

# Blues News

July 2011

BLUE RIDGE  
DOG TRAINING  
CLUB, INC.



Established 1967

## Agility Trial 2011 Pictures by Alice Seabright



### What's inside

Agility Trial	1-4
Agility Thanks	5
Picture of the Month	6
Mark Your Calendar	7
New Kids on the Block	8
"Jasmine"	9
Wags & Brags	10
The Mach Title	11



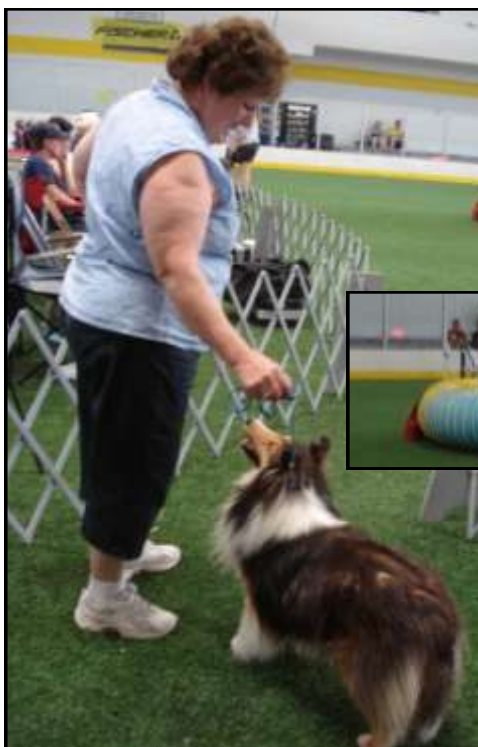
"I named my dog 'Stay'... so I can say 'Come here, Stay. Come here, Stay.'" - Steven Wright



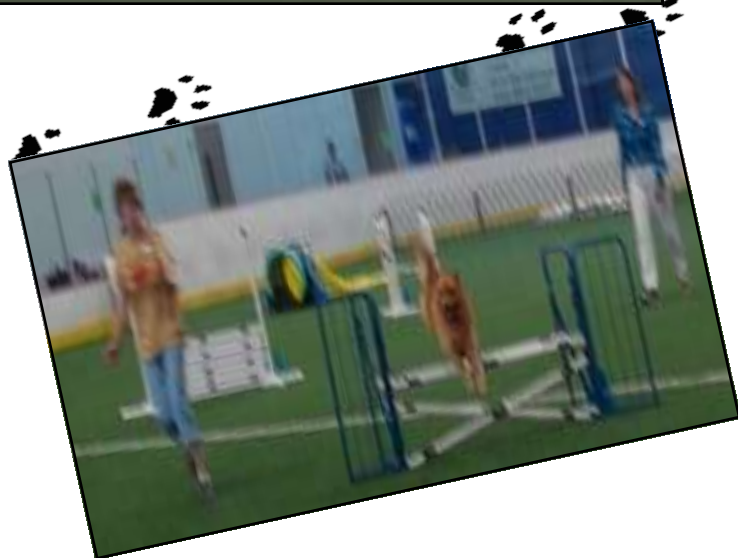














## “Agility Thank You”



I think I am recovered now from the trial and from working the 2 days following - why do I do that? Anyway, BIG THANKS to everyone who came out to work and support our trial. I saw several folks who don't even do agility pitching in to make our trial the success it was. Special thanks, in no particular order, to:

**Ed Strawsnyder and his fabulous crew** who get the trailer unloaded/loaded in record time, lay out the crating areas, and do the dirty work of making sure the poop stations stay manageable.

**John & Stacy Defilippi** for getting courses built and changed efficiently so the days don't go as long as they could otherwise.

**Anne Laskey** for being the Pied Piper of volunteer coordinators for keeping the rings ready to go and having her peeps ready to switch out at height changes so that there was the least amount of delay.

**Donna Thompson and the ribbon ladies** for keeping the drawers full - we had a record Q rate this trial!

**Vicki Gilley** for being the hostess with the mostest, even though she just had her hard cast removed the day before the trial started.

