

**2002**  
**Archive Draft News**  
**For the Saint Bernard**



**Volume 1, Inaugural Year, 3 Issues**  
**October, November and December**

Saint  
Bernard

# Draft Dog News

Volume 1, Issue 1

October 2002

## 2003 National Draft Test Not Far Away!

Wednesday, **May 7, 2003** is the date for the National Draft Dog Test at the SBC of America's Specialty show in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Plan now to attend and earn that Draft Dog (DD) title.

Visit the SBCA's web page ([www.saintbernardclub.org](http://www.saintbernardclub.org)) and click on Performance, then Draft Work World. Here you will find illustrated views of a draft test, plus the Draft Regulations. You may even ask a Draft Judge or Trainer a question! Show your Saint Bernard can still demonstrate part of its historical past.

For more information on the 2003 National, check out <http://www.sbcnational.com/events.htm>

### No Draft Dog Qualifiers at 2002 SBCA National in Tucson, AZ

#### Comments by Walt Parsons One of the Judges for the Draft Test

"I greatly appreciate being asked to fill in for Nancy Johnston when she had to turn down the judging assignment due to a serious illness in the family. It did mean I had to do some rapid reviewing of the Saint Bernard Club of America Draft Test rules since I was asked to fill in only five days prior to the test.

First the bad news: There were five (5) dogs entered and none of them passed although one dog waited until the closing minutes of the Freight Haul to fail. (A cute puppy near the Freight Haul path proved to be irresistible)

The good news: No dog failed than one exercise. It was obvious that a lot of training had been done.

#### The Exercises:

**Basic Control:** All dogs except one, (#104) did well on this exercise. A couple of the dogs could have heeled closer to the handler but were close enough to pass. #104 was obviously not having a good day and blew the recall and also left the ring. (The handler at this point asked to be excused.)

**Harnessing and Hitching:** In this exercise the handler has to put a harness on the dog, back it four feet closer to the apparatus, and then hitch the dog to the apparatus. All the remaining dogs passed.

**Maneuvering Course:** Due to restrictions placed by the National Show Committee this exercise had to be done out of order taking place after the Best of Breed Judging. This, in my opinion, made it more difficult for the dogs and handlers. In this exercise the handler takes the dog, hitched to the apparatus, through a Maneuvering Course consisting of a figure eight, wide turns, sharp turns, a fixed narrows, a gate, and a moveable narrows which is adjusted to be twelve inches wider than the apparatus, and the a three foot back of the dog and apparatus. (The former "Basic Commands" exercises have now been incorporated in the Maneuvering Course.)

#### 2002 Draft Dogs

On May 4th, of this year we had a Saint Bernard earn a Draft Title. To date she is the only 2002 DD!

Congratulations to:

**Slatons When Sarah Smiles DD-2002**

# Notes from one of the judges of the 2002 SBC of America's Draft Test.

Three dogs were eliminated in the Maneuvering Course. One dog wiped out a figure eight marker and was touched by the owner during the backup. The 2nd dog took too long to back up the required three feet. The last dog bumped obstacles too many times. (Carting by the brail system is not allowed.<g>)

**Freight Load:** This exercise has been changed, unofficially, to include the three minute out of a sight as a group exercise. Each handler loads the apparatus with the required freight load and secures it in such a way that it will not shift during the Freight Haul. All dogs passed this exercise.

**Distance Freight Haul:** The Distance Freight haul followed a route wind-

ing through the hotel grounds past grooming tents, RV parking, and finally through a crowd of people preparing to watch the Best of Breed Judging. Although the official Intriguing Distraction occurred during the Distance Freight Haul, there were many other unofficial intriguing distractions such as the people blow drying their dogs, and lots of kennel dogs in the RV area. It was in the crowded conformation ring area that the last dog to fail chose to investigate a nearby puppy and the handler had to grab her dog. (A real tough break.)

Early in the Distance Freight Haul,

an S hook bent on one of the carts. The handler had ten minutes to repair the apparatus. She did an excellent job having the needed tools available along with a little good old fashioned pounding on the pavement.

All of the dogs and handlers should seriously consider entering another Draft Test since their dogs were so close to passing

**Intriguing Distraction:** A surprise distraction is sprung on the dogs. The Intriguing Distraction for this test was a toy quacking duck. Unfortunately the area was so noisy that I didn't

see any dogs even notice the toy duck. As mentioned above, there were so many unofficial distractions that the dogs and handlers are to be commended for the control they had over their dogs.

## Recommendation

I would strongly recommend to future National Draft Test committees that they not allow the test to be split in two parts. This proved to be very unsatisfactory. The people who developed the Draft Test Rules and Regulations put a lot of thought into the order of the exercises and it was hard on the handlers to have the Maneuvering Course moved out of sequence. It was also disconcerting to the handlers and their dogs to have to take a 2-3 hour break between the two halves of the test.

All of the dogs and handlers should seriously consider entering another Draft Test since their dogs were so close to passing.



Two Saint Bernards doing team draft work with a cart



A Travois is another type of "cart" that may be used and easy to transport to the test!

Saint  
Bernard

# Draft Dog News

Volume 1, Issue 2

November 2002

A Smart Saint Bernard!



When you need draft work done, hire a horse!! Britt Halverson's Tutto demonstrates how draft work is done in Belgium. Smart boy, Tutto!

**Combined Draft Test of the Newfoundland Club of Northern California  
and Saint Bernard Club of the Pacific Coast**  
**Sunday, November 10, 2002—Nevada Country Fairgrounds—Grass Valley, California**  
**Judges: Lori Littleford and John Pearson—12 entrants; 8 Newfoundlands & 4 Saints Bernards**

Miranda (**Echo's Utmost CD, TD, NA**) made it abundantly clear all day she'd rather be having a root canal; carting isn't her favorite, and the wind and pouring rain didn't improve her feeling about the day. I was pleased that she did as well as she did; she showed a lot of heart and obedience. I was able to call her off her own personal prey squirrel on the freight haul (she stopped on her second leap); I've never had a Saint with this kind of prey drive. Anyway, I think I'll wait another year or two before we go back to carting; perhaps by that time Miranda will be more amenable to one of the more sedate activities.

The unplanned intriguing distraction, squirrels, was the downfall of another Saint, Jackie Elphic's **Mr. B CD**. Marge Parson's **Hilda (Thunder Hill's Brunhilde, CD, DD)** failed when she moved in the cart while Marge was moving the movable obstacle during the maneuvering course. Wendy Lee's **Java (Stoan's Quiet Collar of Abquin) CDX**, did pass. I was pleased as punch for her. Four out of the twelve entrants passed. The other thing that distinguished the test, in the judges (and my opinion) was that ALL the entrants were ready for the test and could have passed on another day -- most dogs lost out on just one exercise, and some of the fails were technical in nature.

by Lovey Olbrich



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[saintbernardnationalarchives@attbi.com](mailto:saintbernardnationalarchives@attbi.com)

May 7, 2003 SBC of America's National Draft Test in Albuquerque,  
NM <http://www.sbcnational.com/events.htm>

# As the Saints Go Marching In " Sunny California's" Draft Test



**Upper Left: Stoa's Quiet Collar v Abquin, CDX & Mr. B CD**

**Middle Left: Mr. B CD**

**Lower Left: Thunder Hill's Brunhilde, CD, DD**

**Upper Right: Thunder Hill's Brunhilde, CD, DD**

**Middle Right: Stoa's Quiet Collar v Abquin, CDX**

**Lower Right: Echo's Utmost CD TD NA**

**Photos by Merle Maggy**

Saint  
Bernard

# Draft Dog News

Volume 1, Issue 3

December 2002

A Smart Saint Bernard!



When you need draft work done, hire a horse!! Britt Halverson's Totto demonstrates how draft work is done in Belgium. Smart boy, Totto!

## Chattahoochee Valley Bernese Mountain Dog Club Carting Seminar

This post was on an Obedience list. I post it for what it is worth to those interested. This is all I know about it. It could be educational to those looking to train a Saint Bernard for a Draft Title.

### Information on the carting seminar:

Sponsored by the Chattahoochee Valley Bernese Mountain Dog Club Jan. 11th at 9am at Dog Trainers Workshop, Fountain Inn, SC.

Topics covered include: getting started, equipment, conditioning your dog, test strategy, how to overcome the most common problems that lead to failure: turns, backing, stays, halts, change of pace, and control, and how to build your own cart will also be covered. (a cart will be assembled during the seminar and will be given away as a door prize)

The seminar will be limited to 20 working teams and 20 observers. The cost is \$50 for working teams and \$35 for observers. All the working teams will receive individual instruction and should bring whatever equipment they now have. Some equipment will be available to those who have none. Payment is due by Jan. 1st.

Send a check made out to CVBMDC to: Jenny Durrance, 232 McFall Circle, Anderson, SC.

For more information, call Jim or Jenny Durrance at 864 296 3044.



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[saintbernardnationalarchives@attbi.com](mailto:saintbernardnationalarchives@attbi.com)

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<http://www.sbcnational.com/events.htm>

**2003**  
**Archive Draft News**  
**For the Saint Bernard**



**Volume 2, 11 Issues**

**Saint  
Bernard**

# Draft Dog News

**Volume 2, Issue 1**

**January 2003**

## Three carting seminars in early 2003



**The Newfoundland Club of Northern California is once again putting on three carting seminars in early 2003.**

**The dates are:**

1/26/03 (filled)  
2/9/03 in Antioch, CA  
3/2/03 in San Jose CA

There are three different classes which are repeated for each seminar - Beginning Carting, Intermediate Carting, and Draft Test Preparation.

The seminars go from 9:00 AM and go to about 2 PM and include a lunch. ALL BREEDS ARE WELCOME with the only restriction being that our loaner equipment is all Newfy size. We'll take small dogs but they have to bring their own harnesses.

With our beginning class we have had a success rate of 95%. Most the dogs end up happily pulling a cart on the carting walk that finishes up the class. The occasional dog that fails is usually one that is high strung and tries to buck and jump over the cart shafts and most of them come back for a 2nd session and end up pulling a cart.

For more information go to: [http://www.ncnc.org/walt/AA-NCNC\\_Working.htm](http://www.ncnc.org/walt/AA-NCNC_Working.htm)

**Note: pre-registration is required**

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May 7, 2003  
SBC of America's National Draft Test in Albuquerque, NM  
<http://www.sbcanational.com/events.htm>



**Saint  
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# Draft Dog News

**Volume 2, Issue 2**

**February 2003**

## **PRESS RELEASE**

### **SBCA Working Dog Committee Announcement**

Barry Roland, the chair of the SBCA Working Dog Committee (WDC), announces that we have reorganized in order to spread the work around.

We now have a **WDC Draft Work Secretary** and a **WDC Weight Pull Secretary** who will be the points of contact for everything dealing with their specialty.

Effective immediately please send test material to the appropriate WDC Secretary

#### **Draft Tests**

Walt Parsons  
2461 Overlook Drive  
Walnut Creek, CA 94597  
E-mail: waltnewf@pacbell.net  
Phone: 925-934-0775

Contact Walt for Draft Test applications and information about Draft Tests.

#### **Weight Pull Tests**

Vicki Graves  
13104 50th Ave E.  
Tacoma, WA 98446  
E-mail: vicdory@msn.com  
Phone: 253-537-0895

Contact Vicki for Weight Pull Test applications and information about Weight Pull tests.

**Saint  
Bernard**

# Draft Dog News

**Volume 2, Issue 3**

**March 2003**

## 2002 - Review of Draft Results

### No Draft Dog Qualifiers at 2002 SBCA National in Tucson, AZ

TWO New Draft Dog Titles (DD)  
for 2002!

**Slatons When Sarah Smiles**  
**Stoan's Quiet Collar of Abquin CDX (right)**



**2002 only saw two Saint Bernards complete their draft titles:**

**Slatons When Sarah Smiles DD-2002 May 04, 2002 f**

**Stoan's Quiet Collar v Abquin CDX DD-2002 November 10, 2002 m**

There were quite a few competing in draft tests last year but just one minor error each held them back from titling. This year should be a banner year for the DD dogs as they will be back.

**Wednesday, May 7, 2003** is the date for the National Draft Dog Test at the SBC of America's Specialty show in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Plan now to attend and earn that Draft Dog (DD) title.

Visit the SBCA's web page ([www.saintbernardclub.org](http://www.saintbernardclub.org)) and click on Performance, then Draft Work World. Here you will find illustrated views of a draft test, plus the Draft Regulations. You may even ask a Draft Judge or Trainer a question! Show your Saint Bernard can still demonstrate part of its historical past.

