



Spring 2007

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### Tracking Get-Together Feb. 2007

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Ten Club members came out to track on this cold and windy day. The dogs had a good time and after tracking we went to Tim Horton's to warm up. We now go every Friday evenings and it will be starting at 6:00 pm now that we have more daylight. Come join us when you can. The Executives do try to be there every week but occasionally have to miss a get-together. We're at the South East corner of Markham Rd. and McNicoll behind the 1st building at the hydro fields. The Spring time rainy days doesn't keep us away from tracking.

### April showers at the field.

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May 13th was CCTC's 1st Urban test. We had two dogs entered but no passes.  
From squirrels and hot dog buns in the park to 10 year old boys warming up running and jumping before their soccer game on the track, you just never know what will happen.  
Next time we hope all goes well.

Then we went on to the 9 TD dogs entered and we had four Pass !! Congratulations to them.  
We had tracks in very lush thick grass and some in sparse grass.  
It was about 15 degrees out and sunny with a moderate wind.

**We had Jack Wilhelm for our judge.**

Here are the lucky ones.

**1- Rivergreen Tendam Tufflove TD. GSD (F)**

John & Audrey Tendam of Norwood Ontario.

**2- Uva Von Lucescu TD. GSD (F)**

Michael Adams of Cantley Quebec.

**3- Calime Amarcord TD. GSD (F)**

Lisa Frederick of Orillia Ontario.

**4- Rochill's Ironstone Von Esmond TD. Rottweiler (M)**

Mylene LeBland-Hardy & Preston Hardy of Saltspings Nova Scotia.

Thanks for all the help from Club members !!!!

Track layers were; Susie Coutts, Peggy Masanotti, Susan Dubois, Candy Rennie, Maryke Warwick, Eileen Fisher, Jackie Meharg, Shirley Kong and myself Marie-P.Babin.

We had our great lunch as usual brought to our headquarter by Club members and thanks to Bev and her son for letting us use the office.



## Gone But Not Forgotten



**Jerryru's Acceptable Risk (Legend), CGC. FMCh (May 1, 2001 - April 16, 2007)**

You burst into our lives like a rocket and lived your life with the same passion and energy. When it was time to go you raced to that new adventure as you had raced to every other new adventure in your life. You left us far too soon but live on in our hearts and souls. Victoria and the Army of Darkness (Phantom and Courage & Dragon and Legend -from the Rainbow Bridge)

Victoria Vidal-Ribas



**BISS Ch. Victory's Wire Me Money (August 24, 1994 - April 30, 2007)**

Known by his best friends around the world "Cash" was one of those once in a lifetime dogs. Almost at birth I knew that this was the dog for me and from the time he came into our home as a fat little eight week old puppy until we held him in our arms as he crossed over the bridge he never once disappointed us or let us down.

Intelligent beyond words he constantly proved himself over and over in both the conformation ring, as a stud muffin and of course the most important job he had being our best friend.

"Cash" was the top Standard Wire-Haired Dachshund in 1997 and thrilled everyone who knew and loved him by not only winning Best in Specialty at the Dachshund Club of Greater Ontario specialty but his progeny stood side by side with him as he won Best Stud Dog. His daughter and son took home the honours at this show as well culminating one of the most exciting specialties I have ever attended. But "Cash" was so much more and it is impossible to summarize in a few words how special he really was. I can only say that there is a great big hole in Sharon's and my heart that will never completely heal....but then again....it never should.

Susan Skolnick and Sharon Ganton

## Members' Brags



< Rip

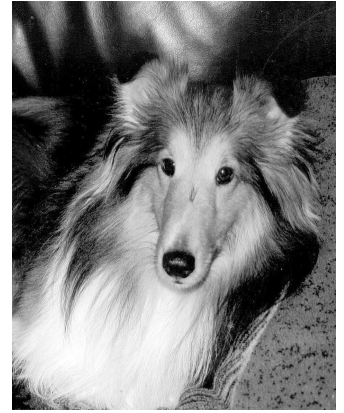
Ty >

Shetland Sheepdogs owned by Dorothy Phillips

**Autumngold Making Waves "Rip"**

Earned her Master Standard (special) SMADC

**Plails- Dream TY One On "Ty"** Earned Flyball title  
FDX

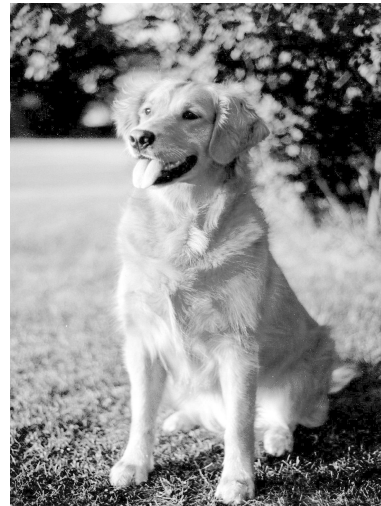


**Am /Cdn. CH Springhill Sorceress Am Cdn. CD**

Eng. Cocker Spaniel

"Lucy" earned her CD Feb. 2007

Owned by Bob and Anne Frost



**MOTCH Heron Acres Sand By Me. WC.**

"Mia" earned her MOTCH (Masters Obedience Trial Champion)

