

The Sheltie Seanachie

The Potomac Valley Shetland Sheepdog Club, Inc.

Serving the Greater Washington Metropolitan Region (DC-MD-VA) since 1972

August 2019

www.potomacvalleyshetlandsheepdogclub.org

PVSSC 2019 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

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 May when we hold our Specialty, 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.

NEXT MEETING: August 19, 2019

SEPTEMBER MEETING

The Picnic on September 15, 2019

Upcoming PVSSC Events

September 15, 2019: PVSSC Picnic Details on [Page 5](#).

November 2, 2019: Herding Trials at Keepstone Farm, Berryville, VA. Two Trials and two Farm Dog Certifications tests.

February 2020: PVSSC will hold our annual Obedience and Rally Trials. Trials will be held at the Catoctin Kennel Club in Point of Rocks, MD. Mike O'Shea will be the trial chair, assisted by Karen Schwartz.

TO email any PVSSC officer or board member,
send email to PVSSC.Shelties@gmail.com

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AND MORE . . .

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/>

CONGRATULATIONS TO DIXIE DOODLE AND GINNY AND MIKE O'SHEA

On July 12, 2019 Dixie Doodle earned her AKC Agility Grand Champion Title

On July 13, 2019 Dixie Doodle earned her MACH4

AGCH MACH4 Dixie Doodle HSAs MXC MJG2 MFC TQX T2B7 PDS PJS CGC TKN RA



WHAT IS A MACH?

A Master Agility Champion (MACH) title requires a dog and handler to exhibit speed and consistency along with superior performance. The requirements to acquire a MACH requires the dog to achieve a minimum of 750 championship points and 20 double qualifying scores from the Master Standard Agility class and the Master Jumpers with Weaves class.

In the Master Agility classes a dog must run a PERFECT run with no errors and no time faults to qualify. Only scores of 100 qualify. One point is awarded for each full second under standard course time.

Twenty Double Qualify (2Q's) Scores. A dog must earn a score of 100 in both the Master Standard Agility Class and the Master Jumps with Weaves Class on the SAME day. They must do this 20 times.

Once a dog meets the requirements they receive the MACH title. MACH4 means Dixie and Mike have achieved this accomplishment four (4) times.

AGILITY GRAND CHAMPION (AGCH) TITLE

The AGCH recognizes versatility across all classes of the AKC agility program. To earn the AGCH title the dog must have earned qualifying scores at the Master Level in each of the classes:

- Standard Agility and Jumpers with Weaves: 100 qualifying scores at the Master Level
- Fast and Time 2 Beat: 75 qualifying scores at the Master Level
- Premier Standard and Premier Jumps with Weaves: 50 qualifying scores at the Master Level

AGAIN, congratulations to Mike, Ginny and of course, Dixie Doodle.

Canine Heat Stroke

We enjoy taking our dogs with us when we do activities outdoors. However, they can easily become victims of Heat Stroke. Below are lists of to “do” and things NOT to do taken from several articles. Links are also provided for further reading.

How Do Dogs Overheat? There are just two basic ways your dog can become overheated – from external or internal factors.

- **External.** Being exposed to high temperatures and/or humidity, such as dogs left in cars or left out in a yard without shade.
- **Internal.** Exercise generates heat. Muscle contraction and movement of the musculoskeletal system produce a tremendous amount of heat! In one study, activity was more important than temperature/humidity in contributing to heatstroke.

How Do Dogs Cool?

The most important cooling system for dogs is evaporation of moisture from the upper respiratory tract – the mouth, nasal passages, pharynx, larynx, etc. **A second way** that dogs cool is by dilating the blood vessels under the skin and expelling the heat from the vascular system through the skin.

Why Are Some Dogs More Susceptible to Heat?

