7 Warren Mick	Glen	
8 Carlene Eitapence	Anna	
9 Sue Schoen	Clair	
10 Bruce Smart	Missy	

2 Day Open Champion:

Warren Mick & Jinty

2 Day Reserve Open:

Joan Worthington & Sam



PLEASE HELP CLEAN UP THE NOVICE POINTS STANDINGS!

If your dog is no longer competing in the NEBCA Novice classes (Novice, Pro-Novice or Ranch), please contact Heather Millen with the updated information. This includes dogs moved up into the Open class, dogs that have been sold or retired or dogs that have deceased.

Heather Millen: 607-835-6584

or millen@frontiernet.net



Trial Results



2005 Old Chatham Sheep Herding Company Open Trial, Chatham, NY

April 30-May 1st

Judge: Nora Ahlen

Saturday Nursery - 5 dogs

1. Cheryl Williams Toby

Saturday Open - 43 dogs

- | | | |
|---------------------|-------|----|
| 1. Warren Mick | Glen | 85 |
| 2. Warren Mick | Jinty | 83 |
| 3. Amanda Milliken | Bart | 83 |
| 4. Michael Dathe | Trot | 80 |
| 5. Bruce Smart | Peg | 79 |
| 6. Amanda Milliken | Grace | 78 |
| 7. Cheryl Williams | Andy | 77 |
| 8. Barbara Leverett | Nan | 73 |
| 9. Maria Mick | Jim | 73 |
| 10. Mary Brighoff | Val | 68 |

Sunday Open - 42 dogs

- | | | |
|--------------------|--------|----|
| 1. Warren Mick | Glen | 87 |
| 2. Steve Wetmore | Gyp | 81 |
| 3. Peter VanDerCar | Bud | 81 |
| 4. Amanda Milliken | Bart | 81 |
| 5. Dick Williams | Scott | 80 |
| 6. Heather Millen | Spy | 78 |
| 7. Warren Mick | Jinty | 78 |
| 8. Bruce Smart | Dolly | 76 |
| 9. Cheryl Williams | Fly | 76 |
| 10. Michael Dathe | Cooper | 73 |



2005 Massachusetts Sheep & Woolcraft Fair SDT, Cummington, MA

May 27-29

Submitted by George Northrup

The Mass. Sheep and Woolcraft Fair trial was expanded to a three day affair this year, one day of novice classes and nursery on Friday and open trials both Saturday and Sunday. The response was overwhelming! 69 dogs ran on Friday. The field had not yet been cut, but a cool spring kept the grass at a manageable height. Bill Foshier provided a terrific group of yearling Texel\ North Country Cheviot ewes which ran in groups of four. It became obvious early that these sheep could size up a dog and if the dog was not at the right distance, applying the correct amount of pressure, the consequences were dire. This was particularly evident at the pen where there was little success until the more experienced dogs ran in the Ranch class.

Saturday was an adventure! Three sheep were used for each run and the cross drive encompassed an area of shallow standing water just before the panels. Out of 71 dogs no more than 5 were able to push the sheep across the water. In his wisdom our judge, Dave Young, decided from the beginning that getting to the water constituted a valid attempt at the panel, but those that turned and came to the pen were heavily

penalized. In the end, between retirees, grips, dogs off course and sheep off course there were only 25 dogs with scores. The course was changed for Sunday, shortened somewhat to avoid water, post moved to reduce pressure to the exhaust and the drive reversed. The number of sheep per run was increased to four and most of the handlers were rewarded, at least, with a completed course.

We want to specifically thank Dave Young for a terrific job of judging what was, at times (Saturday), seemingly un-Judgeable, Bill Foshier for providing sheep that were fit and consistent and a group of handlers who volunteered to put in some long hours in the set out pen over three days: Bud Ames, Richard Rogers, Ellen Rusconi-Black, Liz Phillips, Chris Bowen, Bernie Armata, Peter Vandercar and Valerie Pietraszewska. A big thank you to all who did a wonderful job of setting sheep, scribing and exhausting.

Welcome back and thanks to Betty and Dave Murray!
Results on Page 13...