**Donna Richardson** for doing the awesome judges baskets they receive on arrival - both judges raved about how nice they were and how thoughtful. I hope I didn't forget anyone.

**Janice Morton**

I wanted to write and thank you again for having me judge at your trial. I appreciate your faith in me while on provisional status and you made my first excellent assignment a true pleasure. Thank you for the great goodie basket and the gift card. The small touches meant a lot. I look forward to seeing you at future shows. Please convey my thanks to your entire committee. The workers were always ready to go and the ring builders did an outstanding job. You ran a class act that made my job easy. Sincerely,

**Lisa Dempsey**

Thanks for a great trial as always I love your trials. Love how fast we get our results and how efficiently the trial is run. The judges were great as were their courses. The rep was very fair with her telling us about the puppy thing. I kept my puppy in her crate except for walking her out the back door to potty and walking her for exercise around the outside of the place. I just cannot leave her in her crate all day alone by herself in the house with dog sitters coming in my house. I was very happy to have the opportunity to take her. She was so good and I think the crowd loved her!

Thanks again for all your hard work!

**Karen Allen**

I certainly did enjoy the trial and appreciate all the work you do to get it up and running and produce results in a timely manner I got a kick out of the pictures you put into the workers raffle tickets.

Very nice. See you at the next event!

**Laurie Warren** ( the deaf woman with the Scottie):

I wanted to thank you and your group for doing such a great job. Thanks again for your hard work.

**Emily Fletcher**

I know you will just be thrilled to hear that I have figured out a way to do the trials in Winchester, even if they last 12 hours each day. Saturday was murder, but Sunday I went back to the hotel with Abby twice for 2 hours each time and that made the day much more bearable. So now that I have 3 coupons to enter Blue Ridge again, you will probably be stuck with me!

**Carol Halprin and Abby**



### Icy Paws Frozen Homemade Dog Treats

two 32-oz. tubs    one 6-oz. can  
plain or vanilla    tuna in water  
yogurt

2 tsp. garlic    24 3-oz. plastic  
powder    (not paper) bath-  
room cups

Open yogurts. If they are full to the top, use a spoon to scoop out one bathroom cup. These will be frozen as plain yogurt. Put half of the can of tuna in each yogurt container. Add 1 tsp. garlic powder to each container. Mix each container thoroughly. Use a spoon to scoop the mixture into the cups. Place on tray and pop in freezer overnight. Makes approximately 24 treats. Variations:



### Picture Of the Month



**"I'VE GOT DINNER!"**

Sweets Thompson



### Outdoor Care for Summer

Discuss with your veterinarian the safest products or procedures to use toward preventing these unwanted guests. Some common preventive methods include:

**Use flea, tick and heartworm prevention;** some flea and tick preventives also contain a mosquito repellant.

**Avoid standing pools of water** and keep water bowls fresh, to avoid mosquitoes.

**Don't use 'human' mosquito repellants on animals,** especially those containing the ingredient DEET, since they can cause neurological problems.

**Watch for fire ant nests** on the ground.

**Don't let your dog explore holes in the ground,** logs or other objects where snakes or yellow jacket nests might be hidden.

**After your dog has been in an area populated by ticks,** thoroughly comb him within four to six hours to help prevent ticks from attaching.

### "Doggie Horoscope"

Cancer

June 22 to July 22

Cancer dogs are sensitive, caring home dogs. This dog needs to be with you! Left alone at home he feels unsettled, and uncomfortable.

Leo

July 23 to August 22

Assertive and expressive, the Leo dog deserves respect. Leo dogs are excellent working dogs. They need a job and appropriate exercise.

