

Sheltie Tales

of the Shetland Sheepdog Club of Southeast Florida

August 2006

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There's Hope for Thunder-Phobic Dogs

By: Kim Marie Labak, Information Specialist

Reprinted from the University of Illinois, College of Veterinary Medicine

Zeus Barger and Belle Carpenter were two dogs who shared a common problem. Like many dogs, they were deathly afraid of thunderstorms. Fortunately, Zeus, Belle, and their owners have found ways to manage their thunder phobia.

Dogs can sense subtle changes in barometric pressure, so they may sense a thunderstorm an hour or more before it hits. Dogs who suffer thunder anxiety may pant, pace, salivate, and paw at doors excessively before a storm, and when thunder sounds, they may shiver, whimper, or even become destructive, scratching at doors and floors, possibly to the point that they hurt themselves. This was the case with Zeus.

Zeus was a golden retriever who found a simple way to deal with his fear of thunder. He belonged to Dr. Anne Barger, a veterinary pathologist and assistant professor at the University of Illinois Veterinary Teaching Hospital in Urbana.

"Zeus was a sensitive soul," explains Barger, who would put Zeus in a kennel while she was away at work. One day when it started to storm, she worried about Zeus and went home to check on him.

"By the time I got there, he had gotten out of kennel. He was so afraid, he was able to bend the metal bars and squeeze out." Not only did Zeus destroy his kennel, but he also hurt himself getting out--his face was swollen and cut from the ordeal. During another incident, Zeus was outside during a storm and trying to get inside, he scratched at the door so violently he demolished the door and wore his toenails down until his paws were bleeding.

The solution to Zeus' problem was surprisingly simple. Dr. Barger explains, "Zeus and I came to an understanding: I told him I wouldn't put him in the cage anymore if he found a place in the house he could go to feel safe during thunderstorms." Eventually Zeus found that the lying in the upstairs bathtub made him feel more secure during thunderstorms.

"I knew an hour ahead of time that a storm was coming, because Zeus would head upstairs and look at me as if to say 'I'll be in the tub if you need me.' In the tub, Zeus calmed down, his breathing and heart rates became normal, and he wasn't hurting himself."

When asked to theorize why Zeus chose the bathtub, Barger says, "The bathtub is such a strong, solid appliance that when the thunder shakes the house a little, the tub may muffle the vibrations." Barger also notes that the bathtub is a cool, quiet place, and that her bathroom doesn't have any windows, keeping Zeus from seeing the lighting, which also triggers anxiety in

some dogs.

Dr. Rachael Carpenter, a veterinary anesthesiologist at the teaching hospital, also has a thunderstorm phobic dog named Belle. For years, veterinarians have prescribed sedatives to calm dogs during storms, but Carpenter explains that these medications may sedate a dog, but the dog may still feel anxious even though it doesn't show signs of agitation. "Of course, you can't ask the dog if it still feels anxious, but now there are drugs on the market that are specifically made to treat anxiety, not hyperactivity."

Aside from medical treatment, behaviorists recommend counter-conditioning and desensitization. "To counter-condition your dog, teach her to settle and relax on command. Train her to go to her bed and lay down on command when it's not thundering, so when the thunder comes, she already understands that command."

Carpenter explains that often pet owners do the opposite; by offering a pet treats, praise, and consolation petting when the animal is panting, pacing, and whimpering, they are essentially rewarding the pet for acting anxious.

Carpenter also recommends playing CDs or audio tapes of thunderstorms to desensitize a pet to the noise. "Start it out quietly, and then play it a little louder. At the same time, tell the dog to go to its bed and relax, and reward them for lying down and relaxing."

A novel solution that Carpenter has tried with Belle is a Dog Appeasing Pheromone (DAP) diffuser, an over-the counter product available at most pet stores. "It looks just like a Glade Plug-In," she says. The diffuser releases a pheromone that is similar to the one that mother dogs release when their puppies are nursing.

"It's supposed to be very calming, and you simply plug it into the wall and keep one around during storm season." Carpenter recommends combining a DAP diffuser with behavioral training and drug therapy.

Pet owners can learn from Zeus and Belle that there are several options for dealing with a thunder-phobic pet, from medications and pheromones to training, or simply letting the pet seek out its own hide-out. As Dr. Barger notes, "Often dogs will let us know what they need if we just give them the opportunity."

For more information on thunder phobia, behavior, anti-anxiety medications, or DAP diffusers and your pet, consult your veterinarian.

Minutes of Our General Membership Meeting, July 23, 2006

SHETLAND SHEEPDOG CLUB OF SOUTHEAST FLORIDA, INC.

