

The Shaggy Rag

The Bearded Collie Club of Southern California

Founded January 12, 1997

BCCSC website: www.bccsc.net



President's Message

Dear BCCSC members,

Hi, I am Susann (Sue) Brody, your newly elected President. I am pleased to be on the Board for this club and I thank you for voting for me. I look forward to the future of working with all of you to help the club to be what ALL members can enjoy.

I want to take a moment to say "Thanks" to EVERYONE that served on the past Board and the committees, not only from the new Board, but from ALL THE MEMBERS of the BCCSC for all of your hard work, from putting on our dog shows, showcasing our beloved Beardies, to events that enlighten our knowledge of health, to the social events where our dogs get to play.

The new Board had their first meeting and although the agenda was quite long, we got through it. We are **very excited** in how each person had their expertise to offer and how we worked together to accomplish so much. I, in particular, smiled all the way home, having enjoyed everyone's company and input into all the various things we needed to go over. Please feel free to contact *any* Board member with inquiries or suggestions as to how you would like to help or sponsor an event (meaning help to make an event happen).

I have included an Intro for you about the Board members, and their contact information is available on page 2. They are all really nice and knowledgeable ladies! Please help me welcome them in as your Board. We are all here to work for you and the club!!

We still have a chairperson position open, Obedience and Rally, if any of you might like to volunteer for that, we'd love to have you.

The Shaggy Rag Newsletter pricing is changing, effective with the September version. The Regional version is the one printed each year and mailed to all of our members, it highlights all the dogs at the Commotion at the Ocean in Ventura. See pricing on page 2. For the September issue ONLY, we are pleased to open this up to members and non-members for paid ads/brags.

SAVE JULY 5, 6 and 7! July 5th will be a Happy-Hour after judging, so please join us for Wine and Cheese, and CGC testing by Patty Rusko (please email her to reserve a spot). See page 3 for the ad!!! We also have a very nice article in this issue done by Noli regarding how to prepare for a CGC test, what it entails.

We really would like for you to share your brags with us. We all enjoy seeing pictures of you and/or your dog(s) and we are hoping that our changes will encourage you to SHARE WITH US!!! BCCSC's website is ALWAYS free to share your brag, so please send it to Noli Caswell, our webmaster!

Another exciting change is that all current BCCSC members will now be eligible for discounts at our events. Becoming a member is a great way to save money and have so much fun when you come to hang out with us.

Please check out the calendar section for upcoming events. We look forward to seeing YOU ALL!!!

Sue Brody
BCCSC President

Beardie Board Room

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SHAGGY RAG NEWSLETTER POLICIES:

The Shaggy Rag is published in:

March, June, September and December

The September edition, The Shaggy Rag Regional, will be printed and mailed out to all current BCCSC members

The Shaggy Rag deadlines are as follow:

February 15, May 15, August 15 and November 15.

The club's secretary will send out a reminder of the deadline by email. When you get the email, please send your photos, brags, and ads all together to sbrody99@yahoo.com.

PLEASE send in FULL RESOLUTION PHOTO(s). Acceptable formats are: jpg, tiff, and psd (photoshop). PDF's are acceptable only if in final format as no corrections or additions can be made. ***We cannot guarantee that it will be published in the newsletter if is not in on time.

New Pricing is as follows starting with our Regional Shaggy Rag in September:

Printed ALL IN COLOR (black and white acceptable too)

Woof - limited to about 25 words-no picture - Electronic version-FREE - Printed version \$10

Lick - 1/2 page - Electronic version \$10 - Printed version \$25

High Five - Full page - Electronic version \$20 - Printed version \$35

***The September issue is open for *members and non-members* to place paid ads/brags Non-members pay \$5.00 more for their ad than members.

***The Editor reserves the right to edit copy.

Please contact Sandy Dubin for MEMBERSHIP APPLICATIONS

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Please contact Karen Dressler for CHANGE OF ADDRESS:

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Upcoming events

- July 5-7 - Commotion at the Ocean- BCCSC Regional Specialty, followed by 2 supported entry days (see ad)
- November - Herding day coming with possible BCCA Instinct testing also being offered (contact Sandy Dubin)
- December - Holiday party - location to be determined - bring your dogs to eat with us, exchange dog toys and relax!

