



The Sheltie Seanachie

MARCH 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

March 16, 2020

Changes to the **THE SHELTYE SEANACHIE**

The Sheltie Seanachie will be published bimonthly: January, March, May, July, September and November. The newsletter will continue to provide a forum for sharing information, discussing issues concerning the breed, AKC information and club activities.

If any member would like to be the Editor, please contact Donna Richards or Cathie Skoog.

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

PVSSC MONTHLY MEETINGS

Monthly meetings are held on the 3rd Monday at 7:30 pm at the Dunn Loring Fire House (2148 Gallows Rd, Dunn Loring, VA) except for **June (when we will hold our Specialty and Picnic)**, July (no meeting) and December (Holiday Party).

Meetings are open to the public. The Potomac Valley Shetland Sheepdog Club welcomes Sheltie breeders and fanciers, including those interested in conformation and performance events, and pet and Sheltie Rescue owners.

JOIN PVSSC ON SOCIAL MEDIA

<https://www.meetup.com/Potomac-Valley-Shetland-Sheepdog-Meetup/>

<https://www.facebook.com/PVSSC/>

<https://www.facebook.com/PVSSCHerding/>

<https://www.facebook.com/PVSSC-Obedience-Rally-Trials-577492912373571/>

PVSSC WEBSITE

<http://www.potomacvalleyshetlandsheepdogclub.org>



PVSSC SPECIALTY

Friday, June 26

PVSSC will be holding a Designated Specialty as part of the Mattaponi Kennel Club Show. This will be a Cluster with Mattaponi and the Tidewater Kennel Club of Virginia. The Show will be held in Doswell, VA.

TO EMAIL ANY PVSSC OFFICER OR BOARD MEMBER

Send email to PVSSC.Shelties@gmail.com

PVSSC MARCH 16th MEETING PRESENTATION BY PVSSC MEMBER LILIAN YEH FORSYTH

Members have shown an interest in learning more about Conformation Shows: the “in’s-and-out’s” of the breed ring, how to get started and other questions. PVSSC Member Lilian Yeh Forsyth, who currently breeds Shelties and shows them in conformation will discuss the following topics and any other topic members/guests may have.

- Co-ownership: how it work, what are types and what does it all mean
- Grooming schedules when you are showing several dogs
- Shows she has traveled to – what venues work well and what ones don’t? (i.e. of someone wanted to go see a show, what is easy/accessible)
- Demonstrate handling
- AKC Junior Handler Program

A Little About Lilian



Blue Heavens Heart's Desire "Desi"
Pictured at 16 weeks - now 8 months-old and has
1 point (and a few Reserve Winners Bitch).
Shown by handler Peter Denbow

Lilian has loved and owned pets since a young child, in Brazil. She grew up wanting a Collie, but when he saw a Sheltie for the first time, it was love at first sight! At that time (late 80's), Shelties were not as well-known as nowadays.

She started studying the breed through magazines, imported books, and via the Internet.

Having a Miniature Pinscher at that time, school, college, and working abroad (in Taiwan), her dream of owning a Sheltie had to be postponed.

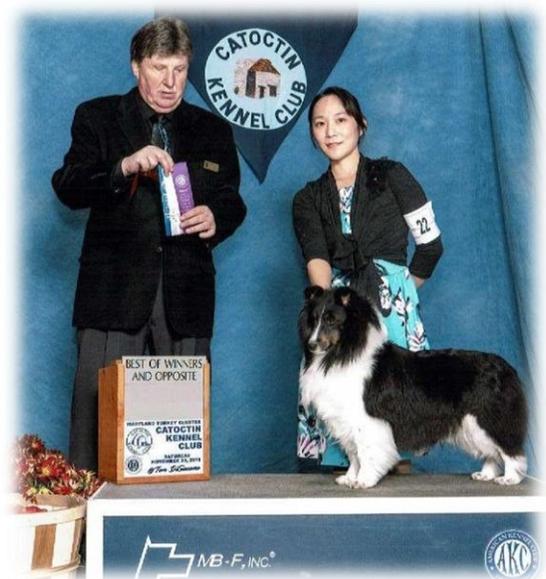
In 2005 Lilian was finally able to purchased my first Sheltie, Jazz - a bi-black boy - from Amy Massey ([Kell Shelties](#)), during a stop in the US before she had to go back to Brazil. She also had the opportunity to attend the ASSA National that year.

