



In this issue:

- Bonnie Conner on Vaccinations
- Ivy Underdahl on Clicker Training “Hush”
- Cindy Kingsley on “Backyard Breeders”

Volume 1, Issue 2

October, 2005

Welcome to Issue Two



Get your teeth into our new issue!

Welcome to the second issue of All Bark! We have some great content here, big thanks to everyone who contributed, and as always, we'd love to have more and more contributions from everyone. Please consider writing an article for All Bark! We want to hear from you!

In this, our second issue, Ivy Underdahl shares a great method for clicker training a dog to “hush” (something a

lot of us could use, I'm sure!). Bonnie Conner has spent much of the year researching vaccinations and we all get to benefit from her hard work with her excellent article in this issue. Also, Cindy Kingsley's article “Confessions of a Backyard Breeder” has to be one of the bravest, most honest things I've read. I

think her comments about how we need to be positive and educational in order to avoid alienating people are extremely important. In other words, you catch more flies with honey than with vinegar. None of us has a time machine to allow us to go

back and undo our mistakes (if any of you do, please call me, I have a business proposition for you), so the very best we can hope for is to learn from our errors and try to avoid repeating them in future.

Amanda Lowery, Editor
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Get your feet wet and send us a picture, brag or article!

The ASVS Philosophy

The **American Swedish Vallhund Society** is dedicated to the preservation of the Swedish Vallhund as it was originally intended, in appearance, temperament and working ability. We support owners and breeders who embrace this philosophy, and encourage selective breeding of healthy stock, genetic research and education of the general public. We pro-

mote participation in the many areas where this breed excels.

ASVS: recognized as an official United Kennel Club single breed club September, 2004

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BRAG Corner!

Earned a new title
with your Vallhund?
Achieved a goal?
Let us know and
we'll publish it
here!

🏆 Darlene Sjoberg's Bryn (U-CH Konnunkodon Brynhilde) took **Group 3** at the September Thunder Bay CKC show, took **BoB and BoW** at the Kawartha KC CKC shows and was **Reserve Winners Bitch** at the Canadian National Specialty in July. Darlene's Valcore (Can. Ch Caval The Never-ending Story, CGC, TD1, **RN**) took **BoB** (Altered) at the Canadian specialty and earned his **Rally Novice** title in St. Peter, MN

🏆 Mary Carter's Promise (CH Osafin Hopes n' Promises AX AXI SSA SG SJ SR HCT FFX-AG NAC, NIC) is the **Top Ranked AKC agility Swedish Vallhund for 2004**

🏆 Amanda Lowery's Rakki (U-CH Vastgota Star Fire) took **Best of Winners** at the Canadian National Specialty in July for his first CKC points

🏆 Cindy Kingsley's Zorro (CH Fennican Zoltan Finnboy) got his **ARBA CH** in March at the Lonestar Dog Show and Aris (Sunfire Perfect Harmony) took **BIS** at the ARBA Lonestar Dog Show II.

🏆 Yvonne Slusser's J.J. (U-GRCH Bodatorp Jumping Jack Flash) finished his **UKC Grand Championship** at the August CATS show in LaCrosse, WI with a **BoB and Group Third**

🏆 Pam Abrath's Olie (U-GRCH Genesis Rolie Polie Olie CGC RN) went **BoB** in the **UKC Top Ten for 2004** at Premier. **U-CH** PaVon Anastasia earned her UKC Championship at Premier, and took 3 of the CH classes at the LaCrosse, WI CATS show, going **BoB** and taking a **Group 1**

🏆 Bonnie Conner's Bojan (U-CH Bodeneis Bojan Borondir) is in the **UKC Top Ten**, at Premier Paige (U-GRCH Caval's Front Paige News) went **BoB** three times, Riley (Lejondalens Hellas Ursnygg) earned his first Championship points, and Essi (Skyview's Bright Expression) also earned points.

🏆 Marion Erp's Finn had a great 2005 (and isn't done yet!), he is now Fennican Yahoo Finnboy **NIC TN-N NGC TG-N NAP NIP NAJ NA RN**

🏆 Leonie Darling's Spirit (CH Dlarah Puta Spell on You) took **Best in Show** at the Parkes P A & H Association show on August 29th in Australia.

CONGRATULATIONS!!



