



# THE CANAAN KIBITZER

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Bedouin Canaan Dogs in Israel

## From the Editor's Desk:

About the time you are reading this, the CDCA will be holding its first all-breed Agility Trial in Leesburg Virginia at Oatlands Plantation. Our Agility & Performance Chair, Alan Gersman, has been working very hard for several months to have this important event go smoothly. Several other CDCA members from the Washington DC region have been working with Alan, preparing for the trial. We hope to see many of you there!

This issue of the Kib has many wonderful articles. Myrna Shibolet has provided an update on the miyun program in Israel. Yigal Pardo, a professional dog photographer from Israel, provided many of the accompanying photos.

Cathi Oskow wrote a wonderful article about her and Tovah's quest for their first obedience title. I had hoped that Cathi's article would fit into the "Trials and Tribulations" column, but as far as I can tell she had no tribulations and her obedience trials were all highly successful!!!

I am very proud to report that Tycho and I made our first foray into the Utility A obedience ring. No, we did not qualify (but then only **one** of the **twenty** dogs preceding us did qualify!!!), but we put in a good show! Most importantly to me, we looked like we belonged there. I am so proud of Tycho! To be able to walk into a Utility ring with a Canaan Dog and put in a very creditable performance on our very first try!!!

I will now admit that I disqualified us in our very first second of competition: the heeling pattern and signal exercise is supposed to be completely silent, and I started it out by giving the signal to heel and chirping out a nice clear "Tycho heel!"

Unlike in Novice, many of the NQs in Utility come through handler error...

Of course, Tycho wasn't perfect either. We can share the blame for not earning a green ribbon on our first trip out. But I gotta say, **Utility is SO MUCH MORE FUN than Novice!!!!!!**

Jennie

**Editor's Note:** Myrna Shibolet has been working in Israel to bring more Canaan Dogs in from the wild to incorporate new bloodlines into the Canaan Dog breeding program, before these dogs and their bloodlines are irretrievably lost. She has kindly provided this update on the progress of the program.

## Expanding the Gene Pool : Canaan Dogs from the Desert

By Myrna Shibolet

Photos by Myrna Shibolet, Isabella Zirri, and Yigal Pardo

The Canaan Dog holds a special and unique position in today's cynological world. On the one hand, this breed is fully recognized by all of the world's kennel clubs and is gaining more and more popularity as a pet and family dog in various parts of the world. On the other hand, in its land of origin, Israel, this breed also still exists as a wild or semi wild dog that must fight for its survival.

The Canaan Dog is one of the small group of rare and disappearing breeds that are considered to be primitive dogs, and are often referred to as "pariah dogs". The pariahs, that include ancient indigenous breeds found mostly in Asia and Africa, are of great interest for a number of reasons. They are in type the closest to the original dog, the dog that was the ancestor of all the modern breeds, and that may date back as much as 100,000 to 150,000 years. These are the breeds that have survived on their own, the only criteria for the breed's continuance being its ability to survive in very difficult conditions. On the other hand, pariahs, in their life style and relation to man, are very similar to the first dogs ever domesticated, willing to develop a partnership with man but able to live on their own if necessary.

Today's modern breeds are suffering more and more from degenerative, reproductive, and health problems, the result of a combination of a more and more limited gene pool in each specific breed, and selection for various breed specific characteristics that can be considered anti-survival. In almost all of the modern breeds, there is no outside gene pool that could serve to improve the health and well being of the breed.

The pariahs in general and the Canaan in particular hold great value to the canine world in the continuing presence of unregistered wild and feral stock that can be added to the gene pool. In this way, the characteristics that have enabled these breeds to survive for thousands of years can be strengthened and preserved. In addition, there is a great deal of

interest in studying the behavior of these breeds in their natural habitat and unchanged way of life. This provides us with a wealth of information on the natural behavior of the dog, from the time he first became associated with man, his capabilities and methods of survival in various conditions, and the way his relationship with man develops.

The Canaan Dog is unique among these breeds in being specifically adapted to living in the difficult climate and terrain of Israel. Over the last several years we have been making very serious attempts to bring in as many Canaan Dogs from the "wild" as possible. In the next years, we can anticipate that the wild and Bedouin population will almost completely disappear. Their natural habitat is rapidly disappearing and therefore so are the dogs that can still be considered pure stock. What we don't take advantage of now will later be lost forever.



There are several methods we have been using to bring in new bloodlines. The easiest method is to "capture" very small puppies and raise them in "civilization". This means locating new litters and removing the puppies as soon as they are old enough to get along without their mother. A two to three month old puppy is already suspicious enough and fast and agile enough to evade being caught and to disappear into the wilderness areas where he will not be found.



The puppies then have to be raised and examined when fully grown to determine if they really fit the breed type. We take puppies only from very remote areas where there is no evidence of dogs of other breeds, and try to identify the parents of the puppies. The mother is usually in the vicinity and can be identified, as she will try to protect her litter. The father, in many cases, is also in the vicinity and can be identified – the Canaanans tend to be very devoted to one another, and often the same pair remains together for life if nothing interferes. The Bedouin are of great help in this, as they are usually aware of where litters may be found, and can often identify the dogs and tell us who are the sire and dam of a litter.

We have brought in a number of puppies in the last year and a half. The first of these were two puppies that were brought in from a Bedouin camp in a very remote and desolate area between Arad and the Dead Sea. The Bedouin of this group were quite isolated and not very enthusiastic about visitors, quickly closing their tent flaps so that no one could see their women. They were not impressed with our interest in dogs, but allowed us to walk around the camp and photograph the dogs that functioned as very effective guards.



Myrna with the puppies at the Bedouin camp at Nahal Eyalim, between Arad and the Dead Sea.

Finally, one of the men grudgingly mentioned that there were a few puppies in the camp. He reached under a huge rusty metal drum where the bitch had dug a den and pulled out a puppy that appeared to be about five weeks old, held it up by one hind leg, and asked us if we wanted it. Obviously, there was no way we were going to leave this puppy behind at this point. It was clear that now that it had been “caught”, if we didn’t take it the chances were that it would be killed. The Bedouin then pulled out another puppy, which we also quickly agreed to take with us. They were both males, one black and white spotted and one brown and white spotted.



The worried mother paced around a few meters away,



and the father stood just outside of the camp barking at us.

These two are now about a year and a half old. The brown and white boy, called Pashosh me Nachal Yealim, lives in Rishon Lezion with one of the club members, Ed Saloner, and the other, called Pereh me Nachal Yealim is here at Shaar Hagai.





Pereh me Nachal Yealim

Both are very typical Canaans with strong temperaments – obvious survivors. Pereh has sired his first litter, out of Timnat Sarah; the pups are now almost three months old. The litter was very unified in type, and the puppies look extremely promising and have wonderful temperaments.

The next pups brought in were three from a Bedouin camp near Tel Arad, between Beer Sheva and Arad. This was the same camp from which we brought in an adult male the year before.



Myrna with Tel Arad puppies at 6 weeks.

There were five puppies of about six weeks of age, in a den dug under a pile of rubble. We took three, two males and the only female, and left two for the worried mother.



Mother of Tel Arad puppies.

