

Border Heartbeat



*The Official Newsletter
of the
Midlands Border Collie Club
Summer 2010*

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A Word From The Editor

A warm welcome to our second online issue! The first was very well received and we're really glad you enjoyed it.

As ever, Border Heartbeat's success depends on your goodwill and your willingness to contribute. This issue has some interesting articles for your enjoyment and our sincere thanks go to those who've volunteered (or been volunteered!) to provide the written word ☺

Please give your dogs' welfare more than a second thought this summer during any hot spells. Be aware that they can overheat in parked cars with frightening speed!

Do call in at our website: <http://www.midlandsbordercollieclub.com>. You'll find news, show results & an impressive array of interesting articles. We also have a comprehensive archive for you to dip into.

Sheila

Submission Of Articles

Any article you submit must be your own work, **or** you must have permission from the author/hold the copyright. Submitting your article to MBCC grants us the right to publish it in Border Heartbeat. It does not entitle you to any form of compensation, financial or otherwise. We reserve the right to reject an article if we feel it to be unsuitable. We reserve the right to correct spelling and/or grammar should that be necessary. Articles should preferably be submitted in Word or Notepad electronic format via email.

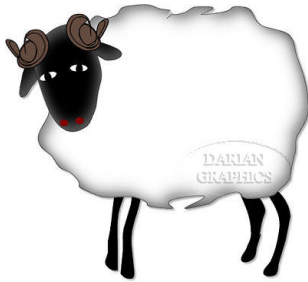
Please note – the views and opinions expressed in this newsletter are not necessarily those held by the Midlands Border Collie Club or the Editor.

Forthcoming Events 2010 & 2011:

July 31: Sheepdog Training Day
Aug 6-8: Open Working Trial
Oct 3: Open Breed Show with Limited Obedience

Jan 23: Agility Show
Feb 3: Championship Breed Show
April 24: Open Obedience Show
April 25: Championship Obedience Show

Chairman's Chunters



2010's MBCC major events are now completed and didn't we do WELL! The Championship Working Trial a distant memory, the Championship Breed Show; all went smoothly as did the AGM and seminar, but the memories of our Easter Championship Obedience show are still very vivid and it was almost a nightmare - 5 days of mud, caravans, cold, rain and then gales, a real endurance test. A very big THANK YOU to all who gave up their time to help.

Then came our sheep dog training day and this was well supported and all enjoyed this experience, more to follow. The 1st Border Collie conference was hosted by the MBCC, a combined effort from Border Collie enthusiasts and maybe another yearly event?

The Breed Council open day - our clinic ladies are a very professional team and more samples than ever were sent to the USA and Australia, another success story for the MBCC.

Your MBCC committee works tirelessly and we would like to receive offers of help to run some of our events. Don't forget we are all getting older; there must be someone out there that would like to give a little back to our sport?? I am at most breed shows this summer, please find me and give me your views and offers of help.

Best wishes,

Bob Tunnicliff
MBCC Chairman

Secretary's Sermon

Phew, what a busy start to the year we have all had, and according to feedback from our members they have enjoyed the events, so well worth the efforts made by the committee and helpers.

We started with The Championship Working Trial; Barrie and his gang worked extremely hard to make this such a success.

Hot on the heels of the Working Trial we had the Championship Breed Show, then the AGM which was combined with a Judging Assessment.

In March we hosted a Border Collie Convention in tandem with Jo Ratcliffe and Ross Green, the first of its type with a host of well respected speakers talking on their favourite subjects.

Ross opened the event with an informative overview of the Border Collie. This is an event the Club is keen to repeat.

April 3rd was the date for our Utility day, this time organised by Emma and Amy Sadler. We had Flyball, Agility and Conformation, seek back, Good Citizen testing, Obedience and reliability. We are currently working on new books and certificates for the competitors. If you have not received certificates that are due to you and you haven't already notified me, please email me on valerieearp@btinternet.com

We not only had an Open Obedience show on the day after the Utility day, we held a Championship Obedience Show on the day after that. Sheilagh Hyde organised both obedience events - I struggle to get one or two judges for breed shows, Sheilagh had to get 50!!! Plus stewards and scribes, plus organising everything else. Well done Sheilagh.

