



# Terrier Times

Newsletter of the B.C. All Terrier Club



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## TOP TERRIERS FOR 2023

According to *Canuckdogs.com* lists of Top Dog standings for 2023, which are unofficial, our member dogs' standings for Top 5 in the breed, and Top 10, are as follows in conformation.

- #2 American Staffordshire, **GCh. Marauders I'm You Huckleberry** (N. Halford)
- #3 American Staffordshire, **Ch. Chargers Gazella Sweet Dreams** (K. Doyle)
- #3 Australian, **Ch. Tidewalker Epsilon Grace** (C. Holtby, A. Hannebauer, K. McColm)
- #3 Border, **GChS. Benchmark's Bright Shining Fame** (P. Humenny & M. Thorarinson)
- #2 Cairn, **GCh. Iz's Spring Fling** (I. Danby)
- #5 Cairn, **Ch. Kian's Winterstorm O'Aberfeldy** (M. Jones)
- #4 Irish, **Can/Am GCh. Red Branch Justnjoyits Perfection in Bronze** (J. Viel, S. Ballinger, J. & E. Metz)
- #1 Norwich & #16 Terrier, **ChB. Amblegreen Den-Mar's All In** (H. Tomlins, C. Monk)
- #4 Min. Schnauzer, **GChS. Empire Dreamaker Hot Tip** (V. & G. Stephens)
- #4 Scottie, **GCh. Pendor Rendezvous At Trotters** (J. Trotzuk)
- #2 Sealyham, **GCh. Rocglen Money Talks Bushaway** (F. Yunik)
- #4 Sealyham, **Rocglen Morgan Le Fey** (F. Yunik)
- #4 Skye, **GCh. Kometa Rossi Kovid** (T. & R. Sapala)
- #5 Wheaten, **Ch. Hion If The Shoe Fits** (J. Hodgkins)
- #1 Welsh, **GChS. Darwyn's Notorious** (L. Hotchin)
- #5 Welsh, **Darwyn's Stellar At Stargazer** (L. Hotchin)
- #5 Westie, **GCh. Iz's Locked And Loaded** (I. Danby, A. & T. Froland)
  
- #9 American Staffordshire, **GCh. Marauders Hey Jude** (N. Halford)
- #10 Scottie, **Ch. Trotters Bitterscotch Miss** (J. Trotzuk, F. Yunik, K. Gibson)
- #10 Sealyham, **Rocglen Ginger Heliabel** (F. Yunik)
- #8 Staffordshire Bull, **Ch. Rustik's It's Only Money Honey With Qwik N Thik** (S. McDonald, K. Ketchum, K. Thorburn)
- #10 Staffordshire Bull, **RCh. GChB. Hillside Hound of Baskerville CGN TDGCH VS RATN CD THDN** (K. Werezak)
- #7 Welsh, **Ch. Darwyn's Destined** (L. Hotchin)
- #9 Welsh, **Ch. Darwyn's Ma Belle Amie** (N. Schwalb & L. Hotchin)

And in Rally Obedience:

- #1 Staffordshire Bull, **Ch. Distaff Dazzling Display** (K. Werezak)
- #2 Staffordshire Bull, **RCh. GChB. Hillside Hound of Baskerville CGN TDGCH VS RATN CD THDN** (K. Werezak)

Let me know ([truax@sfu.ca](mailto:truax@sfu.ca)) if anyone has been missed.

# MONTGOMERY COUNTY TERRIER SHOW 2023

*by Barry Truax*

When the weather starts to chill, the thoughts of many Terrier enthusiasts turn to the largest Terrier show of the year, namely the Montgomery County K.C. Terrier Specialty, along with the two all-breed shows that traditionally precede it, Devon and Hatboro, all of which are usually held during the Canadian Thanksgiving weekend. Part of the folklore surrounding the show involves reminiscences of how good, bad or indifferent the weather has been at this outdoor show, not to mention how best to actually get the dogs there, who the best judges are, and so on. But nothing can deter the veteran Montgomery attendee, and nothing is more seductive for the novice terrier fancier or breeder.