I like driving around with my two dogs, especially on the freeways. I make them wear little hats so I can use the car-pool lanes. --Monica Piper

Money will buy a pretty good dog, but it won't buy the wag of his tail. --Josh Billings

He that lieth down with dogs, shall rise up with fleas. --Ben Franklin



Trial Results



2005 Massachusetts Sheep & Woolcraft Fair SDT, Cummington, MA, May 27-29

Friday Ranch (13 dogs ran)

1 Carol Champion*	Eve	73
2 Chris Bowen	Jake	64
3 Sally Lacy	Mot	63
4 Cheryl Williams	Toby	62
5 Eric Johnson	Faith	59
6 Dick Williams	Mirk	59
7 Walt Jagger	Floss	58
8 Susan Allen	Lexie	54
9 Molly King	Storm	52
10 Joan McGrath	Amos	47

Friday ProNovice (28 dogs ran)

1 Carol Champion*	Jess	65
2 Cheryl Williams	Maddie	62
3 Walt Jagger	Sam	57
4 Peter VanderCar	Russ	54
5 Bernie Armata	Moss	51
6 Barbara Leverett	Sonni	47
7 Cheryl Williams	Shep	47
8 David Lewis	AJ	47
9 Elizabeth Phillips	Vicky	44
10 Eunice Lucas	Pela	44

Friday Novice (16 dogs ran)

1 Mary-Anne Fallon	Jade	69
2 Terri Clingerman*	Rhys	64
3 Vera Dragunas	Pete	57
4 Carolyn West	Jill	54
5 Valerie Pietraszewska	Leaf	52
6 Linda Hotchkiss	Moss	51
7 Joanne Krause	Lucy	50
8 Lois Urda	Kasi	49
9 Wendy Warner	Jayne	42
10 Heidi Fuge	Jay	35

Friday Nursery (11 dogs ran)

1 Cheryl Williams	Toby	77
2 Dick Williams	Mirk	74

Saturday Open (71 dogs ran)

1 Warren Mick*	Glen	78
2 Denise Leonard	Jessie	77
3 Ed Hobart	Bonnie	74
4 Cheryl Williams	Andy	73
5 Warren Mick	Kess	70
6 Cheryl Williams	Fly	68
7 Roger Deschambeault	Trim	68

8 Barb Armata	Rhett	64
9 Denise Leonard	Kate	64
10 Roger Deschambeault	Ken	60
11 Maria Mick	Jim	60
12 Rich Seaman	Zoe	57
13 Dick Williams	Scott	5614
Roger Millen	Nap	52

Sunday Open (66 dogs ran)

1 Peter VanderCar	Bud	94
2 Steve Wetmore*	Dart	89
3 Warren Mick	Glen	89
4 Sue Schoen	Nap	85
5 Roger Deschambeault	Ken	82
6 Rich Seaman	Zoe	79
7 Peter VanderCar	Katie	78
8 Cheryl Williams	Andy	76
9 Barbara Levinson	Lass	76
10 Walt Jagger	Bob	75
11 Cheryl Williams	Fly	74
12 Sally Molloy	Paige	74
13 Sally Lacy	Robin	73

* Long Road Award Winners



ABCA News: CEA DNA Test, Step by Step

If you decide to have a dog DNA tested for the CEA gene, it is a good idea to inform yourself by reading about CEA/CH disease and the new gene test for it on the Optigen web site, including the "message from Dr. Acland."

To do this, go to: www.optigen.com

Request Test: (in red menu bar)

print "tips for a successful online entry" - 19 steps to take for an online entry will be listed. When you Request Test, be ready with dog registration numbers which will identify the dogs to the veterinarian and Optigen, chip or tattoo ID if dog has it (required only for unregistered puppies), approximate dates of last eye tests and name of ophthalmologist, decide on your payment method, decide how you want the results sent to you (mail, email, or fax). Then make your test requests online, print them out and get confirmation from Optigen. Take these with you to the vet.

Ship Samples: (in red menu bar) Print this and take with you to your vet. This has all the information the veterinarian or vet tech will need for drawing the sample and shipping it to Optigen in Ithaca, NY.

Results: You will receive a report from Optigen in about two weeks by the method you choose, fax, email, or letter, telling you if the DNA status of your dog is Normal, Carrier, or Affected. Optigen will say that a Normal dog can be bred to any other dog without producing affected puppies or that a Carrier or Affected bred to a Normal dog will not producing affected puppies. This is genetically correct, but ABCA's policy still precludes registering offspring of Affected dogs.

