



NEBCA News

The Official Publication of the North East Border Collie Association,



Rebecca Bell

"I'll see your three and raise you five"

Sallie Butler's Kelpie (alternative border collie) Orion practices two-step with sheep

See page 12 for Orion's battle with a deadly disease

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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President's Message

Dear NEBCA members,

I hope this newsletter finds you well and ready to trial. I've been very happy to see trials appear on the schedule. During the long months of

Covid restrictions it began to feel like we might not be able to resume trialing in the foreseeable future. Hopefully the US-Canadian border will open soon and we will be able to travel freely again.

Though I've continued to train my dogs through the pandemic, (and my household dog population will soon be double what it was a year ago!), it's become very obvious to me that, although I started training my first sheepdog because of my love for dogs and sheep, it's the relationships with the people that keep my passion for trialing alive. I very much missed seeing everyone last year and eagerly await my first trial of the season so I can see you again.

I recently had the pleasure of visits to my farm by three people who were interested in seeing my dogs work. One was a woman who, like me, saw her first sheepdog trial years ago at Cummington and wanted a dog of her own once she saw the incredible partnership that humans and working dogs have. She is now getting ready to make that dream come true by starting to look for a dog. It's a thrill to share my experiences with another who is starting her own journey with the dogs we all love so. I have learned so much from more experienced handlers, and it's a joy to be able to share that knowledge with future handlers.

Pass it on,

Barb

The NEBCA Lending Library contains one of the finest collections of herding and sheepdog materials in North America: Books, DVDs, CDs, VHS and the occasional cassette tape. As a membership benefit you can borrow books free of charge (other than the cost of return postage) and other materials for \$4. A list of library holdings is found on the NEBCA website. Contact Martha Walke, Librarian, to borrow. Contact any Board member if you need the website password.

From the Editors

Tulips have come and gone, summer flowers are in bloom. Snow is melted, COVID is in retreat and trials are re-emerging. Over the past year many members have found numerous creative ways to continue training, learning, and sharing the world of sheepdogs. An intrepid **Sallie Butler** trekked again to Kentucky for a clinic, this time taking **Lori Tsuruda** with her (page 5). New ideas such as the ZOOM clinics, brought to you by **Rose Redick** and the Education Committee (page 16) have sprouted. COVID-19 (not to mention a cold winter) has been hard but there is much hope in the future.

Check out pages 14-15 for a window into the world of high tech canine research at Harvard University and how YOU TOO can be involved. On page 17 **Mary Ames** (one of the Newsletter's most reliable

journalists) provides a succinct explanation and call to action regarding the much-lamented current lack of Novice Trials. New NEBCA member **Dominic Frabizio**, transplanted to New York from Montana, shows us another Pandemic Pup (page 18) and AT LAST the NEBCA Trial Calendar is full to the brim (page 19), although sadly Canadians and Americans are still moving in separate spheres.

Last but not least, we once again bid a very sad farewell to a beloved Member, lost much too soon (pp. 6-11). This Editor, for one, is getting tired of these losses and the reporting thereon. People, stay safe out there! Stay healthy!

Pam & Melanie

Having Guests Over

By Ginny Prince

During this time of Covid and beyond it's especially nice to be able to go to other folks' places and work different sheep. We get used to our own place and our own sheep and so do our dogs. There is always the potential for things to get exciting, possibly even out of hand with new dogs and handlers in a new situation. Here are some safety considerations when hosting other people and other dogs.

Point out strong draws, rough ground, ditches, stone walls, slippery footing, stumps etc. Invite visitors to walk their dogs around the area so the dogs know also. Be especially careful about roads, weak fences and bodies of water.

Scan your pastures for hazards with fresh eyes. Remove barbed wire, farm implements and fence off other objects with sharp edges that a dog could run into, and protect gates and fence posts having sharp projections. Try never to leave used baling twine lying around. It can be very dangerous when sheep, dogs or humans get tangled in it.

It's easy to forget about guard animals when you're used to working your own dogs around them. However, their job is to guard against intruders and the most benign LGDs, llamas and donkeys have every right to consider new dogs as well as people to be intruders, with potentially dire consequences.

Even small, young rams are potentially very dangerous especially in breeding season. Working ewes in estrus with a ram present puts nearby dogs and humans in a position where the ram is likely to see them as competition, and we know that rams deal with competition by butting, usually with a great deal of force. In addition, stressing the ewes by working them with an unfamiliar dog during breeding makes them less likely to conceive and less likely to have multiple fetuses if they do conceive. Stress from new dogs and excessive and/or rough work during the first 6 weeks of pregnancy, before the fetuses have implanted, is also likely cause lower birth rates or early stage abortion.

