## **Australian Terrier International**

Meeting The Needs Of Aussie Owners Globally © 2010 Australian Terrier International

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#### In This Issue

**Education Night** 

Happy 4th of July

World Show

World Show Photos

World Show Results

Chef's Corner with Cheryl

Irma Harden

Life Member Hal Wilcox

California Dogs

The Aging Aussie

Blue-Green Algae

Junior Showmanship

Books and DVD's

Reiki with Doreen

Choosing the Stud Dog

Rally with Ruthann

**Photos** 

Hemangiosarcoma

**Bark Out** 

AKC Gazette Subscribe

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## Dear Friends,

June was an exciting month. I left Colorado for my first visit to Denmark and the World Dog Show. It was wonderful to meet fellow Aussie owners and Aussie lovers from so many other countries. I was very impressed by the wonderful Aussie community, the friendships and camaraderie.

Following the three days of shows I was invited to Finland, by Kirsi Ola of Melukylän Kennels. I was in Finland for 17 hours and awake for 16 of them. I was able to see and go over more than 20 dogs in that short time.

I took many photos and need to spend time sorting through them all. This month the newsletter will be in two parts. This is part 1.

World Show photos and several other exciting articles will be in the July Part 2 issue.

ATI continues to grow. Thank you to all of our fabulous members and contributors. We couldn't do it without you.

Pamela Levy Editor

## Education Night with Sue Holsinger



This month we will take a vacation from the Education Night. We will resume in August. If you have a holiday planned or vacation, we hope you have a lovely time.



The Mechalke's wish the American's a Happy 4th of July.

On this day in 1776, the Declaration of Independence was approved by the Continental Congress, setting the 13 colonies on the road to freedom as a sovereign nation. Americans celebrate this as USA's birthday. Almost every city has a parade, fireworks and backyard barbecues. It's a national holiday so many people will not be working. Many American's will be eating hamburgers and hot dogs, potato salad, baked beans and watermelon. Many dogs will be hiding under the bed when the fireworks go off, but not the Aussies!!

## Note from Jim and Cheryl Mechalke

As we celebrate our 25th Wedding Anniversary with our wonderful Aussies, we just want to thank all of our wonderful friends who have helped, encouraged and shared this great breed with us! Our lives have been enriched by our loving dogs and wonderful friends. Many thanks!!!! Cheryl and Jim Mechalke



## The World Show in Denmark by Pamela Levy

I departed Aspen on June 21st for Denmark. I arrived the following day in Copenhagen. I had two quick days for sightseeing and then on Thursday I picked up Kirsi Ola from the airport and we were off for the World Show.

Kirsi was staying at a campground with many of the exhibitors. The campgrounds were lovely and had a wonderful community feel.

I would like to thank Irene Thye and Jorgen Gronlund, who were wonderful hosts to all the Aussie owners that came to their country.

I would also like to thank all the exhibitors for their kindness and allowing me to go over their dogs. I felt very welcomed and if you should come to the US we hope to make you feel exactly the same wonderful way!

Thank you all so much. I have put together a few photos I took from the World Show I hope you enjoy them.

Photos, Photos, Photos (World Show)



World Dog Show Judge, Wayne M. Burton, from Australia



Best Of Breed and Best Of Opposite Jaskarin Bravo with Saija Reiman-Walllden and Bluepepper's Funny-Bunny with Marjo Ahola



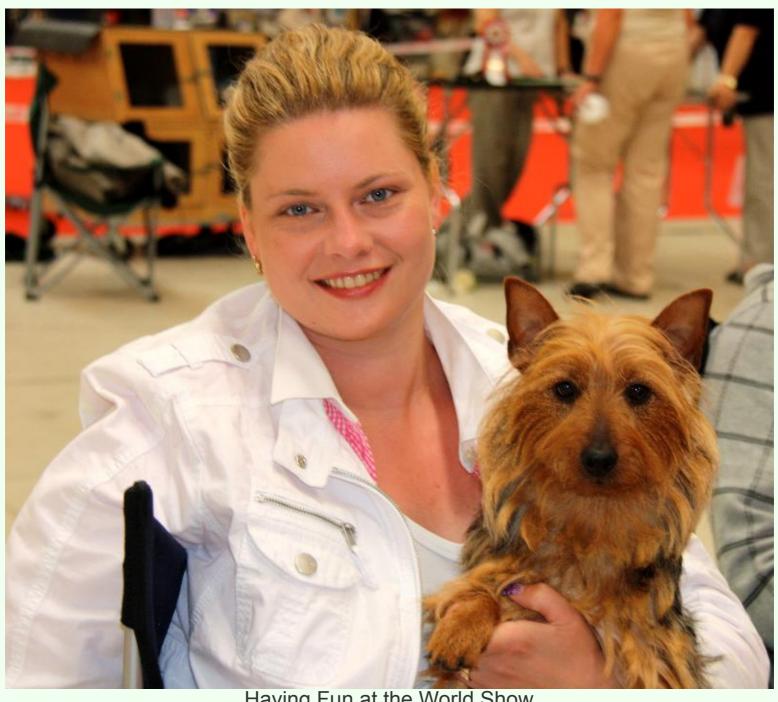
Nellyson's Ikkitikkitavi owner Nina Janger, Kennel Bristregal, Finland



Tina Nordgren and Nina Janger



Krista Riihela and Friends, Going Over Dogs Before The World Terrier Festival



Having Fun at the World Show



Enjoying The Danish Terrier Club Dinner Saija and Markus Wallden and their daughter with Kirsi Ola



Kirsi Ola Shares Her Knowledge



Selma And The Borsbol Family Say Good Bye



Denmark is a beautiful country with beautiful people. I hope everyone gets a chance to visit one day.

## World Show Results

### **Best of Breed - BOB**

JASKARIN BRAVO Catalogue number: 04254 Owners: Markus Wallden SE-64691 Gnesta Sverige

Breeder: SAIJA & MARKUS WALLDEN 64691 SVERIGE

### **World Winner CACIB - Dog**

JASKARIN BRAVO Catalogue number: 04254

Owners: Markus Wallden SE-64691 Gnesta Sverige

Breeder: SAIJA & MARKUS WALLDEN 64691 SVERIGE

#### **World Winner CACIB - Bitch**

BLUEPEPPER'S FUNNY-BUNNY Catalogue number: 04280

Owners: Marjo Ahola & P.Tervonen, E.Okkonen FI 88600 Sotkamo Finland

Breeder: MARJO AHOLA FINLAND

#### **Certificate - Dog**

JASKARIN PEPERONCINO Catalogue number: 04274

Owners: Eija Hyvönen FI-71480 Kurkimäki Finland

Breeder: SAIJA REIMAN-WALLDÉN OG MARKUS WALLDÉN SVERIGE

#### **Certificate - Bitch**

NELLYSON'S IKKITIKKITAVI Catalogue number: 04303

Owners: Nina Janger og kenneth Holmberg FI-04430 järvenpää Finland

Breeder: TINA NORDGREN SVERIGE

### **World Junior Winner - Dog**

BLUEPEPPER'S FLYING-FOX Catalogue number: 04266

Owners: Marjo Ahola & Marja Leinonen FI 88600 Sotkamo Finland

Breeder: MARJO AHOLA FINLAND

#### **World Junior Winner - Bitch**

BRISTREGAL ROCKING REGAL Catalogue number: 04291 Owners: Nina Janger Mari Pajaskoski FI-04430 Järvenpää Finland