Since the end of the pandemic, the show has been rebounding in terms of entries. This year it drew 1329 Terriers with a total entry of 1702 dogs in all 33 AKC recognized breeds (that now includes the American Hairless), but still not back to the 2000+ level of pre-pandemic times. Also different is the venue, which used to be the campus of Ambler University in Pennsylvania, but now it is Macungie Park in a small town of the same name outside Allentown. The site is just large enough to include 17 medium-sized rings, all of which are likely to be surrounded two or three spectators deep, starting at 8 am Sunday Oct. 8, with breed judging finished by 3 pm when the full group(s) – owner handled and Best of Breed winners compete for the coveted group placements, news of which will fly across the country.

This was my third time at Montgomery which makes me still a novice, and each time I've been an enthusiastic spectator. My partner, Guenther Krueger and I, arrived promptly at 8 am, just in time to grab the last ringside spot for the Scotties, who were shown in ring 16 at the far side of the grounds next to the Westies and Cairns. We had found a comfortable motel just 15 minutes away, where the owners generously provided us with two folding chairs for the day – solving a not inconsiderable obstacle when you're our age, have arrived by plane and plan to watch the show for 10 hours!

As it turned out, Scotties were the largest breed entry with 111 dogs, followed closely by Soft-Coated Wheaten at 103, Min. Schnauzers at 91, Cairns, Norwich and Kerry Blues at 83 each, 77 Smooths, with Westies, Airedales and even Glen of Imaals in the 60s. Many breeds also hold a Sweeps along with their National Specialty, and so the first amazing displays you notice are the ringside tables, some of which are shown here and on the next page with their elaborate trophies, ribbons and prizes. Needless to say, the grooming spots under the covered tents are highly prized, and surprisingly well managed, given the extensive showing experience of pretty much everyone there, not to mention just about every professional handler who you've ever heard about or seen in ads.

Cairn ring



Cairn ring







Westie ring



Wheaten ring



Welsh ring



Grooming tent



Scottie table



Scottie ribbons

As you can see from the photos, the fall weather was great, with direct sun in the morning, almost hot, and as the day wore on, it became cloudy and a bit cooler. Basically, perfect conditions for terriers. The judges are regarded as experts in their breed, and it is an incredible honour to be asked to judge, even a single breed. Given the amazing quality of the dogs being shown, and the skill level of both handlers and breeders, every decision has to be carefully considered, even though time usually only permitted a quick table exam, one up-and-back and one go round. In most breeds, the entries were sufficient to justify that both the Winner and the Reserve got a 5-point major.



Best of Breed judging presented a lot of practical problems in the more populated breeds, such as 42 Specials in Scotties, 28 in Cairns, 34 in Kerries, 25 in Schnauzers, 22 in Borders and so on. It was only feasible to have about a dozen dogs in the ring at any one time. So, in many breeds, the males came in first, and an initial cut was made. With Scotties, this meant the first half of the male Specials went through this process, followed by the second half, and then the first selection of all the male Specials came in and there was a second cut, with frequent sparring of groups of three. Not only did the judge have to remember a lot of dogs, and the Ring Steward needed to keep track of the various cuts, but the dogs and handlers had to be at their best for an extended period of time, with mounting tension at every cut. Then the same process occurred with the female Specials, and then the final selection of Best of Breed contenders came in for the grand finale, the results of which included the various Select and Award of Merit recipients. Those of us at ringside marveled at how the judge managed to make all these distinctions, but needless to say, the final winners were an amazing group of dogs!



Scottie Winners Dog



Scottie female judging



Scottie BOB ring



Scottie BOB winner



Westie BOB ring





As far as I know, the only BCATC member who was showing was Larisa Hotchin, a long-time Montgomery exhibitor, who revels in seeing the best dogs in her Welsh breed every year. She was showing a female Special, **Darwyn's Pretty In Pink**, in a very competitive breed line-up and received an Award of Merit! She was also showing two of her other top winners, **GCh. Darwyn's Notorious**, and **Ch. Darwyn's Trail Blazer**. It was wonderful to see a local breeder holding her own in international company at such a prestigious show.



The culmination of the Montgomery show is the Group judging, and this year's judge was the famous and highly respected judge, Bergit Coady-Kabel, who has been involved with Terriers for almost all of her life. The judging at 3pm began with the NOHS group – the National Owner Handler breed winners – plus the Junior Handler award for the day, then the Brace competition and finally, the Terrier Group. With 33 breeds present, the judging took about 2 hours.





