



Summer 2006

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Holding their well earned "Footsies" are;  
Candy R. Pamela B. Maryke W. Peggy M. Sue G. Terry Smith (judge) & Eileen F.

### Report on "2005"

In 2005, Cross Country Tracking Club held three tracking tests as we've done in the past few years.

The May TD test only had one pass, Natalie Heath with "Aika Von Schoerling TD" a Belgian Malinois, judged by Jack Wilhelm of Belwood Ont.

The October TD test had four passes with two members passing the test. Pamela Burns with her Std. Wirehaired Dachshund "Steak Von Lowenherz TD" Streak did his track with ease and to Shelley Empey who also passed with her German Shepherd Dog "Carmspack Derrick TD" The other two passes were Lyn Hunter with her Doberman Pinscher "Aibo Vom Adlercrest BH TRZ TD" and Linda Shaw with her German Shepherd Dog "Sawlein Easter Parade Sch 3 TD" The judge was Dawn Sanderson of Thunder Bay Ont.

November was our TDX test judged by Jane Book and unfortunately, no one passed,

Our Club also helped NAMBR with their TD test. which was judged by myself and we had one pass. Sandy Baird and "Puck"

The Christmas party and annual general meeting was held at Eileen Fisher's home again and we had a great time. The executives remain the same for 2006.

A beautiful basket of chocolates and cookies were delivered to Eileen's from Kathleen Dahmer Our US member, and was enjoyed by club members.

I had a busy Autumn and had to turn down a few assignments to judge as I bred Marlo and we had six wonderful Labrador puppies. Four out of the litter will be out tracking soon. Two are staying here with me and happy to say the boys will be out tracking with members. One is with Maryke Warwick and one with Susan Coutts.

All the best in tracking for 2006 !  
Yours truly, Marie-P.Babin

## BRAGS



Shelley Empey and “Derrick” who earned a TD under judge Dawn Sanderson. Oct. 16/05



Pamela Burns and her Std.-wire haired Dachs-hund “Streak” who earned his TD Oct 16/05 and earned his Junior Earth-dog in May ‘06



Marie-P Babin with “Marlo” who earned her TD on May 7/ 06  
Marlo also finished her CDX June 2006



Anne Passafiume’s “Samba” earned his CD in April with 3 placements



Pamela Burns and “Poppy” who is now an American Field Trial Champion Since Sept. ‘05 and also earned her Can. CD April’06



Helena Tracz’s “Ace” earned his Am Championship in Feb’06, his CD in April’06, his Novice Agility jumpers in May’06 and he earned his CDX in July’06 with a HIT

## New Little Trackers



Maryke Warwick's new puppies. "Brogan" at 9 months and "Layla" at 5 months.



Susan Coutts' Puppy "Tank"



Marie-P Babin's two puppies. "Jorja" & "Frankie"  
Littermates to "Brogan" & "Tank" 9 months old.



Peggy Masanotti's new litter of pups  
from her "Treasure"



Isobel McGowan's new  
puppy "Maisie"



Ricki Abram's new puppy  
"Kodi"

## **A Border a Jack and a GSD**

It was a cool, early spring day when a friend of mine called to see if Holly, my JRT, could track a Border Terrier, Buffy, who had gone missing from her home the night before. The Border Terrier had been let out in its fenced backyard for her last duty before bed and had not come back. My thoughts were, well, she hasn't tracked that much over the winter, the track was already about 12 hours old and would be older by the time we got there, she's only been tracking for a year and isn't a TD yet. But, why not. Isobel McGowan, fondly known as Auntie Isobel, is her handler and she agreed to give it a try although neither of us had much hope that it would work. By the time we got to where the dog had last been seen, the track was at least 18 hours old. The house was in a residential area bounded by very busy streets. We were shown the hole in the fence where Buffy, the Border, got out, probably while going after a coon. We gave Holly Buffy's scent from her favorite bed, at the hole in the fence. Holly started to track following a path through a bunch of trees to a busy street and then back again, through a fence of a neighbour's yard, easy for Holly but requiring great dexterity on Auntie Isobel's part, through that backyard, then down that driveway and onto the street, across the street to another driveway and then retraced her steps to the street where Buffy's house was. She stopped tracking just in front of the driveway of Buffy's house.