Once back in Brazil, she owner-handled “Jazz” to his Brazilian Championship and then, showed him a few times in the U.S.

Working and having two small children at home, Lilian had to take a break from the conformation ring, but she is slowly getting back to showing again and starting a breeding program.



Ch GCh Kell Right Now
Winner of Group 1 in Owner-Handler Competition



Blue Heavens I've Got Joy In My Heart "Joy"
winning her first point

PVSSC FEBRUARY GUEST SPEAKERS PET PARTNERS

On Monday Feb 17 two volunteers from Pet Partners spoke to the club describing their activities: Meg Haensel with Golden Retriever Bell is a volunteer at Fairfax Hospital and Christie Phillips and her Collie Routier volunteer at the Patrick Henry Library "Woof and Paws" program allowing children to read to a dog.

Meg pointed out that much of the Pet Partners volunteer training can be done through their online webinar programs and she learned quite a bit about her relationship with Bell during the training.

In addition to the two activities we learned about, there are other activities that volunteers and their dogs can participate in through the program, including an activity called "Walk with Me" described in their blog entry January 2 2020, <https://petpartners.org/blog/walk-with-me-for-healthier-communities/>

All activities require registration as a Pet Partner dog and handler team. Christie gave an overview of the evaluation process since she was a Pet Partners evaluator at one point.

I attached photos of Bell and Routier that were sent to me.

SAVE THE DATES PVSSC Events & Activities

- June – Date TBD. PVSSC Picnic
- June 26 (Friday) – PVSSC Specialty. Meadows Event Park, 13111 Dawn Blvd., Doswell, VA. PVSSC will hold a Delegated Show at this venue. Watch for more information.
- September 6 & 7 – Virginia Scottish Games & Responsible Dog Ownership Day. The Plains, VA
- October 31 – Herding Trials, Berryville, VA. Maribeth Keitz is the trial chair.
- December 5 – Scottish Christmas Walk, Alexandria, VA
- December – Date TBD. PVSSC Holiday Party.



Sandra & Cliff Green Celebrate 57th Anniversary

Congratulations to Sandra and Cliff Green on celebrating their 57th wedding anniversary. We wish them good health and continued happiness for a long time.

MEET UP

See PVSSC events and join other Sheltie enthusiasts by logging on to our MeetUp page at <https://www.meetup.com/Potomac-Valley-Shetland-Sheepdog-Meetup/>

PVSSC NEWS



Patches earns her CGC

Patches Passes CGC Test

On January 19, 2020 Patches passed her CGC test at Pet Valu in Fairfax, VA. The test was administered by Jane Shepherd of Rudy's Friends.

The CGC (Canine Good Citizen) is an AKC test based on a ten-skill training program. The training and test focus on teaching the basics good manners and obedience skills, instilling the values of responsible ownership, and strengthening the bond between you and your dog at home and out in the community.

Congratulations Patches and Nancy Hansbrough. Breeder: Lilian Yeh Forsyth.



Savannah

Savannah Earns FCAT

URO-1 UACH ARCH TALIESIN MIDNIGHT TRAIN TO GEORGIA TT CD RE
HIAd, HSAdM NA NAJ CAA CA FCAT DCAT BCAT RATN CGC RLX3

Savannah earned her AKC FCAT Title on January 17, 2020 in Brooksville, FL. The event was held by the Sunshine State Rhodesian Ridgeback Club.

FastCAT is the AKC 100 yard run for dogs, where dogs earn points based on their speed towards titles. Savannah earned 1,000 points to earn her FCAT.

FastCAT is Savannah's favorite event. She loves to run and she is not dependent on a handler for telling her "what to do." Her average speed in 2020 is 20.71 MPH, in 2019 it was 19.77.

Congratulations to Savannah and Mike & Cathie Skoog. Breeders: Linda McClure and Carol Howell.