Confidentiality: Optigen will not disclose the results to anyone but the owner listed on the application. Although quarterly summaries will be disclosed for all Border Collies tested in that quarter, no agreement has been made between Optigen and ABCA or any other Border Collie breed club to disclose individual dog results.

Discounts:

Regular price - \$180/dog.

You can get 20% off for participating in a 20/20 clinic (\$144/dog)

and another 5% off for submitting Test Request online (\$135/dog) You can print out and mail in a request, but you won't get this extra 5% discount.

(Continued on page 14)

ABCA News: CEA DNA Test, Step by Step

(Continued from page 13)

Participate in any 20/20 satellite clinic listed on Optigen's web site. It does not have to be a Border Collie CEA clinic. Find the listing by clicking on the link on the Optigen home page to [view the calendar of 20/20 clinics](#) (yellow side bar on homepage)

To participate in a 20/20 you need to do three things:

1. contact becky@optigen.com and ask for the clinic code for the satellite 20/20 you want to participate in.
2. submit your Test Request within a time frame of 20 days before the date up to the date listed for the clinic.
3. make sure the blood sample drawn by your own vet or vet tech is packaged according to Optigen instructions and sent so that it arrives in Ithaca during the week following the 20/20 clinic (except when it is a week-long satellite clinic). It must arrive before the weekend. Samples shipped from outside the USA need labels for customs. Go to the end of Ship Samples (on red menu bar) for instructions. Becky Iddings will answer any remaining questions. becky@optigen.com

How to set up a 20/20 clinic:

Holding breed-specific or satellite 20/20 clinics provides more

opportunities for testing the DNA status of breeding dogs. If you would like to add this service to a trial or meeting, first familiarize yourself with the Optigen web site at www.optigen.com Write becky@optigen.com to tell her the date for your clinic. Decide if you want it a private clinic only for dogs brought to the clinic or a satellite clinic in which anybody may participate using your clinic code number. Tell Becky which you want. She will issue you a clinic code and, if you decide on "satellite," she will announce this fact on Optigen's Calendar of 20/20 Clinics.

20/20 clinic web page. The code must be inserted in the Request Test form where participants request the DNA test to obtain the 20% discount.

Find a licensed veterinarian or vet tech who will officiate at the clinic. You can plan to schedule a dog every 10 minutes. Print out the information contained in the Ship Sample section on the Optigen web site. This will tell the organizer and the veterinarian what is needed for the blood draw, the packaging and cooling and shipping.

Advertise the clinic: Email likely people. If in conjunction with a trial, put it on the entry form. Announce it on Sheep-

(Continued on page 17)



MA Sheep & Wool SDT (Cummington)
Novice winners:

Novice : Mary Ann Fallon & Jade (Left)

ProNovice & Ranch:
Carol Campion with Jess (PN) and Eve
(Ranch)

For complete results, go to page 13.



Margaret Nielson Helburn

By Betty Levin

Margaret Helburn died early this morning, May 23, 2005. She was ninety-two. She was someone only a few of us in NEBCA may remember but all of us should know about.

When I was (I think) eleven I spent part of an extended Christmas vacation with her on her farm in West Stockbridge, Massachusetts. There I met her two working Border Collies, Cobby and Jill. I had grown up knowing how to send our neighbor's farm collie off to fetch the cows for milking, but I discovered a whole new dimension in dog work with Margaret. The dogs helped manage her herd of beef cattle and her pigs, although I can recall Margaret's amazing rapport with Susan, the matriarch sow, who always obeyed Margaret's soft-spoken commands. Not so the piglets. Cobby kept them in line.

After Margaret graduated from Ag School she spent a year on an experimental farm in England. When she came home, she brought Cobby with her. Later she bought Jill from, I believe, John Ainslie in Canada. This was at a time (before World War II) when Border Collies were virtually unknown around here and breeders few and far between.

Margaret gave me my first Border Collie pup when I was just twelve. Many years later, when her beef farm was no more and she was married with three children and living in Lexington, she and I joined forces as friends and eventually as neighbors. Her new generation of Border Collies had less farm work to do, but were still a part of her life. For years we helped each other with baby sitting, fencing, milking, kid transportation, pasture rotation - you name it. She was as indefatigable as she was strong. Her husband said that he knew he had to marry her when he saw her carrying two 100 lb. bags of grain, one over each shoulder. And Steve Wetmore can attest to her climbing energy when her 80th birthday celebration was held on the summit of Black Mountain.