May 1st was the Breed Council open day, where Sheila Gay and her merry troupe did their usual sterling job taking blood and swabs from members (and non-members) dogs for DNA tests. There was also ophthalmic eye testing, a Companion Dog Show with Obedience, a Scurry and ringcraft tuition among the many attractions.

We had a sheepdog training day in May with Andy Nickless at his little farm which is in the midst of a cute village in Worcestershire. The sun shone all day, most of the handlers went home with a certificate and a satisfied smile on their faces and I bet their dogs slept all the way home dreaming of sheep.



Finally, look out for the details on our website of our Open Working Trials to be held on 6th 7th and 8th August, our Open Breed with Limited Obedience 3rd October, and great excitement we have our first Agility Show on 23rd January 2011 to be held at Solihull Riding School, West Midlands.

Enjoy!

Val Earp
MBCC Secretary

Working Trial Report – January 2010

Judging from the feedback from competitors we appear to have had another successful trial. Tracking for the UD and TD Stakes was on winter wheat and the fields were very wet and soggy most of the week but it did dry up a little bit by the end of the week. It was cold and frosty with a bit of sunshine for the TD Control & Agility on the last Sunday.

The track layers, stewards and competitors did not have an easy task walking on the fields – it was hard work for all concerned, but as we say “that’s trials”. The dogs did not find it easy in the conditions. It appears that the handlers that trusted their dogs and did not interfere did the better tracks, especially in TD. In this stake the handlers walked 60 paces into the field to the start pole. The track went 45° back from the pole (roughly towards an eight o’clock position?) (Cannot remember the distance – around 60 paces?), then did around a three-quarter circle clockwise (radius 30 metres from start pole). The track from then on was quite usual. The track consisted of 12 legs (it is usual in this stake to have more than 20 legs).

The CD Stake was held on pasture adjacent to the base and easy walking distance from the car park.

My thanks to everyone who helped at the trial, especially Brian Earp who helped me in the fields on Friday and Wednesday and Voirrey who did base steward for six days.

Results:

CD Stake:

1st Jeny Miller & Foxfold Unexpected Edition XB B 100/100 points Qualifying CDex
2nd Mrs J. Lewis & Rushbottom Rhynestonbrows ASD D 98/100 points Qualifying CDex
3rd Mr N Wilson & Special Gift Weim D 94/100 Qualifying CDex
4th Jill Carruthers & Vomkyna Darca AJ3 GSD B 93/100 points Qualifying CDex
Michael Loughrain & Garretthall Quadrille Lab/Ret B 87/100 points Qualifying CDex

The following dogs qualified CD only:

West Midlands Police (handler Paul Thornton) with Limasmythe Ennya GSD B

Jacky Lloyd with Littlethorn Rolls Royce at Brooksbid CDex BC B

UD Stake:

1st Mrs S & Mr D Williams (handled by June Reed) & **Shadowquest Legacy** GSD D 185½/200 points Qualifying UDex (also Best Track award)

2nd Liz de Ungar & Styperson Royce Lab/Ret 177/200 Qualifying UDex

3rd Val Upton & Glenalpine Rafferty CDex BC D 176½/200 Qualifying UDex

4th Ray Lea & Anmeetue Colourful Lady BC B 157½/200 Qualifying UD only

TD Stake:

1st Jeny Miller & Foxfold Coalition OW CDex – TDex XB D 205/220 points. Awarded the Kennel Club Working Trial Certificate.

2nd June Reed & Little Jode GSD B 198/220 points. Awarded the Reserve Kennel Club Working Trial Certificate.

3rd Kathy Ingham & Ob Ch Ruskath Othentic Image CDex – TDex WSD B 193/220 points. Qualifying TDex

4th Stevi Boyall & WT Ch Styperson Lomond Lab D 186½/220 points. Qualifying TDex

Finally congratulations to Jeny on winning both the CD Stake and the 'Ticket' TD Stake. When I first met Jeny (about 1969?) she was being towed round the training field at Lincoln at 100 miles an hour by a large white, out of control, Pyrenean Mountain Dog. What a journey!

