



The Ridgeline

Newsletter of the New England Rhodesian Ridgeback Club

March 7, 2022

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President's Letter

I hope this finds everyone well.

We will all be back in our shorts & flip flops shortly! Just think Daylight Savings time is in 13 days and Spring is a quick 20 days away which means the Daffodils are not far behind!

Our Ridgebacks are so very versatile and your BOD has been working hard planning some fun activities but if there is something you would like to try and you don't see it on the list please let us know!

Barbara Ferguson
President



"You're only here for a short visit. Don't hurry. Don't worry. And be sure to smell the flowers along the way."

— Walter Hagen

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

December 5, 2021

Winsome Riding Academy, Randolph, MA



Meeting was called to order at 11:10 by Barbara Ferguson

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

Guests: Don and Chris Melchior, Cheryl Fraser

President's Report -- Barbara Ferguson

Barbara welcomed everyone and thanked Helen for arranging the location for this meeting and holiday party.

Secretary's Report -- Evelyn Strawn

There are ten (10) people waiting to be voted into membership. That can happen after December 16. It was agreed that the secretary could make one motion to that effect.

Treasurer's Report -- Nikki Newton

Nikki reported that Ways and Means has brought in \$1091 since August. Both the FastCat and Nosework events made a profit for the club. The total balance is \$16,961.

Prior to the meeting Barbara had submitted a financial report for the Regional Specialty:

Income \$1995.02

Expenses \$2352.84

Details available upon request.



Regional Specialty Show -- Barbara Ferguson

Barbara said that she had received many compliments regarding this year's Regional Specialty. The trophies made by Helen, the beautiful ribbons & the new addition of the "Thank you" for entering water bottles helped to make it look like a "Special"-ty Show! There was a great entry and the weather, thankfully, cooperated

Although the Regional Specialties/Supported Shows have historically been fund raising events for the club, the board did not think we should approach this event with that expectation. There were additional expenses because of the enhanced ribbons and the distribution of water bottles. The board felt this was well worth the expense.

There were items that can be repurposed for next years show including water

bottles and ribbons and those need to be factored into planning for the next show which will begin in January.

Mass Fed -- Chris Greeley

Nero's Law was passed which allows emergency medical personnel to treat and transport working animals when injured in the line of duty.

Also, Per [AKC.org](https://www.akc.org), there is an amendment to the CDC Emergency order banning import of dogs from high risk countries. Effective 12/1/21 eligible travelers, US Citizens or lawful US Residents with a valid US-issued rabies vaccination certificate for their personal pet dogs will be allowed to travel from a high risk country without having to apply for a CDC import permit. Certain additional criterion must be met; animal must appear healthy, be at least 6 months old, have a microchip ID on their rabies certificate. Any other animals coming from high risk countries will still have to apply for an import permit.

Board members responded positively to both of these items. It was also acknowledged that AKC is now more active so that there is less of a role for Mass Fed.

Historian – Vacant

The club continues to need a volunteer to fill this position.

Barbara said that in going through boxes of donations from members who have passed she was struck by the number of old Annuals of Champions. She was wondering if some of these photographs could be submitted to Post.

Membership Care – Don and Chris Melchior

Ten new members pending vote after December 16. Don and Chris will send out welcome packets.

Rescue – Cheryl Fraser

There are no new dogs in rescue.

The rescue calendars will go into the mail shortly.

NERRC Website – Meghan Terwilliger & Cheryl Fraser

Nothing to report.

NERRC Policy & Procedures – Cheryl Fraser

Nothing to report.

Ridgeline – Helen McCune

Helen will send out one more Ridgeline before the end of the year that will include minutes of this meeting. She encouraged anyone with articles to submit them to her.

Ways and Means – Cheryl Fraser

Cheryl and Alan brought items to be sold at the holiday party. The new items have been well received.

Bylaws – Alan Fraser

Nothing to report.

Social Media – Meghan Terwilliger

Nothing to report.

Regional News (for The Ridgeback Magazine) – Bonnie Johnson

Bonnie will send in brief account to Regional News. A full report including the judge's critiques will be included in an upcoming issue.

Lure Coursing – Nikki Newton and Chris Greeley

While lure coursing is a very popular activity there continue to be ongoing challenges with securing fields. Most of the fields that have been used are hay fields and so are dependent on the schedule of mowing by the

owners. The goal is to have a spring and fall event. Some options discussed were a field that has been used before in Lakeville, Vermont and two fields in Connecticut (Griswold and Waterford).

Last winter Nikki and Chris were able to do a practice run with very little notice since that would be weather dependent. They would like to continue to offer those.