Scottie Brace Group judging



Westie being judged in Group

After making her cut, Bergit awarded the Group to the Sealyham, GChG Goodspice Efbe Money Stache, bred by the legendary breeding team of Margery Good and France Bergeron (of Quebec), with Margery handling the dog in the ring – definitely a “lifetime achievement” award. Group 2<sup>nd</sup> went to the Kerry Blue, GChB Kilgawny Take My Man, Group 3<sup>rd</sup> to the Welsh, GChG. Abbeyrose Black Chrome, and Group 4<sup>th</sup> to the Min. Schnauzer, Ch. Cherry Field Super Fly, bred and owned by Hiromi Ueki of Japan, and sired by a Canadian “Minuteman” Schnauzer, handled by Catherine McMillan. Another Canadian winner in the NOHS group was Min. Schnauzer breeder Connie Krohn who also went Group 4<sup>th</sup>. One of the dogs making the cut was the Westie as shown above, which had a remarkably high tail set, something seldom seen in the ring here. Complete results at: <https://m.infodog.com/>

An additional event on the weekend that was a highlight for us, was the National Scottie Sweeps, held on Friday at the Bucks County Hilton Hotel along with the STCA Annual Banquet, AGM and Awards. The Sweeps judge was our long-time friend and co-breeder, Charlene Gann, of Gallica Scotties in Denver. Charlene’s female Special “Sorcha” was actually last year’s Montgomery Best of Breed winner, for which we were very proud, since we had provided her “foundation” female back in the 1990s, and since then Charlene has established an amazing record for Champions and winners.





# MONTGOMERY COUNTY TERRIER SHOW 2023

*by Larisa Hotchin, Darwyn Welsh*

Larisa Hotchin is very excited, and proud, of her Darwyn Welsh Terriers from the 2023 Montgomery County KC weekends results. She showed 2 Welsh Terrier girls, and both did wonderful and were recognized! These girls are both Canadian Champions, but still young girls, and were shown in the classes on the weekend. Molly just turned 2 years and Desi was not yet 18 months. Molly not only finished her American Championship the first day with a 5 point major with the Best of Winners Award, but she was awarded every day! Desi won her class the first 3 days and was 2<sup>nd</sup> in her class at the National.

New American **Ch. Darwyn's Pretty in Pink** (Molly) and Canadian **Ch. Darwyn's Destined** (Desi).

There were 47 Welsh Terriers entered, of which 27 were bitches. As usual, competition was steep and beautifully presented. Larisa's girl Molly was awarded Winners Bitch and Best of Winners for a 5 point major the first day. She then received an Award of Merit, Best Opposite Sex (!!!!) and at the Welsh Terrier Club of America National, she was Award of Merit (breeder-owner-handled!!!!)

Two of the judges were long time breeder-judges and the other two were long time terrier-breeder judges. Molly is Darwyn's 17<sup>th</sup> different Welsh Terrier to be awarded Winners (or higher) on Montgomery weekend!

Back in 2019, Molly's dam, Morgana (**Am GCh. & Can GCh. Darwyn's Morgana le Fay**) was WB for 3 of the days (for three 5 point majors!) on Montgomery weekend and RWB at the WTCA National! Molly's sire, Robbie (**Am Ch. & Can GCh. Darwyn's Trail Blazer**) was Winners Dog and Best of Winners (for a 5 point major) on Montgomery weekend, from the bred-by class!

The WTCA also provides annual awards to club members based on the previous years show results – Larisa's boy, Robbie, **Ch. Darwyn's Trail Blazer**, was awarded the famous Bill Etter Award for owner-handler of the year for their participation together in the AKC show ring.

This was Larisa's 23<sup>rd</sup> time attending the Montgomery County set of shows. The main purpose is to see the beautiful dogs and to continue her learning journey. However, the winning ribbons helped make the long trip home that much more enjoyable.



