



# Sheltie Connection

Newsletter of the Utah Shetland Sheepdog Association  
January 2002    Volume 9 Issue 1    Single Issue \$1

## The President's Message

Dear Club Members:

I want to thank all of you who attended the USSA Christmas party. Kudos to Caryn Ciampani and Cindy Workman for the fantastic party. The seven of you attended this year's party, and wonderful turn out, and everyone seemed to enjoy themselves. Thanks to Santa for bringing his special gifts, and a special thanks must go out to the elves who were responsible for sewing the cloth gift bags.

I look forward to seeing all of you again at January's Club Meeting. Cheryl Sorensen will be attending and presenting us with some very interesting and valuable information about showing. She plans to talk about judging. Cheryl will discuss numerous points beginning from the point at which you receive a premium list in the mail. She will discuss how to assess judges, how to learn judges are seeking in the dogs, even if you do not know the judge's name, how to keep judge notes. She will also discuss presentation and its importance, and will go over some handling tips if time permits.

As you know, as everyone knows, the Olympics will be here in Salt Lake City in February. Therefore, we will not be holding a Club Meeting during the month of February. We hope that those of you who wish to attend part of the Winter Games will have the opportunity, and we hope you enjoy the experience.

We finalized the art work selection for the 2004 National Shetland Sheepdog Association Conference, like the Olympics, to be held in Salt Lake City. There were five art work entries, and at least 57 of you voted for your choices. This means the Club will be well represented in the final selection. We appreciate everyone's participation. The final art work selected was Marie Crane's submission, so a hearty congratulations, and thanks, go out to Marie.

Finally, I hope all of you were able to enjoy a happy and peaceful holiday season. Many of us have been deeply moved by the events of September 11, and many of us perhaps have resolved to look at our own lives in a quieter and more contemplative mood. Perhaps like few Winter Holiday seasons, this one came at a time when most of us could really have used some time away from work and school and other activities to spend time with our families, to celebrate and enjoy the gifts we have in our lives, and to reflect if we chose on those things that seem to bless our lives. Indeed, I hope that each of you found the time to do this during this Winter Holiday season, and to all of you I hope you had a Joyous Holiday Season.

See you next year,

AvaJane Pickering, Ph.D.

**A Happy  
New  
Year!**

# CALENDAR OF EVENTS FOR 2002

## 2002 Officers

President Ava Jane Pickering  
Vice President Cindy Workman  
Recording Secretary Lori Olsen  
Corresponding Secretary Shelley Stanley  
Treasurer Rachel Holmes

## Board

Cathy Cain - Steve Holmes - Pam Parry

## Past President

Marie Miles

## Newsletter Editor

Rachel Holmes - rholmes@legcy.com

Jan 16 Club Meeting  
Feb 6 Olympics  
Mar 20 Club Meeting  
Apr 17 Club Meeting  
May 17 USSA Specialty  
June 19 Club Meeting  
July 17 Club Meeting  
Aug 21 Club Meeting  
Sept 18 Club Meeting  
Oct 16 Club Meeting

# NOTICES

# RESCUE ME

This little dog needs to find a home.  
Her 92-year-old owner recently died leaving her homeless.  
She gets along great with people and is very social  
An 11-13 year old spayed female terrier mix she is in relatively good health.  
She is housebroken and a very "easy keeper"  
If you know of anyone who could foster or adopt this little old gal for her last couple of years, please give me a call at Cottonwood Animal Hospital during the day (801) 278-0505 or at home in the evening at (801) 273-8051.

## INVOICE FOR DUES

PAYABLE TO USSA

From: \_\_\_\_\_

For: \$14.00 Single dues \_\_\_\_\_

Or: \$18.00 Family dues \_\_\_\_\_

**CUT OUT AND MAIL WITH  
YOUR CHECK TO:**  
RACHEL HOLMES  
7817 W COUNTRY VIEW LN  
HERRIMAN, UT 84065

**OR BRING TO THE NEXT CLUB MEETING**



## OUR CHRISTMAS PARTY

Well another year has come and gone and our Christmas party was a success again. Thanks mostly to Caren and Cindy. They and their helpers did a stupendous job. The gifts and bags were so cute and the food was good.

Everyone seemed to have enjoyed themselves and the gift exchange was a success.

Mel said that most members voted on the logo and it was great to have had several beautiful drawings to pick from for our Nationals logo. Many thanks again for those that submitted a drawing.

