

Canadian
Cardigan
org
Club

NEWSLETTER

Volume 11, Number 2

June 1990

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SPECIALTY - 1990

It is finally all systems go! We apologize for the delay but the Canadian Kennel Club has had some key personnel changes and our files seemed to hit the rough going. It took four phone calls to convince them that they had not sent out written confirmation of our judges. When our obedience trial was listed in the official pages it was listed as a specialty trial only and not the all breeds trial for which we had applied. Now we have our premium lists ready only a month later than intended. For those who feel that they might like to wager their dog's chances and who have never entered before, the information on the entry form must match the information on the registration certificate. If you have any questions, call Sherry Saunders and she will help you out. (Some puppies and American dogs may not yet have CKC numbers. They are entered as "listed" dogs.)

Markham Kennel club and the Rottweiler Club have been very generous in sharing their weekend and venue with us. We hope that those who come will support the entries at these shows and trials.

--N.B. THE CLOSING DATE FOR MARKHAM ENTRIES IS EARLIER THAN OURS.--
Since the clubs are using a professional secretary who may be handling other shows their lead time is longer.

We do hope that even if you are not entered, that you will join us as spectators, attend the annual general meeting and finish off the day with the barbecue at Charlie and Fanny's place. For those coming we would appreciate some notice, especially those who plan on camping at our place. We plan on having an up-date bulletin to go with the show entry IDs with maps and so forth and to all members.

Our judges this year are drawn from the ranks of Cardigan friends. Joan Coyle, our obedience judge, has been known to Charlie and myself and the obedience fraternity for as long as we have been in dogs. She is friendly and encouraging. Our breed judge, Steve Gladstone, has been breeding Cardigans with his wife, Marieanne, under the Aragorn prefix since the mid-seventies. In fact they made their first trip to Canada for the CCCC first booster show in 1977. They have been regular participants ever since. Mary Hobbs, our sweeps judge, is a CKC licensed judge for groups 1

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and 6, but along the way she has bred some cardigans and will always stop to watch one go by. We are glad that they will be with us and are looking forward to the events.

Now for the tough stuff! We are running the obedience trial and the specialty as independent functions because the CKC states that if we wish to maintain our show and trial privileges that we worked so carefully to obtain through our sanction matches, then we have to exercise periodically our privileges. Actually there is a considerable satisfaction in doing this. It gives the day a more special feeling. BUT it requires some willing bodies. There is equipment to set up and take down at the end. Obedience will need some helpers as ring stewards - the judge and superintendent will brief you. Do not panic.- Sherry could use some help in giving out armbands. The trophy chairmen often need some extra help.(At our first specialty this involved taping the trophies to the table because of the brisk breeze.) If you can assist, let Sherry know or contact the person in charge and we will involve you. Remember involvement is so much more fun than just watching!

For those of you who have been with the club a few years, you will know a couple of our specialty traditions. From our first specialty, the members have donated the prizes for the sweepstakes winners. There are four placings in each class with a total of six classes, an overall winner and the best of opposite sex. The prizes are in the nature of mementos rather than big ticket items. In many cases they were member handicrafts or items made by members friends. Some have featured cardigans, others have had no breed orientation but have been cherished none the less. Please save Shelly Camm from chewed nails, heart failure and nervous anxiety and let her know what you can give. We have not solicited cash donations to the trophy fund preferring this more distinctive approach. We do have a raffle - tickets will be mailed with the next bulletin and may be returned by mail or brought with you to the show. Again the donations for this have ranged from a sheepskin to the ornamental jug that did not go with the decor in the new house and the homemade herb vinegars. Not the same as winning the 649 but your odds are better.

Key names and phone numbers are in the premium lists. Please call someone about something.

This summer is not turning out quite as planned. Both Charlie and Sherry assured me that I could go on a visit to my family in England - my first in eleven and a half years. Then it turned out that the US national Cardigan specialty in Atlanta would coincide with our own all-breed show at Aurora. Charlie went; another club member was promoted to assistant show superintendent to back me up. The Aurora show went on. At some point in the winter Charlie announced that the US national Norwegian Elkhound specialty backed by a regional specialty was to be in Oregon so the extra vacation was arranged and he went from Atlanta to Portland and home again with his cardis, his elkhounds all loaded in our little van and towing our little trailer that Karen Harbert refers to as the Varikennel P800. This took him a month. He arrived home on Saturday, June 23. He leaves again on Wednesday for a WHO conference in Geneva on rabies, back on July 7th and out to Denver for the 10th. I shall be away from June 29th to July 21st on the trip that was planned before this all materialized. Sherry Saunders will be holding the fort here - whelping bitches 'n all! In the three

summers she has been with us she has learned to handle anything so if you call for any reason I'm sure you will find her helpful if a little frazzled.

Charlie ,I'm sure, will give us a full report on his US adventures in the next bulletin if he ever manages to stay home long enough. As it is, this time you have only me if we are ever going to get this mailing out.

