



The Sheltie Seanachie

September – October 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

September 21, 2021 – ON LINE



PVSSC Going Virtual for Meetings and Socials

The Board has been considering alternative means of getting together until it is once again safe to meet in person. The club already held a successful informal Zoom cocktail party in July where we had 10 - 12 members participating.

We have a need for some type of official virtual meeting to resume club business. Furthermore, the club constitution requires the election of Board members for the following year to be held at the November meeting.

The Board has investigated limitations imposed by the state, the AKC or our club constitution on holding such meetings. The Board has concluded there are no limitations and recommended the club purchase a Zoom account to allow members to conduct virtual PVSSC meetings and socials going forward.

The voting membership recently voted in support of conducting meetings and socials using virtual media.

Prior to the September Meeting members and guest will be sent an email with the log-on passcode. If you need assistance accessing Zoom from your computer, please contact Jack Gurney PRIOR to the meeting.

We hope this will enable members and friends who have been unable to attend meetings "in person" will be able to join us.

TOPICS IN THIS ISSUE



Page 2: Happy Birthday
COVID-19 and your Dog,
Belgian Laekenois



Page 3: Rainbow Bridge

Page 4

PVSSC Business, Events, Breed Referral
and Contact Information

Pages 5 & 6

AKC Changes to Judging Requirements,
AKC Canine & Me Program
Virtual Trials & Shows



Page 7: AKC Fit Dog



Page 7: FDA: Shortages of
Canine Meds

Page 8

Aromatherapy and Pets

Send your brags, photos and notices to
cathieskoog@verizon.net

HAPPY BIRTHDAY, DUSTY



Dusty turned 8 years old on July 8.
Happy belated birthday!

Dusty belongs to Nancy Penn.

Belgian Laekenois Added to AKC Herding Group



The Belgian Laekenois (Laeken) has been in the AKC's Miscellaneous Class since 2011. On July 1, 2020 the breed became part of the Herding Group in all-breed conformation competition.

The Belgian Laekenois is rare with only about 200 nationwide and less than 400 in the United States since 1995.

It is the rarest of the four Belgian herding breeds, which in their home country is considered a single breed, Belgian Shepherd. In the U.S., it takes its place alongside the Belgian Malinois, Belgian Tervuren, and the Belgian Sheepdog.

COVID-19 AND YOUR DOG

NO, I'M NOT COMING DOWN!
We've been on 20 walks today. Leave me alone.



When I first saw this cartoon back in March when the COVID-19 "stay at home" was enacted, I laughed. However, since then we have found that the strain of the quarantines caused stress on us, the humans. We also have found that our dogs are stressed.

By having owners working at home, or not being able to do their routines, it disrupted our canines' routines as well. Our dogs sleep during the day while owners are at work, shopping or going about their business - and while children are at school.

It is important for our dogs to have time to themselves. Dogs need an opportunity to escape from the increased activities, particularly if children are in the home.

Furthermore, studies have shown that just as stress is contagious among humans, it can be transferred to dogs, meaning our dogs feel our stress.

Our dogs may also miss attended training classes and trials, where they interact with other dogs and people.

We need to remember what stress means for dogs: They are more sensitive to noise, especially fireworks and thunder. Dogs with separation anxiety also tend to be compulsive and hyperactive.

As things resume back to the way it was before COVID, many dogs will suffer from separation anxiety.

A CUTE PUPPY MOMENT



This adorable puppy
was bred by
PVSSC member
Lilian Yeh Forsyth

From Editor's photo library

DEEPEST SYMPATHY

CH Cataway's Brave New World, RN CGC
3/24/04 - 7/09/20



PVSSC members and friends extend condolences to Deborah Lauritzen who lost her dear, Jake on July 9.

Jake, a Sable Merle, (CH Cataway's Arctic Lights ex Cataway's Whistle the Wind) was sold as a puppy to Sheltie Breeder Don Bickford in Oregon. Don wrote a column for the Shetland Sheepdog Magazine (precursor to Sheltie Pacesetter and International) titled "Any Other Color," which discussed color genetics in the breed. He would have been cherished, but Don passed while Jake was still young.

