



NEBCA News

The Official Publication of the North East Border Collie Association, Inc.



CE Koval

Bev Lambert and Nan exhibit the Fetch Gate dance of a splendid split.

"Fetch Gate Farm Novice, Nursery and Open Trials" article, additional photographs, and winners on page 8.

The mission of the North East Border Collie Association is to promote and to protect the Border Collie as a working stock dog through the sanctioning and regulation of competitive herding trials and by providing information on training, health and breeding.

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NEBCA Bylaws & Rules at

<http://www.nebca.net/welcome.html>

If members require hard copies, please contact The Secretary, Martha Walke, PO Box 66, S. Strafford, VT 05070

NEBCA Membership

Annual Renewals due January 1st
\$25 per individual, or
\$30 per farm/family

To join or renew, send your name, address and dues to: The Secretary, NEBCA, Martha Walke, PO Box 66, S. Strafford, VT 05070

OR submit online at
<http://nebca.net/membershipChoice2017.html>

New members may join at any time. After October 1, you will automatically be paid through the following calendar year.

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Issue - Publication Date

Spring -- March 1

Summer – June 1

Autumn – September 1

Winter – December 1

Deadlines

At least one month prior to publication date, send materials to Sallie Butler.

NEBCA News**Display Advertising****Business Card**

\$15 per issue/\$50 per year

Quarter Page

\$35 per issue/\$100 per year

Half Page

\$50 per issue/\$150 per year

Full Page

\$75 per issue/\$225 per year

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Enquiring Minds Want to Know

By Sallie Butler

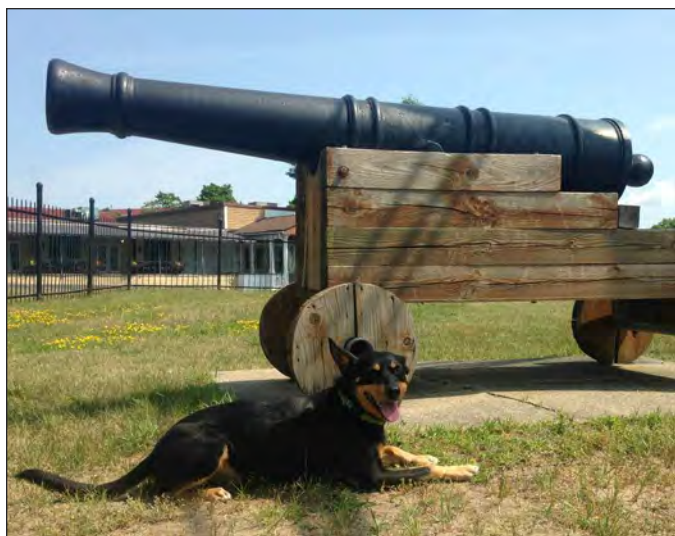
Readers asked if Angie Driscoll would expand on her philosophy of early training focused on driving, with the dog on a long line (see "Sheepdog Training the F-Word Way with Angie Driscoll," NEBCA Newsletter Summer 2018, pages 12-13).

Angie Driscoll kindly responded:

Who said you have to train a flank first? I like a dog who can drive well (in addition to being a good outrunner and clean flanker), so I put the drive in early.

Congratulations to 2018 NEBCA High Points Top Ten

- | | | |
|-----|-----------------|--------|
| 1. | Bev Lambert | Nan |
| 2. | Amanda Milliken | Howell |
| 3. | Amanda Milliken | Dorey |
| 4. | Lorna Savage | Tyler |
| 5. | Tracy Hinton | Lad |
| 6. | Kevan Gretton | Kai |
| 7. | Warren Mick | Eddie |
| 8. | Lori Cunningham | Matt |
| 9. | Nancy Obernier | Nell |
| 10. | Mary Ann Duffy | Jill |



Sallie Butler

Son of a gun, smiled Roo, who visited 18th century Fort William Henry during the Dancing Ewe Farm sheepdog trial in July.

From Your Editor

Major thanks to our contributors for articles, photos, jokes, and a poem.

Please continue to send working-border-collie themed ideas, articles, photos, drawings, poetry, etc., for the Newsletter, at least one month prior to the publication date, to KryptoMango@verizon.net because, as you may recall....Well, see page 18.