For many years she boarded horses, bred some, and schooled them. Although she was a 4-H leader in our town of Lincoln,

she herself never competed in a horse show or a sheep dog trial. Yet she attended shows and trials and was often so attentive and discerning that she could have judged them. She had the respect of everyone for her remarkable ability with animals. Whatever the situation, however dicey, I don't think I ever heard her raise her voice in anger at horse, cow, pig, or sheep dog.

When her children were grown, she and her husband separated and she moved upcountry. It was during this time that Denise Leonard (with her dog, Kirk) lived with her for a while. That was in the house Margaret heated with wood she herself cut and hauled with oxen. She raised and trained three teams, only selling them when they grew too big for her to yoke, and then starting over with the next pair of bob calves.

She found Alex McKinven and had wonderful visits with him and bought one of her most beloved dogs from him. Through the years we traded off, supplying each other with pups when needed. Her last dog, Jenny, her companion on long walks and snowshoeing and quiet winter nights, understood almost every single word Margaret spoke.

When she finally moved into a small retirement home, it took great courage for her to decide to give up Jenny. She thought about what it would be like to keep her in a fairly confined environment, and then she asked for help placing her. Jenny went to live with a young family I knew, and Margaret, who at first could still visit me, came several times and then took Jenny on walks, easing the separation for both of them.

Margaret was one of a kind - modest, generous, independent, full of enthusiasm for her many commitments, and steadfast in her stewardship of all animals in her care. Those of us fortunate to have been her friends know that her reintroduction of Border Collies into New England and her unassuming determination to farm on her own terms made a lasting difference for everyone to follow.



NEBCA competitors! Take photos at your next trial and send to the Editor at: creeksidefarm@sympatico.ca

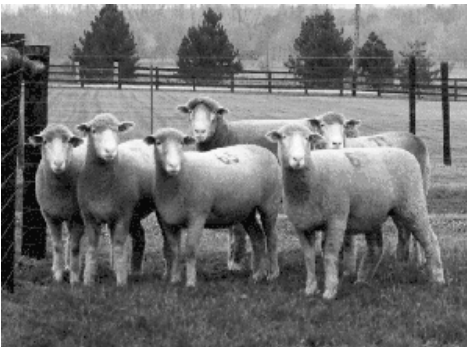
Or by snail mail to: Fiona Robertson, 4565 Rte 108, Canton de Hatley, QC J0B 2C0, Canada

Please include a self addressed, stamped (US postage is fine, I cross the border weekly!) envelope if you want the pictures returned.

What Type of Sheep Are Best?

By Barbara Armata

There are questions you should ask yourself before you chose a certain type of sheep. What level of training are you and your dog at? What specific training needs does your dog require? What facilities do you have? What are your goals for you and your dog? Are the sheep strictly for working dogs or being used for wool or meat?



Dorsets

Bernie and I started with nine cross-bred Dorsets when we came across some Montadale sheep. We really liked this breed and envisioned a nice uniform flock of Montadales. We were raising lambs for market; producing an ideal type of meat lamb from this breed. As we moved from the NN to PN to Ranch, the type of sheep we were seeing on the trial field was changing. Katahdins were becoming a common sight. That's when we realized our dogs had no idea [nor us] how to handle this type of sheep. Our needs changed so we started



Montadale Ewe

adding different types of working sheep to our flock.

In this article, I will describe the breeds I have been in contact with, their characteristics and how I incorporate this into training. Remember these are generalizations and not true for all sheep of a specific breed. A lot depends on how the sheep have been raised, handled and their treatment by dogs.

The best breed, in my opinion, for starting dogs is the Dorset or Dorset cross. This breed's not very large, tends to be more complacent; therefore, will become "dogged" relatively quickly. Young dogs need quiet, agreeable sheep that will build confidence. This type will also help the Novice handler, as they will give them time to think about what is needed by them in directing the dog.