**OTCH Goldencol Moonlight Serenade Am. CDX Therapy Dog.**

"Sera" earned her OTCH (Obedience Trial Champion)

Golden Retrievers Owned by Irene Mullan.

## Members' Brags Cont'



**Talulla with her favorite toy steak after winning her Am. Championship**

Talulla finished her AKC Championship and went Best of Breed on October 7, 2006, exactly one month before Susan's 60th birthday, at the Fort Stueben Kennel Association show in Aliquippa, PA under Judge Mrs. Donna J. Buxton, of Kingwood Texas. She also took BOB the following day at the Beaver County Kennel Club show at the same location under Mr. Kenneth Buxton. She is now **Am Ch Araglin's Begorra Tuilelaith, AM CD, AMRN, AM RA, Cnd RN, CGC.** Irish Water Spaniel

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Very pleased to "brag" that Alice obtained her Am TD on Saturday May 5 at Bong State Park in Wisconsin. This was a TD/TDX test held in conjunction with the English Cocker Spaniel Club of America National Specialty which I attended last week in Wisconsin. The Weather was superb for tracking. Overcast, cool breeze, bit of dew on the grass, I wore my rain pants just to break the wind. Wind started gusting for TDX folks unfortunately. Alice WAS amazing-on to TDX! Alice obtained her Cdn TD last year at GSD Club of London Ont. with Terry Smith. Thx to Jane Book, who settled me down before I left and told me to "Just trust Alice, she'll pull you through". She did! "



Photo by Marge Schultz's husband  
**Carfrae Alice in Graceland AmCdn TD**



## Future Little Track-Layers



Margaret Cathers with her new son “Lucas”

Lucas Alexander Smith, born January 31, 2007



Laura Wright with her new daughter “Alison”

Alison Anne Wright born on March 11, 2007

## **New Little Trackers**



**Dorothy Phillips with “Zack”**

### **Grandgables Heroic Promise**

Zack has been doing some obedience and agility and has started tracking . He loves all types of dog sports. He was born Mar. 15, 2006



**Candy Rennie and “Jersey”**

### **Castlegar JG aka Jersey Girl**

Labrador Retriever

Jersey has started tracking and is enjoying finding all the treats. She was born Nov.06



**“Rosie”**

### **Jaymar Remember the Roses**

A new little Papillion girl for Ricki Abrams to train in many dog sports including obedience & tracking.

## Article written by Mary Thompson ( US Tracking Judge for TD,TDX,VST)

If you do too many straight tracks before you put a turn in, your dog will think he can only track in a straight line! In New England with the lush vegetation that we have, I do not walk back and forth on my corners to put down more scent. In most cases, it will only cause the dog to go wide on the turn to avoid all of the excess scent. In other parts of the country where grass is sparse to almost non-existent, I understand why people walk back and forth for 10 steps in each direction of the turn several times before they continue walking the second leg of the track. I just think the dog is able to figure it out without so much work on the part of the human!

To start off, you would want to only to one or two turns at the most. You will need to know EXACTLY where the turn is so you can watch your dog. Once you can read his body language when he approaches a turn and does a turn, you are on your way to having a tracking dog that can go for titles. You will also want to do the first turn in the direction that your dog will naturally want to follow. Most dogs will turn around several times before they settle down for a nap. Does your dog turn in a clockwise direction or counterclockwise? If he turns clockwise, you will want to make the first turn a right turn. If your dog goes in a counterclockwise direction, you will want to make the first turn a left turn. The dog will do this turn with less resistance than if you make the turn opposite of what he normally bends to.

To know where exactly where your corner is, you will want to find a good landmark on the ground. It could be a bare spot, a rock, a clump of hay or taller grass just beside the track where you will make your turn. Some people use a surveyor's flag to mark the corner, others use a small painted rock that they carry and drop at the corner. Others use plastic colored clothespins to attach to a few blades of grass at the corner. If you use such markers, you will be spending your time trying to locate them and NOT watching your dog. Most dogs will also start to look for markers and go from marker to marker without really using their nose.