### Birthdays & Anniversary's August

#### Birthday's

**Joyce Riggs**  
8/5

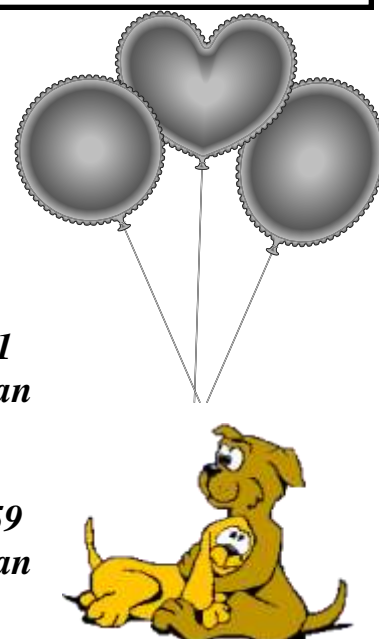
**Neil Leipham**  
8/15

**John Defilippi**  
8/30

#### Anniversary's

**Bernie & Donna Thompson** 8/19/61  
**Jan & David Burgan** 8/25/07

**Donna & Carle Germelman** 8/29/59  
**Kitty & Jim Bowman** 8/31/68







## Mark Your Calendar



A Rare Opportunity to Participate in a  
**GEORGE ALSTON  
HANDLING CLINIC  
SEPTEMBER 10-11, 2011**

**UAW HALL, 2625 PAPERMILL ROAD  
WINCHESTER, VIRGINIA 22601**

**8 A.M. – 5 P.M. EACH DAY**

**CLASSES FOR BEGINNING & ADVANCED HANDLERS AND OBSERVERS**

(Emphasis on training the handler rather than the dog)

**Proudly Hosted By The Shawnee  
Kennel Club**

George Alston, author of *The Winning Edge*, is one of the top professional dog handlers of all time. For more than 30 years, George led the dogs entrusted to him to countless wins, including more than 200 Best in Show rosettes and 600+ Group placements. Now retired from handling, this acknowledged master instructor in conformation handling travels throughout the U.S. presenting seminars designed to develop and polish handling skills necessary for success in class, Group, and Best in Show competitions.

**Reservations will be accepted until the clinic fills**

Alston seminars sell out quickly—don't delay submitting your registration form!

(See BRDTC website)

### **COURSE LEVELS**

**Beginner:** Geared to the novice exhibitor. Handler must be at least 10 years old. A mature, well-trained dog will be to your learning advantage. Dogs must be at least 12 months old to participate. (Limited to 20 handler/dog teams.)

**Advanced:** For experienced exhibitors. Handler should have been showing dogs for 5 years or have finished at least 2 dogs to conformation championship. Dogs must be at least 12 months old to participate. (Limited to 20 handler/dog teams.)

**FEES** (include continental breakfast and sandwich lunch each day)

Before August 1, 2011: Beginner & Advanced—\$150.00 for the two-day seminar

Observers—\$75.00 for the two-day seminar.

After August 1, 2011, the fee for Beginner and Advanced is \$165.00.

For more information, contact Anne Legge, 540-327-4260 or [annelegge@comcast.net](mailto:annelegge@comcast.net)

Frederick Co. Animal  
Shelter

Sept. 10, 2011



Patriotic Paws Day

11a.m. - 2 p.m.

Looking for demonstrators  
Items for Silent Auction



Held at the Shelter  
161 Fort Collier Road  
Winchester, VA 22603



*"Gracie Hammond"*



*"Pride & Joy's  
Xtra Special"*



*"Chia  
Brunner"*



**"NEW**  
Kids  
On  
The  
**BLOCK"**







## *"Jasmine"*

In 2003 Police in Warwickshire, England, opened a garden shed & found a whimpering cowering dog. The dog had been locked in the shed & abandoned. It was dirty & malnourished, & had quite clearly been abused.

In an act of kindness, the police took the dog, which was a female greyhound, to the Nuneaton Warwickshire Wildlife Sanctuary, which is run by a man named Geoff Grewcock, & known as a haven for animals abandoned, orphaned, or otherwise in need.



Geoff & the other sanctuary staff went to work with two aims: to restore the dog to full health, & to win her trust. It took several weeks, but eventually both goals were achieved. They named her Jasmine, & they started to think about finding her an adoptive home.



Jasmine, however, had other ideas. No one quite remembers how it came about, but Jasmine started welcoming all animals arrivals at the sanctuary. It would not matter if it were a puppy, a fox cub, a rabbit or, any other lost or hurting animal. Jasmine would just peer into the box or cage&, when & where possible, delivered a welcoming lick.

