



New England  
Border Collie Rescue, Inc.  
Newsletter & Journal

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**Deadline for next issue:** August 7th, 2023

**MEET BOARD MEMBER OF NEBCR  
MARIE HINDS**



*Above: Marie and John Hinds With Brenna, Owen and Lindsey. Left to right*

I grew up with cats and have always had one (or more) in my life. My husband was a dog person and thought we should get a dog. After researching breeds, we landed on border collies because it seemed that breed would fit into our active outdoor lifestyle.

I went about finding a rescue organization which led me to NEBCR and my first dog, Mick. Oh, the things we learned from Mick. He forced us to be better owners by requiring us



Check out his bio and video [here](#)

to find people who could help us with the issues he would display. We met a lot of terrific people always willing to share their knowledge with us.

Next followed Holly, Kenzie, Brenna, Scotlund, Lyndsay and Owen. All unique personalities and all with lessons to teach us.

Lyndsay and Owen are still with us, and the adventures (and lessons) continue.

I have been volunteering with NEBCR for 22 years. I have fostered (we have not fostered for many years because we always ended up adopting the dogs we fostered), I have done dog evaluations, home visits, transports. I think I have been on all the committees at one time or another.

The best thing about NEBCR are the other volunteers who also share their lives with this breed and are always willing to go above and beyond for a border collie in need.

## ASK THE VET: POISONOUS PLANTS AND YOUR DOG

by Dr Sarah Hepburn

As a veterinarian, I have seen the devastating effects that poisonous plants can have on our furry companions. Border collies, like other dog breeds, are curious and often explore their surroundings by sniffing and tasting different plants. Therefore, it is important to be aware of the toxic plants that they may come into contact with. If your pet ingests any of the following plants, seek veterinary care immediately. Here are some of the most common poisonous plants that can harm border collies:

**Sago Palm** - Sago palms are a common indoor and outdoor plant that are highly toxic to dogs. Ingesting any part of the plant can cause vomiting, diarrhea, liver failure, and even death.

**Azalea** - Azaleas are a popular shrub that can be found in many gardens and outdoor spaces. All parts of the plant, including the flowers and leaves, contain a toxin that can cause vomiting, diarrhea, weakness, and in severe cases, death.

**English Ivy** - English Ivy is a popular vine that is often used for landscaping and decoration. However, the plant contains toxins that can cause vomiting, diarrhea, and difficulty breathing if ingested.

**Castor Bean** - Castor beans are commonly grown for ornamental purposes, but they are highly toxic to dogs. The plant contains ricin, a potent toxin that can cause vomiting, diarrhea, seizures, and even death.

**Lily of the Valley** - Lily of the Valley is a delicate plant that is often used in bridal bouquets and other floral arrangements. However, the plant contains cardiac glycosides, which can cause vomiting, diarrhea, and heart arrhythmias.

**Oleander** - Oleander is a popular landscaping plant that can be toxic to border collies. All parts of the plant, including the flowers and leaves, contain a toxin that can cause vomiting, diarrhea, and cardiac failure.

**Yew** - Yew is a common evergreen shrub that is often used for landscaping. However, the plant contains a toxin that can cause vomiting, diarrhea, and cardiac failure if ingested.

**Daffodil** - Daffodils are a common plant that can be toxic to dogs. All parts of the plant contain lycorine, which can cause vomiting, diarrhea, and even cardiac arrhythmias.

In the event of a suspected poisoning, do not induce vomiting at home. Instead, seek veterinary care immediately or contact a pet poison control hotline for guidance. The ASPCA Animal Poison Control Center (888-426-4435) and the Pet Poison Helpline (855-764-7661) are two resources that are available 24/7 to provide guidance on what steps to take in the event of poisoning. Prevention is the best course of action when it comes to protecting your border collie from poisonous plants. Be sure to keep potentially toxic plants out of reach, and supervise your dog when outside.



## TRAINER'S CORNER: DOG TO DOG RESOURCE GUARDING

by Elise Gouge, CPDT, CABC Certified Behavior  
Consultant & Trainer

When dogs guard against each other, it's scary, stressful and we are often at a loss as to how to handle it. They can guard anything from another dog – a person, food, bones, another dog, a toy.