Jake eventually returned to his breeder, former PVSSC member Patty Page, who finished his Champion (CH) conformation title in 2010 at age six.

Shortly after Debbie's first Sheltie, Duncan, died Patty Page suggested she take Jake. Jake was a bit uncertain of his new quarters for a day or two, but quickly settled in!

Jake and Deb often encountered Sheltie people from his past, and he remembered everyone, from Barbara Aulbach who cared for him after Don's death, to Jane Hammett, who handled him to his final Major in Puerto Rico.

Jake was always up for road trips, and stood by the back seat window watching the sights whenever we came into small towns, but was happiest when he jumped out of the car to the familiar smells and sounds of the farm.

Jake's senior years were spent at the farm in Luray, VA as a guard dog and overseeing his two sisters, Gigi and Focus.



Jake checking his farm for unwanted critters!

In 2019, Jake and Debbie took a "buddies" road trip to the SSCWNY Specialty in Albion NY, staying at Lake Ontario. On the way home they stopped at Lake Erie.



Jake (2019) in Lake Erie

Jake dearly loved the agility classes taught by Schnauzer owner Ed Ferris at CTA in Beltsville, and had it not been for Debbie's 2 hip replacements, he would hold several agility titles.

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Jake was a sound, sturdy and agile little guy with an enormous heart and an almost clairvoyant spirit. Debbie felt blessed that he kept his joy right up until he died.

His buddy Kathy Glorioso gave him his favorite bed which is where he spent his last days, chasing sheep and sleep barking



When his breeder, Patty Page, was told of Jake's passing, she commented, "The world was a better place because Jake was in it."

Debbie hopes Don will share him with her at the Bridge.





PVSSC Election of Officers for 2021

PVSSC will have elections for the 2021 Board. The following PVSSC members have accepted nominations from the nominating committee to fill the positions:

President - Cathie Skoog
Vice President - Jack Gurney
Treasurer - Donna Richards
Recording Secretary - Fran Beacham
Corresponding Secretary - Nancy Penn
Board Member - Sandra Green
Board Member - Pat Keough

Thank you to the Nominating Committee: Chair Jack Gurney, Lilian Yeh Forsyth, Mike Skoog and alternate Mike O'Shea.

PVSSC EVENTS

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

- The June 2020 Conformation Show at Doswell, VA was canceled.
- The picnic planned for June and rescheduled for the fall has been cancelled.
- FastCAT trials scheduled for October 12 have been cancelled for 2020.
- The Herding Trials, scheduled for October 31 at Keepstone Farms have been cancelled for 2020.



PVSSC Picnic, August 2016
Held at Ginny & Mike O'Shea's home



PVSSC Herding Trials, November 2019

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

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. 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

VIRTUAL TRIALS AND CONFORMATION SHOWS

Because of COVID-19 and the requirements for social distancing, several performance sports are now holding virtual trials. For more information go to the links for the organizations or contact Cathie Skoog at cathieskoog@verizon.net.



RALLY AND AGILITY TRIALS

www.akc.org/

The AKC has implemented Virtual Trials. These include the AKC Rally Novice and Intermediate Classes AND the Agility Course Tests (ACT) for ACT 1 and ACT 2 titles.

Virtual programs provide exhibitors an opportunity to stay-at-home and enter an AKC Rally and ACT events.

The programs are designed to have a competitor set up a pre-designed AKC course in the safety of their own yard, record the performance and submit it to AKC. The AKC assigns an AKC Rally Judge to virtually review and score the team's Rally performance.

For Rally, the AKC will have five pre-designed rally courses published on the AKC website for the exhibitor to choose from.

For Agility the AKC will have 4 sets of ACT courses published on the AKC website for the exhibitor to choose from. Dogs do not have to have an ACT 1 title to be entered in ACT 2. If a dog already has one leg in ACT 1 they may be entered in ACT 2. They do not need to complete the ACT 1 title.

