



NEBCA News

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



Liz Shaw

***Little Bo Peep had lost her sheep
And had no idea how to find them.
So she sent out the pro to bring them home
Nipping their heels behind them***

Poem by Danielle Eriksen

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

can be found at

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

If members require hard copies, please contact The Secretary, Martha Walke, P.O. 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, P. O. Box 66, S. Strafford, VT 05070
OR submit online at
<http://nebca.net/membershipChoice.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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NEBCA NEWS**Display Advertising**

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Half Page

\$50 per issue/ \$150 per year

Full Page

\$75 per issue/\$225 per year

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President's Message

I hope all of you are well and managing amidst the pandemic, now in the second wave. Clinic and trial activity in the region usually winds down in late fall with the colder weather. Even so, the new restrictions meant two November trials had to be cancelled. The news of effective vaccines being available soon means there is hope of things getting back to normal by next spring when the Northeast trial season normally resumes.

Along with the pending Winter comes the election of officers. The entire executive committee and two director positions are to be filled. Our long term members will surely have noticed the same faces over and over again in officer and committee positions. Such is often the case for small clubs. This year, however, the ballot includes several new names that have generously offered to run and serve. We've had such "changing of the guard" in the past and it's always been positive. The mission remains the same. You'll find a ballot in your mailed newsletter or on the website members-only page. The ballot can be

mailed to the secretary together with your membership renewal if you like.

I'd like to relate a personal experience that occurred this year. It concerns a three year old dog that belonged to a good friend and who I saw regularly. This dog had such a good attitude in his first two years, keen, responsive, always putting 100% into his work. In recent months however, he started to seem less committed and lacking the spark he once had. His outruns, while still perfectly shaped, were slower and his flanks half-hearted. After several routine health checks it was finally discovered he had a rare blood disorder. He lasted only two weeks more. What bothers me is that, before the diagnosis, I considered that he might just be lazy or sour. In truth, he was giving all he had, maybe more, I was just blind. I bring this up only as a reminder to never ignore any noticeable change in a dog's behavior, work or attitude. They can't tell us they don't feel well, it's up to us to know.

Thank you all for your support the past two years, it's been a privilege and a pleasure. Have a safe and warm holiday season and a happy New Year.

Warren

P.S. Don't forget to renew your membership by New Years and if you can, join the online annual meeting on January 16.

From the Editors

Thank you to Warren Mick, our outgoing President. We are sad to see you step down from the job but look forward to seeing you on the field. Trials have been sparse in the NE United States, although those that have happened have been popular, see results for Caora on page 5. Herd Ewe Novice Trial in NH featured snow and an awesome display of Halloween costumes for both dogs and handlers, see pp. 12-15. The Canadians meanwhile have been going gangbusters with multiple trials. Milferns SDT is reported on here (pp. 7-9); for results of the Ontario trials visit the Ontario Border Collie Club website at <https://ontariobordercollieclub.com/trials>.

As the snows set in there is time for some reflection and so we look back and bring you some previously seen but always useful information on using different breeds of sheep for training dogs. NEBCA Travellers page is blank as most people hunker down in place but if you are able to get out and about and have anything interesting to share please send news

along for the Spring 2021 Newsletter. Other tidbits lurk in the pages that follow here: explore and enjoy!

It's that time of year again: Membership renewal and voting.

The positions of President, VP, Secretary, Treasurer and Members of the Board all up for election. If you received this Newsletter in the mail it included a membership renewal form and ballot for elections of officers. If you are reading online you can find the ballot in the Members Only section of the NEBCA website (if you have forgotten the password please contact the Editor or any Board member). **Ballots must be mailed to Martha Walke, Secretary, by December 31.** Make your vote count! Also remember to renew your membership either online at <http://www.nebca.net/membershipChoice.html> or by sending in a hard copy form to Martha with your membership dues, **still only \$25 per year what a bargain!**

Pam & Melanie

My First Open Trial

By Melanie Behrens

Finally, the day has arrived! At the end of 2019, I had decided, with the approval of my mentor Warren Mick, to finally take the step (or maybe the leap!) into Open level trials with my young girl Dance. I planned to make the Caora June trial our first Open trial, because it was close by and we had run Nursery there in the past. But Covid-19 had suddenly gotten in the way, shutting down all trialing in the northeast and preventing us from even training, since I do not have my own sheep. However, by August we had finally been able to begin training again and felt comfortable attending the Ox Creek trial held by Paul Batz and friends on August 14 -15, 2020.

