

Border Heartbeat



*The Official Newsletter
of the
Midlands Border Collie Club
Summer 2012*

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A Word From The Editor

As I write this I'm looking out of my window onto a rainswept, grey day and after the mini heatwave of the past couple of weeks I can tell you I'm not impressed! Hopefully summer will come back soon and we and our dogs can all enjoy dry walks again.

I'm delighted to welcome Adrienne Marshall as my co-editor. Her help has been invaluable in getting this newsletter ready for publication and I look forward to a long and productive association! Many thanks as always to those who've contributed – we couldn't do it without you ☺ and your Editors are extremely grateful!

We have another great issue this time, packed with interesting articles. Do take a look at the Short Story Competition too - super prizes are on offer for 1st, 2nd & 3rd!

Our website <http://www.midlandsbordercollieclub.com> is packed full of news, show results & interesting articles. There are also the archives to dip into, so please visit soon!

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 Editors.

Forthcoming Events 2012:

Aug 10 Open Working Trial

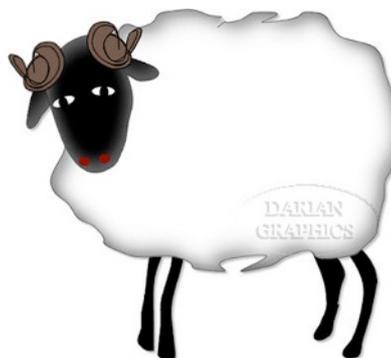
Oct 27 Open Breed Show followed by Border Collie of the Year 2011

Chairman's Chunters

June already, can't believe the year's half gone...

We have undertaken most of the MBCCs annual events, all successful thanks to your committee and helpers.

Our second event of the year was the Championship Working Trial, a mammoth task that continued for over a week. Barry and his crew pulled together and succeeded in their usual fashion, making it an enjoyable event for its sterling competitors.



Next came the Breed Champ Show at Stoneleigh; this was well attended and we had a nice day with good company. Half of my committee was ill and could not attend so we were a little thin on the ground but we still managed to get a gold star from the KC man!

Then next on our calendar, the Championship Obedience Show, a little down in entries, still over 200 caravans, this show was very memorable but not for the right reasons. We set up as normal on the Thursday with a minor hiccup - Tesco's cafe was closed so I had to find a new eating house for my workers. Once fed they worked tirelessly all day.

The show started without any problems, then the POO hit the fan.... our show secretary fell ill and was taken to her bed, she later returned home and was bed bound for a week. We rallied around and with the help of Jean Dawson, Brian Lucock and the ladies from Birmingham we managed to run the show smoothly.

Then on Monday a competitor collapsed. We did not panic, 999 was called, some very able ladies gave aid along with our resident nurse. The paramedics arrived, my car park men and I cleared a space to allow the helicopter to land, what a sight. This team of experts gave him the best of care, he was taken to A&E at Burton on Trent but sadly died later that week. RIP. The club sends the family our condolences.

The exhibitors were so impressed with the air ambulance that they collected £400 which we forwarded.

Our next event was the Border Collie Convention. We thought at one stage we might have to cancel, but we had a last minute influx of folk wishing to come. We had a very nice day with a pleasant crowd. The Club thanks our speakers Ross, Jo, Kathy and Carole. Everyone received the usual MBCC hospitality provided by Moira Miners Welfare and it was an interesting day for all.

Our forthcoming attraction is our Open Breed Show followed in the afternoon by Border Collie of the Year 2011. The venue is the KC building at Stoneleigh. I will send out invites to all winners of a CC or Res CC IN 2011. CHAMPIONS are most welcome, but in the event we get 64 dogs entered winners of 2011 will take precedence.

Don't forget that the following day is Pastoral day at Midland Counties, so you could have a full weekend. Accommodation is available at Stoneleigh - see you there?

Best wishes,

Bob Tunnicliff
MBCC Chairman

Secretary's Salutations

Summer already, not that you would believe it, have your dogs developed webbed feet?

What a shame the Jubilee weekend was such a washout, so many people had their street parties rained off or had to decamp to a local Hall, still it takes more than a bit of rain to stop our nation enjoying themselves doesn't it.

I only attend charity dog shows these days but I do feel for those that spend days preparing their dogs for the ring only to see their hard work undone in the rain, there is something to be said for the indoor Shows during the winter. Not that the weather ever stopped our working dogs, they thrive on it.

