



THE RIDGELINE

Newsletter of the New England Rhodesian Ridgeback Club

Issue 2—June 15, 2020

President's Message

Summer finally feels like it's here - dogs lolling around the deck in the sun, loving the heat - me, not so much.

There's not much happening for dog activities although I am seeing a few coursing opportunities coming up this summer in New England. We are making early plans for October's lure coursing event, expecting we won't have limits on gatherings by then in MA.

Sadly our Regional was canceled for this year and I haven't heard when or if any shows will come back this calendar year. We are working on details of an electronic annual meeting with an associated photo contest and prizes! We'll announce the winners at the virtual annual meeting. Watch for more details and have a fun, safe summer with your hounds.

Bonnie Johnson

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Inside This Issue:

BOD Meeting Minutes—May 10, 2020	2
BOD Meeting Minutes—May 31, 2020	3
Puppy Socialization in the age of Corona by Dr. Chris Zink	9
AKC Titles and Programs you can do from home	10
Welcome New Members!	11
Rescue: 2021 Ridgeback-a-Day Calendar	12



A single sunbeam is enough to drive away many shadows. ~ Francis of Assisi

New England Rhodesian Ridgeback Club

Board of Directors Meeting

May 10, 2020

Virtual Meeting

Meeting was called to order at 10:05 AM by Barbara Ferguson

Attendees: Barbara Ferguson, Alan Fraser, Helen McCune, Nikki Newton, Evelyn Strawn, Meghan Terwilliger, Chris Greeley, liaison to Mass Fed

Absent: Bonnie Johnson

Secretary's Report:

No new first reads..

Cheryl Fraser provided a copy of Secretary Duties – Policy and Procedures. See attached.

The policy and procedures state that it is the secretary's responsibility to submit an annual report to the Commonwealth of Massachusetts every November. Since this submission requires a \$15 filing fee, Alan as the treasurer has assumed this task.

Treasurer's Report: Alan Fraser

Alan stated that the club has maintained a healthy balance.

Rescue Funds	\$2,077.82
General Funds	\$9,433.44
Show Funds	\$2,845.55
Current Balance	\$14,366.86

Details available upon request.

Due to the need to cancel events through the summer there is no anticipated income. There are no outstanding bills or anticipated expenses.

Regional Specialty Show - Barbara Ferguson:

The Cranberry Cluster has been cancelled due to the pandemic. There is a question whether or not these shows can be held at the Barnstable Fair Grounds in 2021 due to the financial losses that venue is suffering since all events have been cancelled for 2020. Barbara will be monitoring this situation.

All of the trophies for the show have been completed. They are lovely stained glass pieces. Since they do not include a date they can be used next year. Barbara will contact the sponsors of these trophies and the ribbons to see if they would like their sponsorships to be rolled over to 2021 or whether they would like a refund of their payment. She will also contact the sweeps judge to see if she would be willing to serve in 2021.

Mass Fed – Chris Greeley

Mass Fed is currently following a number of proposed bills. The most significant is HB1822 which enumerates a number of provisions including that dogs may not be left outside for more than 15 minutes unsupervised. There has been no final vote. Waiting for an update.

Historian – Cathy Ford

No report.

Membership Care – Jack and Trish Hamilton

Nothing to report.

Rescue – Cheryl Fraser

Mara remains in foster care and would love a home to call her own - Mara has been in foster care for 2 plus years. As previously reported, Mara is a special needs Ridgeback.

A young female, 2 years old, named **Lucy** has come into rescue in Vermont. She is in foster care and doing very well. Contact Faith Martin for more information fmartin@ridgebackrescue.org

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.

Rhodesian Ridgeback Rescue, Inc (RRRI) will be hosting a booth at the Save A Dog 20th Annual Paws in the Park, being held September 20, 2020 (**moved from Sunday, May 17th**) from 10am-3pm, once again among the beautiful surroundings of Longfellow's Wayside Inn in Sudbury, MA. Ridgeback enthusiasts are encouraged to join in the fun for the day. Those wishing to help staff the RRRI rescue booth, can contact Cheryl Fraser for more details and times.

A Tisket-A-Tasket – Time to call for a Basket! There is plenty of planning time for any club members, breeders, and the club itself to organize a Silent Auction Basket(s) to benefit RRRI at the upcoming RRCUS National Specialty being held in Fredricksburg, Texas the week of November 8 – 14, 2020. NERRC has enthusiastically supported this endeavor in the past, having submitted fabulous themed baskets. Transportation of basket donations to Texas is available. If anyone is interested in leading a basket drive this year, please contact Cheryl Fraser – chaza@pobox.com 508-393-6966.