I felt quite nervous and excited in the days leading up to



Melanie and Dance at Ox Creek

the trial. I asked myself over and over: “Are we really ready for this?” “Are people going to think we have over-reached?” “Will we fail?” But every time my answers were the same. Yes, we can do this! Yes, I trust my dog and my training! And finally – if we do fail, it is just more information and learning, and it doesn’t really matter what other people think.



Peggy Flanagan

The weather was quite warm that day. It was quite a climb up the hill to the where the sheep were set out. Waiting my turn, my nerves started to ramp up, but as I went to the post, it all quieted down. The world around me shrunk down to just me, my dog and the sheep up on the hill. It was just another day at the post and we were going to get this job done. My blue girl left my feet and headed out, finding her way across the bridge and bending out wider on her own to get behind the sheep at the top of the hill. The lift was good but after that the fetch gradually fell apart with the sheep pushing towards the pressure and my dog not covering well enough. She did eventually get them across the ditch and to my feet but we just could not get a successful drive going. I over-flanked her at times and my whistles were not always clear and precise. It wasn’t a successful run in terms of being able to complete the course, but there were good parts and it was very much a learning experience. It was, after all, our very first Open trial run. The next day, the outrun and lift were great, the fetch was much better but still offline partly, and we got the turn at the post, but the drive away went badly and it fell apart.

Despite not getting number scores at this first trial, we learned quite a bit, got past the nerves, and found some training work that needed to be done. My dog had great outruns and lifts and many dogs did not do as well on that part on this field. I left feeling so very proud of my dog and looking forward to going out there again with my best girl!

About a month later, at the Caora Fallback Trial, we did get numbers on both of our runs (67 on the first Open run there) and even managed a nice shed in one of the runs. Our learnings from the first trial helped us to prepare for the next trial. I have great hopes for the future. We DO belong in Open and we will continue to have fun there!

Caora FallBack Trial

Sept 17-20 in Millerton NY

Graciously hosted by Mich Ferraro & Kat

Weathers— very well attended!

Judge: Chris Bowen

OPEN 1 — 68 dogs ran

Handler	Dog	Score
1 Barbara Levinson	Bob	89
2 Mich Ferraro	Bella	87
3 Eric Johnson	Blade	87
4 Warren Mick	Grace	84
5 Brenda Buja	Dice	81
6 Maria Amodei	Marcus	78
7 Beverly Lambert	Lee	78
8 Carolyn West	Gael	78
9 Gene Sheninger	Aron	77
10 Sue Schoen	Spy	77
11 Maggie Chambers	Mose	75
12 Nancy Joyce Simmons	Zoe	75
13 Sue Schoen	Cora	75
14 Warren Mick	Tommy	74
15 Maria Mick	Nick3	73

OPEN 2 — 68 dogs ran

Handler	Dog	Score
1 Brenda Buja	Callie	93
2 Mich Ferraro	Bella	89
3 Carolyn West	Clyde	89
4 Barbara Levinson	Meg	87
5 Brenda Buja	Josie	87
6 Beverly Lambert	Lee	86
7 Maria Amodei	Marcus	85
8 Beverly Lambert	Kerry	85
9 Peggy Flannagan	Kitt	82
10 Sue Schoen	Spy	82
11 Mich Ferraro	Mawde	81
12 Eric Johnson	Blade	79
13 Sally Molloy	Ty	79
14 Maria Mick	Nick3	77
15 Barbara Levinson	Bob	77

NURSERY 1 — 9 dogs ran

1. Warren Mick	Kali	75
2. Beverly Lambert	Annie	70

NURSERY 2 — 8 dogs ran

1. Beverly Lambert	Annie	84
2. Paul Batz	Reyn	84



Peggy Flannagan

A black and white Border Collie (imagine that!) on the crossdrive, with the sheep just about to disappear from handler's sight behind the trees (a classic Caora hazard), at beautiful Caora Farm.