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**Saint  
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# Draft Dog News

**Volume 2, Issue 4**

**April 2003**

## **Combined Newfoundland & Saint Bernard Draft Test in Los Angeles, California on March 23, 2003**

**By Tom Brown**

The combined Newfoundland & Saint Bernard Draft test held in Los Angeles on March 23, 2003 had **6 Newfoundlands** and **3 Saint Bernard** participants. A 7th Newfoundland entrant pulled out at the last minute. One Newfoundland (**CH Tippecanoe's Panda Bear CD**) and one Saint Bernard Qualified.

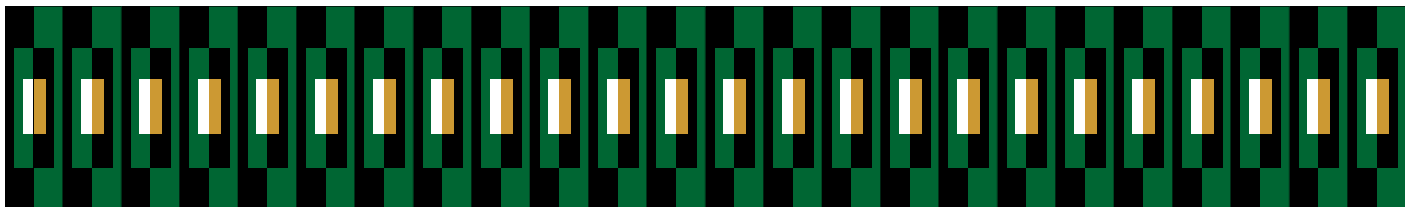
Jackie Elphic with "**Mr. B, CD, DD**") passed all of the requirements. It was their third try and obviously "charmed."

The other two Saint Bernards were close but one refused the backup commands and the other non-qualified for improper equipment and excessive handling of the dog during harnessing at the maneuvering course. It was a second draft test for both.

The Newfoundland club put on an excellent trial and handled the problem of the female Saint Bernard in full heat very well. However, it was a long day because of the number of entrants and the requirement to handle the breeds and the heat separately, i.e.. three freight hauls.



**Jackie (Mr. B's mom) added:** Mr. B is 6 1/2 now and I rescued him from the shelter in Big Pine, CA when he was 14 months old.



**Saint  
Bernard**

# Draft Dog News

**Volume 2, Issue 5**

**May 2003**

## Hosting Carting Seminars

### By Walt Parsons

The Newfoundland Club of Northern California (NCNC) has been very successful in putting on all-breed seminars, thanks largely due the fact that it has a large working dog contingent in the membership. This gives us a large pool of instructors to call upon for our seminars.

#### **For NCNC, the carting seminars are very definitely a win-win situation:**

- ⇒ We are able to teach a lot of people with many breeds to safely teach their dogs to pull carts.
- ⇒ It is a wonderful public relations tool for our club.
- ⇒ Last, but not least, it is a great fund raiser that largely supports our club's four annual working events. (2 Draft Tests and 2 Water Tests.)

Typically, NCNC puts on three carting seminars each year: January, February and March. This year, NCNC put on a 4th seminar due to demand in the Reno, Nevada area. We charge \$25 per handler, allowing as many dogs as the handler wants to bring. This includes a lunch.

#### **Each seminar includes three separate groups:**

- ⇒ **Carting 1A**, which starts with, "This is a cart, this is a harness, and this is a dog and how to put all three together. " Among the things we cover are, **1)** introducing the dog to the idea of cart noise behind him, **2)** having pulling pressure from behind a dog, which is a new concept to most dogs, and **3)** finally introducing the dog to a shafts. We use training U-shaped training shafts and, finally, we attempt to hook the dog up to a cart. Almost always all the dogs are pulling a cart by the end of the day.
- ⇒ **Carting 101A**, which is a continuation of Carting 1A, concentrates on making sharp turns, going through narrows, and backing your dog and cart.
- ⇒ **Draft Test preparation** prepares a dog for entering a Newfoundland or Saint Bernard Draft Test.

Our classes have from 10 to 20 handler/dog teams. We plan on a lead instructor and several assistants for each group. The Carting 1A group requires the most people. We often have a one-on-one situation especially when we get to the point of putting the dog between the shafts of a cart. This is the place where a dog is most likely to spook.

We have found that most people feel they get their money's worth by the end of the day. In organizing one of these seminars it is important to have a good supply of harnesses and carts for the students to use. Again, since NCNC is a large club with lots of volunteers, this has not been a problem for us.

Oh yes, in our advertising we always warn potential students that while we accept all breeds, we have only Newfy size equipment. If they are going to bring a toy terrier they'll have to bring their own equipment.

**Saint  
Bernard**

# Draft Dog News

**Volume 2, Issue 6**

**June 2003**

## **SBC OF America's National Draft Test in Rio Rancho, NM**

**TWO qualifiers at this years National Draft Test:**

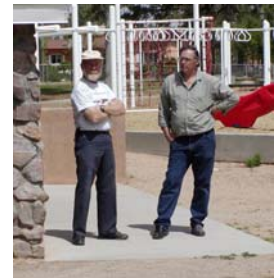
**CH Storybook Future V Sandcreek CD TD DD, Dan & Maureen Wheeler  
Swissongs Nevada CDX DD, Barry & Judith Roland**



Barry Roland & Swissongs Nevada CDX doing the back-up



Barry going through the maneuvers with Swissongs Nevada CDX



This is the 3-minute out of sight long stay with the handlers in sun.



The dogs are doing the long stay in the shade! Smart dogs!



The long freight haul. Dan Wheeler & CH Storybook Future V Sandcreek CD TD leading.



The new DDs with the judges, Vicki Graves & Ron Allerdice

**Saint  
Bernard**

# Draft Dog News

**Volume 2, Issue 7**

**July 2003**

## **The SBCA Working Dog Committee Guidelines**

The SBCA Working Dog Committee endorsed these Guidelines in October 2002

Barry Roland, Chairman, Vicki Graves, Larry Jech, Walt Parsons, Dan Wheeler

Preparation:

Contact the SBCA Working Dog Chairman, previous National Specialty Working Dog Chairman and the SBCA Weight Pull Statistician to discuss the previous years tests, problems encountered and possible improvements to be implemented.

### **Necessary information to cover for both the Draft Test and the Weight Pull:**

- A. Obtain a test application and necessary forms from the current SBCA Working Dog Chairman.
- B. Determine whom the judges, stewards and officials are to be.
- C. Determine what trophies and ribbons will be awarded.
- D. Evaluate the site requirements.
- E. Determine the equipment needed.
- F. How will the publicity be disseminated?
- G. Miscellaneous.

## **DRAFT TEST**

### **1. Forms and information needed and to be provided:**

- A. Obtained from the Working Dog Chairman.
  - 1) Application and Judges Profile-needs to be submitted four months in advance.
  - 2) Copies of Rules and Regulations.
  - 3) Judges' Record Sheets.
  - 4) Handler's Evaluation Forms.
- B. Determine who the Draft Test committee is and their duties.
- C. Entry forms-contact previous chairman for format.
- D. Premium list-contact previous chairman for format.
- E. Catalog-contact previous chairman for format.

### **2. Judges and stewards:**

- A. Judges-There are two (2) judges. The Working Dog Committee (WDC) believes that the Draft Test Judges should thoroughly understand draft work and the physical conditioning necessary for draft and other types of pulling. It is recommended that both judges have earned a Draft title on a dog and at least one has judged at a sanctioned Draft Test. A list of qualified judges can be obtained from the Working Dog Chairman.

B. Stewards-Each steward should be familiar with how a Draft Test is run and should be familiar with the Draft Test course. The stewards' duties are:

- 1) A minimum of two stewards is needed for each exercise.
- 2) Two stewards needed on the Distance Freight Haul to set a brisk pace, to clear a path through obstructions or to watch for traffic.
- 3) During the Distance Freight Haul, a steward is needed for each dog/handler team for safety and at the judges' request, to monitor the handler's compliance with the regulations.

### **3. Trophies and ribbons:**

A. A rosette and trophy are to be given to each dog/handler team who qualifies. The color of the rosette is generally immaterial, but it is recommended that they not be the color or combination of colors used in the regular AKC Obedience or Conformation classes. Trophies may be the same as those given in conformation and obedience and should be at least equal to the first place winners of those classes.

B. The SBCA logo, location of the event, the year and the words "Draft Test Qualifier" shall be printed on the rosette. The AKC symbol shall not be used, as this is not an AKC event.

C. It is recommended that a small participation trophy be given to all entrants. This trophy may be the same small trophy that is given to exhibitors or class placements in the SBCA conformation and obedience classes.

### **4. Site Requirements:**

The site should cover the natural terrain of the area, which might include places similar to a parade, a walk in the woods, a grocery store parking lot, bridges over a stream, and other natural occurring areas. There are three distinct areas required for the Draft Test:

A. The Basic Control Exercise test requires a rectangular ring at least 45'X50'.

B. The Maneuvering Exercise test requires an area where a course of a minimum of 150 yards of circular patterns, broad curves and narrow areas may be laid out.

C. The Freight Haul must cover one mile over a course that may include sidewalks, safe streets, gardens, hills or woods.

### **5. Equipment Requirements:**

Determine who will be responsible for bringing the following equipment to the test:

A. Equipment to be used by the judges and stewards.

- 1) Table and cover (small decorations, if appropriate).
- 2) Chairs for the judges.
- 3) Tape measure and rules.
- 4) Bleach and water solution for covering an area a dog has fouled.
- 5) Clipboards
- 6) Pens and pencils.
- 7) Current copy of the Draft Rules and Regulations.
- 8) Score sheets.
- 9) Armbands
- 10) Stop watch to time the group stay.
- 11) Rubber bands.
- 12) Steward's check-in sheet or a catalog.
- 13) Refreshments for the Judge and Stewards (available before and during judging).
- 14) Ribbons
- 15) Trophies
- 16) Paperweights
- 17) Measuring wheel or pedometer

B. Equipment to be used for the test.

- 1) Ring enclosures.
- 2) Flags and/or orange cones and powdered chalk (to mark the curves and turns on the maneuvering course).
- 3) Removable obstacle (a gate, lawn chair, board across two trashcans, a log etc.).
- 4) Objects to delineate a 6' long "low narrow" area (logs, boards, cones or other items that can be moved) and one "solid narrow area" (plywood, tables on their side, stacked bales of straw). Note: one side of the "narrows" must be adjustable to 12" wider than the widest point of each draft apparatus.
- 5) A scale to weigh any non-standard freight materials.
- 6) An intriguing distraction (a windup toy that makes some type of noise, a recording, a flapping umbrella, a bouncing ball, caged ducks or rabbits, children with food, etc.).
6. Publicity:  
Advance articles about the test should be placed in the Saint Fancier, on the SBCA web site and local publications well in advance of the date to allow handlers and observers to make plans.
7. Miscellaneous:

A. Premium list should be mailed with the SBCA National premium list for conformation and obedience.

B. Ensure that donations to the Working Dog activities for trophies and ribbons are acknowledged in the Specialty Catalog.



**Saint  
Bernard**

# Draft Dog News

**Volume 2, Issue 8**

**August 2003**

## A BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO SAINT BERNARD CLUB OF AMERICA DRAFTING (CARTING) WITH YOUR SAINT BERNARD By Lynn Jech

So you own a St. Bernard! You want to do fun activities with your saint but you don't know what is available. Here some ideas. There are two Working Dog activities sanctioned by the St. Bernard Club of America (SBCA) that allow you and your dog to earn titles. These activities are Weight Pulling and Drafting (carting). Your dog does not have to be "show" quality to participate in these activities. However, to earn a title, your saint does need to be registered with AKC or have an AKC ILP (Indefinite Listing Privilege) number. If your saint is not registered, you can still do drafting just for fun.

Why do we do this? Titles of course, companionship with your dog, something neat to do and keeping the working dog spirit alive!

An outstanding spiral-bound book for you to learn about carting is "Newfoundland Draft Work" by Consie Powell. She explains the different types of harnesses and carts and how to train your saint for carting. You can obtain this and several other helpful books, plus carts, harnesses and instructions on how to build your own from the sources listed here:

**NORDKYN OUTFITTERS**  
P.O. Box 1023  
Graham, WA 98338  
(253) 847 4128  
Nordkyn@nordkyn.com  
www.nordkyn.com

**IKON OUTFITTERS**  
7597 Latham Road  
Lodi, WI 53555  
(608) 592-4397  
www.ikonoutfitters.com

**DOGWORKS**  
PO box 1185  
Blue Bell, PA 19422  
(800) 787-2788  
www.dogworks.com

In the US, the Newfoundland Club of America has been doing Draft tests for many years and has in place well thought out rules and regulations. The St. Bernard Club of America adopted these rules and in 1988, the first Draft titles were conferred. The national dog clubs for Rottweilers, Great Pyrenees, Mastiffs, Collies, Bernese Mountain Dogs and Bouvier des Flanders also have similar rules and drafting exercises.

