Issue No. 7 November, 2016

# WAGINTAILS



#### WARM UP AND COOL DOWNS

Some exercises that you can do before your dog hits the ring

#### FIRST TIME BARN HUNT NATIONALS EXPERIENCE

A look at the Barn Hunt Nationals Event from a First Time Attendee



# THE LATEST Ring 2 BUILDING UPDA

Hi WAG'sters & WAG'students!

We're down to the wire in 2016 for those of you who still need to get your hours in. We do still have class course building, fun matches, and one more AKC trial to volunteer for.

Also, in case anyone out there didn't hear, we should be moving into our new building on February 1st, 2017. It's beyond exciting that we will have this wonderful new space and I'm looking forward to everything we're planning on doing in it. The lease is signed and we have approval of the Village Board so it's full steam ahead! :-)

We want your ideas and your enthusiasm! We are working on a moving plan and will need lots and lots of volunteers to make this space ours. We are also working on a plan to increase the number and types of classes we'll be offering, so if you have any ideas, let us know.

We will be scheduling a visit to the new building once it is safe to do so (ongoing construction on the inside) and we won't be in the worker's way. We'll keep you updated on that.

Remember, if you have any questions you can contact the board, our public email address is WAG Board@wagagility.com When you email this address, the entire board gets it. To email a specific board member, our email addresses are on our website.

I hope everyone has a happy and safe holiday season!

Patti Jo Yuswak

WI-IL Agility Group (WAG) President



- President Message
- **Board Meeting Minutes**
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**SPECIAL BULLETIN:** 

NO CLASS the WEEK of: December 18th AND 25th 2016 Session 6 Classes during November 6th through January 22nd 2017 Session 1 Classes during January 29th through March 25th\* Board Meeting: Friday, December 9th at 7:30pm \*Pending on building move



# BOARD MEETING SUMMARY

Members FYI... NOVEMBER 11TH 2016

Diana Antlitz reported five members signed up for the instructor training program

Five people to date have volunteered to be on the committee for UKI, contact Patti Jo Yuswak if you'd like to sign up

▶ Kelly Schumann has offered the new building for trick dog training/certification to the head of trick dog organization — they are looking for new locations in IL for training.

#### AKC:

▶ March trial – working on March trial to send in; still deciding on extra classes due to that weekend is also nationals. Jill Bochte is secretary, Mary VanderBloomen and Patti Jo Yuswak are co-chairpersons.

▶ App for Dixon has been mailed in. February first weekend. Judy Payne is chairperson and Jim Payne is secretary. Will have to have five WAG members commit to the trial to serve on the AKC On-site trial committee.

#### CPE:

▶ Judges are contracted for all five trials in 2017. March app has been submitted, new building needs to be approved by CPE. Next trial is March 2017.

#### TDAA.

Planning on an April trial and August or September time frame for 2017. Jan Sund is working on dates and judges.

#### UKC:

- ♦ Apps are in for Jan and April for 2017. January Shelly is judge, Cindy Hartzburg is secretary and Lisa Scheitburger is chair. Oct Cheryl C is judge, Shelly is secretary and Joy is chair. Joy has offered to put on a mini UKC workshop/fun match if anyone is interested.
- If anyone is interested in forming a committee for a different venue (ie: USDAA) bring a proposal to the board.
- Next Newsletter one will be Jan-Feb time frame. If anyone is interested in helping with the newsletter please contact Monique.
- ▶ Bob Schumann, Renee Menini, Kelly Schumann, Pat Casey, Greg Partykevitch and Nadia Adint have signed up for the instructor training for level 2, 3, 4 or special classes, but not level 1. Level one requires additional training.
- ▶ Working on class schedules for new building. Will be offering additional level 1 on Tuesday night, additional level 2 on Tuesday and special focus classes such as skills, weave poles. Addition will be rally, trick classes, star puppy classes, suggestion for next session is to be four weeks long and not eight since the move is scheduled in the middle of the session.
- ▶ Big ticket raffle did almost as well as last one. Rosie Hatcher-Pientok was the biggest seller and will get a dedicated parking spot at the AKC. Toni Reeves also will receive a parking spot during to all her work on the getting the lease and zoning approved for the new building.
- Thank you for all the donations for the basket raffle that will take place at the November AKC trial.
- Photo shoot with SuperDog Photos is scheduled for December 2nd \$30 per shoot with holiday or plain backdrop. Will send the jpeg of two photos to you.
- Shelly Weeks has offered to run another T-shirt fund-raiser. Will do a smaller logo instead of a big logo and will start it after the holidays.

Welcome To Our Newest Member!!

If you'd like to see a complete summary of the minutes, reference them on the WAG website under the MEMBERS ONLY page.

Chris Miller

# EXPERIENCING A NATIONALS EVENT

#### BARN HUNT GRAND NATIONALS EVEN FROM A FIRST TIMER'S PERSPECTIVE

#### Author: Monique Engemann

Agility has been a passion for me, but I decided to try another dog sport to help build upon my connect with my pups. Barn Hunt is just one of those sports that allows the dog to be independent and yet still be a teammate with you. Paul and I started training Sierra and Sylvie for Barn Hunt in November 2014 and Lia started August of 2015. Sierra and Sylvie have competed in 8 trial weekends, and Lia has trailed in 7. In that span of time all 3 dogs qualified for Barn Hunt nationals for 2016 (needing to have had earned a Master or Senior title by June). Still learning about Barn Hunt, we decided it would be fun to at least try since all 3 qualified!

The 3 day event was held September 9th - 11th in Gray Summit, MO at Purina Farms. Only 120 dogs were allowed to participate, and of those, only 50 were allowed to continue to compete on Sunday based on their scores from Course 1 (Find 2 rats in less than 2 minutes and 30 seconds) on Friday and Course 2 (Find 3 rats in less than 2 minutes and 30 seconds) on Saturday. In addition to the Grand National Courses, they had two games the dogs were allowed to enter as well - Team (two dogs finding 4 rats on the same course at the same time in under 4 minutes) and Hurdles (an 80 feet long race to a line of 3 tubes where the dog has to pick the correct tube with the rat in it). All courses were outside, and the Grand National / Team courses were under a pavilion! Needless to say I knew my chances with Sierra were going to be minimal... Outdoors.. Siberian Husky... need I say more?