Peggy Flanagan

Fennel-crusted Lamb Chops

Submitted by Debbie Mailett

This is our favourite lamb recipe.

I use the rub on lamb chops, steak*, leg and shanks.

2 tsp dried rosemary, crushed
1 tsp garlic powder
2 tsp fennel seeds, crushed
2 tsp cracked black pepper
1 1/2 tsp pink Himalayan salt
3 tsp oil, preferably olive
8 lamb chops 1 1/2 inch thick

- Preheat oven to 350 F
- Combine all dry ingredients
- Rub chops on both sides with 2 tsp olive oil
- With clean dry fingers, sprinkle chops with herb mixture
- In large oven proof skillet heat remaining olive oil over medium high heat.
- Add chops, cook turning once until browned on both sides, 2 - 3 minutes per side.
- Transfer pan to oven
- Bake to desired doneness, about 15 minutes for medium

Serve with pan juices and a glass of red wine;)

* I get our butcher to slice the front legs into one and a half inch thick steaks. They take about 40 minutes in the oven.



Brenda Buja and young Dice in the shedding ring at Caora SDT



Barb Armata

Too Cute to Eat?

Milferns Stock Dog Trial: Oct. 24-25 Truro, Nova Scotia

By Hilary Flower

Fred & Anne Hamilton hosted the Milferns SDT October 24th /25th. Sadly, this year we could not have handlers from away due to COVID restrictions. Bill Flower & Anne Hamilton judged. Bill was very tough on handlers not attempting to put their dogs back on line, very difficult for the novice handlers to think of such a thing! JP Mailett had a beautiful drive going with Quake. Sadly, he was “off line a lot of the drive, losing points as he went”. There is a lot of pressure in the field. Some young/Novice dogs had a hard time pushing the sheep down through the drive panels away from the exhaust. In the afternoon the course was changed which gave the sheep the opportunity to run towards the exhaust. Unless your dog held the pressure it was “game over”. For the most part the sheep were happy to pen, so we thought we would up the challenge on the second day and have a Maltese Cross. The rules were changed for each class trying to make it “doable” for the N/N class as the sheep were a little tricky. By the end of the morning trial the decision was made to go back to the pen!!!! Clearly, we need to have lessons in how to be successful at the Maltese Cross!



Fred and Gem setting the course the old-fashioned way

Here are some of the handlers' thoughts from the trial:



Hilary Flower's Olive

“In October 2020 I attended my very first herding trial with my border collie Jack! I had bought my own sheep in the spring, took some lessons, and did a lot of practising. I wanted to see what the trial environment was all about, so I registered in Milferns Sheep Dog Trial near Truro, put on by Fred and Anne Hamilton. When I got to the trial field, I was greeted by the other competitors, who made me feel very welcome throughout the whole weekend. Although it was nerve wracking competing in a new event, Jack and I placed 4th in our first class! Our other classes didn't go quite as planned, but the

judges and competitors were very encouraging and helpful. It was inspiring to watch dogs at different levels work the

sheep. In the Ranch Class, the dogs had such control and precision to get the sheep exactly where they needed to go. Overall, the trial was a great experience for Jack and I. We will practise over the winter and be back next year!"

~ **Ashley Crocker**

"Two weeks before The Milferns trial we were in the orange phase in New Brunswick. Out of Province travel not recommended without good reason.

Depending on who you're asking, a dog trial is a pretty good reason..... Just saying....

It was Thursday night at midnight when we got the green light that we were in the yellow phase again, Yahoo!!! We're off to Fred's on Saturday. Oh happy day.

Once again the weather was great, sheep were tough, but some great runs were had. Heather's hockey stick run comes to mind.

A great trial season in the Maritimes for sure."