The father was also present and identified by the Bedouin children. The two males, which grew up at Shaar Hagai, developed into beautiful and typical Canaans, but were eliminated as breeding possibilities, as their ears did not stand erect.



Father of Tel Arad puppies.

The female puppy, a lovely cream female, called Suha me Tel Arad, will be test bred some time this year. She belongs to another club member, Yossi Romano, and has already been to a few shows.





Suha me Tel Arad at 6 weeks.



Yigal Pardo and Salima Al Kashhar at 6 months.



Suha me Tel Arad at 6 months.



Bedoui Al Kashhar, sire of Salima Al Kashhar.

Yigal Pardo, our official photographer and Canaan fancier, brought another puppy bitch back from a nearby area. She also was brought in from a camp where both parents were present. Salima Al Kashhar is still under a year of age, but is developing well and also has a terrific temperament. She will be test bred when she is older.

A veterinarian who found these two puppies outside of Yerucham in the southern Negev brought them to me. Parents were unknown. These two are with a fruit farmer just outside Jerusalem.





They are now just over a year of age. They are definitely Canaan in type and behavior. The male will not be used for breeding, as his ears are weak, but the female, Yuval me Yerucham, will be test bred.

Another two puppies were obtained from an army construction site near Kibbutz Lahav in the Negev. The pregnant mother was abandoned there by a passing Bedouin and the bitch whelped five puppies. The architect, who was worried that the bitch and puppies would be destroyed - she had been feeding them - contacted us. The mother disappeared before we arrived to see the puppies, which were about six weeks old, and homes had been found for the three males (we have the information of where these puppies are), and we took the two females. They are now in homes in the Tel Aviv area, developing well, and will be evaluated as breeding possibilities when they are older – they are now about eight months of age.

Another method is to try to capture an adult. In most cases, the adults that are available are those that are attached to Bedouin camps. The Bedouin dogs are semi wild and can often not be approached by anyone but the children, who seem to build up a friendly relationship with the dogs. But the Bedouin are sometimes willing to try to capture such dogs, if they don't feel a need for them as camp guards, and let us take them. In the last few years, there have been three adults brought in from various areas, and all of them adjusted well to "domestic" life.



Bayud Bedoui me Tel Arad being captured by the Bedouin women.

Bayud is here at Shaar Hagai and has sired several litters to date, which have proven to be of excellent quality and temperament. The fascinating story of his "capture" and domestication can be seen on the Shaar Hagai website, [www.canaandogs.info](http://www.canaandogs.info), under Dogs of the Desert.

A club member, Aharon Ben Yitzhak, brought in another dog from the area of Sde Boker. This dog, called Barak, was a good type and temperament and sired two litters with good type pups. Unfortunately, he was killed in an accident about six months ago. Aharon has recently obtained another dog from the same area, which is an excellent type, and he will be test bred this year.

Another young dog, about two years of age, was brought to the last Canaan Day. His owners found him when a small pup at Mizpeh Ramon. Called Dingo me Mizpen Ramon, he is an impressive young dog and will be test bred this year.



Bayud Bedoui me Tel Arad before capture.

The first of these is Bayud me Tel Arad, brought in as a two year old about two and a half years ago.

A final possibility is to bring a bitch in season to an area where there are excellent quality dogs, and to allow her to breed to a Bedouin or semi wild dog. This is also not easy, as the dogs are very suspicious, and it can take them a long time and a lot of hesitation to even approach a strange bitch in season. In some cases, despite our patience in waiting for something to happen, the suspicion was too strong and the dog was never willing to approach and breed the bitch, despite her games and seductive moves. But we have had one success in getting a litter this way, and it is a possibility. Isr.Ch.Yitzhar me Shaar Hagai was the result of our one success with this method. Last year we tried to breed another bitch, and although the breeding took place, unfortunately the bitch did

not get pregnant. These stories can also be seen on the website.



Desert breeding.

Over the last few years, about 15 dogs have been brought in from the wild or the Bedouin.

The procedure for entering them in the stud book is to first examine the dog as an adult to see if it fits the breed requirements, and then to do a trial breeding with a fully pedigreed and proven mate. (Full details of the “miyun” system and requirements are on the website.) Several dogs have proven themselves as a valuable addition to the gene pool, and there is a generation of their descendents that are now approaching breeding age themselves. Some of the desert stock has been discarded as potential breeding stock due to lack of correct type or faults which may indicate mixed blood, and some of the desert dogs are still young and developing and will be judged as to their potential as breeding stock in the future.

We are continuing to look for and try to bring in more dogs from the desert. This program is helping to preserve the very unique characteristics of the Canaan Dog and prevent the gene pool from becoming too limited.

## Canaan Dogs in Tracking

by Bryna Comsky  
CDCA Tracking Chair

When a dog and handler team earns three tracking titles, then they have won the right to put the designation, C.T. in front of the dog's registered name. C.T. stands for Champion Tracker, and precedes any other AKC title.

The three tracking titles represent ascending levels of expertise and follow any obedience titles after the dog's registered name. **TD** stands for Tracking Dog; **TDX** for Tracking Dog Excellent; and **VST** for Variable Surface Tracking dog.

There are two Canaans who carry an official AKC TD title, and four who earned their CCA/CDCA titles before the breed was eligible to compete in AKC tracking and performance events. Of those four, two were trained to the TDX level. Variable Surface Tracking came upon the scene about five years ago, driven by the need caused by advancing civilization and resultant loss of tracking fields. The requirements for these titles are described in this article, the first in a series, as are the dogs and handlers who achieved them.

What do Alan C. “Ace” Greenberg, a toy poodle named “Willie,” a Doberman and a Canaan Dog named “Hertzi” have in common? They all tracked in Central Park, and, I believe, were certified by Jim

Dearinger, former head of the AKC Obedience and Tracking Department. Alan and “Hertzi” introduced Canaan Dog fanciers to the sport of tracking on June 12, 1982, when they became the first dog and handler team to win the CCA/CDCA Tracking Dog Title under judges H. Ted Hoesel and Ronnie Greenberg who plotted regulation TD tracks. “Dreidle” \* and Petro,\* sire and son, followed suit. Out of four entries, three CCA/CDCA TD titles were earned that day. Alan handled “Hertzi,” and I handled “Dreidle” and “Petro.” That was a memorable day for the breed, and preceded the National Specialty conformation judging which took place on the following day.

In July, 1983, “Misha” TD \* earned his Club TD Title at Houston, Texas under judges Ronnie Greenberg and Sally Elkins, both AKC licensed judges who plotted AKC regulation tracks. On October 15, 1990, “Misha” TD became the first Canaan Dog to earn his AKC TD Title, breeder-owner-handled by this writer.

FarSight Abigail,\* breeder-owner-handled by Joan Capaiu Greene, was the second Canaan Dog to add the TD title to her name.

Canaan Dogs have good noses and are no strangers to the sport of tracking. Some are in various states of training toward their TD title and more advance awards. Just what is the sport of tracking all about, and why is it so interesting and attractive to those who know it?

*"The purpose of a tracking test is to demonstrate the dog's ability to recognize and follow human scent, a skill that is useful in the service of mankind."*

*"Tracking, by nature, is a vigorous, noncompetitive outdoor sport. Tracking tests demonstrate the willingness and enjoyment of the dog in its work, and should always represent the best in sportsmanship and camaraderie by the people involved."*

(These quotations are taken from "Tracking Regulations, Amended to March 10, 2003, published by the American Kennel Club." All quotes appearing in this article are taken from this publication).

