



# The Shepherd's Whistle

Volume 9, Issue 2  
Summer 2005

If a dog will not come to you after having looked you in the face,  
you should go home and examine your conscience. - Woodrow  
Wilson

## Editor's Note...



It's been an exciting summer in St Louis' Herding community. Practices on Tuesday nights are going great. Despite the heat, there are a lot of nice dogs & handlers beginning their herding careers.

Our spring trails went wonderfully. We are looking forward to our fall trial season. We are always in need of volunteers! If you're interested in having a great time and learning loads, please call the trial chair person and let them know that you are interested in helping.

I would like to "Welcome" the new members of the past few months. We don't always get a chance to meet the new members but please feel free to introduce yourselves and get involved in what ever way you'd like.

Our newest members are:

- Stephanie Smith
- Mary Tauer-MacKenzie & Robert
- Dwayne Cantrell, Lori & Samantha
- Barbara Baird
- Lisa Santiago, Joe & Brett
- Dawn Henderson, Bob, David, Donna & Kent

If you see them, please welcome them and make them feel a part of our herding family.

We would also like to welcome Lisa & Mark Fowler's new addition, Alex. Alex is 3 months

Also, Sandra & Nels Holmberg have a new grandson, Michael. The proud parents are Anne & Dane Jespersen & brother, David.

Kristen Reker, Editor

## On-line Newsletter

This is our second on-line newsletter. Hope you are enjoying the changes.

We are still working on getting the kinks out. We did not get a chance to make hard copies of the last edition but will be doing that with this issue.

We are always looking for input for the newsletter. Send in something interesting. I know you have some good stories. Fiction or Non. We're not picky!

Please send your submissions and comments to Carla [alley@yhti.net](mailto:alley@yhti.net) or Kristen [bcnewe2@hotmail.com](mailto:bcnewe2@hotmail.com)

We look forward to hearing from you!

**FROSTY PAWS** (from boxerworld.com)

32 oz vanilla yogurt  
 1 mashed banana or one large jar of baby fruit  
 2 T peanut butter  
 2 T honey

Blend together and freeze in either 3 oz paper cups or ice cube trays.

Microwave just a few seconds before serving.

Submitted by Robin Reasoner

"In order to really enjoy a dog, one doesn't merely try to train him to be semi-human. The point of it is to open oneself to the possibility of becoming partly a dog."

Edward Hoagland

**Come out and practice!****Herdng opportunities in the St Louis area:**

The farms listed offer dog-broke stock and a variety of arena and field sizes to work in.

Karrousel Farm,  
 JoAnn Burnes, Moscow Mill MO  
 636-366-4552  
 Sheep

RottiEwe Farm  
 Tracy Parciak, Wright City MO  
 636-745-8535 [rotpar@accessus.net](mailto:rotpar@accessus.net)  
 Sheep, and Call ducks  
 Lessons available with Linda Franklin by appt

Whiskey Creek Sheep Farm  
 Sandra Holmberg, Washington MO  
 636-583-4551 or [sholmbrQ@fidmail.com](mailto:sholmbrQ@fidmail.com)  
 Sheep, Cattle, Ducks

Shepherd's Crossing Farm  
 Kristen Reker, Cedar Hill MO  
 636-274-3066 [bcnewe2@hotmail.com](mailto:bcnewe2@hotmail.com)  
 Sheep

Bellwether Farm  
 Mary Swindell, Cobden IL  
 618-893-4568  
 Sheep

**Herdng Trainers contact Information:**

Larry Painter, Cleveland MO  
 816-618-3477 or [kuawarri@aol.com](mailto:kuawarri@aol.com)  
[Hometown.aol.com/kuawarrilkuawarri.index.html](http://Hometown.aol.com/kuawarrilkuawarri.index.html)

Bob Vest, Hoschton GA  
 716-654-2512

Shepherd's Shack  
 Harry Enloe, Sorento IL  
 217-272-4457 [enloebc@hotmail.com](mailto:enloebc@hotmail.com)

Bellehill Training Center  
 Don Russell, Bell MO  
 314-640-3057

**The following is an excerpt from an article written by Laurie Leach at Laughing Dog**

Press you can read the whole article at:  
[www.laughingdogpress.com](http://www.laughingdogpress.com)

### **Herding is a poor spectator sport**

Herding is, of course, a real activity that ranchers practice daily versus a made up activity like agility or Frisbee. Competitive herding trials are simulations of work that dogs might really do. Herding trials take a wide variety of forms, allowing dogs at different levels of competence to test their stuff with actual sheep, cattle or ducks. This herding poultry thing is really weird, but that is another matter.