Exhibitors should follow the setup instructions provided, video the performance, upload the video to YouTube, set the required YouTube viewing options, and submit the video link with the entry form and fee to AKC.

Once the required information is received and the dog's records are verified for class eligibility, the video link will be assigned to a judge for review. The judge will score the team's performance and will provide a report to AKC. All qualifying scores will be recorded on the dog's AKC record and applied toward the Rally or ACT title requirements. AKC will notify exhibitors of the results of their submission.

These pilot programs will end at midnight **December 31, 2020** and all video submissions must be received by that date and time.



From PVSSC Rally Trial, February 2016

United States Dog Agility Association (USDAA)

www.usdaa.com/



The USDAA offers virtual agility and rally trials.



The USDAA is the parent organization of World Cynosport Rally (WCRL). WCRL Rally Trials include ALL levels, not just the beginning levels.

Exhibitors select the level to be tested and course sizes, based on your yard or area. Follow the recording instructions and upload by the completion date.



AKC Trick Dog Competition

Have you been working on your routines? To enter, submit your video between July 1 and October 1, 2020. Three judges will judge the submissions and the winner will be announced in December 2020.

The winner of the 2020 AKC Trick Dog Competition will receive a cash prize of \$500 and two semi-finalists will each receive \$250.

The winners will be featured in AKC media, their videos will be on the AKC Trick Dog web page, and they will receive a commemorative trophy.

This year, there will be additional prizes for Outstanding Props, Outstanding Scripts, and Outstanding Handling.

For information and details, go to: [AKC Trick Dog Competition Information](#)



AKC VIRTUAL TOP DOG CHALLENGE

The AKC Virtual Top Dog Challenge is an online conformation event for AKC-recognized breeds and the Miscellaneous class.

Recently the AKC held its second AKC Virtual Top Dog Challenge which drew 400 entries.



GCHB CH Cordmaker Boys Will Be Boys PT NAP NJP
BIS, 2nd Virtual Challenge

GCHB CH Cordmaker Boys Will Be Boys PT NAP NJP, a Puli known as “**Archie**,” was awarded Best in Show by AKC Judge Dr. Donald Sturz, Jr. of New York.

Best Puppy was awarded to **Remedy’s Perfectly Paired**, an Australian Shepherd known as “**Zin**,” also judged by Dr. Sturz.

The NEXT Virtual Top Dog Challenge is scheduled for October.

The virtual event **does not award points** toward a dog’s show championship. It is meant to encourage owners to keep working with their dogs and provide an enjoyable outlet during this time when there are very few dog shows to attend.

Altered dogs may enter this virtual event.

To enter the AKC Virtual Top Dog Challenge II, [read the Official Rules](#) completely, then **visit AKC Shop to purchase your \$25 entry**. You will receive detailed instructions on how to create and submit a video of your entry that you will upload to the virtual event. Winners will be displayed on the challenge leaderboard once judging completes.

For more information about the competition, please visit: [AKC Virtual Conformation Challenge](#)

AKC CANINE AND ME

A program for teens 13 years and older

AKC’s Public Education Department has come up with yet another exciting way to involve young people in activities with their dogs. [AKC Canine and Me](#) is a program that introduces teenagers (13 years and older) to the world of [AKC Sports & Events](#).

Participants will be provided with an introduction to certain sports and events and will be encouraged to try the beginning elements of each activity. To achieve program milestones and receive prizes, participants will need to record themselves and their dog completing the various skills and submit their videos through [Cinebody](#).

AKC Canine and Me is a great way for teenagers and young adults who are dog owners to stay busy and active, while strengthening the bond with their canine. This program promotes health, responsibility and fun while introducing the wonderful world of AKC Sports & Events. We hope that you will share the fun of AKC Canine and Me with your club members.