Breeder: NINA JANGER FINLAND

## **World Veteran Winner - Dog**

DEVIL IN DISGUISE AV FALCHEBO Catalogue number: 04276 Owners: Tina Nordgren/ida Nordgren SE-24294 Hørby Sverige

Breeder: MARTE FALCH NORGE World Veteran Winner - Bitch

BLUEPEPPER'S BLACK MINT Catalogue number: 04309

Owners: Jaana Saloniemi FI-04300 Tuusula Finland

Breeder: MARJO AHOLA FINLAND

#### Dog

#### **Junior class**

Placings Catalogue number Owner

- 1 Excellent 04266 BLUEPEPPER'S FLYING-FOX Marjo Ahola & Marja Leinonen FI 88600 Sotkamo Finland
- 2 Excellent 04264 V-SHADOW ARIBEN BLUE RADAR Anne Marie Ingebretsen NO-2937 Begna NORGE
- 3 Excellent 04265 MONGRELS ARMIDALE Lena Siversson SE-45761 Hällevadsholm Sverige
- 4 Excellent 04263 KISAMBA'S SPARKLING COCKTAIL IRENE L. THYE 5500 MIDDELFART DANMARK

#### **Intermediate class**

Placings Catalogue number Owner

1 Excellent 04268 BLUEPEPPER'S HE-DEVIL Lena Siversson SE - 45761

Hállevadsholm Sverige

2 Excellent 04267 REDWING KISS AND TELL Satu Harden FI-07565 Kantele Finland

#### **Open class**

Placings Catalogue number Owner

- 1 Excellent 04274 JASKARIN PEPERONCINO Eija Hyvönen FI-71480 Kurkimäki Finland
- 2 Excellent 04273 MELUKYLÄN PELIMIES Anna Uimonen & Tiina Luumi-Roos FI-04130 Sipoo Finland
- 3 Excellent 04271 BLUEPEPPER'S RULES THE RING Marjo Ahola, J.Saloniemi, E Steele FI 88600 Sotkamo Finland
- 4 Excellent 04269 PADDINGTON HELLE STORDAL 8830 TJELE DANMARK Other results

Catalogue number Owner

Excellent 04206 AGATHE VOM MOISCHENSTEIN Eva Hofmann DE-18059 Rostock Tyskland

Excellent 04272 LESNOY'S GENTLE JACK SPARROW Anka og Werner van de Sand DE-47137 Duisburg Tyskland

Good 04270 AACE VON DEN MAIKINDERN Heike & Frank Brinkmann D 49080 Osnabrück Tyskland

### **Champion class**

Placings Catalogue number Owner

- 1 Excellent 04254 JASKARIN BRAVO Markus Wallden SE-64691 Gnesta Sverige
- 2 Excellent 04261 TANAMIER'S PORT SALUT FOR ME Marie/Cato Kjøsnes & A.M Ingebretse N-5600 Norheimsund NORGE
- 3 Excellent 04255 JASKARIN MASTER-HIMSELF Markus Wallden SE-64691 Gnesta Sverige
- 4 Excellent 04259 BLUEPEPPER'S SMILE Marjo Ahola, Maritsa Pietikatinen FI 88600 Sotkamo Finland

Other results

Catalogue number Owner

Excellent 04257 KISAMBA'S BLUEY LOUIS JØRGEN GRØNLUND & DEBORAH SOMMER 4180 SORØ DANMARK

Excellent 04258 REIMIN SPECIAL EDITION Henna Laine, Krista Riihelä FI-32500 Oripää Finland

Excellent 04260 LESNOY'S DONATELLO Anka og Werner van de Sand DE-47137 Duisburg Tyskland

Excellent 04262 CLIFTOP STEALIN GOLD Zuzana Behne DE-51570 Windeck Tyskland

#### **Veteran class**

Placings Catalogue number Owner

1 Excellent 04276 DEVIL IN DISGUISE AV FALCHEBO Tina Nordgren/ida Nordgren SE-24294 Hørby Sverige

#### **Bitch**

#### **Junior class**

Placings Catalogue number Owner

- 1 Excellent 04291 BRISTREGAL ROCKING REGAL Nina Janger Mari Pajaskoski FI-04430 Järvenpää Finland
- 2 Excellent 04288 BLUEPEPPER'S FOX-BERRY marjo Ahola & Leena Puikko FI 886 Sotkamo Finland
- 3 Excellent 04289 REIMIN SEVENTH SIGN Anne Nuutinen-Mäntylä FI-02320 Espoo Finland
- 4 Excellent 04281 NELLYSON'S SCHWOOPY SELMA ANNETTE BORSBØL 2820 GENTOFTE DANMARK

Other results

Catalogue number Owner

Excellent 04284 CHATHAM'S ANNA ISABEL MINNA CHATHAM 5600 FAABORG DANMARK

Excellent 04292 VA BENE JIGSAW PUZZLE Zuzana Behne DE-51570 Windeck Tyskland

Very good 04282 MONGREL'S ADELEIDE Trine krøtøy Sand N-2836 Biri NORGE Very good 04285 LINNEARUD'S NANGIALA Astrid-Merete L. Johansen NO-3178 Våle NORGE

Very good 04287 BELLA VOM MOISCHENSTEIN/D birgit Altmann DE-84061 Ergoldsbach Tyskland

Good 04283 ALICE LADY Dorthe Lundell N-4700 VENNESLA NORGE

#### **Intermediate class**

Placings Catalogue number Owner

1 Excellent 04293 SURELY CAN BUY MY LOVE Satu Harden FI-07565 Kantele Finland

## **Open class**

Placings Catalogue number Owner

- 1 Excellent 04303 NELLYSON'S IKKITIKKITAVI Nina Janger og kenneth Holmberg FI-04430 järvenpää Finland
- 2 Excellent 04300 BLUEPEPPER'S RING Marjo Ahola & Eve Steele FI 88600 Sotkamo Finland
- 3 Excellent 04301 RYBA'S ORANGE BLOSSOM EXPRESS Kirsi Ola FI-04130 Sipoo Finland
- 4 Excellent 04302 SANTOMAY'S COVERGIRL Marie og Cato Kjøsnes N-5600 Norheimsund NORGE

Other results

Catalogue number Owner

Excellent 04295 NOTICE MAGICA DE SPELL Markus Wallden SE-646 91 Gnesta Sverige

Excellent 04296 REDWING MONA LISA SMILE Krista Riihelä FI-16510 Luhtikylä Finland

Excellent 04297 LINNEARUD'S GREVINNE VOL AN VENT Astrid-Merete L. Johansen NO-3178 Våle NORGE

Excellent 04299 BRISTREGAL NEVER SAY NEVER Matiloa Mardkainen FI 37740 Haukila Finland