## IN MEMORIAM - Keeper

*MBISS MBIS BVIS AOM Can GChX Am GChB Benchmark's Winning Goal RN*

April 29, 2010 – April 14, 2023

*by Pearl Humenny, Benchmark Border Terriers*

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Once in a lifetime you breed a dog ... and from day 1 you recognize that he is something special. That is our Keeper. He was the first dog born from the Raven/Riley litter (Ch. Conundrum Royal Blue – Can/Am Ch. Roschel's Call Me Mister) on April 29, 2010. He was given the pink ribbon for identification and was called Mr. Pink. As is my practice, when the pups are almost 8 weeks old, I have an assessment party, with 4 or 5 very experienced terrier breeders whose combined years of experience in terriers is in excess of 200 years. We assess and photograph the puppies, both indoors and out ... and after the assessments are finished, we enjoy lunch and a glass of wine. For this litter, we had 2 assessment sessions because one of our invitees was disappointed that he could not attend the lunch, so he came for dinner .... but before dinner, he too, assessed the litter. I devised a form to simplify the process and to make sure that each person considers each dog in a uniform manner. The judges agreed that Mr. Pink and Miss Aqua were very fine specimens and definitely had show potential, but Mr. Pink had a special quality that they could not define. The other 2 pups were very nice, but it was agreed that they would go to pet homes. Miss Aqua, who soon became **Ch. Benchmark's First Lady** (call name Maggie) lives in Winnipeg, and was the dam of a very nice litter of 6 puppies which have wonderful homes from coast to coast.

Keeper embarked on his show career at 6 months of age, and was awarded Best of Winners, Best of Opposite and Best Puppy in Group at the Lower Mainland Show in Abbotsford, BC. He earned his Canadian Kennel Club (CKC) Championship before he was a year old in 2011 and his American Kennel Club (AKC) Championship before he was two. He went on to earn both CKC and AKC Grand Championships.



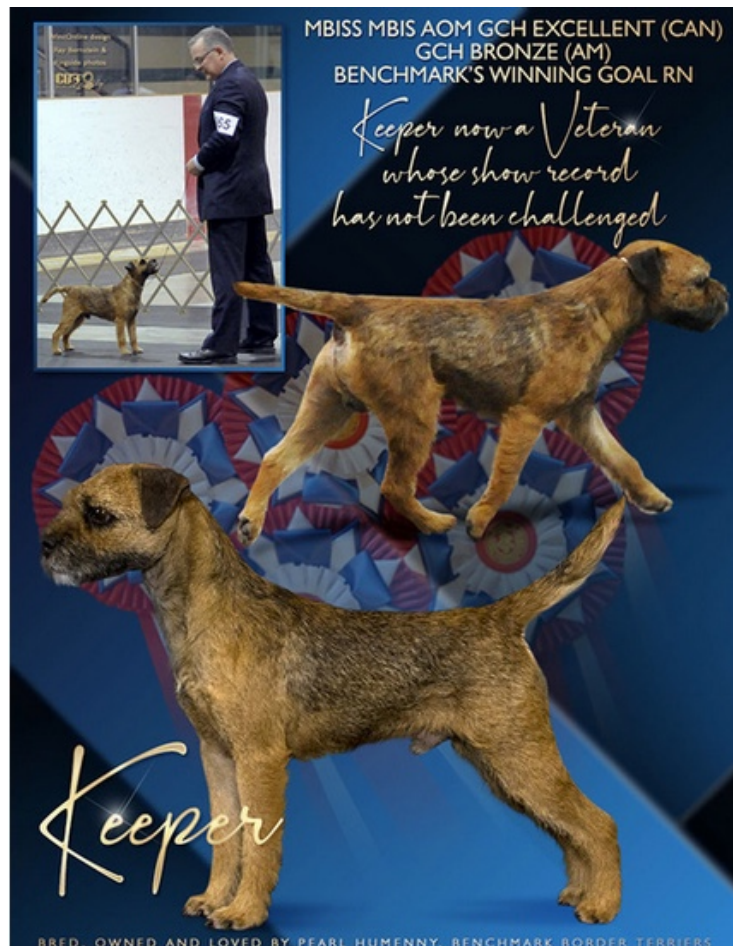


Keeper was ranked #1 Border Terrier in Canada for 2013, 2014 and 2015. In 2015, he was the #2 Terrier in Canada and #1 Terrier in Manitoba; and he won the Border Terrier Canada National Specialty and the Red River Terrier Specialty. Until about 2 years ago, he held the Canadian record for the most Best In Show Awards for a Border Terrier. He has 6 ... he received 2 in 2013 and 4 in 2015. [Editor's note: Keeper was the BCATC Top Terrier in 2015.]

During his show career, Keeper was also shown at the big shows in the United States, such as the AKC Eukanuba Nationals (and preceding cluster of shows) in Orlando, FL; Hatboro, Devon and Morris & Essex shows which preceded Montgomery (the all terrier specialty) in Pennsylvania; and at the Westminster Kennel Club Show in New York. He did not come home empty-handed, as he won Winners Dog and Best of Winners, or Best of Breed, or Best of Opposite, or Select Dog or an Award of Merit at many of these shows, often to be beaten only by the top Border Terrier in the USA. For the most part, these were very large shows and to place anywhere in the ribbons was an honour.

