The Cairn Connection

WHAT'S NEW FOR CAIRN TERRIERS?

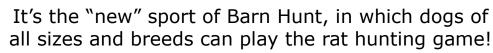


CAIRN TERRIER CLUB OF DENVER

ISSUE 117

March, 2013

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Cairns at Barn Hunt fun day, Budweiser Events Center, February 3.

The first ever Barn Hunt sanctioned trial will be held on April 13 in Colombia, Missouri. The first one in Colorado will be held April 21 at the Jefferson County Fairgrounds in Golden, sponsored by Rocky Mountain Earthdog Club. Visit www.barnhunt.com to register with the Barn Hunt Association (you need a registration number to play) and for general information about Barn Hunt, or coloradobarnhunt.org for the premium.



President's Letter

President's Letter

While any moisture is welcome during this severe drought, we are disappointed that the biggest snowstorm of the year forced us to cancel our February fun day. We expected nearly 50 people and even more Cairns for our annual agility and earthdog practice, terrier games, and lunch at Denver Dog Sports. Unfortunately, facility commitments and a busy show schedule meant we could not find a make up date this spring.

Solidifying dates and venues for fun days through the rest of the year will be one of the topics for our April 2 combined board and general meeting. Besides looking for a new date for our fun day at Denver Dog Sports, we will consider options for a day of outdoor fun, including lure coursing and earthdog practice.

We will also discuss topics for possible education programs, such as a nosework seminar and a behavior clinic. If you have suggestions but cannot attend the meeting, please share your ideas with any board member or me.

Important committee updates on our specialty, earthdog tests, agility trials, and lure coursing tests will also be on the agenda. I hope you can join us.

Look for a flurry of updates on CTCD spring and summer events. Between our annual specialty and earthdog tests, agility trials, lure coursing tests, and maybe even a Barn Hunt, Colorado Cairns can look forward to a very busy year.

Andrea

A note from the Editor

Dear Readers,

I have some big shoes to fill. After several years and many issues of CTCD's Cairn Connection, Ray Daniels has stepped aside to participate in other ways, and I am taking over as editor of the newsletter (I won't say "replacing him," because I don't think he can be replaced—he has done a beautiful job and I'm sure his touch will be missed.)

You are reading the first of, I hope, many editions that I will compile from your input. Please send me your brags and photos (I'm sorry that I don't know everyone's name and especially their dogs' names, so please "tag" the photos for captions if possible). Send articles: opinions, information, schedules, reports of events! Send requests for articles: "I'd love to see an article on XYZ." Send ideas for articles: "Sally Cairnjudge has some really strong feelings on proper tongue length."

I'm fairly new to show Cairns and activities, so things that I think are interesting and fascinating might be old hat to everyone else, so please send feedback as well: "Uh, Nancy, we already all knew all that." Also, I know almost NOTHING about agility, and I know that a lot of you are very involved in that (Wow, 33 MACHs in our club? Even I know that's a big deal!) So if you send me things about agility, you'll have to be pretty specific in your wording, please, because I don't know the jargon yet!

I would really like to include as many areas of Cairn activity as possible: Conformation, Breeding, Health, Earthdog, Coursing, Agility, Obedience, Rally, Tracking, Barn Hunt, Rescue, (what am I missing here?), living with "just a backyard dog," and of course Brags and photos and mutual support in our appreciation, frustration, and general delight in these little dogs we love and live with!

I'll be collecting articles and information for the June newsletter though June 11. So, fill my inbox (I hope!) with information and fun, and I'll do my best to do honor to Ray's legacy.

In celebration of all things Cairnish,

Nancy McNair 970-222-5989 mcnairfamily@comcast.net

WHY do those of us who compete

do the things that we do with our dogs?

Dog Writers Association of America Junior Writer Award winner Diana Chan wrote and produced the short video "This is Zephyr," which chronicles the bond she and her Pointer, Zephyr, have developed inside and out of the show ring. Search for "This is Zephyr" on YouTube or cut and paste this link:

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ll1U-dpQbyU to watch.

