



Spring 2008

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Winter Tracking Get-Together March 2, 2008

Dogs enjoy winter tracking as much as summer tracking. We've had two snow tracking days this year with about ten members enjoying the outings.



“The difference between an amateur and a professional is, an amateur practices until they get it right, a professional practices until they can't get it wrong”

Members' Brags ...

Eileen Fisher and the Dachshunds.

At the LOC & HDOC trials Feb 16&17 2008 **Dexter** passed both Novice trials, which together with the 2 he got last summer in New Brunswick, gives him his PCD title.

He also Q'd in 3 Novice Rally trials with scores of 87, 93 and 96 to gain his RN title.

Dexter also has his Am. RN

Kennie got her 3rd Novice Rally leg with a score of 100 and a 4th place finish, and her RN title.

She then Q'd in 2 Advanced B Rally legs with scores of 98 and 99 and a second place finish.

Kennie also has her Am. RN



Three Autumnwynd Champions !

Brogan, Jorja & Frankie all finished their Championships plus Rally titles .

CH. SR. Autumnwynd Harvest Knight WCI JH RN
Owned by Maryke Warwick.



CH. SR. Autumnwynd Midnite N Jorja WC JH RA
Owned by Marie-P Babin



CH. Autumnwynd Frankie Starlite RN Owned by Marie-P Babin



Braggs Cont...

Gucci earned a HIT scoring 199 at the show in Hamburg NY on Sunday Jan.13th. This is Ricki's first HIT in the U.S.

Gucci finished his AKC CD on Saturday (12th) with a score of 196.5 which tied him for first in his class.

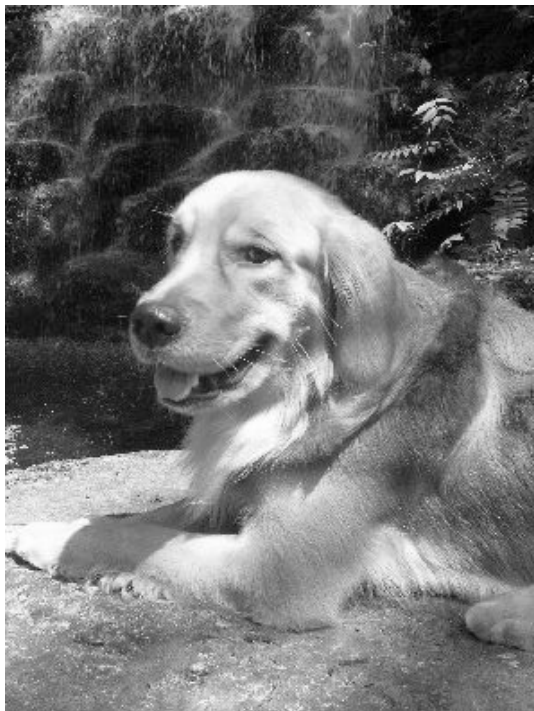
Gucci got his CKC CDX and a HIT with 199.5 Feb.16, 2008 at the LOC obedience trial

Brady got his Rally Novice title with a score of 100. Feb.16/08 at the HDOC Rally



Gucci & Ricki

Brady



“Rocky” got his first AKC Open leg and 2nd in class with 194.5 Jan 13th in Hamburg NY

Owned by Marg Hacking
(Papillion)

“Tory” finished his RN with a fourth place finish. He is now “Gowrielea's Notorious, RN “

Owned by Sandie Brodie
(Golden Retriever)



More Brags Cont.....



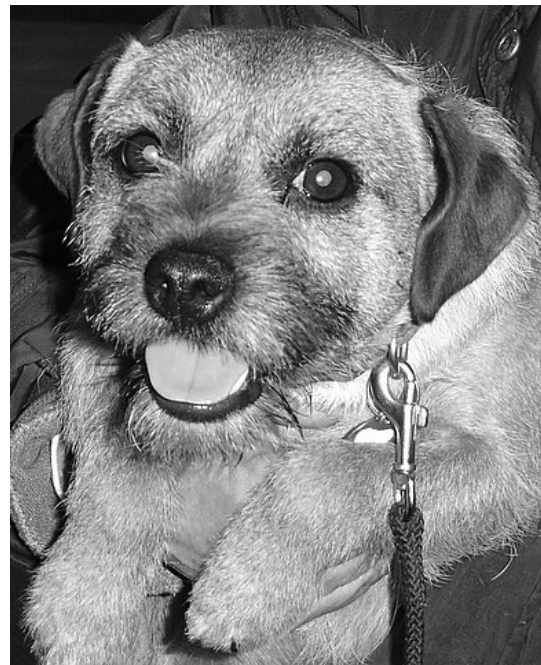
“Elliott” earned his CKC Rally-O Advanced and two legs on his Rally Excellent title at the HDOC trial Feb.16-17/08
Owned by Maryke Warwick.