The Draft Test is a series of exercises that demonstrate the working abilities of a team consisting of a handler and St. Bernard. The complete test is done off leash and the only time you are allowed to touch the dog is during the Harnessing and Hitching portion or between exercises to praise your dog. The Draft Test is scored differently than an AKC Obedience trial in that the Draft Test is pass/fail and not scored by points and there are 2 officiating judges. Generally, the handler does most of the failing. Also, you are allowed to talk to and signal your dog and give multiple commands.

**There are 4 parts of the test. These will be discussed only briefly here.**

**Part 1** of the draft test is BASIC OBEDIENCE where the dog (without the cart) must heel at your side while you walk for a couple of left, right and "about" turns, sit when you stop walking and adjust his speed with yours as you walk "normal", fast or slow. You are allowed to talk to and encourage your dog. The last step of the Basic Obedience is the "Recall" where the dog is placed at a sit on one side of the ring, you walk to the other side and at the judges' order, call the dog. The dog must come to you on the FIRST command (once the dog is moving, you can clap your hands, beg, plead whatever!) and preferably sit in front of you, although this is not required.

**Part 2** of the test is HARNESSING AND HITCHING. The dog is placed at a sit or stand while you harness him. You and your dog must demonstrate cooperation. Once harnessed, the dog must back up 4 feet on command preferably in a straight line. The least the dog must do is back up without going in a circle. This is potentially the hardest part of the test (it also has to be done later while hitched to the cart) and should be taught to the dog BEFORE you teach him to sit (see end of article on how to train dog to back). Then the harnessed dog is hitched to the cart and a few steps are taken forward so the judges can determine that the harness/cart apparatus is safe, sturdy and won't rub on the dog.

**Part 3** is the MANUEVERING portion. The saint must pull the cart (remember this is off leash) through a series of objects made to resemble what a dog might encounter if it were working in town delivering goods. There needs to be sharp 90° turns, some sweeping turns, a couple of narrow areas (one short and one tall) and a removable obstacle such as a gate. For this exercise, the handler would place the dog on a “stay”, open the gate, call the dog through, tell the dog to halt, place the dog on a stay and the handler closes the gate behind the dog and cart. One important thing about the maneuvering course is that the handler must think ahead to choose the best path. There are only 2 “bumps” allowed on the obstacles so the handler must guide the dog carefully. Also during this portion of the test the dog must back the cart 3 feet. When we set up a test, we try to make an intentional dead-end from which the dog must back.

**Part 4** of the Draft test is the 1-mile FREIGHT HAUL. All of the carts are loaded with pre-weighed weights of at least 25 lbs (50 lbs for teams). The object here is NOT to pull heavy weight but just to change the weight of the cart. Also, the handlers are tested here to see if they can properly load and secure weight to a cart without upsetting the balance. If the cart tips on its side on a steep incline or a curb then the team fails. After loading and securing the weights, the teams of dog/handlers then do a 3 minute “out of sight” stay. The handlers walk out of sight of the dog for 3 minutes (similar to Farmer Hans taking 2 gallons of milk into the house of a customer and chatting for 3 minutes!). After the group stay, the teams then walk the 1 mile encountering various “intriguing distractions” ranging from curious geese, to people on horseback, to large logs laying over the path, to cars honking. Every team has a steward that walks with them for safety and for the protection of the dog.

If the judges determine that the dog/handler team passes every exercise, then the dog earns the St. Bernard Club of America title of Draft Dog and can put the initials of DD on the end of his name. If you have 2 dogs that both have Draft Dog titles, you can enter them as a team to earn a TDD (Team Draft Dog) title. Teams are very impressive and only 3 teams have attempted and passed the test to date.



## How to train your dog to back

The following was written by Cheryl Dondino, a member of the Columbia River Newfoundland Club:

*Start now to teach your dog the backup, with or without the cart. Anytime you see your dog backing up for any reason which is their choice, see how fast your reflexes are. Give the backup command quickly, followed by praise. See how often you can make this command part of their everyday life, and the job will be that much easier when you put them into the traces of the cart.*

*Here is another idea that I have had success with. Make two very long traces and attach them to the shoulder rings on each side of the dog's harness. Start with the dog in harness, but without the cart. Position a helper at the end of the traces, behind the dog and instruct the helper not to say anything. As you stand in front of the dog and hold both hands up for the dog to see and give the backup commands, your helper pulls back on the traces in a seesaw motion, first to one side and then the other. Your helper stops pulling backwards when you give the command to stop, followed by your enthusiastic praise. You will be surprised how easily your dog catches on to backing up without sitting down with someone behind pulling back and forth with those side traces. When all is perfection, I add the cart and (make sure the traces are cut initially long enough to get the helper behind the cart comfortably) have the helper repeat the action. Guess what? You can teach the dog to back up straight or a bit to each side, or around a corner merely by having your alert helper back up and pull from side to side in the directions of your raised hands. The dog learns to manage the directions of your hands and verbal commands naturally and without correction (my favorite way!), allowing you to praise for frequent victory. (The only one who gets corrections in this method is the helper if he either speaks to the dog – thus taking the dog's attention off you, or if he doesn't know his right hand from his left and goofs up your directions!). On the other hand, you may owe your helper big time when his or her assistance results in your dog's reliable backup at the next draft test! (This is the time when he or she claims all the credit for YOUR dog's success).*

Another trick to teaching the backup is, at feeding time, hold your dog's food bowl over his head and gently step forward into the dog. Give the “back” command. The dog will automatically step backwards to look at his food dish. Then praise him and place his food bowl down. Do this at every feeding time, gradually increasing the number of steps backwards the dog has to take before setting the food reward in front of him. And don't forget the praise!

If you are would like a copy of the Rules and Regulations or Working Dog Guidelines, you can obtain them from this website.

Barry Roland is currently the Working Dog Chairman for the SBCA. If you would like to speak with him or others of the Working Dog Committee, they can be contacted at the following phone numbers and e-mail addresses:

Vicki Jo Graves in Washington	(253) 537-0895	vicdory@msn.com
Larry and Lynn Jech in Arizona	(623) 936-9120	jech.saints@juno.com
Walt Parsons in California	(925) 934-0775	waltnewf@pacbell.net
Barry Roland in Georgia	(404) 241-1504	excalibursaints@earthlink.net

# What a Saint Bernard Draft Test Is All About



Lovey harnesses Senta while judge Dan observes.



Using verbal commands, Catherine guides Bandit into a sharp 90-degree turn. Note the benches laid on their sides to form the turn with the curbing already in place. The caution tape was used to designate the test area 3.



Beth encourages Rama to haul through one of the "narrows". Bales of straw were used in this instance as the tall "stationary narrow" area.



The 3-minute out of sight group stay performed by the participating dogs at the 2000 National Specialty in Tahoe.



Barry hitches Katrina to the cart for the 1-mile freight haul. Judge Ken checks the hitching job of Judy and Zachary.



What a team of saints looks like. Larry is preparing to back siblings Bonneville and Brenna. Red spray paint was used to designate the Distance the wheels of the cart have to travel.



Barry and Katrina have just completed the "removable obstacle" event. The gate is removed, Katrina hauls through and waits for the gate to be closed and then she and Barry proceed to the next event.



## Preparing for a Draft Test

Below are some examples of homemade carts. Some are made from PVC pipe or electrical conduit and plywood or square pipe held together with bolts and nuts. A milk crate works well for a basket. Also, a travois can be seen below in the awards photo.

Judy (in front of dog) gives Cassie the "back" command while Debbie gently pulls on the ropes attached to the cart. See text portion for full explanation on training a dog to back with a cart.



Two simple lawn chairs can function to form a "narrow" area or can support a "removable obstacle" like a baby gate. Here, Debbie guides Precious between the chairs.



Larry harnesses Duncan. This is a "professionally" made custom harness. The dimensions of the dog were given over the phone to Jane Riffle of Nordkyn Outfitters. Notice the spreader bar near Duncan's tail to keep the harness from constricting rear movement during pulling.

This is Larry helping Tempo try on a homemade harness. It is cheaper and less frustrating to purchase a custom one.



Judy gets Mandy accustomed to pulling an object, in this case an old tire, before hitching Mandy to a cart for the first time.



Lynn backs Bonneville the required 4 feet while judge Harry and judge Nancy observe. Notice the hand used for the "back" command.

John & Kris after earning Kris's Draft Dog title. Note the travois is easy to pack for transport. Since the travois has no wheels and cannot move backwards, the dog must be able to back himself 1 foot within the poles of the travois.

**Saint  
Bernard**

# Draft Dog News

**Volume 2. Issue 9**

**September 2003**

## Draft Tests Coming Up!



**Lovey Olbrich writes...**

Pending SBCA Approval:

**The SBC of the Pacific Coast** will be holding a joint draft test with the **Newfoundland Club of Northern California** on **November 9, 2003**, in Vacaville, CA.

Judges are Lori Littleford and Debby Rothwell (both licensed by the NCA). **We have three slots.**

Please contact me if you would like a premium list.

Lovey Olbrich, at: [olbrich@aol.com](mailto:olbrich@aol.com)

**Tom Nuss writes...**

Just wanted to let you know that the **Middle Atlantic SBC** has been approved to hold our annual draft test on **November 2, 2003** at Bellevue State Park, just north of Wilmington Delaware.

Our judges will be Nancy McKee & Al Moreton, both are Newfoundland draft people.

Contact person for premium list or just information will be me, Tom Nuss, at:

[nusstj@snip.net](mailto:nusstj@snip.net).



If you do Drafting in your part of the World, let us know. We would like to hear of events and results. Also, share your ideas in training and cart building! Send information to: [saintbernardnationalarchives@comcast.net](mailto:saintbernardnationalarchives@comcast.net).

**Saint  
Bernard**

# Draft Dog News

**Volume 2, Issue 10**

**November 2003**

## **DRAFT TRAINING WITH YOUR DOG**

**Cheryl M. Dondino**

### Chapter One

#### **Whys, Whats, Cautions, & Safety**

There are so many activities open to a large breed dog who knows how to pull a cart or wagon. Around the home and yard the dog can pull the wagon that is filled with leaves just raked, or can bring firewood up to the door. If you have in mind road training for fitness, I've known families who have put the car seat containing their toddlers into the cart being pulled by their well trained dog as they have logged in hundreds of miles to get both they and the dog into shape. Therapy avenues are open to the large dogs with the steadiness and competency required to give rides to handicapped or ill children in camp settings, daycare programs, headstart activities, and also in connection with some hospitals. The level of commitment and training you invest will determine what you can do with a dog who knows how to pull a cart. In addition, certification testing is available for Saint Bernards, Newfoundlands, Bernese Mountain Dogs, and Collies. The regulations for these Draft Tests is available on the website of the various parent clubs of these breeds.

I know that those interested in carting with their dogs are eager to just get started. However, no discussion of draft training is complete without the safety cautions. What is more, moving along too fast may ruin a dog who started with great potential. Therefore, Chapter One has to be all about the safety recommendations.

**Rule Number One:** Your dog is stuck with the equipment you hook him up to...whether it is appropriate for the activity, safe, ergonomically suited to prevent pain or injury...or not. There are many clever little carts, wagons, and harnesses out there. How many of these are designed to be used safely by your large breed dog? Not many, unfortunately. Always, always go to a reputable harness maker like Nordekyn or Dog Works. I also have seen items made by FidoGear, who has some harnesses for different activities. Each of these companies knows how the harnesses should be measured for proper fit, and also offer the "siwash" style of harnesses that are ergonomically designed to spread the weight the dog is pulling to prevent injuries. Cute little harnesses with the decorative chest bands are not designed for heavy use or for hauling. The same goes for the carts and wagons used. The shafts used in the carts used by your dog should come up or out from the cart in such a way that there is a straight line of pull even with your dog's shoulders, and should have a brake mechanism adjustable or fitted for your individual dog. I might recommend Dog Works or Gossamer Newfoundlands; both of which have websites for viewing of their products.