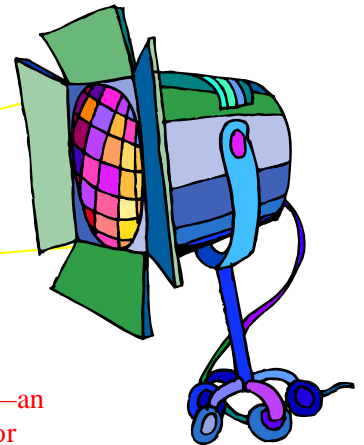
This is the winning drawing for our Nationals 2004.



## IN THE SPOTLIGHT



# KATHY CAIN



My Sheltie beginning started in August 1993. In May of 1993, I had to have Scotty—an all American (not pure breed) - put to sleep because of liver cancer. I had had him for over 16 years.

At the time I really wanted to swear I'd never have another dog and go through that again, but I knew better. After 2 months, I started to play with the idea of getting another dog.

I had gone to Petsmart, Pet Shops (before I knew better) and I looked in the paper for a dog that struck me as being THE ONE.

One day as I was looking in the paper, I came across an add for Shelties for sell in Tremonton. I called my Mom and asked if she knew what a Sheltie was and she said it was a miniature collie, and the first dog show she ever went to the Sheltie took best of show.

I had a friend who lived up there so I called to see if she knew who the lady was who had the puppies. She did. We made an appointment to go see the puppies. When we got there, there were quite a few pups running around and I wasn't quite sure if I was ready to make a commitment to another dog.

As we were looking at the puppies the owner asked her husband to go get the little female. He asked where the female was and she said "she's over by the little boy with the broken leg". I said "you have a puppy with a broken leg" and she said yes. I immediately said I wanted to see the puppy with the broken leg.

At that time I was in X-Ray school and I knew that this was God's way of telling me that this was the puppy for me. Duffy and I began our life together on August 4th, 1993 and Chelsea joined us on November 10th, 1994.

I got Chelsea because Duffy had a real problem with separation anxiety and the Vet recommended another dog or a cat. I'm allergic to cats and besides...DOGS ARE #1 in my book. My Vet had said something to Marie Miles and she said she had a cute little girl without a tail and the Dr. gave her my telephone number. He knew us both quite well.

Duffy and I are active in the Utah Animal Assisted Therapy Association and Chelsea and I Chelsea and I do agility.

Marie is the person who got me involved with the Sheltie Club which has had a big impact in our life. I have become much more bonded with "the kids" and have a much better understanding of them.





“Form Follows Function”  
All Breed Seminar

**Sponsored by:** Utah Shetland Sheepdog Association (USSA)

**Date:** Friday, May 17, 2002

**Time:** Following USSA Specialty Show (approx 1:00 PM)

**Location:** Golden Spike Events Center, Ogden, Utah

**Limited to first 35 paid entries – Don’t be disappointed, Send your check today**

E. Katie Gammill, Breeder, Exhibitor, AKC Judge, shares her more than 35 years of experience with Dogs and Horses. Elected to Judge the American Shetland Sheepdog National Speciality in 2003. She will illustrate the importance of breed standards and explain correct structure. You will learn to analyze structure and soundness at an early age. Presented in a positive and humorous manner. Crated well-behaved Dogs welcome.

Seminar Activities:

1. Seminar with Overheads
2. Comparisons
3. Breed Commonalities
4. Hands on Judging of Dogs present.
5. Opportunity to learn the “Judges perspective”

Cost: \$25.00 including Light Refreshment

Bring your Conformation, Obedience, Agility, any age , Male or Female, any breed!

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Send Payment to:

USSA  
2544 North 1500 West  
Clinton, Utah 84015-8316

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Amount Enclosed \_\_\_\_\_

For Information contact:

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Melrstanley@qwest.net

## CLICKER TRAINING

By Kim Schive

Article in AKC Gazette March 2001

Some Shelties are born show dogs. For the rest, there's clicker training.

The first step in clicker training is to pair the clicking sound with a "primary reinforcer" - something the dog finds naturally desirable and rewarding—like food or a favorite toy. Begin with a few one-minute sessions over the course of several days. In each session, do nothing but repeatedly click and treat. Before long, your dog will love the sound, and the click will have become a "conditioned reinforcer" - something so connected to the treat that it has become a reward in and of itself. Now you can use it to teach a specific behavior.