Not a lot to report on at this time of year as most of our Club events take place from autumn to spring, however we have lots of wonderful events to look forward to in the next few months. In August we have the Open Working Trial, if you are interested come along and watch these clever dogs working.

In October we are holding an Open Breed Show immediately followed by Border Collie of the Year; after the winner is chosen there is to be a dinner, tickets for the meal are £10 each. There will be no charge to simply attend the judging.

Then we are back to the Championship Working Trials and Open Agility in January.

Next summer we are delighted to be holding The Kennel Club Championship Working Trial. This is a very prestigious event and we are honoured to have been chosen to hold it. I am sure that Barrie James our Working Trials Manager will be grateful for any help offered for his trials.

We have sadly lost two of our committee and I would like to take this opportunity to say thank you to Sue McCrilly and Anna Fox for their work over the years.

On a lighter note Kathie Kinton, Claire Cook and Rachel Spencer have joined us on the committee, welcome and thank you, I certainly look forward to working with you.

Valerie Earp
MBCC Secretary

Minutes of the Midlands Border Collie Club AGM

held on 25th February 2012 at The Kennel Club Building, Stoneleigh

The meeting was opened at 9 am by Doreen Hutchinson - President
Apologies from: - Sheilagh Hyde; Fiona Wilson; Tracey; Joanna and Pat Wilkinson; Voirrey Paesler; Rachel Spencer; Richard Lucas; Sue Morley; Alison Tunnicliff; Sue McCrilly; Sue James; Emma and Amy Sadler.

The minutes of the last AGM were read and agreed to be a true record. Proposed by Ann Jordan, seconded by Hilary Kerr.

Matters arising from the minutes:-

Bob is still hoping that the Club will be able to enter a team for the IMCA world agility event some time the future.

It was agreed that the agenda for the AGM should be advertised on the website in future and that the minutes for the AGM should be emailed to committee members.

Chairman's report:-

The MBCC has once again had a very successful year, all events were well supported and all ran smoothly without any major hiccups.

Our year started with a very well organised Agility Show, thanks to Sue and Darren and their band of helpers. In February we held our Championship Breed Show at Stoneleigh followed by a seven day marathon Working Trial, Barrie and Sue and their helpers have worked tirelessly to make this event a complete success and a big hit on the trialling calendar.

The 2013 KC trial will be a very special milestone in our Clubs history, all thanks to the previous years of hard work by Barrie and his team.

Easter was another great Show with a huge entry, Sheilagh and Co. Produced a super four day event, with a very pleasant atmosphere and an evening get together with a pig roast, this large event takes months of planning, we must thank the team of workers for their dedication, we all look forward to this event in 2012 as we have another large entry.

I wish to thank my committee members, partners and families; because without their support we all would not be able to dedicate so many hours to the MBCC I hope they can all join us at the pig roast or BCOTY event this October as the Clubs guests.

We would appreciate any help our members could offer, we also welcome constructive criticism, so if you could spare the Club a little time please come along to any of our events, you will be most welcome,

Bob Tunncliff

Secretary's Report:-

Once again we have had a wonderful year full of our events.

The year started with our First Open Agility Show organised by Sue Morley and ably assisted by Emma and Amy Slater, there were fantastic displays of handlers and dogs working together, I was lucky to be working in a very menial role near to where some of the more experienced dogs were jumping, I was mesmerised by the speed and accuracy of the teams. Everyone worked together, there were no cross words between the dogs or competitors, well done to everyone who helped make the day a success.

Continuing with Agility, the Club sponsors a YKC team, managed by Mandi Marks, they are doing extremely well and have qualified for Crufts this year, this from a team ranging from 7 years to 15 years old (there is even a Tunncliffe with an e in there, any relation Bob?) well done everyone and good luck at Crufts.

Barrie James has just completed 11 days of hard graft (not counting the planning throughout the year) running the Working Trials Championship, this includes laying tracks and search squares, and then 8 days of trials. This is a really busy time for Barrie as in addition he has been invited to organise the Kennel Club Working Trial Championship next year, this is a huge event therefore a lot of extra work for Barrie.

For anyone wanting to learn more about W/T Barrie has produced a superb slide Show DVD of the 2011 KC Trial and also offers W/T training.