- **Genetics.** Susceptibility to overheating is partly genetic.
- **Physical structure.** Physical characteristics are also associated with the ability of dogs to cool, i.e., brachycephalic dogs (dogs with short faces, such as Pugs, Shih Tzu, etc.) were shown to have poorer cooling mechanisms.
- **Body Condition.** A Purina study revealed that poor body condition was more important than brachycephaly in a dog's inability to cool. In addition, obese dogs are more likely to die if they do experience heatstroke

Please note: The normal body temperature for dogs is between 101 and 102.5 F

When NOT to Attempt First Aid for Pets with Heat-Related Illness

If any of the conditions below are present, it's in your pet's best interest for you to skip first aid and just go to the veterinarian for evaluation and treatment. Attempting first aid could unduly stress your pet and treatment.

- You don't have a thermometer handy or accessible
- You don't have ready access to cool water
- Your pet is vomiting, having diarrhea, or is noticeably bleeding or bruised
- Your pet is collapsed, unresponsive, or having seizures

Crucially Important

- Do NOT pour water into the mouth of a collapsed or unconscious pet, and don't force any pet to drink water either.

- Do NOT use ice water or an ice bath to cool an overheated pet. Doing so will lead to constriction of the blood vessels under the pet's skin which will actually prevent the pet from cooling off.
- Do NOT cool your pet too fast or too far – overcooling can be as disastrous as overheating.
- Do monitor rectal temperature every 30-60 seconds.
- STOP cooling once rectal temperature reaches 103.5°F.
- All pets suffering from heat stroke (and many suffering from heat exhaustion) need to be evaluated by a veterinarian once cooling measures have been completed.

How to Treat Heat Exhaustion in Dogs and Cats

- Move your pet into a safe, shady or air-conditioned area to prevent injuries and further heat absorption. Put a cool, wet towel or blanket underneath him
- If he is alert enough and able to drink water, offer him small amounts frequently. You don't want him drinking too much or too fast, as either of those can cause problems of their own.
- Measure rectal temperature with a thermometer (preferably digital, rather than glass) and plenty of lube (you can also use water or saliva, if no lubricant is available).

If your pet's temperature is below 104°F

- Continue to monitor your pet and allow him to rest and drink small, frequent amounts of water.
- Once he is back to his normal, return home but continue to monitor for the next 24 hours. Bring him for veterinary evaluation immediately if he doesn't return back to his normal self or if there are any episodes of vomiting, diarrhea, lack of appetite or any other concerning signs.

If his temperature is above 104°F

- Begin cooling by spraying cool (not cold) water over their body. If you have a fan handy, you can turn it on and have it blow over him – this will improve evaporative cooling.
- Stop cooling once his temperature reaches 103.5°F.
- Check and take note of the time that cooling was stopped and at what temperature he was at when cooling was stopped.
- If there is a dry towel or blanket available, use it to dry your pet off slightly. This can help prevent continued and excessive cooling.
- Immediately get to the veterinarian. Pre-cool your car before getting your pet into it and call ahead to the veterinary hospital to let them know you're on your way with a pet that has suffered heat stroke.

<https://www.preventivevet.com/dogs/heat-stroke-in-cats-and-dogs-how-to-treat-my-pets-heat-exhaustion-or-heat-stroke>

The Discomfort Index

There is a formula that takes temperature and humidity into account and produces a number called the Discomfort Index, or DI.

To calculate the index, follow this link:

<https://keisan.casio.com/exec/system/1351058230>

Enter the current temperature and humidity and it will give you the corresponding DI. It also provides a table that shows the DI and associated Discomfort Conditions.

One study showed that dogs are quite comfortable when the DI is less than 22, they are moderately uncomfortable when the DI is 22 to 28 and very uncomfortable when its above 28.

Track Your Dog's Heat Susceptibility

It is recommended you keep a record of your dog's heat susceptibility. This is a simple matter of recording the following each time you take your dog outside:

- Dog's Name
- Date and Time
- Temperature, Humidity and DI
- # Minutes of Exercise
- Strenuousness of Exercise (scale of 1 to 3)
- Dog's Distress Level (on scale of 1 to 3, where 1 is slightly panting, 2 is moderate panting, and 3 is panting with the tongue curled).

