



Editor:

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Submission
Deadline is the
20th of each month.
Club Meetings are the
3rd Tuesday
of each Month.
Board will meet 1 hour
prior to the club meeting.

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Sheltie Connection

S H E L T I E C O N N E C T I O N

J A N U A R Y 2 0 0 7

President's Message

Tricia Harris

I do hope you all had a wonderful holiday season. It seems like time is going so fast that it is hard to pin it down. The season came and went so fast I barely remember that it came at all!!!

Our show just 4 months away. I guess it is time to gear up for the work ahead. If you don't have a job to do with the up coming show please contact Mike Cornella or Cheryl Sorensen and let them know that you are willing to help. It should be a good show with a nice entry. We will need everyone's help to make it the best show ever. There are a lot of things to do. Some of them need to be done on the day of the show, but there are many things that can be done between now and the show.

I look forward to a great year. I hope that we can meet together in friendship and learn a lot more about our cute little fur babies. I look forward to some interesting seminars and informative meetings. I hope that I see you all there.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!

CLUB MAILING ADDRESS:
USSA
Barbara Soderborg
USSA Correspondence Secretary
PO BOX 142, Sandy UT 84091-0142
TO EMAIL THE CURRENT BOARD:
lacewoodshelties@comcast.net

We're on the web!
www.utahsheltie.org



Announcements

USSA WEBSITE

CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.UTAHSHELTIE.ORG
YOU CAN DOWNLOAD PAST NEWSLETTERS THERE



Notice

Anyone that has puppies for sale, or is looking for a puppy or older dog, please contact Barbara Soderborg. You can reach Barbara at 801 561-4616 or email at saltcityshelties@msn.com



Happy Birthday

We want to wish the following members a very happy January birthday!!

- 18 Kristin Sittner
- 21 Charles Vann
- 25 Tricia Harris
- 27 Joanne Adams

Tomi Hamblin & Shirley McLaughlin

Written by Tomi and Shirley

FAME S SHELTIES

As children, we were deprived of any kind of animal that lived in the house. I was the youngest of 5 girls so as time past things got a little more slack, but not much. My dad found a dog while feeding the horses and he came home and lived outside. I remember Mom really was not happy about having him there and she made it very well known. We called him old Toby a small cocker mix. He lived to a ripe old age and we lost him when I was 23 years old.

Later our sister Analee bought a sable female from the Dan Dee and Mino's lines. She had a litter of puppies and I remember Dad always had to go to Analee's to see the puppies grow. Mom gave into Dad and brought home the first sheltie. She was trained in obedience and got her CD at 6 months old. She was sick all the way home but she did it just to please us.

She had one litter of puppies, One day she was nursing the litter and one of the puppies was latched on so tight that when Momma came out of the box after feeding he came along also. No one was home but our Mother and the puppy was out of the box. Mom panicked and called Analee. What do I do? She hated touching anything with fur and did not want to pick this little guy up. Analee told her to get a washcloth and put him back. That was all it took for Mom, She fell in love with him and now there were two

In 1992 I got my first sheltie Teque. He was the only puppy Shirley's girl Sugar had; Born via c-section. Sugar wanted nothing to do with this little guy because of all she had been though so at 8 hours old he was home living with me. What fun he was raising him from a bottle.

Shirley and I got with Analee and we trained him for obedience as he had faults and could not show. But he decided it was too hot and he would rather be in the shade and he was smarter then to be out there with those other dumb dogs doing what they were asked to do. Needless to say we never made it past novice. He hated having to mind me when it counted. I lost Teque in 2004. The carpet never looked right with Teque no longer on it so I picked up some sable colors along the way and now the house looks more like home again.

At this point in my life we would like to thank our many mentors who have helped us grow in so many ways. Without the support of our club and the members we would have never gotten the chance to move forward with our life long dream of owning and showing dogs. This time guys, we really may be able to join in on the action!

Shirley and I have leased a girl from ISTARI SHELTIES and we have chosen Lacewood's The Star Maker "Draco" to breed her with. It was very hard to make up our mind on just what was right for us. We will be having our first litter very soon!