Very good 04294 NELLYSON'S OOP'S ME AND THE MOUSE MARIANNE ELMGREN 6830 NØRRE NEBEL DANMARK

Very good 04298 ABBY VON DEN MAIKINDERN Heike & Frank Brinkmann D 49080 Osnabrück Tyskland

Good 04304 VA BENE HONEY IT'S SNOWTIME Zuzana Behne DE-21570 Windeck Tyskland

### **Champion class**

Placings Catalogue number Owner

- 1 Excellent 04280 BLUEPEPPER'S FUNNY-BUNNY Marjo Ahola & P.Tervonen, E.Okkonen FI 88600 Sotkamo Finland
- 2 Excellent 04279 TRUOZZY'S HAND IN HAND Anne-Lii Sild EE-75301 Assaku ESTLAND
- 3 Excellent 04278 KISAMBA'S HOT'N SWEET IRENE L. THYE 5500 MIDDELFART DANMARK

### **Veteran class**

Placings Catalogue number Owner

- 1 Excellent 04309 BLUEPEPPER'S BLACK MINT Jaana Saloniemi FI-04300 Tuusula Finland
- 2 Excellent 04310 VA BENE AUSSIE TOP LINE Zuzana Behne DE-51570 Windeck Tyskland
- 3 Excellent 04306 JUNGFER JOSEPIN VOM ZERBSTER Jürgen og Ines Høhne DE-29264 Nedlitz Tyskland
- 4 Excellent 04307 DORICA'S XTRA ORDINARY LADY Anka og Werner van de Sand DE-47137 Duisburg Tyskland

Other results
Catalogue number Owner
Very good 04305 TANAMIER'S CLEOPATRA Anne Marie Ingebretsen N-2937 Begna
NORGE

World Dog Show 2010 Dansk Kennel Klub Parkvej 1 2680 Solrød Strand Denmark Tel.: +45 5618 8155 Fax +45 5618 8191 wds@dansk-kennel-klub.dk

## Chef's Corner with Cheryl Mechalke



Photo Courtesy of Cheryl Mechalke

Servings: 3 dozens of mini fruity Popsicle's

Ingredients:

4 cups yogurt, preferably plain favor

1 jar baby food, any fruit flavor

2 tablespoon of organic honey

2 tablespoon of natural peanut butter



Photo Courtesy of Cheryl Mechalke

Puree all ingredients in a food processor.

Pour into ice cube trays and freeze for one hour or more, depending on the temperature setting. You can also use small paper cups to freeze the Popsicle's. Thaw them slightly before serving.

Note: Baby food has great nutritional value. It contains lots of vitamins and minerals. It's also easy to digest and many puppies and dogs love it. Be sure to get a baby food that's organic with no added sugar or preservatives.

Special notes: Although I used baby food as one of the ingredients, you may opt for homemade fruit juice instead. Just remember that homemade juices will oxidize very quickly, so you might want to consume the pops within that day of making. Do not refreeze the pops once they're out of the freezer.

Choose plain or vanilla favored yogurt or your Popsicle will have very funny taste.

© 2006 - 2010 Small Dogs Paradise <a href="http://www.smalldogsparadise.com/dog-treats-recipes/mini-fruity-popsicles-for-dogs/">http://www.smalldogsparadise.com/dog-treats-recipes/mini-fruity-popsicles-for-dogs/</a>

Spotlight on Irma Harden by Cheryl Mechalke



Photo Courtesy Of Irma Harden "Aussies Gardening"

ATI celebrates Irma Harden. She has contributed many photos and articles and we thank her so much for being a part of ATI.

## Why did you decide to get your first Aussie? What attracted you to the breed?

Our first Aussie was a birthday present for my daughter Satu in 1986. At that time I owned a Hovawart and was showing this dog in obedience. At one of the shows that we were attending, I saw an Australian Terrier for the first time. Satu was also interested in obedience and we decided to buy and own dog for obedience training. I then found that an Australian Terrier was a very nice breed. It is small enough to take with you everywhere and big enough to take with walking and other hobbies.

## What is your most memorable or favorite Aussie story?

The first thing I remember happened with my darling Silppuri (Avocation Hot Chili Pepper). It was late night and my Aussies were out. I called them in but Silppuri didn't come. She had found something very special! I saw she that she had some gray in her mouth, which I thought to be a mole. I have quite a big fenced yard with some large forested areas so, it wasn't easy to catch her. As we chased around each other for about an hour's time it had now grown very dark out outside and I needed to use a flashlight to see her.

There were some pheasants asleep on the tree branches of a tree in our yard and they were frightened by the light and started to make a horrible noise and then flew away. After that I was really frightened - near a heart attack from all of the escapades. Finally Silppuri got tired of this adventure and ran to me and threw her captured prey- a hedgehog in front of me and looked at me very satisfied. But the prey wasn't a mole, it was a hedgehog! I had to spend the rest of the night picking out the spines from her face!

## How long have you had Aussies?

Our first Aussie was, my daughter Satu's, Katzy. I bought my first Aussie in 1986 from Danish Ibeth kennel, owner Ibeth Carlsen.

### Have you bred any litters?

I have bred nine Aussie litters. First was born in 1996 and the latest in 2008. In addition I have bred one Silky Terrier litter in 1994.

## Do you do confirmation? Agility? Obedience?

I did obedience with my Hovawart and took part of Obedience Competitions, but not with my Aussies. Later I qualified as an obedience trainer and acted some years in local Kennel Association. I continue to take a few show training courses depending on how much my dogs need training.

## Have you ever imported or exported an Aussie?

Yes, we have. My daughter Satu and I currently have two imported males. One is from Sweden and the other from the USA. I have also imported one bitch from Australia, one male from Sweden and together with two of my friends, one bitch from Australia. In addition to these I dogs, I have imported two dogs from Denmark at the end of 1980 decade. All our imports have been healthy and I hope a good addition to Finnish Aussie genetic population. I have not exported a dog, to date.

## Do you have children?

Yes, I have two children and two grandchildren.

## Do you have other interests or hobbies?

Yes, I have been a farmer alongside my husband for many years. We are now both retired. I have a lot of time for my dogs and my other interests; gardening one of my first loves, photography and hand-works such as weaving.

## Hal Wilcox-New Lifetime Member

ATI is proud to announce our 2nd lifetime member, Hal Wilcox.



Hal, "Tilley" Ryba's Halice Travl'n Matilda and Alice Wilcox

Our next issue will feature an in depth interview with Hal and photos of his lovely dogs. Thank you Hal for all your contributions to the world of Australian Terriers.

## Photos, Photos, Photos

In this photo group we are featuring dogs of California, USA, past and present.



Photo Courtesy of Jeri Leu

"Sadie"

Miss Sadie is a very loved rescue.



Photo Courtesy of Darlene Evans Ch Crestwoods Sassy Chelsey CD Daughter of Crestwoods Crackerjack x Crestwoods Cinderoo



Photo Courtesy Of Darlene Evans Ch Ryba's Diamon Lil of Tera-K
Ch Benayr Reckless x Ch Ryba's Traveling Matilda
NOTE: SIRE is the dog referred to in the Juniors article. DAM is Tilly in the photo
with new Life Member Hal Wilcox.)



