



CNESA QUARTERLY

The Canadian National Australian Shepherd Association Online Magazine
Fall 2015



Autumn is a second spring when
every leaf becomes a flower...

CNASA Quarterly – Fall 2015

Editor

Angela Slauenwhite

Thank you to everyone who sent in submissions for the Fall Quarterly. The deadline for the Winter Edition is November 15th. Please send your submissions to Angela Slauenwhite at angelaandcollin@hotmail.com We would love to have your articles, brags and ads or any suggestions that you may have to make our Quarterly even better. Please make sure that all ads and photos are sent in jpg format.

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ALL ADS MUST BE CAMERA READY

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Melissa O'Reilly

60 Singleton Road

Scarborough, ON M1R 1H9

Moreilly3@gmail.com

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kinring@mymts.net

Vice President: Rhonda Shewchuk

rsdogs@gmail.com

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jalemeer@pei.sympatico.ca

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moreilly@gmail.com

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saucyaussies@hotmail.com

Zone 3 Director(Manitoba, Saskatchewan & NWT) Shannon Cole

tscole@mymts.net

Zone 5 Director: (Quebec) Caroline Carrier

sweetnsour@hotmail.fr

Zone 6 Director: (Atlantic Provinces) Angela Slauenwhite

angelaandcollin@hotmail.com

Message from our president, Shawna Weibe.

Welcome to Fall! My favorite season of the year!

Thank you to Angela Slauenwhite for taking on the role of Newsletter creator and Editor! I know we all enjoy receiving and browsing the newsletter.

If you are part of the Aussie community on Facebook you have likely been following the tragedy of Laura Liebenow's dog Bristol and her battle with Ivermectin poisoning. For those who are not on Facebook, Bristol was at her weekly herding lesson and was snacking on sheep droppings while working. No one told Laura that the sheep were just dewormed the day before with Ivermectin. Ivermectin is a very popular livestock dewormer, it is also HIGHLY toxic to Aussies, and it passes through the livestock in their droppings! Bristol is in a coma, on full life support, and is fighting for her life.

This awful situation brings to mind 2 lessons:

1. We MUST be aware of potentially toxic medications. Even dogs that are clear of the MDR1 mutation can still react to high levels of MDR1 drugs. Make sure your dog's veterinary file is labeled with a CAUTION sticker and a list of MDR1 drugs is prominently displayed in the file. If your dog is prescribed a new medication, ask if this drug is safe for MDR1 dogs. Carry a list of MDR1 drugs in your wallet, on your phone, and in the glove compartment of your car. If it's an emergency you want to have that list readily available!

If you work livestock with your dogs, ask about the stock's deworming schedule and what medications are being used by the livestock owner. If you are a horse lover and frequent stables with your dog, the same cautions apply. Horse dewormers are flavored and many dogs will go looking for the unused tubes as well as rummage in the garbage for used tubes. Also, horses don't always swallow all of their medication neatly and there may be leftover drips and spatters of dewormer on the stable floor.

2. With advances in veterinary medicine we are able to offer and provide very sophisticated care for our dogs, but these advances come at a high cost. Bristol's stay in the ICU on life support is costing about \$1200 a day! At the time of writing her vet

bills are approaching \$30 000. The final bill is expected to be in the \$40 000 range. Ouch!

What can we do? No one wants to be in a situation where the medical decisions are based on finances, but the reality is that many, if not most, pet owners will face that decision at some point. Pet insurance is a possible solution. There are a variety of companies that offer insurance covering everything from veterinary bills, to chiropractic visits, to MRI's, to physiotherapy, to money spent searching for a lost pet, to covering the replacement cost if your dog should die. Do some research, check out premiums and coverage, read the fine print, ask your vet if they have had any experiences (good or bad) with the company, and ask other dog owners what their experiences have been. If you opt against pet insurance, consider a savings account. Put away some money every month for each of your dogs; if you are a breeder, consider putting away some money from each puppy you sell (yes, I know that it's not profit and that most puppy money goes towards paying the litter expenses!).

Our new website is making progress and hopefully we will be able to direct you to a brand new, up to date, and easy to navigate site shortly!

On the cropping and docking front, CNASA wrote a letter supporting docking which was presented at a recent review of the cropping and docking ban in PEI. The result of our letter, and the people who spoke at that meeting, is that the Department of Agriculture for PEI is taking a second look at their cropping/docking ban. We are continuing to provide information at the Minister of Agriculture's request and hope that the cropping/docking ban will be reversed! That would be a HUGE win for the groups trying to preserve our right to crop and dock dogs in accordance with breed standards.

Enjoy the beautiful fall weather with your dogs!

Shawna

Shawna Wiebe, President

kinring@mymts.net

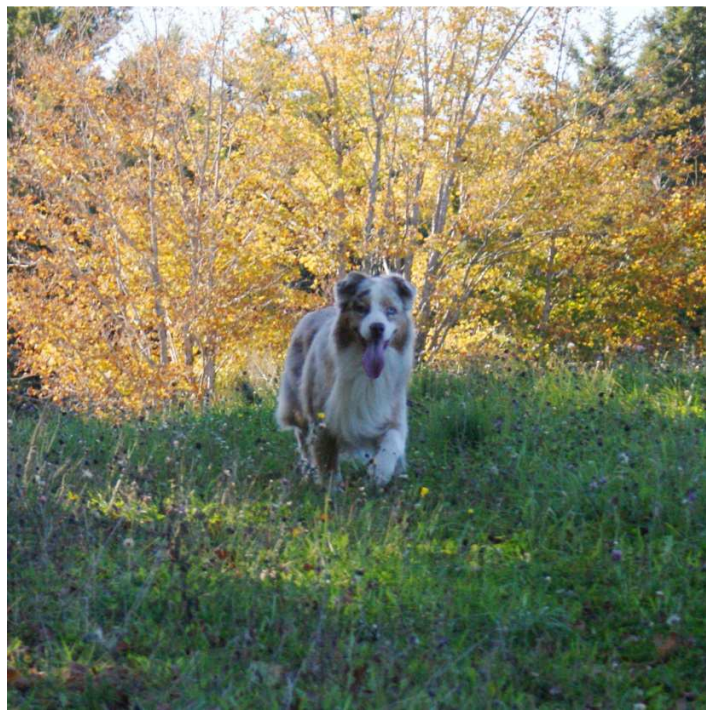
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Zone 1 – Carly Smith

Well, we're wrapping up the show season for the most part in BC with the exception of a few winter shows. I hope everyone has had a fun and memorable summer! No one has sent me any brags, please make sure you do so we can get them published for all to see! This weekend is our big Tyee Performance weekend, and while I'm not entered, I'll be there cheering on the teams. Hopefully we see a large aussie turnout as this is a weekend where they can really show what a versatile breed they are! CNASA is sponsoring HIT in all four stock arena trials as well as the two stockdog trials, there is potential to offer so much more which will hopefully happen in the future. More news to come on that in the next newsletter. I've been out of the show scene this summer so not much to report on. Till winter!

Carly Smith

saucyaussies@hotmail.com



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Zone 3 – Shannon Cole

Greeting from Zone 3

MB/SK/NWT

By Shannon Cole

It has certainly been very hot here in the prairies and we recently finished attending one of the hottest outdoor dog shows I've ever attended. With the humidity it was pushing 40 C!

We had a very nice entry of 43 at our Regional Specialty at the Manitoba Canine Association all breed show August 13-16 in East St. Paul, MB just north of Winnipeg. Our BOB ring looked impressive with 19 competitors. We also had 34 entries for our Booster.

We had our gift bags donated by Pet Valu - Reenders Dr. In Winnipeg, MB and several of our CNASA members and non-members also contributed to those welcome bags. Thank You for your contribution!

The following is the result of the Specialty:

BOB-CH Hearthside Riveredge Sure Is Summum

BOS-Sheep's Kin Making Waves

Select Dog-GCH Ninebark Cops and Robbers

Select Bitch-Kinring's Bright Regin

AOM-CH Kinring's It's Raining Men

BOW-Sheep's Kin Effervescence

BOB Puppy-Sheep's Kin Making Waves

Best Veteran-CH Kinring's Raining Men

WD-Sheep's Kin Get Out of Dodge

RWD-Tunbar's Curiously Inquisitive

Veteran Male-CH Kinring's Honour and Valour

WB-Sheep's Kin Effervescence

RWB-None

Veteran Female-CH Kinring's It's Raining Men

Altered

BOB-CH Kinring's It's Raining Men

BOS-CH Kinring's Honour and Valour

WD-CH Kinring's Honour and Valour

RWD-CH Kinring's Fierce Allegence

WB-CH Kinring's It's Raining Men

RWB-CH Dixiana's Everybody Dance Now

Best Herding Title

CH Kinring's Honour and Valour

High in Trial

Agility- SVCH WTCH CH Uproar's Too Hot to Handle

Obedience- ATCH OTCH CH Kinring's Deuces Are Wild

Rally -Kinring's Frozen Assets

Photo Gallery

Getting Ready



Impressive Best of Breed Ring





Some Win Photos:

CH Kinring's It's Raining Men – owned by Shawn Wiebe



Ch Kinring's Bright Reign – Owned by Shawna Wiebe



CH Kinring's Honour and Valour – Owned by Shannon Cole



Sheep's Kin Making Waves



Sheep's Kin Effervescence – Owned by Lydine Denzin



Shannon Cole

tscole@mymts.net

Zone 4 – Leah Swatko

Greetings All,

The summer is winding down into fall with some trees changing colours. This is my favourite season. Love the fresh air, the hint of frost and the dogs love it too. Many are preparing for the ASCA Nationals in TN in October. I am looking forward to the two weeks, traveling showing and meeting friends from all over, the evening gatherings to tell stories of days, dogs, and people past.

I have thought about the next topic for some time. Not a light choice to make, but something I need to do for myself.

I have chosen to resign from my position as Director. I just don't seem to be able to generate the needed energy to motivate myself and others to keep CNASA moving forward with strong steps filled with purpose.

I will spend more time doing what I want, time for my dogs and their training, time for reading and writing, time for photography and painting. I dedicated the first half of my adult life to the wants and needs of others, husbands, kids, and dog clubs. Now I wish to put myself in the front and do things for me.

I knew it was time to step back months ago but stubbornly keep at it. Well now I am just tired and never seem to get enough sleep and that is a message my body and spirit are telling me that I must pay attention to. I have done enough, paid my dues and given much over the years.

I will be moving forward in judging for ASCA, Conformation, Obedience, and Rally. I plan on competing with my dogs and have one litter planned, possibly the last after 40 years breeding.

Wishing all the best as you pick up the reins and guide CNASA forward into the future, there are many challenges facing you, docking bans, anti-dog legislation, the operation of the club, keeping the membership engaged and supportive. The list can go on for a long time, suffice to say there will be work. Thanks to CNASA for allowing me the learning opportunity I have experienced over the past several years and wishing you all the very best.

Leah Swatko

Zone 5 – Caroline Carrier

Bonjour à tous les membres de la zone 5 – Québec,

J'espère que vous avez tous passé un bel été de show... Avez obtenu de nouveaux titres etc... Si vous avez des réussites que vous voulez nous partager, écrivez-moi! Il me fera plaisir de les publier dans mon message de zone!!

Cet été nous avons eu dans notre zone un concours de herding au Clos du Silence. Ce fut une très belle clinique de 2 jours avec Tanya Wheeler suivi de 2 concours sur moutons.

