



The Ridgeline

Newsletter of the New England Rhodesian Ridgeback Club

June 1, 2021

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- **Annual Summer Social is August 8th**, see page 5 for more details
- **Save the Date** and join us at our **Regional Specialty Show on September 18th**. See page 18

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President's Letter

Happy Memorial Day Weekend!

I hope this finds you all well. Like many of you I am guardedly looking forward to summer. The BOD has been busy planning the year's events. We have had three successful BOD Meetings via Zoom, Nikki had a great turn out for NERRC'S first official Coursing Ability Test (CAT) of the year, we learned about Barn Hunt, one of the fastest growing dog events in the US, AND welcomed new BOD member, Julie Paul!

We are just getting started! Please mark you Calendars for the Annual BBQ on August 8th, and of course it will be great to be able to enjoy the Regional Specialty on September 18th after it was cancelled last year. We have rescheduled the Nosework Event in October, are planning a fall Lure Coursing Trial and then will finish the year with the Christmas Party!

If there is something you would like NERRC to offer please, please just let us know!

Barbara
Sahibu@comcast.net



"Here comes the sun, and we say, it's all right!"

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

February 28, 2021 — Virtual Meeting



Meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM by Barbara Ferguson

Attendees: Board Members: Barbara Ferguson, President, Meghan Terwilliger, Vice President, Nikki Newton, Treasurer, Chris Greeley, Helen McCune, Evelyn Strawn, Secretary

President's Report -- Barbara Ferguson

Barbara welcomed everyone and updated the board on her search for a person to fill the vacancy on the board created when Meghan accepted the position of vice president. That search is still ongoing.

Secretary's Report -- Evelyn Strawn

There were nine applications published in the recent Ridgeline. They will be eligible to be voted into membership after March 16.

Treasurer's Report -- Nikki Newton

Nikki has received the treasurer's information from Alan and she is now the signatory on the bank account. The board agreed that there should be a second authorized signature. Barb will coordinate with Nikki to add her name to the account.

During this transition month a formal treasurer's report was not completed. Nikki said there has been no activity since the last report and will produce the written reports going forward.

Regional Specialty Show -- Barbara Ferguson

The show has been approved by RRCUS.

Mass Fed -- Chris Greeley

In Massachusetts, Nero's law, which would allow emergency personnel to provide emergency care and transport to police dogs injured in the line of duty, has been re-filed. **Residents of the State are asked to contact their representatives and urge them to sign on as co-sponsors.** The information can be found here:

[MA Alert: Nero's Law Re-Filed and in Need of Co-Sponsors – American Kennel Club \(akc.org\)](#)

Current news from [AKC.org](#) in the New England area includes CT and NH.

Currently the state of Connecticut is finalizing new rules on animal shelters and other facilities in regards to shelter, cleanliness and animal import. You can see the information here:

[Connecticut Finalizes Rules on Animal Shelters, Other Regulated Entities – American Kennel Club \(akc.org\)](#)

and New Hampshire:

1) [HB 431](#) would require elected animal control officers take an oath to faithfully discharge their duties and authorize the supervision of the performance of such officers by town select boards

[New Hampshire Alert: Two Bills Impacting Dogs with Hearings on March 1, 2021 – American Kennel Club \(akc.org\)](#)



and 2) AKC GR is concerned that under [HB 467](#), land currently used to harbor non-native, non-domesticated animals would no longer be considered “open space land”. Training bird hunting dogs often takes place at facilities that benefit from the current “use tax deduction” for “open space land”. Removing the tax deduction could have a negative impact on those who train and hunt with dogs for pheasant or partridge.

An additional item of interest is a report from December that USDOT has ruled only Service animals are allowed to fly on passenger planes.

[Dogs are the only service animals allowed to fly on passenger planes, DOT rules \(nbcnews.com\)](#)

Historian – Vacant

Cathy Ford recently met with Ulla Britt Ekengren’s daughter, Lisa Towle, and she gave her several boxes of Ulla’s files, publications, some jewelry, etc. She is in the process of sorting through them, throwing out items that are on the internet (POST and OFA) and organizing into several categories:

- RRCUS business - to go to RRCUS or be dispensed with
- NERRC newsletters, awards, articles written, etc to go to NERRC archives
- Items for raffle or trophies: some jewelry, Swedish KC magazines (all written in Swedish, but some great pictures), 17 retractable clickers in original packaging, World Congress binders over the years from several countries, etc.
- Other: many NERRC logo pins

She is currently in the process of creating an inventory. There may be additional items of African crafts, art work and trophies donated in the future. These items would be auctioned or raffled to benefit RR rescue and/or health and genetics research.

