



# New England Border Collie Rescue, Inc. Newsletter & Journal

VOLUME I NUMBER 4

SEPTEMBER 2022

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Please send your content and pictures to us at  
[carole@woolgather.org](mailto:carole@woolgather.org).



Sage, a NEBCR alum, one of the editor's heart dogs

**Deadline for next issue:** November 7th, 2022



Above, Sarah Hepburn with her son, Calum, and three dogs: Vanta and Braccan, two Eurohounds; and Ace, front, a tri merle Border Collie.

## MEET SARAH HEPBURN, CO-PRESIDENT OF NEBCR

Sarah Hepburn has been a member of New England Border Collie Rescue since 2014. Prior to 2014, Sarah lived in Scotland for 5 years while attending veterinary school at the University of Glasgow and then moved home in 2014 with two Scottish Border Collies and a Scottish husband! She was involved in Border Collie rescue while living in Scotland and developed a deep love for the breed. Once Sarah returned home to the US, she

## COMPARISON: HUMANS VS. DOGS by Judy Parsons

Humans: approx. 1 billion neurons in their brain; dogs: approx. 500 million. Here's a comparison of the two species and the silly expectations people place on dogs (edited).

1) Human: 2+ years for potty training. Dogs: expected to be house-trained in 2 weeks.

2) Babies: pain relievers and numbing agents to help with teething. Puppies: reprimanded for chewing.

3) Young children: encouraged to play with endless forms of mental & physical stimulation. Young dogs expected to "calm down".

4) Humans: 20+ years to complete education. Dogs expected to behave flawlessly after 6 weeks of the year

5) Humans: sick & personal days, & weekends off from work. Dogs: Expected to behave flawlessly 365 days of the year

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joined New England Border Collie Rescue to continue to support and help the breed she had grown to love so much.

Today, Sarah lives in central New Hampshire with her family including her husband, young son, Border Collie and 2 Eurohounds. Sarah owns a busy veterinary hospital in northern New Hampshire and is extremely passionate about being active outside with her family. She spends her winters skjoring and cross country skiing with her son and her dogs. She teaches skjoring at Gunstock Ski Mountain and races throughout New England. The rest of the year she's either bikejoring with her son and dogs, hiking or spending time at their camp on the lake.



Lyn in the pond at Sugar Bush Farm

### NEBCR REUNION AT SUGAR BUSH FARM ON AUGUST 13TH 2022

After weeks of brutal heat we lucked out with a beautiful sunny day, light breeze and temps in the mid 70s. A few of us stayed for the weekend drinking in the magic of Sugar Bush Farm nestled in the NY hills while others came just for the day.

The day unfolded with setting up for our raffle drawn at the end of the day. There was lots of smiles and excitement as the tickets were drawn. Throughout the day demos/try-its were



Erich & Gumball

offered in Agility, Nosework and Disc. CGC testing as well as AKC trick testing was also available: something for everyone, taking a break for lunch from the grill at noon. Not to be underscored was the connection we all shared as volunteers and adopters, the ease of conversation, meeting old friends and making new ones. It was amazing to see the dogs come together from all corners of our coverage area to play in the large fenced area with the pond.

Here are a some quotes to sum up the day:

“This was the first Reunion I’ve been to and let me tell you it blew my expectations completely out of the water!”

—Paige Keller

"This was our first time attending and what a wonderful experience it was! The weather, company, location, activities were all perfect!"

—Rebeca Kerr

“Thanks to **Craig and Kathy Chittenden** for hosting the Reunion. What a wonderful way to celebrate 22 years of being a rescue dedicated to helping Border Collies in need.”

—Bea Hamm

And finally, if you're a volunteer or previous adopter and somehow missed hearing about the reunion send your name and contact info to Bea at [jubilee@sacoriver.net](mailto:jubilee@sacoriver.net). Put 2023 Reunion on the subject line, you'll be added to our email list to be notified when a date is set for our next reunion. (More photos: [www.nebcr.org/nebcr-reunion-2022/](http://www.nebcr.org/nebcr-reunion-2022/).)