After a few outings, you'll have a pretty good idea of how much of what type of exercise will be best for your individual dog given the current DI.

CANINE SPORTS PRODUCTIONS provided the above information. The company also has prepared a 60-minute webinar that answers pretty much every hot (or cool) topic on the subject! Go to

<https://www.avidogzink.com/shop/webinars/keeping-your-dog-cool/>

Interested in learning more? Go to

<https://www.avidogzink.com/product-category/memberships/>

KEEP YOUR DOG SAFE THIS SUMMER Make sure your dog is COOL



Do You Understand Your Dog's Bark?

Most of us can identify the sound of our own dog's bark when with a group of dogs at an event. And at times some can even understand what they are saying to us.

There is a fascinating article that appeared on the Canine Corner of Psychology Today entitled "A Concise Dictionary of Dog Barks" posted on June 18, 2019.

I think all of us can tell when our dogs are alerting us that someone has stepped on our property or when the USPS or FedEx truck has turned onto our street and we recognize these barks as an "alert."

Our Savannah, for the most part, is quiet but I can tell when she wants a treat – she has an annoying little bark. Donna said Max had a "locator bark" when he did not know where she was, alerting her to "where are you" and she would go find him and let him see her.

The article is at the following link and includes a table identifying the type of bark.

https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/canine-corner/201906/concise-dictionary-dog-barks?utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+CanineCornerCS+%28Canine+Corner%29

Gwyn Whittaker On the Cover of Pet Connection



Gwyn Whittaker, PVSSC member and owner of Green Fare Organic Café in Herndon, and her Sheltie Duncan.
<http://www.connectionnewspapers.com/photos/2019/jul/31/145102/>

UPCOMING PVSSC EVENTS

PVSSC ANNUAL PICNIC



Sunday, September 15
3:30 p.m. until dusk
Dinner served around 5:00 p.m.

Hosted by Cliff & Sandra Green
6214 Militia Court
Fairfax Station, VA 22039

Pulled Pork BBQ, rolls, cornbread, baked beans and
coleslaw (prepared by Willard's BBQ)

Members are asked to bring an appetizer, side dish/salad,
OR dessert to share.

Members are welcome to bring their friendly dogs.
In the event of rain, the picnic will be held inside, so NO
dogs please.

There are plenty of chairs and table space on the deck.
However, if you would like to socialize in the yard while the
Shelties explore in the fully fenced yard and wooded
paths, bring a fold chair. NOTE: The yard will be fully
shaded by mid-afternoon.

Please R.S.V.P. to Sandra Green: 703-426-2662

There will be a brief business meeting in lieu of holding
our meeting on September 16.

HOPE YOU CAN JOIN US!

PVSSC / NVSR Open House

October 21 Meeting

The Northern Virginia Sheltie Rescue (PVSSC) and
PVSSC hold several joint activities each year. At the
October meeting both groups will discuss their
organizations and "get to know one another" better. This
will hopefully be beneficial to both organizations gaining
more members and/or participating in activities more.

NVSR is an all volunteer organization, established in 1999
to rescue, rehabilitate and rehome Shelties. All Shelties,
whether relinquished by owners unable to keep their
Shelties, or found in shelters because they have been
abandoned or are strays, are fully vetted by NVSR and
live in a NVSR foster home for evaluation and training.

NVSR is a non-profit 501(c)(3) and is an affiliate of the
National Sheltie Rescue Association.

For more information on NVSR, proceed to the website:
<https://www.nvsnr.org/index.html>

HERDING TRIALS

Saturday, November 2, 2019
at
Keepstone Farms
412 Russell Road, Berryville, VA

PVSSC will host two herding trials featuring classes in
cattle, ducks and sheep. In addition we will be holding
two Herding Instinct Tests and Farm Dog Certification
Tests. If you would like to know more about entering
please contact trial chair Cathie Skoog on her cell or
email to cathieskoog@verizon.net or Jack Gurney.

