

Potomac Valley Shetland Sheepdog Club, Inc.

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



The Sheltie Seanachie

February-March 2016

www.potomacvalleyshetlandsheepdogclub.org



2016 Officers

Mike O'Shea, President
mgoshea@potgold.com

Karen Schwartz, Vice President
Fran Beacham, Recording Secretary
Donna Richards, Corresponding Secretary
Jack Gurney, Treasurer

Members of the Board

Nancy D'Souza Ken Schwartz

PVSSC MONTHLY MEETINGS

Monthly meetings are held on the 3rd Monday at 7:30 pm at the Dunn Loring Fire House (2148 Gallows Rd, Dunn Loring, VA) except for March and July (no meetings) and December (Holiday Party). **NEXT MEETING is February 15.**

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.

THE SHELTYE SEANACHIE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Donna Richards, Editor

The Sheltie Seanachie is the Club's Monthly Newsletter. It provides a forum for sharing information, discussing issues concerning the breed, and club activities.

Send brags and other items for the newsletter to the editor at dlrcpa@verizon.net or mail to Donna Richards, 1591 N Village Rd, Reston, VA 20194. The Newsletter is sent to members and friends preceding the meeting. If you would like to be added to our distribution list, please email the above address. Back issues of The Seanachie are available on the PVSSC website.

February Meeting

February's program will feature a representative from a dog food company. This should be very useful information so be sure to attend.

We are assembling gift baskets to be raffled at the specialty in March. If you have suitable items please bring them to the February meeting. Baskets containing bottles of wine and gourmet food items are very popular so please consider this during your next shopping trip. Suggestions were provided in last month's newsletter.

Please submit your program suggestions to the board. We are also looking for people to work on or assist in setting up speakers on topics of general interest to Sheltie owners.

Reminder: there is no March meeting planned because the Specialty is that month.

Westminster Dog Show Feb 15-16 Agility Championship Feb 13

Video summary coverage of this year's Westminster show will be on CNBC Monday 2/15 8pm-11pm and USA Tuesday 2/16 8-11pm.

Masters Agility Championship coverage Saturday 2/13 on FOX-Sports 1 8-10pm.

There is also live internet streaming Monday and Tuesday 8am-5pm.

<http://www.westminsterkennelclub.org/2016/show/tv.html>

H3N2 Update

See the map for states now reporting cases of H3N2 CIV. Merck and Zoetis have been granted conditional licenses to market vaccine and may be available through your vet.

http://www.doginfluenza.com/States/states_with_civ.asp

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Member News

Doey Blount has been in touch with Sallie Engel who now lives in Arizona with her son and family. Sallie and her husband Wilson (now deceased) were PVSSC members in 2007 and lived in Annandale, VA. Sallie had two of Doey's puppies: Chrissie and Savannah. Unfortunately, both Chrissie and Savannah had to be put down for liver ailment and kennel cough respectively.

Search Dogs Assist Bear Study

An article in Science News Daily describes the use of Labrador Retrievers and German Shepherds trained by Working Dogs for Conservation to locate bear scat and map out likely territories for grizzly bear relocation. Grizzlies and black bears use similar habitats but at different times. By mapping scat locations, the study found that distances

PVSSC Brags

Maribeth Keitz's Fiver earned her AKC Herding Championship on January 3, 2016 at Keepstone Farm in Berryville, VA. She is now HC Faerie's Fifth Dimension. Maribeth is very proud of her.

between roads were a definite factor in the bears' habitat preference.

Take time to check out the Working Dogs for Conservation web site and learn about the fascinating work these dogs do. <http://wd4c.org/>

<http://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2016/01/160114164733.htm>

Hound Runs Half-Marathon

This article was a favorite around the national news in late January. A canine let out into the yard to take care of business wandered to the start of a half-marathon race and then proceeded to complete the entire course with the runners.

<http://www.runnersworld.com/running-with-dogs/hound-bandits-half-marathon-in-alabama>

Dog Yoga World Record

270 dogs and owners in Hong Kong recently surpassed the 2015 record of 265 dogs and owners in San Diego for a group dog and people yoga session.

<http://www.doyouyoga.com/world-record-set-for-largest-dog-yoga-class-in-hong-kong-11827/>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1MTPH1gMD_k&feature=player_embedded



Not Snowbound

What do Shelties do when the snow is taller than they are? Of course they wait for their owner to shovel a private walking trail for them.



