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**Newsletter**

**Volume 27. Number 1**

**April 2006**



**Ch DENBIGH COMMANDER WHITEHEAD,  
CAN. & AM. UD (born 1971)**

This is Schweppes, bred by Gloria Graham, owned, trained and campaigned by her mother Marion. From the dates, I think Schweppes must have been the first Cardigan bred in Canada to achieve a U.D., and one of the first to earn that title on both sides of the border. Note that he also earned a show championship. Although the white on his face is not popular in the ring today, there is no word against it in the CKC standard, then or now!!

Schweppes was also a distinguished sire, as indicated by the success of his son, described in the last newsletter.

I would love to hear from Marion Graham, Helen Cramer and anyone else about those early Cardigans in obedience.

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Spring is here, days are longer, hair is everywhere, and for many of us the show season is about to begin. That brings me to think of my first show days. Let's take time to reflect on those first times out in the ring. The fear, the confusion, the doubt. Oh how those pros and old hands made it look so easy and their dogs looked perfect! What makes me think I can compete? Then out of the blue someone shows some kindness and explains what is expected that day in the ring and I survive. A kind reminder from a ring steward that I have to go back in with my "happy" puppy. More like out of control! The person at a booth helping me purchase the proper show lead and collar. Then instead of grabbing my money and talking to the old pro buying yet another toy, they spent time showing me why that length, where to place the collar and how to hold all that leash. What do you use for bait? What bait? Back to the booth for bait and a lesson on how to use it. The learning curve was very steep.

We all have the ability to give hope or to crush a dream. It matters not if the new dog is great or not. To each dog their master is Napoleon. To each master their dog is great and loved. So let's not roll our eyes, sigh, nit-pick or giggle at the person not ready to go into the ring at the precise time in the right direction. Or at the person who may choose not to groom or dress the way you do. Their dogs are just as loved. Let the newcomer know it can be fun. After all it's a dog show not a UN conference! Yes we try to win, that is the point. But not at the expense of future handlers and breeders.

As we contemplate heads and rears we should remember that without our future breeders all of the work we do now is for naught. We will not be doing this in 40 years. Our encouragement of up and comers is the best investment in the future of pure bred dogs we can do! Please, as you head off to the shows, rallies, and fun days remember to "play nice". When that rookie runs up to ringside and disturbs the peaceful aura that you worked so hard to get, do not bite them. Smile, say Hi, calm them down, you both gain. Then invite them back to your set up for a chat. The future rests in YOUR hands. Let the Cardigan people be known not only for their dogs but for being the nicest people at the show!

Thank you to all who have shown me kindness over the years. it is because of those moments that Bluetrix is still heading out to the shows. See many of you this summer at the National.

Your humble president Lore Lee Bruder

P.S. Se sure to fill out your membership forms and send photos for the calendars. !!!!

**EDITORS NOTE**

Somewhere buried in past newsletters is Lore's hilarious account of the first time she and Gloria Moon showed Cardigans in Alberta. They got help and advice from the judge and the ring steward. So when Lore says be nice, she learned in a good school. But remember that judges and ring stewards are humans too, and treat them well. If your dog is absent, tell the steward well ahead of time. Be ready for your class. Remember to stay for both winners AND reserve. The CCCC has always tried to be friendly and helpful. At many specialties our friend Sue Bain has given a handling workshop for novices, and so it goes. These days we need especially to encourage obedience exhibitors – before they become completely extinct. Cardigans have excelled in Agility in the U.S., let's get going here! While I have several dogs who would love to, I am not sure I can do it! So let's all recruit young people to the breed.

**CCCC NATIONAL SPECIALTY 2006**

**DATE: MONDAY 21 AUGUST 2006**

**PLACE: ROTHESAY, NEW BRUNSWICK**

**JUDGES: REGULAR CLASSES - ALAN BENNETT**  
**SWEEPSTAKES - BARBARA HOFFMAN**

**OBEDIENCE: SUNDAY, 20 AUGUST 2006**

**JUDGE: MARIE-JOHANNE CLOUTIER**

This specialty is in conjunction with the New Brunswick Kennel Club shows, of which there are six, from Saturday 19 August to Thursday 24 August. Obedience is held by a separate club, the Kennebecasis Obedience Club, and we have chosen the Sunday trial as the official specialty obedience. Premium lists are not yet available, as final CKC approval of judges has not been received (see below)