“Marlo” earned two legs on her AKC Rally Novice with a 100 score Jan. 12-13/08 in Buffalo and her CKC Rally Advanced and two legs on her Rally Excellent at the HDOC trial Feb.16,17/08
Owned by Marie-P Babin



“Jersey” Owned by Candy Rennie earned two legs on her PCD (Pre-Novice Dog)
Also two legs on her RN (Rally Novice Title)
Feb.16-17/08



“Maisie” Border Terrier
Owned by Isobel McGowan earned her first 2 Conformation points at the Ont. Breeders Show Feb.23, 2008

“Romeo” earned his Rally-O Novice title & two legs on his Rally Advanced at the Sudbury trial in Dec. ‘07 with three firsts, two seconds & a fourth placing.

At HDOC Feb 16/08 Romeo finished his Rally Advanced title.

Owned by Pauline Norman



“Terra” Owned by Peggy Masanotti earned her Rally Novice Feb 17/08 at the HDOC trials



“Rocky” Owned by Frank Downs earned his Rally Novice Title Feb. 17/08 at the HDOC

Tracking: A great activity for even 12 year old dogs!!

“Follow your dog!” yelled instructor Ginny Neher from a good distance.

“Follow my dog?” I muttered back, figuring that Hughie was just taking me for a Sunday drive on a farmer’s field. I **knew** the track was going to the right but decided to let Hughie find that out for himself. So off he turned to the left and I reluctantly continued on following my dog for some distance. I knew Hughie was taking me way off the track since I no longer saw any signs that the hay/alfalfa field had been disturbed from someone walking in it.

We continued on for a good distance until Hughie suddenly stopped and his tail started feverishly wagging. He was indicating that he had found something behind a large clump of alfalfa. I came up on my dog and noticed, to my **amazement**, that he had found a small wallet. This was the article that he was suppose to find. After praising Hughie I had a good laugh with Ginny and realized that Hughie is much better at this game than I was.

Hughie is our 12 year old, somewhat arthritic, black lab. He’s always been “fun-loving” and active but when he turned 10 Hughie seemed to suddenly “age” and the couch became his favourite hangout. After a checkup at the vet, we did not want Hughie to become a “sofa loafer”. We needed to get him back into the game of life.

We knew that Hughie loved to play, had some brains, a good nose and great determination. We thought that maybe a dog sport would give him a new, fun task and get his engine going again, so I made some calls. I discovered that there were lots of great activities available for dogs but several seemed to be geared more to younger dogs that could run, jump, etc. Hughie was more like the “slow shuffle” type.

Eventually I did come across an activity called tracking. The sport of tracking requires the unique ability of a dog to differentiate and then follow along a track a particular human scent, which is not discernable to humans. If you choose to participate in a tracking test, depending on the type and level of the test this scent may be up to 5 hours old. In order to pass a test the dog must follow the scent and be able to indicate that they have found any articles (i.e. glove, wallet, etc.) that were left on the track. Tracking beginners usually learn the sport on a field, which doesn’t have a lot of foot traffic (i.e. farmer’s hay/alfalfa field, industrial park areas, etc.). Advanced tracking tests (i.e. Urban Tracking Dog Excellent Tests) require the dog to track on both vegetation and non-vegetated surfaces (i.e. gravel, concrete, sand, etc.) and may even have obstacles such as stairs, guardrails, etc. This is a non-competitive sport for dogs of all ages. The team (dog and handler) either pass or fail the test. Since obedience training is not required and this is instinctive for dogs, people often start their 8 week old puppies tracking. I discovered that tracking is also perfect for older dogs, too, since Hughie could do this activity at his own speed, without it being physically demanding on his body. Very little equipment is required thus tracking is a relatively inexpensive sport. In Canada, the sport is governed by two organizations: The Canadian Kennel Club (CKC) (www.ckc.ca) for purebred dogs and the North American Mix Breed Registry (NAMBR) (<http://www.nambr.cardoso.ca/>).