### Chapter Two:

#### **Start The Training Out Right: Harnessing, Forward, Stop**

Once you have a proper fitting harness, I recommend teaching the dog the commands to be used for draft work with just the harness on. I teach my dog to hold still in both sitting and standing position for the command "Harness", while putting this on. I give treats for steadiness and pats all around for how wonderful he looks in his "Harness". Next, I teach the dog how to stop and move forward on command. I use a short leash and start with the dog in standing position at my left side. I never use a word designed to mean something altogether different like "heel" as we move forward. A hauling dog needs to be able to keep his attention on

many things, as well as to pull weights with his head down when necessary. Therefore, I use words like “forward”, “let’s go”, etc. I do keep my dog from forging ahead of me so that he can see what I want him to do. Keeping the leash short; but not tight accomplishes this purpose nicely. When I want the dog to stop, I get myself ready first. If the dog is prone to sitting when stopping automatically (remember; this is not heeling we are working on here), getting ready for the stop in my role as handler might include switching the short leash to my right hand and then putting my left hand down to stop the dog with my hand in his flanks. Say the word “stop” or “halt” first, followed by immediate check of the dog’s forward movement with the short leash and/or use of the other hand and arm in his flank. The idea is that you always want your dog to understand the “stop” word requires stopping on a dime in a standing position. This keeps the cart level, and is safest for later, more demanding requirements, such as when my dog is giving rides to children connected to IV tubes, etc. I give my dog a treat for stopping promptly, which also gets his head up to watch me for further instructions. However, the responsibility for making certain he does stop quickly rests with me. I’ve given seminars where the handler complains...“why won’t my dog stop; why does he keep walking; I’m pulling on the leash; but he is still moving.” I ask the person to move forward with the dog and then to stop the dog on command...and then I ask the handler how many steps HE kept moving forward after giving the command to stop. Be sure to give the command to stop, followed by prompt halting of forward motion yourself, and help for the dog to stop quickly. As you no longer need to put your left hand in his flank to stop him in a standing position, switch to “checking” the forward motion with the left hand using the short leash and then raise your open right hand out and in front of his muzzle. This gets his head up to watch your right hand for directional changes, a back-up sign, etc. Additional caution: Your dog must not move forward or backwards without an additional command from you. A stop is also a stay in draft training. Because you never know where draft training will take you and your talented dog in the future, it is best to start right with the steadiness than can come in handy later. If I give my dog a stop command and signal in the hospital, he knows to “brace” himself and the cart so that I am free to load the handicapped children into the cart, etc.

## Chapter Three

### Right Turn, Left Turn, Back Up

Because your dog moves forward and stops dependably on a dime, watching your right hand held up and out from his face, you are now ready to teach him directional turns. He has his harness on and he is eagerly ready for another training session. Give him a forward command, and move forward several steps in a straight line. Give the command “RIGHT” first, followed by help given immediately after. Keeping the leash short, drop your right hand down next to his face and then move your right hand in a slow, sweeping motion across your knees and extend your right hand and arm out to the right. Do your best not to move forward with your feet. A right turn is a right turn; not a shuffle forward and then amble to the right. Keeping the leash short also keeps the dog from moving forward without turning to the right sharply enough. Give lots of praise for the action and then keep moving in a straight line from there. Alternate starting, forward motion in a straight line with direct, right turns. Be sure that you are walking in a straight line unless you are giving commands for turns. If necessary, set out flags or stakes to use as a grid or pattern to keep yourself honest in your own forward movements. Once he has mastered a basic right turn, teach him to back up. I teach my dog to back up next to my left side first, before looking at backing up in front of him. Go back to switching your short leash to the right hand, give a stop command and put your left hand in his flank again. Move your right hand to the top of his collar and give the command to “Back”. Pull backwards on the collar while pushing his inside flank gently, or against his knee slightly. When he moves backwards two steps, you have what you want! It’s not necessary for your dog to back up into the next county right away. He backed up; therefore you are happy with the “team” effort and the result. “Good Back; good back, Rover”. Give the “stop” command, put your right hand up again to show the “stop” signal, and then praise again. Repeat the pattern and then give your forward command and let him do his straight line walking, and right turns for awhile before stopping and having him back up again a few more times. Ultimately, you are looking for your dog to not require your left hand holding his flank to back up without sitting down, and also for your dog to give you several steps backwards willingly. Remember how your right hand stops in front and slightly up and out from your dog’s muzzle when you ask him to stop now that he is really good at stopping? Now you are ready to pull back on his collar with your left hand and to use the right hand in front of him to aid in a “back, back, back” motion with your command. Help him to move backwards in a straight line by using proper footwork. Move your own feet backwards in a totally, rigidly straight line to give him all the help you can.

When your dog will execute 4-5 steps backwards in a standing position, and in a straight line using a hand signal with your right hand, proper footwork from you, and your left hand in his collar, you are finally ready to teach him his left turn. For most dogs, the left turn is harder, especially once the cart is attached. I’ve met and trained some dogs who were “left handed”, and leaned to the left more easily than to the right. However, most dogs have a harder time with the 90 degree left turn. Therefore, additional skills are called for if you want an eager dog to ultimately execute good left turns. Give the dog the forward command and be sure to move forward in a straight line for several steps. Follow this with a stop command, raise your right hand up to get his attention and then use that hand in a backwards motion as you ask him to back up one generous step. Notice how this places him back from your left leg and gives you room to cross your right foot over your left without forward motion and therefore to execute a 90 degree turn to the left. Give the command “Left, Left, Good Left” in a series of three, repeated commands as you bring your left arm over in front of his face and extend it in a straight line to his left and turn. He and you will therefore make a sharp, 90 degree turn as you are giving the “left, left, good left” commands. I actually make sawing motions with my extended right arm to emphasize the direction and to prevent forward motion. Lots of praise and then continue in a straight line. Always remember to stop, have him back up a step in a straight line out of your way and then cross over with your own feet and use the right hand and arm to your best advantage to emphasize your point in a good left turn. Now you are ready to alternate forward, right turn, left turn, halt, and back up commands with his harness on. Now he knows what draft work is all about and is proud of how well he can execute. Lots of treats and praise at this level is essential. Also, review and have someone else review and critique how well you are executing with your dog. Otherwise, what will you have when you ultimately hook the cart up to your dog? You need to have the most crisp turns and moves possible at this stage, coupled with eagerness and willingness on the part of your dog. You’ve heard the phrase; “don’t put the cart before the horse”. Well, never was this

phrase more appropriate. Have turns and stops and back ups that you LOVE before adding the cart. One more thing. Remember that you don't know at this stage how far you will ultimately want to take carting with your dog. So, plan ahead for the ultimate and NEVER NEVER let your dog relieve himself in harness. If you need to "ex" your dog, take him out of the harness, have him do his business and then harness him back up. This is work and the harness is his badge or uniform. I use the word "harness" always when putting it on, and he knows we are now ready to work. There will be no lifting of legs or marking territory when we work in the hospital or children's program inside on carpeting later.

## Chapter Four

### Getting used to the cart

Believe it or not, you are not quite ready to hook up to your cart. But, believe me, all of this preparation will be worth it in the long run. Put your dog in harness and review all of his commands he knows and loves so well. Put the cart out in the yard and then feed him treats held between your fingers touching various points of the cart and shafts. At this point it is preferable to have a partner. Move your dog away to a spot where he can watch your partner take up the shafts of the cart and move the cart around and around out in front of you two. Back and forth and all around motions with the cart while you watch from a slight distance. Repeat having the dog approach with your confident steps and eager voice to the cart and giving him treats held against the cart and the shafts. Then, have him do his forward and turn commands while your partner follows you with the cart. He should be far enough away that your dog can turn his head and look over his shoulder if he wants to. Keep your voice happy and eager. Because your dog knows his turn commands thoroughly, he isn't getting too much thrown at him at once. You should not put the dog in the cart until your dog gives no clues that he is shy of the cart even if the cart is ultimately following very close, even to the point of the shafts being held on either side of him as you walk. Now, more than ever before is it important to give your commands FIRST before the action because you don't want your partner to bump the shafts or the cart into the dog because he doesn't realize you are changing direction. Work out the signals and corners ahead of time, because this is a critical time that sets the stage for your dog's first experience in the cart.

**Next time...Chapter Five....Your Dog in the Cart!**



**Saint  
Bernard**

# Draft Dog News

**Volume 2, Issue 11**

**December 2003**

## **DRAFT TRAINING WITH YOUR DOG**

**Cheryl M. Dondino**

**Chapters 1-5 are in the Draft News Volume 2, Issue 2, November, 2003**

### **Chapter 5**

## **Your Dog in the Cart**

This is the moment you have been working towards for weeks now. The moment when you hitch your dog up to the cart and march off into the sunset, not to mention, new adventures with your wonderful carting dog. Well; not quite. There is something you need to know in advance as you prepare to hitch your dog to his cart. You are starting over again with his commands. This is a whole new ball game to the dog with the shafts on either side of him and the cart behind. He will need your patience; not those exasperated words..."he knows this stuff; why isn't he doing it right?!" He will not be capable of making the tight turns you have come to expect until he figures out the differences with the cart attached. Having said this, it truly is time to hitch up and go. If you have a partner to work with you; that probably makes the easiest transition for the dog. However, this is only true if your partner can be a SILENT partner. Hold your dog into a stand stay with the harness on your dog and have your partner bring the shafts up and over your dog. Have your partner help with inserting the shafts into the proper loops and with connecting the traces to the cart on the opposite side you are on. Only you should be praising the dog for his stand/stay. Your partner is there for support and to avoid too much time and fuss when you put the dog into the cart. As soon as both of you have hooked up the dog; each of you will take hold of the shaft closest to you. Pick up to take the weight of the shaft and cart onto yourselves. This also gives you more control about what your dog can do, and will give him confidence. Be careful not to hold the shafts up too high. Just take the weight off the dog and have that be enough. You also have hold of the leash. Give your dog his forward command and have your partner be prepared to obey the dog's commands also. Only you will speak to the dog. He is just on the other side like blinkers on a horse. Your partner provides stability and security to the other side of the dog while you provide this to him while giving the commands and praise he knows already so well. As you move forward in a steady, confident manner, step out with a good pace; rather than creeping along. Be sure your voice is confident, assuring him that you believe he will be a great carting dog one day. You will notice your dog lurching back and forth as he tries to get used to what is behind him and how that should work with his body. Some dogs actually try to bolt and run. Both you and your partner are enforcing a calm, steady pace and are holding onto the shafts to prevent the dog from running off. If you have to, you can run your hands through his harness and then hang onto the shafts for even more control. If you prevent him from doing anything that will scare him, he will soon get used to what the pace is and the feel of the cart behind him. Pick an area where you can walk in a straight line for quite awhile. When you need to turn back or go around a corner, plan in advance. You will need to go to huge, sweeping turns in the beginning because your dog does not know how to turn with the shafts, and might also be alarmed by the feeling of the shafts connecting with his ribs. Remember to hold up slightly on the shafts and push or pull a little on them to make your big, sweeping corners. If you find that your dog is able to turn his head and to try to duck under the shafts to get away, you are lifting the shafts up too high. Always continue in a straight line if he tries to duck under or bend his body to try to get out from between the shafts, especially if going into a turn. In the first few sessions with the cart you are going to concentrate on a smooth pace in a straight line, with turns that are easy on him while he gets used to the shafts. When he does his stops; be sure that one of you hangs onto one of the shafts to prevent him from being scared and trying to bolt. This should be a very calm experience with lots of praise and help with his confidence. Go ahead and try a few back ups with him at your left side. Be prepared for you and your partner to have to pull back on the shafts a little to

help him to do his back up even as you are still giving him the hand signal with your right hand to “back, back” that he knows so well. Be sure your stops are still crisp. Hook up and unhitch the cart with the highest degree of verbal confidence you possibly can summon. Move forward in your steps to tighter corners only when you no longer have to take the weight of the shafts upon yourselves. Keep your partner with you until the dog is able to move forward with ease with both of you alongside him; but not hanging onto anything. Then, go for your solo walks with your dog in the cart. When you attempt tighter corners, pick up the shaft nearest you and help him with his corner until he is moving right and left with confidence, and no longer appears to be bothered by the shafts alongside him. Move on to his usual, smooth back ups that had transitioned to 4-5 feet before you added the cart. Remember to have your dog back up a generous step to be out of your way for the best and tightest left turns.

## Chapter 6

# Advanced Carting

Now it is time to challenge your dog to create problem solving skills. This will aid the two of you greatly, either in a certification test, or in therapy carting. These challenges include tighter corners and grid or shute work. Set out cones or flags going at least 15 feet in a straight line. Turn right or left at 90 degrees and continue the line of cones or flags an additional 15 feet. Step back into the corner with a tape measure and come away from the corner about 75 inches. Place a cone or flag at that spot. You have now created a shute that your dog must stay inside of when making his corner with the cart. If you find this is too difficult in the beginning, place the cone or flag down at about 85 inches; but set yourself a goal of not giving up until you and your dog can make a 90 degree turn inside 75 inches at a future date. I approach a 90 degree right turn differently than a 90 degree left one, just as I have taught my right and left turns in ways that teach these two, entirely different skills. Set up your grid of multiple shutes in a park with your dog still in the car. Then, take a piece of graph paper and draw your course as you have set it up. If you can visualize what you will be doing ahead of time, it will make it that much easier with your dog.

