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The Border Times

THE NORTHEAST BORDER TERRIER CLUB NEWSLETTER

Does the BT Really Have An Otter Head?

Dave McIntyre, in an article on judging called "Testing Judges" in *Dogs In Canada* (November 1987), makes the following observations about the Border's "otter head": "[Some] of our breed standards would confuse our current and respected judges. . . . Either you know the breed or make a fool of yourself using the breed standard. The [Canadian] Border Terrier standard, under head, states: 'Similar to that of an otter coming from a gamekeeper's background.' I have seen many otters trapped and I can tell you no Border Terrier has a head like an otter. Ear shape and placement, eye size and shape, ratio skull to muzzle, cheek structure, nose placement and shape of the mouth. No otter I have ever seen had a head similar to the Border. Have you ever seen a Border with a 'puffy upper lip'?"

SPRINGFIELD '87

The Saturday (So. Windsor K.C.) and Sunday (Springfield K.C.) shows at Springfield in November attracted record entries in Borders—over twenty were present on both days. Saturday's big winners, who finished this day under new Border judge Ruth Cooper, were Jollymuff Poor Ellen Smith, Winners Bitch and Best of Breed, and Jollymuff Davy, Winners Dog and Best of Opposite Sex. Handler William Clyde and one of his assistants managed both dogs to the win for AKC judge and BT breeder-owner Diane Jones.

Sunday's big winner, under Walter Goodman, another judge new to Borders, was Ketka's Carlisle, owned and handled by Diane Wilhelm, who went Winners Bitch and Best of Breed, with Jollymuff Davy, again handled by Mr. Clyde, going Best of Opposite Sex.

EDITOR'S CORNER

The Springfield weekend was a good time for Northeast Border folks, who turned out in force for these NBTC-supported shows. A striking number of imports and a number of superior US-bred Borders made for a notably attractive and interesting BT competition. Among the imports, Norman Baker and Gerry Arnold were up from New Jersey with Andy (Ch. Thamesdale Classic), Al and Lois Langish were there with Sam (Thoraldby's Uncle Sam), Camilla Moon had her Fergie there (Cheltinor Mischief of Brumberhill), Hazel Wichman had Ace on hand, and British Border judge Ronnie Irving exhibited the newly arrived Dandybow Brass Tacks. In the Bred By Exhibitor classes, Bob and Ruth Ann Naun's Oldstone Ragtime and Oldstone Pennymuir, Jean Clark's Stonecroft Crack Shot, and my own Cymri Hill's Clover Mint strutted their stuff for their owner-breeder-handlers. I wish I'd had a video camera—the many fine Borders on exhibit both in the classes and in the Specials ring were wonderful illustrations of fine BT's of various types. . . . On Saturday, in a festive, holiday mood, many BT folks went to lunch nearby, and in the evening convened for fun at the motel where many were staying. NBTC president Jean Clark and Secretary Tina Dow, with the help of the Nauns, organized an informal party, with goodies and, from Jean, a Christmas bone for each of the Borders.

EDITOR'S CORNER, continued.

Borders are getting into the public eye these days. On the positive side, a Border Terrier is featured in the currently released movie *My Life as a Dog*, and Hazel Wichmar's obedience-trained Sandy is featured in *Running On Emory*, a soon-to-be-released movie directed by Sidney Lumet. On the dark side, a Border Terrier was featured in a pet-shop window at a mall in Delaware, NBTC member Mark Peasrell reports, and the nightmare possibility that Borders have fallen into the hands of puppy mills looms. . .

One of the BT judges was asked a question about Borders by a spectator during the Springfield weekend. "Don't know anything about them, really," was the reply. Now there's a remark to make one's eye, loser and winner both!

There are some new Border puppies around, and I'm sure there are more to come as the breeding season blooms. Do let me know, so I can spread the word in the next *Border Times*.

FEEDING YOUR BORDER

Feeding your Border right is not always as simple as it sounds. Those of us with multiple BT's notice quickly that all Borders are not alike in their nutrition needs, and even that the needs of an individual Border can change in a relatively brief period of time (a season) without the push of any change in the dog's routine as well as when he is put under different living conditions. Then there's the complication that a new dog food seems to show up every few months or so, promising "even greater results", or reflecting the latest food fad. Right now, for instance, there's a lot of chat about calcium in dog food ads as well as in ads for human toothpaste and breakfast food. No doubt, more calcium is the long-sought magic solution to (choose one or all) aging, listlessness, dry skin/hair, heart problems, arthritis, or overweight. That's why I talked to NBTC Vice-President Nancy Hirschick about food. Nancy's an expert on the subject, in my opinion. Most of what you read here is based on what she said.