Membership Care -- Vacant

Jack and Trish Hamilton have resigned. Need to recruit replacement.

Rescue – Cheryl Fraser

PHOTO submissions and pre-orders of the Rhodesian Ridgeback Rescue, Inc 2022 Ridgeback-a-Day Calendar are now open. Photo submissions and calendar pre-orders can be done here <https://www.ridgebackrescue.org/calendar/orders/order.php>

FOSTER HOMES NEEDED - Rhodesian Ridgeback Rescue, Inc. (RRRI) remains in great need for **foster homes**. We continue to scramble when a dog is in need to find a foster home willing to provide foster care. Please consider giving back to our beloved breed by volunteering to be a foster home.

HOME CHECKS – With the ongoing pandemic, we have reverted to performing **virtual homechecks**. The use of Zoom and FaceTime and other virtual means are being used. If you would be able to perform home checks for potential adoption applicants, please let us know. We have a checklist of questions to ask applicants while virtually visiting them in their home. Help is always needed to vet adoption applicants.

NERRC Website – Meghan Terwilliger & Cheryl Fraser

Meghan will be in touch with Cheryl Fraser about adding the new Ways and Means items to the Website.

NERRC Policy & Procedures – Cheryl Fraser

Alan sent the board members updated policy and procedures for the treasurer. The board postponed accepting these until there was more research done on accepting virtual payments. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

Ridgeline – Helen McCune

Helen recently sent out the first edition of the Ridgeline for 2021.

She requested that the club look for a replacement for her as the editor. She is willing to train that person. In the meantime, she would like help with some of the tasks associated with distributing the newsletter. She suggested that an assistant editor be identified.

Ways and Means – Cheryl Fraser

In February there were an additional \$30 in merchandise sales.

Meghan will work with Cheryl to put together a flyer that can be sent out to the membership and included in social media postings and on the website. As stated above, Nikki will explore options such as Venmo so that the club can accept direct payments for merchandise as well as memberships and registration for events.

Bylaws – Alan Fraser

Nothing to report.

Social Media – Meghan Terwilliger

Nothing to report.

Regional News (for The Ridgeback Magazine) – Bonnie Johnson

Nothing to report.

Lure Coursing – Nikki Newton and Chris Greeley

The club will be sponsoring two days of CAT trials on April 10 and 11 in Dartmouth. There will be morning and afternoon trials on both days. Nikki has filled all of the necessary positions to obtain AKC approval but there is still a need for volunteers on the actual days of these events.

Nikki and Meghan are investigating new sites in RI and Rehoboth. If the RI site works out there could possibly be an event there in June.

Unfinished Business

Barb has made contact with someone who will run a Barn Hunt for the club in New Salem, MA. The board agreed to an event the morning of May 2. The cost will be \$60/participant and there is a minimum requirement of 20 dogs.

She has also found a location for a Farm Dog trial in Duxbury, MA. In order to schedule an event the club needs to identify a second judge. Anyone who is qualified to judge Canine Good Citizenship trials can be authorized to be a farm dog judge.

Meghan will investigate dates for a Nose Work event in Franklin, MA in the fall.

New Business

The board expressed enthusiasm for a design that Meghan has created for a new lure coursing tee shirt. She will refine the design including a lure coursing logo on the front. Once the design is completed Barb will help her get pricing from vendors the club has used in the past.

Next Meeting: May 2 – 5 PM— Virtual/Zoom

Meeting adjourned at 10:00 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Strawn

NERRC Secretary

Join Us for NERRC's Annual Meeting, Pot Luck Picnic and RR Romp!!

Once again we will be back at
Washburn Park in Marion MA
Washburn Lane, Marion MA

Sunday, August 8th from 9:00 to 2:00

Cost is \$10 for members, \$15 for non-members; children under 12 free

BOD Meeting starts at 9:00 - all are welcome

Annual Meeting Begins at 11:00

Ways & Means will be set up so plan to shop! There will also be a 50/50 Raffle!!

Well socialized dogs will be allowed off leash to run and play in a safely fenced arena. If you have an insecure or reactive dog please leave them at home or keep them on leash and under your control at all times. Dogs will be crated or leashed during the annual meeting to alleviate distractions.

NERRC will provide the paper goods and water. To help spread the workload so that everyone can partake in a fun afternoon we are asking that you bring something to share. If your last name begins with the following please bring:

A-K—Appetizer; L-P—Entrée; Q-Z—Dessert.