Voici donc les résultats : Concours 9 (matin)

Classe Pré-novice (tested) Tanavega's Star Gazer –Qualification - Berger allemand
Joska Ungaretto –Qualification - Pembroke Welsh Corgi

Classe Novice (started) Dusilence Barbara-1ère et HIT - Berger Australien Hidalgo
Esmé Gitane de l'Océan - 2ième & Q RHIT – Berger Belge Tervueren Instinct's Liva -
3ième & Q – Border Collie

Classe Intermédiaire Max 1ère position – Border Collie

Prix en mémoire de Shooter

Le chien du concours démontrant les meilleures aptitudes :

Gearhart Alphabet Alana 1ère Q & RHIT - Berger Australien

Concours 10 (pm) Classe Pré-novice (tested) GCH Northbay Tryfecta Shazamm! RN
CGN – Qualification – Berger Australien

Classe Novice (started) Gearhart Alphabet Alana 1ère Q & RHIT – Berger Australien
Dusilence Barbara-2ième Q – Berger Australien

Classe Intermédiaire Max 1ière position Q & HIT – Border Collie Slash V Red Zone at
KJ 2ième Q - Berger Australien

Prix en mémoire de Shooter

Le chien du concours démontrant les meilleures aptitudes :

RBIS GCh Northbay Tryfecta Shazamm! RN CGN – Berger Australien

Félicitation à tous et toutes!!!

Ensuite cette fin de semaine à Terrebonne se tenait des boosters en agilité, rallye, obéissance et Conformation.

En agilité :

Gagnants du Steeplechase ex aequo sont :

MoiAussie No Thingo Wrong (Thingy) - Anne Tremblay

CH Novacoast Love Conquers All (Elias) - Joanne Brassard

En Rallye :

Ch Sweetnsour Belle Bijou PCD RE HIC CGN

Marie-Pier Rivest et Caroline Carrier

En conformation :

OTCHX Twister Mavman Pen To

Lyne Jalbert

Meilleur de la race :

Ch Tryfecta to infinity and beyond! CGN

Catherine Nadeau

Meilleur de sexe opposé :

Ch Sweetnsour Blue Velvet CD RA CGN

Caroline Carrier

Meilleur des Gagnants et mâle:

Somom's Red hot n'spicy

N. Bérubé, J. Goodson, C. Poitras

Meilleure femelle :

Thornapple Last Friday night

A. Fulton, C. Poitras

Meilleur chiot:

Aussiepaws Kinoak Dreamcatcher

Johany Cousineau

Meilleur Bébé chiot:

Kachou Sweetnsour Bluestar Zoe

Isabelle Guay

Dans la prochaine édition, je pourrai vous donner les noms des généreux commanditaires que nous avons eu pour ces boosters! Et possiblement quelques photos!

Si vous avez des questions n'hésitez pas à me contacter!

À bientôt!

Caroline Carrier

Directrice Zone 5 – Québec

sweetnsour@hotmail.fr

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Zone 6 – Angela Slauenwhite

Hello CNASA Members!

I hope that everyone has had a great summer, it always seems to go by so quickly! Some of our local aussie people were busy this summer in various events.

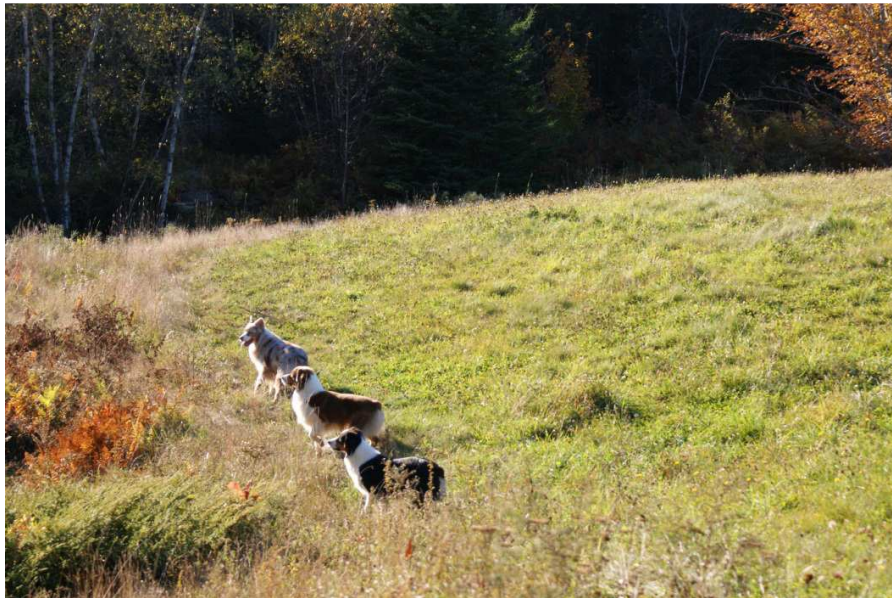
Congratulations to Lisa & Steve Dahr on their busy and successful summer. Ember finished her championship, owner handled. Ch Zydeco's Fuzzy Firecracker of Shalako. Gunner was also busy in the rally and obedience rings completing his CD and RAE. Multi Group Winning Multi High In Trial GCh Garrison's Black Powder CD RAE TT

Congratulations to Brittany Ernst on Woobie's Flyball Champion Gold title! Woobie's name keeps growing bigger and bigger! CKC CFC Ch PCh FDCh-G DDCh Novacoast Calculated Risk CGN RAE CDX DD ADD Furthest Catch Bronze Award ADC AGNS AgNJS HIC AGDC

We were also busy in the conformation ring showing our Mylie x Junior puppies. The puppies love the ring and did very well for junior puppies with all three picking up their first points!

Fall is right around the corner and with that comes our Australian Shepherd Booster. The Island Dog Club in Prince Edward Island will be holding a booster for Australian Shepherds on Saturday, October 24th in show #2 under judge Patricia Cruz. Hope to see lots of beautiful aussies there!

Hope that everyone has a great autumn and best of luck to those trialing or showing!



Angela Slauenwhite

angelaandcollin@hotmail.com

CNAsA Quarterly – Summer 2015

CNAsA's Top Dogs for 2014

Congratulations to all of the owners!

Top Conformation Dog for 2014

AKC GCh/ASCA Ch/RBIS CKC GCh Ninebark Cops And Robbers

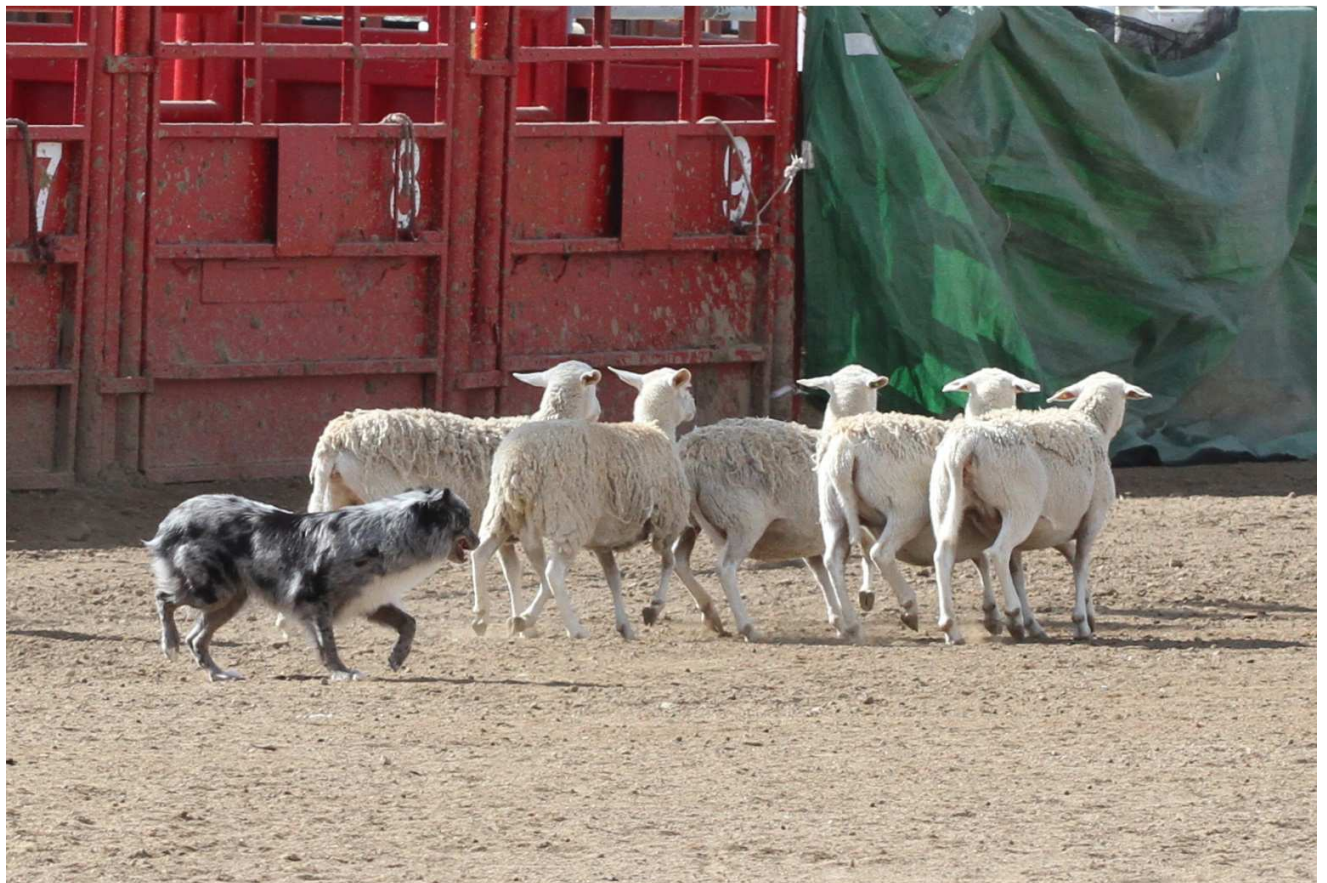
Owners: Mike Cavey DVM, Nancy J Temple DVM, Valerie Yates



