

# NOMAD NEWS

Northern Magic Agility Dogs

JULY

2007

SEND LETTERS AND ARTICLES FOR THE NEWS BY THE 25<sup>TH</sup> OF THE MONTH TO THE ADDRESS ON THE BACK, OR E-MAIL: MAYAMCK@PSHIFT.COM

## Thank You, NOMADers!

*Thank you soooooo much, wonderful NOMADers!! The trial weekend went very smoothly. It was great to see everyone having fun AND managing to do their jobs, too. It was especially gratifying to have so much help from our new members. I hope you now feel more comfortable about entering trials with your dogs.*

*My favorite stories from the weekend:*

*I offered to help Newbie Marian Mumford go over the e-timer before she timed her first class. No help needed. She was perfectly comfortable with it, since she times car races!!*

*When we realized some supports for one dogwalk were missing, Carla sped off to her house in her car to get some concrete blocks to use. On her way, she spotted some in a farmer's yard and asked to borrow them for the weekend. Mission accomplished.*

*Proactive, creative thinking like this make running trials only whelming, not overwhelming. I'm sure there are many other stories that I'm not aware of. Thank you to everyone who worked so hard on another successful NOMAD trial.*

*Lynne*



Dice Johnson at Dog Chapel

*I love to watch Louise and Dice-- They are such a happy pair. I knew them from the beginning, and what a long way they have come!! Louise has always had infinite patience with Dice, and of course he adores her. But it's only in recent years that his adoration has changed from "hey Mom! look what I can do!" to "It's so fun to do this TOGETHER!" Now Dice and Louise look like one spirit on the course. That's what agility is all about, isn't it?! Lisa B*



Louise Johnson and Grace

### Equipment Tip of the Month

*from Caroline McKinney*

Not too long ago I was making a new jump by cobbling together pieces and parts of old broken jumps. I cut up and used the uprights of one to make the feet of the new one. There were holes drilled in what were then the new feet because the old jump had had bolts to hold up the bars.

This was when I had an Ah Ha moment, shortly followed by, "Well, duh. Why didn't I think of that before."

I don't like to glue my jumps together because I like to be able to take them apart for storage in the winter. Because of this, water gets in thru the joints and sits in the base, making it heavy as well as moldy.

But with a few holes drilled in the feet—voila, no more water sitting in the base. I just went and drilled holes in the feet of the rest of my jumps.

Of course, now that I think about it, I may be creating a home for bugs. Stay tuned and I will let you know.

*Anyone else have tips to share? Send them to me at [mayamck@pshift.com](mailto:mayamck@pshift.com)*



### SEMINAR NEWS

*from Karen Clark*

#### **Oct. 13, '07—Fiona Robertson seminar.**

Fiona will be conducting two half day seminars. Fiona, as a NOMAD member, has taught several winter classes that have been very popular. For those who may not know Fiona, she is very upbeat and has purely positive training methods. The morning session will be pre-novice and the afternoon will be novice.

#### **Nov. 17, '07—Lynn Smitley Tunnelers seminar.**

Lynn will be conducting a seminar on Tunnelers, a very fun game for dogs and handlers. Lynn and Mia captured the NADAC Tunnelers national championship title in 2006. She will present various strategies focusing on distance and efficiency.

#### **Late Aug. 2008 - NOMAD camp.**

A three day camp with Elicia Calhoun and Ginsey Nickels St. Croix as instructors. Dates still to be determined.

More info on seminars and camp to come in following newsletters!

### NOMAD's Steering Committee

*Contact them if you have questions or suggestions.*

#### **President**

Lynne von Trapp \_\_\_\_\_ 253-7673

#### **Vice-President**

Karen Clark \_\_\_\_\_ 527-8355

#### **Treasurer**

Linda Ladd \_\_\_\_\_ 879-3461

#### **Secretary**

Kim Rubin \_\_\_\_\_ 899-3382

e-mail: [som13@aol.com](mailto:som13@aol.com)

#### **Members at Large**

Don Denette \_\_\_\_\_ 872-8767

Kit Erskine \_\_\_\_\_ 586-9932

Patty McMahon \_\_\_\_\_ 434-3423

<http://nomadagility.com/>

# Are We Having Fun Yet?

I hear it all the time, especially at athletic events, competitions and races. It pops up in articles about sports and recreation, usually at the end, when authors have run out of steam. It's used so much it's lost its meaning. I'm talking about the phrase "Have fun!"

