



NEW ENGLAND DOG TRAINING CLUB

INCORPORATED

Member Of The American Kennel Club

PAW PRINTS

Winter, 2003-04

There is no psychiatrist in the world ...

We have a new name. I was looking over past Board Minutes, and discovered that an earlier club newsletter was called "Paw Prints". I liked it and so, with a tip of my hat to all previous newsletter editors, I have reclaimed the name for this newsletter. Hope you like it.

It's been a while since the last newsletter, for which I apologize. Life gets in the way sometimes. I also must apologize to a few folks for leaving out the very important achievements and changes in their lives prior to that newsletter. As your trusty editor ages, the more senior moments she has and that can cause gaps in the news.

To **Sharon Long** and her GSD **Shane** who have been burning up the Agility courses, with blue ribbons and all, CONGRATS! Like ducks to water! It is so great to see a dog and handler team shine like these two are doing. Obviously a lot of good stuff at work in that relationship.

And there were passings that went unacknowledged back then. **Linda Holway's** sheltie **Cassie** CD, CGC passed away over the Labor Day weekend. She was 14 years young and a very spirited lady right to the end. **Linda** recalled Cassie picking her out rather than the other way around. While **Linda** was looking at the litter trying to make up her mind, **Cassie** did it for her when she jumped up on her lap and

snapped at other pups to keep away (she's mine!). She was half-sister to the [in]famous **Nikki** and therefore came from good stock. At 14 inches tall she was a mean duck and sheep herder who also did well in the obedience ring (scoring in the 190's), and a sweetie on her visits to nursing homes as a therapy dog. **Cassie** was **Linda's** mom's favorite granddog and **Cassie** spent many hours lying in bed with her when Mom became terminally ill. **Cassie's** small stature did not inhibit her. She was the alpha at home; collie or sheltie it mattered not, they listened to Mama Cass[ie]. She was medicine for **Linda's** migraines; gently licking the painful spots. She left a grand legacy to **Linda** in daughter **Promise** (now 12+). **Cassie** was a strong presence in **Linda's** home and heart; a lot of love in a tiny package.

Linda's collie puppy **Pryde** took 1st place in Puppy Sweeps and 2nd in regular classes at the New England Collie Club match in October, 2003. They entered on a lark and walked away with the blue ribbon! Way to go.

New additions to the Club. **Katherine Aromaa** and her Aussie Cattle Dog **Cooper** joined the club and attended Advanced Beginners classes. Katherine has volunteered to assist with the classes and we are glad to have her as part of the training staff for a year of apprenticeship. She has a great background in training and vet

tech work. She also has a wonderful way with the animals and connects well with the students as a teacher. She's a welcome addition

The **Annual Holiday Party** was held on December 18th at the Armory and a grand time was had by all.

There is a new schedule of classes. Please check the website (www.nedtc.org) for current listings and schedule changes. In case of cancellation, a notice will be posted on the site and a recorded announcement will be heard at the main telephone number (617-868-1713).

Class fees have also changed. As of Jan. 1. Puppy Class is \$110; Beginners is \$95; Drop-in classes are \$10 for non-members and \$7 for members.

Marjie Alonso and her Swissie, **Betty** along with their buds, **Nancy Thompson** and Collie puppy **Lexi** were accepted into Sally Jean Alexander's Pets and People therapy dog program. We're very proud of both teams and know that whomever they visit will be happier for the experience.

Eleanor Campbell writes that "my 3-year old GSP, **Price** finished his NA and NAJ in October and his CDX in November. He also earned a couple of bumper legs, including one at the Concord DTC trial in December in Boston. All his scores were in the 190's. Onward to utility! In January, we competed in a NADAC games agility trial. Fun, fun, fun! **Price** finished his Novice tunnelers title: TN-N, to be exact! At that same trial, **Presto** my 4-year old Sheltie, finished his Novice Touch N' Go title and Weavers title TG-N and WV-N. Quite the alphabet soup.

"On a more somber note, but with a happy ending, **Price's** mother, **Sydney**, my 7-year old

GSP, spent last Fall recovering from a serious bout of bacterial pneumonia. She was one very sick girl with a high temp, dehydration, high white blood count. Thankfully, six weeks of three different kinds of antibiotics, lots of rest and a final clearance from a specialist and **Sydney** is back in training. She was left with permanent lung scarring, but the specialist said she should be fine. So, she will soon be back on the OTCh. trail.