Check-In was Friday morning where the dogs were measured for their appropriate height. There were two rings setup - Course 1 and Team. The first course was the Grand National Course 1, I decided to just not have any expectations but to enjoy the moment with my girls. First up was Sylvie with Paul where they blazed through the course with ease and





qualified. Then, it was my turn with Sierra. She was far too distracted and sadly didn't find the second rat. With seeing how Sierra acted, I started to worry about how this would be for Lia. Lia and I settled into the blind and waited our turn. I can't express how much my nerves were playing with me, but once we were in the ring Lia set my mind to ease and went right to work finding both rats in the required time. She finished in 17th place and Sylvie at 11th place. We then moved on to the Team event where Sylvie and Lia worked nicely together and earned a qualifying score. Sadly, Sierra and her teammate did not qualify, but they had a lot of fun!

Saturday morning was Course 2 and the last course to qualify to compete in the top 50. We watched a lot of great teams run and saw so many fail. It was a very hard course (lots of hides, hard to move around, and was very warm under the pavilion), this course was definitely meant to stump teams. Of the 120 dogs, only 47 qualified! Once again, Sylvie was first to compete - she wasn't as fast as she had been on Friday, but she qualified placing 15th. Sierra was the first of my two and didn't qualify due to indicating on an invisible rat. ;-) (You'd have to see it to believe it lol)! Now, I'm worried.. nerves are high again, and I am once again sitting with Lia in the blind waiting our turn. There were others in the blind trying to psych everyone out, but I held fast to trusting my dog. We hit the start line and Lia pulled her self out of my hands to work. She found all 3 rats and qualified in 9th place! With both Sylvie and Lia qualifying on Friday and Saturday, this earned them in the top 50 and the ability to compete on Sunday!

Saturday we also competed in our first hurdles event. The dogs were setup to run independently down a 80 feet straightaway and indicate among 3 tubes which had the rat in it. Sylvie was first to go and truly thought this was a silly

# EXPERIENCING A NATIONALS EVENT

#### BARN HUNT GRAND NATIONALS EVEN FROM A FIRST TIMER'S PERSPECTIVE

#### Continued...

game and picked a random tube. Sadly, it wasn't correct, but at least she had a second try on Sunday. :) Now Sierra ran the hurdles and although she didn't fully indicate the tube to me, I was able to somehow guess the correct one that she felt was the most interesting. FINALLY! A qualifying ribbon for Sierra! ;-) Lia's turn... I knew she didn't like to run away from

me towards a bunch of unknown people, but thankfully she did make it to the tubes and picked the correct one for a qualifying 9 second run! This would end our day, and we, needless to say, were on a bit of a high. Now to prepare ourselves for the final events on Sunday!

Sunday consisted of 2 more courses - Course 3 which required finding 4 rats in under 3 minutes and 30 seconds, and Course 4 which required finding 1 to 5 potential rats within 4 minutes and 30 seconds, and calling the course clear once you felt your dog had finished finding all the rats on course.

Objective was that hopefully you could read your dog well enough to know they had found all the possible rats in order to qualify. Additionally, we had one more hurdles course, which we completed at the end of the day.

First on deck was Lia, where she started with Course 4. This is a rather large course (32' x 32') with an amazing amount of hiding spot potential, and of course the giant tunnel in the center that made moving in the ring a bit more challenging. At this point, we had made it to Sunday and I just let all nerves fly and kept telling myself to trust my dog, she is comfortable, confidence, and enjoying every moment of this experience as much as I was.

Lia once again released herself to work and ignored everything but finding those rats. She checked every area with precision and found all 4 of the rats hidden within the course in a little over 2 minutes. Anyone that knows me, then knows finding 4 rats is a killer for me, as calling the ring "clear" with that potential 5th rat still out on the field has my heart pounding right out of my chest. I let Lia make one last swing around the ring to confirm she didn't catch the scent of that potential allusive 5th rat possibly still lurking, and then she sat down, looked me in the eyes as if to say "Mom, we're good you can call it." So... I took a deep breath and called "CLEAR". The Judge smiled and approved with a "Yes,

Congratulations!" To say I didn't hold back a sob when I hugged her and put her leash on would be a lie. What a thrill! Not only did she qualify but was 6th place on that course.

Only one more course left... Course 3. Knowing this was our last course I just hung on for the ride. Emotions were high and I worked extremely hard to keep them from getting the

best of me. This course I could relax in.. I knew there were 4 rats, we could just run our heart out and throw caution to the wind. The home stretch! At this point, Lia knew exactly how to handle herself - she wanted to play that last game as much as I did. She found the first 3 rats in just over a minute, and I knew we were rocking the time. She had one spot left on the course she wanted to check, and there it was - that final rat! She placed 4th in Course 3, and I knew if we had had another one she would have been even faster the next time out!

Once Lia and I finished, we watched Sylvie work through

Course 3 with Paul and qualified in 9th place, but sadly didn't qualify in Course 4... Lastly, we ran our last hurdles event with all 3 girls and all 3 earned a qualifying score! Coming off a high from our Course 3 run, Lia BLASTED down that 80 feet and immediately hit on the correct tube in 7 seconds earning her another 4th place!

After totaling all of the scores from Friday to Sunday, Lia earned the Bronze Medal (3rd place of 120 dogs) in Grand National (accumulative score across Course 1, 2, 3 & 4), as well as 4th place in Versatility (Grand National score plus her score from Team and both Hurdle races)! Without any doubt.. Lia most definitely left her mark at the 2016 Barn Hunt Nationals!





# WARMING UP & COOLING DOWN

# THE CANINE ATHLETE

Snips from Articles as presented by **Elite Science** 

**"How do I warm up my dog?"** is a common question heard at canine training centers. This has previously been addressed in articles related to elite level dogs participating in agility. But, we should also discuss how to prepare novice and non-competitive dogs for the basic activities. First, we should discuss the worth and purpose of warming up.

#### There are three major benefits to a proper warm up:

- 1) Enhanced performance
- 2) Injury reduction and
- 3) Improved recovery.

#### How to warm up your canine athlete

It is important to focus on the demands of the sporting event and address the needs of your individual dog when putting together a warm up routine. An appropriate warm up protocol should both focus on muscle groups that will be recruited during the event and address the general needs of the specific athlete.