The Open and Championship Obedience will be held at Measham again this year, and there is to be a Fun Dog Show as well. If you like to watch highly trained dogs working as one with their owners, you will enjoy a day out at Measham this coming Easter weekend.

We have a Convention planned for the 5th May with 3 excellent speakers, the venue is The Miners Welfare Centre at Moira, apply to Sheila Gay for tickets.

Utility Day, the last one was held in Ann Jordan's field on a summers evening, it was a really enjoyable night that we hope to be able to repeat again, especially the BBQ.

Valerie Earp

Treasurer's Report:-

Another successful year in all our disciplines including our first Agility Open Show which made a net profit of £700 plus, our thanks to Sue Morley and her team.

We do seem to be fortunate as our entries have remained constant despite the downturn in the economy and we thank our members for their continued support.

I would clarify a point regarding our Bank Accounts; I feel I should explain that our Accounts are called "Community Accounts" which are designed for Clubs; Societies and non-profit making organisations which under the rules of the Kennel Club/Inland Revenue we are. We are allowed to retain monies to fund the running of the Club for the benefit of its members and the account has free banking and no maintenance fees.

We had our most successful Obedience Open/Champ Shows including pig roast (with head, no sun glasses) held in glorious weather which we hope to repeat again this year. We raised £421.79 from donations given at the Obedience Show which the Club made up to £1000 and was donated to the Pastoral Breeds Health Foundation, a big thanks to Sheilagh and Jean.

The Utility evening run by Ann Jordan was a great success due to Ann's hard work and Bob/Brian Marshall's cooking skills.

Barrie and Sue James continue to manage the Working Trials with the help of Brian Earp; the three of them make an excellent team which is in part attracting increased entries.

Sheila continues to look after our website adding information and editing in a very prompt way (as soon as she has the information, blink and it is done). Communication with our members is essential and the Website goes from strength to strength.

Finally I would like to thank all the committee members and their other halves that have assisted at our various events and especially Alison Tunnicliff who is married to Bob and gives a lot of her time to the good.

Christine Johnson

Re-election of Officers

As nobody has come forward to take over the role of Secretary, Val Earp agreed to stand again as Secretary.

It was proposed that the officers be elected on bloc. Proposed by Sheila Gay, Seconded by Joan Cattell, Unanimous.

Re-election of Committee.

Barrie James; Brian Marshall; Di Venn; Anna Fox; Fiona Wilson and Sheilagh Hyde were all up for re-election this year.

As only Brian and Barrie were present at the AGM it was proposed that Barrie and Brian be elected and the others be co-opted onto the committee in their absence.

Proposed by Sheila Gay, Seconded by Chris Johnson

Kennel Club amendment to our Code of Ethics

The Kennel Club has contacted us with the following suggesting that we encourage our members to join The Assured Breeders Scheme and to this end we should include the following in our Code of Ethics.

Members will, when breeding dogs, adopt as a minimum standard the principles, requirements and recommendations as embodied in the kennel Club's Assured Breeders Scheme. It is strongly recommended that members who breed should apply to join the Scheme.

Proposed to accept this amendment by Barrie James, Seconded by Hilary Kerr, Agreed Unanimously

A.O.B.

Ann Jordan has invited us to sell our Shop goods on the BCC of GB stands at Crufts, Joan and Chris will sort.

Meeting closed at 9.50 am

Kennel Tales

Welcome to our look at some of the Kennel Names 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 the Revd. Angela Hughes, of the Guildenmore kennel, who has kindly contributed this issue's instalment.



It all started in the Autumn of 1979. I had just lost my much loved dog - a Labrador x Irish Wolfhound bitch - and was looking to get a pup to try to fill the aching void. I went to visit a friend who I knew had a copy of the Our Dogs publication that gave names and details of dog breeders as I had decided that I would like a Springer Spaniel but had no idea where to find one. I knew she had had a litter of Border Collie pups, but thought they would all be sold by now as they were about 9 weeks old.

They were all sold - but one had not been collected! The purchaser had changed his mind. Skipper (as I later called him) took one look at me and decided I would do.....and that was me hooked on Border Collies for ever more!

1981 saw the next addition - a son of Skipper called Glen. He was a dark Red and White dog with the heart of a lion. He began the love of Red collies... and I have always had at least one Red from that day to this! Skipper and Glen were just pets, although I did a bit of local obedience (fairly successfully) with Skipper. He even came 10th in the only 'proper' Beginners class I entered at the local Championship Obedience show.