As with other events scheduled for 2020, there was some speculation about whether the National Specialty will be able to go forward as planned. Since it is still scheduled the board agreed that NERRC should contribute a basket to help raise funds to benefit RRRI. Last year's generated some heated bidding.

Barb moved that the Board ask Cheryl Fraser if she would be willing to be in charge of the basket again this year and authorized \$150 to cover the expenses. Helen seconded the motion. It passed unanimously.

NERRC Website – Meghan Terwilliger & Cheryl Fraser

The Website has been updated to reflect the cancellation of events.

NERRC Policy & Procedures – Cheryl Fraser

As noted elsewhere, Cheryl has provided copies of the policies and procedures relative to the Ways and Means Committee and the Secretary's duties.

Ridgeline – Helen McCune

An issue will be sent out so that the minutes can be distributed. Anyone with articles that would be of interest to the membership was encouraged to send them to her.

Ways and Means –

Cheryl provided a copy of the policy and procedures relative to the Ways and Means Committee. See attached.

While there are members who are willing to serve on this committee, the position of chair of this committee is open. Evelyn will follow up with Bonnie since she had planned to contact someone about service in this capacity.

By Laws – Alan Fraser

Alan has worked with AKC and has answered their questions about the changes and process to have them approved. It was agreed that the next time there are by-law revisions the club will review those pertaining to virtual meetings. RRCUS is holding virtual meetings and perhaps that language could be adapted to NERRC.

Social Media – Meghan Terwilliger

The Facebook page/social media has been updated with information about cancelled events. Meghan agreed to send out a request for help with the Ways and Means Committee and the liaison to The Ridgeback Magazine. She also said she was looking for pictures or videos that could be posted to keep up interest in the club.

Regional News (for The Ridgeback Magazine) – Helen McCune

Helen reminded everyone that she was serving in this capacity on an interim basis and that someone needs to be recruited for this role.

Lure Coursing – Nikki Newton

The June trials have been cancelled. The Board agreed that planning should continue for the October trials. The priorities are to secure a location and a lure operator.

Nikki stated that she was now a committee of one and could use some assistance. Chris Greeley agreed to serve on this committee. The Board thanked her for her willingness to help.

Unfinished Business

None.

New Business

The board discussed the possibilities for the annual meeting which is scheduled to be held on August 2. It was agreed that it was not advisable to plan an event that would encourage a large social gathering, especially one that has historically included food.

There was some discussion about the need to have a quorum for an annual meeting and ways that a virtual

meeting could be made sufficiently interesting to encourage members to participate. The Board agreed that we needed to come up with some fun activity. (Subsequent to the meeting, Alan clarified that a quorum is needed for an annual meeting and consists of 20% of the members.)

It was agreed that this should be an agenda item for the next meeting. The Board will also need to recruit a nominating committee.

In order to conform to the by-laws, the board needs to meet six times a year. This meeting was a substitute for the originally scheduled March 29 meeting. The remaining four will be held as originally scheduled on May 31, August 2, September 13 and November 15.

Next Meeting: May 31/Google Hangout.

Meeting adjourned at 11 AM.

Respectfully submitted,
Evelyn Strawn
NERRC Secretary



"What good is the warmth of summer, without the cold of winter to give it sweetness." ~ John Steinbeck

New England Rhodesian Ridgeback Club

Board of Directors Meeting

May 31, 2020

Virtual Meeting

Meeting was called to order at 10:15 AM by Bonnie Johnson

Attendees: Barbara Ferguson, Alan Fraser, Bonnie Johnson, Helen McCune, Nikki Newton, Evelyn Strawn, Meghan Terwilliger, Chris Greeley, liaison to Mass Fed

Secretary's Report:

No new first reads.

Treasurer's Report: Alan Fraser

One check received for regional specialty since last report

Rescue Funds	\$2,077.82
General Funds	\$9,433.44
Show Funds	\$2,905.55
Current Balance	\$14,426.86

Details available upon request.

Regional Specialty Show - Barbara Ferguson:

Reviewed past practice of using funds raised by auctions at this show to be split between rescue and show expenses. Board agreed that this practice should be continued. Cheryl Fraser will be asked to amend policy and procedures for Ways and Means to reflect this.

Mass Fed – Chris Greeley

There is pending legislation to require dogs being imported from other countries to be properly vaccinated. Mass Fed following.