You need to know just where the corner is so you can slow down, let your dog have more long line to work with and watch him. Let him make the decision as to where the track goes next. If you always tell him, he will let you. In a test, you won't know where the track goes and it will be up to your dog to work it out. Better if he gets confidence doing this from the start. Some dogs look back to see which way you are facing. Your body language may be a help in the beginning, but again, in a test, the dog is the one who will have to decide which way the track goes. So please, watch that you don't turn your body in the direction of the turn until the dog takes you that way.

Most dogs will turn their head slightly in the direction the track will go after the turn. Depending on the wind and the age of the track, the dog could do this as far as 30-40 yards before the turn or just a few feet before the turn. Some dogs will start in the right direction only to stop, turn around and check out all the other options and then go back to the right choice and continue on. Others will quickly run circles and then make the right decision. Still others will go up to the corner and take it without doing too much checking on all other sides.

If for any reason, the dog goes the wrong way on the turn, just hold your ground. He will come back and you should verbally encourage him to check the area out again. The less you move your arms around the better! Once you start to move your arms to encourage your dog, you have just started a bad habit that could have the judges blowing the whistle on you in a test. This would be known as guiding. You and the dog are supposed to be a team but you actually hold onto the long line and do very little else in a test expect pray and verbally encourage your dog.

What type of turn should you do for your first turns? A ninety-degree turn is a right angle. To most dogs, they act like the track just disappeared. I like doing a turn that is just about 10 degrees off the straight leg or a very open turn as the tracking community calls it.

I find the open turns allow the dog to continue without really noticing that he has done a turn. As you gradually make the open turn more towards a right angle, he will do these turns easier. Some people even walk a track in long curves. While I have worked dogs in this manner, I find it more difficult as I don't know exactly where the peak of the curve is and if my dog is right on it or slightly off it. Using multiple articles on a curving track is tough as the dog may miss one article and cut across to the next one. Now he is only searching for the articles, not following the track.

This is one sport the dog can do better than you and with the least amount of training. Your hardest job will be to put out good tracks and to learn to read your dog's body language. If your dog lifts his head and continues to walk, slow down. He is either air scenting or curious about something other than the track! If you continue to follow him whether his head is up or down, then you really won't know if he is on the track or not. Most dogs will start to pull you more briskly along as they gain confidence about following a track. GOOD! Let him try to pull you, just don't run with him! It is the easiest way I know to twist and ankle or worse. You want a dog who will allow some tension in the line between the two of you. He knows you are with him and you know he is working. Some dogs wag their tail when they are on the track and when they get off it or hit a corner, the tail slows down. Some dogs whine when they are trying to figure out where the turn is. I will have more tracking tips in the next article. Until then, good luck and HAVE FUN!



## Tracking Test Fundamental by Mary Thompson

Where has the time gone? I guess with all the snow southern Maine has had this winter, I hibernated, too much snow and ice to do tracking. Now spring has arrived and tracking clinics and tests are being held.

One important topic I would like to cover today. You can have the best tracking dog around but if the dog does NOT indicate an article clearly enough for you to find it, then the dog and you fail the tracking test. The AKC rules state that the dog must indicate the article and you must present it to the judge. IF the dog actively searches for the article and you as the handler cannot find it nor can the judges, the judges may award you the track and the title. In any tracking test, if you get to the article, pick it up and wave it in the air briefly, even if you lose it later as it falls out of your pocket, you may still be able to pass. If the judges are making notes on their maps and do not see you reach down, pick up the article and stuff it in your pocket and it falls out later, they may not allow it as they did not see you pick it up. By waving it in the air briefly, the judges usually look up at such activity! Before you enter a tracking test, you should have had the dog tracking in all kinds of weather and different terrains AND clearly indicating articles. Some dogs will indicate an article if it is on short grass, others will walk over it unless it smells strongly enough to make the dog hesitate. In a TD, the article must be either a glove or a wallet, preferably made of leather or have leather on it. In a TDX, the articles are to be of a personal nature and all fabric such as scarf, ear warmer, hat, belt, eyeglass case, sock and a glove at the end. In a VST test, the articles are two of fabric – usually 1 leather and 1 cloth and then 1 of plastic and 1 of metal. You should find a variety of items to use when tracking. They should be of hand size and of any material. Porous plastic and metal actually holds more scent than most articles made of cloth! The biggest concern would be that the dog should not get hurt by the article or be able to swallow it! Though I have known of a few dogs who like to swallow large leather work gloves! I have seen dogs too used to only finding a leather glove at the end of the track refuse to even acknowledge a plastic or metal article. Your dog should be taught that if it smells of the tracklayer, he/she should stop and indicate it. There are several ways you can do this.