Top Herding Dog for 2014

Ch Tuckercreek's Ocean's Thirteen HId HIs

Owners: Madison Wheeler & Tanya Wheeler



Top Obedience Dog for 2014

Ch Novacoast By Royal Command CGN CDI RE

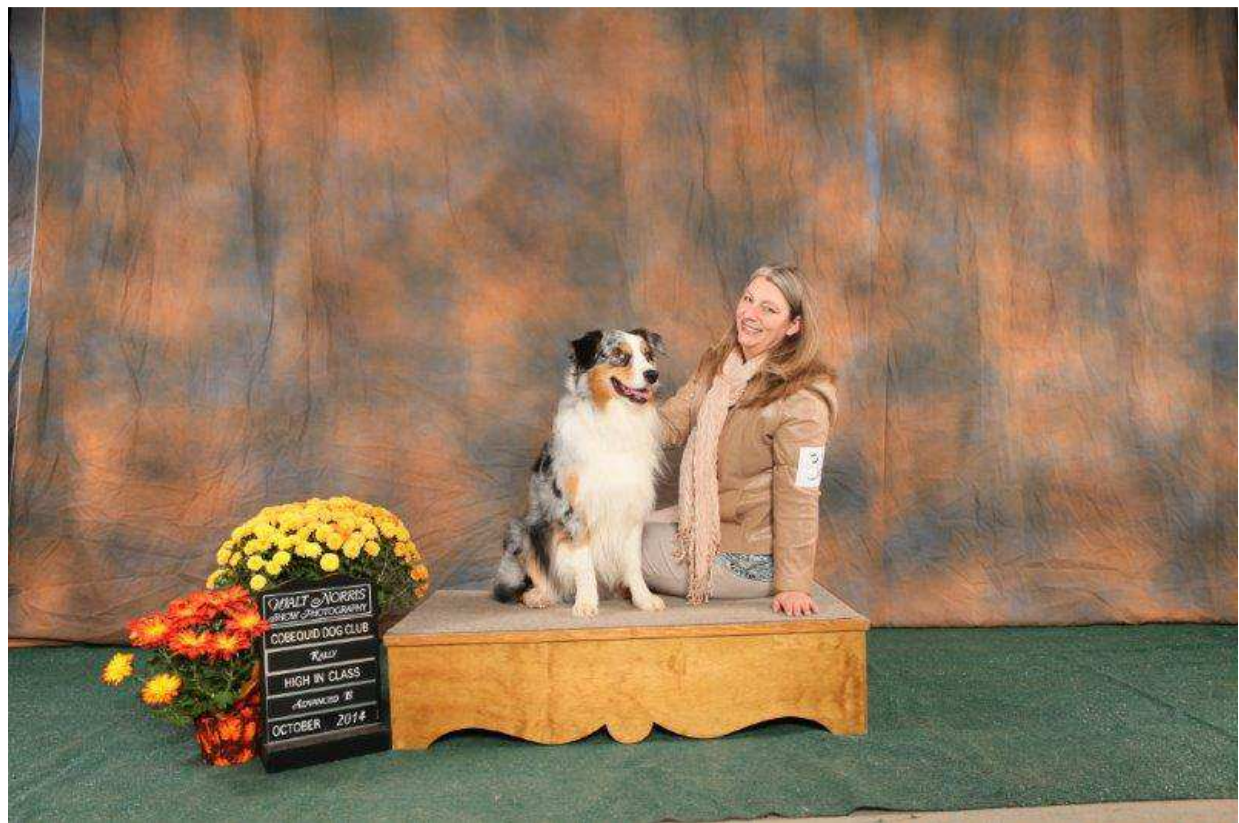
Owners: Angela Slauenwhite & Collin Veinot



Top Rally Obedience Dog for 2014

GCh Garrison's Black Powder RE TT

Owner: Lisa Dahr



Top Agility Dog for 2014

Ch Novacoast Calculated Risk CGN RAE CDX DD AgNJS AgNS

Owner: Brittany Ernst



Top Junior Handler

Cadence Howe, Nova Scotia





We need your help!

Wanted – two directors, preferably one for Alberta and one for Ontario but we are open to any candidates.

Wanted – members for our Membership Committee. Bring your ideas of how to make this club better in order to attract new members.

Wanted – members for our Website Committee. We need people who would be willing to do updates on our website once it's completed.

Wanted – members for our Newsletter Committee. We need articles, recipes, etc to make our Newsletter something that everyone can enjoy.

Please help us make your club the best that it can be! If you are interested in any of these positions or in being on any of the CNESA committees please let us know.

You can contact us through our facebook page or group or by emailing Shawna at kinring@mymts.net

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What's in Your Pet First Aid Kit?

By Shannon Cole/Shawna Wiebe

I had decided to work on an article regarding a first aid kit a while ago and I was giving myself a pat on the back for having a small kit at home and at the lake, however I've recently discovered how inadequate my first aid kits really are and I found myself in a stressful situation not having enough supplies in my kit and having my husband walk down the street to a relative's home in the pouring rain at 10 pm for more supplies.

Administering first aid to a pet can be a stressful situation, especially if you don't have the right supplies and keeping a pet first aid kit is crucial when you have pets and it is simple to make, all you need is a metal or plastic container with the following items and the vet's phone number and poison control taped to the box. You can even purchase one from St. John's Ambulance for around \$40.00. The items we've listed here are merely suggestions and you can create your own kit.

Container:

- * Fishing tackle box or tool box
- * Label (in very large clear letters) "First Aid Kit"

Equipment:

- * Bandage scissors
- * Regular scissors
- * Tweezers
- * Muzzle
- * Latex exam gloves
- * Small flashlight/penlight
- * Extra leash

- * Nail clippers
- * Oral dose syringe
- * Rectal thermometer
- * Safety pins
- * Ear suction bulb
- * Bootie or small sock
- * Covered sterile razor blades
- * Emergency (space)blanket
- * Hot/cold pack
- * Silver nitrate sticks or Quick stop
- * Water based sterile lubricant

Bandage Supplies:

- * 3x3 gauze pads
- * Gauze roll (Kling wrap)
- * Vet Wrap (2 and 4 inch widths)
- * Ace bandages (2 and 4 inch widths)
- * Self adhering athletic bandage
- * Sterile, non-adherent (Telfa)pads
- * Rolled cotton (cast padding)
- * White adhesive tape (1/2 and 1 inch)

Cleaning Solutions:

- * Alcohol swabs

- * Betadine scrub
- * Hydrogen Peroxide (3% solution)
- * Hibitane Scrub
- * Rubbing alcohol (for sterilizing objects)
- * Artificial tears
- * Epi-Otic (or any ear cleaning solution)

Topical Medication:

- * Eye lubricant
- * Vaseline
- * Antibiotic ointment (hibitane ointment)
- * Hydrocortisone spray
- * Eye ointment
- * Ear ointment
- * Gold bond powder

Oral Medication:

- * Benadryl capsules and liquid
- * Imodium
- * Kaopectate tablets
- * Aspirin
- * Pedialyte
- * Pepto Bismal capsules
- * Hydrogen peroxide

* Dramamine

* Mineral oil

Drug Dosages:

IMMODIUM (do NOT give to herding breeds!)

0.05-0.1 mg/lb every 8 hours

Pepto Bismal

Liquid 1ml/lb every 6-8 hours

Regular strength pills/capsules (preferred) 1/4 tab/20lbs

Kaopectate

1ml/lb every 4-6 hours

Aspirin

5-10mg/lb every 12 hours

Normal Vital Signs:

Temperature 39 degrees Celsius

Heart Rate 100-130/minute

Respiratory rate 22/minute

Pertinent medical information should be kept in a plastic bag which you may need in a hurry, such as any medication your pet may be on or your list of MDR1 incompatibilities.

Checking the supplies in your pet first aid kit occasionally and replace any items that have expired is also suggested.

Be sure to seek medical advice when able!

Spay, Neuter and Joint Disease

There are three topics you shouldn't discuss with friends:

- religion
- politics
- and mandatory spay/neuter.

Talking frankly about spay/neuter is worth the backlash however because the health risks associated with it, especially when done in a young dog, are worthy of discussion. That isn't to say that dogs shouldn't be spayed or neutered; that's a personal decision best left to the pet owner. Like vaccines and most routine veterinary procedures however, vets spend a lot of time discussing why you should spay or neuter your dog, but spend very little time talking about why you shouldn't. The goal of this article is to give you the information your vet doesn't, so you can make the best possible decision for your dog.

I'll preface the article by stating that I breed Labrador Retrievers, a breed that can be prone to hip and elbow dysplasia, as well as cruciate tears. The families that get one of my puppies receive a warranty of sorts, saying that I have done everything I can to prevent these issues and if, despite my best efforts, the puppy I've bred ends up with a debilitating joint issue, I will refund the purchase price to the puppy's family.

There is one disclaimer however and it's as follows: if the family decides to spay or neuter the puppy before 24 months of age, my warranty is null and void. The reason is that research shows I can't guarantee the puppy's joints won't be affected by this seemingly simple medical procedure. Spay neuter and joint disease are now shown to be related and this surgery has the capability of permanently changing a healthy puppy joint into an unhealthy one.

Abnormal Growth

At the heart of the matter is how spay/neuter affects the dog's hormones. When a dog's reproductive organs are surgically removed, the sex hormones they produce also disappear. The sex hormones are responsible for more than just sexual behaviors and one of their responsibilities is regulating growth.

Breeders can readily spot the difference between an intact dog and a neutered dog: neutered dogs have longer limbs, narrower heads and bodies, and they are lighter in bone. When the sex hormones are removed, the growth hormones are missing important regulatory input and the bones continue to grow longer than they ought to. Studies have proven this to be true (Salmeri et al, JAVMA 1991).

In each long bone there is a growth (epiphyseal) plate, which is a band of cartilage found near the joint. This growth plate lays down bone as a puppy develops and, as it builds bone, the bone becomes longer and the puppy gets larger and taller. Once maturity is reached, this growth plate turns into bone and the puppy's full height is reached.

When dogs are sterilized before maturity, the closure of some but not all growth plates may be delayed and this would be especially true if a dog is sterilized when only some of his growth plates are closed.

The dog's elbow and stifle joints are similarly designed. Above each joint is one bone (the humerus and femur respectively), and below are two bones (in the elbow there is the radius and ulna and in the stifle there is the tibia and fibula). One bone effectively sits on two. What would happen if one of those bones underneath the joint stopped growing before the other bone and they ended up being different lengths? It would be very much like building a house on a slope: the weight of the home wouldn't be evenly distributed and there would be increased load at the lowermost corner of the house.

The same could very well happen in the elbow and stifle joint when closure of the growth plates is artificially delayed and this could in turn lead to increased risk of both elbow dysplasia and cranial cruciate ligament tears.

There is research that supports this. Whitehair et al (JAVMA Oct 1993), found that spayed and neutered dogs were twice as likely to suffer cranial cruciate ligament rupture. Slauterbeck et al also found an increased risk (Clin Orthop Relat Res Dec 2004).

Chris Zinc DVM PhD DACVP explains, "...if the femur has achieved its genetically determined normal length at eight months when a dog gets spayed or neutered, but the tibia, which normally stops growing at 12 to 14 months of age continues to grow, then an abnormal angle may develop at the stifle. In addition, with the extra growth, the lower leg below the stifle likely becomes heavier (because it is longer), and may cause increased stresses on the cranial cruciate ligament."

Additionally, sterilization can cause a loss of bone mass (Martin et al, Bone 1987), and obesity (Edney et al, Vet Rec Apr 1986). Both of these factors could lead to an increased risk of cranial cruciate ligament tear. Furthermore, spayed/neutered dogs are greater than three times more likely to suffer from patellar luxation (Vidoni et al, Wien Tierarztl Mschr 2005).

Hip Dysplasia

The thought of hip dysplasia is enough to strike fear into any large breed dog lover. For that reason, the bulk of research on spay/neuter and joint disease is focused on this disorder.

Dogs who are sterilized before the age of six months have a 70% increased risk of developing hip dysplasia. The authors of this study (Spain et al, JAVMA 2004), propose that "it is possible that the increase in bone length that results from early-age gonadectomy results in changes in joint conformation, which could lead to a diagnosis of hip dysplasia."

There is more evidence that spay/neuter can increase the risk of hip dysplasia. Van Hagen et al (Am J Vet Res, Feb 2005), found that of the sample dogs diagnosed with hip dysplasia, those that were neutered six months prior to the diagnosis were nearly twice as likely to develop hip dysplasia.

