



The Sheltie Seanachie

Summer 2020

www.potomacvalleyshetlandsheepdogclub.org

The Potomac Valley Shetland Sheepdog Club, Inc.

Serving the Greater Washington Metropolitan Region (DC-MD-VA) since 1972

PVSSC 2020 OFFICERS

Donna Richards, President
Rich Gurney, Vice President
Fran Beacham, Recording Secretary
Cathie Skoog, Corresponding Secretary
Jack Gurney, Treasurer

Members of the Board

Patrick Keough Sandra Green

NEXT MEETING: AUGUST 17

Under Virginia Phase Two guidelines PVSSC plans to resume meetings at the Dunn Loring Fire House (2148 Gallows Road, Dunn Loring, VA) on our regularly scheduled August 17 meeting date.

Social distancing will be imposed and there will be cleaning supplies, etc. People who are sick or have been sick or at-risk should stay home.

In line with AKC recommended guidelines, NO REFRESHMENTS will be provided.

Meetings are open to the public. The Potomac Valley Shetland Sheepdog Club welcomes Sheltie breeders and fanciers, including those interested in conformation and performance events, and pet and Sheltie Rescue owners.

PVSSC EVENTS

Meeting and Events originally scheduled through July have been canceled or are in the process of being rescheduled due to the COVID-19 pandemic and stay-at-home orders.

- The Bark Rangers National Parks event originally scheduled for April 26 was canceled by the Park Service. We will notify if rescheduled.
- The June Conformation Show at Doswell, VA was canceled. The AKC applied the fees we have paid to our 2021 show.
- The picnic planned for June was postponed to the early fall.
- The Herding Trials, scheduled for October 31 at Keepstone Farms have been cancelled. We are planning to hold our Herding Trials in 2121 as scheduled.

KEY TOPICS IN THIS ISSUE



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Get Well

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Send your brags and notices to
cathieskoog@verizon.net



COVID-19 AND YOUR PETS

The World Health Organization (WHO) recently published the following regarding animals:

Several dogs and cats (domestic cats and tigers) in contact with infected humans have tested positive for COVID-19. In addition, ferrets appear to be susceptible to the infection. In experimental conditions, both cats and ferrets were able to transmit infection to other animals of the same species. However, there is no evidence that these animals can transmit the disease to humans and spread COVID-19. COVID-19 is mainly spread through droplets produced when an infected person coughs, sneezes, or speaks.

Minks raised in farms have also been detected with the virus. Most likely, they have been infected by farm workers. In a few instances, the minks that were infected by humans have transmitted the virus to other people. These are the first reported cases of animal-to-human transmission.

It is still recommended that people who are sick with COVID-19 and people who are at risk limit contact with companion and other animals. When handling and caring for animals, basic hygiene measures should always be implemented. This includes hand washing after handling animals, their food or supplies, as well as avoiding kissing, licking or sharing food.

The WHO is working closely with the World Organisation for Animal Health (OIE). The OIE website offers information and recommendations: [OIE Q&As](#). WHO continues to monitor the latest research on this and other COVID-19 topics and will update as new findings are available at their website. A Q&A section can be found at: [WHO Q&A](#)



SOCIAL DISTANCING

Maribeth Keitz 's Cowboy is a responsible Sheltie – he practices Social Distancing

COVID-19 TOILET PAPER SHORTAGE

It is a good thing Sandra and Cliff Green had plenty of toilet paper at their house during the early stages of the pandemic. Tobin and Pilot were unaware of the shortage that was occurring in our country as people began hoarding toilet paper. They had a good time! After this "fun" time, Sandra and Cliff remembered to close the powder room door!!



From the AKC Library

How to Keep Your Dog Calm During Fourth of July Fireworks

By Teresa Traverse

The Fourth of July is coming up, meaning many dog owners will be dealing with howling, barking, and generally anxious dogs. It's largely believed that Independence Day is the day when the highest number of dogs run away. But just what are the dogs afraid of?

"It can be the smell. It can be the noise and the flashes of the light," says Judy Morgan, DVM, of Dr. Judy Morgan's Naturally Healthy Pets based in Woodstown, New Jersey. Your dog may "tremble, shake, shiver, howl, and bark — some of them get frantic.



If you are unsure of how your new dog might react, Morgan says that pups that don't cope well during thunderstorms are likely to get scared of fireworks. The good news is that there are steps you can take to help your dog. Here are nine expert-approved tips to prevent your dog from freaking out during fireworks.

1. Keep Your Dog Away From Fireworks: "First of all, don't take your dogs to fireworks shows," says Morgan. "And don't leave them outside during fireworks." Keeping your dog inside in the evening on the Fourth of July is the best idea, especially if you fear they might not react well.