Obedience, Rally and Agility



AKC CHANGES “Judge” REQUIREMENTS

July 16, 2020

To assist clubs and exhibitors during COVID-19 the AKC made changes to the number of judges required for earning legs in obedience, rally and agility. With travel restrictions and other regulations, many clubs are struggling to bring in judges from outside their area, plus exhibitors are looking to stay close to home.

This change allows for exhibitors to earn three qualifying scores (legs) under the same judge. The change is effective **through December 31, 2020**. This temporary change applies to the following titles:

Agility — 18 titles

Novice level: NA – NAP – NAJ – NJP – NF – NFP
Open level: OA – OAP – OAJ – OJP – OF – OFP
Excellent level: AX – AXP – AXJ – AJP – XF – XFP

Obedience — 10 titles

Novice: CD – PCD	Graduate Novice: GN
Open: CDX – PCDX	Graduate Open: GO
Utility: UD – PUTD	Versatility: VER
Beginner Novice: BN	

Rally— 4 titles

Novice: RN	Advanced: RA
Intermediate: RI	Excellent: RE



Cathie Skoog Becomes AKC FIT DOG INSTRUCTOR

PVSSC Member Cathie Skoog recently became an AKC Fit Dog Instructor after completing online

training and passing exams. This is part of the AKC FIT DOG Program.

The AKC FIT DOG Level One course is a fitness program for **healthy dogs**. Our dogs are athletes, running and jumping, and especially those dogs that train and/or compete in agility, FastCAT and other performance sports.

With a sound fitness program, dogs receive the same health **benefits** as humans:

- Increase performance,
- Reduce risk of injury for our canine athletes,
- Mental and physical stimulation which helps with behavioral wellness and can reduce boredom, increase confidence and help eliminate problem behaviors,
- Increased strength, flexibility and cardiovascular health, and
- Lower stress levels and better sleep habits.

For dogs under 18 months of age (puppies), there are restrictions because the growth plates have not closed.



The Fit Dog Logo and Magnet

FIT DOG WALKING PROGRAM

Walking is the commonly recommended exercise to improve fitness. Walking is considered a safe activity that

that improves muscular strength, circulation, memory, weight loss, increases energy, helps with sleep, and reduces stress. The American Heart Association recommends walking a minimum of 150 minutes per week. Participation in the AKC FIT DOG program will bring health benefits to both you and your dog.

The AKC reports more than 50% of the dogs in the US are overweight and of those, 20% are obese. The Fit Dog Level One Program is NOT appropriate for dogs recovering from injuries, morbidly obese or dogs in pain.

For overweight dogs, it is recommended that a review of their diet be conducted and begin walking for their exercise program using an approach appropriate for the health of your dog.

Remember that before starting an exercise program for your dog, it is a good idea to consult with your veterinarian.



The Fit Dog Logo and Magnet

APPLY FOR YOUR AKC FIT DOG MAGNET

If you walk with your dog on a regular basis, join the AKC FIT DOG and get your free (5-3/4") FIT DOG logo car magnet. The AKC FIT DOG magnet proudly declares to the world that you are committed to your dog's health and fitness through regular exercise.

You can order your **free magnet** when you and your dog have met one of these fitness goals:

- Walked at least 30 minutes 5 times per week for a total of 150 minutes per week for at least 3 months. *For dogs and people in good shape.*
- Walked at least 15 minutes per session at least 10 times per week (e.g., two 15-min walks per day) for 3 months. *For dogs or people who would benefit from a walk that is a shorter duration, e.g., senior dogs.*

How to Get Your Magnet

Complete your walks. Keep a record so you will know when you've met your goal.

Complete the [Magnet Order Form](#). It's that simple and the AKC will send you your magnet.



U.S. Food & Drug Administration

Animal Drug Shortage Information

FDA's Center Drug and Evaluation & Research (CDER) addresses human drug shortages. Veterinarians, especially those in the companion animal field, often use FDA-approved human drugs in their patients in an extra-label manner. Shortages of human drugs can affect veterinary medicine. (The Animal Medicinal Drug Use Clarification Act gives veterinarians the legal ability—with certain restrictions—to use approved human and animal drugs in a way that isn't listed on the drug's labeling. This is called extra-label drug use, or sometimes "off-label use" because the use is "off the label.")

