



The WAG

Two leaders step back a little

Long-time Paws 2 Dance president, **Gail Walsh**, and Emerald City founder, **Carolyn Money**, both announced their retirements from executive positions this year – but both plan to continue competing.



One of the founders of Paws 2 Dance, **Gail** served on the executive for 11 years and has been an excellent ambassador for the club. Her successes in the ring in both Paws 2 Dance and WCFO events have elevated the sport to an art form. Her service to the club was gratefully acknowledged at Prancing Paws in April. Gail plans to spend more time training with Pepsi and her new dog, Panda.



Carolyn, as one of the founders of Emerald City K-9 Freestylers, has co-hosted the annual Boot Scootin' Boogie for 10 years and has been one the driving forces behind freestyle in Washington. Her support of the sport is unparalleled. She has gone out of her way to make sure the club is always moving forward by bringing in international trainers and keeping us all in the loop with YouTubes of international competitions. The raffles she has organized are legendary. Carolyn plans to continue training Sunny and Hunter, competing in freestyle and other sports, and doing a little dancing on her own.

WELCOME

NEW MEMBERS

Lisa Christensen

Jo Anne Sukut June Kerr

Cathy Merrithew

Rachel Cuyler

and their canine partners



And of course – any new dog!

Paws 2 Dance Executive 2011

President: Karen Eskilson

rubyclown@yahoo.ca

V. President: Sharon Lunde

slunde@smartr.com

Treasurer: Lin MacDonald

lincobc@gmail.com

Secretary: Lydia Francescutti

freya9@telus.net

L.M. Demo Chair: Jan Hodge

janken62@telus.net



COACH'S CORNER WITH RAY : TRAINING GAMES

We all know dogs like games. What better way to keep dogs excited about training than by making each exercise into a game? Here are some suggestions:

- Mentally participate in game. If you want it to be fun for the dog, you have to be having fun or else the dog will know.
- Begin close to the end of the exercise. Make a big – and immediate – fuss when the dog reaches the end. Gradually start earlier. The dog will anticipate the end and will head there enthusiastically.

- Use your voice to create excitement. e.g. “Ready . . . steady . . .” followed by command. Try this at the start of an exercise, or in the middle. The dog will know something is coming.
- In heeling exercises, occasionally try to “lose” your dog. i.e. heel forward, back, side to side, pivots. Start with short bursts. Reward dog for staying with you. Laugh.
- If your dog freezes or loses focus, turn and run, becoming more interesting than the distraction.

How to . . . train the heel back

At every event, the back heeling element destroys many otherwise-good dressage routines. It's time to review some ideas from previous WAGs and add some exercises that should help handlers with this pernicious problem.

- Make sure your dog knows the heel position and is comfortable there. That way, given the added stress of the heel back, the dog will want to be in heel position.
- Move back 1 step. Have dog find position. Reward.
- Progress in small increments to several steps
- Use a wall and gradually move away from it
- If dog turns rear end out: add pivot to left or side step away. More advanced: back 4 steps, circle back, back 4 steps. Back 4 steps, spin, back 4 steps, forcing dog to find position.
- If dog turns rear end in: use leg to gently push it back out or pivot away from dog
- Back heel full length of ring, pivot, back heel back. During this exercise, do what you need to do to train the dog to find heel position (side step away, pivot). **WARNING:** Don't adjust your position to match the dog's!

- Practice backward zig zigs. Pause at each change of direction so that dog can find the heel position before moving on.
- Back heel in a serpentine. Start slowly, making sure dog has the position. Gradually increase speed. Vary size.
- Stand/stay dog. Handler back up 2 steps. Have dog find heel position. Reward. Gradually increase distance.
- Start at the end: pick a spot you want the dog to back-heel past. Start one step in front of it. Back heel to it, reward. Gradually increase distance, keeping the end spot the same. Make a game of this.
- Stand/stay dog at right angles to the line you want to heel



along. (photo) Start a step or two in front of dog. Start backing up. Just before you reach dog, give your command for back heel. Keep backing up. As soon as the dog finds heel position, reward. (This is vital to do so that in a routine, if the dog swings out, it can still find the heel position)

HOT DAYS COOL DOGS . . . FROM THE QUEEN OF COOL, ALLISON MAXWELL

I have pugs and that makes me the Queen of Cool . . . keeping dogs cool, that is. With their short little faces and dense coat, pugs can easily overheat so helping them keep their cool during the hot summer months is of paramount importance. It's not just pugs who can suffer in the heat so I have a few tips for those of you with pointy nosed dogs.