One, you can teach your dog to either Sit or Down at the article. If I have a dog that I want to do this, I will train the dog away from the tracking field as I do not want the dog to get into the obedience mold when he is on the field. Rather, I do this type of training in the house and then outside the house and finally, in the field. I will teach this by having the dog sit or down as soon as he gets close to a tracking article. Since my articles do NOT look or smell like the dog's toys, he will notice that it is out of place and go up to check it out. At that time, I will tell the dog to either sit or down. Once the dog has assumed the position, I will praise him like crazy and reward him with the occasional treat. Once the dog starts to understand to either sit or down when he sees the article, I will take him into the backyard and practice this. I will have already scattered several articles around the yard before I let the dog out and he is on a long line. When the dog stops and checks out the article, I will tell him to either sit or down. As soon as he does, I will move in and reward him. Once the dog understands what to do when he sees an article, it is time to take it to the tracking field and try it. I do not play with the dog with the article. It is against AKC rules and regulations to do so during a test so I do NOT want the dog to look for it to happen during practice. If you play too much with the dog with the article and then get into a test, some dogs will shut down when you do not follow what he considers to be the normal way of tracking i.e.; find an article and play with it. Instead, I will verbally praise the dog lavishly and then tell him to "Find More". That is his command that he is to continue the track and find more articles.

Some people like their dog to come back to them and sit, looking for a treat as a reward for finding the article.

You can also teach your dog to retrieve the article. Again, start the training off the tracking field!

Food is NOT allowed or used in a certification or a tracking test. If you have a chow hound, he may have to work 2 tracks without food, the certification and the day of the test. You can certainly use food on the practice tracks so he expects to find food in the articles again. If you are in ant country, put the food in a plastic baggie and then in the article or on it. This will keep out the little insects.

Does the dog have to sit, down or retrieve the article in order to pass a tracking test? NO! As long as the dog indicates the article and you pick it up and present it to the judges.

I will NEVER forget my first time judging a tracking test. The other judge and I had a difference of opinion on the very first track. The track was laid in 15-18 inch tall grass so you could see the way the track went. The dog stayed almost exactly on the track and the owner followed. The dog would barely turn his head to indicate a turn, just kept striding along and pulling his owner. At the 4<sup>th</sup> turn, I heard the handler say that it was the fourth turn so the end must be near. The dog walked over the article and continued. The owner had counted 50 yards from the last turn and then started to shuffle his feet. (In TD and TDX, a “leg” of the track must be at least 50 yards between turns). The other judge wanted to pass the dog. I did not as the regulations state that the owner must present the article to the judges. We walked up and located the article. We finally agreed to fail the team. When I talked to the handler afterwards he told me he was going in for cataract surgery in 3 weeks. I asked him why he hadn’t trained his dog to either sit or down at the article and he told me that the dog usually retrieved it. NEVER assume that your dog will sit, down or retrieve the article in a test! You are nervous and you will transmit that to your dog and he may respond differently. As long as you are able to “read” your dog’s body language and know that he has found something, you will pass. A judge cannot ask you how your dog indicates an article. If your dog pauses and you assume it is the end of the track, move up and see if there is an article. If there is not, slowly back up a few steps and see if the dog will continue on. You may be totally aware of how many turns you have done and the yardage and think it is the end when it may not be. Most people tell me the whole track was a blur and they don’t remember how many turns or how long it took to do the track. So practice with a lot of different types of articles, a variety of terrain (grass, taller grass, concrete, gravel, dirt, etc), a different weather conditions. A fair weather tracker rarely passes a tracking test. Remember, always try to have the dog end on a successful note and have fun!

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Mary Thompson is an AKC tracking judge at all three levels, TD, TDX, and VST. She was part of the group that developed the AKC VST test. She and her dogs have assisted the Maine police in finding lost and wanted people. She teaches tracking every year at Camp Gone to the Dogs in Vermont, as well as other topics including first aid for dogs, using her experience as a vet tech. Mary is very generous with her time and knowledge and can be contacted by email at frshstrt@maine.rr.com

Articles submitted by;

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Picture of Mary , Marg & Charley





Susie Coutts Labrador "Tank" is getting pointers on tracking so he can get ready for his TDX . He's learning by watching Susie's video of Trust her German Shepherd Dog tracking .



Susie Coutts and Eileen Fisher shared a Birthday May 11th !!



**UTD and TD test May 13th 2007**

Left to right, Candy Rennie, Jackie Me-harg, Eileen Fisher, Maryke Warwick & Jane Book who is a Tracking judge



Judge Jack Wilhelm talking with Kathleen Dahmer and Beamer



Left is Frank Downs & Bev Wiggans watching the Urban Test



The gallery watching the Urban test at Lakeview Park in Oshawa.



Tracklayers waiting their turn to walk their TD track.

Peggy Masanotti with Rommie, Susan Dubois, Candy Rennie, Maryke Warwick & Shirley Kong.