So, yes, we all know the problem. How do we fix it? First, identify what triggers the dog. Make a list of everything the dog guards, against who, and in what context. BE SPECIFIC. "Guards bones" is not specific. "Guards fresh deli bones when first given, at home, in living room, when other dog is 3 feet away, on living room rug and either homeowner is present" is specific. Also, describe the extent of the guarding. "Gets nasty" doesn't cut it. "Freezes over bone, glares, growls, shows teeth, hair goes up on back" is specific. You don't need to know dog lingo to look carefully and put language to what you're seeing. Video is great too.

Once you know what the triggers are, avoid them. You need to give your dog time to relax. Remove all triggers. If you can't remove a trigger (like a person) do what you can to change the context and minimize guarding.

**Improve relationships.** Guarding happens for three reasons. 1) Genetics 2) feeling threatened 3) feeling possessive. You can't guard something you don't own. So, if a dog feels secure and not driven to possess things, that has a ripple effect.

You can't override genetics and some dogs are NEVER safe around other dogs with certain items. Hear that. You don't want a bloodbath because you didn't believe it. It's very true.

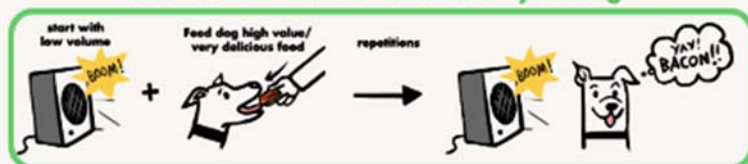
But for many dogs, you can make progress. Once the high value items are removed, spend about a month working on the relationship and making sure the dogs know a few commands like Leave It, Go to Your Mat and Wait. Practice emergency separations. Do you know how to break up a dog fight? There are several safe ways, and you should know them.

Bring out an item that is on the low end of the guarding list. Have each dog has one, each tethered to a person, each with enough space to relax. Spend enough time to normalize the experience and repeat daily. Gradually get closer, intermittently ask commands to make sure they are able to listen and then end things on a good note. As things go well, allow yourselves to get a little closer and increase the value of the object.

### Counterconditioning: Fear of Fireworks

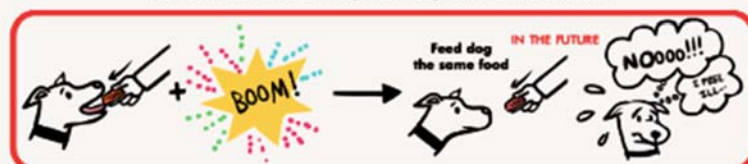
1. **PREPARE IN ADVANCE:** Use low volume recorded noise to start.
2. Use a high value (very delicious) known food.
3. Timing is important. The eating comes AFTER the aversive stimulus.

START EARLY to make it easier for your dog



#### COMMON MISTAKE

When **GOOD STUFF** comes **BEFORE** THE SCARY STUFF, the food can be associated with the bad stuff and lead to stress/nausea for the dog. This also does not change the dog's fear of fireworks.



DISCLAIMER: This is a rough guide. Please work with a professional. © Lili's doggedrawings.net

### *Dog to dog resource guarding, continued...*

You want the dogs to feel 1) relaxed 2) that every time the other dog is around, they get something wonderful (so the presence of the other dog is actually good instead of stressful) and 3) they trust you to monitor things so they can just enjoy their resource.

It may never generalize to different situations, but you'll be able to have a safe home in most cases. I do not recommend leaving dogs that guard from other dogs alone together. That's a big gamble you never want to see the losing side of. As always, make sure that your vet has ruled out anything medical. Thyroid issues and other medical problems can mask themselves as guarding and behavioral issues. Also, if your dogs are struggling, get help. There are many qualified behaviorists who can help with a specific plan for your household.

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## **So You Want To Try Shepherding** **By PJ Mueller**

The Border Collie is known as the world's pre-eminent herding dog, capable of immense feats of endurance and intelligence. If you adopt a border collie it is understandable you may want to try out herding, or stockwork, with your dog.