Deb & JP Mailett

"As always, Fred and Anne go above and beyond to put on a great trial. Great job by the pen and set out crew, with fast fresh sheep to control, not an easy task. Great judging team, Bill Flower and Anne Hamilton. Lots of good feedback. Awesome to see everyone and some new faces too. Overall, I think the dogs did really well. Some really nice runs to watch. We all have lots to work on. Can someone please send us the rules on the Maltese Cross, ha-ha. Everyone please take care and stay safe in these trying times. "

~ **Paula Reardon**

"I always look forward to the annual Milferns NEBCA trial. The atmosphere is more of a barn-raising with everyone pitching in to make the trial fun and efficient. While the pandemic limited the entries and socializing, I think everyone would agree that it was a wonderful weekend.

The sheep are honest if your dog is honest and the course challenging which makes for a great combination.

My dogs ran better this year than ever before. While we ended up with more letters than numbers, we acquired very valuable trial miles. The time spent watching and listening to more experienced handlers is the true payout for me."

~**Elizabeth Webber**



The Andersons: Frankie and Euchre

Milfern's SDT cont.

"Milfern SDT. Nova Scotia. October 2020. Due to COVID 19 , 2020 has been an extremely trying year. Being from Eastern Canada, we do not have the opportunity to trial. So with training and visiting friends in our Atlantic bubble, I was able to get my dog Euchre to start working with me as a team. As for the trial, Milferns SDT hosted by the Hamilton's is a class act. From challenging sheep to awesome competitors...who could ask for more (well having our American friends would have made it better-we miss you all). Euchre performed beyond my wildest dream. Looking forward to 2021."

~**Blake Anderson**

"Finding the positive in small successes.

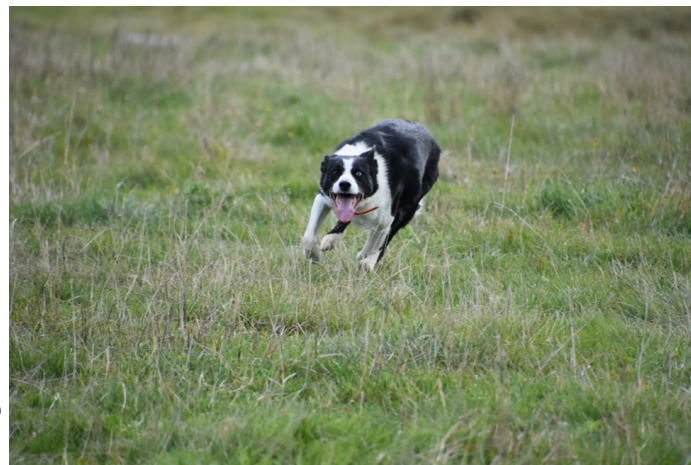
When Meg kept going around the top on her outrun, it looked as if she would just keep on going. Forever. I remembered the advice I was given, to be ready for the unexpected and to get the run back on course. I was able to down Meg, flank her back to balance and have her move up on the sheep for the lift to finish my run."

~**Don Barns**

"Fun trial amongst friends. Fred's sheep are a love-hate relationship. I love them because they make me have to think several steps ahead, I hate them because just when I think I have them figured out, they do something totally different. A great challenge. My last run of the day in Ranch class I went to the gate to enter the field. I realized I did not have my dog with me. I set my crook on the gate and ran to the fence to get my dog. I came running back only to find my crook had been replaced with a hockey stick. Not wanting to waste more time, I grabbed it and entered the field. As I went by the judge, I said any rules against it? He laughed and said no slap shots allowed. No one confessed to the switch up, however I think Fred might know."



Don Barns' Meg



Heather Soper's Wren



Heather's hockey stick "crook" — Only In Canada, eh?

Photos by Hilary Flower



MDR1 and You

By Pam Mueller PhD DVM

Most people are familiar by now with the concept of the MDR-1 mutation or at least have heard the term. Many of our dogs have been tested, as this test is often included on the genetic panels that breeders and sometimes owners are performing these days. However, in case you are not up to speed, here is a refresher.