### **Tracking Dog Test (TD)**

"The fundamental features of a TD test are the dog's ability to follow a track laid by a person under a variety of conditions on moderate terrain and find an article dropped by that person."

A dog and handler may enter a TD tracking test after receiving a statement of certification from an AKC licensed tracking judge stating that they are ready to participate in such a test, and meet the requirements to complete a TD track. The team can expect to find a track at least 440 yards long, aged 30 minutes or more with 3 to 5 turns. The shape of the track can be like that of a hat or steps on a staircase. Each leg is at least 50 yards long. At the end of a successfully run track the dog will indicate the find of a glove or wallet to the great joy, and sometimes amazement, of the handler. The dog-handler team begins to run the track at the starting flag and follows it beyond the second, directional flag, thirty yards away. The tracklayer has removed the other flags which had marked the turns and the location of the article at the end of the track.

### **Tracking Dog Excellent Test (TDX)**

"The fundamental feature of a Tracking Dog Excellent test (TDX) is to show unquestionably that the dog has the ability to discriminate scent and possesses the stamina, perseverance and courage to do so under a wide variety of conditions."

"A TDX test presents difficult challenges. Judges are to plot tracks as challenging and realistic as the terrain will permit, while maintaining proper concern for the safety of the dogs and handlers."

The TDX track is twice as long as the TD track, aged at least three hours, has cross-tracks over two of its legs, four articles, and at least two obstacles to test

the dog's ability to adapt to changing scent conditions. There is one starting flag which permits the direction of the track to begin within an arc of 180 degrees.

### **Variable Surface Tracking (VST)**

"The Variable Surface Tracking Test is a test of credibility, verifying the dog's ability to recognize and follow human scent while adapting to changing scenting conditions. The test is to be as practical as possible while demonstrating the dog's willingness and ability to follow a specific scent which is given to the dog at the start of the test. The training and conditioning of the dog must be designed to develop the inner drive, motivation and determination necessary for the dog to work with intensity and perseverance."

The track shall be at least 600 yards in length and have a minimum of three different surfaces, which shall include vegetation and two (2) areas devoid of vegetation. There shall be no physical obstacles or obstructions such as are used on a TDX track. The scent on the track shall be at least three hours old, and there shall be at least four turns, one of which takes place on an asphalt or concrete surface and is referred to as the "moment of truth." All tracks shall be laid utilizing buildings and the diverse scenting conditions created by being in close proximity to such buildings. Tracks shall also utilize any and/all other structures such as fences, breezeways, ramps, stairs, bridges, shelters, roofed parking garages, through courtyard and buildings with two or more openings and/or open buildings. The intent of Variable Surface Tracking stresses that dogs shall be able to handle the diffusion of scent created by these structures... Tracks may not enter a building with closed doors and sides... Should an animal, pedestrian or vehicular traffic appear or move across the track, the dog and handler will continue to work the track, as incidents such as these are considered a normal occurrence for this test... There shall be one leather, one plastic (rigid or semi-rigid), one metal and one fabric article to be dropped by the tracklayer at places indicated by the judges... There is one flag at the beginning of the track which permits the track to go in one of several possible directions within an arc of 180 degrees.

A tracking event is scheduled for the October, 2004, National Specialty in Leesburg, Virginia. It will precede the general meeting on the day before conformation judging. Specialty chairman, Alan Gersman, has engaged an AKC tracking judge to conduct the program. Included in the event will be an introduction, demonstration, the running of a



regulation TD track, and the starting of new tracking dogs. work attitude on the track.

Some of the Canaan Dogs that have been trained and/or titled in tracking include:

\* **"Hertzi"** is registered as Ha'Aretz Mem Dreidleson, CCA/CDCA TD

\* **"Dreidle"** is registered as CCA/CDCA CH Spatterdash Dreidle CCA/CDCA TD

\* **"Petro"** is registered as Samach Petro Ha'Aretz CCA/CDCA TD

\* **"Misha"** TD is registered as CCA/CDCA CH Ha'Aretz Ayen Aleph J. Maccabee CCA/CDCA TD and AKC TD

\* **"Abbey"**, DOTY 1994 CDCA/UKC/ARBA Ch. Far Sight Abigail, CGC, CDCA/AKC TD, CDCA-VX, CDCA-HS, AHBA HTDI-s earned both Dog of the Year and Versatility Excellent from the CDCA for her many herding, agility and conformation titles.

\* **"Bo"** is registered as DJ Ha'Aretz Boaz of Gray Mesa. "Bo" qualified for his CGC Certificate and is currently working in obedience and tracking with his owner-handler, Meir Ben-Dror.

Meir has agreed to write an article in this series to describe how "Bo" was started in tracking and his

\* Chris Miller has trained two of her Canaan bitches to track.

**"Raiah"**, Ch. DaySpring Beraiah Ha'Aretz, CD, CGC, CDCA HC, owned by Christina Miller, has been working sporadically in tracking for 3 years.

**"Guinan"**, Ch. River Rock Guilt by Assoc., CDCA HC, owned by Christina Miller & Merry Carol Houchard.

Chris says that Guinan is by far "nosey" one - she detected Spock's Lymphoma far before he showed clinical signs, she also signals Ethan's (Chris's son) seizures. Guinan is very good at finding small scratches or thorns on any of the crew. Chris says Guinan appears to have more of a natural instinct for tracking and has been working in tracking for 1.5 years.

\* **"Wolf"**, DOTY-1995, U-CDX, AKC Ch. Ze'ev Midbar, AKC-CGC, CD, HI, NA, NAJ; CDCA-HS, VX; AHBA HTDI-s, HRDII-s; ASCA-STDs; TDI, owned and trained by Denise Gordon, has been training in tracking for several years also and looks to be the first Canaan Dog to earn the AKC's VCD1 title.

## Welcome New Members!

Meir and Nancy M. Ben-Dror  
453 Dill Road  
Landrum, SC 29356  
Phone: 864.895.4025 (home)  
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Catherine B. Beacham  
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## Change of Address:

Norman L. Rubenstein  
16455 West Juniper Court  
Surprise, AZ 85387  
(623) 322-6464 (Phone)  
(623) 594-6358 (Fax)

## New Titles:

We currently do not have an Awards Chair to keep up on all the titles Canaan Dogs are earning. If you are interested in this (**EASY!!**) position, please contact Denise Gordon (canaani@juno.com).

In the meantime, please send all new title information to the Kib editor, Jennie Larkin (TychoCand@yahoo.com).

**AKC/UKC CH** Cherrysh Mi Corazon Miracle, CDCA HC, owned by Alla Geretz and Cheryl Hennings.

Mira completed her UKC championship in Oct 2003 during 3 days of showing and also completed her AKC championship Jan 2004.