"Have fun!" It's like "Have a nice day!" Both are shallow remarks meant in goodwill, but really mean nothing at all. "Have fun" sounds more like a requirement than a well-wishing—you must have fun. It leaves me feeling that if I don't have fun I've have missed the point.

Lately, based on the number of times I hear the phrase, it seems that having fun has become one of the most important reasons for taking part in a competition, race or athletic event. Why? How did that come about? Races and competitions are meant to be tests. They are markers by which we judge our progress. They motivate us to do our homework, to practice, to do our best. They are not parties. Competitions push us to perform under pressure, sometimes in special venues designed specifically for the activity. They are an opportunity to bring everything we've been training for together in one place and time and to see how we do. Often there is an audience, which only adds pressure, because if we're not having fun, everyone will know!

I remember entering a 65K cross-country ski race. I wanted to see what it was like to ski that far. About 5K into the race it was obvious I had missed the wax. Even though I re-waxed, the next six hours were hell. My lower back ached the entire time. Slowly but surely, anyone who was behind me passed me. I played the mental game—To Quit or Not to Quit. I was one of the last to cross the finish line and I was so happy to be done I could have cried. It was not a fun day, yet everyone asked me if I'd had fun, as if it were the only reason for being there.

In dog agility, a sport in which I have recently become involved, a lot of emphasis is placed on having fun with your dog when you are in the ring at a trial. Being in the ring means you are center stage for about 40 seconds and a judge is in there with you. Reality is, there are an infinite number of things to think about and having fun simply isn't at the top of the list. When your dog is headed right when you meant left, has just knocked a bar or gone in the wrong end of the tunnel, it's disappointment you're feeling, not "Yahoo, we're making a lot of mistakes, but this sure is fun!"

"Have fun out there!" "Remember, have fun!" Yeah, right—you just missed a goal, your blisters are bleeding, your wax is wrong, you're dehydrated, your dog left the ring, whatever. The last thing that comes to mind is "Bring on the fun!"

Then there's guilt. If things didn't go well you have to pretend you had fun anyway, because if you didn't have fun you are a bad sport. You just had a disappointing outcome. Now pile some guilt on top of that for being disappointed instead of happy.

This is not to say that sports aren't or shouldn't be fun. They usually are, but the fun comes at other times, like during practice, when you're putting in the time and working out all the details, or after the event, when you hang out with friends and talk about how things went. The fun is the big picture, not the four hours of running or 40 seconds in the ring.

I'm a fun hog, but here's what I say: forget about the fun for awhile. Concentrate on the task at hand, which is to do as well as you can during the test. If you don't do well, you'll get over it. On the outside chance everything clicks the way it should, you'll know it, and when it's over, you can have a party and reflect on how, for once, everything went just right. Now that's fun!

--Kate Carter

This article recently appeared in Vermont Sports.

*First, I think Kate's article is great and I agree with everything Kate says. But her article got me thinking and I have questions and comments. (Kate has read all this before it got here.) If anyone would like to add to this discussion about "having fun," we can take it to the list.*

What a great opportunity for discussion. What is the definition of "fun" and who is having it?

I think maybe we need to try to make sure that the dog is having fun. To heck with the human. But doing well in competition IS fun for the human. When you have trained hard and that hard work is paying off by having you and your dog in sync and you are flowing without having to think—being "in the zone"—that is fun. But getting to that point—that is a lot of work. And, as Kate says, the competition/test is not always fun. When things do not go right. When we still have to really concentrate and think about every move, when we are hot and tired and our partner is distracted, etc. etc.

If competition is a form of testing, maybe testing ourselves is a form of fun. It lets us measure our progress. Or it must at

least be rewarding in some way or else why do we keep doing it?