In the December 2012 issue, please note correction: Don McKee, Topflight Photography

**Advertisements and statements in this newsletter are not necessarily endorsed by the Editor of the BCCSC.*

The Bearded Collie Club of Southern California Invites You To **2013 Annual Regional Specialty**



Hosted by
Channel City Kennel Club
Friday, July 5, 2013 -- Seaside Park, Ventura, CA
Regular & Non-Regular Classes ~ Judge *Ms. Sandy I. Wheat
*please note judge change

Patty Rusko will be offering CGC evaluations for \$20.00 after judging
Please email Patty at chmissy3@yahoo.com to reserve your spot
Additional AKC fees apply for certificate/title use

Followed by two days of supported entries at the same location:
Saturday, July 6, Santa Maria Kennel Club
Sunday, July 7, Ventura County Dog Fanciers Association

Join the BCCSC on July 5th for a happy-hour following regular classes

Jack Bradshaw
Online entries at:
www.jbradshaw.com
Entries close 12pm, June 19, 2013

Susann Brody ~ Show Chair
sbrody99@yahoo.com

New Members Corner

Mark and I discovered Coty nearly 13 years ago at the pound as a 6-month old puppy. He was just the cutest ball of fluff and labeled as an Old English Sheep Dog mix. When we took him to the vet for his vet check it was a Vet Assistant who happened to realize that Coty was a Bearded Collie. No one had ever even heard of the breed at the office.

I looked online and gathered information about Bearded Collies and it became apparent that the assistant was correct. Coty met all the descriptive criteria: Bouncing, fun, jovial, a prankster, a thief, had to gather his family to one room in order to be happy. He has been such an amazing and fun part of our family. He is the light of our household. Never ever is there a dull moment with Coty! He loves everyone and lives life with so much enthusiasm and joy.

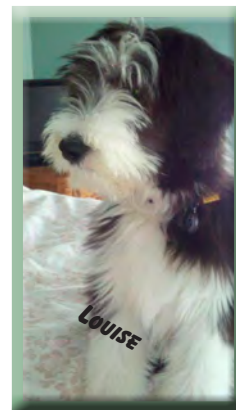
The picture (below) of Coty is from his younger years, when he was in his prime. He is now 13 years old. He has had to undergo a series of radiation treatments due to an Epulis (a very aggressive growth on his mouth, that when it touched anything it would bleed a lot). Surgery was not successful. It was too aggressive. Current pictures of him would not do him justice as he has all the heart and joy seen here in this picture.

After being so much in love with Coty, we decided that Bearded Collies are absolutely the best dogs ever! So we decided it was time to seriously consider getting a puppy while Coty would still be able to mentor the puppy. We looked at them off and on over the years and it just happened that Louise came along. Louise was born on my mom's birthday, so we named her after my mom!

Little Louise is a pure joy, keeps us old folk up during the night, keeps us busy all day, but she is a wonderful addition to our family. We really hope to show Louise. We do not have experience showing, so that may just be a dream! But we will pursue agility with her, obedience, herding, basically what area she shows that she enjoys is the direction(s) we will take with her. First and foremost she is a family member and any pursuits would have to be fun for her!

I am so glad that the BCCSC is here. I know with Louise I will have lots of learning and questions, and it is wonderful to have a chance to know people who see the joy and love of this wonderful breed.

Linda Williams & Mark Williams



BRAG!!

Alex, Raintree Rock Around the Clock, took Best in Sweeps at the National Capitol Regional Specialty. It was his first show. Alex then won a 4- point major on Sunday at the Cherry Blossom Circuit.

Many thanks to his breeders Lesley Woodcock and Robert Lamm, and, of course, to Amy Alspaugh Penuel for her wonderful handling.

KATHY COXWELL

CGC-what you need to know

by Noli Caswell

Canine Good Citizen® (CGC) Title

This July 5th at the Regional in Ventura, the BCCSC will be offering Canine Good Citizen® testing. Last January, Canine Good Citizen became an official title that can appear on the title records of AKC registered dogs... which means you can list "CGC" after your dog's name. This testing is open to all breeds and mixed breeds that have registered with the AKC. Here is a little explanation of what is involved to get the title.

The Canine Good Citizen program began in 1989 as a way to encourage and recognize dogs that have good manners at home and in the community. The program stresses responsible dog ownership and basic training. The test consists of 10 exercises. You can train for these exercises on your own or enroll in a CGC class where interested owners formally train for the evaluation. There is usually a fee for the evaluation test if it is not included in the class. After passing the test, dog owners have the option of having CGC added to their dog's title record and appear as a part of the dog's titled name.