We need club members to assist with Farm Dog Tests
and assist judges (timers and scribes), handle ribbons,
lunch and cleanup. Contact Cathie or Jack Gurney if you
can volunteer.



Savannah Skoog at PVSSC November 2016 Trials.
She placed Fourth in Intermediate Ducks



Durham Keitz, November 2016 Trials.
Placed Third in A-Sheep and was High Scoring Sheltie in Trial 2.



Mollie Skoog, November 2016 Trials.
Placed First in Intermediate Ducks, earning her Intermediate Title and
was High Scoring Sheltie in Trial 1

SHELTIE CORNER: What's Happening

Good Grandparents: Sandra and Cliff Green



Murphy and Sydney

Meet Murphy and Sydney. Murphy is 9 years old and is always at the side of 14 year old Sydney. These two beautiful Shelties are Sandra and Cliff Green's grand-doggies. Sydney's registered name is Macdega Mirage.

Sydney was originally owned by Tom Coen, who had hopes of quickly getting her championship. However, she absolutely hated the show ring. Tom offered her to Greg Speeks to see if he could have better luck.

Sandra was told Sydney would just sit down and not move in the ring. Embarrassment - and thus ended her show career!!! She was bred several times and easily whelped 4 large litters, with several of her pups becoming champions.

Greg will not breed his females beyond 5 years of age, so he offered her to the Green's daughter, Tracy Foster, after Sydney had her last litter.

Tracy had bought one of Sydney's male pups from Greg a few years earlier. So Tracy brought Sydney home to live with them and her young son Murphy.

Sweet as can be, Sydney has just thrived being a beloved family pet and she and her son are joined at the hip. Wherever Sydney is, you will find Murphy laying beside her, touching.

At 14 years of age, Sydney still enjoys excellent health, but does have a touch of arthritis and can no longer go for long walks. To make sure Sydney did not miss out on walks, her family would pull her in a wagon.

The wagon didn't look very comfortable, so Grandparents Sandra and Cliff bought her a dog stroller. What a hit the stroller has been and Sydney just loves going for carriage rides around the neighborhood, getting lots of attention of course!



Sydney in her wagon



Sydney in her new stroller

CONGRATULATIONS



Annie Skoog earned her Open Standard Agility Title on July 27, 2019 at the Sarasota Obedience Dog Training Club Agility Trials, held in Punta Gorda, FL.

PRINCE HELPS DONNA

Is Prince helping by holding the cutting board in *place*?
OR, is he making sure Donna is cutting the pattern correctly?



PVSSC SUPPORTED PAWS IN THE PARK



PVSSC supported Paws in the Park as part of our Shetland Sheepdog Educational Program. Paws in the Park was sponsored by the Parks Services at the Prince William Forest Park. Unfortunately only two members attended this year: Donna Richards and Jack Gurney.

PVSSC received a very nice thank you note from the Park Service Event Coordinator for our support, stating: *A huge THANK YOU to all that attended PAWS in the park this weekend. As usual, you all came through and made it a great doggy day in the park. I greatly appreciate your time and dedication to the PAWS in the Park event. Our visitors had nothing but wonderful thing to say about all of you.*

Besides having wonderful walking paths to explore with your dog, there were demonstrations and McGruff Crime Dog and Sparky the Fire Dog were also there. This is a free event, open to the public to promote public awareness and is alignment with the AKC Responsible Dog Ownership programs.



Prince Richards greets people interested in learning about Shelties



Sparky the Fire Dog



Jack and his Sheltie, Rosebud

PVSSC OUTING

Sunday, July 14, 2019

At the Barrel Oak Winery in Delaplane, VA

PVSSC members enjoyed a day at the Barrel Oak Winery. Following the touring and wine tasting, members and dogs enjoyed picnicking in the beautiful Shenandoah Valley, overlooking the wine orchards.