The early nineties saw me acquiring a few Rare Breed sheep (Manx Loaghtan) - not for my dogs, or sheepdog training - just because I liked sheep! At first I kept the dogs well away from the sheep but then found, as the sheep numbers increased, that I really needed a dog to help. I hadn't a clue how to train a sheep dog but was lucky to be given Bella when the elderly shepherd at Toddington Manor Farm retired. She was a help most of the time, but when the pressure was on she would disappear and hide, or run back to the car. Glen soon came to the rescue - she was the brains and he was the brawn! For a while they worked well together, but Glen was getting very old so I decided I would need to get another dog to help.

That's where Rosie came in. Rose was a small Red and White bitch, quite fox like to look at (although a much better colour!) She was dual registered Rose (ISDS) and Rose of Tamarsh (KC). She was a bit young to start on the sheep when she first arrived and also the sheep were heavy in lamb so I took her to a local Agility class (which later became Dordale Club - we were proud to be Founder members of the club) She went on to do as well as I was capable of - winning out of what would now be Grade 1, and being a consistent team member for Rugby DTC - including being in the finals at Birmingham in the Team event, and a finalist in one of the Classics at Dogs in Need. She could be relied on to turn in clear rounds in nearly every class she entered even though she was not very fast.

Rosie also became very useful with the sheep - even though I still did not really know much about training a sheep dog! I decided to breed from Rosie and put her to a local farmer's dog - which went back to several very good dogs, in particular J.R Thomas's International Supreme Champion Craig. She produced a litter of seven big, strong pups - 6 dogs and 1 bitch. I ended up keeping two of the dogs - and that was the start of the Guildenmore Kennel name.

So, why Guildenmore? At the time that the pups were born I was living in a Leicestershire village called Gilmorton. I had read that the name Gilmorton was derived from the fact that there was a lot of the plant Golden Rod growing in the area in years gone by - giving it the nick name of the Gil-den Moor. You will see how easily that became not only Gil-mor-ton, but also Guilden-more.

Those two dogs are probably the best known of any dogs I have had. Moss won me out of Starters (Grade 2) in Agility (with the first clear round he ever did!), competed regularly in Flyball teams (including representing Rugby DTC at Crufts), pretended to do Obedience, played at Heelwork to Music, Gained his CDEx, UDEx, WDEx and TD(Opens) thus qualifying to work Ticket in Working Trials (only stopped by Foot and Mouth), gained a few places in the show ring and competed regularly at Crufts in the W/T Dog class. In addition to this he was an excellent, if rather enthusiastic worker with the sheep - oh how I wish I had known how to train a sheepdog in those days!

Ben enjoyed Agility although he only ever got a few placings in competition. His forte was competition Obedience where he won me out from Pre Beginner - Test B and C. He was also a member of the Winning or Runner Up teams on the Isle of Man on many occasions. At the end of his career he competed in the YKC Advanced Obedience with a young handler, qualifying for Crufts two years running and coming 2nd on both occasions. He also competed in Heelwork to Music on many occasions - always with great enthusiasm! (He was quite well known for doing a half twisting back somersault as he tried to nip my arm when supposed to be doing a twist!!) Ben also qualified to work Ticket in Working Trials and had gained the qualification TD (thus gaining his Stud Book number). Unfortunately Foot and Mouth and injury prevented him gaining his Ex for TD. Ben also competed regularly in the W/T Dog class at Crufts - gaining a particularly pleasing 5th place in a strong class of 12 in 2003.

Perhaps though the greatest achievement for both of these dogs was to be amongst the small number of dogs who have gained the Platinum Award in the MBCC Utility Challenge!

Well, although Ben is still here he is now a very old dog. He will be 16 on the 15th June! Since these two - who really were the foundation of my pack, there have been lots of others '...of Guildenmore' but it was only two years ago that I bred my second litter of true Guildenmores. Again there were seven pups - 6 dogs and 1 bitch, and again I have ended up keeping two of them - the bitch G. Linnhe and a dog G. Sam. They are by Bobby Dalziel's Int.Sup.Ch. Joe out of Astley Bracken.