Fortunately, there is an arsenal of cooling equipment readily available to help you keep your pooch cool. My first line of defense is a Canine Cooler® mat which lives in the crate in my car during the summer. This easily-wiped-clean, maintenance-free mat requires a quick fill with cool

water. You then run your arm over the mat to remove the air and you are left with a cool dry mat for your dog. The temperature of the mat stays much cooler than the dog, even in hot weather, making it an excellent thermo-regulator. Even in very hot weather, the dog has a cool place to lie. You can check these out at www.caninecooler.ca. The mats are not inexpensive but they are durable and worth every penny. I have had mine for several years and they are as good as new. There are other styles of cooling mats as well but do not purchase one of the gel or crystal filled ones for a dog who likes to chew!

Another alternative is to pack your dog crate with ice packs covered with towels. You will need to monitor this very carefully. If your dog lies on the ice or the ice pack is not covered well enough, the cold temperature will cause the surface capillaries to contract and heat will remain and even rise in the body's core. This is worse than not providing any cooling at all and should be avoided at all costs. Having said that, I used ice packs to line the bottom of my pug's crate for years before I had cooling mats and it worked just fine.



Another excellent product to control the summer heat is a Silver Shade Cloth. This metallic mesh cloth allows air to circulate and reflects the sunshine so whatever is under it is much cooler than unshaded areas while still allowing air to pass through. You can read about and purchase them through www.cleanrun.com and sometimes, booths at local dog shows will carry them. I have several of these as they come in different sizes. I have a small one that covers the crates in the car. It keeps the direct sun off my dogs and keeps them comfortable, even on a hot day without the air conditioner going.