Previous bill that included ban on leaving dogs outside for more than 15 minutes has been amended to remove that provision. This demonstrates the importance of contacting legislators since there were many responses and those led to this change. Being followed.

Historian – Cathy Ford

No report.

Membership Care – Jack and Trish Hamilton

Nothing to report.

Rescue – Cheryl Fraser

There are potentially two dogs coming to rescue. They were found together and hopefully can be placed together. Contact Cheryl for more information on these or other available dogs.

NERRC Website – Meghan Terwilliger & Cheryl Fraser

The Website is up to date.

NERRC Policy & Procedures – Cheryl Fraser

As noted above, Cheryl is being asked to update the Ways and Means policies and procedures. Alan will also clarify the policies and procedures relative to the Treasurer's and Secretary's duties to state that the Treasurer is responsible for filing with the Secretary of State in November of every year.

Ridgeline – Helen McCune

An issue will be sent out shortly.

Ways and Means –

There was discussion about the advisability of trying to shift to a predominantly on line store. The consensus was that this should be looked at but that the present system seems to have been working when there was a person in a leadership position.

It was moved by Nikki and seconded by Barbara that Cheryl Fraser be appointed chair of the Ways and Means Committee. The motion passed unanimously.

Cheryl graciously accepted this appointment. Thank you Cheryl!

By Laws – Alan Fraser

Nothing to report.

Social Media – Meghan Terwilliger

There was a lively discussion of ways to increase the club's presence on line. Meghan offered an impromptu tutorial about using Facebook including ways to enhance visibility.

Regional News (for The Ridgeback Magazine) – Helen McCune

Bonnie volunteered to take on this responsibility. Thank you Bonnie.

Lure Coursing – Nikki Newton

There is nothing happening this spring and summer. Nikki and Chris will begin working on October event. Bonnie will check on the availability of the field in North Dartmouth that has been used before.

Meghan has been contacted by someone from another breed who is interested in collaborating on lure coursing events. She has access to fields near Peru, MA. The board was very enthusiastic. Nikki will follow up with her.

Unfinished Business

There was an extensive discussion of how to hold an annual meeting. Last year it was crucial to have at least a quorum in order to consider the revised by-laws. There is no business pending that requires a vote of the membership. In the end the board agreed to not try to hold a meeting that would bring together more than ten people which would violate the current prohibitions since a quorum is 17. There is no way of knowing what directives will be in place in two months and the likelihood of people wanting to come together and share food seemed slim to none. Therefore the annual meeting will be virtual this year.

Zoom seems to be the platform that most people are familiar with and works easily for participants. Evelyn will investigate ways to make this work for the club.

The board decided to have a photo contest. The winners will be announced at the annual meeting on August 2. The details need to be worked out but the general outline is that pictures and/or videos will be submitted in three categories, i.e., best costume, tricks, and most original sleeping position. They will be posted on Facebook. You don't have to be a club member to participate. There will be prizes. Members of the board will be the judges. More information to follow.

New Business

The board needs to have a nomination committee by July 1. The slate needs to include nominations for president, treasurer and two board positions. The president has to be a member of RRCUS.

Bonnie has served as president for two terms so is precluded by the by-laws from serving again. Alan announced that he will not be a candidate. Meghan and Nikki are willing to continue to serve on the board.

Since Alan will not be a candidate he agreed to serve as chair of this committee. He and Bonnie will recruit two additional members and two alternates.

Next Meeting: .August 2/virtual

10 AM – Board meeting

11 AM – Annual meeting

Meeting adjourned at 11:45 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Evelyn Strawn

On line motions

On March 12, Alan Fraser moved and Helen McCune seconded that the board approve payment of \$625 to renew NERRC's liability insurance. Yes votes: Unanimous. The motion passed.

On March 16, 2020, Evelyn Strawn moved and Alan Fraser seconded that the Nose Work event and board meeting scheduled for March 29 be postponed. Yes votes: Unanimous. The motion passed.

On March 27, 2020, Evelyn Strawn moved to accept Griffin Haviar and the Kline Family into membership. Barbara Ferguson seconded. Yes votes: Unanimous. The motion passed.

On April 14 Nikki moved and Meghan seconded that the CAT test scheduled for June 20 and 21 be cancelled. Yes votes: Unanimous. The motion passed.

On May 11 Evelyn moved and Helen seconded the acceptance of the minutes of the May 10, 2020.
Voting for: Alan, Barbara, Helen, Nikki, Meaghan and Evelyn. Abstain: Bonnie.
The motion passed.