AKC Announces Agility Course Test

The AKC Agility Department is excited to announce the launch of a new, beginning level agility program called ACT (Agility Course Test). The ACT program officially launches on March 1, 2016.

This program is designed to introduce beginning dogs and handlers to the sport of agility. There are two classes – ACT 1 and ACT2. Clubs and trainers can adopt the ACT classes as the graduation exercise for their training classes to be held at their facility thus providing their students a familiar and comfortable setting. The ring size requirements are small enough that ACT classes can be held in many training facilities across the country. In addition to preparing for these introductory classes, exhibitors will learn to do things such as to enter an AKC event, check-in at the ring, prepare for their run, and handle their dog while under judgment. We hope that clubs and trainers will use these classes as learning experiences.

There are several elements of the ACT program that are different from AKC Agility Trials.

- Eligibility to enter: This program is for dogs that do not have an AKC Agility title at the Novice level or higher. Dogs may enter ACT2 without having an ACT1 title. Dogs that are not registered/listed with the AKC may participate and their performance will be recorded under a temporary recording number. Owners will receive a letter from the AKC explaining how they can register their dogs. Application to be listed as a Canine Partner may be accepted at the test and submitted with the results.
- Judges/Evaluators: All AKC agility judges may judge the ACT classes. In addition, we will be setting up a system for trainers and experienced participants to become ACT evaluators. Evaluators may judge ACT classes. There will be an application, online test and nominal fee to become an evaluator. More information about becoming an ACT evaluator will be available within the next couple of weeks.
- Holding ACT events: Any AKC agility judge/ACT evaluator may hold a stand-alone ACT event. The event does not have to be held by an AKC licensed club. AKC agility clubs may hold ACT events in conjunction with their trials if they desire.
- Jump Heights: No jump height card is required to enter an ACT class. Handlers are encouraged to have their dogs jump at the appropriate height that will help them prepare for AKC Agility trials.
- Event Applications: Clubs or judges/evaluators do not need to file an application for ACT events; there will be no application fee. A \$5.00 per entry recording fee for all dogs entered will be submitted with the results.
- Courses: Evaluators and judges will need to submit their courses for review; however, courses may be reused, which we encourage for ease of administration.
- Titles: Dogs must receive two passing scores to earn each of the ACT titles. Dogs are required to be fully registered/listed in order to be awarded a title.

There will be an ACT page on the AKC website where forms and information can be accessed. We have also set up a mailbox for the ACT program act@akc.org. ACT related questions can be sent to this mailbox. Please see the regulations and other information as it becomes available on the ACT web page that can be accessed through the [Agility Home Page](#).

We are looking forward to working with clubs, trainers and evaluators to introduce new exhibitors to the sport of agility.

The AKC Agility Department

PVSSC OBEDIENCE-RALLY TRIALS

PVSSC will host our annual 48 & 49th Obedience and our 17 & 18th Rally Trials the weekend of **February 6 and 7, 2016**. The trials will be held at the Catoctin Kennel Club Training Facility in Point of Rocks, Maryland

Judges

Obedience: Donald A. Levinson of Alexandria, VA
Rally: Laurie Williams of Fredericksburg, VA.

Classes Offered

Obedience (A&B)

Beginner Novice,
Novice, Open,
Utility and
UDX



Rally (A&B)

Novice, Advanced,
Excellent and
RAE



To Volunteer: contact the Cathie Skoog
Volunteers receive a complimentary lunch and/or snacks
There will be a volunteers' raffle table



Some of PVSSC Volunteers for the 2015 Trials (Thank You!)

Grand Championship Levels Become Titles

Effective April 1, 2016 the Grand Championship levels will become titles. The change will be retroactive to the beginning of the program. Dogs that earned an achievement level (Bronze, Silver, Gold, or Platinum) in the past, will have it officially added on their record. Going forward, title certificates will be issued when a dog achieves the required points needed. Additionally, dogs can earn multiple levels of the Grand Champion Platinum title for every 800 GCH points earned. This will be displayed by a multiplier such as GCHP2. Below is a simple table of the new title abbreviations and the number of points needed for the title.