Upcoming Topics

More Trial Reports

Training Tips

Your Photos, Poetry, and Drawings



Remembering Edie Overly

By Sally Martyn Lacy

We have been friends for eons. I don't know how Edie had found out about the bi-annual Jack Knox training clinics at Ethel Conrad's Sunnybrook Farm in White Post, Virginia, but she started coming to them fairly early on. The first ones were in the mid 1970s. Every April and October the faithful would gather for a humbling encounter with Ethel's wily Barbados and Jack Knox's patient attempts to instill sheep savvy in us and get us to become working partners to our dogs. Edie's first dog was named Midge, and was a farm dog. There was no trial circuit at that time: certainly it was not one in which women could participate. Edie was persistent, keeping her enormous experience with dog training to herself. None of us knew that she was qualified to judge all AKC Obedience events that were offered. She knew we all thought the AKC was the Evil Empire, and we never knew

about her long and illustrious career as exhibitor and how she trained a group of collies to perform an obedience act that was very much in demand. She kept adding dog talent to her life without saying a thing to us; lure coursing with whippets being a late interest.

Like many of us, it took many years before she became proficient in making nuanced sounds to her dogs on the shepherd's whistle. Her dogs seemed to know what she wanted anyway. One of the many dogs she bought from Jack Knox was named Jake. He was the perfect dog for her, as he would have been for anyone, as he could come off his winter vacation in her Southern Pines home and do just fine in any trial in which she entered him. She was unflappable herself and he, as did all her dogs, worked because he was loved and not put under pressure.

I had an insight into her competitive animal sport experiences when I needed a place to stay for a few days in 1984 and she lent me the house her aunt had left her in the town time forgot, Heath, in Western Massachusetts. In her youth Edie had been the hotshot junior horsewoman who won hunter and jumper classes on a regular basis, all documented in the newspaper clippings her aunt had mounted in a voluminous scrapbook. Her parents had been joint masters of the Norfolk hunt and she took over as joint master with her mother and then as master in her own right. After she gave up riding horses, she trained and drove her horse and pony. Everybody came back to Framingham in May: horses, pony, dogs and, later, sheep.

I went to Friday afternoon symphony with her at least once a year. Her grandmother, mother, and father had all been symphony goers, little brass name plates identified their seats. Cousins by the dozen, or so it seemed, came by at intermission to chat for a moment or two.

Henry Hall, her father, had started the Explorers Club while at Harvard and had organized and, dressed in cotton and shod in leather, led the climbing expedition that first summited Mt. McKinley (Denali). You had to ask her, but if you did, you found out she had just come back from a boat trip to Antarctica or was about to go whale watching in the Pacific, or perhaps on a coaching trip in the Alps. Her life was filled with adventure. We were only a small part of it, and yet we felt she was having a wonderful time in our world. I glimpsed several of those other worlds (the Lymans, Symphony, Science Museum, Ladies Dog Club, the hunt) and could tell she was a favorite in all of them. I treasure memories stretching over 40 years of knowing just a part of Edith Hall Overly.

Tanstaaf Farm Learning Trial on August 4, 2018

By Ginny Prince

The Tanstaaf Farm Learning Trial in Greenfield, MA, ran all three novice classes. With Chris Bowen judging and Denise Leonard providing feedback after the runs, a user-friendly educational environment prevailed. Participants also scribed, worked in the setout pen, kept score, and shadowed set out.

At trials most handlers have to deal with nerves to a greater or lesser degree. In my personal experience this was a huge stumbling block early in my trial days (now reduced to only a big problem). At this learning trial, I thought the low key setting, supportive atmosphere, constructive analysis, and robust potluck lunch provided a great opportunity for handlers (and their dogs) to gain experience with less tension interfering with the process.



Barbara Erickson running Doz, with Chris Bowen judging and Holly Fincher scribing in foreground.

Ginny Prince

Cascade Farm SDT on June 29 and 30 and July 1, 2018

By Mary Ames

After the rain of Thursday, Friday dawned foggy and damp, changing to hot and humid once the sun burned through the clouds. We started runs at 7 and were done by 5pm. The sheep were their usual challenge. Novice and Pro-Novice did well with the majority receiving scores. Ranch had a tough go with only two scores. The dogs were not used to a long outrun, stopping short, coming in tight and were unable to cover the pressure. There were some fine runs to be seen in Open and there were a lot of retires on the drive. Jesse Nunan ran Kip both days in a Junior Handler Pro-Novice course. She also did an excellent job working the pen all three days.