Photo Courtesy of Sue Bachman Ch. Ryba's Batteries Not Included



Photo Courtesy of Sue Bachman Ch. Ryba's Call Me Irresponsible



Photo Courtesy of Darlene Evans Ch. Tera-K's Parson Brown



Photo Courtesy of Pam Reinert "Enzo"



Photo Courtesy of Pam Reinert "Ellie"



Photo Courtesy of Darlene Evans Ch Ryba's Super Trouper owner, Claudette Earl



Photo Courtesy of Darlene Evans Ch Tera-k's Hot Pursuit Ch Ryba's Super Trouper x Ch Tera-k's Sleigh Bells owned by Chris Tuthill

## The Aging Aussie Part 3 by Heather Rife DVM

## Saying Goodbye

As veterinarians, we are confronted with life and death decisions many times a day. We may be delivering a terminal diagnoses, discussing quality of life issues, or actually performing euthanasia's. This difficult decision can be debilitating to us as caregivers, but there are things we can do to ease the transition from life to death and also to ease our feelings of

grief and helplessness in the face of illness. As your Aussie ages, you should reflect on what constitutes his quality of life. It may be sunning himself on the deck, greeting family members after a day at work, or sleeping on your pillow at night. It might be a heaping bowl of food, a cuddle in the evening or a stroll through the garden.

(That is my Aussie Martha's favorite activity!)

If we can clearly delineate what makes our dogs happy, it becomes easier to see when his quality of life is declining. When the quality is gone it becomes our job as caretakers to ease the transition from life to death. Should you decide you want your dog to die unassisted at home, it is important to continue to keep him clean and pain free. Discuss with your veterinarian what your desires are, and how to keep them comfortable. What medications, or combination of medications might help? Consider who might be the family members that are with them when they die. Are they prepared for the process of actual death, which can include vocalizations, urination, vomiting, defecation and/or seizures? Rarely is an unassisted death a quiet and peaceful process. Like birth, it is often messy and prolonged. If there are children present, have you prepared them adequately?

If you elect a humane euthanasia, where would you and your dog be most comfortable? If you want your pet to die at home, will your veterinarian come to your house to perform the euthanasia? If he/she will, let them know as the time draws near that their services will be needed soon. If your veterinarian does not offer these services, contact a mobile vet in your area. Meet with them to discuss how the procedure will be performed and what to expect. Will they sedate the dog first? Let them know who will be attending the euthanasia and what might help the people involved. Would your dog be more comfortable in the car during the process? If bringing your pet to the clinic, try to schedule a quiet time in the clinic, the last appointment of the morning or afternoon, when time is more flexible. Bring a comfortable blanket or a well-worn t-shirt that smells like home. Often owners want other animals to be present, but sometimes they can become agitated and interfere. As I sedated my own cat, Julia, in preparation for euthanasia, my husband and I sat on the kitchen floor in front of the heat vent. As Julia fell asleep in her favorite place, my large Doberman watched intently over my husbands shoulder. When Julia took her last breath, Tucker whined softly. I moved aside and he slowly folded himself near her and laid his head on her body. Neither Tony nor myself expected anything like this behavior from Tucker. None of the other animals even acknowledged her body. I now firmly believe we should give our animals the opportunity to view the body.

Think ahead to what you want to do with the body. Many, if not all, veterinary clinics offer cremation. Cremation can be individual, where your pets' ashes are returned to you in a decorative container. Some owners bury the ashes under a special tree or shrub, or in a memorial garden on your

property. You may decide to cremate your pet with other pets, and you will not receive the ashes back. You could instead choose to bury your friend on your property, if you check with local regulations and bury them deep enough. There are also pet cemeteries available, if you would prefer. There are services available to incorporate some of your pets' ashes in jewelry, to keep your friend near to your heart.

Lastly, the loss of a pet can uncover many unresolved issues around illness and death, not just about our pets, but also around the loss of friends and family. We can find ourselves mired in depression and loss, unable to find our way clear. A grief-counseling group that focuses on the loss of pets can be very helpful. A good therapist understands the sadness and loss we are feeling, and validates our emotions. Well meaning friends may not be able to relate to such a depth of sadness, and, instead encourage us to get another dog.

I hope these articles help you as your Aussies age. They never live long enough!

## Blue-Green Algae by Theresa Goiffon

If your dogs swim or play in or around lakes, please read and learn about Blue-Green Algae.



Photo Courtesy of Theresa Goiffon "Harley" Who left us much too soon.

This is a subject our family knew nothing about, until tragically we lost our beloved Australian Terrier, Harley. On July 20, 2009, Harley went down to the lake with my daughter and two of our other dogs, a normal routine in the summer. Harley was just shy of 2 years old, was healthy, happy and loved the water as all our Aussies do. Sadly, he drank lake water that had been toxic from Blue Green Algae blooms. At the time, we weren't aware such a toxin existed, much less would have never thought it would be in a clean, spring feed, and 65 foot deep lake such as Dunham Lake.

What we now know is Blue-Green Algae can be anywhere, not only in murky green ponds but clean lakes as well. This is a concern not only in our area of the country, Wisconsin and Minnesota, but in many other states as well as several

other countries.

## What is Blue-Green Algae?

Harmful algae blooms result from an excess amount of Blue-Green algae that form a bacteria, called cyanobacteria and actually are not true algae. Some types of Blue Green algae can produce toxins which can harm humans and animals.

### How is Blue-Green Algae identified?

The blooms can be a variety of colors such as fluorescent blue, green, white, red or brown. More than one color may be present. They may look like a thick paint floating on the water and frequently give off a foul odor. It's important to note that not all algal blooms are toxic. Unfortunately there is no immediate way to know if a bloom is dangerous or not.

### How to avoid Blue-Green Algae poisoning?

- Don't swim, water ski, or boat in areas where the water is discolored or where you see foam, scum, or mats of algae on the water.
- Don't let pets or livestock swim in or drink from areas where the water is discolored or where you see foam, scum or mats of algae on the water.
- Don't let pets lick the algae off their fur.
- Do rinse yourself and your pet off immediately if there is contact with algae-affected waters.
- Do look for beach postings and water quality notices before swimming.
- Do get medical treatment right away if you think you, your pet, or your livestock might have been poisoned by algal toxins.

## **Common Animal Symptoms include:**

Lethargy, vomiting, diarrhea, convulsions, difficulty breathing, general weakness and sudden death.

The US government research is currently underway on Blue Green Algae but until a solution to eliminate this toxin is discovered, please visit this site <a href="http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/bluegreenalgae/">http://dnr.wi.gov/lakes/bluegreenalgae/</a> and educate yourself and your family on Blue Green Algae before you let your children and animals in lakes or ponds this summer. It might just save your pets life.

## Junior Showmanship by Theresa Goiffon

This month I interviewed a young woman who has been involved with Australian Terriers since she was three years old, former junior handler, Alana Mathisen.

Alana lives in Deer Park, Washington, USA. Alana is now 18 years old.

