



Colonial Shetland Sheepdog Club

CSSC Bulletin

May 2010

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Upcoming events

- *May 2: Grooming demo and meeting, plan for specialty and agility trial*
- *May 22-23: Agility trial*
- *June 4: Spring specialty*
- *July 18: Annual meeting*
- *August 1: Fun match and picnic*
- *December 3: Winter specialty*
- *Jan 9, 2011: Holiday party*
- *February 19 or 20, 2011: Meeting, vote on judges, select nominating committee*

Debarking bill is a lie

Massachusetts state senators voted for a lie last week. Some of them even knew it was a lie, but they voted for it anyway, because they were afraid not to. They were afraid to be labeled as voting for something that media hype has dubbed “cruelty to animals,” even though it is not. They let emotion and media hype and “everyone else is voting for it” affect their decision. H.344, the bill to ban dog “devocalization” surgery, also known as “debarking” or, more accurately, “bark softening,” is based on a lie. It is an “animal rights” bill. To anyone who has really paid attention to animal rights, this is a tautology. In my opinion, animal rights bills are always based on lies. This law will kill many dogs and break many pet owners’ hearts. This, too, is typical of animal rights bills.

If this sounds extreme, it is because the public needs to know the bald truth. Despite the efforts of many concerned dog owners who tried to tell them the truth, our legislators voted for the bill without checking facts. They ignored information provided by dog experts, trainers, and veterinarians in fa-

vor of the more sensational testimony of those who, though they may care deeply about animals, are misinformed. The result is that our legislators supported the agenda of national fundraising organizations that are running a coordinated campaign to force us to live by their political philosophy—the idea that we are better off living without any animals at all. There is a crucial difference between animal “rights” and animal “welfare.” Animal rights only sounds like it is about making animal care more humane. It is really about taking our animals away from us and creating a vegan society. The leaders know very few people would agree, so they hide behind proposals that superficially sound humane, to fool those without firsthand knowledge of how animal husbandry really works.

But the proposals always end up killing animals or making them more expensive. That is the key to identifying animal rights legislation.

It really is not difficult to figure out—a little critical thinking is all that is needed. Animal rights calls for not

just some rights, but equal rights with humans. Equal rights would mean that animals could not be owned, could not be pets, could not be hunted, could not be eaten. Because who, given freedom of choice, would choose those things? (That is the theory, anyway.) An out-of-state animal rights organization wrote H.344 and persuaded a local teenager to propose it.

Even though debarking surgery is quick, safe, and only partially softens dogs’ voices, the idea sounds horrible to people who have not heard of it before. They ask, “Why would anyone do that to their dog?” They think this is a rhetorical question. It is not. There are good reasons that dog owners may need to have it done.

Bark softening is one of the coping mechanisms that allows us to keep animals even in dense housing, where they may annoy neighbors. Cities, towns, neighborhoods, condo associations, apartment buildings all have ordinances that allow them to evict nuisances, and dog barking is always specified as one of the nuisances.

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Pet trimming and grooming demo on Sunday, May 2 at 12:30

Our next club meeting will be on May 2 at Lori Underwood's house in Sterling. Board meeting will be at 11:00 and lunch and refreshments start at 12:30 for the general membership and guests. At our meeting, we will be making final preparations for the agility trial and spring specialty. After that, Lori Underwood and Carolyn Ing will demonstrate how to trim and groom a pet Sheltie. Be sure to invite your puppy buyers and pet owners! Guests should bring

their recently bathed dogs as well as their brushes and any other grooming tools they have.

Don't forget to bring a dish or beverages to share.

Directions

From Route 2 going west: Get on I-190 South to Exit 6. At bottom of exit take a LEFT onto RT. 12 South, go 3 miles. In center of Sterling, look for Woody's Barbershop on left. Houghton Road (dead end) is directly across from barbershop. Take right onto Houghton

Rd., go up behind library, stay on it all the way up thru the woods, don't take any of the little driveways off it. I'm at the top of the hill, circular driveway, green house, light gray garage.

