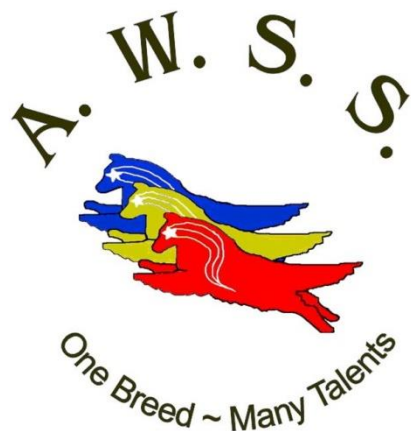




Association of Working Shetland Sheepdogs

SECOND QUARTER 2025

April - May - June



On the cover: VTGCH Westernesse High Voltage VT VTX CDX VER GO CGC RAE RM RC CA NA NAP
SCN SWN SWA SWE SHDM TKP UCDX UROM MHD NN AN SN MN MV BN NDD-V
DD-V PKD-N (Tazer) ~ Pat Knepley



Working Together

by Monika Keller

Turbo and Brinco, my greatest companions, teachers, and teammates in every adventure.

Thank you for everything we've experienced and learned together—and for everything you've taught me and will continue to teach me.

You've shown me what it truly means to work with a dog. We began with Agility, followed by Disc Dog, Herding, Trick Training, and Scent Detection.

Turbo and Brinco share their view of our journey together:

"We still hear the voices and gestures of our guides, Monika and Javier... the obstacles, the speed, the powerful bond that formed throughout the course—and that final embrace at the end. Agility, our very first discipline."

"Disc Dog was where I sealed my connection with my guide. Just through looks and gestures, we communicated perfectly—words were unnecessary. We knew what to do and how to do it. That excitement before entering the field transformed into confidence, energy, and shared joy that only deepened our bond. We earned victories, yes—but the greatest ones were the communication we built, the connection, the bond that still lives on and always will."

"With Herding, we were finally able to unleash our instinct and better understand the roots of so many of our behaviors. One day, we got into the car. Our guides radiated excitement... 'Where are we going?' The doors opened. The air smelled different... but familiar. We saw animals with thick wool. Something inside us said: run to them! And we did. We guided them naturally. Such happiness—happiness from letting our instinct run free."

"Laughter and fun. 'What will we create today?' With Trick Training, we learned how to build something together. 'Is this what my guide wants?' 'I'll give it a try!' 'Am I guiding my guide now?' We can only create

something great by working in unity. And achieving something together boosts our confidence, our sense of safety, our connection... our bond."

"I'll find it!" The challenge of Scent Detection begins. Deep focus and concentration, silent signals, shared glances... That moment of teamwork with my guide—and the joy and emotion of finding the target. Victory!"

I will always work with my dogs. That feeling of being a hero, of succeeding at something meaningful, gives them confidence and self-assurance. And for dogs with emotional difficulties or insecurities, that feeling helps them grow stronger and happier.

The complicity, the mutual understanding, the joy of creating something new together, thinking through how to achieve it... the bond between dog and human—that true communication—is what strengthens a lifelong connection.

I've chosen these two photographs from among many. Both capture the deep work and union with their guide:

That *"here's the scent, and I won't move until my guide releases me"* moment of focus,



Turbo

and those eyes full of drive and motivation, completely tuned in to their guide—and that guiding index finger that offers support, safety... and confidence.



Brinco

www.tucandocanino.com (in Spanish, but clicking on the translator button will change it to English)

Sheltie Accomplishments ~ Congratulations!

On May 22-24, Tazer (Westernesse High Voltage) got his last two legs in Rally Choice in his final trials with a 100 and a 99 and his title, plus an extra leg to be sure. During his career, he accumulated 67 titles in ten sports and seven organizations. He also has the Versatility Grand Champion award from AWSS celebrating his accomplishments. He's been one special dog to be partnered with.



2012 ~ Showing us what a bad-a** dog we brought home with us.