#### There are two main types of warm up strategies:

- 1. <u>Passive warm up</u> consists of application of heat to specific muscle bodies or increasing body temperature with the use of wraps or garments.
- 2. <u>Active warm up</u> on the other hand, requires putting muscles in motion to increase temperature and blood flow in order to ready the body for work.
- ► If your dog has specific areas of muscle soreness consider applying heat to the area for 10 minutes about 30 minutes prior to your warm up.
- ► 60 minutes prior to the first event start with a 15 minute controlled, light jog or walk this is to increase your canine's heart rate and initiate increased blood flow to muscles.
- Following a walk/jog, start with techniques to help warm up specific muscle groups.
- Jumping, on and off a platform or over jumps smaller than competition – this is to help prepare the rear leg and back muscles.
- Turning in tight circles this will warm up the back muscles and front legs as they turn.
- Other proposed warm up activities described by Dr. Canapp and Dr. Zink include tugging for an active gracilis muscle stretch, paws on the chair stretch, cookie to the hip for paraspinal stretch and play bowing for activation of triceps.

**"How do I cool down my dog?"** Cooling down is considered an essential part of any athlete's training and competing regimen. But, you may not understand exactly why cooling down is important or how you might incorporate it into your canine athlete's post competition routine.

During an episode of short duration high intensity exercise, your dog's body produces energy mainly through anaerobic pathways. During this window of time glycolysis is the main energy process utilized by the body to generate ATP (the body's energy source). Lactic acid is a by-product of glycolysis and, as a result, builds up within muscle cells at the site of its production. Lactic acid is necessary to allow the continued use of the glycolytic pathway; however, it also can result in the burning sensation that is noticeable during intense exercise.

#### **Cool down techniques for your canine athlete**

An appropriate cool down protocol should address the general needs of the specific athlete and the muscle groups utilized during the event.

Therefore, we should look to lower the core body temperature as well as support the cardiovascular system as the blood pressure lowers and blood is redistributed throughout the body. As previously described, the main source of power and speed is derived from the complex musculature over the lower back, the rear limb muscles that assist in propulsion and the forelimb muscles used for navigation.5 A cool down protocol can be developed to address this process.

Post-activity walking is very helpful in addressing the state of the body as a whole. In this case we should be especially cognizant of the dog's microenvironment. If possible the post-activity walk and cool down should be done in a well ventilated area that is cool. The air flow blows the heat emitted by the body away to assist with the cooling mechanisms.

A cooler environment also provides a temperature gradient to assist in the cooling process. This assists the body's mechanisms to restore the body back to its normal temperature.

A short walk can then be followed by some light stretches of the muscle groups utilized during the event.

If your dog has specific areas of muscle or joint soreness – consider applying cold packs or other cooling techniques to the area for 5-10 minutes.

# INTRODUCTION TO ...

Author: Diana Antlitz

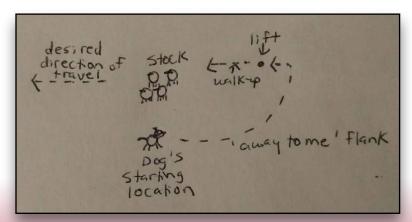
#### What is Herding?

Herding is the dog controlling livestock (usually sheep, goats, cattle, or ducks). A herding dog is using hunting instincts that have been modified through breeding to emphasize the 'stalk and control' part of the hunting instinct and de-emphasize the 'pounce and kill' part. Stock instinctively move away from a dog because they recognize the dog as a predator. The dog must work with the correct attitude and with the correct distance from the stock to make them just a little uncomfortable (so they'll move) but not get so close or move in such a threatening manner that it makes them panic and run for their lives. Livestock in a panic can be dangerous to all involved (handler, dog, and stock). The stress it causes may also result in poorer health, fewer or weaker offspring, or less meat or wool production. For that reason, the ultimate goal of herding in a livestock production situation is to move stock calmly and efficiently, and therefore the scoring at herding trials is also based on moving the stock calmly and in straight efficient lines.

#### How does a dog Herd?

The dog controls the movement of the stock through flanks (arcs) and walk-ups (straight lines). A flank is moving in an arc around the stock at a distance that doesn't disturb them; 'come by' is a clockwise flank, and 'away to me' is a counter-clockwise flank. On a flank, the dog will travel with his side to the stock; this gives the appearance that the dog is just 'passing by' and allows the stock to relax so the dog can get into position without disturbing them. Once the dog is in the correct position around the stock, the dog will then 'lift' the stock. The lift is the dog initiating movement by turning off the flank and into the stock. The dog then walks into the stock to move them in the desired direction. The dog can bring the stock towards the handler (fetching), or can move them in any direction away from the handler (driving). When the stock are very far away, the initial flank is referred to as the outrun; this is when the dog finds the stock and then flanks around them to get into position to fetch them towards the

Once the stock are moving, the dog maintains the line of travel by blocking the stock anytime they try to deviate from the line. The dog blocks them by moving over far enough to catch their eyes on that side, letting the stock know not to think about going that way. The stock usually have their own



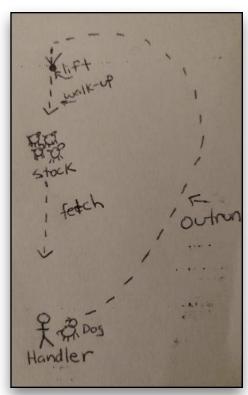
### HERDING

ideas of where they want to go (to food, back to the barn, or where their buddies are). These livestock distractions are referred to as 'draws'. It's common on a herding trial field for the stock to have a strong draw back to where they came from or where they know they'll go when the run is over. It's the dog's job to convince them to go where the handler and dog want them to go. On the fetch most herding breeds will instinctively want to bring stock to the handler so fewer (if

any) commands are needed. On the the drive, dog doesn't know where stock the supposed to go, so relies on the handler for direction through verbal or whistle commands. Once handler the establishes the line the stock should be on, the dog will try to help keep them on that line but they still adjustments from the handler; it's a team effort.

#### **Herding Trials**

Herding trials are meant to mimic practical stock work, such as rounding up stock from a field, moving them to



various locations, putting them through chutes or into pens, or splitting off some of the stock for handling and treatment. At the beginning levels in most venues, the handler can move freely around the course and the dog can use its fetching instinct to keep the sheep to the handler. At more advanced levels, handler movement is restricted and the dog follows handler commands to drive the stock to the desired locations. Herding rules vary somewhat from organization to organization, but typically the scoring is based on the stock taking a pre-determined path through various obstacles with straight lines between obstacles. You start with a perfect score and points are deducted for deviations from a straight efficient line, missing obstacles, losing control of the stock, and poor work from the dog (such as ignoring the stock to sniff, being unable to move the stock, or harassing/chasing stock). A time limit is set, but time is not used to determine the winner.