Member of the American Shetland Sheepdog Association

Meeting called to order by President Hector at 1:25 pm at the Pompano Beach Elks Club. Quorum was declared. Hector thanked everyone for the seminar and the match. Meredith was thanked especially for all her hard work.

Guest Mary Wells was welcomed.

A motion was called to approve the June meeting min. 2nd by Cindy Theiss, approved by the membership.

Membership committee-this is the 3rd visit by Bonnie Thatcher in her attempts to be a new member of SSCSEF. Vote was taken by secret ballot.

Officer & board reports:

President - no report

VP- no report

Sect.-Noted receipt of ASSA dues Notice; Minutes from special board meeting were read; after some corrections minutes were approved.

Treasurer – no report

Committee reports:

Breeder referral- Mary Ann had a couple of calls and they were forwarded to some club members.

Show committee-both conformation judges and both sweeps judges have agreed to be the judges. Still waiting for obedience judges. Location is set for Okeeheelee Park in WPB. AKC app is due Aug 30, if we need to change the location report does not have to be in until then. Block of rooms was reserved at LaQuinta at Okeechobee Rd, \$125.00 discounted rate. Room needs to be booked 2 weeks in advance.

Jana made a motion to accept the board's recommendation to have back to back, Stephanie 2nd there was no discussion, motion passed.

Match-Meredith thanked all that came and the judge and congratulated the winners: Best Puppy & Best of Opposite Sex in Match -Karen Salvage's Kody. Best Adult and Best in Match- Stephanie Riley's Whitney. Best of Opposite Sex adult - Lorna Staab's -Cutter. Bonnie Thatcher took some nice pictures. She will send to Jana to post on the web site.

New Business:

Members wishing to advertise on Web Site and/or from the officers e-mail list.

Karen made a motion that no private advertising be permitted via web site or generated through official club e-mails. 2nd from Jana, vote passed.

Diane Troese-gave permission to use the show logo. What should we do? Jana had a friend that can do the shirts. Mary suggested table covers with the show logo. Hector also knows someone that can do shirts.

Next meeting-August 8, at the home of Cindi Theiss-829 SW 20th St. Ft Lauderdale, FL. 954-763 4447.

Karen made motion to adjourn, Meta 2nd. Voted.

Bragg:



Jana brags... she will be picking up a new puppy from Cindi Theiss-The puppies were examined by the ophthalmologist and were declared to be the best sheltie eyes he's examined!

Lorna brags...Ch Cameo Dreamchaser-took two best of breeds in the past two weeks.

Hector and Meredith-brag their pupp, Rosmoor Enclave Michelangelo-Micah took a major specialty win in Sarasota and also a major reserve at his first two shows.

Stephanie brags...her bitch CJ, is due to whelp within the two weeks a litter of sable puppies

SSCSEF Committees

Specialty –Paul
Web site - Jana
Breeder referral - Maryann
Fundraising – Meredith and Martha (co chair)
Newsletter - Paul
Sunshine Lady - Maryann
Match – Hector
Hospitality - Holly

Upcoming events

General Membership Meeting of The Shetland Sheepdog Club Of Southeast Florida

**Tuesday, August 22, 2006
7:30 pm**

Our Hostess - **Cindi Theiss**
cindikoa@aol.com

829 Southwest 20th Street
Fort Lauderdale, FL 33315
954-763-4447

Directions:

From I-95 or the Florida Turnpike. Exit State Road 84 or Marina Mile Blvd, Go east
Turn left on SW 9th Ave.
Turn right on SW 20th Street

829 SW 20th Street,
Ft Lauderdale, FL. 33315

Show Events Calendar

Click on

<http://calendar.yahoo.com/sscsef>

Past Events

Shetland Sheepdog Club of Southeast Florida, Inc. July 23, 2006 - Sanctioned Match Results

Congratulations to all the winners and many thanks to our judge Mary H. Wells and to all the exhibitors!