The club has received requests from two other clubs to rent NERRC equipment for FastCat events. The pros and cons of these requests were discussed at some length. Nikki said that she would be willing to be the lure operator. Chris said that she would help in order to learn more about running FastCat events. It was agreed the equipment should only be loaned out if Nikki or another club member were there to oversee their use.

Chris moved and Julie seconded that the club should explore the possibility of renting our equipment to the interested clubs. Such exploration would include the negotiation of a base, a per dog cost and the requirement that a club member be present. The vote in favor was unanimous.

In order to hold an AKC event there must be back up machinery. Currently the back up can not be relied upon. Therefore the club needs to buy another Bobinator. It was agreed that it should be the same make as the current one so that there would be no learning curve for the operators and the parts could be interchangeable. Transportation or shipping needs to be included in the calculation of the costs of this purchase.

Evelyn moved and Helen seconded the authorization of up to \$3000 for the purchase and transportation of a new Bobinator. The vote in favor was unanimous.

Unfinished Business

The board revisited the issue of having an online capability to accept payments for event registration and ways and means items. Alan Fraser volunteered (was drafted?) to look into options such as Venmo.

New Business

The date and time for the next meeting was set and it was agreed to hold this meeting virtually.

Next Meeting: January 23 at 5:00 PM. The meeting will be virtual.

Meeting adjourned at 12:10 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Strawn, NERRC Secretary



“The Sweetness of Dogs”

What do you say, Percy? I am thinking
of sitting out on the sand to watch
the moon rise. It’s full tonight.

So we go
and the moon rises, so beautiful it
makes me shudder, makes me think about
time and space, makes me take
measure of myself: one iota
pondering heaven. Thus we sit, myself
thinking how grateful I am for the moon’s
perfect beauty and also, oh! how rich
it is to love the world. Percy, meanwhile,
leans against me and gazes up
into my face. As though I were just as wonderful
as the perfect moon.

by Mary Oliver from [Dog Songs](#)



NERRC's Annual Holiday Party was a Hit!

On Sunday December 5th, NERRC held it's annual holiday party in Randolph MA at Winsome Riding Academy; a brand new, non-profit therapeutic riding center. Initially we were unsure if we'd be able to hold a party again due to COVID but we decided, given the openness of the venue, people would be able to socially distance if necessary.

NERRC provided the main entrée for lunch; delicious Italian food from George's Café in Brockton, while the 20+ guests brought yummy appetizers and decadent desserts!!

As always the RR-related Yankee Swap was great fun and everyone came away happy with their gifts.

The silent auction table was filled with some unique Ridgeback/Lion themed items. Ways & Means did a brisk business as well. But, the highlight of the day for some adventurous participants was the complementary horse rides that were given on the festively attired Connemara pony named Puck!

COVID has taken a toll on us all; it was just so enjoyable seeing everyone face to face and being able to relax and socialize for the first time in so very long!

Let's hope that this year we get to do much more of that!!



Julie and Brandon Paul were all smiles during their ride on Puck!





Sharon Faust showed off her old riding skills too! Beautiful equitation! Once an equestrian, always an equestrian!!

Attention !!

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



Can you help with any of these?

Big ticket item:

- 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

January 23, 2022

Virtual

Meeting was called to order at 5:05 PM by Barbara Ferguson

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

Guests: Maura Bushior, Cheryl Fraser, Alan Fraser



President's Report -- Barbara Ferguson

Barbara welcomed and introduced new member, Maura Bushior.

Secretary's Report -- Evelyn Strawn

There are two new applicants:

- Melissa August Hopkinton, MA Single Voting, Sponsor: Julie Paul
- Marsa Hatfield Salem, CT Single Voting, Sponsor: Bonnie Johnson

Evelyn then reported that the board had received a letter of resignation from Nikki as the treasurer. The Board thanked Nikki for her willingness to take on this role when no one else would and recognized the amount of work involved with this position.

Evelyn moved and Meghan seconded that the board accept Nikki's resignation. The motion passed with a unanimous vote in favor.

After discussion, Alan Fraser agreed to accept the nomination to be the treasurer pending the next election.

Barbara moved and Meghan seconded that Alan be appointed to the treasurer position. The motion passed with a unanimous vote in favor.

Treasurer's Report -- Nikki Newton

Nikki reported that 49 current members have renewed. Evelyn pointed out that the club has more active members than that since there are several honorary members and at least 10 new members that do not need to renew.

Alan and Nikki will work on a transition for the treasurer's duties including a year end report. They will also send out reminders to members who have not renewed. They have until March 1 to do so.

