



The Wag

Volume 5 July 2009

Paws 2 Dance Newsletter

Gala Update

Escape the Darkness webpage coming soon.

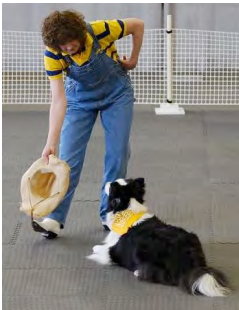
Fund Raising

So far, we've sold frozen baking, held several gift parties, a garage sale, a hospital sale, Ray's dance workshop, a dressage workshop, a freestyle workshop, raffled off some fabulous items at Prancing Paws, accepted some small donations from organizations for whom we've demonstrated, solicited donations from friends and corporations, and are currently holding a raffle with prizes worth over \$1300. Meanwhile, members are exploring ways of attaining grants. I'd say we've been a bit busy!

Music and Routines

Ray is hard at work putting the finishing touches on the music, adding details to the basic story line as he goes along.

Another Paws 2 Dance First



Our very own Gail Walsh and Pepsi are the first to achieve WCFO's new title: Perfect Dance Partners. The title entails earning 9.5 or better on both artistic and technical components five separate times. Gail and Pepsi achieved this outstanding goal with two different routines ("Stray Cat Strut" and "Thank God I'm a Country Boy") in less than a year.

Welcome New Members

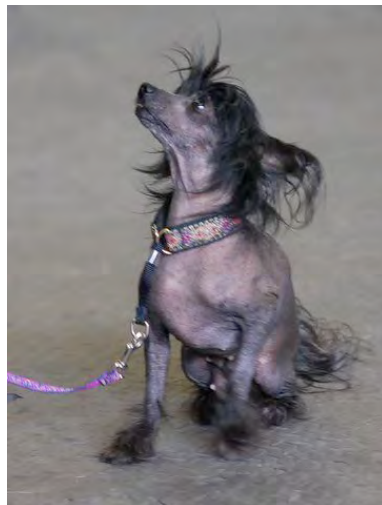
Pati Brooks – Burlington, WA
Glenda Harris – Nelson, BC
Anila Rondeau – Courtenay, BC
Kathy Weaver – Seattle, WA
Lorna Bertram – Smithers, BC
Joyce Johnstone – Burnaby, BC

Thanks for the Support, Birgit!

Birgit Scott hasn't danced for a couple years, but continues to support the club with prizes for our competitions. Somehow, she manages to show up at many demonstrations, including our recent demo in Kelowna. Thanks, Birgit. Always good to see a familiar face!

Schedule of Events

July 11 and 12	Critter Care, Langley
July 11	Poochpalooza, Marysville
July 18	Children's Art Festival Mt. Vernon
July 18, 19	Mill Creek Festival
July 25	Pet Expo, Ladner
July 26	Pet Expo, North Delta
July 31	Ladner Senior Center
July 25, 26	HRKC Sequim
August 5	Queensboro Care Home
August 16	Port Moody, SPCA
August 23	Sammamish, Marymoor Park
Sept. 6	Whatcom County
Sept. 12, 13	Gina Pink Seminar, Victoria
Sept. 13	SPCA, White Rock
Oct. 3	BSB #9, Arlington
Oct. 4	Ray Workshop, Arlington
Oct. 17, 18	Pet Expo, TradeX
Oct. 31	LMDF, TradeX



Correction from last Issue

On the Dressage information, I left out that all Novice levels were done on leash. All other levels are off leash.

Correction from Dressage workshop

Fence cannot be used to guide dogs in back heel as that would be using a training aid.

Ray's Dance Workshop

Not knowing exactly what to expect, sixteen women signed up for some ballroom dance lessons with Ray and, from all accounts, gained much more than they had anticipated.



At the start and finish of each day, Ray shared his philosophy:

Be aware of artistic possibilities and be inspired to ramp up your routines to a higher artistic level so that you don't have to rely solely on fancy dog tricks. Remember that without an artistic context into which to put the tricks, you have nothing.