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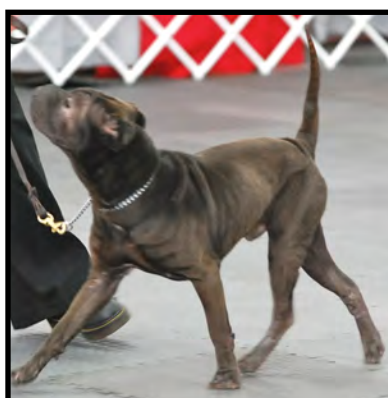
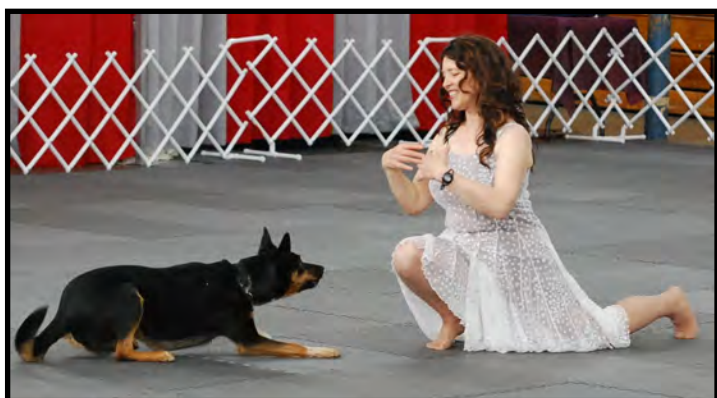
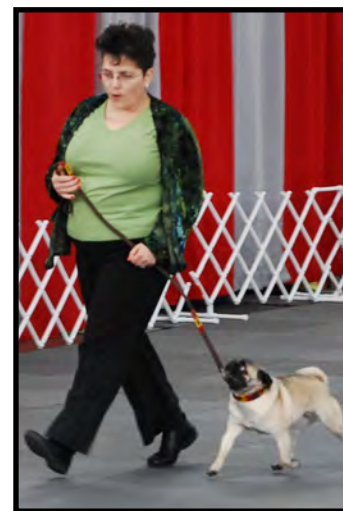
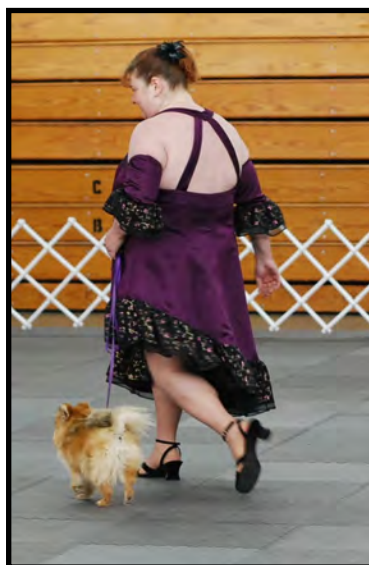
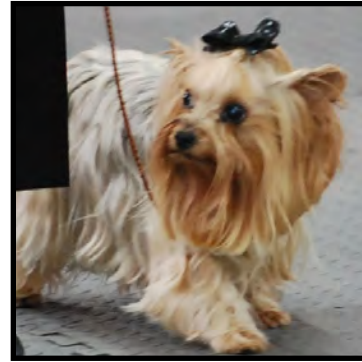
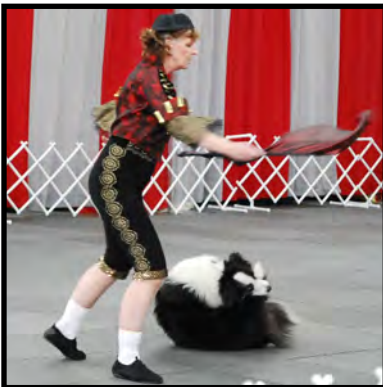
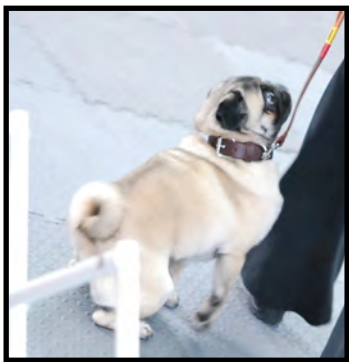
Prancing Paws 2011

April 30th saw Prancing Paws return to the Alice McKay building at the Cloverdale Fair Grounds. Paws 2 Dance was happy to welcome new member Reehana Schroeder who made the trip from Alberta with her pom and kelpie and to welcome back from surgery, Jean Dawson.

Congratulations to all organizers and participants. Photos by Nick Walsh www.alterXmedia.com



Kelpie Attack: Lyd & Ali, Reehana & Kira; Carolyn & Hunter; Lin & Rupert; Carolyn & Sunny; Marilyn & Tami; Grazyna & Lina; Marilyn & Molly; Karen and Ruby; Joan & Bandit; Lin & Corabel; Debra & George; Joyce & Twinkle Toes.



