

Canadian
Cardigan
Corgi
Club

NEWSLETTER

Volume 12 Number 2

June 1991

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LAST MINUTE SPECIALTY DETAILS

There were the usual last minute discussions over who should be entered but our entries were hand delivered to the Chateauguay show superintendent who conveniently was down our way for the Labrador Owners Specialty show. On a quick phone call to the show secretary tonight she told me that we looked as if we had a good entry although sweepstakes may be low. She is looking forward to seeing more long-tailed corgis than she has ever seen before. We are certainly looking forward to an enjoyable weekend.

Saturday starts with an all-breed championship show when cardigans will be judged by Patrick Ormos. Sweepstakes will be judged on Saturday evening followed by a "wine and cheese" (loosely interpreted if the past is any guide) hosted by the Canadian contingent. Sunday will see the specialty judged in the morning, a luncheon generously donated and hosted by the Yankee Welsh Cardigan Corgi Club, the Annual General Meeting and then the regular all-breed show. Monday will seem positively relaxed with just the regular show but then we will be making tracks for home.

For members and friends who wish to join us for the day the address is The Rene Cavalier Arena, Brisbois Ave, Chateauguay Que. I have been there twice before but do not trust myself to give directions. A phone call to Diane Edwards (no relation) (514) 825-2824 or Valerie Walters (514) 764-3636 will get you directions - try to call a few days ahead as these will be two busy ladies during the show.

Marilyn Boissoneault has been thrilled with the response with trophies. A full list of donors will be in the show catalogue. She did a super job last year and has been building inventory since last fall. Special thanks to the Yankee Club for their offer to cover the high scoring Cardigan in obedience.

THIS 'N THAT FROM HERE 'N THERE

From Treasurer Chris Edwards - " Best wishes for the Cardigan specialty 1991. I'm sorry that I can't be there with you but I am sending best wishes for a happy time for you all. I'll be thinking of you all as Perry (Ch. Finnshavn's Peredur ab Pencader CDX) represents the breed during our performances with Superdogs 1991 in Ontario and Quebec during the months of June through September doing agility, flyball and precision drills. Congratulations to all winners and participants in the 1991 specialty."

From Dru and Bill Hites of Buffalo - " Our four corgis greeted our new-born son, Sasha, with wagging tails and warm sentiments. Mother Flynn (Markwell's Fleur Forsyte) promptly staked out the area under the bassinet as her own. Finnshavn John Reed who travels with us everywhere was the first person other than Mama & Papa whom the baby recognized. All of us have been pleased to find that a baby can be as much fun as a corgi."

Congratulations to you both. Rather explains why we haven't heard much from you in a while. Interesting that we have two "baby" contributions this time. News from Nina Mohr and Jeff Bertholet details what we have always believed about the cardigan as a family dog. Their letter is reproduced further on.

Thank you to Barb Hoffman for her thoughts on the Cardigan standard. Keep those ideas coming.

Puppies - puppies - puppies - puppies - puppies

by Aberwyvern's Wagner (blue) x Beckrow Black Madonna (black/white)
Contact Gary Godding 613-837-9152

by Ch. Phi-Vestavia Pirate Patch (brindle) x Ch. Markwell's Nora of Merrymoon (black/white)
Contact Barbara Hoffman 613-387-3973

by Ch. Davenith English Toffee (sable) x Ch. Finnshavn Here Is Trouble (Tri)
Contact Charlie MacInnes 416-640-6832

by Ch. Markwell's Peer Gynt (black/white) x Finnshavn Once In A Blue Moon C.D. (blue) Due Aug. 12th
Contact Sherry Saunders 416-640-6832

Welcome to the following new members

Janet Mowat 34 St. Clair Ave. E., Toronto Ont. M4T 1P4
Earl Heckman 4513 Lorraine St. Baton Rouge Louisiana 70805
Bill & Lynn Milton Box 115 Utterson Ont. POB 1M0
Pat Mertens 33 Valleywoods Rd. #1204 Don Mills Ont. M3A 2R7
Christine Adams R.R. #3 Waterford Ont.
Marlene Robidoux R.R. #2 Odessa Ont. KOH 2H0
Jean Vanier 25 De l'Aube Riviere St. Rose Quebec H7L 1B6

1 June 1991

Dear C.C.C.C.;

Dogs and children. The words bring to mind two distinct pictures. One is the stereotypical child and dog bounding joyously around a yard together, perhaps playing fetch with a ball or a stick. The other reviews horrifying newspaper headlines of babies and small children mauled, or even worse, killed, by their canine companions.

