



THE WAG

PAWS 2 DANCE NEWSLETTER #26 SEPTEMBER 2019



Proficiency Tests Observations and Advice

We've had several events with the new proficiency tests Judges have made the following observations:

- Several fails on 360° have been due to the handler stopping short of the 360°. Add at least another 90° for good measure.
- The figure 8 is much easier to see by the judges if it starts facing them.
- A short, quick hand signal is admissible. A prolonged signal that guides the dog into position is not.
- Some handlers cheer and pull their dogs out of the element before it is completed. Read the requirements carefully.
- European-style hand position for heeling (outside dog's head) will no longer be permitted.

Upcoming Events

T.S. Saturday, October 5, 1:30. Annette's
T.S. Saturday, November 30, 1:30. Brookwood
T.S. January 18, 2020, 1:30 pm. Annette's
T.S. March 7, 2020 1:30 pm. Brookwood
Proficiency tests/Seminar, April TBA, Nanaimo
Prancing Paws: May 9, 2020. All Day Annette's

**Lorna Craig Adreana Sisco Janet Gravouelle
Abdul Hadi Bilal Donna McLaughlin**



Welcome
New Members

**Dawson Pogue Jens Schroeder
Terri Simpson Fran Montgomery**

From the Judges' Handbook Lyd Francescutti Questions about the Proficiency Test

I've received these questions about the proficiency test and conferred with Ray and Lin to formulate the answers.

1. **May handler skip in change of pace Bronze I?** The dog must show clear changes of pace. If the handler needs to skip in order to facilitate the "fast" then that would be acceptable.
2. **May handler add embellishments, divert from straight lines of patterns, add some swing?** Best not to since the movement may compromise the precision. It would also make it more difficult for the judges to see elements.
3. **Why do we need music for the Proficiency Test?** Music in a proficiency test gives the dog an opportunity to work to music so that it would be less stressed for a HTM or MF routine. If you are distracted by the music, choose a piece of music that you can move to at a natural pace so that you won't have to concentrate on it. Judges will not be evaluating the handler on whether s/he moves in time with the music.
4. **Should we Choreograph the Proficiency Test?** If you mean "interpret the music" then no. However, if you mean plan where to start each element and in what order to do the elements, then yes. It will help you relax in the ring if you have a plan.

Let's hear it for the judges who are learning the new format



In Memoriam

No one can truly understand why dogs are called “man’s best friend” until they have experienced the loss of one.



Rupert
2006 - 2019



Gracie
2007- 2019



Portia
2002- 2019



Tobi
2003 - 2019



Shelly 2
2003 - 2019

What's More Fun than an Easter Parade?

You've got it . . . an Easter parade *with dogs* . . . followed by a musical freestyle performance by I.C.E. at a seniors' residence in Nanaimo. I'd like to know if there was a prize for the biggest Easter bonnet! “Luckily,” says Yvonne (third from left) we're all crazy.



Lower Mainland Group Kicks It up at Demos



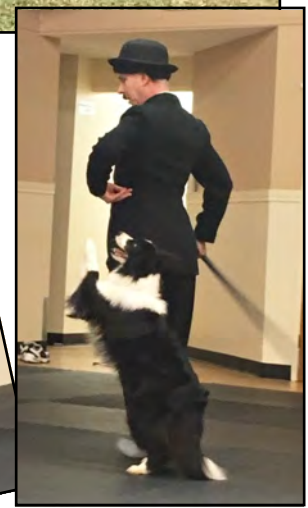
Above - Pet-Lover's Fair in Abbotsford.

Below - Dania Home in Burnaby – first demo for Olga and Leeloo – left.

Day of Pos-Abilities in Langley – first demo for Vickie and Whisper – right

Delta Pet Expo – first demo for Ann and Cedar – left

Brookwood – with Ray and Magic – right



Prancing Paws 2019 - May 11th – Langley

How lucky are we that one of our members has a performance barn and that her property is the perfect site for a picnic! As you can see from the photos by Russ Krelin, the dogs and handlers had a great time. We tried something different this year . . . after the picnic, everyone drew a song-title out of a hat, grabbed wigs, costume bits, and props off the table, and created a routine in only ten minutes. Performances were amazing! The audience voted Vickie and Whisper, Olga and Leeloo, and Elaine and Kona as the winners, with everyone else coming in a close second. We'll definitely do this again next year.



Proficiency Test makes its island debut

On May 27th, Beth Yim and first time judge Carol Toms adjudicated a large entry in the Proficiency tests in Nanaimo. Lenore (right) is the first P2D member to earn a Bronze Title, passing all three levels with Sir Lance. Below are all those who qualified.