This is a great park with both trails and fields where dogs are able to go off lead. Trails lead you through pine woodlands and cranberry bogs with lots of water for cooling off hot dogs. There is a playground for kids, real bathrooms! There are also ball games and horse events held here at other times so be respectful with your dogs so this will remain open to everyone.

**Please RSVP to Helen by July 25th via email - kanzih@comcast.net
or via text - 774-766-1331**





Barn Hunt!

By Barbara Ferguson

On Sunday, May 2nd, we began the day at Kim Lewis' Farm "Lucky Dog Acres" in New Salem, MA on a beautiful spring day with an introduction to the rules of Barn Hunt. We had a "meet and greet" with one of Kim's 18 pet rats.

He was a friendly white rat that was more interested in the dogs than some of the dog where in him! We were placed in 3 groups and one at a time went into the Barn with Kim guiding us through each "search" and drawing attention to the dogs body language. After practicing looking for the rat who is placed in a container and hidden among the bales of hay along with a container with the rat's dirty bedding and another container that was empty, we had the opportunity to participate in a mock trial. We were given 2 minutes to accomplish the 3 things that in a real trial would earn a leg toward a Barn Title. Each dog needed to; 1. tunnel through a hale bale tunnel, 2. climb on the bales of hay and 3. find the rat in no particular order. I had my Border Collie, Islay, with me and started by sending her through the tunnel first, asking her to jump up onto the bales of hay and then said "find it" and she found the rat accomplishing everything in 1 minute, 30 seconds.

5 Members took advantage of the Intro to Barn Hunt and 8 non-members.

4 Ridgebacks, Border Collie, Black Russian Terrier, Giant Schnauzer, German Shorthair Pointer, Golden, German Shepherd, English Cocker, Jack Russel, and an All-American



Cheryl Fraser and Peanut figuring it out!



Clockwise from the top left: members Don Melchior with Zephyr, Chris Greeley with Lily, Kate Taylor with Zuri and Cheryl Fraser with Peanut



Attention !!

The club has significant equipment needs to be able to continue hosting lure coursing events.



Big ticket items:

- Backup lure machine (Bobbinator) \$2500 plus transportation from Buffalo, NY (anyone travel back and forth from there?)
- Stadium ladder (platform 72" tall with railing and folds up-Jarvis) \$1200
- Equipment trailer- must have total weight including contents of less than 3500 lbs, be enclosed, have the door be a drop down ramp and be at least 10 ft long, maybe 12 ft. Hoping to find one (used is good) for around \$2000

Smaller needs-does anyone have these items to donate?

- 1 or 2 shovels (spades)
- Wheeled cart for storing pulleys-and dragging them around the field
- Heavy duty extension cord
- Toolkit for repairs (screwdrivers, wrenches, pliers)
- Distance measuring wheel
- Easy up or other canopy
- Folding table
- Sharp pocket knives for huntmaster
- Something to post scores on at events-magnetic board, wire rack with clips...
- Traffic cones (about 8-10)

We also could really use some leads on possible fields. We only have the one field and it is only available before May and after September.

Field needs:

- 7-10 acres
- Mowed grass
- No major holes/terrain hazards
- Safe from road/traffic
- \$300-\$400 for the weekend
- Can park 30 or so cars
- Within 2-3 hour drive of eastern MA

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

May 2, 2021 – Virtual Meeting



Meeting was called to order at 5:00 PM by Barbara Ferguson

Attendees: Board Members: Barbara Ferguson, President, Meghan Terwilliger, Vice President, Nikki Newton, Treasurer, Chris Greeley, Helen McCune, Julie Paul, Evelyn Strawn, Secretary

Members: Chris and Don Melchior

President's Report -- Barbara Ferguson

Barbara welcomed everyone and acknowledged Julie as a new board member and the Melchiors as the new chairs of the Membership Cares Committee.

Secretary's Report -- Evelyn Strawn

There are three first reads:

Andrew Hendricks, Worcester, MA Single
Sponsor: Julie Paul

Deborah Ahern-Ridlon, Carver, MA Single
Sponsor: Nikki Newton

Xavier Dixon, Weymouth, MA Single
Sponsor: Bonnie Johnson

Treasurer's Report -- Nikki Newton

Nikki reviewed the Income and Expense Report that she had distributed prior to the meeting. The club continues to be in a strong fiscal position. A donation was received from a member. Nikki has reached out to her to clarify how she would like the donation to be used.