These days I am devoting all of my time and efforts to training my dogs for Sheepdog Trials. I recently had my first 'proper' placing in a Nursery Trial and have been making steady progress. I currently work with three dogs - Astley Bracken, Astley Frost and Tim, although I have several youngsters coming on (not least Guildenmore Sam). Bracken was the first bitch to pass the SBCHT and Tim has also gained this qualification. The latest member of the pack is a dog pup whom I have named Moss (I hope he will follow in the paw prints of old Moss!)

He is very nicely bred for working - his father is Ricky Hutchinson's Dual Int.Brace Ch. Roy and his mother is a bitch by Int.Sup.Ch.Joe.

As I look over my Border Collies today I see a pack of fit, strong and healthy...but very diverse dogs. Coats and ears all different - although the majority tend towards smooth coats and prick ears! Do I care? No - they may not be show dogs but, just like those first two Guildenmores, they are versatile and fit for function.

Angela Hughes

Raduno Border Collie IBC. 22nd April 2012



I was very pleased to accept your invitation to judge your Club Show on 22 April 2012 at Rozzalupi a beautiful venue in rural Tuscany. I received a large entry and excellent hospitality at your very well run show. I was aided in the ring by two very competent stewards, I thank them for their assistance.

I take my judging appointments very seriously and my decisions are made with a clear understanding of the Border Collie Breed Standard. Therefore I was looking for a Border Collie with flowing lines and a

balanced outline that was alert and full of life.

I believe a Border Collie can be of any size within the standard but must be balanced in profile. I prefer a Border Collie of medium size with moderate bone. The beauty of a Border Collie is to watch it gait effortlessly and tirelessly, free and easy that would aid it in the work it was bred for. I was looking for feminine bitches and masculine males without coarseness.

The judging system in Europe is very easy to understand. An Excellent grading means that a dog in the eye of the judge is the best example and closest to the breed standard and to receive this grade is NOT the right of all exhibits.

We all have personal preferences and values. The fashion of extremes is very far from our Breed Standard and dogs with excessive bone and coat may look nice but they do not conform to the Border Collie Breed Standard.

When judging I found most temperaments were excellent and presentation good.

My Best Male and BIS was Italian Champion Jumpingriver a 2 year old of medium size with moderate bone, balanced in profile with good angulations front and rear, nice feet, good head, mouth and eye. Presentation was excellent with a clean coat and teeth. When moving he was sound and when gaiting he moved freely and tirelessly with correct reach and drive.

I found three other fine males, 1st and 2nd in Open and my Junior class winner.

I will follow their progress with interest.

The bitches as always had more depth of quality. My Best Bitch and BOS was Caught A Wish At Pic Pokey, a young lady from the





Intermedia Class. She oozed breed type and was very feminine, perfectly balanced when stood, with correct bone for size. She moved soundly and gaited freely and tirelessly she gave the impression she could go all day. Not in the best coat but enough for me.

My Best Puppy was from the Baby Class, Border Bay Olympic Games, just four months

old. This little chap was perfectly trained and this won him this award, he was handled so expertly, he moved soundly and gaited well, a credit to his owner handler.



I wish your Club continued success and I hope to see you all again soon.

Bob Tunncliff

A Letter from Holly - Lydeardlea Lavenders Blue

You have asked for articles and wins. I haven't got many of the latter but thought you might be a little interested in a short letter about my exploits.

As a puppy I was taken to breed shows because they say I am beautifully bred with English parents, lovely head great structure and superb movement. I did really well as a puppy. However a well known showing friend of master told him that everything was stacked against me- I `m blue (I think, I've got lovely silver knickers and silver tips on my ears), I'm slow maturing cos I'm English, I like to occasionally flag my tail (well why not!), and to cap it all I've got a handler who is totally unknown. Apart from all that I really don't enjoy having some total stranger touching me up (well what respectable girl would put up with that!). May be when I am grown up (if ever I do), I may have another go.

My mum always wanted me to do obedience, parts of which I really enjoy like retrieve, send away, recall, scent and surprisingly I can cope with the stays. I do however find heelwork a touch boring but Di our trainer worked really hard to jazz me and mum up a bit and I think I am getting a little better. Everyone was in total shock (I don't know why – they have no faith in me!) when a letter came from the kennel club saying that I had qualified for the KC Special Pre beginners semi finals at Earls Court London in November- what about that! I was amazingly good – had a brilliant recall and very nearly qualified for Crufts – whatever that is- Di and Nikki came up to see me and it was a great day even though I walked through the gate without being called! – still we can't all be perfect can we!