So why do those who rarely Q keep doing it? How is it rewarding enough? Because we are like the dogs in that respect. If it were not reinforcing in some way we would not continue. In training we need to know what is reinforcing for our dogs, i.e. don't try to reward them with cheese if they hate cheese; for each human the reward might be different. One person might find their reward in getting Qs and ribbons. Another might be rewarded by just having an activity to do with her dog. Or the reward might be being part of a supportive group like NOMAD.

Or are our rewards in competition and training like my definition of housekeeping: The way to be happy is to have low standards? Do we, you, I, aim too high too soon?

I'm not sure, I think maybe some of us need to lower our standards, or at least change our expectations. If I expect my dog to do perfect contacts at age two, when I have not made the job clear to him, then my expectations/standards are too high. I need to back up, lower my expectations to match the reality of my training and what my dog is able to give me at that point in his life. I need to make it fun for my dog.

Maybe it's all about baby steps and having baby step goals. I think Lanny Basham talks about this in *With Winning in Mind*. We need to have an overall goal to reach for, but we need to have a training plan of how to get there. The former is big, the latter breaks it down in to attainable steps so that we, as well as our dogs, get rewarded by achieving our goals. Maybe this way it can be "fun" for both human and dog.

--Caroline McKinney

# BRAGS

## June 10, 2007, CATS USDAA Trial, Keene, NH

### **Cynthia Gilliland and Heather**

Advanced Gamblers \_\_\_\_\_ Q & Title

## June 11 PCA National Specialty AKC Salisbury, MD

### **Minna and Judy:**

Novice Preferred Standard \_\_\_\_ 4th and Q  
(And although it's non-agility, I have to brag that she earned her second Rally Novice A Q at this very stressful venue.)

## June 16 & 17, 2007. NAE - NADAC/AMBOR TRIAL - Greenwich NY

### **Beverly Lancaster - Bella**

16/Std/Novice S Jumpers \_\_\_\_\_ Q-10/1  
16/Std/Novice S Reg 2 \_\_\_\_\_ Q-10/1  
16/Std/Novice S Reg 1 \_\_\_\_\_ Q-10/1  
16/Std/Novice S Reg 2 \_\_ Q-10/3 & TITLE

## June 16-17, 2007, NOMAD USDAA Trial, Stowe, VT

### **Cynthia Gilliland and Heather**

Advanced Pairs Relay \_\_\_\_\_ 1st & Q,  
with Fred Waters & Ghillie  
Masters Snooker \_\_\_\_\_ Q

### **Kit Erskine and Lil**

PLL 16" Snooker \_\_\_\_\_ 1st and Q  
PLL 16 Jumpers \_\_\_\_\_ 1st and Q and TITLE

### **Lynne von Trapp and Chance**

PIII Snooker \_\_\_\_\_ 1st and SQ!  
PIII Pairs \_\_\_\_\_ 1st and Q  
Perf. Nat'l Standard \_\_\_\_\_ Q

### **Louise and Dice**

16" P1 Gamblers \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd and Q and title  
16" P1 Snooker \_\_\_\_\_ 3rd and Q  
16" P1 Jumpers \_\_\_\_\_ 1st and Q  
(Title and 8 seconds under SCT)

### **Katrin Moffroid and Blaze**

Starters Standard \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd and Q  
Starters Standard \_\_\_\_\_ 3rd and Q  
Starters Snooker \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd and Q  
Starters Jumpers \_\_\_\_\_ 3rd and Q

### **Meg and Betsy:**

PI Standards \_\_\_\_\_ 3rd  
PI Pairs \_\_\_\_\_ 1st and Q  
(with Shannon and Megan)  
PI Standards \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd and Q  
PI Snooker \_\_\_\_\_ 1st and Q

### **Fly and Lisa:**

Masters Snooker \_\_\_\_\_ 3rd and Q  
Masters Snooker \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd and SuperQ!  
Masters Jumpers \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd and Q  
Advanced Pairs \_\_\_\_\_ 1st and Q  
Advanced Gamblers \_2nd and Q and Title

## June 24, 2007, Bo-Gee CPE Trial, Deerfield, NH

### **Cynthia Gilliland and Heather**

Level 5 Jumpers, 16 in. \_\_\_\_\_ 4th and Q  
Level 5 Standard, 16 in. \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd and Q

