



## Jet: A Cautionary Tale

by Carol Campion

Jet. He was born on July 23, 2010. Who would know that his little life would be so difficult?

His early weeks were as normal as any puppy. He was born into a litter of five who were reared by a mother that took good care of them. They reached 8 weeks and off went the siblings to their new homes. Jet was a happy guy. He would sit on the front deck with his toys in the October sun and observe his world.

Jet's life took a new twist at 13 weeks of age. He was out on the front deck. I heard him screeching and when I found him, he was under the deck. He looked as though he was stuck since the base of the deck was pretty close to the ground. I started to pull him out and he screamed more. After some careful pulling, I retrieved him from under the porch only to find he was very lame on his back left leg and would scream if it was touched. I brought him in and put him on a mat. It was clear he had a fairly serious injury and I assumed he had broken something.



*Jet as a very young pup*

The vet could see him ASAP so I called a friend to drive us because I couldn't put him in a crate without jarring him with the subsequent screaming. If I held him in a certain position he would settle and didn't hurt. A normally happy uncomplaining puppy, it was clear he was in pain.

The trip to the vet confirmed that Jet had a "green stick fracture", not uncommon in puppies. It is called "green stick" because puppies' bones break like a green piece of wood when broken. Luckily it was not a complicated break. He was kept overnight and his leg was set in a cast and he came home the next day.

He was a trouper and quickly adapted to his new addition. He learned to pick it up and could get around and lie down easily. Because puppies are growing so fast, he was to come back in 10 days to have it changed. This was important so that the cast could be changed to encompass any growing his bones did.

By now, he was used to life with a cast. content to be walked on a leash and happy to have a chance to go see his friends at the vet. He treated them like old friends and so the change of cast didn't alter his view of the world. X-rays showed the break was healing very well. His next appointment was in two weeks to have the cast removed.

After about a week, I noticed he wasn't placing his weight quite the same as he had been when he used that leg. He held it up in a different position when he hobbled along on it. But it was when he would sleep with it tucked over his head that I became worried. I called the vet asking to bring him in early to have it checked. He cried when you touched it. In a bold move that night, Larry and I cut a lot of the vet wrap away. You could see a small sore under the cast near his foot. I was away the next morning and Larry was to take him in to the vet, but before they left to go, he went ahead and took most of the vet wrap off and as suspected, Jet had some big pressure sores where the cast had gotten too small and was rubbing.

Jet spent another 3 days at the vet. He had many very serious pressure sores and wasn't using his leg at all then he walked. The vet was concerned that there was serious damage. After a day or so he began putting weight on it and on the

## The Northeast Border Collie Association's Mission

... IS TO PROMOTE AND PROTECT THE BORDER COLLIE AS A WORKING STOCK DOG THROUGH THE SANCTIONING AND REGULATION OF COMPETITIVE HERDING TRIALS BY PROVIDING INFORMATION ON TRAINING, HEALTH AND BREEDING.

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## CONTENTS

<b>Jet: A Cautionary Tale</b> . . . . .	1, 4-6
<b>From the President</b> . . . . .	3
<b>Novice Finals</b> . . . . .	6
<b>Long Shot April Results</b> . . . . .	7
<b>NEBCA Trial Schedule</b> . . . . .	8, 11
<b>Old Barns, Hungry Sheep and One Crazy Dog</b> . . . . .	9-10
<b>Sheep Farming in Quebec</b> . . . . .	12-13
<b>Eye Exams for CEA and PRA</b> . . . . .	14-15
<b>2011 Breeder's Directory</b> . . . . .	16



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## From the President

I am sure you have heard it one too many times, but I have to say again, “Thank God winter is over!”

As I type, it is sunny and unseasonably warm—68°. It is hard to believe that a month ago we still had two feet of snow on the ground. This is the most snowfall I have ever experienced during a winter since living at Bittersweet. And the ice! The snow was so high that when the ice crusts formed, the dogs could just walk anywhere off the property that they wished. Luckily, the sheep had no desire to. It would have been just as easy for them!

I would like to formally thank the past committee and board members for their commitment to keeping the club alive and vibrant. We have a new slate of officers and committee members who are learning the ropes and doing their best to keep up the good work of their predecessors. There are enthusiastic plans underway for both the Fall Foliage and Novice Championship this season. Watch for news and information as it develops!

You might notice a new look to the Newsletter! Joe Evans retired from newsletter editor with the last issue. He put his own stamp of quality and humor on each newsletter and he will be terribly missed.

### Looking forward:

We do have a new newsletter team! Jim Allen and Molly King will be working together to keep the quality and efficiency of the newsletter high. Both have done this type of work in their professional lives and they bring a lot of talent to the task. As always, articles and trial reports are always welcome. Please contact either of them if you have either some ideas for what you would like to see or if you have photographs or articles to submit.

I have heard many folks saying they will spend more time at home this summer, but it hasn't seemed to dampen the dog trial enthusiasts. Fuel prices are high and expected to go higher, but there are wait lists at every trial so far. A word to the wise—get your trial entries in early! The listings on the NEBCA site were misread by a few handlers and a number of disappointed people will be wait-listed at some trials. . The opening date is listed on the entry form itself, not anywhere on the NEBCA site. The link to the entry is in the left hand column. Be sure to look there and plan ahead.

The beginning of the season is always fun and I imagine it will be even more meaningful this year due to the long snowy winter. Good luck to all this season. It is exciting to watch the new young dogs make their debuts and see them develop over the season. This year will be no exception. See you all at a trial.

Carol



third day, the vet reluctantly called to say he could come home. (She told me later she was hoping she could keep him there longer—like forever! They all had become so attached to him and his good nature in the past (continued on p. 4) (Continued from page 1)

past few weeks.)

So Jet once again returned home—cast-less, if there is such a word. He still needed to be leash walked and needed to build muscle mass in the much atrophied leg while keeping an eye on the pressure sores, some of which were quite deep. All through these events Jet remained a happy puppy. He was allowed periods out of a crate and loved being outdoors. It became a lot less work for us since he no longer needed a plastic bag put on his leg before he could go outdoors, but outdoors the leash was still necessary.