Dixie

AGCH MACH4 Dixie Doodle Celebrates 12th Birthday

AGCH MACH DIXIE DOODLE HSAs MXB2 MJC2 PDS PJS MFC TQX
T2B7 RA CGC TKN FDC

Dixie Doodle celebrated her 12th birthday on Valentine's Day. Dixie was a rescue from NVSR. She has had an amazing agility career as an AKC Grand Champion and Agility Champion, as well as holding titles in obedience, rally and herding.

Happy belated birthday wishes to Dixie Doodle. Photo by Dwight Dike

FRIENDS OF WOLF TRAP (FOWT) – DOG FRIENDLY HIKING

Friends of Wolf Trap – 2020 First Day Hike



Donna and Prince, 1/1/20

On New Year's Day, Parks all across the Country offered free, guided First Day Hike Programs. These hikes provide a means for individuals and families to welcome the New Year in the outdoors, exercising and connecting with nature. On New Year's Day 2020, Donna and husband, John Somiak hiked the trails with Prince on a 75 minute hike with a group at Wolf Trap.

On January 1, 2019 nearly 55,000 people rang in the New Year, collectively hiking over 133,000 miles throughout the country on the guided hikes.

In addition to the First Day Hike on January 1, Wolf Trap offers several hiking options and leashed dogs are allowed to participate on the First Sunday Hikes - the exception would be "hikes" that are actually presentations or lectures (indoors) or hikes where dogs might prevent the group from seeing the subject of the hike (ie wildlife). And there are places to dispose of bags along the trails and near the parking lots.

Wolf Trap TRACK Trail (approximately 1.5 miles) - Winding through the woods and over Wolf Trap Run, the TRACK Trail is a great way to explore the outdoors. This orange-blazed trail is oriented for children and families, but is also great for those interested in a more leisurely hike. The trail head and self-guided adventures can be found in the Meadow, but the hike can be started from any point and by following the footprints or logos.

Wolf Trap Trail (approximately 2.5 miles) - This trail takes hikers around the less developed perimeter of the park and features portions of woodland and wetland areas. The trail was developed and is maintained by Potomac Appalachian Trail Club (PATC). The trail can be started from any point of the map, following the blue blazes. Green blazed shortcuts allow hikers to shorten the hike or visit Theatre-in-the-Woods.

NOTE: Trail maps can be downloaded from the Friends of Wolf Trap website: <http://friendsofwolftrap.org/about-us/hiking-trails/>

FOWT First Sunday Wolf Trap Hikes of Each Month. FOWT volunteers lead free, guided hikes on the first Sunday of each month. The hikes start at the Filene Center Main Gate (Box Office) and last about 2 hours. Walks will focus on different topics: history, biodiversity, wild flower and woodland shade gardens, birds, and general flora and fauna. Times and topics vary and traditionally follow the Wolf Trap Trail loop (2.7 miles). Please dress appropriately for a hike and weather. A full list of details for the Monthly Hikes are listed on the FOWT Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/friendsodwolftrap/>

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE: Take Rover On A Road Trip Too!

The National Park Service welcome pets in developed areas, on many trails and campgrounds, and in some lodging facilities. The National Park Service preserves special places for visitors to enjoy the out-of-doors with your furry family members.

Be a B.A.R.K. Ranger



National parks are exciting places for pets to visit with their family while on vacation. Sometimes these new places can be so exciting as to be overstimulating. Ranger led programs let you know what you can do with your pet and what to watch for.

Join these events to learn how to have a positive experience with your pet in unfamiliar environments. Learn the B.A.R.K. principles so you and your pet can have a safe and fun visit anytime you go to a national park. This program is part of the Healthy People Healthy Parks Initiative. B.A.R.K. stands for:

- Bag your pet's waste
- Always leash your pet
- Respect wildlife
- Know where you can go

Go to the NPS website to learn more, such as where, what, and how of traveling with your pets in national parks. The link is: <https://www.nps.gov/subjects/pets/index.htm>

Wolf Trap will be launching their own BARK Ranger program in the spring and they are interested in promoting responsible dog owners on the trails and in the park. Wolf Trap place to launch their program in April.

Are you Familiar with Snuffles

Snuffles have been around for years - we often see people making them / or selling them at dog events. A snuffle is made of various materials and you drop treats or kibble into the snuffle. This gives the dog an activity to keep them busy.

HOWEVER, recent research has shown that giving your dog a snuffle reduces stress. HOW?