### **Cynthia Gilliland and Rosie**

Level 1 Colors, 16 in. \_\_\_\_\_ Q  
Level 1 Standard, 16 in. \_\_\_\_\_ Q  
Level 1 Jumpers, 16 in. \_\_\_\_\_ 2nd and Q

## SUMMER PRACTICE

**Tuesday Nights from  
6:30 til dark at  
Roberta Dumas' Field  
\$3.00 per session**

### **Directions**

#### **From Burlington**

Take I-89 to Richmond exit. Take a left at the end of the exit ramp and follow Rt. 2 under the I-89 overpass. Take the next right onto Rt. 117. Take another immediate right onto Governor Peck Hgwy. Go 2.2 miles to Brown's Trace Rd. and turn left. Go .9 mile and take a right onto Nashville Rd. Follow Nashville Rd. for 2.6 miles and turn right onto Leary Rd. My driveway is about a half mile up Leary Rd. on the right (#54). You can't see the house from the driveway.

#### **From Underhill**

Turn left off Rt. 15 onto Brown's Trace Rd. (at Clarks Truck Center). Follow Brown's Trace Rd. through Jericho Center and keep heading toward Richmond. It's 2.6 miles from Clarks Truck Center to Nashville Rd. Look for the West Bolton Golf Course sign. Turn left onto Nashville Rd. Follow Burlington directions from there.

#### **From Essex Jct.**

Take Rt. 117 (River Rd) toward Richmond. Turn left onto Barber Farm Rd. and follow until you come to Brown's Trace Rd. in Jericho. Turn right and go about a mile. Turn left onto Nashville Rd. Follow Burlington directions from there.

#### **From Waterbury**

Take I-89 to Richmond. Turn right at the end of the exit ramp and take an immediate right onto Rt. 117, and then another immediate right onto Governor Peck Hgwy. Go 2.2 miles to Brown's Trace Rd. and turn left. Follow Burlington directions from there.

## **A plea from your editor**

**PLEASE send your brags in the following format:**

**DATE, Trial, Location paragraph return**

**Handler's full name Dog's name paragraph return**

**Class Placement and Q (or not)**

This may seem like a small thing, but it is a very big thing for me when I am trying to get the newsletter out. It takes me a very long time to redo everyone's slightly different formatting.

**A HUGE THANK YOU TO THOSE WHO ARE ALREADY DOING THIS AND A THANK YOU IN ADVANCE TO THOSE WHO WILL IN THE FUTURE.**

*-Caroline*

Charles Gilliland CD OA AXP OAJ AJP RN EAC-V EJC-V  
EGC-V TN-O AD PDII CL3-R,F,S CGC (Rescue ESS)

## Charles, My Hero

Circa 1995- May 22, 2007



Charles was surrendered to the Rescue Program of the ESS Club of Long Island in poor shape. The bits of details make for a long story, but the gist is that he was a 3-4 year old dog that had been physically and socially isolated. He was in two foster homes and a kennel before landing with me. He had a flat affect and was hard to know at that time. Over the next several months, as he learned to value me and our home, his personality came out and there were many fears to overcome. I share this to give you an idea of just how far we came.

Charles was the most affectionate and loving dog I have ever known. He watched me all the time with those expressive

spaniel eyes, and enjoyed always being in the same room with me. He never learned to enjoy playing with toys, but loved to work for me and earn his treats.

We started obedience training early on and soon tried agility to build his confidence. Agility was the perfect activity for us. I believe that the pace of agility allowed him to let go of the worry and stress he felt so much of the time. Of course, he felt that the world made sense, he knew what to do- and running and jumping felt good. And I had the opportunity to see his success and be proud of him. Agility changed his life and mine for the better.

Charles was a perfect first agility partner. He did not mind repetition and was willing to keep trying until I got the handling figured out. Charles always gave me all he had. We were not always successful, but he always did his best for me.

Each dog has something only he or she can teach us, but Charles taught me volumes. He taught me so much about dogs, and also about courage and love. Charles had the biggest heart and while I miss his physical presence, I know his spirit will be with me for the rest of my days.