2. Make Sure Your Pet Has Proper ID: Ensure that the information on your pet's collar is current, is microchipped and has a GPS device. "If they escape, there's a better chance they'll get returned," says Morgan.

3. Create a Safe Haven For Your Dog: Morgan recommends creating a place where your dog will (hopefully) feel comfortable. "You should get your pet used to a calming environment beforehand. Dogs are den animals — they're looking for that cave to get away from it all." Try setting up an area in a quiet space away from windows — such as a basement or a larger closet — so that they can't hear or see fireworks. Use a crate if that's where your dog feels safe, and make sure to provide your pup with familiar toys and treats.

4. Play White Noise: You can try leaving a fan, TV, or radio on to help mask the sounds of the fireworks. "There's some classical music called 'Through A Dog's Ear' that has been shown to have calming effects for dogs."

5. Comfort Your Dog: If you can, try staying home with your dog or in the hands of a trusted person. One of Morgan's relatives usually stays with her dog in the closet to help soothe the animal.

"You absolutely can and should comfort your dog if he's afraid," says Stanley. "The key here is in how you do so. It's important to remain calm and use a soothing, even tone. Petting them can be comforting — long, slow, firm strokes along the length of their body are typically very soothing."

The one thing to avoid? Seeming frantic in any way. Rapidly saying, "It's OK, it's OK, it's OK" in a higher-than-average pitch may make your dog think that there really is something to fear. Try your best to remain calm and reassuring to help your canine companion.

6. Walk Them Before the Fireworks Start: Head out for your long walk before the sun sets to increase the chances that you'll avoid the sounds. When you do go out, you'll want to ensure your dog is secure on a leash before your walk. "Double-check the fit of your dog's collar or harness before going outside. A leash, even if you have a fenced-in area, is a great added safety measure to help keep your dog close to you and under control should they get startled," says Stanley.

7. Desensitize Your Dog to the Sounds of Fireworks: If you suspect your dog will freak out at the sound of fireworks, try playing sounds of fireworks (softly) so your dog is used to hearing them. Try pairing a video of the sounds of fireworks with a treat your dog likes, suggests Stanley, in a process called counter-conditioning.

"The volume should be low enough that your dog can notice it, but does not show signs of stress like panting, pacing, leaving the area or trying to hide," says Stanley. "We call this keeping the dog 'below threshold,' and it makes it possible for learning to take place. If the dog is overwhelmed, they're looking to escape the situation and are not going to be nearly as capable of learning that it's not a threat." Her other tips including increasing the volume gradually, varying the source of the sound, and using different recordings.

8. Talk to Your Vet: If your pet's anxiety is severe, consider booking an appointment with your vet so you can discuss a medication that could help soothe your dog's anxiety. "If you have a dog that is bad enough and you haven't done any prep work, and you know your pet is going to be in panic, try true therapeutic treatment," says Morgan.

9. Consider Hiring a Trainer: If fear is negatively impacting your pup's life, consider enlisting the expertise of a trainer, says Stanley. "You can work with a trainer or behavior consultant to desensitize your dog to fireworks or other fears gradually — it's never too soon to start planning for next year."

DON'T LEAVE YOUR PET IN THE CAR

The inside of a parked vehicle in 70-degree weather can reach 100 degrees in just 20 minutes.

Dogs in hot cars can suffer from potentially fatal heat stroke in as little as 15 minutes.

Dogs die in hot cars as they can overheat very quickly and struggle to cool themselves down, even when a window has been left open or water has been left in the car.

Hundreds of pets die from car-related heat stroke each year. The issue is so important that 28 states have laws restricting people from leaving their pets unattended in vehicles. Some laws ban the practice outright, while others protect law enforcement officers and citizens if they break into cars to rescue pets.

It's Hot Out!

Don't Leave Your Pet in the Car!



A car can overheat **even** when the window has been left cracked an inch or two.



Young, overweight or elderly animals, or those with short muzzles or thick or dark-colored coats are **most at risk** for overheating.



Shady spots offer **little** protection on hot days, and move with the sun.

90°

Even if the temperature outside is only 70°, the inside of your car may be as much as 20 degrees hotter!

102°

On an 85° day, it only takes ten minutes for the inside of your car to reach 102°.

120°

Within just 30 minutes, the car's interior can climb from 85° to a scorching 120°.



Many states and local governments have laws that prohibit leaving an animal unattended in a motor vehicle under dangerous conditions, which includes hot days. Your car could be damaged or you could be charged with a crime.

