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Everyone
has his own definition
of a good dog.

(Jon Katz)

Durham Kennel Club Newsletter

September 2009

Your Family Dog may be Smarter than your Toddler (by Doug Gross, CNN)

(August 8, 2009) Your dog may not actually be smarter than somebody's honor student -- popular bumper stickers aside. But your canine companion might well be smarter than their toddler, according to a growing body of research on how dogs think.

Using adapted tests designed for human children, psychologists have learned that average dogs can count, reason and recognize words and gestures on par with a human 2-year-old.

"They may not be Einsteins, but are sure closer to humans than we thought," said Stanley Coren, a professor emeritus at the University of British Columbia and leading researcher on dog behavior.

Coren planned to present his research Saturday at the American Psychological Association's annual convention in Toronto, Canada.

He said the average dog can understand about 165 words, including signs, signals and gestures. They can also count to about 5, he said.

"I mean, we're not going to make them an accountant or something," Coren said in an interview with CNN Radio.

The smartest dogs, he calls them the "super breeds," are on par with a 2½-year-old, recognizing up to 250 words.

And, no, not all breeds are created equally.

For his book, *The Intelligence of Dogs*, Coren asked more than 200 dog-obedience judges to rank 110 breeds based on their intelligence. Border collies, poodles, retrievers, German shepherds and Doberman pinschers were among the dogs at the head of the class.

The intellectual runts of the litter? The borzoi, chow chow, bulldog, basenji and -- finishing dead last -- the Afghan hound.

The dividing line, Coren said, tends to be the age of the breed. More recent breeds, like the collies and retrievers, have been bred for years to do what humans want them to do.

"We've been wiring into dogs the ability to communicate with us," said Coren, author of several books on dogs' thinking, most recently "The Modern Dog." "If you will, we've been manipulating their intelligence."

Meanwhile, breeds like hounds naturally did what humans wanted -- i.e. chase tasty animals -- and didn't need to be fine-tuned, he said.

"They did the work all by themselves," Coren said. "They didn't have to cooperate with the human being, and all the human had to do was get there before the dogs ate it all."

Included in the number of "words" dogs are believed to know are hand gestures, like pointing, and nonverbal sounds, like the whistles used to direct sheep dogs and retrievers.

(con't on p. 2)

September Meeting

The next meeting of the DKC membership will take place on Monday, September 21, 2009. Do plan to attend and bring a dish for our potluck dinner.

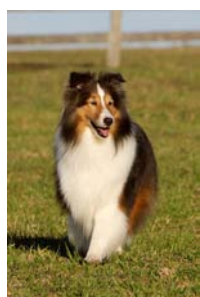
Dinner will be served at 7:00 pm. Bring a friend at 7:00 and furry friends are welcome at 7:30 pm.

Program: The program will be announced. If you have program ideas, contact Michelle Lennon.

"Shep," 2009 Versatility Champion

Like you, I love my dog! Shep and I have been competing in agility and obedience since he was 2 years old; this past April, he showed me how special he is by becoming the sheltie Versatility Champion for 2009. He beat out 25 very talented dogs at the Nationals in Georgia. Lisa Roberts, who took over training Shep in herding when I had neck surgery, has worked miracles with him in such a short time and agreed to compete him in herding; I competed him in agility, obedience, and rally.

At the Nationals, Shep had trouble with the ducks right away, so Lisa pulled him off to keep him up for sheep. We were



not real confident, but after a long, difficult run, Lisa and Shep qualified and got 1st place in Intermediate Sheep.

In agility, Shep and I double-qualified on two difficult courses.

Shep is a very special dog; he is a part of my soul, a part of my heart.

The last day was rally and obedience.

After two days of trialing and travel, I was very worried about keeping Shep revved up. Surprisingly, he was wild in Rally. He was obedient doing the exercises, but jumping up and down and even barking. But we qualified with an 89!!

Open B was next. The long sit was the last exercise. He was always prone to lie down, but I had worked on it very hard and used the Sally Gleis idea of feeding him steak in the sitting position all day. With two dogs to go before my turn, I warmed him up, but the judge decided to take a 45-minute lunch. I put him back up and just knew we would not qualify. This meant I would be warming him up four times that day. The judge returned and I went in the ring. Shep was a little wild, but did well and qualified. During the long sit, the dog beside him lay down and the crowd moaned, but Shep, like the champion that he is, stayed up! His final score was a 188.