From 495 North: Take 290 West (WORCESTER) to 190 North (Leominster) Take exit 6, take a right onto RT. 12 South, follow for 2.5 miles into Sterling Center. Look for Woody's Barbershop on the left and follow directions above.

From 495 South: Take exit 29, RT 2 West (Leominster) to I-190 South (Worcester), then take exit 6. At bottom take a left onto Rt 12 South, follow directions above.

From 128: Take Rt 2 West to I-190 South (Worcester), than take exit 6. At bottom take left onto Rt 12 South, follow directions above.

I-395 North: Take I-290 East to I-190 North (exit 18-19). Take Exit 6 off 190, turn left onto Rt. 12 South. Follow directions above.

Board and general meeting minutes - February 21, 2010

Present: Alanna Kelly, Cynthia Hanlon, Randine Parry, Kathy Fuller, Robert Olsen Elizabeth Hildreth, Bonnie Chandler, Carolyn Ing

Corresponding secretary's report: Liz Hildreth reported receipt of the latest ASSA membership roster and the *Bulletin Board*, AKC show application for the winter specialty, and spring specialty show and agility trial approvals.

Treasurer's report: Alanna Kelly reported that as of Feb. 21, 2010, the club had \$9,030.91 in its checking account. Net loss for the period from September 1, 2009 to February 21, 2010 was \$421.38. The club made an additional \$50 contribution to Mass Fed. The higher sponsorship level will help cover the cost of a legislative liaison for the organization.

Agility trial chair report: Agility trial chair report: Funds will be required to rent the indoor facility which will be used for the

2010 trial. Alanna will request a \$6,000-\$9,000 advance on our entry fees from PawPrint trials as we will need more cash than in previous years.

Spring specialty chair report: Carolyn reported that there is a new tent vendor in Long Island that may be interested in bidding on future tent requirements for local shows. The current tent vendor fees have risen every year and now comprises the largest expense for the show.

Old business: The board discussed the proposed 2011 obedience trial with Granite State SSC, which would feature a four-trial weekend. Granite State suggested using Sandy Madson's Waggin' Tails facility in Westford. Other ideas from the board were Four Paws in Boxboro, American K9 in Amherst, NH, and All Dogs' Gym in Manchester, NH. The obedience committee was instructed to follow up.

New business: CSSC member

Ruth Merrill passed away recently. The board suggested contacting club members who would be willing to write a memorial for the next club newsletter. Liz H. volunteered to ask her mother to write an article.

Life membership requirements were discussed. The requirements have never been clearly defined in the past. We will need a change in bylaws to include a new life membership category, so discussion will continue in future meetings. Board discussed life membership requirements: continuing support of the club, 25 year membership requirement, AKC title achievement not a requirement. The board voted to accept three new life members: Jeanne Stanechewski and Jodi and Steve Champlin. Bonnie and Liz will ask Carolyn Johnston to make certificates for them, and Liz will send them letters of appreciation.

Topic will be grooming for

Sheltie pets. Members are encouraged to invite puppy buyers and other guests.

General Meeting

Present: Alanna Kelly, Carolyn Ing, Bonnie Chandler, Liz Hildreth, Kathy Fuller, Louise Cote, Robert Olsen, Cynthia Hanlon, Susan Morris, Paul Morris, Jeanne Stanechewski, Lori Underwood, Katherine Ostiguy.

Board covered topics that had been discussed in the board meeting (as above). **New business:** Voting on 2011 spring specialty judges and 2010 fall match judges took place. David Calderwood was selected as our 2011 specialty judge, Kathy Ryan as our specialty sweeps judge, Vicki Rolls as our fall match breed judge, and Elizabeth Hildreth as our fall match sweeps judge.

August 1, picnic. July 18, annual meeting. Bonnie will contact the Holiday Inn for reservations. Kat Ostiguy, Kathy Fuller, and Lori Underwood comprise the nominating committee to select the slate of new club officers.

