



The Sheltie Seanachie

September - October 2021

www.potomacvalleyshetlandsheepdogclub.org

The Potomac Valley Shetland Sheepdog Club, Inc.

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

PVSSC 2021 OFFICERS

Cathie Skoog, President
Jack Gurney, Vice President
Fran Beacham, Recording Secretary
Nancy Penn, Corresponding Secretary
Donna Richards, Treasurer
Members of the Board
Patrick Keough Sandra Green

NEXT PVSSC MEETING

ONLINE



October 18th
@
7:30pm

Join us online for our Zoom Meeting on Monday, October 18, at 7:30pm!

We will begin with our business meeting, followed by a special program, where guest speakers are invited to share topics of interest.

October program is TBD.

Let us know if you'd like to hear about a specific program!

We hope you will be able to join us. Below is information to access the meeting via Zoom. If you have any questions regarding accessing Zoom, contact Jack Gurney or Cathie Skoog - or email us at PVSSC.Shelties@gmail.com

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83400395115?pwd=TIhMRUxFaHVwck0rcVRnOXNaWTZqZz09>

TOPICS IN THIS ISSUE

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PVSSC EVENTS:

Herding Trials and Tests

PVSSC will be hosting 2

Herding Trials and Tests at:

Keepstone Farm

On Saturday, November 6 2021

Holiday Party

When: December 19th, 2021

Time: 1:00 – 5:00 PM

Hosts: Mike & Ginny O'Shea

Where:

4339 Still Meadow Road
Fairfax, VA 22032-1634
703-298-1162

Please, RSVP and bring sides, desserts and/or drinks to share!

Main courses will be provided by PVSSC.

VIRGINIA SCOTTISH GAMES

PVSSC was at the Virginia Scottish Games Saturday, September 4. Typically we hand out information, introduce our dogs to attendees, discuss Sheltie behavior and grooming and answer general dog ownership questions.

<http://www.vascottishgames.org/>

Photos below from this year:



Links:

Breed History

<https://bowlingsite.mcf.com/SheltieHistory.html>

Sheltie Size <https://bowlingsite.mcf.com/Size/size.htm>

PVSSC Group Hike

PVSSC members hiked along the Potomac Heritage Trail in Seneca Regional Park on a Sunday (June 27, 2021). Hike leader Jack Gurney along with Fran Beacham provided informal commentary on the history, geology and flora along the trail. Upon reaching the canal adjacent to the Potomac river, we discovered Loudoun County Fire & Rescue conducting swift water rescue practice drills where the water was about waist-deep. We watched for about 20 minutes as they rigged a Tyrolean water rescue traverse. Following this, Jack explained the history and reasons for building the canal portion, originating with George Washington.

Members: Jack Gurney & Fran Beacham with Rosebud, Donna Richards with Prince and Jordan, Nancy and Tom Hansbrough with Archer and Patches.
Guests: John Somiak who took photos.



PVSSC BREEDER 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!

Contact:

Jan Stanley: 703-281-2828
SheltiesReign@gmail.com

or

Doey Blount: 301-567-3933
jimjandoey@aol.com

THE SHELTYE SEANACHIE

The *Sheltie Seanachie* will be published quarterly starting in 2022. Email brags and other items for the newsletter to Lilian (Subject: For PVSSC Newsletter) at theleafstudio@gmail.com

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



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

JUST FOR FUN!

Here's a photo of Rosebud in a creek near Jack Gurney & Fran Beacham's house enjoying the beach on a hot day. They throw treats into the water to make it even better!



TIPS from DONNA

1. I noticed this excellent write-up on thunderstorm safety posted by Fairfax County Fire & Rescue, worth a reference...I know it is a quandary for me when the dogs need their bedtime walk but there are storms around. For example, I did not know concrete floors and walls can conduct lightning via the rebar.

https://ffxfirerescue.wordpress.com/2021/06/24/lightning-safety-awareness-week-4/?utm_source=twitter&utm_medium=social

I am using Weatherbug.com web site for my town. It has a FLASH map when there is thunderstorm activity, showing the closest locations for lightning strikes in the last 30 minutes. Very helpful.