Suppose your behavioral goal is for the dog to stand and "give ears" for 30 seconds. Using the clicker, you'll shape that behavior by reinforcing "successive approximations" - small, easily achievable steps toward the goal. Here's how:

Let the dog make the first move. The first time he flicks his ears, even a little, click and treat. Wait for the next ear-flick. Again, click and treat. Once the dog makes the connection between ear-flick and click and treat, you can begin waiting for a bigger ear-flick before clicking. Later, wait until he brings his ears halfway up and holds them for a second to two. Eventually he'll have to bring his ears all the way up and hold them for a few seconds—which will become a few more seconds, and a few more, until he is giving ears for a full 30 seconds.

Your dog is fully engaged in this process, actively using his mind to determine which action elicits a click. For example, before figuring out that you want ears, he may try many different behaviors—sitting, jumping up, taking a few steps, cocking his head. Don't reprimand him. Don't even react. Just wait for an ear-flick, and then click and treat.

Similarly, if you want ears, don't require anything else initially. Eventually, you'll want ears while the dog is standing foursquare, but get reliable ears first. Then you can start to shape a free-stack—one pair of feet at a time.

I used to train using only food rewards, but often by the time I got the treat to my dog's mouth, he would have folded his ears back or moved his feet. The advantage of clicker training is that a click marks the desired behavior *precisely*. It tells the dog, "Yes! Right there! That's it!"

Want the dog to move on a loose lead? Move him, wait until the lead goes slack, and click immediately (treat latter, after you've stopped moving). Continue by requiring lead slackness to last a little longer, and a little longer, until the dog has stopped pulling completely.

## GERMS & VACCINATIONS

Many people in general tend to think of animals as spreading diseases to humans. Recently, researchers in Canada have documented 16 cases of humans transmitting staph infections—a difficult to treat and dangerous germ—to their pets. This germ, officially a microbe, is called methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus*—or MRSA for short—and it has typically been seen only in hospitals where especially ill people, or the elderly, with open wounds usually contract it.

Researchers report that they have strong evidence that owners were responsible for infecting their companion animals with the MRSA microbe, for example, the animals had infections that were genetically similar to those that occur in humans. In some of these cases, the animals became sick months after their owners had been infected.

And since we are on the subject of germs and infections, it is interesting to note that the debate among veterinarians continues as to how frequently dogs should be vaccinated. More and more, experts are arguing against annual shots, although annual visits to the vet are still encouraged.

Recently, other research evidence has suggested not only that some vaccinations are not needed on an annual basis, but that some can even prove to be harmful if administered too frequently. The best advice? One option is to have your vet check your pet's "titer," which is the level of antibodies against any disease. The titer will determine whether or not a booster is needed.

Another option is to follow these fundamental recommendations:

- Distemper and parvovirus boosters need to be administered a year after the vaccination is first given. After that, consult with your vet or have the titer checked.
- If you live in areas with high concentrations of ticks, an annual vaccination against Lyme disease is appropriate.
- If your dog plays with other dogs regularly, such as at the park, then an annual leptospirosis shot is recommended against bacterial infection.
- For show dogs and those that play with other dogs, vaccination against bordetella (kennel cough) is recommended.
- And finally, rabies vaccinations are strongly recommended for all dogs. Even indoor dogs have contracted this deadly disease when an infected animal, such as a raccoon or bat, has found its way into someone's home or basement.



## NEWS FROM ASSA

**Criterion for Membership in ASSA** - Sue Christie initiated a discussion on the criterion for membership in the ASSA that requires an applicant to have put an AKC title on a dog. Currently, an AKC title meets the requirement, whether Champion or beginning to advanced performance/herding titles. Sue suggested that the title level for performance and herding to the second level of achievement for two primary reasons:

Titles for Companion Dog (CD), Novice Agility Jumpers (NAJ), Novice Agility Jumpers With Weaves (NAJW), and Herding Started (HS) are considered too low for a Sheltie to attain in comparison with a conformation Championship (CH).

Individuals who are just starting their experience with Shelties and training at the beginning level of performance and herding may not have sufficient knowledge of the breed and its history and characteristics to vote on a breed standard.