My husband, Roger, and I got a call Thursday night telling us we should return to Perry, which we did on Saturday. Shep was awarded Best All Around Sheltie, 2009, and pranced his way around the ring to a standing ovation.

We plan to get Shep's Herding Championship and I plan to continue in obedience for his UD, UDX, and maybe his OTCH. He already has his pet therapy license; I am retiring from teaching during the next year, and we will be spending more time in nursing homes, sharing our love.

Nancy Akers

(con't from p. 1)

Counting ability is tested in drills such as one in which treats are dropped, one at a time, behind a screen. When the researcher either sneaks away one of the treats or stealthily adds an extra before raising the screen, the dog will wait longer -- appearing to puzzle over the bad math -- before eating the treats.

That's the same way toddlers respond when faced with a similar switch, said Coren.

Aubrey Fine, a psychologist and faculty member at California State Polytechnic University, said research like Coren's could help dog owners better relate to their animals.

"Too often, many people look at dogs as four-legged people," said Fine, who specializes in the use of dogs in treating patients with developmental disorders and other mental-health conditions. "We need to recognize what dogs cue in to. Once you understand better how to interact, it causes a better coexistence with your pet companion."

Coren said the findings on dog intelligence showed they have more sense than some scientists may have thought, but that some in the general public may be surprised for different reasons that span a wide range of thought.

"Sony," Triple Champion

Mary Whorton and Border Collie "Sony" finished their Herding Championship (HC) on May 23, 2009 in Berryville, VA, and then finished her Agility Championship (MACH) on July 3, 2009, in Concord, NC, to make her:

MACH HC OTCh Lytnstryke All Wired Up UDX XF at just 5 years of age!

Sony finished her OTCh title last August, giving her three championship titles within one year!



Photo by Stewart Event Images

"There are some people who think that dogs are just little human beings running around in fur coats and there are other people who sort of think that they're unfeeling biological mechanisms," he said. "The truth of the matter is really that dogs are neither extreme."

Fact Box

Psychologist Stanley Coren asked dog-obedience judges to rank 110 dog breeds from most to least intelligent.

Top Five

1. Border collies
2. Poodles
3. German shepherds
4. Golden retrievers
5. Doberman pinchers

Bottom Five

106. Borzoi
107. Chow chow
108. Bulldog
109. Basenji
110. Afghan hound

Source: *The Intelligence of Dogs*

<http://www.cnn.com/2009/LIVING/personal/08/07/smart.dogs/index.html>

July Yard Sale

Our July Yard Sale was again a great success!

Thanks to all who donated items, and to the many who helped on Thursday night, Friday, and/or Saturday at the sale or for the clean-up. Some helped all three days! In fear I'll omit some volunteers, I won't add names, but DKC could not have done it without your service. MANY thanks to all.

Once again, we had quite a crowd at the door awaiting the opening time, and they just kept coming.

So, now you can start eyeing items you might be replacing throughout the year and save for next year's sale. We need all the donations we can get.

Sharon Pitz

Mark Your Calendars

Saturday, September 5, 2009

Raleigh Fairgrounds

DKC Fall Show

Friday-Sunday, September 25-27, 2009

Harris Road property

DKC Agility Trials

Sunday, October 18, 2009

Quail Roost

TDX Test

Jack Sappenfield 919.598.5318

Friday-Sunday, December 11-13, 2009

DKC Building, Guess Road

DKC Obedience/Rally Trials

Saturday-Sunday, February 20-21, 2010

DKC Building, Guess Road

Laura Romanik Obedience Seminar

DKC Fall Agility Classes

We will be offering Puppy Agility, FAST, and Short Sequence classes on Mondays (Sept 14, 28, Oct 5, 12, 26, and Nov 2) at the DKC building on Guess Rd. If you are not sure which class best suits your dog, particularly if you have taken classes other than those offered at DKC, please contact Mary Whorton to help you determine which class is most appropriate for you and your dog (mwhorton@nc.rr.com).

Puppy Agility: For puppies 3-6 months old. This class will cover foundation skills necessary for success in agility, including sit, stand, down, stay, recall, work on both sides, tricks, and more. This class will meet Monday MORNINGS from 10:00 -11:00 am.