## For the 90 degree right turn:

Draw yourself coming into the grid of flags or cones, hugging the line of flags/cones on your left. Stop well short of the corner itself. You are going to come into the turn at a very gradual angle to the right. Draw yourself taking a couple of steps at this gradual angle, followed by a sharp right turn for the final couple of steps. Now, repeat the steps by placing sticks or twigs to mark the path you will take with dog and cart inside the actual shute. Next, take your cart and walk the corner with the empty cart on your left side as if the dog were alongside of you. Careful not to tilt the cart up to make the corners. Keep your course level so that you know how to do this when the dog is actually pulling the cart. Bisect the angle of the right turn for two steps, followed by flattening out into a direct 90 degree angle to the right for the final couple of steps. Watch your inside wheel to be sure you have not cut the final steps so sharply that you run over the flag or cone used for the corner at 75 inches (or more in the beginning; your ultimate goal is a corner with the guide set at 75 inches). Finally, add the dog to the equation. Be patient with him. You have worked this out on paper, followed by the empty cart. You know what you are doing; he doesn't. Feel the sense of accomplishment when you can traverse each of the corners you set up in the park no matter how tight. Bask in the knowledge that your dog is watching your hands closely so that the ultimate in teamwork results in beautiful turns to the right in tight places.

## For the 90 degree left turn:

For this one, you will hug the line of flags or cones on the right and walk into that grid almost as far as you can without bumping the line of flags or cones that go to the left at the corner. Remember how you taught your dog to back up one big step out of your way so that you could make sharp left turns? Well; here is where that training will really come in handy. That is exactly what you do to make the left turn inside the shute you have created for yourself. Draw yourself and dog going into the shute on graph paper, the dog backing up a big step (but not more than that, or the angle will be all wrong and you will knock over the flag or cone that marks the inside of the corner to your left), and then the dog and cart making a sharp left going out of the corner. Repeat with your twigs or sticks; and then with your empty cart. Experiment with how far back your dog needs to go in a straight line in order for the corner to be perfect. Then, add the dog. Remember, if you need to; open up the corner a bit to 85 inches until your dog is comfortable with the process. Then, begin to tighten up the space allowed for the corner.

Once your dog is able to manage tight shutes going to the right and to the left, you can use the same grid of corners in the park to practice both directions by going first one direction all the way through, and then reversing to go back the way you came, making all of the corners instantly the other way. Imagine how proud you will be when you and your dog can handle anything the cart can physically go into.

## The Back up from the front:

Picture you and your dog getting stuck in one of the shutes of your own making. Or, getting yourself into a tight situation and missing the angle of whatever the corner is. Here is where teaching the dog to back up with you in front comes in handy. It adds a new dimension to your ability to move around with the cart. Tell your dog to stay in his standing position and move in front of him. You have worked for weeks or months with your right hand coming up and out away from his muzzle to give him signals to go with your commands. This will give you the foundation you need to get your dog to work with you without mistaking your signal for a sit in front. Have both your palms open and facing the dog, slightly higher than his muzzle. Get his attention on both hands and then reach down and grasp the shaft to your left with your left hand. Keep your right hand, palm open up in front of him. Give the command to “back,

back”, using the right open hand in motion to encourage the steps back even as your left hand on the shaft pushes back to ensure he will do so. Be sure to give the “stop” command after he has taken a couple of steps back and return the left hand so that it is up and open in front of him alongside your right hand. Tell him to stay, praise and reach into your pockets for treats. Repeat these steps until he is moving back a few steps on his own. Remember to accept a couple of steps in the beginning as monumental progress. Add a step or two at a time to this later. Never be dissatisfied with his ability to back up only a couple of steps at a time. Impatient handlers have dogs who hate to back up as their nemesis to follow their footsteps for a long time. Patient handlers who praise a step or two at a time as a sure sign of the most wonderful dog who ever carted will see their dogs one day able to parallel park their carts, or to turn their carts around in a 360 degree turn on one wheel. Yes; I have had many dogs able to execute both of these maneuvers...and more. To get the dog and cart out of the elevator at one hospital, Callie and I had to go into the elevator in a straight line until her nose practically touched the back. I left her on a stay and went to the buttons. As soon as the elevator stopped on the pediatric floor, I told her to back up. She backed up in a straight line until she got almost to the wall behind her; yet still slightly inside the elevator with her head and shoulders. Standing in such a way to hold the doors open for a few more seconds, I asked her to take a step or two to the left; and then back up a couple of steps; followed by a couple more steps to the left, followed by the final steps backing up in a straight line so that now she was out of the elevator with her cart pointing the right direction to head down the hall to give rides to the children. All this was accomplished with me standing in the elevator opening holding the doors, and she completing the maneuvers before the buzzer could go off, signaling the return of the elevator car to another floor. I can hear you saying that you and your dog cannot possibly manage such a feat. Yes; you can. I just need to share a few more steps with you and your “super attentive, carting dog”, so that you and he can execute the tightest of situations, even if your dog is not at your left side.

**Watch for Chapter 7** coming in a future article for steps that will have some dogs able to dance with your every signal. The next few articles will also include procedures to get your dog ready to “DRIVE”. That’s right. You too may learn to drive down the paths of the park...IN THE CART

**2004**  
**Archive Draft News**  
**For the Saint Bernard**



**Volume 3, 5 Issues**

**Saint  
Bernard**

# Draft Dog News

**Volume 3, Issue 1**

**January 2004**

## **DRAFT TRAINING WITH YOUR DOG**

**Cheryl M. Dondino**

[Chapters 1-6 are in prior Draft Newsletters—Send for copies  
saintbernardnationalarchives@comcast.net](#)

### **Chapter 7—Final Chapter**

#### **The Ultimate Frontier**

This is the chapter to challenge the most motivated handler with the dog who likes to cart the most. We will cover skills for driving in the cart, as well as turning the cart on one wheel. Finally, there will be information regarding an upcoming draft seminar designed for large breed dogs.

Driving with the dog: If you have a cart or wagon large enough, you can teach the dog to pull you alone or with another dog, depending on size, weight and the ergonomics of the cart, coupled with your size and weight. Even if you don't ultimately do the driving, the Canadian, all breed draft titles (for an actual Canadian Kennel Club title) require the handler to walk behind the dog and to call out the commands from the rear. This is great, useful training, and a lot of fun. To start with, you need the dog who knows everything well covered in the previous chapters, together with a keen, alert attitude eager for more games. Next, put your wonderful carting dog through his paces to test you and he with a partner. Attach the leash to your belt, or loop it around your waist and then attach it to his collar so that there is quite a bit of slack. Shake your hands and arms and then hold them up above your waist so that you are not connecting with the dog or his leash on a physical basis. Have your partner call out commands. Give your dog his verbal rights, lefts, stops, back ups with just your voice and your hand signals. No cheating! No touching of the dog. Did he make his turns and execute the commands crisply without your holding onto the leash at all? If not, you need to do a little more work before you are ready to start moving behind him. Go back to the virtual drawing board and make sure you give the commands first, followed by your hand signals BEFORE using the leash. Have you possibly got into the habit of guiding him along with the leash, rather than giving him the responsibility of listening and following your hand signals? Keep working at it until your partner can test you again, calling out commands in an order not known to you previously and see if the two of you are really working together as a team with him listening to your directions. Do some additional practice walking down the street. Have him connected to your waist with his leash and try a totally hands free, verbal only walk. Call out rights and lefts as you approach intersections on the sidewalk and see if he really knows his left from his right. If not, work hard on helping him to master these skills. When I go to the dog shows, I usually have my arms loaded down with chairs, coolers, handbag, and training gear as we head back to the car. I can just call out "LEFT", "RIGHT", "STOP", and "Back, Please" as we go until we reach the car. This is very helpful for me. It's a little harder to manage the same efficiency with multiple dogs on the leash, but ultimately doable, depending on the skill levels of the two dogs on the leash.

Have it down pat? Can go anywhere and call out the directions and have your dog manage them with just your words and no hand signals? You are ready for the next step, which involves a longer leash and letting the dog walk ahead of you as you go for

any walk without the cart down the street. Call out the directions and gradually work it so that you are farther and farther behind him. Repeat the same commands from behind when you are both headed back to the house from the yard, going into another room any time he is ahead of you, etc. If you call out the word "left", does he immediately head into the nearest room in that direction. Great news! Hook him up and repeat the steps in the cart. Use a hands free approach with him just attached to your waist and call out the directions. If you have to, put your hands behind your back so that he has to listen to the words without other cues. Gradually attach a longer and longer leash, or two leashes together until you are walking alongside him, but clear back by the wheels. Watch it at this point to be sure you don't get your foot run over if he makes a mistake. That wouldn't be his fault at this point. He is still learning, which makes the responsibility for a successful performance yours. Also, too much negative feedback at this point will mean he isn't willing to work without you up there alongside him for support. You don't want him to be so worried about mistakes that he is unwilling to "try" to make the right turns. If you squelch his choices because he made a wrong turn, don't be surprised if he refuses to try anymore. "I'm confused and I can't get it right; so I'm not going to play this game anymore." If your dog thinks he is a failure at this game, he WILL be a failure. Having the dog work entirely in front of you takes the highest degree of self-confidence and the greatest ability to tune out distractions and to listen to you carefully. I always start and end each session with me alongside my dog to tell him how great he is on his forwards, lefts, rights and stops. At that point, it is so easy for him to do them with me walking back next to him, using my hand signals as well, that he is very relieved and we end in a way where he is happy with his performance. "See, what a great left that was! GOOD forward! Wow; what a good stop and stay! You are the best boy."

As my dog reach the point where they can pull the cart with me back alongside the wheels, I add rings to the shoulders of his siwash harness. I purchase two leashes of great length to use as reins and attach them to the rings set on his shoulders. I put a silent partner alongside the dog to use a short leash. I go back and get into the cart. I call out the commands he knows so well and the partner, keeping the leash very short, and saying NOTHING to the dog, follows and enforces the commands as I give them with the dog. I do the talking, the praising, etc. and the partner makes sure it happens with the short leash and his/her body movements. At this point, I add neck-reining skills to the mix. When I say to go "left", I pull gently on the left rein. When I say to "stop", I pull back gently on both reins at once. I slack off on the pressure entirely when I say to go "forward". Gradually, over time, I have my silent partner start out alongside the dog and then move back so HE/SHE is alongside the wheels. When the dog no longer needs the presence of a directional enforcer alongside him, he is ready to cart with me on a solo trip. Now we have the wind in our faces in my ergonomically designed 4 wheel "landau" coach with the buckboard "Little House on the Prairie" front seat. For added pleasure and fun, I can take part in parades using the "double tree" and having two dogs who know how to drive as a matched pair. This also divides the weight (me and our decorations or children) needing to be pulled along between two dogs. At Christmas time, large sleigh bells on the harnesses and battery operated lights on the wheels or woven through garland at the back of the big wagon add a festive touch to the journey. Frankly, once your dog can "drive", the sky is the limit when dreaming up activities as long as you don't give him too much weight to pull.

Want to warm your dog's listen and watching skills up before an important function? Put him in the cart and ask him to turn right while you slowly do an about turn circle yourself. Notice how he will "cross over" with his own front feet to manage this. Add the command "cross over" as he does it for a whole new skill and game. Want to go the other way? A 360 degree turn on one wheel can ultimately be managed with a series of "lefts" and "back" up commands as you turn into him at the same time. I give my left turn signal with my right arm up in the air a bit and turn into him to form a tight circle as we go. One of my best carting dogs can execute a 360 degree left circle without the wheels of the cart moving forward even an inch with just my index finger and my voice providing the directions; then switch to do the same on the right. She thinks it is all just a glorious game that she happens to be great at. I have to agree with her, although her ability to "parallel park" her cart with just a finger held up for directions while I concentrate on only the wheels themselves sure comes in handy.

## **UPCOMING SEMINAR**

Are you interested in participating in a carting seminar designed for large breed dogs? I'll be in Buckley (near Auburn), Washington, Saturday, May 29, 2004 to help up to 12 large breed dogs with their carting skills. Additional seminar auditors without dogs are also welcome. If you are interested in receiving a flyer for this seminar, please contact me as soon as possible via e-mail at [CMD555@aol.com](mailto:CMD555@aol.com). Please be sure that your subject line refers to the upcoming carting seminar. Advance registration is required with a start and ending date to get in, since we expect to fill up very quickly. The fee is \$40 per handler with dog or \$25 to audit the seminar without a dog. All participants with their dogs must have their own cart and siwash style harness with them at the seminar. I hope to hear from you!