-Cynthia Gilliland

# COMING EVENTS CALENDAR

Compiled by Cheryl French as of 6/25/07

## JULY 2007.

**July 21-22; CPE;** Open to all dogs; Breeze Thru Agility, Brattleboro, VT; Limit: 375 runs per day; Closes: 7/7/07; Contact: Val Reiner, 802-254-1209; Email: kritters@bcn.net; Website: www.k9cpe.com or www.breezethruagility.com .

**July 21-22; CPE;** Open to all dogs; Y Agility, New Lebanon, NY; Limit: 350 runs per ring; Closes: 7/9/07; Contact: Donna Young, 518-732-2180; Email: yagility@nycap.rr.com .

**July 27-29; AKC;** Open to all purebreds; Green Mountain Golden Retriever Club; Sports & Fitness Edge of Williston, 115 Wellness Dr., Williston, VT; Opens: 5/30/07; Closes: 7/7/07; Runs: 330; Contact: Trial Secretary: Noreen Bennett, 1 West St., Belchertown, MA 01007, 413-283-4490; Email: noreen@pawprinttrials.com; Website: www.pawprinttrials.com .

## AUGUST 2007

**Aug. 3-5; USDAA;** Open to all dogs; Over Rover, Over Rover Training Center; 12430 Rte. 176, Cato, NY; Opens: 6/1/07; Closes: 7/18/07; Limit: Unlimited; Classes: All Classes/All Levels; Contact: Dee Bramble, 315-626-6203; Email: overrover1@frontiernet.net .

**Aug. 4-5; NADAC;** Open to all dogs; CATS; Monadnock Humane Society, Rte. 10, Swanzey, NH; Limit: 450 per day; Classes: Touch N Go, Tunnelers, Weavers - two rounds each game only; All Levels; Trial Secretary: Judy Davis, Trial Secretary Services, 128 Chesham Rd., Harrisville, NH 03450; Website: www.trialsecretary.com .

**Aug. 11-12; CPE;** Open to all dogs; AgileDogs Agility Training, Sugar Bush Farm, 760 East Rd., Stephentown, NY; Limit: 350 per day; Classes: All Classes/All Levels; Email: trisha@agiledogs.net ; Website: www.agiledogs.net/trails.htm .

**Aug. 11-12; CPE;** Open to all dogs; All Dogs Gym, Manchester, NH; Limit: Sat. 400 Runs; Sun. 375 Runs; Closes: 7/20/07; Contact: Sandi Bixler, 603-625-1193; Email: targa12@comcast.net ; Website: www.alldogsgym .

**Aug. 11-12; AKC;** Open to purebreds; Tartan Gordon Setter Club; Westfield, MA; Opens: 6/13/07; Closes: 7/21/07; Limit: 660; Contact: Trial Secretary: Noreen Bennett, 1 West St., Belchertown, MA 01007, 413-283-4490; Email: noreen@pawprinttrials.com; Website: www.pawprinttrials.com .

**Aug. 18-19; NADAC;** Open to all dogs; NOMAD, Top Notch Meadow, Mountain Rd., Stowe, VT; Contact: Caroline McKinney, Email: mayamck@pshift.com ; Trial Secretary: Erin Wajda; Email: trialsec@northeastagility.com ; Website: www.nomadagility.com ; Limit: 400 runs per day; Opens: 6/11/07; Closes: 8/6/07; Classes: All Classes/All Levels.

**Aug. 18-19; CPE;** Open to all dogs; Y Agility, Chatham, NY; Limit: 350 Runs per Ring; Closes: 8/6/07; Contact: Donna Young, 518-732-2180; Email: yagility@nycap.rr.com .

**Aug. 26; USDAA;** Open to all dogs; ACE Agility Club, Westfield Fairgrounds, Westfield, MA; Limit: Unlimited; Level Restrictions: Starters and Junior Handlers; Email: ray.wheeler@the-spa.com .

**Aug. 30-31; Champlain Valley Fair Demo**

## SEPTEMBER 2007

**Sept. 1-2; USDAA;** Open to all dogs; ARFF Agility Club, Middlesex County 4-H Fairgrounds, South Chelmsford Rd., Westford, MA; Limit: Unlimited; Classes: All Classes/All Levels, Steeplechase Qualifier, Other, Performance Speed Jumping; Email: debra@necsi.org .