*Above Kenzie*

The Border Collie as a distinct breed was developed in the 19<sup>th</sup> century in the “border” regions between Scotland and England as an invaluable aid to shepherds. BCs working the hills of Scotland and Wales collect sheep from every nook and cranny of the fields and forests and bring the flock to the shepherd, often working at a distance of a mile or more away. This is called gathering and border collies gather the flock. They also excel in farm duties, from moving sheep in small or large flocks from field to field or in and out of the barn or a trailer, putting sheep into pens

for sorting, treating, foot baths etc, separating out one or more individuals that need doctoring, or lambs from their mother at weaning. This is the historic use of the breed and there are many dogs still doing these jobs on farms and ranches all over the world today. Border collies work flocks of 2000 ewes on 10,000 acre ranches or flocks of four sheep on five acre hobby farms. This is the job for which they were bred.

There are many other herding dogs i.e. dogs bred for, and initially used for, herding livestock in the US and any other country that raises livestock. While some breeds resemble the border collie a bit (Kelpies, Aussies) no other breed is quite like the BC and most are quite different.

Some dogs are bred as drovers (Corgis for example), some as boundary dogs that patrol an area acting like a living fence (German Shepherds, Tervs and others) and many are general farm dogs capable of doing a variety of tasks. But none can really do the type of long-distance independent work the border collie can and if you are reading this you probably have or are thinking of getting a BC, so we will stick to that.

Today, people do have BCs to help them with their stock but, with the exception of large cattle ranches, most of us no longer farm livestock for a living so when we think about “herding” with our dogs we are really thinking of a dog sport.

Continue reading the full-length article at:  
[www.nebcr.org/shepherding](http://www.nebcr.org/shepherding)

## NEBCR Reunion 2023



**Date: Saturday, August 12**

**Rain or Shine!**

**Time: 10am-4pm**

**Address: Sugar Bush Farm**

760 East Rd

Stephentown, NY 12168

### **What's Happening:**

The beautiful Sugar Bush Farm has often been referred to as "Doggie Paradise." This amazing setting is truly all about the dogs. Owners Kathy & Craig Chittenden have both been active in the agility, dog training and rescue communities for more than 20 years, and have fostered hundreds of dogs for NEBCR in that time (and adopted more than a few!)

They have played host to countless agility trials with two fully equipped outdoor rings, and have created an amazing environment that NEBCR volunteers and past adopters that have attended previously attended reunions, always look forward to spending time in.

### **Demo's and Try-Its**

See some amazing dogs do what they do best

Try out some new fun activities or dog sports with your own dog with instruction from our know-ledgeable volunteers

Full schedule coming soon, but past offerings have included: agility, tricks, flyball and more

### **HUGE raffle!!**

This is the highlight of NEBCR's annual fundraising efforts and typically includes dozens of amazing prizes for both canines and their humans

Previous years' prizes have included things like: gift baskets full of dog toys and treats, agility equipment, dog beds, custom dog portrait certificates, gift cards (gas, Amazon, Petco, etc.), artwork, jewelry, books, wine baskets, and LOTS of amazing border collie-themed items.\*

Tickets will be available for pre-sale if you're not able to attend, stay tuned for details.

### **Large, fenced yard with swimming pond**

Mingle with other border collie people and their dogs in a secure area with a large, spring-fed pond perfect for your water-loving dogs, and of course, LOTS of balls!

For those of you that have dogs that may not play as nicely with others, fear not! Many of us have been in that position and understand the need for safe spaces for our reactive dogs. The setup of the farm allows for plenty of space for reactive dogs to have what they need, and also the ability to still have fun.

### **Lunch is included at no cost**

Hamburgers, hot dogs and veggie burgers will be available with chips, drinks and usually cake! Attendees are welcome to bring a side or dessert to share if they'd like, and there's usually quite a delicious spread!

### **More info and offerings to come - stay tuned!!**

Camping available on site: INFO TO COME

Local pet friendly

accommodations: INFO TO COME

### **Disclaimer:**

- Opened to past/current NEBCR adopters and volunteers only
- This event is not open to the general public
- Outside of fenced areas, dogs must be on leash at all times
- Off leash dogs in fenced areas must be supervised by an adult at all times
- 2 off leash dogs per adult allowed in fenced areas
- Children under 18 must be supervised by an adult at all times.