

## HAPPIEST OF BIRTHDAYS GO TO...

---



### Frazier Fir

celebrated his SECOND BIRTHDAY on  
December 11th, 2023.

Happy Birthday  
GCH CH GOLD CUP TOSSED SALAD N SCRAMBLED  
EGGS TWILLINGATE CGC

submitted by Janet Rogers

---

## BRAGS

---

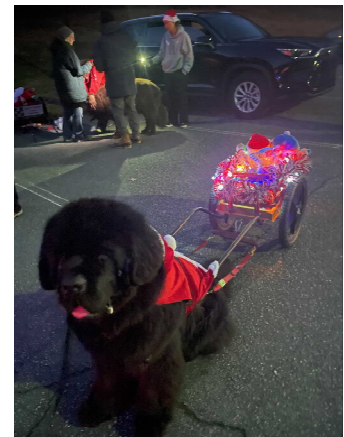
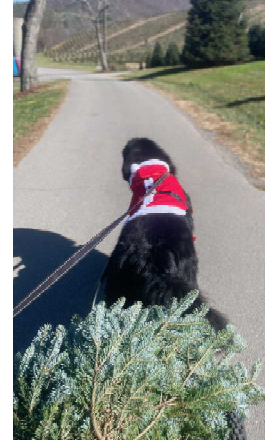
### MAVERICK HAS BEEN BUSY!

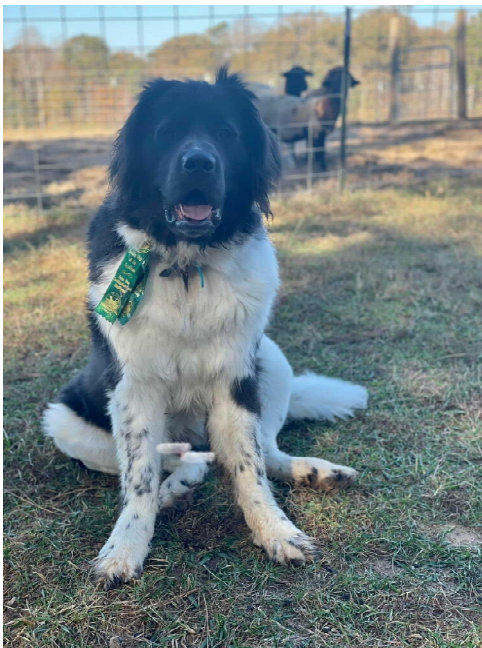
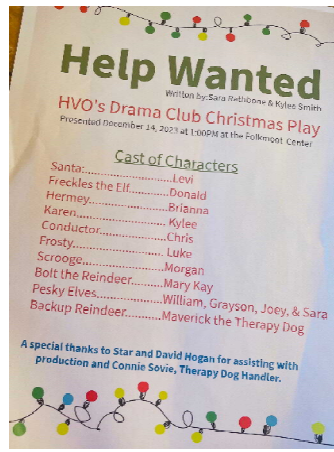
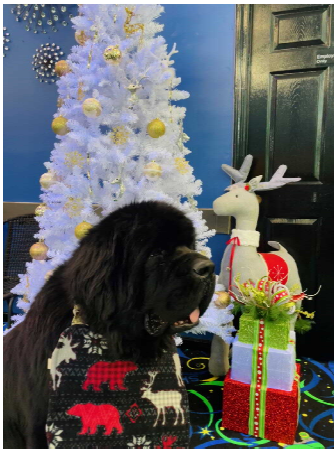
submitted by Connie Sovie

Maverick has had a very busy couple of months.

Here are just a few pictures of the many activities we participated in...

- ★ Maverick began in Winston Salem, shown by Zach Hellmer, and earned two more BOBs.
- ★ We had our first Queen City Newfoundland Club's Christmas Tree Pull in Waynesville, NC at Boyd's Christmas Tree Farm. A very nice article was published in the local newspaper, The Mountaineer.
- ★ Maverick earned his THDD (Therapy Dog Distinguished), after acquiring 400 therapy visits.
- ★ Maverick participated in the Spruce Pine Christmas Parade, proudly walking behind the Queen City Newfoundland Club banner.
- ★ Maverick then traveled to Bishop, GA to participate in the second annual Jack's Creek Farms Christmas Tree Pull.
- ★ Maverick finished his activities by performing in Haywood Vocational Opportunities Christmas Play. He was a superstar. We were both so proud of all the participants.





## JOSHUA

earned his

**FARM DOG CERTIFICATION**

in Gaffney, SC

November, 2023

submitted by Pam Sauerman

## ATTICUS

WINNERS DOG, BEST OF WINNERS  
and BEST OF OPPOSITE

in the Woodland, CA Show

submitted by Fay Murray



## EDUCATION CORNER

Many thanks to PAM SAUERMAN for submitting this article and photos for our “first” EDUCATION CORNER! Our best training tips come from “non-professionals” and their willingness to share their struggles and solutions!

Julie asked me if I would write a brief article on an obedience training subject. I think she asked me because unfortunately for her we are Facebook friends and her feed is inundated with my training videos. So this article needs a huge disclaimer. Shiprah, who was 8 in June is the first dog I have ever trained for competitive obedience. For the most part, I train my own and for a while that was all I did. At best, I am a hobbyist who really enjoys spending time with my dogs training together.

Julie suggested a couple ideas and also mentioned I might include what didn't work well. That would be an encyclopedia. I decided to write about the two biggest things I wish I had known when I first started training. They are SPLITTING versus LUMPING when training and that our dogs really feed off our body movement when responding to behavior requests.