**Sept. 1-3; AKC;** Open to purebreds; Eastern English Springer Spaniel Club; Granby, MA; Opens: 6/27/07; Closes: 8/11/07; Limit: 750; Contact: Trial Secretary: Noreen Bennett, 1 West St., Belchertown, MA 01007, 413-283-4490; Email: noreen@pawprinttrials.com; Website: www.pawprinttrials.com .

**Sept. 7-9; USDAA;** Open to all dogs; Y Agility, Blackthorne Resort, 348 Sundside Rd., East Durham, NY; Limit: Unlimited; Classes: All Classes/All Levels, Standard, Jumpers, Gamblers, Snooker, Pairs Relay; Contact: Donna Young, 4 Haber Way, Castleton, NY 12033, 518-732-2180; Email: yagility@nycap.rr.com ; Website: www.usdaa.com .

**Sept. 8-9; AKC;** Open to purebreds; Old Colony Agility Club; Topsfield, MA; Opens: 7/12/07; Closes: TBD; Limit: 660; Contact: Trial Secretary: Noreen Bennett, 1 West St., Belchertown, MA 01007, 413-283-4490; Email: noreen@pawprinttrials.com ; Website: www.pawprinttrials.com .

**Sept. 8-9; CPE;** Open to all dogs; Agility Dogs of Schenectady, Greenwhich, NY; Limit 350 runs per day; Closes: 8/22/07; Contact: Trisha Stall; Email: trisha@agiledogs.net ; Website: www.sdtcinc.com .

**Sept. 15-16; CPE;** Open to all dogs; CATS, Wheelock Park, Park Ave., Keene, NH; Limit: 700 per day; Classes: All Classes/All Levels; Trial Secretary: Trial Sec. Services, 128 Chesham Rd., Harrisville, NH 03450, 603-827-3594; Website: www.trialsecretary.com or www.canineagility.org .

**Sept. 15-16; USDAA;** Open to all dogs; Riverside Canine Center, Wakeda Campgrounds, Hampton Falls, NH; Secretary: Valori Duff, 252 Boynton St., Manchester, NH 03102 .

**Sept. 15-16; AKC;** Open to purebreds; Pioneer Valley Kennel Club; Granby, MA; Opens: 7/18/07; Closes: TBD; Limit: 660; Contact: Trial Secretary: Noreen Bennett, 1 West St., Belchertown, MA 01007, 413-283-4490; Email: noreen@pawprinttrials.com; Website: www.pawprinttrials.com .

**Sept. 22-23; NADAC;** Open to all dogs; Maplewood Assistance Partners, Inc., Wrentham Developmental Center, Wrentham, MA; Limit: 500; Classes: All Classes/All Levels; Contact: Katrin Andberg, 12 Maple Ave., Foxboro, MA 02035; Website: www.maplewooddog.com .

**Sept. 22-23; USDAA;** Open to all dogs; K9Logix, Franklin County Fairgrounds, Greenfield, MA; Limit: Unlimited; Classes: Standard, Jumpers, Gamblers, Snooker, Pairs Relay, Grand Prix Qualifier, Steeplechase Qualifier; Contact: Sharon Wirant, 59 Aldrich Rd., Westmoreland, NH 03467, 603-399-4813; Email: events@k9logix.com ; Website: www.k9logix.com .

**Sept. 22-23; USDAA;** Open to all dogs; Happy Trails Agility Club, Bullis Park, Macedon, NY; Closes: 9/7/07; Event Secretary: Sue Bartleson, 7704 School St., Sodus, NY 14551.

**Sept. 22-23; AKC;** Open to purebreds; Wachusett Kennel Club; Bedford, MA; Opens: 7/18/07; Closes: TBD; Limit: 660; Contact: Trial Secretary: Noreen Bennett, 1 West St., Belchertown, MA 01007, 413-283-4490; Email: noreen@pawprinttrials.com; Website: www.pawprinttrials.com .

