



Summer 2002

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**EUNICE GRIERSON**

*10/11/1940 - 07/06/2002*

On June 7th 2002 the Cross Country Tracking Club lost one of it's founding members. Eunice was very involved in getting the Club recognized by the CKC in 1996. Eunice will be greatly missed by the many club members who knew her.

**SRING TEST 2002**

On May 5/02, CCTC held a Tracking TD Test with 8 dogs entered. With a good percentage of passes we had 5 pass out of 8 entries.

Our Judge was TERRY SMITH of Thorndale Ontario.

Here are the dogs that Passed

1<sup>st</sup> dog was RECK VOM BEAR BERG [German Shepherd Dog] M  
DEBORAH BRAUN of Durham Maine USA

2<sup>nd</sup> dog was CH.HAYASTAN'S KINETIC KYLA CDX AGN [West Highland Terrier] F  
JANE McLAUGHLAN of Toronto Ont.

3<sup>rd</sup> dog was BELLA VISTA'S BRIGHA XTERRA [West Highland Terrier] F  
JANE McLAUGHLAN of Toronto Ont.

4<sup>th</sup> dog was PIPER'S GAIA CD WCI JH [Chocolate Labrador Retriever] F  
LIA MACDONALD of Toronto Ont.

5<sup>th</sup> dog was CLAROT'S TASHA BH SCH 1 [German Shepherd Dog] F  
AARON WINSOR of Toronto Ont.

Entered in the Test was also a Rottweiler , a Mastiff, and a German Shepherd who just had some bad luck on that day.

The Track layers were; MARYKE WARWICK, EILEEN FISHER, SUE GODBEHERE, KATHLEEN DAHMER, and MEL and MARIE-P.BABIN.

FRANK DOWNS also came to help carry flags.

We had some great weather for the test and also wonderful fields.

Cool and overcast in the early morning then sunny and warm. The fields were 8" to 10" of lush green grass.

Our Club members again brought a great Pot Luck lunch to share with everyone !

Our next TD Test will be in October and our TDX will be in November so be ready to enter the Tests, or to be a Track layer.

Our "regular Track layers" also have dogs to enter on occasion so if anyone would like to help out by being a Track layer , don't be shy. Give us a call and offer your help.

It's a great way to see dogs Tracking up close with the Judge. Marie-P.Babin

## “Saying goodbye to our special friends Tara and Jamie”

It has been a period of intense sadness for us as we have had to come to terms with the loss of two very dear and loyal friends.

**Carmspack Tara Can/Am CD, TD**  
(02 05 94- 04 09 02)

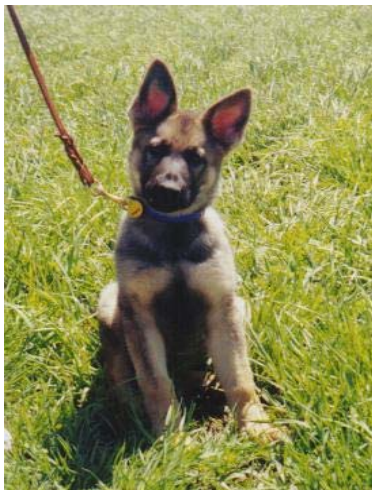


Tara, our black sable princess. She worked and played with a serious determination in all of her pursuits until pain and discomfort got the better of her. When she was in her prime, she was a superb dog to handle on the track. Her confident manner was relayed up the tracking line and that very special feeling of teamwork was unsurpassed.

I remember her joy as she reached the cottage, which transferred into squeals of delight, as she leapt from the truck and demanded that her kong be thrown instantly into the water. Early in the morning when the lake was still, I would take out the canoe and she would swim behind me, as we slowly traversed the bay.

Her spirit will always be there engulfed in these precious memories.

Thank you Tara for sharing your life energy with us.



**Setherwood Zackery CD, WC, Therapy Dog,**  
(09 16 90- 04 26 02)



Jamie our golden giant with a giant sized heart. Aptly, he came to us from the heart programme at Guelph, as a bouncing pup with a minor heart murmur. He was far too handsome for his own good. Obedience training was definitely not his favourite pastime but with coaxing and bribing, he got his CD. When he realized that this could be just a beginning, he spat out the dumbbell and adopted the demeanour of a beaten dog. He got his way of course and his career in obedience came to an abrupt end.