Anyway--with all the variables, developing a sound feeding program for Borders takes specific and continuing observation of each Border, and recognition of a few basic truths. (The nice part of this is that the Borders tell you, if you watch for the signs, when they're having problems with their food -- not just by getting fat, but by showing food imbalance/allergy problems).

The first basic truth is that many Borders are overfed rather than underfed, in part because the feeding quantity recommendations of dog food manufacturers are far too high for our breed at least. What's more, Nancy noted, the nutrition information on the bag is insufficient. Many people do not realize that the nutrient percentage printed on the dog food bag does not reflect the usable nutrient percentage in the dog food. "% protein", for instance, could mean the percentage of ground-up hoofs and feathers as well as organ or muscle meat. It's also hard to keep steadily in mind just how many calories those little, cute, much-loved dog biscuits contain, especially when your favorite Border hints that he could sure use one.

Another basic truth everybody seems to agree on is that the fancy semi-moist dog foods which look so much like soft-wax versions of people food contain a lot of sugar and color dyes (such as the well-known red dye #2), ingredients which are no more nutritious for dogs than for their owners. Dogs like the sweet-tasting stuff, of course, though fortunately for them they can't buy the packages.

There are widespread theories as well as demonstrable truths around. For instance, some breeders feel that soy meal and corn meal lack an amino acid needed by dogs. They avoid dog foods in which corn or soy meal is the basic ingredient, preferring instead to use a dry dog food with a wheat or rice base.

In Nancy's view, all of the major dry dog foods are fine:

"I think most of the major commercial dry dog foods --Gaires, Iams, Hill's, Kennel Biscuit, Purina, et cetera --are good, sound well-researched basic foods, and people would be well advised to choose and stick to the one that their Border likes and which does not induce any allergy or food imbalance reactions. These foods are certainly better than dogs in the wild would eat. Personally, I avoid dog foods using colored dyes--and remember, even brown dog foods are dyed-- because of course these dyes are known carcinogens. I don't know whether they contribute to hyperactivity, but who needs dyed food, anyhow?

"I think the biggest scam in the dog food world is the protein percentage. The bag of dog food will say that the food's protein percentage is, say, 26%, but what you really need to know is how much usable protein the food contains. That figure is available only on request from manufacturers, and people ought to write for it or ask their dog food dealers to find out the information for them. The usable protein percentage is likely to boil down to maybe 14%, which is okay for the dog's needs.

"I don't believe in supplementary vitamins, because most major companies have provided a balanced supply, and supplementation could wreck the balance already established and create problems for the dog.

"Many people don't recognize allergy and imbalance symptoms, or they diagnose the symptoms as a parasite problem when often diet is at fault. For instance, one of the most immediate symptoms of a food imbalance is runny or puffy eyes or any sort of swelling of the head. Then there are coat symptoms--itches, bumps, and rashes which turn into hot spots when the dog chews at the offending places. Another food imbalance symptom is an oily coat--almost like a seborrhea-- or its opposite, flaky skin and coat. Both the flakiness and the oiliness are most often due to too much oil in the diet.

"What I do is use a good basic dry dog food with a reasonable usable protein percentage. Occasionally I supplement it with raw veggies such as grated carrots or cabbage, and raw organ meats--the dog in the wild chooses organ meat rather than muscle meat. For treats, I use carrot sticks or unbuttered popcorn, which is only 70 calories for an unpopped cupful. That makes up into an awful lot of popcorn! I use chopped raw carrots and popcorn as fillers for a dog on a diet, too.

"Incidentally, Rosemary Williamson, the New Zealand Border breeder, and I share a favorite theory about feeding puppies from four weeks until 18 months of age. It's still only a theory, but I think it's true that the way most people feed puppies and immature dogs is responsible for barrel ribs, bad elbows, and even poor hindquarters in dogs who are not genetically disposed to them. The usual way to feed young puppies from the time they're first weaned until they go to their new owners is to feed them as a group. Since most puppies will eat until they can't hold any more--until they can hardly stand up, in fact--at least the more competitive puppies eat far more than their stomachs will hold without stretching. These huge food portions distort their stomachs, which stretches their rib cages, which also forces the shoulders to stretch and the elbows to go out if the puppy is to balance itself. Even the puppy's rear assembly has to adapt. With bone so elastic when puppies are young, I think the bone structure adapts permanently because of the feeding style. That's why I feed my puppies individually right from the first in portions proportional to the size of their stomachs.

