



**NEWSLETTER MARCH 2002**  
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**Notes From the President's Desk:** The old saying that if "March comes in like a lamb, it will go out like a lion", will this year have to apply to February! We started out with the feeling that Spring was in the air and as I write this it is snowing! It has been now on and off for over a day and they are saying this will continue for a few more days. The question from back East was, where was winter? I think it found us! For when Spring does arrive, there is an excellent article in the CKC's 'Dogs in Canada' magazine on your dog and a garden, for those who haven't found out thru trial and error. The one thing I didn't see mentioned tho was container planting and if you work the containers to be a height that our escape artist can't use for an elevated resting spot, they are very effective indeed. Not only can they brighten spots, they can camouflage and act as visual barriers, also they can easily go with you if you have to move. Then there is the lack of bending and weeding is less, which then gives us so much more time to enjoy our four footed families and isn't this what we want most? I hope you all have a great Spring and enjoy the shows as they get under way again.

Fern

**My trip to Ontario:** (or "you're going where?!?") (or shit happens!)

As some of you are aware, I came home from our last Specialty in Winnipeg, with a couple of Charlie's dogs, Micheal to retire with me and Spanky to be bred with Michael. Oh how the best laid plans can go awry! In typical fashion at our specialties the bitches come into heat and so Spanky "came in" soon after arriving here, instead of October as she should have. Spanky's ride home was delayed and so the litter arrived at my place instead, all 8 of them, 6 boys and 2 girls. Now the problem of the trip home to Ontario had definitely multiplied! It was decided that I would go out and do a delivery run and spend New Years Eve there, the ultimate Couriers Run. One of the girls found her home here in Alberta, and things were looking good for my daughter to look after my tribe. But as was becoming usual in this saga, another glitch arose, my daughter became unable to help. I left here on the 28th Dec. with my little Ford Ranger Extendicab full of dogs. Along with Charlie's pups, I had two of my own who were on their way to new owners. The pups traveled in the cab behind my seat, my two older dogs on the front seat beside me, the other 4 in the back of the truck under the canopy with lots of blankets etc. The weather co-operated beautifully, it was smooth sailing thru to Ontario, we found side roads and various other places to exercise and everyone traveled well. Just before Sault Ste. Marie we ran into snow, which lasted till we were past the city, then we got a flat tire! People at the local restaurant took over, changed my tire and shaking their heads sent me on my way. Darkness overtook us soon after, then I was pulled over by a local man who said my tail lights weren't working; he lived nearby, so I followed him home. A wire was loose, so half an hour later I was on my way again and had given up on making my destination for New Years Eve. Heavy snow at Barrie further delayed us and I was amazed at how patient all the dogs were being, not one fussed at all. Ulla was waiting for me and guided me safely the last few miles to her lovely old home. She says it was like watching '101 Dalmations' again, as my truck doors opened and my passengers emerged!

The next few days flew by, so much to see and do, I enjoyed every moment: visiting Charlie's home for the first time, going to church with Ulla, visiting one of my dogs and

her disabled owner in Toronto. Ulla has a barn that is an original and history seeps out of the woodwork; in it she shelters a variety of animals, including her and Charlie's sheep. Saturday saw Charlie and me mucking out the sheep pen, what better way to say thanks? Finally it came time to head back to Alberta and just to prove my insanity, we loaded three ducks, some hens and roosters into crates and into the back of my truck for the return. The dogs enjoyed the return trip in the cab with me and a smooth journey home. It is said bad things happen in three's: four days after safely getting back, a front bearing on my truck gave out, Michael hurt his back and my new job didn't happen! Hence the last part of the title! Life goes on and things are coming together again. Would I do it again? You better believe it!

Fern

### **Specialty 2002!**

Specialty news from our show chair, Ron Stewart: Our next National Specialty Show will be held on Thursday October 24, 2002 in Abbotsford, British Columbia, in conjunction with the Lower Mainland Dog Fanciers club shows. The judge for regular classes will be Beryl Russell, from New Zealand; the sweeps judge remains to be chosen. Remember ***entries from all countries are welcome!***

The Lower Mainland shows are held at the Tradex complex in Abbotsford, just a few minutes from the Abbotsford airport. Lower Mainland is a three-day event, this year slated for October 25, 26 and 27; and are the biggest shows in Canada, with entries usually exceeding 1400. Remember with the Specialty, that's four sets of points for Cardigans!

Our Specialty obedience trial will be held as part of the regular all-breed trial on Friday October 25. So start training now! (And note the rule changes below!)