2. FEMA has some disaster prep videos pertaining to pets. I downloaded PowerPoint slides. The presentation was rather slow but I thought a slide of psychological "key questions" was pretty good (see next page). Then they go on to talk about training to minimize some behaviors, etc. Usual training techniques. Points being: crate practice, restraint (leash, harness), manners. If medications required, figure it out ahead of time.

Webinars list: <https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/individuals-communities/preparedness-webinars#pets>

August & September SPECIAL PROGRAMS

Our August Guest Speaker - PVSSC club member Nancy H. - shared her experiences with the Scent work training she has been doing with her Sheltie Archer, including benefits and challenges.

To learn more about AKC Scent Work:
<https://www.akc.org/sports/akc-scent-work/>

Here are some of Nancy's notes:

"Before I started taking classes (before I began thinking about this), I always played find it with my dogs. I would crate them and then place numerous pieces of kibble in various places in one room. Release them (one at a time) and say, Find it! They would run around finding these. I would start to expand the search to add more rooms, ultimately hiding pieces all over the house. As they got better, I would start putting treats under and behind things, and really make it more difficult. Now they get really excited to play this. If you're worried about your dog gaining weight, take some of the kibble from its meals.

I'm going to describe the training in a nutshell – up to the point where we are. During all classes and runs, Jacy (trainer) describes what is going on, explains how to conduct the runs and give you a lot of useful information. You may have one or 3 other people in a class, and he's good at teaching dogs with varying experience levels. Between runs, you and your dog are behind a covered ex-pen so dogs don't get to see each other. This works well with dog reactive dogs and we have a couple that seem to be fear aggressive.

Jacy shakes things up a bit with each class. Initially, has many boxes with treats in them – different configurations. You let your dog find them off lead. You work towards having various types of containers and layouts around the training room (outside weather permitting). And in time, not always using boxes around the room but on top of things – shelves and chairs. You do this with your dog on lead. You then start working with a 15 or 20 foot lead, and this is where team work is important as you are also learning how to handle the leash during searches."

The September program was a presentation on creating dog-safe/friendly yards by Fairfax Master Gardener Kathy Frame. One of the slides is shown on the right side...

For more information on the Fairfax Master Gardener program go to www.fairfaxgardening.org

If you missed the programs, and would like to learn more, please e-mail: PVSSC.Shelties@gmail.com to receive the PowerPoint presentations!

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Psychological Preparedness Assessment for Your Pet

- ✓ Is my pet comfortable being **transported** (including by leash, crate, and vehicle?)
- ✓ Can my pet tolerate being **separated** from me for periods of time (and how long?)
- ✓ Does my pet respond well to being **handled** or picked up?
- ✓ Does my pet respond well to being in **new environments**?
- ✓ Does my pet respond well to **being around other people**?
- ✓ Does my pet respond well to **being around other animals**?
- ✓ Do I know how to **recognize what stress looks like** in my pet?
- ✓ Do I know my pet's **stressors** (i.e., triggers, antecedents to stress responses)?
- ✓ Do I know what my dog finds **rewarding** or soothing?
- ✓ Do I target/work on **establishing or maintaining desired behavior** regularly?
- ✓ Does my pet require any **pharmacological interventions** for behavioral issues?



KENNEL COUGH

In the last issue of The Sheltie Seanachie (Jul-Aug 2021), Cathie Skoog shared an article about Kennel Cough (on page 4).

While some of the "Kennel Cough" vaccines, like Bordetella, are considered non-core vaccines for dogs, there have been a lot of cases recently, so you might want to consider talking to your vets and see what they are recommending depending on the area you're located at...otherwise, don't go to places with a lot of dogs together (shows, trials, dog parks, etc.) since you don't know if they are sick or not. Of course, there are other pathogens that also cause "kennel cough". Late August, one of my veterinarians said she's been seeing a lot of Bordetella related cases. My other vet also said they've been treating a lot of respiratory diseases lately, but not sure of the cause sometimes.