Confessions of a Backyard Breeder by Cindy Kingsley

"I had not read up on breeding and whelping and had no books. Dogs just have puppies and that was that."

Of course, I did not know that I was a backyard breeder at the time and did not even know that such a phrase existed. When I was five years of age, my dad checked the want ads in the paper, left the house and came home with an adorable black and tan coonhound. We named her Boots and she was the runt of a litter of ten. My dad looked at the parents and picked the smallest pup there. Her ears were also short for the breed. However, none of us cared, as she was a beloved pet for fifteen years.

I raised three daughters as a single parent from the time they were quite young and always resisted their pleas for a dog. We had many cats come and go. However, I knew that the responsibility of a dog was more than I could handle. Then in 1996, only Tracy was still at home and she wanted a dog. She saw the cardigan in the movie, [Don't tell Mom the Babysitter's Dead](#). I knew it was a corgi but did not know that there were two types of corgis. Therefore, I did what my dad did and checked the want ads in the newspaper. In August 1996, we got Tommy from a backyard breeder (BYB) who had traveled from Oklahoma, as it is easier to sell these dogs in Texas. Tommy was the smallest of eight males and stole Tracy's heart. A few months later, I decided that I wanted a female as these dogs were so neat and maybe we could breed them. So I got Francesca from a BYB from the want ads. Luckily, Francesca did not come into heat for the first time until she was fifteen months of age. With my ignorance, I would have bred her at six months if she had come into heat then. I never saw a tie but

Francesca was pregnant and due in March. I did check the web for the gestation period of a bitch.

In March, I moved to the first house I had purchased. It was a cold and windy day and the movers left at 11:30A. At 1P, I could not find Francesca until I looked in the cold garage. She was in a crate and getting ready to drop a puppy. The stars were still with me as my next-door neighbor is a breeder and came right over to help. I had not read up on breeding and whelping and had no books. Dogs just have puppies and that was that. Well the first pup was born in the cold crate. We got Francesca and the pup into the house and Kathryn worked on the chilled pup. Voila, she survived as did her four other siblings. I had homes for them before they were weaned and I placed them at six to eight weeks of age. I thought this is great, \$2000 for relatively little work. I did not have the bad luck that I have heard about other first time breeders.

In early summer, I took Francesca to watch my daughter and Tommy practice agility. Francesca was still drying up and she was a decent looking pem unlike Tommy who is quite small for the breed. Mary Carter was assisting with the class, came by, introduced herself,

and asked about the sire of the litter. I told her Tommy was the sire and pointed to him. After she picked up her jaw from the ground, she asked me if his size was within the standard. I asked her, "what is a standard?" I will always be thankful to Mary for referring me to a mentor instead of berating me for my ignorance. I was ready to breed Francesca the next time she came into heat and make more money from puppies.

During this time, Tracy and I entered Tommy in an AKC show. He was after all an AKC registered dog. We got to the ring and had no idea what to do. The dog he showed against was groomed and quite nice. The judge had to tell us what to do and I am sure that everyone wondered why in the world were we there. Nobody spoke to us and we were happy with the outcome as the other dog obviously deserved to win. Last July I saw the same situation with a cardigan and I wondered if anyone would take the person aside and tell them about standards.

(continued on page 3)



Teaching “Bark/Hush” With the Clicker by Ivy Underdahl

Surprise, surprise...our herding breed barks! It is my personal belief that they have had to bark to move cattle, and, as many herding breeds in the world do, they often use their big voices initially to move stock. Regardless of the reason, it is a natural dog behavior, but one that we don't necessarily always want in our homes: that's where training comes in.

Through attending Karen Pryor's Clicker Expo, we have developed a way to teach our dogs BOTH Bark AND Hush at the same time. We feel that yelling at our dogs to “Shut Up!” is futile. At best the dog ignores us, at worst the dog thinks we are barking with them. So we train the behaviors: “bark/hush” using a clicker and treats to give the dog sufficient information, and a reinforcement history, in order to understand us when we ask them to be quiet.

Here is how it works, and believe me, it does!

Once the clicker is “charged” by pairing a treat with a click about 10 times, we train some basic behaviors like sit, down, attention. Next, we work on training the

dog to “Bark” on cue. We simply click and treat every time the dog barks. Yes, some of us have had to set up situations to help the dog to bark so we can c/t them. We follow the same basic rules of clicker training: Click the moment the behavior occurs, treat after the click, don't add the cue until you are getting it reliably, add the cue just before the behavior occurs. The cue must be attached to the behavior approximately 30 to 50 times for a dog to understand that “Bark!” means “bark now.”