I have to admit I was apprehensive when we brought our baby home from the hospital, now almost 13 months ago. I did as much reading as I could about methods of introducing new family members to established pets. The most common method recommended introducing the baby to the dog on neutral territory, such as a park, and just letting the dog give the baby a good going-over. However, in the middle of January, I didn't think the park was our best option so we decided to just let the 'going-over' take place in our home and hope for the best. So when the time came, the three of us shuffled excitedly through the front door, Jeff went immediately to the kennel at the back of our house and let Quinn (our 4 year old blue merle male - alias Ch. Finnshavn's Jack Rabbit Blue, CD) and Wallis (our year old brindle female - alias Finnshavn's Rum Fox) out, and I unwrapped baby Ethan and put him on the floor and hovered cautiously overhead, not quite knowing what to expect.

Well, there was a flurry of fur, a lot of excited snuffling, a few wet kisses, I couldn't see the baby for a moment, and then ... they saw the cat. That was it. Baby ignored. I thought it was a bit of an anti-climax myself.

For the first few days, Quinn would bark when the baby cried. But soon the novelty wore off and life was pretty much back to normal.

Now, a year later, we're all getting along remarkably well. Wallis and Ethan actually play together. We can't quite figure out what the game is, it involves a great deal of running around, giggling and barking, but main thing, they are enjoying themselves. Quinn still ignores Ethan for the most part, except when Ethan throws the ball for him. Quinn does have one annoying habit though. Every time Ethan comes to Jeff or myself when we're relaxing in the living room, Quinn comes over and literally elbows him to the side (Ethan usually ends up on the floor) and demands to be petted. But as that's been the worst of it, I can consider myself lucky.

I have to say that based on our experience, I would whole-heartedly recommend Cardigans as family dogs to other people. However, despite the fact that I trust the dogs with the baby, I still take all the standard precautions; Ethan is not allowed near the dogs at feeding time (when he's old enough I plan to involve him in feeding both dogs). Ethan is not allowed to be rough with the dogs (he's

learned the term 'be nice' quite quickly), the dogs are not allowed to play with Ethan's toys (and vice versa), and I do not leave the three of them loose and unsupervised together - if I'm out of the room for a moment, Ethan goes in his playpen, if I'm gone for more than a few minutes, he comes with me.

XXXXXX

After 6 1/2 years in Ontario we've returned West, this time to Saskatchewan (we are originally from Winnipeg). We're living in the country (finally!!!) with ample room for the corgis to romp around in. Most of our property runs uphill (yes, there are hills in Saskatchewan [albeit few and far between]), and I'm rather amazed at how quickly those little legs have adjusted to the lay of the land! I guess it's all in the breeding! The only thing they haven't quite adjusted to is my brand new flock of 6 purebred chickens (I wonder if poultry shows are anything like dog shows?). One flew over the coop today and almost made it to heaven. Luckily I managed to grab the dogs (verbal commands were totally ignored in the heat of the moment) and lock them in the stable while I went chicken chasing. My poor juvenile hen is minus a few feathers, but other than that she survived the ordeal without obvious injury.

We're also fencing in the backyard, mostly for the sake of the dogs. We're quite close to the highway and Wallis occasionally runs down the hill onto the blacktop and doesn't understand why I find this unacceptable. This way I'll be able to leave them outside and not have to watch and worry every minute that she's loose. Ethan will benefit too, we've already bought him a sandbox that's just waiting to be set up!

Otherwise, life goes on as usual. We've started showing Wallis again, hoping to finish her Championship this year. We've brought Quinn out of retirement to offer her some competition. Unfortunately, he's doing better in the ring than she is! If there are any Cardigans in and about Regina, we'd love to hear from you, especially if you can offer some competition for Wallis. In addition, she is still in training at the Comp. Novice level. However, Wallis just isn't as keen as Quinn was and I find it rather slow going. However, I hope to work with her a bit more intensively this summer and we'll see how she does this fall.