FAST Class: This class will cover the basic rules of the AKC FAST class. Dog must have a minimum of AKC novice standard title to enroll. This class will meet Monday evenings from 6:30-7:30 pm.

Short Sequence: For those dogs and handlers who have successfully completed an obstacle familiarization course or a previous short sequence class. Focus will be on teaching dogs and handlers how to put 5-7 obstacles together in a sequence, improve contact, weave pole, and other obstacle performances. Dogs must be tested for OFF LEAD control by the instructors for admission to the DKC sequence agility classes only if you have never taken a class with us before. This class will meet Monday evenings from 7:45-8:45 pm.

More information and applications regarding each of these classes can be found on the DKC website under the agility class link, or contact Lisa Roberts for an application. Lisa Roberts, PO Box 928, Durham, NC 27702 919.602.5788 (wonderdogs@earthlink.net).

Committee Chairs

Agility Classes

Lisa Roberts

Agility Trials

Tracy Fletcher

Breeder Referral

Nancy Adams

CGC Program/Maintenance (outside)

George Beglane

Cheer

Carolyn Wolfe

Conformation Classes

Nancy Adams

Dog Legislation

Jan Gray, Linda Wozniak

Education

Kirk Ridge

Fall Show

Jan Gray

Legislative Liaison/Tail Waggers

Joanne Harrar

Librarian/Recycling

Denise McDonald

Membership

Terri Toohil

Newsletter

Cathy Wells

Obedience Classes

Mary Florence

Obedience Equipment/Yard Sale

Sharon Pitz

Obedience Trial

Jan Gray

Rentals (building/land)/Show & Go

Dana Pritchett

Social

Jeanne Stringall

Spring Show

Connie Howard

Tracking

Jack Sappenfield

Scribe and Timer Tutorials

DKC offered two training sessions to learn how to scribe, assistant-scribe, and time at agility trials. These sessions were well attended by over 20 different people eager to learn these jobs. Monday, Aug 10, was devoted to learning the art of scribing and assistant-scribing with some hands-on

experience. Monday, Aug 17, mostly the same group of folks with a few additions learned how and where to insert batteries into the timer eyes and controllers, mount the eyes correctly on the poles, program the controller to perform several different functions, what to do if the timer

malfunctions, and practiced timing while a dog ran a course.

Thanks to all who came out to learn and to those who helped teach others.

Mary Whorton

SHOW REPORTS Please Note: Only AKC wins with AKC titles are listed in show reports

Conformation Shows

OWNER'S NAME	CALL NAME (BREED)	DATE	SHOW	CLASS	HIGHEST WIN	SPECIAL MERIT
John & Donna Frick	Poppy (Golden Ret)	4/17/09	Gunpowder River Golden Ret. Spec.	6-9 mo Puppy		Best Puppy
"	Jazz (Golden Ret)	4/26/09	Cahaba Valley KC	6-9 mo Puppy	1	1st Prize Variety Puppy Group
"	"	4/25/09	Montgomery KC	6-9 mo Puppy		
Hannah Branigan	Gambit (Belg Tervuren)	6/28/09	Rock Creek KC	WD/OW	3	Champion!
Angie Taverna	Sulli (Dalmation)	7/02/09	New River Valley KC		4	Champion!
Sharon Berthold	Bizzee (Siberian Husky)	7/04/09	Greenville, SC		4	Major
Lynn Reagan-Hull	Nick (WHW Terrier)	7/29/09	James River KC	12-18 mo Puppy	3	BOW (breeder/owner handled)

Performance Shows (Agility, Field Trials, Herding, Lure Coursing, Obedience, Tracking, etc.)

