



**NEWSLETTER JUNE 2000**  
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**Executive:**

- President:** Fern Hunt tel.: (780) 797-2408  
PO Box 280 waibourne@hotmail.com  
Tomahawk, Alberta T0E 2H0
- Vice-President:** Lore Lee Bruder tel.: (403) 627-5368  
PO Box 1444, Pincher Creek bluetrix@telusplanet.net  
Alberta T0K 1W0
- Secretary:** Karen Slutsken tel.: (905) 727-8445  
27 Allenvale Drive, Aurora  
Ontario L4G 6P5 "Slutsken Family" <slutsken@interlog.com
- Treasurer:** Al Alcock tel.: (867) 633-3758  
PO Box 20612, Whitehorse aalcock@hypertech.yk.ca  
Yukon Y1A 7W2
- Directors:**
- Atlantic:** Wendy Butler tel.: (902) 667-7641  
Box 197B, R.R.#4 w.butler@ns.sympatico.ca  
Amherst, N.S. B4H 3Y2
- Ontario:** Marilyn Boissonneault tel.: (613) 543-3435  
R.R.#3, Williamsburg Marilyn\_Watson@pch.gc.ca  
Ontario K0C 2H0  
(Also Newsletter editor)
- Prairies:** Heather Brennan tel.: (204) 582-9190  
944 Bannerman Ave., Winnipeg  
Manitoba R2X 1K5 heather.brenan@freepress.mb.ca
- B.C.:** Patricia McAvery tel.: (250) 656-4420  
717 Towner Park Rd., Sidney FAX: same as above  
B.C. V8L 5L7

## **NOTES FROM THE PRESIDENT'S DESK**

The last two "Dogs in Canada" magazines have provided an excellent array of articles dealing with a variety of subjects on dealing with our beloved pets and the summer season approaching. Unfortunately there still so many people that do not take the time to properly prepare themselves and then their pets suffer. Please take the time to check a vehicle's windows are open, not just yours; if you see an animal in it, it is already getting to that stage!

I especially enjoyed the article on packing your vehicle for travelling to the show circuit- did some one have us in mind? The countdown has started for our Specialty, the pictures only whet the appetite more, now it is up to as many of us that can make it there, to support and enjoy the efforts of our show chair person. See you there!

Fern

## **WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!**

Welcome to the following new, and in some cases returning, members: Mike and Lynn Bartsch of Whitehorse, Nancy and Bill Buckland from Michigan, Alyxandra Harvey-Fitzhenry of Toronto, David Hynes of Toronto, Maria Jeffrey of Newmarket, Anne and Hantford Lewis from Nova Scotia, Caren Martino from Michigan, Shaun McCann of Burlington, Billy Niklaus, Mrs. Alba Rideout of Kingston, Kathe Romeo from upper New York state, Sandra and Dave Simmons of Port Perry, Bobbi Thomas from Vermont, Scott and Linda White of Burlington, Paula Wilkie of Waterloo, and John Wolfe from Sault Ste. Marie. Welcome all of you to Canadian Cardidom!

## **WE HAVE A WEB SITE!**

Yes, folks, the Canadian Cardigan Corgi Club now has its very own website, thanks to our webmaster, Karen Harbert. Parts of the site are still under construction but there is a lot of information on our Millennium Specialty and other good stuff so check it out. You can find it at

<http://members.aol.com/cardicanada/CCCC.htm>

If you have information to add, contact Karen at [aelwydcwc@aol.com](mailto:aelwydcwc@aol.com)

## **2000 FUN DAY!**

This year's Cardigan Fun Day will be held on Thursday July 27, at Barb Hoffman and Ruth Lister's place near Elgin, Ontario. The Fun Day is an informal opportunity to get together with other Cardigan fanciers without the pressure of shows and schedules, to socialize, picnic and enjoy our Cardigans. Barb and Ruth live at 366 Davis Lock Road (that's on the Rideau Canal). If you are planning to attend, please bring lawn chairs, a pot luck dish, and of course, your Cardi. For more info, call (613) 359-5515.

## JEEPERS, CREEPERS: WHERE'D YOU GET THAT EYE?

One of the puppies from our last litter, a handsome black and white male we named Adam, was destined for a show home - until his eyes opened. For a few days I tried to ignore the nagging suspicion that one of his eyes was a little too blue to be true, but when he began to look like a miniature Siberian husky I was forced to face the facts: Adam has a blue eye, and was therefore due for a career change! And where, I wondered, had that blue eye come from?

The following was printed in the newsletter of the Cardigan Welsh Corgi Club of Greater San Diego some years ago. The author, Libby Babin, is a Sheltie breeder.

