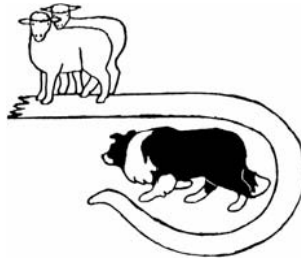


TARTAN TAILS



Kentuckiana Tartan Border Collie Club Newsletter, December 2005

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

I hope this finds all of well, and that everyone who went had a good time at the Nationals as well as good luck in competition. I expect to see lots of brags. I would like to welcome our new members. Plans are coming along for next year's events such as the specialty at the March Cluster and the herding trial. We need everyone's help to make these successful events. The more help we have putting on these events the more successful and more enjoyable they will be. If anyone out there has any ideas or suggestions of other events or things they would like to see the club try please feel free to bring them up at future meetings for discussion or feel free to either e-mail me or call me. Also remember my e-mail and phone are always available for any member who might have a suggestion, complaint or even compliment for the day to day business of the club. Remember this is your club, I don't know what you want if you don't tell me.

(continued. next page)

UPCOMING EVENTS



Holiday Pot-Luck
Party & Meeting

Saturday, December 17, 2005
1:00

Location to be announced
\$5.00 Gift Exchange

FOR SALE

2006 KTbcc Calendars

\$15.00 + \$3.00 shipping

Email RLDelay@insightbb.com

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT (continued)

I hope as many of you as possible can join us in Dec. We are hoping to have a bit of a Christmas party for our next meeting. Come join friends new and old to celebrate the holidays and feel free to offer any ideas for future meetings to make them more fun and inviting for all the members.

Thanks, looking forward to seeing you all at the next meeting

Pat Kerschner
pborder@peoplepc.com
502-290-6008



BRAGS!

Linda Bates: I have a brag but not BC related...we won Best Junior Brushcoat Bitch in Futurity at the Chinese Shar Pei of America Specialty in Vancouver last week with Poppy [Mee Tu Georgia O'Keefe]. Poppy THINKS she is Mac's sister, you know one of those Border Peis I have, Shar Collies???

Ronni DeLay: Ch Majestic Hot Topic HXAs HSBs won the Champion Dog with a Herding Title class at the BCSA National Specialty. He also competed in Novice B and earned his 1st leg. "LittleMan" earned his 2nd & 3rd Novice legs at the GLTC trial and added "CD" to his list of titles.

Eileen Madrigale: Borderfame Ricca Donna (Borderfame Touch o Light x BIS Am/Aust. Ch Borderfame Mystic Dream) won Winners Bitch at the 2005 BCSA Regional Specialty Oct.16, 2005 from the 9 to 12 mos class. This is Ricca's 1st points and Major, and only the 4th or 5th time in the ring!!

Also Borderfame Som Wher Out Ther (CH Tullacrest Theif O Hearts X CH Borderfame Mystic Power) was 4th in 12 to 18 mos on Saturday, and 2nd on Sunday, and Wagons Ho Jinx (CH Wagons Ho Notorious x Borderfame My Own Delite) was 3rd in Open on Sunday.

Paige O'Donnell: Tainsh's Deja Blu O'TallTails MX AXJ PT "Blu" earned his Master Agility Standard title (MX) in Perry in July 2005, 10 100% Excellent B legs. Blu started his agility career at the same show in July 2004 and earned his first title there, NA.

In Miami, Blu (Tainsh's Deja Blu O'TallTails MX MXJ PT) finished his MXJ title and earned his 6th double Q to Qualify for the AKC Agility National. Both Didge (V CH MACH Clan Karola Didgeridoo PT) and Blu are qualified.

Gracie (CH Shoreland A Tisket A Tasket OA AXJ PT) earned her Excellent Agility Jumpers title with 3 first place legs.

Mary Somerville & Ronni DeLay: Majestic Somerstar Shae won the Bred-by-Exhibitor class on Sunday at the BCSA Specialty.

Kelly Whiteman: BonniDune Wedgwood won 2nd place in her class in the BCSA puppy sweepstakes and 2nd place in 12-18 bitch on Sunday at the Regional Specialty. "Cameo" finished her Championship in Georgia a few weeks later with back-to-back majors. Cameo is co-owned with Deb Degidio.