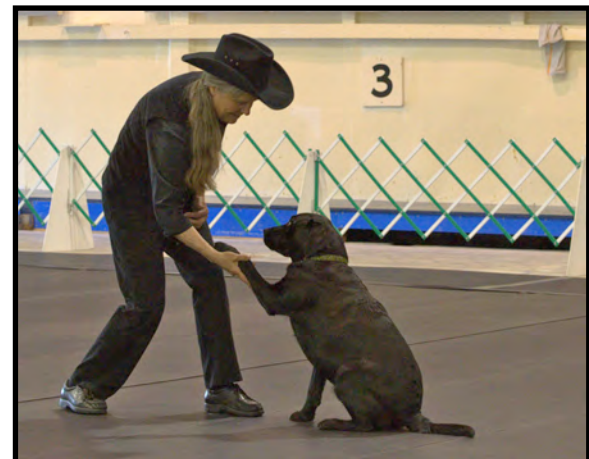
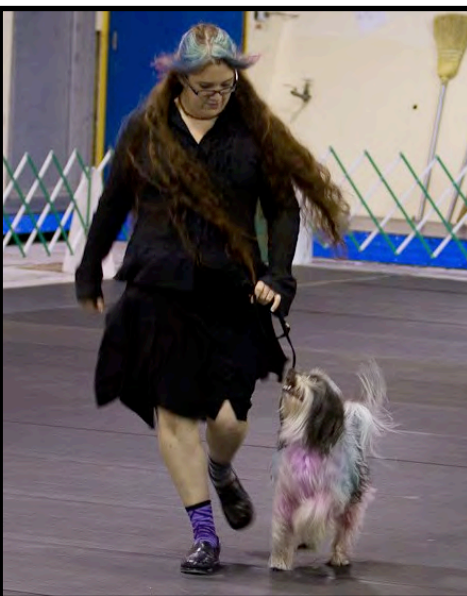
More **Prancing Paws**: Jouel; Gail & Pepsi; Alison & George; Corabel; Sharon & Snowy; Gail & Pepsi; Marilyn & Tami; Debra & Koko; Carolyn & Sunny; Sharon & Snowy, Reehana & Sameea; Allison & Jouel; George; Lyd and Ali; Jean, Koko & George. (Nick Walsh Photos)

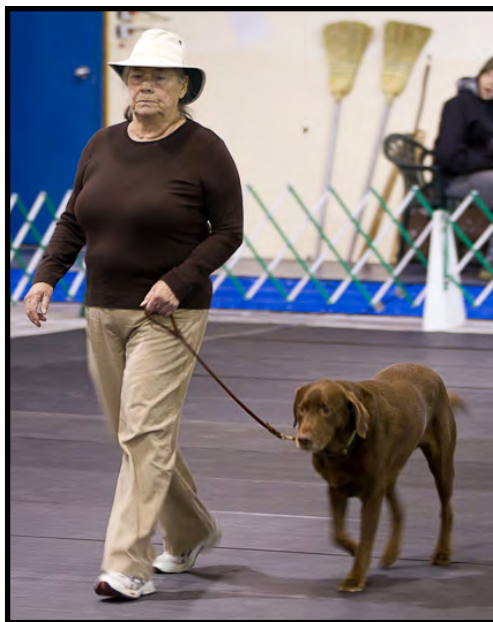
Island Fling June 4th and 5th 2011

The Island Fling saw the addition of *Team Dressage*, a division that is proving popular. Despite only a very short time to train, the two teams both displayed some intricate patterns and were very entertaining. Big round of applause to the Island organizers for the excellent two-day event. Photos by Lisa Coleman and Viktor Davare.



Kim & China Rose; Wendy & Keira,
Joanne & Guinness, Arlene & Sassy
Girl; Karen & Ruby; Magi & Diva;
Kim & China Rose, Arlene & Zoe;
Barb & Geo; Lisa & Panda Bear;
Marlene & Yuleika; Heather & Harta





Arlene & Zoe; June & Magee;
Gail & Pepsi; Carol & Hunter;
Joyce & Twinkle Toes;
Marlene & Shalom;
Zeeba; Lucas & Hunter.

To see all of Lisa and Viktor's
photographs of the Island Fling,
check out this link:



<https://picasaweb.google.com/MsTyckle/IslandFling2011June45?>

Paws 2 Dance Biographies

ANN REILAND



I was born 58 years ago in Pittsburgh, Pa. My folks moved to the San Francisco Bay Area when I was a baby, so that's where I grew up till the age of 16.

I've been dog crazy all of my life, often preferring the company of dogs over people. When I wasn't hanging around with my canine companions, I was reading anything I could get my hands on about training, veterinary or just plain dog stories.

When I was 16, my folks decided they didn't like the political climate in the states any longer. It was the end of 1969 when my family packed up everything and moved my two brothers and I to Canada. It was a very tough move for me, being in my 2nd to last year of high school. I found it very hard to meet new friends as I was extremely shy (all you who know me can stop laughing right now). I spent most of my time exploring the area with my old dog Bandit, reading, and playing my piano.