One of the comments on the video:

This is absolutely spellbinding. It sums up the heart and soul of the 'game' in less than 2 minutes. Sometimes I despair of trying to get people to understand why we do what we do; why the long hours, the personal sacrifices, the road trips, the missed sleep, the cost... Why. THIS is why. Thank you, thank you for such a lovely gift.

CTCD 2013 Specialty—August 16!

Tuesday evening, March 19, CTCD members reaffirmed their support of the annual specialty and voted to hold a specialty in 2013. Thank you to all of the members who attended the meeting so we could have a quorum and, thus, a valid vote.

Carolyn A. Herbel of Putnam, Oklahoma, will judge the regular classes in 2013. Peggy Beisel-McIlwaine, who received one more vote than Carolyn during the judge's selection balloting, is not available to judge this year. We are very pleased to have Joyce Moore judge our Sweepstakes.

Sandy Trzos is our Show Chair. Sandy has helped with all aspects of our specialty for many years and she is very experienced in managing agility trials and earthdog tests. She will do a great job with our show.

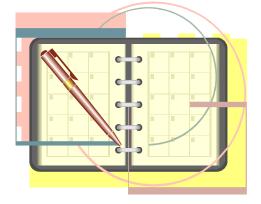
Sandy will be contacting club members in the next few weeks about help with the specialty. Thank you to the many members who have already volunteered.

I encourage you to attend our specialty and to stay for the banquet. Chris and Christel Gray do a terrific job of making the evening special with great food, fun games, and prizes. The specialty will be at Island Grove Park in Greeley on Friday, August 16. The theme is year was submitted by Ruth Cronin: "Cairns on Parade."

Respectfully,

Andrea Faucette, President

Mark it in your calendar NOW— CTCD Annual Specialty Friday, August 16



Breeder's Corner

Why "The" Breeder Makes a Difference

By Ray Daniels SkyeHigh Cairns

At a local dog park recently, I noticed a couple with two Cairns that were obviously from a puppy mill and/or backyard breeder. Curiosity got the better of me so I wandered over and asked "where did you get your Cairns?" With a proud expression one said "we adopted from a shelter back east, we saved them!"

Writer Denise R. Monette posed several critical questions in *Stemming The Animal Rights Tide:* "How did public opinion shift towards shelter adoptions to 'save' the animals instead of seeking pets from dedicated hobby breeders who love their dogs and produce healthy pets, typical of their breed?" and "How did we lose our way?"

It started me thinking, could this shift in people's thinking be contributing to fewer and fewer puppies being placed by show breeders? I have observed in local breed clubs that over the past few years more and more breeders have stopped and/or retired from breeding. I have also noticed some breed club members prefer to adopt rescued dogs and nonpedigreed dogs for pets and performance dogs.

What is causing this trend in the pure bred show dog fancy?

A long time member who headed the local club's rescue effort for many years shared an interesting observation. Cairns that came from puppy mills on the average experience a three year shorter life span than Cairns produced by show breeders.

Are show breeders producing healthy Cairns that are an excellent representation of the breed? According to this observation, the answer is obviously yes. Cairns from show breeders belonging to the Cairn Terrier Club of America and its affiliated clubs are healthy, have long life spans, and project the typical characteristics of the breed. These Cairns are shown at dog shows both nationally and internationally. They have been judged to be structurally sound and possess the qualities of balance and Cairn type. So why do some people and especially breed club members prefer rescued puppy mill Cairns over Cairns of proven stock from show breeders?

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Breeder's Corner Cont'd

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Can the answer be simple?

National advertising campaigns by dog organizations, especially the American Kennel Club (AKC), telling the public how wonderful and humane it is to adopt dogs from shelters cause a shift in people's mind sets. Has the time come for the AKC, along with its breed and all-breed clubs, to make the public more aware of dog shows, and the virtues of acquiring dogs from show breeders?