Keeper was initially handled very successfully by Cindy Kowalchuk-Corrigan, and later went on to be shown to his potential by Will Alexander, in order to get exposure in eastern Canada, and in more US shows. Keeper officially retired at the end of 2015, but came out successfully for a month of shows in August 2016. He also was trained in Rally. His first attempt at Rally was a disaster because Conformation was happening in the next ring and he thought he belonged in that other ring. Conformation show dogs do not sit, so he refused to properly execute the exercises. He would NOT sit! So it was back for more training!

Keeper was a very loving dog who got along with the pack. We are very proud to have bred this fine dog and devastated to have had to say goodbye to him on April 14, 2023.



# BCATC MEMBER NEWS

Send your news and photos to Terrier Times at: [truax@sfu.ca](mailto:truax@sfu.ca)

## SHOW WINS

Diana Cleghorn reports that her Westie, **Ch. Cleghorn's I'm Here To Party** ("Callum") finished his Canadian Championship at the Nicola Valley shows last July.



Ilean Danby reports: More good times at Iz Cairns and Westies! At Mount Cheam in September, Cairn Terrier **GCh. Iz's Spring Fling** (Jazz) took Group 2<sup>nd</sup> under judges Luis Ribas Silva and Dr. Vania Haga, and a Group 4<sup>th</sup> under Glen Stark. Our Westie, **GCh. Iz's Locked And Loaded** (Gunner) took a Group 3<sup>rd</sup> under Dr. Vania Haga, and a Best of Opposite Sex in the White Highland White Terrier Club of Western Canada Specialty Show. He also took BOS on both of the other Mt Cheam days over an impressive number of Westies! Gunner is co-owned with my daughter and granddaughter, Amanda and Taryn Froland.





We then took a trip down to Kennewick, Washington to the Walla Walla and Richland dog shows where Jazz took two Group 2<sup>nd</sup> placements under Dr. Karen Ericson and Ms. Pamela B Peat – earning her first 6 points (including one 4 pt major) toward her AKC title.



Janis Trotzuk (Trotters Scotties) reports: The past few summer months were a mixture of weather, with little to no rain, unusual temperatures, and everyone wanting to see a change. This fall has brought back somewhat normal weather for us, which has the dog shows venturing back into the usual indoor arenas.

Our Scottie entries have been very low, but the dogs that have been out and about have made their presence known in the show ring. From the Trotters household, **CanGCh. AmCh. IABC Ch. Pendor Rendezvous At Trotters** (Ronnie) came out determined to make herself known. The first of September, at the Skaha shows, Ronnie took a Group 3<sup>rd</sup> win, then continued with her winning ways at the following Lower Mainland Dog Shows, with Best of Breed wins, which led her to a Group 1<sup>st</sup> placement, then a Reserve Best In Show, awarded by judge Kathleen Hardwick. Judge Mark Houston-McMillan awarded Ronnie a Group 4<sup>th</sup> win, the following day. Ronnie loved to “WALK THE WALK”, in the other autumn dog shows, placing along with her half-sister **Ch. Trotters Butterscotch Miss** (Cindy). To top off the month, the following weekend at the Mt. Cheam shows, Ronnie placed with a Group 4<sup>th</sup> (judge Luis Silva) and Best Of Breed wins.

**Ch. Trotters Hold My Beer** (Keg) joined **GChB. Trotters Shadee Lady** (Pearl) on a road trip to the Whidbey Island shows in Monroe, Washington, working towards completing their American titles. With an entry of 10, the pair walked away with majors. Keg earned a 5 point major, while Pearl earned a 4 and a 3 point major. Great work for such young dogs, Keg being a year and half, and Pearl, just 2 years of age and the only class female.

Meanwhile in checking how Trotters Scotties are doing, three Trotters Scotties are ranked in the top 20 in Scotties in Canada...

- #4—GCh. AmCh. Pendor Rendezvous At Trotters
- #10— Ch. Trotters Butterscotch Miss
- #11—Ch. Trotters Hold My Beer

Everyone is now back home and relaxing, before finishing off the year with a few remaining dog shows. But for Keg who came home to participate in a number of performance activities in which he EXCELLED. Very proud of his show ring, along with his accomplishments in the field.