After I started college, things turned around for me. I met people with the same interests and stopped feeling so homesick. I enjoyed my 2 years at Douglas College and year at Simon Fraser University, but wasn't really interested in what I was studying. My folks suggested going into linguistics when my real love was animals. Unfortunately at that time, I thought the only option for working with animals was veterinary medicine. That was out of the question since I was horrible in chemistry and physics. After my year at SFU, I got what was supposed to be a summer job in a poultry processing plant. That's where I met and married my first husband. That turned out to be a huge mistake, but one that I stuck out for almost 25 years. In the meantime, I quit work at the chicken plant and started working as an SPCA inspector. I

loved the job, and put everything I had into it, but after 5 years, I suffered from a severe burnout. I went back to work at the chicken plant for what was supposed to be 2 years. This was 27 years ago and I am still there.

I started running when I was in my early 30s. I quit a 3-pack-a-day smoking habit and found a n o t h e r addiction. I crossed the finish line of my first marathon in 1988 and have done 18 more, including my d r e a m o f running the B o s t o n Marathon.



After years of pounding the pavement, I discovered trail running. I didn't take to it right away as it required a lot more concentration. No more zoning out on the roads. I fell in love with it though, and have completed 4 50Km ultra trail races in the mountains.

When I was in my mid 40s, I was diagnosed with a severe clinical depression. I was almost hospitalized as my doctor didn't think I could keep my self-destructive urges under control. I was put on medication which helped me think straight and realize I had to make some drastic changes in my life. My running and looking after my dogs were the only things that kept me from going off the deep end. I finally made the big step of leaving my marriage of almost 25 years. Very scary time, but the thought of staying was worse. I knew that one of us would not survive it. I struggled for several years with the depression, but finally hit on the right combination of medication and a great counselor. While life wasn't easy, it was better and I could see light at the end of the tunnel. I sold the house that my ex and I lived in and found a townhouse for my two dogs and me. After I'd been on my own for about 3 years, on a whim, I put an ad on an online dating site. This is how I met Charlie, my running partner for life. We talked on the phone every night for hours before we met in person. When we finally did meet, it didn't have any of the awkwardness of other firsts. We already knew one another, we'd just never met face to face before. I knew I had a winner when he brought presents for my dog and parrot. When he brought his cat over to see how he and the dog got along, neither of

them ever went home. We were married Sept. 10, 2005.

We got our first border collie shortly after we had to have Weasel, my old Nova Scotia Duck Toller put to sleep. We almost didn't get her as we were planning on getting married and didn't want to leave her with a stranger within 2 weeks of getting her home. As it turned out, she was able to come on the honeymoon and we found out that Tess' birthday was our wedding day. It was meant to be. We got our second border collie, Sonic a few months later. She was supposed to be a foster dog, but she found her forever home with us.

We started doing obedience with them at Petsmart. We were looking for some sort of dog sport to put them in when we stumbled on a Paws 2 Dance demo in Cloverdale. I saw Annette and Odie dancing to Singing In The Rain. I was in total awe and told Charlie that this was something I had to do with Tess. We stumbled upon Ray Underwood and Paws 2 Dance when we were having a problem with Sonic and felt the need of some professional guidance. It's been a wonderful journey, but not without it's setbacks and frustrations. Tess has a way of knowing just how to push my buttons and make a fool of me. She's done it a couple of times in competitions. I've learned how to get her to take me seriously now and we are working together much better. I am looking forward to many more years of dancing with both my dogs.

When I am not training or working, I am baking bread and trying new recipes. I have often joked that my perfect career would be a bakery connected to a dog kennel.





When Lydia asked me to write a bio for the WAG, she said that when people write bios for the WAG, they pretty much write whatever they want. I am sure that for some people, this is very inspiring. But I am the type of person that is more comfortable with a checklist than a blank page. So I took some time to think about how I got where I am with dogs. I realized that to describe my life with dogs as I wanted to for this article, the bio would be more about the dogs that have been in my life, than anything that I have done. And Voila! I had my checklist.

I trained my first dog when I was six. Lucy was a lab/spaniel puppy that my parents had found in the paper. I enthusiastically helped my parents to teach her the basics of being a family pet such as Heel, Sit, and Come. I don't remember much about this work, but I do remember being so proud to walk my new puppy on a leash all by myself. She was a dog that did everything right and I got a taste for dog training through my early successes with her.