This is one of the best show circuits in the maritimes, with six shows in six days, in addition to the CCCC event. We will have our own ring, and judging of Cardigans in the regular show will be in the afternoon, whereas the specialty will be in the morning. For the hardy tourists there are more shows you can hit: August 5 & 6, Paradise, Newfoundland, 4 shows and 2 trials; Avalon Kennel Club, 12 & 13 August, two shows and two trials in Dartmouth Nova Scotia, Dartmouth Kennel Club; August 26 & 27, Sydney Nova Scotia, four shows and four trials, Cape Breton Kennel Club; 2,3,4 September, Halifax Nova Scotia, Halifax Kennel Club, 3 shows and 3 trials. Check [www.ckc.ca](http://www.ckc.ca) for the calendar of events, and [www.canuckdogs.com](http://www.canuckdogs.com) for premium lists. When I made this list, Canuckdogs was more complete than the CKC for dates and places, too!

The show location is near St. John, NB, and about half an hour from the airport. Saint John is serviced by Air Canada. The second closest airport is Moncton, NB, a bit more than 2 hours away. Moncton is a busier hub, and served by WestJet as well as Air Canada. As far as I can discover, Air Canada's threatened embargo on dogs from 21 June has not been implemented. However, you should inquire NOW of either carrier, and reserve space for dogs. Air Canada's service to St. John is mostly in Bombardier CRJ regional jets, which have limited space for animals. Air Canada has a limit of two pets per family on any one flight. WestJet flies Boeing 737s, which have more dog space. I have not travelled with them but their freight service is great for shipping puppies.

There are primitive camping facilities right at the arena. The club has provided electricity and fresh water for RVs, and there is a truck that comes around to pump sewage tanks (for a fee). The show secretary has promised to try to put the Cardigan people together, so reserve space early, and make sure you note that you are with the CCCC. We will have one or more social events in the camping area, and we will have a banquet at some restaurant, yet to be chosen.

There are commercial, full-service campgrounds within 15 – 20 miles. Two of these are Black River Bridge (506-773-6252) and Sea Side Tent & Trailer Park at St. Martins (506-833-4413). I have stayed in both in years past and liked them. Remember, though, that this will be high tourist season, and most campgrounds close to the city of St. John also have quite a few families there for a month or more. I recommend making reservations now!! Read your map carefully: there are few bridges over the St. John River, and you may have to wait for the ferry. So watch that there is a direct road between a campground and the Rothesay arena.

Yes, this newsletter is late. But there is a reason. In December we signed up Mr. Warren Hood to judge the specialty. Warren was our show superintendent for the 2000 specialty in Cardigan, PEI. Well, Mr. Hood had a heart attack in January, followed by bypass surgery, and then complications. Therefore, he had to resign from all his judging assignments. So, the week before the premium list was supposed to be finished, we had to find a new judge. Three other clubs were in the same predicament, and we tried to share judges, but to no avail. It is amazing how busy our popular judges are! We wanted a judge from the Maritimes, but all our choices were judging within the time and distance limits set by the CKC!

There are many tourist attractions in the general area of this show. The Saint John River flows into the Bay of Fundy in St. John. The Bay of Fundy has some of the highest tides in the world, so at the river mouth there is a phenomenon known as the reversing falls. When the tide is high, water cascades through a narrow rocky passage to get into the river estuary. When the tide is low, water cascades the other way, as the big estuary empties through the small gap in the rock. There is even a restaurant overlooking the falls!

St. John is an old city, with lots of heritage attractions. It was a major port of entry for United Empire Loyalists, folks who were on the wrong political side during and immediately after the Revolutionary War in the USA. It once had major shipyards. A ferry ride will take you to Digby on the west shore of southern Nova Scotia. New Brunswick also has a rich French history. The French settlers called their colonies Acadia, and there is a lot of Acadian music, song and history to be found on the north coast. Many Acadians were deported by the conquering British, mostly to Louisiana, where their descendants today call themselves Cajun.

The Fundy tides provide very rich aquatic life. At St. Andrews, close to the US border, there is a federal and university biological station which is worth a visit. Also at St. Andrews, Conolly's has a huge lobster pound. If you want to take live lobster home, this is the place to get them, the company has a lot of experience in packing them so they will last several days. If you have ever eaten a can of Brunswick sardines, then you should visit the Connor Brothers plant in Black's Harbour. It is a huge enterprise, and supplies sardines to the world. If you are interested in marine biology, a visit, at low tide, to the south end of Deer Island off St. Andrews is a wonderful experience. There is lots of whale watching, and there are lots of seabirds in the region. The best tour boats seem to be out of St. Andrews. Fundy National Park is a complex area, home to moose, deer, bear and cougar. It is about an hour away

There are many tourist websites for the region. Examples are [www.tourismnewbrunswick.ca](http://www.tourismnewbrunswick.ca), [www.find-our-community.net](http://www.find-our-community.net), [www.vacations-new-brunswick.com](http://www.vacations-new-brunswick.com), [www.canada-adventures-guide.com/NewBrunswick/links.html](http://www.canada-adventures-guide.com/NewBrunswick/links.html), and so on.

Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island are 3-5 hours away, and they have websites too. So, y'all come to our specialty, then relax and enjoy the views and the fantastic seafood.

## **MORE ON MMM**

Associate member Anita Nordlunde in Switzerland sent us the following comments, after she read Marilyn's piece on MMM.

Reading about MMM reminded me that about a year ago we had to say goodbye to one of our Cardigans (UK imp.) at the age of exactly 14 and a half. He had been operated a couple of times for tumours but finally cancer took over. Some months before he had to be put to sleep, we noticed that he didn't want to chew any hard biscuits. First I thought there might be something wrong with his teeth, so off to the vet who had to sedate him as he otherwise could not open the jaws properly. Nothing to see, and teeth were in surprisingly good condition, considering the dog's age. I had noticed that there was some muscle atrophy but attributed this to the dog's age. He was given some pain killers, but when it became worse, X-rays were taken of the jaws. As my usual vet is not a small animals surgeon, he sent the X-rays to the Veterinary University for evaluation. And as they didn't show anything unusual somebody suggested MMM. My dog was given "Prednisolon" a cortisone medication which helped. He could eat again, but the muscle atrophy remained and in the end the skull covered with hide looked rather strange.

## **EARLY SPAY-NEUTER CONSIDERATIONS FOR THE CANINE ATHLETE**

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Those of us with responsibility for the health of canine athletes need to continually read and evaluate new scientific studies to ensure that we are taking the most appropriate care of our performance dogs. This article provides evidence through a number of recent studies to suggest that veterinarians and owners with canine athletes should revisit the standard protocol in which all dogs that are not intended for breeding are spayed and neutered at or before 6 months of age.

### ***Orthopedic Considerations.***

A study by Salmeri et al in 1991 found that bitches spayed at 7 weeks grew significantly taller than those spayed at 7 months, and that those spayed at 7 months had significantly delayed closure of the growth plates than those not spayed (or presumably spayed after the growth plates had closed).(1) A study of 1444 Golden Retrievers performed in 1998 and 1999 also found bitches and dogs spayed and neutered at less than a year of age were significantly taller than those spayed or neutered at more than a year of age.(2) The sex hormones promote the closure of the growth plates, so the bones of dogs or bitches neutered or spayed before puberty continue to grow. Dogs that have been spayed or neutered well before puberty can frequently be identified by their longer limbs, lighter bone structure, narrow chests and narrow skulls. This abnormal growth frequently results in significant alterations in body proportions and particularly the lengths (and

therefore weights) of certain bones relative to others. For example, if the femur has achieved its genetically determined normal length at 8 months when a dog gets spayed or neutered, but the tibia, which normally stops growing at 12 to 14 months of age continues to grow, then an abnormal angle may develop at the stifle. In addition, with the extra growth, the lower leg below the stifle becomes heavier (because it is longer), causing increased stresses on the cranial cruciate ligament. These structural alterations may be the reason why at least one recent study has shown that spayed and neutered dogs have a higher incidence of CCL rupture.(3) Another recent study showed that dogs spayed or neutered before 5 1/2 months had a significantly higher incidence of hip dysplasia than those spayed or neutered after 5 1/2 months of age.(4) Breeders of purebred dogs should be concerned about these two studies and particularly the latter, because they might make incorrect breeding decisions if they consider the hip status of pups they bred that were spayed or neutered early.