**AKC CH.** Cando Bobesox N Saddleshoes, breeder/owner Sally Armstrong-Barnhardt.

## Agility Nationals

by Alan Gersman  
CDCA Performance Chair  
Photos by Tien Tran

The AKC National Agility Championships took place in Long Beach, California on December 2-4, 2003. The dogs had to achieve four double-Qs (a qualifying score in both Standard and Jumpers with Weaves on the same day) from the Excellent B classes between September 27, 2002 and October 2, 2003 to be eligible to compete in the Championships.

This was Isabel's 4th straight National and Lada L.'s 3rd straight National. It would take five rounds over three days to determine the 2003 AKC Champion. Luckily for the Canaan Dogs the first 2 rounds would be a fun event with states competing against states in the State Team Tournament. The Team Event was a warm-up for the intense individual competition to begin the next day. The Canaan Dogs approached this Team Event as only Canaan Dogs can; that is to say, like they had never seen an agility trial before.

The AKC National Agility Banquet was held the first night after the Team competition to award the "Top Agility Dog", the AKC's Merit Award for each breed. I must say, stepping up to the podium to receive this award in front of over 500 of the best agility competitors from all over the USA is almost as good as winning the Nationals itself.

For 3 straight years Isabel has earned that very special award, and at almost 12 years old she has now retired, so this year was her last and indeed, was very special.

Isabel was my first everything dog, we earned Obedience, Herding and Agility titles. I did everything wrong (many times) that one can do wrong when training a dog and she still didn't fire me.

The first few times we attended AKC Nationals I was actually concerned when my girls wanted to know what those things were in the middle of the ring -- they said such things as "Do we really have to keep those bars up?" and "We can design a better course than that turkey judge!". But, alas, the next day when the serious competition started my girls knocked off 4 straight clean runs (2 runs each). Only 41% of the 476 dogs entered had clean runs after the first day.

Lada L. finished the third round with a clean run and only seconds and 10ths of a second separated the top 55 dogs.

Lada L. finished the 2003 Nationals in 40th place and closed out the year to earn next year's AKC "Top Dog" award for the Canaan Dogs. Earning the AKC "Top Dog" award is becoming quite difficult, since there are 5 times more ILP Canaan Dogs than actual Canaan Dogs competing in AKC agility.



2003 AKC Agility National Championships  
Long Beach, CA - USA  
Agility Class  
*Isabel*  
Briel's Isabel P Tiger Pook  
American Kennel Club  
December 2-4, 2003



2003 AKC Agility National Championships  
Long Beach, CA - USA  
Agility Class  
*Lada L.*  
Max's Lada L P Tiger Pook  
American Kennel Club  
December 2-4, 2003

**Editor's Note:** Isabel has only gotten better and faster in her "retirement". She recently earned her 38th double Q, with a ripping fast Standard run that gave her 3rd place and Lada L 4th place in a very competitive 20" Excellent B class.



## Trying Obedience With Tovah

By Cathi Oskow

When I was growing up, I read every book I could get my hands on about dogs or horses. I imagined myself a jockey with a horse like the Black Stallion or showing a beautiful, brave, intelligent, soulful dog like Sunnybank Lad. One of the books that fired my imagination was called *Champion Dog Prince Tom*, by Jean Fritz and Tom Clute. Prince was a real dog in the 1950's, a cocker spaniel, the runt of his litter. He was not expected to be a show dog of any type. But he started winning in obedience trials and then field trials, and the initials after his name kept getting longer and longer. A young friend of his owner wrote the dog's name on a long piece of cardboard, adding new initials with new titles, until he had to find a longer piece of cardboard. That book was the first place I read about obedience trials, and learned the names of the titles dogs could earn: Companion Dog (CD), Companion Dog Excellent (CDX), and Utility Dog (UD).

My great-uncle was a trainer, breeder and judge, well-known in German shepherd circles. But my immediate family was not involved in any dog sports. I trained and bred dogs from a young age, but I never was involved in any dog sports--other than the neighborhood pet shows I organized—and having my toy poodle perform tricks in the seventh grade talent show.

When I met my husband Craig, I was finishing graduate school in Los Angeles, writing, teaching, and doing some breeding of dogs as well as a little training for other people.

Craig was showing his bull terrier, Ajax, and while we were dating, I finally went to my first actual dog show. I accompanied Craig while he showed Ajax all over California.

We moved back to my home state of Minnesota, and our lives became too filled with starting a marriage, careers, home ownership and children to be involved with dog shows.

But seven years ago, I bought my first Canaan Dog, Pleasant Hill Tovah. During the months of research before I actually brought Tovah home--before she was even conceived, in fact--in one of my conversations with Donna Dodson, she asked if I had any interest in show or performance with my anticipated Canaan Dog. This kicked old dreams into gear. My children were old enough to come along to dog shows by then.

So Tovah was the first dog I actually showed myself. At first, she looked pretty good in the conformation ring. She kept her tail and ears up, and she earned 11 points, including one major and another win that would have been a major if a judge hadn't decided to excuse another bitch from the ring.

Then when Tovah was about a year-and-a-half, we flew down to the CDCA National Specialty in Arizona. I don't know whether it was the airplane flight, the after-effects of the tranquilizer the vet had prescribed, or her first outdoor show in the hot sun, but Tovah did not move out well or put her tail up in the ring the entire weekend. Tovah entered a new phase of "Okay, Mom, I'll go around the ring with you, but don't expect me to get all excited about it."

Another thing became apparent at this first National Specialty at which Tovah was shown. Actually, it had been apparent at the National Specialty in Kentucky, when Tovah was only five months old, and we were just observing. Tovah is no runt like "Champion Dog Prince Tom." No, quite the contrary, Tovah is a big girl. Twenty-three inches at the withers, to be exact--the top height permissible for a Canaan Dog bitch in the AKC. We know this because when the judge at the National Specialty in Arizona saw Tovah, he called for the wicket. We went inside to a flat cement floor. The judge set each side of the wicket to measure 23 inches. The two sides are joined by a straight top bar. He put the wicket over Tovah's withers. If the wicket was lifted off the ground, Tovah would be disqualified as oversize.

The two sides remained in contact with the floor, with no room to spare under the top bar. The judge smiled, we went back into the ring, and he awarded her fourth place in an Open class of nine bitches.

That was her highest placement that weekend.

When I called home that night, Craig and my daughter Aviva, then age seven, asked how Tovah had done. I said, "Well, the judge thought she might be too big, so he called for the wicket."

Aviva spoke with indignation, "Well I think that's really mean he called her wicked!"

After that weekend, Tovah's new attitude in the ring persisted. She wasn't unhappy to be there, but she lagged. This emphasized rear movement that was less than optimal.

It was a long time before she earned any more points. Eventually, we concentrated more on showing our male, Mazel, and then Tovah's daughter, Naftalia. Both of them finished their championships before Tovah.

Tovah did finally finish her championship, earning her second major at a show where there were other big bitches for her to compete against. Having been sidelined while we concentrated more on showing the other dogs, she seemed eager to have her chance to be in the limelight again.

But in the meantime, she had developed other interests, too. Four years ago, I first hitched Tovah and Mazel to a child's sled and had them give kids rides, as something fun to do in the long Minnesota winter. Then I brought Tovah to the CDCA Specialty weekend in Tennessee specifically so she could try shepherding. She had put up with pulling a sled, but here was an activity she loved! She passed her Herding Certificate (HC) with flying colors.