1. CGC as a Title. The processing fee is \$20. You will receive the CGC certificate, you may use the suffix "CGC" after the dog's name, and CGC will be added to the dog's title record. The dog must be registered or listed with AKC (an AKC number, PAL, or AKC Canine Partners)

—or—

2. CGC certificate only. The processing fee is \$8. CGC will not be added to the dog's title record.

If the CGC Test/Registration Form you receive from your CGC Evaluator does not include these options, complete and attach the ["Addendum to the CGC Test/Registration Form"](#) to your CGC Test/Registration Form.

So what is the test like? See for yourself! <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-vd5UK8clB4> This is a 7 minute video of the CGC test. Many of our Beardies have these basic manners and the test will be simple. For others, it may be quite a challenge! But there is enough time to get into a CGC or basic obedience class and practice before the CGC Test in July. If you are interested in signing up for the CGC Test at our Regional, please contact Patty Rusko (chmissy3@yahoo.com) to reserve your spot. Fee for the test is \$20.

NOTE: If you wish to sign up for the conformation events at the Regional, the show premium and entry forms are available at jbradshaw.com. Entries close on June 19th. CGC testing will follow the conformation events. Sign up for the CGC test directly with Patty.

Interested in more CGC information? Download the AKC brochure: ®<http://images.akc.org/pdf/cgc/GK9GC1.pdf>

If you have questions about the testing or need to find a class near you, please contact our helpful and friendly CGC evaluator, Patty Rusko at chmissy3@yahoo.com.

*****Please see Page 9 for what you will be tested on for your AKC Canine Good Citizen Test

Introduction of Board Members

Susann Brody-President

Hi, I'm Susann Brody. I was born and raised in Southern California. I bought my first Beardedie in 1980. I was very young!!! He lived to be just one month shy of 18 years old. I was so sad when he died we went to a different breed, a Rottweiler. Although I truly loved the Rottie, he only lived until he was 8 years old and my heart wanted a dog that could possibly live longer without health issues. On my quest to find that breed, I came back to the Beardedie. In 2001 I got Winston from Robin Hood from Washington, and then Ebony a few years later. The latest love of my life is Sapphire and she came from Deb & Geoff Quadland, Tom Dixon & Graeme Burdon, and she is a little over 2. The older Beardedies are 11 and 9 now. I have been a member of the BCCSC and BCCA for about 11 years. I also belonged to the BCCA in the 80's but quit because of legal stuff going on with the club and another member.

I have been the editor for our Shaggy Rag newsletter for several years now, enjoying doing the graphic design part of creating the newsletter. I have enjoyed getting all the pictures and information and making it prettiffull!! As your editor, I WELCOME ANY OF YOU TO WRITE ARTICLES and SHARE THEM WITH US!!!

I'm very grateful for the Beardedies I have been fortunate enough to have and adore them and all they have to teach me.

I have 3 human children and a parrot besides the Beardedies. My children are 17 (Brittany), 14 (Matthew) and 14 (Sarah). All and all, I am kept pretty busy.

All 3 children graduate this month, one going onto college and the others to high school!!!

I tend to be on the shy side, so please come up and chat with me when you have the opportunity. I'd love to hear from you!!!



I've had Beardedies since 1997. I grew up with a Neardie who was my heart dog, so I was attracted to what I found out to be Beardedies. I've had four: Teddy, Noah, Whiskey and Nash. I've done just about everything with my Beardedies, but my biggest passion now is pet therapy, going to hospitals and hospice patients, spreading the Beardedie personality with others.

I live in Valencia and I've been a freelance Court Reporter for 33 years, the last 5 years specializing in asbestos cases. I have a 23 yr. old daughter who lives in Morro Bay. Some of you may remember her when she was 8 years old showing our first Beardedie, Teddy. Now she is a caregiver and going to school, hoping to start nursing school next year. Even though she loves Shepherds, Huskies and rescue Pitbulls, she is owned by two black/tan chihuahua's named Batman and Robin!

What you may not know about me is that up until I had a hip replacement at 39 years of age, I played softball, starting at age 12, in leagues, school and later in co-ed teams. One day a few friends got together to play and I had Teddy off-leash. I pitched the ball. When the ball was hit, Teddy ran after it, picked it up and ran after the batter as he rounded the bases to try to tag him out. He never did catch the runner, but he was close!