There are many other “levels” of tracking including dogs being scent trained for search and rescue and even as members of canine police units.

So Hughie and I took tracking classes offered by Ginny Neher of Dogsports –(www.breedersshowcase.com/dogsports). Ginny, who has been involved in the sport for 30 years in the Newmarket/Aurora area, has gained a wealth of tracking knowledge. The classes were fun and very informative.

Hughie absolutely **loved** tracking. We couldn't believe how much it rejuvenated him. He was always raring to go as soon as he saw the tracking harness. Through tracking Hughie and I developed an even stronger bond. I initially got involved in this activity for Hughie but I soon discovered how fun and fascinating it was to watch dogs somehow pick up a scent and track. Ginny, sensing that someday I may be interested in trying a CKC tracking test suggested that I go observe a few tests and even consider joining a tracking club. Hughie and I later became members of the **Cross Country Tracking Club** (<http://ctrackingclub.com/index.html>) where we have met a number of nice "dog" people, who own a variety of breeds that love to track. The club annually organizes CKC/ NAMBR tracking tests as well as offers training sessions, classes and a venue for tracking enthusiasts to congregate. It also has a very informative tracking website, which lists their upcoming tests and suggested articles, books and other websites to read.

For two years Hughie and I had great fun attending tracking classes. Over that time Ginny thought that Hughie should try a CKC Tracking Dog (TD) test. So last October at the age of 12 years, Hughie participated in his first test. On that day the first two young participants successfully completed their TD tests at "warp" speed. Hughie was next up. He tracked his way around the course at his customary slow, "turtle time" until he suddenly stopped. With his tail wagging I knew he had found the article and passed the test. After the test one fellow participant told me that Hughie was a big inspiration for her since she also had an older dog at home who always got jealous when her owner would only take the younger dog out to track. She told me that she was now going to start her older dog tracking. Another participant asked me when I was going to get a new, young dog to track. I told her that would happen when Hughie wanted to retire!

Tracking truly is a fun activity which can be enjoyed by dogs of all ages and abilities. If you have a "sofa loafer" at home, why not make it a priority to go tracking. I know that you and your dog will **LOVE** it!! Happy Tracking!!

Written by Doug Hinton



**CH., OTCH, VTCH, ATChC, C-ATCH & U-CDX
AUTUMNGOLD DAWSON'S CREEK**

**VCX, Am. CD, HA, HSA-s, HTADI-d, HTADIII-s, HTDI-d, HTDII-s, HRDII-s, RXMCL, RN, AG.X, AG.IJ,
OAC, O-OGC, NJC, NT, NA, NAJ, NV-S, JS-N, MSCDC, BRONZE AWARD OF MERIT, FM, CGC, CGN
Most Important – MSD - My Service Dog
“TYLER” – D.O.B. April 6, 2000.**

Owned by Sharon Palmer

<u>YEAR</u>	<u>MTH.</u>	<u>ORG.</u>	<u>TITLE</u>	<u>FULL TITLE</u>
2007 (14)	Jan	CKC	AG.X	Agility Excellent
	May	CPE	CL5-H	CPE Level 5 – Handling Games
	June	AKC	HAS-s	Herding – “A” Course – Started Sheep
	July	CPE	CL5-S	CPE Level 5 – Strategy Games
	July	CPE	CL5-F	CPE Level 5 – Fun Games
	Aug	ASCA	RV-N	Regular Class – Veteran - Novice
	Aug	ASCA	OTD-d	Open Trial Dog - Ducks
	Sept	AHBA	HTADIII-s	Herding Trial Arena Dog Level III - Sheep
	Oct.	CPE	CL5-R	CPE Level 5 – Regular Games
	Oct.	CPE	CL5	CPE Level Completed
	Oct	CPE	C-ATCH	CPE Agility Trial Champion
	Nov.	AWSS	VT	Versatility Title
	Nov	AWSS	VTX	Versatility Title Excellent
	Nov.	AWSS	VTCH	Versatility Title Champion



TOTAL TITLES EARNED TO DATE - “86”