## HIGHLAND GAMES 2022

For the past few years NEBCR has been invited to give a demo at the Highland Games in Maine. It serves as a venue to bridge the gap between the public and Border Collies in general. It was a full day with the demos, sales, chats with the public, passing out handouts and answering questions about the breed and the rescue. It's a great PR event that also serves as a fundraiser.



Sprite learned the suitcase trick during the event

The Maine Highland Games takes place the 3rd Sat. of August each year and NEBCR is honored to be part of celebrating their Scottish heritage. This year NEBCR was a hit providing 4 demos in

Agility, Speedway and Tricks. We had so many well-behaved Border Collies there to represent NEBCR that liked nothing more than all the attention they could possibly get lavished on them by the public.

The NEBCR volunteers love participating in this event each year. We get to catch up, socialize our dogs while having fun, educate the public and earn much needed funds for the work we do. Already looking forward to next year.

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## VESTIBULAR SYNDROME

Our 20-years-old foster dog Pepper recently went through **Vestibular Disease** (a.k.a. Vestibular Syndrome or Old Dog Disease) and currently has improved but we wanted to share with everyone what this is, what to look for and how to help your best friend out. Vestibular can be an alarming time since it can be mistaken for a seizure if you are not sure what to look for.

**What is Vestibular disease?** Vestibular disease refers to sudden disruption of steadiness which is more common in older dogs. All breeds of dogs can experience this.

**What are the Causes of Vestibular Disease?** Some known causes include but are not limited to ear infections, drugs that are toxic to the ear, trauma or injury and tumors

**What are the signs of this disease?** Standard signs of vestibular disease include: Head tilt, Loss of balance, Rapid Eye movements (side to side movement).

**How is this disease treated?** Antibiotics may be used in cases where middle inner ear infections may be possible. Over

the counter drugs to help with nausea or motion sickness may be useful. Drugs may be used to help calm down the dog if they are extremely disoriented (unable to stand/walk).

### **What is the prognosis?**

Vestibular Disease is most severe within the first twenty-four to forty-eight hours. Many dogs will start to improve within seventy-two hours. The head tilt and stumbling should start to improve within ten days. If you do not see any signs of improve or your dog gets worse, then a more severe underlying disorder could be present, and advanced diagnostic testing should take place. Some dogs will show signs of wobbling and a slight head tilt or both symptoms for the remaining of their life.

### **How to help your dog stay comfortable?**

Spend time with your dog on the floor with them while they are feeling a bit dizzy. Rolling-up a towel under their head for support while they are sleeping will keep them balanced.

- Avoid carrying your dog if you can, help them navigate their space by using a harness. If you do not have a harness, you can use a fabric grocery bag by cutting off the sides.
- Keep your dog safe from harm and keep them in a smaller space so that they do not walk around on their own try to keep them in a x-pen in the house or crate them.

(continued on next page)



## THE GIFT OF A GROWL

by Alyson Kingsley-Hall of  
*Dogs Disclosed*

Dogs won't bite if a growl will suffice. A growl is very valuable communication that we need to pay close attention to. A growl should never be punished and never be ignored.

Dogs that growl have good communication skills, providing an early warning instead of just biting. A growl means "I feel threatened, scared, anxious, or uncomfortable."

Stress levels rise even more if punishment is added. Punishing a growl can encourage a dog to bite without any warning. Punishment may stop a growl but doesn't address the cause.

Punishment prevents the attempt to communicate. When communication is punished or ignored it may lead to a bite. If a growl doesn't work to make the "bad thing" go away, next time dogs may skip a growl and go straight to bite.



### **Vestibular Syndrome, *continued.***

**Last Thoughts:** Please always take your dog to a vet to be checked out so that they can do a diagnosis on your dog which will be based on medical history and run blood and urine tests if necessary.

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**Please note:** We have a new member of our Board of Directors: **Marie Hinds**. We'd like to welcome her back. Marie has been a longtime volunteer and was a previous member of the Board. With her dedication, knowledge of the breed and involvement on the inside track of NEBCR we are looking forward to her contributions.

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Be grateful for the gift of a growl—it provides us with an opportunity to address the cause and prevent the bite.

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