At this time he passed the St John Therapy Dog test and began visiting patients at Sunnybrook Hospital. He later moved to Participation House in Markham, where he remained until completing his 518<sup>th</sup> visit in March of this year.

At the age of 9, he briefly turned his attention to field work. His Lab friends were practicing for upcoming tests and he was excited by the smell of birds and the sounds on gun shots. He was a natural, and on October 3<sup>rd</sup>., 1999, he passed his WC Test.

It was in his work as a therapy dog, that his true work ethic emerged. From the moment he was groomed and his special collar went on, his tail swished and he held his head with pride. Even during the last 2 weeks of visiting, he gave them all he had.

Thank you Jamie, it was a privilege to work with you in such a rewarding pursuit.

Thankfully, puppies come along to ease the pain of parting. Kavik, our new German Shepherd puppy has arrived to fulfill this role. He has a wonderful nature and a resilient personality. At sixteen weeks, he has already established himself as a member of our household.

Mackenzie, our dachshund, has assumed the role of matriarch and is teaching him all she knows!! They are the best of friends and are truly the odd couple!

May 12th /02

Eileen Fisher and Eunice Grierson

(This article was written before Eunice's passing away)

## **AN AMAZING CO-INCIDENCE....OR FATE?!**

I think I'll start this story back at the Credit Valley Dog Show in December, 1999 being held at Skydome in Toronto.

I was attending with a friend, as spectators, and naturally wanted to see the GSD's. As they were preparing to enter the ring, a young girl was walking a young female shepherd, mainly black, in the aisle and both my friend and I looked at the dog, looked at each other, and said, "That's Spook!"—of course, it wasn't but looked exactly like a younger version of her.

I went through the program, and sure enough, this dog came from the same lady that I bought Spook from, same dam, different sire. I tried finding the breeder, to no avail, and after the dogs exited the ring, we followed (tracked!) them. This took us to two ladies, one who had brought the dog to the show. So...I met "Marlene", and it turns out she had a pure black male with related parentage on the dams' side, and was missing part of the pedigree background that I had for Spook. We agreed to get in touch and I later sent this information to her. In turn, Marlene sent a photo of Jake along with his extended pedigree. He was a nice looking, pure black shepherd. This was in February, 2000.

Another curiosity! Marlene, who lives in S.W. Ont., also had a cottage on Lake Nosbonsing, ten minutes from where I live. (near North Bay). This was just TOO weird! She was going to contact me when she came up, but didn't manage to get there that year. And...we then lost each others' address!

Well, the months moved on, and in September we took in two rescue GSD's from the Sault Ste. Marie puppy mill that was shut down. Thirteen of the seventy-seven dogs came down to All Heart Pet Rescue in Powassan and I was going to spend time with them socializing. It was difficult spending equal time with all 13 of the dogs. Two of the dogs were brother and sister, having lived for the first 4 years of their lives in a cage. They somehow "spoke" to me, and I ended up spending more time with them. You can figure the rest, we said we would foster, but knew it meant forever. The sweetest dogs you could ever imagine. They had deformed legs, were constantly lame for the first few weeks, but are strong and healthy now. They did not know a collar and leash, but walked very nicely, learned how to play, finally learned to navigate stairs at 5 years of age, and just suck up any love you give them. Great dogs!

And something wonderful happened. A "friend" on the tracking group list, who lives in Thunder Bay, helped me to find (track down!) the original breeder of Bear and Jewel. I never thought I'd find any information about these dogs at all, and here was the contact information for their original owner. These dogs came from a breeder in the U.S. who had by now found out they ended up in this mill but didn't know where they had been sent to. She was very pleased to know they are now well and have a forever home. She also sent me a complete background and pedigree for these two dogs, along with photos of the parents, also pure black.

But...back to the main story! I received a card from Marlene in December, as she finally found my address again. I was so pleased, and promptly threw the envelope in the garbage. Once again, I lost her address! Well, I KNEW that somewhere in one of my "safe" places in my house, I had saved the previous information she sent me. I had already looked numerous times, but decided to search again. Finally, having gone through all my dog files, there it was!