## In general, how did you get interested in showing dogs?

I was born into the dog world. I found it interesting that there was a world that was dedicated to the creation of beautiful pure bred dogs. That's what interested me, the thought that I could improve a breed. Plus I always found showing fun.

## How did you get started in Junior Showmanship? Was it easy or difficult for you?

I got started in junior showmanship because of my mom. She is the chairman of the Shetland Sheepdog Juniors Program. She always encouraged me to become a participant in junior showmanship. I found it to be an easy choice to be in the juniors program since I grew up in the dog world.



Photo Courtesy of Alana Mathison

## Why did you choose the Australian Terrier breed to show?

Susan Bentley, a very close family friend, gave me an Australian Terrier when I was three. His name was "Benny" Ch. Benayr Reckless. I fell in love with their charm and their love to be around people. I felt it was the natural choice to pick an Australian Terrier.

## What did or do you enjoy about showing as a Junior Handler?

I love the competition of showing in junior handling. I grew up in an area that had many wonderful juniors and the competition was always hard but rewarding. There is nothing like it when the judge points to you and says, "You will be my Best Junior Handler."

## What did you like about showing the Australian Terrier?

In Juniors the Australian Terrier breed was fantastic. You could work with many looks. You could always get down and hand stack the dog or you could get back from the dog and show off the profile. There was endless poses with them and it became so much fun to have a dog that could work with any pose.

## What do you like about the Australian Terrier Breed?

The Australian Terrier Breed is a great breed. They love the family life, sitting on the couch and hanging out with their human. Aussies also love the thrill of a good chase, so they still love what they were bred to do. For my last point, Aussies love

to please, which make them great dogs in the ring and out.

## How old were you when you started showing as a Junior Handler?

I started out in junior handling at the earliest age possible. I started at 9 (at the time that was the earliest age). I wanted so bad to be in that group that I felt was elite.

# What is your favorite part of Junior Handling, the competition, being with your dog, meeting other Juniors, traveling, prizes, etc?

My favorite part about junior handling? Well I can't really say that any particular part was more rewarding than anything else. I love the whole experience. It teaches so much about being a true sport, being a team and enjoying the sport of pure bred dogs.

## What is your least favorite part of Junior Showmanship?

My least favorite part of junior handling is the fact that we don't switch breeds. I felt as a junior handler that switching breeds would really teach us what it was like to be a true handler. As a junior I found that to be frustrating.

## Do you foresee becoming a Professional Handler someday, if so will you still show the Australian Terrier breed or other breed/breeds?

Well as far as being a professional handler I don't think it's in my future. I loved the thought of traveling and showing dogs but I found that I was just as happy staying at home and showing my dogs once in awhile.

# Are your family and friends supportive of your interest? What do they think about you showing dogs?

My family is incredibly supportive of my love for showing pure bred dogs. I am a third generation competitor and we have been breeding Shetland Sheepdogs for 43 years, now. My family enjoys the competition just as much as I do.

## How many hours a week do you think you spend training your dog?

I can't say that there is a particular amount of hours I spend training. I believe it is a on-going process that never ends. I'm always am working with my dog trying out new things and perfecting.

### Do you groom your dog yourself?

I have always done most of the grooming on my dogs. Occasionally I would ask for help, but most of the time that was a very important part to my learning and growing with the breed.

# If you had one or more Aussie Terriers, do you have a favorite, if so, what makes that dog special to you?

My favorite dog well, I have two. One was my first real junior's dog, Dorothy (Ch. Benayr Hunky Dory). We were a team; we shared many experiences together including competing at Westminster together. I also really did a good part of growing with her. She was a very hard dog to work with at first but then we got down a routine and a style. Second, was my dog John. He was my love, that was the dog that I had during my Intermediate to Senior years of Juniors. We had a fantastic style and he loved the ring. He was such a delight to show and above all he was my best friend!

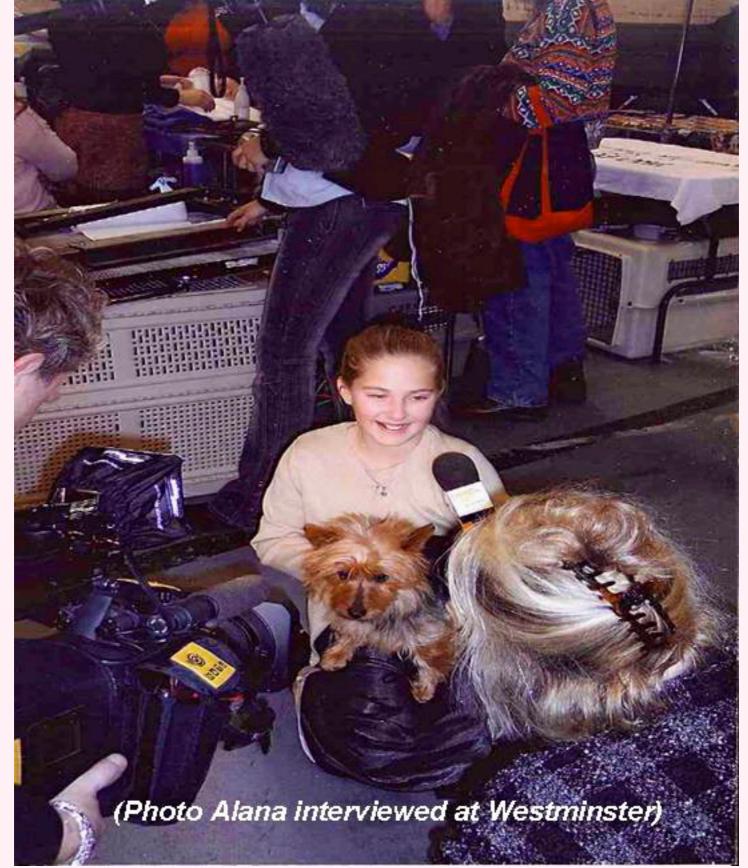


Photo Courtesy of Alana Mathison

# Is Junior Showmanship something you would recommend to your friends, why or why not?

I have always been a big supporter of junior showmanship. I find it to be a life time experience. I have grown from it and I encouraged many juniors to start showing.

# Do you envision yourself being a breeder someday or is the show ring of more interest to you?

I have always loved both sides of the sport. I love breeding something that is just jaw dropping and growing out the puppy and training it. But I also love being in the ring; it is home to me. I love the thrill of being in the group ring, when all the people are applauding. It's fun and it's a passion for me.

## What advice would you give to someone new wanting to show as a Junior handler?

If I gave any advice to a upcoming junior it is to have fun. Sometimes you get so caught up in winning you get frustrated with yourself and with your dog. Don't! Realize that this is about perfecting YOUR style. Some people will not agree with you and some people will love you. Never forget that your goal is to get better, to further your education and to become a better handler. Sometimes you cry

because of a loss but always keep going and give back. Give back to other upcoming juniors! Remember you can learn something from everyone. Alana

Quite an impressive young lady! It is really great to have young people enlighten us on their experiences as Junior Handlers. Alana's many years of experience in the Australian Terrier bred will be invaluable for generations to come. Thank you Alana for your wonderful interview, your encouragement of Junior Showmanship and your dedication to this breed! Theresa Goiffon

All photos provided courtesy of Alana Mathisen

## Books and DVDs in the Lending Library

ATI is proud to announce the list of Books and DVD's in our lending library.