Just when you think things are going really well for us, they just keep getting better!

We got an early Christmas here at FAME S and we are shouting from the roof tops with joy over our newest member of our family.





Rocky at 10 weeks

LACEWOOD ROCKY MOUNTAIN MUSIC

A very special Thank You to Barbara and Tricia for the chance to share this little guy.

And the chance to work closely with you to study all the ethics of having such a gift!

Shirley adds... Isn't that just like a baby sister, can't get a word in edge-wise. So bare with, it's my turn.

I fell in love with Lassie when I was very young. (Not going to give away my age) My first sheltie was McCricket's my name., from a litter our other Sis Analee sold me. She was so Beautiful Pure for Sable, Deep red color. She was out of Ch. Minos Remember My Name. Call name (Fame) This is where the kennel name comes from.

So being the expert I thought I was, with help of another sister, Bardee, who by the way was in the first original USSA, we decided to show her. I was scared stiff. There was a lot of shelties that weekend, but four other dog's were all from the

Minos line, so the competition was rough. The first day we came in fourth, I was thrilled! The second day, the judge kicked her out of the ring, said she was lame. To this day, I still debate this. She was a very sound bitch. It did discourage me from showing again for a while! It was on that day I met several people who became fast friends, And soon to be members of the re-organized USSA, as the first had folded.

I remember we held our first meetings at Julene's. We had wonderful pot-luck-bar-b-q's and wonderful friends, wonderful times!



Rocky at 10 weeks

I bred Cricket to my mom's baby who was picked up with the wash cloth Tugger and we had 5 puppies born c-section. So believe it when they tell you having puppies is not for profit! I sold 3, but couldn't part with the other 2. I lost Cricket 4 years ago to lymphoma. A real heart breaker. One puppy Fancy a tri-factored sable, was my second attempt at conformation. We took second place, and I didn't know that you had to go back in the ring again. Gene Cowley, bless his heart, had to tell me. Duh!

Sugar was given to me a sister to Cricket. She was loaded with the best coat in the valley at the time. She was as pretty as her Daddy (Fame) but her human Daddy spoiled her awful, she was fat and hairy. When I took her in the ring there was a few chuckles and tee-hee's. What a sight we must have been, but who cares, we had our fun! I was working at the time so it was hard to keep up with all the shows and meetings, as our Father was not well, so retired early to help with his care. I dropped out of the club for many years. When Tomi told me she had joined, I decided to come back with a bit of persuasion from Barbara and Tricia.

I want to give a special thanks to Cheri Hyde who was kind enough to sell me the future Ch. Autumn's Fame S Halle Barely. Look for us in the up coming season. It's good to be back and I missed all of you. And I want to thank Barbara and Tricia also for our special Christmas baby boy!

We want to thank everyone for letting us reach out to you and lend us your ear with our leased girl Myah. We have learned so much from having the chance to get out there and feel what everyone else does daily in this doggy life.

Kathy Kozakiewicz for giving us a chance to do our own thing and start our name in the sheltie world with this sweet girl, Cheryl for being there and lending an ear anytime we feel the need, Barbara Aulbach for all her insight on our older lines as no one here seems to know much about Myah's past history at a time when she is so busy. And Tricia for her breeding skills, patience and friendship! And of course Barbara for without your friendship and trust we would not have such a great little boy! He will be our brightest star and loved forever and so will you!

And a special Thanks to U.S.S.A for the chance to be in such a great connection in learning, living and loving such a beautiful breed. We look forward to sharing your world and joining the fun in the show ring in 2007! Look for us on the web soon!

Tomi Hamblin & Shirley McLaughlan
FAME S SHELTIES



I Have a Question....



This Month's Question:

I would like to be able to remove the dew claws on my puppies myself. Is it better to have the vet do it or is this something I can do myself? Can you tell me how to do it myself? I also want to know what the Pros and Cons are for doing it myself. Are there things I should be watching out for if I do it myself? Is it a safe thing to do at home yourself?