**RBIS CAN GCH & AM CH PENDOR RENDEZVOUS AT TROTTERS**

*Ronnie*

**One of Canada's  
TOP  
Scottish Terriers**

**LAST WEEKEND**

**RESERVE BEST IN SHOW**  
Kathleen Hardwick

**GROUP FIRST**  
Kathleen Hardwick  
Brian Reid

**GROUP FOURTH**  
Mark Houston-McMillan

Our sincere thanks to the  
judges last weekend

Screenshot

**NEW TITLE**  
**RALLY NOVICE**  
CUMMISBELL OBEEDIENCE CLUB  
OCTOBER 2023  
@DogShots



Barry Truax reports that his female Scottie “Sassy” (**Glenfraser’s Skye Rose**) finished her Canadian Championship in style at the Mt. Cheam shows in September, handled by her dad, Rod Wiebe. She did it in style, taking Best of Breed over a Top Specials under Brazilian judge Dr. Vania Haga.



At the same show weekend, Barry was thrilled to judge Sweeps at the Regional West Highland White Terrier Specialty. His Puppy winner was a junior puppy, Seawest Maximilian Westwood, owned by bred by Katherine Kovalchik, and co-owned by Spencer Trerice and Warren Cotton.



Travis Sapala (recently elected as the Club’s new Treasurer) and his partner, Rebecca, report: Our Skye boy, **GCh. Kometa Rossi Kovid**, completed his Grand Champion title in August, and took home Best of Breed the two days we attended the Winter Classic over the weekend.



Sara McDonald reports: Rustik Stafford's youngster Mint (**GCh. Rustik's It's Only Money Honey with Qwik n Thik**) had a wonderful year in the confirmation ring! Not always an easy feat for Staffordshire Bull Terrier on the West Coast with such a fierce group of terriers. Her first show at the end of February started the points off and in just 4 months earned her Championship and by mid September she finished her Grand Championship.

With the last show of the year, she is near half way to her Grand Champion Bronze. She also went state side where she picked up 6 points to her AKC championship. In August I took her down to the Stafford Regional Specialty in Graham WA, where she won Best in Sweeps and her 12-18 month class handled by myself. She will be back at scent work in the new year. I hope to start competing with her and I hope she follows in her mother's footsteps! I am so proud of all of my dogs and their accomplishments, but Mint is my first bred by and I am very blessed to have such a great girl in my program.



James Kidner (Pendor Scotties) reports that **Pendor Solo Obsession** gained her Canadian Championship this summer and **Ch. Pendor Rendezvous At Trotters** her American and is #4 Scottie in Canada for 2023.





Florence Yunik reports: Our newest Champion **Vegasdreams Park Avenue View** with limited showing. Miss Parker is sired by my male **GCh. Rocglen Money Talks At Bushaway** by Ch. Vegasdreams Classic Manhattan. Thank you to the judges recognizing Parker's qualities. Always showing Parker to perfection is Debbie Cornell-Charneski.



Larisa Hotchin (Darwyn Welsh) reports: A couple of weeks ago I went to Monroe WA (Whidbey Island shows) and took Robbie to get the last couple of wins he needed for his AKC Grand Championship title ... he got that (the AKC Grand Ch. title) plus a whole lot more!!!

In the 3 days, he got 2 regular group placements – a Group 2<sup>nd</sup> and a group 3<sup>rd</sup> (with about 100 terriers entered!). And in the two Owner Handled groups he got 2 placements, one being a 1<sup>st</sup>! Robbie is **Am GCh. & Can GCh. Darwyn's Trail Blazer**. He is Tori and Chloe's sire, and also the sire of Molly, my girl that I showed at Montgomery!



Kayla Werezak (Korvosa Staffords) reports: **GCh. RCh. Hillside Hound of Baskervilles CGN TDGCH RATN THD CD SDN VG** (Watson) recently earned his Scent Detection Novice title and with that, has become the first Stafford to earn the Versatility Gold title.

**GCh. Distaff Dazzling Display CGN TDCH SDI RE VB** (Weiss) earned her Scent Detection Instinct title early November, and a few weeks later earned her Rally Excellent title at the NKC rally trial with 3 perfect scores and a 99. This past weekend she went to the Winter Classic and earned 7 points, where she obtained her Grand Champion title. With these new titles she now has the Versatility Bronze title.