#### How to get into herding and where to herd?

The best way to get into herding is to find a good instructor to work with. Herding is very difficult to learn from a book or a video, because of the complexity of the interactions between the dog and the stock and how quickly things happen, especially with a new dog starting out. It's a steep learning curve because you have to learn about stock (how the dog and you influence them, how they react to

# INTRODUCTION TO ...

#### Continued..

things, how to read them, etc) and also you have to understand all the instincts that come to the surface in your dog, often to the point where they don't even see you in the picture at first. If you don't take their instinct into account you run the risk of crushing their natural abilities or creating a dog that will fight you every step of the way, or that may get frustrated with you and quit. You also have to keep the welfare of the stock in mind – allowing a dog to chase and bite stock isn't fair to the stock. So it's a lot more than just teaching a bunch of commands to your dog. There are a few local places to get started:

- Agility at the Farm offers herding lessons for all levels and herding breeds in Campton Hills, IL (taught by WAG's Laura Kincaid): <a href="http://www.agilityatthefarm.com/herding">http://www.agilityatthefarm.com/herding</a>
- Dan De Legge, located in Woodstock, IL, offers herding lessons for all levels and herding breeds. Email Dan for more information: <u>Delegge@aol.com</u>
- Shannon Wolfe, located in Genoa City WI, offers herding lessons for all levels and herding breeds. She periodically holds herding instinct test events where you can have your dog evaluated on stock: <a href="http://www.shannonwolfeherding.com/">http://www.shannonwolfeherding.com/</a>
- Gordon Watt in Lake Geneva WI offers herding lessons for all levels. He specializes in border collies and USBCHA style herding: <a href="http://www.gordonwattsheepdogs.com/">http://www.gordonwattsheepdogs.com/</a>
- John Wentz, located in Portage WI (this one is a bit far) offers herding lessons for all levels and herding breeds: <a href="http://bigyellowboots.net/">http://bigyellowboots.net/</a>

Once you've gotten started and are far enough along to work safely on your own, you'll become acquainted with other local places that may allow you to rent time on stock or that occasionally offer fun runs.

#### What to Expect When Starting Herding

The first few times you take your dog for a lesson, the instructor will probably work the dog themselves. This allows the instructor to focus on the dog, assess the dog's abilities without inexperienced trainer confusing things, keep the livestock safe, and make sure dog has good experience. Some dogs may take a few exposures to 'turn on' so the instructor will try to create movement to get the dog interested. Once the dog

turns on, things can get chaotic as the dog tries to figure out the stock. The dog may chase the stock and may even want to bite them. Many dogs will want to go to the head of the stock, blocking their every move. The instructor will move in a way to block the dog from going someplace they shouldn't (like straight into the middle of the stock) and may use a stock

### **HERDING**

stick, wrapped up feed bag, or other tool to make their 'presence' bigger. Sometimes the instructor needs to get a little bit intimidating (smacking the stick on the ground or grumbling at the dog) to get the dog's attention and affect the dog's movement. No training can happen until the dog includes the trainer in the picture.

The first goal is to get the dog circling the stock (this is the very beginning of learning flanking). Once the dog is going around, the trainer will block the dog to get the dog to switch direction, so they're circling the stock in both directions. Once the dog will go both directions, the trainer can send the dog around while the trainer backs away from the stock, giving the dog a place to bring them to. This is the beginning of learning fetching and how to switch back and forth to balance the stock towards the handler. Balance on the fetch means that when the dog sees the stock veering off in one direction away from the handler, the dog will flank over to push the stock back towards the handler. The trainer will continue to move so that there's always a new place to take the stock; this keeps the dog busy and prevents him from getting frustrated and diving into the stock. Allowing the dog to practice fetching helps the dog learn how his movement affects the stock and also gives him a feeling of control. The trainer uses their presence to influence the dog when needed, to help the dog find the correct distance and position from the stock. Herding breeds will instinctively want to control the stock and will recognize when their movements cause the stock to turn or slow down (making the dog feel more in control). The trainer may need to help the dog find the correct spot at first, but the dog should quickly start to do it on his own. Commands should not be used at this point as the goal is for the dog to learn to think on his own, read the stock, and make decisions about how he should move to keep them under control; trying to give commands at this point would just be a distraction. As the dog's movements get more refined, words can be added to label what the dog is doing.

The dog will also need to learn a stop. Stopping takes the



pressure off the stock and gives the dog time to think about his next move. The trainer may get between the dog and the stock and keep blocking the dog until the dog gives up trying to get past the trainer and stops to think about it. At that point, the trainer rewards the dog for stopping by getting out of his way and allowing him to interact with the stock again. The trainer may also use this same technique if the dog is

# INTRODUCTION TO ...

#### Continued..

# HERDING

circling too tightly – the dog is blocked from the stock until he backs off and calms down, then he gets the stock back when his behavior is what the trainer wants to see. The reward for the dog is being allowed to interact with the stock and feeling in control of the stock (such as when the dog causes the stock to change direction or is able to prevent them moving away from the trainer).

#### **Herding Venues:**

There are multiple herding organizations that offer trial opportunities. The most common are listed below. All of these have local trials, check out their events pages if you want to look up trials to watch.

#### AKC:

- Offers test (pass/fail) and titling up through Advanced and Championship levels for all AKC recognized herding breeds. They offer three different courses: A Course (arena style course), B Course (open field course), and C Course (large flock tending/grazing course, not common in this area). Visit <a href="https://www.akc.org">www.akc.org</a> for more information and event listings. Trials are held in Genoa City WI, Woodstock IL, and Rockton IL.

#### ASCA (Australian Shepherd Club of America):

- Designed for Australian shepherds, but open to all herding breeds and mixes of herding breeds. Offers all levels from Started through Advanced. All levels are scored (no pass/fail test levels). Visit <a href="http://www.asca.org/programs/stockdog/">http://www.asca.org/programs/stockdog/</a> for more information and event listings. Trials are held in Genoa City, WI.



Cambridge, and Jefferson WI.

