

# LEAD AND COLLAR



April/May 2008

Club Officers		
President	Michelle Foutch	402-733-7063
Vice-President	Dee Nelson	712-322-1103
Secretary	Cheryl Dikeman	402-502-0715
Treasurer	Kathy Novak	712-545-9059
Training Director	Deb Frady	402-733-8885
Board Members	Nora Boyd	712-624-8120
	Deb Landon	402-298-7196
	Amada Mohler	402-502-1147
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Sunshine Person	Sharon Miller	402-731-8124
Club Web Site	<a href="http://www.bdocneb.org">http://www.bdocneb.org</a>	
Class Coordinator	Caroline Rice	402-298-7185
BDOC Vouchers	Alberta Gray	402-572-7190
Club Newsletter	Sherry Rife	712-585-3427
Editor Email	<a href="mailto:greydog@myfmtc.com">greydog@myfmtc.com</a>	

## Events to Note

Apr. 19-20 Herding Trials  
 Apr. 23 Club Meeting  
 May 2-4 Agility Trials  
 May 15 Newsletter Deadline for the June/July Issue  
 June 6-8 UKC Trials/CPE Trials  
 Sept. 12-14 Agility Trials  
 Oct. 24-26 Obedience/Rally Trials  
 Show-n-Go's at Companion: Apr 13

## QUESTIONS OF THE MONTH

1. What is a Zoonotic disease?
2. What is a "walnut picker?"
3. What is a wash and wear dog?
4. What is a walleye?

### Attention Members

**Wanted:** articles about your dogs antics, etc.  
 Do you have an older dog: "Over 8, Doing Great".  
 Write about your dogs and send it to the editor.

## Bellevue Dog Obedience Club of Nebraska 2007 Annual Report from the President



2007 was another exciting and eventful year for the Bellevue Dog Obedience Club. Despite a crippling snow storm, our year opened with our Annual Meeting on March 3, 2007, where we celebrated our accomplishments for 2006 and made plans for 2007.

Our first event of 2007 was our annual AKC Herding Trial on April 21-22. Many members came to Gerianne's the week before to fill holes and tarp the holding areas, and those same smiling faces showed up to work the trial that weekend. We had a HUGE herding entry in 2007, necessitating having both judges judge both days, and a scramble to find ducks by Marge and Gerianne. We had a long day Saturday, but due to threatening weather on Sunday we ran both ducks and sheep at the same time, and we managed to finish at a decent time that afternoon. Over the two days we had 84 sheep runs and 58 duck runs, and a nice profit was made on the herding trial by the club.

The herding trial was followed by yet another successful agility trial held at the Nebraska Humane Society on May 4-6. After beautiful weather on Friday and Saturday, we had six inches of rain overnight, and for the first time we were totally

rained out on Sunday! The decision was made by the trial committee to cancel the trial on Sunday morning, and those exhibitors who showed up on that soggy day were given vouchers for their Sunday entry fees. We still made a profit on the agility trial, but we hope we NEVER see weather like that again!

The weekend of June 8-10 found the Bellevue Dog Obedience Club sponsoring a joint three-day CPE Agility trial and UKC obedience trial. We once again put on a very successful weekend, with many compliments from the participants on the friendliness and helpfulness of our members. Many new titles were earned in both agility and obedience during the weekend.

June brought our annual picnic, held at Gerianne's. We enjoyed a delicious catered chicken dinner, and a CGC test was also held. The weather was beautiful, and we all enjoyed our dogs and each other's company.

The fall of 2007 brought our second AKC agility weekend of the year, without the eventful weather of the spring. Although our entry was smaller due to rising gas prices and competition from a trial in Lawrence, we still made a nice profit and were able to get done in record time. Gerianne and Bert's annual TV football get together during the fall agility trial weekend featured Iowa State upsetting Iowa and Nebraska, well, we'll just say Nebraska did not upset USC.