Yvonne would like to thank everyone for their support in this, her first competition for Paws2Dance – most especially Carol Toms, Lin MacDonald, Lydia Francescutti, and all the members of I C E. “It was so very good to see so many members coming over from the mainland to support us and enjoy the fun.”



Training Tips from Lenore, April 27 **Building Attention and Enthusiasm**

PLAY! Incorporate play as much as possible

- **TUG TOY on a rope**

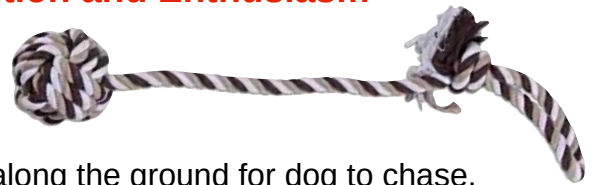
- o tie a tug-toy to a rope or leash. Drag or bounce it along the ground for dog to chase.
- o While dog is playing with the toy, cue a behavior – for example, a sit or down. (Dog keeps toy in mouth.) Shout “Yeah!” and run backwards away from dog.

- **Where is that toy coming from?**

- o Be unpredictable with a toy. Hide it in different pockets, inside your shirt or vest and pull it out to play at random times.

- **Catch me!**

- o Play with your dog. Run away or back up quickly. When dog comes, feed it.
- o Do the above. When dog comes, toss a toy between your legs so dog runs through your legs to retrieve toy.



Train thoughtfully

- **Know the limits**

- o Train only one or two behaviours before taking a break. The dog needs time to process.

Important Considerations

- The more you play, the stronger a relationship you will have with your dog
- Be sure to do some play with nothing but yourself since in the ring you won't have toys or food.
- Finish training sessions with play.
- Play before leaving the ring at a competition.
- Stop playing while dog wants to play more. That way, the last thing a dog remembers is that it was having fun in the ring.



Choreography Part II - Building a Routine Lenore Baskin

In Part I of this series, Lenore talked about **choosing a piece of music** – it should have some emotional impact or an element for performance – whether mood, character, or storyline.

Building a Routine

1. Know the Song

- Listen to the song several times and note highlights, changes in rhythm/tempo, interesting lyrics.
- Cut the music to the appropriate length.
- View the routine as sections & know where each section of music lies within the entire song.

2. Block in Dog Elements

- Determine what moves or elements you want the dog to perform for each section.
- Choose moves that are appropriate for the music.
- Build in *transition time* – time to set up for the next element. For example, if you want the dog to start a particular move at an exact time, be sure you leave some transition time before that move.

3. Learn your own Movement

- Determine how your movements and body language can enhance the mood, reflect the storyline, and enhance the dog performance.
- Opening: does the music dictate you start right away or does it give you a moment?
- Poses within the routine: Consider adding a pose or two as they are a great time to do some acting to interpret the music and enhance the performance
- Style: rather than just stepping (for example in a weave) choose a manner or style of movement. That might be stepping toe-heel (jazz) or heel first (country).
- Connection with audience: pick a point or two in the routine when you can make eye-contact with the audience. This will draw in the audience and enable you to relax.
- Reflecting lyrics: Don't try to act out all the lyrics. However, if there is a key line, you might consider accenting it with your movement. (below left)
- Close: make it memorable by hitting the music highlights with strong moves. (below right)
- Practice *without the dog* until you know the routine.

At her April seminar in Nanaimo, Lenore had everyone in the class walk through the process of building a routine to *Romeo and Juliet*, encouraging everyone to feel the music and let themselves be *hot*.



Next installment: **Choreography Part III - Training the routine**

Island Fling, June 24th, in Nanaimo

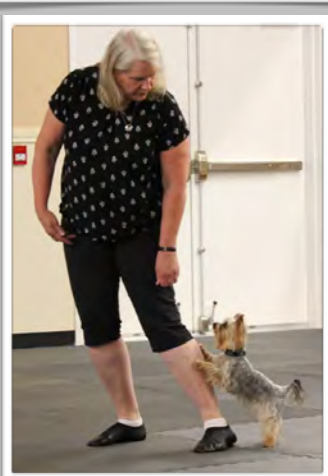
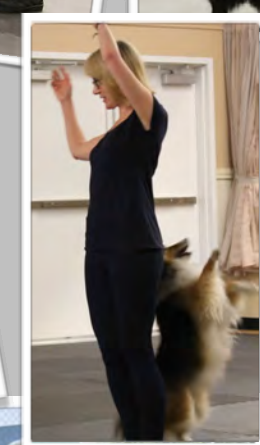
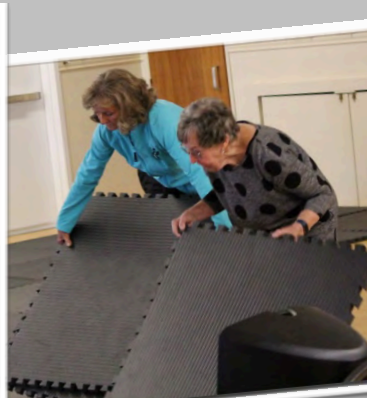
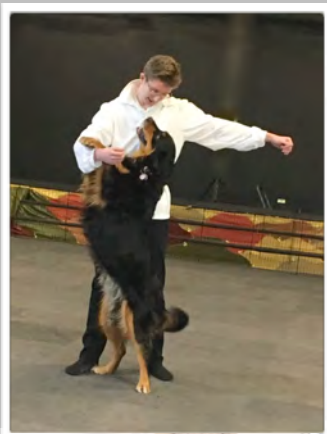
With new routines and props being tried out, novice competitors giving freestyle a whirl, and new puppies working the room, this year's Island Fling had many firsts. Photos were lifted from the Island K9 Freestylers FaceBook and screenshots of the videos.