I've had many proud moments with my Beardedies. I'd say the few that rank on top are: Herding trials... Teddy obtaining two legs in AKC's Intermediate class, years of pet therapy stories, that I could write a book, if I wanted to, with all four of my Beardedies and the acting that Teddy did, which included, Teddy herding the sheep on Animal Planet's Groomer Has It, his roles on stage in front of hundreds in Camelot which ran for several weeks and Of Mice and Men and his work on an Adam Sandler movie. He really was quite an actor and when the actors would come to the stage at the end of Camelot to take their bows, Teddy would take a little bow and a woof-woof. He was an attention-whore, but he also seemed to know his lines... i.e. when to look in a certain direction.

I'm really looking forward to the new Board of the BCCSC and doing things you guys want to do. I'm hoping that it will stay a club for everyone, no matter what your interest. I am excited that we might be thinking outside the box and get new ideas and new activities to try out!

Sandy Dubin,
Vice President



Introduction of Board Members (cont'd)

Karen Dressler-Secretary

Several years ago, my #1 daughter got her wish to have a very furry friend join our family. While I have been both a mixed breed and Golden Retriever owner, I encouraged Lauren to explore other breeds, specific characteristics and features, matched to her level of energy and interests. As we flipped through a rather extensive all breed book, the pages never were turned beyond the Bearded Collie. We read everything we could about Beardies, and then started looking for the right Beardie match, which took us to Illinois and Arlene Fenney, owner/breeder of Arlins Beardies. We were asked if we wanted a "high energy" dog, a couch potato or something in between. "In between" became our pick, but I still wonder what "high energy" is for a Beardie, as it is hard to imagine any Beardie higher energy than ours.

Sassie Cassie is now two years old, and the best decision for our family. She is loving, rambunctious, and ever so smart. She took to herding at six months, and has dabbled in agility. My true passion, with any dog in my family, is to create the learning environment for our pet to become a therapy dog (maybe in a couple years).

I live in Manhattan Beach with my husband, Gordon, and daughter, Lauren. Our pet menagerie includes 3 cats, and Cassie, who spends her idle time herding one of the cats.

Professionally, I have spent my career in Rehabilitation Nursing, and look forward to blending my interests in working with people with physical disabilities with the natural ability of our pets to assist individuals with disabilities achieve higher levels of confidence and independence.

In my spare time, you will find me herding with Cassie, or being a "choir" mom for Lauren's choir (South Bay Children's Choir), learning to play the piano, and otherwise learning the role of Secretary for BCCSC. Being the newest Beardie parent on the Board, I will likely advocate for ongoing education of our members regarding Beardie health, raising a bouncing Beardie, and maybe even sharing your dog(s) talents with others (showing for amateurs). I am grateful to many of the members of the BCCSC for your friendship and support as a member and "newbie" Beardie owner.



Hi all! My name is Catherine (aka Cathy) McLaren and I'm your new Treasurer. I have been loved by Bearded Collies for about 23 years now starting with my first, Merlin, who was a rescue. I have always had dogs starting with the German Shepherds my mother raised and showed when I was a child. I can still remember her handing me a leash while attaching a number to my arm and saying, "Go to ring so and so and run!" Following that I've had an Afghan hound, Border Collie, Irish Setter and an Old English Sheepdog with some shelter mixes in between. I've always lived with the thought that one should always have two dogs so they can keep each other company.

When Merlin and Arthur (our OES) passed, I started looking for another dog. I was seriously looking at a Springer Spaniel when my husband said there is no other dog for us but a Beardie! It has continued ever since. I always wanted to try herding so when my older female, Silver, came along, we found Sandy Dubin, who gave us the start on our herding path along with my boys Topper and Kobe.

Topper didn't like being in the conformation arena so he was retired to chase sheep, and Kobe entered the ring like it was a party just for him! We are on a run with getting his championship, (with a lot of help from our friends), and his herding titles, and we are playing on the agility field and having fun.

I live in Fountain Valley and my husband is a yacht broker. We have a boat of our own which is currently in Seattle, Washington so we do some boating. I am now working part time at a pet store which is perfect for me. I came out of Corp America as a Human Resource/Payroll Manager and after 30 years I don't want to go back. Between my husband and I we have two boys, both named Jeff and two grandchildren, Hunter and Hannah. My Jeff lives in Bellevue, Washington and my husband's Jeff lives locally here in Laguna Niguel with our daughter-in-law and grandkids.