Interestingly, a study by Dannuccia et al (Calcif Tissue Int, 1986), found that removing the ovaries of Beagles caused increased remodeling of the pelvic bone, which also suggests an increased risk of hip dysplasia with sterilization.

Osteosarcoma

Although not technically a joint issue, osteosarcoma is a cancer of the bone. This bears mentioning because spayed and neutered dogs are twice as likely to develop this deadly disease (Ru et al, Vet J, Jul 1998).

In another study, male Rottweilers, a breed susceptible to osteosarcoma, were nearly four times more likely to develop osteosarcoma than intact dogs (Cooley et al, Cancer Epidemiol Biomarkers Prev, Nov 2002). In fact, Rottweilers spayed or neutered before one year of age had a 28.4%(males) and 25.1% (females) risk of developing osteosarcoma. Interestingly, the researchers concluded from their results that the longer the dogs were exposed to sex hormones, the lower their risk of osteosarcoma.

Playing Roulette

There are other related risks with spay/neuter, including an increased risk of many cancers, hypothyroidism, diabetes, urogenital disorders, cognitive impairment, obesity and adverse vaccine reactions – not to mention the risk associated with the surgery and the anesthetic. These risks should all be considered when it comes time to decide if spay/neuter is an option for your dog.

What does seem to be clear is that the risk of joint disease in particular is greatly exaggerated if the dog is sterilized before the growth plates close. It's important to remember that the sex hormones do play a synergistic role in your dog's growth and development and their removal will create imbalance in the body. Just what the fallout from this imbalance entails remains to be seen, as research into the effects of sterilization is in its infancy, even though hysterectomies on humans and spay/neuter on dogs has been accepted as a normal procedure for decades!

The age at which the growth plates close is entirely dependent on the dog and the breed. In general, the larger the dog, the later the growth plates will close. In giant breeds, this could be nearly two years of age.

Conclusion

Getting back to my puppy contract, given the above research, I simply can't guarantee the puppies I breed will have healthy joints if they are spayed or neutered, especially before the age of two. Whether the puppy's family decides to keep their dog intact or sterilize him after that age is entirely up to the family. I do an extremely good job of screening the homes that apply for one of my puppies and if they aren't responsible enough to keep an intact animal, they certainly aren't responsible enough to deserve one of my precious puppies in the first place.

People who are involved in rescues and shelters may have a different view on this and they are certainly entitled to it. When considering if and when your dog should be spayed or neutered however, it's important that you make the decision based on facts and try to steer clear of an emotional response that may affect the health and longevity of your dog. It's really not for me – or your vet – to dictate what you should do with your dog.

Happily, there are alternatives to the complete removal of the sexual organs. Vets are starting to experiment with zinc injections to sterilize male dogs. This leaves about half of the circulating testosterone available to the body. Vasectomies and tubal ligations are also becoming more popular and they have the happy consequence of less interference with the sex hormones – and your dog gets to keep his reproductive organs right where nature intended them to be.

You have a choice in whether and when your dog is spayed or neutered and how important it is to you that his/her sexual organs and hormones remain in place. Once your dog is spayed or neutered, you can't reverse your decision, so dig a little deeper and you just might find a solution that you and your dog can live with, happily and healthfully.

Continuing with our series on socializing your puppy.....

Socialization

By Denise Fenzi

Socialization

I am often asked how we should socialize our dogs so that they will grow up as well adjusted as possible. I think the answer is both simple and intuitive: The same way you socialize your small children.

Parents take their children to all of the normal places of life. If mom goes grocery shopping, the child comes along. Same with the bank, the store, the homes of relatives, and the library. These are places that almost all children will have significant exposure to from early in life. Through small doses of exposure over time, our children learn what to expect and how to behave in different places.

The type of home a child is raised in will affect the type of socialization experienced. Some parents are highly social and have frequent parties or social events. Children raised this way will have an easier time at parties when they are older than children who are raised by parents who are not as inclined to host social events, but always within the context of the child's underlying temperament – a shy child may choose a more reclusive life as an adult, even if well socialized to parties as a youngster. That is where the interplay between temperament and socialization come together. For the most part, society allows for this – a range of personality types is well tolerated.

How about a child who is destined for a more unusual life? A royal baby, for example, will be exposed early on to crowds of thousands, proper table manners and to all sorts of expectations that will not be a part of a regular child's life. A child born into a native tribe that still relies on hunting to survive will have a vastly different set of experiences. How successfully each takes to his role will rely heavily on proper socialization.

Rarely do we consciously think about socializing our children, but that is indeed what we are doing. As a result of this “quiet” approach, we have a good chance of making the right decisions. We don't push. We don't lump socialization into one day a week. And we don't freak out when the child has a bad day and throws a fit over not much of

anything. We simply get them out into the world – focusing on those areas that will be critical to their future.

And your dog? I'd say it's about the same.

If you plan to walk your dog in the neighborhood, take the dog to a park for exercise, or visit a local nursing home, then you'll want to start early showing your dog those pictures, and helping him understand what the expected behaviors are in those places. Exposure and familiarity will allow your puppy to adapt, assuming that the underlying temperament is suited for that lifestyle. Socialization is particularly important when your puppy is young and his brain is growing rapidly, so make an extra effort in the months immediately following your puppy's arrival. And as a side benefit, socialization is a fine way to tire out a rambunctious puppy who needs something to do!

Socialization can be stressful and overwhelming for a young dog, so go to some trouble to ensure that your puppy is enjoying his adventure by keeping sessions short. It is much better to get your puppy out twice a day for ten or fifteen minutes than to engage in a marathon session twice a week. If your puppy appears easily stressed, or if the outing will be of a long duration, consider bringing along a cozy crate. Use the crate when the puppy gets tired or overwhelmed as a self imposed break. Signs of a tired puppy are often counterintuitive, so recognize that an escalation in nipping, barking, poor social skills and excessive movement is normally a sign of exhaustion, not excess energy! Either pick him up and take him home, or pop him in his crate for a much needed rest.

It's ok if your puppy class is an hour long and you leave after twenty minutes or rest your dog in a crate for a portion of class. If you do what is right for your puppy then you will reap major dividends for your choices – over the long run.

How about a dog with a more specialized future; a dog destined for performance competitions? This puppy should be exposed to crowds of both dogs and people. Noisy places. Loudspeakers. Travel. Training classes. And at some point, when the puppy is ready, he should learn to perform some basic skills in those environments – after all, that is the puppy's future. If his temperament is within the range needed for success in these environments, then basic exposure should do the trick.

How should we treat a puppy that is nervous around people? The same as a small child who is nervous around people. It's not a big deal most of the time – allow the puppy (or child) to hide behind you if they wish. It won't matter. Children are notorious for hiding behind their mothers, and most parents (and strangers) understand this natural phase of growing up and just ignore it. If you want to make your child hate going out,

force them to interact with people who they are afraid of or force them to enter places that frighten them. And so it goes for puppies. If they aren't ready to meet your neighbor, let it be. If you allow them to explore the world at their own pace, they will learn to use you as a resource for safety rather than taking matters into their own hands by growling, barking, or becoming catatonic when threatened. They can meet the neighbor when they are ready; your job is to non-judgmentally support the puppy's decision and to select for encounters where they are likely to enjoy themselves.

And the puppy that is exuberant? About the same as a child who is exuberant. Calmly redirect the behavior and remove from the situation if behavior does not improve quickly. Allow the dog or child to return when the behavior is better, or recognize that the expectations of the situation exceeded what was reasonable at that time and revert to management strategies.

And if your child has a tendency to become aggressive with other children? You remove that child, calm them and try again...with much closer supervision. When you notice behavior escalating, you leave before it gets worse. You pay attention – no hanging out with the mommies on a distant bench. You avoid situations that you know are likely to create a bad outcome.

And so it goes for your puppy. Assertive puppies need closer supervision while they learn how to behave. Leaving small puppies or young children unsupervised is a recipe for disaster because the bully will win; small children and puppies do not “work it out.” If your puppy is becoming too rough or excited with the other puppies, then remove him for a short period and supervise much more closely when you return, or change the scenario. Limit the total period of exposure since good behavior is exhausting for both dogs and kids. Good parenting is exhausting for us too!

Do you use a leash with your small children? Probably not. Instead you pay attention to what the child is watching and you look for triggers that signal a potential problem (a ball rolling into the street will cause most parents to watch their kids carefully for signs that they might follow). If people had to manage their puppy without a leash in public spaces, their understanding of their dog's needs and triggers would improve dramatically – they would have no choice but to pay attention and “learn” their puppy.

On the other hand, leashes do allow us to deal with the fact that puppies of only a few months of age will likely be able to get away from us much more readily than an equally immature child. Use your leash wisely – it is a management tool to keep your puppy safe. Do not use it to allow your bored dog to lunge wildly at everyone passing by; it's time for some training and attention!

Pass the toddler? I've never heard of it. No one expects a toddler to go willingly to ten different strangers – with no choice – and to be happy about it. Sure, some toddlers would probably love the game, but most prefer the security of their caregivers.

And puppies? I'll admit I do not understand "pass the puppy". My puppies are allowed to rely on me, and they have 100% choice about whether or not to approach a new person. If they want to approach (and if the person wishes to visit) then they approach. And if they don't want to, then that's fine too. We all grow up when we are ready. I never pass my puppy off unless he has indicated that he wishes to go. Some of my dogs grow into social adults and others are more reserved but I'm hard pressed to believe that handing them off to random strangers while they shut down in fear would have benefitted them. I wouldn't do it to a child and I will not to it to a puppy.

Leave the puppy on its feet and it can approach (or avoid) as it is ready. If you give your puppy choice, as you would a human child, it's much harder to put them into a situation that terrifies them. Most owners are truly not sophisticated enough in dog behavior to know the difference between a puppy that is not moving because he is calm and content, and a puppy that is not moving because he's shut down and opting out of the world. Why risk it? Let the puppy choose the interactions.

And a few words about the rights of other people. Yes, people have rights, and they have the right not to like your dog or your children. If a person does not wish to visit, then it is my responsibility to prevent my rambunctious child or puppy from bothering that person. Over time, both children and dogs learn for themselves when a person prefers to be left alone. It's obnoxious to let your puppy or toddler interfere with the lives of other people against their will. And while society as a whole would do well to understand that sometimes children scream or cry and sometimes dogs bark or whine – it's equally important that we do what we can to minimize the disruption caused by our charges. A little tolerance on all sides would go far to improving the relationships between people who make different, and equally valid, choices in society.

Most puppies will do quite well if raised in this manner but some will not do well – those puppies may have specific temperament issues that will need to be addressed in a more systematic fashion. If your puppy is in the minority and their behavior appears to be deteriorating, go see a specialist and get help.

Who knows the why when life takes a bad turn.

This article first appeared in The Royal Spaniels, written by Leah Swatko.

The young family was eager to meet and agree to their new puppy. The parents were gentle and kind, the little boy and his older sister were well mannered and so excited. They had waited over a year, carefully saving for this special purchase of a new family member. The woman explained she was an epileptic but her medication was keeping her seizures under good control. I thanked her for her candour and that this was not an issue. The Blenheim puppies in the pen frolicked and gave gentle kisses as the children sat on a blanket and let the pups tumble over their legs. One little puppy boy in particular seemed to have his eyes set on these people as his very own. As it turned out they had wanted a boy puppy and so it came to be Neumann was theirs. After his next vet visit, eye exam, and puppy needles he would be theirs. All his clearances were good, he went to his new home crate, and mostly house trained, started on leash walking and knew his name, came when called and could sit and wait patiently for his food dish to be placed on the floor.