I was about to write her, but decided to sit down and look at Jake's pedigree again. Something odd struck me. I pulled out

Spooks' pedigree. There it was again. Then I looked at the picture of Jake. He looked EXACTLY like Bear and Jewel—the 2 rescues! There was a name in the pedigree of both Jake and Spook that I remembered being in the background of Bear and Jewel.

This is so amazing! These dogs are all RELATED!!! The main connecting link was a ROM sire, Ch. Doppelt-Tay's Hawkeye, quite a ways back in Spook and Jake, and more recent in Bear and Jewel. Hawkeye, as it turns out, was once the No.1 GSD stud dog in the U.S. for 2 years in a row, and I'm sure used extensively. However, they were definitely all connected by him and a few others.

So, looking back.....13 out of 77 German Shepherds came down here from the Carlson Mill Raid. We end up with Bear and Jewel. So, fate, luck, serendipity?....some good "people tracking"....I don't know, but all the circumstances leading up to meeting and finding these people, and then these dogs all end up being related, is pretty strange to me. Maybe I live in the Twilight Zone?!!!!

Susan I. Coutts  
"keepers"ä

## **DOG BISCUITS DELUXE**

**2 cups of whole wheat flour**  
**1/2 cup soy flour**  
**1/4 cup cornmeal**  
**1 tsp bonemeal**  
**1/2 cup sunflower or pumpkin seeds**  
**1-2 cloves minced garlic (optional)**  
**1 tbsp nutritional yeast ( optional)**  
**2 tbsp vegetable oil**  
**1/4 cup unsulfured molasses**  
**1 tsp salt**  
**2 eggs mixed with 1/4 cup of milk**

**Knead together, roll on cookie sheet, cut with pizza cutter or use cookie cutters and bake at 350 for 30 minutes.**

## **FALL TRACKING TESTS**

The TD test will be held on Oct 20th/02.

The judge will be Mike Wood.

Entries will not be accepted before Sept 9th/02.

Closing date will be Sept 30th/02 at 8:00 pm.

The TDX test will be held on Nov 10th/02.

The judge will be Jane Book.

Entries will not be accepted before Sept 30th/02.

Closing date will be Oct 21st/02 at 8:00 pm.

The fee for both tests will be \$60.00.

Only mailed or couriered entries accepted.

Premium Lists will be mailed out to the membership.

If you know of others who would like a premium list contact

Eileen Fisher Test Secretary

eileenfi@sympatico.ca

## **BARBEQUE + GENERAL MEETING**

**We will be having a barbeque with our summer meeting. It will be held at Eileen Fisher's house on Friday Aug 23rd at 6:00 pm. If you can come please RSVP so we can make sure we have enough food for everyone.**

## Handling at Tracking Tests

by Craig Green

### Guiding Your Dog

It is not uncommon for a handler to help the dog find the track in a training session, especially when the dog is honestly trying to work out a difficult problem. The last thing you want to do in training is make tracking so difficult that the dog gets frustrated, thereby learning to dislike tracking. Unfortunately however, some handlers forget that this is not permitted at a tracking test, or don't realize they are guiding their dogs.

According to AKC tracking regulations: "The purpose of a Tracking Test is to demonstrate the dog's ability to recognize and follow human scent..." The AKC does not recognize the dog/handler team, but the dog alone as being the one who finds the article at the end of the track. The regulations also state: "Guiding is defined as behaviour by the handler which influences or determines the dog's direction. Guiding is prohibited and the dog shall be marked failed." A literal interpretation of this suggests that any restraining of the dog is guiding. However, most judges I know interpret this rule more liberally.

In my opinion, there is often a fine line between guiding your dog and restraining or body language. Most trackers would have no problem recognizing obvious guiding, such as pointing to the track ahead of the dog, moving the dog from one place to another, or walking along the track ahead of the dog to encourage it to get busy. However, it has been my experience that most guiding is less obvious than this.

