

# LEAD AND COLLAR



April/May 2011

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|--------------------|---|--|
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## Events to Note

May 15 Newsletter Deadline for the June/July Issue  
June 3-5 CPE Trial  
Show-n-Go's at Companion: April 17

## 2010 Presidential Report

Erin Embrey

We started 2010 where we ended 2009 at Anthony's Steakhouse and we voted in new officers starting with Dee Nelson as Vice President (1 year), Staci Miller took a Member at Large, Lucy Hulse as the Training Director, Connie Byrnes as Treasurer and Erin Embrey as President.

The trials started out with Herding, and I learned the finer points of stock handling from Dave Landon! I have said this before but I never thought in a million years I would find myself working with livestock. Okay, so it was only sheep, but I am out there walking

around with my cute polka dot rain boots in sheep poo, and loving it! I quickly learned to stand your ground and don't give in. Sounds like a dog, doesn't it? I love the herding trial and will help out when ever and where ever I can!

May and September brought us up to NHS for our AKC Agility Trials. We had a lot of entries and help from club members as well as non-club members. One of our club mottos should be the club that has the most fun. We had great help setting courses thanks to John, Randy and Mark. All the volunteers that we had for putting this trial on from bar setting, leash running, sheet running and gate stewarding, I thank you! Nora even brought out Margot and got her started on bar setting, what a champ!

These two trials certainly test us when it comes to the weather. You never know what to plan for, 90 degrees or 60 degrees and rain. I'm pretty sure we covered everything in 2010 at both the AKC Agility Trials on down to a 30 minute weather delay. Good times were had by all! Even a few new puppies were added this year. Gerianne has a new Papillon, Robert. Alberta added a new Shih Tzu, Grayson. Amy added a new American Eskimo pup, I'm sorry that I forgot her name. All three are fun and cute and it will be fun to watch them grow up and start learning some new things.

We always enjoy having Mary, Larry and Michelle take care of our canteen! They do a fantastic job and are on top of the food, snacks and water, thank you for taking care of us!

Going back to June, and back to Gerianne's house for the CPE/UKC Trial. We had a large entry and lots of fun. The judges in both venues were great and I had fun with my pup's debut in CPE. Once again BDOC came through with great Secretaries in Rose and Kathy and all the volunteers. Thank you for all your work and we hope to continue the success of these trials! We always get great compliments on our trials and a lot of that goes to the Committees that put them together. Our Ribbon crew, Linda, Deb, Gerianne and Dee have done a fantastic job and getting everything that we need for every trial and having them all organized.

We then took a little break from trials as a club and went to Gerianne's house for our Summer Picnic and General Meeting. Club members brought out food to share and we had two people and their dogs to do a CGC Test given by Sherry Rife. Caroline and Max passed as did Deb and Merlin! Congratulations to both teams it was fun to see your expressions when you didn't think that Max or Merlin would do something and they did.

The last week in October is always a busy one. We start it off with the Annual Halloween Party and General meeting at New Cassel Retirement Home. The residents enjoy our dogs and this year they want to know more about what our particular breed is bred to do. That's easy enough! Then we take a trip up north 72<sup>nd</sup> street for our Obedience Trial! Our judges had a good time and were very appreciative of all the help they had over the weekend. Caroline was my Chief Ring Steward and did a great job putting people into each ring and helping the judges. We welcome the help of experienced and beginners as it's one of the best ways to learn the classes and you'll know what to expect the next year! Rose and Staci you guys did a great job working the Utility ring, you're experts now, will you come out and do it again!? Michelle and Rosemary stayed on Friday and Saturday to man the building for the Matches, for that we thank you!

The Silent Auction that Dee put together went very well! Almost everything went and there wasn't much left over for the next year! We had a great time at the Ribbon and Trophy Table! I started to learn a little about what goes on back there, it's tough and Linda, Deb and Dee did a great job at holding down the fort and getting everything all organized and reorganized for the next year!

