



SHELTIE WISE

The monthly newsletter of the Shetland Sheepdog Club of No. NJ

March 2009

Club website: www.sscnj.org

Pat Marchello, editor --jetsong@comcast.net

Meeting Notice – Friday, April 3rd

We will be having our March Meeting on Friday, April 3rd at the **Zion Lutheran Church 215 Elm St. Rahway, NJ 07065, 7:30 pm**. Guests are welcome.

PLEASE NOTE MEETING SITE CHANGE. We are still trying to find a permanent meeting site. This is one of the site we are considering. If you know of a site, please let Donna and Herb know.

Directions to the meeting site are on the last page of the newsletter and on the club website.

What are you doing after the meeting?

The meeting on Friday will be a short one. We will be at a new site in Rahway. Join us for pizza and beer after the meeting at one of the best pizza places in NJ!

**Nancy's Towne House
1453 Main Street,
Rahway**

CLUB AWARDS

Do you qualify For a club award For 2007 or 2008?

Please complete the form that was emailed to you by Mike and Joyce Oscar on March 4th and bring it to the next meeting.

Don't forget to bring any previously received awards that can be updated. Please give these to Pat Marchello at the April meeting.

October 2009 Specialties – Trophies

Sign-up to sponsor one of the classes!

Many classes are still open and need sponsorship. We hope that you will consider sponsoring one of the classes at our fall specialty. To find out

which classes are available, contact Ursula (wildoakshelties@msn.com) or check with Pat at the April meeting.



ASSA Statement on PETA/HSUS

Below you will find the statement that the board has approved for distribution on the website, the BB and for the legislative table at the national.

People and dogs share a deep and abiding bond. Selective breeding has produced a wonderful diversity of well over one hundred specialized breeds which benefit people in a host of economic and emotional ways. We deepen that bond by competing with our dogs in conformation shows, agility, herding, and obedience. ASSA supports humane treatment for all animals, education, voluntary spay/neuter for non-breeding animals, genetic research, and ethical breeding practices, including health screenings, which mean longer, happier, healthier lives for dogs.

ASSA opposes the radical agendas of groups such as HSUS and PETA. These organizations are not proponents of animal welfare, but seek animal rights, where animals would have legal status equivalent to human beings. They want to ban breeding of all domesticated animals, including purebred dogs. Other goals of these organizations are to make hunting and fishing illegal, close down zoos, and prevent the use of trained animals in movies, circuses and county fairs. These groups are drafting legislation in states and at the federal level that will limit your rights and freedoms forever.

Join us in fighting radical animal rights legislation!

Upcoming club events

May 17th –
Sheltie Makeover Day,
Tamaques park, Westfield

July 11th
“Sailing Through the Sheltie Standard” ,
Place: Willow Grove Church
All day seminar

Dec 13th -- Club Holiday Party, Willow Grove Church

BRAGS....

From Elaine... First I would like to thank Herb for arranging the terrific Wolf Visions program. I and my guest thoroughly enjoyed it.

Next I have a couple of brags. I was at the American Pomeranian Nationals in Kentucky on March 9 and 10.

Abigail...Malashel's
Incredibly Irresistible CD,
RAE, CGC, TDI, HOF and
Meg...Great River's Meg

Rules Malashel CD, RAE,
CGC, TDI, HOF were
both entered in Rally
Advanced and Rally
Excellent. Abigail took
first place in both classes

for her 4th RAE2 leg and Meg took second to Abbie's first

in both classes for her 5th
RAE2 leg. It was great.
They came home on
Tuesday and went to the
Dog Training Club of
Northern NJ on Sunday.
Both Abigail and Meg
qualified in both classes.
Meg now has 6 legs and
Abbie 5.



Update on the seminar --

"Sailing Through the Sheltie Standard"



Since the last meeting, Ursula has confirmed the date (July 11th) with **Linda Churchill**, and Herb has spoken with the church. All is set, so please mark your calendars for an all day seminar "**Sailing Through the Sheltie**

Standard" for July 11th at the Willow Grove Church, Scotch Plains. The cost of the seminar is \$75 (includes a binder). Lunch is included.