The first thing I wish I knew is what I have heard referred to as LUMPING and SPLITTING. I do not know who came up with the name. However, my trainer and founder of Companion Dog Training School, Jane Johnson has put this into action for me numerous times. I would see an exercise performed and just try to mimic it in one full swoop. Little did I know that one exercise was made up of individual parts that when practiced, learned, and mastered separately produced a much more successful and confident dog. Let's take the Directed Retrieve as an example. The exercise is composed of the dog paying attention in the heel position with the gloves behind you, a pivot at three different angles, a retrieve, a clean pick up, retrieving the glove, returning to a front, giving up the glove, and a finish. My initial way to train this was set up for the exercise, turn and send without prior concentration on the parts. I have a very forgiving dog. And you can adjust this and see how it applies to all the take, hold, and retrieve exercises in water training.

Once it was explained and shown to me that every exercise has multiple components which should be taught individually, our training became much more focused, successful, and really fun. The other big added benefit is much of this can be done at home, in small spaces, and in short bursts of time. I no longer needed to go to a training building or parking lot to practice the entire exercise. Over the course of your training, you will need to put the entire exercise together and practice it in novel locations. But this really simplifies things and makes it much easier to get in some practice each day. I have read that a dog's learning is cumulative and they learn better in a short, more frequent sessions, then longer, less frequent sessions. An offshoot of breaking down the exercises I have found is I am more consistent in how we practice the exercise. I have learned from this that confusion on the dog's part stemming from the handlers' inconsistencies is the nemesis of dog training. I also think it follows that you need a picture in your mind of the criteria you want for each individual part. Often times I am practicing my part sans the dog.

Even before the directed retrieve, Jane showed me that heeling was not attaching the leash, starting to move with the dog, popping the leash here and there, and hoping for the best that somehow we will get that fancy heeling I saw at dog shows. Here, not only was the concept of splitting out all the parts of heeling shown to me again, but also how my body cues and movements were working against me as I tried to heel in one full swoop again. A dog will read your body cues first. I would take off around the ring, look back at my dog, and wonder why she was lagging and she was not in a straight line. Well, my left shoulder was facing backward thus pushing her back and out. I need to confess I will forever be learning how to heel. I really do have two left feet and no rhythm at all. But I love working on the individual parts of heeling and using my body to cue the dog and then see the response. I can say heeling is my most favorite activity and our most challenging activity. As I have advanced on to more difficult exercises, Jane has shown me how body language can affect how the dog performs any given exercise. For example, looking at the dog in directed jumping while pointing with your arm to the right jump has a higher likelihood of your dog making an error than if you also use your eyes to look at the jump while indicating with your arm which jump. For many exercises, where your eyes are at can affect the outcome of the exercise. And a smile goes a very long way.

Superseding all this, training really requires one to have their dog's attention. I must admit when Jane said we are going to play the name game, a precursor to sustained focused, I rolled my eyes wondering how this could possibly apply to my competitive obedience dog in front of me. Well, it has everything to do with both the companion dog and the working dog. And those of us with working dogs, they are our companions first. One really needs to have the dogs attention not only on the leisurely walk around the park when the dog becomes distracted but also the obedience ring. This exercise builds value into your dog's name. You need your dog and ten treats in your hand. Just say your dog's name, then give them a treat. Repeat with your ten treats. You aren't looking for eye contact with this exercise, just building value to their name. You can do this a couple times a day and right in your kitchen. They will really begin to associate good things when they hear their name. I add this in my practice with all my dogs weekly and they are between 8-1/2 and 16 months. Playing the name game has also lead to discussions on when to use the dog's name to your advantage. That is a discussion for another day. Something I rolled my eyes thinking my dog knows her name had much more application than I ever knew. Even in dog training the devil is in the details.

I truly believe spending time with our dogs, teaching them new things, and practicing those will enhance our relationship with our dogs. It will also help us to have well behaved dogs that are easy to live with and people want to be around. Competition and titles aren't necessary. I enjoy the training more than the competitions. This is a journey. Learning from mistakes enhances learning. And learning new techniques and ways to train my dogs, I am hoping will both keep my mind and body agile. Finally, I have made some wonderful, lasting friendships in both the Newfoundland community many that I meet online first and also with my dog training friends with various breeds of dogs.



Shiphrah and I working on our heeling -specifically me practicing using my body so she can read it as we weave through the cones. This will help with the figure 8 and right and left turns.



Here is Joshua learning how to stand on the platform- so splitting out the exercise. Next he learned to make one step around it going each direction. Splitting it again. Eventually he could both directions with no treats all the way around both directions. He is learning that he has rear end. This skill then transfers to his left turn when heeling, his pivots or turns for the directed retrieve, and other exercises. I was laying the foundation as opposed to just doing the directed retrieve in one full swoop and taking off heeling and wondering why we can't get that left turn. I hope this makes sense.



Here is my 86 year old mother in law in her retirement home practicing with Shiphrah on her right finish. This shows the work can be done anywhere and by almost anyone. Her left arm should be down but at 86 and having Shiphrah work, we give her a pass.

This publication is the official Newsletter of the Queen City Newfoundland Club. Articles and opinions expressed herein do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the QCNC.

### Legal Notice

This Newsletter is the official property of the Queen City Newfoundland Club.

The information contained herein, including but not limited to photos, names, email addresses, and phone numbers, is to be used solely for the purpose of facilitating communications relating to official Club activities between members of the Club. Members may not provide access to this Newsletter to any non-member without the express written permission of the Club's Board of Directors; any dissemination of any information contained in this Newsletter without such written authorization is unauthorized and prohibited. No information contained herein may be used for any other purpose, including but not limited to distribution or sale to any non-member, third party, use or inclusion in any type of marketing or advertising campaign, or use in any other commercial or business activity.