The next dog to come into my life was Rock. A young, handsome black lab cross, he did everything wrong and loved it. I was rarely able to get him to cooperate, but oh how he made me laugh. Through him I experienced the frustration of failure, of looking back on our time together and saying, 'Those are the things I'll be sure not to do again'.

My next project was Bruno, a beautiful Shepherd/Husky cross that belonged to friends of my dad. I would walk him any chance I could get but I was never allowed to keep him as a pet. As such I was never able to make as much progress in his training as I would have liked. Bruno is where I learned that the dog-owner bond, as well as control over a dog's everyday environment, are crucial to training success.

After I graduated from high school I spent a year in Europe without a dog. One of the first things that I did when I got home was get my own dog. Leif (pronounced Life) was a young male Husky cross with a great disposition. I hardly got to know him at all before he fell ill and I had to put him down. Through my time with Leif I learned that it is no easy task being responsible for the life of my pets. It was so traumatic to be the one to have to make the decision to put him down that I swore I would not have another pet.

I lasted about 3 months. At that point I quickly found another Husky cross that needed a home. As many recues do, Kai came with her own set of problem behaviors, not the least of which was running away. In a desperate attempt to build a better working relationship with her I got involved in competitive obedience. Kai was not a natural worker, which meant boy did I learn about motivation. Working with Kai is how I learned to get a

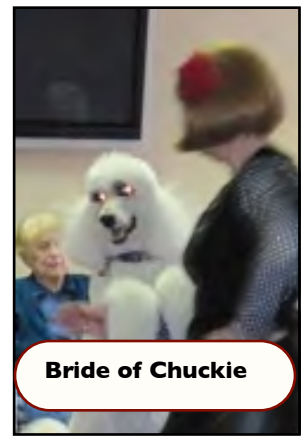
dog to do what I want and have it think it was its own idea. And through Kai I was humbled. In a moment of watching my dog shine as a far more experienced trainer handled her, I realized that the problem was not the dog. That was the first and hardest step in a never-ending process of seeing problems in my dogs and fixing those problems in myself as a handler.

The final canine addition to my life was Brodie. He was my mom's dog, but not long after she got him she became ill and passed away. I started doing obedience with him and it became clear that Brodie had the spirit of a working dog. He is a sensitive dog and ALWAYS tries to do what you want in his work. Through him I was forced to refine my handling skills to better work with his sensitivity. And since he is always willing, I was able to concentrate more on communication rather than motivation. Brodie's workability was a wonderful surprise and I am always thankful for it.

Each of the dogs that has been in my life has shaped who I am not only as a dog trainer but also as a person. I chose to think of a bio as a description of how I became the person that I am today, and I could find no better way to describe that than to tell you about the dogs that shaped my life. And I know that the person that I will become will be shaped by the dogs I have now, as well as the ones I will have in the future. They are amazing teachers and guides.



Having a Laugh



The Magic Piece of Paper (Vickie's true story from the Cloverdale Rodeo Demo)

My new truck automatically locks and I'm soooo careful about that so couldn't figure out how I made the mistake of leaving my keys in the truck. I went to the office and I called ICBC, then Hyundai dealership, then my extended warranty hotline. No one seemed to want to help with roadside/star. Seems I didn't have the right assistance package.

I was standing at the truck giving the vin # and arguing with the lady because they had my truck registered under someone else's name. Really, do I sound like "Richard"? I finally had her convinced that I had a roadside assistance package that included locked keys in a car and she was going to send someone out based on my word and their mistake. So while I was giving her my location I slipped the piece of paper I was writing on, into the crack of the back door and the lights on the truck flashed. I quickly tried the door and it opened. I said "Whoa my door just opened, how did you do that over the phone?" and she said, "I didn't do anything. What just happened?"

I said, "All I did was slide a piece of paper in the crack of the door and it opened! What the hell!" and she said, "That's great for right now but that's really a bad security thing if it's that easy to get into your vehicle. You need to take your truck in and have it checked out right away."