My only opinion is I take them to the VET. I know many who do it at birth, but guess I'm too squeamish. <smile>

—Barbara, CharBar Shelties

I have done it both ways. I have taken dew claws off myself on newly born pup up to pups that are 3-4 days old. I know a lot of breeders that do this. Taking dew claws off of a puppy is surgery. If you are not willing to take the consequences of doing surgery on your puppies then my advice is to have a veterinarian do it. Some of the consequences are infections, not getting the root of the toe out, and bleeding. I think for the average person that only breeds one or two litters a year, taking the puppies to the vet is the very best way to do it.

—Tricia Harris, Lacewood Shelties

Next Months Question:

I noticed that my dogs foot pads are getting very rough and dry. Is there anything I can put on the pads to keep them more healthy? Is it normal for the pads to get dry and rough. They are not cracked, but they look like they could crack if they continue to dry out.

(Please submit answers to Tricia at lacewoodshelties@comcast.net)

If you have a question for this column that you would like to receive an answer for, you can submit the question anonymously to Tricia at lacewoodshelties@comcast.net or mail to Tricia Harris 2082 Mountain Vista Lane, Provo, UT 84606

Club Meetings

Our Club meeting for November will be held on
January 16th at 7:00 PM at Sandy Bicentennial Park,
in the building behind the pavilion.

The Park is located at 8680 South 500 East.

The board will meet at the same location on the same night at 5:45PM

We will learn about the Old Shelties.

The Roots to our present day dogs

***If you know of someone in the club that is in the hospital, ill, or of a death in the club or in the sheltie world, please let Barbara Soderborg know so that she can send a card or flowers.
saltcityshelties@msn.com or call her at 561-4616



RECIPE OF THE MONTH:

SATIN BALLS

(these are great if you need to put weight on a dog)

3 egg yolks, 1/3 bottle black strap molasses, 3 pounds ground beef, 1/3 medium size bottle vegetable oil, 1 regular size box total cereal (crushed), 1/2 barrel Quaker Oats (not quick), 1/3 jar wheat germ, 3 pkg unflavored gelatin. Make balls in appropriate size for your dog. To fatten feed 1 ball twice a day. To maintain, 1 ball a day.



Sheltie Education

An Article of Interest for Sheltie Owners

Shaping the Retrieve

By Lonnie Olson

This is an excellent, no force method for teaching a reliable retrieve in with a minimum investment of time and effort! At Dog Scout Camp there are many reasons for having a good retrieve on your dog. For Water Rescue, IMPROV Obedience, Flyball, Scent Hurdle Racing, Retriever Training, and other activities, the dog needs to retrieve. It has been suggested that I provide people with more preparatory materials prior to camp, so that people can get a jump on the training they will receive. I figured that sharing it on the web site would be a good way to give people access to MY method of getting a good retrieve on a dog.

Each summer, I demonstrate this at camp on a dog whose owner says he "won't retrieve." By the end of the first one-hour session, I often have a retrieving maniac. When people see it happen right before their eyes, like that, they realize that there's nothing magical or difficult about teaching a dog to retrieve, you just have to show him that it pays off to do so.

You will need a clicker and a large pile of small treats (break them up to the size of small peas). These need to be yummy, too. Don't get cheap on me and try to pass off some jive dry dog biscuit to teach your dog to fetch. You will also need an object to get your dog to learn on. Depending on the dog, this might work best with a slender wooden dowel (or even a plastic soda straw), or a small rubber ball.

I teach the retrieve by using backward behavior chaining, because the retrieve is not ONE behavior, but a SERIES of behaviors put together to get the finished product. The exercise involves having the dog GET something and place it into the palm of my hand. The principal part of this exercise is the "palm of my hand" part, not the "getting" part, and that's where everyone goes wrong. They are trying too hard to get the dog to "TAKE" something (which he doesn't want to do at the moment), instead of trying to get the dog to give something.

Because backward chaining starts with the last link in the chain, we begin by teaching the dog to SPIT OUT the dowel into the hand. This is ever so easy to do, since the first thing the dog wants to do with this object is to spit it out! Eureka! He's got that part right already! We're off to a good start!