Eric as always, your work in the Canteen is greatly appreciated! You also take very good care of us, the exhibitors and the judges. There were many great compliments out at the tables on the soups! I am sure that it would not hurt to plan on having them again this fall! Thank you for taking this on year after year and for keeping us updated on the Husker Football game that weekend!

BDOC members have been keeping their eyes open for land and buildings over the past year. Eric, Randy and Jane have done a fantastic job and seeking out all the possibilities for the club to get their feet wet. In dreamland, we would love to have a large enough building to host all our trials and even thoughts of bringing a flyball team and tournament into the mix. We have realized that currently it's just not possible and Club Members spoke out and have given a price and to find a place to just hold classes. We want a place that is stable and a place that we can call our own. It does mean that we are going to rent with the option to continue renting or move on.

With that in mind we started looking at existing buildings. We have found a Papillion location that is long and narrow with a great landlord, who is willing to do almost anything! He would even let us use the fields around his buildings so we would have some other options out there for income.

Finally, we had our Annual Holiday Party and again Gerianne was our most gracious host. We welcomed a new member and lots of great food and entertainment during the gift exchange. I have to say that it's a toss-up as to who had the most fun. Raymond stealing every tug toy he could wrap his mouth on or was it Robert running circles around Nora playing with her hand? In my opinion, everyone had fun including the dogs and cat! Thanks to everyone for a fun night.

Raise your glasses, here's to you, BDOC! What a great 2010 and here's to 2011! CHEERS!

### **AKC Announces Two New Events**

The American Kennel Club continues with innovations in the sport of Agility by offering new opportunities for exhibitors with the launch of the Time 2 Beat (T2B) Titling Class. It's the most interactive class to date where the most accurate, quickest dog sets the pace and all levels - Novice, Open and Excellent - compete against each other on the same course.

The AKC also announces the launch of the Coursing Ability Test. Open to all dogs, the Coursing Ability Test is an introductory event fashioned after the sport of lure coursing and meant to be a fun, healthy activity for dogs and their owners. Coursing Ability Tests may be held by all licensed lure coursing clubs.

***Bellevue Dog Obedience Club of NE***  
***2010 Member of the Year***  
***Kathy Novak***

While discussing the BDOC Member of the year for 2010, the board had a few names surface that were very deserving. If the rest of the club members knew those names, you would have had a hard time choosing as well! This year's recipient has done a lot of work for their family, community, and of course BDOC.

When it comes to family, this member has supported her son in his ventures with 4-H as well as in the AKC Obedience ring. As a matter of fact, her son has given us some information on his mother! This member travels extensively with her husband, and they spend time in their travel trailer down south in Cotter, Arkansas, for a month at a time where they have many friends and enjoy sightseeing and fishing. This member has volunteered her nephew at many BDOC events over the past few years. She has also been a ring steward, and her nephew does just about anything we ask him to do.

This member enjoys quilting! She and her quilting group will go on "shop hops" where they travel from quilt shop to quilt shop to find fabrics and multiple other quilting necessities. According to one family member, "She has always been very "crafty", she got that gene from Mom that I didn't get!" All of the items that she has made and will continue to make are absolutely beautiful.

This member is looking to retire in the next year from her work at H and R Block. She has been working around taxes and finances for many years, including two years as the BDOC Treasurer. She was always on top of BDOC's finances, insurance, and even helped to set up Friends of BDOC. Her retirement from the tax and financial world will open up her schedule for more traveling, shop hops, and of course, more quilting!

This member doesn't do a lot of showing of her Chinese Crested Dogs, but they are great little companions. She has taken some obedience classes through BDOC with her dogs and has even tried some

tracking and agility. She has been our UKC Trial Secretary for five years, and every year she does a fantastic job! She always brings Yang and Kai to the UKC Dog Show with her, and they just "hang out with Mom." She also helps put on "Small Dog Camp" every year, and Gerianne says she couldn't do it without her.

As you all have probably figured out by now, it is my pleasure and honor to bestow the 2010 Bellevue Dog Obedience Club of Nebraska Member of the Year to Kathy Novak!