Tainsh's Tartan Legacy To BonniDune won 3rd place in Open Dog at the BCSA Regional Specialty on Sunday.

"Blitz," bred by Kelly Whiteman and owned by Trisha Eifert, earned his PT at the National, won Best Opposite Sex at the Performance Titled Match and won Best of Breed at the BCSA National Puppy Sweepstakes. To top things off, when Trisha got back home she learned that he had also received his NAP title, making him BonniDune Bombs Away PT NAP.



IT'S TIME TO NOMINATE JUDGES!!!!

KTGCC is soliciting nominations for judges for breed, obedience, rally, herding and puppy sweepstakes (see new judges selection procedure in this issue). Send your nominations to Terry Wise Hammond by email or snail mail. TWiseHammond@cs.com or 1286 VanDyke Mill Road, Taylorsville, KY 40071



JUDGES SELECTION PROCEDURE*

*This procedure applies to conformation, obedience, herding, rally and sweepstakes judges.

The Judges Selection Committee shall consist of a Chairperson, one at-large member, and the Chairs of the upcoming year's Show, Obedience and Herding Committees.

In January of every year the Judges Selection Committee will solicit nominations from the membership for judges for all venues. The solicitation announcement will be included in the Tartan Tails newsletter. Nominations may be sent via email or regular mail to the Chair of the Selection Committee. Members may nominate whomever they choose, so long as the nominee fits the applicable AKC judging eligibility requirements. There is no limit on the number of nominations each member may make. The name of each nominating person shall be kept confidential.

The Judges Selection Committee will prepare a written ballot containing the names of all nominees, and what venue they

have been nominated for. That ballot will be mailed to all members via U.S. mail. A blank envelope and ballot will be included for each voting member. Household memberships will receive two ballots and two blank envelopes. Also included will be an envelope addressed to the Treasurer. Ballots should be marked and placed into a blank envelope (one ballot per envelope). Sealed blank envelopes must be returned to the Treasurer with a valid return name and address so that the Treasurer can verify current membership status. All eligible ballots will be turned over to the Judges Selection Committee without any member seeing who another member voted for.

Each member is entitled to vote for three (3) judges for conformation, three (3) for sweeps, three (3) for rally, six (6) judges for obedience and nine (9) for herding. The Judges Selection Committee will tally the ballots and turn over the results to the applicable Event Committees. Judges will be contacted by event committees in the order of member preference. For example, the judge who receives the most votes will be contacted first, the second most popular judge will be contacted second, etc. Every attempt will be made by Event Committees to use judges who have been selected by the members.

If none of the judges who received votes in the balloting process are available or willing to judge for the fees/costs that the club can afford, or if not enough judges have been voted upon, the Judges Selection Committee will select judges.

MINUTES FROM THE OCTOBER 22, 2005 MEETING

There were not enough members for a membership meeting, so a Board Meeting was held.

Pat called the meeting to order at 1:55 p.m.

Present:

Pat Kerschner, Ronni DeLay, Terry Wise Hammond, Kelly Whiteman and Guest, Renee Grittner

Committee reports:

Membership: Rob wasn't present

Treasurer's report (submitted via email):

Beginning balance	\$1967.29
Income	\$ 0
Expenses	
BCSA Ad	\$ 50.00
Reimburse Kelly	<u>\$ 706.00</u>
Ending balance	\$1205.29

Calendars:

Joyce took 20 for the Southern California club. They will pay \$12 to us for any they sell and they can keep \$3 each for their club

Tapestries:

One left

Old business

March cluster:2006

Application and premium proof submitted.
Breed judge: Keke Kahn
Sweeps judge: Emily Fish
Obedience judges: Marilyn Donlon & Catherine Thompson
Rally judge: Kathleen Cook

March cluster 2007

Breed judge: Jean Fournier
Sweeps judge: Doug Hardesty
Obedience judges: to be determined
Rally judge: to be determined

Herding Trial:

September 29, 30 & Oct 1, 2006

Pat presented budget

Ronni moved that we hire 3 judges and we need to buy new tarps

Terry seconded, approved

Paige and Becky will do set out

Letter/contract has been sent to David and Pat Greenwell

Premium will be downloadable from website to save mailing cost

Katrina:

Unable to hold raffle at National due to other obligations

Ronni moved to donate \$50, Terry seconded

Approved

Last tapestry will be raffled to replace this money in the treasury (note: we also have one more tapestry to be raffled that was donated by Tonya Stanley. We will raffle the two tapestries separately to maximize return).