ACHIEVEMENTS

Tyler is the only Sheltie to earn Herding titles in all 4 venues (CKC, AKC, AHBA, ASCA)
 Tyler is only the 2nd Sheltie to earn the CKC Herding Advanced title
 Tyler is the 1st dog to earn the CSSA Versatility Title
 Tyler is the 1st dog to earn the CSSA Versatility Excellent Title
 Tyler is the 1st dog to earn both the CSSA VC & VCX
 Tyler is the 1st dog to earn the CSSA Most Versatile Sheltie title at Nationals
 Tyler is only the 6th Sheltie in North America to earn the AWSS's VT title
 Tyler is only the 6th Sheltie in North America to earn the AWSS's VTX title
 Tyler is only the 6th Sheltie in North America to earn the AWSS's VTCH title

AAC Regionals & Nationals

2007 Regionals	- Ilderton, Ontario	- Finished 11th
Nationals	- Halton Hills, Ontario	- Pulled on last day due to injury

Gone But Not Forgotten



“Lincoln” Dec 21 1993 - Jan 7 2008

Rahontsi Selamat Lincoln CDX WCI JH TDX Am CD.

Will be missed by Maryke Warwick

My Dog Lives Here

My dogs live here, they're here to stay.
you don't like pets, be on your way.
they share my home, my food, my space
this is their home, this is their place.

You will find dog hair on the floor,
they will alert you're at the door.
they may request a little pat,
a simple 'no' will settle that.

It gripes me when I hear you say
'just how is it you live this way?
they smell, they shed, they're in the way..
WHO ASKED YOU? is all I can say..

They love me more than anyone,
my voice is like the rising sun,
they merely have to hear me say
'C'mon , time to go and play'.

Then tails wag and faces grin,
they bounce and hop and make a din.
They never say 'no time for you',
they're always there, to GO and DO.

And if I'm sad? They're by my side
and if I'm mad? they circle wide
and if I laugh, they laugh with me
they understand, they always see.

So once again, I say to you
come visit me, but know this too..

My dogs live here, they're here to stay.
you don't like pets, be on your way.
they share my home, my food, my space
this is their home, this is their place..

Author Unknown

What is Scent by Mary Thompson (AKC Tracking Judge)

What is scent? The dictionary defines scent as: To perceive by the olfactory organs, to yield an odor of some specified kind, to use the nose in seeking or tracking prey; scent is the effluvia from a substance that affects the sense of smell.

So just what is your dog following when he is tracking? I mentioned before that we are like “Pig Pen” in the Charlie Brown comic strip, with a cloud of scent surrounding us, made up of our skin cells, what we washed our clothes in, any dryer sheets used, fabric of the clothing we wear, our shampoo, underarm deodorant, etc. Your dog also smells the earth, which includes dirt, leaves, grass, pine needles, mulch, trees, shrubs, etc. He must make up a composite of you (or the person he is tracking) and the earth smells in his mind and try to stay as close to that composite as possible. A fast moving dog will overshoot articles and turns more quickly than a slower, more methodical dog. Why?

Your dog has a shelf in his nose. The longer the nose, the longer the shelf. Layers of scent will collect on that shelf. The faster moving dog will go past a turn or article as he is still working on the scent on the shelf in his nose. Once that runs out, he realizes he has overshot the turn or article. The slower moving dog (with a long nose) will also overshoot the corner or article but will realize faster that he has done so. A dog with a short nose will run out of the scent in his nose faster and will (usually, there are ALWAYS exceptions!) adhere to the actual track better, not overshoot turns or articles BUT will start panting sooner. A dog who pants does not take much scent in thru his nose as he is breathing in through his mouth. He will still be able to process the information but I would prefer that a dog just learning to track does so when it is cooler so he does not start to pant. Once you can read your dog well, then anything is fair game, have him track when it is warm/hot outside, just be sure to take plenty of water with you and teach him to drink while on the track.