6-9 dogs

1st – Shadow (Bonny Thatcher)

2nd – Dugan (Maryann Lannon)

9-12 dogs

1st – Kody (Karen Salvage)

Adult dogs

1st – Cutter (Lorna Staab)

2nd – Stormy (Colleen Kessler)

3rd – Buddy (Dorothy Moore)

4th – Brock (Martha Hollingsworth)

6-9 bitches

N/A

9-12 bitches

1st – Autumn (Karen Salvage)

Adult bitches

1st – Whitney (Stephanie Riley)

2nd – Emma (Lorna Staab)

Best Puppy

Autumn (Karen Salvage)

Best of Opposite Sex puppy

Kody (Karen Salvage)

Best Adult

Whitney (Stephanie Riley)

Best of Opposite Sex Adult

Cutter (Lorna Staab)

BEST IN MATCH

Whitney (Stephanie Riley)

Brain Exercise Keeps Older Dogs Sharp

By: Kim Marie Labak, Information Specialist
(Reprinted from the Internet)

As dogs age, they may experience loss of mental sharpness, a condition known as geriatric cognitive dysfunction, similar to geriatric dementia in humans. According to Dr. Thomas Graves, an internist at the University of Illinois Veterinary Teaching Hospital in Urbana, signs of cognitive dysfunction include altered interactions with people, decreased activity, "accidents" in the house, disorientation, change in sleep patterns, and loss of learned behaviors.

Geriatric cognitive disorder shares its many signs with other conditions; for example, an alteration in the sleep-wake cycle and increased urination may instead be related to a urinary disorder, and lethargy may simply mean that the dog isn't feeling well. Since there is no gold standard for diagnosis of geriatric cognitive disorder, veterinarians perform a thorough exam and run laboratory tests to rule out other problems.

The physiology behind geriatric cognitive disorder is not fully understood, but dietary supplements, medications, and intellectual stimulation have all been shown to help maintain a healthy brain. In most cases, combining these approaches yields better results. Increasing dietary intake of antioxidants, such as vitamins E and C and L-carnitine, may help protect the brain and the rest of the nervous system from free-radicals, the reactive byproducts of normal body processes. (Free-radical damage is the primary suspect in the aging process of humans as well as dogs.)

Dietary studies indicate that puppies learn new tasks better when given antioxidant supplements, so antioxidant supplements may benefit the young as well as the more mature.

Dr. Graves cites studies on human aging that demonstrate that intellectual activities, new leisure

activities, or hobbies can delay onset of dementia in older people. "We believe the same is true for dogs," he says. "Behavioral enrichment in the form of new experiences helps keep the brain active."

He explains that intellectual challenges for pets of all ages can be simple changes in routine. "If you always take your dog for the same walk, try a new route to a new park, even if the dog is resistant. New experiences are good."

Dr. Graves also suggests replacing old toys with new ones regularly and trying different games and activities with a pet. Laboratory studies of dog behavior have shown that introducing different games and different toys improved dogs' ability to learn new tasks.

Keeping an aging dog socially active also keeps the brain sharp. If a dog is friendly, it can benefit from meeting new people and dogs on regular basis. Dr. Graves also notes that introducing a new puppy into the household can help keep an older dog more active, both physically and mentally.

According to Dr. Graves, both the brain and the body work on the "use it or lose it" principle: "If a dog, or a human being for that matter, just sits around all day--of course, it's going to get older faster."

Dr. Graves suggests that older dogs visit a veterinarian at least once every six months. "A geriatric dog seeing a veterinarian once a year is like a geriatric person seeing a doctor once every four or five years." Since dogs experience more health problems as they age, it makes sense that they see a veterinarian more often. In addition, any change in a geriatric pet's behavior warrants a visit to the veterinarian.

Shetland Sheepdog Breed Standard

General Appearance

Preamble-- The Shetland Sheepdog, like the Collie, traces to the Border Collie of Scotland, which, transported to the Shetland Islands and crossed with small, intelligent, longhaired breeds, was reduced to miniature proportions. Subsequently crosses were made from time to time with Collies. This breed now bears the same relationship in size and general appearance to the Rough Collie as the Shetland Pony does to some of the larger breeds of horses. Although the resemblance between the Shetland Sheepdog and the Rough Collie is marked, there are differences, which may be noted. The Shetland Sheepdog is a small, alert, rough-coated, longhaired working dog. He must be sound, agile and sturdy. The outline should be so symmetrical that no part appears out of proportion to the whole. Dogs should appear masculine; bitches feminine.



Size, Proportion, Substance

The Shetland Sheepdog should stand between 13 and 16 inches at the shoulder. Note: Height is determined by a line perpendicular to the ground from the top of the shoulder blades, the dog standing naturally, with forelegs parallel to line of measurement.

Disqualifications-- Heights below or above the desired size range are to be disqualified from the show ring. In overall appearance, the body should appear moderately long as measured from shoulder joint to ischium (rearmost extremity of the pelvic bone), but much of this length is actually due to the proper angulation and breadth of the shoulder and hindquarter, as the back itself should be comparatively short.

Head

The *head* should be refined and its shape, when viewed from top or side, should be a long, blunt wedge tapering slightly from ears to nose.