Do breeders charge too much for their puppies? Considering that show breeders invest significant time and resources to produce healthy Cairns that conform to the highest breed standards and have the structure and willingness necessary to perform, the price is a bargain. Show Breeders affirm their breeding programs by exhibiting at dog shows and achieving AKC Championship status before breeding. They study their breed, researching all aspects of the current generation as well as several generations back before making breeding decisions. Puppies are protected through health screenings of both puppy and parents.

Getting a puppy from a show breeder is both a pleasure and reassuring. Show breeders stand behind their Cairns and willingly take them back if an unfortunate life event makes that necessary. You can rest assured your Cairn will always have a good home.

Puppies from puppy mills and back yard breeders result by putting two Cairns of the opposite sex together.

Rescued Cairns need forever homes and Cairns from show breeders need forever homes. It is a personal decision.

About the author:

Ray Daniels, after retiring from his professional career as an engineer and manager with a major international company, decided (with his wife Linda) to acquire their first Cairn 10 years ago. With encouragement from their breeder, they got into conformation and decided to become show breeders. Several litters later and seven finished Champions, including one Grand Champion, they are still in love with their Cairns. They actively participate in their local breed club, Cairn Terrier Club of Denver, and are members of the Cairn Terrier Club of America.

CERF—What's the Scoop?

The following news release from the American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists was submitted by Cheri Eagleson.

August 1, 2012

Dear fellow ACVO Diplomates,

One of the ongoing objectives of the ACVO is the monitoring of inherited eye conditions in order to reduce their incidence. This is the basis for the activities of the ACVO Genetics Committee. Research reported in peer-reviewed literature and data generated from the results of screening eye examinations are used to formulate recommendations in the Blue Book (Ocular Disorders Presumed to be Inherited in Purebred Dogs). Results of screening eye examinations have been submitted to the Canine Eye Registration Foundation (CERF) and we rely on CERF for prompt and accurate reporting of this information.

The ACVO has repeatedly communicated to CERF our needs and expectations for a registry organization, namely:

- Prompt and accurate reporting of 1. statistical data submitted as a result of screening examinations. These data are used by the Genetics Committee in revision of the Blue Book. The Genetics Committee has had difficulty obtaining statistical data from CERF in a timely manner. CERF did not provide 2009 breed stats to the Genetics Committee for the 2010 ACVO meeting. The 2009 stats were received by the 2011 meeting and the 2010 stats were received in late 2011 after the ACVO meeting.
- 2. Prompt revision of the published Blue Book. The currently available

version is now two years old. The Genetics Committee Chairs forwarded the updated pages for the Blue Book to Dr. Art Seigel of CERF in March 2012. As of July 2012 CERF has not released the new edition.

- 3. On-line access to statistical information from examinations. While CERF has offered to individually produce "reports" with this information, the requested, and promised, on-line access has not occurred. The Genetics Committee Chairs received complaints in 2011 from diplomates indicating that CERF is not meeting their needs in terms of providing data for studies.
- 4. Information contained in the Blue Book is the copyrighted property of the ACVO, however CERF sells the Book with an agreement that proceeds beyond expenses be split between the two organizations. The ACVO has not received the requested financial report of these transactions, nor proceeds from any year.

The BOR has also communicated to CERF the objective of establishing a comprehensive online diagnostic database, to include submissions from all clinical cases, not just screening exams. CERF has failed to make any progress toward this objective.

It has become apparent that CERF is unable to meet the needs of the ACVO. **The Board of Regents has received and accepted an offer from the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA) to establish an** <u>Eye</u> <u>Certification Registry</u> and a <u>Clinical</u> <u>Database for Ophthalmic Diagnoses.</u>

CERF—What's the Scoop?