That evening Ricki asked me to bring Kavik, my German Shepherd, up to Keswick to see if he could pick up Buffy's trail. I was reluctant at first because I had just got Kavik back that day from a week in kennels, so he was rather hyper and out of routine. However Ricki's uncanny powers of persuasion reigned supreme and off we went. When we arrived at the garden where Buffy had last been seen, I got Kavik out of the van and into his tracking harness. As there was no scent pad I let him sniff Buffy's crate bedding and then told him track.....By now Buffy's track had to be at least 24 hours old. I had no idea where Holly had gone earlier so I literally had no option but to trust him. He started across the original garden and crossed through a fence line, which required excellent limbo skills on his part and great artistic impression on mine!!!!!! He continued out to a driveway and stopped at the edge of the road. He went down the sidewalk for a few steps, then turned back again. He then proceeded to cross the road and went up another driveway, retraced his steps and stopped in the middle of the road and after sniffing a while, retraced his steps back to the curb-side and stopped. I was amazed that he could pick up such an old track on asphalt. I was very surprised that he was able to settle down so fast and do an urban track in such unusual conditions. I think that the sooner we start some serious urban tracking, the better.

Over the 3 days Buffy was missing, her owners and breeder put up signs everywhere. On the third day, the person who picked Buffy up phoned to return her. He said he had picked her up on a street just north of Buffy's house. He had to throw his coat over her to get her into the car so she wouldn't be hit by a truck. Both Holly and Kavik went towards the driveway across the street from Buffy's house that was a path to the next street and both retraced their steps. Kavik did go further along the driveway before he retraced his steps and came back.

Hats off to Holly and Isobel, Kavik and Eileen as although neither dog actually found Buffy, they gave some credence to everyone's feeling that she was probably picked up by someone.

Written by; Ricki Abrams owner of Holly the Jack and Eileen Fisher owner of Kavik the GSD.



Rachel with Buffy, Lindsay & Caroline Anderson  
Ricki Abrams with Holly, Isobel McGowan and Eileen Fisher with Kavik



### **Birthday celebrations for Frank's 80th birthday**

Club members were invited to come to Frank's party held at Eileen Fisher's home on Sept 16th 2005  
We had a great turn out and Frank was totally surprised !

We all chipped in and got him a fantastic black leather harness and a black cotton lunge line for his GSD Rocky.  
He also received a lot of cards from members who couldn't make it.

We also enjoyed a great Bar B Q feast and birthday cake..



## STORMS

Submitted by Susan Coutts

### During a Storm - If Outdoors

- During a severe storm, don't travel
- Seek shelter inside a building or vehicle if you can.
- If shelter is not available, move, if possible, to a safer location.

### Avoid:

- High ground or hill-tops
  - Open spaces (like fields or meadows)
  - Tall objects (like solitary trees)
  - Open water
- Avoid the edge of a forest or woods. Low trees located well within a forest or in a clump, but not close to tall trees, are less dangerous than trees in open country. Watch out for overhead hazards - rotten branches that may fall during the storm.
- Be aware of the potential for flooding in low-lying areas.
  - Stay away from tall objects and objects that conduct electricity, such as metal poles, fences, power line towers - standing near tall objects makes you vulnerable to secondary discharge coming off those objects, if they are hit.
  - Swinging a golf club or holding an umbrella or fishing rod are particularly dangerous activities. Take off shoes with metal cleats.
  - Never get closer than 30 m to any wire fence, because you might receive a jolt from a lightning discharge that has hit a section of the fence as far as a kilometre away.
  - If you are boating or swimming, get to land and find shelter. Stay away from rivers, lakes, or other bodies of water as water conducts electricity and is flat (making you stand out as tall).

If you feel your hair stand on end, this is an indicator that you are within the electrical field, and lightning may be about to strike - the electricity is seeking the shortest distance between the ground and the sky. If this happens (and preferably before this happens), you need to:

- o Be a very small target by squatting low to the ground.
- o Minimize your contact with the ground by resting on the balls of your feet.
- o Remove metal objects from your person, if possible
- o Place your hands on your knees with your head between them.
- o Make yourself the smallest target possible.
- o Do not lie flat on the ground--this will make you a larger target. A position with feet together and crouching while removing all metal objects is recommended (including baseball caps).
- o If you can't squat down, bend forward and put your hands on your knees.

### During a Storm - If in a Car/Truck

Find a spot to pull safely onto the shoulder of the road that is:

- o Away from any trees that could fall on the vehicle, and
- o Away from power lines, and
- o Out of the roadway in case other drivers do not stop during the storm.