Cheryl M. Dondino  
**[CMD555@aol.com](mailto:CMD555@aol.com)**

**Saint  
Bernard**

# Draft Dog News

**Volume 3, Issue 2**

**February 2004**

## SAINT BERNARD CLUB OF PUGET SOUND 2004 SNOW TRIAL (Washington State)

The Annual SBCPS Snow Trial is to be held **Sunday, March 28, 2004 at . . . . Crystal Mountain Resort**

We will meet behind the Chapel on the left of the Facility. You can unload dogs and humans at the Chapel and then use the General Parking.

**Registration: 10:00 a.m.**

Entry Fee: \$ 5.00 per dog.

**Events to begin at about 10:30 a.m.**

Awards will be divided for dogs, bitches, and puppies.

**What is a Snow Trial?** The Snow Trial is a fun event for dog and handler in the snow. Events include the sled pull, uphill rescue, and downhill rescue. All events are timed and done off leash. For the sled pull, the club has loaner harnesses for those that do not have one of their own. The uphill and downhill rescue are long distance recalls.

Ribbons will be given for first through fourth places in all three events. There will be Trophies and Rosettes for Jungen (under one year of age), Victor (dog), Victrix (bitch) and Grand Champion.

**Dress warmly** & bring a thermos of coffee, tea, hot chocolate, or whatever. We will try to find a place for lunch afterwards.

**Meet you on the Mountain. . . Sunday, March 28th at Crystal Mountain Resort**

Directions: South of Tacoma, take I-5 north to Hwy 512 east to Hwy 167 north to Hwy 410 east. From Tacoma to Federal Way, take I-5 south to Hwy 512 east to Hwy 167 north to Hwy 410 east. From north of Federal Way, take I-5 south to Hwy 18 east to Hwy 167 south, or I-405 to Hwy 167 south, to Hwy 410 east. Crystal Mt. Resort is on the left before you enter Mt. Rainier National Park.

**For more information about this event and others that the SBCPS puts on: Call Vicki Graves at 253-537-0895**



**Saint  
Bernard**

# Draft Dog News

**Volume 3, Issue 3**

**April 2004**

## **ALL-BREED Draft Test in Idaho in May!**

Hello-

My name is Debra Bammel and I'm a member of the Inland Northwest Bernese Mountain Dog Club and a test secretary for the club's May draft tests.

Our club is hosting two all breed draft tests in Lakeview Park in Nampa, ID on **Saturday, May 8th, and Sunday, May 9th**. I have attached the premium and hope that you will pass it along to any of your members that might be interested in attending.

Hope to see some of your members at the tests. These are our first all breed tests and we would love to see other breed working the draft course. Please feel free to email me with any questions.

Debra Bammel

[DBammel@idahopower.com](mailto:DBammel@idahopower.com)



# Premium List

*Closing date for entries is Friday, April 23, 2004*  
after which time entries cannot be accepted, cancelled, or altered except  
as allowed in the current BMDCA Draft Test Regulations.

Debra Bammel  
Draft Test Chairman  
3462 S. Coleridge Place  
Boise, ID 83706-5584



## TWO

*BMDCA Draft Tests*  
**Open to ALL BREEDS**

*(entry restriction inside)\**

**Saturday, May 8, 2004**  
**Sunday, May 9, 2004**

**Lakeview Park, Nampa, Idaho**  
**7:00 am - 5:00 pm**

**BMDCA APPROVED**  
This event is held under the rules of the BMDCA

# *Inland Northwest Bernese Mountain Dog Club*

## ***Club Officers for 2004***

President – Dino Candelaria  
Vice President – Terry Thompson  
Secretary/Treasurer – Kathy Deyo  
PO Box 2003, Orofino, ID 83544-2003

## ***Board Members***

Idaho - Debra Bammel  
Montana –Shelly Gonzales  
Oregon – Pat Burgett  
Washington – Lisa Ebnet and Judy Arneson-Johnson

## ***Draft Test Committee***

### **Draft Test Chairs**

***Saturday, May 8, 2004***

Debra Bammel  
3462 S. Coleridge Place, Boise, ID 83716-5584  
(208) 384-1877 [dbammel@idahopower.com](mailto:dbammel@idahopower.com)

***Sunday, May 9, 2004***

Jon Racheal  
5912 Tallowtree Way, Boise, ID 83706-6964  
(208) 367-0472 [jmracheal@aol.com](mailto:jmracheal@aol.com)

### **Draft Test Secretaries**

***Saturday, May 8, 2004***

Terry Thompson  
4320 Sierra Drive, Missoula, MT 59804-2904  
(406) 543-6103 [mtf@bigsky.net](mailto:mtf@bigsky.net)

***Sunday, May 9, 2004***

Debra Bammel  
3462 S. Coleridge Place, Boise, ID 83706-5584  
(208) 384-1877 [dbammel@idahopower.com](mailto:dbammel@idahopower.com)

Committee – Brad Bammel  
Kathy Deyo  
Jon Rachael  
Dino Candelaria

The Test will be held in compliance with the BMDCA Draft Test Regulations. Entrants are responsible for being familiar with these regulations. Draft test regulations are available on site from the Secretary. To order contact: Lynne Hawkinson, 2244 Montia Place, Escondido, CA 92029. Also see the BMDCA store @[www.bmdca.org/working](http://www.bmdca.org/working)

## ***MOTELS***

### **Shilo Nampa Suites**

1401 Shilo Dr., Nampa, ID 208-465-3650

### **Super 8 Motel**

624 Nampa Blvd., Nampa, ID 208-467-2888

### **Best Inn & Suites**

901 Specht Ave., Caldwell, ID 208-454-2222

### **Best Western Inn**

908 Specht Ave., Caldwell, ID 208-454-7225

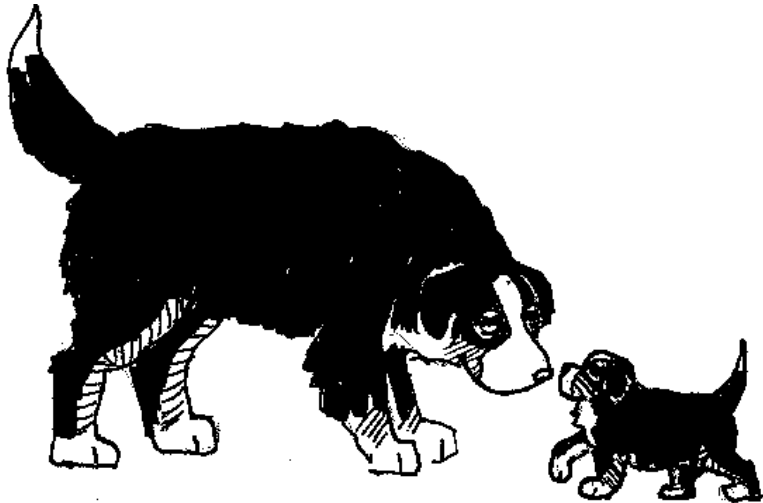


**The Inland Northwest BMDC  
invites you to join us for  
a no host dinner**

**Saturday, May 8, 2004**  
*Following the Draft Test*

All entrants, their families and friends  
are welcome to join in the fun.

**The restaurant will be  
determined and announced at  
the Draft Test.**



**Judges**

**Jim Maxwell,**  
3444 Broaderick Street, San Francisco, CA 94123  
**Mary Dowski,**  
8441 W Highway 52, Emmett, ID 83617

**Veterinarian On-Call**

Blayne Veterinary Clinic  
3825 E Cleveland Blvd.  
Caldwell, ID  
(208) 459-6167

**Entry Fees per class, per test:**

**\$25.00 per dog**  
**\$25.00 per brace**

**Classes Offered per test (limit):**

**Novice Draft(8), Open Draft(8)**  
**Novice Brace(2), Open Brace(2)**

**Regulations:**

*If entry is not reached in one class the extra slots will be assigned to the other classes. If more than twenty entries are received, a random drawing will be held within 48 hours of the closing date. All entrants will be notified of their status by telephone or email and U.S. Postal Mail. Alternates will also be drawn and may compete in the absence of regular entrants.*

*\* Bernese Mountain Dogs shall be given preference over Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs, which shall be given preference over all other breeds.*

*Class move-ups will be allowed as stated in the BMDCA Draft Test Regulations, Chapter 5, Section 4*

**\*\* Remember, you must include a weight certification with your entries at date of closing if you intend to "move up" in anticipation of passing your novice draft dog title in Saturday's test**

## **Please Note**

There are two different  
Draft Test Secretaries.

Please be careful to mail your entry  
to the correct  
Test Secretary

### **Saturday Test**

Should be mailed to

**Terry Thompson, Secretary**  
**4320 Sierra Drive**  
**Missoula, MT 59804**

### **Sunday Test**

Should be mailed to

**Debra Bammel, Secretary**  
**3462 S. Coleridge Place**  
**Boise, ID 83706-5584**

### **The INWBMDC offers the following awards:**

#### **Saturday Test**

A ring favor to all participating entries  
A Wood Cart or comparable BMD related item to each dog or Brace  
who earns a Draft Dog Title

#### **Sunday Test**

A ring-favor to all participating entries  
A BMD related item to each dog or brace who earns a Draft Dog Title

## **LUNCH RESERVATIONS FOR DRAFT TESTS**

### **SATURDAY, MAY 8, 2004**

Lunch includes a 6 inch sub sandwich, chips , cookie and beverage

Choice of Bread: (circle choice of one)

White Wheat

Choice of Sandwich:

Veggie Delight Turkey breast&ham Turkey breast  
Club Roast beef Tuna Classic Italian bmt  
Seafood&crab Cold cut trio

Choice of Cookie:

Chocolate chip Sugar White chocolate macadamia

Price: \$8.00 per boxed lunch

Name : \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Send with entry to test secretary. Terry Thomson

### **SUNDAY, MAY 9, 2004**

Lunch includes a 6 inch sub sandwich, chips, cookie and beverage

Choice of Bread: (circle choice of one)

White Wheat

Choice of Sandwich:

Veggie Delight Turkey breast&ham Turkey breast  
Club Roast beef Tuna Classic Italian bmt  
Seafood&crab Cold cut trio

Choice of Cookie:

Chocolate chip Sugar White chocolate macadamia

Price: \$8.00 per boxed lunch

Name : \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

Send with entry to test secretary. Debra Bammel

**AGREEMENT**

I(we) waive any and all claims, causes of action, I(we) might otherwise have against the BMDCA/INWBMDC and any officials at this test. I(we) agree that the club holding this test has the right to refuse this entry for cause which the club shall deem to be sufficient. In consideration of the acceptance of this entry and of the holding of the test and of the opportunity to have the dog judged and to win ribbons, I(we) agree to hold this club, its members, directors, governors, officers, agents, superintendents or show secretary and the owner or lessor of the premises and any employees of the aforementioned parties harmless from any claim for loss or injury which may be alleged to have been caused directly or indirectly to any person or thing by the act of this dog while in or upon the test premises or grounds or near any entrance thereto, and I(we) personally assume all responsibility and liability for any such claims; and I(we) further agree to hold the aforementioned parties harmless from any claim for loss of this dog by disappearance, theft, death or otherwise, and from any claim for damage or injury to the dog, whether such loss, disappearance, theft, damage, or injury, be caused or alleged to be caused by the negligence of the club or any of the parties aforementioned, or by the negligence of any other persons, or any other cause or causes.

I(we) hereby assume the sole responsibility for and agree to indemnify and save the aforementioned parties harmless from any and all loss and expense (including legal fees) by reason of the liability imposed by law upon any of the aforementioned parties for damage because of bodily injuries, including death at any time resulting therefrom, sustained by any person or persons, including myself(ourselves) or on account of damage to property, arising out of or in consequence of my(our) participation in this match, howsoever such injuries, death, or damage to property may be caused, and whether or not the same may have been caused or may be alleged to have been caused by negligence of the aforementioned parties or any of their employees or agents, or any other persons.

**OFFICIAL ENTRY FORMS MUST HAVE A SIGNATURE.**

I (we) acknowledge the BMDCA Draft Test Regulations have been made available to me (us) that I am (we are) familiar with their contents and that I (we) agree to abide by these regulations at this BMDCA Draft Test. I (we) understand that I (we) enter a dog at this BMDCA Draft Test at my (our) own risk.