Regional Specialty Show -- Barbara Ferguson

The Cranberry Cluster will be held September 15 – September 18 this year. The Regional Specialty will be on the 17th.

The Specialty has been approved. Barbara is in the process of identifying a sweeps judge whose name needs to be submitted soon.

Mass Fed -- Chris Greeley

Although there was nothing to report at this time, there continues to be a need for a liaison to Mass Fed.



Historian – Vacant

The club continues to need a volunteer to fill this position.

Membership Care – Don and Chris Melchior

Don and Chris were unable to attend this meeting but they had contacted Evelyn in order to let the board know that the welcome packets are going out. Cheryl clarified that there had never been printed cards. In the past there were either hand written notes or perhaps messages were printed on someone's home computer.

Rescue – Cheryl Fraser

Towards the end of 2021, RRRRI in the New England region, adopted out 4 Ridgebacks that had been in foster care. Penny, an owner surrender & Tory, a shelter intake, each went to live on Cape Cod. Polo, a shelter intake, went to live in Connecticut. And Kiki, another shelter intake, went to live in Connecticut.

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 update the website once the calendar is set for 2022.

NERRC Policy & Procedures – Cheryl Fraser

Nothing to report.

Ridgeline – Helen McCune

Three issues of the Ridgeline were published in 2021. The next one will be sent out after the minutes from the January 23rd board meeting are approved.

Helen reminded the board that she was hoping that someone would volunteer to take on the role of editor of the Ridgeline. Maura volunteered to help with this responsibility. Helen will work with her in order to make this transition go smoothly. The board thanked Maura for being willing to help the club.

Ways and Means – Cheryl Fraser

At the NERRC Holiday Party, the Ways & Means table was very busy and from member's support, an additional \$305 in merchandise sales was recorded. Ways & Means have a healthy array of wearables that include the "3 puppies" in t-shirts and sweatshirts. Along with NERRC logo fleece jackets and windbreakers.

Cheryl supplied an inventory of Ways & Means items prior to the meeting. It is available upon request.

Meghan said that she will work with Cheryl in order to come up with items that could be sold at lure coursing events. She has a design that includes three breeds so that it would have wide wider appeal than just Ridgeback designs.

Bylaws – Alan Fraser

Nothing to report.

Social Media – Meghan Terwilliger

Nothing to report.

Regional News (for The Ridgeback Magazine) – Bonnie Johnson

Barbara will clarify with Bonnie what reports will be printed in upcoming issues.

Lure Coursing – Nikki Newton and Chris Greeley

It continues to be a challenge to find fields for lure coursing events. Meghan is going to follow up with the

owner of a field that might be a possibility in Rehoboth. In terms of setting a schedule, AKC saves the last weekend in October for a NERRC trial. Nikki needs to wait until GONE publishes their schedule before any other events can be planned in so that they do not conflict with them.

The board agreed that there should be an inventory of the existing equipment that the club has. Nikki will work with Bonnie to complete that task. Nikki also pointed out that this equipment needs to all be weighed before purchasing a trailer to ensure that the club obtains the correct size.

The board then reviewed the status of the expenditures that had been approved at previous meetings. The highest priority is buying a bobinator. An expenditure of \$3000 has been authorized and that should include shipping or transportation. Nikki will move forward on this. \$3500 has also been authorized for a trailer. This needs to be obtained in order to store all of the equipment and to transport it to trials. Once the equipment has been weighed, this search can move forward. Finally, there was \$350 earmarked for a ladder. Since that vote, it has become apparent that an appropriate ladder with a stand would cost much more than that. That is not a priority at this time.

Nikki will follow up with the two clubs that expressed interest in renting our equipment. A third club, Hock-amock Kennel Club, has also approached her about doing a joint trial at their show in Wrentham on July 4th.

Unfinished Business

The recruitment of volunteers continues to be an issue for the club. Evelyn volunteered to do a special mailing that would explain the opportunities to be involved with the club and encourage people to volunteer. The board also talked about redesigning the renewal applications so that people could express their areas of interest. At the present time that is only on the initial application.

The current vacancies are: Historian, Regional News Liaison

The lure coursing committee could use more help. And special events (BBQ, Holiday Party, Farm Dog, CGC, etc.) also need to have people involved in planning and running them.

This led to a discussion of how to involve more members in events. One of the issues is the location. We need to encourage members who do not live in SE Massachusetts to help find venues in their areas. Also, we need to do more advertising/publicity via social media and mailings.