Listen up Ya'll! My mom's talking!



Ginny Prince's Dar

Sallie Butler

Last of all, a word for guest handlers: working sheep at someone else's place is different from a trial, lesson or clinic. It is up to you to make sure you don't work the sheep or your dog too long. There's no timer running as at a trial, no clinician or coach taking breaks from instruction and watching out for the sheep's welfare. Probably the sheep are also not accustomed to being worked on and off for an hour or more like lesson sheep. It's easy to be immersed by the fascination of working your dog on new sheep and lose track of time. It's hard to just work your dog for say 5 minutes, take a little break and work 4 or 5 more minutes and call it good when you drove an hour or more to get to the place, but it's key for the mental and physical health of both sheep and dogs to avoid working too long. Sheep get tired and frustrated like the rest of us and will then do their best to beat the dog out of self-defense. At this point the dog, already taxed as well, likely will do something you will regret as well as learning an unproductive lesson. Moreover the bad experience changes the sheep too. Just as handling by a dog that takes no nonsense and no cheap shots creates sheep that work well, being tortured and harassed past exhaustion causes sheep to become sour or even unmanageable.

This sheepherding thing is a special partnership between three species. In an ideal world there is respect six ways: sheep respect dogs and humans, dog respects sheep and humans, and our role is to respect sheep and dogs!

NEBCA TRAVELLERS

As the Pandemic loosens its grip, some Nebca-ites have been able to venture forth.

In early May, trainer Mike Stewart hosted another clinic in Central Western Kentucky, with chill weather prevailing, interspersed with heavy rainfalls. NEBCA members Lori Tsuruda and Sallie Butler were lucky attendees. (photos by Sallie Butler)



*Lori's BC Boone
calmly carries for-
ward while close to
sheep*



*Sallie's kelpie Sirius
learns to nudge a single
sheep away from a
tightly clustered group*

We Remember Dave Fetterman

Ben Tesdahl

Dave Fetterman died unexpectedly on March 16, 2021. Dave was a long-time and beloved member of NEBCA and the sheepdog community. News of his passing on the Handlers Tent Facebook page generated 107 comments of remembrance and condolences. The words **Kind, Generous, Warm, Welcoming, Wonderful, Encouraging, Giving, Funny and The Perfect Gentleman** appeared over and over in those messages. May we all be thusly celebrated. Below, some club members share their thoughts and memories of Dave.



I will always remember Dave as a gentleman as well as friend. He pitched in willingly to help where and whenever help was needed. At Leatherstocking I saw Jim Murphy and Dave filling in the scattered woodchuck holes without being asked. And who can forget Dave pushing reluctant sheep out with a gate at the Fall Foliage in Pennsylvania one year? I never knew Dave to speak badly of anyone or anything in the years I knew him. I'd like to think one reason we got along so well was that we shared the same

warped sense on humor. For instance, one day while watching dogs run Dave turned to me and asked "Is eligibility for AARP a prerequisite for NEBCA membership?" After a while it became customary to trade jokes whenever we saw one another and I can still see him coming from his camper with a cigarette in one hand and sometimes a drink in the other. He would have that half-smile on his face as we talked dogs, trucks, trials and more. News of his passing was very sad and unexpected indeed.

His was a kind soul, and if I could, I would say to him; "Rest in peace my friend, you left us all too early. And I will miss you."

Bernie Armata

I have had the honor of considering Dave Fetterman my dear friend for many years. I competed in the first trial he hosted at his beautiful farm. I also judged his trial on many occasions. This provided me with the opportunity to get to know Dave and his wife Debbie a little better. He was a regular

at Patrick's clinics both at Janet Harvey's farm and mine. I do not think he missed one in the past 20 years or so.

He truly loved the working Border Collie and our community. He considered himself fortunate to be a part of it all. I never saw him without a smile on his face and a friendly greeting.

I know he will be missed by many and our sport will be diminished by his passing.

Linda Tesdahl



Ben Tesdahl



Ben Tesdahl

Rolling fields and splendid vistas in northeastern Pennsylvania marked the Borders on Paradise Sheepdog events, graciously hosted and managed by Dave and Debbie Fetterman for several years. The Fettermans welcomed newcomers, and the commercial flock offered course challenges for all. Dave's wit, smile and gentle humor lightened the days, regardless of rain or points-off scores. Dave and his high-mannered and competitive skills will be missed.