Restraining a dog at a tracking test is not necessarily considered by most judges to be guiding, but it can be. If a dog sticks its nose down a critter hole, or is trying to chase a bunny it flushed on the track, the handler may hold tightly to the lead and try to prevent or limit these distractions. However, when the judges think that the handler can see the track (which sometimes happens from dew or other conditions), such restraining might be interpreted as guiding. In wet conditions, I have seen a handler come to a turn which was clearly visible, and not let the dog go any direction except the right one. That is guiding. Although the judges in this case did not call it guiding, one of them later confided to me that she regretted the decision to allow this dog to pass.

Body language can be interpreted as guiding. I have seen handlers lean severely one way or another, to indicate to the dog where they think the track goes. This sometimes is a carry-over from training, in which case the handler may not know he/she is doing it. When you know where the track is in training, you sometimes develop such body language without even knowing it.

Some dogs are very tentative in their tracking behaviour. They track for a few steps, and then get distracted by something else. These are the most difficult dogs to handle, since in training the handler may have to repeatedly restrain or correct them. It is very difficult for handlers of such dogs in tracking tests to avoid all suspicion of guiding. Training on blind tracks may help the handler reduce or eliminate these bad habits, but some dogs just seem to need every break they can get. If you are unsure about whether a behaviour you use in training is guiding, ask the judges before you begin a tracking test.

The tracking rules allow handlers to approach their dogs and untangle their leads or give the dog a drink, or in TDX, to help them over a difficult physical obstacle. However, this

doesn't mean guiding. While this is open to different interpretations, I think an important distinction is whether the handler's action tells the dog where the handler thinks the track is. If the handler lifts a dog over an obstacle, it is important for the handler to simply put the dog down on the other side and not indicate to the dog a location or direction where the track might go. This means not pointing to the track. Some judges and AKC reps interpret any pointing to the ground as guiding.

My advice to handlers is to use restraining and similar techniques sparingly, and only when necessary to prevent the dog from doing something that is clearly not tracking. This is not always easy to figure out, but doing too much for the dog may lead to an embarrassing failure at a tracking test.

### BEST IN SHOW

There was a time, there really was, when I was sweet and tender,  
When SHOW DOG meant a Disney Star, and BITCH was not a gender.  
I went to bed at half past ten, I went to church on Sunday.  
On Saturday I baked the beans, and did the wash on Monday.  
But then I got a certain pup, and an erstwhile friend said, "SHOW"  
And so I did, and so I do OH !! What I didn't know.

I used to dress with flair and style, that was the life, don't knock it,  
But now each dress from bed to ball, must have a good bait pocket.  
I used to have a certain air, I wallowed in perfume, I used to smell  
of  
Nuit D'Amour Now I smell like Mr. Groom.

My furniture was 'haut decor', my pets a tank of Guppies,  
Now I've furniture unstuffed, and well-adjusted puppies  
Once I spoke in pristine prose, in dulcet tones and frail  
But now I'm using language, that would turn a sailor pale.

I was taught to be well-groomed, no matter where I went,  
Now all the grooming that I do, is in the handler's tent.  
I used to long for clothes and jewels, and a figure classed as super,  
Now the thing I yearn for most, is a nice new Pooper-Scooper.

I adored a man who murmured verse, through intimate little dinners,  
But now the words I thrill to hear are just three - "Best of Winners"  
I rise at dawn and pack the car, the road ahead's a long one,  
The one I routed on the maps, invariably's the wrong one.  
I really love this doggy life, I wouldn't care to change it,  
But when I get that 'BEST IN SHOW' I plan to rearrange it.

And when my time on earth is done, I'll go without much nudging  
Just give me three weeks closing date . And let me know who's  
judging.....

Author Unknown....

### TRACKING GET-TOGETHERS

We are adding another get-together location for members living in the Greater Toronto Area. Courtice is still available for members living East of the city.

Our other location will now be in Scarborough at the South East corner of Markham Rd. and McNicoll Ave. There is parking behind the grey building . This is a cut hydro field with some change of terrain.

Any members interested in tracking on the third Sunday of each month at 10:00 am should contact other members and plan for it  
It's a time set aside for members to help each other in their tracking quest. Good Luck in your practices !!