His progress moved quickly forward with a subsequent vet visit to update his progress. He was healing well, pressure sores healed though scars remained, and he was allowed off leash for periods outdoors.

He loved being outside. He had become so patterned to going out a coming directly in that once off leash, he was easy to recall. By December 10th I was able to send him to exercise without having to go with him. It was a big moment for him. I could let him out for some exercise and call him in after a few minutes. Freedom! For both of us!

On December 13 Jet's world changed again—as did mine. Not for the better.

In early December, Larry and I sat at the kitchen table and watched a raccoon try to enter our driveway from the road. He ambled down and reached the gate—he couldn't get in so turned and continued on up the street. It was afternoon and we thought it odd, but we had seen a raccoon in the spring scouting around in our shed looking for cat food, so thought that might be him and thought no more. Two days later a neighbor called and said a suspect rabid raccoon was attacking a car in the cemetery yard in the ancient cemetery that borders the east side of our farm. We went on high alert and kept all cat food in and put up electronet around our sheep. Then, the weather turned abruptly cold. We were relieved, as raccoons do not venture out in that kind of cold. They do not actually hibernate, but do den up and slow down and lie low.

The weather shifted on Sunday, December 12th, and we had an unseasonably warm day with heavy rain. I awoke Monday morning and let my two younger 13-week-old puppies out to relieve themselves. It was still dark. Foggy and dark. My LGDs were all very upset and all barking. Their barking was unusual at that time of day. The pups, Ben & Star, immediately returned to the door to come in to eat. I crated them and stood in the doorway while I let Jet out. I was at the door with it open. I called Jet and as he came back up the step towards me, a large raccoon jumped from my right onto the step and met Jet face to face. They were a foot apart. The raccoon 6 inches from me as it passed in front of me. Luckily Jet had good instincts and growled and ran off—the raccoon after him. I yelled for Larry and ran to the front of the house to call Jet in at the front door.

We knew what raccoon this was. I was in a panic. We couldn't see in the dark what happened once Jet and the raccoon ran around the outside of the house but heard no yelping or barking or cries. Jet flew into the house, very frightened and ran into his crate. I said to Larry, who had gotten his shotgun, not to touch Jet. Larry went out looking for the raccoon while I called DEP. Again, luck was with us. A neighbor is a DEP agent and came over immediately. He and Larry found the raccoon still on our property and shot him. The agent said he was pretty sure by the way he was acting that he had rabies. I hoped for the better.

Many scenarios passed through our heads that day while we awaited the results assuming they would be negative. We did not want to have to think of the consequences if the raccoon was rabid. What would become of Jet who had already endured so much in his four-and-a-half months of life? Neither he nor the 13-week-old puppies that had been out moments before Jet met the raccoon had been vaccinated for rabies yet.

The call came the next day. Positive. That was all. It was left to us to decide our next move. The DEP officer had told us the day before that because there had been no "exposure" there was no need to do anything. In my mind, Jet meeting the raccoon was "exposure" due to the meeting in the porch and because there were about 5 minutes where he and the raccoon were not in our sight, we decided we had best take precautions.

This is where my education with rabies began. I called a friend and fellow handler, Pat Hammel Murphy. She is an emer-

gency room doctor on the Cape in her private life. I spoke to a friend and vet, Eileen Wilentz, and received important information from her. They both forwarded me a lot of information on rabies and what is considered an exposure and how to handle a situation like ours. I went online to the CDC and the WHO to see what facts I could find about rabies. Jet had no cuts or saliva on him that I could find.

From the moment the incident occurred, we wore gloves when handling Jet just to be safe. I had given him a bath that morning after the meeting with the raccoon but the question of what happened when the two puppies were out before Jet met the raccoon and what happened with Jet in that 5 minutes unsupervised was a mystery. After speaking to my vet and our family doctor and reading reports from the CDC, it was advised that Jet and the two younger puppies be quarantined for 6 weeks just to be safe. And it was advised that Larry and I each get a series of rabies shots to protect us from the future risk now clearly shown on our property.

Our first move was to vaccinate the puppies and the sheep. The puppies were 13 weeks and very young for this, but we had no choice. Most states require that any dog/cat over 12 weeks of age be vaccinated. Though there is a lot of resistance to this with worries about vaccinosis, given how much rabies is being reported, it is probably pretty important right now to keep your pets inside. For us, the threat of rabies was imminent—not from the raccoon that we shot, but from other animals that live around here and future threats. We have many foxes, skunks and raccoons around. Had the pups actually been exposed or bitten, the shots would have been of no value. Since we were fairly certain they had no exposure, we went ahead and vaccinated them to get their antibodies built.

So when others were getting ready for the Christmas holiday, Larry & I were consumed with rabies. Jet and the two younger pups were all crated or kenneled for 6 weeks. The two younger were separated from Jet. They were not allowed loose in the house and when fed or handled we wore gloves. The little pups had one another, but Jet had no one. I took Jet on long walks each morning to give him a bigger world than his crate and we dealt with the isolation as best as we could. We were worried about the lack of socialization, but felt we had no choice.

Jet took it all in stride. He never complained. He was used to sitting and waiting for a leash to be put on him. Once in the field he was allowed to run, but I had to be vigilant that he not get near the sheep or guard dogs because he was still being quarantined. Ben and Star had each other for company.

It is spring now. By early February, we were buried in snow. But Jet and Ben and Star finally had their freedom. They got to be kenneled together and actually play together. Jet could again sit on Larry's lap in the rocker by the wood stove. And be petted! And we could go about caring for them without wearing gloves!

There have been more reports of raccoon sightings here in the valley. We are ready. All of us have had shots and we are careful. The threat was pretty much gone in the snowiest part of the winter when the wild world was asleep, but now that it has warmed up, we are certain there will be more. Maybe not on our doorstep, but in our valley.