Rescue Funds \$1,892.87
General Funds \$14,519.36
Show Funds \$2,305.55
Current Balance \$18,432.78

Details available upon request.

The liability insurance for the club is due.



Helen moved and Meghan seconded that the club pay \$625.00 to Sportsman Insurance for liability insurance. The motion passed unanimously.

Regional Specialty Show -- Barbara Ferguson

All reports, applications and the premium list have been sent to the appropriate parties. The approval process and any upcoming publicity has been complicated by a lack of communication from the show chairs. Staff at AKC have been helpful. Barb will continue to try to reach the show chairs and the president of the sponsoring dog clubs.

Mass Fed -- Chris Greeley

Nothing to report.

It was moved by Evelyn and seconded by Helen that the club's membership in Mass Fed be renewed. The motion passed unanimously.

Historian – Vacant

Nikki will reach out to a couple of members to see if they would be willing to share responsibility for this.

Membership Care – Don and Chris Melchior

With the appointment of new chairs to this committee the board took this opportunity to review what should be sent to new members including a thank you note, information on the website, Facebook page and upcoming events.

Julie will connect with Jack in order to get the remaining materials he has. She will then arrange a transfer to the Melchiors. Evelyn will send them an updated membership list.

Rescue – Cheryl Fraser

2 new dogs have been surrendered to RRRI. A 2 year old female named Penny from Connecticut and a 2 year old female named Tory from Rhode Island. Both dogs need microchips and spaying. Both dogs are in foster homes and under evaluation.

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FOSTER HOMES NEEDED - Rhodesian Ridgeback Rescue, Inc. (RRRI) remains in great need for **foster homes**. We continue to scramble when a dog is in need to find a foster home willing to provide foster care. Please consider giving back to our beloved breed by volunteering to be a foster home.

HOME CHECKS – With the ongoing pandemic, we have reverted to performing **virtual homechecks**. The use of Zoom and FaceTime and other virtual means are being used. If you would be able to perform home checks for potential adoption applicants, please let us know. We have a checklist of questions to ask applicants while virtually visiting them in their home. Help is always needed to vet adoption applicants.

NERRC Website – Meghan Terwilliger & Cheryl Fraser

Updated board and committee information has been added to the website. The NERRC web domain renewal fee of \$31.00 has been paid.

NERRC Policy & Procedures – Cheryl Fraser

Nothing to report.

Ridgeline – Helen McCune

Helen will send out the Ridgeline after the minutes of this meeting have been approved.

She asked for suggestions for articles or other items to be included. The board agreed that a series of articles on things to do with your dogs that could build confidence would be a good idea. Also an article or chart on behavioral milestones. Julie and Helen will work on this.

Ways and Means – Cheryl Fraser

In April there was an additional \$56.00 in merchandise sales.

Cheryl had asked the board if she should put together an order for items with the NERRC logo. The board agreed that there should be both NERRC logo and "3 Puppies" items available. Meghan has created a lure coursing design that could be put on the back of a shirt and/or bumper stickers. She will work with Cheryl on including items with this design.

Evelyn will ask Cheryl to put together an order for the board to review. This could then be approved via email and an order placed in time to have items for the August BBQ.

Bylaws – Alan Fraser

Nothing to report.

Social Media – Meghan Terwilliger

Nothing to report.

Regional News (for The Ridgeback Magazine) – Bonnie Johnson

Nothing to report. Information on club officers needs to be updated.

Lure Coursing – Nikki Newton and Chris Greeley

The club has just renewed its membership in AFSA. This raised the possibility of holding an AFSA trial. Nikki will explore this option.

There has been a lot of interest in FAST CAT trials. The club has been approached by the Vizla Club and the owners of a pet store in Carver about sponsoring CAT trials in conjunction with them. Neither group has sufficient space since a CAT Trial requires a minimum of 10 acres. A FAST CAT takes a lot less space since it only requires a 150' straight run and fencing which the club has. Some members of the club need to learn more about this event before the club agrees to be a sponsor. Chris will volunteer with one in June.

The board agreed that it would be a good thing to collaborate with other organizations in the future. The Sa-luki Club has expressed interest and that partnership will be explored.

A barrier to holding a lure coursing trial in the summer is finding a location. Not only does the site need to be 10 acres but it needs to be mowed. This is an issue for the hay fields that the club has been using. Nikki will send out an email to the membership asking for suggestions. Julie will talk with some people she knows in New Hampshire.