A sign-up sheet will be available at the next meeting. Please pass the word. As soon as a flyer is available, we will send it to everyone and put it on the website.

Articles...

I thought some of you might be interested in these two articles. A question was asked about inheritance of cryptochidism on the ASSA yahoo group. Here are two replies. The first from Cheryl Anderson, Cherdon Shetland Sheepdogs, and the second from Kim Shive, Foxglove Sheties.

Cryptochidism.

by Cheryl Anderson
Cherdon Shetland Sheepdogs

First, you need to understand that there are several different causes of cryptochidism, whether unilateral (one-sided) or

bilateral (both sides). It can be caused by several genetically defective forms such as a short cord by which the testis is suspended, or by a small opening (small ungingual ring), or by the absence of the testis itself, although this is pretty rare. Nearly all of these defects are carried in some part on the sex-linked portion of the X (female) chromosome. This is documented in virtually all mammals, including man. It is called a sex-influenced trait, just like pattern baldness in men, which they inherit from their mothers. In the case of the Canadian pups, it could be just a roll of the dice to get 2 in one litter. It would depend on if the dam carries one or two affected X chromosomes. The escape hatch on this type of trait is to keep an unaffected male (in the case of a single carrier dam) as he will have a clean X chromosome to pass on.

We have a lot of it still in our Female Family lines because in the old days, and still in Europe, etc., a cryptorchid could be shown -- it was merely a fault as the dog could still reproduce, although the sperm count was usually lower than a dog with both testicles. Since this is a sex-linked recessive and females don't show the trait, it has been happily passed on for generations. One side of my own line (Fam. 2) came with it, and I took the outstanding foundation bitch knowing she produced it. I still have this line, and consider all females descended from this side as suspect carriers.

Now, this is different from late descension of testicles, a fairly common trait in our show lines of Shelties. This is determined by the Y chromosome which controls hormonal (steroid/gonadal/olfactory) development. Pow himself was one of these as he was kicked out of a match for only having one testicle down at 4-1/2 months of age. It "set" down soon after that, and the oldest one I've kept like that was Lil Thunder who did not descend and lock that second testicle until 8 months of age. If you've had no prior true cryptorchidism, and you have a stunning male pup, it might be worthwhile to grow him out until near 1 year of age to verify it's not merely late descension. That is, if you want to fool with it as many people don't. Most throw away their male pups at 8-9 weeks of age if they can't feel both testicles. The pick male in my last litter didn't get the second one down until 3-1/2 months of age. It runs in the stock line. Oh well. I can think of a lot worse things to deal with than a slow testicle.

What everyone should realize is how important the sex linkages are in this breed. These two chromosomes carry most of our type, development, and many of our defect genes. They provide the mitochondrial DNA which is your operational form and never disappears from the female line. This is why, when the old time breeders said you cannot breed up from a pet pet bitch, they were absolutely right because the inferior mitochondrial DNA will plague your line forever. Always start or breed from a well-bred bitch from a superior female family line. I selected mine with great care, knowing the basics of this principle 42 years ago. I'm still working with that line -- it has served

me well, and the time, money, and research I spent before I bought her has more than paid off. In addition, fertility, mothering instincts, cycles, and other hormonally related issues are heavily influenced or determined by those X chromosomes.

I always say, since most people don't want males anymore, and as a result, it has become harder and harder to find a superior male to breed to, to find the best male you can with an absolutely superb dam to get the best female pups for your line. This is because the sire's dam is going to be the source of the second X chromosome you will inherit from him to create your girl pups.