"There is nothing more shattering than to suddenly find a bright blue eye opening in a puppy that by all planning should have nothing but limpid brown eyes. The initial thought is that it is just the 'baby blue' and will go away in a few days, but with the passing weeks this blue eye becomes a brighter blue in shocking contrast to the other, brown eye.

Research shows that this sort of blue eye occurs in the approximate proportion of one out of sixteen from parents that carry the recessive genes for this blue eye; also that the merle gene is not in any way involved with the inheritance of this blue eye. Those two genes are inherited in an entirely different manner, the merle gene being an autosomal dominant and the blue eye being a polygenic recessive.

This blue eye does not appear as frequently as one could expect of the usual recessive quality because it depends on a polygenic mode of inheritance; that is, a blue eye does not appear unless there are more than one pair of recessive genes in a homozygous or pure state.

One dominant gene for dark eye will prevent the expression of the blue eye. The puppy must have four genes for the recessive quality in order to have a blue eye. The number of genes necessary for a blue eye to occur is theoretical at this point in research. We know it takes at least two pairs.

On specific breedings, referring to the charts, one out of sixteen, or one out of eight, or one out of four puppies can show the blue eye. (Ed. note: the charts were not reproduced with this article.) The sad part of it is that there is no way of telling who carries any of the recessives, as there is no expression of the quality unless all four recessives are there. The shade of brown present is inherited separately and is irrelevant.

Through inbreeding one can purify the desired dominants and eliminate unwanted recessives as long as the quality in question is dependent on just a single pair of genes, but this is NOT so for polygenic characteristics. For this blue eye a strain can be developed through close breeding, that is purified for both genes but could have the genetic formula of either AAbb or aaBB: the strain will remain static for many

generations as the family line breeding is continued. The two dominant genes assure that the blue eye will not occur, but that the two bb genes are being passed along just as consistently to assure the perpetuation of this recessive quality. At the first 'outcross' to another family that has arrived at the formula with the opposite dominant, the results will all be dark eyed and still give no hint of the recessive, but these puppies will all be heterozygous and have the formula AaBb, and we are once again back at our first diagram and with that at least the one-in-sixteen expectation.

All this adds up to the fact that this unwanted blue eye is genetically well-established in the breed; that a line that never produces the blue eye still can be carrying the genes for this quality; that it can and does reappear in the most unexpected places. If one wanted to go into serious 'housecleaning' to eliminate these recessives, they would wind up 'sweeping out' our best studs and bitches and we would still not be sure of any degree of success." (End of quoted article.)

In our case, the breeding of two black and white dogs (no blue merles involved in any way at all!), Eli and Becky, produced four puppies, only one of whom has the blue eye. Of course, we have no way of knowing which of the other puppies carries the recessive blue genes (sorry....I couldn't resist!)

## **FROM THE WHELPING BOX**

Puppies expected June 1, 2000. Reds and brindles. Can/AmCh. Phi-Vestavia Pirate's Patch (2 time CCCC National Speciality winner) x Ch. Merrymoon Devil Woman (WB, HoM, 1998 CWCCA National Speciality)

## **BRAGS**

Ch. Merrymoon Noblestar Hot Ice (Can/AmCh. Phi-Vestavia Pirate's Patch x Ch. Merrymoon Noblestar Enterprise), "Hannah", distinguished herself at the CWCCA National Speciality in Lancaster, PA by winning a large and very strong Bred By Exhibitor Bitch class. She went on to take Best Bred By In Show.(Last year at the supported shows in Virginia Beach VA, Hannah took back-to-back 5 point majors.) She was bred and is owned by Barb Hoffman and Patti Snider.

Merrymoon Noblestar Jacob (Mazara Merrymoon Reggae Bob x Ch. Merrymoon Devil Woman), "Sonny", won the 15-18 month male class in puppy sweeps and was 2nd in the 12-18 month class in regular classes at Lancaster. (2 weekends previously, his first time out, Sonny took back-to-back 5 point majors in Wichita, KS) Sonny was bred by Barb Hoffman and is owned by Barb Hoffman, Patti Snider and Jon Kimes.

Merrymoon Indomitable (Can/AmCh. Phi-Vestavia Pirate's Patch x Ch. Phi-Vestavia Unforgettable), "Ewok" (WB, BOS, BP at the CCCC 1999 National) took 3rd in the 15-18 month female class in puppy sweeps and 4th in the 12-18 month female class in regular classes at Lancaster. Something of a miracle in itself as she HATES shows and slinks around the ring making her topline look like a hammock! Ewok finished her

Canadian Ch. on May 12 at Arnprior and is now retired from the show ring, for which she is no doubt very thankful. She is free now to do what she adores, tracking! Ewok is bred and owned by Barb Hoffman.