At beginning levels, dogs work sheep in a small ring to determine if they have more interest in sheep than a head of cabbage. At the highest levels, dogs work with their handler in large areas on ranches to maneuver sheep through gates, often with no fences, mind you- and into weensy pens. When a good dog and handler work stock efficiently, it is a supreme partnership.

However, herding could be greatly improved as a spectator sport. At present, dogs, handlers and stock come and go in the arena with no input for the audience. Great interest could be added by having a knowledgeable announcer give a little background about each team. Here are some quick examples:

Our next team is Billy Bob with his [dog] Zip the 47<sup>th</sup>. They run a sheep ranch with 2000 head. Because Billy Bob's childhood friends were sheep, he can read every ear twitch. You may notice that Zip only has three legs after a tragic tractor accident, but it hasn't slowed her down a bit. Last week, Zip took her flock on a trip to the mall on the bus without Billy Bob. Everyone had a great time. Let's welcome these two quickly before Zip has those woolies penned.

Next up in the arena, we have Mark with his [dog] Zip. Mark took up herding two years ago when he received a notice form the Humane

Society saying that his dog could not keep gathering the neighbors' children and pinning them against the back fence for three hours. Prior to that, Mark's previous experience with livestock was the family trip to the county fair once a year. Mark's first contact with a sheep was when in knocked him flat on his fanny. Last time we saw Mark, his dog was doing pretty much whatever it wanted and scaring the sh\*\* out of those sheep while Mark screamed "Lie Down" over and over. Let's give him an encouraging round of applause.

Our next team is Suzy with her [dog] Zip. Suzy took up herding after purchasing this dog for her children. When the kids did not give a wet slap about the dog, Suzy, who was bored spitless taking care of her house, decided to see if the dog would actually work stock since she was told it was a herding breed. Generally, this dog shows about thirty seconds of interest in herding before it wanders off to find the hot dog stand. Suzy understands the concept of anticipating what the sheep are going to do when she is sitting on the sofa with a nice glass of Zin. However, when she is out there, she does not have a clue which way they are going. Let's put our hands together for a seriously herding-challenged handler and her disinterested dog.

**Laurie has started a new web site and invites you all to see what she is up to now. Her new web address is:**  
[www.AgilityAction.com](http://www.AgilityAction.com).

## **"My Foster Dog is Beautiful"**

Written by: Martha O'Connor

My foster dog stinks to high heaven.  
I don't know for sure what breed he is.

His eyes are blank and hard. He won't let me pet him and growls when I reach for him. He has ragged scars and crusty sores on his skin. His nails are long and his teeth, which he showed me are stained.

I sigh.

I drove two hours for this.  
I carefully maneuver him so that I can put him in the crate. Then I heft the crate and put it in the car.

I am going home with my new foster dog.

At home, I leave him in the crate till all the other dogs are in the yard. I get him out of the crate and ask him if he wants 'outside.' As I lead him to the door he hikes his leg on the wall and shows me his stained teeth again. When we come in he goes to the crate because that's the only safe place he sees. I offer him food but he won't eat it if I look at him, so I turn my back. When I come back the food is gone.

I ask again about 'outside.'

When we come back I pat him before I let him in the crate, he jerks away and runs into the crate to show me his teeth.

The next day I decide I can't stand the stink any longer. I lead him into the bath with cheese in my hand. His fear of me is not quite overcome by his wish for the cheese. And well he should fear me, for I will give him a bath.

After an attempt or two to bail out he is defeated and stands there. I have bathed four legged bath squirts for more dog years than he has been alive. His only defense was a show of his stained teeth that did not hold up to a face full of water.

As I wash him it is almost as if I wash not only the stink and dirt away but also some of his hardness. His eyes look full of sadness now. And he looks completely pitiful as only a soap covered dog can. I tell him that he will feel better when he is clean.