Handlers gathered under the tent in the evening for Jim's BBQ followed by ice cream sundaes. Several handlers and their dogs swam after runs were completed for the day. The water was very refreshing with a good current for some body surfing. The night was cool and good for sleeping with a beautiful orange moonrise.

Saturday did not remain cool for long. Again Novice and Pro-Novice did well with most receiving scores. Ranch proved to be the big challenge again. The sheep went walk-about during lunch, and even with the later start we were done by 5pm. There was a tie between Beverly Lambert's Nan and Steve Wetmore's Stu, both with a 90. It was hot and everyone was tired. Dave Young is up with Tagh, beautiful outrun and lift. A little bobble on the fetch but looking good. Lays down an almost perfect drive straight into the pen! Tagh pushes the sheep to the chute and 1, 2, 3 they walk straight through. Tie is broken with a 95! Sue Schoen is up with Cora. Perfect outrun, lift and fetch. Drive is looking really good straight into the pen and then all three through the chute, easy-peasy. Have we got another tie? Sue and Cora score a 96! More handlers and dogs head to the water to cool off and play before a delicious Pot Luck under the tent. The night air did not cool off and it was sultry and warm for sleeping.



Jesse Nunan and Kip at the post at Cascade.

François LeBlanc

Sunday dawned hot and the heat index was up there! The top 20 individual scores of the weekend qualified to run in the Double Lift. We have a tie for 20th so 21 dogs will run. Handlers had to score 70 or higher to qualify, and 15 qualified! Several Novice handlers stayed to watch the Double Lift and stepped up to help. Deb Donahue and Julie Anderson were shown how to "haze." Steve D., François, and Michel went to the set out. Michel and Steve D. helped group sheep, and François brought the sheep out for the second set dog. 150 point course and the winner was Dave Young and Pic 128, with Reserve going to Beverly Lambert and Nan 127.

All the handlers were extremely helpful all weekend long. There was plenty of water for the on course dog. Food was abundant and delicious and with the early start, lots of coffee. Whenever something needed doing people just stepped in and did it including Bobbie, Bob's wife! The pen crew and volunteers did a great job! They kept it fun and upbeat, the crew got dirty, and Donald Duck swore. The set out volunteers worked hard to give everyone a fair chance for their run. François and Joy did a great job, first time setting out for Open. Many

François LeBlanc



Dinner at Cascade, where the Ames aim to please.

thanks to everyone who stayed despite the heat to help pick up after the trial was over.

With the trial ending early on Sunday and a little quick arranging we were able to take judge Bob and Bobbie Washer to Lake Winnepesaukee for an afternoon boat ride, cooling swim and overnight stay. Bob and Bobbie headed to Maine on Monday, crossing another state off their list. Tuesday they drove to friends in northern Vermont before going on to Fetch Gate Farm to judge the Millens' trial.

Novice-Novice

Champion	Melissa Perley	Bronte
Reserve Champion	JP Maillet	Quake

Pro-Novice

Champion	Brenda Buja	Callie
Reserve Champion	Werner Reitboeck	Jessie

Ranch

Champion	Deb Donahue	Cap
Reserve Champion	Beverly Lambert	Lee

Open

Champion	Beverly Lambert	Nan
Reserve Champion	Sue Schoen	Cora

Double-Lift

Champion	Dave Young	Pic
Reserve Champion	Beverly Lambert	Nan

When it was time to put the sheep back down in the trial field to graze, they did not want to go. They kept circling and trying to head back to the barn. They would peer down the road, "Not gonna do it!", and circle round. Finally some of the ewes realized there were no campers and dogs in the field, and off they ran to the rich, green grass and were very happy to go back to their grazing corner!

Another Five Ways People Are Like Sheep

By Ginny Prince

1. They act in their own short-term interest.
2. They lose their heads when tired, scared, stressed or hassled.
3. Given the chance, they will overeat yummy food.
4. They don't like to do something unless it's their idea.
5. Sometimes they get bored and get into trouble.

Fetch Gate Farm Novice, Nursery, and Open Trials July 5-8, 2018

By Sallie Butler

CE Koval



Judge Bob Washer consults with trial hosts, Roger and Heather Millen at Fetch Gate Farm (l-r).

Magnificent weather dominated the multi-day Fetch Gate Farm trials, hosted by Heather and Roger Millen. Judge Bob Washer's wisdom and healthy flock of Katahdins left handlers smiling with gratitude for the opportunity to compete..

