



The Sheltie Seanachie

This issue is DEDICATED TO LEO

November-December 2020

www.potomacvalleyshetlandsheepdogclub.org

The Potomac Valley Shetland Sheepdog Club, Inc.

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

PVSSC 2020 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

NEXT MEETING

November 16, 2020 – ON LINE



PVSSC Upcoming Meetings

Based on COVID concerns the Board of Directors voted to hold the November meeting via Zoom.

Holiday Party: In lieu of a December Holiday Party the Board is considering a Zoom meeting and holiday social. We have held several online socials and members had a good time just catching up with one another.

2021: The January and February meetings will be conducted via Zoom.

To connect: Several days prior to each meeting members and guests will be sent an email with the log-on link and passcode. If you need assistance accessing Zoom from your computer, please contact Jack Gurney PRIOR to the meeting.

THE SHELTYE SEANACHIE NEW EDITOR

Beginning with 2021, The Sheltie Seanachie has a new editor: Lilian Yeh-Forsyth. Lilian is an active member and a breeder conformation quality Shelties.

Please send items of interest and photos to Lilian at stamprints@gmail.com.

TOPICS IN THIS ISSUE



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THE SHELTYE SEANACHIE

The Sheltie Seanachie will be published bimonthly. Email brags and other items for the newsletter to Cathie at cathieskoog@verizon.net or Lilian Yeh-Forsyth at stamprints@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



PVSSC Election of Officers for 2021

PVSSC will have elections for the 2021 Board. The following PVSSC members have accepted nominations from the nominating committee to fill the positions:

President - Cathie Skoog
Vice President - Jack Gurney
Treasurer - Donna Richards
Recording Secretary - Fran Beacham
Corresponding Secretary - Nancy Penn
Board Member - Sandra Green
Board Member - Pat Keough

Thank you to the Nominating Committee: Chair Jack Gurney, Lilian Yeh-Forsyth, Mike Skoog and alternate Mike O'Shea.

PVSSC EVENTS

Due to COVID, there are no events in the near future.

PVSSC WEBSITE

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

TO EMAIL ANY PVSSC OFFICER OR BOARD MEMBER

Send email to PVSSC.Shelties@gmail.com

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

SHELTIE BREEDERS MAKE INQUIRIES

Sheltie owner, friend and rally competitor Sherry Rifley shared this interesting information: new research shows genetic factors contribute to small body size in dogs.

Leigh Anne Clark, researcher and Associate Professor in the college of Science's Department of Genetics and Biochemistry at Clemson University and her graduate student, Sydney Abrams, study inherited diseases in dogs. Previous research focused on conditions affecting Shelties.



Sydney Abrams (Left) and Leigh Anne Clark (right) with Shelties**

The two women collaborated on a paper titled "Variants in FtsJ RNA 2—O-Methyltransferase 3 and Growth Hormone 1 are associated with small body size and a dental anomaly in dogs." The research shows a correlation with small body size and a dental anomaly in dogs. The article was published in past September in the PNAS, the official journal of the National Academy of Sciences.

Clark stated "This is one of the first times a trait in dogs has been attributed directly to genes influencing growth."

What led to this research? Sheltie breeders. Was there a genetic basis for "lance canines". The canine tooth is suppose to point but in many Shelties it points forward, like a lance. Sheltie breeders are concerned about lance canines for responsible breeding.

For pet owners, who are not concerned with breeding lines, still should be concerned; if not treated, it can cause ulcerations on the lip, might prevent the dog from closing its mouth and even lead to periodontal disease.

Because this condition is rarely in breeds other than Shelties, Clark was sure it had a basis in heredity and the research grew from there!

To read the entire article, go to the link at the Phys.org site: [Genetic Factors for Small Body Size](#).

** Shelties belong to Debbi Kaplan, Shadow Hill South Shelties: Jake (10 yrs old), GCHB Shadow Hill The Bachelor; Garrett (2 yrs old), Shadow Hill South Be The Difference; and Heath (4-month old), Shadow Hill South The Influencer. Photo by Pete Martin of Clemson College of Science.

MUSHROOM POISONING



This adorable, little Sheltie is Leo. Nancy Hansborough forwarded Leo's story so other Shelties won't suffer the same fate of Leo.

And we thank Leo's adopted Mom for being driven to find the cause and prevent other dogs from suffering the same type of tragedy.

Last year Leo was adopted by Anne Looker from the Northern Virginia Sheltie Rescue (NVSR). He was full of life and had a great temperament.

Leo recently died an agonizing death from an unknown cause. His adoptive mother, Anne, is an environmental scientist and she was determined to find the answer to his death. And she did.