In memoriam: Ruth Merrill, Goldenledge Shelties and Parson Russell Terriers

May 21, 1928 -
February 1, 2010



CH Goldenledge Closed Caption

Ruth Merrill of Goldenledge passed away in peace February 1, 2010 in her home in Rehoboth, MA. Ruth had worked as a teacher in the Attleboro school system for many years. As a young girl, Ruth and her mother bred Collies and Ruth was one of several local breeders who worked through their breeding programs with Dr. Richard Donovan on Collie and Sheltie eye research. She was one of the founding members and a life member of Colonial. She joined ASSA in January 1951, remaining a member for 59 years until her passing.

She was the longtime owner of Goldenledge Kennel, where she bred Shetland Sheepdogs and Parson Russell Terriers. One of her first Shelties to finish was CH. Lamp Lighter O'Page's Hill and she remembered Goldenledge Wee Wendy as one

of her favorites. She had AM/CAN CH Malpsh Great Scott ROM and told the story of him getting attention from visitors by joining the group with his favorite pipe in his mouth. Another of her favorites was CH Roralore Curst Kate who finished in 1965. Listed in Bob Miller's *Non-Champions behind AKC & CKC Shetland Sheepdog Champions* are 36 Goldenledge Shelties. In the 80s, Ruth also co-owned champions CH Goldenlege Time to Remember and CH Sumersong Conv'rsation Piece with me.

Later in life, Ruth joined in partnership with Carleen Farrington of Mitern Farm to raise and show 12 champion Parson Russell Terriers in the past 6 years. Notably, CH Goldenlege Closed Caption was the Veteran Dog Winner at the 2009 PRTAA Nationals. Her first PRT

that I remember was Clementine, who was a sweet friendly gal who spent a lot of time collecting and building rock piles in Ruth's front yard and if not satisfied with the size, shape, and composition, would then cheerfully move them to another spot in the yard.

Ruth is survived by two daughters, Joan Davis of Rehoboth and Patricia L. Merrill of Central Falls, Rhode Island. Ruth was the widow of the late Richard D. Merrill. She made sure her remaining dogs were taken care of prior to her passing. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Rehoboth Animal Shelter, Rehoboth Town Hall, 148 Beck Street, Rehoboth, MA 02769.

- Nancy Hildreth



AM/CAN CH Malpsh Great Scott, ROM

Member brags

Betty McAdams: Fly (Shield Crest Fly By Night AX, AXJ, XF) earned a QQQ at the American Eskimo Trial in NH on Easter Sunday. He had qualifying runs in Excellent B Standard, Excellent B Jumpers With Weaves and Excellent B FAST, and all three runs were first place.

Kathy Ryan: In a very short time, 15-month old Sunaire Living The Dream ("Marco") has 12 points and three specialty majors. He was WD for four points at the Mid-Florida specialty in March, and earned his sec-

ond major a week later at the SSC of Southeast Florida specialty under Linda More. "Marco" went WD/BOW for four more points at the Greater Charlotte SSC under Jean Fournier. "Marco" is sired by CH Lochlyn Dream Catcher x Sunaire Natalia. He was bred by Kathy and Jackie Corwin and is co-owned by Kathy, Jackie and Kathy Wilkins.

"Marco's" half-sister, Sunaire Follow Your Dreams, was RWB at the Mid-Florida specialty.

BISS Sunaire Follow Your Dreams, Kathy's bi-black bitch, is now a champion.

She finished on April 9 at the Piedmont KC show under Sheltie breeder Nan Bodine. "Jessica" is sired by CH Lochlyn Dream Catcher x Sunaire After Midnight and is co-owned by Kathy, Jackie Corwin and Kathy Wilkins.

Lori Underwood: Vogue Happy Camper ("Foster") was WD at the Great Barrington KC show on April 11, bringing him to seven points. Thank you, Linda Loring, for taking Foster back in for breed. BISS CH Vogue Take-Out ("Domino") was Best of

Breed and was pulled for consideration in the group.