Master thought that agility might be quite fun and not too serious and I started going for lessons around 3 years ago. There is no doubt that Mum and Di's work with the obedience has helped enormously – they have done the hard work and Master and I are having the fun. We started going to shows about 18 months ago. Last year was our first full competition year. We had an amazing season and although I say it myself, despite having a slow mixed up old pilot, I think I have done quite well we got 38 clear rounds and 16 trophy placings including 6

firsts and going up 2 grades. Now you showing guys might think that's not much good, but nearly all my classes have over 100 dogs, and they are mostly collies like us. I came 2nd in one class out of 125 dogs and another collie beat me by 400ths of a second – now that's just a blink of an eye!! I'm in the Tuffley Agility Club team and the other day I won the agility class and was awarded the Starter Dog of the Year at the club AGM – whatever that is and the Agility dog of the years in the West of England Border Collie Club –wow is this fun. Mind you its jolly hard work trying to train the pilot - we have brill trainers at the club but I have to take him about 3 times a week to keep him up to scratch but they do despair sometimes when he flings his arms all over the place and I get so confused - it's not surprising that I bark out of total confusion and frustration!!

We did have a real highlight at MBCC agility show when he did get his act together and we did a lovely clear round and I was proud to see Uncle Bob Littlethorn (my dad's master) watching - he seemed so pleased.

So if there are any collies out there with a bit of time on their hands looking for fun, stimulation, and a real challenge then its agility for you. One proviso – you will however need a young, very fit, active, pilot who can keep up, remember the course at speed, knows his left from his right, and is not dyslectic! Mine fails on all counts!

Good luck to you all

Love,

Holly

Saving Sage

K-9 Sage is a 13.5 year old Border Collie born in the UK and bred by Bill and Prue Welsh.

Lydearlea Desert Song AKC CD, FEMA certified, NNDDA certified, AKA K-9 Sage.

Sage has proven herself to be a multi-faceted canine hero. I began training Sage for disaster response when she was only ten weeks of age. Her intelligence and enthusiasm for training enabled Sage to be pre-qualified to take the Federal Emergency Management Agency disaster dog evaluation at only one year old. Per FEMA regulations, she had to wait until she was eighteen months old to take the evaluation. Sage passed the FEMA Canine Readiness Evaluation on her first attempt, a difficult feat for a dog of any age. K-9 Sage was only two years old when her country first called on her to serve at the Pentagon in the aftermath of 9/11. There she gave the alert on a pile of rubble. Her keen search abilities resulted in the discovery of the remains of the terrorist who had flown the airliner into the Pentagon. Soon after serving at the Pentagon, I began cross training Sage for cadaver and forensic evidence. In addition to searching for lost children and adults as a wilderness search dog, K-9 Sage has been called upon to assist city, state and federal law enforcement agencies throughout New Mexico and Texas in homicide cases. In 2005 K-9 Sage and I were flown to Aruba where they spent a month searching for missing teenager Natalee



Holloway. Hurricane Katrina took everyone by surprise and once again K-9 Sage was out the door on mission to Mississippi. Hurricane Rita hit Beaumont, Texas shortly after Katrina and Sage was summoned again to the Gulf. It was 2007 and the US Army requested assistance in finding several missing soldiers. Two of the missing were the result of an insurgent ambush at a check point just outside of Baghdad. In September of 2007, Sage and I found ourselves



on our way to Iraq where we spent nearly six months searching for our MIA's. K-9 Sage displayed exceptional courage under the most dangerous conditions, searching farm fields, homes and industrial areas in a war zone, in hopes of bringing closure to the families of MIA's. Versatile Sage became as comfortable flying in a Blackhawk Helicopter as she did riding in her car at home. Sage found human remains, but unfortunately not those of our soldiers. However, Sage's canine presence provided emotional

support for the troops and a welcome respite from the ever present stress of living in a war zone. Sage was always willing to serve as some warm fur to cry into or an exuberant play partner if that was what was needed for a soldier far from home.

In November of 2009 Sage was diagnosed with two types of cancer both in her chest. She has had three major surgeries to remove the tumors. Both cancers are very rarely seen in dogs and because of their type, rarity and location they are believed to be the result of working in so many toxic sites during her service to our country.