Alerting on scent in AKC Scent Work



Drop on Recall ~ UKC Open Obedience ~ 2017



Ready for Carting work ~ 2024

VT, VTX, VTGCH ~ Association of Working Shetland Sheepdogs

AKC ~ CDX, VER, GO, CGC, RAE, RM, RC, CA, NA, NAP, SCN, SWN, SWA, SWE, SHDM, TKP

UKC ~ UCDX, UROM, MHD, NN, AN, SN, MN, MV

Barn Hunt ~ BN (Barn Hunt Association, LLC)

Carting ~ NDD-V (The American Bouvier des Flandres Club)

DD-V (North American Working Bouvier Association)

Parkour ~ PKD-N (International Dog Parkour Association)

~ Pat Knepley

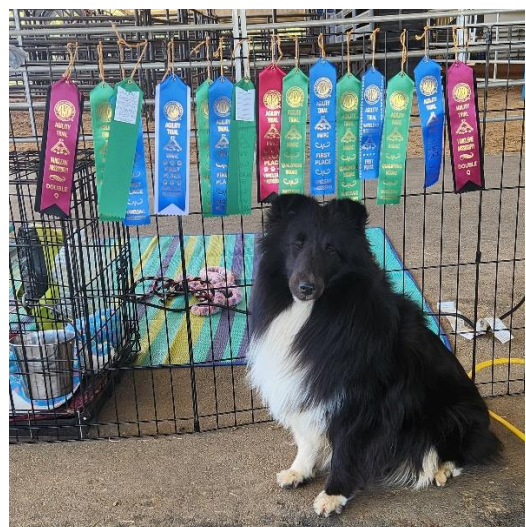
VTCH Northlight Landing at Dogwood Acres (Landi) PT ACT1 ACT1J ACT2 ACT2J
TKN DCAT FDC CGC HSAS HSDS T2B MX MXB MXJ MJB CD RE RLF-1s HRD-1s

In April Landi competed in Greeley, CO at the American Shetland Sheepdog Association (ASSA) nationals. She placed 1st in T2B and FAST and 2nd in Master JWW by only .01 sec. Landi place 2nd in Started A sheep which earned her a Reserve High In Trial (RHIT). She placed 5th in a large class in both Ex B Rally and Adv B Rally to earn her first leg toward her RAE title and 18 points toward her RACH. She competed in Open obedience and had just one little bobble on a nice run. Landi showed in conformation where she looked very pretty. She far exceeded my expectations at this nationals. She is such a talented all around girl. All of the performance scores in the five events earned us the award of Best All Around Sheltie.





In May at the MS Mavericks agility trial in VanCleave, MS, she went 7 for 11 for all the while earning two more Double Q's toward her MACH. She just needs two more DQ's.



Landi changed her “hat” and competed in herding at Hado Bar Farms in Nova, OH in June at the CSSC Trial. On Friday she placed 1st and Saturday placed 2nd in Started A ducks. On Sunday she placed 1st in a large competitive class to finish her Started A Sheep master title.



Odyssey's Fast N Furious at Dogwood (Torque) BN RI HSAS HSBD
HSDS HSADM OA AXJ XF CAX FCAT RLF I-s HRD I-s

My handsome boy Torque competed in Advanced A ducks at the CSSC trial in Nova, OH at Hado Bar Farms in June. He got another point toward his Herding CH.



~ Therese Fleming

Ares, Mason and Tori have all done a lot in the last three months, starting with the American Shetland Sheepdog Association National in Greeley, Colorado.



Tori, Mason and Ares at ASSA with their performance loot.

At ASSA, Tori got her Excellent Fast agility title, qualified in Beginner Novice Obedience, got her Rally Intermediate title, competed in conformation and debuted in Started Ducks to win that class and go Reserve High in Trial ducks.

Since Nationals, she has gotten AXJ and OA agility titles and herding Started A duck title with another Reserve High in Trial at the Cleveland Shetland Sheepdog Club herding trial.



Tori is BISOH BPIS CH Promise More Than a Dream PT RI OA AXJ XF HSAd BCAT CGC TKN VCX. She is bred by Christa R. Medaries.

At ASSA, Ares was High in Trial ducks, triple Qd in Rally, won T2B in agility and was 2nd in the American Bred class to be awarded Runner Up Best All Around Sheltie.

Since ASSA he has racked up 10 QQs towards a PACH in agility.