New Business

Calendar for 2022:

February 27—Board Meeting/Virtual at 5:00 PM

March—Canine Good Citizenship/Trick Dog Trial TBD

May—Board Meeting prior to Farm Dog TBD

August 7—Board Meeting/Annual Meeting/Summer BBQ Tentative; location TBD

September 17—Regional Specialty Show at Cape Cod Fairgrounds, East Falmouth

October 2—Board Meeting/Virtual at 5:00 PM

October 29 and 30—Lure Coursing; location TBD

December 4—Board Meeting and Holiday Party TBD

Next Meeting: February 27 at 5:00 PM. The meeting will be virtual.

Meeting adjourned at 6:25 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Strawn

NERRC Secretary

Board of Directors Meeting Minutes

February 27, 2022— Virtual

Meeting was called to order at 5:05 PM by Barbara Ferguson

Attendees: Board Members: Barbara Ferguson, President, Meghan Terwilliger, Vice President, Alan Fraser, Treasurer, Helen McCune, Julie Paul, Evelyn Strawn, Secretary

Guests: Maura Bushior, Cheryl Fraser

President's Report -- Barbara Ferguson

Barbara welcomed everyone. She reported that Chris has resigned from the board and from her committee positions. The board thanks her for her service.

Secretary's Report -- Evelyn Strawn

There are three new applicants awaiting publication in The Ridgeline.

Evelyn had volunteered to send out a mailing to the membership detailing the volunteer opportunities. The board agreed that this was still a worthwhile effort. The mailing will include:

- Historian
- Mass Fed Liaison
- Summer BBQ
- Regional Specialty
- Lure Coursing

Treasurer's Report – Alan Fraser

Alan provided an Income and Expense Report to the board prior to the meeting:

Rescue Funds	\$2542.87
General Funds	\$15,203.07
Show Funds	\$1848.71
Total	\$19,594.65

The board reviewed the treasurer's report and discussed the purpose of the various funds.

The general fund is used for:

Lure Coursing Equipment -- \$6500 expenditures approved/pending
Insurance -- \$1100 annually
Mass Fed
Subsidize events/off set costs for members

Membership status:

Renewed 54
NEW 13
Honorary 3
Not Renewed 28

Regional Specialty Show -- Barbara Ferguson

The Cranberry Cluster will be held September 15 – September 18 this year. The Regional Specialty will be on the 17th.



Barbara reported that she was told by RRCUS President that NERRC was approved to hold our Regional Specialty. She filed the paperwork and is still waiting to receive the approval in writing. Susan Morrill has agreed to judge Sweeps and she is waiting for Susan to return the signed contract. Frank Depaulo has agreed to judge Breed.

She will begin to advertise for trophy sponsors once we have a more updated membership list. Possible items for trophies were discussed and board members suggested contacts for pottery trophies and leads. It was suggested that the club could consider pewter trophies that had been used in the past. Once she has more information, it might be necessary to review the amounts contributed per trophy.

Mass Fed -- Vacant

Now that Chris has resigned from the board and from this liaison role, the club needs to recruit a volunteer to fill this position.

Historian – Vacant

The club continues to need a volunteer to fill this position.

Membership Care – Don and Chris Melchior

Don and Chris have sent out welcome packets to ten (10) new members. They have inquired about having printed “welcome cards”. Given the volume of new members the board felt that it would be preferable to continue to either hand write notes or insert printed greetings in the existing cards.

Rescue – Cheryl Fraser

Wasabi, an 8 year old male Ridgeback, is a return to rescue dog, as his owner had some health setbacks and found he was unable to keep Wasabi. While being fostered, Wasabi collapsed on a walk and was taken to Angell Memorial in Boston. Wasabi was diagnosed with pericardial effusion. Upon further evaluation, it was found he also has extensive cancer throughout his thoracic region and a cancerous mass on his heart. Wasabi is in hospice care, and his foster family are providing him with wonderful care for his remaining days.

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.

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NERRC Website – Meghan Terwilliger & Cheryl Fraser

Website is up to date.

NERRC Policy & Procedures – Cheryl Fraser

Nothing to report.

Ridgeline – Helen McCune

Helen is working on the first issue of 2022 right now, hopes to have it completed and sent to the membership by the end of next week. Maura Bushior is helping her proofread this issue and then they will work together to transition the editor’s role to her in the months ahead.

Ways and Means – Cheryl Fraser

No activity since last committee report.

Discussed the possibility of having LC leads to sell.

Bylaws – Alan Fraser

Nothing to report.

Social Media – Meghan Terwilliger

Nothing to report.

Regional News (for The Ridgeback Magazine) – Bonnie Johnson

Most recent edition of The Ridgeline included the NERRC report and an apology from the editors for the delay in printing it.

Lure Coursing – Nikki Newton submitted this report:

Lure coursing has a couple of potential events coming up.