I am looking forward to seeing our club grow and become the family friendly club that it once was. I will write periodically about Kobe and I and our ongoing agility adventures.

Cheers, Cathy McLaren - with Topper and Kobe



Photograph credit: Don McKee, Topflight Photography

Introduction of Board Members (cont'd)

Noli Caswell - Director

My hats have changed over the years, but wife, mother, and happy Beardie owner are my favorites. I have moved through the "room-mom-soccer-mom-cheerleader-leading-coordinator-Girl Scout-leader phases of my life and with three children now grown adults (ages 29, 27, and 25), I am enjoying my free time. It is amazing to think I got my first Beardie 29 years ago. Since then, we have loved five of them: Blue, Dodger, Brooklyn, and currently, Scully and our newest addition, O'Malley (4 months old). (If you see a theme here, you should know that when we started out, my husband and I made a deal: I could get a puppy if he got to choose the name. Hence, we lean toward his favorite team).

Always a dog lover, I began showing my family's Briards competitively in obedience and conformation when I was 13 years old. Sixteen years ago, I got hooked on agility and had great fun and success with Dodger and Scully. Brooklyn was my beauty queen, and I enjoyed showing her to my first Champion in the Owner-Breeder category. Scully has been my Versatility dog, and we are a working team in agility, rally, obedience and conformation. I really enjoy working with my dogs because of the special bond that develops between us. With my weekends no longer consumed by soccer or Girl Scout outings, I am thoroughly enjoying golfing, traveling with Bill, and having time to play with and train the dogs.

I am really looking forward to being on this board of the BCCSC. I hope this year will bring new friendships and wonderful fun with all of our Beardies.

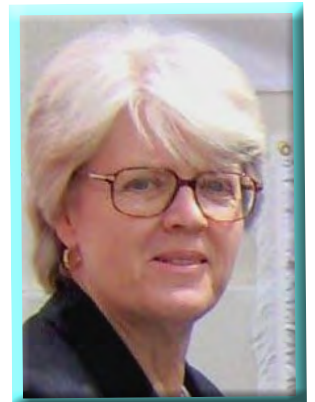


I'm new to the Board, but not to the breed. I got my first Beardie in 1987 when my Cockapoo died and I went off on a search for a new shaggy dog. I found Duffy, a 2-year-old rehome and never looked back. He was succeeded by Farley, who I had for another 13 years despite the fact that there are two loveseats in the Calabasas Landfill that he deconstructed one bored afternoon.

Other than the loveseat thing, and the occasional branch that Annie feels challenged to try and crash through the doggie door, I think Annie 3-1/2 and Jackson, her little brother, who's closing in on two, are pretty much the best thing ever. I live in Agoura Hills, am a lawyer by trade, wildlife photographer by passion, and natural resources consultant for a member of the California State Senate.

So far, I haven't participated in any organized Beardie activities. Still working on getting organized, although Annie is like a heat-seeking missile at the herding fun days, showing off her obvious instincts. Jackson's performance in the arena has been such that the herding coordinator has renamed him "D+." I think that's mainly because he is cute.

Louise Rishoff, Director



AKC CANINE GOOD CITIZEN TEST

The CGC TEST consists of 10 skills needed by all well-mannered dogs. All of the exercises are done on a leash.

Test 1: Accepting a friendly stranger

The dog will allow a friendly stranger to approach it and speak to the handler in a natural, everyday situation.

Test 2: Sitting politely for petting

The dog will allow a friendly stranger to pet it while it is out with its handler.

Test 3: Appearance and grooming

The dog will welcome being groomed and examined and will permit someone, such as a veterinarian, groomer or friend of the owner, to do so.

Test 4: Out for a walk (walking on a loose lead)

The handler/dog team will take a short “walk” to show that the dog is in control while walking on a leash.

Test 5: Walking through a crowd

The dog and handler walk around and pass close to several people (at least three) to demonstrate that the dog can move about politely in pedestrian traffic and is under control in public places.

Test 6: Sit and down on command and Staying in place

The dog will respond to the handler’s commands to 1) sit, 2) down and will 3) remain in the place commanded by the handler (sit or down position, whichever the handler prefers).

Test 7: Coming when called

The dog will come when called by the handler. The handler will walk 10 feet from the dog; turn to face the dog, and call the dog.