Geoff relates one of the early incidents "We had two puppies that had been abandoned by a nearby railway line. One was a Lakeland Terrier cross & another was a Jack Russell Doberman cross. They were tiny when they arrived at the centre, & Jasmine approached them & grabbed one by the scruff of the neck in her mouth & put him on the settee. Then she fetched the other one & sat down with them cuddling them."

"But she is like that with all of our animals, even the rabbits. She takes all the stress out of them, & it helps them to not only feel close to her, but to settle into their new surroundings. She has done the same with the fox & badger cubs, she likes the rabbits & guinea pigs, & even lets the birds perch on the bridge of her nose."



Jasmine, the timid, abused, deserted waif, became the animal sanctuary's resident surrogate mother, a role for which she might have been born. The list of orphaned & abandoned youngsters she has cared for comprises five fox cubs, four badger cubs, fifteen checks, eight guinea pigs, two stray puppies & fifteen rabbits - and one rose dear fawn. Tiny Bramble, eleven weeks old, was found semi-conscious in a field. Upon arrival at the sanctuary, Jasmine cuddled up to her to keep her warm, & then went into the full foster-mum role. Jasmine the greyhound showers Bramble the roe deer with affection, & makes sure nothing is matted.

"They are inseparable," says Geoff.

"Bramble walks between her legs, & they keep kissing each other. They walk together round the sanctuary. It's a real treat to see them. "

Jasmine will continue to care for Bramble until she is old enough to be returned to woodland life. When that happens, Jasmine will not be lonely. She will be too busy showering love & affection on the next orphan or victim of abuse.





## "WAGS & BRAGS"



My Whippet Ashley has been Best Opposite Sex for 4 days in a Row at the shows down in Bel Alton, MD this weekend!!! The same dog who went BOB over her every day even went Best in Show today, so guess we lost to a really great one!

Before this wkend, AKC was recording 25 GRCH pts., so ALL we need is a major to finish her GRAND. There're suppose to be several majors next wkend at Howard County shows, so ya all keep your fingers crossed for us.

**Bobbie Lutz**

Dicey Q'd in Excellent Standard on Friday and Saturday and earned double Q #69 on Sunday!

**Janice**

**Miss Kenzie** Q'd 5 out of 6 runs over the 3 days- earning her Open Stand. P title and getting her first leg in Exc. stand. P (on a pretty challenging course too!!) and also earned her Exc. Jumpers P title and getting a leg or two (can't remember!) in Exc. Jumpers P -B. She has gained confidence by leaps and bounds this year and I couldn't be more proud of her...

**Dudley** broke his NQ streak with an awesome-couldn't-have-been-better run in Exc. Jumpers A on sunday afternoon and earned a first place in the 20" division!!! Go Dudley!!! That was his only Q this weekend, despite being a very good boy with just minor mistakes on both our parts, and boy did it put one HUGE smile on my face.

My little buddy **Gem** had some beautiful runs as well, earning a Q each day!! She ran well, in between naps! Thanks to all for putting on such a great trial! I thought it was one of the smoothest in recent memory.

**Megan and crew**

I am so proud of Lumina who ran jww Novice both Saturday & Sunday and she Q both days with clean runs and first place. This was her second trail. Cindy has been training her in class and we both take turns training at the end of class. We didn't think she would do it but she sure surprised me when she ran. While my Torrem well good run Saturday but didn't make time. Sunday he NQ. Better luck next time.

**Annette**

Awesome weekend for Kenzie, Dudley, Dicey, Sawyer, Carrie, Smore and all my friends. Friends are what make those hours in between runs worth it. Thank you all.

Smokey had a great weekend too. We got our Jumpers Excel A title on Friday and our first Jumpers Excel B, Q on Sat. Sun was hard but had two nice runs with one bar down each run. I can't seem to buy a Std. Q in Excel. We'll get it next time. Thank to all for a very nice weekend.