\*\*\*\*\*

**OFFICIAL Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America**

**DRAFT TEST**

**Sunday, May 9, 2004**

*Lakeview Park, Nampa, Idaho*

*Hosted by Inland Northwest Bernese Mountain Dog Club*

**ENTRIES CLOSE** at the Draft Test Secretary's address at 5:00 PM, **Friday, April 23, 2004** after which time entries cannot be accepted, cancelled, or altered except as allowed in the current BMDCA Draft Test Regulations. If the limit is exceeded a blind draw will be held at the secretary's address within 48 hours of closing. Entrants will be notified via telephone or e-mail and U S Post of entry status.

**MAIL ENTRIES and \$25.00 fee per dog or brace (payable to INWBMDC)**

to: Secretary, Debra Bammel, 3462 S. Coleridge Pl., Boise, ID 83706  
*Please type or print clearly and include a telephone number.*

BREED \_\_\_\_\_ SEX Dog  Bitch

CLASS Novice Draft Dog  Draft Dog   
Novice Draft Brace  Draft Brace

Will supply own weights. Yes  No

Weight Certificate Enclosed (Draft Dog only) Yes  No

Full Name of Dog: \_\_\_\_\_

Call Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Enter Number Here

AKC REG NO

Foreign REG NO & COUNTRY

DATE OF BIRTH: \_\_\_\_\_

PLACE OF BIRTH:  USA  Canada  Foreign

BREEDER \_\_\_\_\_

SIRE \_\_\_\_\_

DAM \_\_\_\_\_

ACTUAL OWNER(S) \_\_\_\_\_

OWNER'S ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

I certify that I am the actual owner whose name I have entered above. In consideration of the acceptance of this entry, I (we) agree to abide by the rules and regulations of the American Kennel Club in effect at the time of this trial, and by any additional rules and regulations appearing in the premium list for this trial, and further agree to be bound by the "Agreement" printed on the reverse side of this entry form. I (we) certify and represent that the dog entered is not a hazard to persons or other dogs. This entry is submitted for acceptance on the foregoing representation and agreement.

SIGNATURE of owner or his agent duly authorized to make this entry

\_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone # (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ E-Mail \_\_\_\_\_

**Saint  
Bernard**

# Draft Dog News

**Volume 3, Issue 4**

**July 2004**

## 2004 SBC of America's Draft Test

The draft test was held on Wednesday, 5 May '04, at Hueston Woods was held in one of the best places to have a draft test in the spring. The woods were fresh and green with blooming trees and fresh grass everywhere. Cindy White was the other judge and had judged at the previous test held in 2002. She is a Newfoundland draft judge and great to work with.

Before the test a seminar on drafting was presented by Barry Roland on drafting and equipment. It was well attended and many ideas were exchanged on techniques and equipment.

There were two handlers with two dogs each. Barry Roland entered Excalibur's Kirsten, CD, WP and Excalibur's Knute, CD, WP. Diane Owens entered Brandy and Savior's Gretl Berchetta.

The test is designed to demonstrate that the dog will follow commands and is currently under voice control. This year only one dog failed this portion of the test. It was spectacular. The cool morning air, the dewy grass, the excitement of being so far from home with mom, whatever, Gretl was up for an early morning romp and run, outside the ring. The excursion was short but this was the showstopper. What a happy dog. The other teams completed the exercise with no problems.



The next exercise contained the nemesis of many a team and here it claimed two more. The "back" is not natural to a dog in most situations. It would rather turn around and go back the way it came.

When a dog backs, it can't see behind itself. Barry and Nevada could not agree on what the term back meant on this day. Neither could Diane and Brandy. However, Kirsten did know what back meant and completed the exercise with little difficulty.

The teams completed the maneuvering course without incident. All demonstrated that they had done this before and were well prepared. All teams were solid once in harness and with the carts attached. They did well on the course and were ready for the freight load and out of sight stay. The freight hauls covered much of the same terrain that had been used in the previous test in 2001. We went for a hike in the lovely woods on the hiking trails in the area. This time Barry went ahead and removed the logs that were in the trail. On the return trip Kirsten decided it was time to go the lodge rather than take one more rest stop. She bumped into a post and broke one of the cart shafts. Barry had the necessary tools and materials to repair the cart before the ten-minute limit ran out. The rules state that if you have problems with equipment, it can be repaired as long as you are carrying the needed items for the operation.

The remainder of the test was completed without incident. There was one qualifying team, Barry and Kirsten. Diane had no qualifiers, but she should have no trouble at the next test she attends. She, like so many others, doesn't get much of a chance to practice. I recommend that you find others doing draft work and have some fun working with others drafting.

I had a wonderful time and birthday cake and a party besides. It was Cindy's birthday too. Who would have thought? Lovely cake, wonderful friends in such a beautiful place having friends and fun.

It was a pleasure to judge the Draft Test once again.

**Larry Jech**

**Saint  
Bernard**

# Draft Dog News

**Volume 3, Issue 5**

**November, 2004**

## Saint Bernard Draft Test in Northern California

**November 7, 2004**

by Walt Parsons - SBCA WDC Draft Work Secretary

The **Saint Bernard Club of the Pacific Coast** in cooperation with the Newfoundland Club of Northern California (NCNC) held draft tests together with the same judges, site, and workers. It was a great success for both breeds. The Newfs had 8 entries and 6 of them earned their Draft Dog Titles. The Saints had two entries and had a 100% pass rate. This was the 3rd Saint Draft Test of the year.



Last year the SBCA Draft Test regulations were amended to allow a mixed team just as long as one of the team is a Saint Bernard. (Contact Walt Parsons for a copy of the amended regulations at [waltnewf@pacbell.net](mailto:waltnewf@pacbell.net) or by phone at 925-934-0775. Note that only the Saint member of the team may be awarded a SBCA Draft Dog Title.)



The test was held at Vasona Lake Park in Los Gatos, California under a hazy sky with nice weather for both dogs and their handlers. As usual with the NCNC Draft Tests the maneuvering and freight haul were very challenging. One judge stated that the Freight Haul was almost another maneuvering course.

1st up was **Hazel Olbrich** with **Echo's Utmost VCD2 WP DD** (Miranda) who did a flawless job of all of the exercises earning a Saint Draft Dog title and a **Working Dog Championship**.

Next came a "Snewf" (Saint/Newf) team consisting of Saint Bernard **Thunder Hill's Brunhilda CDX DD** (Hilda) and Newfoundland **Socorro's Rompeolas CD WRD DD** (Jetty) handled by **Marge Parsons**, who also marched right through all of the exercises to the delight of the crowd.

Saint Bernard clubs that are having trouble getting enough entries to be able to put on a Draft Test should contact their local Newfoundland Club to see if they would be interested in going together for a Draft Test. Contact Walt Parsons for information about which Newfy clubs are in your area.



**Merle Maggy, photographer**

**2005**  
**Archive Draft News**  
**For the Saint Bernard**



**Volume 4, 1 Issue**



**Saint  
Bernard**

# Draft Dog News

**Volume 4, Issue 1**

**June, 2005**

## Saint Bernard Draft Test in Northern California

### Saint Bernard / Leonberger Draft Test - May 14 2005

by Walt Parsons



The *Saint Bernard Club of the Pacific Coast* and the *Leonberger Club of Northern California* combined forces to put on the first annual Saint/Leonberger Draft test in Livermore, CA, Saturday (May 14, 2005). A fun time was had by all four entrants all of which were first time Draft Test entrants.



Unfortunately none of them passed with the backups being the main problem. As the saying goes, "Wait until next year."

Our judges were Saint Bernard Draft Test judges Hazel Olbrich and Marge Parsons.

Walt Parsons was the Test Secretary, Catalog maker, Photographer, and the lunch chef.

Missy St Pierre-Sands of the Leonberger club put together a delicious breakfast for all and prepared the Trophies for the qualifiers.



Note: The National Leonberger of America (LCA) has adopted the Newfoundland Draft Test rules and will probably authorize the use of the Saint Bernard rules which are nearly identical to the Newfoundland rules.



**2006**  
**Archive Draft News**  
**For the Saint Bernard**



**Volume 5, 1 Issue**

**Saint  
Bernard**

# Draft Dog News

**Volume 5, Issue 1**

**October, 2006**



## Saint Bernard Club of America's Draft Test September, 2006



*By Dan Wheeler*

***"The SBCA Draft Test is a series of exercises designed to develop and demonstrate the inbred abilities of the pure-bred Saint Bernard in a capacity involving hauling."***

The above is from the SBCA's Draft Test Regulations Introduction and in Cheyenne, Wyoming, **six** entrants entered to face the eight tasks required to earn the title of "SBCA Draft Dog."

We had six teams of which only five competed, consisting of handler and dog in which three were AKC champions of record, two also had earned a AKC Companion Dog (CD) AKC title in obedience (three dogs entered had the title of CD). We also had two dogs with the basic obedience certificate of Canine Good Citizen (CGC). We also Weight Pulling titled dogs in the draft test.

The test started off with *Basic Obedience Control* followed by *Harnessing and Hitching* in which the dogs are harnessed and then hitched to the cart. Then through the Basic Commands portion of the test, dogs showed their ability to go forward, halt, turn, before entering the maneuvering course, backing up the cart, and a 3 minute Stay with the Handlers out of the dogs sight.

The one-mile Freight Haul was performed through the show grounds and then out into the prairie of Wyoming around the Little America Resort where they passed some of the construction areas near the Golf course hole number 4 where the Intriguing Distraction was performed by Maureen Wheeler with her black Standard Poodle, "Ruff-Ruff", who was able to distract a few of the constants from the assigned course..

When the final "Pass/Fail" scores were totaled, **Echo's Xtra Sweetie von Eddy**, owned and handled by Hazel Obrich, had passed and received the title of "Draft Dog".

Our Judges were Ron Allerdice and Dan Wheeler, supported by the Test committee of Glen Williams, Draft Test Chairman, Tom Nuss, the Draft Test Secretary, Terry Nuss, our Test Chief Steward, and other volunteers who with out who's help the test could not have performed so smooth. I'am sorry not to have gotten all the names to thank them. They helped out with the various tasks needed and acted as stewards.

The fact that we had only one team to pass all the exercises shows the degree of difficulty and the required dedication it takes to obtain the title of Draft Dog. A "Well done" to all the Entrants and the dogs.

**Eastgates Rember the Knight, CD,RE,WP, owned by Barry Roland and Elaine Cooper**

**Jamelle's Life of the Party, owned by Catherine and Clyde Dunphy**

**Echo's Xtra Sweetie von Eddy, owned by Hazel Obrich**

**Ch. Bernegarden's Payback, CD, owned by Thomas and Viola Brown & Wm and Shirley Tsagris**

**Ch. Vicdory's Indiana Bones, CD,RN,WP, owned by Ken and Vonna Cowen**

**Ch. Slaton's Gift of Love, owned by Laura Flannery and Shirley Wolf (absent from test)**



**2007**  
**Archive Draft News**  
**For the Saint Bernard**



**Volume 6, 2 Issues**

**Saint  
Bernard**

# Draft Dog News

**Volume 6, Issue 1**

**October, 2007**



## Saint Bernard Club of America's Draft Test September, 2007



### SBCA National Draft

by **Lovey Olbrich**

(photos by Bill Buell & Barb Slish)

The morning of September 26 dawned drizzly and almost cool; given that the weather in the previous days had been unseasonably warm, that was a good thing.

We had two entrants, **CH Scandia's Ursa Major (Bear)**, a longhair male, handled by **Tom Moore**, and **Eastgates Remember The Knight CD RE WPS (Knight)**, a shorthair male, handled by **Barry Roland**. Both dogs were very well prepared and as a judge I was impressed with the skill of the teams that worked together on their cartwork.



We were not able to pass Bear, who just needed a bit more confidence on his stays, but otherwise did an excellent job on his cartwork. All those parades were evident in the comfort and grace he showed while in the cart. And I might add I think that the carting skill base helped him slip easily into his first weight pull efforts, so that he earned his WP title in his first three tries during the week of the National. Good show!

Knight and Barry were able to overcome a carting mishap that required a cart repair during the freight haul in order to complete the test. It's a real accomplishment for the handler and dog to overcome such an obstacle. Barry and Knight pulled through in grand style and were successful in passing the test.



**Vi Brown** (the other judge) and I relied on the environment to provide an intriguing distraction and it did; both dogs had to work through a group of awestruck camera-toting humans or a nosy dog during the maneuvering course.

A big thanks goes to **Barry Roland** who did all the heavy lifting (literally) to put together the maneuvering course and to map out the freight haul. Without his efforts it's hard to imagine how the test could have been held. **Marcie Boyens** did a great job as secretary – the paperwork was prepared ahead of time and all was in order for the judging to occur.