Heather Tomlins (Amblegreen Norwich) reports: At the final show for Ollie this year, he picked up a lovely Group 1<sup>st</sup> under Judge Dawne Deeley. **BIS RBIS MBPIS GrChS Amblegreen Den-Mar's All In** ended the year as Number 1 Norwich with 675 points according to Canuck Dogs.

Our girl Sidney, **BPIS MBPIG Can Ch Amblegreen Sidney By the Sea**, ends the year in Canada as Number 1 Norwich puppy with 110 points. Sidney also attended her first US show in Yuma Arizona and picked up 8 points including a major by taking Breed over Specials from the Puppy Class! She went BOS/BOW the next two days and also Group 4<sup>th</sup> in the Owner Handled Group.





# IMHA and Immune Mediated Diseases in Dogs

MIMICKER'S DREAMING JACKPOTS, aka JACKIE, My hero, my warrior

by Sandi Malcolm, Mimicker Min. Schnauzers

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IMHA is a very scary, very serious, and very expensive disease. Once it is here you spend every moment, every day worrying and checking about everything. Your life changes and so does theirs. Jackpot is so tired of me pushing back her lips to check for the color of her gums, but she is wonderful and tolerates me every time because I cannot rest until I check them. Are they nice and pink?? or are they paler than the last time?

I wanted to share this with you because in many cases the difference between survival and death can be just a few days. Recognizing the symptoms quickly and early and acting on them can save your dog's life. I have a schnauzer friend in the states that had her girl Rainy get this disease 10 years ago. When she was talking to me about it, she told me about the Facebook page so I joined to learn. Every time I read a sad story, or got exhausted just listening to someone tell what they had been through I said to myself, "boy I hope I never ever need this Facebook page." But, the knowledge I gained on there was what gave me the wisdom to alert to what was going on in Jackpot and get her to the vet immediately. My girl Jackpot, is one of its members and this is a description of the disease and her journey through it – so far.

When you join this family of IMHA dogs, you quickly learn that it affects all kinds of dogs, big, small, young, old, cross breeds and purebreds – it shows no mercy to any dog and on the Facebook page they are called "Warriors" and that is exactly what they are. Synonyms for warrior are: champion, fighter, hero, soldier, battler, and combatant, warriors, and Jackpot.

Immune Mediated Hemolytic Anemia (IMHA) is a little known but common autoimmune disease that affects all breeds of dogs and can be fatal. The disease occurs when the body suddenly identifies red blood cells as intruders. The Immune system attacks the red blood cells and destroys them – treating them as if they were a virus or bacteria. The disease can strike suddenly, with many dogs having noticeable symptoms for only a day or two. Dogs with IMHA are also at high risk for forming blood clots. This risk, combined with low red blood cell numbers, can result in organ failure and death. In addition to low red blood cell counts, signs of IMHA include:

- Pale gums, Panting or laboured breathing, Yellow gums or whites of the eyes
- Sudden collapse or fatigue, Anorexia

Since the signs come on so suddenly, most owners should quickly recognize that something is really wrong and seek vet care immediately.

IMHA can happen in any breed and mixed breed dogs, although some dogs seem to have a higher predisposition to the disease. These include Labrador Retrievers, Collies, Miniature Schnauzers, Beagles, Cocker Spaniels, Poodles, Maltese, Shih Tzu, Bicon's Old English Sheepdogs, Dachshunds, English Springer Spaniels and Jack Russell Terriers.

IMHA typically affects middle-aged to older dogs, although it can affect young dogs too. Once diagnosed, treatment is focused on stopping the immune system from destroying red blood cells. Steroids are usually the first line of treatment. IMHA in dogs can be classed either as primary (idiopathic) or secondary to another condition or disease. My Jackpot is on a compounded version of prednisone called prednisolone. Many dogs require blood transfusions to try to raise their red blood cell counts temporarily until medications can kick in to calm the immune system. Because of the dangers of blood clotting associated with IMHA, blood thinners may also be used as part of the treatment.

Jackpot is on Prednisolone, Mycophenolate, Omeprazole (which lowers her stomach acid to prevent ulcers but it can also prevent her other meds from being absorbed so it is given away from other meds), Clopidogrel, Benazepril, Cerenia, Clavaseptin, Baytril, Sulcrate Suspension, RhinAllergy, Optimune Eye Ointment, Eye drops, and 5 difference holistic blood meds. All have specific times to administer, some are away from food some are with food, some cannot be given around other meds, some are before or after

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foods, and one – the mycophenolate is a cancer drug that I cannot handle without gloves. When you have a IMHA dog you quickly learn how to make up a med excel spread sheet.