**Vickie**

Opps, I miscounted -- Ashley had 5 Best Opp. Sex wins this past wkend. I forgot about the Hound Specialty on Thrs. Ashley has been Best Opposite Sex for 4 days in a Row at the shows down in Bel Alton, MD this weekend!!! **Bobbie Lutz**

Up one day & down the next", as they say: After that fabulous GCH outta Ashley a couple wks. ago, this past wkend at the Shawnee KC shows, she only went "Select" both days, with me handling her this time. Tyler, on the other hand, won Best of Winners from the Bred by Exhibitor class, Best Opposite Sex, and then went on to win a Group 1 in the special Bred by Exhibitor competition! Being the only male competing on Sun., he again was Best of Winners and Best Opposite Sex, with Daddy Fred handling him this day.

**Bobbie Lutz**

My turn to brag as well. Icey and Nikkee are ranked #1 and #2 in OTCH points in obedience. So they will both get invitations to compete at the National Obedience Invitational in Florida in December!

**Margaret Bissell**, Keepsake Kees

Yeah!!! Congratulations Janice and Dicey!!! Sonnett will have a friend there to hang with since she made the top 5 English Setters and will be getting an Invitation also! Making the top 5 in Dobermans is ALOT harder than making top 5 in English Setters.

**Donna R**

It's official! Dicey made the Top 5 Dobes in agility and will get an invitation to Orlando in December! Yeehaa!!

**Janice**







## **The MACH Title** (from [www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org)) *by Halee Mason*

Halee wrote this essay after getting her MACH with her dog, Cammi. So many relatives and friends didn't really know what a MACH was so she thought this would help explain.

### **Twenty Double Q's**

The experience of titling one's dog is very rewarding. It takes a lot of practice and dedicated training in order to prepare to show one's dog, but it is worth it in the end. The most treasured AKC Agility title is the MASTER AGILITY CHAMPION title or "MACH". It is the hardest, most coveted, and rewarding title to achieve. It takes a lot of work and time to get. In order to achieve the MACH title one must earn 20 Double Q's and 750 points. To obtain the MACH a dog must exhibit superior performance on the agility course.

In the dog world, MACH stands for Master Agility Champion. MACH has many other meanings that refer to speed as well, but I'll be focusing solely on the Agility meaning. One must climb through the ranks and all the previous classes. Novice, Open, and Excellent A all come before the class Excellent B. In order to move from class to class, a dog must complete each course, three times. Once the dog has traversed up the ranks to Excellent B, it can start working for the MACH Title.

Each day at the dog show there are two courses built. A Jumpers course and a Standard course. In Standard Agility there are obstacles such as a Dogwalk, A-Frame, and Teeter, which make it different from Jumpers. The three obstacles are called contacts. They have zones at the bottom of them call contact zones, where the dog must put one foot in. It is a matter of safety so the dogs do not leap off the top but come to the bottom first. The average Standard course takes about 55 seconds to complete. The reason Standard takes longer than Jumpers is because there is also a table in it. On the Table the dog must hop onto it, and then either sit or lie down for 5 seconds before continuing. Contact obstacles also take more time to complete then a jump.

Jumpers is a faster paced course with only tunnels, jumps, and weave poles. A dog gets the chance to really run in jumpers. An average jumpers course takes 30 second to complete. Jumpers courses can sometimes be harder for a dog to complete because there are more jumps in them, and therefore more chances to knock a bar down. If a dog knocks a bar they automatically fail the course. They can continue it, but they will not receive a passing grade.

Other ways to fail Excellent rank courses include missing a contact, jumping off the table, not completing or entering the weaves correctly, going overtime, or going off course by taking an obstacle out of order. In order to qualify in Excellent one must do the course perfectly; without any mistakes. It is not an easy task. A lot could go wrong on a single course. When the handler and the dog enter the ring, they must be connected and focused on the task ahead. The handler must clearly guide the dog through the obstacles. Before running the course, the handler is given the chance to walk the course so they know where they are going, but the dog has never seen this course before and must depend completely on the handler telling it where to go. An average course has 20 obstacles and the jumps and other obstacles are numbered from 1-20.