### ***Cancer Considerations***

There is a slightly increased risk of mammary cancer if a female dog has one heat cycle. But my experience indicates that fewer canine athletes develop mammary cancer as compared to those that damage their cranial cruciate ligaments. In addition, only about 30 % of mammary cancers are malignant and, as in humans, when caught and surgically removed early the prognosis is very good.(5) Since canine athletes are handled frequently and generally receive prompt veterinary care, mammary cancer is not quite the spectre it has been in the past. A retrospective study of cardiac tumors in dogs showed that there was a 5 times greater risk of hemangiosarcoma, one of the three most common cancers in dogs, in spayed bitches than intact bitches and a 2.4 times greater risk of hemangiosarcoma in neutered dogs as compared to intact males.(6) A study of 3218 dogs demonstrated that dogs that were neutered before a year of age had a significantly increased chance of developing bone cancer, a cancer that is much more life-threatening than mammary cancer, and that affects both genders.(7) A separate study showed that neutered dogs had a two-fold higher risk of developing bone cancer.(8) Despite the common belief that neutering dogs helps prevent prostate cancer, at least one study suggests that neutering provides no benefit (9).

### ***Behavioral Considerations***

The study that identified a higher incidence of cranial cruciate ligament rupture in spayed or neutered dogs also identified an increased incidence of sexual behaviors in males and females that were neutered early.(3) Further, the study that identified a higher incidence of hip dysplasia in dogs neutered or spayed before 5 1/2 months also showed that early age gonadectomy was associated with an increased incidence of noise phobias and undesirable sexual behaviors.(4) A recent report of the American Kennel Club Canine Health Foundation reported significantly more behavioral problems in spayed and neutered bitches and dogs. The most commonly observed behavioral problem in spayed females was fearful behavior and the most common problem in males was aggression.(10) Yet another study showed that unneutered males were significantly less likely than neutered males to suffer cognitive impairment when they were older. (11) Females were not evaluated in that study.

### ***Other Health Considerations.***

A number of studies have shown that there is an increase in the incidence of female urinary incontinence in dogs spayed early.(12) Interestingly, neutering also has been associated with an increased likelihood of urethral sphincter incontinence in males.(13) This problem is an inconvenience, and not usually life-threatening, but nonetheless one that requires the dog to be medicated for life. A health survey of several thousand Golden Retrievers showed that spayed or

neutered dogs were more likely to develop hypothyroidism. (2) This study is consistent with the results of another study in which neutering and spaying was determined to be the most significant gender-associated risk factor for development of hypothyroidism.(14) Infectious diseases were more common in dogs that were spayed or neutered at 24 weeks or less as opposed to those undergoing gonadectomy at more than 24 weeks.(15) Finally, the AKC-CHF report demonstrated a higher incidence of adverse reactions to vaccines in neutered dogs as compared to intact.(10) For these reasons, I have significant concerns with spaying or neutering dogs before puberty, particularly for the canine athlete. And frankly, if something were healthier for the canine athlete, would we not also want that for pet dogs as well? But of course, there is the pet overpopulation problem. How can we prevent the production of unwanted dogs while still leaving the gonads to produce the hormones that are so important to canine growth and development? The answer is to perform vasectomies in males and tubal ligation in females, to be followed after maturity by ovariohysterectomy in females to prevent mammary cancer and pyometra. One possible disadvantage is that vasectomy does not prevent some unwanted behaviors associated with males such as marking and humping. On the other hand, it has been my experience that females and neutered males actively participate in these behaviors too. Really, training is the best solution for these issues. Another possible disadvantage is finding a veterinarian who is experienced in performing these procedures. Nonetheless, some do, and if the procedures were in greater demand, more veterinarians would learn them. I believe it is important that we assess each situation individually. If a pet dog is going to live with an intelligent, well-informed family that understands the problem of pet overpopulation and can be trusted to keep the dog under their control at all times and to not breed it, I do not recommend spaying or neutering before 14 months of age. In the case of dogs that might be going to less vigilant families, vasectomy and tubal ligation will allow proper growth while preventing unwanted pregnancies.

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## **FROM THE RANCH: STOUT FARE FOR A STOUT BITCH**

Big litters

Once again I will state that about 80cc of stout or beer after delivery will help the milk drop and the yeast in it will help bring in more. With the large litters I will do it each morning for about 4 days. When I had a litter of 12 I gave the mom cooked ground lamb as well as all the puppy food she would eat, as it is very easy to digest so eating a lot does not upset their systems and they get a great belt of protein and calories. All 12 did just fine, mom was thin but did a great job. We still have to go through the experience of tubing puppies, hoping that we can skip that one! Around here we grind one old ewe each year from nose to tail just for dog food. The dogs all love it and do very well getting a bit every once and while. Great coats and pads! Wishing all the best with your large litter.