When looking for "dog broke" sheep, it's best to enquire around at dog trials. If



Provided by Katahdin Hair Sheep International

Katahdins

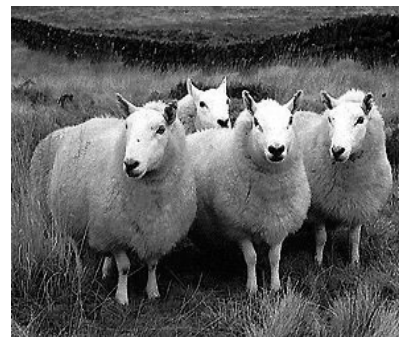
you go to a sheep farm, their opinion of "dog broke" may be a dog has moved the sheep around, most likely, as a large group. That's a big difference from sheep as I described above!

Katahdins have become an extremely popular breed because they don't require shearing. Unless you have a wool breed and process the fiber, shearing is an added expense with no benefit. This breed tends to be higher headed; their faces narrower with the eyes set more to the side of the face. A dog has to be subtler in its movements, especially when changing direction. The dog does not need to come up towards the head as much to produce a reaction.

Katahdins may run but are not neces-

sarily skittish. I like to use Katahdins to teach driving as they move forward in a straighter path without having to be pushed. As the dog gains confidence, I will switch to a heavier breed to teach more push in the drive.

Cheviots and Montadales are similar in their way of acting. Montadales are Cheviots crossed with Columbias. They



Cheviots

can be squirrely like Cheviots only a bigger and maybe slower. These sheep will also test dogs if there is any weakness perceived, but most will bolt rather than stand. This will teach a dog not to push too hard, yet, be ready to cover if the sheep do try to get away. Another aspect is that your dog will learn it's ok if the sheep run while driving; that it is possible to drive in high gear! Not ideal of



Columbia

course, but sometimes driving at some trials you need the "sling shot" method to make the panels!

A breed I've taken a liking to is the Scottish Blackface. Scotties are not very big but make up for that in boldness. I've found they rarely do anything stupid to themselves [such as crash

(Continued on page 17)

What Type of Sheep Are Best?

(Continued from page 16)

fences!]. Scotties as a breed do not have a strong flocking instinct. When used as a group, they will teach a dog to watch each one, not just the lead sheep. The dog will also learn how to push when driving, not just follow. This breed is the quickest at figuring out if a dog has any weakness. A dog can build toughness, with the handler's help, by dealing with these sheep.

These have been my experiences. I have not dealt with many wool breeds, nor have I been out west on range sheep. Hopefully, someone who has will write about his or her experiences.



Right: Scottish Blackface



provided by British Wool Marketing Board

ABCA News: CEA DNA Test, Step by Step

(Continued from page 14)

dog-L at least twice. Tell people to submit Test Request between 20 and 0 days before the blood draw.

On site you will need a chilled cooler, a sturdy table, 1 large and 1 small ziplock bag per dog, roll of paper towels, sticky labels and permanent marking pens, regular pens for signatures, and one helper who will affix labels to the sample tubes and bags and obtain signatures. The vet/vet tech brings the syringes and EDTA anti-coagulant tubes. It is essential to label tubes immediately with names of owner & dog to assure that there is no mix-up between dogs. The veterinarian and the owner must sign that the dog is as presented. Put the completed paper work and the small baggie containing the labeled sample and 2 paper towels inside a large baggie and labeled this one again. This is placed in a chilled cooler. All this information is under the Ship Sample section mentioned above. It is helpful to have a couple of copies at hand for reference.

The whole blood may be kept chilled up to three days before shipping to Optigen, but make sure the samples arrive in Ithaca before the next weekend. They must not sit in a FedEx warehouse over a weekend. Some people may want blood drawn by their own vet and brought to the onsite clinic. This is fine if done only a day or two ahead of time and samples are kept chilled and all paper work is in order.

Print out a few forms for mailed-in test requests so that walk-ins may participate to get the 20% discount (but not the extra 5% afforded to online requests). This form is found on the Test Request section below the online test request.

The ABCA will help defray the costs of a blood-drawing CEA/CH clinic in 2005.

Anyone who wants to set up a CEA DNA clinic for traditional working Border Collie people may apply for a grant. Obviously, the dogs are, or will be, registered with the ABCA or one of the acceptable parent Border Collie registries.

If a dog is unregistered, it must have either a tattoo or microchip ID. Otherwise the registration number suffices for its permanent ID.