There continues to be a need for improved and/or additional equipment. The priorities are an enclosed trailer for storing and transporting the equipment, a back-up Bobinator and a ladder with a platform for the judge. Nikki will provide the board with the specifics so that an appeal can be made to the membership for a trailer. Once there are firm estimates of costs these can be approved and purchased.

Unfinished Business

Barb reported on the Barn Hunt which was held that morning. She and Chris said that participants seemed to enjoy the experience.

5 Members took advantage of the Intro to Barn Hunt, 8 non-members

4 Ridgebacks, Border Collie, Giant Schnauzer, Black Russian Terrier, German Shorthair Pointer, Golden

German Shepherd, English Cocker, Jack Russel,

All-American

Total paid \$840.00

Kim Lewis \$200.00 Deposit

 \$580.00 Balance due to Kim (paid by Barbara)

NERRC \$ 60.00

Thank you to Don & Chris Melchior for their donation of \$20

Farm Dog, Duxbury, MA is on hold for the time being.

Nose Work, Franklin, MA is scheduled for October 3. Meghan will send out a save the date notice to members.

New Business

The board discussed ways to have more participation by members in club events. Nikki and Evelyn will send out a poll to try to determine what activities would be of interest.

The possibility of putting up some training challenges on FaceBook is under consideration. Members could post videos of activities with their dogs.

The board confirmed that there will be an in person BBQ on August 8. It will be held at Washburn Memorial Park in Marion, MA and will include a potluck. There is fenced in space for the dogs. The BBQ will be preceded by a BOD meeting at 9 and the annual meeting at 11. Helen will make arrangements with the park.

Next Meeting:

August 8th – Washburn Memorial Park, Marion MA

9 AM BOD, 11 AM Annual Meeting

Meeting adjourned at 6:40 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Strawn, NERRC Secretary

On Line Motions:

On May 4 Evelyn moved and Meghan seconded approval of the minutes for the May 2 meeting. Six voting in the affirmative the motion passed.

Additional First Read:

Christopher Melendez, Lawrence, MA. Single

Sponsor: Bonnie Johnson



Zephyr and Magic, owned by NERRC members, Don & Chris Melchior, 'hitting the trail'

Congrats on your New Puppy!! Now What??!!

~ by Julie Paul

Be Thoughtful About Your Pup's Arrival

Try to arrange the arrival of your new puppy for a weekend or when you can be home for a few days. Give yourself time and space to get to know each other and spend some quality time together. Although it's tempting to introduce your pup to everyone you know, hold off on inviting visitors over. For the 1st week, let your pup settle in with just your household. Remember puppies sleep a lot so do not over tire your new puppy. Make sure they get plenty of downtime in a calm environment.

New Puppy Checklist

Before a pup ever arrives in your home, get the gear ready. You may be tempted to buy a large volume of doggie products and accessories. Resist that temptation. Puppies don't really need a lot of stuff. Here are some basics you should have on hand before bringing your puppy home:

- **Crate** -crate helps in potty training, and can also be used to keep your puppy out of harm's way when you can't watch them. Puppies that roam the house alone and unsupervised are prone to potty accidents and inappropriate chewing. Crates are also a sanctuary for dogs where they can retreat to feel protected and safe.
- **Bed**-Buy a bed that can fit inside the crate. This will create a cozy place to help your dog feel more secure. Having a familiar place your dog can return to each night is important. Until you know chewing habits, it's best to start out with a mat-like bed and avoid the feathers or stuffing getting swallowed or strewn about.
- **Food Bowl/Water Bowl**-Stainless Steel Bowls are easy to clean and should be washed daily either by hand with warm water and soap or in the dishwasher
- **High-Quality Food** -Ask your breeder what food your puppy has been weaned on and ensure you have this food at your disposal when you take your puppy home.
- **Leash**-A leash is an extremely important tool in your puppy toolbox. Use a standard leash.
- **Collar**-For a puppy, you should be able to start out with a standard "everyday" flat buckle collar. Puppies grow quickly, so check the collar's fit frequently during your dog's first year of life and periodically after that. You should be able to slip two fingers comfortably underneath the collar
- **Toys**-Keep it simple. Dogs need activities to keep them entertained and their minds stimulated. Great toys include balls to play fetch, tug of war toys, toys with squeakers, and puzzle or activity toys. Make sure any toys or toy parts aren't too small, or they could become a choking hazard. Always supervise your puppy's play time and check toys often during play for leaking stuffing, missing or dangling pieces that can become a choking hazard or cause obstruction.
- **Vet**-Find a suitable vet and set up a wellness visit for a couple days after you take your puppy home.
- **Enroll your Puppy** in an appropriate Puppy Kindergarten class in advance of their arrival