This was a very disturbing and scary experience. I don't remember ever being frightened to the degree I was when that raccoon jumped up on my porch. I knew the implications. I know a lot more now about rabies and want to urge you'll to make sure your dogs, cat, sheep, goats, horses and other livestock are up to date on their vaccinations. If Jet had been bitten, because he hadn't been vaccinated, he would have been put into a 6-month quarantine and most likely would have developed rabies and been destroyed. We probably would have had him destroyed that day knowing bitten unvaccinated animals do not survive rabies.

Rabies enters the body from saliva of an infected, shedding animal and can enter the body through open wounds, including cuts and bite wounds. Prevention from getting saliva into a cut by handling an animal that has fresh saliva on it is important. There is no definitive test for rabies other than evaluation of the brain or nervous tissue—requiring euthanasia of the animal.

The rabies virus is fairly fragile and does not last long outside of the host animal, but care should be taken in handling an animal that may have been exposed. Simple soap and hot water kills the virus so immediate washing of an animal that might have gotten saliva on it is imperative and effective.

The rabies virus travels along the nervous system until it reaches the brain. It is when it affects the brain that a type of inflammation of the brain occurs and we see symptoms usually associated with rabies. It is the "mad" stage that people as-



sociate rabies with. But they can be hosts before this stage is reached. Animals shed the virus in the late stages of the disease, usually within two weeks of showing signs (neurologic signs, changes in behavior, or death) which is why an animal that bites a person or another animal may be quarantined for two weeks rather than destroyed (eg if an owned unvaccinated dog bites someone, their owner can put the dog in quarantine rather than have it destroyed and its brain evaluated). Most animals do not live long once this point has been reached. But animals affected in the early winter who have not had the virus reach their brain may go into hibernation and awaken in the spring in a full fledged case affecting any other animals they have been dened up with over the winter. It takes varying periods of time for the virus to travel the nervous system. It depends on where you were bitten. A bite in the leg would take longer than a bit in the face or on the neck. Puppies and young animals are particularly susceptible because they have undeveloped immune systems. The disease would develop quickly in them.

Farm animals are different. They are considered a terminal reservoir for rabies because they don't bite other animals. But they can spread it but not by biting. They do not exhibit the symptoms we associate with the disease. They will often just get sick die. They may show some neurological symptoms, but not always. The problem for the farmer is that you may drench or hand treat a rabid sheep thinking it some other problem and have your hands in it's mouth. Were it rabies and you had cuts on your hands, you would have a strong exposure. So it is important that your farm animals be vaccinated.



Rabies comes in waves and infects a local wildlife population. The population dies off and rabies is not seen for years. It seems we are on an upswing. Rabies has been reported in most states in the north east.

Jet is now 9 months old. I guess we need not change his name to Job. He is still a happy-go-lucky guy and has been started on sheep. Ben and Star are the same. Star has gone to live in Vermont. You would never know any of this happened to them. Hopefully none of you will have an encounter like ours. It was scary at best. Or, if you do, please be prepared.

**Note:** According to the CT DEP Wildlife Division, raccoons, skunks and foxes are the highest risk animals for rabies. Woodchucks, bats, and domestic outdoor cats are also regularly reported and should be considered as potentially rabid if

## NOVICE FINALS ANNOUNCEMENT

The NEBCA Novice Finals will be held Saturday, September 3, and Sunday, September 4, at Peter VandeCar's High Point Farm. The date is earlier than usual, so please make a note of this change. The cutoff for obtaining points towards qualifying for the Final will be August 21, 2011. This includes the Novice events at Leatherstocking Sheep Dog Trial.

The Novice Trials Committee is profoundly grateful to Peter for hosting this event. Pat Canady's flock of wool ewes will be used for the trial. This will be a good competition and a fun time, and we hope to see you all there.

The Novice Trials Committee wishes everyone good running for this 2011 season.

*Kate Collins*

## LONG SHOT FARM SPRING TRIAL, APRIL 1-3

Again we had a great trial, and our thanks go out to all the people who helped with the trial to make it run smoothly, all the people who volunteered to scribe, Sandy Hornung, Carol Lockhart who handled all the paper work, Deb Crowder and Julie Poudrier who handled the sheep at the top. I want to thank our judge Vergil Holland for 3 days of judging and doing a great job. There are just too many names to mention but all the help is appreciated so thank you!

We had a silent auction to benefit a friend of mine whose dog has had a spinal injury. Thanks to Pam Gardner and Nancy Liptak for handling it for me. Also I want to say what a great bunch of people, so many of you sent things in and donated time, lessons you all have big hearts and thanks to your kind and generous things we raised \$1,320 for Nancy and her dog Nickie. *Sherry Smith*

### Open 1, 47 dogs

Mark Billadeau Peg 92  
Barb Levinson Ryn 89  
Peggy Wilkinson Liz 89  
Jeanine van der Merwe Pete 86  
Linda Tesdahl Ryan 85  
Eileen Stein Mac 85  
Polly Matzinger James 85  
Nancy Obernier Nick 84  
MichelleBrothers Snap 84  
Linda Tesdahl Juno 83  
Nursery 1, 8 dogs  
Barb Levinson Hemp 78  
Nancy Sharp Mercury 66

### Open 2, 47 dogs

Renee Billadeau Bette 95  
Linda Tesdahl Juno 94  
Mark Billadeau Peg 94  
Nancy Obernier Nick 92  
Dave Sharp Dol 90  
Jeanine van der Merwe Pete 90  
Robin French Bill 90  
Gwen LeFever Mirk 89  
Doug Brewer Taff 88  
Sue Asten Brook 88

### Ranch 1, 33 dogs

Fran Sharon Maid 79  
Barb Levinson Hemp 77

Sally Glei Sid 74  
Gene Sheninger Cap 74  
Nancy Sharp Mercury 73  
Nancy Simmons Moss 73  
Angie Herscher Rhyme72  
Gene Sheninger Sweet 71  
Chris Bowen Sam 71  
Fran Sharon Liz 71