To improve performance, handlers need to learn how to move; to learn how to move, handlers must be prepared to put in time – which means sometimes leaving the dogs in their crates. Set up a practice schedule and record your progress. To be economical in time, every moment must be utilized efficiently.

*Most importantly, **schedule time for four components:***

- pure dance training for handler, not associated with the routine.*
- dog training. Maintenance of all moves.*
- working on individual components of the routine: tricks, transitions, movement*
- working on the routine as a whole*

To increase efficiency, set goals for individual components. It's not a question of learning something quickly or slowly, but of sticking to a plan and working steadily to make small improvements. Instead of avoiding success by telling yourself you can't do something, plan for success and find satisfaction in every small improvement.

So there we were, thinking we'd learn some rec-center-style dance steps. Instead, Ray taught us more about the principles of dance as he guided us through an intricate slow waltz pattern with a different variation for each measure, making sure we had the proper knee bend, rise and fall, shoulder movement, rib separation, head position. By Sunday, he even had us shading our steps to interpret the music!



In addition to the waltz, Ray introduced us to the Rumba, Viennese Waltz, Jive, Cha Cha Cha, and Tango.

We gave each other moral support and encouragement to help us through sore feet and tired muscles. But it wasn't all work. Some of the funniest moments came when Ray imitated our mistakes – hopefully he was exaggerating for effect!

Special thanks must go to Ray for an inspiring workshop, to Sharon and Bonnie who thought of the plan, coordinated with the Center, and did all the organizing; and to Annette for setting up the Gala Gift Shop to raise more funds for the 2010 Paws 2 Dance Gala. For some reason, no one bought any of the designer beaded treat bags!

Photos by Jan Hodge and Vickie Phillips

Celebrating Three Partners

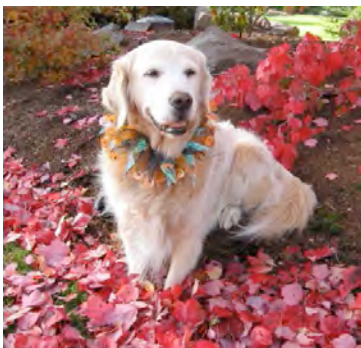
Corinne said goodbye to Toby earlier this year.



Master Toby — Mini Australian Shepherd was my Handi Dandi champion, who truly enjoyed competing with both Paws 2 Dance and WCFO. This lovely pup was the main reason that I am involved in Freestyle in the first place. When he was two years old, he started having seizures and at the age of 5yrs had a double cataract

surgery. The seizures took away his energy and stamina and he had to stop herding as well as agility. But, his Aussie spirit was still strong and he needed something to do. That is when I found freestyle at a seminar with Ray and we just took off with it. I will never forget our first competition at Boot Scootin' Boogie 2001 — we were warming up in the ring when we passed a speaker that blasted into sound as we passed! Poor Toby threw up in the ring right then and there! I had to take him out and we played ball for about 30 min until he calmed down. Then we went in and performed our first routine ever ... and we were hooked! Thank you to Paws 2 Dance for giving us our Dancin' Fever. As Toby got older and slowed down more, I realized that the Handi Dandi division in WCFO was just for Toby ... he could not compete with the 'standard' dogs, and it was not fair to ask him as he always had trouble with his eyesight and while he loved to dance and work, the 'speed' was never there. Here, he excelled and his joy of the dance came through. He always gave me his all and truly had a smile on his face while he danced. I will always remember the fun we had while performing at shows and demos and the bond we shared while we danced together everywhere. Thank you Toby. I will miss you always.

Caroline bid a fond farewell to Promise



I will never forget the night I picked Promise up at a dog show in Abbotsford, Canada, on October 25, 2001. I had never seen her, but knowing that she had lived with the Underwoods for six years, I knew she would be an extraordinary dog. The lady who had been keeping her

opened up the back of her van and this beautiful little white-faced creature popped out of her crate and gave me a big

kiss. I was a goner. Over the next seven years we had many wonderful adventures together.

