



Sheltie Showdown



A publication of the Central Indiana Shetland Sheepdog Club

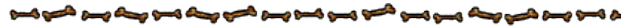
January 2019

Club Meetings

Our membership meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. at Camp Bow Wow, 10830 Pendleton Pike, Indianapolis, IN 46236. Camp Bow Wow is just past North German Church Rd.

Next Membership Meeting: January 4th.

Merit Award nominations due in January! Use the form at the end of this newsletter for submissions!



CISSC 2019 Calendar

Specialty Shows

Boone County Fairgrounds,
Centennial Hall
Lebanon, IN

May 10, 2019

P.M. Judge: Carolyn Ing

May 11, 2019

Sweeps; Patricia Keohane
A.M. Judge: Patricia Skinner
P.M. Judge: Carl Skinner

Obedience Trial

July 20-21, 2019

Pawsitive Partners Obedience
Training Center
Beech Grove, IN

Agility Trials

August 3-4, 2019 &
November 16-17, 2019

Pawsitive Partners Dog
Training Center
Beech Grove, IN

2018 Officers

President: Carole Creech

Vice President: Linda Lee

Treasurer: Doug McKee

Recording Secretary: Cheryl Sharp

Corresponding Secretary: Kathy McKee

Board of Directors

Elizabeth "Babs" Beck

Marianna Keohane

Kathleen Morphew

Standing Committees

Agility Trial: Babs Beck

Education: Linda Lee

Equipment: Doug McKee

Judges Selection: Carole Creech

Legislative: Carole Creech

Librarian: Karen Burton

Membership: Kathy McKee

Policies & Constitution: Cheryl Sharp

Sheltie Info Line: Becky Hamm

Showdown: Sandy White

Specialty Show: Cheryl Sharp

Website: Karen Adams



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CISSC MEMBER PROFILE

In an attempt to make our Showdown a little more personal, I will be inviting the membership, in random order, to complete a questionnaire. The purpose is to get to know each other a little better. The following is the second in the series.

Liz Carroll

CISSC Member & Past President

How and when did you become interested in Shetland Sheepdogs? My husband liked shelties and I wanted to get him a dog for a birthday present. On his birthday we looked for sheltie ads in the newspaper. We visited two dogs ...both about 3 months and came home with our first sheltie. (2nd dog I had ever had) Machi was a wild boy who lived to chase tennis balls. I was buying dog food at feed mart on a day they were starting a new obedience class so we started class that evening with Dolly Foland. Dolly was wonderful with us and eventually encouraged me to enter him in novice obedience. After we got a novice title we started learning open. After the open title we started learning utility. Never got the utility title...but we got a grad open title when he was 11. Dolly was the one who sent me to Jane Masters for my next sheltie and Jane got me involved in sheltie club.

What do you like best about the sheltie? I love watching the sheltie mind at work...especially as they figure out how to train me.

What activities do you like to do with your sheltie? Cuddling on the couch...thank goodness I have one cuddler. We currently do agility (Baku and Lenny) and treibball (Baku). If I could fit it in we would do obedience rally and barn hunt but someone has to buy the dog food.

Do you compete in any venue with your dog? If so, what venue/s? We compete in AKC and CPE agility and are registered with National Association of Treibball Enthusiasts. Not yet ready for prime time in that venue. (Ed: But pretty darn close!)

Do you breed? If so, how often? What health screenings do you believe are important? Not a breeder and belong to no other dog clubs. I have fostered for central Indiana Sheltie Rescue but not for many years.





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What made you interested in joining CISSC and how long have you been a member? I've been a member since 2012 and have served on the board. I'm part of the agility committee and with Jane Masters coordinate volunteers at our agility trials (thanks, everyone). I also help with obedience trials when we have them. I attend and try to assist with conformation trial but don't know much about conformation.

Do you have a favorite color for a sheltie? Lenny is a 4 year old bi-black male with pre-novice obedience, rally novice, open standard and open jumpers agility trials. He is from Linda Lee and Carole Creech. Baku is an 11 year old sable girl. She did have one litter of puppies...all of whom became successful performance dogs. She has her CDX in obedience, her rally advanced excellence title, an open standard agility title and is one leg away from open Jumpers title.

Do you have any other breeds? No other breeds for me.