#### AHBA (American Herding Breed Association):

Offers test (pass/fail) and titling courses. Designed for all herding breeds and mixes of herding breeds. Non-herding breeds are allowed to compete at the trial level; only herding breeds are permitted to enter the test (pass/fail) levels. AHBA offers a variety of courses, from arena-style small courses up through large field courses, including Ranch and Large Flock Ranch courses that are designed by individual trial hosts and mimic real farm work. Visit <a href="https://www.ahba-herding.org/">https://www.ahba-herding.org/</a> for more information and event listings. Trials are held in Genoa City WI (and possibly coming soon to Campton Hills, IL).

#### **USBCHA** (United States Border Collie Handlers Association):

Offers trial levels (no pass/fail levels). USBCHA is designed for border collies but allows any dog to compete. These tend to be larger courses than the other venues, with novice starting out with outrun distance of around 100 yards and the Open level getting up to 400–700 yards. Visit <a href="www.USBCHA.com">www.USBCHA.com</a> for more information and event listings. Trials are held in Lake Geneva,

#### **Video Links to Herding**

Below are some links showing herding dogs in action. Notice in the videos how the stock move opposite from the dog; if the dog flank around to their right side, the stock will turn left and vice versa.

**Herding Overview**: this video shows clips of outruns, fetching, flanking, and driving and at the end has some examples of dogs just starting on sheep: <a href="https://youtu.be/So3efsad1fA">https://youtu.be/So3efsad1fA</a>

**Duck herding (AKC B Course, Advanced level):** <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d7yg08-7shQ">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d7yg08-7shQ</a> The end of the course is a 'shed' (where the stock are split apart and one or more are held away from the others.

Sheep Herding (AKC A Course, Advanced level): <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vJ9UblmM7tw">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vJ9UblmM7tw</a>

**Sheep Herding (AKC A Course, Started level):** <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g4ouq-060uE&">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=g4ouq-060uE&</a> (shows how the handler is able to move with the sheep and the dog works to keep sheep with the handler)

**USBCHA Novice Course:** <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VJ7-tyy6QoM">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VJ7-tyy6QoM</a> (note: this course included an optional drive with handler staying at the post, but most novice courses have the dog bring the stock and then go straight to the pen, or allow the handler to walk the course with the sheep after the outrun).

**USBCHA Open Outrun:** <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9IIgFrl2om8">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9IIgFrl2om8</a> The very beginning is missing, when the video starts, the dog is on the left side of the screen near the tent and then disappears behind the hills for a little bit. The handler is near the yellow truck. This video is a good example of how dogs work in a large open field to get behind the sheep without disturbing them. The goal is a straight line from where the sheep start, through the panels, to the handler.

**Penning (various USBCHA trials)** this one is long but has some great clips showing how precisely the dog has to move to keep control. It also shows the challenges of putting stock into a free-standing pen: <a href="https://vimeo.com/107892081">https://vimeo.com/107892081</a>

# RULE CHANGES...

# AKC's FAST Class just got FASTER!

Author: kittybradley1 on October 26, 2016

Beginning January 3, 2017 the FAST Class has been revised allowing clubs to offer one course that Novice, Open and Ex/Masters can walk and compete in. The goal is to reduce the amount of time that it takes to build separate courses and do multiple walk-throughs. It also allows more flexibility in the way the Sends can be designed.

At the clubs discretion any of 3 levels courses may be combined into one course with embedded Sends (which will allow one course build and walk through for all levels); or may be run as separate courses.

Following is a summary of the changes as well as design illustrations. Please note for courses that are in progress or approved the only changes that could affect those courses is the elimination of the tire and the requirement of 9-12 weave poles for Novice. If you have any questions please contact your rep.

#### **Local AKC Trials Featuring FAST Classes**

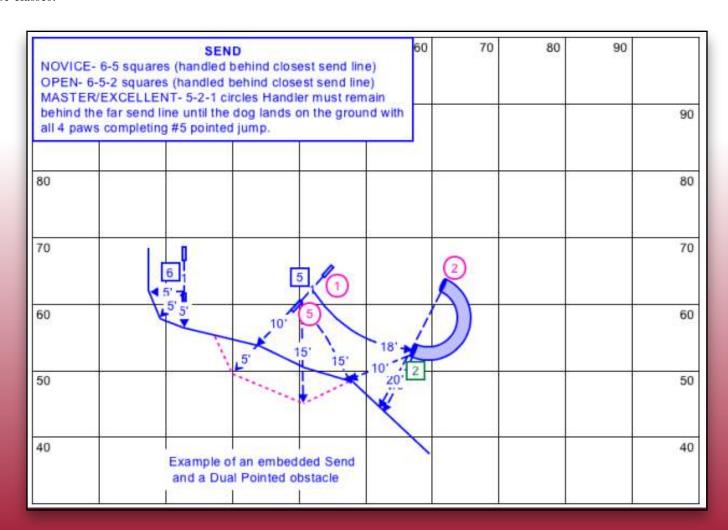
- 12/8 12/11- Cream City Canines Milwaukee, WI
- 12/17 12/18 Badger Kennel Club Middleton, WI
- 1/21 1/22 Flat-Coated Retriever Manhattan, IL

New Send Distances in Open & Excellent/Master: We allow more flexibility is the distances from the Send line for these classes.

- ▶ **Novice** 2 obstacles required at a minimum distance of 5' to a maximum distance of 10'
- ▶ Open 2 or 3 obstacles are required at a minimum distance of 5' to a maximum distance of 20' depending on the number of obstacles used. If only 2 obstacles are used in the send then one of the obstacles must be between 10' and 15'. If 3 obstacles are used then at least one obstacle must be between 10' and 15'. No more than one obstacle may be less than 10' and no more than one obstacle can be greater than 15'.
- ► Excellent/Master 3 obstacles are required at a minimum distance of 5' to a maximum distance of 25' with a change of direction or obstacle discrimination. No more than one obstacle may be less than 15' and no more than one obstacle may be greater than 20'.

