The Joy Of Snow!
Cover Design by Diane Wynen (Cover Photo by Sue Byford)
Rear Page Photo & Design by Diane Wynen
NOTICE
The Tibet Gazette is published on or near the middle of April, July, October and January. The deadline is the first week of the publishing month.

The Tibet Gazette is the official Newsletter of the Tibetan Terrier Club of Canada. The material printed herein is the opinion of the authors and is not necessarily endorsed by the Editor or the Tibetan Terrier Club of Canada. All submissions are welcome. The Editor reserves the right to edit, return for corrections or refuse.

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WORDS FROM THE PRESIDENT…..
To you and all of your extended family - Happy New Year! May it bring Health, Success and Happiness to All.

I would like to congratulate all who took part in our AGM this year. I felt it went smoothly and accomplished some worthwhile business. The meeting format is not the preferable “face to face” but does allow most of us to participate and to be informed members. You abided by the guidelines thus making my job much easier. I want to thank Jo Hannam and Penny White for their guidance throughout the three days. I still consider myself a “rookie” in the Club and manage to avoid many pitfalls with their help. Also a heartfelt Thank You to Deb McFarlane and her hard working Rescue Committee for all their work putting together a comprehensive policy for our consideration. Give yourselves a collective pat on the back – well done.

Our little pack here is managing quite nicely with the cold winter, Kaz loves it and Khal is only slightly less grateful for the snow and gale like winds off the lake. They actually prong like antelopes while playing outside. TTs are full of surprises and act like puppies sometimes. I am sure all of your doggers are just as delighted by the cold weather. At least the snow isn’t clumping up in their coats.

The New Year is a traditional time to take stock of where you are and make plans for the coming year. Resolutions abound and likely you have all considered some for yourselves. Our Club will be donating $300. to fight the Breed Specific Legislation enacted in Ontario. It is too bad that we must concern ourselves with such onerous matters but an offence to one is an injury to all. The turmoil over restrictive legislation in many of the States and cities of the US is a forerunner of what we will face soon in Canada. Hopefully the case against this BSL in Ontario will be won and the legal precedents referenced and applied across Canada. Please don’t take pet ownership and breeding for granted; there are many who would severely restrict or deny us our beautiful dogs entirely. The politicization of such a personal matter as our relationship with our companions is a sad state of affairs and we need to be aware and educated.

On a happier note I hope to see many of you on the Show / Performance circuits again this year. It is a pleasure to greet the familiar and meet the new. We have several new members to introduce and I extend a warm welcome to all. Congratulations also to those of you who have brought new generations of our beautiful TTs into the world. I wish you every success for each of your new charges. They will bring joy and happiness to every life they touch, whether companion, show or performance. Tibetan Terriers running and playing in the snow will bring a smile and warmth to your heart no matter how cold the wind blows. So curl up in a nice cozy spot and enjoy the rest of the Newsletter- if your TTs haven’t got there already.

Glenn Connell , President TTCC
Secretary’s Report

The year has barely started and we have three new members already. A Warm Welcome to:

**Marilyn Erhart**
211 Beaverbrook Street, Winnipeg, MB R3N 1M7
204-489-9731       libertymj@shaw.ca
Sponsors are Penny White and Ron White
Marilyn has a Tibetan Terrier cross, Obedience and Agility and is willing to become actively involved in our Club.

**Nikki Sinclair**
696 Buxton Crescent, Ottawa, ON K1V 7H8
613-736-8843          nikki.sinclair@rogers.com
Sponsors are Linda McCue and Jo Hannam
Nikki’s family has one male Tibetan Terrier, Sawyer, and hopes to add a female puppy soon. She does not plan to show or breed and is willing to become actively involved in our Club.

**Rhonda Bailey**
348 Berkshire Pl. N.W., Calgary, AB T3K 1Z9
403-204-0014         adominos@telus.net
Sponsors are Pat Delorme and Suzanne Persall
Rhonda has one Tibetan Terrier, plans to show in Conformation and possibly Obedience and Agility. She is the President of the Old English Sheepdog Club and has bred OES in the past under CKC registered kennel name Adominos. She is willing to become actively involved in our Club.

We ask if new members are willing to become involved by helping with Club projects on our Membership Application form. I am pleased that more and more new members check off “Yes”.

Please take notice of the change of address for **Mary Beth Harris**:
Park West Lodge, 22 Richmond St., #212, Charlottetown, PEI C1A 1H4

Our revised CKC approved Constitution is up on the TTCC website at [http://www.tibetanterriercanada.com/membership/ttcc_constitution.htm](http://www.tibetanterriercanada.com/membership/ttcc_constitution.htm).

We held our well attended (via email) AGM on December 1st to 4th. Thank you for participating. The minutes can be found on the following pages.

This is an election year for our Club. Some members will not run for office again, but others are only on their first term and will probably serve on the Executive for at least two more years.
A Nominating Committee shall be chosen by the Board of Directors during the month of August. The Committee shall nominate one candidate for each office and shall procure the acceptance of each nominee.
More about TTCC elections later on in August.