1st Vet Visit

- Remember, when you have a positive and confident approach with your vet, your pup will too.
- You'll need to bring two things with you to the first vet visit: 1. Whatever health information the breeder provided to you, such as records of vaccinations and wormings. 2. A fresh stool, which is examined for the presence of parasites.
- The veterinarian should perform a complete physical examination, palpating the abdomen, and lymph nodes, listening to the heart and lungs, examining the mouth, eyes and ears.
- Your veterinarian will discuss a preventive health plan for your pup, which will include vaccinations, flea, tick, heartworm and intestinal parasite prevention. Your breeder should have given you guidelines on what works best with their dogs. This is a good time to discuss this with your Vet.

Managing Basics Puppy Behavior

- **Establish Rules in Advance** Will your pup be allowed on the couch? Where will she rest at night? Are there any rooms in the house that are off-limits?
- Who will walk the pup first thing in the morning? Who will feed her at night?
- **Pulling**-If your pup won't stop pulling during walks, break the dog's momentum by stopping and asking her to sit. Do this every step, if necessary, until the dog adjusts to the pace you want. When your puppy is walking appropriately, offer lots of praise. Consistency is the key to success
- **Recall**-Learning to come when called is not only a behavior issue, it can also be a safety issue that could save your pup's life. To teach the command, call your puppy by name, using an enthusiastic voice and playful gestures, followed by the word "come." Reinforce your puppy's response to the command with plenty of praise.
- **Nipping** -To correct nipping, gently pull or push the puppy away and verbally scold while making eye contact. Release the puppy and offer an appropriate toy as a substitute. If the puppy starts nipping again, repeat the correction. Praise the puppy when he stops.
- **Counter-Surfing** – the easiest way to keep a pup from jumping on counters and tables is to keep them clear of all foods unless you are present to keep the pup from stealing and self-rewarding. Prevention is so much easier because once they've stolen something yummy you will always have to be on guard because they WILL do it again every chance they can!
- You should have already enrolled in a Puppy Kindergarten Class for your Puppy

Housebreaking Your Pup

Potty Schedule Dogs are creatures of habit and routine gives them security. If you do the same things in the same way and in the same order, your pup will settle in more quickly and learn what is expected of them and when. Try and have a daily routine for feeding, exercising, and going potty. Keeping track of your pup's feeding schedule and elimination can make housebreaking and indoor potty training easier. Generally speaking, a puppy can control their bladder one hour for every month of age. So if your puppy is two months old, they can hold it for about two hours.

Deep Breath and Remember

Take a Deep Breath and Remember the only time to correct a dog for naughty behavior is when you catch them in the act. Your window of opportunity to conduct a teachable moment is SECONDS. When you scold a dog for something they did while you were away, they don't understand why you are mad at them. They may act ashamed because they know you are upset but don't understand why.

Timing !!!

It's never too early to start training your puppy but in general, at around three to four months old, your puppy should start going to a puppy training class! Here, your puppy will benefit from socialization and learning their basic commands. Not only are puppy training classes beneficial for your puppy, but you will have the opportunity to participate in their training and learn how to care, and communicate with your puppy! This is where the foundation will be built to set you up for a life with a well-mannered, well-balanced pup!

Top Tips

Socializing

Dogs can be socialized any time in their life but it is most important between the age of 8 and 16 weeks. It's about getting your puppy out and about to experience new people, places, and situations. Puppies that are well-socialized usually become well-adjusted adults. Many of the most common behavior concerns in dogs can stem from a lack of proper early socialization. It's important to get your puppy used to a variety of people, animals, places, sights, and sounds so he will not react poorly to them as an adult.

House Training

House training is one of the first things you will work on with your new puppy. Get your puppy off to a good start by putting him on a regular schedule. Feed him at similar times each day. Take him outside to potty every time he eats, drinks, or wakes from a nap.

Crate Training

A crate is used to confine a puppy when you are unable to supervise him. If your puppy is given enough time to become comfortable in his crate, it may become one of his favorite hangouts. Crates can help prevent your puppy from developing bad habits like inappropriate chewing or soiling.

Confinement

A puppy shouldn't be kept in his crate for more than a few hours at a time. However, he should not have the full run of the house, even when you are home to supervise him. There are too many things in a house for a puppy to chew on, hide under, or get harmed by. Confining him to a kitchen or another small room with a door or baby gate can go a long way in preventing your puppy from developing bad habits.