Also congratulations to June Reed for handling the winning dog in the UD Stake, also getting the UD Best Track award and gaining the Reserve Kennel Club Working Trial Certificate in the TD Stake and also (again) getting the Best Track award in TD.

Barrie James

Working Trials Manager

Midlands Border Collie Club

DNA Testing – The Way Forward with Carriers

For the past several years I've been privileged to lead a superb Midlands Border Collie Club team, running a DNA clinic at the Border Collie Breed Council's May Open Day. My involvement always starts before each preceding Christmas, when I set up the date & arrangements with OptiGen in New York and with Alan Wilton at the University of New South Wales. Alan does 2 of the 3 DNA tests available for Border Collies, while OptiGen runs tests on a wide variety of breeds, so our clinic is open to all.

The vast majority of dogs we cater for are pedigree, but there are also OptiGen DNA tests for crossbreeds, which may come as a surprise to some, but these breeders are also starting to take health testing seriously. In Border Collies, the testing has mostly been done by owners/breeders of Kennel Club registered dogs but over the past few years more International Sheep Dog Society members are getting involved too. Currently they tend only to test for CEA/CH (Collie Eye Anomaly/Choroidal Hypoplasia), but I have hopes that in the future they'll take on board testing for NCL (Neuronal Ceroid Lipofuscinosis) & TNS (Trapped Neutrophil Syndrome) as well. On which subject I've noticed that fewer people seem to be testing for NCL these days - I've no idea why, but it seems to me rather foolhardy to discount a disease which is a proven killer. It isn't just that breeding stock has been found clear, so that pups don't need testing. As I enter the test results into my own database & note the inherited status of new generations, I see that quite a few dogs simply aren't tested at all. Of course all these tests cost money & if a breeder has a lot of dogs to be tested, a staggered system is of necessity often used and that's perfectly understandable. However, I'd hope that those who simply don't bother to test at all (for any disease) will wake up & join the responsible ones who do!

I've been asked on numerous occasions why we should test & the obvious answer is - to protect future generations of our breed, whether it be the Border Collie or others. There can be nothing worse than discovering you've produced a pup affected by a painful, even fatal disease. In many cases, that will also mean watching a pup start to suffer as a disease takes hold, since few will be prepared to have animals put to sleep until they absolutely have to. Often a pup will be in its new home, so a distraught owner has to cope with the result of the breeder refusing to test. There can be no excuse for creating suffering when we need not.....



The brilliant thing about DNA testing is that it's a superb tool for breeders when used wisely. Yes we'd all love to have every test return a clear result, but since we know that won't happen (not yet at any rate), we can use our carrier results to go forward carefully. In the case of a non fatal disease such as CEA we could even use affected dogs, if their merit otherwise warrants it, although I can hear people saying 'there will be other stud dogs/brood bitches as good who aren't affected' and that's a very valid opinion, but just for the moment I'm only considering absolute practicalities. The important thing to remember is that any carrier or affected **MUST ONLY** be mated to a clear partner. The worst scenario in the resulting litter is that we produce more carriers (which in turn must of course **ONLY** be mated to clears) but we could equally be lucky & produce a few clears to carry our lines on with. Gone are the days when we had to 'throw the baby out with the bathwater'. There is no guesswork required now - we have the DNA proof & can hang on to those precious lines we've spent years developing. Of course, before being included in any breeding programme, pups from matings where one parent is a carrier **MUST** themselves be tested to establish their DNA status.