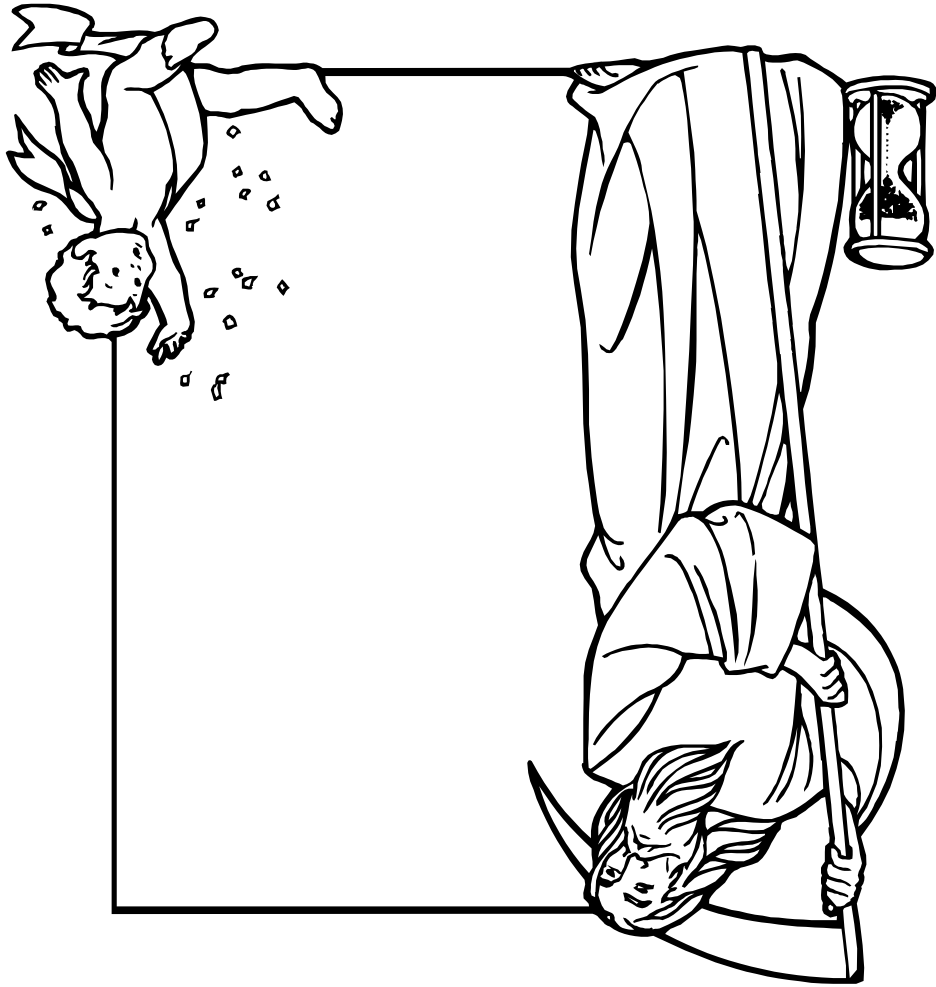
After considerable discussion on the topic, the following motion was made, seconded, and passed. **MOTION - *Resolved that the Board of Directors of the ASSA, effective September 1, 2001, individuals applying for ASSA membership must have earned at least one AKC title in the following categories: Champion (CH), Companion Dog Field (CDF), Open Agility (OA), Open Agility Jumpers With Weaves (OA), Tracking Dog (TD), Herding Pre-trial (HPT)***

The motion passed with Carol Williamson, Kathy Williams, Beverly Muhlenhaupt, Pat Brunner, Don Williams, Sue Christie, Sharon Mauzy, Kathy Sheets, Patricia Brunner, Brian Cleveland, and Virginia Williams in support; Sharon Parrish and Marjorie Tuff abstained [12 yes, 2 abstained, 1 (Donna Eych) absent].

**Selection for the 2004 National Specialty** - National Show Planner Melanie Williams and representatives of the Mid-Arizona Shetland Sheepdog Club finalized a budget for the Mesa, Ariz, site and mailed it to all Board members by mid April. All Board members conducted an e-mail vote of Board members between Ogden, Utah; Portland, Ore; and Mesa, Ariz as the site for the 2004 National Specialty. By a majority vote (14 votes), the Board awarded the 2004 National Specialty to the Utah Shetland Sheepdog Association.

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*Sheltie Connection*  
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