**Sept. 29-30; USDAA;** Open to all dogs; Contact Agility Club, Putnam Cty Veterans Memorial Park, Gypsy Trail Rd., Carmel, NY; closes: 9/17/07; Limit: Unlimited; All Classes/All Levels, Grand Prix Qualifier, Steeplechase Qualifier; Contact: Melanie Behrens, 74 Carter Rd, Pleasant Valley, NY 12569, 845-635-1489; Email: melanieowl@gmail.com .

**Sept. 29-30; CPE;** Open to all dogs; Ruff Agility, Cheshire Fairgrounds, Swanzey, NH; Trial Secretary: Trial Sec. Services, 128 Chesham Rd., Harrisville, NH 03450, 603-827-3594; Website: www.trialsecretary.com .

## OCTOBER 2007

**Oct. 6-7; USDAA;** Open to all dogs; All Dogs Agility, All Dogs Gym and Inn, 505 Sheffield Rd., Manchester, NH; Limit: Unlimited; Level Restrictions: Novice/PI and Advanced/PII; Trial Secretary: Judy Davis, Trial Secretary Services, tss@trialsecretary.com ; Website: www.alldogsgym.com .

**Oct. 6-7; NADAC;** Open to all dogs; NAE, Dummerston, VT; Contact: ErinAyres Wajda, 479 Tabor-ton Rd., Sand Lake, NY 12153; Email: trialsec@northeastagility.com ; Website: www.northeastagility.com .

**Oct. 6-7; AKC;** Open to purebreds; Western Mass Shetland Sheepdog Club, Westfield, MA; Opens: 8/8/07; Closes: 9/15/07; Limit: 330; Contact: Trial Secretary: Noreen Bennett, 1 West St., Belchertown, MA 01007, 413-283-4490; Email: noreen@pawprinttrials.com; Website: www.pawprinttrials.com .

**Oct. 13-14; USDAA;** Open to all dogs; Agile-Dogs Agility Training, Shatford Park, Rte. 22, New Lebanon, NY; Limit: Unlimited; Classes: All Classes/All Levels; Email: trisha@agiledogs.net ; Website: www.agiledogs.net/trials.htm .

**Oct. 13-14; CPE;** Open to all dogs; Hilltown Hounds Agility Club, Conway, MA; Limit: 350 runs per day; Closes: 10/1/07; Contact: Val Reiner, 413-743-9354; Email: kritters@ben.net ; Website: www.petsforum.com/hhac .

**Oct. 13-14; AKC;** Open to purebreds; Cheshire Kennel Club, Inc., Wheelock Park, Keene, NH; Contact: Kim Tees, 207-655-2112; Email: jtees1@maine.rr.com Opens: 8/8/07; Closes: 9/19/07; website: www.trialsecretary.com .

**Oct. 20-21; NADAC;** Open to all dogs; Act-Up Agility Club; Wrentham Dev. Center, Wrentham, MA; Limit: 500; Classes: All Classes/All Levels; Contact: Michelle Whall, 144 Lyman St., North Attleboro, MA 02760 508-699-9276; Email: info@actupagility.cin ; Website: www.actupagility.com .

**Oct. 20-21; CPE;** Open to all dogs; Bo-Gee Agility, Deerfield, NH; Limit: Unlimited; Classes: All Classes/All Levels; Closes: 10/03/07; Contact: Judy Davis, Trial Secretary Services, tss@trialsecretary.com .

**Oct. 21-22; NOMAD DEMO;** Sports Fitness and Rec Expo at Champlain Valley Fairgrounds.

**Oct. 25-28; AKC;** Open to purebreds; southern Berkshire golden Retriever Club, West Springfield, MA; Opens: 8/29/07; Closes: 10/6/07; Limit: 1980 runs; Contact: Trial Secretary: Noreen Bennett, 1 West St., Belchertown, MA 01007, 413-283-4490; Email: noreen@pawprinttrials.com; Website: www.pawprinttrials.com .

**Oct. 27-28; CPE;** Open to all dogs; Muddy Paws Agility Club; Westminster, VT; Classes: All Classes/All Levels; Limit: 350 runs per day; Closes: 10/13/07; Contact: Kim Strumph; Email: goodturn@conknet.com ; Website: www.mymuddypaws.com .