Title	Abbreviation	GCH Points Needed
Grand Champion Bronze	GCHB	100
Grand Champion Silver	GCHS	200
Grand Champion Gold	GCHG	400
Grand Champion Platinum	GCHP	800

Please contact the Event Operations department at eventplans@akc.org with any questions or comments.

Thanks to Our Judges

Rally judge Laurie Williams of Fredericksburg, VA has previously visited PVSSC club meetings to talk about her experiences. She was featured on the 2008 reality TV program Greatest American Dog with her Maltese Andrew. The series can be purchased and viewed from Amazon. Laurie is the owner of PupNiron Canine Fitness and Learning <http://www.pupniron.com/home>
You may also enjoy her blog.
<http://www.pupniron.com/laurie-s-blog>

Judge Donald Levinson of Alexandria was nominated for AKC's Lifetime Achievement award in 2015. He has been judging Obedience since 1985 and is a member of Mount Vernon Dog Training Club and Potomac Valley Doberman Pinscher Club.
<http://www.akc.org/about/awards-and-honors/lifetime-achievement/nominees/>

We're lucky to have these two great judges nearby.

Cinnamon Honey Dog Treats

Ingredients

1 1/2 cup Whole Wheat Flour
1/2 cup Milk
1 teaspoon Cinnamon
2 tablespoons Honey

Directions

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Grease cookie sheets.
In a bowl add all ingredients and mix until well combined.
Knead dough into ball and roll onto a floured surface to 1/4" thickness and cut to desired shapes Bake for 15 minutes or until browned at the edges. Cool and refrigerate.

Signs of Canine Heart Disease

For Valentine's Day, be reminded of these signs of heart disease as applied to dogs.

- Coughing
- Changes in breathing
- Changes in behavior
- Poor appetite
- Weight loss or gain
- Fainting, collapsing, weakness
- Restlessness, especially at night
- Swollen abdomen or edema

<https://www.yourdogsheart.com/diagnosis-and-detection/heart-disease-symptoms.html>



Does Green Tea Benefit Dogs?

Having just suffered a cold, I was wondering if green tea would benefit dogs. Few scientific studies to date are available. Several vendors are proponents of giving our dogs decaffeinated green tea, and even go so far as to market pre-packaged blends designed specifically for canines.

Woof & Brew, Ltd. Company located in the U.K. launched its line of teas and was featured at Crufts in 2014.

<http://woofandbrew.com/>

The ASPCA recommends against tea products because of the caffeine. Any teas should be decaffeinated and given cautiously in small amounts. An early study involving 32 beagles and green tea extract dosing via capsules to fasting dogs was terminated early because of the high mortality rates observed. A later study using non-fasted dogs did not observe the same problem. Of course the extract concentration and dosing in these experiments was much higher than would occur in normal usage. The benefits of green tea seem to merit further study.

<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/21098339>

What about Echinacea? The answer seems to be "it depends". Like people, a dog's immune system may be temporarily boosted by echinacea, but stops responding if receiving it long-term. If a stressful event or period is expected, then giving echinacea prior to that may be helpful. It is recommended that dogs with auto-immune disorders or allergies need to be especially cautious and always discuss supplements with your vet.

<http://dosemypet.com/dosage/for-dogs/echinacea/>

<http://www.dogsnaturallymagazine.com/can-echinacea-boost-your-dogs-immune-system/>

<http://www.dr Schoen.com/echinacea-and-other-herbal-immunostimulants-for-pets/>

Jigsaw Puzzles Online

I discovered jigsaw puzzles you can play on the internet. There are numerous pictures of dogs, nature and art. This one is of a Sheltie.

<http://www.jigzone.com/puzzles/C0055D5576A3>

And another virtual puzzle with a picture of a Sheltie.

<http://www.adog.co.uk/jigsaw/sheltie-puzzle-dogs.html>

How We Define “Cute”

This December article in Psychology Today addresses how the “cuteness” factor influences our relationships with our dogs. While researchers have been using methods to quantify our attachment to our dogs and our dogs’ attachment to us, there is no comparable scale or method to assign how cute a dog is. “Cute” is defined as appealing, delightful and charming. All descriptions certainly applicable to Shelties.

The Australian researchers asked the participants to evaluate their dog’s personality and assign an attachment factor to their relationship. These studies have been conducted before and are relatively standardized. However, these owners were also asked to assign a cuteness factor on a scale of 1 to 6.