MDR1-affected dogs have a genetic predisposition to developing an adverse drug reaction when given certain medications. Why? MDR1 stands for multi-drug resistance and is a gene that encodes a P-glycoprotein in the blood-brain barrier. This protein is a drug transport pump that limits absorption and distribution of drug molecules, especially in the brain. Affected dogs have a 4-basepair deletion mutation in the gene, rendering the protein ineffective. These dogs have a limited ability to control the amount of certain drugs entering the brain. This can lead to toxicity and neurologic signs and can be fatal without treatment. Dogs can be homozygous for the mutated gene (two copies) or heterozygous (one mutated copy, one normal copy). Homozygous dogs react more strongly but even heterozygotes can be clinically affected. Ivermectin was the first drug noted to cause problems in such dogs.

The origin of the MDR1 mutation is currently unknown. It is considered to be most prevalent in herding breeds but any dog can be affected.

Current Known Frequency* of Affected Dogs by Breed:

Breed	Frequency
Border Collie	< 5%
Rough Collie	70%
Australian Shepherd, Mini Aussie	50%
McNab	30%
English Shepherd	15%
Shetland Sheepdog	15%
German Shepherd	10%
Old English Sheepdog	5%
Herding Breed Crossbred	10%
Other Mixed Breed	5%

**These data reflect principally US/Canadian populations. Data from Germany and Brazil show similar but slightly different (mostly lower) frequencies. There are as yet no reports of affected Kelpies, Bearded Collies or Australian Cattle Dogs.*

As you can see from the above table, fortunately this mutation appears to be rare in the Border Collie. However, that does not mean we should drop our guard. It CAN occur. And some of us do own dogs that are or may be crosses for example with Aussies. Sometimes we might not even know that our dog is part Aussie or McNab.

Many have heard the phrase “white feet don’t treat”. This saying comes from “back in the day” when mange in dogs was treated with Ivermectin. It takes a fairly large dose of Ivermectin to kill mange (*Demodex* mites) – orders of magnitude higher than what is put in monthly heartworm

preventatives. But before this interaction was known, collies were given ivermectin for mange and some died. Since collies (of any kind!) tend to have white feet, the saying developed that those white-footed dogs should not be treated for mange with Ivermectin. This idea got carried over to the belief that any white footed dog could not tolerate any amount of Ivermectin and thus could not be given heartworm preventative. This of course is not correct, and now much more is known about the subject.

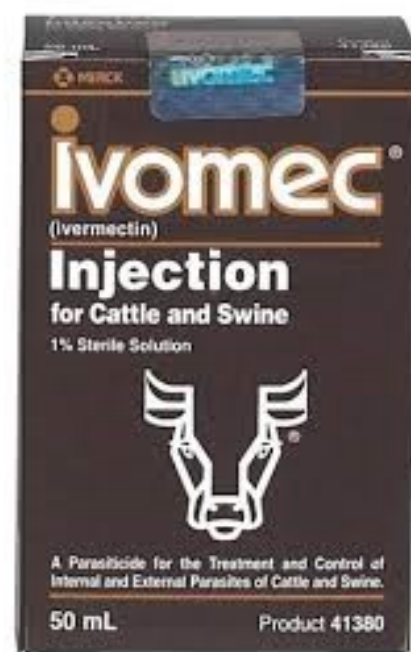
The most serious toxicity problems are seen with the anti-parasitic drugs (macrocytic lactones), which include Ivermectin, Milbemycin, Selamectin, and Moxidectin. However, these drugs ARE SAFE in heartworm preventatives (such as Heartgard, Sentinel, Interceptor, Tri-Heart Plus etc.) at the manufacturer's recommended doses, even for a dog with two copies of the mutated MDR1 gene. Problems arise when given at high doses for mange, or when owners try to do their own heartworm dosing by diluting bottles of livestock grade Ivermectin. This is stronger and it can be difficult to measure the proper amount for your dog. I would note that vets rarely use Ivermectin to treat mange anymore, because we have better easier drugs in the Isoxazoline class of anti-parasitics (Nexgard, Simparica). Also note that ANY dog, even those with normal genes, can be poisoned by ivermectin if taken in a high enough dose. This usually happens when a dog gets into horse wormer, which is tasty, or eats a large amount of manure from stock that have been dewormed with ivermectin and there is drug pass-through to the feces. This intoxication can cause neurologic signs, blindness and even death, although dogs without the mutation usually recover.