As usual, the Specialty weekend will offer lots of opportunity for get-togethers and socializing. We have been invited to join the Pembroke Welsh Corgi Association (Canada), who are also holding their Specialty on Thursday, at their annual banquet to be held at the Afterburner restaurant after judging on Thursday evening. Ron reports that the Afterburner apparently puts on a really good buffet; the costs is expected to be under \$25 per person. We will also be taking part in the PWCCA's raffle, which has cash prizes of (1) \$300; (2) \$200; (3) \$100; (4) \$75 and (5) \$25; tickets are \$1 each or 6 for \$5. Our Club gets \$8 back for every book of tickets we sell, so please contact Ron for your books of tickets! Remember it's **our** Club you'll be supporting! (We will also run our regular raffle; details and tickets in the next newsletter.)

Ron' parents have generously offered us the use of their home, about 30 minutes from Abbotsford, for a less formal Club barbeque on Friday night. And for those of you who were at the barbeque at our 2000 Specialty in Prince Edward Island, Al Alcock is brewing up another batch of his great Yukon wine!

The PWC people have helped us to get a good rate at the nearby Alpine Howard Johnson Express Inn. They blocked 20 rooms for the two clubs at a rate of \$75 plus

taxes per night for October 23 to 26. It is a nice hotel, with a good dog-walking area. The Inn is located at 32111 Marshall Road, Abbotsford; telephone (604) 859-3171.

Westjet and Air Canada both fly into the Abbotsford Airport; Vancouver International Airport is about a ninety minute drive away. So mark your calendars for the fourth weekend in October; it's going to be a really big weekend! And write to Ron to make sure you get a premium list. For additional information, contact Ron, or check out the Club website; Ron has posted lots of Specialty-related links!

### **2003 Specialty News!**

Our 2003 National Specialty is coming back to Ontario: it will be held in conjunction with the Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry Club shows the last weekend in August. Marilyn Boissonneault is the Show Chair. Watch for more information!

### **New Website!**

Please note that the Club website has a new address: <http://cardigancorgi.ca> Thanks to Ron Stewart. There's lots of good stuff there, including new pictures, so check it out!

### **Obedience Rule Changes**

**Changes in effect January 2002:** A number of 'housekeeping' changes came into effect on January 1<sup>st</sup>, but there are a couple of things that are important for Cardigan obedience enthusiasts to know. In the Novice class, the group exercises (long sit and long down) will have a maximum of 8 dogs per group, down from the previous 12. This change is intended to improve the safety of the dogs by reducing the possibility of crowding in the ring. The jump heights for several breeds of dogs, including Cardigan Corgis, has been reduced to "as nearly as possible three quarters of their height at the withers" instead of the full height at the withers, in order to reduce injuries. The maximum height of the broad jump has also been reduced, to 6 inches. In the Utility exercises, the Group Stand for Examination has been replaced by a Moving Stand and Examination performed by the dogs individually. For everybody who plans to compete in the obedience trial at the Specialty Show, these are the rules to follow!

**Changes proposed for 2003:** The Canadian Kennel Club is proposing some significant changes to the obedience rules, which, if approved, will take effect on January 1, 2003. Participation in obedience has been declining for some time, with numbers of entries declining by 26% in Ontario, and 30% in Canada overall, over the last 10 years. The rule changes have been developed with the objective of encouraging new participants to get into the sport, and to retain more competitors beyond the Novice level. If adopted, the proposals would create several new obedience titles: Pre-Novice Dog (PCD), Novice Intermediate (CDI), Master Obedience Trial Champion (MOTCh.), and Grand Master Obedience Trial Champion (I haven't seen an acronym for this one).

The Pre-Novice class will be for dogs that have not earned the CD or equivalent title in any country; it will be an elective class and not a pre-requisite for the CD. The class would be of interest to exhibitors who feel their dog requires ring experience under a real trial situation, or to those who want to earn additional titles. It might also be a good

starting place for kids! The exercises proposed, and their order of judging, are (a) heel on leash; (b) circle left and circle right; (c) sit for examination; (d) recall; (e) long sit. The sit for examination will be done on leash. On the recall, the handler may give the dog verbal encouragement once it reaches half the distance, and there is no finish involved: the dog is to come within an arm's length of the handler and sit on command, remaining while the handler clips the leash back on the collar. As in the Novice class, the long sit will be a group exercise, but only 30 seconds long.....and it will probably still seem like forever!

The Novice Intermediate class will also be elective and not a requirement for a CDX title. Any purebred dog which has earned the title of Companion Dog (CD), Companion Dog Excellent (CDX), or Utility Dog (UD) in Canada is eligible to compete, and dogs may be shown in this class indefinitely. A dog could be shown in the Open A or Open B class as well as the Novice Intermediate at the same trial; however scores earned in the CDI class are not eligible for High in Trial. The exercises proposed, and the order of judging, are (a) honour; (b) heel free and figure 8; (c) stand for examination; (d) recall holding dumbbell; (e) drop from heel; (f) broad jump. The Honour exercise is something new. In this exercise, the honouring dog must remain in a down stay, with the handler on the opposite side of the ring, while exposed to the distraction of another dog working through a heeling exercise in the same ring. The principle feature of the exercise is that the dog goes down on command and stays in the same position until released, despite the distraction of the working dog. This is going to be a tricky one! The Stand for examination in this class will be done off leash. In the drop from heel exercise, the handler will heel with the dog about 20 feet in a straight line and, on command from the judge to 'Drop your dog', will command the dog to go down. Upon a further command from the judge to 'Leave your dog', the handler will give the command to stay in the down position, leave the dog and continue to the far end of the ring; from this point the exercise becomes a recall exercise in the ordinary way.