Cheryl Anderson
Stamping The Look seminars
Cherden since 1966
AKC Judge #4183

INHERITANCE OF CRYPTORCHIDISM

By Kim Shive, Foxglove Shelties

Before we can talk about the how cryptorchidism is inherited, it's probably helpful to talk in more general terms about the ways genotype and sex interact. In this regard, we may talk about three different kinds of traits:

1) **SEX-LINKED TRAITS.** These are traits carried on one of the sex chromosomes--the X or Y. There's not much carried on the Y, so when we talk about sex-linked traits, we're generally talking about traits that are carried on the X chromosome and affect only males. Why only males? Because females have two X chromosomes, so even if there's a deleterious gene on one X, they have another, normal, X that will mask the effects of that gene. Males, on the other hand are XY, so if a male gets an X with a deleterious gene from his mother, he's out of luck, because that's the only X he has. Sex-linked traits in humans include red-green color blindness, hemophilia, fragile-X syndrome, and Duchene muscular dystrophy. There is also a form of X-linked muscular dystrophy that has been seen in Golden Retrievers. When it comes to Shelties, however, we don't really deal with any deleterious sex-linked traits.

2) **SEX-LIMITED TRAITS.** These are traits that are inherited from both parents but, because of anatomy, are only visible in offspring of one sex. Examples would be things like litter size and cryptorchidism. Both males and females have genes for these traits, but, of course, males don't give birth and females don't have testicles.

3) **SEX-INFLUENCED TRAITS.** These are traits that are expressed differently in males and females, even when the genotype is identical. These traits can be thought of as being influenced by the environment-- the environment in this case being "surrounded by male hormones" or "surrounded by female hormones." There are a lot of sex-influenced traits. One is hip dysplasia. In both humans and

dogs, hip conformation is negatively influenced by female hormones. More females than males are dysplastic, and, on average, dysplasia will be slightly more severe in dysplastic females than dysplastic males.

Another important sex-influenced trait for Sheltie breeders is size: given a male and female with identical size genes, the male will be bigger. When it comes to dogs, the influence of sex on size in a breed like Shelties is probably somewhere between a half inch and an inch. In other words, on average, a 17-inch bitch is the genetic equivalent of a 18-inch male (and those are the genes she is passing on!). The next time you're tempted to breed an oversize bitch, ask yourself if you'd breed to a male that was an inch taller than her.

So cryptorchism is a sex-limited trait. This means that genes for this trait come from both parents, but, for obvious reasons, their effects are seen only in males. We don't breed males with undescended testicles, but there's no way to know a bitch's genotype for this trait. If she were a dog, would she have two testicles, one testicle, or none? We can make educated guesses by looking at her close male relatives. For example, if she has one or more cryptorchid litter brothers, you might guess that she would have an increased probability of passing on "cryptorchid" genes to her male offspring, and this is something you might take into consideration when breeding her.

But how is cryptorchidism inherited? At this point, I don't believe we know enough to determine whether the mode of inheritance is a simple recessive or polygenetic (multiple genes involved). My best guess is that it's polygenetic, but DNA studies may someday prove me wrong. In any case, we do know that it's hard to avoid completely. For example, a breeding study involving goats used extremely harsh culling for the trait--they eliminated even second-degree relatives (the genetic equivalent of half-siblings) of cryptorchid animals from the breeding program. But even with these draconian measures, the incidence of cryptorchidism barely changed from what it had been when they actually included cryptorchid males in the breeding program.

I guess my personal view is that it would be nice to know the mode of inheritance, and it would certainly be nice to avoid, but it's just one of those things that is going to come up from time to time (or maybe I should say it's something that is going to *stay* up from time to time) no matter what we do. Clearly, if you have a dog or bitch who is producing cryptorchid sons in every litter, or almost every litter, you might want to consider removing that animal from your breeding program. And if you find a higher incidence of cryptorchidism with certain crosses, that certainly is interesting data to file away and think about when planning future breedings. But it's not a quality-of-life issue for the affected dog (assuming he is neutered), and, in my opinion, while it's something to consider, it probably shouldn't be anywhere near the top of the list of traits we think about when selecting breeding animals.