### Ranch 2, 32 dogs

Gene Sheninger Sweet 88  
Sally Glei Sid 83  
Gwen LeFever Mirk 77  
Nancy Sharp Mercury 75  
Sherry Sheldon Chick 75  
Gene Sheninger Nick 74  
Fran Sharon Liz 73  
Barb Levinson Hemp 73  
Angie Herscher Rhyme 72  
Nancy Simmons Moss 72

### Pro Novice 1, 15 dogs

Pam Gardner Kelsea 72  
Robin French Zek 70  
Sally Glei Lena 67  
Doug Brewer Peg 64  
Ali Schiesl Mic  
Polly Matzinger Series 62  
Dal Kratzer Shane 60  
Pam Gardner Midge 54

Julie Poudrier Ranger 51  
Dal Kratzer Gordy 50

### Pro Novice 2, 14 dogs

Kate Ash Roxie 77  
Dal Kratzer Shane 72  
Gwen LeFever Soot 63  
Polly Matzinger Series 63  
Peggy Wilkinson Quinn 61  
Dal Kratzer Gordy 61  
Pam Gardner Midge 61  
Sally Glei Lena 57  
Pam Gardner Kelsea 56  
Julie Poudrier Ranger 48

### Nursery 1, 8 dogs

Barb Levinson Hemp 78  
Nancy Sharp Mercury 66

### Nursery 2 , 8 dogs

Chris Bowen Sam 87  
Barb Levinson Hemp 82

### Overall Open Champion

Mark Billadeau Peg

### Overall Ranch Champion

Gene Sheninger Sweet

### Overall Pro Novice Champion

Dal Kratzer Shane



Gwen Le Fever's Mirk at the NEBCA Novice Finals 2010

## LONG SHOT FARM WINTER TRIAL SERIES CHAMPIONS

Sherry and Dave Smith sponsored three trials over the winter at their Long Shot Farm in Church Hill on Maryland's Eastern Shore. Dave Sharp and Dol were Open champions and Jim Allen and Nick were Ranch champions.



*Dol (photo by Lynn Roberts)*



*Nick (photo by ja)*

## NEBCA TRIAL SCHEDULE, JUNE-NOVEMBER 2011

Jun 3-5

### **Nearfield Farm SDT**

Center Conway, NH  
One Novice, Two Open Trials  
Three USBCHA Nursery  
USBCHA/NEBCA  
Roger Deschambeault  
603-939-2255

June 11-12

### **Swaledale Benefit SDT**

Blackstock, ON  
All Classes  
USBCHA/NEBCA  
Andrea de Kenedy  
647 977-9911

Jun 12-13

### **Fetch Gate Farm Spring Nursery Trials**

Cortland, NY  
USBCHA Nursery Trials  
USBCHA  
Roger & Heather Millen  
607-835-6584

Jun 17-21

### **PA State Championship SDT**

Sheepy Hollow Farm  
Hop Bottom, PA  
2 Novice, Open, 3 USBCHA Nursery

USBCHA/NEBCA

Cheryl Jagger-Williams  
570-289-4733

Jun 25-26

### **High Point Farm SDT**

High Point Farm  
Knox, NY  
Two Novice & USBCHA Nursery  
USBCHA/NEBCA  
Peter VanDerCar  
518-482-2625  
518-895-2585

Jul 2-4

### **Cascade Farm SDT**

370 Pettyboro Road, Bath, NH  
Three Novice & Open Trials  
USBCHA/NEBCA  
Mary Ames  
603-838-6341

Jul 2-5

### **Fetch Gate Farm SDT**

Cortland, NY  
Two Open, Novice  
& USBCHA Nursery  
USBCHA/NEBCA  
Roger & Heather Millen  
607-835-6584

Jul 7

### **Ossipee Valley Fair SDT**

South Hiram, ME  
Two Open Points & Nursery Trial  
USBCHA/NEBCA  
Lynn Deschambeault  
207-452-2898

Jul 9-10

### **Merck Forest Open SDT**

Rupert, VT  
Open Trials  
USBCHA/NEBCA  
Steve Wetmore  
802-765-4466

Jul 16-17

### **Mad River Valley SDT**

Waitsfield, VT (near Montpelier)  
Two Novice & Open Trials  
USBCHA/NEBCA  
Nancy Phillips  
802 496-7625

Jul 23, 2011

### **Western Maine State BBQ Championship SDT**

Open/Nursery Points trial  
Fryeburg, ME  
Roger Deschambeault  
603-939-2255



## Old Barns, Hungry Sheep and One Crazy Dog

Rob Drummond

Winter started in October that year. Snow began to fall on the 24th and kept coming through mid-April. The field had turned to seed so grazing was finished. The ground was dry and brown and the clean white snow was almost refreshing. This was the fall that marked the end of my first full year as a sheep farmer. My flock was small, maybe 20 or 30 head, but they were all healthy and, if everything went as planned, I would have my first lambs in February. It was a little scary, but exciting. The sheep were safely in the barnyard on hay and grain, protected by my Great Pyrenees, Scout. Scout joined the farm as an 8-week-old fuzz ball, but had matured quickly and was becoming a reliable guard dog. I never lost a night's sleep worrying about the sheep when he was on duty. He was cautious but kind to strangers and he was always hopeful that maybe some day one of the border collies would play with him. He was a happy dog and we were ready to take on the winter.

By the end of December the snow was proof of the devil. It was hard to keep the barnyard clear and the snow banks were getting higher than the lift of the tractor bucket. The cleared areas were like skating rinks, and on more than one occasion I was pulling myself up off the ground, only to see the UPS driver watching the nightly spectacle from the warmth of his truck. We didn't exchange words, but I'd like to think that he was watching to make sure I was still conscious.

The border collies were bored, and the only way to keep them happy was to let them take turns doing chores. They just had to push the sheep into the barn and hold them there while I filled the grain troughs on the opposite side of the barn door. Ice had seized up the rollers and the 12' monster was stuck in a half open position. I let it go because the last thing I wanted to do was try to force it and end up rehanging it in sub-zero temperatures.