The study found that the owner’s valuation of the dog’s cuteness and the “training focus” personality factors had a statistically significant (but not high) correlation to degree of attachment. The researchers called this “the tendency for modern dog owners to report stronger relationships with dogs they perceive to be cute.”

The participants of the first study were invited to send photographs of their dogs. In a second study, hundreds of unrelated participants were asked to evaluate the cuteness of 42 of the photographs. Surprisingly, there was not much correlation between the general opinion of any dog’s cuteness factor with the owner’s assessment of attachment. Not surprising, most of the dogs were rated cuter by their owner than by the general study population. Those dogs rated as “cute” by the study non-owner participants were more likely to be perceived as “nice or amicable.”

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/blog/animals-and-us/201512/heres-why-your-dog-might-not-be-cute-you-think>

New Subaru Commercials

If you loved the Subaru commercials featuring the dog family “The Barkleys” you will enjoy watching the new videos introduced this year that will be featured on Puppy Bowl VII.

<http://www.orvis.com/news/dogs/videos-the-barkleys-are-back/>

Urine Collection and Bladder Stones

Owners of diabetic pets can appreciate how important this is. We had an elderly diabetic cat some years ago and tested his urine several times a week. Routine, treats, and a coffee scoop taped to the end of a wooden dowel were the solution to the problem. In the case of our Shelties, the process moves to the outdoors. Here are some tips:

<http://www.petful.com/pet-health/taking-a-dog-urine-sample/>

<http://www.pedigree.com/all-things-dog/article-library/how-to-collect-a-urine-sample-for-the-vet.aspx>

Now go select a clean container to set aside and LABEL it. Or you may get one from your vet to keep on hand so you are prepared whenever you think there might be a need.

Although Shelties are not one of the breeds at high risk for bladder stones, here are two very informative videos that discuss the causes and symptoms and treatments of bladder stones. Frequent urine testing is recommended in these breeds and some dogs with other specific medical problems.

<http://healthypets.mercola.com/sites/healthypets/archive/2011/03/29/protecting-your-pet-dog-from-life-threatening-bladder-stones.aspx>

<http://healthypets.mercola.com/sites/healthypets/archive/2013/09/09/struvite-stones.aspx>

<http://healthypets.mercola.com/sites/healthypets/archive/2015/07/29/dog-urinalysis.aspx>

Pet Passports

I had to renew my passport recently. Wouldn’t this be handy for our dogs? Surprisingly, there is such a thing. The system is called PETS for “Pet Travel Scheme” and is being adopted in Europe, the United States, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. This is not yet standardized but we seem to be making progress in the right direction.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pet_passport

<http://www.pettravel.com/immigration/unitedstates.cfm>

https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/importexport/sa/animals/sa_pet_travel

Here are the regulations for Canada for example:

https://www.aphis.usda.gov/regulations/vs/iregs/animals/downloads/ca_cn.pdf

Do YOU Have a NEW Email Address?

Send email address changes to
Donna Richards, PVSSC
Corresponding Secretary at
dlrcpa@verizon.net to
assure you receive club news.



February Events

- PSSC Obedience and Rally Trials February 6-7
- PVSSC Meeting February 15
- Westminster televised events February 13-16

Meeting Refreshments

Fran Beacham is our Refreshment Coordinator. *Thanks to everyone who volunteered refreshments for 2016*

2016

February meeting – Maribeth Keitz
April meeting – the Greens
May meeting – Cathie Skoog
June meeting – Debbie Lauritzen
August meeting – the Reddersens
September meeting – Marilyn Manser
October meeting – the O'Sheas
November meeting – Donna Richards

Reminder, beverages are not provided; water is available and there is a water/soda machine.

PVSSC Breed Referral Services

For information on
puppy and adult Shelties,
contact PVSSC members



Jan Stanley

703-281-2828

janstanley@verizon.net

or

Doey Blount

301-567-3933

jimjandoey@aol.com

Northern Virginia Sheltie Rescue (NVSR)



NVSR rescues, rehabilitates, and places lost, abused, and abandoned Shelties where they will be loved, protected, and well cared for.

Visit the NVSR Website <http://www.nvsr.org/> to find out about activities, dogs for adoption, to support their activities, or even to see how you can volunteer!

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