We learned how to participate in agility and Promise became notorious for going over to visit the pole setters, sometimes climbing into their laps to give them kisses. Anyone sitting was an invitation to visit, as she had learned from visiting nursing homes with our therapy dog club, Olympic Gentle Paws. A fan of Canine Musical Freestyle, I introduced it to Promise, who immediately became my dance partner. We also discovered Rally, which was perfect for us since I could talk to her as we completed the course. We earned our highest title, RAE, at the Hurricane Ridge Kennel Show in Sequim last July and one leg toward her RAE-2, which turned out to be Promise's last competition. Little did I know that her little body was being taken over by Lymphoma, as she never complained and did whatever I asked. She put up a valiant fight but lost the battle on April 18th. Rest in peace my little angel.

Heather Remembers Pasha

Barb Warren

Oh my, what memories she has left us.

A dog that was always on the move, a veritable 8lb, 8" bumble bee on a string. The stories are long, but just to give you an idea, Pash and a



Badger, both up on their hind legs ready to go at it, Pash and a huge Turkey Vulture, wingspan of about 8ft, head turned sideways, glaring at her as she barked and barked at it a mere few feet away, Pasha running into strong waves which kept sending her back to shore, as she tried to get the ducks..... nothing fazed her!

Picture this same little Silky sitting, perfectly still, on the knee of a senior in a wheelchair while he repeatedly stroked her with a stiff, shaky hand, repeating 'it's a little dog, it's a little dog, with a big smile on his face.

She had big shoes to fill to follow in the footsteps of her Mother and Grandmother and, in her own way, she did an admirable job.

One of our proudest accomplishments was her success at the WCFO 'Whirl' in 2004 in Portland, Oregon. This was the first and only time we entered WCFO together and our routine was to English Country Garden sung by my favourite singer Nana Mouskouri. We earned 1st place in Sassy Senior, High Technical and High Artistic overall, best music suited to handler, and High Toy Dog. I spent days worried that they'd realize there'd been a mistake and take it all away from us.

P2D BIOS

Barb Warren

A relative newcomer to Freestyle, Barb takes time from her busy career to make sure her dogs are happy and challenged.



Barb called Winnipeg home till she was in her twenties. From the age of twelve, Barb worked in her father's business, a grocery store. She quickly realized the grocery business was not her passion. Instead, she pursued a career in nursing. She studied first at the University of Manitoba then completed her masters in nursing at

UBC after marrying her husband, Gary, and moving to North Vancouver.

Barb is a clinical nurse specializing in Palliative care. Rather than being depressing as many people might imagine, palliative care is very rewarding as staff helps people through a difficult time easing suffering and giving comfort.

Barb's career has given her many opportunities. First, she taught at the University of Manitoba. Then, she worked as a clinical specialist with the BC Cancer Agency in Vancouver for fourteen years. From there, it was back to Manitoba where she became Director of Nursing with the Cancer Agency followed by another two years teaching at Man U. In '97, Barb returned to BC to lead the Hospice/Palliative care program in White Rock. Instead of retiring as planned when she and Gary moved to Courtenay in 2006, Barb accepted a position managing home care in the community. Soon, she hopes to move to yet another appointment with the "End of Life" program for Vancouver Island. Barb hopes her new position will require fewer hours so that she could devote more time to her dogs.

Barb and Gary have three children. Eldest daughter is Noelle, their biological daughter whom they did not raise. Noelle and her parents were reunited when the first grandchild was born in 1993. Noelle lives in Prince George with her five children. Adopted son John, who works in the field of drug addiction, lives in New Westminster with Barb's

soon-to-be daughter-in-law who has just finished a nursing degree. Youngest daughter, Andrea, who is also adopted, lives in Toronto. When John and Andrea were young, the family spent six weeks in Kenya. They had a fabulous time. John plans on returning sometime with a volunteer program.