A CEA clinic organizer may apply to Sally Lacy for a grant (smlacy@verizon.net). After it is authorized, the grant may be applied on a \$10-per-dog basis, plus costs of the medical supplies and shipping costs. When the costs are known, the clinic organizer will submit an itemized bill for the ABCA through Sally Lacy.

The ABCA will not receive any results from Optigen. It does not keep a registry of results, not even a voluntarily submitted one. We trust people to continue to breed the best working dogs possible, but hope they use the DNA test in choosing among the 97+% of the dog population that is Normal or Carrier so they will not produce Affected pups and will reduce the incidence of CEA in the breed.

**Submitted by Sally Lacy, Chairman
ABCA Health & Genetics Committee**



**NEXT ISSUE OF THE NEBCA NEWS WILL BE THE SUMMER SUPPLEMENT
TRIAL MANAGERS: GET YOUR TRIAL RESULTS AND PHOTOS IN BY JULY 1st!**

Please send your articles, and other content for the Fall issue by AUGUST 1st.

Blast from the Past

May 5: Cooperlane Farm Novice Trial, Shelburn Falls, MA. Starts at 10:00 AM. Classes will include Novice/Novice--inexperienced handler with inexperienced dog--and Semi-Novice/Semi-Novice--not too experienced a handler with a dog that has never placed in an open trial. For information contact Edsar Gould, Cooperlane Farm, Shelburn Falls, MA, 01370, 413-625-6496.

THE NEBCA CHAMPIONSHIP TRIAL

The NEBCA Championship Trial was held on Monday, October 10th at Coolidge Farm in Topsfield, Mass. This is one of the most lovely settings for a trial in New England. The course is run over rough terrain, with the handler, judge and audience on a windy hill overlooking the Ipswich River, and the sheep dropped off 250 yards away on another hill, with the valley between.

Entry to the Trial is based on number of points earned in eleven open trials in the Northeast throughout the season by NEBCA dogs. Points are assigned by NEBCA to the top NEBCA dogs in each trial and are cumulative. This year, the top twelve dogs ran in the Championship and were, according to accumulated points:

Vergil Holland with Robin	47 points
Walt Jagger with Floss	38
Morris MacGregor, Rob Roy	34
Vergil Holland with Sugar	33
Dayle Hamilton with Jenny	33
Walt Jagger with Dot	29
Alex McKinven with Rob	26
Roger Deschambealt with Daisy	20
Roger Deschambealt with Lady	19
Betty Levin with Tyne	16
Cheryl Jagger with Freckles	15
Walt Jagger with Perky	14

[*Note, these are accumulated seasonal points, not scores in the Championship or any other trials.] continued on next page

Above: From the Trial Listings in the NEBCA News, February 1985

Oh, let's bring back the "Semi-Novice" Class! (And add a "Semi-Open class"..?)

Left: Back in 1983, dogs with names like "Perky", "Freckles" and "Sugar" were still allowed to play the Border Collie Games...



Editor's note: the above statements are meant as humor and are not meant to offend anyone personally!

Photo at Right (April 2005):

David Argue and Cait get some tips from Derek Scrimgeour at a recent clinic.



Help for Herding “Dropouts”

By Fiona Robertson

Let's face it, puppies are a crap shoot. True, carefully selecting working bloodlines help, (and being a good trainer helps even more!) but even two National Champions won't necessarily produce another.

So what do you do if you purchased or bred a pup with a terrific pedigree, yet won't make the trial dog you had hoped for; or worse, won't herd sheep at all?

There are several options for people who wish the dog to continue enjoying an active life doing some kind of “job”. It goes without saying, however, that if the dog simply lacks the finesse required for trials, but would make a good farm dog, then every effort should be secured to ensure the dog gets to do what it was bred to do. In the case where the dog has no real ability to do the sheep thing, you can either place or sell the dog to a home that will enjoy training and working him in a new sport, or, for the brave, take up the new activity yourself! Even the most sheep brain dead Border Collies can enjoy or even excel at any of the following activities.

Thanks to the Ottawa Valley Border Collie Club for providing many of the photos.

Agility: Border Collies excel at agility due to their natural athleticism and their drive to do something, and do it fast!



My rescue BC, Blaze (shown left) gets absolutely NO respect from the sheep, yet is enjoying success in the agility ring.

Flyball: Ball nuts & barkers are in their element here. Intense focus and speed is required for Flyball, which characterizes many Border Collies, even the sheep dunces!