The day arrived and the “Smith” family drove off with little Neumann who was sleeping quietly in his crate between the two children. Pictures were sent of his progress, and of course cute ones all with the children, a special toy, or snoozing in Dads lap. Their vet was pleased with the choice and remarked on how well made and happy Neumann was. He must have come from a good breeder. The weeks became months and all was well.

One day an email came and it was bad news. Mrs. Smith had been away on business and Neumann had gone to spend time with the Grand Parents. He had suddenly become very ill and was rushed to the emergency vet who declared Parvo!!!! Fear dragged its claws across my heart as I read further, he had died that night. The family was horribly upset and couldn’t understand how this could happen. I too was trying to understand as well, had the puppy needles not been effective, was this pup possibly suffering from anything that compromised his immune system. The emergency clinic did not do a test to verify the diagnosis, yes I asked, had the pup been ill acting different, not eating. Trying to learn what had gone wrong. I asked and paid for a necropsy and was in contact with their regular vet. He said the Emergency clinic had frozen the remains and this would damage some tissue and make diagnosis difficult. He performed a complete necropsy and reported no parvo, nothing was wrong with this pup’s heart, lungs, kidneys, except his liver had severely necrotized. He took samples and sent them to a pathologist. We all waited for the report which came back in a few days. Neumann’s vet sent me a scanned copy of the report. The pathologist found cause of death was the necrotized liver caused by one of three things. 1. The pup had

eaten a battery, which was not found in his stomach or lower digestive system. 2. He had ingested a certain classification of drugs used to control Myoclonic jerks, and other neurological disorders including epilepsy. 3. An unknown toxin from mushrooms to poisonous plants.

I was glad in one way as a breeder that I was not responsible but, on the other hand, I felt so sad for the family and the children's loss was especially hard to take. I had lost a Labrador Retriever when I was 5 years old. He had been my best friend and constant companion and had even given me my first black eye; I was a bit of a Tom Boy and wore that shiner with pride. The Smith family though was preying on my mind especially those two little ones; I was overcome with empathy and felt their pain. As it happened, I had another pup a black and tan boy from another litter; I had been thinking of keeping, I offered him to the family. Knowing their resources I said just pay my expenses. A happy puppy in a good home means far more than all the ribbons I could count. Knowing that one of my pups went on to build a treasure trove of memories for a family is why I breed Cavaliers. The pup would grow to be an adult and a little girl or boy's special companion to share secrets with and to give them unconditional love, who would play with them make them laugh or wipe their tears.

I called the family and told them what I had in mind. They were so happy and the children were ecstatic. The day came and the Smiths arrived at my home with the Grandparents. They met with Bobo and it was an instant bond with all especially Mrs. Smith. He played with the children met and gave kisses to all the adults, but kept going back to the Mother. The grandparents insisted on paying full price and I reluctantly accepted, knowing I would spend it at a Cavalier fund raiser for health or rescue. Such is our dog addiction. They left with Bobo and all went great.

The messages and pictures arrived showing smiling faces a laughing puppy and family gatherings. After a couple of months I received a phone call from Mrs. Smith, we chatted for a bit how are the kids, her work and Bobo all were doing well!. I find I develop long lasting connections with most of my puppy people. Soon her line of questioning seemed strange asking if Cavaliers had special abilities, could or did they work as Service dogs. I said yes the breed's sensitivity to people's moods and feelings made them especially good as Therapy or Special Skills dogs. I had several in homes as Hearing Ear and a couple Special Skills dogs. I asked where she was going with this line of questioning. What followed was very interesting and gave me chills. She said Bobo was very attached to her and never left her side. He would cry if she had to go out and she didn't take him with her. Yes I said, knowing there was more, just by her tone of voice. He was a quiet dog and didn't tend to bark. But a few months ago not long after they had taken him home, he started to bark, if she was standing he would dance around her and bark, if she was sitting on the couch he would jump up and place his paws on her chest and bark in her face. I was thinking and said possibly a behaviour

issues and she said not really. No it wasn't that at all, it seems he can detect her impending seizures. She and her husband kept track and he was 100% accurate. He would warn her with his barking and would not stop until she lay down on the floor with a pillow. Then he would sit with her quietly, once her seizure passed he would nudge and stimulate her, lick her face and refuse to leave her side for even a second. I was speechless, I knew of seizure detection dogs as I had a friend who was the breeding director for the Lions Foundation who bred Seeing Eye, Special Needs, Hearing Ear, and Seizure Detection dogs. These dogs were all trained after living with a foster family for their first year where they are socialized attend training classes and come back for 3 different evaluations as to progress and future suitability. At the end of the year they came back to the center for formal training in their area of expertise. Some dogs wash out of the program as being unsuited to their jobs, these dogs find homes with the people on the waiting list who have asked for one of these well trained but failed Service dogs. They may go on to be therapy or visitation dogs or just great companions. Genetics does play a part in these special dogs and the abilities seem to follow familial lines. All of this makes sense to dog breeders who know that common breed traits such as coat type, colour, plus other intangibles such as temperament or working abilities, even working styles can be traced to ancestors. I explained all this to the Smiths and said I would do a little more research but to count them as blessed that Bobo found the very person he needed to be with.

I did research Bobos God given gift and learned that one in five hundred dogs have the innate ability to detect pre seizure electrical or chemical signals. That Bobo was by a collection of unfortunate circumstances placed where he could do the most good. It is still amazing to me. The next year after the Smiths told me of Bobos special gift, they purchased another Cavalier for their children as Bobo is on duty every day and night. He is now 9 years old and still working in his chosen profession of Seizure Detection dog. The Smiths are thinking of another dog when the time comes.

These special dogs are the ultimate performance dogs. They choose their jobs and devote their lives to performing their very best every single day. Some are like Bobo naturals at their skill, others are instinctual workers such as my Australian Shepherds who work livestock on many farms, and some have their raw talent polished with the help of knowledgeable trainers. The next time you see a Service dog working as a Detection dog at the airport, a Seeing Eye dog guiding their person safely through a busy street, a farm dog holding the cattle inside the broken fence as the rancher works to repair the fence, think of the many unseen Special Skills dogs working quietly with their chosen person.

This is a true story the names of all have been changed.

Smoking and Animals: Healthy Habits For Healthy Pets

Used with permission from <https://quitday.org/support/healthy-pets/>

For many, pets are considered to be family members. This is why special consideration should be given when making choices concerning smoking. Second-hand smoke is a danger to the heart and lungs of your pets, as well.

Many people today are beginning to realize the harmful effects of cigarettes. They are not only hazardous to the smoker, but also to those exposed to the second-hand smoke. However, many do not realize that second-hand smoke is also dangerous in regards to the nervous systems of their cats, dogs, and other household pets. This is because of the chemicals found in cigarette smoke, some that can also cause cancer. There are at least 4000 chemicals found in cigarette smoke, altogether causing numerous adverse health issues for both, people and animals.

Pets are our Family, Too

Many would agree that their pet is not just another animal. Our pets are like family. With household pets being regarded as such, it is hard to imagine doing something intentionally that would bring harm to them. You have to remember, dogs, cats, and other household pets should be regarded as infants in some ways. They do not understand that certain things will hurt them. This is true especially when it comes to consuming things like cigarette butts or empty cigarette packs. It is our job as pet owners to ensure their safety by creating a secure, and healthy environment.

Second –Hand Smoke and Your Pet

Second-hand smoke is just as dangerous as direct smoking. If you smoke indoors, everyone is subject to the same dangers and consequences you face yourself. This includes children and pets. They cannot fend for themselves, so it is imperative that you make the right choices. Second-hand smoke can lead to lung damage, increased blood pressure, and heart disease. It is hard to know the exact dangers your pets face, but one thing you know for sure – they have lungs and a heart, too.

Third-Hand Smoke and Your Pet

Third-hand smoke is also cause for concern. According to the [Mayo Clinic](#), third-hand smoke is the clinging of cigarette smoke to furniture, hair, carpet, and other surfaces and materials. This is hazardous to pets because of the toxins this residue contains. Many pets like to clean themselves while rolling on the carpet and rubbing up against walls. They do this daily, and over a period of time. With the presence of third-hand smoke in the home, they are repeatedly being exposed to these harmful chemicals.

Ingestion of Butts and Litter

Pets are affected in more ways than just being exposed to second and third-hand smoke. They are also introduced to the harmful effects of ingesting cigarette butts, empty packs containing trace amounts of tobacco, or sometimes, whole cigarettes. According to the US National Library of Medicine who conducted a survey on the effects of cigarette butt consumption, symptoms may include, but are not limited to, tremors, lack of coordination, convulsions, excessive salivation, respiratory failure, weakness, and in extreme cases, death.

A Safe Haven for Your Pet

The best way to keep your pets safe from these effects, is to create a smoke-free environment. If you or someone you know is trying to find a reason to quit smoking, just remember the harmful effects your habit has on those you call your family – your pets. You will be protecting not only yourself from all of the dangers of tobacco, but you will also be protecting the ones who cannot protect themselves. Remember, these are the ones who depend on you to make the right choices to keep them safe.

Managing Canine Environmental Seizures Lessons Learned



Banner is currently a 5 year old Australian Shepherd, who suffers from environmentally triggered seizures. It took a long time and a lot of effort to figure out his triggers, but through diligence, and despite more than a few mistakes, I can now keep him seizure free as long as none of the chemicals that he has become hypersensitive to, get into his environment.

How our saga started

Banner was three years old when his first seizure occurred. The initial one came within a week of having his annual vaccination. Until this particular year, I had requested that my vet leave out the Lepto portion of the vaccine, but I was strong-armed into giving him the standard DHLPP. Our appointment was just before our Christmas vacation at the cottage up north. Little did we know what we had in store for us.

His first seizure occurred, as most have, at 3:00 am. Something about the sleep state, and the imbalance of the sympathetic and parasympathetic nervous system just makes this the witching hour for us. I suspect it has something to do with blood sugar levels as well, although we have confirmed that he is neither hypo nor hyperglycemic. It's just that this time is close to his breakfast time. As soon as we could hail the emergency vet, we got him up to the office nearest to our cottage. The Doctor ran a complete blood panel and found nothing remarkable. He stated that we were in a wait-n-see mode. He quoted that 90% percent of seizure cases happen once, and never come back again. He discussed the pattern and when we would need to make the decision to put Banner on medication if it returned at a higher frequency.

As a longtime Aussie owner and member of ASCA, I was aware of the Aussie Genome Testing, specifically the MDR1 - identifying whether your canine carries the genetic mutation for a gene that causes multiple drug resistance. In layman's terms, it's an inability to pump medications back out of the brain due to a lack of a particular protein responsible for this action. The buildup can cause seizures. We submitted

Banner's DNA swab to the lab in Washington, and after 6 weeks his results came back 'Normal/Normal'. He does not have MDR1 concerns.

One month later, at our Metro-Detroit area suburban home, he had another seizure. Same time, same duration, same recovery period. Less than two minutes of grand mal seizing, with about 10-15 minutes of post-ictal behaviour. We took him to our regular vet and they again, ran blood panels that showed nothing remarkable. Our vet suggested that we look into complimentary services. There was nothing more that he knew to do.