Sallie Butler

Such sad news when I heard Dave had passed. He so loved his piece of Paradise and his dogs. He was proud of the extraordinary trial he and Debbie hosted and rightfully so. The farm was a beautiful sanctuary for him in his busy life as an Optometrist. His generosity of sharing it with us provided us with many wonderful memories. We were fortunate to live close enough to occasionally join Dave at his field to share a day of working dogs with border collie friends. As Handlers

we were all blessed that he shared that beautiful property with us. Wonderful memories of a great friend with laughter and joy of times spent with a special friend. I am writing this on Memorial Day so an additional salute to his service in the Marines and the Army.

Annie Palmer

The handler in the northeast Dave, who ran red dogs, always had a smile and kind word for everyone. He will be missed for his time and generosity to the sport of dog trialing.

Deb Donahue



Dave's trial field at Borders on Paradise

Sallie Butler

I always was able to easily spot him at sheep dog trials, regardless of the crowd numbers. He brought a grace and esthetic to our gatherings, always handsome, relaxed and kind, dressed in his uniform of khaki trousers and baby blue shirts. Dave and Kate Hepburn wore their mantle, unassuming.

I would like to share a specific event that occurred eight years ago, my first time at Dave's STD. Dave had a real nice nursery bitch, Emma, a beautiful red lass. I was a newbie, two years into our passion, and was running Wull for the first time in nursery. Emma and Wull tied for 1st and judge Linda Tesdahl called for a silent gather run-off. What the heck is a silent gather? Emma and Dave ran first, while I watched to see what was expected. Emma was great, she moved the sheep quietly and very slowly. Our turn. Afterwards Linda walked over to Dave and had a quick talk. Emma was DQ, as when she took off, Dave called her back to his feet and re-sent her. In my eyes Emma always ran the best, and hands down she did. The mistake was not hers, but Dave's in calling her back. He walked over to me with congratulation, his warm hands shook mine.

Party Guy!



Oh Mr. Fetterman, your grace reigned supreme that day. such a lesson you provided me, I am still trying to learn.

Diane Cox

Dave had an incredible ability to separate running his dog in a competitive stance from just running his dog for the love of it. He always came off the field happy with his run no matter the outcome. Over the years I have tried to soften my competitive objective and, to a certain degree, tried to emulate Dave's behavior because of my admiration for it. I don't think I will ever to be able to reach his level composure, but I'm sure to be thinking about that next time I run my dog.

Roger Millen

We retired in 1992 and moved to Sharbot Lake, Ontario to manage our Rental Cottages. A lot of our clientele were from Williamsport, PA. We were involved for 20 years in obedience training of various breeds of dogs. In 1994 our last dog died and we needed a new one. We both said, "border collie". Our search took us to Amanda Milliken; got a pup, Duke. We took a few lessons from J.P.

Lalonde. He lent us some sheep after weaning. We then rented a small barn about 5k from home and had access to an unfenced field another 5k further.

Sometime in the mid '90s Dave contacted us from our website. He said that he and Debbie spent a week every summer fishing at Adams Lake cottages near Sharbot Lake. He asked if he could come to watch us practice. We said yes, but we were novice handlers. He did come, spent the afternoon with us. He helped us search for sheep that escaped into the woods while we were training.

Our next contact with Dave was that he had bought some land and was building a shelter and wanted to put on a trial. We said we would help. We helped with scoring and other trial chores. Each summer when he and Debbie came up fishing we would have a visit; over the years we would pitch in with his trial the next Spring. They became great friends. Dave will be sorely missed.

Jim and Joanne Murphy

I appreciated the Borders on Paradise trials so much as a beginning novice handler. Now I realize how much of an extra commitment it is for hosts to put on Novice trials in addition to the Open trials and Dave Fetterman was always a model trial host. My most vivid memory of Dave Fetterman was how neatly and professionally dressed he always was at trials – but still always willing to pitch in and help in the pens.

Sara Reiter

My first time to the Borders on Paradise trial, of course I got lost and arrived late. I had naively entered my young dog in both Nursery and ProNovice but, as the trial was oversubscribed, Dave asked that those of



Look-a-Likes!

Ben Tesdahl



us with double entries choose one run only. I was a brand new and clueless handler but I confidently chose Nursery. Day 1: what a disaster. I don't believe the sheep ever arrived at the post. Later I walked sheepishly up to Dave, and he kindly said "Tomorrow, ProNovice?" Dave excelled at kindness, generosity and humbleness. I later had the pleasure of enjoying several Patrick Shanahan clinics with him at Linda Tesdahl's farm. I always took copious notes and Dave (who always brought a fabulous cheesecake baked by his wife Debbie) every time asked me when I was going to write them up and give him a copy. I really did mean to....It is such a shock to realize he will not grace our presence again. Farewell, Dave.