"On a happier note, my 11½ year old Sheltie, **Dash**, finished his OJP agility title at the Baltimore-Washington Sheltie club agility trial in November. He had a blast!" Thanks, Eleanor.

Sky, your humble editor's wonderful Blue Boy of a Collie, finished his CD at the Hartford/Springfield Collie Specialty in Southbury, CT in February. We didn't set any records, but thanks to Suzanne Clothier's advice to me last September, and some relaxation work, I was much better as a handler. Then sister **Molly** showed **Sky** how it was done by earning a very respectable 190 in the Veterans' Class. She's 11 years old and has not been in the ring in 6 years! A few short reminder training sessions and she was good to go. I am so proud of both of them.

Keeping us company at the Hartford/Springfield Collie Specialty was **Linda Holway** and **Noah** who took 2nd in Veteran's' Class with a very nice 196.

Penny Shultz reports that her Flatcoat, "**Dixie** got her CDX March 13th at the CRDTC trial in Freetown, MA under Ed Whitney. She did a really nice job, completing all the exercises (even the evil Broadjump!) with her usual finesse. She also won a very nice prize for High Scoring Flatcoat in Open A. I was very proud of her. She had gotten her second qualifying score the week before at the Shrewsbury Dog Training Club's trial and her first leg at NEDTC's trial in

November. We are planning to go for our bumper leg (and, with any luck, a placement - keep your fingers crossed) at NEDTC's trial this weekend in NH. So, now I guess it's on to Futility for me and Dix!" -Penny

Good job, you guys! See you on Saturday.

CROSSINGS.

Fred Baker, a member of NEDTC for more than 20 years has passed away. **Fred**, his wife **Joyce-Ellen** and their Springer Spaniels were regulars in the Novice class on Thursday evenings. He loved the club and supported its many functions and events. He and **Joyce-Ellen** were staunch contributors to the trophy funds and could always be counted on to help steward the Spring and Fall trials. His loss will be felt deeply by all of us and our condolences go out to his family.

Address Correction:

Anya Wittenborg would like you to know that she has moved from Watertown to 147 Thorndike Street, Arlington, MA 02474-8709.

Dogs in Need of Homes! Wanted: perfect home for a lovely dog. **Ernie** (Rescue's Hero) is a lab-boxer mix with the classic good looks of an American Staffordshire Terrier. He was found by Cambridge Animal Control wandering in Somerville and is being fostered by **Lowry Heussler**. **Lowry** reports that **Ernie** is loving and gentle, has no aggression toward dogs, people, cats and children, shows no territory or object-guarding, and is incredibly quick to learn. Also, he has white toes and a pink nose. Potential adopters may contact **Lowry** via email at lowryheussler@mac.com.

Judy Bailey has a new Poodle puppy at home. He came from Poodle Rescue. A DSS worker

discovered the mom and her 3 malnourished, urine soaked pups at a client's home. The social worker convinced her client to give the dogs up to Poodle Rescue, where they were vet checked, cleaned up and put into a foster home. **Judy** adopted a boy she's named William. She likes people names and figures that when he does well at anything like in obedience she can say, "Good, Will ...not [hunting but just being]."

Have you ever wondered just who (what dogs) can compete at AKC performance events (obedience trials)?

Everybody knows that if a dog has an "AKC registration" (both parents are AKC registered dogs of the same breed) then that dog or puppy is eligible to compete in AKC events. It just goes with. But what about the shelter dog or the dog adopted through a breed rescue? These dogs and pups many times look purebred, but have no papers to back it up. Well, they are not left out. If you have one of these, you can apply for an Indefinite Listing Privilege ("ILP") number from AKC. The ILP number allows a dog to be shown as a representative of a particular breed in AKC performance events. To apply for an ILP number, simply go to www.akc.org, fill out the ILP application you'll find there, enclose a check, two photos, a spay or neuter certificate and you are on your way. If you don't know your dog's lineage but think it resembles (more "more" than "less") the standard of a particular breed, then apply anyway. The worst that can happen is that you get turned down (which I've not heard of happening). So get a copy of the AKC breed book from the library (or borrow one from a friend) and take a good look at that rescue/shelter pooch you live with and are working hard to train to see which breed he or she most resembles and have at it.