Foray into Holistic Veterinary Service

After Banner's 2nd seizure, our regular vet admitted that unless something shows in a standard blood panel, they just have no way to test and know what causes the seizures. My vet was also unaware of the MDR1 gene testing. I was looking for a more thorough answer, and additional tests that could be done.

My regular vet, at Serenity Veterinary Hospital, in Sterling Heights Michigan, suggested that I contact a doctor that had previously worked at Serenity, who now runs a practice that solely treats pets on the basis of Nutritional Response Testing.

Dr. Gregg Sheppard and his wife Melissa run Sheppard Alternative Animal Care in Shelby Township, MI. Long story short - they became interested in applying this technique when their daughter became seriously ill as a child, and regular medical doctors could not pinpoint the reason she was failing to thrive. As a last ditch hope, they were sent to a Nutritional Response Testing specialist and discovered food sensitivities and environmental triggers that were suppressing her health. She is now a very happy, very healthy young lady after eliminating the bad, and bolstering her nutrition with supplements that support the body to heal itself. Soon, Dr Sheppard became interested in learning this technique to apply to his veterinary practice, to help explain the mystery cases that standard veterinary medicine just could not resolve.

In our initial appointment with him, they identified that Banner's liver was the organ that was exhibiting the highest stress. Every seizure pet that they treat, has shown Liver to be the organ that needs support and heavy metals present from various environmental sources as the stressor. In all of their seizure patients, if the owner is

diligent about removing the toxin source, and supports de-toxing with whole food supplements, the pet ceases to have seizures.

Chemical Sensitivity

Once the liver has experienced a toxic overload, it seems that there is a hypersensitivity to what were previously mild hepatotoxin / neurotoxin sources.

Since we believe the Zero Point for the start of his issues was a vaccine, we have carefully considered our options for any future vaccinations.

As far a vaccination protocol, the holistic vet and the Petoskey Vet who initially saw him after his first seizure both agree that Banner should not receive any further vaccinations until we have his seizures under control (zero incidence) for at least a year. They offered to titer and if needed, stagger future shots. Since his rabies

vaccine was coming up, they agreed to write a letter exempting this dog from the vaccine as it could be fatal for him. The State of Michigan honors such letters from Veterinary Professionals.

Holistic Approach

Dr Sheppard used Nutritional Response Testing to find the toxins that Banner was showing weakness to, find food sensitivities that were not supporting his health, and identify supplementation that would help the body repair itself.

Food Change

Dr Sheppard had a list of Limited Ingredient foods to choose from that were recommended for seizure dogs. Many of the major dog food brands contain questionable preservatives. The Fish based foods do not need the extra preservatives.

We chose Natural Balance Fish and Sweet Potato dog food and treats. On occasion, I will buy 100% pure Salmon jerky, or 100% Sweet Potato Chews.

For folks looking to evaluate their current food choice, I highly recommend an internet search to check for reported toxic preservatives in their dog food brand. You are going to rely on the research of some very dedicated individuals who gather this information. The dog food companies do not have to call out their preservative ingredients, although many are starting to become more forthcoming. The potentially harmful chemical preservatives to avoid include Ethoxyquin (which was in Banner's previous dog food), propylene glycol (essentially anti-freeze), BHA (butylated hydroxyanisole), BHT (butylated hydroxytoluene), TBHQ (Tertiary butylhydroquinone) and propyl gallate.

Each of these toxins has different effects on the body. Ethoxyquin is known to contribute to seizures, and has been banned in cat food, but not yet banned in dog foods.

Supplements

The supplements that Dr Sheppard dispenses are produced by Standard Process. His protocol has shifted a bit as we determine what works best, but in general, his supplementation is as follows:

Organically Bound Minerals: These bind to the toxins to pull them out of his liver.

Canine Hepatic Support: Supports liver metabolism, hepatic circulation, bile production and flow and hepatic immune function.

Antronex: This supplement contains a liver fat extract that supports the body's immune system detoxification mechanism

Parotid: Supports the saliva producing parotid gland to improve digestion and cleanse the upper digestive tract and provide tissue support.

Food Sensitivities

Banner was tested and determined to express sensitivity to chicken, beef, dairy, and wheat.

A Moment of Weakness

After a short while on the new holistic approach, we had another incident that occurred and I took Banner to an emergency vet. That vet ran the same standard blood panel as well as checking thyroid function and tick titres. All non-remarkable.

They prescribed phenobarbital. For three days, I watched Banner's Ataxia response to the pheno, crying my eyes out, and watching him get worse and worse. After talking to the holistic vet, he convinced me ... his issues are liver and toxin based and pheno only causes worse toxic load. I cut him off the drug and dedicated myself to finding the real triggers rather than masking it with a drug that would only harm him worse in the long term.

What Nutritional Response Testing (NRT) has found immediately following seizures:

It can be really easy to watch the NRT process and think that it is complete voo-doo. Like a really good snake oil sales pitch, or a religious "healing" session. Given what we

experienced, the triggers that this testing has found, with absolutely no leading from me as to what Banner came in contact with, NRT identified some pretty shocking substances in Banner's system that were stressing his body (I'm a flat-out believer – there is no way the doctor could predict these actual environmental toxins were the recent changes in his life until I told him):

Chromium - This was discovered in one of the very first appointments with Dr. Sheppard. My husband had read online that if you put dryer sheets in your shoes, it helps eliminate stinky feet odor. We now realize what a horrible idea this is, as dryer sheets contain numerous neurotoxins. Banner was stealing the dryer sheets out of Dave's shoes and sucking on them! One of the key toxic ingredients in dryer sheets is Chromium.

Antimony - During the end of June, as the various cities in proximity to my house in Sterling Heights were holding their annual Fourth of July fireworks displays, and the neighbours were setting off their own nightly displays, Banner had multiple seizures. Upon NRT testing, he came up with Antimony, which is a key ingredient in cheap Chinese fireworks. We immediately left for our two week vacation to the cottage, in Northern Michigan, and he no longer had any seizures. The difference in air quality is significant between the two locations. We now make every effort to get out of our suburban environment as the Firework season comes upon us. No thanks to Governor Snyder - that is increasingly more difficult to get away from, now that high powered airborne fireworks have become legal in Michigan. We got through the 2013 July season unscathed.

Titanium (Dioxide) - Titanium Dioxide is an ingredient that makes specialty papers or pastes very white. It is common in things like spackle, toothpaste, paper products, etc. Just a few days prior to Banner's appointment, he stole, (and later evidence showed he ingested) a Tim Horton's coffee cup - with its sparkling white interior paper.

HOW I KNOW IT IS ENVIRONMENTAL

Looking back, I can definitively say that each incident can be tied to chemicals in Banner's environment. If Banner's issues were truly epilepsy, the doctor said his seizures would be escalating, not decreasing, more frequent and severe. The fact that we can sustain extremely long periods between incidences, and can locate and remove a trigger and achieve long term success again, tells us that this truly is environmental, and if it is environmental, it can be controlled.

How he communicates

Banner knows when a trigger is present. When we were running the dishwasher, he would stand in the family room, looking worriedly into the kitchen, and make a whining vocalization unlike anything I had ever heard from him before. He would look at the dishwasher and back away, trying to coax me away from it as well. He was like Lassie trying to communicate that Timmy had fallen in the well. Dishwasher detergent contains bleaches and harsh cleaning chemicals. Even the natural brands contain D-Limonene, a natural substance created from lemon peels, but it is a known neurotoxin. The extreme heat of the dishwasher created overwhelming fumes.

Banner would do the same worrying for the clothes washing machine, when I ran bleach in it.

In early 2012, I “laid off” my twice-a-month cleaning ladies for 3 months and we had no further seizures. They touted using “Green Clean” certified brands of cleaners. When I checked the MSDS sheets for the chemicals in their cleaners, for instance, the floor cleaner that was used right next to his crate, it contained over 36% propylene glycol (anti-freeze). After I found a cleaning brand I trusted (mentioned later) I let them return, as long as they never brought anything from the outside, into my house – not even washed rags. They agreed not to wear any perfumes.

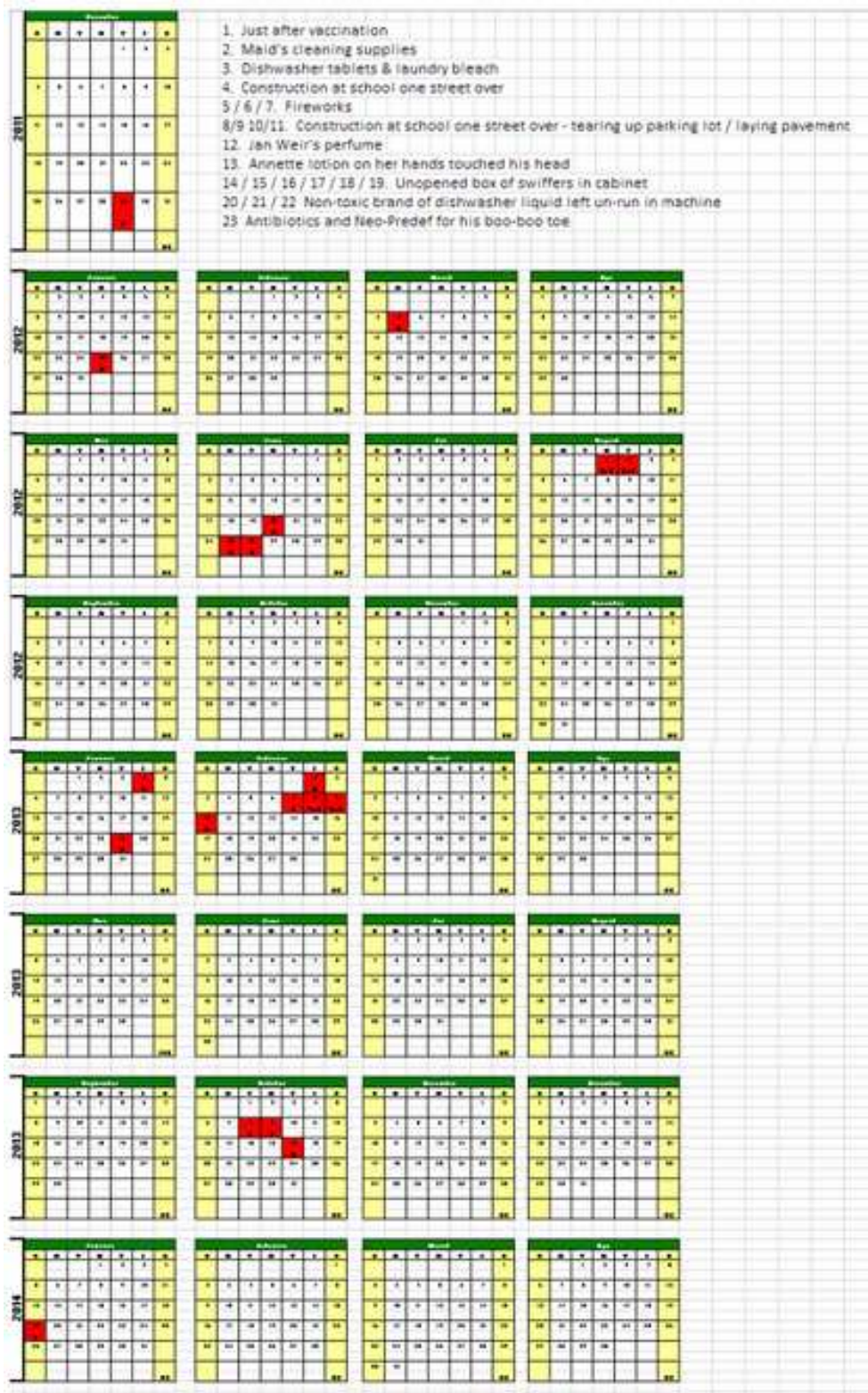
Since we had so many issues with laundry fabric softeners, detergents etc, I went overboard and washed every single clothing and linen item in the house with vinegar, to remove the fragranced residue of the offending products.