- Either close, or open the windows only slightly (for fresh air). Turn on your 4 way flashers.
  - Avoid touching metal inside the car - rubber shoes on your feet and rubber tires on your car will not protect you or the vehicle from being hit by lightning.
  - Be wary of downed power lines - if they fall near you or on your vehicle, wait for help. Don't try to drive over or through downed power lines or to step outside the car if they are near or touching the car.
  - Stay in the car and wait until the heavy rains subside and it is safe to proceed. Avoid flooded roadways.

After a Storm is Over

- Listen to the radio for information and instructions and stay away from storm-damaged areas that are unsafe to approach.
- Report downed utility wires.
- Drive only if it is safe to proceed. Debris, downed-power lines or flooded and washed-out roads are dangerous and to be avoided.
- Dead or rotting trees and branches can be damaged during a severe thunderstorm and cause injury and damage if they fall, later. Check for overhead hazards that need to be removed at your regular work location.

If a Person is Struck by Lightning

- A person who has been struck by lightning does not carry an electrical charge that can shock other people. The person can be handled safely.
- If the victim is burned, provide first aid and call emergency medical assistance immediately. Look for burns where lightning entered and exited the body.
- If the strike causes the victim's heart and breathing to stop, give cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) until medical professionals arrive and take over.
- If the person has a pulse and is breathing, look and care for other possible injuries.
- Call for help. Get someone to dial 9-1-1 or your local Emergency Medical Services number.

**“Gone But Not Forgotten”**

**Markgrafler Pali CD, TDX, St.John Ambulance Therapy Dog**

**aka “SPOOK”**

May 23, 1994 – June 8, 2006

Will be greatly missed by David & Susan Coutts



## Spring TD test May, 2006

Our TD Test was held on May '06 under sunny skies and a pleasantly cool temperature. Our judge Terry Smith and his able assistant Sharon spent a very enjoyable weekend with the club members. We had 6 track layers all eager to walk the fields and earn the treasured CCTC footsie crest for their efforts.

The fields were lush grass about 6 inches tall. There were 7 dogs participating in the test and 6 passed.

Successful participants were as follows:

German Shepherd Dog Fantasia Von Narnia TD. 2yrs old. Owner: Rosamund Northey. Time on track 6 mins.

Labrador Retriever Lindenhall's Raz Ma Taz TD. 4 yrs old. Owner: Val Archibald. Time on track 6 mins.

Labrador Retriever CH Castlegar Marlo At Autumwynd CD-WC-JH-TD-CGN. 5 yrs old. Owner: Marie-P Babin. time on track 13 mins.

Irish Water Spaniel Irish Mist Fistful O Dollars TD. 4 yrs old. Owner: Cynthia Rathburn. Time on track 15 mins

Golden Retriever Maplelane's Diamond Quest CD-AGN-TD-CGN. 3 1/2 yrs Owner: Patricia Hunt. Time on track 6 mins.

Giant Schnauzer Tanning On The Side TD. 4 yrs old  
Owner: Riitta Laurila. Time on track 8 mins

The Cross Country Tracking Club looks forward to seeing you come out for our Fall tests.

October 29th 2006 TD Test judge: Jane Book  
November 19th 2006 TDX Test judge: Marie-P Babin.

Eileen Fisher (CCTC)

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## Sharon Palmer and Tyler Brags

In the Fall of 2005 Tyler and I decided to spend our Thanksgiving at Herding Trials. These were AHBA (American Herding Breeds Association) trials. They have different classes that you can earn titles in.

HRD - Herding Ranch Dog

HTD - Herding Trial Dog

HTAD - Herding Trial Arena Dog

There are 3 different levels for titles and you can earn titles with sheep or ducks so your title would read HTDI-s for sheep or HTDI-sd for sheep and ducks. For the 2 HRD (Ranch) courses we were allowed 25 minutes to complete them. This is because they are true ranch work, moving stock from one field to another, taking them through various pens, sorting them, putting some into a freestanding pen in the middle of a field or putting them in a trailer as though you were taking them to market.

Here's our results for the weekend.

- Tyler qualified in 8 out of the 10 courses
- 2 - 2nd placements
- 6 - 1st placements
- 2 - RHIT (Reserve High In Trial)
- 2 - HIT (High In Trial)
- 3 new titles (HTADI-s, HRDII-s, HTDI-d)
- legs on HTADI-d and HTADII-s, HTDII-s

These titles bring his total to 56 titles!!! We're hoping to add the CKC Herding Advanced title in a couple of weeks. It is the hardest level, but I think he's ready for it.