So if you are really keen on obedience, and your dog has the aptitude, you could earn the complete range of titles as follows (the ones with the asterisk are proposed, the others already exist):

- \*Pre-Novice (PCD): requires three passing performances to earn title
- Novice (CD): requires three qualifying scores before continuing to CDX
- \*Novice Intermediate (CDI): requires three qualifying scores to earn title
- Open (CDX): requires three qualifying scores before continuing to UD title
- Utility (UD): requires three qualifying scores before continuing to OTCh
- Obedience Trial Champion (OTCh): qualifying scores in both Open and Utility at the same trial on three occasions
- Obedience Trial Champion Excellent (OTChX): qualifying scores in both Open and Utility at the same trial on five occasions
- \*Master Obedience Trial Champion (MOTCh): points towards this title may only be accumulated after the completion of the OTCh, but a dog can work towards the OTChX and Masters titles simultaneously. A minimum score of 190 in Open and 185 in Utility is required to earn points, and the higher the score the more points are earned. One High in Class is also required in either Open or Utility.

The CKC is also considering the Grand Master title for those dogs who have TEN qualifying scores of at least 190 in Open and 185 in Utility at the same trial under no fewer than 10 different judges. The rationale for this proposal is that “the title will present a greater challenge to the special dogs and handlers, will not be too easy to obtain, and will encourage top foreign dogs and handlers to compete in our trials. This system will also make it mandatory for handlers to show under a variety of judges in order to get a wider and balanced assessment of the dog’s abilities.” Now there is a REAL challenge! (Thanks to CKC Obedience Council member Jack McKissock for this information.)

### **MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS!**

Yes, it’s time once more for renewing your membership in the Canadian Cardigan Corgi Club! 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. *All memberships should be in by May 31st!*

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!

Everyone who wants to become a new *regular* member must 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.

### **Coming up in the Newsletter.....**

By way of a little incentive, here is what the newsletter will cover in the next few issues:

- Barb Hoffman and I are attending a seminar on structure, movement and measuring with Bette McHugh; we’ll have a report for you
- protecting your Cardigan companion in your will
- booster and specialty results and plans
- and submissions from YOU, our members! We encourage you to share all sorts of stories or experiences with and about Cardigans: they don’t have to be ‘scholarly’ or official. ‘In Memoriam’ is a free service to all who have lost a Cardi; he or she doesn’t need to have a string of titles, they just have to be loved.

## *In Memoriam*

Ch. Aberwyvern Duke of York, CD; bred by Marilyn Boissonneault, owned and loved by John Coleman and Kenneth Elliott

### **Duke**

1 September 1985 - 8 February 2002

By way of commemorating his memory, there are things we need to say about our good friend. His formal name was Ch. Aberwyvern Duke Of York, CD. He had a range of familiar names: Duke, Dook, Dookie, Duker, Dukuss - not to make fun of him but because he had such an endearing nature. Duke, in fact, was a very dignified dog - his name really suited him. A bit stand-offish if someone presumed too much, a bit reserved in company, he was nevertheless gentle and affectionate.

Having for years been an only dog, he was confronted with a new arrival to his home: his mother, Joker. And they soon became fast friends, delighting in one another's company and delighting the people who met them during their walks on Kingston's main street.

Later there was a presumptuous puppy that came to make his older years a trial. Maurice liked to play with Duke. In all meanings of the word 'play'. One good deep long bark would send the silly puppy away.

Duke had one fault. He was afraid of thunder. There was the time when he hid under the judge's table during an obedience competition. There was the time he burst through a chain link fence in Point Pelee National Park on the opening day of duck hunting season, and fortunately was found by a visitor and turned in at the Warden's office. There was the time when we found him many blocks away from home, he having managed to get safely across several main streets in Kingston during rush hour.

Duke, to our surprise, became old. He also became ill and blind. Medication helped for a while but eventually they gave out and he died peacefully at home. His ashes are placed with those of his mother. Best grace to those who grieve. Thank you.

- John Coleman and Kenneth Elliott

Editor's note: There was also the time when, as a small puppy, Duke hid under our gas stove during a thunderstorm, and we had to partially dismantle it to get him out!