*The above listed events are in the following states within a reasonable driving distance for most of us: MA, ME, NH, NY and VT. Please note for some events full information is not yet available. Please contact Cheryl French (Cheryl.P.French@comcast.net) with any corrections of the events. Sources include www.cleanrun.com, www.akc.org, www.trialsecretary.com, www.pawprinttrials.com and various other sources.*



## Lyme Test Results

*I was cleaning up my computer and found this information which I thought might be timely in this summer time since Lyme seems to be moving north. It was written by a vet on Nantucket.*

Here are some answers to your questions about a positive in house Lyme test. The test we do in house is called a 3DX and is testing for the presence of Lyme antibodies in the bloodstream. Basically, we use this test simply as a screening test for Lyme, and I will tell you that almost half of the dogs we test on the island will test positive on this test. It is a color change test much like a pregnancy test, and a small blue dot will appear if Lyme antibodies are present. Testing positive on the 3DX does not necessarily mean that a dog has Lyme disease. What it means is that they have some level of antibodies to Lyme in their bloodstream. For many of these dogs, they test positive on the 3DX because they have had exposure to Lyme in the past and have successfully fought off infection on their own.

In my opinion, the best option when a dog tests positive on the screening test is to send out a more quantitative test called a C6 titer. You have chosen to send this test out. Others will choose to randomly treat with antibiotics or wait to see if the dog ever shows clinical signs of Lyme. These are not great options, given the fact that we now have the C6 titer,

which allows us to make a more educated decision regarding whether or not treatment is needed. This test that is pending right now and we will call you when the results are available. This test is a quantitative test, meaning that it gives us a number and makes specific recommendations regarding the need for treatment with antibiotics based on that number. The nice thing about this test is that it tells us whether treatment is actually needed. When this test is done, and treatment with Doxycycline is recommended, the test should be repeated 6 months after finishing the antibiotics. This is called a convalescent titer. We are looking for a 50 percent drop in the original antibody number in order to prove that treatment is has been effective. If not, we recommend repeating treatment. This is rarely the case, as most will drop after treatment. This way, you know what you are treating for and whether or not the treatment was successful. It is only way we can really measure a response to treatment, and allows us to make an educated decision as to whether treatment is truly necessary. Many people ask me, and this is what I would do if my own dog tested Lyme positive on the in house test.

Once a dog tests positive on the 3DX, chances are they will be positive the next time they are tested on the 3DX. This is because they may still have lyme antibod-

ies (put out by the immune system) but may or may not have actual Lyme disease still present. So you can't use the 3DX to measure whether treatment was effective. Theoretically, a dog should eventually become negative on the 3DX over time, but many will stay positive for years if they have been positive in the past. For this reason, after a dog has been positive once on a 3DX, it makes it difficult for us to use it as a screening test in the future.

Dogs who have active Lyme disease usually come in very sick with a fever, intense lethargy, and severe lameness and swollen joints. We rarely see vague lethargy as a sign. With that being said, the pathology of Lyme in animals is not completely understood. Believe it or not, there are veterinarians out there who do not even believe that Lyme disease exists in dogs!

We see a lot more Lyme disease here on Nantucket than most places off island do, so we have learned a lot about it over the years and have tried to come up with the best advice regarding treatment. In my experience with off island vets, many of them will recommend treatment as soon as they see a positive 3DX, while we feel that that is not really always indicated. If that were the case, almost half of our patients would be on doxycycline at any given time, and we would have no way of knowing if treatment was really needed or if it was successful,



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## The Creation

When God had made the earth and sky  
the flowers and the trees,  
He then made all the animals  
the fish, the birds and bees.

And when at last He'd finished  
not one was quite the same.  
He said, "I'll walk this world of mine  
and give each one a name."

And so He traveled far and wide  
and everywhere He went,  
a little creature followed Him  
until it's strength was spent.

When all were named upon the earth  
and in the sky and sea,  
the little creature said, "Dear Lord,  
there's not one left for me."

Kindly the Father said to him,  
"I've left you to the end.  
I've turned my own name back to front  
and called you dog, My friend."

Author Unknown