This newsletter package will have the revised Membership Renewal form enclosed. The rates for foreign members changed and they are asked to submit their dues in Canadian funds from now on.

**Membership dues** shall be payable by January 1st of each year. If dues are not paid by the end of March, membership shall be terminated.

The renewal from does not have a line for a donation to the rescue fund yet, which we are planning to add for the next year. In the meantime, if you would like to send a donation to the rescue fund, please include it with your renewal cheque and make a note for our Treasurer on the form.

Jo Hannam
TTCC Secretary
Roll Call

Glenn Connell called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. EST on December 2nd, 2008.

Members reporting in via email over the three days:

Hynek Broulik, Majka Broulik, Sue Byford, Glenn Connell, Anne McPherson, Bernard DeGagne, Debra DeGagne, Pat Delorme, Kathy Delory, Jackie Faust, Kevin Grew, John George, Sandi Gilbert, Terri Gueck, Jo Hannam, Terri Jankelow, David Harris, Vern Jones, Judy Jones, Cathy Kruschke, Carol Litman, Leslie Litman, Claire Mathieu, Lucie LaPlante, Linda McCue, Bob McCue, Murdoch McFarlane, Deborah McFarlane, Julia McFarlane, Dean Burry, Suzanne Persall, Heather Piers, Andrew Palidwor, Brenda Peters, Mark Stamm, Rene Stamm, Rose-Marie Trowell, Roy Trowell, Loretta Tully, Valerie Walton, Valerie Weston, Penny White, Ron White, Lynda Zittier

Approval of Minutes of 2007 AGM - Moved by Lynda Zittier, seconded by Jo Hannam. Carried

Reports

Written reports were received and published from Glenn Connell, President, Jo Hannam, Secretary, and Terri Gueck, Treasurer.

Committee Reports: Newsletter Editor’s Report was submitted by Penny White.

Newsletter Budget is increased from $850 to maximum $1,000 per Annum.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

1. TTCC Breed Brochure

This year we undertook the big project to create our very own Breed Brochure. A committee consisting of Glenn Connell, Kevin Grew, Lynda Zittier and Jo Hannam (chair) worked long and hard to produce a, what we feel, a very nice brochure. All members received a copy and all new members will receive one together with their welcome letter. We will also have some for sale in our online store once it is set up.

For Sale: 10 for $6.00 / 20 for $10.00 There will also be a $2.00 charge per envelope for shipping costs.

Free brochures will be available for some events for "significant persons". These may include an interested Judge or Show Secretary. Glenn Connell will handle the orders and distribution. Please contact him.

2. Constitution Amendment

A thorough revision of our constitution was needed. A committee consisting of Terri Gueck and Jo Hannam worked out necessary amendments that were then mailed to all voting members. The membership voted in favour of all changes and the amended constitution was sent to CKC. CKC approval arrived during the AGM via email. The revised constitution will be published on our Club website.

3. TTCC Web Site enhancement

John George has started to redesign our site giving it a fresher, more modern look. This is an ongoing project and suggestions are always welcome.

4. TTCC Journal/Yearbook

We hope to have another Yearbook one of these days. The last one was published by John George in 1995. It is a large undertaking and we will need a committee to proceed with the project. No volunteers were found.

5. Rescue Committee and Established Fund

A fund has been established - balance is $700. Deborah McFarlane (Chair) gave the Rescue Committee Report.

A Policy Statement that has been approved by the Executive and six forms/contracts that would be necessary for a Rescue Programme to operate have been drawn up.

The Rescue Committee is of the opinion that we, as a club, cannot put our Board members and our future Rescue Volunteers at risk. For this reason, they feel that if, in fact, we are serious about having a Rescue Programme, then we have no choice but to seek incorporation. Therefore the committee is recommending that the TTCC move to incorporate.
Motion: by Kevin Grew second/ Linda McCue - that the Board of Directors with the guidance of the Rescue Committee proceed with Incorporation of the TTCC
Voting result – 10 for and 8 against ….carried

6. CKC Colour Codes  (Added to the Agenda by Suzanne Persall)
Terri Gueck has done a lot of research already but has not made proposals to CKC yet. She has the complete list of colour codes but it's a very poor quality photocopy, so not really feasible to scan or copy and send out. But Terri would be more than willing to look up colours for anyone that needs them. Terri would like to continue with this project

NEW BUSINESS:
1. Foreign Membership Fees
The Executive made the decision to increase the fees for foreign members:
   USA - $35.00                (after August 31 - $20.00)
   International - $45.00    (after August 31 - $25.00)
   Fees must be paid in Canadian funds.
Revised Application/Renewal forms may be downloaded from our web site.

2. Future Specialties and Boosters
BC will hold a Specialty in 2009, Club/Date are not selected yet. Ontario will hold a Booster (Penny is checking into Brockville in August) and an Agility Trial in Ottawa.