Hockomock Kennel Club asked if we would like to host a FastCAT in conjunction with their show in Wrentham, on July 2. There might be the possibility to also host a FastCAT on July 3 in conjunction with the Wampanoag show. I am waiting to hear back on a firm answer after Hockomock has their meeting early this week.

I would like to do this. I believe I can rally the workers we need and we have experience and equipment. We would need to buy more snow fence, as we have about half of what we need. It is bound to be a huge money maker for the club, at \$25 per run, and runs go by very quickly. We would have to agree on a fee for use of the field, but that is standard.

We have also been asked to bring our equipment and for me to operate the lure for a FastCAT for The Whippet Club of Rhode Island on May 7. I just realized I need to clarify if they want 1 or 2 days.

If we are willing to do this, I would love to do it. I suggest we charge \$6 per dog plus expenses. Expenses would include gas for the machine, gas for my car (lodging for me if needed), and any consumables, like string, bags, etc. I believe this is reasonable and in line with other lure ops. I am not looking to personally make money from this. I intend for the revenue to help NERRC. I also think the more successful events we run or help with, the better our club looks to the public.

The board discussed the need for clarification of who would be paying the expenses: Whippet Club or NERRC? The purchase of a Bobinator is still pending. Can the Hockomock trials be done with only one?

Meghan and Evelyn volunteered to meet with Bonnie and Nikki to discuss what is needed for the club to support LC events. They will report back to the Board. Alan will create a form that can be used by all event chairs to track income and expenses.

Unfinished Business

In an effort to offer diversified events for its members, the club has been exploring opportunities for CGC/Trick Dog and Farm Dog events.

Meghan reported on the options she had come up with for a CGC/Trick Club trial in March. After a lengthy discussion it was decided that there was not sufficient interest on the part of the members nor was there time to generate interest in such an event by the end of March. The board decided to explore options for an event in April.

Maura and Barb presented information on Farm Dog. The preference had been to hold a trial in May but at this time that timing is problematic. Maura will discuss options with a person she knows who expressed interest in partnering with the club.

Nose Work has become very popular. Putting on an official trial is probably beyond the current capability of the board but perhaps the club could explore doing an introduction to the sport. That had been offered in the past but was not well attended by members.

The board asked Evelyn to poll the membership about their potential interest in these trials or other events.

New Business

There is now a vacancy on the Board.

Executive Session

The board voted to go into executive session at 6:45 PM.

The board returned to open session at 7:15.

Next Meeting: May meeting TBD

Meeting adjourned at 7:15 PM.

Respectfully submitted, Evelyn Strawn, NERRC Secretary

Secretary's Corner

Online Motions:

On November 12, 2021 it was moved by Evelyn and seconded by Helen that NERRC contribute \$250 towards the cost of the holiday party on December 5, 2021. The motion passes with unanimous votes in favor.

On December 8, 2021 Evelyn moved and Barbara seconded the approval of the minutes of the December 5, 2021 board meeting. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

On December 16, 2021 Evelyn moved and Helen seconded the acceptance of the following 10 applicants for membership: Nora Bond, Assoc; Joan Brown, Single Voting; Maura Bushior and Christopher Wright, Family Voting; Michelle Cyr, Assoc; Karen Harvey, SV; Stephanie Kennedy, SV; Frank Kodzis, SV; Carolyn and Richard O'Brien, FV; Stephen Sefton, Assoc; and Blanca Zelaya, SV. The majority voting in the affirmative the motion passed.

On January 26, 2022, Meghan moved and Barbara seconded approval of the minutes of the January 23, 2022 BOD meeting. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

On February 15, 2022 Barbara moved and seconded by Helen that NERRC purchase \$1 mil directors' liability insurance. The annual premium is \$575. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

On February 15, 2022 Helen moved and Evelyn seconded that we pay up to \$200 for the reimbursement of travel expenses for our annual regional specialty sweepstakes judge. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

On February 28, 2022 Meaghan moved and Evelyn seconded that the minutes of the February 27, 2022 minutes be approved. The motion passed with unanimous approval.

Additional First Read:

Helena Passamonti Milford, MA Single Voting

Sponsor: Julie Paul



Welcome New Members!!

Nora Bond

Joan Brown

Maura Bushior and Christopher Wright

Michelle Cyr

Karen Harvey

Stephanie Kennedy

Frank Kodzis

Carolyn and Richard O'Brien

Stephen Sefton

Blanca Zelaya



How to be a Good Dog

'Step one: Find yourself a good person.

A good person will know that you are a good dog.

You will not need to prove it.'