We enjoyed entertaining the residents of New Cassel retirement home in October, dressing up our dogs and in some cases ourselves, to amuse all in attendance. We did a demonstration of rally, obedience, and tricks, and refreshments were enjoyed by all in attendance.

Our last competition of the year was another very successful obedience trial held on the weekend of October 26-28 at the Companion Dog Club facility. Many club members were once again on hand to help steward or do any other job that needed done. Another successful raffle was held, and there was furious bidding going on until right before the bids closed. I was again struck by what a good time everyone seemed to be having. One reason I had such a good time personally was my Riva finishing her Obedience Trial Championship at our club's show, with all of my friends in attendance. Our 2007 obedience trial did make a small profit, and we already have most of our plans in place for 2008.

Our last event of 2007 was our annual Christmas party. This year it was snowy and very festive for our Christmas party, which was held at Gerianne's. We had a catered ham dinner and everybody brought a dessert and doggie-themed gift. Once again we had quite the "spirited" Gift Exchange, and we are glad to see we didn't scare away our prospective new members with our gift competitiveness!

BDOC had a very successful year of classes, featuring puppies, beginners, advanced beginners, rally, and tricks. Most classes were full, and our club members did a great job volunteering to instruct.

We bid a sad farewell in 2007 to longtime club member and former club member of the year, Carol Wilson. Carol will be missed in so many ways, and the club has plans to remember her with a perpetual trophy to be given at the annual awards banquet along with special ribbons at our annual obedience trial.

I look forward with much anticipation to our scheduled events of 2008. Entries are starting to come in for our herding trial, and the premium list is already out for our May agility trial. We are getting a lot of interest in our CPE/UKC weekend in June, and our AKC obedience trials in October are always popular. It has been an exciting and fun two years to be your president, and I deeply appreciate our members being willing to put up their hand and say, "Yes, I can do that!" when asked to help. We are known in the area as the friendly club that "gets along with each other", and I have been proud to be your president.

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*A dogs day consists of eating, playing, and sleeping, and while sleeping, the dog dreams of eating and playing.*

*Anonymous*

Chi Chi, my Basenji mix, finished her level 4 strategy game title in CPE in Lincoln March 8-9. She qualified in 8/10 runs.

*Rose Strasser*



### **Bellevue Dog Obedience Club of Nebraska 2007 Outstanding Club Member-Alberta Gray**

This year the BDOC's Outstanding Club Member of the Year was unanimously selected by the board because of their hard work and dedication to the club over the past seven years. This member jumped in with both feet from the day their application for membership was accepted by BDOC.

This member has actively trained dogs in agility, tracking, obedience, and rally, achieving the CD title, RN title, and numerous agility titles on a number of dogs. This member is a willing volunteer who has taught many classes for the club, including puppy, beginner, intermediate/advanced, and rally. This member makes each class they teach fun for the students, while encouraging them to approach their training in a quiet but firm way.

This member has worn many hats over the short number of years they have belonged to BDOC. In the early years, this member was show secretary for the obedience trial, which was undertaken with great proficiency and attention to detail. This person has also been show chairman for the CPE agility trial and assistant show chairman for both the AKC agility and obedience trials. At every event the club sponsors, this member is there from the beginning to set up, help each day wherever needed, and then stays to clean up afterwards, rain or shine. This person's cheery disposition and unflappable demeanor are a great asset to the club. She has averted many minor problems before they were blown out of proportion.

Soon after joining the club, this member was approached by two long-time club members who talked her in to running for Vice President. She was told that it would be an easy job where she would be able to get her feet wet and learn about the club. She was also told that she had a good president as a role model, and she would hardly have to do anything...that is unless something happened to the president! Unfortunately, our president had to step down for serious health reasons, and without hesitation, this

outstanding member stepped up to the plate, and shined! (It is amazing that she is still speaking to those long-time club members!) She went on to be president of BDOC for over four years and helped the club come together as friends towards a common goal: to lovingly train our dogs and have fun with them. She also set us on the path to one day have a training building of our own by starting a building fund. After stepping down from the presidency of BDOC, this person then took over the job of keeping track of our volunteer vouchers, which is no small job.