3. Newsletter Online
There was a lot of discussion to make our newsletter available online. Some members would prefer an online version, others definitely want to keep receiving a mailed copy.
Although some members would not mind having it available to everybody others felt strongly that it should be published in an area “for members only”.

   Motion: by Bob McCue/second Lynda Zittier - that the TTCC Newsletter be located on the club's website. Members who want to get the printed and mailed version will continue to receive it at no extra charge….carried

   Motion: by Penny White/ second Jo Hannam - that if the motion to put the Newsletter online is carried, it be placed in a Protected Area of the Website intended for Members Only. …..carried

4. TTCC Online Store
Proposed by Penny White as a modest fund raiser.
Things that could be sold:
   Majka's art and maybe a piece of Diane Wynen's, a TT puppy calendar , a Canadian TT calendar, past issues of newsletters and our Breed Brochure of course.
John George will be contacted to add a “Store” section to our website. More details will be worked out.

5. Fundraisers – Calendar, T-Shirts etc.
From Penny: There's a new reason now for fundraising, namely RESCUE and the unique and sometimes expensive situations that can arise when there is an urgent need to rescue (or 'rehome,' also a good word) a needy TT or more than one.
Penny asked for ideas and help with Fund Raising

   Adjournment of the meeting at 12:00 midnight EST on December 4th, 2008
   Respectfully submitted by Jo Hannam, TTCC Secretary
Newsletter online!
As decided at our AGM, this issue of our newsletter will be put online on the TTCC website! (and hopefully so will subsequent issues)
Visit the Newsletter section of the website (www.tibetanterriercanada.com) and find issue Winter 2009.

Note: This document is meant for members and requires a password to open  Left click to read online - Right click to save to disk.

The password to be used for all newsletters this year will be TTCC2009.

Please contact John George, our webmaster, with any questions or problems pertaining to your access.
(ttsamsara@cogeco.ca)

A printed ‘hard copy’ of the newsletter will be mailed to members as is usual. Many prefer this method. However, if having experienced reading online, any members are willing to decline the mailing of future printed versions, please let Penny know. It would furnish a modest saving for the club.

The timing of the newsletter’s appearance online will ideally be the same as the date members would receive it via Canada Post.

It is expected that Penny will use her Members Email List to announce that date.
One huge online ‘plus’ will be that ALL photos can be seen in colour!
This is a significant milestone for our club. Thanks to John Argue, my technical assistant, and to John George for the tasks they will have to fulfill so that it can be accomplished.

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LETTERS TO the EDITOR

Re. Last Newsletter Issue
Just had to comment on your marvelous newsletter. As usual it is a fine entertaining and informative package. The cover was very apropos and I hope the rest of the members appreciated it. The Veterans portion of the Trial was very emotional for everyone there and I expect to see the idea pop up elsewhere. I was surprised to see Khal sliding down a page. Anne and I both read the issue cover to cover and will do so again and again. Majka outdid herself with the Trial pictures and Val's [Pawsway] article was nice to read. I'm glad you have made the newsletter a labour of love, since it is very important to the club and when we show it off to non members they are very impressed and a little envious, I might add. I haven't seen any other club publications to compare. We were very touched also by John's Farewell to Allilah. What a pair of sisters, she and your Amaia. You are both so blessed to have had those dogs live with and love you. I am only sorry I didn't get to see them in their prime. What great foresight to have had them parade at the 2007 Specialty, still showing their hearts out.
(Glenn Connell)

An Inspiring Story, and New Year’s Message
A front page story of the San Francisco Chronicle, described how a female humpback whale had become snarled in a spider web of crab traps and lines. She was weighed down by hundreds of pounds of traps that forced her to struggle to stay afloat. She also had hundreds of yards of line rope wrapped around her body, her tail, her torso, and in her mouth. A fisherman spotted her outside the Golden Gate Bridge and radioed an environmental group for help.
Within a few hours, a rescue team arrived and determined that she was so desperately tangled, the only way to save her was to dive in and try to cut the ropes.
They worked for hours with curved knives and eventually freed her. When she was free, the divers say she swam in what seemed like joyous circles.
She then came back to each and every diver, one at a time, and nudged them, pushed them gently around. She was thanking them. Some said it was the most incredibly beautiful experience of their lives. The man who cut the rope out of her mouth said her eyes were following him the whole time, and he will never be the same.
May you, and all those you love, be blessed and fortunate to be surrounded by people who will help you get untangled from the things that are binding you.
And may you always know the joy of giving and receiving gratitude.
I pass this on to you all, my friends, in the same spirit, and with love. Happy New Year!