**Saint  
Bernard**

# Draft Dog News

**Volume 6, Issue 2**

**December, 2007**

## Saint Bernard Club of Pacific Coast Draft Test November 18, 2007

by Lovey Olbrich



It was held yesterday at the lovely Field Stone Winery in Healdsburg, CA. This is the first time we've put on a draft test on our own (we usually go in with the Newfoundland club), and thanks to the chair and equipment builder James Hunter and the secretary Walt Parsons the mechanics of the test went without a hitch.

The weather was cool and crisp, the hills have started to green up, and the yellow and red grape leaves were still on the vine. It was just about the most beautiful site for a dog event that I have ever enjoyed. The freight haul was done throughout the vineyard -- certainly a site-specific location!

In addition we had a fabulous lunch prepared by our club's resident cook, Wendy Lee. The roasted butternut squash soup served with sandwiches followed by home-made brownies made a most excellent lunch.

We had four entrants -- three of them were very young and not quite ready to pass. However I am delighted to report that **Shadow Mtn Calif Rock Star, CD, WPX** (Roxie to her friends) passed the test in fine style. She was trained and handled by **Linda Hunter (co-owned with James and Ginny, and bred by Paul, Karen, and Dani Boedving)**. It was a great pleasure for **Marge Parsons** and I to award her a well deserved draft dog title.

After the test we repaired to the wine tasting room to celebrate. I had never tasted these wines and they are delicious. Several of us brought home half cases to enjoy over the holidays.

The day was so perfect we are already talking about doing this again next year.



# The Saint Bernard Club of America's



**Draft Test  
Visual Illustrations**

# What a Saint Bernard Draft Test Is All About



Lovey harnesses Senta while judge Dan observes.



Using verbal commands, Catherine guides Bandit into a sharp 90-degree turn. Note the benches laid on their sides to form the turn with the curbing already in place. The caution tape was used to designate the test area 3.



Beth encourages Rama to haul through one of the "narrows". Bales of straw were used in this instance as the tall "stationary narrow" area.



The 3-minute out of sight group stay performed by the participating dogs at the 2000 National Specialty in Tahoe.



Barry hitches Katrina to the cart for the 1-mile freight haul. Judge Ken checks the hitching job of Judy and Zachary.



What a team of saints looks like. Larry is preparing to back siblings Bonneville and Brenna. Red spray paint was used to designate the Distance the wheels of the cart have to travel.



Barry and Katrina have just completed the "removable obstacle" event. The gate is removed, Katrina hauls through and waits for the gate to be closed and then she and Barry proceed to the next event.





## Preparing for a Draft Test

Below are some examples of homemade carts. Some are made from PVC pipe or electrical conduit and plywood or square pipe held together with bolts and nuts. A milk crate works well for a basket. Also, a travois can be seen below in the awards photo.

Judy (in front of dog) gives Cassie the "back" command while Debbie gently pulls on the ropes attached to the cart. See text portion for full explanation on training a dog to back with a cart.



Two simple lawn chairs can function to form a "narrow" area or can support a "removable obstacle" like a baby gate. Here, Debbie guides Precious between the chairs.



Larry harnesses Duncan. This is a "professionally" made custom harness. The dimensions of the dog were given over the phone to Jane Riffle of Nordkyn Outfitters. Notice the spreader bar near Duncan's tail to keep the harness from constricting rear movement during pulling.

This is Larry helping Tempo try on a homemade harness. It is cheaper and less frustrating to purchase a custom one.



Judy gets Mandy accustomed to pulling an object, in this case an old tire, before hitching Mandy to a cart for the first time.



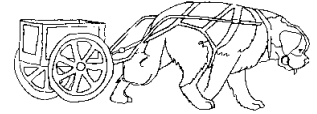
Lynn backs Bonneville the required 4 feet while judge Harry and judge Nancy observe. Notice the hand used for the "back" command.

John & Kris after earning Kris's Draft Dog title. Note the travois is easy to pack for transport. Since the travois has no wheels and cannot move backwards, the dog must be able to back himself 1 foot within the poles of the travois.



**A BRIEF INTRODUCTION TO  
ST. BERNARD CLUB OF AMERICA  
DRAFTING (CARTING) WITH YOUR SAINT**

**By Lynn Jech**



So you own a St. Bernard! You want to do fun activities with your saint but you don't know what is available. Here some ideas. There are two Working Dog activities sanctioned by the St. Bernard Club of America (SBCA) that allow you and your dog to earn titles. These activities are Weight Pulling and Drafting (carting). Your dog does not have to be "show" quality to participate in these activities. However, to earn a title, your saint does need to be registered with AKC or have an AKC ILP (Indefinite Listing Privilege) number. If your saint is not registered, you can still do drafting just for fun.

Why do we do this? Titles of course, companionship with your dog, something neat to do and keeping the working dog spirit alive!

An outstanding spiral-bound book for you to learn about carting is "Newfoundland Draft Work" by Consie Powell. She explains the different types of harnesses and carts and how to train your saint for carting. You can obtain this and several other helpful books, plus carts, harnesses and instructions on how to build your own from the sources listed here:

**NORDKYN OUTFITTERS**

P.O. Box 1023  
Graham, WA 98338  
(253) 847 4128  
[Nordkyn@nordkyn.com](mailto:Nordkyn@nordkyn.com)  
[www.nordkyn.com](http://www.nordkyn.com)

**IKON OUTFITTERS**

7597 Latham Road  
Lodi, WI 53555  
(608) 592-4397  
[www.ikonoutfitters.com](http://www.ikonoutfitters.com)

**DOGWORKS**

PO box 1185  
Blue Bell, PA 19422  
(800) 787-2788  
[www.dogworks.com](http://www.dogworks.com)

In the US, the Newfoundland Club of America has been doing Draft tests for many years and has in place well thought out rules and regulations. The St. Bernard Club of America adopted these rules and in 1988, the first Draft titles were conferred. The national dog clubs for Rottweilers, Great Pyrenees, Mastiffs, Collies, Bernese Mountain Dogs and Bouvier des Flanders also have similar rules and drafting exercises.

The Draft Test is a series of exercises that demonstrate the working abilities of a team consisting of a handler and St. Bernard. The complete test is done off leash and the only time you are allowed to touch the dog is during the Harnessing and Hitching portion or between exercises to praise your dog. The Draft Test is scored differently than an AKC Obedience trial in that the Draft Test is pass/fail and not scored by points and there are 2 officiating judges. Generally, the handler does most of the failing. Also, you are allowed to talk to and signal your dog and give multiple commands.

There are 4 parts of the test. These will be discussed only briefly here.

**Part 1** of the draft test is BASIC OBEDIENCE where the dog (without the cart) must heel at your side while you walk for a couple of left, right and "about" turns, sit when you stop walking and adjust his speed with yours as you walk "normal", fast or slow. You are allowed to talk to and encourage your dog. The last step of the Basic Obedience is the "Recall" where the dog is placed at a sit on one side of the ring, you walk to the other side and at the judges' order, call the dog. The dog must come to you on the FIRST command (once the dog is moving, you can clap your hands, beg, plead whatever!) and preferably sit in front of you, although this is not required.

**Part 2** of the test is HARNESSING AND HITCHING. The dog is placed at a sit or stand while you harness him. You and your dog must demonstrate cooperation. Once harnessed, the dog must back up 4 feet on command preferably in a straight line. The least the dog must do is back up without going in a circle. This is potentially the hardest part of the test (it also has to be done later while hitched to the cart) and should be taught to the dog BEFORE you teach him to sit (see end of article on how to train dog to back). Then the harnessed dog is hitched to the cart and a few steps are taken forward so the judges can determine that the harness/cart apparatus is safe, sturdy and won't rub on the dog.

**Part 3** is the MANUEVERING portion. The saint must pull the cart (remember this is off leash) through a series of objects made to resemble what a dog might encounter if it were working in town delivering goods. There needs to be sharp 90° turns, some sweeping turns, a couple of narrow areas (one short and one tall) and a removable obstacle such as a gate. For this exercise, the handler would place the dog on a "stay", open the gate, call the dog through, tell the dog to halt, place the dog on a stay and the handler closes the gate behind the dog and cart. One important thing about the maneuvering course is that the handler must think ahead to choose the best path. There are only 2 "bumps" allowed on

the obstacles so the handler must guide the dog carefully. Also during this portion of the test the dog must back the cart 3 feet. When we set up a test, we try to make an intentional dead-end from which the dog must back.

**Part 4** of the Draft test is the 1-mile FREIGHT HAUL. All of the carts are loaded with pre-weighed weights of at least 25 lbs (50 lbs for teams). The object here is NOT to pull heavy weight but just to change the weight of the cart. Also, the handlers are tested here to see if they can properly load and secure weight to a cart without upsetting the balance. If the cart tips on its side on a steep incline or a curb then the team fails. After loading and securing the weights, the teams of dog/handlers then do a 3 minute "out of sight" stay. The handlers walk out of sight of the dog for 3 minutes (similar to Farmer Hans taking 2 gallons of milk into the house of a customer and chatting for 3 minutes!). After the group stay, the teams then walk the 1 mile encountering various "intriguing distractions" ranging from curious geese, to people on horseback, to large logs laying over the path, to cars honking. Every team has a steward that walks with them for safety and for the protection of the dog.

If the judges determine that the dog/handler team passes every exercise, then the dog earns the St. Bernard Club of America title of Draft Dog and can put the initials of DD on the end of his name. If you have 2 dogs that both have Draft Dog titles, you can enter them as a team to earn a TDD (Team Draft Dog) title. Teams are very impressive and only 3 teams have attempted and passed the test to date.



### How to train your dog to back

The following was written by Cheryl Dondino, a member of the Columbia River Newfoundland Club:

*Start now to teach your dog the backup, with or without the cart. Anytime you see your dog backing up for any reason which is their choice, see how fast your reflexes are. Give the backup command quickly, followed by praise. See how often you can make this command part of their everyday life, and the job will be that much easier when you put them into the traces of the cart.*

*Here is another idea that I have had success with. Make two very long traces and attach them to the shoulder rings on each side of the dog's harness. Start with the dog in harness, but without the cart. Position a helper at the end of the traces, behind the dog and instruct the helper not to say anything. As you stand in front of the dog and hold both hands up for the dog to see and give the backup commands, your helper pulls back on the traces in a seesaw motion, first to one side and then the other. Your helper stops pulling backwards when you give the command to stop, followed by your enthusiastic praise. You will be surprised how easily your dog catches on to backing up without sitting down with someone behind pulling back and forth with those side traces. When all is perfection, I add the cart and (make sure the traces are cut initially long enough to get the helper behind the cart comfortably) have the helper repeat the action. Guess what? You can teach the dog to back up straight or a bit to each side, or around a corner merely by having your alert helper back up and pull from side to side in the directions of your raised hands. The dog learns to manage the directions of your hands and verbal commands naturally and without correction (my favorite way!), allowing you to praise for frequent victory. (The only one who gets corrections in this method is the helper if he either speaks to the dog – thus taking the dog's attention off you, or if he doesn't know his right hand from his left and goofs up your directions!). On the other hand, you may owe your helper big time when his or her assistance results in your dog's reliable backup at the next draft test! (This is the time when he or she claims all the credit for YOUR dog's success).*

Another trick to teaching the backup is, at feeding time, hold your dog's food bowl over his head and gently step forward into the dog. Give the "back" command. The dog will automatically step backwards to look at his food dish. Then praise him and place his food bowl down. Do this at every feeding time, gradually increasing the number of steps backwards the dog has to take before setting the food reward in front of him. And don't forget the praise!

If you would like a copy of the Rules and Regulations or Working Dog Guidelines, you can obtain them from this website.

Barry Roland is currently the Working Dog Chairman for the SBCA. If you would like to speak with him or others of the Working Dog Committee, they can be contacted at the following phone numbers and e-mail addresses:

Vicki Jo Graves in Washington	(253) 537-0895	<a href="mailto:Vicdory@MSN.com">Vicdory@MSN.com</a>
Larry and Lynn Jech in Arizona	(623) 936-9120	<a href="mailto:jech.saints@juno.com">jech.saints@juno.com</a>
Walt Parsons in California	(925) 934-0775	<a href="mailto:waltnewf@pacbell.net">waltnewf@pacbell.net</a>
Barry Roland in Georgia	(404) 241-1504	<a href="mailto:excalibursaints@earthlink.net">excalibursaints@earthlink.net</a>
Dan Wheeler in Utah	(435) 882-8561	<a href="mailto:sbernard@aros.net">sbernard@aros.net</a>