In September of 2006, this member's world turned upside down when yet another adventure began with a "smuggled" Border Collie from Canada (You will have to ask her for "the rest of the story!") With her much loved Border Collie, Darby, she has broadened her horizons in the dog world with a Conformation Championship and the start of an obedience, agility, and herding career.

As you must have guessed by now, the Bellevue Dog Obedience Club of Nebraska would like to honor Alberta Gray as our 2007 Outstanding Club Member of the Year. Thank you, Bert, for everything you have done to better our club.

**Thank you to the Board for their naming me Outstanding Club Member. There are so many great members that I am very honored to receive this award. Our club is a team that works together which makes all of our members outstanding. I remember fumbling my way through my first year as President. Without the little voice of Carol Wilson in my ear at meetings, I am not sure I could have gotten through those first meetings. Just a word of warning to all Vice Presidents, keep your President happy and healthy.**

**Alberta**

### **QUESTIONS OF THE MONTH ANSWERS**

1. A Zoonotic disease is any disease that can be spread between animals and human beings, such as rabies, salmonellosis, Lyme disease, rocky mountain spotted fever, and ringworm.
2. A "walnut picker" is a slang term meaning an extreme snipy muzzle that is so narrow it could be used to pick walnut meat out of a walnut shell.
3. A "Wash and wear dog" is a slang term. In the show ring, a wash and wear dog is any breed that the only grooming required is a bath and a good brushing to keep the coat clean and healthy.

4. A walleye is a merle eye or an eye with light bluish white iris. A walleye is associated with merle coat color in Collies, Shelties, Australian Shepherds, Old English Sheepdog and Harlequin Great Danes; either or both eyes can be walleyed.

## 2008 Banquet Photos



"If a dog will not come to you after having looked you in the face, you should go home and examine your conscience."  
**Woodrow Wilson**

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## President's Missive

Wow, what a great awards banquet was held on March 1, 2008! Handlers and dogs earning titles and other special awards for 2007 were given recognition for outstanding performance. The outstanding member of the year was awarded to Alberta Gray (Bert) for all her accomplishments and support throughout the year. It was a most enjoyable evening where we were able to meet new members and visit with members about what's been happening in their lives. A big "Thank You" goes out to the awards banquet committee for doing such a fantastic job. Thank you to Gerianne Darnell, Dee Nelson, Cheryl Dikeman, Linda Puckett, Amanda Mohler and Randy Frady.

The following officers and board members were elected at the awards banquet: Deb Frady as training

director, Kathy Novak as treasurer, Nora Boyd and Debra Landon as board members, and myself, Michelle Foutch, as president. A big round of applause to the outgoing officers and board members for doing such a wonderful job: Gerianne Darnell, Marge Danielson, Linda Puckett, Randy Frady and Mark Larsen. **THANK YOU** for all the hours you devoted in keeping our club running smoothly, in making sure all the events were successful, and by ensuring we all had a good time.

YOU, the members of BDOC, are what makes this club so interesting, educational, and fun. YOU, are what makes others want to join our club. Having said that, please mark your calendars for our next **General Meeting** being held on April 23rd, 6:00pm, at Valentino's Restaurant located at 108th and O Streets, Omaha, NE.

We need volunteers to help with the following club events. Join us at these activities and learn something new that maybe you haven't been involved with in the past: April 19-20 - Herding Trial. Contact Gerianne Darnell at [GerianneDarnell@aol.com](mailto:GerianneDarnell@aol.com); May 2-4 - Spring Agility Trials. Contact Cheryl Dikeman at [Cheryld@omahazoo.com](mailto:Cheryld@omahazoo.com); and June 6-8 - UKC/CPE Trials. Contact Alberta Gray at [hairyd@cox.net](mailto:hairyd@cox.net).

**Michelle**

## From the Past President:

I would just like to take this opportunity to say how much I enjoyed being your president for the past two years. The membership made my job easy by being willing to volunteer whenever I asked. Thanks so much to my board of directors, past and present, who were always there to help.