Most nights the chores were routine and the dogs knew what they had to do. They were all pretty competent, although a little disappointed at the repetition and simplicity of their work. Scout would wander through the barn checking his flock, and he was mostly respectful of the work the other dogs did. The only one exception was my dog Andy. For some reason Scout mistook Andy for a bitch in heat, and Andy spent much of his time wiggling and squiggling away from his 97-lb. suitor. Andy was a good-natured dog and calm in all situations that didn't involve sheep. When sheep were in his radar, every muscle in Andy's body was tense and you could see the steam come out of his ears. There were demons in Andy's head telling him to "move the sheep, move the sheep quickly".

Andy was always a crapshoot at a dog trial. Always the dog that was either going to take the blue ribbon or send your blood pressure off the charts. When he was listening he was brilliant, when he wasn't it was a train wreck. During a train wreck, fellow handlers would hear ANDY!, ANDY!, ANDY!, shouted in progressively louder, deeper tones, and then they might hear the judge's last words: "Thank you. I've seen enough!"

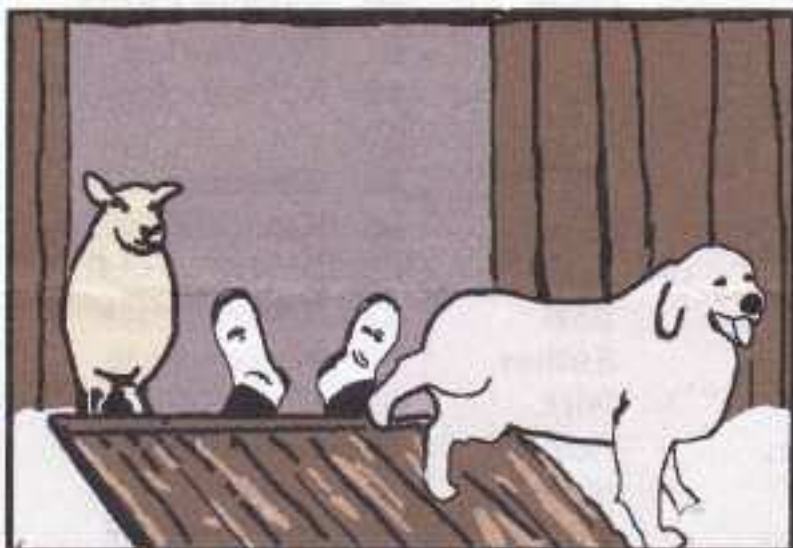
On this one particularly cold, nasty evening, it was Andy's turn to do the chores. The UPS truck had come and gone without incident. Andy had gathered the sheep into the barn and stood holding them while I began to pour the grain into the troughs. I'm not sure how it started: maybe Scout had decided to serenade or maybe it was those demons in his head, but what I saw was the back side of Andy racing around behind the sheep. With a loud crash, the first few sheep hit the barn door on their way out and knocked it off the runner. My instinct was to put my arms out and hold it up, but in an instant I was flat on my back, under the door with the rest of the flock charging across me. A quick assessment told me I was still alive and conscious and I could hear the flock heading out into the small pasture beyond the barnyard, no doubt with Andy hot on their heels. As I began to utter my first hideous words, the sound changed. It was getting closer, and in that instant I realized that Andy was bringing the flock back to the barn. I sucked in enough breath to yell, "ANDY LIE DOWN!" He did, and in a fairly controlled fashion, the flock came back over the door, over me, dropping everything they had in their guts through the cracks in the barn door. I was lying on the ice, under the barn door, covered in sheep droppings, but I was alive. Life was good. As I lay there considering the best way to get out of the situation, I heard a loud sniffing sound. It was Scout. He realized I was under the door and was sniffing his way over to me. Then he found me, and like any good guard dog, he decided to mark his territory to keep the predators away. Now I was lying on the ice, under a 300-lb. barn door, covered in sheep droppings, being urinated on by a 97-lb. guard dog.

When I got out from under the barn door, Andy was nowhere in sight. That was a good thing. I assumed he cleared the 4' fence and went back to the house. I straightened out the barnyard, turned out the lights and went to find him. I was still fuming. I threw open the kitchen door and said, "Where the hell is he?" My wife took one look at me and said, "You look

nasty and you smell worse. I don't know what you did to that dog, but the poor thing flew past me and ran into the closet."

I explained what had just happened outside, but received no sympathy. Apparently, the barn door should have been fixed in the fall, I needed to be wearing cleats on the ice and I never should have been using such a hair-trigger dog in the barnyard in the middle of winter. "Andy was just doing what Andy always does."

Of course she was right, but it took a while to calm down and Andy spent most of his time in the closet for the next few days. Eventually I forgave him and the lambs started coming and the ground began to thaw and all was forgiven.



Original art work by Betsy Drummond

He has since retired, but for several years after that I still took Andy out on the trial field, but when the judge would say, "I've seen enough," I'd just smile and say to myself "That's what you think, you ain't seen nothin'."

## CT Sheep Breeder's SDT, April 30-May1

N/N 1:	Champion: Pietraszewska & Blush	P/N 2:	
Karen Malloy/Heza Keeper 75	Res. Champion: Eileen Wilentz and	William Pimentel/Jem	73
Eileen Wilentz/Celt 75	Celt	Sharon Perkins/Bett	72
Julie Williams/Dan 72		Jim Perkins/Jake	70
	P/N 1:	Champion:	William Pimentel and Jem
N/N 2:	Molly King/Allie 68	Reserve Champion	Sharon Perkins and Bett
Val Pietraszewska/Blush 76	Sharon Perkins/Bett 67		
Diane Cox/Monk 73	William Pimentel/Jem 67	Ranch 1:	
Carol Weigand/Simon 73		Kate Collins/Ela	63
		Nancy Phillips/Dot	59

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State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_  
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Ranch 1:  
Kate Collins/Ela 63  
Nancy Phillips/Dot 59