Throughout her busy career and family life, Barb has always found time for dogs. Her first dogs were a pug and several bull terriers. She loved her bull terriers, but after being driven crazy by them in obedience classes, decided she wanted more of a thinking, non-shedding dog. That's when she turned to poodles.

Shea CDX, ATCH, is her first standard poodle, a dog who loves agility and did well in obedience until, for some reason or other, lost confidence in the signal exercises. Next came Tiffany, a dog that could outthink her handler, but was not interested in performance of any sort. When Tiffany died from bloat a few years back, Gary and Barb learned from that experience and sought quick medical help for Shea when she bloated. Shea survived and is now 12 years old. Tyson is Barb's speedy wild boy who loves everything about agility except the tables and contacts. As a result, he has achieved his masters in jumpers and snooker, but has not fared as well on regular runs. When it comes to rally, he's a different dog – efficient, calm, ready to work. Tyson is the dog we've seen Barb perform with

in freestyle. Aimee accidentally joined the family when Gary was helping to socialize a litter of poodle pups. From the moment Aimee could walk, she would be waiting at the gate for Gary. Really, Gary had no choice but to bring her home. Without Barb even showing her much, Aimee has picked up many freestyle moves and soon will be replacing Tyson in the freestyle ring. Barb's other dog right now is a miniature poodle, Giorgio, who is oversized so fits right in with the standards. Barb hopes to work on obedience, agility and freestyle with Giorgio.

Barb started freestyle when she learned Magi Schofield-Reid was offering classes. She thought it would be something Tyson would enjoy more than obedience. He certainly enjoys performing, but his exuberance can be challenging. Aimee, on the other hand, seems to learn moves with astounding speed and is calmer in the ring. Freestyle gives Barb the chance to combine her passion for dogs with her love of music. As far as advice to others, Barb says, "Just have fun with your dogs. If you find a sport your dog enjoys, go with it."



Shelley Denton

Entrepreneur and animal lover, Shelley has found an outlet for her artistic side in musical freestyle.

Shelley was born in Cottage Grove, Oregon, a small logging and mining town where her parents instilled in her a love for animals.

On their ten acres, they raised horses, dogs, and an assortment of wild animals her father brought home, including squirrels, a black bear cub, and a deer they kept until he was a five-point buck and started butting them.

At fifteen, Shelley started working for an elderly couple. In addition to cleaning their home, she groomed their two toy poodles. Before long, she was grooming all her friends' dogs and her parents' friends' dogs.

At seventeen, Shelley married and at 24 moved with her husband, a native Alaskan, and her two children to a logging camp half way between Juneau and Petersburg. Living in a remote camp that was half on land and half floating was a challenge. Access to anywhere was by boat or float plane; with no sports available, the children ran around the outskirts of the camp, watched by numerous black bears; and the children wore life-jackets as part of their regular clothing. One day, Shelley's Pomeranian/Chihuahua cross fell off the floating bridge into the ocean and needed to be rescued. After that, even the dog wore a life jacket.

Before long, Shelley was grooming all the dogs in the camp – strangely enough, mostly poodles. After seven years, she and her family moved to Ketchikan, where she expanded her grooming business after taking a six-month course. As well, she operated a cake-decorating business and eventually an exercise and tanning enterprise.

In 99, after twenty-five years, Shelley and her husband divorced. After a year, Shelley married her current husband, Ken, originally from Kirkwood, Washington. In 2000, Ken's business took him to Sequim. He liked it so much he had Shelley bus down to see it. Shortly afterwards, they moved to Sequim where they began operating a deluxe dog kennel and grooming business. The forty-dog kennel features heated and air-conditioned condos and cots. When Ken fell ill a few years ago, Shelley was forced to run the business on her own and now employs three people.

Shelley passed her love of animals on to her children. Her daughter, 29-year-old Amber lives in Creswell, Oregon, with her family that includes two German Shepherds and a cat that thinks it's a dog.