The GIVE

Begin by ever so calmly and quietly and with as little ado as possible, slipping the dowel into the dog's mouth. This is NOT the important part, so don't make a big production out of it! DO NOT say "take it" or anything. Just slide it in there and I can almost guarantee you that he will instantly spew it back out at you. When he does this, click it, and give him a treat (if you don't understand clicker training yet, you better go visit that web page first--right NOW!). Repeat this several times... dozens of times. The dog is going to start wondering what it is that he's doing that is earning him a treat. "Could it be so simple as spitting this wretched dowel into my owner's hand?" You want him to say to himself, "Cool! I'll spit that sucker all day long!--Let's do it again!"

As this starts to become predictable, add the new cue, "THANK YOU," before you let him spit it out. I say "new" cue... what was the old cue? Putting it in his mouth was the old cue to spit it out. Now, the new cue has to come BEFORE the old cue, for the dog to learn it, so practice that for a while. To get the behavior under stimulus control, show the dog that you will only reward the behavior if you've asked for it with the cue. In other words, if he spits it out without hearing the cue word, don't reward him. Just slip it in again and make sure you get out the cue before he can spit it.

The HOLD

According to "Don't Shoot The Dog," by Karen Pryor, if you want to eliminate a behavior you don't want, you can put it on cue, and then just never give the cue, right? So, theoretically, you can, once you have the behavior under stimulus control, not give the cue, and you will not get the spitting out behavior. What is left for the dog to do then, but to hold the dowel?

Now, sometimes it's not all that easy for a novice trainer to quickly get a behavior under stimulus control like this, so I will go on to the next step back in the behavior chain, the HOLD. If your dog is waiting for the cue to spit the dowel into your hand, as he has been taught, you will have an automatic "hold." If there is still some reluctance to hold the dowel, despite not giving the cue to release it to your hand, you may encourage the dog to hold it, by gently holding his mouth closed on the dowel for a fraction of a second, then asking him to release it ("THANK YOU"), and clicking and treating. Your fractions of a second will get longer and longer, as you require the dog to hold the dowel a little bit more each time before he gives it up. The click and food always come at the end of the chain, but it's ok to give what I call a "KEEP GOING" cue, to tell the dog he's on the right track and should continue. I say, "Good Hold", in a praiseful tone of voice. As the dog gets better and better at holding for longer and longer periods before dropping the dowel into your hand on cue, you are getting closer to adding the first part of the chain: the TAKE.

The TAKE

If, while you're working on the hold, YOU SCREW UP, and the dog somehow was allowed to drop the dumbbell without

a cue, do not scold the dog. Do better the next time, so that you can make the dog successful, ending up in a click and food. If he drops it, you just have to do it over. There is no penalty, except that the dog does not earn a treat for that. To teach the dog to take it would be more difficult if we started on "that" end to begin with, but now that he already knows how to hold it and give it up, the "take it" is a "piece of cake." Hold the dowel out in front of your dog's nose (about 2 inches away). If he even so much as flexes a neck muscle to lean toward it, click and feed. Forget the hold and give for right now, we're only working on the take. Shape the dog to make more and more contact with the dowel. First a bob, then a poke, then a nudge, then an open-mouthed reach, then a tooth touch, then an open mouthed, double teeth touch, then a bite, then a grab, then a reach and grab. Pretty soon, you won't be rewarding anything but a nice reach and grab. Have him reach to the left and right for it, and up and down for it. Have him get up and walk one step to it. This is like the "touch stick" all over again, but this time, he must close his mouth on the target to get a click (read about teaching the touch stick on another web page). When he will take several steps to the dowel to take it into his mouth, each time you present it to him, replace the old cue with the new cue. The new cue is the word, "Get it". The old cue was what? Placing the dowel in front of him was the old cue. Remember, new cue first, then old cue, then behavior and reinforcement.