[EDITOR: This was sent to me by Loretta Tully and also Debebe deGagne. Although it’s not about TTs, as dog lovers it follows that we are animal lovers, and since I found it personally very moving, I decided you all would enjoy it…]
NOTICEBOARD

Performance Venue

From Penny White

Penny is thrilled to announce that Fiesta completed the final Qualification to earn her Agility Dog of Canada (ADC) title! Penny was her handler, at the Morningstar January trial in the Kingston Soccer Dome. What a triumph! And for icing on the cake, Fiesta Q’d a SECOND time in the following run!
I guess she’d decided to NAIL that title, with no shenanigans! (for a change!)

Conformation Ring

From Kevin Grew

Fiesta is proud to announce that her daughter "Lucy" aka Colledge Life of the Parti, has to date won two Best Puppy in Group awards. In very limited showing, Lucy has earned 5 points towards her Championship and took her first Best Puppy in Group at the prestigious Purina National Charity Event in Tillsonburg. Her second BPIG was awarded at the Credit Valley show. Lucy was breeder/owner handled to these wins by Kevin, and from the Bred-by class.
Litter Basket

From Suzanne Persall

Nanzue kennel is proud to announce the arrival of four puppies - two boys, two girls. Mother is Tod Rdo Rje Nanzue (Dor-Rje). Father is Sumanshu Buddha Metteya (Buddha). Dor-Rje is happy to say she had three black and tans and one dark sable. Grandma Cinta is overjoyed at having "grandkids" to play with. (Puppy "Stormy" is seen sitting in the snow and interacting with his new family!).

From Jo Hannam

Willa (Ch. Quinlah Dalghani von Nama-schu) and Harley (Adofau Chonga Dalghani) became the proud parents of 6 puppies on November 25th, 2008 early in the morning. We have 1 girl and 5 boys in a nice variety of colours. This is Willa and Harley’s second litter after a more than a 2 year break. All the puppies have new families anxiously awaiting their arrival.
Weekly photo updates can be found on the Dalghani website until they leave in February, ‘09:
From **Suzie Synnott**

Suzie and her husband Georges are delighted to announce that their darling 3 year old girl **Khata**, at the turn of the New Year, gave birth to NINE lovely puppies! Five girls and four boys, in a fabulous rainbow of colours! Khata is CH Nanzue U Rgyan At Khata and the sire is **Sumanshu Buddha Metteya**. You are invited to visit Khata and her puppies at this site:  [www.khata.ca](http://www.khata.ca)

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**Introduction of New Members and/or New TTs**

From **Nikki Sinclair** and **Sawyer**

My name is Sawyer. I’m 2½ years old and I live in Ottawa, Ontario, with Nikki and her four children: Patrick (20), Keri (18), Holly (16) and Calum (13). With so many humans in my family, I’m never short of love and attention, which is pretty cool because I enjoy love and attention. I like someone to play with, too, and all my humans are well-trained when it comes to playing and throwing toys for me to run and fetch. I also usually have company because the younger humans’ various school schedules mean that one or other of them is home at some point during the day, which makes me happy.

My favourite occupation when I’m at home is to lie across the back of the sofa in the living room and watch the world go by. My favourite place to walk is the Arboretum at the Central Experimental Farm, and my humans take me there just about every Saturday and Sunday whatever the weather. I like it when all of my family comes with me for my walk, but sometimes it’s just Nikki and me, which is fun, too. I’m a little fastidious, am not over keen on water and have never been tempted to jump in the canal like some of the other dogs at the Arboretum. I also prefer not to walk through puddles or mud. In fact, I usually walk around puddles so that I don’t get my feet wet. I don’t mind so much when it’s raining though. My family likes the summer months, but I prefer the winter. I love snow and like nothing better than ploughing through snow drifts that are as tall as I am. I think I was built for snow!
From Susan Silva-Wayne

What can we say about our ten month old Stella that can convey (1) how overjoyed she is when we come in the door at any time after any amount of time away (2) how beautiful she is when coiffed & conditioned she walks, sleek as a cat, from her grooming (3) how reliably she retrieves anything thrown and often hidden, brings it back then sits and drops it, awaiting her treat (4) how happily she'll play with the poodle neighbours, in hail, sleet or snow, for as long as those poor dogs can stand up, with the chasing and wrestling the absolute high point of her morning or afternoon (5) how thrilled the children and grandchildren in the family are when they get a chance to take care of Stella, and (6) how much fun we all have when tiny Stella (19 lbs) and her taller, lanky sister Lucy (25 lbs) meet for a holiday or visit to the cottage up North; their recognition of each another is unmistakable -- they know they are family.

In two weeks we'll have Stella down South with us for a few months. We know she loves the cold and snow; what about sand, sun and ocean? Only time will tell.