Comments were it's a nice place and very dog and family-friendly. It was a hot day but the picnic tables were shaded by umbrellas and there was an occasional breeze. Many people brought picnics, dogs and children. They also had beer for sale in addition to wines by the glass, oysters, shrimp, hot dogs and pizza.

Below are photos from the event.



Rich and Marilyn with Corey & Prince



Marilyn and Corey & Donna and Prince

2019 AKC Trick Dog National Competition



It's Virtual!!

All AKC Trick Dogs who have earned the Elite Performer title by September 3, 2019 can enter this exciting inaugural event for trick dogs. Because the competition is virtual (i.e., the judging will be done via video), trick dogs everywhere can participate.

How it works: Submit a video to AKC of your dog's trick dog routine. The routine must be no longer than 6 minutes and may include props and music.

You may use a new video, a video previously submitted to AKC for review, or a video of a past trick dog performance. The dog must be living at the time of your submission.

As is the case with all Elite Performer routines, there must be a theme or story. For this virtual competition, you may, but are not required to, include an audience in the video.

If you have more than one great routine, you may submit up to two videos (per dog) to the competition.

When: To enter, submit your video between September 3 and November 1, 2019. Three judges will judge the submissions and the winner will be announced December 2, 2019.

The winner of the 2019 AKC Trick Dog Competition will receive a cash prize of \$500 and two semi-finalists will each receive \$250. The winners will be featured in AKC media, their videos will be on the AKC Trick Dog web page, and they will receive a commemorative plaque.

For a copy of the rules and application, click on the below link. This is also the link for general Trick Dog Title information.

https://www.akc.org/sports/trick-dog/?utm_source=Sailthru&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20190617_Events_Trick_Dog_Competition&utm_term=190617_Trick_Dog_Send_List

AKC Vetline



The AKC Vetline is a live, 24/7 service staffed by licensed veterinary staff and other trained pet-care professionals. Get unlimited access to answers about your pet's health and wellness whenever and wherever you need it.

The Vetline

- Answers to questions regarding general pet health, parasite prevention, illness and injury, poison issues, and nutrition.
- Advice on whether you should take your dog to the vet or seek further medical attention for a potential problem.
- Access to veterinarians, licensed veterinary techs, toxicologists and other pet-care professionals.
- 24/7 unlimited access via toll-free phone number

For more information, go to

<https://www.akc.org/products-services/akc-vetline/>

My Dog Ate a Toxic Plant — What Should I Do?

If you suspect your dog has eaten something toxic, follow these steps:

1. Contact your vet or [AKC Vetline](#) as soon as possible. Or call the [Pet Poison Helpline](#) (855-764-7661) for accurate advice. (You will be charged a fee when you call the helpline.)
2. Try to identify the plant by taking a sample or a photo or by collecting the dog's vomit in a plastic bag.
3. When you reach the vet or helpline, provide as much information as possible, including:
 - The suspected plant and the time of ingestion.
 - Your dog's weight.
 - Any symptoms your dog is showing.
4. Under no circumstances should you induce vomiting unless instructed to do so by the vet. Specific plant poisons require specific treatments, and vomiting can make some cases worse.
5. Don't fall for the myth that dogs instinctively avoid dangerous plants. While it is sometimes true of animals in the wild, dogs have no ability to distinguish between safe and unsafe plants.

You can find more information on how to protect your dog on The American Kennel Club's website where this article was originally posted under Poisonous Plants For Dogs: https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/home-living/protect-your-pooch-from-poisonous-plants/?utm_source=newsletter&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=20190730-nibble_general&utm_content=general-protect_your_pooch_from_poisonous_plants-p8

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

ANIMAL PORTRAITS

Cindi Berry is an artist who lives and works in Great Falls. Most importantly, she is an animal lover and animal portraitist.

Ms. Berry contacted PVSSC regarding advertising in our Herding Trial Catalog. We do not prepare a catalog.

Below is her website link in the event anyone would like to preview her work or contact her.

<https://www.cindiberryfineart.com/>

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

THE SHELTYE SEANACHIE PVSSC MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

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

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