Ranch 2:  
Kate Collins/Ela 58  
Nany Phillips/Dot 46  
Carol Weigand/McDuff 39

Ranch Champion: Kate Collins and Ela  
Reserve Champion: Nancy Phillips and Dot

Open 1:  
Steve Wetmore/Gile 90  
Jim Perkins 83  
Chris Bowen/Jake 79

Open 2:  
Carol Campoin/Tam 92  
Rich Seaman/Boo 90  
Bruce Smart/Link 83

Open Champion Rich Seaman and Boo  
Reserve Champoin Bruce Smart and Link

**NEBCA TRIAL SCHEDULE, JUNE-NOVEMBER 2011, cont.**

Jul 30- Aug 1  
**80 Acres Farm SDT**  
 Kingston, Ontario  
 Open, USBCHA Nursery  
 & One Novice & PN Trials  
 USBCHA/NEBCA/OBCC  
 Beverly Lambert 860-742-5300  
 Sue Schoen 508-548-5347

Aug 3-7  
**Kingston Sheep Dog Trials**  
 Grass Creek Park  
 Kingston, Ontario  
 Two Open Trials/Double Lift on 7 Aug  
 USBCHA/NEBCA/OBCC  
 Amanda Milliken  
 H 613-531-9405  
 O 613 546 1451

Aug 13-14  
**Fetch Gate Farm**  
 Novice SDT  
 Cortland, NY  
 Two Novice & USBCHA Nursery  
 USBCHA/NEBCA  
 Roger & Heather Millen  
 607-835-6584

Aug 19-21  
**Leatherstocking SDT**  
 Cooperstown, NY  
 One Novice & Two Open Trials  
 USBCHA/NEBCA  
 Barbara Armata  
 518-875-6471

Aug 20  
**Maine Highland Games SDT**  
 Fairgrounds, Topsham, ME  
 Open Trial  
 USBCHA/NEBCA  
 Lynn Deschambeault  
 207-452-2898

Aug 27  
**Vermont State Championship SDT**  
 Scottish Festival, Queechee, VT  
 One Open Trial  
 USBCHA/NEBCA  
 Steve Wetmore  
 802-765-4466

Aug 28  
**Spring Valley Open SDT**  
 Strafford, VT  
 One Open Trial

USBCHA/NEBCA  
 Steve Wetmore  
 802-765-4466  
 Sep 1  
**Lancaster Fair SDT**  
 Open Points  
 Fairgrounds, Lancaster, NH  
 Roger Deschambeault  
 603-939-2255

Sep 3-4  
**NEBCA Novice Finals**  
 High Point Farm, Knox, NY  
 NEBCA Novice Trials Committee  
 Kate Collins/George Northrop  
 978-249-4407

Sep 3-4  
**Blue Hill Fair SDT**  
 Blue Hill, ME  
 Two Open Points Trials  
 NEBCA/USBCHA  
 Jim Davidson  
 207-677-2227

Sep 16  
**NH Highland Games SDT**  
 Open  
 Loon Mountain, Lincoln, NH  
 Lynn Deschambeault (for passes)  
 207-452-2898

Sept 26-27  
**Eastern States Trials**  
 Springfield MA  
 Three Open Points Trials  
 USBCHA/NEBCA  
 Pat Canaday  
 518-861-6049

Oct 1  
**NH State Championship SDT**  
 East Conway, NH  
 One Open Trial  
 USBCHA/NEBCA  
 Roger Deschambeault  
 603-939-2255

Oct 2  
**Fryeburg Fair SDT**  
 Fryeburg, ME  
 One Open Points Trial  
 USBCHA/NEBCA  
 Gabrielle Merrill  
 207-935-2520

Oct 8-10  
**NEBCA FALL FOLIAGE CHAMPIONSHIP**  
 Cooperstown, NY  
 Two Open Trials; Double Lift Monday  
 USBCHA/NEBCA  
 Barbara Leverett 518-568-2833  
 Maria Amodei 978-649-6736

Oct 8-10  
**Swaledale SDT**  
 Blackstock, ON  
 Novice & Open  
 USBCHA/NEBCA  
 Andrea deKenedy  
 647-977-3866

Oct 11-13  
**Shepherd's Crook**  
 Farm SDT  
 Woodville, Ontario  
 Novice & Open  
 USBCHA/NEBCA/OBCC  
 Kevan Gretton  
 705-439-2831

Oct 14-16  
**Indian River SDT**  
 Indian River, ON  
 Novice & Open  
 USBCHA/NEBCA/OBCC  
 Cynthia Palmer  
 705-295-3351

Oct 21-23  
**Butternut Creek Fall SDT**  
 Kingston, Ontario  
 NN/PN & Open  
 USBCHA/NEBCA/OBCC  
 Amanda Milliken  
 613-531-9405

Oct 29-31  
**Swift Star Farm SDT**  
 South Canaan, PA  
 Two Open & One Novice  
 USBCHA/NEBCA  
 Michele Higgins  
 570-937-9308

Nov 5-6  
**Long Shot Trial**  
 Church Hill, MD  
 Two-Day Open, Ranch, ProNovice,  
 Nursery  
 USBCHA/NEBCA  
 Sherry Smith  
 410-758-3363

## Sheep Farming in Quebec

by Dave Young

I would like to share how we farm sheep here in Quebec. A quick history of Mary Ellen and me is that we have been on this farm for 16 years now and keep, give or take, 75 ewes on 45 acres, of which half is woodlot. As some of you know, Quebec is... well... different and agriculture is no exception. For the most part, sheep are housed year round. The average flock size is 450 ewes. A neighbor of ours keeps 2500 all indoors, a real factory. We do a kinda hybrid thing where only our ewes go to pasture. Our sheep at the moment are Hampshire/Canadian Arcott crosses, with a flock lambing average of 175%. The future plan is to buy all the replacements. The first group is here and they are F1 Dorset/Romanoff. This, I hope will bring our lambing percentage up to a weaned 200%, once the changeover is complete.