For anyone wishing to contact us, we can be reached at:

Nina Mohr and Jeff Berthoiet
Box 109
Craven, Saskatchewan
S0G 0W0

(306) 731-3175

SOME THOUGHTS ON THE BREED STANDARD

Because the moratorium on breed standards is due to be lifted soon the February, 1990 CCCC Newsletter contained the current CKC breed standard, a proposed standard and the AKC standard for members comments and suggestions. Charlie suggested that we read them and try to visualize the ideal Cardi according to each. I took his advice and found it a very useful and enlightening exercise.

First of all, clearing my mind of preconceived ideas, prejudices and biases although an exercise I practice daily in my work, is quite another matter when one is emotionally involved with the object of scrutiny. This proved to be quite a challenge and how well I succeeded remains to be seen. (I suspect I am about to reveal my ignorance, but here goes anyway!) At any rate, the result of the exercise was that I could quite easily visualize the dog described in the AKC standard, much less so for the proposed CKC standard, and I had considerable difficulty envisioning the animal in the present CKC standard.

I then proceeded to ask several friends, some not dog people at all, some experienced breeders of other breeds and some prospective judges, to try the same exercise. Not surprisingly they reached the same conclusion I had; the AKC standard painted the most vivid picture of the breed while still leaving room for individual style. The current CKC standard got thumbs down and the proposed standard was described as better than the current one but still too vague.

As I understand it a breed standard is a "word picture" of the ideal specimen. If breeders and judges don't have as clear a picture as possible then the standard is not fulfilling it's function. Since the AKC standard most closely fulfils its function I would like to see it adopted with the following changes:

(1) COLOUR: I would add to this: "Black with or without tan "or brindle" points.

Also, unusual colours such as the ginger merle, dilutes, etc. occur naturally in the breed from time to time and I don't feel a correct specimen should be disqualified on the basis of colour alone, with the exception of the predominately white dog. I would support disqualification of these colours only if a relationship between colour and genetic problems exists or if evidence exists that points to a strong probability of such a relationship. At the same time I would, however add that preference be given to the traditional colours (red, sable, brindle, tri, blue), at least until more is known about the unusual colours. Can anyone shed some light on this for me?

(2) NECK AND BODY: Many of the people I spoke to asked me why a high tail set is a serious fault according to the AKC standard. I couldn't answer them. Personally I prefer the low tail sets for purely esthetic reasons although I have observed that most correct specimens also have lower tail sets. Observation and intuition tell me that there is probably a connection between structure and tail set at least in some cases. Again can anyone shed some light on this for me? If there is no structural or functional reason for seriously faulting high tail set then I would prefer high tail set be considered a fault, rather than a "serious fault". If there are sound reasons for it being seriously faulted then I would support the AKC standard as is.

(3) SIZE: I have no quarrel with the AKC standard here, in fact I'm glad to see weights and lengths specified. I just wanted to comment that over the years I've noticed a disturbing trend in several breeds, the "bigger is better" mentality. In my opinion it's been the ruination of several breeds in this country and I'd hate to see it happen to Cardis.

(4) TEMPERAMENT: To the AKC standard I would add; alert and intelligent, and with strangers somewhat reserved as adults.

Since changing the breed standard has very serious implications I don't think we should rush into a change for changes sake alone. However, I do feel that changes are necessary and that the way we go about it is as important to the outcome as what we do. I feel very strongly that we should strive for consensus (note I said "strive") and actively encourage any and all input. Because our membership is so widely dispersed the newsletter is the only vehicle by which we can accomplish this task, so I'd urge everyone to send Fanny your comments, suggestions, concerns, questions and opinions so that they can be public and so that all information can be considered. Everyone's input is important and valuable.

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

CANADIAN CARDIGAN CORGI CLUB

Held August 25, 1990, at Markham, Ontario

The meeting was called to order at 4:15 p.m. by the secretary.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Fanny Edwards, Charlie MacInnes, Lynn Ragsdale, Nancy & Bill Buckland, Robing Bruton, Chris Edwards, Barb Hoffman, Nicole Pitre, Marilyn Boissennault, Sherry Saunders, Virginia Volkman, Donna & Alan Morgan, Shelley Camm, Kerry & Janice Tesch, Nina Mohr, Jeff Bertholet, Sue Bain, Lauralee .