Pam Mueller

I didn't always go to Dave Fetterman's trial. It occupied an awkward date for me—just before Bluegrass and deep in the heart of my garden season. But when I started to go, I didn't stop. His farm (I never saw his house) was pretty much a man cave. A place he came to fly free of optometry and domestic responsibilities. It must have annoyed Deb, but she was a good sport. The

trial was a busy time for him—social butterfly, from camper to camper, answering toasts, taking a dram, making everyone welcome in spades. He watched the running keenly, all day.

The news of his death was a complete shock. He was so fit and lively, it was unimaginable. Covid has made things unimaginable. While it's hard to see how things will be when we free up, one conspicuous missing event will be the trial in Milton, Pennsylvania, hosted by Dave Fetterman.

Amanda Milliken

I will always remember Dave as the guy who cared so much about his dogs. He also cared about how the sheep were treated. He had such a big heart. Some of my memories of him are of him catching his coat or pants pockets on fire, when he put his cigarette butts in them when they were not completely out. He also was able to sleep anywhere any time. During clinics and trials. I always enjoyed training with him and our good conversations. I will miss him greatly.

Kim Baker

Dave was first and foremost a gentleman. Thoughtful, kind and funny, he would make sure that you were comfortable when visiting his farm for a trial. But his sense of humor ran on the slightly wicked side. Not mean; he wouldn't laugh at another's misfortune. During our visits at trials we would trade some pretty ribald jokes and giggle like schoolkids.



Ben Tesdahl



Ben Tesdahl

He will always be known as a champion for BAER testing border collies. I will always remember our conversation after dinner at his Borders on Paradise trial when he realized his dog, (Leah? Someone please confirm or correct me) could not hear him on the field. He was near tears, he was so upset. Like so many others, I was telling him that the dog was just "blowing him off". Fortunately, Dave was not convinced that was the case. He did something about it and started the BAER testing at his trial, which inspired so many others to do the same. We will miss you, Dave. See you down the road.

Maggie Chambers

I will always remember Dave as the wicked fun guy parked next to me at the Kingston Trials. What a party we had! Peace.

Brenda Buja

I had the pleasure of spending a lot of time with Dave while working dogs, helping at his trials, and just hanging out. He was one of the kindest, most generous and wickedly funny people I've ever known. He cared so much for his dogs. We would be out in the heat and he'd have them in the office in his barn in air conditioning! We are all lucky that Dave chose herding as his hobby and gave so much to our community.

Carolyn West

The very first trial I entered, as a Novice/Novice handler, was Dave's Borders on Paradise trial on May 8th 2011. Becky and I came in 6th place, with a score of 42. But what I remember most was Dave's making me feel so welcome as a new handler. I also have fond memories of one very rainy and muddy Novice trial at Fetch Gate Farm. I was scheduled to work the set out pens with Dave. He came up in his pristine khaki pants and sharply pressed button-down oxford shirt, and jumped right in wrangling sheep into the sorting chute. By the end of our shift, Dave was a mess. His poor pants had so much mud ground into them, I'm sure they never again came close to being wear-



Ben Tesdahl

able. But he never complained, and took the time to instruct me in the fine art of how to move sheep that don't want to move. It was a day I'll never forget!

Kim Lippolis

The dog world will never be the same without dear Dave Fetterman. A true friend and a lovely man, he shall be missed terribly. Border on Paradise holds many great memories. RIP Dear Dave.

Cheryl Williams

Nancy Cox Starkey



Dave's farm, so aptly named

Borders on Paradise

Maggie Chambers

Blastomycosis infection in a dog: a reason to RUSH to your vet

By Sallie Butler

My wonderful, keen working kelpie Orion first traveled outside New England when he was two in October 2020, to a sheepdog clinic in Kentucky. On the fourth day of daily training in Kentucky, trainer Mike Stewart noted Orion's sudden disinterest in working sheep, and phoned his vet. In addition to Orion's unusual diffidence about sheepdog work, the experienced vet noted both a slight head tilt and an uneven gait, and brought Orion to the vet hospital, where chest X-rays found a fungal infection threaded throughout his lungs, likely *blastomycosis*. Orion's disinterest in sheepdog work arose from respiratory distress.