Most years (not this one, however) we lamb the first lot, around 45, inside through January and February. The best of these lambs go at 110 lbs as heavy freezer lambs or are sold through the provincial lamb marketing board. We really try to get these better lambs out the door ASAP, with corn at \$320 a ton they need to be gone in around 110 days. The second group lambs outside, under a lean-to. Everything else, including all the second lot of lambs, is sent to auction as milk lambs which weigh between 45 and 60 lbs. Rations are simple, good hay, first or second cut, mineral with added "bo-vatec," a dog-safe no-withdrawal med for coccidiosis, and grain as needed. We feed whole corn and add a 37% supplement; 1 part sup to 3 parts corn for ewes. How much depends on what gestation stage they are in. We start with 1/2 lb. 4 weeks before lambing. This may be higher if a minimum of 12% total ration is not met. They may max out to 2lb to ewes with twins. Young lambs have access to creep as soon as they will eat it, around 10 days. This is mixed 1-to-1 and remains there until they are 4 weeks old. Their feed conversion at this age is very high so it pays to feed well early.

Ewes get out on pasture around May 12th-15th. Any earlier and the grass does not seem to come back as fast. We have 4 pastures, which gives us enough rotation to help control worms. We buy all our hay so everything is available for grazing. The pastures are mostly fenced with 3-strand electrified barbed wire. It's more expensive, but the deer can't break it and it also holds up to a good snow load. We have 1 large paddock fenced in 10/48 page wire where the ewes go when we are away. Coyotes have only just begun to be a problem and trapping, I hope, will help control their numbers.

### THE POLITICAL SIDE

#### Ag Traceability

For around 7 years now we have been required to use electronic reader tags. These must be put in before the lamb is 30 days old. I do it the day they are born, and Mary Ellen reports this to Ag Traceability weekly. This stuff can backlog on you quickly so she tries to keep it up to date. When lambs or ewes are moved, sold, slaughtered, die or abducted by aliens, AT must be notified. One nasty cold winter day AT called about the location of our cows, I told them they were in Lakeland, Florida. Their response was "Lucky cows, now Mr. Young, where are your cows?" All this has grown out of the mad cow scare back in the early 2000's. Still it is a good thing, all the red tape, computer files, paperwork, etc., but in the end the consumer knows where their meat comes from.



### THE UPA

The UPA, the provincial farmers union, at \$600 a year in dues is not a social club. This lot negotiates everything it can and is not above applying liquid manure to politician's lawns or their office steps to get their point across. For sheep farmers they have set up a marketing board (The Agency), which, for the moment, covers lamb production over 80 lbs and under 130 lbs and under 180 days old. What this means is that no lambs at this weight can be sold at auction, only through the





Agency. Private sales are okay, but forms must be filled out and classification fees (\$1.75 per lamb) paid. You can set your own price - we do at \$190 per lamb, plus killing and cutting regardless of weight or classification. To sell to the Agency you have two choices, an annual contract with them for X number of lambs a month, or on a weekly offering, the way we go with any surplus we may have. This year the price is set at \$8.25 per kg hot carcass weight at a 100 point classification, the max is 106, which is 6% higher than or as low as 80 or 20% lower. This is determined by the classifier who judges the shoulder, loin and leg and backfat thickness. Last year on heavy lambs we averaged 104 index. For example a lamb at 110 lbs dresses say 50 lbs or 22.5 kg at a 100 index fetches \$185.62

For the moment, light lambs are not a part of the marketing board. They just go off to auction and we hope for the best. Lately it is good, it needs to be. Cull ewes

are at an all time high, around \$175. Milk lambs are holding over \$2.50 a lb. Let's hope radiation or the dreaded 5-legged blue spotted sand fleas do not put some unnecessary fear into the markets.

### ASRA (income subsidy)

This is the only optional part of farming here. Since the early '70s Quebec has had a subsidy on beef, sheep, feeder hogs (now gone), and grains. For the beef and sheep sectors the last 2 years has wisely seen it change from simple number of females kept to a kilograms per ewe produced model. This is in hope to cut the bottom 25% of producers out of the program by the year 2014. This does not mean they cannot farm, only ineligible for this compensation. How it looks at the moment is that many are bailing out now because of the headache that goes with all this stuff. As you can imagine, this program is expensive and they have made it complicated for a reason. Our regional production average is 31kg per ewe. We are about 45kg, depending on how the replacements are counted into the mix. In the simplest terms, this pays you from (roughly) \$50 to \$75 per lamb.

So, in closing, I have tried to simplify the long row of hoops we must get through to do what we enjoy. I have left out the environmental side. It is a real moving target, with the phosphorus count and water course restrictions to name a couple. The days of simple farming seem to be gone. The days of computer tracking, government regulations, price fixing, big brother or however you see it, are here to stay.



## EYE EXAMINATIONS FOR CEA AND PRA

*This article is adapted from posts on Sheepdog-L by Eileen Stein. Eileen was responding to questions about the recent decision that eye exams will no longer be required for dogs competing in the National Sheepdog and Cattledog Finals.*

### **Why was an eye exam required at the Finals in the first place? I can see why a registry might require it, but what does it have to do with a competition?**

The ABCA (the registry) is a major sponsor of the Sheepdog and Cattledog Finals, and works closely with the USBCHA in putting them on. This is one of the ways the registry promotes the breeding of Border Collies for their working ability – by helping to provide a program that tests and showcases the dogs' abilities.

The eye exam requirement for dogs that compete in the Finals dates back to before there was a DNA test for CEA. The purpose of the requirement was not to keep dogs with hereditary eye diseases from running in the Finals. Dogs were not barred from competing, no matter what the eye exam showed – in fact the results of individual eye exams have been confidential, and the ABCA has received only an overview of what was found in the eye clinic as a whole, not what was found in a particular dog. The principal purposes were (1) to enable the ABCA to monitor the eye health of the working Border Collie gene pool for emerging health issues, and (2) to ensure that the owners of the dogs who ran in the Finals (and who are likely to be particularly influential contributors to the gene pool) were made aware of any eye problems in their dogs and counseled on the implications for breeding.