Kim Schive
Foxglove Shelties/Carlisle, Mass.

Legislative Updates

<http://www.assa.org/Legislation.html>

For updates on legislation please visit the new page on the ASSA website.

NEW JERSEY

Howell - (2/20/09) - As the town tightens its belt to cope with the ongoing recession, one of the first casualties may be the plans for a dog park on Easy Street. A dog park facility had been planned to be built, just off of Lakewood-Farmingdale Road, Route 547. The park was expected to contain two main fenced-in components: a small dog area, designed for dogs 25 pounds and under, as well as a medium-to-large area designed for larger dogs, about 25 pounds and up. "We will probably forgo the grant for the dog park because it was a matching grant," said Mayor Robert Walsh. "However, we would also lose the grant if we don't use the grant." With over 4,000 licensed dogs in Howell, the township had submitted a proposal to the Monmouth County Open Space Program seeking a 50 percent matching grant in the amount of \$169,000, with the overall project estimated to cost about \$337,000.

Howell - (2/19/09) - An ordinance meant to regulate the number of dogs and cats permitted in each home was unanimously rejected by council members Tuesday. Mayor Robert Walsh and Councilman Louis Memmolo said they originally planned to vote yes on the ordinance, but after hearing what objectors said, they decided to vote against the proposal. A group of residents, including animal advocates, nationally award-winning handlers, rare-dog breeders, animal cruelty prosecutors, as well as some who have written legislation, came out to speak against the proposed ordinance. Some cited the need for feral cats on farms to help keep rodents at bay, while others spoke of how the law would hurt those who most wanted to give the animals a good quality of life and how it went against the rights of animal owners and the animals themselves. Many of those residents, Walsh said, will now become a part of a committee that will take a more in-depth look at how to regulate the lives of cats and dogs within the township. Walsh said a meeting will be organized and the item is now slated for discussion on the council's April 14 meeting agenda.

Photos from our March meeting.

Thank you Herb for these photos.

Our guest speaker was **Vinnie Reo, Wolf Visions**, pictured here with one of his three female wolves.





8.5 mi – about 21 mins

1. Head **southeast** on **Park Ave** toward **Mountain Ave** 0.6 mi

2. Continue on **N Martine Ave** 0.7 mi

3. Turn **left** at **South Ave** 0.7 mi

4. Turn **right** at **Hetfield Ave** 0.7 mi

5. Turn **left** at **W Broad St** 190 ft

6. Turn **right** at **Lamberts Mill Rd** 2.5 mi

7. Turn **right** at **Rahway Ave** 0.1 mi

8. Continue on **Westfield Ave** 0.2 mi

9. Turn **left** to stay on **Westfield Ave** 2.1 mi

10. Turn **right** at **NJ-27/St Georges Ave** 0.6 mi

11. Turn **left** at **Elm Ave** 0.4 mi
Destination will be on the left

Directions to April meeting site:

Zion Lutheran Church
215 Elm Ave, Rahway

From Parkway South at Exit 135

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| Take exit 135 toward Westfield/Clark | 0.2 mi |
| <hr/> | |
| At the traffic circle, take the 3rd exit onto Brant Ave heading to Rahway | 0.4 mi |
| <hr/> | |
| Turn left at Westfield Ave | 1.2 mi |
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| Turn right at NJ-27/St Georges Ave | 0.6 mi |
| <hr/> | |
| Turn left at Elm Ave | 0.4 mi |
| Destination will be on the left | |

From Parkway North

- | | |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------|
| Take exit 131 for NJ-27 toward Iselin/Metuchen/Rahway | 0.3 mi |
| <hr/> | |
| Turn left at NJ-27 | 3.5 mi |
| <hr/> | |
| Turn right at Elm Ave | |
| Destination will be on the left | |

From: Pantagis Renaissance
250 Park Ave, Scotch Plains, NJ 07076

Herb sent this picture of Emma and the Easter Bunny