New business**Judges Selection Process**

New judges selection procedures discussed and determined. See details in separate article. Terry Hammond is the chair of the new Judges Selection Committee. Ronni is a member. Other members consist of the chairs of upcoming events: Kelly for March Cluster breed, Marilyn Huber for March Cluster obedience and Pat for Herding trial.

Rescue

The Mid America Border Collie Rescue (MABCR) will be allowed to have a fund-raising booth at all KTbcc events. KTbcc will also put a link from our website to theirs.

New member: Renee Grittner, Goshen KY

Next Meeting

Christmas party on December 17, 2005 at 1:00 p.m.. Location to be announced. Will be in the newsletter and will also be put on front page of the website.

\$5.00 doggy gift grab bag. Club will purchase main dish and members to bring side dishes

Brags should be sent to Kelly for the newsletter

Terry Hammond moved to adjourn, Ronni seconded.

Meeting adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

The Agility Paige

by Paige O'Donnell

(reprinted from Borderlines with permission of author)



This month's question asked of Border Collie Handling World Team Members, past and present is:

“What are your thoughts on how to maintain consistency and speed with your Border collie? How do you train for this goal? What advice would you give the BCSA Agility Community on how to attain this goal?”

Gerry Brown, World Team Member 1998, 2000, 2004, 2005:

When I am training a young Border collie, I just don't worry about consistency. Instead, I try to concentrate on training “elements” at speed. I start with solid obstacle training and then start putting simple sequences together. Eventually, I teach my pups how to do difficult sequences such as 180's, 270's and box work. All this is done by just “playing” with the dog.

For instance, when I do jump – come type exercises with my young ones, I have a toy ready so that every time they come back to me we take a few seconds to interact with the toy. This encourages the dog to do things quickly and with a lot of confidence.

If the dog makes a mistake, I don't say much but rather stop for just a few seconds, then reset the dog and try again. This is already starting to look like a training program on how to motivate your dog rather than how to maintain consistency while striving for speed.

The point is, if my dog is motivated and having fun while I am doing my foundation work and training all my elements, he/she will be very willing to work with me at full speed. Then, if I do my job as a trainer and get all the elements well trained, including extensive jump training by the way, the consistency will come on it's own as my dog and I mature as a team.

Remember, the hardest thing to teach a dog is to run faster than it feels comfortable running. That means you have to train your dog to be comfortable at top speed and to not be afraid to make a mistake. The only way to do that is to break down courses into smaller “elements” and be sure your dog is comfortable with each of these elements. Once that happens, all you have to do is piece these “elements” together while running a course. If your dog is running at top speed and you have all the elements, consistency will come with maturity.

We wish Gerry and Sterling the best in Valladolid from your Agility friends. We thank Gerry for his participation in this article!

Who is Gerry Brown?

Gerry Brown is a nationally and internationally recognized agility competitor, trainer and judge. Gerry and his wife, Kathy, have a training center in Manor, Texas, DePaw Training Center. Gerry has been teaching agility since 1997. Gerry teaches a variety of skills so that all handlers (regardless of athletic ability) and all dogs can have fun and be successful. Gerry believes that Agility should be fun for both the handler and dog. He looks for positive and creative ways to motivate dogs through timely and well-placed rewards. Gerry believes that agility can enhance and strengthen the lifelong bond that is built between Border Collies and handlers.

Gerry began competing in October 1995 with his female Border Collie Larrie. Gerry and Larrie qualified for every AKC National Championship from 1997 to 2003. In 1998, Gerry and Larrie were selected by the AKC to represent the United States at the FCI World Agility Championships in Maribour, Slovenia. They earned the right to compete again as a 2000 U.S World Team member in Helsinki, Finland when they won the first AKC Invitational Tournament.

A defining moment for Gerry came when it was apparent that Sterling, his second Border Collie, was going to enjoy at least the same level of success as Larrie. Sterling was selected to represent the United States at the 2004 FCI World Championships in Montichiari, Italy. Making an even stronger showing in 2005, Sterling won the individual competition at the World Team Tryouts to again earn the privilege of representing the U.S. in Valladolid, Spain in September 2005.