After the bath, the towels are not too bad so he lets me rub him dry. I take him outside.

He runs for joy.

The joy of not being in the tub and the joy of being clean.

I, the bath giver, am allowed to share the joy. He comes to me and lets me pet him.

One week later I have a vet bill. His skin is healing. He likes for me to pet him.

I think I know what color he will be when his hair grows in.

I have found out he is terrified of other dogs. So I carefully introduce him to my mildest four legged brat. It doesn't go well.

Two weeks later a new vet bill for an infection that was missed on the first visit. He plays with the other dogs.

Three weeks later he asks to be petted. He chewed up part of the rug.

Eight weeks later his coat shines, he has gained weight. He shows his clean teeth when his tongue lolls out after he plays chase in the yard with the gang.

His eyes are soft and filled with life. He loves hugs and likes to show off his tricks, if you have the cheese.

Someone called today and asked about him, they saw the picture I took the first week. They asked about his personality, his history, his breed. They asked if he was pretty. I asked them lots of questions. I checked up on them. I prayed.

I said yes.

When they saw him the first time they said he was the most beautiful dog they had ever seen.

Six months later I got a call from his new family. He is wonderful, smart, well behaved and very loving. How could someone not want him?

I told them I didn't know.

He is beautiful.

They all are. "

# History of the English Shepherd

by Tom D. Stodghill  
March 22, 1948



English Shepherd dogs are one of the oldest breed of dogs in the entire world. Long ago before there was any such country as England, these same dogs were known as Shepherd's Dogs. The people who herded sheep were called shepherds and because these dogs were used by the shepherds they were called the Shepherd's Dog.

In centuries past, there were no fences, and these Shepherd Dogs were used to hold the flock of sheep together and to keep them under control. There were no barns or anything to protect the sheep or the dogs from the cold winters or the hot summers. To endure such severe weather the dogs had to have long thick hair. Until this very day this same breed of dog can sleep out on the coldest night, and the weather doesn't seem to hurt him. There is an

oil in the dogs hair which the water will not penetrate; what I mean is, it can rain on a shepherd dog or he can swim in a river, and after getting out of the water, shake his body a few times and his body is warm. This refers to a healthy dog raised out in the open. In those early days of long ago when man's life almost depended on his flock of sheep, there were all kind of wild animals which attacked both sheep and man. He had to depend on his shepherd dogs for protection. Dogs had to have plenty of courage, size and intelligence to fight off these vicious animals. Until this very day, this same breed of dogs still possesses the intelligence which it takes to kill animals much larger and stronger than they are themselves. The Shepherd Dog's trick is this: if the wild animal is larger than he is, he will bay the animal and run around the animal in circles. If there are two or three of the dogs and one large animal which could easily kill one of the dogs if it could catch hold of him, the dogs will circle around the animal. Every time the dogs get a chance they'll bite the animal's heels, or at least they will work on the back side of the animal just as far from the head as possible. This action causes the animal to turn round and round in circles. It sure is interesting to watch two dogs work a wild animal over. The dog in back of the animal will bite his heels, then the animal will turn around. The wild animal will then turn his back to the dog that is in front of him, and will attack the dog that bit him. While the beast attacks the dog that bit him the other animal will bite him on the heel. This doesn't go on very long until the animal gets drunk form turning round and round. Regardless of what it was, (bear, bobcat, lion, or whatever) the shepherd dogs could hold it at bay until the dogs' master got there to help with the fight. In those prehistoric days, man didn't have anything to help the dog with except clubs and rocks. It is easy to see why the dogs had to have plenty of size and strength, yet be active enough to keep out of the way of the claws of these animals. After the dogs worried a beast down it was easy for a man to kill it with a club even if he did not have a gun back in those early times.

Back in those days the dog had to be on guard day and night to keep the wild animals fought off the sheep. Herding the sheep was the dog's least job. There were also thieves who would drive off the sheep and the shepherd's dogs had to keep them chased away.