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While the OFA is best known for providing radiographic evaluations by board certified veterinary radiologists for hip and elbow dysplasia, their scope has broadened greatly to include other inherited canine diseases such as congenital cardiac disease, autoimmune thyroiditis, patellar luxation, congenital deafness, sebaceous adenitis, and others, including providing databases for DNA based tests such as PRA. They have an active and ongoing relationship with breed parent clubs to develop protocols for health clearances. The OFA maintains the world's largest and most extensive on-line database of health screening results on their website: www.offa.org. The website contains over 1.5 million health test results, both OFA tests and test results offered by other organizations. The OFA administers the Canine Health Information Center (CHIC), a consolidated canine health database and website for breed specific health testing requirements, jointly sponsored by the OFA and the AKC Canine Health Foundation. The OFA, in partnership with the AKC Canine Health Foundation, maintains a centralized DNA bank to supply samples to molecular canine health researchers. The bank currently contains over 16,000 samples. Less than ten years old, the bank has already supplied over 1.000 relevant samples to over a dozen research projects at some of our leading veterinary colleges and research institutions.

Since its inception as a not-for-profit foundation, the OFA has contributed over \$3M in canine health research grants through the Moms Animal Foundation, the AKC Canine Health Foundation, and direct funding. As part of this newly established relationship between the ACVO and CERF, the OFA has agreed to the following financial support:

- The OFA will provide financial support for the Genetics Committee of the ACVO to a level of 50% of their annual expenses up to a maximum of \$3,500/year.
- In addition, the OFA will provide sponsorship for an optional biannual Genetics symposium to a maximum of \$3,500/event.
- The OFA will donate a percentage of gross revenue from the Eye Certification Registry to the ACVO Vision for Animals Foundation on an annual basis. This will be 5% at the end of year one and 15% at the end of each subsequent year. This is subject to review after evaluation of volume of registrations and operating expenses.
 It should be noted that CERF has provided

some financial support in the first two categories listed above.

The decision by the BOR to endorse a registry other than CERF was undertaken after many years of frustration with the current situation. The specific proposal from OFA has been under review for over a year; our attorney drafted the pending contract. The BOR is optimistic that this relationship will fill our needs for the foreseeable future. See the attached list of Q&A addressing the specifics of implementation. This information and additional updates will be available on the ACVO website. The OFA will be present at our annual meeting in Portland in October to address any further questions.

We welcome your comments.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian Gilger, President Carrie Breaux, Co-chair Genetics Committee Jacqueline Pearce, Co-chair Genetics Committee

Conformation Points New Schedule

AKC SCHEDULE OF POINTS - EFFECTIVE MAY 15, 2013 Cairn Terriers

	Sub	omitted by Ray	Daniels	
1 POINT Dogs Bitches	2 POINTS Dogs Bitches	3 POINTS Dogs Bitches	4 POINTS Dogs Bitches	5 POINTS Dogs Bitches
Division 1 is comprised	of: Connecticut, M	aine, Massachuset	tts, New Hampshir	re, Rhode Island, Vermont.
2-2	3-4	4-5	6- 10	8- 17
Division 2 is comprised	of: Delaware, New	Jersey, New York	, Pennsylvania.	
2-2	3- 5	4-7	8- 14	18 -28
Division 3 is comprised West Virginia.	of: District of Colur	mbia, Maryland, No	orth Carolina, Teni	nessee, Virginia,
2-2	3-4	4-6	7- 12	12-20
Division 4 is comprised	of: Florida, Georgia	a, South Carolina.		
2 -2	3 -4	4 -6	5-8	6 -11
Division 5 is comprised	of: Indiana, Kentuc	cky, Ohio.		
2-2	3-4	4 -5	5-6	6-7
Division 6 is comprised	of: Iowa, Kansas, I	Missouri, Nebraska	a.	
2-2	3-4	4-6	5-8	7 -12
Division 7 is comprised	of: Colorado, Okla	homa, Texas.		
2-2	3-4	4- 5	6 -7	10- 14
Division 8 is comprised	of: Oregon, Washi	ngton.		
2 -2	4-7	6 -11	7 -12	10- 17
Division 9 is comprised	of: Arizona, Califor	nia.		
2-2	4-4	5-6	6- 11	12 -20
Division 10 is comprised	d of: Alaska.			
2-2	3-3	4-4	5-5	6-6
Division 11 is comprised	d of: Hawaii.			
2-2	3-3	4-4	5-5	6-6
Division 12 is comprised	d of: Puerto Rico.			
2-2	3-3	4-4	5-5	6-6
Division 13: Idaho, Mon	tana, Nevada, Nev	v Mexico, North Da	akota, South Dako	ta, Utah, Wyoming.
2-2	3-4	4- 5	5-6	6-7
Division 14 is comprised	d of: Alabama, Arka	ansas, Louisiana, I	Vississippi.	
2-2	3- 5	4-6	5-7	6-8
Division 15 is comprised	d of: Illinois, Michig	an, Minnesota, Wi	sconsin.	
2 -2	4- 5	5-6	8 -11	12- 18