Novice

Sandy Lockwood
Chris Lucas

Grace
Twig

Pro-Novice

Annie Palmer
Pam Davies

Kraig
Celt

Ranch

Sandra Hornung
Kim Lippolis

Skyler
Deke

Open I

Warren Mick
Bev Lambert
Lori Cunningham

Eddy
Nan
Matt

Open II

Lori Cunningham
Mary Ann Duffy
Heather Millen

Buck
Jill
Scout

Sandy Lockwood



Rose Redick and Trixie at the Fetch Gate Farm Novice Trial on July 5. Trixie revs her paws for the outrun.



Ginny Prince

Maria Amodei taught participants at Ginny Prince's farm.

Sheephouse Learning Trial on July 8, 2018

By Ginny Prince

Novice handlers and dogs gathered in Cornish, NH, for a constructive trial experience with coaching from an experienced handler/trainer/judge. They worked on a 6+acre rough farm pasture with hazards like uneven footing, stumps, scattered trees, burn piles, and shallow drainage ditches. Handlers walked their dogs around the field before the trial to familiarize them with the terrain. There was also an analysis of the course, the likely pressure points and strategies.

After each class judge and clinician Maria Amodei provided detailed feedback along with specific exercises for strengthening weak areas revealed by the trial runs. Participants were great sports about the "make me" mixed wool sheep, who would not move as desired unless the dog was very correct.

The Learning Trial Committee funded prizes for both classes. Participants collaborated with scribing, tallying and score keeping.

Thank you so much to all who attended!

TRIAL SCHEDULE *as of 9/2/18*

Sept. 1-3	Shepherd's Crook Labour Day	Woodville, ON	Tracy Hinton	416-697-4575
Sept. 2	Northeast US	Blue Hill, ME	Lynn Deschambeault	207-452-2898
Sept. 8-9	Nevermoor Farm	Andover, NY	Diane Cox	585-610-2502
Sept. 15-16	NEBCA Novice Finals	Bath, NH	Barbara Eriksson	978-895-9773
Sept. 16	Cloudberry Novice	Roseneath, ON	Andrea de Kenedy	416-948-9331
Sept. 21	NH Highland Games Open	Lincoln, NH	Lynn Deschambeault	207-452-2898
Sept. 24	The Big E	W. Springfield, MA	Pat Canaday	413-205-5011
Sept. 29 – Oct. 1	Swaledale Triple Crown	Blackstock, ON	Sheri Purcell Helen Dunning	289-314-0999 416-371-4239
Sept. 30	Fryeburg Fair	Fryeburg, ME	Gabrielle Merrill	207-935-2520
Oct. 2-4	Shepherd's Crook Fall Triple Crown	Woodville, ON	Viki Kidd	416-277-4313
Oct. 4	Topsfield Fair	Topsfield, MA	Lynn Deschambeault	207-452-2898
Oct. 5-7	Indian River Triple Crown	Indian River, ON	Cynthia Palmer	705-295-335
Oct. 12-14	Fall Foliage	Millerton, NY	Sue Schoen	413-344-9514
Oct. 27-28	Far Fetch Farm Learning Trial	Spofford, NH	Liz Shaw	
Nov. 3	Herdewe Farm	Kensington, NH	Sharon Barrette	603-772-0221

Hailey Severance



Warren Mick and Eddy at Maltese Cross obstacle at Dancing Ewe Farm Sheepdog Trial, July 14 & 15, 2018.

The Long Road

By Eric Johnson, May 2018

The road between our farms turns from white to green. The sea of ice and snow seems never to end some years making the distance even more. As it does turn mild, the riot of green engulfs the space around the road changing the form from hard straight lines to mounds of never-ending growth. The inability to do anything but survive turns to days of endless work.

The critters have now plenty to eat, the sheep in the meadow the cows, too. The farm dogs have their fill of things to do. We toil to bring the end results. Those that do not produce food, never really an idea of the long hard days. Yet we will never really want to stop, if we could. But in moments comes some time to be with our dogs. To work together to not only complete jobs of care, carefully moving these sheep but working with each dog and sheep too, to do better and better.

On the hard fields of winter, the green carpeted fields of summer, time allowing, there is the time to dance. The time to put in the time. Standing at the post communicating and then stepping in. Working on the relationships, the lines, soft and hard, days, months, years. Dogs will come and go, they don't live too long. Let's be realistic and grasp that reality and not cry but carry the thread of craft, of tradition, of art form, the beauty of the practical, of nature its self.