OK...now the dog barks on cue, and you are going crazy because he is offering it to you as one of his favorite behaviors! SO here's the trick:

Cue “bark,” dog barks, click and treat with kibble or a so-so treat. While the dog is munching, or in the instant he looks up at you before he barks, put your hand out toward him in a “stop” gesture, and say: “Hush!” The dog pauses an instant to wonder what you are doing: CLICK AND TREAT WITH A PIECE OF CHICKEN OR ROAST BEEF!!! Get it? Now you are training two behaviors at once,

“bark and hush,” but you are always rewarding the “hush” with a much higher value (to the dog) treat than the treat after the “bark.” The key is consistency. “Hush” gets good stuff! Be free with your rewards, don't be stingy! It takes a few minutes every day to teach this, but give it a try, what have you got to lose?

Every month, be sure to tune up the “bark/hush” training, so your dog remembers which behavior gets the really good stuff. Hey, there you go, just like the dogs on T.V. yours too can “Speak” on cue, and best of all, “Hush” on cue. Good luck and have fun!

Ivy Underdahl is a clicker trainer at Gentle Touch Pet Training in California. She shares her home with three Vallhunds: ARBA Master CH Osafin Blaze To Glory HCT, NA, NAP, N-Vers, O-NAC, NJC, NGC, TG-N, O-TN-N, WV-N, RS-N-OP, JS-N-OP, GS-N-OP, CGC ARBA CH Vastgota Stormy Skye HCT, CGC and Umanoma Maijapoppänen www.solborgfarm.com



Ivy's husband Dan fishing with Blaze and Skye

Confessions of a Backyard Breeder by Cindy Kingsley (continued)

(continued from page 2) I met with the person that Mary recommended and she kindly looked at my dogs and said that Tommy was too small and should be neutered. She said that Francesca was a nice bitch but was the old style of Pembroke and it would be best to spay her and place her. If I were interested in owning and showing Pembrokes, she would get me a nice one to show and breed if all health tests were passed and she had nice conformation. Tommy was neutered is still with us and Francesca was spayed and lives with an older couple who run a bed and breakfast in Sedona, AZ. I got Joey from my mentor and learned so much while showing Joey and then going into cardigans. Suddenly I could not get enough books or information about the dog world. I am still in that place.

The Swedish Vallhunds came to my household in 1999 with Kirin and the rest is history. Now I only breed Swedish Vallhunds, as I love their temperament and ability to get along with other dogs and of course their great personality. The desire to make money has pretty much disappeared although I would like to break even. But now I enjoy the puppies and the adults and am thankful that the internet brought me to the Swedish Vallhunds and that I was open to another way of breeding.

To me it is important that we as individuals and as a club educate people as best we can. We also should not disregard those people who do not have much dog knowledge. Ivy is a good example of a person who knew nothing about dogs when she got Blaze. Most of us know

that she now teaches obedience and has worked very hard to learn about dogs to include breeding, showing and training. The club needs to have breeders' education information and information for pet owners. The breeders need to share their best practices and we need to work together as best we can. Personally, the breeders in this club have been great with sharing information and knowledge. But perhaps we can start putting some of these ideas on paper.

Cindy Kingsley of Osafin Swedish Vallhunds lives in Austin, TX with her Vallhunds ARBA CH Sunfire Just Desserts, IABCA & ARBA CH Fennican Zoltan Finnboy, BIS ARBA CH Osafin's Quicksilver ARBA BIS Sunfire's Perfect Harmony and PaVon Birgitte Sofia www.osafin.com

Canine Vaccines (Part 1) by Bonnie Conner (continued on back page)

Gus, a much-loved Swedish Vallhund in the United States, who passed away from a reaction to vaccines, might not have passed on in vain. Hopefully, many Vall people are now educating themselves regarding vaccines for their furry “people”.

This “adventure” of vaccines and dogs started for me about seven years ago with my beloved Aussie bitch, Haley, who almost died of vaccine reactions. What I learned from this experience is not to believe everything my vet says, but to educate myself and if a vet disagrees

with what I know, I would change doctors. I did many interviews before I found a doctor who would work with me and who helped me learn more about the vaccines.