When a human drug shortage affects veterinary medicine, CVM works with CDER to respond to the shortage.

The FDA keeps a list of reported veterinary drug and vaccine shortages on their website: <https://www.fda.gov/animal-veterinary/product-safety-information/animal-drug-shortage-information>

TIPS FOR USING PET AROMATHERAPY

The Veterinary Medical Aromatherapy Association (VMAA), National Association for Holistic Aromatherapy, and Holistic Animal Association advocate using essential oils for a more natural, less harmful approach to animal health care.

While there are hundreds of human aromatherapy research studies available, organizations like the VMAA are working to institute more peer-reviewed animal research studies.

Animal studies or non-empirically derived reporting aren't necessarily based on apples-to-apples comparisons of the same strength or quality of essential oils. "Current conflicting information and data stem from grouping all oils and techniques together," states Dr. Brand. "Some essential oils are chemically toxic to your pet, while others are extremely beneficial.

The VMAA is striving to develop safe and effective standards for Veterinary Medical Aromatherapy®. "Generalizations around care are difficult to make, too, because every animal is an individual," Dr. Brandt emphasizes, "Every pet food isn't good for every animal, and the same goes for aromatherapy. For example, you can use pine for respiratory issues, but which pine (usually manucca) and the technique matter."

All essential oils can be toxic if administered incorrectly through an unsafe method, and certain essential oil for dogs or cats should be avoided. You should also use sensible delivery techniques.

Once you get the go-ahead, there are other pet aromatherapy considerations:

Never Use Essential Oils on Dog or Cat Paws: "There are four reasons that you should never apply essential oil on paws," Dr. Brandt points out.

- "First, paws aren't like our feet. Crevices allow oils to collect, which may make them more concentrated.
- Second, it's the only area on pets' bodies that have sweat glands. More moisture added to essential oils can lead to rashes if the oil collects and stays on the paw.
- Third, if the animal ingests the oil, it could be an issue, depending on the type of oil. And,
- Fourth, animals walk around *naked* and have chemical exposure that's unknown to you. Essential oils and one or many chemicals mixed together may pose a danger to your pet."

Challenges in Your Home: Aromatherapy may not be beneficial for small pet birds, reptiles, fish, or small rodent pets such as gerbils or rabbits. Adverse reactions may be immediate or occur over time. If you're using essential oil therapy for your cat or dog, move other smaller pets to a separate space.

Storage: Keep aromatherapy products and essential oils out of reach of pets.

Human Trends: Hydrosols, also known as *flower waters*, is the less-saturated water that remains after distilling herbs or flowers in water. This current trend in aromatherapy is popular for people who may call for caution when it comes to pets. Often touted as a more natural, safer alternative to essential oils, hydrosols may be dangerous for smaller pets because the water can retain residual plant parts that can be toxic if ingested or inhaled.

Aromatherapy Myths: Recently, the internet has been abuzz with stories that all aromatherapy diffusion makes dogs and cats ill. Using cheap oil or the wrong oil that's known to be toxic can be harmful, but not all diffused essential oils are dangerous to pets. The other prevalent myth is that aromatherapy has no effect, good or bad. However, research shows that essential oils can be extremely beneficial for a variety of medical conditions in dogs and cats.

Treating Pregnant or Sick Animals: Unless your vet directs treatment, don't use essential oils on sick or pregnant pets. Some oils such as basil, cinnamon, fennel, and thyme may cause a miscarriage.

Location, Location, Location: Don't use essential oils near your pet's delicate eye, nose, anal, and genital areas unless specifically directed by your vet.

Experts agree that its best to ask your veterinarian about using essential oils for your pet rather than *doing your own thing*, particularly if your dog has a pre-existing medical condition.