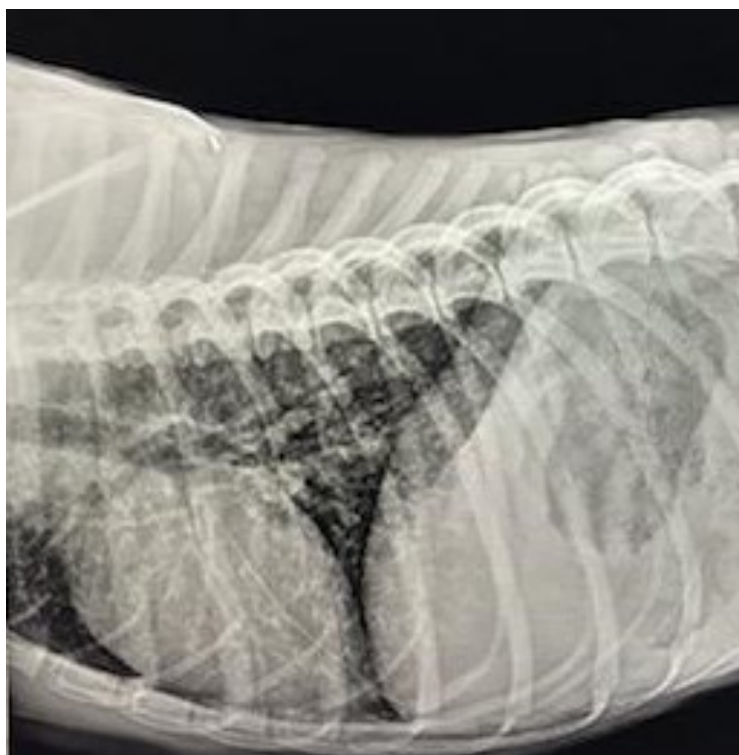
Veterinary insert by Pam Mueller, DVM:

Blastomycosis is caused by a fungal organism found in wet soil and organic matter. The fungal spores are infectious when inhaled and cause disease mainly in dogs and humans, although other species have been infected. 'Blasto' is found in the Mid-Atlantic states, the valleys of the Ohio, Tennessee, Mississippi, Ohio and St. Lawrence rivers, the Great Lakes region, Manitoba, Ontario and Quebec. The typical

sites have sandy, moist, acidic soils rich in decaying vegetation. In areas where it is common, 1-2% of dogs are infected. Most dogs live within a quarter mile of water. Dogs receiving steroids are at increased risk.

Blasto typically invades the respiratory system, although other organs can be affected, particularly the eyes, skin and joints. Signs include cough, difficulty breathing, lack of appetite, lethargy, fever, weight loss, lameness and skin eruptions. Although 50-75% of dogs recover, many dogs are extremely ill and many die. Chest Xrays almost always show a particular pattern of abnormalities typical of fungal disease. Other means to verify an infection include blood tests, a specific urine antigen test, and PCR or microscopic examination of samples from sputum, skin lesion, lymph nodes or joints. Disease typically does not appear until 5 to 12 weeks after exposure, and treatment with anti-fungal drugs lasts 2 to 6 months. A vaccine for dogs is being studied.

Treatment of Orion began immediately with the well-tolerated anti-fungal drug Itraconazole. The window for successful treatment is narrow, and his prognosis for survival, let alone return to sheepdog work, was guarded. Orion was too ill to travel home, and stayed with Mike and his family on the farm. Orion felt too ill to eat, and the family tempted him with the farm's own raw, organic,



Radiograph of Orion's lungs shows the typical "snowstorm" pattern of a fungal infection

Blastomycosis infection in a dog, cont.

grass-fed Black Angus burger – three pounds daily. After two weeks of treatment, his appetite returned to kibble, his gait leveled, and head tilt vanished. Prognosis improved, although remained *poor*.

The next two in the series of monthly chest X-rays showed diminishing lung infection, and Orion in December was well enough to travel home, where our local vet continued treatment. In all, Orion continued for six months with monthly chest X-rays and daily anti-fungal medication. Orion was lucky and in late March 2021, he was cleared for return to sheepdog work, at most several minutes per day, until strength returned. Orion now works ten to twenty minutes, without stress.

Where was Orion infected? The disease is much more common in KY than in Orion's home state of MA, yet the long incubation period and the fact that he showed signs four days after arriving in KY means he must have picked it up at home New England. He does live in a region of damp, acidic soil.

Both vets who treated Orion had encountered blastomycosis infection in vet school, but not in their several decades of clinical practice, because blastomycosis disease is rare. Both vets agreed that the chest X-rays yielded definitive diagnosis of classic presentation of fungal disease.