Upcoming CTCD and Fun Events

- April 2: Combined Board and General Meeting Denver Dog Sports 7 - 9 pm
- April 21:Barn Hunt, Jefferson County Fairgrounds, GoldenSponsored by the Rocky Mountain Earthdog Club
- April 27 28: Coursing Ability Test, Zoiboyz Ranch, Falcon Sponsored by the Colorado Rhodesian Ridgeback Club and the Rocky Mountain Borzoi Club
- May 18 19: Earthdog Tests, Rist Canyon, Bellvue Sponsored by the Rocky Mountain Earthdog Club
- May 25 27: Agility Trials, Schaefer Sports Arena, Denver Sponsored by the Rocky Mountain Vizsla Club and the Cairn Terrier Club of Denver
- June 15 16: Earthdog Tests, WideOaks, Elizabeth Sponsored by the Cairn Terrier Club of Denver and the Rocky Mountain All Terrier Club

CTCD will hold a **combined board and general meeting** from 7 to 9 pm on April 2 at Denver Dog Sports.

The agenda will include committee reports (specialty, agility, earthdog, and rescue), future fun days and education programs, and an election to fill two vacancies on the board.

All members and prospective members are welcome to attend. Video and telephone conferencing options will be provided. Watch your email for an agenda, directions to Denver Dog Sports, and instructions for online and telephone access five days before the meeting.

Earthdog



EARTHDOG TESTS SCHEDULE 2013 (Pending AKC Approval) May 18th (Two AKC Tests) Bellvue, CO: Hosted by Rocky Mountain Earthdog Club May 19th (One AKC Test) Bellvue, CO: Hosted by Rocky Mountain Earthdog Club June 8th (Two AKC Tests) Bellvue, CO: Hosted by Columbine Dachshund Club

Hosted by Columbine Dachshund Club **June 9th** (One AKC Test) Bellvue, CO: Hosted by Columbine Dachshund Club

 June 15th (Two AKC Tests) Elizabeth, CO: Hosted by Cairn Terrier Club of Denver
 June 16th (Two AKC Tests) Elizabeth, CO: Hosted by Rocky Mountain All Terrier Club

July 27th (Two AKC Tests) Bellvue, CO:
Hosted by Rocky Mountain Earthdog Club
July 28th (One AKC Test) Bellvue, CO:
Hosted by Rocky Mountain Earthdog Club

August 26th (One AKC Test) Elizabeth, CO: Hosted by Rocky Mountain Earthdog Club (as a TOPS Event)

> October 19th (Two AKC Tests) Elizabeth, CO: Hosted by Cairn Terrier Club of Denver
> October 20th (Two AKC Tests) Elizabeth, CO: Hosted by Rocky Mountain All Terrier Club

Information and Test Premium Lists (detailed information and entry forms) available on club sites, usually a few weeks before the scheduled test dates.