Another reason I brought Tovah to that Specialty weekend was because I had read there would be a Canine Good Citizen test. Tovah and I had trained a fair amount in obedience together, on-and-off, in between conformation showing and litters of pups. But I still had never tested with any of my dogs in any kind of obedience outside of a class situation. For the Canine Good Citizen test, a dog needs to pass ten tests that show he or she is just what the title says. All of the tests are on-leash. The dog needs to walk nicely on a loose lead at its owner's side, including through a crowd of people (at least three); be calm when another dog passes by on-leash; sit, lay down and stay on command; come when called, not freak out at a distraction (such as a person passing in a wheelchair or with a walker), etc.

I signed Tovah up for the test, but I was nervous. We practiced heeling around other dogs, stays and recalls. When it came close to our turn, I waited with another Canaan Dog person who was going to test.

Tovah passed all ten tests! I was so proud of her! The other Canaan Dog person said, "Your dog seems to like obedience. Have you thought of trying her in obedience trials?"

*Thought? Yes, thought...*

I always had believed a dog with titles at both ends was the ideal. A dog that conformed well physically to the breed standard and could prove its

intelligence, ability to work with people, and its instinct for the tasks for which its breed was developed. Well, by May of 2002, I finally had a dog with titles at both ends: CH. Pleasant Hill Tovah, HC, CGC.

*But obedience trials?*

I had trained a lot of dogs over the course of my life in the basic exercises of Novice obedience: Heel (including the Figure 8), Come, Stand for Exam, Sit, Down, Stay. I had trained German shepherds and poodles to obey well off-leash.

*But a Canaan Dog?*

Heeling right at my side, off-leash, at a huge showsite, crowded with people and other dogs of all sizes and descriptions? Staying in a sit and then a down across an entire ring from me, in a lineup of dogs, with who knows what sort of dogs on either side? What if the dog next to her was a huge mastiff that decided to stare at her? What if there was an active puppy-sized Yorkshire terrier on the other side that broke its stay and dashed in front of her?

The memory of "Champion Dog Prince Tom" lurked somewhere in my subconscious, I think. No one had expected a runty American cocker spaniel to win field trials. A Canaan Dog may not have the same "What can I do next for you attitude?" as a German shepherd or poodle or golden retriever, the same fanatic will to work as a border collie, but they are very intelligent, and if they think there is something good in it for them and they feel secure with you, they can learn to do anything those dogs can. I was inspired by Canaan Dogs and their owners such as Wolf and Denise Gordon, Lada L. and Isabel and Alan Gersman, and Tovah's very own half-brother Tycho and Jennie Larkin.

I was also inspired by Tovah herself. Tovah had always been even-tempered, friendly and steady by Canaan Dog standards. By the time she was five years old, with two litters of pups and many other life experiences behind her, Tovah had matured, too. She also was excited to get the extra one-on-one attention from me that came with obedience training.

Another thing that helped was clicker training and positive reinforcement. I had long ago learned the older methods of training with a choke collar: jerk and release, correction then praise. The first obedience school Tovah and I attended still used these methods. But I was hearing about the newer, more positive methods.



One of the times I went back to obedience training with Tovah (I think around the same time we looked for a puppy class for her daughter Naftalia), I sought out a school that used these newer methods.

Tovah loved clicker training! She is a total chow hound. She would be happy to wear a sign around her neck reading: "Will work for food." How exciting to get special time with Mom and tasty treats! (She may actually think she has finally trained me to give her treats.)

When I finally decided to work with Tovah toward that actual first obedience title, my life felt too busy to start another class. Besides, Tovah and I knew the exercises for Novice. We just needed to practice them, make sure Tovah would perform them with distractions.

From early in Tovah's training, I had often worked her at a soccer field near my home. I would put her on a down-stay or sit-stay on the sidelines while a soccer game was going on. She needed to keep the stay even when the action came in our direction.

Now I looked for more distractions. There is a friendly, submissive springer spaniel that is sometimes tied out in our neighborhood. We would heel near him, and as soon as Tovah strained toward him, I would do an about turn away, until she learned she needed to stay at my side, even with another dog nearby. (Eventually when she was done with training I would let them say hi to one another.) We would work on a sidewalk near a playground. If children were intrigued, I would press them into service as "judge" for the Stand-for-Exam. A large teenager was especially helpful. We went to PetSmart, and trained in the aisles, with the intriguing smells, dogs and people there. In the living room at home, I called my other dogs, Mazel and Naftalia, to do stays in line with Tovah.

I was shooting for the CDCA Specialty in Cincinnati, May 2003, for our first attempt at actual obedience competition. I thought I'd try her just the day of the Specialty itself, to see how she did with only a couple of Canaan Dogs next to her for the stay exercises—not a dozen dogs of all sizes and varieties. I was also showing another daughter of hers, Yakira, and our male, Mazel, in conformation, and they were all going to do sheepherding, so I thought one day of worrying about obedience would be enough.

The support of other Canaan Dog people who came to watch was great. Tovah was not perfect, but she did fine, and she passed the first leg toward her CD.

Back in Minnesota, I entered her in a Sunday all-breed obedience trial in June, and she passed her second leg.

Several Canaan Dog people were getting together to show in Minnesota on a weekend in August. I entered Mazel and Yakira in breed, my daughter Aviva with Mazel in Junior Showmanship, and I decided to enter Tovah both days in obedience.

The Saturday Novice A obedience was scheduled at the same time as Canaan Dogs in conformation. I had someone else handle Mazel, and I told Aviva to take Yakira into the breed ring. As the number was called for Tovah and myself to compete in obedience, I saw my daughter and Yakira entering the breed ring, five rings away. I mentioned this coincidence to the judge. She snapped, "Keep your mind on this ring!"

Despite the uptight judge, Tovah did fine on her individual exercises. By the time of the group stay exercises, Canaan Dog breed judging was done, and the other Canaan Dog people were watching to support us from ringside. During the down-stay, the Bernese Mountain Dog next to Tovah broke his stay. Tovah sat up. She glanced at my face, then stayed in place until the exercise was over. But sitting up was a disqualification.

On Sunday, we practiced down-stays ahead of time. The judge was much friendlier, laid-back. He seemed pleased to see dogs succeed. Tovah had a few sloppy sits, but she came through! She finished fifth in the class, with a score of 187. We earned our CD!

Observing the conformation and obedience rings in this large, busy show, I noticed differences in the people and the dogs. In the conformation rings, people are dressed formally, often in suits. Dogs of many breeds are groomed more fussily than the people. Many of the people showing are professional handlers. Sometimes snotty remarks are made about dogs shown by other people. (This has rarely been my experience with Canaan Dog people in conformation. I have found plenty of owner-handlers and plenty of camaraderie in the breed ring with our dogs.)

In the obedience ring, most of the people are showing their own dogs. They dress casually, in jeans and tennis shoes, or other comfortable clothing. You can see a real connection between dog and person that is born of the communication necessary to perform the exercises well together.

Some people are going for the high scores, but others are very happy to earn the titles. Any dog that earns at least 170 of the 200 points possible at three different trials can earn an obedience title. So not everyone feels competitive with the other dogs and handlers. They can just compete against themselves, if they choose, accomplish something as team, dog and person.