As always, if your dog "isn't doing right," **run** to your vet. Don't rely on your FB friends for diagnosis and advice. In diseases like Blastomycosis, early diagnosis and prompt action make all the difference.

An excellent reference is Merck Veterinary Manual:

<https://www.merckvetmanual.com/generalized-conditions/fungal-infections/blastomycosis>

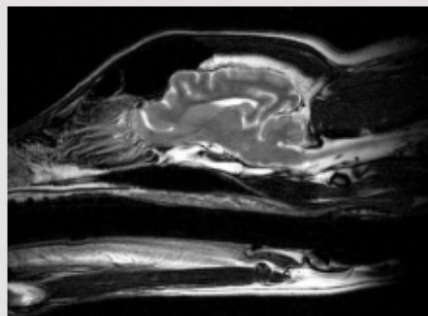


Sallie Butler's Kelpie Orion finally working again in May of 2021: Both Sallie and Orion are very lucky that he was able to come back from Blastomycosis.



DO YOU HAVE A BORDER COLLIE?

The Hecht Lab of Harvard University
is seeking working and non-working
Border Collies
for a study of how breeding and training
shape the canine brain.



VISIT [CANINEBRAINS.ORG/MRISTUDY](https://caninebrains.org/mristudy)

See next page for more information!

Sophie Barton, a graduate student at Harvard University, is studying the neuroanatomy of canine brains to understand the relationship of form to function. She is recruiting Border Collies to participate in her study. If you are interested in having your dog's brain imaged by MRI free of charge at Harvard, contact her. MRI is a non-invasive painless procedure. A description of her study is below.

What Makes Your Border Collie's Brain Special?

By Sophie Barton
Hecht Lab, Harvard University

When it comes to working Border Collies, it's the inside that counts. Rather than being selected for their appearance like show dogs, a working Border Collie is evaluated based on the behavioral output of his or her brain. When breeders select for heritable behavioral traits that contribute to working performance, they are effectively shaping the conformation of the Border Collie brain. But what is the best brain conformation for herding? How can it be shaped by lifetime experiences, such as training?

The Hecht Lab of Harvard University is eager to answer these questions. We study how selection for certain behaviors changes the anatomy of the brain. Since working Border Collies undergo selection and training for herding behavior, they can help us to better understand how nature and nurture interact in the brain. Such research might provide crucial insights into the functioning of the human brain. It will also likely generate findings relevant to Border Collie breeding and training.

We use magnetic resonance imaging (MRI) technology to study the brains of a handful of working dog breeds, including Border Collies. An MRI scanner uses magnetic and radio waves to create images of the internal structures of the body, including the brain. Much of what we know about human neuroanatomy is because of MRI neuroimaging research. Since MRI scanners image the brains of dogs just as well as the brains of humans, we can use them to further our understanding of the canine brain.

Previously, we analyzed the brain images of 62 pet dogs of 33 different breeds and identified six networks in the brain that correspond to historical breed functions. The dogs in that study were non-working pets, so now we're looking at those same networks in dogs from working lines. We're interested in dogs that currently perform the job that they were bred for in addition to non-working pets. Not only will this allow us to identify the brain regions involved in working behavior, but it will also allow us to see how training shapes those regions.

If you would like to participate in our MRI study and/or any of our additional online dog behavior studies, please contact graduate student Sophie Barton via email (sbarton@g.harvard.edu) or visit caninebrains.org/participate. We look forward to seeing what makes your Border Collie's brain special!

Education Committee Meets Zoom

Submitted by Rose Redick

The NEBCA Education Committee was very busy all winter. A number of clinics were offered via Zoom. Liz Shaw stepped up to moderate all the presentations. There were many people behind the scenes making this all happen. Below are a few of the participants thoughts about the workshops.

The Education Committee may offer a series of Zoom workshops again next fall and winter. We've included here a link to a short survey about the past clinics. The feedback will help us plan future programs. If you didn't participate please feel free to comment in the Suggestions for Future Topics. If you are reading this in print or the link does not open you will need to type it into your browser:

<https://forms.gle/b55gHoXY1NZDpYpr8>

Warren Mick's informative presentation, "How to Identify and Prevent Early Training Problems", wrapped up NEBCA's first-ever series of Zoom seminars. This seminar drew a lot of interest and Warren graciously agreed to add a second session. Participants were able to follow a slideshow outline while Warren filled in important details and he also showed a couple of video clips to highlight stops and call-offs.