On June 1, 2020 Evelyn moved and Barbara seconded the approval of the minutes of the May 31 board meeting. The vote in favor was unanimous. The motion passed.

Puppy Socialization in the Age of Coronavirus

By Dr. Chris Zink

- **Focus on building your pup's trust in you and your family.** The most important lesson for pups to learn in these early months is to trust people, especially their people. During this time, focus on building that trust through teaching communication, cues, house manners, tricks, and fitness exercises. Practice these things in each room in your house and every part of your yard. Your pup's trust in you, above all else, will enable you to pick up his socialization again once this is over.
- **Go all chameleon.** If your pup can't meet folks who look different, then change the way you look! Use masks, wigs, hats, umbrellas, cloaks, and more. Have your family play along! Pop up looking like Halloween throughout your house and property, not in a scary way but in a surprising way. Try manipulating your smell, too. You can't actually change your odor, which is very important to dogs, but you can spritz yourself with some light scent to add to the way you smell.
- **Set up challenging, stimulating experiences at home.** Puppy brains and bodies need to be challenged during these months, so think of ways to do this at home. Create obstacle courses in your house or yard. Play scent games, hiding treats for your pup to sniff out around the house and yard. (Just remember not to violate house rules during this game, so no treats on counters.) Let your pup solve all kinds of problems (e.g., how to find you in the house and to solve dog puzzles.)
- **Do Adventure Walks!** We may not be able to gather in groups, but we can head out into the great outdoors. Make an effort to get your pup to woods, meadows, fields, beaches, and even parks. Adventure Walks enable pups to learn responsibility and problem-solving as well as develop their brain-body connection. And best of all, Adventure Walks tire pups out!
- **Introduce your puppy to as many safe people as possible.** Most likely there will still be some safe people in your life. They might be family members, neighbors, or tenants who are staying put at home. Let your pup interact with as many people as you safely can.
- **Let pups see people, places, and things!** Even if you can't introduce your pup directly to new people, your pup can still be introduced to the world. These indirect interactions, where pups see and hear but don't touch are very important for teaching puppies proper manners. Think through what you want your pup to do when it can see another person or dog but can't approach. Then teach that behavior to your puppy. Take short trips to let your pup see and hear whatever is happening. No doubt, life is going to be quieter for a while so this may take some effort. Look for garbage trucks, traffic, fire departments, and anything else noisy and hang out with your pup.
- **Get your pup off your property.** Pups become location sensitive towards the end of this period, attaching them strongly to their homes and yards. Since we want our pups to be comfortable in many places, we need to get them away from the house. Drive your pup to different places in your area where people aren't congregating. Playgrounds, parks, outdoor shopping malls, and store parking lots. Take your pup for a ride in a wiped-down shopping cart. Let her jump up on park benches. Investigate the playground equipment. Check out dog parkour may give you more ideas but be sure to keep all activities age appropriate so no jumping off of high places.
- **Emphasize handling, grooming, and examinations at home.** Teach your pup to tolerate handling, touching, and manipulation.

AKC Titles & Programs You Can Do From Home

By [Sassafras Lowrey](#)

So many parts of our daily lives have changed because of COVID-19. Even our favorite dog activities — from classes and seminars to shows — have been canceled or postponed for the safety of everyone involved. It can be overwhelming to look around and feel like your daily life is practically unrecognizable from just a few weeks ago, but the good thing is there's one very important thing that hasn't changed — your dog! Despite social distancing and the coronavirus pandemic, you and your dog can still have fun training together, working on your favorite sports and activity, and even earning titles!

Trick Dog

In response to COVID-19, the AKC has opened up the Trick Dog titling program to be accessible via submission of videos which are reviewed and approved by CGC evaluators. If you don't know a CGC evaluator you can easily search for one. This time of social distancing is the perfect opportunity to get your dog involved in the Trick Dog program. Under the new rules, AKC trick titles can be observed and earned digitally. Full rules and requirements for video submissions and each level of Trick Dog Titles (Novice through Elite Performer) are available online.

If you are someone who is used to spending multiple nights a week at training classes and every weekend at dog shows, the AKC's Trick Dog program is a fantastic way to channel your energy by earning titles at home until it's safe to resume normal training and showing in other sports. Even if you and your dog have never competed at a dog show, Trick Dog titles are a wonderful introduction to dog sports. To keep myself busy, I set the goal of finishing up my youngest dog's Elite Performer title during the first couple of weeks of social distancing and this week she earned it — becoming only the third Newfoundland to get the title!