Two more Tail Spins

The first one was our smallest entry ever – one! Lucas did a fine job of his routine. Congratulations, Luke and Marty! Top - left.

The second one, July 11th, was the first one held at the Brookwood Senior Centre. Training and proficiency tests proved popular this day as some new routines were tested. Ray did a smashing job of keeping things rolling. Photographs by Don Bennett.



Summer Sizzle, August 10, Nanaimo

Speaking of firsts . . . can you tell the dogs were having a blast in Yvonne and Ron's back yard? Congratulations Island Freestylers for hosting the first ever outdoor competition and big thanks to Ron and Yvonne for providing the venue. Special mention goes to Donna McLoughlan who traveled all the way from Alberta, to all the young folk who pitched in to help, and to the weather gods who provided cloud cover but no rain. Photos from Island K9 Freestylers' FaceBook and screen shots from videos.



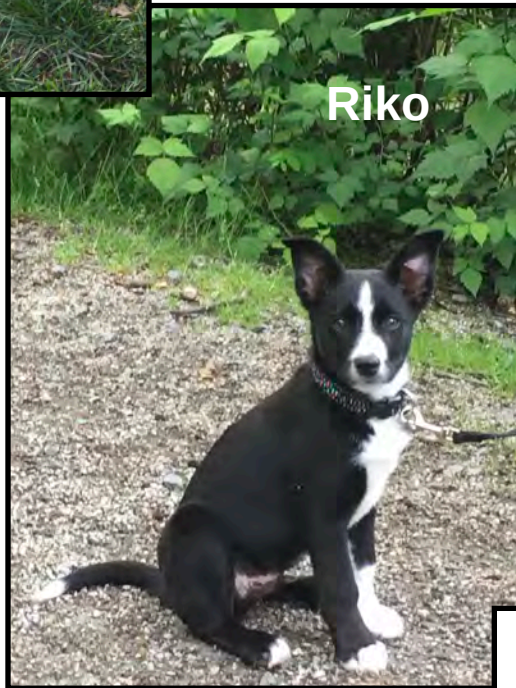
New Puppies - Dancers in the Making



Cuin



Blue



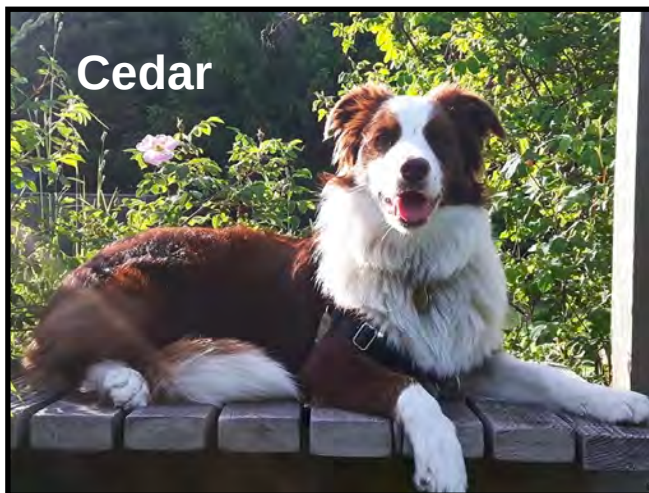
Riko



Lexie

Advice for new puppy owners:

- if you're going to work on recalls on the dyke, make sure your reward treats are tastier than horse poop.
- You can't think of a new puppy as cute and cuddly. It's a land shark ready to strike!



Cedar



LC

From Editor - Lydia

I have a new email address: freya9@icloud.com Note the double "a"
As usual, I'm asking for suggestions for articles, fresh ideas, photos, good reads, etc.