Remember, a puppy who gets the opportunity to do something he finds enjoyable, such as gnawing on your furniture, is more likely to repeat the behavior. Confinement keeps him from getting these opportunities.

Prevent Destructive Chewing

Rather than trying to prevent a puppy from chewing, teach him which things are appropriate chew toys. Confinement is one of the tools in your arsenal when it comes to chew-training. It allows you to prevent your puppy from having the opportunity to chew on furniture, shoes, toys, or anything else you don't want him to have. Redirecting him to appropriate toys is another part of chew training. It's not enough to tell your dog "No" when he picks up something you don't want him to have. Instead, you need to redirect him to something he *can* have, like a dog chew or a Kong.

Bite Inhibition

Bite inhibition is an important part of puppy training. It involves teaching your puppy to use his teeth gently. Puppies begin to learn bite inhibition from their mothers and through interaction with littermates. Many puppies need to keep learning this once they go into a home. Start teaching your puppy bite inhibition by allowing him to use his mouth when you are playing with him, ending the playtime if he uses his teeth too hard. Once your puppy learns that the fun stops when he bites too hard, you should begin to see him using his mouth much more gently. You may also try letting out a high-pitched yelp sound to remind him to be careful.

Positive Reinforcement

During training, puppies respond better to positive reinforcement than punishment. Punishment may stop unwanted behavior, but it does not tell the puppy what you want him to actually do. Harsh punishments may even lead to behavior issues like fear or aggression. Positive reinforcement makes your puppy want to do more of the things you want him to do.

It's quite easy to get your puppy to repeat the behaviors you like by rewarding him with praise, treats, and games. Ignore or redirect your puppy when he misbehaves and reward good behavior. Soon, your puppy will be offering good behavior on a regular basis.

Prevent Behavior Problems

When you are training a puppy, you have the ability to teach him good behavior before he begins to develop some of the more common behavior problems. Start off on the right foot by providing your puppy with lots of interesting toys, exercise, and training. A puppy left to find his own source of entertainment is more likely to engage in inappropriate behaviors.

You can also use basic obedience commands to prevent common dog behavior problems. For instance, you can ask your puppy to sit rather than allowing him to jump up when you walk through the door. By teaching your puppy appropriate behaviors, you can prevent many of the most common behavior problems.

Basic Obedience

Use positive reinforcement working on basic dog training commands, like sit, lie down, and come on command. These basic commands will go a long way in helping your puppy grow into a well-behaved dog. Kindergarten is a great 1st class for you and your puppy it will help you both with basic obedience, preventing problem behavior, and more.

Milestone's 1st year

8-10 Weeks Old

- This is around the age that many new puppy owners bring home their new puppy. During this phase of your pup's life, they should be learning the basics such as their name, good manners at home, introducing some commands, and some early socialization.
- **Get your puppy used to a daily schedule** that includes their feeding and water times, play and training times, potty breaks, and naptimes.
- **Potty training** your puppy should start as soon as your puppy comes home! The best way to start potty training your pup is by incorporating a potty schedule to teach your pup where to go on the right spot, and how to hold it! If you are trying to determine your potty-training schedule, generally speaking, a puppy can control their bladder one hour for every month of age. So if your puppy is two months old, they can hold it for about two hours
- **Crate training** is one of the most valuable assets for puppy training and puppy parents! Helpful at speeding up the housebreaking process and it helps create an independent puppy and reduces separation anxiety.

- **Introduce basic obedience commands** Sit & Come at this stage. These will be two of the most useful commands in your arsenal that you will probably use every day for the rest of your pup's life.
- **Start socialization** with your family and close friends first. Throughout your pup's life they will encounter new people so getting them used to it early on will help them positively associate those interactions.
- **Name recognition** is super important and will be the one thing you'll certainly use for the rest of your pup's life! When interacting with your pup, say their name throughout the day and get their attention on you while saying their name.
- **Start to redirect chewing and mouthing behaviors** as they occur with the help of a chew toy! Your puppy will be exploring their world with their nose and mouth. You'll want to make sure that they know the difference between your hands, feet, and shoes from their chew toys!