More information and additional figures of the change can be found at under the October 26th Blog Post:

https://akcagilityjudges.wordpress.com/



# SEMINAR IN REVIEW

### **LORETTA MUELLER @ WAG**

#### Author: Diana Antlitz

I attended the two masters days of the seminar and audited the novice/open day. This seminar is amazing and Loretta is a wonderful and very insightful teacher. She really has a talent for reading what each dog needs and seeing where the communication breakdown is occurring with each team. Over the 3 days, I saw slow dogs get faster, stressed dogs get more confident, crazy dogs become more accurate, and the 'hot mess' dogs looking like pros. There was huge improvement in every single team. Our dogs really love it when we communicate better; I think we all know that, but seeing it happen and realizing how much it matters and what an effect it can have on performance was really eye-opening. This seminar wasn't about fancy moves (although we did some of those too) or just how to get through a particular seminar course, but about how to communicate well with our dogs no matter what course we run or what handling strategy we choose to use.

Loretta's message was simple - see and connect with your dog as they complete each obstacle, tell them immediately what they're doing next and how to do it, and then (and this was the hardest part for most) get out of there and get to the next thing and trust your dog to commit and finish whatever obstacle you're indicating. No need to hang around and force the dog to collect or guide the dog to the ground - gravity will happen, trust me!. Our dogs really prefer it if we don't hover and babysit. The reaction of many of the dogs at the seminar when their handler finally just got out of their way was amazing to see. It's as simple as seeing your dog's feet land off the jump and pointing out the take-off spot for the next one, but at the same time, harder than it sounds because you're in a constant cycle of connecting, cueing, and moving on. Figuring out how to fit all the pieces together and still getting where we needed to be took some practice. Loretta had a really good eye for where the problems were happening and really helped each team get a good feel for how to communicate better.



The most amazing part for me was the carryover I saw between my own dogs - what I learned with one dog on the first day I was able to put into practice with a different dog (with totally different problems) on the second day, and all those problems I told Loretta to expect with the second dog never even showed up. Loretta fixed what I was doing and both dogs improved like magic. I've been to a lot of seminars where you learn one new 'fancy move' or you figure out how to run one particular course, but you may not have a lot to take home beyond what you do that day at the seminar. This seminar was totally different - Loretta let us pick how to run things (although she did have very good suggestions) and made sure that however we chose to do it, we communicated it clearly. I know what I learned will help every future run I do with every dog I run for the rest of my life, so this seminar was definitely a worthwhile investment.

#### **SUMMARY**

Loretta is also a fun presenter and Donna's team did a great job with organizing things, including a delicious lunch each day. Plans are in motion to bring Loretta back again next year; I would highly encourage anyone who didn't make it this time to consider attending next year (or at least auditing).

#### We have a few additions to the library.

- \* VHS Basic obedience 1 training log Frank Foster. Donated by Cathy Thrasher
- \* DVD start lines and impulse control games by Julie Daniels. Donated by Gayle Pulta.
- \* 2 books developing engagement and relationship written by Denise Fenzi and Debra Jones
- \* 1 book motivation written by Denise Fenzi and Debra jones. An anonymous donor. Thank you all for your generosity.

#### **Exciting news from the library!!!**

We will soon be able to access the library list on the WAG member website.

Any suggestions on what you would like to see added to the WAG library feel free to email me at <a href="mailto:hnrtap@comcast.net">hnrtap@comcast.net</a>



### AND THE SPOT LIGHT IS ON...

### Team Rosie & Anne Hatcher Pientok

Author: Sandy Rapey

This month I met with Team Rosie and Anne to talk about life, dogs, cats and careers. Rosie and Anne are a very fun and special couple within our WAG family and it was my pleasure to interview them this month! You may know this fun couple who adore their Tervs (Belgian Tervuren) pups. Rosie and Anne train at WAG with their dogs, 'Winwoods Wikiwiki Molikini CDX RAE2 NA NJ AXP AJP' or simply 'Molly'; CT Sensation's Most Valuable Player CDX BN RAE2 HT OA NF CA CGC 'Montee' also known as Baby Butthead (BBH), goober-boy, Captain Chaos and as of late, Jack Wagon; and Fuzion's Explozions of Colour HT PT, also known as Mosey. Anne and Rosie also own 4 cats, Madison, Mica, Moxie and Marble. I see some adoration for the letter M.....

Their dog love story began years ago, when Rosie acquired Smokey, a Belgian Terv. Rosie was involved in 4H while in high school and began training at this time. Rosie later acquired a Golden Retriever, Cody, while going to college working towards her veterinary degree. As life sometimes deals us wicked bittersweet memories, Rosie had to stand by while her beloved Smokey left to cross the Rainbow Bridge on the day she graduated from vet school. After the couple was married, Anne got her first dog, Ginny, (a Nova Scotia Duck Tolling retriever-wannabe). Shortly after losing Cody in 2006, Rosie heard about Molly—a Terv that was in need of a home. Rosie thought she would start training and competing with Molly in the obedience and agility worlds. Well that was the plan...

(Ginny lived to be 13 years old, until her hind legs wouldn't work anymore and crossed the Rainbow Bridge in 2014)

Molly's training and trialing were going well...well, up to a point. Rosie started noticing the focus in the agility ring was not on her, but Molly's attention was diverted to looking for and finding Anne, who was sitting outside the ring. In frustration, at an AKC agility trial, Rosie told Anne to try running a course with Molly. Anne had never taken any lessons in agility, but how hard could this stuff be? You follow the numbers of the course, and everyone

makes it look easy peasey lemon squeezy. Anne and Molly competed and completed the excellent level course with only 1 refusal, at which they concluded Molly had discovered an handler exchange tent, (which some of us have seen close and upfront in our own lives). Rosie continued to train and compete with Molly in obedience, while Anne handled the agility side of activities. Today Molly is pretty much retired, and only attends training classes for fun at WAG. She has been promoted to the 'Team Hatchmo' manager.

Anne, having stolen a pre-trained Molly, now 'owed' Rosie another dog—enter Montee in 2011. A playful, energetic puppy, trained by Rosie, Montee enjoys training and competing in agility, obedience, tracking, herding and lure coursing. Montee is gorgeous, fast and won't hesitate to tell Rosie off in the ring when **she** can't get the sequencing right. He's driven and very toy motivated, indeed, he apparently has a tiny bit of a tennis ball obsession.



Since Molly's retirement, there was an overabundance of money that needed to be thrown away at dog related activities and supplies. A friend told them about a Terv litter in Massachusettes. The couple flew out to Rhode Island, picked up their new puppy, Mosey, and drove back home, barely escaping the Boston/East Coast blizzard by hours. Mosey is a snuggly little girl, who is being trained by Anne for agility and by Rosie for herding and tracking.