There are several articles and diagrams, but Dog Walks, Sniffing, Shaking and Pulse Rate: New Research Explores the Connections, in the October 2019 issue of Bark: The Dog Culture Magazine explains it best. The article was submitted by Karen B. London, PhD.



“ . . . Sixty-one dogs were walked three times for 5 minutes each, and their pulse was recorded throughout. One walk was with a 1.5m leash, one was with a 5m leash and one walk was without a leash. (The order of the walks for each dog was random.) The dogs in the study were diverse in terms of breed, age, reproductive status, size and lifestyle.

One of the most interesting results of this study was that the length of the leash influenced the amount of time that dogs spent sniffing. Dogs on a long leash spent almost three times as long sniffing as dogs on a short leash. Unleashed dogs sniffed even more than dogs on a long leash—over three times as long as those on a short leash. This was true for dogs who were walked often and for those who almost never went on walks and everything in between. It was true for all types of dogs (age, size, sex) and was even a pattern for dogs who don't pull on the leash. An important practical takeaway from this research is that walking dogs off leash when feasible and on a long leash otherwise may encourage dogs to engage in more sniffing behavior. That may allow dogs to enjoy their walks even more than they already do—if you can imagine!

Sniffing and pulse rate showed a correlation, too. When dogs sniffed, their pulse rate went down. The more intensely they were engaged in the sniffing behavior, the more their pulse rates lowered. The decline in pulse rate cannot be solely attributed to level of physical activity because pulse rates of dogs declined when they sniffed even if they continued walking.

The behavior commonly called “shaking it off” was also associated with a decline in pulse

rates. Dogs on walks often shook their bodies for a couple of seconds in much the same way that wet dogs shake their body and send water in all directions, and they often did so when their pulse rate was especially high. Following this shaking behavior, their pulse rate declined. The shaking behavior and the associated declines in pulse rates happened in all three leash conditions—1.5m leash, 5m leash and unleashed.

Though the researchers have concluded that sniffing and shaking it off *cause* a lowering of pulse rate, their study does not allow us to definitively determine that. They have certainly found a very interesting correlation, but further experimental research added to these observational studies are necessary to know for sure.”

The following link is from the research website:

<http://www.dogfieldstudy.com/node/1>

Based on the recent research many exhibitors are using snuffles to help distress their dogs. They place the snuffle in the crate with their dog and cover the crate. Often after sniffing and getting treats from the snuffle, the dog is so relaxed they fall asleep. My three Shelties get excited as soon as they see the snuffles!

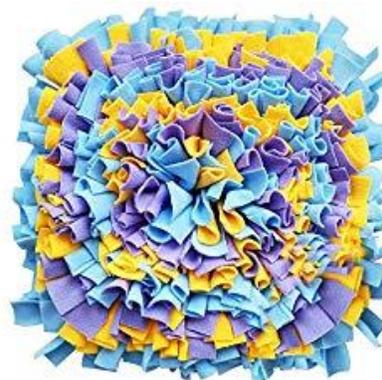


Mollie digging out treats from a snuffle



Savannah (and Annie in the background) enjoying the search

The snuffles shown in the photos were purchased from Amazon. Sizes vary but are usually around 15" x 15". They cost between \$20 and \$30 and are machine washable. They fit nicely in crates.



How I TRAINED My Dog to Take a Pill

By Eileen Anderson

Does your dog take pills in the same manner and enthusiasm as they do treats? Or, do you have to hide the pill or jam it down their throat?

Ms. Anderson's blog has a simple solution: *train pill-taking as a behavior.*

The concept is quite easy and she makes very good points why a dog should be "trained" to swallow pills:

- The "hide it" method may eventually fail (and you'll have to force it down the dog's throat).
- There may come a time when your dog has to take a pill without food (and you'll have to force it down their throat).