"All in all, I would say that feeding a Border right is a matter of choosing any one of the several good dry dog foods, that is, one which has a reasonable rather than a too-high usable protein percentage, one which does not produce food imbalances or allergies in your particular Border, and then occasionally adding raw organ meats and some chopped or grated veggies to it. And I'd keep treats to popcorn or carrot."

Hm-m-m. Now where did I put that compopper I got for Christmas?

--Kate Murphy, with major help from Nancy Hiscock

Dana Gilbert, who hopes soon to have a show Border, sent along a profile of Brian Plummer in the February 15, 1988 *New Yorker*. *Writer R.C. Smith* quotes Plummer (in "Tales of a Rat-Hunting Man") as follows about the Border Terrier: "I think it is a mistake for a would-be rat-hunter to buy a Border Terrier as a first dog. Most books tell you a terrier is ready for rat about six months of age. Lies--a lot of terriers will kill rats at six months, some much sooner, but Border Terriers, well, they are something different. At six months of age, a Border Terrier is very much a puppy. At a year old, many still display decidedly puerile behavior, and then quite suddenly, when you are beginning to wonder if your puppy is really a 'plant' put there by the Anti-blood-sports League, it will flash into life and start to work like a demon. Just as you are about to wonder whether you would not get more sport from a croquet set, your terrier has become a raging terror. . . . Borders were not originally bred for the sport of rat-hunting. Few terriers were. They were created to flush out hill foxes along the borders of England and Scotland. I say flush, but if the fox refused to bolt, then they had to set to and kill him--quite a task for a dog only half the height and weight of a reasonably sized fox. A cowardly dog was certainly not what was wanted. Neither was an aggressive dog required, however, for the hunt terriers of these border packs were kennelled with hounds, so an explosive outburst from a terrier against several sixty-pound hounds meant a very dead terrier. Docility and courage seem to be strangely opposite qualities for a dog to possess, but somehow they seemed to merge in the Border Terrier. It is this bred-in docility that makes him slow to enter to quarry".

With so many new Border pups arrived or arriving, I thought a "plain vanilla" five generation pedigree form which fits on an 8 1/2" x 11" page might be useful for those folks who enjoy knowing a lot about their BT but who, like me, hate odd-size stuff in the file drawer or pup folder. You'll find the form reproduced in this issue, ready for xeroxing into multiple copies. If anybody has a better one, it would be good to have a blank to reproduce for the use of NBTFC folks.

Don't forget our big annual meeting at the So. Windham show this year. There's lots of NBTFC business to discuss, Jean Clark tells me, including elections. More on this meeting in a soon-to-follow issue.

CLIPPING YOUR BORDER TERRIER

by NANCY HISCOCK RED EFT

I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE THINKING. NOT NANCY, SHE WOULDN'T CLIP A BORDER TERRIER. WELL, I DID AND I DIDN'T.

ONE OF THE CRUCIAL GROOMING SEASONS OF THE YEAR HERE IS LATE OCTOBER. NO, IT ISN'T THAT THE DOGS HAVE TO BE IN COAT FOR WESTMINSTER, THE SPECIALTY, OR MONTGOMERY COUNTY. THE BORDERS HAVE TO BE IN COAT FOR CHRISTMAS PHOTOGRAPHS AND THE WINTER CROSS-COUNTRY SKI SEASON. WE DO HAVE OUR PRIORITIES.

SO, AS OCTOBER WAS SLIPPING PAST ME I STARTED THE JOB. THE PUPPIES AND YOUNGER DOGS WERE ALREADY IN FINE SHAPE. THE QUESTION WAS, HOW TO TACKLE STRIDER AND NARSIL. THEY WERE IN FINE SHAPE ALSO - THICK, HARD, FULL COATS. BEAUTIFUL PRIME PELTS, BUT THEY HAD TO GO. IN A FEW MONTHS THEY'D LOOK LIKE WOOLLY MAMMOTHS. SO, EVERY NIGHT I'D DO A LITTLE WORK ON THEM. THE HEAD AND EARS WENT QUICKLY, THE TAIL TAKES FOREVER, THE LEGS WERE EASY, AND AFTER INNUMERABLE HOURS THE BODY COAT WAS STRIPPED DOWN TO A NICE THICK UNDERCOAT. NEXT, THE NECK, FRONT, AND REAR.