**"The Blue Carpet"**

Sherry Rife

This was an experience I don't want to repeat - showing a beginner novice dog on the "Blue Carpet" a half hour after all groups and best in show had been on the carpet.

Only two obedience dogs entered at the Kansas City shows so no ring was fully matted. Guess what the two Weim girls did while heeling on that blue carpet!!! Yep! Nose to the carpet the whole time. The judge was very kind to both and qualified us.

**New Sunshine Person**

Michelle Foutch

Send emails or call me with any information when club members are ill, injured, in the hospital or also when someones family members or canine companions are also ill, injured or have passed on to the rainbow bridge. My email is: [micki-robin@yahoo.com](mailto:micki-robin@yahoo.com) and telephone number is: (402) 290-1357.

**Fostering**

By Alberta Gray

This winter I did something I never thought I would do. What could that be for someone that went from training Shih Tzu to training a Border Collie?



I took in a foster Shih Tzu. Not just any foster, but a mother tzu with 5 one week old puppies! FIVE puppies!!

This little emaciated momma is around 8 years old, far too old to be having a litter. The delivery took a lot out of her and when she came to my house she was nothing but skin and bones. Her backbone was VERY pronounced. But through all this she was such a good mommy.

I set up a roomy x-pen in my kitchen. This of course didn't leave much room in my kitchen for all of my own Tzu and Border Collie. The puppies were a source of enjoyment for everyone except Mason and Bungee. Bungee would walk through the kitchen and ignore the puppies and Mason would prefer to stay out of the area completely.

Mommy, Leah, at first was so nervous and would have nothing to do with me. She would shy away and when I did pick her up, she was stiff as a board. What did surprise me though, was that she willingly followed my crew out the door to do her business.

The puppies are now 9 weeks old They are fat and roly polly, like all puppies should be. Leah is also now fat and her back bone is in there somewhere. She loves toys and she loves to cuddle with Darby. While Darby and Grayson are practicing agility in the back yard, Leah is right there, waiting for treats, her tail wagging and doing a little dance.

The two girls are now being fostered in another home, leaving 3 boys here. I think everyone knows how much I love my Shih Tzu boys! They will be with me another couple of weeks, then move on to another foster. Leah will also be leaving me then. I have mixed emotions about this. I know they will be going to good homes, as Rose, who will be doing the placement will not have it otherwise. But I will miss their biting at my toes as I walk through the kitchen. And I will miss waking up in the mornings to their morning sounds, a mixture between cooing and barking.

Leah will make someone a wonderful pet. She now likes to cuddle and is very content just lying in a bed next to my chair. So far I have refrained from letting her sleep in my bed.--- I knew if that happened, she would be a permanent fixture.

### **A New "Hip" on Life**

From the Internet

Everyday, it seems that the boundaries between human and canine become a little less defined, especially in the field of medicine. Whether it is physical therapy methods or cancer research,

veterinarians and doctors are joining forces and sharing data on the latest medical developments.

One such procedure to crossover into the animal realm is joint replacement. Many dogs suffer from demobilizing ailments, like hip dysplasia and arthritis. But with the introduction of this latest surgical procedure, dogs that suffer from hip, knee, or leg problems are getting their prancing paws back.

Although joint replacement surgery has been performed on large dogs since the mid-70s, these surgical procedures are now being practiced on smaller breeds as well. Many such joint replacement surgeries, which include prosthetics made of titanium and cobalt-chromium-molybdenum alloys, are performed on competitive canines—specifically those involved in agility contests and hunting.

One lucky dog to undergo the procedure was Lily, a former agility contest competitor. The 9-year-old pug had suffered from hip problems due to the intense exercise and competition routine, but after this revolutionary hip-replacement surgery, Lily is back on the agility course once again.

Lily is not alone however. The surgery has become quite popular among many other competitive and working dogs. Thousands of replacement surgeries have now been performed around the world, and many more are likely to come.

Who says you can't teach an old dog....how to use a new prosthetic?

***"You can have nice carpet or you can have a dog. But try to get the carpet to lick your face when you've had a bad day!"***

### **Do Dogs Know Mathematics?**

by Stanley Coren, Ph.D.