We now have the knowledge to ensure that carrier never meets carrier in a mating again, nor must we mate carriers to untested partners, since that reintroduces those terrible risks we've all worked so hard to eliminate and in fact makes the testing we've done up to that point a useless exercise. Personally I wouldn't now breed from any untested bitch, nor would I use an untested dog, because I wouldn't have a clue what I might produce & ignorance is definitely **NOT** bliss! Another side of the coin appears where owners of clear stud dogs won't accept carrier bitches for matings. It does occasionally happen & while it's undoubtedly their choice & right, I find it very short-sighted. How else will responsible breeders be able to retain their lines while clearing them of the carrier gene? Any prospective mating should be considered from the usual standpoint of suitability of course, but I (& many other stud owners) don't see carrier status as a problem when I receive stud enquiries for my clear dogs. Luckily we live in enlightened times & most breeders are looking forward positively to a

time when these diseases are a thing of the past & are willing & able to help others. In the meantime there is no stigma attached to producing carrier pups since these pups will never themselves develop the disease. The golden rule, the way forward, is very simple - never breed a carrier to anything but a clear, whatever the disease & whatever the breed.

Sheila Gay © 2010

Kennel Tales



Welcome to our look at some of the affixes (or Kennel Names, as the KC now calls them) within our breed. How did their owners first become involved in the wonderful world of Border Collies and how did their affix come into being? Our thanks to **Jenny Jefferson**, of the **Bekkis** kennel, who has kindly contributed this issue's instalment.

Jenny writes:

I met my first Border Collie at Guide Dogs for the Blind. I loved this little bright fun dog, and thought I would like one at some point. I had always kept GSDs and Standard Poodles, which I had shown, so this was quite a turn

around.

Several years later I heard of a six month old bitch that was going to be pts as she chewed when her owners were at work all day(!). Already called Becky, she came home and learned to be a puppy. I traced her breeding, but as in so many cases, the registration had been stopped by the farmers. I later bred from her, so my new affix was Bekkis in her honour. I kept a pup from her first litter.

I had met Alison (Hornsby) at GDBA where we both worked, and we became friends. Alison really liked Becky, so had a pup from her 2nd litter. Alison and I had spent some time quietly going around the show world, as our plan was to eventually start showing in Collies. It seemed more fun if we became partners, and so Alison came on board as joint owner of the Bekkis affix.

We bought two dogs from the Viber kennel, and based our line on Viber Ryans Daughter at Bekkis. We bred or owned 7 champions and had an enormous amount of fun showing our dogs. However, time moves on and type changes. We are not very keen on the modern collie, and do not wish to change our type. We have both reverted to working our dogs, with Alison doing agility, and me doing working trials - both of us fairly successfully! We feel here we can continue breeding the well constructed, good moving dogs we so like.

Jenny Jefferson

Deadly Lungworm (Angio) Update



This parasite, *Angiostrongylus Vasorum*, is increasingly causing fatalities, countrywide – dogs dying from problems ranging from acute respiratory distress to spinal haemorrhage, but infestation being confirmed as the culprit on faecal analysis. In 2009 around 20% of veterinary practices across the UK reported suspected cases, the South, South-West, Wales and parts of London remaining hotspots, although cases reported as far flung as central Scotland.

Vets appear confused about what to call *Angiostrongylus Vasorum* – named the “French Heartworm” and the “French Lungworm”, it’s also called the “Small Heartworm”, (to distinguish it from the large heartworm, *Dirofilaria Immitis*,) or “Angio”, (to distinguish it from other Lungworms.) This is not helpful to us mere mortals, so for the purpose of this article, I’m referring to it as “Angio”.

Having recently placed a puppy with a vet, I asked her for the latest info for this update, and she kindly gave me copies of a report in the vet press and the recent London Vet Show pamphlet. I paraphrase:

Typically, Angio causes cardiopulmonary disease, but there are problems with initial diagnosis, as not all dogs actually present coughing. 30% of cases present with sudden, unexplained bleeding, from spontaneous haemorrhage, e.g., haematoma; bleeding in the eye or mucosal bleeding; internal haemorrhage, including bleeding into the central nervous system, (which causes acute spinal pain;) or from trauma or after surgery, which can be misdiagnosed as anticoagulant poisoning. Some authors suggest that Angio itself produces substances which interfere with normal coagulation.

Some dogs present with shortness of breath, (Dyspnoea,) rapid breathing, (Tachypnoea,) and exercise intolerance, but without a history of coughing. Acute reactions similar to anaphylaxis may occur when heavily infected dogs are treated with anthelmintics, (wormers.) There is a wide variety of non-specific symptoms that can include depression anorexia, weight loss, gagging, vomiting, diarrhoea and stunted growth. So a minefield for clear diagnosis.