From Susan & Jack Wayne, ½ block from High Park in chilly and hydro-free (at least the past 12 hours) Toronto

From Julia McFarlane

My name is Julia McFarlane. My family includes my husband, Dean Burry, our two daughters, 2 1/2 year old Blythe and 2 1/2 month old Maeve, plus our two lovable and indispensable TT's Felix and Annie. We live in Toronto in an area called Corso Italia and both Dean and I are musicians. I am a freelance violinist and teacher and Dean is a composer of opera and also a teacher. We were introduced to TT's through my mother, Deborah McFarlane, who is a breeder, and we fell for the breed instantly. Felix was from her first litter and as soon as we saw him, he had our hearts. He is cuddly, very funny, has a memory like an elephant and is protective -- loves to bark! He loves ripping apart any stuffed animal and is quite amazingly fast at it. Needless to say, he doesn't get these very often! Annie was from the second litter and she is sweet in character. She hardly ever barks and is much more openly affectionate. She is quick to jump on your lap the moment you sit down and she loves food. She sits beside Blythe's chair and waits for the food to drop. No need to mop here!! Both Felix and Annie are fabulous and gentle with Blythe and Maeve and with my students. I would definitely say the TT's make good pets for kids. When Maeve first came home from the hospital, Annie adopted her. I think she thought that she was a puppy. She followed me everywhere and sniffed and licked her whenever she could sneak in a kiss! We are so pleased to be new members of the TTCC. A special thanks to the members who helped and supported us when our two dogs escaped from the backyard in October.
From Rhonda Bailey

Hello everyone. I am very happy to be voted in as a new member of the TTCC. I come from rather different background. I am a breeder and exhibitor of Old English Sheepdogs. I have had OES since 1986 and had my first litter in 1991. I have bred or co-bred 10 litters over the last 17 years, and I am owned by a large number of OES at this time. I have bred a number of BIS, group winning, Canadian and American Champions. My proudest moment was winning the US Old English Sheepdog National Specialty in 2007 with my almost 11 year old veteran from the veterans class in two inches of coat! I severely injured my knee in March 2008 and was told I should never run (among other things) again. This included showing dogs. I decided to talk to a good friend of mine this summer who breeds Old English and the occasional litter of Tibetan Terriers. Lo and behold, she had a litter of puppies in October. I had to go down to Texas to pick up a young sheepdog male she was showing for me and I brought my new puppy home to Calgary --- a Tibetan Terrier! I thought it might be easier to keep showing with a smaller dog! Not sure my surgeon will agree, but I am trying to compromise. My new puppy is named "Riff". He is a lot of fun and most of the sheepdogs like him. I hope to meet many of you in the future.

From a TT Puppy Point of View

I rescued a human today.

Her eyes met mine as she walked into our puppy room, peering a little apprehensively into our pen......
I felt her need instantly and knew I had to help her.
I wagged my tail, but not too exuberantly, so she wouldn't be afraid.
As she knelt at the pen I blocked her view from a little accident a puppy’d had at the rear.....
I didn't want her to think it was mine and I didn't want her to think poorly of me.
No need for her to feel anxious about the past, ‘cause there is the future to look forward to and I want to make a difference in someone's life.
She got down on her knees and made little kissy sounds at me.
I shoved my shoulder and side of my head up against the bars to comfort her.
Gentle fingertips caressed my neck; she was desperate for companionship.
A tear fell down her cheek and I raised my paw to assure her that all would be well.
I was paying WAY better attention to her than my brothers and sisters were.
Soon the pen gate was opened and her smile was so bright that I instantly jumped into her arms.
I would promise to keep her safe.
I would promise to always be by her side.
I would promise to do everything I could to keep that radiant smile and sparkle in her eyes.
I was so fortunate that she came to meet me.
So many more are out there who haven't discovered puppy magic.....
So many more to be saved.
At least I could save one.
I rescued a human today.

(Submitted by Linda McCue, adapted by Penny)
UPCOMING TTCC EVENTS

1. A ‘BOOSTER’ in Brockville Ontario Saturday August 15, in association with the Thousand Islands Kennel & Obedience Club (TIKO) annual dogshow! Three days of Conformation shows, Obedience and Rally-O Trials, and also planned are CGN (Canine Good Neighbour) testing (produces a ‘title’!), a CERF eye clinic and possibly a TT (Temperament Test, which also earns a title!)

   Group VI Judge for the Saturday Booster is Eugene Blake (Oklahoma), and on other days Doug Windsor (Ontario), and James Ham (Michigan). At present Mrs. Joan Scott (Delaware) will judge groups on one day. Performance Judge will be Sharlene Manderson.

   TIKO boasts one of the most desirable venues in Eastern Ontario, providing both outdoor and indoor facilities as well as an air conditioned grooming area. This was the site of the TTCC 2007 National Specialty.

   Penny is acting as ‘Booster Representative’ and will channel any inquiries. It seems we may attract a good entry, thanks to the fact that American friends have expressed interest in attending!

   The bigger the entry the bigger the pleasure, for both participants and spectators! Come one Come all, folks with entrants and folks with companions, who just want to hang out – we’ll ‘talk dogs’ endlessly!

   If desiring to make an early motel reservation, the Comfort Inn is recommended, which served us well in 2007. More info in the April Newsletter, but Think August!