I also learned the immune system in dogs is not that much different than the immune system in people. (I too have

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Canine Vaccines (Part 1) by Bonnie Conner (continued from Page 3)

immune problems, which three doctors have told me probably started with my childhood vaccinations). There are many many variables regarding reactions. Meaning: individuals can react differently to the same problem and at different times. Sneezing, skin itching, digestive problems, very pink skin, hair loss, and runny eyes, are just a few symptoms a dog might have. To prevent some of these reactions, if your dog has the propensity to react, people need to learn what they are allowing vets to give their dogs.

At a Dr. Jean Dodds seminar I took the following notes on Autoimmunity:

-Autoimmune disease is a failure of self-tolerance and can be all tied together:

Genetic – predisposition

Virus – classical triggers in certain pups from the same litter

Sex Hormones – i.e. pregnancy and/or psychological stress

Stress

-Also, immunity problems can be caused by the following (according to Dr. Dodds):

Develops in genetically susceptible individuals

May be triggered by environmental agents operating by nonspecific inflammation and/or molecular mimicry.

Is the result of the sum of genetic and environmental factors that override normal mechanics of self-tolerance.

Is most often mediated by T cells or characterized by an underlying dysfunction in T cells.

Dr. Dodds recommends the following core vaccines: Distemper, Adenovirus, Parvovirus, rabies. Cats: Feline Parvovirus, Herpesvirus, Calicivirus and rabies.

Something for all of us to remember, according to Dr. Dodds, is Modified Live Vaccines are not based on body mass. Killed vaccines should also be adjusted for body mass. Meaning, a dose amount for a Great Dane should not be the same dose for a Papillon.

Also, modified live vaccines produce faster results, usually within 10 days. Killed vaccines stimulate B cells, which stimulate T cells, etc.....meaning it is a slower process.

Vaccinating should be avoided during the period just before estrus (30 days), during estrus, during pregnancy and lactation. For more on Dr. Dodd's vaccine information, go to

www.dogsadversereactions.com/ChangingVaccineProtocols.html and www.dogsadversereactions.com/MinimalVaccineUse.html

Titers testing is highly recommend, but not for diseases that are not in your area. The main titer testing should be distemper/parvo (now a combined test) and rabies. Also, on Dr. Dodds website is a form you can take to your vet to be completed and have all blood tests sent to her. I have used this method and it works very well.

Part II will consist of information based on the AAHA Report on new shot protocols.

Bonnie Conner (Skyview Kennel) has over thirty years' experience as a dog breeder and trainer. She lives in New Mexico, where she teaches clicker obedience classes and breeds Swedish Vallhunds. <http://www.swedishvallhundsskyview.us>

Vallhund Facts & News:

NEWS: Leonie Darling's book *Swedish Vallhund: A Legacy of the Vikings* has been released and is available for purchase through her website: <http://dlarah.tripod.com> (watch for a review in upcoming issues of *All Bark!*). Given the very limited number of books available on the Vallhund, this is big news!

FACT: The Swedish Vallhund was nearly extinct by the end of World War II, if not for the actions of K.G. Zettersten and Björn von Rosen, we in all likelihood wouldn't have our beloved breed at all

FACT: In Sweden, the Swedish Vallhund is called Västgötaspets ("spitz of the West Goths"), and in Finland it's called Länsigöötanmaanpystykorva (a direct translation of Västgötaspets)

FACT: Vallhunds can have all kinds of tails, from docked to natural bob to curly Spitz tails to brush tails like those of the German Shepherd. Variety is the spice of life!

In future issues:

Part 2 of "Canine Vaccines"
Agility, Tracking and Rally
Book & Equipment Reviews



Useful Websites

ASVS: www.vallhund.net
UKC: www.ukcdogs.com
CERF: www.vmdb.org/cerf.html
OFA: www.offa.org
PennHIP: www.pennhip.org
SKV (Swedish Club): hem.passagen.se/skv76/english/eindex.htm

Suggestions, submissions and general comments are always welcome. You can email me at amandalowery@charter.net, or contact any of us at the addresses listed on our website: www.vallhund.net.



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BYE! THANKS FOR READING!
SEE YOU NEXT TIME!