We would like to thank Eve Steele, Sue Holsinger, Dianne Wall and Judy Stallings for their book donations, as well.

The lending library has been set up for ATI paid member's. It's easy to join. \$20.00 with all proceeds going to Canine Health Foundation (CHF) a 501(c)3.

Topics include: Activities, Agility, Behavior, Food, Grieving, Health, Legislation, Parties, Reproduction, Structure, Training & Vaccinations.

Join Now

## Reiki with Doreen Simpkins from the United Kingdom



Photo Courtesy Of Doreen Simpkins

I was invited to do an article on Reiki because of ATI's interest in health and education. I live in Staffordshire in the UK, and have owned Australian Terriers for about 16 years now, and before that Yorkshire Terriers. I grew up in the country and

as a child always had a variety of pets and was expected to take responsibility for caring for them.

I enjoy showing our dogs and our kennel name is landor.

However, first and foremost our dogs are my much loved pets, who give me hours of fun and pleasure with their antics! Over the years we have made up one Champion, Ch Millvalley Blue Heaven At landor bred by Sheila Stoddart, and bred two dogs made up by Paul Eardley of the Sherex affix, Ch landor Summertime Blues at Sherex, and his son landor Make My Day at Sherex. In addition we bred landor Mad Max who won three Reserve Challenge Certificates and landor Breakaway Blues who won one Challenge Certificate.

We have the occasional litter and despite the hard work that entails, I adore having puppies, but getting the right permanent homes is not an easy task! When we have puppies they are always born in the house, as I believe that to be a better environment for socialising pups than an outbuilding. At present I have five Australian Terriers ranging in ages from 1year to 8 years old. We have adapted our double garage over the years to provide accommodation, with grooming space, shower, washing machine and dryer for the dogs bedding. We have a large garden of around an acre and a half which means the dogs have lots of space to play around in.

Over the last few years I have developed an interest in canine health, and have completed a Diploma in Canine Psychology, Basic Tellington Touch awareness and most recently my Reiki level two training which in the UK is practitioner level. I have a great interest in raw feeding and natural health care for dogs. I completed my Reiki training with Ann Smith of Stafford who is a Reiki Master member of the British Reiki Federation of which I am now an associate member.

What then is Reiki? It is a hands on healing technique in which universal life energy is channeled by a practitioner who has been trained by a Reiki master to one of three different levels of awareness. Reiki has three different lineages all of which go back to the man who developed Reiki in the early years of the 20th century, Dr Mikaomi Usui. In Reiki terms healing is on a mental, emotional and spiritual level as well as physical level, and the practice of Reiki emphasizes the need for tolerance, self awareness and meditation. It is not a replacement for medical or veterinary treatment, but can certainly be used alongside such treatment, if so desired.

A Reiki session will consist of pre-session preparation by the therapist, followed by a relaxing series of hand moves either on the body, or in the aura. At such times the person or animal having the treatment will be encouraged to calm and relax to gain full benefit. In using Reiki on animals you need to show a respect for the animal and be guided in how you organize the session by how the animal is reacting. The first time I used Reiki on a rescue dog who had multiple problems and was very stressed, she would not allow hands on, so I held my hands up and conducted the session across the room from where she was. By the end of the session her body language was clearly indicating a more relaxed stance, and she exhibited signs of increased relaxation. In subsequent sessions she allowed hands on treatment, with some improvement in the issues which had been causing problems, much to the relief of her owner!

The photo I have included with this article show my red dog Victor enjoying a Reiki session in the sitting room at home. He loves his 1-2-1 time, and demonstrates increased relaxation by yawning, lowering his head, slowly licking his lips ... and even falling asleep! As you can see from the photo's Mary Lou (Ch Millvalley Blue Heaven At landor) has jumped up beside him, to enjoy the benefits! Dogs are a great deal more aware of Reiki energy than humans sometimes are, and it is not unusual for animals to congregate around the one receiving the Reiki session.

From a personal point of view I find using Reiki on myself immensely relaxing, which in the high pressure stressful life we sometimes lead, can be of great benefit in de-stressing us from some of those pressures.

Certainly, in treating some of my family and friends most mention the sense of relaxation and well being that Reiki brings, with those who have chronic health problems mentioning a reduction in pain/discomfort levels, and a sense of heightened calmness and peacefulness.

To me, using something so positive and which cannot harm and where you can see the effects in the posture and body language of the animal concerned makes perfect sense. Two of the books I have found particularly helpful are Practising Reiki by Jennie Austen (Geddes & Grosset) and Animal Reiki by Elizabeth Fulton and Kathleen Prasad.

If you have any questions please visit my websites or contact me.

Doreen Simpkins www.haveahappyhound.co.uk www.happyhoundgrooming.co.uk 01785 851 300

# Breeder Discussion What do you look for When Choosing The Stud Dog

Influence is really about making a marked change in the breed. Crackerjack is then probably, by far, the most influential Australian Terrier in America. It would be very interesting to know how many litters he sired. It would also be interesting to know what other dogs might have come close. Influence speaks of neither good or bad, but just impact. Often the value of the impact is not known until later. I would make a guess that Jack might have been a dog used nationally where other fine dogs were used more regionally. Today with communications more advanced and work in the areas of semen collection more common, it is possible that we could be more homogenized in the future.

However, that being said, I feel compelled to add that I believe that our breed, in America, is being influenced even more by human apathy.

Some of the signs are:

- 1. We can't build majors any more without filler dogs and people traveling distances for larger entries.
- 2. We are experiencing advancing average ages of members of regional clubs and ATCA countrywide. There is just a trickle of new and younger members.
- 3. Fewer Australian Terrier litters and fewer individual dogs are being registered with AKC. Compare this with other decades.

There is great apathy in our breed in the United States. People aren't breeding much and are showing even less. Our breed clubs are concerned with health and ethics and by-laws and finances etc., all important endeavors, but somewhere along the line breeding and showing need to be encouraged or there will be too few dogs for us to worry about the rest of it. There is an increase in the number of dogs in performance. You don't need other Australian Terriers to compete. I think that the Europeans are far out stripping us in breeding and showing. Please understand that I am not critical of any individuals in our breed and there is no

blame being leveled. We all need to take responsibility for our collective Australian Terrier future. **Sue Bachman**, **Ryba Kennels** 

ATI did some research.
(BISS Ch. Crestwood Crackerjack sired 54 Champions)

First and foremost I look for soundness of temperament, structure & health. It has been my experience with my breeding program that a lot of the temperament comes from the stud dog. My reasoning is, I look at Joey today and his actions are so much like his great grandfather Alibi. I have seen those actions in so many of Alibi's get (puppies). I have also seen shy temperaments

I want the stud dog to compliment the bitch. I also really appreciate a stud dog that "knows" his job! (Knows how to breed the female).