2. The next (becoming ‘annual’?!) TTCC All Breed CKC AGILITY Trial!

   Dates have been set -- Sat. and Sunday October 10 and 11th -- at the Dream Fields Agility facility just west of Ottawa. It was a blast last year! Glenn will attend again, and Majka & Hynek….

   Start training your boy or girl, and try Novice classes. They are quite do-able for rookie dogs, and who knows, Maddie might be ready for Jumpers! (aaah-hahahahaha!) Now THAT would be entertainment!

[Original art by Majka Broulik]
BOOK REVIEW
By Terri Jankelow

The Story of Edgar Sawtelle By David Wroblewski

This wonderful novel tells the story of a boy who is unable to speak, and in his life is surrounded by the dogs his father breeds. Edgar develops a very special relationship and unique means of communicating with the dogs. Daily life on the farm is almost idyllic until an uncle returns to live with them, causing his world to be thrown into turmoil and confusion.

Woven into the tapestry of the novel are wonderful threads on breeding dogs; training dogs and the communication between dogs and humans, and anyone who has ever been involved with breeding or training will especially relate to and enjoy these features on the canine world. Some passages are narrated from the dogs’ point of view and of course we all know that dogs are definitely thinking, feeling and emotional beings!

If I were to find anything negative about the novel, it would be that I found some parts almost too descriptive and at times my thoughts got lost amid these lengthy descriptive passages.

The story is part human drama, part mystery, part adventure and part tragedy. But most of all, at the heart of the story, is the extraordinary relationship and companionship between boy and dog. This is clearly illustrated by a favourite quotation from the book:

“Others dreamed of finding a person in the world whose soul was made in their mirror image, but she and Edgar had been conceived nearly together, grown up together and however strange it might be, she was his other.”

[Note: “she” refers to his dog, Almondine]

So enjoy the book, but most of all, love your dogs because, as this book illustrates, they are truly unique beings that enrich the fabric of all our lives!

The Tibetan Terrier World Congress

The 11th Tibetan Terrier World Congress will be held in Norway, June 19-21 2009.
For information please go to the website http://www.ttcongress.com
Rewarding the Tibetan Terrier

By Marla Vogeley (Guest Performance Columnist)

An important part of getting your Tibetan Terrier to work with you and for you is rewards. A Tibetan Terrier is not a breed of dog to work just for the sake of doing something. I know it is hard for a TT owner to imagine, but there are certain dogs bred just to work, and these dogs will obey commands just because they want to! However, for our TTs, we must take a different approach, and this approach is “rewards.” A reward in dog training is like being paid when you go to work. Would you work for no pay? I would not go to work each day if I did not receive a pay check, and our TTs will not participate in performance activities unless we reward them.

If you plan to do agility or obedience or rally or any other performance activity, you must first know what your dog likes, and also what your dog does not like. The most obvious and widely used reward is food. Always train a dog before you feed him. A full dog is less likely to work for food, and might also be sleepy. Start with a very low value piece of food such as normal kibble, and see what your dog will do for it. Will he stand up on his back legs? Will he follow it around if you keep it in front of his nose? Is he doing crazy, trying to get at this one small piece of kibble? If so, he is highly food motivated. With a highly food motivated dog, rewards are easy. Start with a low value reward, such as kibble, so when the training gets more demanding you can increase the value and offer something tastier to keep the dog interested and willing.

The opposite type of dog, one who turns his nose up at kibble, is a dog with low food motivation. In order to reward this type of dog, you will need much better treats. My TT Fancy will merely trot around the agility course instead of galloping or running as desired, unless I offer her meatballs, hotdogs, or hamburgers. Those make her run really fast, while string cheese causes a less than stellar performance. Interestingly, at home Fancy will do all kinds of tricks for her normal kibble, but out at an agility trail, she only runs fast for the good stuff. It is idiosyncrasies like these that make rewarding the TT challenging. If your TT will not work for kibble, move onto string cheese or commercially available treats. If this is not good enough, try hotdogs, chicken, liver, ground meat (cooked,) steak, baby food or wet cat food.

When rewarding using food always give small amounts. If you give large chunks of cheese or an entire dog biscuit, two things will happen. First, your dog will get full quickly and won’t want to participate any more. Second, it will take so long for your TT to finish his treat, he might forget what you were training and you will lose your progress. Smaller is better. Make sure the treat is big enough to taste, but anything larger than that is just filling the dog’s stomach. Dogs don’t really have a concept of “larger.” Just watch your multiple TTs switch between chew bones. The dogs don’t care which is bone is bigger; they just want the one the other dog has. Many trainers say soft treats are best because they are easier to chew and swallow so you can get on with your training. However, as long as the hard treat (such as kibble) is small enough, it will go down quickly and won’t hold up your training session. Whichever you choose, make sure it isn’t crumbly or your TT will be so busy sniffing the ground for crumbs he won’t be paying attention to you. If this happens, move to a new location and get a new non-crumbly treat. If he continues to sniff, tell him “no” or “leave it” and pull his nose away.