And on a personal note, it saves me from getting frustrated. In the YouTube video Teaching a Dog to Take a Pill, Eileen Anderson shows how she trained her Clara to take pills. The link to the video:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?time_continue=26&v=NMoNF6uOckU&feature=emb_logo

Additionally, she mentions Michelle Chan, who shaped her Sheltie Juliet to take pills in just a couple of minutes. The video is on YouTube. Click on the link to watch:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XHt9_pfnK4&feature=youtu.be

Eileen also discusses Deb Jones' method. I personally know Deb her Sheltie and Aussie, which are amazing. Deb also has a blog, based on her more than 25 years as a dog trainer. The link to Deb's video on YouTube is: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kOl4pSodW-c> and the link to Deb's blog is: <https://k9infocus.com/blog/>

To read Eileen Anderson's entire blog, click on the link. <https://eileenanddogs.com/blog/2019/08/20/train-dog-to-take-pill/>

REFRESHMENTS For Monthly Meetings **NEED A VOLUNTEER FOR AUGUST**

Below is the list of members who have volunteered to bring refreshments to the meetings. Contact Fran Beacham, Refreshment Chair if you can provide refreshments for AUGUST.

March - Jeff	Aug. -
April - Ella	Sep - Rich
May - Donna	Oct - Mike O'Shea
June -	Nov - Melinda
July - No Meeting	Dec - Holiday Party

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

REMINDER GALL BLADDER RESEARCH

Virginia Tech Veterinary School is conducting a research project about Shelties and Gall Bladder disease. If you would like to enroll your Sheltie in this study, you will get free blood work and an ultrasound report of before and after feeding.

There is no cost to participate and this is an opportunity to get this free testing and contribute to knowledge of this prevalent disease in Shelties.

The link which provides information and details is: <https://www.vetmed.vt.edu/clinical-trials/current-studies/gall-bladder.asp>

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



CONGRATULATIONS CONRAD

MBIS RBIS MBISS GCHG CH SYRINGA-AKADIA THE CORSAIR CC AOM
NBIS MBISS GChSyringa Treasure Trove ROM x Ch Syringa-Akadia Witch One



CONRAD, FIRST PLACE in HERDING GROUP
144th Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show, 2020



Conrad and Handler and Co-Owner Tyler Crady of Bella Vista
Monday, February 10, 2020

The 2020 Westminster Kennel Club Show engaged many Sheltie owners on the final night when the competition of the AKC dog groups commenced to select the Best in Show. Conrad placed FIRST in the Herding Group and besides being a fantastic example of the breed standard in form and gait, he displayed the Sheltie personality which made him truly an awesome dog and was a favorite of many spectators. Unfortunately, he did not win the title Best of Show. Instead the honor was bestowed upon Siba, the black Standard Poodle by Judge Robert H. Slay.

If you didn't see Conrad during the Show or on video news clips of him being named the winner of the Herding Group, here are two links of the final moments:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BQXB5IZMnNA> and
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8Ccg03Mo1oo>

A LITTLE ABOUT CONRAD

Conrad finished his championship at the young age of one years old by his owner. Since then he has accomplished much in the show world under the expert handling of his friend and co-owner Tyler Crady. Before the age of two "Conrad" had multiple specialty wins and a Reserve Best In Show. He finished out the 2015 year being the #13 top winning Shetland Sheepdog.

In 2016 at the young age of 2 he has done some incredible winning under very respected judges in Specialties and all breed shows. He has been awarded multiple Best In Shows and Herding Group First Place wins, and was America's #1 Shetland Sheepdog in breed and all breed standings for 2016. Conrad is currently one of the Top 10 Herding Dogs. He finished out the year by winning the breed and receiving a Group 2 at the prestigious AKC National Show.

Conrad was awarded an Award of Merit at the 2016 ASSA National behind his sire who was the 2016 National winner. He has also joined the elite Shetland Sheepdog Century Club by winning over 100 Best of Breeds.

CONRAD'S PEDIGREE

AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB · FOUNDED 1884

Certified Pedigree

GCH CH SYRINGA TREASURE TROVE
Sire DN34574901 (11-13) BLK WH & TN AKC DNA #V715598

SYRINGA - AKADIA THE CORSAIR
DN38911701
SHETLAND SHEEPDOG MALE BL MRL WH & TN
Date Whelped: 01/25/2014
Breeder: DEBORAH SIRDOSKY/MRS. SHANNALEE WALLER-MICHALSKY