Janet Whalen: On April 10, seven month old Genesis Solar Flare was Best of Opposite Sex in Sweeps at the Tri State specialty under Martha Heckman. "Flare" was pulled for consideration in Winners on Friday. "Flare's" dam, Wistwin Soleil, was Best of Winners and Best of Opposite Sex for her third point at the Great Barrington KC show on April 11.

Debark bill (continued)

(continued from page 1)

The truth is, the idea of surgery seems just as horrible to a dog owner threatened with eviction, but there may be no other way to keep the dog. In many cases, euthanization is the only other option. Although most dogs can, with much careful work, be trained to be quieter, there will always be a few that cannot, even with expert trainers. And there will always be a few neighbors for whom nothing but absolute silence will suffice.

In fact, the surgery is done for the neighbors, not the owners.

Because very few people have any direct experience with this rare surgery, the bill promoters were able to get away with egregious lies. They waved pictures of a

dog with a huge surgical incision from some other cause and said it was a debark job; they posted YouTube videos of dogs with weird voices from illness or injury and said they were debarked; they said it is "common," "painful," has dangerous side effects. They asserted that all dogs can easily be trained to bark less and that owners who can't are "just lazy." They whipped up public outcry with inflammatory descriptions of "silencing" dogs, "taking away their only form of communication," "ripping out their voice boxes," "cutting their throats." They said breeders get whole litters of puppies devocalized "for profit," sometimes even doing the job themselves by cruel methods. None of this is

true.

They even dragged in imaginary connections to drug dealers and illegal dog fighting.

The few voices of those with actual knowledge were hard to hear in the hubbub, and the few legislators who listened to them were not always sure who to believe. The debarking operation is so rare that even most veterinarians have no experience with it, so some were advocating on the side of the ignorant.

This is what happens when legislators are put in the false position of dictating how other people pursue their professions. They should not be voting on esoteric veterinary matters without the veterinary knowledge to know when they are being given false

information. The decision should be left to the vets.

This vote sets a dangerous precedent by banning a veterinary procedure based on emotional media promotion, and requiring vets to justify their medical decisions. This precedent is just what the animal rights folks are waiting for. They announced years ago what they plan to do with it: Ban more and more veterinary procedures and demand more oversight, until it becomes impossible or too expensive to keep pets healthy.

The bill now goes back to the House to be reconciled with the version the House passed a month ago.

-Bonnie Chandler, from Harvard Press, April 10, 2010

Club officers and board members

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How to qualify for annual club awards

Titles that are earned from May 1, 2009 to May 1, 2010 will be eligible for awards at the annual meeting in July 2010. In order to qualify, you must be a member in good standing; you must attend two meetings and work at one event during the year for which you are receiving the award; and you must send proof of the title and date to Alanna Kelly by June 1, 2010.

The awards are 9" x 12" plaques arrayed with twelve brass plates, one of which is engraved with your dog's name, title and year earned. Once you receive a plaque, the club will engrave additional brass plates for subsequent titles earned.

Visit the club website
www.colonialssc.org

Join our Yahoo group:
groups.yahoo.com/group/ColonialSSC

Membership and dues

Annual club dues are due each year on September 1. Membership fees should be submitted to the club treasurer. Fees are as follows:

Adult: \$15

Junior: \$12

Family: \$25

Non-members may subscribe to the club newsletter for an annual fee of \$12.

Potential members interested in applying can download an application from the club website (www.colonialssc.org) or by contacting Alanna Kelly, club treasurer. New members must have attended two club events and have received endorsements from two current members in good standing.

If you actually read this newsletter . . .

Did you notice anything missing from the bulletin, such as a brag, article or announcement? Well, that's because you didn't submit it personally to me, your newsletter editor! I troll for fresh newsletter nuggets but

can't guarantee that you will be included unless you send them to me directly.

The submission deadline for the next issue is Friday, June 18, 2010.

- Carolyn Ing

Colonial Shetland Sheepdog Club
c/o Alanna Kelly
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Norwood, MA 02062

Don't forget to bring raffle items for the agility trial worker raffle
and the spring specialty raffle!

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Contact Randi Parry if you have a special food donation you are
planning to bring for the spring specialty brown bag lunch.