Passing and working this through, with each dog, from puppy to young dog, to aged, will be a long haul, a long road. Days of hard jagged stubbornness of no gain and yes, days of soft giving progress, success. Each dog, with each handler as him or herself in the context. Standing at the post and sending, gathering and then at the gate and driving on. Day in and out, taking care and striving.

Oh such a long road, that help may well be needed. Why not, we are here for each other. Dogs go here and there as needed, as is best. It's not always or easy to decide. I will walk to the end of my drive, the edge of a field and see, feel, the distance. Take a step onto that long road and seek for those who are there. Warren, Maria, Barbara, Bernie, Denise, Heather and Roger, Fiona and Carol too and an amazing afternoon with Edger on top of that hill farm. Lessons taught, hopefully learned, the love of it, the way, the ways.

With each dog by my side that's where I want to be. I have tried shorter paths but they end with the taste of unfilled, non-nurturing processed food, not sustaining at all. It's a haul, often filled with pain and toil. But the long road is where I journey, where I make my stand.

Eric Johnson



Jean-Louis Bigourdan
at Ox Creek Farm
Novice Trial with the
long path through the
corn in Canandaigua,
NY, August 2018.

NEBCA Membership Meeting Minutes

May 26, 2018 Cummington, MA
Meeting called to order at 5:10PM.
33 members present.

- I. Minutes from the Annual Meeting were approved.
- II. Executive Committee Reports
 - A. Secretary's Report (Martha Walke) There are currently 214 members, down from 239 at this time last year. Since the Annual Meeting, there have been 19 renewals and 6 new members.
 - B. Treasurer's Report (Denise Leonard) See attachment
- III. Board of Directors Report (Barbara Leverett)
 - A. The BOD are working on an informational policy and using a 2006 document (developed by Warren and Maria Mick) as a matrix for discussion. The report will be distributed at the Leatherstocking membership meeting.
 - B. The issue of advertising was discussed along the lines of who decides and how.
- IV. Standing Committee Reports
 - A. Open Trials Committee (Sallie Butler) The Fall Foliage will take place at Caora Farm in Millerton, NY, over Columbus Day weekend (Oct. 5-8). Depending on the number of entries, the trial will begin on Friday, Oct. 5, with two open trials finishing on Sunday, Oct. 7. The top 15 NEBCA scoring dogs will compete in the Double Lift on Monday, Oct. 8.
 - B. Novice Trials Committee (Barbara Eriksson) So far this year the committee has received notification of three new trial dogs. The committee would like to remind everyone that if they acquire a new dog they need to submit this form before they can run the dog in a trial.
The Novice Finals will take place Sept. 15-16 at Bud and Mary Ames' beautiful Cascade Farm in Bath, NH.
 - C. Learning Trials Committee (Rose Redick) There was a whistle challenge at the Cummington trial ably judged by Jim Murphy. They have received only one request, from Ginny Prince, for funds to help with prizes at a learning trial.
- V. Select Committee Reports
 - A. Merchandise Committee (Joanne Krause) The committee would like input from the handlers as to what items they would like to see next year. If you are able to take merchandise to trials, please contact Joanne Krause or Kim Lippolis.
Please be aware of your dogs when near the merchandise tables. We cannot have all the merchandise on the tables, and if a garment gets soiled you will have just bought it. There will be a sign to remind folk of this.
The committee thanks everyone for their support.
 - B. Calendar Committee (Kate Collins & George Northrop) They have printed 300 of the 2019 calendars. The 2018 calendars are now \$5 each.
 - C. Library (Martha Walke) All items donated to the library and all new items have been added to the library's listing on the website. They are noted with an asterisk. The complete list of the library's holdings will be in the Summer Newsletter.
 - D. Newsletter Report (Sallie Butler) The Spring 2018 issue was printed on an alternative stock in order to minimize the wrinkling of the cover page when folded for mailing. The stock is thinner but maintains enough opacity to prevent any bleed through of photos printed on the reverse. The wrinkling seems diminished. One consequence is lower postage costs. The Newsletter remains 20 pages in length.

The Summer issue will include a simple listing of upcoming trials.
Molly King has retired as copy editor. We thank her for her contributions.
We greatly appreciate suggestions, articles, poems, photos and drawings. Please
keep sending your ideas and materials!