In addition to food rewards, you can also offer toys, petting, and praise. This is where you really have to know what your TT likes and does not like.

Something to consider when using toys as rewards is if your TT always has access to his favorite toys, their value as a reward will go down. Why should Fluffy roll over for a squeaky toy when instead he can just go get one out of the toy box? Our TTs are smart, and they use it against us! I do not recommend denying your TT toys just so you can use them as rewards. Use food instead. In my case, tennis balls are Fancy’s favorite toys and they are only available when we go to the park, so I am able to use them. I can tell her to roll over, and
when she does I toss her the ball. She will now roll over the next time I ask her to since she got her favorite toy. If instead of her ball I give her a hard rubber toy with no squeaker, she will probably not roll over next time since I did not give her something she wanted.

Petting is another form of reward. Since our TTs get pet when ever they want (at least I hope they do!) petting might not be a big enough of an incentive for training. I know if I only offered my TT pets for a job well done, she would not bother complying with my requests. This is where TTs differ from “working bred” dogs. My Belgian Malinois will work for only verbal praise and pets. It is actually very amazing. The TT is smarter and knows she can hold out for the food rewards. This is another area where you must know what your dog likes. Fancy does not like to be hovered over, such as when you normally bend over to pet a dog. If you are petting your dog in a manner they don’t like, it is no longer a reward - it becomes a punishment!

When it comes to rewarding a TT verbal praise is usually in the same category as petting. Always offer verbal praise when your TT does what you want, but follow it up with a cookie! You can also alternate between verbal praise and a food reward, or use praise when your TT tries, but doesn’t quite do the command correctly. Use a high pitched, happy, excited tone of voice. Talk quickly and animatedly. If you are not getting strange looks from family members and strangers, then you are not doing it right! It doesn’t matter what you say, it is all in how you say it.

When discussing rewards and TTs, one more area that must be discussed is reward timing. In order for your TT to make the connection between what he did right and being given something he wants, you must be quick. For example, imagine you are just starting agility and your dog successfully takes a jump with out you stepping over it first. As soon as he lands after the jump, tell him “Good jump!” and give him the reward- probably food- at the same time you are speaking. You should already had the food in your hand. If you have to fish it out of your pocket, your TT has probably already found something else to do, and when you finally get the food out and give it to him, he has been sniffing the ground, or running around, or playing with a little bug (or all three!) Now you have rewarded all these behaviors you do not want in agility, instead of the one behavior you did want, which was taking the jump. That is why reward timing is so important. Have your reward ready before you ask your TT to do something, then as soon as he does it, QUICKLY give him the reward and also tell him what a good dog he is, how clever, how smart, how beautiful and unique and oh what a grand boy, what a good puppy, lots of good, that was so wonderful and innovative and (I hope you get the idea.)

The last idea involving rewards that I have room to discuss here is the use of the “jackpot” reward. If you have been trying unsuccessfully for a while to get your TT to do something and they finally do it, reward them with a jackpot- the most amazing reward ever… let them eat right out of the treat bag! This is where the idea of larger does make sense to a dog. If you have been giving your TT food rewards directly from your hand one piece at a time, and then you make a huge deal over them and present them with the entire bag, your TT will definitely understand that they are getting a bigger than usual reward. Just don’t let them eat the entire bag- you might still have some training to do! The jackpot reward is named after gambling for a good reason. It is the same idea as if you are playing a slot machine and winning a quarter here and there and you have been at it for some time and finally you pull the handle and win the JACKPOT!!! You are so excited you can’t wait to continue playing to see what else you will win. All your hard work paid off. When you present a jackpot reward to your TT, he will know he has been working hard and is being paid correctly for the good work he is doing. The jackpot will probably entice him to continue to work hard. However, sometimes it is appropriate to quit your training session after a jackpot reward. You always want to end training with the dog happy and wanting more. And a jackpot reward leaves the dog wanting more training so he can earn more yummy food.

Rewards are an essential part of training your Tibetan Terrier for a performance venue. When you are done with training and are ready to compete, you will not be allowed to use any food or toy rewards in the ring, but convincing your TT to work without rewards is a topic for a different column! Remember that the reward must be worthwhile to your TT, it must be timed properly, and it must not be too big. If you follow these ideas, your TT will look forward to training sessions, because he knows he will be paid well for his efforts.
RUFFLES IS EIGHTEEN!

Ruffles, our first Tibetan, turned 18 years old on Jan.19’09! What a marvelous milestone! He is in good health, despite diminished sight and hearing, takes no meds, and is happy with his quiet lifestyle and occasional back yard outings. He enjoys using the puppies’ ramp. We are blessed that our grand old man is still with us. Endless gratitude to Joyce Ayotte, his breeder. Penny and Ron have been privileged to accompany this wonderful boy through his years.

CH Bootiff Ruffles of Kashmir, CGC

TLC TIPS FOR TTS!
(Training, Living With, Caring For!)