Her son, 34-year-old Jeremy lives in Ketchikan, Alaska, with his family, a Golden Retriever and two ducks who also think they're dogs. When they take the ducks camping with them, the ducks travel in crates and then swim around in the baby pools at the camp. Who knows, they might even know a few freestyle tricks.

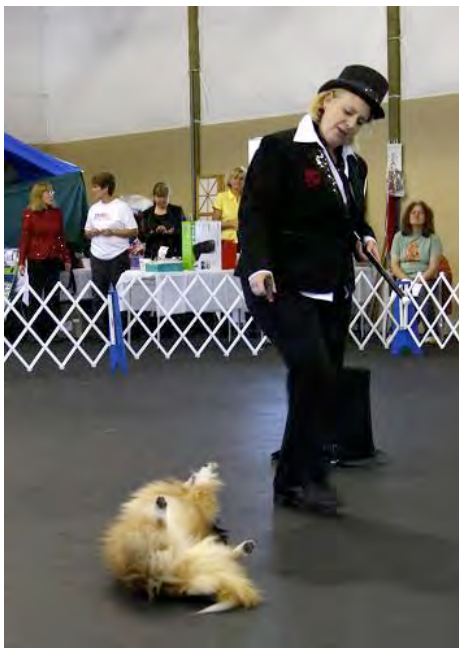
Shelley has always owned dogs. Currently, she has five: two German Shepherds, two black labs, and Shelly 2, her Sheltie/Pomeranian cross. Her ten-year-old German Shepherd was her high-drive dog who did agility and search and rescue up in Alaska. Although now partially paralyzed from degenerative myopathy, he still enjoys life.

When Shelley settled in Sequim, one of the first "dog" people she met was Carolyn, who quickly introduced her to musical freestyle. Shelley had seen video of freestyle before, and was immediately intrigued by the possibilities. At first, she tried the sport with one of her labs whom she calls her "slug dog." Right about then, she fostered Shelly 2, a totally out-of-control, high-drive barking monster who chewed everything in sight, including the stairs, and who had no dog manners what-so-ever. Shelley realized quickly that Shelly 2 was pretty clever, so started channeling her energies to more positive endeavors. At first, she tried

agility, but after two weeks, moved her to freestyle which fostered more obedience.

Shelley and Shelly 2 have performed amazingly well in freestyle. They now have their achieved their championship title in WCFO freestyle and are working on their Advanced in Heelwork to Music. In Paws 2 Dance, she is now in Advanced in Freestyle and Intermediate 2 in Dressage. A signature move that always has the audience clapping wildly is Shelly 2 walking backwards around the ring following Shelley. Despite the huge success in competition, Shelley prefers demos where she is more comfortable.

Freestyle has helped Shelley overcome her fear of performing and has provided a creative social outlet for her. Otherwise, she would be spending all her time working or at home. Shelley enjoys the challenge the sport provides and enjoys working with Shelly 2 who is quick at learning new moves. In March, Shelley plans to start obedience training with Shelly 2 in Seattle and will continue to train and compete with Shelly 2 in freestyle, going as far with her as she can. Eventually, she wants to start a new dog in freestyle. Shelley's advice to freestylers is to ask yourselves what your dog could possibly do and then work with the dog to achieve that new goal.



Joan Strick

A talented computer processor with a flair for graphic design, Joan has helped keep the club running smoothly since she joined in 2002

Joan was born in Montreal where she lived for 35 years. When she was twelve, she and her brother convinced her parents to acquire a cocker spaniel puppy. It wasn't an easy sell as her mother was strongly opposed to the idea and insisted the dog be kept in the basement. Soon the dog worked her way into the kitchen and eventually wound up sleeping in the mother's bed.

Because of a shortage of geography teachers in Joan's high school, all the students took typing in grade 8 and 9. Little did the principal know what a favor he was doing the students. Later, when physics seemed too much to add to an already science-heavy course load, Joan and several other girls convinced the French teacher to teach them shorthand. Joan was well equipped, then, to help pay her way through university with her secretarial skills.