Test 8: Reaction to another dog

To demonstrate that the dog can behave politely around other dogs, two handlers and their dogs approach each other from a distance of about 20 feet, stop, shake hands and exchange pleasantries, and continue on for about 10 feet.

Test 9: Reaction to distraction

To demonstrate the dog is confident when faced with common distracting situations, the evaluator will select and present two distractions. Examples of distractions include dropping a chair, rolling a crate dolly past the dog, having a jogger run in front of the dog, or dropping a crutch or cane.

Test 10: Supervised separation

This test demonstrates that a dog can be left with a trusted person, if necessary, and will maintain training and good manners. Evaluators are encouraged to say something like, “Would you like me to watch your dog?” and then take hold of the dog’s leash. The owner will go out of sight for three minutes.

Equipment

You’ll need to bring your dog’s brush or comb to the CGC test. In the CGC test, dogs must wear a buckle collar or slip collar.

For details regarding equipment, expanded descriptions of the exercises above, and how the CGC Test is administered, see:

http://www.akc.org/events/cac/trainina_testina.cfm

Agility

by Cathy McLaren & Kobe

Agility Anyone?

I remember when I first looked into getting involved in an agility class about 8 years ago. Since I live in North Orange County I had no idea where to start. I finally found an affordable starting class through the Parks and Recreation Department in Mission Viejo. It was an eight week summer course in the parking lot of a high school. Topper loved it but I didn't get much out of the class, like how to keep Topper from wanting to play with others and focus on me.

Little things, but so important I have learned since. After our second course the class offering was cancelled and I focused on herding and the new puppy in our life, Kobe.

Two years ago, Kobe turned 3 and agility, once again, came to mind: Where to start?? I asked around and found that there are several more choices out there than 8 years ago. Agility is an up and coming dog sport. It is an activity that is fun for both dog and partner and can be held anywhere. I have settled in at a park in Torrance. Yes, it's a little far for me but it is on Sundays and that works best for me. So far we have entered three trials, counting our first, at the BCCA National. We haven't qualified yet but we are having fun and meeting some really nice people.

I know we have some hard core agility folks out there in our club and would love to hear from you all.

Have any tips or suggestions for us newbies?

Do you have a good training place that you want to share? Let us know!

Here are a couple of places I know of:

Jump Start Dog Sport www.jumpstartdogsports.com

City of Torrance Parks & Recreation www.torranceca.gov /class schedule/Entradero Park

Long Beach SPCALA www.spcala.com

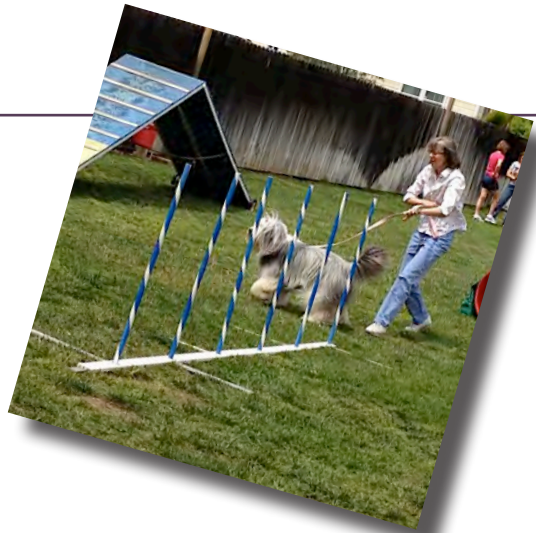
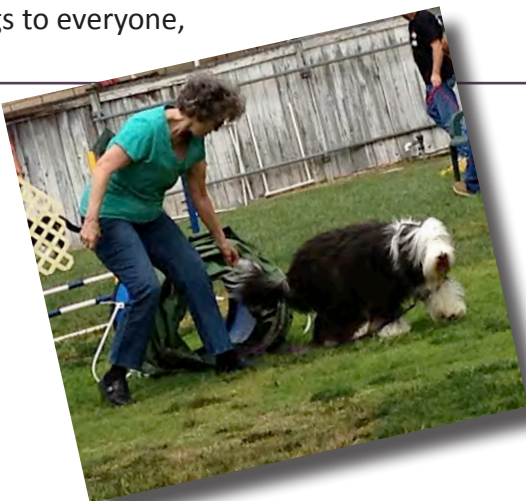
Jump Start

by fellow club member Stacy Olivier

I just wanted to thank everyone responsible for organizing an amazing event at Jump Start in Yorba Linda on April 6th. It was a glorious spring day which allowed for much frolicking and bouncing by all the Beardies and their friends. I was very pleased to see the event was so well attended. It was so exciting to see Beardies of all ages (14 weeks to 14+ years) jumping, hurdling, weaving, and running through the shoots! If you have not previously participated in the Jump Start event, it is a wonderful facility for agility training.