The anti-parasitics are not the only drugs we have to worry about with dogs carrying the MDR1 mutation. Others include:

- ♦ Anti-cancer drugs (**Vincristine, Doxorubicin, Vinblastine**) – do not use
- ♦ **Acepromazine** (sedative)- dose may need to be lowered
- ♦ **Loperamide** (Imodium) – toxic at doses currently suggested for diarrhea
- ♦ **Butorphanol** (analgesic, sedative) – doses should be lowered
- ♦ **Apomorphine** (to induce vomiting, commonly used at the ER) – doses should be lowered
- ♦ **Ondansetron** (Zofran; anti-emetic) – use with caution
- ♦ **Digoxin, Mexilitene** (cardiac drugs) - use with caution or not at all
- ♦ **Cyclosporine** (immunosuppressant) — may not be safe
- ♦ **Doxycycline** (antibiotic) — unclear if safe

Most of the genetic panels being run on Border Collies today (PawPrint, Optimal Selection, Embark) will report a dog's MDR1 status. Because MDR1-affected is not a lethal phenotype – a dog will be just fine so long as the offending drugs are avoided – being affected does not automatically mean the dog should not be bred. It is however an important piece of information for making informed breeding decisions and should be relayed to all puppy buyers. If you are not doing a panel you can find out your dog's status and risk by simply testing for the MDR1 gene. This is offered by the Washington State University Veterinary Clinical Pharmacology Laboratory for \$60 per dog (www.vcpl.vetmed.wsu.edu).

Best advice: test your dog. Know his status. Even if you are not going to breed your dog, test your dog. Information is power. If your dog is positive you will know to warn your vet, and any ER vet that your dog sees, against giving the drugs on the forbidden list. Also ask them to use caution with the suspected drugs. Believe it or not, not every vet knows every drug on this list to watch out for. I want to emphasize that some of these drugs may be used commonly and, in an ER setting, given quickly because of perceived immediate necessity. For example, in cases of respiratory distress or if the dog has ingested a toxin, time is of the essence and the clinician may reach for butorphanol or acepromazine or apomorphine without having the chance to contemplate if this dog might be an MDR1-affected case. This lack of information can lead to accidental and unfortunate, but avoidable, trouble. My dog is unaffected/ normal – are yours?



Livestock Ivermectin should not be used to treat your dogs against heartworm, as it is too concentrated to be dosed properly

2020 Breeders' Directory

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Glen Gardner, NJ 08826
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pamdavies30@gmail.com

Gene Sheninger & Teri Rhodes

470 Schooley's Mountain Rd. #144
Hackettstown, NJ 97840
973-615-9053
els8586@gmail.com

Dick & Cheryl Jagger Williams

Culleymont & Sheepy Hollow Farm
4825 State Route 2002
Hop Bottom, PA 18824
570-289-4733; 570-499-0318
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Note: Advertisement herein does not constitute endorsement by NEBCA. Do your due diligence when selecting a breeder.

Herd Ewe Farm Novice Trial, Kensington NH

By Danielle Ericksen

Halloween weekend, 2020, heralded the third annual Herd Ewe Farm novice sheep dog trial in Kensington, NH and a great time was had by all!

For many novice handlers, this was the first and only sheep dog trial we'd attend this year, thanks to the pandemic. It was wonderful to catch up in person with old friends and their dogs. The



Deb Donahue on the fetch

Danielle Ericksen

weather was brisk so people were wearing hats and coats along with their masks, so occasionally we had to reintroduce ourselves to our fellow handlers.

Safety precautions were paramount: everyone wore a mask whenever they couldn't be more than six feet apart, hand sanitizer was available in multiple spots, especially at the few gates that needed to be opened and closed.