Ali Roukas, World Team Member Alternate 2004:

Training a high drive dog to perform at their peak in major competition is a hugely rewarding accomplishment, and I am privileged to be able to share with you some of my experience in training this type of dog to a nationally competitive level in agility.

A training objective I have for all my dogs is to bring out the best in them by using training methods that foster understanding; understanding builds confidence, confidence builds drive, and a dog who understands their job can be in high drive and perform at their peak all at once.

I could not have accomplished all I have with multiple dogs without this recipe. Getting a dog to run accurately and consistently show after show, while at the same time pushing them for speed is a balance of training and handling.

This learning process starts when the dog is brand new to agility. Whenever I am teaching a new skill to my dog, I allow him to learn it in a calm state of mind and a very non stimulating environment (no other dogs or other external stimuli), as soon as I feel the dog has a solid understanding of how to perform the behavior, I will start to ask him for the behavior while getting him in more drive.

Getting him in more drive may be as simple as switching from a food reward to a toy reward, increasing my speed from a walk to jog, or using restrained recalls or sends, depending on the exercise. When a dog is taught early on to think and concentrate in drive, he is able to focus and perform when under the pressure of a trial environment.

One thing I do with my 3 Border Collies is I frequently will train them all at once. I will have two of them in a down/stay while I work with the other, then I'll switch dogs until they have all had their "turns." This is a great way to teach control, as the dogs that are staying would *much* rather be working! By the time he is ready to trial he has been trained to channel his drive and energy into his work, rather than be distracted by it!

High drive Border Collies tend to stress "up", meaning that when they are in a highly stimulating environment they tend to get frantic and impulsive. If they are used to learning and being handled in drive, they are competent when their handler pushes them for speed in the agility ring. Then, it's all about the handler!

To complete the balance of training and handling, you need someone with high level agility experience to coach you in your handling. I did not get to the top of this sport until I started training with a partner, and we worked together to coach each other's handling. Minor handling adjustments can make all the difference in shaving off tenths of a second, and a lot of times that is just the edge you need to win!

Who is Ali Roukas?

Ali is a full time agility instructor and co director of Mountain Freaks! Agility in Long Valley, NJ. Ali has been competing in agility for 8 years. She currently has 3 Border Collies competing and a BC puppy in training.

Wish took 2nd place at the USDAA National Steeplechase Finals, her first National competition at only 2 years of age. She took 4th place in both the USDAA Grand Prix World Championship and the Steeplechase Finals in 2004. Wish was ranked #1 in the country USDAA Master Standard Agility 26" and she placed in the USDAA Top Ten Tournament and the USDAA Top Ten Master Snooker rankings at 26" for 2004. Wish won International classes at two lams sponsored AKC trials. Wish is also trained to a competitive level in sheep herding, and was first place in the Nov/Nov. class at the NJ State Sheepdog Trials in 2003.

Ali and Catcher placed 5th in the 22" Steeplechase finals at the USDAA Nationals in 2004. Catcher also placed in the USDAA Top Ten Master Standard Agility 26" and in the USDAA Top Ten Tournament rankings at 22" AND 26" for 2004. Catcher won the Purina Incredible Dog Challenge Eastern Regionals in June 2005, and will go on to compete at the Incredible Dog National Championship in September. Catcher has the fastest recorded running Dog Walk, clocked at 1.24 seconds in competition.

Ali and Kid, her youngest competing Border collie, took 1st place USDAA Northeast Grand Prix Regional Championship 26. Kid also took 1st place at the USDAA Spring Festival Grand Prix at 26.

We thank Ali for her advice and "wish" her continued success in her stellar career!



Chris Parker, World Team Member 2002, 2004:

I feel that consistency is a trained skill; it is not attained by luck or perspicacity. When beginning to train, I break all behaviors down into small, easy to comprehend parts. I, then, teach each part as a separate stand-alone exercise. This helps in the dog's ability to discern what is expected of him, and it also provides a detailed blueprint for future reference. This now gives me the option at any time of selecting a specific element of the overall performance I want to work on without affecting the entire behavior or causing a "ripple effect" of stress or confusion throughout the performance. A good example of this would be the contact zone execution. Since the overall performance has been segmented, I have the option of selecting one piece, say the drive into the end of the board, and working that piece in a separate exercise thus not changing or affecting the actual end position behavior itself.