The presentation began with pre-requisites for successful training which included the dog's age and maturity, knowing how to deal with pressure from a person and having had some experience with learning through basic obedience. The trainer should be calm and mobile, have some stock experience, have a clear picture of the goals and be a good observer of the dog's reaction to pressure with the ability to adjust depending on those reactions. Having calm broke sheep and a squarish or roundish arena with no tight corners or heavy draws also contribute to a successful training program.

There are several problems that can surface while training a young dog such as one-sidedness, excessive heading, leaving stock behind and so on but the most common problems Warren has seen in his many years of training and observing working dogs that are both preventable and fixable if addressed early are: not stopping, not calling off and diving in and these were the topics of his presentation.

Not stopping and not calling off both require the dog to cease working and *lose control of the stock*, at least this is how the dog sees it. The stop is the MOST important of all the commands we give our dogs and without it our dogs will never be

as good as they could have been. Warren prepared a list of 11 Do's and Don'ts regarding teaching and retaining the stop. Perhaps this list will make it in this newsletter or a future one. The dog should come to see the stop as a cue that more work is forthcoming. People often use the stop to try to correct pace or fix over-flanking and the dog ends up frustrated and resenting having to stop or just blows through it.

In a similar fashion, it is wise to put the dog right back to work after a recall while this command is being trained and reinforced. Trainers can use a line or use the fence to stop a dog that is circling as it tries to avoid being caught. Use neutral body language when approaching the dog and have the dog walk the last several steps to you.

Diving in is a different sort of problem which often results from the dog being in over its head. It can also occur from a build-up of tension, too much training pressure or from nagging. It is hard to have an effective correction after the fact, so this problem requires foresight. Diving in needs to be addressed if it happens frequently or is increasing if there is no identifiable reason for its happening. The solution is to backtrack; make sessions shorter, use easier sheep, stay calm, go back and fill in any gaps in the dog's training that might be contributing.

Warren's approach to these problems and others is to understand why they happen. It can be because of the dog's keenness, a lack of foundation skills or the trainer demanding too much too soon. Be observant and try to figure out the reason and then backtrack, if necessary, to give your dog the skills and mindset to be successful.

Deb Duarte

We would like to thank the Education Committee for taking the time to organize those amazing Zoom clinics. We were able to learn from Dave Young, Joyce Geier, Mike Neary, Bill Foshier and Warren Mick.

These are great pieces of advice that we will keep in our toolbox for this season and the seasons to come. Being in Quebec with the COVID-19 situation, these clinics allowed us to learn from the best and to see our friends across the border.

Everything we have learned will allow us to make enlightened choices as much about our next dogs as our training and our pasture management. We keep our fingers crossed that this clinic series returns next year and we hope we can join you for the hands-on clinics in 2022.

We miss you and look forward to seeing you again!

"Les 2 Bergères En Cavale", Annie-Claude Laniel and Geneviève Pronovost

Watch the NEBCA website "Clinic Schedule" list for information on upcoming events.

Where are all the Novice trials?

By Mary Ames

There has been a lot of discussion, on Facebook and elsewhere, about Novice Trials or the lack thereof. There is no easy answer as to why there is now such a dearth of trials offering Novice-level classes (NN, PN, Ranch) in the Northeast. However, it is interesting to look at NEBCA Novice trials historically.

The majority of handlers in the beginning days of NEBCA trialing were flock owners and shepherds who had Border Collies for managing sheep on the farm. They loved to see them work and began to host trials on their farm. These trials were smaller because the NEBCA membership was smaller. There were a few big trials. To get to a trial you had to be willing to travel, sometimes for several hours. Each trial offered a different opportunity for you and your dog. Tough sheep, flighty sheep, sticky sheep, hills, flat fields, trees, water, it was all part of herding with your dog. When you arrived at a trial you would pitch in to help wherever help was needed. Everyone carried extra boots and clothes just in case they got dirty. It was a great day if you and your dog worked well as a team, even better if you went home with a ribbon.

Over time the popularity of dog trials grew as did the membership in NEBCA. The desire for more trials increased as did the size of trials. The handlers who came to the trials weren't always shepherds of their own flocks. The dynamic of dog trials changed. Handlers changed. Expectations at a trial changed. *Dog trialing had become a sport.*

Where possible, trial hosts increased the size of their flocks in order to accommodate these changes. Some could not offer larger flocks and no longer hosted trials, or had health issues that prevented them from hosting trials. Sadly, a number of handlers who put on wonderfully fun trials are no longer with us. Many trials have to find sheep to rent for their trial. In essence trials are where the sheep are.