Ares is VTGCH HC MACH Apex Wildest Dreams CD RE HSAdS HSBd HIAAd HIBd HXBd HXAdM MXS PAD MJG PJD MXP MJP XF T2B BCAT CGC TKN. Bred by Teri Kocher and Jennifer Crank.

At ASSA, Mason Mallory was High in Trial Combined ducks and sheep. And since ASSA has gotten his Started A Sheep title and AXJ, AX and XF agility titles and two QQs towards a MACH. He was also High In Trial Masters dog at the Three Rivers Shetland Sheepdog Club of Greater Pittsburgh agility Trial.



Mason Is VTCH Wickett Living the Dream CD RA HSBd HIAAd HSAdM HSAs AX AXJ XF TKI FTN. Breeder/owner Katy Mallory.

~ Katy Mallory

Haley earned her American Herding Breed Association championship on June 8, 2022, at Bitterbrush Ranch in Gardnerville, NV ~ trained and handled by her breeder, Linda Rorem. She is now HC HTCH Northlight Catch the Jet to Haley, HXADS HIBD HRD I-m,s HTAD II-d HTAD III-ge,s HTD III-d



Introducing Bria ~ Topnotch The Sky's The Limit, born January 16, 2025 ~



~ Carol Martin

At the American Shetland Sheepdog Association's National Rally and obedience trial, Spartan won 3rd place in Novice B, and in rally he qualified in Master, Excellent B and Advance B. He earned his first RAE leg and first triple Q!



In June, while a couple of Spartan's puppies were being awesome at a herding trial in Ohio, he was being awesome in Missouri at the Greater St Louis Shetland Sheepdog Club trial. Spartan was first place in both advance D course trials (95 score) and High In Trial. It was really messy and muddy but that didn't bother any of us. The next day was regular trials. Spartan worked well in advanced ducks and sheep, and I'm proud of him. He earned 2nd or 3rd placements in all, against stiff competition. He placed second in advance B ducks and advance A sheep. He was the only sheltie there and represented the breed well.



Spartan's High In Trial wins with judge Brian Wistrom



Spartan with all his ribbons



We had the opportunity to get photos made by Jen Melani at the 2025 ASSA National.

Spartan ~ GCH CH HTCh VTGCH Promise Strong and Courageous CD BN RE HSBS HSBS HIBD HXBD HXADS HXDS AX AXJ OF ACTJ1 ACT2 CA DCAT CGC TKI VCX+CH HRDIIS HTADIIS RLFIIS HTDIIS, 2024 ASSA Best All Around Sheltie

Bred by Myself and Suzi Nelson, owned and handled by myself.

I love my beautiful and talented stock dog and enjoy every minute with him! He has accomplished so much in his four years, and we are having fun!

~ Christa Medaries

We just started doing Fast Cat and my RaCh2 Apex Trinity Ewe Sweet Ray of Time UD RM5 RAE4 HSAAd pCD BN GO GN is addicted to the sport and running about 24 miles per hour. He earned his BCAT title in 3 trial events.

My one year old, Apex New Beginnings aka Arie is taking quite well to showing. He earned his Rally Intermediate with 2 first places and a 2nd place.



~ Sandra Velleman



Rogue ~ Shazadar's Rogue Wave CD BN RI NA
NAJ NAP NJP CAA FCAT5 ACT2 FTN CGCA
CGCU TKA VHMA FG50K MBDCH-S NJC
NAC TN-N LCI

Rogue earned his FCAT5, June 22nd. His 48th title! He has also continued to move up in the NAFA (Flyball) rankings and is now the #17 Most Pointed Shetland Sheepdog in NAFA history.

~ Sara Chouinard

Mischa ~ Northlight Minka's Wild Reflection ~ earned his second leg toward the AKC A Course Intermediate Sheep title at the trial in Patterson, CA, on June 29, with a first place.

~ Linda Rorem



Obedience & Rally Trials

April 18 & 19, 2025

Hosted by Sleeping Giant Agility Club,
at Paws 'N Effect, Hamden, CT

Prince ~ Obedience, Beginner Novice B earned a
third leg, 199 score and 1st place and TITLE!

~ Obedience, Novice B, first leg, 188-1/2,
2nd Place.