BRAGGING RIGHTS

Karen Adams: **GCH Road's End Reflected Bi Moonlight OAP, OJP, NFP** earned a second leg towards his OFP at the Greater Lafayette Kennel Club agility trial on Dec. 1 under Judge Diane Fyfe with a first place finish.

Jane Masters: NEW CHAMPTIONSHIP! Tripp, Dori and Storm send congratulations to their sister, Bit, on her new MACH. She is now officially **MACH Prelude's Pullin' Wool CDX, BN, HSAs, MX, MXJ, MXB. MJB, CGC.** Her proud owners are Roger and Nancy Akers.

Liz Carroll: NEW TITLE! Baku (**Prelude's Show N Tell NA, NAJ, OA**) finished her Open Standard agility title at the CISSC trial Nov 17 & 18th.

Sandy White: NEW TITLES! Catching up on Splash's (**Prelude's Making A Splash, CGC, RATO, NAP, NJP, OAP, OJP**) accomplishments for the year. Since starting her agility career in April, she's earned her Novice Preferred Standard and Preferred JWW titles and her Open Preferred Standard and Preferred JWW titles! Her OAP title came at the CISSC Nov show. In May she was awarded the AKC ACHIEVER Award. Splash has also been successful in CPE agility where she is currently competing at levels 3 & 5. To top it off, She just recently earned her Novice Treibball title with the National Association of Treibball Enthusiasts (NATE).





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CISSC Christmas party

The club's Christmas Party was held Saturday, Dec. 15th at the Hollyhock Hill Restaurant. A group of 13 enjoyed an excellent evening of conversation, food and celebration of all things Sheltie. A special Thank you to Kathy McKee for organizing the event!





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Editor: I'm sure many of us have now heard stories regarding a possible connection between Grain-free diets and Heart problems in dogs. I ran across this article recently providing the most current research into the topic. Some very interesting findings from the Veterinary Clinical Nutrition Team at Tufts University in Boston posted on-line on 29 Nov 2018.

It's Not Just Grain-Free: An Update on Diet-Associated Dilated Cardiomyopathy

vetnutrition.tufts.edu/2018/11/dcm-update

You may have read my June 4 post, "A broken heart: Risk of heart disease in boutique or grain-free diets and exotic ingredients." This post had more than 180,000 page views in the first week and continues to get more than 2000 page views a day. So, I'm pleased that people are interested in this important issue and trying to learn about it. But I've also found a tremendous amount of confusion and misinformation in the past 5 months including people who doubt that this is a real issue, some who still haven't heard about it, and people who mistakenly think it's just grain-free diets or that it's only related to taurine.

As a result of the continued confusion, some of my cardiologist colleagues and I wrote an article which was published in the latest issue of the *Journal of the American Veterinary Medical Association*. This article provides a summary of our current understanding of diet associated dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM), how to recognize it, and a recommended protocol for veterinarians to follow when they see dogs with DCM.

To be sure this information reaches as wide an audience as possible and to clear up confusion, I thought I'd provide some updates to address the most common misconceptions I'm hearing:

1. ***It's not just grain-free.*** This does not appear to be just an issue with grain-free diets. I am calling the suspected diets, "BEG" diets – boutique companies, exotic ingredients, or grain-free diets. The apparent link between BEG diets and DCM may be due to ingredients used to replace grains in grain-free diets, such as lentils or chickpeas, but also may be due to other common ingredients commonly found in BEG diets, such as exotic meats, vegetables, and fruits. In addition, not all pet food manufacturers have the same level of nutritional expertise and quality control, and this variability could introduce potential issues with some products.

2. ***Most dogs being diagnosed with DCM do not have low taurine levels.*** Some owners continue to feed a BEG diet but supplement taurine thinking that this will reduce their risk for heart disease. In our hospital, we currently measure taurine in all dogs with DCM, but more than 90% of our patients with DCM in which taurine has been measured have normal levels (and the majority are eating BEG diets). Yet some of these dogs with DCM and normal taurine levels improve when their diets are changed. This suggests that there's something else playing a role in most cases – either a deficiency of a different nutrient or even a toxicity that may be associated with BEG diets. Giving taurine is unlikely to prevent DCM unless your dog has taurine deficiency. And given the lack of quality control for dietary supplements, you can introduce new risks to your dog if you give a supplement without evidence that she needs it.