Club Web Sites

Cairn Terrier Club of Denver: <u>www.ctcdenver.com</u> Columbine Dachshund Club: <u>www.columbinedachshundclub.org</u> Rocky Mountain All Terrier Club: <u>www.rmatc.net</u> Rocky Mountain Earthdog Club: <u>www.rmearthdoq.org</u>

Rally Brag

Sophie Dog: Owned by: Sandra Hocking Show: Southern Arkansas Kennel Club, Camden, Arkansas Saturday, February 16, 2013 Date: James Ham Judge: Title: **Rally Advanced B** Comments: Third place with a score of 98. She moved up to Excellent B on Sunday and qualified in Excellent with a score of 87. In regular obedience, Sophie is still seeking that illusive UD leg!



Judge Jim Ham Owner/Handler Sandy Hocking Rescue Cairn Terrier Sophie



Date: February 1, 2013

Cairn: SkyeHigh's Black Swan a.k.a. Natalie

Owner/Breeder/Handler: Ray and Linda Daniels

Show: Desert Classic, Lost Dutchman Kennel Club

Location: Phoenix, AZ

Judge: Mrs. Carolyn A. Herbel

Placements: WB, BOW, BOB

Comments: "New Champion" finished with 6 majors (five 3's and one 4)



Date: February 2, 2013

Cairn: SkyeHigh's Black Swan a.k.a. Natalie

Owner/Breeder/Handler: Ray and Linda Daniels

Show: Desert Classic, Lost Dutchman Kennel Club

Location: Phoenix, AZ

Judge: Dr Richard Meen

Placements: WB, BOW, BOB, Best Bred-By Exhibitor

Comments: Natalie stayed in Classes per request of other exhibitors



Date: February 2, 2013

Cairn: SkyeHigh's Black Swan a.k.a. Natalie

Owner/Breeder/Handler: Ray and Linda Daniels

Show: Desert Classic, Lost Dutchman Kennel Club

Location: Phoenix, AZ

Placements: Group II, "Bred-By Terrier Group"



Date: February 3, 2013

Cairn: SkyeHigh's Ice Princess of StoneMark a.k.a. Crystal

Owner/Breeder/Handler: Ray and Linda Daniels

Show: Desert Classic, Sahuaro State Kennel Club

Location: Phoenix, AZ

Judge: Dr. John A. Reeve-Newson

Placements: Winners (9 to 12 Class), Best Puppy in Breed

Comments: Group II, "Puppy Terrier Group"



Reignee

Date: December 1, 2012

Cairn: Cherbo Reigning Monarch Sire: GCH Paragon Soldier at Daybreak Dam: CH Cherbo Palisades

Owner/Breeder/Handler: Cheri Eagleson

Show: Ingham County Kennel Club

Location: Lansing, Michigan

Judge: Mr. B. R. Edwards

Placement: Winners Bitch

Comments: New Champion!

In Memoriam-Susan DeWitt

The following article is reprinted with permission from the CTCA newsletter, submitted to that publication by Sue's friend and fellow Housatonic Cairn Terrier Club member, Dr. Mary Goss. Thank you to Dick Wilde for requesting it for this newsletter.

It all started with Angus the Pooh, born in 1969 and purchased from a pet outlet in New York City. Susan (then Wofsey) chose the Cairn Terrier as her breed of choice after much study, deciding the Cairn was the ideal dog in size and temperament to fit her lifestyle as a young working lady in the big city. Cairns were a proper size for apartment dwelling and could easily be transported by train to her family's home in Stamford, Connecticut.

Angus, sickly as a puppy (Susan was told he would not make it to the age of 5), taught Susan veterinary medicine and helped shape her goal to produce dogs of good health and temperament, free from genetic problems. Susan embraced the dog show world with Angus, but very quickly found that he would not cut it as a conformation Cairn. She worked with him in obedience and in 1974 Angus achieved CD status. By then Susan had been bitten by the Dog Show Bug and yearned to breed this lovely breed.