I thanked her and said goodbye. And then I see Lydia holding my keys pressing the remote trying in vain to unlock the door of her truck parked next to mine.

Why you should always pack a wig-cap

Sharon couldn't understand why everyone was staring at her when she was changing her costume. Turns out her hat pin had punctured her skin and blood was running down her face! She slapped a wad of toilet paper on her head, pulled on her wig cap and wig and ran out to perform, not missing a beat.

Like . . . who are you again?

We arrived at a care home we'd never been to before. No one there to greet us. In fact, it seemed as though no one was expecting us. Finally, we found someone who remembered we were to be there and let us into the locked area.



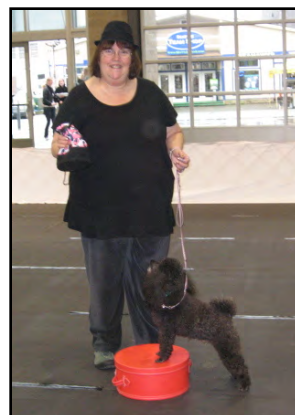
Despite a perfectly good carpet, we were to perform on the lino, which was covered with tables and chairs. No, we couldn't move the tables. Finally, they let us use the carpet. One cleaning lady kept mumbling expletives under her breath because we had disrupted her routine. "It's not on me if one of those dogs pisses on the carpet!" When we asked to be let out to get our dogs, we were met with wrathful looks and more loud grumblings. While setting up the sound equipment, a resident kept shouting loudly: "Dogs shouldn't be here! I hope the dogs bite someone! I hope they s*** on the floor!" We finally began performing over the constant shouting of the angry resident. Other very sweet residents tried their best to drown out Mr. Angry by gushing over the dogs and shouting loud praises and applauding every time a dog so much as moved. At the end, while we did our usual meet and greet, Joyce approached a gentleman who had barely looked up the entire performance and asked if he wanted to pat Twinkle Toes. His response is captured in the photo. And that's why we dance at care homes!



South of the 49

Seattle Kennel Club

Americans and Canadians joined forces to present two forty-five minute freestyle shows at the two-day SKC event in March.



Kathy Lang and her team from Washington; Pati with her bedazzled Contessa & Belinda; Pat and Ricky Bobby; Janice and Sissy; Kris and Ginger; Carolyn, Kris, Sunday Group Photo: Pat, Judy, Marilyn, Pati, Shelley, Gail, Melanie, Janice, and all their dogs. Joyce, Lin, and Lyd were there just Saturday.

BORDER NIGHTMARES - Gail Walsh

Several years ago my two dogs and I were on our way back home after a fantastic weekend attending a Boot Scootin' Boogie Competition in Seattle. It was late and we were almost at the border. Being tired from the drive and the busy weekend I was looking forward to getting home.

When I approached the border guard I was asked all the usual questions. When the guard asked to see my dog papers I handed him my vet papers showing that my dogs were up on their vaccinations. The guard then asked me for the dog's sales receipts to prove I had bought the dogs in Canada. I told him I didn't have them with me. He then asked me to pull over into the inspection area where he proceeded to search my car. After that he told me that since I didn't have papers to prove that I had purchased the dogs in Canada that I would have to leave them at the border until I went home and got the papers and returned with them.

At this point I lost it. In tears I argued with him that he had the medical papers but he said he needed the sales receipts. Finally the guard relented and told me to go on but that from now on I needed to have those papers when crossing the border.

I wanted to write this article because over the years I have been asked many times by our competitors what they needed to cross the border. The rules were often changing. I have never been sure about what was allowed and what wasn't in the way of dog food as well as documents. Do they allow all meat products or are some restricted? Does it matter where the food is made? Does it matter if the bag is open or not?

Another time while crossing the border into the States the guard had me take my dog food into the office for inspection. The food was passed and I was allowed to take it with me but it delayed my trip by about a half an hour since there was a long line up for the inspection.

I decided before writing the article that I would phone the US and Canadian Customs to get up to date information on this matter.