The bronchial alveolar carcinoma has cost her two lung lobes and a thymoma has cost her one of her two phrenic nerves that control her diaphragm. Still, Sage remains active and full of life. To watch her chase after her coveted Frisbee, you would never know that she has lost so much lung function or that she is still fighting the cancer. Today Sage is a survivor.

As a result of her fight for life and the lack of support for our nation's hero dogs, we have formed a foundation that is dedicated to the support of those dogs that serve our communities and our nation in the areas of Search and Rescue, Police Dogs and Military Working Dogs. These hero dogs need our support when they become injured, ill or simply too old to work.

The Sage Foundation For Dogs Who Serve helps to pay for cost prohibitive medical care for our hero dogs. Through the Sage Foundation, Sage's spirit of service will continue to help dogs for many generations to come.

For more information please visit: www.sagefoundationfordogs.org

Some of Sage's awards are:

- 2002 Milagro Award, presented by Ali MacGraw
- 2002 AKC ACE Humane Fund Award, Honorable Mention
- 2008 New Mexico Veterinary Association Hall Of Fame Award
- 2009 AKC Award for Canine Excellence, Humane Fund Award, Honoree

In 2011 Sage won the American Humane Association Hero Dog Award in the Search and Rescue category. It was a Hollywood event that was televised on national television. The Hero Dog Awards show in Beverly Hills was the star studded "Red Carpet" event. Strangely, while I thought I would be trying to get some pictures of the stars, many of Hollywood's biggest stars were actually asking me if they could get a picture of them with Sage! On this night, one of America's biggest stars in Hollywood was a little British Border Collie!





Shortly after returning from Hollywood, we were invited to Washington DC for an event on Capitol Hill to be honored by the US Congress. The event was televised on several news channels as "War Heroes On Both Ends cOf The Leash". Sage and two other dogs were given a "Congressional certificate of Recognition" for their service to the country at 9/11 and the war in Iraq. Out of the three dogs honored on Capitol Hill that day, Sage was the only one that served our country at both 9/11 and the war in Iraq.

In early April 2012, Sage attended North Carolina State University School of Veterinary Medicine for their annual Open House. We set up search scenarios for some 600-700 spectators. She preformed her work flawlessly and was such a huge hit that we were invited back for next year's event.

Two weeks later we were in Denver, Colorado as guests of honor for a fund raiser. The "OneCure" event

was for cancer research. While in Colorado, Sage's doctors thought that it would be a good time to run some follow up tests.

Sage was looking and feeling wonderful so there seemed to be no reason for concern.

The blood test showed that her calcium was very high and if not treated immediately, she would go into renal failure. Within days to weeks it would have killed her. The X rays revealed that the cancer was back. Sage is now being treated medically with chemo to hopefully slow down the progression of the cancer and we have managed to bring her calcium down to normal levels with medications.

Today Sage is enjoying life playing Frisbee and we are setting up short searches for her. When she knows that we are about to play the "search game" you can see what great joy that it brings to her. She still loves to work and play!

Our time is not over yet but I know that quality time is running short for my sweet girl so we are determined not to waste a moment of it.

I thought about a "bucket list" but I got stuck as to what to put on it. Sage and I have traveled all over the United States, we have traveled to seven other countries and together we have experienced disasters and war. We have walked the Red Carpet with Hollywood's stars and we have been honored in Washington DC on Capitol Hill. We have slept in the desert sands of Iraq and at the Beverly Hilton in Beverly Hills CA. Sage and I have experienced more of life than most people will ever share with another person. So, what can I put on that "bucket List" that we haven't already done? After long thought I think that dogs don't really care where we go just as long as we are doing it together. Dogs enjoy just being with us and doing the things that we do. So, we will do the things she enjoys the most. We will chase Frisbees, go on hikes and play the search game. She will get belly scratches and eat treats for dinner if it pleases her. How lucky I am to have been blessed with this beautiful, brave and brilliant Border Collie.



B. Diane Whetsel and Sage

The Story Of Mynx - Chikaramor Born Performer

Mynx was born on 12th January 2010 by "Chyna" (Orient Cracker by Chikaramor JW AW and SH CH Littlethorn Galaxy, "Posh"). This was a mating I had been waiting for, not really sure of the outcome but waiting eagerly in anticipation.