I have always believed that speed is a result of first *understanding*, second *confidence* and finally *motivation*. In my mind, *understanding* and *confidence* are by far the most important elements. I don't believe you can have one without the other. Motivation can be a product of incentive but I have found that in a typical Border collie, motivation comes from confidence. The more confidence I can instill in the dog, the more motivated the dog is to perform.

A cornerstone in my training program is the separation of "Nature vs. Nurture" in both behavior and training techniques. I work diligently to develop programs for each individual dog, using as much of the natural instinct and congenital tendencies as possible to shape the skills I desire. If I can use "nature" as the driving force behind the behaviors, the end result will be a more organic performance that makes sense to the dog and produces a more rapid response that is more reflex than cognizant. Of course, there are some things that are asked of our agility dogs that do not come naturally. In situations like this, I use a "nurture" technique, spending extra time to make sure the dog can perform the behavior without physical or mental resistance. I approach the training of these types of behaviors more as "parlor tricks". This keeps it fun for the dog and for me. It is critically important to remember that a behavior that has been developed by nurturing will be prone to variations according to the context in which it is to be performed; therefore, I will spend more time making sure I have ruled out all environmental influences for these behaviors.

What advice would you give the BCSA membership on how to attain this goal?

Gaining a true understanding of animal behavior is key to training anything in a dog. The use of force in my performance program and in my dog's every day life is prohibited. Everything I train my dogs to do is approached in a very detailed systematic manner with the end goal of having the dog enjoy what he is being asked to do, as well as having the trainer enjoy teaching it. I recommend training understanding in the dog, not just skills.

I also think that in order to have a fast accurate performance, the handler needs to spend just as much time working on his or her own skills. Many handlers do not perfect their own program but expect their dog's performance to be impeccable. This is a bit unfair in my eyes. If I were unable to do ten front crosses in succession with very little variation in my performance, I would never expect my dog to be able to achieve a higher level of consistency. After all, my dog's performance is directly affected by my own. I trained him and I cue him to perform; so when things go wrong, whose fault is it anyway?

I know you have worked with other breeds, what do you do differently (if anything) when training Border Collies?

Because I focus on using training techniques that would bring out the natural tendencies in the animal, my Border collie specific training does tend to focus strongly on handling. Specifically, I use movement and pressure on the dog's line of motion to cue directional and locomotion changes. I also focus much of my handling on controlling lines and striding to create balance and rhythm throughout the performance. Because the overall nature of a Border Collie is to be reactive, my goal is to create a handler that is proactive but that also has the abilities, when needed, to think on their feet and to be able to switch from Plan A to Plan B without any hesitation.

Do Border Collies learn differently? Take less time to train, etc. Your impression?

I've always said that Border Collies are easy to train but hard to handle. I do not think they are intrinsically different from other canines in their ability to learn, but I will say that they do tend to give the impression of having learned something that they actually do not understand yet. Border Collies are inherently reactive animals being overtly keen on body language and movement. This usually does not cause many problems as long as the behavior you're trying to train can be handler dependent. However, if the dog is going to be asked to perform the skill when the handler is not within visual range, this could cause a predicament. For this reason, I strive to teach every behavior and skill to be independent of the handler.

Border Collies, like other high drive breeds, do seem to take less time to train. This is most likely due to the amount of repetitions a trainer can do. In contrast, they seem to take more time to internalize a behavior to be able to perform it in any environment. From my observations, this is mostly due to trainers not realizing their dogs have been cueing off the environment (either handler or surroundings) as an integral part of the performance. I, also think, once you add speed and motion to a behavior, the natural tendencies of the herding breed take over. Extra time needs to be spent shaping the dog's natural tendency to head the handler off into a behavior that works better on the agility course. The natural herding skill that the Border Collie possesses is what makes them one of the most successful breeds competing in agility today; but trained and handled incorrectly, it can also be the ruin of many a potentially amazing agility team.

It is my opinion that any and all time put into a Border Collie's training program will be repaid back to the trainer tenfold, not only in the shaping of the overall performance, but also in the building of the relationship and solidifying of the team. I cannot think of a more perfect breed of dog for the sport of agility, not just in size and structure, but also in temperament, trainability and sense of humor as well.

Who is Chris Parker?