VI. Unfinished Business

Data Base Update (Maria Amodei) Not able to input scores yet, but the old data has
been inputted and the new data has been reconfigured. Work continues!

VII. New Business

- A. Joanne Krause reported that Sallie Butler has contributed leashes made by her
father and Joanne has been passing them out at trials, mostly to children. Sallie
also has donated some jewelry, and it was suggested that if you would like a
piece you should donate an amount for one. Putting on a silent auction was also
discussed.
- B. Mary Ann Duffy suggested that NEBCA purchase a first aid kit with a defibrillator
to be available at trials. The cost for one of these kits is around \$2000. The BOD
will take this under consideration.

Meeting adjourned at 5:55PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha M. Walke, Secretary



Katherine McLellan Mercier

Dave Young's Tagh at Northeast US Sheepdog
Trial at Blue Hill Fair, Maine, September 2, 2018.

NEBCA Financials 1/1/18-4/30/18

	1/1/18 to 4/30/18 Actual	2018 Budget
INCOME		
Advertisements	\$0.00	\$100.00
Breeders Directory		
Breeders Directory: Calender	\$30.00	
Breeders Directory: Listing Newsletter	\$30.00	
Breeders Directory: Web Link	\$60.50	
TOTAL Breeders Directory	\$120.50	\$300.00
Calendar Sales		
Calendar Sales to Members	\$260.50	
Calendar Sales to Non Members	\$10.00	
Calendar Sales: Shipping	\$6.80	
TOTAL Calendar Sales	\$277.30	\$2,800.00
Donation	\$1.50	
Interest Income	\$13.56	\$55.00
Library Income	\$23.00	\$200.00
Membership Dues		
Membership Dues: Family	\$484.50	
Membership Dues: Individual	\$1,769.50	
TOTAL Membership Dues	\$2,254.00	\$6,400.00
Merchandise Sales		
Merchandise Sales: Sales to Members	\$30.00	
TOTAL Merchandise Sales	\$30.00	\$6,000.00
Rental of Equipment	\$0.00	\$50.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$2,719.86	\$15,905.00

	1/1/18 to 4/30/18 Actual	2018 Budget
EXPENSES		
Administrative	\$149.08	\$600.00
Advertisement		\$50.00
Award		\$350.00
Pamphlets		\$350.00
Calendar		\$1,200.00
Insurance		\$650.00
Learning Trials		\$400.00
Library		
Books And Videos Purchase	\$160.95	
Library Administration	\$24.01	
TOTAL Library	\$184.96	\$350.00
Merchandise		
Merchandise - Cost of Goods Sold	\$774.20	
postage	\$5.29	
TOTAL Merchandise	\$779.49	\$4,000.00
Newsletter		
postage	\$93.16	
Printing	\$264.92	
Supplies	\$11.79	
TOTAL Newsletter	\$369.87	\$2,000.00
PayPal Transaction Fee	\$22.50	\$150.00
Fall Foliage Contribution		\$2,500.00
Novice Finals Contribution		\$2,000.00
OVERALL TOTAL	\$1,505.90	\$14,600.00
Account Balances as of	5/20/2018	12/31/2017
Bank of America Checking	\$29,512.50	\$27,935.54
ING Business Savings	\$13,770.99	\$13,575.43
Total Bank Accounts	\$43,283.49	\$41,692.97
Cash Accounts		
Cash Account	\$ 0	\$ 0
PayPal	\$ 702.71	\$ 150.41
Overall Total	\$ 43,986.20	\$ 41,843.38

[Editor's note: Excerpts below are from Australian D. E. Horwood, a renowned trialist and judge, who gave tips especially for newcomers considering entering trials.]

Training the Trial Dog

By D. E. Horwood

Source: Western Mail, 8 April 1937, p. 53, and reprinted in *Working Kelpie Council News Bulletin*, December, 2014 No. 598, p. 4.

...[W]e want new and enthusiastic blood, and for those who are entering for the first time will soon be commencing training, an outline of the sort of performance expected of a good trial dog may save a new arrival from getting away on the wrong foot.

A commonly held belief is that the dog who races the sheep through the [course] in the shortest time takes the prize. It is entirely wrong, however. The obstacles are there, not to provide a circus turn, but to determine the degree of intelligence, patience, good temper, obedience, and so forth possessed by the dog.