Beyond the dogs and cats, Anne and Rosie are involved with their families and church, love sports, traveling, cooking and may have a slight addiction to M&Ms (coincidence on all the M names???) They've traveled to Hawaii (hence the Hawaiian name for Molly), Alaska, Key West, Niagra Falls, and multiple other states. They both work in Paddock Lake, WI: Rosie fulfilling her lifelong dream as a veterinary doctor (Shout out to Harris Pet Hospital) and Anne, with 2 college degrees, works preparing taxes. You'll be hard pressed to find another team as sweet, smart and fun as Team Hatcher-Pientok!!

### AND THE SPOT LIGHT IS ON...

# Team Rosie & Anne Hatcher Pientok

Author: Sandy Rapey

### **MEET MOLLYDOG!!**

Registered as 'Winwoods Wikiwiki Molikini CDX RAE2 NA NJ AXP AJP' Molly is quite laid back, despite her obedience and agility titles. She's clearly the matriarch of the canine family of Team Hatcher-Pientok. She's a loveable dog who is retired from trialing, and gets the privileges of sleeping in her masters' bed. Gray hair around her 11 year old eyes is pretty much the only way you can tell this little girl is a senior. She's a fun little diva who will not hesitate to come up and kiss you all over.

**SR**: Molly, I see you have some impressive titles in multiple fields with AKC, obedience, agility...are you a member with any other organization?

Molly: Yes, I'm a member of the Looking Gorgeous Belgian Tervurens (LGBT). We have a pretty strong membership right now. We are constantly struggling for fairness and equality of rights because we are so beautiful, other dogs think we are different and hate on us. We just can't comprehend all the hate.

**SR:** So 'LGBT' is for any dog who can relate to the initialism?

Molly: Yes, it started out just BT (Belgian Tervs), but we quickly saw the need to separate ourselves from the uncomely. We even have a pride parade, they call it an honor parade, and I got to be in it last year. I was SO proud. I should've been on a float with the other Queens, but I got to walk in it, and everyone was cheering and clapping. It was one of the happiest days of my life.

**SR:** Were you born a LGBT or was this a choice? There seems to be a bit of controversy on this topic.

Molly: I think I knew as a puppy I was a LGBT. Did you see my photos?? Growing up, I was confused because conventional societal norms are such that I would be raised and bred and have litters of puppies, and maybe even live happily ever after with an unseemly counterpart. As I got older, it was just so evident. I mean, look at me, I'm gorgeous, I'm stunning!! Is there any doubt in anyone's mind that I'm a LGBT?!

SR: Was there support at home when they realized you were a part of this LGBT group?

Molly: I don't think it surprised anyone. Sooner or later everyone has to be honest with themselves and in my case, well, there was no hiding it.

**SR:** Tell me about your agility career. I heard you're retired??

Molly: At first, it was so much fun, learning, jumping, going over different obstacles. And I got food. I was all about it in the beginning. But then another LGBT saw me and told me how ridiculous I looked running around, my hair



was all messed up and truthfully, I was a Sweaty Betty. So I started to look for Anne, **or anyone**, who might be able to save me from the inhumanity. One day, I jumped the gate, hopped up into Anne's lap and started kissing her, begging her to save me. But Rosie was in the ring and calling me, and I **HAD** to go back to her. At that time, it was my job.

**SR:** So did Rosie and Anne pick up on the fact that you weren't happy?

Molly: You know, they are slow learners and tenacious in their attempts to prevail in these activities. I almost had to feign being sick to get them to realize I did not enjoy this silliness. So as is common with humans, they don't give up but rather, proceed with alterations in methodology. Next thing I knew, Anne was trying to show me what the course was and trust me, I was the one running Anne that day!! Oh Lord, it was hysterical.

Anne and I tried the whole team thing too, but really it didn't matter who I was running with, my heart just wasn't in it. And unfortunately, as soon as my owners, Persistent and Insistent, caught on, they devised a plan that would satisfy my need to stay

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at home and look pretty and their need to throw money at these crazy sports.

**SR:** And what was that plan?

Molly: It was an ill- thought through plan called 'Baby Butthead', haha. If only I had seen that monster coming, I would've tried to fake it a few more years in the agility ring, but yeah, hind sight, you know...

**SR:** Tell me about the family dynamics once Montee came home.

Molly: Well it was me, Ginny and the Mon-ster. I had Ginny here when I arrived and we were always best friends. Montrel was cute, I'll give him that, but he just NEVER STOPS!!!

I tried to like him, I really did. I felt like I was faking it the entire time. I had been told it was socially acceptable to have a male dog partner, but I just wasn't interested. We didn't have anything in common. And I think he felt the same way. He loves anything balls. Balls, balls, balls. Seriously, its more out of control than anyone realizes, like he totally needs therapy. Time went by , Ginny got older, as we all do, and one day, she was gone. I knew it was coming, but you know, you're just never really prepared for the heartbreak. Everyone was so sad, except Capt. Chaos was just a bit confused. He had never experienced the loss of a friend. Our purpose is to comfort our humans, and we must grieve in solitude if at all possible. I think comforting our humans, and loving them unconditionally... no matter how we are treated, **that** is our true purpose.

SR: So were you instrumental in deciding on who was next to join your family?

Molly: Oh you betcha!! I wanted another girlfriend!! Girls are just so much prettier, we smell good, we look good, we'd have things in common, like decorating, cooking, shopping, discussing current events and where we could go pee in the yard together!! Every day I told Anne and Rosie how much more wonderful our life would be if we had just one more girl in the house. Apparently it worked because one day, they came home with this sweet little baby they call Mosey. I call her' Mosey Posey Love Your Little Nosey'. I was so happy when they brought her home, I could've peed on the floor!! I am so in love with her!! She is a bit of a PITA, but we are great friends, despite the age difference. We still have much more in common with each other than we do with Monet. He's basically the reason we are crated during the day when Rosie and Anne aren't home. He's dirty, a trouble-maker, trouble seeker, stinky and arrogant. He is also a member of the LGBT group, but normally hangs out with the other good looking boys. And then there's all the girls who all want to change him, but trust me, he's a LGBT through and through. There's no changing that!!