Chris has been involved with dogs since 1980. She has trained and participated in many canine performance events including agility, obedience, field, herding, tracking, conformation, flyball, earthdog, freestyle, disc dog and road dog. Working full time running her own dog agility training school, Speedoggie LLC, Chris teaches private, group lessons, workshops, seminars, camps and lectures internationally. She has written articles for agility and obedience publications and has been published multiple times in the international agility magazine "Clean Run", as well as on top agility internet web sites and in national breed club newsletters.

Chris' training methods focus on positive reinforcement for both dogs and handlers and are specifically designed to bring teams to their full potential by customizing training plans and focusing on handling maneuvers that best benefit each individual team. Known for her originality, creativity and flexibility in dog training, Chris specializes in everything from fast dog handling skills to training for the focused and motivationally challenged, from Border Collies to hard to train dogs including problem solving and handlers/dogs with physical limitations. Chris encourages handlers to work outside their comfort zone utilizing handling maneuvers that best fit the needs of each team to improving their overall performance and proficiency. Keeping the focus on fun, play and praise, Chris' enthusiasm for the sport is contagious and all efforts of both dog and handler are rewarded.

Chris has worked with well over one hundred different breeds of dogs and her students have received thousands of titles including Agility Championships in AKC, USDAA, NADAC and UKC. Along with ranking nationally in their respected breeds and in overall national rankings, Chris' students have also qualified, competed and won regional and national tournaments, qualified to participate in the AKC World Team Tryouts, and have been selected to represent the USA on the AKC World Agility Team.

Chris is also a well-respected breeder of some of the countries top agility Border Collies. Puppies from Chris' litters have won rounds at both AKC and USDAA Nationals and won the USDAA World Steeplechase Championships. Two of Chris' puppies placed 1st and 3rd in multiple rounds, with one winning the overall at the AKC World Team Tryouts securing a spot on the AKC World Agility Team.

Some of Chris' accomplishments include: Two Time AKC/USA World Agility Team Member, Guinness Book of World Record holder for Dog Weaving, 2003 USDAA World Steeplechase Champion, 10th Place 2002 FCI World Championships Individual Std Round, 2nd Place 2004 AKC Nationals 24" ISC Standard, 2002, 03, & 05 AKC Nationals Challenger Round Finalist, 18th Place Overall 2004 AKC Nationals (#1 Golden Retriever), 2002, 03, 04 & 05 USDAA National Top Ten, 2002, 04 & 05 EPN Great Outdoor Games participant, 1st Place Team Winners DAM Standard 2004 USDAA Nationals, 1st Place 2003 USDAA NW Super Regional DAM Tournament, Nationally ranked 2001-2004 AKC Agility in points (BC & Golden), Nationally ranked 2001-2004 AKC Agility in 2Q's (BC & Golden), 2001 Purina Incredible Dog Challenge Agility Bronze Medalist, 2001 Purina Incredible Dog Challenge High Jump Finalist

We thank Chris for her insights and look forward to more spectacular performances with her upcoming "Border Collies kids"!

Steve Frick, World Team Member 1999, 2001:

Consistency results when you have a confident dog and speed is a by-product. It all begins with good foundation exercises and routine practice. Ideally, a well formulated program of routine exercises is used early in the dog's cognitive development. I focus on two major categories in foundation training. Each category contains exercises that represent the constituent components that make up complex agility sequences.

The two categories consist of up close skills and distance skills. Up close skills begin with foundation foot work which is a form of heeling that is practiced on both sides of the handler, left and right sides. The dog is taught to work along a parallel path to the handler and how to respond to lead change signals. These skills are necessary for front crosses. Distance skills make up the foundation for rear crosses. In order to rear cross properly the dog has to learn a list of prerequisite skills. Which include target response, back chaining, sequencing, and peripheral vision development. When your dog has the ability to recognize target obstacles and negotiate sequences of obstacles you can utilize more of the dog's potential. Sequencing skills are also necessary to begin jump conditioning.

An agility course consists mostly of jumps; therefore you must have very solid jumping skills to qualify consistently. These skills are taught systematically. No matter how gifted the dog is, it must be taught how to negotiate jumps from a multitude of angles while it is on the run. Repetitive exercise is used for mental and physical conditioning. Initially I work on straight line jump sequences and progress to more complex arrangements of jumps. Lower jumps are used until the dog's stamina improves and then gradually more height is added. Jump conditioning is an on going maintenance routine used throughout the dog's agility career. It is important to realize that the mental and physical components of training are connected. If the dog doesn't have enough physical stamina it won't like training as much.