Lore Bruder

## **WORKING WITH RINSO**

Rinso was born in October 2003. She is very elegant, but has a mostly white face, and that was the start of her social problems. I kept her to breed, but I did not take her to shows when she was a puppy. She stayed home, and her strong personality led her to ruling the known dog world. I should have had a hint, her litter sister Sashimi started out confidently in the show ring, but soon announced that she hated this show thing. Sashi went to Whitehorse on the great safari, and, as the shy act developed, I sent her back to the August booster in Calgary. As I was unable to go, she had to travel with my friend Ulla and two other women. She made the trip quite well, doing what she was told. But, she was definitely not happy in the show ring.

I finally tried to show Rinso when she was 15 months old. She was a bit upset when I first led her into the show building, she behaved well enough in the ring that first weekend that she came home with 4 points, but she was more difficult in the ring each succeeding day. The next two weekends she was away from home she got worse and worse. She would pull back on her leash and hide behind me as I led her toward the judge. Strangely, she walked normally on a loose leash going to and from the ring. I started obedience training her at home and she loved that. It meant that she had my total attention, and she found the work easy to understand. I could



not trial her at last year's National, because there was no way she was going to stand-stay for a judge!!

After the third weekend of attempts to show her I started to watch her more closely at home. She and Sashi were after each other, vying for dominance. They were both selective on who they tackled on dominance trips, because most of the senior bitches knew how to tell them off. But, to junior dogs and bitches they were terrors, because they wanted to be dominant. The fights between the two became almost serious for a while, but eventually Sashi gave in to Rinso, and has been ignored for the past six months.

Last July I went to a weekend of shows in PEI, and stayed for most of the month. I thought the 'outing' would be beneficial, so I took Rinso with me. That's when I started to study her problem in detail. Yes, she was shy of strangers, but she was not the least bit aggressive toward them if they persisted in trying to make friends. On the table, she might lean on me, but she did not squirm or lift her lip to strange 'judges'. During the trip she retreated top the sofa in my trailer when strangers were around, but if they came in and talked to her, she would let them pet her without fleeing. When we got home again, she improved. When we had company she would be 15 feet down the hall, and watchful, but she did not flee. My smooth collie friend Laura cried when Rinso, after a year or so, actually came up to her and asked to be petted. Npow, four months later, it is a regular ritual when Laura brings her dogs up for their weekend run in the country. And Rinso is better each month with total strangers. In March 2006 she would come into the kitchen with strangers, but stay back under the table. Sashimi did not improve as quickly, but suddenly came mostly out of her shell in March 2006. I telephoned the owners of three other puppies from the litter. Monti, reported Maja Hurd, never showed this sort of thing, but she has had him out and about since she first got him. Patti, who went to a B & B in BC, was fine when she arrived, at about 6 months old, then went shy for about two months, then worked out of it. Lore's Bright has always been outgoing.

This condition is inherited. The grandsire of this litter is Hershey (Ch. Redbud's Mr. Goodbar). When I first got him, he was 15 months old. He was given to me at the CWCCA specialty in Kansas City. A day later, I put him out in my 36" exercise pen, and went into my trailer. Fortunately I was watching, because he climbed out of the ex pen and took off. Two factors saved him: the fair grounds were completely surrounded by chain link fencing, and he missed the open gate where cars were coming in and out. I finally cornered him in a corner of the fence. Even though I was still 30 feet away, he tried running down one side, and I moved to cut him off. He tried the other way, and again, I cut him off, so he sat down with an expression that said I could come and get him. For two years or more he was painfully shy. Given the chance to retreat upstairs when there were strangers in the house, he was gone. I showed him to a championship, but no further, because he hated shows. One of my favourite judges, Don Buxbaum, complimented me on sticking with him, because he said he was, under his shell, a very fine example of the breed. Now Hershey is 11, and when there are puppy buyers in the house, he hustles to get attention from them.

So this is in the breed, and I have seen it before. We have to work with it. It is interesting from a breeder's point of view, because the dogs are smart and alert, but shy of strange people.

This behaviour is classic 'fear period'. It is much more regularly seen among the GSPs of this household. As Sherry describes it, one day you have a happy, friendly, outgoing puppy, the next day he/she is afraid of its own shadow, much less the rest of the world. This confusion might last two days, or as much as several months, but they eventually grow out of it. Rinso has taken a year, but she should be in the obedience trials in August!