At Sir George Williams University (now Concordia) Joan studied fine arts. She aspired to be a commercial artist; however, she quickly realized that working her way up the commercial art ladder by cleaning paint brushes didn't pay much so, instead, became a secretary.

Her first job was with the CBC engineering headquarters where her job included modeling for color adjustment during the time CBC was converting to color. After working a year, she quit for a six-month Europe adventure. She and a friend traveled by Eurail pass and stayed at hostels. At that time, passage by ship cost no more than flying so they journeyed to and from Europe by ocean liner.

When she returned, she was hired back at CBC in a better job – in charge of all the secretaries in the department. When she made enough money to buy a car, she quit again and embarked on a ten-week camping trip across Canada, down the west coast to LA and then a zigzag across the US back to Montreal, managing to visit a large number of national, provincial, federal and state parks along the way.

She didn't have the nerve to return to CBC so instead became a secretary for the marketing director of General Steel Wares. She quickly rose up the ranks to advertising coordinator, product manager and eventually marketing manager. At that point, she quit and headed west with future husband, Fred, who worked for Air Canada.

For a year, Joan played on the UI Golf team while supervising the building of their home. After that, she worked at various places as office manager until she set up her own business at home as a computer processor.

Both Fred and Joan liked dogs, so when Fred retired, they acquired Sultan, a tri-colored Sheltie. After taking a basic community-center obedience course with Sultan, Fred decided he wanted to pursue the sport and eventually found Ray Underwood. Sultan quickly achieved his CD and was on his way toward his CDX when Fred passed away suddenly.

Having Sultan and the close community of both the Underwood obedience club and Camrose agility helped Joan through the tough time that followed.

Marilyn Galloway who had convinced her to run the agility demonstration for Sheltie Daze, which included a picnic, games, and demonstrations of different dog sports, introduced her to the Sheltie Club. Joan later became the club secretary, a position she held for a number of years.

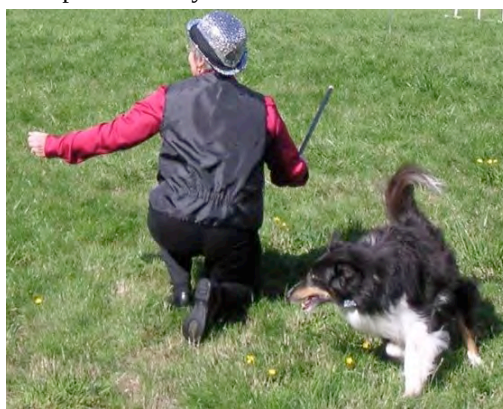
Joan also took over Sultan's training. At first, CDX was a real challenge. Sultan easily learned all the exercises, but managed to pick

something different each trial to mess up. Joan persevered and eventually Sultan earned his CDX title. He quickly learned all the UD exercises but wanted jobs to do – all that sit, down, come stuff just seemed pointless. When Sultan and Joan started competing in AAC agility, they knew they had found a perfect fit. Sultan has his Masters titles in standard, jumpers and team relay. Joan also joined Paws 2 Dance club where she and Sultan earned a Novice title with a first place finish. Sultan is now retired from freestyle and Joan is working with Bandit, a rescued Pomeranian who has recently earned one leg of a Novice Team title.

Joan's commercial art skills have not been wasted. While with the Underwood's Obedience club, Joan co-edited the club newsletter, the *Rover Review*. With Paws 2 Dance, in addition to being the title tracker, Joan produces our *Prancing Paws* program each year and has created all our certificates and many of our signs. Joan is also an amazing problem-

solver. When the club needed fencing but had no funds, she designed and built our fencing – an ingenious system of poles, velcro, and flexible mesh. For the past several years, Joan has judged musical freestyle events.