SEVERAL WEEKS WENT BY. IT WASN'T THAT I DIDN'T HAVE THE TIME, IT WAS MORE THAT I DIDN'T WANT TO DO IT. I FOUND MANY OTHER CHORES AROUND THE HOUSE TO DO INSTEAD - EVEN DUSTING AND WINDOWS. FINALLY, I ADMITTED TO MYSELF THAT I WAS AVOIDING THE SITUATION. THOSE ARE THE TOUGH AREAS TO GROOM ON A BORDER - THEY DON'T LIKE IT, AND I DON'T LIKE IT.

SO-----

I GOT OUT MY OSTER A-5 GOLDEN CLIPPERS WITH A #10 BLADE. I PUT STRIDER UP ON THE GROOMING TABLE. ACTUALLY, YOU DON'T PUT STRIDER ANYWHERE - HE

JUMPED UP BY HIMSELF. MY ORIGINAL INTENTION WAS TO TRY JUST A SMALL TEST PATCH BENEATH THE TAIL..FIVE MINUTES LATER ALL WAS DONE. I HAD EVEN ARTFULLY BLENDED AND SCULPTED THE NECK HAIR INTO THE TOP COAT. IT WAS BEAUTIFUL! NARSIL WAS UP AND DONE BEFORE I KNEW IT. BEAUTIFUL AGAIN!

NOW, I GRANT YOU THAT IT LOOKED CLIPPED INSTEAD OF STRIPPED FOR THE FIRST FEW DAYS. BUT AFTER A WEEK OR TWO, NO ONE HERE IN PORTER CORNERS WAS GOING TO KNOW THE DIFFERENCE. THE DOGS THOUGHT IT WAS WONDERFUL. AT THE AGES OF 10 AND 8 YEARS OLD, THEY JUST DIDN'T NEED THOSE EXTRA HOURS OF HAIR PULLING. AND YET, THEY TOO WANTED TO LOOK HANDSOME IN THEIR NEW JACKETS FOR THE CHRISTMAS VISITORS WITH THEIR BOTTOMLESS BAGS OF DOG BISCUITS.

NO, I'M NOT ASHAMED OF HAVING DONE IT. I WOULD CERTAINLY NEVER ADVOCATE CLIPPING ANY OTHER PART OF THE COAT. BUT, FELLOW BORDER TERRIER LOVERS, GIVE THOSE OLD GUYS A BREAK. DON'T LEAVE THEM ALL BUSHY AND SHAGGY. STRIP THEM OUT SOME EVENING, AND WHEN YOU GET DOWN TO THE TOUGH PARTS, DO WHAT I DID, CLIP! YOUR DOGS WILL LOVE YOU FOR IT.

A new-season Resolution for BT exhibitors:

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU, BUT I DON'T WANT TO GET DOWN ON THE GROUND AT A DOG SHOW. IT'S DIRTY, UNCOMFORTABLE, AND AWKWARD. I MUCH PREFER STANDING AROUND WAITING MY TURN TRYING TO LOOK TERRIER -CHIC. OCCASIONALLY TOSSING FAVORITE GOODIES TO MY CANINE COMPANION.

BELIEVE ME, IT IS MUCH EASIER TO CONVINCING YOUR BORDER TO STAND AROUND LOOKING ALERT AND WAGGING HIS TAIL THAN IT IS TO PROP UP HEAD AND TAIL AND REQUIRE AN ABSOLUTE STATUESQUE POSTURE. BESIDES WHICH, WHO WANTS THEIR BORDER TERRIER TO LOOK LIKE A STATUE. THEY NEVER LOOK THAT WAY AROUND THE HOUSE OR OUT IN THE WOODS WHEN THEY'RE HUNTING.

YOU'VE GOT ALL WINTER TO TEACH YOUR BORDERS TO FREE BAIT. IT TAKES ABOUT FIVE SECONDS A DAY. JUST CALL THEM INTO THE KITCHEN. GET OUT THEIR FAVORITE TREAT, AND PRACTICE. ENCOURAGE THEM VOCALLY TO LOOK SHARP! EVERYTIME THE EARS ARE ALERT AND THE TAIL STARTS TO WAG, AND ALL THE FEET ARE SQUARE-----REWARD THEM! WITH FOOD, WITH PRAISE, OR WITH THEIR FAVORITE TOY. IT WON'T TAKE LONG - THEY'RE VERY SMART AND QUICK TO LEARN..BEFORE YOU KNOW IT, YOU TOO CAN STAND IN THE RING AT THE DOG SHOW. NO MORE DIRTY KNEES, TORN PANTHOSE, OR RIPPED CUFFS AND HEMS. YOUR BORDER WILL LIKE IT A LOT BETTER TOO!