As a matter of fact, young dogs are bored stiff by hurdle work and are often ruined by being given too much of it early in their training

Here are then main ideals in a nutshell:

1. Not to move your sheep out of a walk.
2. Not to deviate a yard from their course...
3. To put them through the obstacles without allowing them to run even once round the hurdles. It sounds impossible but it is done more often than might be imagined....

Cast [Outrun]

Judges do not favour a headlong rush in a cast. Quite right, too. A blind cast in a paddock that started off with a mad gallop would be very liable to land the dog in the middle of the mob before he could get his bearings. A crossed cast, that is, a cast in which the dog starts out on one hand and crosses over between his master and the sheep to the other hand, "rings the bell," and the exhibitor walks off muttering between his teeth.

Very frequently a cast is stopped short...and the dog approaches the sheep from one side...it is a fault....

Approach [Lift]

The approach...tells the judge a large part of the story. A bustling, jerky approach to wild sheep and you might as well take the dog by the collar and lead him gently but firmly off. The approach is where the heady, clever dog looks over his sheep, sums them up and decides on his plan of campaign. In this connection, [R.H.] Wallace (border collie breeder) was telling me of one time when he put Ben round three sheep and although Ben was not usually slow on the lift, on this occasion he wouldn't come in – kept standing off and eyeing them warily and shifting his position. One of the sheep turned out to be blind. A good dog always gives the impression that if a sheep got away from him he would never be able to look himself in the face again. The appearance should be slow, steady and deliberate. It should be as inexorable as fate and smooth as cream. In that dozen yards or so, the sheep should learn respect for the dog but not fear. A vacillating, nervous, fussy approach is weak.

Bringing [Fetch]

This is where control enters so largely. Keep your dog well behind the sheep. If you can't do it any other way, sit him down and make him come on to them ever so slowly. Never mind the clock in a trial, concentrate on the job. To guide them, he must go out on the wing quickly, quietly, and smoothly. Running backward and forward behind them like driving a mob of sheep won't do at all.

Obstacles [Panels]

The first obstacle is the easiest, and the hardest to put the sheep through as a rule. Until they have been put through once they don't seem to know what it is all about.... The experienced dog makes many of his moves in anticipation, he knows what the sheep are going to do before they do it. Jerky movements, a bold bullying style or a vibrating tail excite the sheep and keep them staring at and fighting the dog.

The Zen of Getting Ready to Run

By Donald McCaig

This article reprinted by members' request, and was originally published in NEBCA Newsletter, Summer 1999, p. 4.

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

Watch the sheep during a very good run. Notice where the handler puts his (her) dog. It will tell you where the sheep want to go. It is not unusual for trialwise sheep to adopt a consistent strategy to beat the dog — heavy on one side so the dog is drawn into a position where he can't possibly cover as they bolt to the uncovered side for the exhaust. At the Blue Ridge one year, instead of a drive panel, the sheep were pushed up a nearly sheer 20-foot cliff. By the second day they'd learned that if they started up the cliff and paused, the handler would send the dog around to catch them at the top and while the dog sailed around, they could come back down the wall and off the course. If this trial has such a danger spot, identify it and plan to deal with it.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mr. McCaig is a sheep farmer, trialist, and world-class writer. Learn more about the author at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Donald_McCaig

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Millerton, NY 12546
518-592-1320
michveteq@gmail.com

Patricia & Lowell Kallen

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Woodstock, CT 06281
757-371-6822
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Gene Sheninger & Teri Rhodes

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Hackettstown, NJ 07840
973-615-9053
els8586@gmail.com

Steve Wetmore

Spring Valley Farm
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Strafford, VT 05072
802-765-4466
swetmore51@gmail.com

Dick & Cheryl Jagger Williams

Culleymont & Sheepy Hollow Farms
4825 State Route 2002
Hop Bottom, PA 18824
570-289-4733; 570-499-0318 (cell)
culleymont@epix.net

Note: Not all breeders listed here are necessarily handlers.

This listing of Border Collie breeders is for informational purposes only and in no way represents an endorsement of these breeders by the North East Border Collie Association (NEBCA).

When making inquiries into purchasing a pup, NEBCA strongly recommends selecting from sound, proven, working stock. We suggest that you see both parents work. If you are unable to see the parents working at a farm, do attend trials and see them working there. Also watch for trials results and seek the advice of experienced handlers.

NEBCA
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The NEBCA Board of Directors reminds all trial managers and volunteers that water must be available for both dogs and livestock at all NEBCA events.



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