Below from the email she sent with her findings and she included photos of the mushrooms she identified. They are particularly common near oak trees.

"I now believe Leo died from eating a poisonous mushroom, even though the emergency vets said they hadn't found any strong evidence of a mushroom toxin in his blood.

The emergency vets didn't think the mushroom he ate caused his death because his blood levels of kidney and liver enzymes were only slightly elevated. Most poisonous mushrooms that affect dogs have toxins that attack the kidneys and liver, so it was reasonable for them to focus on those two organs. But some less common mushrooms contain a different toxin, called muscarine, which attacks a part of the nervous system that controls body functions like breathing, heart rate, blood pressure and gland secretions."

Anne identified the type of mushroom Leo most likely ate in the backyard. She then contacted the president of the Mycological Association of Washington DC for help. He and 2 colleagues agreed to perform microscopic analyses of the specimens she provided and CONFIRMED the mushrooms in her yard belong to a muscarine-containing mushroom genus called *Inocybe*, (commonly called "Fiber Heads or Fiber Caps").

"The symptoms of muscarine poisoning include acute onset (within 2 hours of ingesting), excessive fluid loss (drooling, vomiting, diarrhea, excess tears), trouble breathing and low blood pressure—all of which Leo exhibited. Unfortunately, there isn't a standard blood test to detect muscarine poisoning, and some of its symptoms, like vomiting and diarrhea, also occur when mushrooms with liver and kidney toxins are eaten. So the vets would have had to key in on the few unique symptoms (for example, acute onset and rapid deterioration, plus very low blood pressure that didn't respond to drugs to raise it) to realize that he was suffering from muscarine poisoning.

I've let the emergency vets know my findings because I'm still finding this type of mushroom in my backyard even now, almost 4 weeks after his death. That way, if they encounter another dog who has eaten a mushroom and shows the same symptoms and rapid deterioration they could consider the possibility of muscarine poisoning and try administering its antidote (atropine).

The mushrooms I suspect poisoned Leo are small and pretty inconspicuous—tan/brown in color, and only about 1 ½ -2 inches high—see attached photos.

According to the mushroom experts, they appear in the fall – August through November—especially when there's been a lot of rain in late summer and early fall, like this year.

Also this type of mushroom is often found near oak trees—and I have several oak trees in my backyard.

Needless to say, I remain heartbroken about Leo's death, and Bonnie really misses him too. I've lived in my present house for 15 years with multiple Shelties and never had a problem before. But all that is moot now that Leo is gone. My focus now is on protecting Bonnie from these mushrooms.

I'm hoping that spreading the word about this type of poisonous mushroom might help prevent another dog from being poisoned, so that something good can come from this awful situation."

Photos of the poisonous, *Inocybe* mushrooms:



OCTOBER PROGRAM

Following the October business meeting Lilian Yeh-Forsyth made a presentation and responded to questions about breeding, feeding, grooming and just general Sheltie related questions.

Most of the questions dealt with recommended foods for Shetlies. Lilian feeds her dogs Purina food from their ProPlan line of products and highly recommends the product line. Purina is changing their packaging and names so she forwarded photos from the Purina website to assist members.



Lilian recommends ProPlan (All Life Stages) Sport Active 26/16, however, the new formula is going to be ProPlan All Ages Sport Active 27/17, with the fat percentage increased. With the fat increase, it may not be necessary to add fish/coconut oil, depending on the animal (or mix with PP 30/20).



For more active dogs or pregnant/nursing dams, Lilian recommends ProPlan All Ages Sport Performance 30/20.



Lilian feeds her puppies ProPlan Focus Puppy, until they are 3-4 months of age, then switches to Adults.

OCTOBER PROGRAM, continued

Lilian also discussed breeding, delivering puppies and raising the puppies which includes socializing them and getting them adjusted to different sounds, textures and a variety of other developmental activities. Currently Lilian has several litters at her house and members wanted to see the puppies. Below are some photos.



Ch GCh Kell Right Now x Blue Heavens Constellation (pointed) puppies at 7 weeks
(Left to Right): Draco - Sable Merle Boy
Dora - Sable Girl
Delphine - Bi-Blue Girl (growing up here)



Dora at 7 weeks



Draco at 7 weeks

BRAGS

ANNIE EARNs FASTCat FCAT TITLE



October 9, 2020
Treasure Coast Kennel Club Fast CAT
St. Lucie Fairgrounds in Ft. Pierce, FL

SAVANNAH EARNs BARN HUNT OPEN TITLE AND PLACES FIRST



October 10, 2020
Tailwaggers Learning Center Barn Hunt Trial
St. Lucie Fairgrounds in Ft. Pierce, FL

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