3. ***Raw diets and homemade diets are not safe alternatives.*** Out of concern, some owners are switching from BEG diets to a raw or home-cooked diet. However, we have diagnosed DCM in dogs eating these diets too. And raw and home-cooked diets increase your dog's risk for many other health problems. So, forego the raw or home-cooked diets and stick with a commercial pet food made by a well-established manufacturer that contains common ingredients, including grains. If your dog requires a home-prepared diet for a medical condition or you feel strongly about feeding one, I strongly recommend you consult with a Board-Certified Veterinary Nutritionist (acvn.org).



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However, because home-cooked diets are not tested for safety and nutritional adequacy like good quality commercial diets, deficiencies could still develop.

Current thoughts on DCM

Currently, it appears that there may be three separate groups of dogs with DCM (although this may change as we learn more). I am listing them in the approximate frequency that we are currently seeing them in our hospital:

1. ***Diet-associated DCM with normal taurine levels.*** While this form of the disease was first identified in dogs of breeds not predisposed to DCM that are eating BEG diets, it appears to also occur in dogs of typical DCM breeds that are eating a BEG diet.
2. ***Primary DCM in predisposed breeds that is unrelated to diet.*** This is the traditional, genetically-related DCM in typical breeds, such as the Doberman Pinscher, Boxer, Irish Wolfhound, and Great Dane.
3. ***Diet-associated DCM with taurine deficiency:*** This is the least common form we are seeing in our hospital. This appears to happen both in breeds predisposed to DCM and breeds that are not predisposed to DCM.

Common questions

We still have a great deal to learn about diet-associated DCM. However, I'm providing answers to some common questions I've been getting based on what is currently known:

1. ***What's causing diet-associated DCM in dogs? For the vast majority of dogs, we do not yet know what is causing this disease.*** There are definitely some dogs with DCM that have low taurine levels, many of which will improve with taurine supplementation and change of diet. For dogs that have normal taurine levels, however, other nutritional deficiencies may be present. Some nutritional deficiencies can affect the heart's normal function, so an insufficient amount of these nutrients (or reduced bioavailability) in the diet could cause heart disease. Diet-associated DCM could also be due to an ingredient in the food that is toxic to the heart. The FDA and many researchers are actively studying this issue so that it can be solved as quickly as possible.
2. ***My dog was diagnosed with DCM. What should I do? Ask your veterinarian to measure taurine levels and give heart medications as directed by your veterinarian.*** If your dog is eating a BEG diet or other unconventional diet (including vegetarian, vegan, or home prepared diets), I recommend following the steps outlined in my previous post, including switching to a non-BEG diet. Three updates to my previous post are:
 - ***Taurine supplements:*** Consumer Lab is expected to release a report on independent quality control testing of taurine supplements in late 2018. Given the lack of quality control for dietary supplements (human and pet), having these results will be very useful to find good quality products for dogs that require taurine supplementation. Your veterinarian or veterinary cardiologist can help you determine an optimal dose for your dog.
 - ***Other dogs in the household:*** We are now recommending that other dogs in the household of dogs with DCM that are eating the same BEG diet be screened by their veterinarian since their hearts could also be affected (even if they are showing no symptoms).



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- *Outcome:* Not all dogs with DCM will improve and improvements in the echocardiogram, when they do occur, can take a long time (often more than 6 months).
- 3. Be sure to watch for early signs of heart disease – weakness, slowing down, less able to exercise, shortness of breath, coughing, or fainting. If you notice any of these, get your dog checked out by your veterinarian who will listen for a heart murmur or abnormal heart rhythm (although not all dogs with DCM have any changes that can be heard with a stethoscope). Your veterinarian (or a veterinary cardiologist) may do additional tests, such as x-rays, blood tests, electrocardiogram, and ultrasound of the heart (echocardiogram – the test of choice to diagnose DCM). Tell your veterinarian what you're feeding your dog. You can help your veterinarian by bringing a list of everything your dog eats to every appointment. If your dog has no symptoms, additional testing is really up to you. Some owners have measured plasma and whole blood taurine levels or scheduled an echocardiogram to check their dog's heart size and function. However, given the cost of an echocardiogram, other owners have elected to have their veterinarian do a blood test called NT-proBNP, which goes up when the heart is enlarged. While a normal value doesn't guarantee your dog has no heart disease, a high level suggests your dog's heart should be evaluated further.
- 4. *Has diet-associated DCM been seen in cats?* The association between BEG diets and heart disease has only been reported in dogs so far. However, that doesn't mean cats are immune. If your cat is diagnosed with DCM and is eating a BEG, vegetarian, vegan, or home-prepared diet, I recommend following the same protocol as described for dogs with DCM.