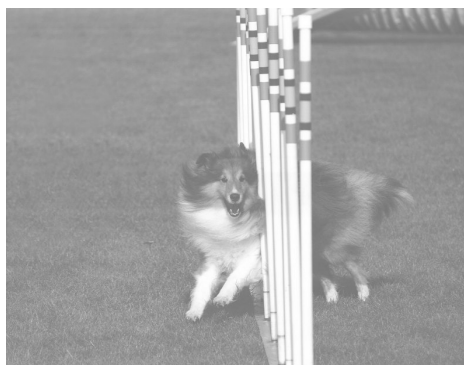
In June of 2006 in Ottawa at the Canadian Shetland Sheepdog Assoc. National Specialty Tyler was BOS-Altered and at the banquet on Friday night, he was named Most Versatile Sheltie at Nationals! Also, at the banquet, he received "the first ever" VC and VCX awards to be given by CSSA. It is so nice to know that he is now a part of CSSA history.

We left the banquet at 12:30 am and headed to Orono for the Agility Assoc. of Canada's Ontario Regional Championships. We arrived at 5:30 am and since walk throughs were at 6 am, it didn't make much sense to try to get some sleep, so I made a coffee and headed out to walk the courses. Over the weekend we had 6 runs (2 Standard, 2 Jumpers and 2 Gamblers). Tyler earned: 2 - 5th placements, 2 - 2nd placements, 2 - 1st placements AND a total of 530.50 pts. for 2nd place overall!!!! He now qualifies to go to the Nationals in B.C. in August. The VC and VCX awards bring his total to 58 titles with more on the way.

I am so proud of all that this little dog has accomplished in 6 short years and of course, first and foremost, he is my Service Dog.

Thanks for letting me brag. Sharon and Tyler, more formally known as:

**CH., ATChC, OTCH, & UCDX Autumngold Dawson's Creek \*\*\*VCX\*\*\* Am. CD, RN, RNMCL, RAMCL, RXMCL, NJC, NT, OAC, O-OGC, JS-N, NA, NAJ, AGI, CL4, MSDOC, Bronze Award of Merit, FM, PT, HI, HTDI-sd, HRDII-s, HTADI-s, CGC, CGN**



## **TRACKING DATA:** Compiled and written by Laura McKay

The information that I have been entering includes: general info: date, test type, club, province, judge, weather info: sky, temperature, moisture levels, wind strength field/surface types, run order, breed, group, sex, age result (i.e. pass or fail) reason for failure, fail time.

Data were collected from test results posted on this chat group from 2000 to the end of 2005.

**NOTE:** I have only entered information from tests where there was some information on ALL dogs competing. It needn't include all the information listed above, but postings that only listed information on passing dogs, with something like " and 5 dogs failed", were not used (even the information on passing dogs is not useful in these cases). Also, I have done some interpretation to determine some data (like weather, sex, etc.)

### **NOTE:**

I want to caution readers against reading too much into the following statistics, as they are just raw averages. The raw averages may be misleading in the following ways (and maybe others):

1) If the numbers of dogs for particular sub-groupings are small, then seemingly large differences, may be due to chance. For example, 25% pass rate may seem different than 75% pass rate, but if only 4 dogs ran in each subgroup, then the difference is not really meaningful. If 100 dogs ran then the differences between the two groups are likely meaningful.

2) If there is confounding of factors in the data, raw averages can be misleading. For example, differences between provincial averages, may reflect differences in weather, breeds, style of training, judges, or whatever that also varies systematically between provinces.

3) No information on individual dogs is available, so breed numbers do not necessarily reflect the actual number of individuals of each breed that participated. For example, suppose breed A passed at a higher rate than breed B; this may reflect a greater willingness of breed B owners to try over and over again until successful, compared with breed A owners. With small numbers, it is possible that one dog may have been run over and over again adding failures to the breed average, even if all other dogs of that breed passed the first time.

### **Results:**

I will use "test" to refer to a collection of test tracks offered by a given club on a day or weekend. "Track" will refer to the actual individual tracks used to test dogs.

I used information from 29 TD tests, 22 TDX tests and 5 UTD tests. Pass rates were 57% (TD), 29% (TDX) and 35% (UTD). A total of 343 tracks (i.e. dogs) were run; 233 (TD), 84 (TDX) and 26 (UTD).