There is an excellent leaflet, published by Bayer HealthCare, entitled “Lungworm – Is Your Dog At Risk,” which explains the life cycle of Angio with diagrams. Ask at your vet’s for a copy. Basically,

- 1) Larvae from infected dogs are coughed up and swallowed, passing out in the dog’s faeces.
- 2) Slugs and snails graze on the faeces, swallow the larvae, and these are ingested by the dog.
- 3) The larvae develop into adult worms, which can be found in the heart and pulmonary arteries.
- 4) The worms lay eggs, which hatch into larvae and pass into the airways of the lungs, from where they are coughed up and swallowed, and so on.

Foxes are natural hosts for lungworm and are also responsible for spread of the disease and frogs can be part of the Angio life cycle. Some slug species that carry the larvae are extremely small and ingested by dogs accidentally, with grass, so owners may not see them do it.

For now, drugs licensed in the UK for treatment include:

- a) Advocate - monthly spot-on application;
- b) Milbemax - monthly or more frequent treatment.

Not licensed, but of proven and published efficacy:

- c) Fenbendazole – daily dosing, varying from 5-21 days.

There is ongoing research into prevention of course, but as yet there are no products licensed in the UK for preventing infestation.

Val Tiller (Foxbarton BCs)

YKC Dogstable

At Discover Dogs 2009 the YKC (Young Kennel Club) invited members to participate in a special Crufts qualifier to celebrate 25 years of the Young Kennel Club. The qualifier was an obstacle course that included skills of both Obedience and Agility. I had entered my little princess Summer (Darian Enchanted By Fire).

So on the 15th of November 2009 I set off bright and early to Earls Court in London, we arrived in plenty of time to allow Summer to settle into the environment and check out her surroundings before we were in the ring. Summer loved all the attention and was even showing off by flying her tail. During the day we were also asked to perform a few demonstrations for the YKC ring. She was the star of the show.

The time had come for us to prepare to enter the ring. During the competitions the handlers had been asked to dress up as superheroes, as the Kennel Club see you juniors as superheroes. I decided to go as Wonder Woman! I got to walk to course beforehand to make sure I knew where I was going and to make sure I knew all the rules. Summer was absolutely fantastic, if anything a little too excited but we like excitement. We ended up 3rd overall and as the top 3 qualified for Crufts that meant Crufts 2010 here we come ☺



14th March 2010 finally arrived and Summer and I made our way to the NEC ready to compete in the Dogstable course. I wasn't expecting to come anywhere as it was

her 1st year at Crufts. Once again I walked the course in advance, all the handlers looked fabulous in their costumes and we even got on TV! The younger age groups went first and the standard was high; before we knew it, we were in the ring ½ way around the course, Summer was flying around and was listening to everything I said. I was so pleased with her.... This puppy always impresses me with how fabulous she is.



The results were in and everyone that had competed re-entered the ring for the presentation.... Places went to 6th. They started announcing the places starting in 6th place making their way to 1st. To my surprise we had come 1st and won the Dogstable at Crufts 2010!!



In May 2010 I attended the YKC activity weekend in Birmingham where they were holding another Dogstable qualifier. I once again dressed up as Wonder Woman. Guess what ... we won it again which means we will be at Crufts 2011 to try and retain our Dogstable title ☺

Amy Sadler

The Sheep Herding Test

The next Kennel Club Show dog Sheep Herding Test will be held on October 24th at Pickering, North Yorkshire, with kind permission of Jackie Goulder. The Border Collie Club of Great Britain will host the test and a minimum of six dogs are needed for the test to go ahead.

If you would like to attempt the test the entry form can be downloaded from the KC website, it costs £25.00 and entries close one month before the proposed test date.

If anyone would like to contact a trainer in their area, contact our Secretary, Val Earp and she will try to help you find a trainer near you. Some of the trainers will be willing to train and handle your dog for you if you wish; this must be by arrangement with them.

Ann Jordan



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