CH SYRINGA-AKADIA WITCH ONE
Dam DN29412903 (06-13) OFA32G BL MRL WH & TN

CH APPLE ACRES CARTE BLANCHE
DN03636001 (05-05) OFA25E BLK WH & TN
AKC DNA #V364513

CH LACEWOOD SILVER IN THE STARS
DN24967304 (12-12) OFA26G BL MRL WH & TN

CH AKADIA SHAKE UR TAILFEATHER
DN15253804 (03-11) BLK & WH

CH APPLE ACRES CHAIN LIGHTNING
DL87321701 (06-02) OFA25E BLK & WH AKC DNA #V228328

CH TREVANNE'S DOMINIQUE
DL76755201 (06-99) OFA47G BL MRL WH & TN (CAN)

CH MACDEGA NOTORIOUS
DN03761001 (02-05) OFA24G BLK WH & TN
AKC DNA #V338652

CH LACEWOOD CASSIOPEIA
DN10993501 (09-07) BL MRL WH & TN

CH STONERHAVEN SAMURAI BN RE CGCA
DN05977903 (08-06) OFA25G BLK WH & TN
AKC DNA #V423723

SPRINGMIST CAN'T FIGHT THE MOONLIGHT
DN10840604 (08-07) BL MRL & WH

CH SEA HAVEN CHASING MOONBEAMS
DL89968901 (03-04) OFA26E BL MRL & WH
AKC DNA #V368167

GCH CH AKADIA TOTALLY INTOXICATING
DN05965302 (11-06) OFA38F BLK & WH



AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB®

Jane P. Bowley
Executive Secretary

The Seal of The American Kennel Club affixed hereto certifies that this pedigree was compiled from official Stud Book records on August 25, 2014.

CONRAD'S TITLES

Many of us know the performance titles, but not too knowledgeable of the Show Titles. To help us I looked up the titles and was impressed at the confirmation titles Conrad, only 6 years old has obtained.

MBIS RBIS MBISS GCHG CH SYRINGA-AKADIA THE CORSAIR CC AOM

MBISS means Multiple Best in Specialty Shows. A Specialty Show would be a show sponsored by a breed club such as our PVSSC Shows. The purpose of the Specialty Show is intended as a way for many dogs of the same breed to compete with each other at once. A dog who has won Best In Specialty Show multiple times will receive the MBISS title.

MBIS is for Multiple Best in Show. These are not limited to Specialty Shows.

RBIS is for Multiple Reserve Best in Show (2nd place)

CH is Champion. A **GCH** means the dog has achieved the title of GRAND CHAMPION by meeting the following criteria:

- Twenty five Grand Championship points
- Three majors won under three different judges
- At least one or more points won under a fourth judge
- Must have defeated at least one other AKC Champion of Record at three shows

GCHG is Grand Champion Gold. Any Grand Champion that has won 400 Grand Championship points shall become a Grand Champion Gold (GCHG).

CC is for Challenge Certificate. You need to win three of these under different judges for your dog to become a champion. It can only be won at Championship shows.

AOM is the Award of Merit and is awarded to the judge's final few selected for consideration for Best of Breed at Specialty Shows that are not the National Specialty.

Best of Breed: The 144th Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show

On February 11, GCHP CH Stone Run Afternoon Tea “Siba” the Standard Poodle from the Non-Sporting Group was named the next Westminster Best in Show winner. More than 2,600 dogs competed for the title. Standard Poodles have won the Westminster title ten times, Miniature Poodles three times and Toy Poodles twice.



GCHP CH Stone Run Afternoon Tea “Siba”

The other top contenders for the BIS were:

- Reserve Best in Show was “Bourbon” the Whippet (Grand Champion Pinnacle Kentucky Bourbon), who closed out last year as the nation’s number-one Hound.
- Toy Group was “Bono” the Havanese (Grand Champion Oeste’s In The Name Of Love), last year’s immensely popular Reserve Best in Show winner as well as the nation’s top dog overall in 2019;
- Working Group winner, “Wilma” the Boxer (Grand Champion Cinnibon’s Bedrock Bombshell);
- Terrier Group, a Wire Fox Terrier named “Vinny” (Grand Champion Irvonhill Voignier);
- Herding Group, blue merle, “Conrad” the Shetland Sheepdog (Grand Champion Syringa-Akadia The Corsair); and
- Sporting Group, Golden Retriever “Daniel” (GCHP CH Hillock’s Jack Daniel’S RA JH CA RATN CGC).