The absolute worst chemical offender was Febreze, specifically Swiffers infused with Febreze. In one weekend, he had 6 seizures, due to an unopened box of Swiffers that had Febreze scent on them. My husband had bought the box, and had not noticed the fine print about the scent addition. The box was inside of a cabinet in the kitchen. Banner was avoiding the kitchen, and looking toward the cabinet worriedly. As soon as I discovered the box, and removed it from the house, his seizures stopped.

Earlier, I recall I had a box of swiffers in my car, not realizing those were scented as well. I put Banner in the car to take him to vet and all of a sudden, he started shaking violently in what looked like a fear reaction. He jumped in the back seat and started pawing at the swiffer box. I pulled over and threw them out and he calmed down.

Three office co-workers have had older dogs that developed seizures and after I talked about my experiences with Banner, they realized that their spouse had recently doused the dog’s environment with Febreze. A very popular Pinterest pin states that Febreze contains 80 known toxins, including very strong hepatotoxins.

SEIZURE ACTIVITY



The only other time Banner had a similar reaction to the Febreze freak-out was very early on, when I brought home grocery bags that contained a canister of one of those new-fangled laundry crystals. It wasn't even opened and he started drooling and shaking. Seizure soon to follow. We now keep such unstoppable chemical assaults out of his environment.

Our theory now is, if we won't put it in our mouth, it doesn't come in the house.

We threw out all toxic cleaners, everything with a scent, including talcum powder.

No cologne, no Clorox wipes, no perfume ads in magazines, no candles, no scented doggie poop bags, no scented garbage bags, no scented maxipads, no grooming products for the dog, no dishwasher tablets, no bleach, no dryer sheets, no fabric softener, no baby wipes or any other substance with propylene glycol. We got rid of all the chemicals in the garage and basement.

An extremely helpful canine seizure support website ([link referenced at end](#)) also suggested not to use any non-stick coated items in the house, such as cooking pans and even many new hair curling irons. Banner gave warning whines when I used a curling iron like this, but I never knew if it was the non-stick coating or the almost inaudible beep that the device made when it flashed the red light to tell me it was ready. He could obviously hear it much better than I could. Teflon usage in households that have birds has been proven to kill them, so I'm ok with this suggestion to eliminate it from my house.

Needless to say, we don't ever fertilize the lawn or use weedkiller.

Since heavy metals seem to be the problem I became concerned when I noticed that Banner would lick the metal floor vents when the AC came on. Thanking the Gods of Tummy Coolness. He had licked the vents to the point of rusting. The metal welding used in the construction of the vents could also be a source of Antimony, so I replaced all the vents with plastic covers.

Alternates for what I have given up:

I use Better Life non-toxic cleaning products, or concoctions that I make up from natural ingredients, such as vinegar, castile oil soap, rubbing alcohol, hydrogen peroxide or baking soda.

Many "green" products actually are not. I use the Environmental Working Group list from the internet to check the relative toxic safety of a product or I look up the Material Data Safety Sheet (MSDS) for the specific product I am interested in researching.

I have been able to use Essential Oils with no issue, but have to be careful because certain oils can trigger seizures (Eucalyptus, Rosemary... to name a few). Sadly, you'll see these harmful essential oils in dog shampoo products!

I have painted walls with ZERO-VOC paint, with no issue, and had the deck stained with ZERO-VOC stain/sealer.

Since seizures come with loss of bladder control as the bonus gift, in order to wash the dog, and wash the spots on the floor, I use Peter Rabbit Non-toxic Baby Shampoo or I've even safely been able to wash him with Dawn soap, although that is not my first choice.

For non-toxic Japanese Beetle control I put out a pheromone trap, and I put down Beneficial Nematodes and Milky Spore.

Summary

I suppose my number one suggestion is do what you can to detox your life. The dog feels better. I feel better. My husband feels better. Even though it is not always convenient, and it took a lot of training to get my husband to only pick out Unscented grooming products, it has been worth it to keep the boy seizure free.

Helpful Tips

<http://www.canine-epilepsy-guardian-angels.com/> has a ton of suggestions on how to manage your pet's seizures. A couple of very helpful suggestions that really work, are the honey to ward off an impending seizure, and the ice on the dogs saddle area.

I also use the canine Shen Men pressure point on the dog's ear to stop the grand mal paddling immediately. This helps reduce the recovery time, when they don't paddle so hard through the seizure. <http://animalwellbeing.com/earpoints.htm>

I have seen YouTube videos that also show owners who have had success in stopping a seizure by carefully bear hugging their dog's chest and giving them a command when they go into grand mal. The pressure relaxes the dog's out of balance sympathetic / parasympathetic system, and brings them back around. (similar theory as the Thunder Shirt)

ADDITIONAL WEBSITES:

Nutritional Response Testing: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pA8H8D-4enU>
Environmental Working Group <http://www.ewg.org/guides/cleaners>

Toxin Lists <http://householdproducts.nlm.nih.gov/index.htm>

Better Life Non-Toxic Cleaning Supplies <http://www.cleanhappens.com/?gclid=CJ6-8tzosrwCFecRMwodaEgAbg>

My holistic vet www.sheppardcare.com/

A lot of the pet advocate type websites get attacked by the legal teams of products that don't like being named as possible source contributors to canine seizures. For my own story, I am just calling out what doesn't work for our environment and my specific situation. I'm not going to process this letter through the Legalese BS filter and change names to protect the innocent. I gladly share my experiences, and if it helps someone control their dog's seizures, I'm all for telling my story. It's such an emotionally draining, heart breaking experience, and it really turns your life upside down when this pet that trusts you implicitly for its care, is suffering. Finding and eliminating your pet's personal triggers gives you control back, and the hope that their system eventually can overcome what set them off in the first place. Good luck!

Permission to use this article granted by author, Barbara Holland.

Sadly, Banner lost his struggle 18 months ago.

CNASA Quarterly – Fall 2015

Brag and news from our members

Gina Stetsko



URO2 LookQuest Last Cat Standing RN owned by Gina Stetsko

Tex earned his UKC RallyO Level 2 title this weekend at Rose County Canine Association's trial west of Edmonton.

CNASA Quarterly – Fall 2015

Bev Hurst

Performance Plus Australian Shepherds (Lein Reg'd)

Can.Ch.Windmill's Life in the Fast Lane "ROWDY"

HIT, ADC, SGDC, AG.N, CGN, CRNCL, CRNT, RPT, BDD, DD, DDX

September 12th 2015 STARTERS GAMES DOG OF CANADA Title SDGC 1 Q
Advance Gambler-1 Q Advance Jumpers-1 Q Advance Snooker-1 Q Starter Snooker
August 29-30th 2015 2 Q's PAD 1-1st & 1 2nd Place-2 Q's Novice Std. -1-1st & 1 2nd
Place NOVICE STANDARD Title AG.N August 8th 2015 1 Q CKC Novice
Standards-1st Place-1 Q CKC JWW-1st Place July 2015 1 Q Advance Rally (CARO)-
200 1st Place Perfect Score DISC DOG EXCELLENT Title (300 pts)

Lein's XS Ability "CRUMP"

ADC, SGDC, AADC, AGDC, AG.N, MSDC, MADC, MGDC, RPT, BDD, DD, DDX,
ADDCh, DDCh. FC Bronze, HIT, CGN CRNMCL, CRAMCL,
CRAT, CRXMCL, CRNT

September 7th 2015 Advance Disc Dog Champion Title (over 1000 pts)

September 18th 2015, Rowdy earned his CKC Novice Pad and also Q'd in Intermediate Standards.

Information regarding performance results for 2015 on dogs bred by Bev Hurst can be found here <http://www.k9101.ca/#!/current-stars/c1b6i>

CNASA Quarterly – Fall 2015

Angela Slauenwhite & Collin Veinot

It was a busy and exciting summer here at Novacoast Australian Shepherds. The biggest news that we have is that Collin and I got married! Our wedding was held at the Slauenwhite Farm and of course our aussies were included in the ceremony. It was a beautiful summer day enjoyed by all.



CNASA Quarterly – Fall 2015

Cadence Howe

Cadence had a busy summer with her aussie, Quarry. They were preparing for the Junior Provincials in which they placed first in the Junior Novice category. The Zone 1 Finals were held during the Halifax Kennel Club show on Friday, September 4th at Exhibition Park.



CNASA Quarterly – Fall 2015

Lisa and Stephen Dahr
Garrison Australian Shepherds

The Garrison Aussies had a great summer keeping busy with shows, herding, agility, swimming and even a little drafting for fun!

We were delighted that Ember finished her Championship at the New Brunswick Kennel Club Shows in August and is now Ch. Zydeco's Fuzzy Firecracker of Shalako.

Gunner started and finished his CD with straight class wins in Novice B and multiple high in trials with an average of 193. He picked up another high in trial and three consistent scores of 191 at the Halifax Shows over the Labour Day weekend.

We also completed Gunner's RAE title in 10 straight trials with 18 class wins and two 2nd place awards in our respective classes. Our average score was 96 (thanks to a couple of handler errors). Very proud that Gunner is currently ranked #1 in Canada in the Canuck Dog system for Rally for Aussies. Currently known as Multi Group Winning Multi High in Trial Gr. Ch. Garrison's Black Powder, CD, RAE, TT

Over in Newfoundland, Garrison's Tall Ship (Sailor) owned by Carolyn Parsons headed into the AAC agility ring and picked up 5 qualifying scores in one weekend! He completed his ADC (Agility Dog of Canada) and SGDC (Starters Games Dog of Canada) and we couldn't be prouder of this team! Sailor excels in many areas, the most important one for him being the Chief Bath and Bedtime Story Supervisor for Carolyn's little boy, Jack.

With fall weather it's a bit more pleasant to get working on our herding skills again. Hoping to get a few more miles on the dogs (and ourselves!) on the stock in the coming weeks.

ASCA A-Ch/MBIS MBISS CKC A-CH/CH
Kinring's Honour and Valour
CGN TT CD RA HS HTADI



2015 ASCA National Altered Finalist

Bred by Shawna Wiebe of Kinring Australian Shepherds
Owned by Shannon Cole

FORTUNE

GARRISON'S FORTUNATE ONE

Multi BPIG, WD/BOW
Evangeline Kennel Club



GARRISON

Australian Shepherds

Always Breeder/Owner Handled
Lisa & Stephen Dahr
Dartmouth, Nova Scotia
sdahr@eastlink.ca
facebook.com/lisa.dahr

ad by Wendy Reay - WINCONLINE
photos by Rebecca Jones

ASCA CH GCH WR AUSSIES BLAZE OF FIRE HIC



ONE OF CANADA'S TOP AUSSIES

CDFA
WEB DESIGN BY NIOME

FORM FUNCTION
ABILITY BLAZE!