The pups were born, a litter of 5, 3 girls and 2 boys, all born within 3 hours and no problems with Chyna or any of the puppies at all. They all grew at a good pace and Mynx was as big as the "big" boys from the beginning. She was always the one to do things 1st and would let you know she was "here" by her presence.

At about 5 weeks she was already picking up the clicker, not that I was actually training any of the pups but the fact that she was so responsive and willing to learn.

At this point I had not decided which little girl to keep myself, and it was between Indya (the one I did keep) and Mynx. I had a home for the other pup abroad, to do agility and breed showing and eventually decided that Mynx would be so "up for it" in any work discipline she was introduced to, that she would be the one to go.

On the eve before their microchipping at 7 weeks old, Mynx developed a little rash under her belly towards the back end. She was fine, still eating well, lively, etc. but when we went for the microchip installation I mentioned it to the vets. They believed it was a little rash from an allergic reaction to something, although I did not know what I had done differently. We did not chip Mynx and she was given some antibiotics but over the course of the next few days she got progressively worse. Back at the vets, she was given some different antibiotics and by this time she was covered all underneath her belly and round the backs of her legs and bum with sores.

After about 7 days of this and none of the antibiotics and anti-inflammatories had made any difference to her, she was now covered head to toe in sores, she was not eating and she was shaking constantly in pure pain. We (the vets and I) could do nothing to alleviate her suffering and had no idea what else to do, so on the Monday evening we took her home after further painkillers. Darren & I made the decision that if she was no better in the morning we would let her go, as it was so distressing to see her in so much pain. I knew the vets were also upset as they did not know what else to do.

So Tuesday morning we go back to the vets and Lara (the vet) decided to try a very strong steroid, based on the illness being something to do with Puppy Strangles, "Juvenile Pyoderma". It was agreed that we would leave Mynx with them so they could monitor her after the steroid injection.

After nervously waiting for a few hours for a call back from the vets, we eventually got one saying that Mynx appeared to be improving and certainly letting everyone know she had a voice.

We picked her up in the afternoon with a course of 8 weeks steroids with regular visits to the vets to monitor her, but within days she was a different dog. We had to wean her off the steroids gradually over the weeks, but her recovery was amazing.

The only thing we think that has affected her now, is that she was not be as big as she as going to be (still 18"). Then came the time to find her a new suitable home after her treatment had finished. I could have had plenty of homes for her but needed to make sure we found the right one as she was a "proper" collie. I knew she would need lots of stimulation and exercise and Darren was very attached to her, but with keeping Indya as well, we both knew it would be hard work.

Thankfully, Alan from our agility club, although not looking for another dog at the time, decided they would like her. This suited me as I would see her every week and I knew that Alan & Debbie would stimulate and meet all her needs. So at 15 ½ weeks old she went to them and neither of them have looked back. Mynx has proved to be the superstar and little fighter we always knew she was.

In her 1st agility weekend, she won her first Grade 3 class (over 250 dogs entered) and since then she has now qualified to compete in Championship Agility classes. So from the end of July 2011 till the beginning of April 2012 (with 2 months off from being spayed) she has gone from grade 3 to grade 7, with over 30 wins and countless 2nds & 3rds also.

She has just competed in her first agility Championship class and if dad hadn't fallen over and Mynx went to check if he was okay, they would have done well. She has also just tried out for the FCI World Agility Championships and was the youngest dog there to compete and although did not qualify, held her own in the classes and just needs some more experience.

Not bad for a "show bred" collie and one that was hours from death. I am so proud of you Mynx and Alan of course.



Sue Morley

Short Story Competition

MBCC invites you to submit short stories for inclusion in the Border Heartbeat!

In the manner of the Model T Ford (you can have any colour as long as it's black), your story can be on any topic - as long as there's a Border Collie theme!

Prizes for 1st, 2nd & 3rd place respectively will be an MBCC fleece, sweatshirt & polo shirt.

The main prize winners are guaranteed publication but MBCC reserves the right to publish those we think deserving, over the next few issues of this newsletter. So - what are you budding authors waiting for? Put pen to paper, or typing fingers to keyboard & submit your entries to either of the Editors by October 7th (the date of our Open Show / BCOTY). Winners will be announced & 1st place published in the winter edition of Border Heartbeat.

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