Charlie MacInnes

### **JUST A DOG**

From time to time, people tell me, "lighten up, it's just a dog," or, "that's a lot of money for just a dog." They don't understand the distance traveled, the time spent, or the costs involved for "just a dog." Some of my proudest moments have come about with "just a dog." Many hours have passed and my only company was "just a dog," but I did not once feel slighted. Some of my saddest moments have been brought about by "just a dog," and in those days of darkness, the gentle touch of "just a dog" gave me comfort and reason to overcome the day. If you, too, think it's "just a dog," then you will probably understand phrases like "just a friend," "just a sunrise," or "just a promise."

"Just a dog" brings into my life the very essence of friendship, trust, and pure unbridled joy. "Just a dog" brings out the compassion and patience that make me a better person. Because of "just a dog", I will rise early, take long walks and look longingly to the future. So for me and folks like me, it's not "just a dog" but an embodiment of all the hopes and dreams of the future, the fond memories of the past, and the pure joy of the moment.

"Just a dog" brings out what's good in me and diverts my thoughts away from myself and the worries of the day. I hope that someday they can understand that it's not "just a dog", but the thing that gives me humanity and keeps me from being "just a man or woman." So the next time you hear the phrase "just a dog." just smile -- because they "just don't understand."

Author Unknown - Submitted by Barb Hoffman

### **THE SAGA OF MOXIE**

It has been a short ten years since I was first introduced to Cardigan Corgis. I am now officially owned and run by my own cardi. Finnshavn Bubble Gum Moxie came home with me in early August 2005, aged 8 weeks. The first month was very much a blur, as my new bundle of fur kept me busy and on my toes! No matter how much I thought I had puppy proofed my workshop, she found all the things that I didn't want her to get into. She was quick to show me that she is a great metal detector!

I keep telling people that I am lucky enough to have her with me pretty much 24/7, but it's the times that I can't take her with me that I wonder if this is such a great thing. The latest 'incident' had me going to town on a rather snowy day, so I decided to leave Moxie at home.

After I returned home she was out to do her usual business, however when I called for her to come in her selective hearing turned up again. I trudged out through the snow, and we slowly made our way toward the house – the corgi dawdle as I call it. Suddenly the ‘up yours’ response kicked in. This had Moxie high tailing it around the house, pausing a couple of times so I could get a bit closer, and me trailing behind telling her she was to get her little rear inside....NOW (with a few colourful words added in here and there). She finally decided she had gotten her revenge. When we were inside I was taking my boots off, and I turned around to find Moxie belly up on the floor showing how cute, innocent and well behaved she can be.

Moxie is constantly doing things to make me smile, laugh, and yes, even try my patience, but she knows she holds a huge place in my heart.

We entered the show ring in December. It was my first time showing a dog, though I have shown horses and soon discovered it is very similar to showing in line classes. On the final day of that show weekend, Moxie ended up Best of Breed! I was very excited and proud of my little girl! I was hooked, and we attended some more shows. She finished her Championship in February, going Best of Breed and getting a Puppy Group the same day!! I never imagined in 7 months of owning Moxie that this is where we would be, but I am so proud of her!

It didn't take long for Moxie to work her way into the center of everything I do, and she knows it! Life has definitely been much fuller with Moxie in it. She brings me up when I'm feeling down, and when I'm feeling a little too good about things, she is always there with a reality check!

I would like to thank Sue Bain, Frank & Lucy Power, Maja Hurd and, of course, Charlie, for all your help and support while I've been showing Moxie! She is also taking obedience classes, so I hope to be seen there and in Agility in future months.

My father was not pleased when I told him I was getting this puppy. Moxie has converted him to a true friend. She knows the corgi magic.

Kathryn Arthur, St. Marys, ON

### **A SAD BUT HEART WARMING TALE**

When I was in PEI, Steph Toman had a litter of puppies that reached the age to go home while I was there. I met several excited families as they came to pick up their new babies. One family had a teenage daughter who was a competitive rider. She had the energy and passion to get the best out of a very bright puppy, and the two prospered through the summer. Then tragedy occurred, as owner Elizabeth Brown had a bad fall from her horse, and ended up paraplegic, confined to a wheelchair. Then a friend intervened. Duke Ferguson is a professional dog trainer (in Montague, PEI), and he took on the task of training Molly the Cardigan to be a companion dog. Molly must become accustomed to being around a wheelchair, and to pick up and deliver articles on command. She will turn on lights, open doors (including the fridge), and bring a ringing telephone. She will run for help when that is needed. Duke has offered this training as a goodwill gesture, in sympathy for a young lady faced with big challenges. Molly, well, she loved her girl before the fall, and waited patiently for her to get out of hospital. My best wishes to all in this drama.

Charlie MacInnes