The WHOLE CHAIN

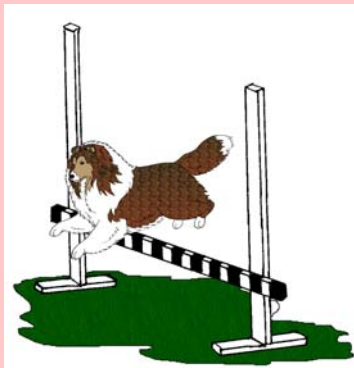
Ok, the next step is to put the "take" together with the "hold" and "give" which were previously taught. This means, that you must immediately STOP rewarding just the "take." You are going to go back to rewarding just the last part of the chain, the "give." So, you hold out the dowel, you say "Get it!" The dog walks out and takes it. You DON'T click (however, you can say, "Good Boy!" or whatever. You let the dog bring it to you. You hold out your hand and place it on the dowel, you say "Thank you!" and you click and feed (big time!). This all happens very quickly. You don't want him to have to perform a long "hold" the first time he puts it all together. Don't worry. You can build extended holds by placing or throwing the dowel further from you, or by backing up once you hand it off to him.

Are you a doubting Thomas? Let's examine this. Your dog is not stupid. You have systematically taught him what will work.

He has to hand it to you to get the pay-off right? He has to be within touching distance to hand it to you, right? If he's not, then he has to come to you (with the dowel) to get the pay-off, right? Placing yourself further and further away will require him to have to hold it for longer and longer periods without dropping it, correct? Your dog now sees this as a trade-off. He delivers this object to you, which has a cash value of one yummy snack, and you exchange it for him. Earning treats has never been so easy!

Now, what about actually throwing or dropping the article on the floor? For many dogs, it is a quantum leap to go from taking the dowel which the trainer is holding in his hand ON THE FLOOR, to actually picking up a dowel which is lying there on the floor all by itself. SO, we have to wean these dogs off the "hand on the dowel" stage. We will set the dowel on the floor, but continue to hold on to it with the thumb and index finger of one hand (cue, "take it," back up, let him present it to you, cue, "thank you," click and feed). Then just touch the dowel with one index finger as it sits on the floor, and do the same. Then set the dowel on the floor and take your finger 1/2 inch away. Then one inch, then two inches, then three, until you can stand up straight and cue the dog to "Get it" up off the floor with none of your body parts any where near it. Where many trainers go wrong is that they continue to click the pick-up. When the dog hears the click, the exercise is over, and he's ready to get his treat, so the dog will often just spit out the dowel at the point where you clicked him, and you are unable to get any farther along with your training. What you've done is to train the dog to spit out the dowel, rather than bring it to you. It is important that when you combine the parts of the chain, that you only reward the last link in the series.

For other dogs, the no-handed floor pick up is not that much of a quantum leap, and when they see that dowel on the floor, it's like they've found a five dollar bill! They leap on it, because they know if they hand it to you it has the cash value of one treat. To trade it in, they first must pick it up, and now you have a complete retrieve. When you give the cue, "Get it!" your dog should be thinking in his mind about delivering something to the palm of your hand. When we think of "Get it," our focus is to go pick up something. A dog doesn't think like we do. If we want to be better dog trainers, we have to think like dogs do. We can't expect them to think like we do.





Shannalee's Tips

(If you would like to submit a tip to Shannalee for this column you can email her at akadia@srv.net)

- To keep coats fresh and smelling nice I will take 1 part Listerine with 10 parts water in a spray bottle. Spray the coat throughout and rub in really well. Take a forced air dryer and blow the coat till dry and finish by brushing any tangles out. If you don't have a hair dryer, just brush the coat and let air dry. This is a wonderful deodorizer and makes the coat feel great.
- If your dog's coat is looking kind of dull, you can take a drop full or so of baby oil and rub it in your hands and then rub throughout the top coat. Not too much but this will make the coat shiny again.
- I like to wash my sheltie's faces daily with a wet warm paper towel. I just rub over the whole face with the grain of the hair. They love it and really look forward to the daily face wash.

Just a few ideas when you can't give full baths.



Calendar of Events

January 16, 2007 — Club Meeting
February 20, 2007 — Club Meeting
March 20, 2007 — Club Meeting
April 17, 2007 — Club Meeting