Last but not least, Ruth's "Charlie", Ch.Merrymoon's Black Tie 'N Tails, CD, TD, ITD, CGC, (Can/Am Ch. Phi-Vestavia Pirate's Patch x Aelwyd's Flaming Ember) who was voted entertainer of the year at the CWCCA 1998 Agility Trials, completed the novice A course without a time fault BUT failed to qualify when he took the short cut and walked over the broad jump! That was the extent of his antics this year - everyone was disappointed after his uproariously funny performance in '98! Lord knows what Charlie has in mind for Ruth at the next trial! Charlie was bred by Barb Hoffman and owns Ruth Lister.

Submitted by Barb Hoffman

### **LOOKING FOR A PUPPY**

Roger Young, of Cambridge, Ontario, has a problem: his 11-year old son saw a tricolour Cardigan on the street and fell in love. The Youngs are looking for a tricolour puppy, preferably but not necessarily a male. Call (519) 658-5269.

### **ANNOUNCING THE RAFFLE!**

Once again, The Raffle is back! The annual raffle is the main fundraising event for the Club so we are looking to you for your support. Here's how it works: there are three raffle tickets enclosed with this newsletter. The tickets are 3 for \$2.00. Additional tickets are available if you wish. Write your name and telephone number on the back of the tickets and return them to Marilyn Boissonneault by August 10<sup>th</sup>. The raffle prizes will be drawn at the Specialty but you don't have to be present to win, we will pick out something nice and send it to you. You never know what lovely items will turn up as raffle prizes: I can recall everything from a Welsh cookbook (yummy) to camping stuff to Cardi-themed items of all sorts. But you can't win a prize without a ticket!

Of course, we also need raffle prizes! If you have something to donate send that along to Marilyn as well. (The van will be bumping its way to Prince Edward Island!)

### **LAST CHANCE TO RENEW MEMBERSHIPS!**

This is *absolutely* your last chance to renew your membership for 2000! You will find a handy tear-off renewal form on the back of the newsletter. Please take a minute or so and fill it out, write out a cheque, and send to Karen Slutsken.

Some of you received a "puppy membership" when you acquired a Cardigan from a Club member this year. We hope you have enjoyed receiving this newsletter, and that you will choose to stay with the Club. There are lots of ways for you to get involved in

the Club if you wish. And of course you will continue to receive this great newsletter! This is the first year that our new Constitution is in effect, requiring that everyone who wants to become a new *regular* member be sponsored by two regular members in good standing. *This does not apply to current full members renewing their memberships.* It does apply to current associate, junior or puppy members who wish to become full voting members of the Club. I suggest you contact the breeder from whom you acquired your Cardigan as one sponsor; they'll likely be happy to do it. Any other member, including an Executive member, can be the other. All of the Executive are listed on the masthead, with their addresses. Think of it as another way to keep in touch!

If you are currently have a puppy membership and want to stay with the Club, but don't care about voting privileges, you can become an associate member, in which case you don't need sponsors. Just fill out the form and send it and a cheque to Karen Slustken.

## **SPECIALTY UPDATE!**

The premium lists have been mailed (contact Marilyn Boissonneault if you haven't received one), our Club banner has come back from the drycleaner, the permanent trophies have been polished....only a couple of months to go until the 2000 Specialty!

*If you haven't made your travel arrangements yet, you'd best book soon:* August is a busy tourist season in Prince Edward Island. Our new website has links to PEI tourist information so check it out.

And an advisory to those travelling by air: the recent merger of Air Canada and Canadian Airlines is causing havoc in air travel. Domestic capacity has been cut to increase international capacity, resulting in cancelled flights, lengthy delays, changes to routes and schedules, and missing luggage. In addition, the two airlines' computer systems don't speak to each other, causing reservation and ticketing problems. The regional carriers which feed into Air Canada, such as Air Nova Scotia (eg. Halifax to Charlottetown, PEI) are also affected but US-based airlines are not. Air Canada says things are getting better but my experience suggests otherwise! In fact, the federal government travel agency has just issued an advisory to its travellers.

So: travel on a US airlines if you can. If not, be prepared for delays, and take basics for yourself *and for your dog*, especially a bottle of water from home, as carry-on baggage. Make *sure* your dog's crate is well-identified: put extra copies of the necessary papers, including your destination and a telephone number where you can be reached, in a zip-lock bag under the bedding. Make sure to attach the form stating when the dog is to be given food and water to the crate: not all ticket agents bother although it is required by airline regulations. And if you do experience a delay or (gods forbid!) they misplace your dog, ***raise bloody hell!***

Have a safe, sane, trouble-free trip to Cardigan, and see you at the Specialty!