All aspects of training are broken down into small pieces that ultimately produce the total performance. Speed is a component that I am particularly interested in. I single out speed like other components of the performance. In order to get speed from the dog I have to single it out and define it to the dog. As necessary I will ignore accuracy to single out speed. Speed is learned in similar ways to other more mechanical components. As an initial exercise I use gentle but constant restraint to elicit the opposition reflex which pronounces the mental and physical sensation of drive or speed. Realize what the dog feels, the dog remembers. As a result of previously acquired sequencing skills I am able to restrain the dog while giving it a target obstacle command. When the dog looks away from me, focuses on the target and "pushes" on my hand, I release the dog to the target toy or target obstacle. I want the dog to feel excited and remember the muscles it uses to drive forward.

In addition to the physical components, I work on mental training as well. Be consistently demanding with your dog. Don't expect them to work hard for you if you don't place demands on them routinely. You can't

expect the dog to perform during practice or at a trial if it can get everything it wants at home for free. I use frequent impromptu training sessions throughout the day. When a dog performs my request, they get rewarded with a toy or cookie. They learn to get what they want by making the boss happy. Work ethic results from my routine, daily interactions with the dog. Remember to end training sessions on a positive note, this also encourages the dog to work hard and look forward to your next session.



Who is Steve Frick?

Steve Frick has been training Border Collies since 1993. He began competing in obedience in 1994 earning a CDX with his dog, Maggie. At the time he had never heard of agility trials. "I wanted a dog to run and bike with me. I had wanted a Border collie for many of years, I have an active life style and I knew I could give a Border collie the time and attention they need." Steve attended an agility competition while attending an obedience trial and the rest is history. Steve's degree in wildlife biology sparked his interest in animal behavior.

In 1995 Steve began competing in agility. His Border Collie, MACH 4 Margaret Ann CDX, ADCH (Maggie) has qualified for 6 consecutive years for the USDAA Grand Prix Championships and has been in the top 10 finalists of the AKC Nationals 1999, 2000, 2001. Maggie finished third at the 1998 USDAA Nationals and was also ranked in the Top Ten in USDAA Master Gamblers and Master Jumpers.

Steve and Maggie finished in 1st place in the 1999 Pupperoni Central Regional. And, in 1999, Maggie was ranked the top 24th Border collie for AKC agility and third overall in the country. Maggie was also Steve's partner for the ESPN Sporting Dog Challenge for 2 consecutive years.

MACH2 Bailey's Comet (Comet), Steve's second Border collie, finished in 1st place overall in the 1999 AKC Agility Nationals International Class and took 1st place at the 2000 AKC Agility Nationals in the International Jumpers Class. Steve and Comet were members of the Gold Medal winning team at the 2001 FCI Agility World Championships in Portugal, the only time the USA has taken Gold at the World Championships.

In 2002, at the AKC Agility National in Katy, Texas, Steve with both Maggie and Comet helped the Georgia team win the State competition.

Steve is one of the rare members of the World team who have had two dogs selected for World Team membership. Steve's Border Collies also finished 1st and 2nd in the ESPN Sporting Dog Challenge. Steve is frequently seen in agility competitions on both Animal Planet and ESPN. Steve is currently training and trialing his young Border collie, Aero OA OAJ

Steve has been published in numerous Agility magazines including Clean Run magazine. .

Steve Frick's training focus is his knowledge in canine conditioning, jumping techniques, and motivational training methods. His primary concept is team work; and, teaching others how to work on motivation within a team context. He relies on attention exercises to obtain the dog's attentiveness on the handler. Steve Frick's teaching philosophies are based on sound basics and advanced handling skills which he brings to his teaching, training, and competition.

Thank you Steve for your advice and we look forward to seeing good things from Aero in the future!



Note from the Editor:

Well, here's my second edition of Tartan Tails! I thought that it would be fun to re-institute the newsletter - little did I realize how much time it actually takes to put even this small effort together.

I do hope that you are enjoying reading this. If you would like to submit anything for publication, please contact me at BCs@bonnidune.com.

Best regards,

Kelly Whiteman