I will digress for a minute. A number of people, in different parts of the country, teach their dogs that they are ONLY allowed water when the track is done! I had a gentleman from Florida enter a TDX test I was judging in Massachusetts. It was Mother’s Day in May and over 85 degrees in the shade! (Quite warm for New England at that time of year!) The dog was a black dog who was working his heart out. Unfortunately, from the time myself and the other judge plotted the track on Saturday and the track was run on Sunday, a number of people, dogs, and horses went up and down that path in the woods. (part of DWI – Deal With It, crap happens, so train for it!) The dog worked for over 20 minutes in the woods to the point that I was worried that he would go into heat stroke. I broke the code of silence between judges and handler and asked him if he would not like to rest for a few minutes and give his dog a breather and some water. When he informed me that the dog would only get water at the end of the track, I saw red and told him to sit his butt down and not move until I told him to! I am a tracking judge but I am also a licensed veterinary technician. I refuse to allow a dog to go into health problems on one of my tracks! (I told the AKC rep at the time about my decision, he backed me up) So please, teach your dog to accept water while on the track! Even tracking in high 60’s or low 70’s can dry out your dog’s mouth. Wetting it will help him keep the scent stronger so he can follow it better! Yes, the dog finished the track and when I congratulated him, he informed me that the dog was from Florida and could take the heat and I informed him

that I read the dog differently and would always believe that the dog would have gone into heat stroke if he had continued to work without a breather.

The weather, terrain, and time all influence how your dog tracks and deals with scent. The faster the wind, the lower the humidity, the shorter the grass and the drier the grass/earth is, the shorter the time you age the track. The slower the wind, the higher the humidity, the taller the grass is, the more damp the grass, earth is, the longer you age the track. Going uphill is more difficult initially then coming down the hill. Scent will run down the hill like rainwater. Any depression at the bottom of the hill will only encourage your dog to run back and forth in the depression following scent. Any depression, rut or puddle will hold scent longer and cause the dog to linger in that area trying to find where the track goes. Any tree, shrub or rock near the track will cause your dog to leave the track and go to it, as it will also hold scent.

If you lay a track while there is dew or frost on the ground, please try to run a green dog BEFORE it is either evaporated or melted! When the dew evaporates, it takes the majority of scent with it, leaving a green dog not knowing where the track went. In the case of melted frost, if there is a thick frost, the scent has spread like a large, shallow puddle of water and the dog will try to go to the edges to find the scent. The larger the area of frost, the faster he will become discouraged. Again, not for a green dog!

Ultraviolet rays also affect scent; they rearrange the molecular structure of scent. The hardest time for a dog to track is between 11am and 1pm. Unfortunately, quite a few tracks at tracking tests are held during that time period. Again, something your dog will need to learn how to deal with but not in the beginning.

Power lines distort scent. I have watched a really nice working dog track up to within 30 feet of a power line and then act like the person was airlifted and the scent disappeared! This was a dog whose owner had trained for a number of different scenarios but not one around power lines.

There is also a 3-1 rule. If you lay a track parallel to a tree line/building or heading towards a tree line/building you should know that scent will roll off of that like a huge wave. If the trees are 15 feet tall and the wind is between 5-10mph, the scent will be dropped over 45 feet away from the actual track and your dog will want to follow that scent. That being the case, he will miss a corner or an article.

There are over 30 theories on what is scent and how a dog follows it. What I have shared with you has been documented. That does not mean we know all there is to know about scent and how a dog works it! We are at the tip of the iceberg! Our government has spent MILLIONS of your tax dollars trying to make a machine that will allow police to follow (track) a wanted/lost person thru his DNA. I can go into a court of law and state why my dog followed this person and be termed an "expert witness". The other side can bring in their own "expert witness" who totally disagrees with me and then the poor jury is left to figure out who is telling the truth and is the person guilty!

One theory is that scent has a shape and your dog is following a shape that is made up of a composite of all the scent at the start of the track. We do know that it is proven that sugar has a shape of a square! Maybe the government will have their gadget in the near future, until then, I will rely on my dogs! Have fun!

CCTC Tracking Test Dates for 2008

May 11, 2008
TD/ UTD Tracking test

Oct. 19, 2008
TD/ UTD Tracking test

Nov. 9, 2008
TDX Tracking test

If you have a dog ready for the May 11 test the opening date is March 27
Entries will not be accepted before this date.
Closing date is April 24th.

Plotting date May 10 & Test date May 11.

If you don't have a dog ready for our Spring Test, do think about coming out as a tracklayer
or just come as a flag carrier and learn to be a tracklayer.

For tracklayers, or flag carriers.

Contact persons; Candy Rennie crennie@globeandmail.com

Marie-P Babin autumwynd@sympatico.ca