ASCA CH CH RISK'N'HOPES I ROCK THE WORLD EX WESTPAW'S PATCHES GORDON HIC
BREEDER OWNER : CAROL GORDON PROFESSIONALLY PRESENTED BY : LORI-ANN FISCHER CPHA

Casselcreek

Australian Shepherds

Theresa Casselman
Calgary, Alberta
Canada



Owned by: Theresa Casselman
Casselcreek Fifty Shades

Spanky

Vator
PRIM



Co-Owned with: Becky Pugh and Candace Huffman
Casselcreek That's The Spirit

GHOST

Watch for these young girls as they make their debut in Tennessee
Wishing everyone a safe trip to and from
Nationals, and much luck in the ring!

2015 ASCA Nationals

ad design by *Michelle Goggin*

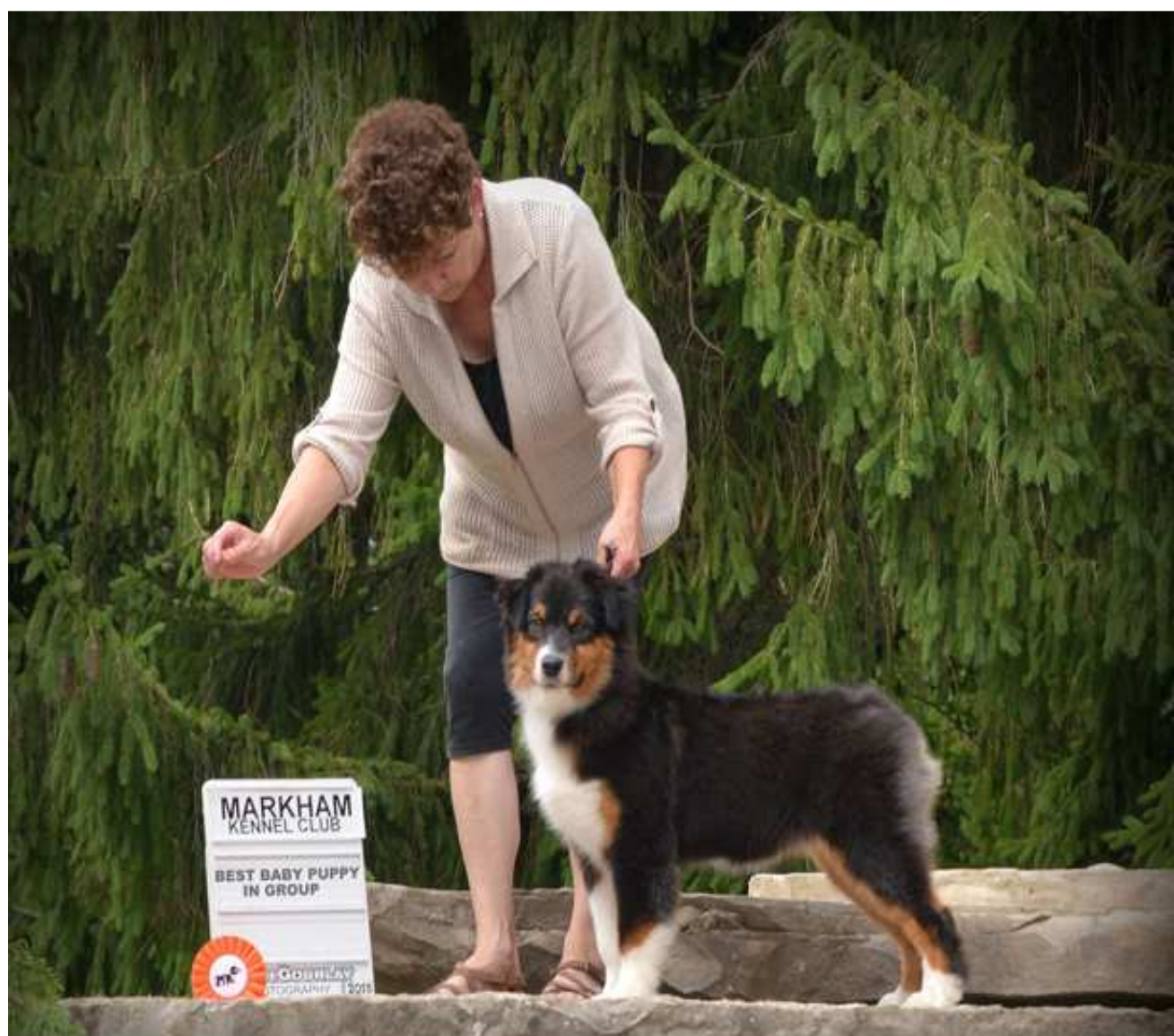
Safe travels to all our Canadian friends making the trip to Tennessee!



Jetta.

Casselcreek For the Love of It

Owned by Morgan & Dawn Beck
Bred/Co- Owned by Theresa Casselman



Kirrabilli's In My Cap

"Feather"

BEST BABY PUPPY IN GROUP FIRST TIME OUT!

OWNED & BRED BY GAIL STEPHENS & KEVIN BALDWIN

KIRRABILLI AUSSIES

WWW.TIMSPARTYCENTRE.COM/KIRRABILLI/DOGS.HTM

MINISTIK REG



**ASCA/CKC CH. SHALAKO FLASHPOINT MINISTIK RN STD-S
HIPS GOOD - ELBOWS CLEAR MDR1N/N HSF4 N/N CEA N/N**

&

**ASCA/CKC CH. MINISTIK DECK THE HALLS RN
HIPS GOOD - ELBOWS CLEAR MDR1 N/N HSF4 N/N CEA N/N**

Litter is planned for the spring of 2016. Expect high energy active performance pups suited to experienced competitors in all the rings. Both have proven themselves in conformation under Sr. Breeder Judges. Both are pursuing titles in rally, Sporting Scent Detection, obedience, conformation, tracking..

FMI contact Leah Swatko - ministik@xplornet.com

Tucker Creek Australian Shepherds presents...

The 2014 CNASAA Top Herding Dog

*CN Tucker Creek's Ocean's Thirteen Had Hisc
"Salt"*



Salt is 5 years old, bred by Tanya and Madison Wheeler at Tucker Creek Farm, and proudly owned, trained and loved by Madison Wheeler. She brought me to the end of my Junior Handling Career where I received the ASCA Cee Hambo Scholarship, as well as the Above and Beyond Junior Award. She is on her way to her WTCH and her HA in all 3 classes of stock. She has her Canadian Championship and 1 5pt major towards her ASCA championship.

What's next?...

This fall we are planning to breed her to "Tucker Creek's Thunder Bolt" - Bolt.





Aleshanee is
proud to present
our newest
CKC
Grand
Champion



UKC Ch
CKC Grand Ch
Aleshanee
Stargazer

Novacoast Australian Shepherds

*HOF Kennel II
Aussies that can do it all!*



Breeders: Angela Slauenwhite & Collin Veinot

Can.Ch.Windmill's Life in the Fast Lane

HIT, ADC, SGDC, AG.N, CGN, CRNCL, CRNT,RPT,BDD,DD,DDX

SIRE: HOF ASCA Ch UKC Gr Ch Western Hills Got My Mind Set on U

OTDs STDcd OFTDs RS-N JS-O GS-N RN PT DNA-VP

X

DAM: Ch.Evergreen's Irish Blessing

OTDsd, STDc-DNA-CP



Rowdy will be offered at stud to limited number of females.

Information can be found on his webpage.

He is a high drive boy and currently has a litter of 7 lovely puppies.

*Pictures can be found on the Performance Plus Australian Shepherd
fb page*

www.k9101.ca Bev Hurst

Ch Novacoast Untold Secret

“Bella”



*Handled by Megan Kelly
Owned by Talemeer Aussies, Prince Edward Island*

Ritcheiver Kennels
is proud to announce their upcoming litter expected
September 23rd, 2015

Both Parents are ASCA, AKC & CKC registered & OFA'd



Sire: Touchstone Spirit Quest

"Chip"

Dam: Touchstone Spirit Wolf PCD CD RN

"Salsa"

Salsa comes from strong working lines and Chip from show and working lines
We are expecting excellent pets for an active lifestyle, performance sports or
herding, available to approved homes only.

Bonnitta Ritchie, Ritcheiver Kennels, Reg'd
ritcheiverknnls@msn.com
Box 45, Tagish, VT V08 ITO

Codence & Quarry



***Watch for this team in the juniors ring in the
Maritime provinces***

CH. ZYDECO'S FUZZY FIRECRACKER OF SHALAKO

New Champion!

Thank you
Judge Margaret Jones
New Brunswick Kennel Club Show



EMBER

ALWAY OWNER HANDLED BY LISA AND STEPHEN DAHR
BRED BY ANDREA TORRES (ZYDECO) AND SHELLEY HOLLEN-WOOD (SHALAKO)

WIN CO N L I N E D E S I G N

MULTI GROUP WINNING, MULTI HIT GCH GARRISON'S BLACK POWDER, RAE, CD, TT

Gunner earned his RAE in 10 straight trials with all 1st and 2nd place in classes wins.

Completed RAE under Judge Susan Bell
Currently #1 Aussie in the country,
#4 Herding Breed, #14 in Canada overall
(In Rally Obedience)

Also - completed his Novice title
in Obedience - CD with Multi High in Trials

The image is a composite celebrating a dog named Gunner. At the top is a large, close-up portrait of an Australian Shepherd with black, white, and tan markings. Below this, on the left, a woman in a leopard-print jacket holds a large blue and white rosette. On the right, another woman in a pink and black patterned top sits next to the dog. The dog is lying on a wooden box. In front of the dog are several blue and white award ribbons. To the left of the dog is a small plaque that reads "VIALE & NORRIS SHOW PHOTOGRAPHY" and "HALIFAX KENNEL CLUB". Below the plaque is a small table with two columns: "Rally" and "New Title". Under "Rally" is "R. A. E." and under "New Title" is "HIGH IN TRIAL". At the bottom of the image, the word "GUNNER" is written in large, stylized, metallic letters. Below the name, there is a line of small text: "ALWAYS BREEDER/OWNER HANDLED BY LISA DAHR - GARRISON AUSTRALIAN SHEPHERDS - LISA & STEPHEN DAHR - DARTMOUTH, N.S. DAHR@EASTLINK.CA - WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/LISA.DAHR". At the very bottom, in even smaller text, it says "WIN & ONLINE DESIGN".

HALIFAX KENNEL CLUB

Rally	New Title
R. A. E.	HIGH IN TRIAL

GUNNER

ALWAYS BREEDER/OWNER HANDLED BY LISA DAHR -
GARRISON AUSTRALIAN SHEPHERDS - LISA & STEPHEN DAHR - DARTMOUTH, N.S.
DAHR@EASTLINK.CA - WWW.FACEBOOK.COM/LISA.DAHR

WIN & ONLINE DESIGN

CNASA Quarterly – Fall 2015

Member Business Cards



Performance Plus Australian Shepherds

www.k9101.ca/aussies.html

Bev Hurst

613-678-2553

Puppies Occasionally

Reservations Recommended

plusaussies@gmail.com

Agility

Herding

Disc Dog

Obedience

Conformation

Until
Next
Time...