Then there are the **Rare Breeds** (aka, Foundation Stock Service Breeds) - purebred

dogs that are not on AKC's "big list" (ergo, you won't find these guys at Westminster) but they're eligible to participate in AKC performance events! There are 18 such breeds, and I list them here: Black and Tan Coonhound, American English Coonhound, Bluetick Coonhound, Cesky Terrier, Chinook, Coton de Tulear, Dogue de Bordeaux, Finish Lapphund, Irish Red and White Setter, Norwegian Buhund, Norwegian Lundehund, Perro de Presa Canario, Peruvian Inca Orchid, Pyrenean Shepherd, Sloughi, Swedish Vallhund, Tibetan Mastiff and Treeing Walker Coonhound.

There are also six "**Miscellaneous Breeds**" - the Beauceron, Black Russian Terrier, Glen of Imal Terrier, Neapolitan Mastiff, Plott Hound, and Redbone Coonhound that also eligible to participate.

AKC also offers **reciprocal registration**. It is possible that if your dog is registered with another registry (i.e., UKC), that the AKC will recognize your dog for participation in performance events. You'll have to contact AKC if you want to enter your dog reciprocally as it's on a case by case basis.

So, trainers and handlers, keep an open mind. There's more than one way to get into an obedience trial!

I usually end the newsletter with a dog poem or some interesting little story about our furry friends. Usually someone emails a poem or story that touches me. This time there were two such mailings. The first is from **Sharon Long**; the second from **Bici Barron**. I offer them both for your enjoyment.

If I didn't have dogs.....

- I could walk around safely barefoot in the dark;
- My house could be carpeted instead of

- tiled and laminated;
- All flat surfaces, clothing, furniture, and cars would be free of dog hair;
- When the doorbell rings, it wouldn't sound like the SPCA kennels;
- When the doorbell rings, I could get to the door without wading through four or five dog bodies who beat me there;
- I could sit how I wanted on the couch without taking into consideration how much space several fur bodies would need to get comfortable;
- I would not have strange presents under my Christmas tree....like dog bones, stuffed animals or have to answer to people why I wrap them up;
- I would not be on a first name basis with three vets;
- the most used words in my vocabulary would not be: "out", "sit", "down", "come", "no", and "leave him/her ALONE";
- My house would not be cordoned off into zones with baby gates or barriers;
- My purse would not contain things like poo pick up bags, dog treats and an extra leash;
- (12) I would no longer have to spell the word B-A-L-L or F-R-I-S-B-E-E or W-A-L-K-I-E-S;
- I would not buy weird things to stuff into "kongs", or have to explain why I'm buying them, or what a "kong" is;
- I would not have as many leaves INSIDE my house as outside;
- I would not look strangely at people who think having their ONE dog ties them down too much;
- I would not have to answer the question why do I have so many dogs from people who will never have the joy in their life of knowing they are loved unconditionally by something as close to an angel as they will ever get. Who else has a friend who considers you the MOST important thing in the whole wide world all the time?

Author Unknown

Thanks Sharon. You're talking about life at my house, that's for sure.

Bici Barron was on vacation with her buddy **Keeper** and sent along a poem she wrote to **Marjie Alonso** who forwarded it to me. Such talent in our midst.

Paw Prints

Snow, you'd think, would cover smell
or at least throw over it a veil.
But my dog Keeper,
when we walk together
thrusts his nose into dog prints,
savoring each one.

One by one he snuffs them.
It makes for slow going.
When he lifts his head, alert
to sound I cannot hear,
his muzzle wears
a chilly wreath of snow.

Some prints I recognize by sight.
These belong to brindled Jazz,
old greyhound, who has
three toes on one foot
and shuffles. That's all
I know of him.

But Keeper, nose down,
intent, can surely tell
where Jazz was going,
what he ate for breakfast,
and whether his old bones ache today.

Myself, I don't snuff dog tracks,
half heeding ancient warnings -
(long ago, another dog) -
"Don't be putting your face
by his feet. The lord knows where they've been."

But when we're home again,
Keeper and I, curled up warm
in our big chair, I love to sniff
his paws: a homely smell -
like freshly starched and ironed cotton,
or like toast.

Bici Barron, January 2004

Until next time...

Pat "Scoop" Sullivan
(a/k/a www.courteousk9.net - feedback
welcome)

Comic Relief