Going into Canada from the US

Food: travelers may bring into Canada a **personal import** of pet food (limit of 20 kg), if the import meets **all** of the following requirements:

- The pet food or product must be of United States origin and be commercially packaged.
- The pet food or product must be in the possession of the traveller at the time of entry from the U.S.
- The animal that will eat the imported product must accompany the traveller at the time of entry.
- The imported product is fed only to the animal that accompanied the traveller into Canada.

For more details, see Section 6.5 of the *Health of Animals Regulations*.

I asked the clerk on the phone about bringing Canadian food into Canada. It seemed obvious that it would be allowed but the rules above state that it must be made in the States. She told me that the food could also be made in Canada. I know for a fact the 'Go' and 'Now' dog foods that are made in Canada are sold in parts of Washington State.

Dog: I also asked her about what papers were required. She said as long as you have your vet vaccination papers to prove your dogs have had their rabies shots that is all you need. When I told her my story about the sales receipt papers she then changed her story and said that perhaps it would be a good idea to bring them as well but officially the rabies papers is all you need.

Going into the US from Canada

Dog: the US Customs officer told me that you only need proof of the dog's up-to-date Rabies shots.

Food: As for the dog food it must be in the original packaging but it doesn't matter if it is opened or not.

When I asked him about content restrictions on the dog food, he told me that no wam or goat meat was allowed. I asked him what wam meat was stating that I had never heard of it before. He told me it was his Texas accent and it was lamb and not wam. How embarrassing!!! Thank goodness he had a good sense of humour.

One last thing, even though neither the US or Canadian customs officers mentioned this, it is a good idea to take your sunglasses off before going up to the customs booth. I have been asked to do so in the past. I think they like to see your eyes. Hummm, maybe this is why I have had trouble in the past. It is my beady, suspicious looking eyes that have got me into trouble.

I hope this helps. If you need further information you can go to their websites. Another option is when crossing the border you can go inside and they will give you a pamphlet explaining it all.

More **Queen of Cool** ideas . . . continued from page 2



I have a larger Silver Shade Cloth that I toss over my whole car. With the windows and the hatch open and the car covered with the Silver Shade Cloth, the car is a lot cooler than temperature outside. In fact,

on a 30 degree day, my dogs don't even pant when they are on their Canine Cooler mats protected by a Silver Shade Cloth.



Fans are also helpful for maintaining a cool dog. I have battery operated fans that clip onto the bars of crates. These cost about \$20.00 (not including the batteries) and work well to provide a bit of a breeze for a short time. There are also fans which plug into the electrical outlet in a vehicle and are suction cup mounted. Because my pugs and I sometimes attend outdoor agility trials in the summer, I also have a

portable power pack so that I can run an electrical fan and a cooler for cold drinks. The Eliminator Power Box is readily available at Canadian Tire. Its rechargeable battery holds a charge for several hours and I have used it to power a fan all day long (and a heating pad during those cold, day long in-the-barn training clinics). Again, this is an investment but if you trial outside a lot, it's worth the money. The Eliminator also can charge your car battery and inflate your tires so it's an all around useful tool.



For quick low tech cooling, there's always a little swim or a cool hosing. Be aware that on hot humid days, this only provides temporary relief. If the water can't evaporate, it has the effect of "steaming" your dog! If you are going to hose or spray your dog, make sure the water is not really cold and consider just wetting down the belly and inner thigh areas.

Cooling coats can also help. Often made of microfiber cloth, these coats are soaked in cool water and then wrung out before the dog wears them. Particularly useful for short coated dogs, you need to keep a close eye on the temperature of the coat and the dog inside of it and you should frequently resoak it to keep it cool. There are also cooling coats filled with crystals which when soaked in water, turn into a cool gel. These become quite heavy when activated so are best for small dogs.



Whatever tools you use in your keep cool arsenal, make sure to monitor your dog. None of these items are meant to be used without the benefit of your close and watchful eye, making sure your treasured friend is cool and comfortable. Just like Goldilocks, you have to maintain the right balance...not too hot, not too cold. But, with the right equipment and a bit of effort, your dog can breeze through the hot weather, as cool as a . . . well, as cool as one of my pugs!

Allison Maxwell ©