Bless Patrick for his file articles on which we can draw to round things out.

Fanny Edwards

One Person's Opinion:

THE CARDIGAN CORGI FRONT:

- - Patrick Ormos

Many people seem confused when speaking about the Cardigan "front". Despite much myth, it is not supposed to be that wildly divergent from the sound front of any other "dwarf" (i.e. achondroplastic) breed.

In looking at the Cardigan Corgi it is necessary to consider the "front" from two different points of view. The first view-point is from straight ahead, looking at the dog's head and full frontal view. The second view-point is from the side, looking at the profile of the dog. We do this to ensure that we will indeed look at the two different parts of the total front assembly, that is, the radius & ulna, and the lower bones (i.e. the elbows down), and the scapular and humerus bones, as well as the joints (i.e. the elbows up).

ELBOWS DOWN:

From the full frontal position the Cardigan has a shoulder blade which is slightly closer together at the top end than at the shoulder joint, and which again comes in just slightly at the elbow. I can not stress enough that this should not be exaggerated. But if you go lightly over a correctly built dog's front you will find that there is indeed an angling in away from the shoulder joint.

The columns of bone from the elbows down are curved around the deep and capacious chest of the Cardigan Corgi...if everything fits together correctly you will not see a bowed front because it has fitted snugly around the curved ribs. A really nice front does not show daylight between the radius/ulna and the ribcage. It all fits together neatly. And there is a "prosternum" which juts out in front of the whole set up.

The wrists (i.e. the pasterns) will be straight ahead. NO. THEY WILL NOT BE CURVED EAST AND WEST. This is a definite fault. East and West is a fault in Cardigans, too!

The feet, especially in larger, heavier males, will turn out slightly. The new standard suggests 30 degrees. Measure that with a protractor some time. That's not a great deal of turn out. Once again, some of these dogs with excessive turn out are not "typey Cardigans", they are East and West, or fiddle-fronted, or just plain unsound dogs!

Now, here comes the acid test: how does the dog move? When this Cardigan moves towards you (the judge), does s/he move with those front feet straight and inclining towards the center (they would single-track if they had longer legs)? Or are the feet still moving all over the place, are they still curved way out so that the dog waddles towards you? Is

that front assembly so wide (a very common fault in Cardigans right now) that they can't get their feet out in front, producing a faulty parallel movement? The over wide front produces a gait which may look "clean" coming at you...but which is as faulty as a German Shepherd which comes at you with a parallel-track gait. (N.B. The Cardigan does not move the same way that a Pembroke does. The back length ratios are quite different, and the tail carriage (were the Pembroke to keep their's) is quite different.)

ELBOWS UP:

For this view we move around to the side of the animal, and the profile view. Our focus changes from a concentration on the lower leg (elbow down) to a concentration on the upper leg (elbow up). Needless to say, we still look at the other parts of the leg assembly, even while we are concentrating on a specific portion.

The Cardigan shoulder assembly seems to be the most neglected part of the animal. When Cardigan breeders get together and talk about their dogs, it is always the frontal view that they consider. Somehow we rarely talk about shoulder-blades, and upper arms. And yet, these are of primary importance if we are going to work on improving movement in Cardigan. Soundness in movement does not only refer to being "clean" coming and going. There must also be some reach and drive if the animal is going to cover any ground at all. The shoulder-blade and upper arm, their lengths, their angles, and their placement will tell us how much reach our dogs can have.

A Cardigan needs a good lay-back of shoulder-blade, I would argue for the theoretical ideal of 45 degrees. Indeed I have measured some Cardigans with lay-backs which approached that ideal, and which had outstanding front movement. I recognize that most of our dogs do not have that kind of lay-back...but that gives us a goal to work for, doesn't it. The upper arm and the shoulder-blade should be approximately equal in length. Again, most Cardigans that I see are very short in upper arm. This is a serious structural fault, because it is so difficult to breed out (that is a breeder's opinion of how one evaluate's some faults). This gives them a very incorrect (if flashy) hackney action. A really good mover in front is not flashy, rather they just float over the ground, reaching out in front and almost pulling it underneath them as they travel over it. It is a remarkably beautiful sight.

Of great importance to that indefinable notion "type", but often overlooked, is the placement of the shoulder-blade and the upper arm. The upper rear edge of the shoulder-blade should rest on the sixth rib. When this happens, with a good lay-back, you will suddenly discover that your dog has a wonderful length of neck, and that there is a tremendous prosternum in front of the shoulder assembly, and that the dog has a moderately high wither. It is really rather nice to see all that appear as the shoulder blade gets out of the way and gets back into position, instead of being up on the neck, giving the appearance of a short stuffy neck, flat chest, and very high wither (because the tip of the shoulder blade is sticking up, instead of the spines of the vertebrae).

This short article has been meant to be a sharing of what I, as one breeder, look for when I look at a Cardigan front. I hope that it will spark some thought and discussion. This is only one person's opinion. What do you think?