FitDog

If you live somewhere where it is safe for you and your dog to get out of the house regularly to walk each day don't forget about the AKC's Fit Dog program. Check your local regulations and maintain at least six feet of distance between anyone else you may pass on your walk. For the program you and your dog commit to walking each day either:

1. Walked at least 30 minutes 5 times per week for a total of at least 150 minutes per week for at least 3 months. *For dogs and people in good shape.*
2. Walked at least 15 minutes per session at least 10 times per week (e.g., two 15-min walks per day) for at least 3 months. *For dogs or people who would benefit from a walk that is a shorter duration, e.g., senior dogs. When you and your dog have achieved either of these benchmarks you fill out the AKC FitDog form and will be sent a free FitDog program magnet!*

Rally

The AKC Rally Novice Virtual pilot program will provide exhibitors an opportunity to stay-at-home and enter an AKC Rally® event.

This program is designed to have a Rally Novice competitor set up a pre-designed AKC Rally® course in the safety of their own yard, record the performance, and submit it to AKC. In turn, AKC will assign a pre-selected AKC Rally Judge to virtually review and score the team's Rally performance.

There are five pre-designed official rally courses published on the AKC website to choose from. To participate, follow the setup instructions provided, video record 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.

You can download and print every Rally sign at home and learn each skill through instructional videos.

<https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/sports/akc-titles-programs-can-home/>

AKC Agility ACT 1 Virtual Pilot Program

During this time of necessary social distancing, we want to provide those with dogs that are ready to test their agility skills a way to try the sport of ACT Agility locally. The AKC Agility ACT 1 Virtual pilot program will provide exhibitors an opportunity to stay-at-home or use their local training site and enter an AKC ACT 1 event.

This pilot program is designed to have an ACT competitor set up a pre-designed AKC ACT 1 course in the safety of their own yard or local training center, record the performance and submit it to AKC. In turn, AKC will assign a pre-selected AKC Agility Judge to virtually review and score the team's ACT 1 performance.

AKC will have four pre-designed official ACT 1 courses published on the AKC website for the exhibitor to choose from. The exhibitor will 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. Alternatively, the exhibitor may directly upload their video file when submitting their online entry.

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 Agility ACT 1 title requirements. AKC will notify exhibitors of the results of their submission. Dogs must qualify on two different ACT 1 courses to be awarded the ACT 1 title.

This pilot program will end at midnight **December 31, 2020** and all video submissions must be received by that date and time. We are excited to offer this virtual option to our Agility ACT 1 exhibitors!

For more information go to <https://www.akc.org/act>

If you have questions after reviewing the information, please write to act@akc.org

Sincerely,

AKC Agility Department Team

https://www.akc.org/sports/agility/act-program/act-virtual-program/?fbclid=IwAR2SFeVGuAgoOrjTFKN_S2ZE-nsq61ZxIV-ZsrBfYEgn7KIMMDTbsXR0S04





2021 Ridgeback-a-Day Calendar

Now Accepting Photos! Submit Yours Today!

20+ Years of Rhodesian Ridgeback Calendars
by Rhodesian Ridgeback Rescue, Inc.

Show off your talented Ridgebacks and support rescue dogs in need at the same time. The Ridgeback-a-Day Calendar is the biggest annual fundraiser for Rhodesian Ridgeback Rescue, Inc., and your support is important.



Features...

- 365-day, desktop-style calendar with a different Ridgeback picture each day
- Spiral-binding, suitable as a memento or collectible
- Request preferred days for displaying your dogs
- All Rhodesian Ridgebacks are eligible – not just rescue dogs

Want to see your Ridgeback in a calendar?

It doesn't matter if you have one, a ton, or even none. Everyone can have their own Rhodesian Ridgeback calendar with 365 gorgeous ridgies and friends! What are we talking about? The Ridgeback-a-Day Calendar, of course! Now's the time to submit photos of your Ridgebacks and their buddies.

Don't miss out. Submit your photos early.

The calendar fills up quickly! Submit early to ensure your Ridgeback is included. You have until June 30 to submit your pictures, pre-order your discounted calendars, and show off your photographic skills, all in one fell swoop!

Please remember that any and all other animals may be in your pictures, as long as at least one dog is a Ridgeback. And, **please, no people in the photos**, except for children five (5) years old or younger.

Find out more and read all the rules for submitting photos at www.RidgebackRescue.org/calendar

Just want to order your 2021 calendars? We are accepting pre-orders now!