**Pass Rates by Group:** (if no dogs ran, no percentage given) (For brevity, only the total number of tracks for all levels of test is given)

Group 1: 131 tracks, 14 breeds, 59% (TD), 27% (TDX), 38% (UTD)

Group 2: 9 tracks, 3 breeds, 71% (TD), 0% (TDX)

Group 3: 47 tracks, 12 breeds, 35% (TD), 43% (TDX), 0% (UTD)

Group 4: 7 tracks, 3 breeds, 40% (TD), 50% (TDX)

Group 5: 10 tracks, 4 breeds, 0% (TD), 0% (TDX)

Group 6: 12 tracks, 4 breeds, 57% (TD), 67% (TDX)

Group 7: 128 tracks, 9 breeds, 69% (TD), 27% (TDX)

Note that I assumed that toy poodles were in Group 6 (Non-sporting) rather than Group 5 (Toys) and I assumed they were a different breed than standard poodles. Poodle owners: please set me straight on their status!

**Pass Rates for most frequent Breeds:** (in order of frequency):

GSD: 67 tracks, 72% (TD), 19% (TDX), 50% (UTD)

Golden Ret: 59 tracks, 63% (TD), 27% (TDX), 33% (UTD)

Lab. Ret: 23 tracks, 47% (TD), 17% (TDX)

Belgians (all types): 24 tracks, 75% (TD), 25% (TDX)

Rotties: 17 tracks, 57% (TD), 67% (TDX)

Aussies: 17 tracks, 53% (TD), 100% (TDX)

Flat-coats: 13 tracks, 75% (TD), 33 % (TDX), 33% (UTD)

**Number of tracks by province:**

Ontario: 159

BC: 58

NB: 54

Sask: 31

**Effect of Weather on pass rate:**

1. Sky: sunny vs overcast, partly cloudy, cloudy, etc. No apparent differences in pass rate at TD or TDX levels

2. Temperature: "cool/cold" vs "warm" The pass rate seemed higher at TD level for tests run on cool/cold days compared with tests on warm days (59% vs 37%). Similar tendency but less pronounced at TDX level (27% vs 21%).

3. Moisture level: wanted to look at moist, humid, wet, snow, etc vs dry ground, but not enough info (i.e. hard to determine when ground conditions were "dry").

4. Wind Strength: extreme, high, strong, moderate vs light, slight, no wind No apparent effect on pass rate at TD level (58% vs 57%). May be a factor in pass at TDX level (14% vs 32%).

**Effect of sex:** (i.e. gender) on pass rate: female vs male pass rates: 65% vs 54% (TD), 29% vs 20% (TDX), 59% vs 20% (UTD).

Females may have a slight edge, but note that there were many observations in all test levels that did not provide info on sex. If males were less likely to be identified with respect to sex, the sex difference might disappear.

**Effect of age on pass rate:** Not enough data with ages to comment.

**Effect of run order on pass rate:** Seems that there MAY be a slight tendency for pass rate to climb as the day wears on, but more analysis is necessary.

## **Time of failure:**

early=at start, on first leg or first corner

late = at end, on last leg, on last turn

middle = between (but not including) first and last turn

At TD level, failures occurred early 40% of time, in the middle 38% of time and late 23% of time.

At TDX, most failures were in the middle (53%) followed by early (31% and late (15%).

At UTD, failures were roughly equally spaced.

Reasons for failure (may be multiple reasons reported, not reported at all in many cases):

Reported as % of all identified reasons for failures occurring:

at turn: 54% (TD), 37% (TDX)

during a leg: 23% (TD), 15% (TDX)

due to distraction: 10% (TD), 3% (TDX)

due to poor start or restart: 9% (TD), 18% (TDX)

missed article: 5% (TD), 2% (TDX)

took cross track: 17% (TDX)

at transition of cover types: 7% (TDX)

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## **UTD Breed pass rates**

To date I believe there have been 57 UTD tests held  
and so far the following have obtained their UTD titles:

4 Flat Coated Retrievers

3 Golden Retrievers

2 German Shepherds

2 Weimaraners

1 Poodle

1 English Cocker

1 Australian Shepherd

This works out to a 24% pass rate.

1 Golden Retriever has obtained a UTDX title.

Susan Highton

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## **Upcoming “Urban Tracking Test”**

“The German Shepherd Dog Club of London” will be holding their 1st UTD test in Thorndale Ont.  
on August 26/ 06.

This is a great opportunity to watch how this new test is run. They will be taking 6 entries.