It is easy to see why these dogs were called the shepherds' dog; life itself almost depended on the skill and intelligence of these dogs. Until this very day these shepherd dogs will not holler when they get into a fight; they will die fighting; they will not quit. In raising shepherd pups you have to watch them or they will kill one another. Only yesterday I stopped two eight week old pups from fighting. One had caught the other pup by the throat, almost choked to death. I caught the pup on top by the back legs, and he held on to the other pup and picked the pup off the ground. When I pulled them apart, the pup which had been getting choked began fighting again with all his might. I had to separate the pups to keep them from killing each other. These pups were in pens; if they had been out in the open, they would have found something else to do besides fight! They have the grit; you very seldom have to hold shepherd dogs to vaccinate them. They will not move or holler when the vaccinating needle is stuck through their skin.

Those people of days gone by bred the very best working dogs together, and a dog had to be an all-round dog to protect the people's children, sheep and homes. They bred their dogs dark colors; today's black and tan dog with the long glossy hair is believed to be more like the genuine shepherd of the past. People then wandered with their herds and flocks. After they became educated to the fact that their lives could be made and they could have a more abundant food supply, they began to get larger herds. More people began to live together and the tribes began to prosper. They invented all kinds of tools and weapons and built boats in which to travel. Due to the fact that man and his dogs lived together every day, I am of the opinion that dogs in those days were much smarter than they are today. The more we keep

our dogs like those first black and tan dogs of years ago, the better dogs we will have.

Our modern civilization of today started with the use of these Shepherd Dogs. After man got large herds of sheep they had plenty of meat, hides, and wool and began to trade with one another. They began to get rich; herds got larger and people needed more grass for their herds. They began to travel from the mainland to the islands they could see. The first people to cross the English Channel to the British Isles carried their sheep and their shepherd dogs with them. As the boats in those days were small and crowded, those early settlers who moved to the British Isles only carried the very finest shepherd dogs with them. By this time they had come a long ways, and civilization was developing fast. It is very doubtful if England would have become the powerful nation it has been if it had not been for the use of these shepherd dogs which made so many people rich and the sheep industry possible.

From the time the first people moved the shepherd dogs to England until Columbus discovered America, people had become much better educated, but the Shepherd Dog was just like he had been for a thousand years. The first settlers who moved to America from England brought the finest Shepherd Dogs to America with them, and it was in the United States where the shepherd dog got the name-

“THE ENGLISH SHEPHERD”.

Man has tried and tried to develop a better dog than this fine breed, but he has failed in this. Most all these new breeds of dogs were crossed with the English Shepherd, trying to get the working qualities and grit of an English Shepherd. I knew a man who crossed his hounds with English Shepherds so they would kill wolves. He wanted 25% of the English Shepherd blood in his hounds. These dogs would outrun the regular hounds and would catch and kill a wolf. The purebred English Shepherds will catch and kill a wolf, but this

man's idea was to cross them with hounds so that they would bark on trail like a hound but catch and kill a wolf like a shepherd. Most all the long-haired working breeds of dogs carry more or less English Shepherd blood.

A genuine English shepherd has a different spirit to any other dog. You can abuse him and be just as mean as you want to be; you will only hurt his feelings, and with only one kind word, he will forgive and forget and come running to you. In most instances the true English Shepherd will lay on his back at his master's feet when he speaks kindly to him after scolding or whipping him. These dogs love affection and are unequalled as companions.

Always remember that a black and tan English Shepherd is the highest class of this breed. Tan should be on each foot and fade out up the leg, tan under the tail with the tan fading out near the end of the tail, tan spot over each eye and tan around the mouth. Also remember that an English Shepherd can be almost any color-blue, solid black, brown, bright red, or red with white markings or golden sable. The golden sable is more the color of an orange. Most of these odd colored dogs also have a touch of white. These odd-colored English Shepherds always sell at a discount and are classified as the common shepherd. A litter of pups may be in 3-4 different colors, and there is most always a spotted pup. The black and tan most always breed true to color and true to type. If the black and tan male and female are bred together, as a rule the pups will all be black and tan or black and tan with just a touch of white. Sometimes you'll get an overflow of tan. Black and tan dogs always bring the top price as there is not any doubt about them being genuine English Shepherds, which have been raised for thousands of years and are the same breed of dogs which were known as the shepherd's dogs before the name was changed to the English Shepherd.