Blissy

7 Reasons Sheltie Owners Think Their Dogs Are the Best in the World

The photos of the Shelties in the heading are PVSSC members’ dogs: Lilian Yeh Forsyth’s Bliss and Patrick Keough and his daughters’ Jack.



Jack

Did all Sheltie owners watching the Westminster cheer for the Sheltie? I’m sure most did as Conrad epitomized the fun loving personality we know and love from our Shelties – he knew he did a great job and bestowed kisses and Sheltie spins upon his handler/co-owner. And many of us have seen Conrad at ASSA National Shows and are thrilled to see this amazing dog succeed.

I came across this article by Jan Reisen from May 2017 in the AKC archives and thought it is relevant.

Dog owners are a devoted lot, often completely taken by a specific breed. And owners of the Shetland Sheepdog have plenty of reasons to sing the praises of this breed. Having a Sheltie is like having a best friend who’s good at everything! Fans of the breed are sure to recognize these Sheltie traits.

1. He is the epitome of the herding dog. Developed in the rugged Shetland Islands, off the coast of Scotland, near the Arctic Circle, the Shetland Sheepdog was bred to be an agile, alert, and intelligent herder. He loves having a job to do and learns easily.
2. Because he’s so smart and trainable, he succeeds in almost everything he tries. Shelties are used as medical alert dogs, as well as service and therapy dogs. They also excel in dog sports, including rally, agility, herding, and obedience. In fact, this little “Collie in miniature” ranks among the top canine competitors in the world.
3. He’s playful, affectionate, and [devoted to his family](#). It’s not unusual for him to follow family members around everywhere they go, just to be close. Given his natural instincts, don’t be surprised if your Shetland Sheepdog herds the kids in the yard.
4. Shelties can be reserved with strangers, although not aggressive. They’re quick to bark to let you know someone’s coming, which makes them [good watchdogs](#). Speaking of barking, this is a vocal dog that likes to bark ... a lot.
5. Shetland Sheepdogs love learning new tricks and tasks. Shelties (and their owners) enjoy the challenge of coming up with new things to learn, from “helping” around the house to canine gymnastics.
6. Have kids? Shelties love playing with them and can probably outlast the most energetic children. Why not teach your Sheltie to round up the kids at dinnertime, too?
7. Shetland Sheepdogs are beautiful. The flowing coat comes in several colors, including various shades of sable, black, and blue merle. The long, refined head and expressive eyes combine to create a gentle, intelligent expression that melts hearts.

P!nk Named Westminster Agility Champion



Pink, the 2020 Master Agility Champion

Border Collie, P!nk won the 2020 Masters Agility Champion at the Westminster Kennel Club's 7th Annual Agility Competition on Saturday, February 9. She is the sixth Border Collie to win top honor since the competition began seven years ago. Although coming in right behind her was a Shetland Sheepdog.

The Westminster agility trial preceded the club's 144th annual dog show. Border Collies outnumbered any other breed, with a total of 44 entered. The only other breed to come out on top at Westminster's increasingly popular agility event was – no surprise – another Herding breed, the Australian Shepherd, in 2016.

Pink and dog trainer/owner Jennifer Crank, of Pickerington, Ohio has won her 16-inch agility class for three years straight. Pink's time for the winning run was 29.35 seconds, a split second improvement over her 29.78-second run last year and a Westminster best for the black-and-white Border Collie.

For the video clip of Pink's run, from Fox Sports News, click on the link: <https://www.foxsports.com/presspass/latest-news/2020/02/10/pnk-border-collie-wins-masters-agility-championship-westminster>



Pink

The Westminster record is 28.44 seconds, set by a Border Collie named Kelso in 2014. Last year's winner, Verb the Border Collie, also took to the course at this year's competition, weaving through poles and barreling through tunnels to finish at 40.14 seconds.

On a personal note, those of us who perform with our dogs in agility are thrilled to see our friends get selected to attend the Championship trials. It is especially exciting to see them in the top 10 for their jump height. This year my trainer while we lived in Virginia was running and it was so cool to see her name and town listed.

PVSSC WEBSITE

www.potomacvalleyshetlandsheepdogclub.org