Dogs may have a primitive ability to add and subtract.  
Published on March 2, 2011

Some people doubt that dogs are capable of even the most rudimentary form of quantitative thinking. The most basic form of analyzing the world in a quantitative way involves the judgment of size, namely, answering the question of whether one thing larger than another. Early researchers would put out two balls of hamburger, one large and the other small, and when they found that dogs were as likely to

choose the small one as the large, they concluded that dogs could not estimate size. However there is a flaw in this test. Dogs think in an opportunistic manner, a sort of "A bird in the hand is worth two in the bush" mentality. If the two plates were a different distances, the dog would always grab the closest. However if they were at equal distances, the dog would show that he understood the notion of size by going after the larger one. Norton Milgram, at the University of Toronto confirmed that dogs can judge size well using a tray which contains two objects of different sizes. If the dog pushes the correct object, then underneath it he will find a food treat. Dogs can be taught always to pick the larger (or smaller) of two objects, regardless of the shape or [identity](#) of the objects, and they learn this fairly easily.

A slightly more difficult aspect of quantitative reasoning is the judgment of numerosity. This simply refers to the ability to compare two groups of items. We do this when we judge which of two crowds contains more people, and this can be done without counting or any idea of the specific number of people in either group. Thus a dog who runs to a pile containing ten pieces of kibble, rather than to the pile next to it that contains only two pieces of kibble, may have made that decision based upon his judgment of the number of kibbles in each pile. In the laboratory dogs prove that they can judge numerosity by learning to press a panel which has more (or fewer) dots painted on it for a food reward.

The next level up is simple counting, and this is an ability which dogs frequently demonstrate, especially working and sporting dogs. For example in field trials for retrievers, to successfully complete the higher-level tasks the dog must be able to count to at least three. This is because, if three ducks have been dropped, and he has already retrieved two, the dog must know that there is still one more out in the field to retrieve.

If dogs can count, it seems natural to ask whether they can do simple arithmetic. Robert Young of the Pontifical Catholic University in Brazil, and Rebecca West of the University of Lincoln in the UK, attempted to test this idea by modifying a test that has been used to prove that human infants have the ability to count. The procedure involves something called "preferential viewing" which simply measures the amount of time that infants spend looking at things. Research confirms that infants (just like adults) will stare at something unexpected or unusual

for a longer time. The human test for counting is quite simple. First the child is shown a small doll on a table and then a low screen is put in front of it to block the child's view. While he watches the experimenter takes another doll, shows it to the child and then puts it behind the screen. If the child can count he should expect that when the screen is raised he should see two dolls-and sometimes he does. However sometimes the experimenter secretly removes one of the dolls so that now when the screen is raised there is only one doll visible. When this occurs, the babies stare at what is on the table for much longer after the screen has been raised. Psychologists believe that this confirms that infants have made the mental calculation and now surprised to find that the number of dolls that they are seeing is different than what they expected it to be.

In the canine version of this test the dog was shown a single large treat and a low screen was put in front of it. Then the dog watched as the experimenter obviously placed another treat behind the screen. If the dog can do the math he knows that  $1 + 1 = 2$  and he should expect that when the screen was raised there should be two dog treats. However, just like in the case of the babies, sometimes the experimenters surreptitiously removed the second treat so that when the screen was raised the dog saw only one. As in the case of the babies, the dogs stared at this unexpected outcome for a longer time than they did when the arithmetic came out correctly, apparently "surprised" at what they saw. Similarly, if an extra treat was secretly added so that the dogs saw three instead of the expected two, the dogs appear to be equally surprised. This suggests that dogs can not only count, but can also do simple addition and subtraction.

The ability to count and do simple arithmetic might seem to be a superfluous skill for dogs, but it is a useful ability that would have been vital to dog's wild ancestors. For example, it would be useful for a female to know if all of her pups were present in the den or if one of them had somehow gone astray and required a search and rescue mission to be launched. Despite this display of arithmetic ability in dogs, I wouldn't give one my pocket calculator since he is still apt to view it as a chew toy rather than as a mathematical tool.