I think the Influential stud dogs in the USA have been:

come when I out-crossed and I had no shy temperaments before.

Ch Crestwoods Crackerjack

Photo Courtesy Of Marge Reignier BISS Ch. Crestwood's Crackerjack

Ch Taralee Fakir



Photo Courtesy of Jennie Worthing Ch. Taralee Fakir

Ch Sprite Lea Rajah Dajah



Photo Courtesy Of Darlene Evans Ch Sprite Lea Rajah Dajah

### Ch Taralee For Fame



Photo Courtesy of Darlene Evans

These are some of the top producers of all time. Janet Maas, Akiba Kennels

I would add Ch.Crestwood Contender and Ch. Tinee Town Sandman to the list of Aussies who have influenced the breed.

The first thing I look for in a stud dog is health and a "clean" pedigree - one that does not contain known genetic problems. This is not always possible to accomplish because the information one has relies upon what is provided from others. In my previous breed (Wire Fox Terriers) I believed what a stud dog owner said about the health of his "pretty" dog and what was behind him. Big mistake. I got heart murmurs, severe skin allergies, under bites - the litter (as well as much more investigation) was the primary reason for my decision to get out of the breed. One pup was put down and the others were neutered. I was relatively new to dog breeding at the time and thankfully I know a lot more now.

Even in Aussies negative information sometimes comes trickling in after the fact. Rumor? Sour grapes? Fact? Difficult to know. The lesson for me is tread lightly but

as thoroughly as possible.

Once health is established as much as possible I look for conformation, especially in areas where the bitch may not be strong (e.g. coat, tail set, etc). I line breed as much as possible, but it does eventually become necessary to bring something new in to continue the process. A gamble for sure, but proper investigation and reasoned consideration and conclusions are at least a basis for using a particular stud dog. It is always easy to use a dog that is conveniently located (or free!!), but perhaps not the best choice, and we've probably all done it from time to time. Not a crime by any means unless there are known health problems, but as a regular practice the results can be detrimental to the breeding program and the breed as a whole. Jerry Walsh, Pineterri Kennels

## Rally with Ruthann McCaulley

The information presented is this online column is a condensed excerpt from the electronic book. Doodle by Design, The Comprehensive Guide to Rally Obedience by Ruthann McCaulley and available at <a href="http://countrydream.wordpress.com/webstore-rally-o-lesson-plans/">http://countrydream.wordpress.com/webstore-rally-o-lesson-plans/</a> as a download or it can be ordered as a CD.

Many different breeds were used to illustrate things in my book, so you will see breeds other than my Australian Terrier Wally in this column.

(Editor Note: We are aware these photos will not be easily viewed. They are from Ruthann's book and she no longer has the originals. We will make sure you have better examples in articles to come.)

## **Rally Specific Training**

You are now ready to start rally specific training. I've broken the training down into individual exercises, and I've listed the exercises according to the level where they first appear.

Remember, the exercises that you train for in Rally Novice can and will be used in both Rally Advanced and Rally Excellent. Exercises used in Rally Advanced can also be used in Rally Excellent. Only the six exercises in Rally Excellent can't be used at another level.

It is to your advantage to practice carefully and learn each exercise and each sign. Know the wording on the signs, and know the wording in the exercise description. Start and finish may seem like they are self explanatory, but many people loose points on these two exercise signs so I want to go into some detail about them.

#### **Exercise 1: START**

1. START - Indicates the beginning of the course. Dog does not have to be sitting at start.

This is where your adventure in the rally ring begins. Most judges have the start sign/line located slightly inside the gate to allow the team room to enter the ring and get set up. It also facilitates removing the leash in the ring for Rally Advanced and Rally Excellent.



It's a very good idea to develop a starting routine with your dog during practice, so that you'll have something definite to do when you go to the gate. This helps with your nerves, and it makes the dog feel secure and confident because they know exactly what to expect. When you get to Rally Advanced and Rally Excellent, make removing the leash part of the routine as well.

When the judge asks if you're ready, you do not have to look at the judge, in fact you're better off if you maintain eye contact and give your attention to your dog rather than the judge. Simply reply to the judge's question and smile at your dog. Your dog must enter the ring on leash. If you take the leash off the dog before entering the ring, most judges will ask you to exit the ring and put the leash on before entering again. Some judges will take a Handler Error deduction for this.



If you are showing in Rally Advanced or Rally Excellent the lead will be removed once you have entered the ring. Some judges have you take it off at the entrance as soon as you get in the ring, other judges may have you remove it at the start line. You may be asked to remove the leash and hang it on a leash hook yourself, or you may hand the leash off to someone who will do that for you. Sometimes, if there is a shortage of help, it may even be the judge who takes the leash from you and puts it on the gate or leash hook or holds onto it until you finish the course. Set yourself up at the start line and be sure that you and the dog are behind the line. You may start right at the line or a foot or so behind the line. Remember, your dog does not have to be sitting at the start line.



Heel to the start line and set up. You do not have to look at the judge, but you can give your arm band number and dog's breed and jump height as you enter as a double check with the judge's score sheet.



Photo L Do not push your dog into a sk. Don't even tap them on the bottom or put them into the sit. The dog doesn't have to sit at the start. You really don't want to man-handle the dog into position.

Speak up; don't nod your head. Most judges are watching the dog and your feet, not your head at this point, as they are ready to score you as you move out so they may not see your nod.

It is true that "judging starts" when the judge says forward and the timer starts the stopwatch, but, you are judged on everything that you do while in the ring. If you give your dog a big yank on the leash at the start line, or push the dog into a sit with your hand, it will be scored. It will also be scored if you thump your dog on the head to get their attention.



Do not yank on the leash to get your dog to sit.

Don't even pop the leash. A yank may get you excused before you even start and a pop will be a handler error.



Do not ignore your dog at the start line. Look at them, you don't have to look at the judge when they ask if you're ready, simply tell them "yes".

#### Handler errors often seen at the start line

During the last five years of judging I've had to take many handler error deductions before I even told the team "forward", something I really hate to do, but something that must be done if I'm to judge according to the rules. While judging doesn't technically start until the judge says "forward", you are judged from the second you enter the ring until you are out the exit gate. Things that happen before the start or after the finish are scored as Handler Errors, and some are serious enough to get you excused.

One week during Rally class we spent a lot of time discussing start line Handler Errors that we'd seen at trials. The general consensus of the class was that these errors were made because exhibitors really didn't understand (1) the rules, (2) what they were actually doing in the ring, and (3) that they were being judged while they were doing these things. We decided to do a video to post to YouTube illustrating what we'd discussed, exaggerating the errors to make them plain to see, and doing it with humor as well as serious intent. You can find the video here: <a href="http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GEm8GobxMIE">http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GEm8GobxMIE</a>

#### **Exercise 2: FINISH**

2. FINISH - Indicates the end of the course - timing stops.



Just because you can see the finish sign doesn't mean you've crossed it. Don't start to celebrate until you have completely passed the finish line. I've seen several teams lose unnecessary points for premature celebration. Don't start to celebrate until you have completely passed the finish line. I've seen several teams lose unnecessary points for premature celebration.