At that show weekend in August, I saw some of the same people that had been entered in the other Minnesota obedience trials with Tovah and myself, and we encouraged and complimented one another. The Bernese Mountain Dog got way off-track in his heeling, left his stay, and failed to finish in the recall. His owner laughed good-naturedly outside the ring afterwards, and handed out party hats and biscuits. "It's his seventh birthday. We lose a lot of them by this age. I promised him we were going to celebrate, no matter how he did."

He was a man with a dog he loved, and I liked that attitude.

So Tovah has fulfilled some of my childhood fantasies. We've worked and played and had fun together. I don't have a piece of cardboard upon which I letter her increasingly long name, but she is kind of my "Champion Dog Prince Tom."

I do enjoy typing her name sometimes:



**Ch. Pleasant Hill Tovah, CD, ROM, CGC, CDCA HC, ICDCA VC.**

Go big bitch!

## Reminders!

Trophy donations are needed for the 2004 specialty, this coming October! Please contact:

- Judy Rosenthal Phone: (802) 253-4721  
Email: [rosendogs@vtlink.net](mailto:rosendogs@vtlink.net)

- Amanda Pough Phone: (802) 888-7949  
Email: [BsnatchBT@aol.com](mailto:BsnatchBT@aol.com)

also:

Please donate items to the fund-raising raffle at the CDCA Agility Trial April 17-18, 2004, to benefit Canaan Dog and canine health research.

- Contact Donna Dodson phone: (815) 895-2320  
email: [KNANDOG@aol.com](mailto:KNANDOG@aol.com) or for more information.

Thank You!!!

## Would you like to see *The Canaan Kibitzer* in full color?

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Password: **cdcakib03**

**Ta Daaa!!! Welcome to the 21<sup>st</sup> Century!**



## Timing a Canine Breeding

By Cindy Pratt, DVM  
Lamoille Valley Veterinary Services  
Hyde Park, VT

You've made the decision. It is time for a litter of puppies.



You've selected the genetic donors (the parents.) You've done your homework: you've evaluated temperament, conformation, family history (pedigree, cancer, etc.) and have completed the screenings needed for your breed (CERF, OFA, heart, thyroid, hearing, Von Willibrand's, PRA, etc.) Vaccinations and parasite control should be discussed with your vet.

Now what? At this point, the decision for natural breeding, chilled extended artificial insemination or frozen artificial insemination (AI) needs to be made. The conception rate for any method of breeding is dependent on many factors: fertility of the bitch, condition of the bitch's uterus, ovulation timing, insemination technique, quality of semen and the handling of the semen. The method of breeding is chosen based on many factors: locations of dog and bitch (next town vs. across the nation?), health of the dog, receptivity of the bitch (does she like the male?), or breeder preference. There are several factors that can be monitored to increase the odds for a successful breeding.

**HER role:** she should have an initial exam with your veterinarian to discuss plans. Often, this initial exam will include vaginal exam, vaginal cytology and bloodwork (brucellosis test, ovulation timing +/- CBC, and full chem. panel). The vaginal exam is done to make sure there will nothing to hinder a natural breeding or vaginal insemination. The vaginal cytology is used as a guideline to see where the bitch is in her cycle. A brucellosis test should be done even if there is not going to be a

natural breeding. The best methods of ovulation timing are based on bloodwork – typically with monitoring for the LH (luteinizing hormone) surge, progesterone testing or a combination of both tests.

LH is a hormonal surge that precedes ovulation. This is the hormonal event by which we time all other occurrences (planning breedings and estimate the time of parturition). This is never performed as the only test because it must be accompanied by progesterone testing. The LH test is usually started on the fourth or fifth day of proestrus (observation of vaginal bleeding and/or vulvar swelling) and should be combined with a progesterone test to get the progesterone baseline. LH has a very short lifespan in the serum so it is crucial that daily serum samples are tested and blood samples should be drawn at approximately the same time every day. If the testing is started after the onset of estrus, then it is likely that the LH surge will have already occurred and cannot be identified retrospectively. Estrus is the stage that a bitch would allow breeding and vulvar enlargement continues, as does the vulvar discharge, which may remain bloody or change to a lighter yellow color. Typically breedings are scheduled approximately on days 5 & 6 after the LH surge, with a range of days 4-7 (breeding dates may have to be adjusted for shipping semen, weekends, etc.) Progesterone levels should also be monitored after the LH surge to verify that the increase in LH was the actual pre-ovulatory surge. Progesterone should steadily rise from baseline after the LH surge. The LH test is available as an "in-house" kit, meaning that your vet can run these samples right in their own office. The test results are usually available in less than 1 hour from the time of the blood draw.

Progesterone testing can be done on its own or in combination with LH testing. Progesterone testing is best done by getting actual numbers of progesterone levels in the blood stream. These need to be done at outside veterinary laboratories. There are several in-house kits that are available that give "ballparks" of the progesterone level range but not actual numbers but the results are available in about 1 hour. When monitoring serial progesterone tests, we are looking for the initial rise in progesterone, which predicts the time of ovulation. Progesterone tests are usually started on the 7th or 8th day after the start of proestrus. The most fertile period is 5-6 days after the initial rise in progesterone.

Natural breedings can be timed with progesterone levels only. Chilled extended AI timing are best

done with the combination of LH and progesterone timing but can be successful with progesterone alone. Frozen AI timing should only be done with the combination of LH and progesterone timing because usually only one insemination is performed so timing is critical. Artificial inseminations can be done vaginally with fresh or chilled semen or AIs can be done transcervically (catheter passed through the cervix using a rigid endoscope) or surgically (expose the uterus through an abdominal incision under general anesthesia) with fresh, chilled or frozen semen. The method of AI depends on the type of semen and the vet's equipment.

**HIS role:** He should also have an initial exam with a brucellosis test and semen collection and evaluation. This should be done even if it is going to be a natural breeding or even if he has produced a litter in the past. The semen is evaluated for volume, color, motility, numbers, morphology and cytology. If an AI is planned with chilled or frozen semen, then the semen should be tested. Not all dogs' semen will chill or freeze well even if the fresh sample looks good. A test sample of semen should be extended and chilled or frozen then evaluated after warming to make sure the semen will survive and maintain good quality. If a dog is to have his semen frozen, it is recommended that this be done when he is most fertile, usually best when between 1-5 years old. If chilled extended AI or frozen AI is chosen, it is important to coordinate shipping of samples with the bitch, dog and both veterinarians (one collecting the dog and one doing the ovulation timing and AI). The semen will also be evaluated after shipment for viability (post-thaw or chill).

Now that the breeding has been done, a balanced diet and adequate exercise is important for the pregnant and lactating bitch. The bitch should be kept at home and not exposed to dogs for 3 weeks before and after whelping (prevent exposure to infectious diseases). An ultrasound or blood test for Relaxin (pregnancy hormone) can be done 1 month after breeding to determine if she is pregnant. A radiograph (x-ray) can be done the week before the pups are due to count the number of pups expected. Now, the real fun (and work) begins!

**Case report:** "Heidi", 4-year-old Canaan Dog bitch presented **1/15/03** to plan an AI. Heidi had been in heat a few days. She already had a microchip implant, OFA hips excellent and elbows normal, OFA thyroid normal, CERF normal, Brucellosis negative. Her vaccines and heartworm tests were current.