Each day there is a chance to earn a Double Q. In order to get a Double Q, the handler and the dog must run both the Jumpers and the Standard course perfectly. Then comes the other requirement of 750 points. Each Agility course has a standard course time. Besides being accurate one must also be efficient. One cannot dawdle on the course or they will exceed maximum course time and fail. There is a standard course time set for every course depending on the total yards of the course. Points are calculated by how many seconds under time the dog runs the course. As an example, the standard course time (SCT) for a Jumpers course is 38 seconds, and the dog completes it in 30 seconds. The dog would then earn 8 points.

As one can see, in order to get the MACH it takes a lot of work, but the MACH 'celebration' is a truly wonderful experience. Once a dog and handler have gotten 19 Double Q's and 750 points, and they are working for their last one, the tension and stakes are raised. It is nerve wracking to run the last course before achieving one's MACH. Everyone holds their breath as the handler goes out and prepares to run the course. On lookers watch intently; white knuckled, and wait as the soon to be MACH dog goes through the course. As the dog travels over the last obstacle, with a clean run behind him, the crowd jumps up and cheers, whistles, and claps. The handler and the dog get to do a victory lap. Someone runs out a MACH ribbon (which is very big ribbon) to the handler, and the handler also can grab the last jump bar and run around the ring with it as a trophy. Pictures are taken, with the judge and an agility obstacle behind the dog and handler. It is a truly remarkable experience.

**Notes:** In addition to the above information: Dogs are measured at the withers to determine how high they will jump. Dogs up to 11 inches have 8 inch jump heights. There is also a preferred class which allows dogs to jump 4 inches lower than the regular height they are measured to jump. The preferred title equivalent to the MACH is called PAX. Standard course times (SCT) are based upon the yards the dog must run to complete the course in the most efficient manner, with extra time added in (figured by a very complex mathematical formula) for the shorter jump heights. Currently, a first place in a class will double the points you earn for being under SCT and a second place gives you 1.5 times the seconds under SCT. For each title, the dog must have 3 qualifying scores before they can move to the next level of competition. Some of us compete in Novice or Open for a LONG time!!!!

## Pool Safety Tips for Pets

There are some basics rules you can follow to prevent tragedy when pets are around the family pool. First, your pet should always be taught where the steps in the pool are located, in case he falls in or gets in trouble while swimming, Dr. Reinhard says.

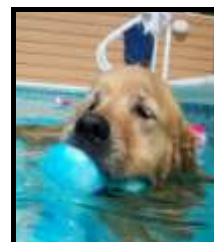
Even pets that are experienced swimmers can sometimes panic if they accidentally fall in the pool.

Pets that are too small to use steps should not be allowed in the pool.

Here are some other helpful strategies for keeping your pet safe:

- A fence should be installed around the pool.
- Install a [pet-safe ladder](#) in the pool so your pet has easy exit access.
- Pets should not be allowed around the pool without supervision.
- Pool covers are NOT a form of protection. Covers can be deceptive to pets, as they look like a solid surface but can give out and lead to a tragedy.
- Familiarize your pet with water at a young age; don't assume he can swim.
- Consider purchasing a pool alarm system. These float in the pool and go off when there is a disturbance in the water.
- Take your pet to the veterinarian immediately if a near-drowning or water injury occurs.

It's estimated that thousands of family pets die in drowning incidents each year.



*Breeze Rich*





**Blue Ridge  
Dog Training Club**

Martha Butler, Editor  
680 Newlin Hill Road  
Winchester, VA. 22603



Club Message Phone:  
540/662-1664

VISIT US ON THE WEB  
[WWW.BLUERIDGEDOGTRAININGCLUB.COM](http://WWW.BLUERIDGEDOGTRAININGCLUB.COM)



**WHAT'S HAPPENING**

JULY 30 - PICNIC - cross junction  
Aug 6 - OBEDIENCE trial - berryville  
Sept 13 - tba  
Sept 25 - tracking test  
Oct 28 - Hal loween party  
*Nov. 15 - meeting - Safety Building*  
*Dec. 17 - Christmas dinner &  
          auction - Winchester Park*

1st & 3rd Monday of each  
month a visit to envoy  
nursing home

July 30  
Picnic  
At  
Cross Junction