This is actually a product referral…. About Cot-style dog beds, for home, yard, ringside or travel…. I have one that was admired by puppy people, and an investigation for a source produced a tip from Marla Vogeley, who praised Kuranda beds.

Website is www.kuranda.com

They have poly-resin or aluminum beds, hygienic, durable, chew-proof, in various sizes and material, ‘at great prices’ and they ‘now ship to Canada’.

From Penny White

SMILES

It was a sad sad day, but Elmo led a happy, giggly, much tickled life right up until the end and we must all remember him that way. It’s what he would have wanted.
FAREWELL TO A SWEET GIRL

From **Valerie Weston**, in memory of **Emma-Lu**, beloved wee Bichon who was an honorary TT, spoke fluent TT, and accompanied Val to many TT National Specialties! She sits below, on the right, with her TT pals and Bichon buddy.

“It is with great sadness that I report my Emma-Lu (honorary TT) is no longer with me. She died on January 14. Anyone who knows me knows Emma-Lu and remembers what an absolutely incredible dog she was. In fact I don’t think she believed for a moment that she was a dog. She had no papers and never participated in any shows, but she did get an ILP# and did Obedience in both Canada and the US. What an incredible working dog she became, and the most intelligent dog I have ever owned. She got her Can. CD in one weekend at Credit Valley, with 4 qualifying scores and a 4th high in Novice A. Many of you will remember some of her antics. Catherine and I went to Finger Lakes and during the long sits and downs it was pouring rain so hard that you couldn’t see your dog on the other side of the ring. When the judge said “Return” I found she was the ONLY dog who had stayed, and all the others had high tailed it out of there! Three qualifying scores that weekend, when she was under 1 year of age. Sadly that was the end of her Obedience career, since she was diagnosed with Juvenile Cataracts shortly afterwards. Lynda Z. will remember when I went out to BC to visit family, how we met for dinner, left Emma in Lynda’s car and went into the restaurant. Soon someone came to report “Your dog has set off the alarm in your car.” When we went out she also had the four way flashers going, and maybe she was trying to hotwire it. Penny remembers Emma spending a weekend at her house and being amazed how she didn’t waste any time with mundane things like pottying. I just said “Emma hurry up” and it was tended to immediately.

I have so many fond memories of her, I could go on and on. Although she was here for 15 years, 11 months and 1 week, it doesn’t seem like enough. It never does.

**Go now, Emma, and play with your two favorite TT friends Alilah and Bianca. But remember where the gate is and check back from time to time. I will follow one day and we can all play together. I love you sweet heart.”**
Bet You Can’t Own Just One…..

(Author unknown, adapted by Penny)

So, why get a TT?
There’s danger, you know
Soon you’ll want more than one
And the craving will grow.

They’re surely addictive,
Wherein lies the danger.
While living with many
You grow poorer and stranger.

One dog is no effort,
And two are so funny,
The third one is easy,
The fourth one’s a honey.

The fifth is delightful,
The sixth one’s a breeze
You find you can handle
A houseful with ease!

So how ‘bout another?
Would you really dare?
They’re really quite easy….
(But oh lord, the hair!)

TTs on the sofa,
TTs on the bed,
Their crates in the kitchen --
“No bother”, you’ve said.

They’re really no trouble,
Their manners are great,
What’s just one more dog
And one more little crate?

The sofa is hairy,
The windows are crusty,
The floor marked with pawprints
The furniture’s dusty.

The housekeeping suffers,
But what do you care?
Who minds a few noseprints
And a little more hair?

So you’ll keep a puppy
You’ll always find room,
And a little more time
With the dustcloth and broom.

There’s hardly a limit
To the dogs you can add
Mere thought of a cutback
Just makes you feel sad….

Each one is so special,
So useful, so funny.
The food bill grows larger,
You owe the vet money.

Your folks rarely visit,
Few friends come to stay
Except other dog folks
Who live the same way.

All the grass has now died
and your shrubs dying too.
But weekends are happy,
You’re off with your crew.

There’s dog food -- add vitamins --
Add training and shots,
And entries and travel
(motels will charge lots.)

Is it worth so much cost?
Are you caught in a trap?
Then a loved one comes up
And climbs into your lap….

He thinks you’re so special,
You know that you will
Keep all of the dear ones
In spite of the bill.

Some TTs for showing
And others to breed,
And some just for loving,
They all fill a need.

Bad weather’s a hassle
The dogs hate it too,
But they must have their walks,
Tho’ they’re numb and you’re blue….

At night it’s a challenge,
You shove and you shout,
The dogs on the sofa
Refuse to go out.

The Dogshows and Trials,
The travel, the thrills
The work and the worry,
The pressure, the bills.

BUT everything’s worth it,
The dogs are your life!
Adoring and charming,
They offset the strife.

Your household has changed,
Your life’s not the same,
The dogs are addictive
And so’s the Dog game!
Happy New Year!

from Penny & her TTs!