10-12 Weeks Old

- At this point, you will begin to expand on your pup's commands, socialization, and impulse control.
- **Introduce more basic obedience commands** such as Place, Down, and Heel at home. For these commands, you'll want to utilize a high-value reward to help in teaching them. For puppies with higher energy, you can also begin to teach them Fetch and Drop-It during play sessions!
- **Introduce the collar and the leash** to your puppy if you have not already done so at 8-10 weeks. These will be the two most utilized tools in your pup's life when they are out and about with you. Let your puppy get used to their leash by letting them wear it around the house while you supervise them.
- **Continue socialization** by introducing new people and letting your puppy meet calm dogs post-vaccinations. Additionally, start getting them used to common noises they will hear in everyday situations such as construction, traffic, garbage trucks, etc. by playing recordings that you can find in YouTube videos. Yes, "socializing" is a bit tough these days with social distancing orders, short car rides where you just park in busy car parks lets your puppy hear and smell new things and gets them accustomed to the car but keeps the puppy out of harm's way until all vaccinations are complete.
- **Impulse control practice** by having your puppy wait for their food and water bowls. Ask them to Sit before setting down their bowls. Place their bowls down once they are calm and release them from sitting with a word like "Break" or "Okay"!
- **Start threshold training** which involves asking your puppy to Sit at doorways, open doors, crosswalks, etc., and then walking through them calmly. This will help discourage your puppy from lunging and pulling each time they see an open doorway to another room a.k.a. a new adventure to explore, and helps your walks be calmer.

3-4 Months Old

- Your puppy is starting to grow up quickly and you can start to work in more complex training routines with the commands they've learned!
- **Introduce Stay and Leave-It** commands to your puppy!
- **Start command combinations** and working indoors. Try to get your puppy practice duration work by holding their commands longer, for example, a long Sit and Stay, and also try to link some commands together! Here's a fun combination to try: Sit > Down > Stay > Come > Place. You can work on different combinations to really keep your puppy engaged!
- **Practice Heel** outdoors in your driveway or sidewalk in front of your house to ease them into some of the outside distractions!
- **Begin to socialize** with other new dogs after your puppy has received all their vaccinations! You are your puppy's guardian so ensure their playmates are size appropriate as young puppies can play rough and older, bigger dogs may not realize your puppy does not have all his dog manners in check. Also, you run the risk of bone injury if knocked too hard or stood on. Short play dates with well-mannered older dogs or puppies their own age or size is preferable. This is a great time to begin formal Puppy Kindergarten classes!!

4-6 Months Old

- At this point, your puppy should start to work on their commands outside your home and in public spaces, as well as continue to socialize!

- **Advance on their commands** by practicing them outside your home in the front or backyard. Bring your puppy to a new location regularly, such as the park, and practice their commands and some command combinations.
- **Extend your walks** with your puppy from down the block to new locations with new distractions. Work on your puppy's leash training and Heel command!
- **Start to wean your puppy off of food rewards** at this point while they are training by asking for several commands first before giving a food reward, or by using praise or affection when they respond with the correct behavior instead!
- **Help Your Puppy feel secure** when you leave by not indulging in over clingy behavior. Be sure to leave your puppy at home for at least an hour during the day in his crate on his own. Puppies need to sleep a lot at this age so this is the ideal time to teach your puppy that being on his own is not a cause for concern. You can leave a high value safe toy or treat in his crate. Be sure to **not** make a big deal of your leaving or returning so the puppy does not get over stimulated and excited at either time. You can leave a soft playing radio or TV playing the background.

6 Months -1 Year Old

- Your puppy should know all of their basic commands and have a solid foundation of potty training, crate training, and socialization. From this point on, you will continue to work with your puppy to reinforce what they have already learned!
- **Continue to reinforce all the commands** your puppy has learned. This is crucial to their continued success. Introduce more distance between you and your pup as you practice their commands, have them hold commands for longer periods of time, and add in more distractions to have them work through! Maybe sign up for another Obedience class at your local dog training facility. This also helps to keep your dog socialized in a safe environment.
- **Maintain structure at home!** Your puppy is in an adolescent phase and can act up if left to their own devices. It's not uncommon for pups to start chewing, nipping, potty accidents, or other behaviors if their training and structure start to ease up at home! They may look all grown up but they are still very much a puppy still.



Member Mark Merolli's new puppy, Thunder looking very cute!

SAVE THE DATES!!



September 16th-19th

*The New England Rhodesian Ridgeback Club
cordially invites you to join us for our
Annual Regional Specialty Show !!*

The Cranberry Cluster is a 4 day All-Breed Show.

**Once again all 4 days are being supported by NERRC and RRCUS
members with fabulous ribbons and prizes!**

**On Saturday NERRC members are providing a potluck luncheon after
Puppy and Veteran Sweeps and Conformation Judging. Everyone is in-
vited to attend!! Bring a dish and a chair and prepare to cheer on your
favorite breed!!**

For more information visit NERRC's website www.nerrc.org