Joan says: "I would like to thank all of you for your friendship and encouragement over the years. I have really enjoyed being a part of this great group of people and hope to be able to continue participating for some time to come. I try to encourage anyone who enjoys working with their dogs to try their hand at freestyle or dressage . . . it is much more fun and flexible than the more structured forms of dog tra



Complementary Dog Therapies

Here are some therapies complementary to traditional Veterinary care, and an article by our own Dr. Marlene Smith from the *Tree of Life Veterinary Care* facility in Courtenay.

Thereapy Pools

The SPAW (Aldergrove – www.thespaw.ca) is a salt water therapy pool with swim jets and a hydro treadmill on a powered lift, useful in rehabilitating dogs recovering from injury or surgery. Dr. Jeff Bowra.

K9 Lap of Luxury (Lynden – www.k9lapofluxury.com) is an 11' by 27' in-ground pool that slopes gently for easy entry.

K9H2O Pool for dogs. (Abbotsford, 604-864-2284) and Burnaby, 604-568-SWIM. www.K9H2O.com) Programs include lifesaving training, weight management, pre and post surgical therapy, and recreational swims.

Chiropractic Care

An animal chiropractor will primarily examine your animal for joints that are not moving properly. These areas can cause pain, misalignment, biomechanical problems and in the spine, compressed nerves that can influence your animal's health in many different ways.

Dr. Elki Starr (Surrey, BC. www.starrchiropractic.ca) is a doctor of Chiropractic and is not a veterinarian. Therefore, she cannot diagnose health problems and your animal must be seen by a veterinarian prior to first appointment.

Dr. Lana Patterson (Fort Langley, BC www.fortfamilychiro.ca. Vet referral required.

Tree of Life Veterinary Care, (Courtenay, BC www.treeoflifevet.ca) Dr. Marlene Smith is a vet so no referral required. This facility also incorporates western medicine, traditional Chinese medicine, acupuncture, homeopathy, and other services.

Acupuncture

Dr. Denise Dunlop, Fleetwood Veterinary Hospital. (Surrey, BC, 604-597-1913)

Barking and electrostatic problems in the ring

Having been involved with dogs in one or the other way all my life I thought I had come across any possible problem dogs can present . . .until I started musical freestyle! I did not think my dog would ever bark at me

during a performance or training at home – he is just not the type! And then one day not only did he bark at me; he refused to do the weaves and “unders” he did so well before! I got upset with his stubborn refusal until I forced him to weave and we both got zapped by electrostatic charges! He looked at me as if he was saying “are you getting it now!”

I understood he barked out of frustration because I was not getting it (and he did not enjoy getting zapped)!

I used the recommended laundry antistatic and he was disgusted with me (I never wear perfume as I understand how it insults their delicate noses) and was reluctant to dance altogether!

So I started to mist him and my pants down with plain water prior to practice and performances. He was happy with that and no more barking and no more zaps!!

I then started to pay attention to other dogs barking in the ring. I noticed that some of the dogs bark out of stress – their own or their handler's.

Here are some tips:

To avoid static zaps between you and your dog mist your legs and your dog with plain water using a plant mister. Rubbing it into your dog's coat also gets your hand discharged to avoid zaps when your dog touches your hand. You can do the same with props. Adding a few drops of rescue remedy in the water of the mister helps to reduce your anxiety and your dog's anxiety. You can also rub a drop of rescue remedy into the inside of the dog's ear.

Avoid the use of any perfumes on yourself or your clothing especially if your dog is not used to it. This includes the perfumed antistatic devices for the dryer.

Learn and practice relaxation or meditation techniques to reduce your own anxiety or worries before you go into the ring; your dog picks up on it and will try to defend you from whatever it is that creates your adrenalin release.

Focus and communicate with your dog what it is that frustrates him or her and negotiate a solution that works for both of you. (In some cases an animal communicator may be able to get an answer where you can not!)

Barking in the ring can cost you some points and makes your performance less attractive to the public watching you. Sometimes the barking obliterates the music and thus spoils your performance.

And it is true when you use a lot of treats during your practice the dog gets frustrated that you withhold those treats during your performance. They may also go around the ring looking for them because you may have dropped them unnoticed!