Unfortunately, IMHA has a high death rate even in dogs that received early treatment, with 50% to 70% of dogs dying of the disease in the first few weeks after diagnosis. In addition, there are reports that as many as 20% of dogs that recover from IMHA relapse within the first year. There are different categories in this realm of disease: Immune Mediated Haemolytic Anemia (IMHA); Non-Regenerative Immune Mediated Anemia (NRIMA or NRIIMHA); Precursor Targeted Immune Mediated Anemia (PIMA); Pure Red Cell Aplasia (PRCA)

Back to Jackpot. For my girl, getting home after a long vacation in the hot climate of Alberta, she just wasn't herself. Her habits and way of life changed, it was obvious something was wrong. So after 3 days, I checked her out more thoroughly and one look at those very very pale gums had me running for the phone. Vet appointment booked on an emergency status and we are there the next day.

Basic bloodwork, full exam, my vet who is familiar with this disease said that is what she thought my girl had but we had to wait for the blood results to come back. They were not good, in fact very bad. Very low RBC, with other abnormalities in the results. Put on prednisone and a couple of blood builders. Back up in two days for more of the same. Results were slightly up but not significantly. In the meantime, she is getting more and more lethargic and had no appetite. Another two days and back up, RBC so low my vet announced she was going to need a blood transfusion. She was flat, and when I say that, when picked up she just draped over my arm. Terrifying and that swift progression happened all in one morning. An immediate transfusion was required.

Leaving my vet's office, she told me to head for home and prepare to go to Victoria immediately to the Central Victoria Veterinary Clinic once she was able to organize the transfusion for her. I only got to Parksville and the phone call came in to keep driving to Victoria. When I arrived in Victoria, they were prepared for her, walking out with a gurney to take her as she was so limp in my arms, I felt she was gone. The tech took her from my arms leaving me crying in the parking lot, and started running into the clinic waving at me just saying to go to the waiting room which I did. She was into the system immediately, one transfusion later, and an overnight stay, a huge vet bill, but the best care I could ever hope for, a myriad of different drugs, and we were off home to begin the fight. She was prescribed mycophenolate so it was added to her list of drugs. It is another immune suppressant and a cancer drug. It has to be compounded in Victoria and is the drug that cannot be handled.

My girl has not disappointed me. She has fought the whole way from then (September 2022) to now. My warrior has worked so very hard to survive and have a good quality of life. She continues to battle every day; some days are better than others and some are not good at all. This is not a short disease; one has to be in it for the long haul and you must be attentive to everything every day. We were having expensive blood work done every week for a couple of months, then every two weeks and now are at every 3 weeks but once in awhile something creeps in that scares the crap out of me and we have to step up the testing again. We have to be so diligent and watch our dogs like a hawk for signs that things are changing. And sadly after months of hard work, relapses are normal. Medications are checked and "tweaked" all the time. It is necessary to be fluid and the ability to make changes is huge.

They have to be monitored and protected every day because they have NO immune system, that is the idea. You cannot put them on medications to build them up because you are breaking down the immune system so it does not destroy itself. IMHA is terrible, awful, horrible, all of those things. And in my case with my girl Jackpot it has been a long long time with some great advances and then some back slides. I never take her progress for granted. I continue to carry her up and down any stairs and monitor very closely any physical activity she gets. She knows I am trying to help her and she will still snuggle with me at night and loves me even when I have spent all day pushing pills at her. It is almost a year since onset and things are more settled and easier. The routine gets ingrained and you don't even have to think about it. But I never – ever – take anything for granted. She turns 13 in a short while, we will have a big celebration for my warrior.





# Terrier Times

Newsletter of the B.C. All Terrier Club



DECEMBER 2023

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## 2024 Club Executive

**President:** Debbie Miyashita (250-804-2928)

**Vice-President:** Barry Truax (604-299-1856)

**Treasurer:** Travis Sapala (250-889-2615)

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**Directors:** Janis Trozduk, Heather Tomlins, Cheryle Goodfellow (Membership), Kayla Werezak

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**To Renew Your Club membership: Send your fee (\$10. Junior; \$20. Single; \$30. Household) to:**

Cheryle Goodfellow, 975 Munro Street, Kamloops, B.C. V2C 3G2



*These Scotties wish you a Happy Holiday!*

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