PRESIDENT'S REMARKS: Fanny thanked everyone for coming and for their support in terms of donations to the raffle and sweepstakes.

MINUTES OF THE 1989 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: Charlie moved that the minutes of the 1989 Annual General Meeting be accepted as read. Nina seconded. Motion carried.

BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES: Fanny noted that the joint letter she and Patrick had planned to submit to the CKC had not materialized. However, she announced that there was a petition on the spay/neuter proposal at the show and she asked that members remember to sign it.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Chris presented the Treasurer's Report.

Current account: 683.43

Savings account: 2,979.18

Marilyn moved that the Treasurer's Report be accepted as read. Shelley seconded. Motion carried.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT: Chris reported that there were 51 paid up members so far for 1990 and reminded those who had not renewed their membership to do so soon.

SHOW REPORT: Fanny announced that because of CKC rules governing the location of specialty shows the 1991 specialty would be held in Chateauguay, Quebec. She proposed to hold the sweeps and obedience on one day and the specialty the next day. She is looking into getting English judge, Gwen Moffatt for the specialty. It seems though that since this judge has recently moved to North America there is some question about her eligibility to judge. The CKC has not yet made a decision. Charlie informed the meeting that there is also the possibility of getting an Australian judge.

OLD BUSINESS: Fanny informed the meeting that the revision of the constitution had not gotten done this year. There was no resolution to this issue.

NEW BUSINESS: There was a discussion about finding homes for older and retiring dogs. It was suggested that if anyone knew or heard of people wanting to adopt these dogs they put the names, addresses and phone numbers in the newsletter and members could contact them.

Fanny announced that we needed a new director for the Western region and said that she would approach Vera Orr in B.C. to fill that position.

Charlie reminded everyone that comments and suggestions regarding the revision of the breed standard should be made soon and sent to Patrick.

Fanny discussed the need to have elections in the near future. She felt that a change of executive would give the newer members an opportunity to be more involved in the club and would give the members currently filling the executive positions a rest.

Chris suggested we look into the possibility of holding a herding instinct test in conjunction with the 1992 specialty. If we were to hold the specialty in southern Ontario Chris could make arrangements for stock, sheep or ducks, and would be willing to coordinate the test. The members were very enthusiastic about this proposal and it was suggested that we have a preliminary discussion at the 1991 Quebec specialty with Genie Bishop who is very knowledgeable in this area.

Nina suggested getting club jackets. A number of members expressed interest but wanted to know about the cost before committing themselves. Jeff volunteered to get a quote. That information will be put in the newsletter and a poll taken to indicate interest.

Fanny reminded everyone to send in information, articles, brags, stories, etc. to the newsletter. She would like to see more people contribute to it.

MOTION TO ADJOURN: Marilyn motioned for adjournment. Motion carried.

CANADIAN CARDIGAN CORGI CLUB

INCOME STATEMENT for MAY 30th 1991 :

Current Acct # 514997	
Balance forward Aug. 24th 1990	683.43
Paid up Memberships 1991 # 17 \	
at May 30th - 1990 Memberships/	176.00
Donations to Trophy Fund 1991	75.00
Bank Interest earned	60.92
Exchange on U.S. funds	39.53
Show Entries 1990 Specialty	1038.50
Proceeds of Raffle 1990	247.00
Refund of Insurance - Falkins Ins.	150.00
Transfer of Savings Acct.	83.50

Cost of Trophies 1990 Specialty	513.67
Judges Expenses 1990 Specialty	185.47
OVC Pet Trust Fund - donation	200.00
Ribbons & Regalia 1990	139.01
CKC Specialty fees remitted	129.00
Printing Stationary & Mailing costs	196.59
1991 CKC Recognition renewal	37.45
Bank Charges	7.10
Falkins Insurance	150.00
Reversal of 1990 Error [double entry]	18.00

TOTALS

1576.29 **2553.88**

Balance at May 30th 1991 **\$977.59**

Savings Acct. # 219408	
Balance forward Aug. 24th 1990	2979.18
Interest earned	163.21

Transfer of Funds to Acct. # 514997	83.50
	<u>83.50</u>
	3142.39

Balance at May 30th 1991 **\$3058.89**