Sharon and Dan Barrette once again proved to be exceptional hosts, making everyone feel comfortable and welcome on their beautiful farm. Many thanks go out to those who helped make this event a success: Brenda Buja was a terrific judge, Sheila Crepeau scribed for much of the weekend, Debbie Smith West worked exhaust, Peggy Flanagan, Liz Shaw and Eric Johnson (anyone else?) provided excellent set-out, a few of us worked the pen, and others worked a new pandemic-induced duty: gate cleaning! On Saturday, the judge declared the pen gate would stay open, but on Sunday, a volunteer sprayed the gate with disinfectant between runs. Ranch handlers were challenged with a bridge instead of the pen.

Sharon had announced a Halloween costume contest, so many people showed up wearing terrific costumes. Appearances were made by a Queen Bee, the Queen of Hearts, the Energizer Bunny, a wolf in sheep's clothing, Little Bo Peep, a pirate, and a devil, just to name a few. Even some of the dogs joined in the costume fun!

Great prizes were awarded for the top six finishers in each class: biothane long lines, tie-outs, collars, dog toys and lanyards. Stock sticks and Logan whistles were the choices for the combined Champion and Reserve Champion.

Herd Ewe Farm Trial: Results

Judge: Brenda Buja

Saturday October 31, 2020

Novice/Novice 1 – 8 dogs ran

1. Karen Gorman Tess
2. Linda Rogers Ffate
3. Sarah Vinning Zelia
4. Holly Fincher Clare
5. Sharon Barrette Clyde
6. Linda Bohm Roo

ProNovice 1 – 8 dogs ran

1. Danielle Eriksen Dove
2. David Goyer Dan
3. Deke Zuckerman Cora

Ranch 1 – 12 dogs ran

1. Ginny Prince June
2. Debbie West Zoom
3. Debbie West Breeze
4. Eric Johnson Tara
5. Barbara Eriksson Brook
6. Deborah Duarte Remi

Sunday, November 1, 2020

Novice/Novice 2 – 9 dogs ran

1. Sharon Barrette Clyde
2. Karen Gorman Tess
3. Linda Rogers Ffate
4. Linda Bohm Roo
5. Sarah Vinning Zelia
6. Joanne Thayer Zsasz

ProNovice 2 – 8 dogs ran

1. David Goyer Barley
2. David Goyer Dan
3. Danielle Eriksen Dove
4. Lori Tsuruda Pepper

Ranch 2 – 13 dogs ran

1. Barbara Eriksson Bel
2. Barbara Eriksson Brook
3. Debbie West Breeze
4. Karen Gorman Nash



Debbie West Smith turns the post with Breeze

Danielle Eriksen



Sharon Barrette



Queen of Hearts : Linda Bohm with Roo the dog

Halloween at Herd Ewe Farm!

Photos by Sharon Barrette



Lion: Joanne Thayer's Zsasz



**Queen Bee Brenda
Buja with a Wolf in
Sheep's Clothing
(Sheila Crepeau)**

More FUN IN THE
SUN & SNOW at
Herd Ewe Farm

**Energizer Bunny Ginny
Prince**



**Little Bo Peep:
Danielle Ericson**



Mad Hatter Linda Bohm



**Karen
Gorman
as The
Devil**



**The real Wolf in Sheep's Clothing: Theone
Thayer's Sigg**

ANNUAL MEETING INFORMATION The NEBCA 2021 annual meeting will be held on Saturday, January 16 starting at 10 am. The meeting will be done entirely online using the Zoom application, similar to how the Summer 2020 meeting was run. Information on how to join the annual meeting will be emailed to members in early January. The agenda and other meeting material will be placed on the website members-only page.

Let's keep in mind....
Without **me**
sheep dogs have
nothing to do.



Alanna Leach

A little respect if you please!

NEBCA TRIAL CALENDAR

Sadly, no trials have been scheduled in the NEBCA region for the remainder of 2020 nor into 2021. However, we do hope that Spring will bring renewed trialing possibilities.

What Type of Sheep Are Best?

By Barbara Armata

Reprinted from *NEBCA News*, Summer 2005, pp. 15-17.
Updated November 2020

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?

Bernie and I had 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 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 neither we nor our dogs had any idea how to handle this type of sheep. Our needs changed so we started 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.

Getting your own sheep is the best way to advance yourself and your dog. Your stock sense will increase greatly



Dorsets, good for starting young dogs, are known for their curled horns although now many are polled.

when you don't have someone telling you how and what to do!