### **Then why discontinue the requirement?**

"Because the ABCA, in consultation with our long-term expert adviser Dr. Gregory Acland, came to the conclusion that the requirement had largely served its purpose, and that continuing it had reached the point of diminishing returns. CEA is by far the most significant and prevalent heritable eye disease in Border Collies. The ABCA actively supported, with both funding and data, the research aimed at identifying the CEA gene and developing a test for it. That test became available in 2005, and has proved itself accurate in use over the ensuing years. The sharp reduction in CEA found by Dr. Acland at the Finals eye clinics in the last few years suggests that the educational purpose of the requirement has been served, and that our good working breeders are for the most part making use of the DNA test. At the same time, no other heritable eye problems have been seen on a scale that would warrant continuing to require eye exams. We felt that it was time to declare victory and turn our focus to other health issues.

### **Why does the ABCA refuse to allow the registration of CEA Affected dogs?**

It doesn't. The ABCA did exclude CEA Affected dogs from registration before the DNA test was available, because at that time there was no way to tell which dogs were Carriers, and therefore the best way to keep the CEA gene from becoming ever more widespread in our population was to bar the dogs that would pass that gene on to every offspring. Once the DNA test was developed and proved accurate, the ABCA changed its rule and began accepting CEA Affected dogs for registration, because thanks to that tool it was now possible to manage a breeding program so that Affected dogs would not produce Affected offspring, and a line could be cleared of CEA over a very few generations.

The ABCA does recommend using the DNA test to determine the genetic CEA status of all dogs used for breeding. This and other ABCA health information and breeding recommendations can be found on the registry website at <http://www.americanBorderCollie.org/Health%20and%20Genetics%20of%20Border%20Collies.htm>.

I don't understand why the ABCA doesn't require the CEA test as a condition of registering a litter. If you're serious about health issues, wouldn't it be better to require testing and not register dogs who fail the test?

There is a misconception among some that the best registry is the one that requires the most health tests for registration, and is the strictest at excluding dogs from registration for health reasons. But it's just not that simple. Requiring health tests for registration, and barring dogs with "defective" test results from registration, are policies that can have very serious downsides. These are just a few of the considerations that need to be weighed:

### **How good is the test?**

A proven DNA test is the gold standard, but at this point we don't have that kind of test for most diseases. Consider Pro-

gressive Retinal Atrophy (PRA), for example, for which the test is an eye exam by an ophthalmologist. The fact is that in many cases it can be difficult or even impossible for the examining doctor to distinguish between PRA lesions and the lesions caused by Focal/Multifocal Acquired Retinopathy (FMAR), a condition which is not hereditary. Consequently, FMAR has often been misdiagnosed as PRA. That's the reason it was believed for so long (and is still believed by many today) that PRA is common in Border Collies. Without extensive and rigorous analysis of pedigrees and progeny – which is almost never done outside a research setting – such a misdiagnosis is unlikely to be exposed. It troubles me to think how many high-quality, PRA-free dogs may have been excluded from the ISDS gene pool because of their PRA policy. We need to have some humility about how much we really know.

#### **To what extent can incidence of the disease be reduced by excluding affected dogs from breeding?**

There are many hereditary diseases that are not caused by a single gene. In some cases, the number of genes involved, and the complexity of their interaction, is such that excluding all affected dogs from breeding would have little if any impact on the disease rate, because so many dogs carry so many of the genes involved without themselves expressing the disease. Excluding dogs from breeding in such cases would do more harm than good.

#### **How powerful is the registry?**

In many European countries, the registry has the power of the state behind it. It's illegal to sell or offer to sell 'Border Collie' dogs, for example, unless the dogs are registered with the one government-recognized registry. That is not the case in the US – in fact; it's pretty much unthinkable that such a degree of regulation could be accepted here. This makes it far less feasible to impose extensive health testing requirements and exclusions on dogs here. If the requirements are deemed too onerous, breeders can easily move to a different registry or found their own new registry, taking their good dogs (who might very well have passed the tests in question had they been tested) with them. Our primary goal is the encouragement of the breeding of good working Border Collies, which requires a lot more skill and ability than just producing nice pet dogs or dogs that meet a conformation standard. It's ultimately detrimental to the breed if the breeders who are producing these good working Border Collies are scattered among different registries, or are not registering at all.

#### **How committed are our best breeders to the policy?**

There are many ways to conceal health conditions and obtain certifications by dishonest means. Elaborate and burdensome enforcement procedures can foil or expose some deceptions, but not all. Is it better to drive breeders to concealment, or better to encourage openness and accurate information? The ABCA has generally tried to build awareness of health problems and provide information on how best to deal with them, with the aim of motivating good breeding practices, rather than enacting requirements and bans that we cannot effectively enforce, and which motivate breeders and owners to conceal the facts about their dogs' health.

These are only some of the complexities that the ABCA must weigh in carrying out its mission to foster the genetic health of Border Collies. I think its record overall has been a good one.

## **2009 Novice Finals**



## 2011 BREEDERS' DIRECTORY

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[www.eyespybordercollies.com](http://www.eyespybordercollies.com)

This listing of Border Collie breeders is for informational purposes only and in no way represents an endorsement of these breeders by the Northeast Border Collie Association. When making enquiries into 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.

Note: Not all breeders listed here are necessarily handlers.



### A Note from the Editor

First, a word of thanks to Carol and the Board of Directors for letting me do the job. It is a challenge to pull together a publication that will be read in at least two countries and cover our beloved sport of sheepdog trialing in the most densely-trialed area of the continent, the northeastern United States and southeastern Canada, where there are more trials per state or province than in any other part of our countries.

Second, a word of thanks to Molly King, who has volunteered to be the "article chaser" and the first reader of our articles. Molly gives me time to get the NEBCA News set up the way we want it.

Finally, thanks to Joe Evans and the previous producers of the NEBCA News. We will do our best to live up to the example you have set.

*Jim Allen*