Heidi's vaginal cytology was >50% cornified, LH negative, and an in-house progesterone level was 0-1ng/ml. The plan was to coordinate receiving chilled extended semen from a dog 3000 miles away.

**1/16/03** LH neg.

**1/17/03** LH neg.

**1/18/03** LH neg.

**1/19/03** LH positive. We coordinated the shipping of semen schedule.

**1/22/03** Semen collected (good to excellent quality when fresh) and shipped FedEx.

**1/23/03** In-house progesterone ~5ng/ml, routine vaginal AI with chilled extended semen – quality of semen good post-chill.

**1/24/03** Semen collected (good to excellent quality when fresh) and shipped FedEx.

**1/25/03** FedEx doesn't deliver to our area on Saturdays so a 2-hour round trip to the FedEx warehouse was done to pick up the shipment, a routine vaginal AI was performed with chilled extended semen – quality of semen good post-chill.

**2/20/03** Ultrasound – positive for pregnancy.

**3/19/03** Radiograph – 6 fetuses.

**3/26/03** Normal whelping of 6 healthy puppies!!





## The Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show

by Bryna Comsky  
New York, New York. Madison Square Garden

The Westminster Kennel Club is America's oldest organization dedicated to the sport of purebred dogs. Established in 1877, Westminster's influence has been felt for more than a century through its famous all-breed, bench dog show held every year at New York's Madison Square Garden. The show is America's second longest continuously held sporting event, behind only the Kentucky Derby. Westminster staged its 128th consecutive show on February 9-10, 2004, nationally televised on USA Network. Its grand tradition of attracting the best dogs to the same place at the same time was continued this year as 2,624 dogs, including 124 Junior Showmanship entries, were benched at the Garden to compete. A strong field of returning champions and new hopefuls representing 162 breeds and varieties strove to capture the single most prestigious award in the sport of dogs: Best in Show at Westminster.

Of America's top-ranked show dogs for 2003, every single one of the top 27 ranked dogs entered; then 40 of the top 41, and 95 of the top 107. The four group winners from last year also won their groups this year.

In the Sporting Group Golden Retrievers led the field of entries by breed with 43, and Labradors, the most popular breed, had "only" 34. Australian Shepherds topped the Herding Group breed entries with 38, and their Best of Breed dog did not place in Group. There were 3 Canaan Dogs entered, and two were shown in breed competition.

California led the states in entries followed by New York with 246. All 48 of the contiguous states, Puerto Rico and Canada, had entries. The 42 judges officiating at the show came from 23 states and Canada.

Three newly-recognized breeds made their Westminster debuts in 2004: the Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever in the Sporting Group with 16 entries; the German Pinscher in Working with 17; and the Toy Fox Terrier with 12. These breeds all had exhibited at the GLCDC's (Great Lakes Canaan Dog Club's) All-Breed, Rare-Breed Shows in the 80's and 90's, when we were all working toward full AKC acceptance of our breeds.

Breeds and Varieties in the Working, Terrier, Toy and Non Sporting Groups were benched and judged during the day on Monday, with Group competition that evening. On Tuesday the Sporting, Hound and Herding breeds were shown. The judging of those Groups and Best In Show was held on Tuesday evening. The Group competition was televised live each evening.

In the evening group competition, "Bunny," the Ibizan Hound, Ch. Luxor's Playmate of the Year, a prima ballerina in sight hound form, danced her way to Hound Group I, guided by her partner, Clint Livingston. She was a standout!

In Terriers, the Norfolk, Ch. Cracknor Cause Celebre, "Coco," was the walk-away favorite. She was in her best form, which she carried to the Best in Show Ring. She was also the cover girl on the most recent publication of Dogs in Review Magazine.

The Pekingese, Ch. Yakee Leaving Me Breathless At Franshaw, won the Toy Group for the second time, and the perfectly groomed and presented Standard Poodle, Ch. Ale Kai Mikimoto On Fifth, handled by Wendell Sammet, winner of the "Best Breeder" Award at the AKC/Eukanuba Show, again topped the Non-Sporting Group.

The Pembroke Welsh Corgi, Ch. Hum'nbird Keepn Up'Pearances, handled by Frank Murphy, put in a flawless farewell performance to earn him Group One this year. His owners are Samuel and Marion Lawrence, who had won the Garden with their wire haired fox terrier, "Lacy," several years ago. Carrie Chase, co-owner of a Canaan Dog, had bred the Corgi, who bested the favorite, "Genny," the German Shepherd Dog handled by Jimmy Moses. Second went to the Border Collie, Third to the GSD, and Fourth to the Briard under Herding Group Judge Mr. Lester Mapes, no stranger to our breed, either.

The Canaan Dog, "Tootsie," handled by Andy Linton, stylishly represented our breed in her farewell performance and enhanced the breed's positive reputation among the Fancy. Andy Linton had won the Garden with his Doberman, "Indy," many years ago.

The Sussex Spaniel, "Stumpy," was the Sporting Group favorite, leaving behind the German Wirehaired Pointer, the Parti-Color Cocker Spaniel and the elegant English Setter. "Stumpy's" handler, Scott Sommer, had won the Garden with a Bichon Frise a few years ago.

The Best In Show decision was made at the Working Group level by Judge Mrs. Anne Rogers Clark. She was challenged all the way by the qualities of the Doberman, "Purple Reign," and the Newfoundland, "Josh," the crowd favorite. "Josh" had done no better than an Award of Merit at his National Specialty under Mrs. Clark, yet on this day, he won the Group, putting him into the position of a major contender for "Best." Mr. Burton Yamada, the BIS Judge, had given "Josh" the Group last year. Some predicted that "Josh" would win if he got out of the Group, and he did, and he did!

On the Canaan Dog front, Chris Miller, breeder-owner-handler of "**Pocket**," Ch. Yashar Ha'Aretz Machseh, was given the "Best of Opposite Sex to Best of Breed" medallion and rosette by Judge Ms. Patricia W. Laurans. "Pocket" was also Best of Opposite to "Tootsie" at this year's National Specialty under Judge Mrs. Nina Van Camp. His win at the Garden made his co-owners, Susan E. Gragg and Parker W. Flowers, also his co-breeder, very happy. "Pocket's" sire and Chris' first Canaan Dog, Ch. Hadar Ha'Aretz Mr. Spock RivRoc, had been Winners Dog and Best of Winners at the 2000 National Specialty. "Pocket's" dam, Ch. Dayspring Beraiah Ha'Aretz CD, had won Winners Bitch and Best of Winners at the 1998 National for her first five-point major. Nice going, Chris!

"**Tootsie**," the Best of Breed winner, is the daughter of Ch. Mad River Sheherezade and DOTY 1997 AKC/UKC/ARBA/CDCA Ch. Catalina's Felix to the Max, HC, CGC, ROM. "Max" was the first Canaan Dog to represent the breed at Westminster after its full acceptance by the American Kennel Club and has won BOB five times at the CDCA National Specialty. Max was handled by Martha Fielder in breed and group at Westminster in 1998, and again in 1999. In 2002, he won the National Specialty as a Veteran under Judge Mrs. Ruby Hertz. "Tootsie" is co-owned by Sandra Sailor and Cynthia Grupp.

