# Potomac Valley Shetland Sheepdog Club, Inc. Serving the Greater Washington Metropolitan Region (DC-MD-VA) since 1972



# The Sheltie Seanachie

February 2017

www.potomacvalleyshetlandsheepdogclub.org



#### 2017 Officers

Cathie Skoog, President cathieskoog@verizon.net

Mike O'Shea, Vice President Fran Beacham, Recording Secretary Donna Richards, Corresponding Secretary Jack Gurney, Treasurer

Members of the Board Rich Gurney Debbie Lauritzen

#### **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 March and July (no meetings) and December (Holiday Party). **NEXT MEETING is February** 20.

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.

### THE SHELTIE SEANACHIE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

Donna Richards, Editor

The Sheltie Seanachie is the Club's Monthly Newsletter. It provides a forum for sharing information, discussing issues concerning the breed, and club activities.

Send brags and other items for the newsletter to the editor at dlrcpa@verizon.net or mail to Donna Richards, 1591 N Village Rd, Reston, VA 20194. The Newsletter is sent to members and friends preceding the meeting. If you would like to be added to our distribution list, please email the above address. Back issues of The Seanachie are available on the PVSSC website.

### **PVSSC Obedience-Rally Trials**

Held February 4 & 5, 2017 **Catoctin Training Facility** Point of Rocks, MD

We were so lucky to have good weather last weekend.

The Frederick News Post sent a reporter and photographer to cover the Saturday trials. You can read their article here: http://www.fredericknewspost.com/news/lifestyle/pets and \_animals/pooches-put-to-the-test-in-point-ofrocks/article 0a8a8ca5-83c7-5587-be3d-f45f5025bdfd.html

Photos from the trial are available on Carl Gernazio's web site for viewing. Good pics captured Cathie Skoog and Dayna Dreger in the rings. Thanks Carl! http://www.cgernazio.smugmug.com/

### **PVSSC Specialty Volunteers Needed**

Friday March 17, 2017 Havre de Grace, MD

Debbie Lauritzen needs "extra hands and feet" (runners) to assist her on March 16 and 17.

Also, the club uses raffles at our conformation show to help raise funds. We can use large attractive wicker or woven (fabric) baskets Please help fill them with desirable Sheltie and/or non-dog related items:

- Throws, crate pads, chew toys, deluxe grooming products, show leads, gourmet dog foods, special Sheltie mementos that will appeal to both participants and spectators.
- Non-doggie food items such as wines/cheese/crackers/summer sausage/pickles/condiments, etc.
- Gourmet chocolates/cookies/dried fruits/trail mix (all food items should be fresh and attractively packaged)
- Bath/Body care items that are out of the ordinary, Spa gift certificates (Aveda, etc.)

Please bring any items to the February 20 meeting to be included for the Specialty.

#### **Canine Music Preferences**

The University of Glasgow and the Scottish SPCA have studied how music affects stress levels for kenneled dogs. Regardless of the genre, the dogs appear less stressed with background music playing than without.

http://trueviralnews.com/stressed-dogs-prefer-reggae-and-soft-rock/

If you are not familiar with the subject, previous studies have shown that music can lower heart rate and sequences of classical music have been designed to move dogs and cats into deeper stages of relaxation. The most famous collection is titled "Through a Dog's Ear" and is available for purchase. They even have music tailored for "senior" dog hearing ranges.

http://throughadogsear.com/

#### How to be Adopted

A research study at Texas Tech University found that the behaviors mostly likely to increase shelter dog adoption rates were if the dog would lie down near the potential adopter, or interact via a toy. Using this knowledge, shelter workers and volunteers created structured training programs to encourage 250 dogs to interact with strangers through knowledge of favorite toys and getting the dog to lie down using treats. This resulted in increased adoption rates where the program was implemented.

https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2016/11/161103151956.htm

### **Maryland & Virginia Pet Food Pantries**

Here is a partial list of local organizations which will accept and redistribute dog and cat food for needy families. If you are on the Petco and PetSmart mailing lists, they sometimes send e-mail coupons for a free bag of dog or cat food or treats as promotions. I always take advantage of these offers as a way to help others.

Humane Society of Fairfax County <a href="http://hsfc.org/outreach/ani-meals-program/faq/">http://hsfc.org/outreach/ani-meals-program/faq/</a>

Loudoun Pet Pantry https://www.loudoun.gov/petpantry

Montgomery County
<a href="http://www.awlmc.org/foodbank.html">http://www.awlmc.org/foodbank.html</a>
<a href="https://www.mcpaw.org/the-mcpaw-pet-food-pantry-coming-soon/">https://www.mcpaw.org/the-mcpaw-pet-food-pantry-coming-soon/</a>

#### **Pet Dental Health Month**

February is pet dental health month. We all know a professional cleaning is expensive. What can we do to avoid cleanings or even tooth extractions?