ACROSS

- 1. dear Turner, beloved by cast; dog breed group in U.S., Canada, & UK
- 6. a formally agreed-on, usually unpaid absence from one's work/ labor
- 9. obvious (as opposed to hidden) acts
- 10. imaginative mystic, e.g., Stevie Nicks, Pam Dyer (America)
- 11. first syllable of name of well-known Gloucester BT stud & his get, as --rug, --muffin, --time
- 12. term for action of BT judge who dumps your dog
- 13. golf club, or (preceded by back seat) term for bossy passenger
- 16. last name of 19 c. novel heroine in love with gentleman hiding ga-ga first wife on premises. (preceded by Jane)
- 17. form of verb *be*; also, first half of abbr for International Standard Book Number; also (conceivably) all but the first letter on one of a pair of bath towels, the partner of which, equally short of first letter, is ERS
- 20. to fail to be placed in one's dog show class (as in "to get thrown out with the"); or, in England, dust, since removers are "dustmen"
- 22. initials of welcome new U.K. BT person, owner of D. Brass Tacks, writer of book on BT (with F. Jackson), BT judge & husband of BT judge
- 23. small poisonous reptile used by Cleopatra; or, final three letters of name of nasty stinging insect
- 24. highest possible award at dog show (abbr); rarely attained by BT because of foolish judges and BT modesty
- 25. color of some BT's who have comeed blue too fast (with *and-then*)
- 28. (preceded by *in-*), high-tech slang for *in close agreement*. Or, name of basic kitchen appliance, misspelled
- 29. (with *lazuli*) a bluish gemstone
- 30. opposite of *come*; or, first half of name of pleasant dairy animal (preceded by Togganoerg, Nubian, Nanny, etc)
- 31. a measurement; or, 2/3 of first word of the name of the country in which *The Border Times* is published
- 32. named small, homely, destructive long-tailed animal often used as quarry in BT go-to-ground trials; or, feature player in a well-known JoAnna Frier-Murza thriller film
- 34. descriptive term for difficult things, as when Bev LaPointe says, "Getting home from Saratoga is _____"
- 35. Surname shared by president of NSTC and well-known BT judge

AN NBTC CROSSWORD

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DOWN

- 1. decorative frame around painting or design; or (spoiled wrong) one who pays for food and lodgings in a private house; or, Ideal Turner
- 2. residence of 1/2 a BT before conception
- 3. to have dressed oneself once again for battle (archaic) or, first 3/5 of name of former White House staffer combined with the initials of one of the New York City subway lines
- 4. medical title
- 5. name of lovable though odd-looking Spielberg character; or, French and Latin for *and*
- 6. given name of wife of owner of Thoraby's Uncle Sam
- 7. high-tech abbr; original equipment manufacturer or (misspelled) a mantra
- 8. past tense of *v. eat*; or, final three letters of term for marriage partner
- 10. term for self-promoting activity of company or person
- 12. surname of two well-known longtime BT persons, father and daughter
- 14. term for truth
- 19. surname of NBTC officer frequently mentioned in this issue; trainer of Sincere and Narsi
- 21. (P) a wise man wants the answer to a question, he -- look, all but the first letter in the following: My BT just ----- (was relaxing) in the sun
- 22. term for competition area in boxing and dog shows; or, symbol of a pledge of marriage
- 25. term for feeling depressed, down, bummed out; or, an acceptable coat color in BT's (followed by *and tan*)
- 26. given name of 40's movie star discovered in Hollywood drugstore
- 27. name of uninteresting Egyptian god who had the form of a bull; or, # 29 across with the first letter omitted
- 29. large sea-going mammal frequently seen on beachballs, whacking flippers and yawing
- 32. initials of Connecticut BT person, bibliophile, lover also of retrievers, organizer of imaginative trials and events for BT's, keeper of Rover
- 33. informal British term for "so long" (with "ta"); or, teaching assistant (abbr); or, second syllable of well-loved veggie served mashed, whipped, french-fried, scalloped, stuffed, fish or wheel-baxed, or boiled

The answer to this puzzle was not submitted by its author. You will just have to struggle through on your own.