Lastly, if your dog has been eating a BEG diet and has been diagnosed with DCM, please don't feel guilty. I've talked to owners who feel terrible because they wanted to provide the finest care for their dog by feeding them the best diet possible. They often spent a lot of money buying an expensive boutique diet and now that same diet may be associated with their dog's heart disease. Trying to decide what is really the best food is confusing and difficult because of the many different products available, nutrition fads, and compelling marketing. My hope is that the one bright side of this serious situation is that it will shine a light on the complexities of making safe and nutritious pet food and the importance of nutritional expertise and quality control, rather than just what is new and trendy.

HAPPY★NEW★YEAR

Reminder for 2019 Dues

Your annual membership dues of \$15.00 are due on January 1st.

Checks, cash and PayPal are accepted. Contact Doug McKee.



CENTRAL INDIANA SHETLAND SHEEPDOG CLUB
APPLICATION FOR MERIT AWARDS
January 1, 2018 – December 31, 2018

Members Only

Please fill out the form below to entitle you to your CISSC Merit Award for any of the titles listed below. You must be owner or co-owner of record to qualify for an award on an individual dog.

PLAQUES:

Awarded for the following accomplishments – successive awards for the same dog will be presented as additional engraved brass plate to be attached to the original plaque – **please indicate if your dog already has a plaque.**

Champion Titles (GCH, CH, MACH, PACH, OTCH, HC, TC)

CERTIFICATES:

CD, CDX, UD, UDX, HT, PT, HS, HI, HX, RN, RA, RE, RAE, TD, TDX, VST, NA, NAJ, OA, OAJ, AX, AXJ, MX, MXJ, NAP, NJP, OAP, OJP, AXP, AJP, MXP, MJP, NF, OF, XF, MXF, NFP, OFP, XFP, MFP, NT2B, OT2B, XT2B, NPT2B, OPT2B, XPT2B, MXB, MXS, MXG, MJB, MJS, MJG, MJC, PAX, FTC1, THD, FDC, FM, ONYX

BHLE: Novice, Open, Senior, Master

High in Trial (all breed or specialty show)

Best in Show (all breed or specialty show)

Breeder or an owner for any of the following placements at the National Specialty:
(BIS, BOS, WD, WB, Award of Merit Winner, HIT)

Breeder of the most Champions within the award year.

Breeder of the most Obedience titled dogs within the award year.

Breeder of the most Agility titled dogs within the award year.

Breeder of the most Herding titled dogs within the award year.

Versatility Award (any dog obtaining 3 titles; i.e. CH, UD, HT, TD, or any combination thereof)

Breeder or Owner of a sire or dam of Merit (Sire=10 CH, Dam=5 CH)

Breeder of Conformation Champion; Breeder of an Agility, Obedience, Tracking or Herding titled Dog

High Combined

Group Placement or Major Win

Placement at a National Specialty Show

Non-regular Obedience Classes: Beginner Novice, Graduate Novice, Graduate Open



CENTRAL INDIANA SHETLAND SHEEPDOG CLUB
APPLICATION FOR MERIT AWARDS
January 1, 2018 – December 31, 2018

You must have qualified for an award between the dates of *January 1, 2018 and December 31, 2018*. Please use a separate application for each award for each dog and submit the names and dates of the shows/trials where your dog qualified for the award. ***You must be owner or co-owner of record to qualify for an award on an individual dog except for breeder awards.*** Be sure to clearly print or type this information because this goes to the printer/engraver and must be legible. Return this application to:

Carole Creech, 12945 Fleetwood Drive N., Carmel, IN 46032 or scan form and email to sassyroo1@yahoo.com.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING THE APPLICATION FOR MERIT AWARDS IS JANUARY 21 2019.

TYPE OF AWARD: _____

SHOW & DATE QUALIFIED: _____

AKC REGISTERED NAME OF DOG: _____

BREEDER: _____

SIRE: _____

DAM: _____

OWNER: _____

Please note, if a dog is co-owned and the co-owner wishes a plaque or certificate, a 2nd certificate or plaque can be purchased. **Only one plaque or certificate will be awarded.**