Tooth brushing works well, especially your Sheltie is trained to accept this at an early age. Find the preferred flavor of toothpaste. Virbac comes in beef, poultry, seafood, malt and vanilla mint flavors. You might start with a less expensive brand in the smallest size to experiment. NutriVet sells chicken flavored paste in 2.5 oz size for just a few dollars. Your vet may be able to give you a few samples to try as well.

https://topdogtips.com/best-dog-toothpaste/

Also, look for the Veterinary Oral Health Council ratings. Dog treats and chews are listed.

http://www.vohc.org/VOHCAcceptedProductsTable\_Dogs.pdf

Do the dental treats actually work? Yes! This study found positive results for decreased plaque bacterial counts and sulfur compounds concentration (causes of stinky breath.) https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/27227499

Rutgers University at Camden, NH also tested and found that brushing with CET paste, VeggieDent chews, bully sticks and raw marrow bones could reduce plaque and tartar bacteria by 55-70%. Each was found to be effective to some degree.

http://jbs.camden.rutgers.edu/gallagher\_canine\_oral\_bacteria

#### **New Canine Flu Vaccines**

University of Rochester has developed two new canine flu vaccines against H3N8. These live-attenuated vaccines provide better immune response and longer protection than killed vaccines. They are using their findings to work on a similar vaccine for H3N2. No word yet on commercial availability.

https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2017/01/17012616 2919.htm

#### **Sheltie Grooming Videos**

The PVSSC conformation show is coming in March. All those Shelties will be looking very sharp and beautiful. Here are some videos with Sheltie grooming tips and demonstrations.

Grooming the ears

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=EkwLtuDT 1Q

Grooming the "pants"

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= WsqiFB6cM0

Feet and hocks

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=rbjfgfZZpBw

And for those who missed hearing the grooming speaker Masha Bartell last June, she recommended "Cowboy Magic" conditioner, and she likes the Safari line of grooming tools available at Petco. She dilutes shampoos and conditioners using about 15% of product and 85% water.

Another good tip – disinfect your grooming tools on a regular basis.

#### Ringworm - the Fungus

The name is misleading. Ringworm is actually a fungal infection. I recommend you view this AKC video to be knowledgeable about the symptoms and appearance. Hopefully you don't encounter any surprises while conducting your grooming.

http://www.akc.org/content/health/articles/ringworm-indogs/

#### **Hows and Whys of Howling**

I had an uncle who was very proud that he had taught his miniature Schnauzer to howl along when he decided to sing. In this case, the dog howled as a learned behavior. But why do dogs howl of their own choosing?

Because a howl is long and sustained, it carries farther and can be used for locating. A wolf howl can be heard as far as 6 miles in forest or 10 miles on open terrain. Howls are distinctive to individual animals in the same way that their barking is.

We often associate howling with loneliness and distress, but humans encourage Huskies and Malamutes to howl for hunting and sledding activities.

Researchers at the University of Cambridge used computers to analyze and categorize 21 howl types based on pitch and fluctuation. A Timber wolf howl is much different from a red wolf howl.

http://www.cam.ac.uk/research/news/wolf-species-have-howling-dialects

Further studies are being conducted by Montana State University at Yellowstone National Park.

http://www.montana.edu/news/16014/msu-researcher-helps-untangle-the-language-of-wolf-howls

This lovely tutorial from the Smithsonian Channel is a good introduction to howling for humans. She notes that it's good to start low, build in volume and pitch, and include an octave switch on the build and the decrease. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DYoXzZxEa9g

## **Boy Scout Dog Care Merit Badge**

The Boy Scouts were out in force for the Obedience and Rally Trials on February 4 and 5. They assisted in moving equipment, setting up jumps and mimicking fence posts during the exercises. There is a Scout Merit badge for Dog Care with an impressive list of requirements, including grooming, first aid, vaccination schedules and knowledge of local laws and ordinances.

https://meritbadge.org/wiki/index.php/Dog Care



#### Why We Love Dogs

Everyone has a different take on this, so here are a few versions:

http://www.petmd.com/dog/pet\_lover/WW\_top5\_reasons\_we\_love\_dogs

http://stories.barkpost.com/video/myth-sniffers-5/ (I like #3.)