I know that our new BDOC president, Michelle Foutch, will do a great job for our club, and I look forward to helping her out however I can.

thanks again, **Gerianne**

**June 6,7,8 CPE Trial**

Alberta Gray

We are quickly approaching the time for the June CPE trial. Last year we held a NQ Raffle which was very popular. The exhibitor can enter the NQ raffle for each NQ earned. Dee Nelson has volunteered to be raffle chair.

We will be asking the club members to contribute to the raffle, just something simple, maybe a leash, dog bowl, or??? The prizes do not need to be fancy, just something the exhibitor can take home in lieu of the coveted Q Ribbon.

We need a Chief Ring Steward. Any volunteers? All volunteers are welcome and you will be earning vouchers for club logo clothing or future entry fees or club classes.

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### **General Meeting- March 1, 2008**

**Location: Johnny's Cafe, Omaha**

Gerianne Darnell called the meeting to order at 8:30 p.m.

Kathy made a motion to waive the reading of the December General Membership minutes due to the publication in the newsletter. Linda 2<sup>nd</sup> and the motion carried.

Cheryl read the minutes from the February 2008 board meeting. Randy moved to accept the minutes as read, Kathy 2<sup>nd</sup> and the minutes were accepted as read.

Three new member applicants were in attendance. Connie moved for a membership vote by a membership show of hands. Linda 2<sup>nd</sup> and the motion carried. Erin and Kim Embrey were unanimously voted into membership. Cheryl read the 2<sup>nd</sup> reading for member applicants Susan Volkmer and Christy Watson. Connie moved for a membership vote by a membership show of hands. Linda 2<sup>nd</sup> and the motion carried. Susan Volkmer and Christy Watson were unanimously voted into membership.

The president's letter and report was read by Gerianne Darnell.

**The Director of Training report was read by Linda Puckett.**

**The Treasurer's Report** was presented by Treasurer, Marge Danielson. Total expenses for the year were \$36,534.20 and total income was \$45,196.60. Trial profits for 2007 were \$1,611.21, \$5,548.32, \$353.13, \$2,556.25, and \$184.18 for the herding, May Agility, CPE-UKC, Fall Agility, and obedience trials, respectively. Michelle moved to accept the reports as read, Cheryl made the 2<sup>nd</sup> and the motion carried.

#### **Committee Reports:**

##### **Herding Trial**

Gerianne reported that the herding trial is scheduled for April 19-20, 2008. The premium was out. There is a need for members to assist with filling holes and tarping on April 17, 2008. There will be vouchers for helping with on this day.

##### **Agility**

The spring agility trial is scheduled for May 2-4, 2008 at NHS. The premium is out. Cheryl is the chief ring-steward, and Gerianne will be picking up the judge. Set-up for the trial will be on Friday May 2, beginning at noon. Randy updated the club on the status of the fencing of the two agility rings at NHS.

##### **UKC/CPE**

The UKC trial is ready and everything is set. Cheryl is chief ring-steward and Bert is working on the CPE agility trial.

##### **Obedience**

Gerianne reported that the application would be going in next week. Caroline is the chief ring-steward. Polly Mumma will be the secretary for both the obedience and herding trials. Gerianne reported that she is doing a wonderful job thus far. The trial is scheduled for October 24-26, 2008. Cheryl and Dee will be working on the silent auction.

##### **OLD BUSINESS:**

1. Dee reported that she had received all items that had been ordered to date. She ordered additional tote bags that could be purchased for \$8.00. She had the books and could put another order together if members were interested in additional items.
2. Kathy stated that we needed to open up the tent trailer in order to check its status so we could sell it.