You are being timed (and scored); so don't stop before you cross the line to praise your dog etc. Be sure that you have completely crossed the finish line. When you have crossed the finish line, you have finished the course and the timing stops. You did it! However, any Handler Errors that you make before leaving the ring, such as yanking the leash, yelling at the dog, grabbing the dog's collar etc. can and will be scored. If you are in Advanced or Excellent, you may gently take your dog's collar until the leash arrives. Be sure to keep your dog under control until you attach the leash.

If you're in Novice you may immediately leave the ring. If you're in Rally Advanced,

you are ready to leave the ring as soon as you attach the leash. Be sure that you put the leash on your dog before you leave the ring. It's required by AKC regulations that the dog enters and exits the ring on lead. Failure to do so could cost points.



Holding the dog's collar while you attach the lead should not be considered "handling or touching" the dog, it is something necessary to achieve attachment of the lead.

If you're in Excellent you won't be leaving the ring but heading directly toward the honor station. Keep your dog under control as you attach the collar and move to the designated honor position.

Get into the honor position quickly and quietly so you don't disrupt the next dog on the line. More detailed information about performing the honor will be given under the discussion of the Honor station, sign #50.



location and gets et up This honor stay.



When you finish the course When the judge says "forward"



Walk forward to the end of the proceed immediately to the honor give your dogs command/agnal to leash, then turn and face the dog for the duration of the honor.

If the finish is right at the gate, think ahead about how you will get your dog under control and back on leash before leaving the ring. Usually calling the dog's name and telling them "easy" and starting to quietly praise them will help them focus on the handler while you get the leash. If the gate is directly in front of the finish sign you might try turning to the right or left immediately after the finish, then telling the dog to sit to give yourself some "wiggle room" while you get the leash and put it on the dog.

## Photos, Photos, Photos



Photo Courtesy of Sue Holsinger Springtime in Colorado



Photo Courtesy of Sue Holsinger

## Hemangiosarcoma

Recently several dogs in our breed, in the US, have died as a result of hemangiosarcoma's.

We at ATI are not veterinarians. If you have anything that looks unusual or your

dog is acting like it does not feel well, we urge you to go to your vet. We are trying to give you a knowledge base.

## What is Hemangiosarcoma?

Hemangiosarcoma is an aggressive, malignant tumor of blood vessel cells. With the exception of the skin form of hemangiosarcoma, a diagnosis of hemangiosarcoma is serious. Because these tumors start in blood vessels, they are frequently filled with blood and when a blood-filled tumor ruptures, it can cause problems with internal or external bleeding.

For an in depth article discussing further definitions, causes, risk factors, symptoms, diagnosis, treatment and prognosis, we found the website www.CanineCancer.com.

http://www.caninecancer.com/Hemangiosarcoma.html

For more info re: Hemangiosarcoma's, please read these articles.

## **Caninecancerawareness**

For a photo example please click on photo.

Hi Pamela -

I am sorry to hear that you have had to deal with such as awful disease in your breed. We would be honored for you to use any information and link to our website. Hopefully by sharing information, we will be able to find a cure for this disease someday soon.

Caryn-Director at Canine Cancer.

Note: We provided links as some of you may not wish to look at the photos. There is also a great deal of excellent content that we unfortunately, do not have the space to share. Pamela

#### Bark Out

## Hello from Belgium

I have received the Newsletter of June. I read it with great interest. It is a wonderful and complete one. Your team is gathering so many information and I would like to praise you all for finding those interesting subjects.

It was a great idea to honor Jeannie Worthing, for she is a living encyclopedia. (She knows almost all the dogs that are in the Pedigree of my dogs).

Canine Massage was something new for me. It seems very pleasant for the owner to massage the dog and apparently it is giving the dog so much comfort.

I was also very interested by the articles about Earthdog, Agility, Rally and Juniors and all the nice photos.

The article about Carin Sandahl a Top Breeder gave me the opportunity to learn more about her.

I cannot think of anything better than ATI to give me so many information about my

favourite Breed. CONGRATULATIONS.

Best regards, Marie-Francis



Photo Courtesy of Marie Francis Petry (Belgium)

A most amazing newsletter, if it can be called that. More like Aussie Book of the Month. Well written, informative, beautiful photos....how on earth much time does this take to put together???

May USA Aussie folk borrow from lending library? If so, where is website and is the AKC Australian Terrier DVD included in the selection?

Thank you for this excellent venue on AT's. I came to the breed late, but hard. Just love my guy!!!!!

Aussie Lover

Dear ATI,

Thank you for your lovely birthday tribute video. It is an honor to be your first Life Time Member and I am very grateful. I want to thank all the members and facebook friends for their birthday wishes. It was the best birthday ever, thanks to all of you. I also want to tell you I am very impressed and thank you for all the work in composing the contents of the newsletter.

Jennie Worthing Her Maiala Aussies thank you too.

I would like to share a story about my last Aussie, Bender, now placed with loving and dear friends. They recently sent me this amusing story.

#### The Adventures of the Bender Man

Dear Jennie,

Recently we had two Bender adventures we thought you might wanted to share with you.

Saturday night we were in the midst of a thunderstorm when a "Weather Alert" came on the television. The announcer came on saying there was a Tornado Warning, and that a tornado had been reported on the ground in LaSalle County. (We live on the north edge of LaSalle County.) I had been outside watching the clouds which were moving in a ominous, circular pattern.

The announcer said, "Residents should go immediately to safe quarters in the basement, or inner room, away from windows." We took Merlin, with Mollie, and Bender close behind us down the stairs to the basement. We put Merlin on his perch, Mollie jumped up on a cushioned rocking chair, (her favorite place) and I looked around for Bender because I didn't see him. After looking all around, I found him in the corner, under Kris's computer table, lying against the wall. I crawled back and put the pillow you made for the puppies next to him. He promptly jumped up on it and went sound asleep. He was sure he had followed the announcers instructions to the letter, so he wasn't afraid of anything.

When the storm passed I had to wake him up to get him back upstairs! No storm, thunder, or tornado was going to bother him!

I like to brag that Bender and I are buddies, joined at the hip. He does like to follow me around, when he's not napping, or eating, and he always goes to the door with me when I leave, and he's always there when I return. I think we've told you that Bender has been very good about letting us know when he has to go outside to piddle. He has very few "accidents." Last Friday, while Kris was at work, I had to go to the bathroom. Since no one is home I didn't bother to close the door. As I stood at the toilet, doing what I had to do, I looked down beside me, and there was Bender. He looked up at me, paused a moment, then lifted his leg, and peed on the bathtub next to him! I'm sure you've had moments when you really didn't know what to do. I wanted to yell at him. I wanted to laugh, but I just stood there dumbfounded! Bender turned around, walked to the door and looked back at me, as if to say, "If you can do it, I can do it!" Now, every time I think about it, I have to laugh. There never seems to be a dull moment with our pets.

We hope you and yours are doing well and that you enjoy hearing the adventures of the Bender man. Love, Kris & Clarence

## **AKC Gazette**

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