Expression-- Contours and chiseling of the head, the shape, set and use of ears, the placement, shape and color of the eyes combine to produce expression. Normally the expression should be alert, gentle, intelligent and questioning. Toward strangers the eyes should show watchfulness and reserve, but no fear.

Eyes medium size with dark, almond-shaped rims, set somewhat obliquely in skull. Color must be dark, with blue or merle eyes permissible in blue merles only. *Faults*-- Light, round, large or too small. Prominent haws. *Ears* small and flexible, placed high, carried three-fourths erect, with tips breaking forward. When in repose the ears fold lengthwise and are thrown back into the frill.

Faults-- Set too low. Hound, prick, bat, twisted ears. Leather too thick or too thin.

Skull and Muzzle Top of skull should be flat, showing no prominence at nuchal crest (the top of the occiput). Cheeks should be flat and should merge smoothly into a well-rounded muzzle. Skull and muzzle should be of equal length, balance point being inner corner of eye. In profile the top line of skull should parallel the top line of muzzle, but on a higher plane due to the presence of a slight but definite stop. Jaws clean and powerful. The deep, well-developed underjaw, rounded at chin, should extend to base of nostril. *Nose* must be black. *Lips* tight. Upper and lower lips must meet and fit smoothly together all the way around. Teeth level and evenly spaced. Scissors *bite*.

Faults-- Two-angled head. Too prominent stop, or no stop. Overfill below, between, or above eyes. Prominent nuchal crest. Domed skull. Prominent cheekbones. Snipy muzzle. Short, receding, or shallow underjaw, lacking breadth and depth. Overshot or undershot, missing or crooked teeth. Teeth visible when mouth is closed.

Neck, Topline, Body

Neck should be muscular, arched, and of sufficient length to carry the head proudly. *Faults*-- Too

short and thick. *Back* should be level and strongly muscled. **Chest** should be deep, the brisket reaching to point of elbow. The ribs should be well sprung, but flattened at their lower half to allow free play of the foreleg and shoulder. Abdomen moderately tucked up. *Faults*-- Back too long, too short, swayed or roached. Barrel ribs. Slab-side. Chest narrow and/or too shallow. There should be a slight arch at the loins, and the croup should slope gradually to the rear. The hipbone (pelvis) should be set at a 30-degree angle to the spine. *Faults*-- Croup higher than withers. Croup too straight or too steep.

The *tail* should be sufficiently long so that when it is laid along the back edge of the hind legs the last vertebra will reach the hock joint. Carriage of tail at rest is straight down or in a slight upward curve. When the dog is alert the tail is normally lifted, but it should not be curved forward over the back.

Faults-- Too short. Twisted at end.

Forequarters

From the withers, the shoulder blades should slope at a 45-degree angle forward and downward to the shoulder joints. At the withers they are separated only by the vertebra, but they must slope outward sufficiently to accommodate the desired spring of rib. The upper arm should join the shoulder blade at as nearly as possible a right angle. Elbow joint should be equidistant from the ground and from the withers. Forelegs straight viewed from all angles, muscular and clean, and of strong bone. Pasterns very strong, sinewy and flexible. Dewclaws may be removed. **Faults** Insufficient angulation between shoulder and upper arm. Upper arm too short. Lack of outward slope of shoulders. Loose shoulders. Turning in or out of elbows. Crooked legs. Light bone.

Feet should be oval and compact with the toes well arched and fitting tightly together. Pads deep and tough, nails hard and strong. *Faults* Feet turning in or out. Splay feet. Hare feet. Cat feet.

Hindquarters

The thigh should be broad and muscular. The thighbone should be set into the pelvis at a right angle corresponding to the angle of the shoulder blade and upper arm. Stifle bones join the thighbone and should be distinctly angled at the stifle joint. The overall length of the stifle should at least equal the length of the thighbone, and preferably should slightly exceed it. Hock joint should be clean-cut, angular, sinewy, with good bone and strong ligamentation. The hock (metatarsus) should be short and straight viewed from all angles. Dewclaws should be removed.

Faults-- Narrow thighs. Cow-hocks. Hocks turning out. Poorly defined hock joint.

Feet as in forequarters.

Coat

The coat should be double, the outer coat consisting of long, straight, harsh hair; the undercoat short, furry, and so dense as to give the entire coat its "standoff" quality. The hair on face, tips of ears and feet should be smooth. Mane and frill should be abundant, and particularly impressive in males. The forelegs well feathered, the hind legs heavily so, but smooth below the hock joint. Hair on tail profuse. *Note*: Excess-hair on ears, feet, and on hocks may be trimmed for the show ring.