ASPCA

If you see an animal trapped in a car on a hot day, try to locate the owner or call 911! **Stay by the car until assistance arrives.**



MOLLIE

12/22/2007 – 6/15/2020

VTCh UACHX ARCHX TALIESIN GOOD GOLLY MISS MOLLIE TT CD RAE HIAd HSAdM AJP OJP NAJ NJP AXP OAP
NA OFP NFP RATO RATN CGC URO2 URO1 AG3 AG2 AG1 RLX3 RLV RL3 RL2 RL1

It was with a sad heart that Mike and Cathie Skoog helped their dear Mollie cross over the Rainbow Bridge on Monday, June 15, 2020. Mollie was 10 weeks old when they picked her up from PVSSC member/breeder Linda & Dan McClure. Mollie was smart, loved to work and thoroughly enjoyed being in the ring performing - she was an All Around Sheltie.



KATIE

Deepest sympathy is extended to Karen and Kenny Schwartz at the passing of their sweet, Katie. Katie will be long remembered for her love of agility and her sweet personality. Katie crossed the Rainbow Bridge in early June.



Northern Virginia Sheltie Rescue Calendars

If you have a 2020 Northern Virginia Sheltie Rescue Calendar did you notice that the June Rescue featured is Miles. Miles belongs to PVSSC member Melinda Mackenzie-Hall.

NVSR is collecting photos until July 31 of Sheltie Rescues. If you have an NVSR dog, consider entering photos of your rescue. Details on how to enter are at NVSR.org.

You might consider purchasing a 2021 calendar. The funds received from the sale of the calendars significantly help offset expenses of the organization. The 2021 calendars will go on sale in mid-September.

BIRTHDAYS

Nancy Hansbrough Celebrated two Sheltie Birthdays in May

Archer celebrated her 3rd birthday on May 30



Patches celebrated her 2nd birthday on May 21

Pam & Jeffrey Leiter and Judy Bienvenu also celebrated the 2nd birthday of Tipper and Mac
Lilian Yeh Forsyth, Fairbrook Shelties, was the breeder of Patches, Tipper and Mac



Tipper



Mac

Cynthia and Bob Reddersen's Harper and Gage celebrated birthdays in June



Harper turned 3 years old on June 4



Gage turned 6 years old on June 16

Cathie and Mike Skoog celebrated two Sheltie birthdays



Taliesin Midnight Train to Georgia (Savannah) celebrated her 10th birthday on May 18



Merlyn Hullston The Stratovarius Black Diamond (Annie) turned 4 years old on June 23

Marilyn Manser and Rich Gurney celebrated Callum's 1st birthday



Callum

Callum has reached about 21 lbs., a little larger than anticipated. He continues to be very energetic; he hasn't caught a rabbit yet, but has come close. Members may recall that at the Club Christmas party he enjoyed chasing and fetching back a ball, a little unusual for a Sheltie. If anything he has gotten more addicted to this, sometimes pestering us to keep throwing. Corey, 12 years old, plays with him some, but can put the youngster in his place with a glance if he feels like it.

GET WELL WISHES TO COREY

Marilyn Manser and Rich Gurney's 12 year old Corey continues to take oral chemotherapy medication for his bladder cancer and so far appears in good condition. He shortly will go in for more testing to learn the disease status. We are hopeful that his surgery and medicine made a big difference. Below are photos of Corey playing with his younger brother, Callum.



MEET-UP

At the April PVSSC Board Meeting it was decided NOT to renew Meet-Up. The board felt the subscription costs to the club did not justify continuing the service at this time.

JOIN PVSSC ON SOCIAL MEDIA

[PVSSC Facebook Page](#)

[PVSSC Herding Facebook Page](#)

[PVSSC Obedience Rally Facebook Page](#)

PVSSC WEBSITE

<http://www.potomacvalleyshetlandsheepdogclub.org/>

TO EMAIL ANY PVSSC OFFICER OR BOARD MEMBER

Send email to PVSSC.Shelties@gmail.com

THE SHELTYE SEANACHIE

The Sheltie Seanachie will be published bimonthly. The newsletter will continue to provide a forum for sharing information, discussing issues concerning the breed, AKC information and club activities.

Email brags and other items for the newsletter to Cathie at cathieskoog@verizon.net

The Newsletter is sent to members and friends preceding the meeting. Back issues of The Seanachie are available on the PVSSC website:

www.potomacvalleyshetlandsheepdogclub.org

PVSSC BREED REFERRAL

Looking for a Sheltie?

For information on obtaining a Sheltie, contact PVSSC members Jan Stanley or Doey Blount. They will work to find you the Sheltie that is right for you and your family.



Jan Stanley: 703-281-2828

SheltiesReign@gmail.com

Doey Blount: 301-567-3933

jimjandoey@aol.com

New CONTACT Information??

Make sure your contact is current.

Let PVSSC know if you have a new email address, or any other changes. We want to make sure you don't miss a single issue of The Sheltie Seanachie.



Send any changes to the Corresponding Secretary at PVSSC.Shelties@gmail.com