Last week, a friend said her Sheltie was coughing, but she didn't go anywhere (but she also had some other Shelties that went to dog shows before). I've been to some dog shows with one dog, and now (end of September) I think I have at least one showing some mild symptoms, even though she is already vaccinated.

So, if you think your pet is sick, keep it isolated from other dogs, as it could be highly contagious...

Read the story in the next page...

Dog Gardening Tips

- Prepare Your Dog for Success
- Know Your Plants
- Select Mature Plant Starters
- Select Sturdy Border Plants and Barriers
- Use Containers and Raised Beds
- Put Up Sturdy Fences for Unsafe Places
- Give Your Garden a Perimeter and Dog Paths
- Use Strong Smells to Deter Digging
- Designate a Play Space—Even for Digging

HORROR STORY TIME

Well...on July 21st, I received a call (or lots of calls) from my handler...she said that my Bi-Blue boy - Blue Heavens The Force Is With Blu (Obi) - had a high fever and she was driving him from an emergency clinic to a regular vet clinic in Richmond, VA. She tried to call me the day before after 10pm, but I'd come back from out of town that day, and completed passed out...didn't get the messages until the following afternoon...

He started a high fever (106-107F) on the 20th, so my handler took him to the first emergency clinic. At the regular vet clinic, chest X-Rays were taken revealing signs of pneumonia, other tests were also done, and he got more antibiotics, fluids, oxygen, etc...he was having a hard time breathing, lethargic...so the vet wanted him to spend the night at a 24h-care hospital.

We had to call 4 places, before the last one could take him in...they were either at full capacity or lacking vets to take in new cases for the night shift.

My handler met me at a 24h hospital in Fairfax, VA...poor Obi could barely walk, and his gums were a bluish color. Two days later, they call me saying that his breathing is getting worse and that his oxygen levels were down to 86% at one point...so, I go down there almost having to decide if he should be euthanized or not because the vet was not very optimistic...

I get there and he is resting in the oxygen chamber. While his breathing was labored, I didn't think he was too bad, as I was led to believe. His gums were a healthy color...so I ask to get him out of the chamber and spend some time with him. They were reluctant about letting him out of the chamber, but then they gave me an oxygen tank so I could place a tube near his nose while we were in this waiting room.

Long story short...I'll skip all the crying and making calls part...he spent some time on my lap and when I needed to get up to call the nurse, he also got up. So, I asked for another oxygen level check and thank God, it was over 90% again!

After the vet on duty was done with other patients (they were busy that night!), he came to the room so we could work on a treatment plan.

Obi ended up spending a total of 6 days in the hospital and after he came home, he had to be on medication for another 14 days. His nasal swab came back positive for Parainfluenza, but thankfully not CIV (Canine Influenza).

Then, I took him to my regular vet for a final Chest X-Ray and see if he needed more antibiotics. Although he had some bronchitis, his lungs were clear, so he just needed more rest. He is doing very well at the moment!

Basically, after talking to a lot of vets, I think he caught "kennel cough" at a dog show then maybe days later, unfortunately, had heat stroke (it was still very hot end of July), threw up and aspirated some...leading to the high fever and pneumonia very quickly.

BRAGS!

Lilian Y. Forsyth welcomed a new girl into her Fairbrook Shelties "pack" on August 14!

Tasha is a Bi-Black girl, bred by Elizabeth T. Brinkley (Dante Kennels), and co-owned by both.

She is by:

GCHP Jana Armitage Freelance FDC AX OAJ NF CGCA
CGCU TKN x Dante's The Divine Comedy

Pictured here at 9.5 month...at her first weekend out at a Dog Show, focused on the treat:



(photo courtesy – Cathy Caruso)

Of course, she shed a bit after bath time before the show...but she will be shown mid-October at West Friendship, MD shows and one Specialty Show end of October for more practice.



GCH Kell Right Now
"Jordan"

turned 5 years-old (mid-September)!!!

Happy Birthday!!!

He is owned by Donna Richards.