Faults-- Coat short or flat, in whole or in part; wavy, curly, soft or silky. Lack of undercoat. Smooth-coated specimens.

Color

Black, blue merle, and sable (ranging from golden through mahogany); marked with varying amounts of white and/or tan. *Faults*-- Rustiness in a black or a blue coat. Washed-out or degenerate colors, such as pale sable and faded blue. Self-color in the case of blue merle, that is, without any merling or mottling and generally appearing as a faded or dilute tri-color.

Conspicuous white body spots. Specimens with more than 50 percent white shall be so severely penalized as to effectively eliminate them from competition. *Disqualification* Brindle.

Gait

The trotting gait of the Shetland Sheepdog should denote effortless speed and smoothness.

There should be no jerkiness, nor stiff, stilted, up-and-down movement. The drive should be from the rear, true and straight, dependent upon correct angulation, musculation, and ligamentation of the entire hindquarter, thus allowing the dog to reach well under his body with his hind foot and propel himself forward. Reach of stride of the foreleg is dependent upon correct angulation, musculation and ligamentation of the forequarters, together with correct width of chest and construction of rib cage. The foot should be lifted only enough to clear the ground as the leg swings forward. Viewed from the front, both forelegs and hindlegs should move forward almost perpendicular to ground at the walk, slanting a little inward at a slow trot, until at a swift trot the feet are brought so far inward toward center line of body that the tracks left show two parallel lines of footprints actually touching a center line at their inner edges. *There should be no crossing of the feet nor throwing of the weight from side to side.* *Faults--* Stiff, short steps, with a choppy, jerky movement. Mincing steps, with a hopping up and down, or a balancing of weight from side to side (often erroneously admired as a "dancing gait" but permissible in young puppies). Lifting of front feet in hackney-like action, resulting in loss of speed and energy. Pacing gait.

Temperament

The Shetland Sheepdog is intensely loyal, affectionate, and responsive to his owner. However, he may be reserved toward strangers but not to the point of showing fear or cringing in the ring. *Faults--* Shyness, timidity, or nervousness. Stubbornness, snappiness, or ill temper.

DISQUALIFICATIONS

Heights below or above the desired size range, i.e.

13-16 inches

Reformatted July 18, 1990

Approved May 12, 1959

Brindle color.

Books in the SSCSEF Library

Library maintained by Martha Hollingsworth, <mailto:marthah10@msn.com>

- The Intelligence of Dogs by Stanley Coren
- Dead and Doggone by Susan Conant
- The Standard Book of Dog Breeding by Alvin Grossman
- Lapdog Therapy by Mickey CGC, T.D.I.
- The Hidden Life of Dogs by Elizabeth Marshall Thomas
- One Small Dog by S. T. Tung
- Dogs, Horses, Cats and Animal in the National Gallery of Arts by H.I. Cooke
- Small Animal Clinical Nutrition III by Lon D. Lewis
- AKC: the Complete Dog Book - 17th edition
- American Sheepdog Association Handbook (8 books – 8 years)
- 1985- 1986, 1987, 1988, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1992 and 1993
- The New Shetland Sheepdog by Maxwell Riddle
- Keep Your Pet Healthy the Natural Way by Pat Lazarus
- The Shetland Sheepdog a Pictorial Standard
- The Cautious Canine: How to Help Dogs Conquer their Fears by Patricia B. McConnell
- Shetland Sheepdog Standard by Jean Daniels Simmonds

- The Shetland Sheepdog
- How to Raise a Puppy You Can Live With by Rutherford and Neil
- How to Show Your Own Dog by Virginia Tuck Nicholas
- Successful Dog Show Exhibiting by Anna Katherine Nicholas
- How to Trim, Groom and Show Your Dog by Blanche Saunders
- How to be Your Dog's Best friend
- The Nicholas Guide to Dog Judging by Anna Katherine Nicholas
- Herding Dogs by Vergil S. Holland
- The Joys of Breeding Your Own Show Dog
- The Art of Raising a Puppy
- Training your Dog
- Puppy Raising
- Open and Utility Training
- Breeding Better Dogs
- Tracking Dogs
- Utility Dog Training
- Koehler Method of Open Obedience
- American Kennel Club: Dog Care and Training
- The Book of the Shetland Sheepdog
- Sheltie Talk
- The Shetland Sheepdog in America

Video Cassette Tapes

- Golden Oldies - Shelties 1991 by A. Pepper Powers
- Dogsteps: the Study of Canine Structure
- AKC - Beginners Guide to Dog Showing
- AKC - Beginner Guide to Dog Care and Training
- AKC- Gait: Observing the Dog in Motion