"Pocket" and "Tootsie" were cheered ringside by this writer and two other CDCA members, Michael and Judy Lawrence, from Connecticut.

Someone once said that Westminster Week is a "flurry of parties and events interrupted by a dog show." It begins with the breed seminars sponsored by the DJA (Dog Judges Association of America). Many breed specialty shows take place concurrently in NYC, NJ and Long Island over the weekend. Dog food companies sponsor dinner parties honoring the top ranked dogs and their entourage. Attendance at public and private parties, Broadway plays, the Opera, and other events, usually supports charitable organizations like Take the Lead and the Dog Museum. The Dog Writers Association of America honors its contest winners on Sunday Evening at its Awards Banquet. Two other events take place at the same time and one later. The Dog Show is held on Monday and Tuesday, and its group and Best In Show judges defend their choices at Sardi's after the Dog Fanciers' Luncheon on Wednesday. The BIS Dog also feasts at Sardi's along with the winners of the "Art Show at the Dog Show" contest, again won by Carol Doerr Allen for her wonderful charcoal of a Portuguese Water Dog on a couch. "Josh" arrived at Sardi's for lunch after a whirlwind schedule of live TV appearances and interviews. He spent most of his time reclining on the floor for an after-lunch rest, joined by his handler and best friend, Michelle Ostermiller. They are inseparable.

Attending Westminster is a "must" experience at least once in a lifetime. It is unique, and the most prestigious among dog shows, and many are already planning and preparing for next year's gala event.

As for me, I'm planning to repeat this year's highlight: a trip on the LIRR to visit "my" puppy, "Sirius," at his family's home on Long Island.

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## Braggs:

From Sally Armstrong-Barnhardt:

- 6 month old Tahoe Cando Too Darn Hot ("Ellafitz") took Winners Bitch both days at her first show! The major the first day and one point the second day; the major was broken the second day when the competition (aka, Cindy and Katherine) got one look at the competition and ran. :-)

- 18 Month old Cando Bobesox N Saddleshoes ("Bobe), who was the Best Puppy at the 2003 National Specialty, finished his championship.

# **Mazel Tov Canaan Dogs**

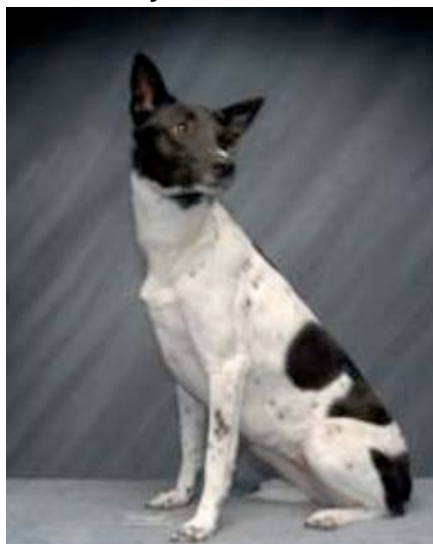
## **Breeding for health, temperament, conformation and trainability**

Announces a litter born February 18, 2004

Sire: CH. Pleasant Hill Mazel, CDCA HC, ICDCA VC

Dam: CH. Pleasant Hill Tovah, CD, ROM, CGC, CDCA HC, ICDCA VC

3 males, 3 females, white with symmetrical black masks and black markings



CH. Mazel Tov Mystery Girl, HCX,  
Winners Bitch at the 2002 CDCA National Specialty Show  
Full sister to our current litter

One of two very special female puppies born November 29 also available to the right show or performance and breeding home:

Sire: **WW 2001 Int Israel Luxembourg AKC UKC CH Barak me Shaar Hagai**

Dam: **AKC CH Mazel Tov Neftali, CDCA HC**

These are the only two Canaan Dogs that descend from a combination of the bloodlines of three very important

Canaan Dog studs of recent times: **Barak,**

**CH Pleasant Hill Jordan ROM & CCA AKC CH Shvatim Confidence HC, CGC (Dylan)**

Already attending puppy class, leash trained, all shots and worming, clicker training begun.

Bright, attentive and beautiful.

For information, contact:  
Cathi Oskow  
3265 Pilgrim Lane  
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Puppies socialized and raised with children.





## THE CANAAN KIBITZER

Jennie Larkin, Editor  
9309 Ewing Drive  
Bethesda, MD 20817

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Advertisements from persons not in good standing with the American Kennel Club (AKC) and/or the Canaan Dog Club of America, Inc. (CDCA) will not be accepted until proof of reinstatement in good standing has been provided prior to submission of advertisements.

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All ads, including photos, should be camera ready, either in hard copy or electronic form. Electronic format is preferred.

Full Page .....	\$ 20.00
Half Page .....	\$ 10.00
Quarter Page (No photos allowed).....	\$ 5.00
"Brag Box" (No photos; limited space).....	\$ 2.00 / "brag"

For each photograph (Non-Camera Ready Ads Only; Full or half page only)..... \$ 6.00

All ads must be paid in advance. Checks or money orders must be payable to The Canaan Dog Club of America, Inc., and in U.S. funds. Please send ads and fees to *Canaan Kibitzer* Editor, Jennie Larkin, 9309 Ewing Dr., Bethesda MD 20817, email: tyhocand@yahoo.com

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Director (Central)	Cheryl Hennings	IA	(319) 984-5139 Cherrysh@forbin.net
Director (Central)	Donna Davison	IL	(618) 542-3274 Canaan@midwest.net

### CANAAN DOG CLUB OF AMERICA - CHAIRS

Ways & Means	<b>YOUR NAME HERE!</b>		
Advertising	Lora Dodson	WI	(608) 365-2621
Agility	Alan Gersman	VA	(703) 437-6969
Awards	<b>YOUR NAME HERE!</b>		
Versatility	Jennie Larkin	MD	(301) 530-9380
Breed Referral	Cynthia Grupp	CA	(707) 226-3353
Courtesy Chair	Wendy Sostock	WI	(414) 963-1892
Health	Donna Dodson	IL	(815) 895-2320
Herding	Denise Gordon	OH	(513) 741-1832
AKC Gazette	Donna Dodson	IL	(815) 895-2320
Membership	Cynthia Dodson	VA	(703) 533-3444
Public Education	Renee Donaher	RI	(401) 322-2675
Web	John Relph	MD	(301) 530-9380

### MEMBERSHIP RATES

Single Membership.....	\$ 18.00
Family Membership.....	\$ 23.00
International Single Membership.....	\$ 23.00
International Family Membership.....	\$ 28.00

Annual membership dues notices will be sent out by the Treasurer. Dues are payable on January 1<sup>st</sup> of each year. Make checks/money orders (in U.S. funds) payable to CDCA.

New membership applications should be mailed with dues to the Membership Chair: Cynthia Dodson, 203 Noland St., Falls Church, VA 22046. Make checks/money orders (in U.S. funds) payable to CDCA.

All members are entitled to subscribe to the CanaanDogClubofAmerica email list on Yahoo groups. The newsletter is available in PDF format on this site. Please contact the secretary for further details.

### CDCA WEB SITE ADDRESS

URL: <http://www.cdca.org>