**SR:** Can you tell me one of your secrets?

Molly: I love shoes. No one knows or suspects but I lust after every pair I've ever seen. Call it a fetish, call it an obsession. I just love them. Sometimes I'll gently place them near me, just so that I can pretend that I'm wearing them like a human, and I'm in the parade again, and people are cheering and clapping. One day, Anne and Rosie took a huge collection of their shoes and stacked them up near a inside/outside door. I heard them talking about giving the shoes away and I nearly fainted. It was blasphemy. So in my desperation, while Anne and Rosie were gone, I tried to save each pair. I gently picked up each shoe box and placed them in my crate. It was, at the moment, the best place I thought to hide them.

**SR**: That is a bit of a hysterical image. What happened next?

Molly: Anne and Rosie saw the deed. They couldn't believe it. They were confused why would I do that. I tried to explain but they said a LGBT didn't need 50 pairs of human shoes. They removed them and the shoes eventually went away. It was a terribly sad day.

**SR:** So now, you're mainly in a management position?

Molly: Yes, I've broken through many barriers and feel quite successful that I am not only a LGBT but the chosen one who rules the house and sleeps above the others. I have a wonderful, loving, forever home with Rosie and Anne, Molly, the cats, and even the ball-obsessed Monroe. We are a happy family!!



### WAG HAPPENINGS

#### Dec 2nd

Holiday Photo Sessions- December 2nd WAG, Spring Grove, IL

#### Dec 17th

Come out to the December Fun Match DOOR OPEN AT 12:30pm RUNS START AT 1:00pm GATE ENTRIES CLOSE 2:30pm

#### Jan 17th

Come out to the January Fun Match DOOR OPEN AT 12:30pm RUNS START AT 1:00pm GATE ENTRIES CLOSE 2:30pm

#### Jan 28th

WAG UKC Trial - Jan 28th thru 29th WAG, Spring Grove, IL Judge: Shelly Weeks

#### Jan 29th

Session 1 of Classes Begin \*Pending on Building Move may change

#### Feb 11th

Come out to the February Fun Match DOOR OPEN AT 12:30pm RUNS START AT 1:00pm GATE ENTRIES CLOSE 2:30pm

#### March 11th

WAG CPE Trial - March 11th thru 12th WAG, Spring Grove, IL Judge: Jeff Boyer

### [AKC Titles]

Fen & Toni Reeves earned their **MACH** title!

Turner & Gayle Pluta earned their MJP & MXP titles!

**NEW AGILITY TITLES FROM JULY '16 - NOV '16** 

True & Gayle Pluta earned their MX & MXI titles!

Boca & Teresa Rizzo earned their MXP titles and OO!

Skyy & Renee Menini earned their AIP title!

Liadrin & Monique Engemann earned their NA & OAI titles!

#### [UKC Titles]

Goldie & Elaine & Jean Claude earned their **UACH** title!

#### [UKI Titles]

Hawk & Loret Bartol earned their IWAC & SSC titles!

Williow & Loret Bartol earned their IWAC & SSC titles!

Liadrin & Monique Engemann earned their **BID & SSB** titles!

#### OTHER TITLES & BRAGS JULY '16 - NOV '16

Monte & Rosanne Hatcher earned their CDX title!

Jazzy & Linda Schwartz earned their **CGC** title and two legs toward his Rally Novice title!

Kelsey & Jan Sund earned their **STAR Puppy** title!

> Ripley & Jan Sund earned their **RATO** title!

> > Valor & Jan Sund earned their NTD & RN titles

True & Gavle Pluta earned their CD title - legs in 3 tries with 3 placements!

Sylvie & Paul Engemann earned their **RATCH** title!

Liadrin & Monique Engemann earned the Grand National Bronze Award at Barn Hunt Nationals!

### DO YOU HAVE A BRAG?

If you have a title, brag, announcement, milestone, etc. that you'd like to share with the membership, please contact Jan Sund @ sundown@mc.net to be featured in our next issue!

## WAG HAS PUPPY FEVER!

Welcome to the following new WAG editions:)



Shelly Weeks with Chassis AND Ginny Schuld with Chacy

My mom, Ginny, and I have added these cuties to our family! They are litter mates sired by Driver. That's Paean DD Chacer L'Amour aka Chacy on the left and Paean DD's Classy Lefthander Chassis aka Chassis on the right.

#### **Ian Sund with Kelsey**

She is FHF Wildest Dreams [AKC STAR puppy], call name Kelsey. Her mom Shiver is a Natch 2, dad Magic is a conformation Champion and close to his Natch as well. Both parents are also Nationally ranked Dock Divers. This tiny girl is the result of an Oops! litter. Mom is a border collie and dad is a Miniature Amercian Shepherd [mini aussie].







Border collie Ford joined the Antlitz household on Memorial Day weekend. He was born on April 1st (yup, April Fools day easy birthday to remember). He's from working lines from a breeder in Michigan, and I'm hoping he'll be my next USBCHA (United Border Collie Handlers Association) Open-level herding trial dog. I'm not sure yet how much agility he'll be doing we've played around with some of the foundation work to keep his mind busy but don't plan to get too serious with it until after his herding training starts in a few months. His father is a dog in South Dakota who's related to my Bryn, and the mom is a dog I see at all the local trials and whose relatives are all nice trial dogs, so I'm eager to see what type of worker he'll be. So far at home he's a great cuddler and super sweet. One of his favorite things to do is to flip his cuddle bed upside down and go underneath, then get up and walk around wearing it on his back (he looks like turtle!). He's going through a goofy-ear stage right now (you can see in the pictures). I haven't done anything with his ears - they look that way all on their own. His nickname right now is conehead :-).



Julie Janke with Barley

Barley, field bred English Cocker, welcomed into our family on August 5.

He wouldn't put the bird wing down at 5 weeks of age when we picked him out. Since fall is coming and we figured it might be too cold to take him swimming when he was "old enough", we wanted to get him accustomed to water now so next spring he wouldn't be afraid of it for the first time. So we took him and his toys to the state park beach to play in the shallows. He decided on his own to start swimming at 8-1/2 weeks old! The next day he retrieved Shiner's bumper! Awesome little guy. So looking forward to doing agility and bird hunting with him in the future.



Roxanne Tapaninen with Dixie

Meet Dixie - 6 month old Border collie!

# WAG BOARD CONTACT INFORMATION

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Have a story, article, or photo you'd like to see posted on the newsletter? Or would you like to be apart of our Newsletter Committee?

Contact Monique Engemann @ loveisblueasb@gmail.com to become a member of our News Team or to provide your comments and feedback!

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