I especially want to thank Sandy Dubin for all her efforts and the time she invests in the club and in other Beardie endeavors. Sandy, you are truly amazing and I appreciate everything you have done for me personally.

Beardie hugs to everyone,
Stacy Olivier



Chad and Nina!!!

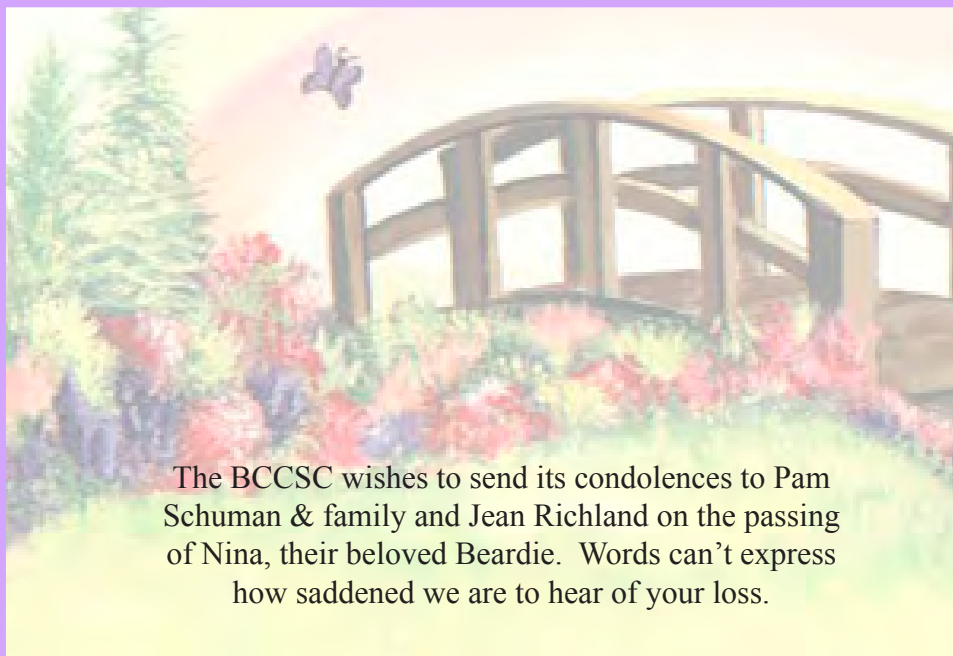
CH Melita Nauti Nina and CH Traleigh Castlecombe Chadbury have been very busy with their therapy dog duties. In addition to their monthly stint in the Paws For Reading program, and their "on call" duties at Ventura County Medical Center Pediatric Oncology Unit, they also have attended a few special events.

In addition, they have already been up to UCSB for stress reduction the week before the first set of finals, and have been invited back June 6. We will send pics of them surrounded by hundreds of students with lots of love, hugs and kisses. Great stress reliever

On March 1, Nina and Chad worked at Elmhurst Elementary with other important county personnel to celebrate "Read Across America" in honor of Dr. Seuss' birthday.



Pam's favorite picture of Nina. She will be forever missed! See pg 12



The BCCSC wishes to send its condolences to Pam Schuman & family and Jean Richland on the passing of Nina, their beloved Beardie. Words can't express how saddened we are to hear of your loss.

Rest in Peace,

Nina



Ch Melita Nauti Nina TD, HC
October 13, 1997 – May 31, 2013

It is with great sadness that we say goodbye to a lovely lady and a great friend, Nina.

Nina brought joy to so many. She was so petite, but she had an enormous heart. She will be missed by us, her family, her best bud, Chad, her two cats, the hundreds of children at Ventura County Medical Center's Pediatric Oncology Unit who she comforted at times of great stress, the hundreds of children she listened to at E.P. Foster Library as they read to improve their reading skills, the hundreds of students and professors at University of California Santa Barbara whose stress levels dropped during the traumatic week before finals just by a loving look from Nina, as she patiently stood by while she was petted, fussed over and loved.