Now we are talking about treats; don't use them in the ring before your performance; the tiniest crumb can set other dogs off searching for the remainder of those crumbs, forgetting that they are performing altogether!

It is so true that all I need to know in life I learned from the dogs!

Marlene Smith-Schalkwijk DVM
Tree of Life veterinary Care

Prancing Paws 2009



Thanks to everyone who sent Photos. Most of these are by Nick Walsh.

KELOWNA WORKSHOP

A group of Kelowna dog handlers, wanting to start freestyle, invited Paws 2 Dance to their town to give a workshop. Lorna Bertram from Smithers drove eleven hours to join us! Given the response, the workshop was a success and we hope to see some freestylers from the Okanagan and Bulkley Valley at future competitions. A team from the area performed a demo the day following the workshop and wowed the crowd with their precision and patterns. Lorna will perform at a local fair in August. Lesson learned: jump in and try it!



Workshop photo
By Vickie

Demo photos
By Lorna



Debut performance by Kelowna group



Who said that?

People say the funniest things.
Especially, it seems, at Care Homes.

When we informed a group at a drop in day facility that Sy was taking over from an ailing Spirit and needed some support, one fellow yelled out: "Buy that dog a drink!"

Who came late to class and said, "Half-way here I realized I had forgotten my dog"? (Handler's name rhymes with "whale")

At a recent demo at a care home, a resident joyfully sat, tossing treats for Sy (a large Alaskan Husky/Malamute cross). When a treat fell between her legs and Sy nosed his way to the treat, she gleefully shouted: "It's been years since I've had anything like that between my legs!"

When, after three separate performances with the dogs performing two routines each time on a burning hot day, someone asked Jan how Breeze, notoriously a slow mover, did. Jan replied, "We did a lovely still life."

Emerald City Demo

Emerald City Demo

The Emerald City K-9 Freestyle Dancers' second demo of the year was performed at the Grand Opening of the new Everett, WA, Animal Shelter on April 11th.

Six of our members braved the chilly, breezy but sunny day. Luckily, the forecast rain didn't fall, allowing Pati Brooks and her dogs to show off their fancy, sequined costumes much to the audience's delight.



The Shelter staff had set up a small gated area in the parking lot as a performance area and even provided a few canopies, along with a PA system.

The event was well attended by the public and the small but hardy audience stayed throughout the performances, even though many of them were shivering from the cold breezes. Joy Thompson, Pat Moore, Corinne Lawson, Kathy Weaver and Pati Brooks each gave individual performances.

First timer ad libs

It was Kathy Weaver's very first public demo and to add to her nerves, the wrong music came on. She had said in her bio that the song was to be a tango but the music was more of a waltz. Kathy and her beautiful Belgian Tervuren, Troy, danced through the song anyway – It didn't appear anyone but Kathy knew the difference because they danced so beautifully.

Corinne Lawson, Joy Thompson and Becky Sanders gave the audience a short demonstration of what we do in her training classes in a group routine and received a big round of applause.



The new Shelter is just beautiful and all of us fell in love with at least one dog or cat and wanted to adopt one or two. It was a successful demonstration event and we all had a good time.

Submitted by Pati Brooks

Sunny at Bark in the Park





Garage Sale

Photos by Sharon Lunde

Clockwise from top left: • Ann and Tess performing one of the many demos we put on all day, much to the delight of the seniors and of the shoppers.

• Six of us setting up the night before. After several hours, we were a little goofy.

• In the middle with Snowy is Astrid, 92, who shopped every half hour. She's taking a break with Armando and Don who helped us all day.

• Our top salesperson, Joan, keeping a sharp eye on the shoppers. (By one p.m. the crowd had died down and we still had tons of goods for sale so we dropped the prices.) Sharon and Snowy performing.

• Counting the cash. Once Bonnie had sold a few items to a sporting goods store and on line, we'd made over \$1100.