##### **NEW BUSINESS**

1. Randy reported for the nominating committee. Michelle Foutch was nominated for president, Kathy Novak for Treasurer, Deb Frady for Training Director. In addition, Dean Lee, Deb Landon, Nora Boyd, and Lucy Hulse were nominated for two elected positions on the board. Written ballots were counted and the results were:
  - a. President = Michelle Foutch
  - b. Training Director = Deb Frady
  - c. Treasurer = Kathy Novak
  - d. Board member = Nora Boyd
  - e. Board member = Deb Landon
2. The next general membership meeting was scheduled for April 23, 2008 at Valentino's (132<sup>nd</sup> and Center) at 6:30 p.m.

Cheryl moved to adjourn the meeting, Linda 2<sup>nd</sup>, the motion carried and the meeting was adjourned at 9:17 p.m.

### **Cervical Vertebrae, Middle Ear, Brain Stem Injuries**

#### **Caused by Improperly Used Control Devices**

*By Nancy Evans*

*(From Newsletter of the Pasanita Obedience Club)*

Having recently been presented with several severe injuries resulting from dogs being led"?" or perhaps leading their owners in Haiti TM or Gentle LeaderTM head gear, I would like to make a few comments. These devices are designed to function on a dog, in the manner that a halter functions on a horse. They provide control of the head and some lateral stability for the dog that bolts 90 to the owner or handler. By theory and design, a gentle tension brings the nose around the dog "gently" circles back into "heel" position.

In reality these devices are appropriate for use on the obedient dog that never becomes excited, never tries to break loose or run at, over, or after another dog. It is virtually impossible for the amateur owner/trainer/handler to control a dog without jerking his head in the opposite direction from which his body is traveling. It is also impossible to pull hard enough to stop the dog intent on mischief-without cutting the skin under his ears, or worse damaging the skull structures that protect the middle and inner ear, and brain stem. The result of this could be Vestibular syndrome, a neurological injury to the nerves of the inner ear that control the balance mechanism of the animal, damage to the spinal cord, and dislocation, perhaps fracture, of the cervical vertebrae.

I believe that the purpose of the halter has been misinterpreted to or by the user. A horse is a big animal with a strong neck. His seven cervical vertebrae are stabilized by muscles, tendons, and ligaments appropriate to his size and strength. A man (or woman at 130 to 200 pounds is folly to the 1000 to 2000 pound horse. If the horse wants to leave, he leaves. Strength-wise there is little or nothing that the handler can do to alter his behavior. Horses are trained to obey our commands and conform to our wants and wishes. This has little to do with intimidation, infliction of pain, or application of strength. It has a lot to do with respect and maybe love.

A dog has a relatively weak neck. His seven cervical vertebrae are stabilized by muscles, tendons, and ligaments appropriate to his size and strength. The dog at 15, or 50, or even 100 pounds cannot withstand even one yank from a 130 to 200 pound human without probably injury. Both Haiti and Gentle Leader warn against such yanks, but what are you to do when you beloved pet is seriously out of control? My suggestion is traditional training--obedience training-with a standard around the neck collar or choke chain collar. If your dog cannot heel, sit, stay (at a leash distance), and come on command, your dog has no business being in a public place!

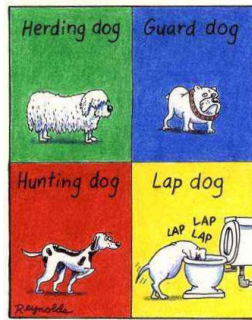
When we get into real trouble with the Haiti and Gentle Leader is with the "bull" breeds who have short necks, significant strength to withstand yanking from any direction, and an exuberant nature that defies control. The dog merely tows the owner around at leash length, often with his head cocked away from the direction of movement. Here we see severe lacerations from the narrow straps and/or buckles that cut into the base of the ears. With enough pressure, these straps pass under the skull to damage the structures that protect the middle, inner ear, and brain stem, damaging these structures, or disturbing the alignment of the Occiput (base of the skull) and the first two cervical vertebrae.

These accidents and severe injuries will continue until owners realize that dogs need to be trained not to pull and bolt. The aforementioned devices are not designed to perform that task. When behaviorists develop monkeys into dog trainers - a 5 pound monkey and a 50 pound dog is about the correct ration - then the monkey can train the dogs like a horse, using the same directional vectors and strengths required by the Haiti and Gentle Leader to correct these training problems. Until that time, let's go back to traditional methods and hard work. Lets try respect--on both sides of the equation. There are no shortcuts. There are no bad dogs --just dogs that need to be taught respect.