In 1972, she purchased a bitch, Cairndania Brigrey Dorey, from Betty Hyslop in Canada, a purchase that launched her on her conformation career. This bitch was to finish its championship requirements in March 1974 and produce a litter of three. One of the males finished his championship; a female represented the breed in commercials, including the first television commercial for Kibbles N Bits.

It seemed to Susan that the Cairn exhibitors were very cool to one another at shows and that there was a lack of sharing information on breeding and grooming and a lack of camaraderie. She researched show catalogs from the tri-state area and wrote to all the folks whose names appeared as exhibitors, suggesting a get-together to discuss forming a club to serve the area and provide a forum for the exchange of information and to promote friendship among those people who loved the breed. The Housatonic Cairn Terrier Club was born out of that meeting.

in 1980, with much persuasion, Jack DeWitt convinced Susan to join him in marriage. At that time, Jack was successfully breeding and exhibiting Wire Fox Terriers. When they married, each had six of their respective breeds.

Susan made a major contribution to the breed when she imported CH Pinetop Paperchase from Scotland. The first litter he sired (six puppies owned by the Vaughns) all finished. By the time he retired, he had sired over 20 champions, three of whom were Best In Show winners. His grandchildren and beyond are achieving major success in performance activities, particularly on the West coast.

All the dogs at Susan's home ran and played in the back yard together: Cairns, Norfolks, and, until recently, Wire Fox Terriers. All puppies were brought up with the adults and received daily human socialization as well.

Outside of the dog world, Susan's need to help others led her into such areas as being one of the founders of the Westport, CT, Volunteer Emergency Medical Corps, where she volunteered as an EMT-1 until her bout with lung cancer put an end to that endeavor.

Some of her last volunteer efforts were with the Corporate Angel Network (CAN), a group that matches cancer patients needing to fly to treatment centers with corporate jets flying to those destinations; the corporations fly the patients free of charge.

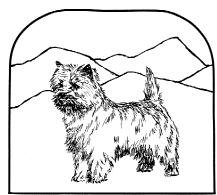
Last but not least, Susan handled Cairn Rescue for the HCTC and for the CTCA in the Northeast for the last 20 years or so. Several file drawers full of the documentation on those rescued testify to the importance of this effort. Without any question and without hesitation, but always with pleasure, Susan devoted the last 38 years to the breed she loved.

The Cairn Connection

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CAIRN TERRIER CLUB OF DENVER

What is a Title, Really?

Written by Sandra Mowery, originally appearing in Front and Finish.

Not just a brag, not just a stepping stone to a higher title, not just an adjunct to competitive scores; a title is a tribute to the dog that bears it, a way to honor the dog, an ultimate memorial.

It will remain in the record and in the memory for about as long as anything is this world can remain. Few humans will do as well or better.

And though the dog himself doesn't know or care that his achievements have been noted, a title says many things in the world of humans, where such things count. A title says your dog was intelligent, adaptable and good natured. It says that your dog loved you enough to do the things that please you, however crazy they may have sometimes seemed.

And, a title says that you loved your dog, that you loved to spend time with him because he was a good dog, that you believed in him enough to give him yet another chance when he failed and that, in the end, your faith was justified. A title proves that your dog inspired you to that special relationship enjoyed by so few; that in a world of disposable creatures, this dog with a title was greatly loved, and loved greatly in return.

And when that dear short life is over, the title remains as a memorial of the finest kind, the best you can give to a deserving friend. Volumes of praise in one small set of initials after a name. An obedience (agility, flyball, earthdog, tracking, lure coursing, conformation) title is nothing less than true love and respect, given and received and recorded permanently.

Cairn Terrier Club of Denver Officers

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Ray Daniels Chris Gray Mary Lou Wilde