If you have even been to watch a Flyball tournament, it is thrilling, but bring your earplugs...The dogs are so over the top they are actually screaming with excitement (Hmm, what to do with that barking BC?)



Tracking / Search & Rescue: Again, the work ethic, agility and

high trainability of BC's make them a good choice as search and rescue dogs.



Competitive Obedience and Freestyle: High trainability makes the BC a choice of many of the top handlers. While some people find obedience boring, the good trainers make it look so fun for the dog. There are also options such as “Rally



Obedience” that is not a practiced “routine”. For the flamboyant types, there is Canine Freestyle, where you perform your own routine to music. Competitors are encouraged to dress in costume. Hmm, I can just imagine some of our more serious NEBCA Open Handlers dressed in a cowboy costume and dancing with their dog. Actually, we see a lot of Cowboy costumes in Sheepdog Trialing already!

Skijoring / Dogsledding: Hardiness and the love to run have allowed the BC to break into the world of dog sled racing. I'm not talking the Iditarod, here, but we have many all-BC teams racing locally.



There are other sports as well, including **Frisbee / Disc Dog** competitions, **Dock Diving Trials** (the current world record dock dive is held by a Border Collie!). The point is, most BC's, even if they “can't work” sheep, need to be kept busy mentally as well as physically. So think about the life you want for your “herding dropout”. Of course, there are lots of people breeding Border Collies solely for these new dogsports, but that's another can of worms!



BREEDER'S DIRECTORY

This listing of breeders of Border Collies is for informational purposes only and in no way represents an endorsement of these breeders by the Northeast Border Collie Association. When making inquiries for purchasing a pup, NEBCA strongly recommends selecting from sound, proven, working stock. We suggest you see both parents work. If you are not able to see the parents working at the farm, do attend the trials and see them working there. Watch for trial results and seek the advice of experienced handlers. *Not all breeders listed here are handlers.

Barbara & Bernie Armata
Taravale Farm
1165 Esperance Road
Esperance, NY 12066
518-875-6471
taffaway@aol.com

Carol & Larry Campion
Bittersweet Farm
109 Hammond Hill
Hampton, CT 06247
(860) 455-9416
carcampion@yahoo.com

Gwen Cassel and Roy Baker
O'Brae at Partridge Hill
PO Box 94
Barneveld, NY 13304
(315) 896-4473
obrae@norwich.net

Kate Collins & George Northrup
Aurora Ranch
PO Box 119, Taft Hill Road
Royalston, MA 01368
(978) 249-4407
george01368@yahoo.com

Lynn Deschambeault
Merlynn Kennels
342 Hio Ridge Road
Denmark, ME 04022
(207) 452-2898
merlynn@pivot.net

Joyce Geier
Sand Creek Farm
PO Box 208
Mendon, NY 14506
(585) 624-8230
joyce@sandcreekfarm.com

Lori Ellen Goodman
Gypsy G's Kennels
1545 Boston Neck Rd.
Saunderstown, RI 02874
401-294-7816
leg100455@cox.net

Beverly Lambert
Sheepswood Farm
280 Hebron Road
Andover, CT 06232
860-742-5300
www.beverlylambert.com

Betty Levin
16 Old Winter Street
Lincoln, MA 01773
(781) 259-8799
bettylevin@earthlink.net

Eve Marschark
Ivyrose Farm, Box 397
3118 Farm School Road
Bedminister, PA 18910
(215) 795-2023
spin@fast.net

Alex McKinven
Cessnock Farm
RR 1 26 University Road
N. Hatley, QC JOB 2C0
Canada
(819) 842-2975

Edwin & Gabrielle Merrill
Misty Lane Border Collies
68 Misty Lane
Brownfield, ME 04010
(207) 935-2520
gabe@pivot.net

Warren & Maria Mick
750 Meadowdale Road
Altamont, NY 12009
(518) 861-5854
mickwa@capital.net

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

Steve Wetmore
Spring Valley Farm, Box 54
Strafford, VT 05072
(802) 765-4466
swwet@valley.net

Richard & Cheryl Williams
Culleymont Farm
RR 1, Box 1374
Hop Bottom, PA 18824
(570) 289-4733
culleymont@epix.net

***Got pups? Advertise your
litter in NEBCA classi-
fieds!***

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