~ Rally, Excellent B and Advance B, two Q's.

Missy ~ Rally ~ Choice Class ~ Q.

*Right: Prince BN Title: Linda, Prince,
and Judge Amy Stephens*



April 20, 2025 ~ “Hoppy Easter” from Missy and Prince!



CPE Agility Trials

April 26 & 27, 2025

Hosted by Southern Connecticut Agility Team (SCAT),
at The Fieldhouse, Northford, CT

Missy was entered in Level C (Champion Class) 5 Classes
each day. She earned ten Q's and seven placements.

ROSETTE for PERFECT WEEKEND!



Prince was entered in Level 2, two classes each day. He earned three Q's and three placements (in the fourth class ~ bar down ~ oops!)



June 21 & 22, 2025

Hosted by at Paws 'N Effect,
at Paws 'N Effect, Hamden, CT

Missy was entered in Level C (Champion Class), five classes each day.

Saturday: Earned three Q's, two placements.

Sunday: Earned five Q's, three placements.

Missy was the Third Highest Scoring Dog out of ten this weekend.

Prince was entered in Level 1, two classes each day.

Saturday: Earned one Q and 1st place.

Sunday: Earned two Q's and two 1st places.

Prince performed six weave poles for the first time in a trial!

Congratulations to my Shelties!



May 11, 2025 ~ Yappy Dog-ma Day from Missy & Prince!



Missy ~ CPE Agility
Earned the Extraordinaire Jumpers Title ~ ExJU.
Thirty perfect 100 Scores in Champion Level Class.



Prince ~ CPE Agility
Earned Level 2 Fun Title ~ CL2-F.
Earned Level 2 Handler Title ~ CL2-H.



FAST CAT Events

May 24, 2025

Hosted by Berkshire Begian Tervuren Club,
at Showcase for Dogs, East Windsor, CT

Missy and Prince had two runs each and Q'd in
both runs.



May 31, 2025

Hosted by Mayflower Pembroke Welsh Corgi Club, Inc.,
at Showcase for Dogs, East Windsor, CT

Missy and Prince had two Runs each, however, due to rain, they ran once and both Q'd in
their run.

Missy's 10th Barkday
was June 1st. Missy
shared her special
day with her brother,
Prince.



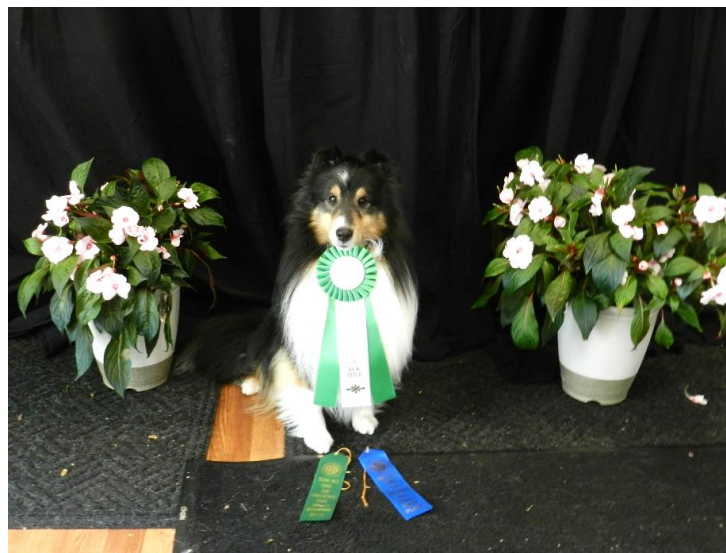
Obedience Trials

June 6 and June 8, 2025

Hosted by Taconic Hills Kennel Club,
at Paws 'N Effect, Hamden, CT

Prince was entered in Novice B Classes. Friday he
earned 196-1/2, 2nd Place, second leg.
Sunday he earned 194-1/2, 1st Place, third leg and
NINTH AKC TITLE!

*Right: Judge, Michael Mooney,
with Linda and Prince*



Missy and Prince were in Connecticutdog Magazine, Summer 2025 Issue, page 2 “Canine Smiles.”