Have you ever thought about what it takes to host or put on a trial? Trials are a lot of hard work! NEBCA's Trial Manager's Handbook is 37 pages long! As a handler you only see the "tip of the iceberg". Have you ever thought about the costs to putting on a trial? The entry fee rarely covers the expense of putting on a trial. Have you ever thought about how many people it takes to make a trial work? Ask anyone who has been on the Novice Finals committee or who is a trial host.

Dynamics are changing. Novice Trials as we know them are changing.

Where are the Novice Trials? They will be wherever handlers are willing to take the time to help the trial host put on a successful trial. You want more Novice Trials? Get involved, find ways to help make them happen.



Sallie Butler

Mac, belonging to newcomer Mike Perry, grandson of Rich Seaman —he'll soon be looking for some Novice trials!

And yet another Pandemic Puppy!

Sent to us by new NEBCA member Dominick Frabizio. Watch out for this little pistol, now residing in New York.



MICK Frabizio

DOB 12/21/2020

Langwm Bud (Aled Owen) x Ski (Pat Byrne)



Brooks Watson introducing baby Mick to sheep in Montana.

2021 NEBCA Breeders' Directory

Pam Davies

204 Rte. 513

Glen Gardner, NJ 08826

908-361-1335

pamdavies30@gmail.com

Mich Ferraro & Kak Weathers/ Caora Farm

235 Sharon Rd.

Millerton, NY 12546

518-592-1320

michveteq@gmail.com

Gene Sheninger & Teri Rhodes

470 Schooleys Mountain Rd. #144

Hackettstown, NJ 07840

973-615-9053

els8586@gmail.com

Dick & Cheryl Williams

4825 State Rte 2002

Hop Bottom, PA 18824

579-499-0318

culleymont@gmail.com



NEBCA TRIAL SCHEDULE 2021

June 19-20	Morse Brook Farm	Westminster, VT	Novice	Liz Shaw 802-376-6280
June 24-27	Caora Farm	Millerton, NY	2 Open, 3 Nursery	Mich Ferraro 518-592-1320
July 1-4	Fetch Gate Farm	Cortland, NY	2 Open 2 or 3 Nursery	Roger & Heather Millen 607-745-1883
July 2-4	Cascade Farm	Bath, NH	2 Open, Nursery 1 NN, PN, Ranch	Mary Ames 603-838-2018
July 9-11	Dancing Ewe Farm	Granville, NY	2 Open, Nursery	Joanne Kraus 518-642-1580
July 10-11 Rain date 7/17-18	Handy Dog Novice	Agatha, ONTARIO	2 NN, PN, Ranch Nursery	Victoria Lamont 519-497-0765
July 16-18	May Brook Farm	Pittsfield, MA	2 Nursery 7/16 2 Open 7/17-18	Sue Schoen 413-314-9514
July 24-25	Shepherd's Crook	Woodville ONTARIO	2 Open, Nursery	Tracy Hinton 416-697-4575
July 30—Aug 1	Pipedream Farm	Middleton, MD	7/30: Nursery 7/31-8/1: 2 Nursery, All Novice classes	Renee Billadeau 301-293-2797
Aug 21-22	Leatherstocking	Cooperstown, NY	2 Open	Rose Redick 518-465-6808
Aug 28-29	HerdEwe Farm Learning Trial	Kensington, NH	2 NN, PN, Ranch	Sharon Barrette 603-772-0221
Sept 2	Lancaster Fair	Lancaster, NH	Open Points & Time	Mary Ames 603-838-2018
Sept 4-6	Pipedream Farm	Middleton, MD	3 Open	Renee Billadeau 301-293-2797
Sept 4-5	Bluehill Fair	Blue Hill ME	2 Open Points & Time	Lynn Deschaumbeault 207-256-0999
Sept 11-12	NEBCA NOVICE FINALS	TBD	NN, PN, Ranch	Debbie West 603-387-4577
Sept 17	NH Highland Games	Lincoln, NH	Open Points & Time	Lynn Deschaumbeault 207-256-0999
Oct 3	Fryeburg Fair	Fryeburg, ME	Open, Nursery Points & Time	Gabrielle Merrill 207-935=2520
Oct 30-31	HerdEwe Farm Learning Trial	Kensington, NH	2 NN, PR, Ranch	Sharon Barrette 603-772-0221

NEBCA
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Hope you enjoyed the ZOOM meeting on June 18. If you missed it, stay tuned for the next one. Check the NEBCA website for announcements.

YOUR PICTURE HERE!

One you took, that is.

The newsletter is always looking for photos of members, their dogs, their sheep, and events you attend. If you have a smart phone you have a camera. Email a .jpg file to the Newsletter Editor in the highest picture resolution available.