This article makes the point that dog ownership facilitates face-to-face human interaction in an era when we are relying increasingly on digital/virtual interactions. I think the point is well taken, so come to the PVSSC meetings and events to interact with other dog owners! <a href="http://health.usnews.com/health-news/health-wellness/articles/2015/08/03/do-you-love-your-dog-more-than-humans">http://health.usnews.com/health-news/health-wellness/articles/2015/08/03/do-you-love-your-dog-more-than-humans</a>

This article about one of my favorite authors and bloggers Patricia McConnell also points out that we may love a dog but not be able to provide the right sort of home that a particular dog needs. She is in favor of re-homing a dog that's a bad fit for a particular owner.

http://stevedalepetworld.com/a-tale-of-two-species-patricia-mcconnell-explains-why-we-love-dogs/

And a fun movie for us this Valentine's month - "Must Love Dogs" with Diane Lane and John Cusack. https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ASWRj-8da9o



#### **Dogs Predicting Weather**

From 1969 onward, Punxsutawney Phil has only been accurate 39% of the time. In other words, he's not even as accurate as flipping a coin would be. Although they cannot forecast long-range, dogs and other animals do seem to have an extra sense for impending bouts of bad weather. So pay attention!

http://www.pedigree.com/all-things-dog/articlelibrary/dogs-can-predict-storms-fact-or-old-wives-tale.aspx

Another helpful tip from the Old Farmer's Almanac: Expect rain when dogs eat grass, cats purr and wash, sheep turn into the wind, oxen sniff the air, and swine are restless.

By the way, the Farmer's Almanac online version also offers a 2 month weather prediction by zip code, so here it is for Reston. Let's see if they are right.

FEBRUARY 2017: temperature 29° (1° below avg.); precipitation 3" (0.5" above avg.); Feb 1-4: Sunny, cold; Feb 5-8: Rainy, mild; Feb 9-10: Flurries, cold; Feb 11-15: Snowstorm, then flurries, cold; Feb 16-19: Snow showers north, snow to rain south; Feb 20-23: Sunny, mild; Feb 24-28: Rain to snow, then sunny, cold. MARCH 2017: temperature 37° (3° below avg.); precipitation 3.5" (0.5" above avg.); Mar 1-4: Snow showers north, sunny south; Mar 5-10: Rainy periods, cool; Mar 11-14: Sunny, cool; Mar 15-21: Rain, then flurries, cold; Mar 22-31: Rain and snow showers, cool.

### **Landscaping for Dogs**

Since spring fever is taking hold, I thought these articles contained good suggestions for planning to landscape your yard for the best likelihood of peaceful co-existence between plants and pets.

http://www.sunset.com/garden/backyard-projects/dog-friendly-gardens

http://moderndogmagazine.com/articles/gardening-101

http://www.mnn.com/your-home/organic-farming-gardening/stories/how-to-create-a-dog-friendly-garden

#### **DIY Valentine for Your Sheltie**

Follow these general directions to make a nice graphic like the one on the following page. "Frames" are found at this web site:

http://imikimi.com/main/view\_kimi/7TwR-1hS

Choose a frame style. Click where it says "Add photo here". Select a picture on your computer to be inserted into the frame. Click the "save" button. Then click the "download" button to save to your computer. Don't forget to post to your Facebook page too!



# Do YOU Have a NEW Email Address?

Send email address changes to Donna Richards, PVSSC Corresponding Secretary at <a href="mailto:dlrcpa@verizon.net">dlrcpa@verizon.net</a> to assure you receive club news.



#### **February Events**

- Valentine's Day February 14
- PVSSC Meeting February 20

#### **Meeting Refreshments**

Fran Beacham is our Refreshment Coordinator. *Thanks to everyone who volunteered refreshments for 2017* 

#### 2017

February meeting – Maribeth Keitz

March – no meeting

April meeting – Nancy Murray

May meeting – Cathie Skoog

June meeting – "potluck picnic"

July – no meeting

August meeting – Patrick Keough

September meeting – Marilyn Manser & Rich Gurney

October meeting – the Greens

November meeting – Chris Demoncada

December – no meeting

THANK YOU!

Reminder, beverages are not provided; water is available and there is a water/soda machine.

#### PVSSC Breed Referral Services

For information on puppy and adult Shelties, contact PVSSC members



Jan Stanley

703-281-2828 janstanley@verizon.net

or

**Doey Blount** 

301-567-3933

jimjandoey@aol.com

# Northern Virginia Sheltie Rescue (NVSR)



NVSR rescues, rehabilitates, and places lost, abused, and abandoned Shelties where they will be loved, protected, and well cared for.

Visit the NVSR Website <a href="http://www.nvsr.org/">http://www.nvsr.org/</a> to find out about activities, dogs for adoption, to support their activities, or even to see how you can volunteer!

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