Page 2 of magazine ~
Missy and Prince in second row



Photo that was sent in

AKC Agility

June 1, 2025

Hosted by Sleeping Giant Agility Club,
at Paws 'N Effect, Hamden, CT

Missy was entered in one class today, Master Standard and Q'd.

June 25, 2025

Hosted by Sleeping Giant Agility Club,
at Paws 'N Effect, Hamden, CT

Missy was entered in one class today, Master JWW and Q'd.

June 26, 2025

Hosted by LEAP Agility Club of Central MA,
at Paws 'N Effect, Hamden, CT

Missy was entered in one class today, Master JWW and Q'd.

Love you, my precious Girl!

FAST CAT

June 29, 2025

Hosted by Nutmeg Portuguese Water Dog Club, Inc.,
at Showcase for Dogs, East Windsor, CT

Missy and Prince had two runs today and both Shelties Q'd in both runs.

Prince Charming earned the FCAT TITLE, his TENTH AKC title!

Good runs in very warm weather my special Shelties!
Love you so much!



~ Linda Houle

Over the past few months, Sweep has earned a few more titles. He completed the Open levels in AKC agility, earned his Rally Excellent title and completed his Scentwork Advanced Exterior class, closing in on his overall Advanced level title. Sweep also competed in AKC Agility League where he was the top Limited Sophomore 12” regular dog and highest scoring Sheltie in the same category. He helped his team to a Top 5 placement for this Season as well.



After a bit of a break in July and August, Sweep hopes he will have a few more brags to add. Sweep is: Summerlove & Sandale's Rhapsody In Brew BN RE PT OA OAJ NF CA DCAT SWN SEA CGC TKN FTN JHD



~ Katherine Shogren

AWSS TITLES ISSUED**VTGCh**

VTGCH GCh **CanyonView Lord O The Westwind** CD, RM, AGN, AGNJ, XP, JT, CA, NS, S-NAC, OCC, OGC, S-OJC, TG-O, O-TN-E, S-WV-N, O-GR-O, ETD, CGN

Connie Anderson
April 29, 2025

VTCh

VTCH C-ATCH **Lira Lagniappe Cher** PT, FDC, RI, AX, MXJ, XF, RATO, TKN, FDC, SCN, SIN, CCSS-L1

Deb Harrington
May 23, 2025

VTX

Havere Sheli All Riled Up BN, RA, FDC, CA, AX, AXJ, MFS, FCAT, CGC, TKN, T2B, VTX

Penny Larson
May 11, 2025

CH Promise More Than a Dream RI, PT, OA, BCAT, CGC, TKN, VTX

Katy Mallory
May 23, 2025

TACH MACH **Redcoat Olympic Legacy** RI, HT, MXB, MJB, MXP, MJP4, MJPB, NF, MFP, CGC, TKI, FITG, TAM, TMAG, S-EAC, O-TG-E, WV-E, O-GR-E, S-EJC, O-TN-E, GB-E, VTX

Michelle Steed
May 11, 2025

UKC CH **Xanadu's Flower Power of Bluebird Ridge** RA, HSAd, CAA, FCAT, CGCA, CGCU, TKA, ATT, FITB, VTX

Kaelyn Cook
April 14, 2025

VT

Bodacious Bonnie of Bluebird Ridge RA, FDC, CAA, FCAT, CGCA, CGCU, TKN, ATT, VHMP, VSWB, VT

Kaelyn Cook
April 29, 2025

Caraids Blue Blood The Commissioner RI, PT, FDC, NA, NAJ, NF, CL-2, TKN, CCSS-L1, VT

Deb Harrington
May 23, 2025



Screen shot from “In Sheep’s Clothing,” filmed in Shetland by Jenny Brown, 1932
(National Library of Scotland, Moving Image Archive)

Go to the website at: <https://awssweb.wixsite.com/awss> to learn how you can apply for the AWSS VT, VTX, VTCH, based on titles that your dog has already earned.

AWSS CONTACT INFORMATION:

Titles Directors:

Dayna Dreger and John Strassner, email: AWSStitles@gmail.com

Newsletter: Linda Rorem, email: pacifica19@gmail.com

Website: <https://awssweb.wixsite.com/awss>

Facebook page: AWSS – Association of Working Shetland Sheepdogs Group Page
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/4107341657>