**Bring Out The Breed**  
Cesar Millan

Learn about your dog's breed. Yes, they are animals first, then species, and THEN breed, then name. The breed does not make a dog - I always say it's the human behind the dog. But that doesn't mean that breed should be discounted. Certain breeds, especially herding, sporting, and working breeds have particular instincts that we need to honor and respect in order to fulfill the dog. So do your research and learn what makes your dog tick and try it out! If sheep herding doesn't click, try swimming or search and rescue or agility or tracking classes. For some dogs, just incorporating running or rollerblading into your walking regimen is enough stimulation physically and mentally to keep your dog fulfilled. The point is, let this be a part of getting to know your dog even better. Trust me, you will strengthen your bond and both of you will feel a sense of wholeness deeper than you ever thought was possible.

### **Benefits of Forgiveness**

By Lauren McGlynn

Forgiveness is good for you. That's a fact. Research shows the act of forgiving can lead to better overall health. A study by the Dept. of Psychology at the University of TN found forgiveness to be associated with stress relief, lower heart rate and decreased blood pressure. Other studies have linked forgiveness to a reduction in physical complaints such as aches and pains, improved sleep quality and strengthened spirituality. The reverse is also true. Holding on to resentment can lead to higher blood pressure, muscle tension and depression. The person who forgives and the person who's forgiven aren't the only ones who benefit. There's a ripple effect. Those who forgive are also much more likely to volunteer or donate.

*"No Heaven Can Heaven Be...If My Dogs Aren't There To Welcome Me."*

### **The Art of Learning to "Be"**

Written by Cheri Lucas

When we adopt a dog and bring him into our home, we are basically playing God in his life. In essence, we are saying, "I'm the person you are to love, obey and trust for the rest of your life. I hope that works for you!" Fortunately for us, dogs have embraced the "love the one you're with" philosophy 100 percent. If it weren't for a dog's natural resilience and tendency to go with the flow, it would be virtually impossible to re-home a dog successfully. Dogs live in the moment!

As adaptive as dogs may be, they are individuals, and each one comes with a unique personality and temperament. Like us, some dogs are very social while others may be shy. While dogs are generally happy to adjust to our lifestyle and environment, it's important for us to accept and honor them for who they are.

When I give private consultations to my clients, they often tell me they want their dogs to "make friends" with other dogs at the dog park or on walks. They assume their dog should want to interact with another dog, just because he's a dog. They determine that behavior to mean the dog is "socialized." Yet everyday, it is socially acceptable and even expected for us as humans to pass by multitudes of other humans that we virtually ignore.

When you go to the grocery store, do you feel compelled to meet, greet or even make eye contact with other shoppers? Of course not. Then why do we insist our canine companions "get to know" other dogs every time they encounter one? **Being able to just co-exist in a social setting with other dogs should be as acceptable and natural for them, as it is for us.**

The same is true of going to a party. Some people are the so-called "life of the party" and mingle with everyone. Others stay close to the people they know. Some may meet some new people and still stay close to those they know well. The person who doesn't mingle may be less "social" as a partygoer, but it doesn't make them any less "social" as a human being. They still socialize with their friends. Think of your dog this way too. If he can just "be" with other dogs, consider him a socialized dog and don't pressure him to play with others. If he wants to, he will. But if he is content to sit and have other dogs around without growling or barking, this is good behavior.

I was shy as a teenager. Although I never missed a school function or dance, I wasn't the type to initiate conversation or be the first one on the dance floor. Had I felt pressured to do so, I might not have grown out of my shyness and eventually developed better social skills.

Let your dog find his own way socially. Rather than insisting your dog meet another dog face to face, try walking him along side another dog first. When both dogs have settled into a balanced mode, they should be allowed to sniff each other. This is the canine version of "breaking the ice." This method is natural and non-confrontational.

When you learn to celebrate your dog for who he is, both you and your best friend can achieve more balance and create an even deeper bond!