#### **WARNING**

I hear that persons with assistance dogs are using the halter devices as tow ropes for wheelchairs. Allowing your dog to pull you isn't a bad idea; the choice of equipment is deplorable. Pulling animals-horses, oxen, reindeer, sled dogs-do not pull loads with their heads or necks. They push with their shoulders. A harness affixed around their middle with a strap around the chest allows the animal to push his body weight into the harness and pull behind him, whatever is attached to the harness. To "drive" a dog, you don't need to hang onto his head; most assistance dogs need little more than voice control. The law requires that you have a leash, but a leash on a harness is legal. Buy a harness, attach a substantial leash to the harness, and let your wonderful and expensive dog push you with his body instead of dragging you with his precious head, attached to a beautiful and fragile neck. The medical problems (including paralysis) that can occur from injury to the cervical vertebrae are difficult and expensive to treat. Some dogs never recover.

This same warning goes out to those individuals that encourage dogs to tow them on skates, skis, sleds, bicycles, in wagons, etc. Buy a harness. It is a cheap investment that prevents unthinkable injuries to your dog.



Dog Breeds

"So my kids have twice as many legs as yours. They also potty-trained twice as fast. You were saying..?". (bumper sticker)

### ARE YOU A DOG PERSON?

Would you know what to do if your dog suffered heat stroke on the way to a show? Or collapsed while out working in a field? Or was injured while working stock? Could you perform CPR on your Yorkie? How about CPR on your Newfie? If you are not prepared for canine emergencies, then maybe its time to attend **Pet First Aid** class and learn the skills that could save your dog's life!

The four-hour class utilizes mannequins to learn the correct skills for small, medium, and large dog CPR. You will learn rescue breathing, what to do during a choking emergency, how to control bleeding, emergency care for poisoning and much, much more.

This course also covers disaster preparedness to help you plan ahead should you be struck by a life threatening natural disaster, hazardous spill or terrorism attack.

Gain confidence, earn your Pet First Aid Certification card and improve your resume!

#### Class dates and times:

Thursday, April 3, 2008 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

Saturday, April 12, 2008 Noon to 4:00 p.m.

Class location: BonaFide Dog Academy, 14840 Grover Street, Omaha, Nebraska

Class fee: \$60.99 (\$57.00 + tax)

**CALL BonaFide Dog Academy to Register 250-9452 or online [www.bonafidedogacademy.com](http://www.bonafidedogacademy.com)**

### Tips for Keeping Your Older Dog Healthy

1. Establish a relationship with the best veterinarian you can find. For most older dogs, it is advisable to

make an appointment every six months. Your vet should be someone whom you trust.

2. Become informed about conditions common to older dogs and therapies used for them. Be alert to symptoms, bring them to your vet's attention promptly, and discuss treatment options.

3. Feed your older dog the best food you can afford; consider feeding him a home-prepared diet and two small meals daily rather than one large one.

4. Don't overfeed your dog. Obesity will create health problems and shorten his life.

5. Consider the use of dietary supplements such as glucosamine/chondroitin for arthritis.

6. Give your senior dog adequate exercise, but adjust it to her changing abilities.

7. Attend to your dog's dental health. Brush her teeth daily and have them cleaned professionally whenever your vet advises it.

8. Tell your vet you wish to have your dog vaccinated only once every three years, as currently advised by the major veterinary colleges.

9. Be diligent in controlling fleas and ticks, and keep your dog and his environment scrupulously clean.

10. Make your senior dog as much a part of your life as possible, and do all you can to keep him interested, active, happy and comfortable.

These topics are among those discussed in depth on the Senior Dogs Project website. You can find them in the "Care" segment of the website.

### Best of Breed at Westminster

Lynn Pettengill and Dexter