The average size for the black and tan English Shepherd is 20 inches high and 50 lbs. Standard size is not less than 18 inches and not over 22

inches. Twenty inches high and fifty pounds is the most desirable height and weight. The dog shouldn't weigh less than 40 lbs nor over 60 lbs. Should be broad and well- built and weight should balance the height. Sometimes a male will be as much as 25 inches high and weigh 75 lbs; these dogs are above standard weight but are very valuable breeders to breed to small females and get pups that will be nearer to standard weight. Being a working type dog they need to be large enough to whip the average dog and to kill a wolf. A fifty pound English Shepherd can save a boy or girl from drowning.

If water gets too deep, just holler "Shep" and he will be right by your side before you will have time to drown. Just catch his long hair and Shep will carry you to safety. I knew of a mother Shepherd dog jumping in the deep water on a dark night and grabbing a woman's dress and pulling her to safety out of a swift stream. Dogs to herd sheep and goats should always be large enough to keep stray dogs and wolves fought off. The genuine English Shepherd of prehistoric days which has proven to be the world's most useful dog, is a dog around fifty pounds, broad between the eyes, short muzzle (mouth), tail set on at a 45 degree angle, with a little curve near the end, and the hair should always be long on the tail, especially on the bottom side of the tail. Can also be natural bob tail. Tail of a natural bob should be set straight back with extra long hair on the tail.

Natural Bob English Shepherds usually will breed true if a bob male is bred to a natural bob female, but sometimes a long tail pup will show up. You can breed a long tail English Shepherd to a natural bob English Shepherd and still register the pups as English Shepherds, part of the litter being long tailed and part of the same litter being natural bob. The working qualities are the same, the only difference is the length of the tail.



## ~~FAST NEWS~~

- The premiums for our Fall AHBA & AKC trials have been mailed & are available on our site, [SLHC.ORG](http://SLHC.ORG).
- The August meeting is scheduled for Saturday, August 20th, 3pm at Nestlé Purina Farms. Weather permitting, herding practice will be available after the meeting. A signup sheet for herding slots will be available at the meeting.
- Tuesday night herding is still available, the time slots for practice are broken down into 20-minute intervals & reserved on request. Contact [Kim Druschel](mailto:Kim.Druschel) by e-mail to reserve a spot. The schedule will be sent out the Sunday night prior to each practice.
- Kristen Reker has volunteered to assist in the round pen this summer with people who are not quite ready to work on their own. Please let Kim know what type help you need and we will try to have someone available to help you. Cattle are available with special permission from Bettie Kinsley.

## Brag

### Sandra Holmberg's "Puck" is an ASCA Hall of Fame Dam! Congratulations!

ASCA's Hall of Fame Dam requirements include that Puck's progeny must have earned a combination of 8 titles, with a combination of 2 stockdog or conformation titles and the remaining 6 earned from agility, obedience, stockdog, tracking and/or conformation.

For more information check: [//www.asca.org/Special+Recognition+Rules](http://www.asca.org/Special+Recognition+Rules)  
[//pages.prodigy.net/verte/](http://pages.prodigy.net/verte/)



## Event Calendar

### August 20 Meeting

3pm at Nestlé Purina Farms, Gray Summit MO.  
Weather permitting, herding to follow with sign up sheep at the meeting.

Oct 7-9 - AHBA & AKC trials at  
Whiskey Creek Sheep Farm, Washington MO  
Trial chair, Terrasita Cuffie  
Trial secretary, Kate Schallert

Nov 5-6 AHBA type fun weekend  
Contact, Robin Reasoner  
details TBA

### Classifieds:

Registered Katadhin lambs and sheep for sale.  
Contact [Carla Alley](mailto:Carla.Alley)

Dog broke sheep for sale  
Contact Don Russell  
314-640-3057

### Rescues:

Please send all rescue info to Kristen or Carla.

**We need submissions for the Shepherds Whistle. Please submit pictures, short stories, jokes, etc. We also will feature a for-sale or wanted ads section.**

Send to Carla Alley at [calley@yhti.net](mailto:calley@yhti.net) or Kristen Reker at [Bcnewe2@hotmail.com](mailto:Bcnewe2@hotmail.com)