OWNER'S NAME	CALL NAME (BREED)	DATE	SHOW	CLASS	SCORE	LEG	PLACE	TITLES & AWARDS
Amanda Stipe	Weaver (Amer Foxhound)	5/01/09	Winston-Salem KC	Ex A FAST	66	1	1	
"	"	5/01/09	"	Ex B Std	100			
"	"	5/02/09	"	Ex B Std	100			
"	"	5/03/09	"	Ex B Std	100			15th QQ
"	"	5/03/09	"	Ex B JWW	100			
Maria Walker	Boch (Rottweiler)	5/03/09	"	Open JWW P	100	2	1	
Susan & Richard Cicone	Moby (Chinese Crested)	5/26/09	Chinese Crested National	Nov Std P	95	1	1	
"	"	5/26/09	"	Nov JWW P	100	1	1	
Maria Walker	Boch (Rottweiler)	5/29/09	Asheville KC	Open JWW P	100	3	1	Open JWW P!
"	"	5/31/09	Asheville KC	Exc JWW P	100	1	2	
Brian Stringall (Sharon Pitz, handler)	Hunter (Golden Ret)	6/06/09	Moore County KC	Nov JWW P	100	2	3	
"	"	6/07/09	"	Nov Std P	100	3	2	NAP!
Maria Walker	Boch (Rottweiler)	6/07/09	"	Exc Std P	100	2	1	
"	"	6/20/09	Central Carolina Poodle Club	Exc JWW P	100	2	1	
Brian Stringall (Sharon Pitz, handler)	Hunter (Golden Ret)	6/21/09	"	Open Std P	85	1	3	
"	"	6/21/09	"	Nov JWW P	100	3	1	NJP!

Please send show results to Cathy Wells (msmillerunc@gmail.com)

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Thomas Givens	Yoda (PWC)	6/26/09	Dog Owners TC-Lynchburg	Exc B Std	100	--	2	
"	"	6/26/09	"	Exc B JWW	100	--	3	
"	"	6/27/09	"	Exc B Std	100	--	1	
"	"	6/27/09	"	Exc B JWW	100	--	3	MACH 5!
"	"	6/27/09	"	Exc B FAST	100	--	1	
"	"	6/28/09	"	Exc B Std	100	--	2	
"	"	6/28/09	"	Exc B JWW	100	--	2	Best Triple Double Q Award!
Susan & Richard Cicone	Moby (Chinese Crested)	7/02/09	Greater Monroe County KC	Nov Std P	100	2	1	
"	"	7/02/09	"	Nov JWW P	100	2	1	
"	"	7/03/09	"	Nov Std P	100	3	1	NJP!
"	"	7/03/09	"	Nov JWW P	100	3	1	NJP!
"	"	7/04/09	"	Nov JWW P	100		1	for fun
"	Tally (Chinese Crested)	7/02/09	"	Nov JWW P	95	1	2	
"	"	7/03/09	"	Nov JWW P	99	2	2	
"	"	7/04/09	"	Nov JWW P	92	3	2	NJP!
Patty Nowak	Pete (PWC)	8/01/09	Border Terrier KC	Open JWW		3		OAJ!
Brian Stringall (Sharon Pitz, handler)	Hunter (Golden Ret)	8/01/09	"	Open JWW P	90	1	2	
Maria Walker	Boch (Rottweiler)	8/01/09	"	Exc B Std P	100	3	1	AXP!
"	"	8/01/09	"	Exc B JWW P	100	3	1	AJP!
Patty Nowak	Pete (PWC)	8/02/09	"	Open Std		3		OAJ!
Maria Walker	Boch (Rottweiler)	8/02/09	"	Exc B MJJP	100	1	1	
"	"	8/02/09	"	Exc B MXP	100	1	1	
Brian Stringall (Sharon Pitz, handler)	Hunter (Golden Ret)	8/15/09	Tarheel Weimarner KC	Open JWW P	87	2	1	
Maria Walker	Boch (Rottweiler)	8/16/09	"	Exc B JWW P	100	2	1	
RALLY								
Susan & Richard Cicone	Moby (Chinese Crested)	5/27/09	Chinese Crested National	Adv A	96	1	1	
Maria Walker	Boch (Rottweiler)	5/31/09	Asheville KC	Adv	93	3	1	RA! High scoring Rottie
"	"	5/31/09	"	Exc	93	1	1	High scoring Rottie
OBEDIENCE								
Dana Pritchett	Magic (Cav King Charles Span)	3/01/09	Winston-Salem	Open A	192		2	
Betty Henderson	Abbey (Scottish Terrier)	6/06/09	Palmetto Obed Training Club	Nov B	190		2	
"	"	8/22/09	Chatham, VA)	Open A	194.5		3	
"	"	8/23/09	"	Open A	190.5		4	New title!