The best breed, in my opinion, for starting dogs is the Dorset or Dorset cross. This breed is not very large, tends to be more complacent and 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.

These days, one does not see many Dorset flocks other than show sheep flocks. A lot of handlers have turned to Katahdins.

When looking for "dog broke" sheep, it's best to inquire around at dog trials. If you go to a sheep farm, their opinion of "dog broke" may be that 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 fine wool breed and process the fiber, shearing is an added expense with no benefit. This breed tends to be higher headed and 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.

Another popular hair sheep is the Dorper breed. They tend to be more sluggish than Katahdins.

Katahdins may run but are not necessarily 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 can be squirrely like Cheviots only a [bit??] 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 and that it is possible to drive in high gear! Not ideal of 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 fences!). Scotties as a breed do not have a

strong flocking instinct. When used in 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.

Something to consider is breed hardiness. If you have limited pasture, you may want a breed that is an easy keeper. So ask questions of the people who own the sheep. Research the breeds so you get traits you can deal with!

The main thing is having the right sheep for the right situation. It may mean you will keep multiple breeds to suit different training options. And be creative with what you have. Put an independent ewe with a group she doesn't like. This will encourage the dog to watch all the sheep, keeping them together. Say your sheep are quick to move forward, use more sheep to help slow things down. Maybe work a single to sharpen up your dog's reaction. These have been my experiences. I have not dealt with many wool breeds, nor have I been out west on range sheep. I hope someone who has will write about his or her experiences.

Enjoy the sheep and the training! It's a great journey.



Barb Armata

Cheviots can be squirrely; they will bolt if pushed too hard.



Sallie Butler

Scottish Blackface don't flock as strongly as other breeds so they will teach a dog to watch all the stock, not just the lead sheep. Here Lucky the Kelpie keeps a good eye on the sheep.

When and Where? What was the first documented sheepdog trial?

By Sallie Butler

Historians have so far found that the earliest recorded sheepdog competition in Britain occurred in **Bala, Wales, on October 9, 1873**. Despite chillingly damp weather, approximately 300 spectators watched ten dogs compete for top spot. Champion was James Thompson of Scotland, with Tweed. Reserve Champion was John Jones, of Hafod, Wales.

Considering a wider geographical expanse, historians found documentation of an earlier trial, which occurred on **April 18, 1871. It was organized by Burrangong Pastoral Association, and held in Young, New South Wales, Australia**. The winner was Brutus, a sheepdog imported from Jedburgh, Scotland. According to the report in *Town and Country* (April 1871, p. 518):

“The performance of [Brutus] was something wonderful. Three sheep were let loose and taken outside the ground and the dog called upon word being given brought them into the ground and across through a crowd of people running here, there and everywhere in a manner which would confuse a human being, to their pen, without so much as a bark. So uncommonly well did this shepherd's friend behave himself that the other competitors resigned all claim to the prize, and would not put their dogs upon trial.”



Medal Struck For Winning Dog Brutus in 1871

Brutus won the event again in 1872.

But diligent historians have set the world-wide trial calendar back further, to **April 30, 1867**, now the date of the earliest recorded sheepdog trial in **Wanaka, New Zealand**. According to *Oamaru Times*, the trial had “numerous” entries for a course in which teams were asked to “drive three wild hill wethers, turned out of a yard, about a quarter of a mile, put them in a yard of five hurdles, without a wing, and return them to the starting place within 30 minutes.”

Thus for now our first sheepdog trial dates to 1867, but with the predilection of historians to keep researching that date may be upended, as documentation of earlier events, especially in the UK, are discovered.

References:

North Wales Live, from <https://www.dailypost.co.uk/news/local-news/can-wales-reclaim-sheepdog-trials-2745139>

Bala Sheepdog Society History <https://balasheepdogsales.weebly.com/history.html>

Barbara Cooper, Working Kelpie Council, <http://www.wkc.org.au/Historical-Trials/Burrangong-Trial-1871.php>

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NEBCA Annual Meeting on January 16, 2021

Information on page 16



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