

AMDCA News-Winter 2021

The official newsletter of the Appenzell Mountain Dog Club of America

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President's Message

As a Club we have had a mix of accomplishments amidst many challenges over the past few years. We provided our first Appenzell Mountain Dog of America judges education presentation at the Cow Palace in San Francisco, California on January 26 & 27th, 2019. Our presentation was well received by all Judges that attended. This seminar was held at a bench show so we also had the opportunity to participate in performance and confirmation events and to also set up our own Appenzeller display and show off some of our beautiful Appenzellers. Some Appenzeller members and fanciers joined us with their Appenzellers to help out. I would like to thank Paula Webber for all the work she did to prepare the presentation package and for chairing the presentation. We have been restricted from doing presentations this past year as well have had few activities with our Appenzellers in light of the pandemic. I am looking forward to when we can once again present our Appenzellers to judges.

In addition to her continuous effort to educate our National Clubs, judges and the public, Paula also does an excellent job putting our Newsletters and Appenzeller Calendars together for us.

We also have a fabulous and fresh new AMDCA website thanks to Tonia Sulkhova.

Mirjam Hoffman has done a great job responding directly with Appenzeller fanciers and following up on their inquiries. She is a wealth of knowledge and always makes sure to find the right answers if she doesn't already know.

I wish to thank Audrey Lyke for taking over the position as our interim Membership Coordinator while continuing on as Treasurer.

We have recently completed revisions to the Club Bylaws and Code of Ethics. I would like to thank all of the AMDCA Executive for all of their help with these projects.

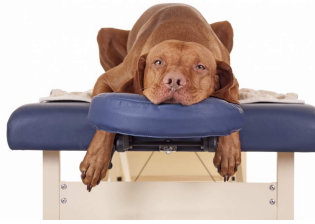
I have recently taken over the position of Interim Registrar. One of my first tasks in this position is to make sure to get pending individual dog registrations completed as soon as possible. Those of you that have been waiting and would like to know the registration status of your Appenzellers, please contact me directly so that I can make sure you are on the list of pending dog registrations.

This will be an election year for AMDCA. If you are interested in joining our Executive team, please review "AMDCA Constitution and Bylaws *ARTICLE III. OFFICERS*" for information regarding individual duties. Further details of our election will be announced as soon as they are available. The AMDCA Constitution and Bylaws can be found on the AMDCA website at www.appenzellers.org.

In light of the COVID-19 crisis, I do want to wish all the membership health, strength and hope.

Yours in Appenzellers
Debbie Dales

Benefits of Canine Chiropractic *by Dr. Cheyenne Knight, Seaside Veterinary Care, Vancouver Island, BC*



What is animal chiropractic?

Animal Chiropractic or Veterinary Spinal Manipulation Therapy (VSMT) is a therapy that focuses on the relationship between the structure and function through the nervous system. It is a conservative approach used to maintain optimal health by manipulating the musculoskeletal and neurologic systems.

When a joint become restricted in its range of motion(hypomobile or 'locked-up'), through trauma, repetitive injury, degenerative changes, or structural stresses, the surrounding tissues are affected. This, in turn, further affects the joints ability to move freely and sensitive structures are activated causing the area to be sensitive or painful. Nerves are the communication links between all tissues in the body to the brain and spinal cord; when joint dysfunction is present, messages to other areas are also affected, which can lead to pain, weakness, reduced function, and compensatory changes. Animal chiropractic focuses on the restoration of movement and the promotion of health by restoring normal joint mechanics and soft-tissue function, thus, normalizing neurological patterns that facilitate healing. The main tool an animal chiropractor uses to restore joint motion is called an "adjustment", or veterinary spinal manipulation. It is performed by delivering fast controlled movements into joint spaces that stimulate the surrounding nerves and muscles. These adjustments help restore normal function and strengthen communication within the nervous system. This helps restore proper motion in joints and relieve pain, tension or stiffness.

A certified animal chiropractor understands these joint angles intimately and can best asses if an animal can benefit from chiropractic care, and, is the only professional who is qualified to adjust your pet.

Animal Chiropractic can be helpful for sore or injured patients and it can also be for healthy patients and help with stance, flexibility and overall performance.

Maintaining proper structural alignment and motion allows optimal function of the muscles, nerves, and tissues that support the joints, resulting in improved mobility, stance and flexibility. Good alignment improves agility, endurance, and overall performance. Broader benefits include superior immune function, healthier metabolism and a vibrant nervous system, all facilitating your animal's natural ability to heal. Chiropractic care can enhance the quality of your pet's life ensuring active and healthy years.

Today, more and more veterinarians are either recommending chiropractic care or providing this valuable service at their office since it addresses the specialized areas of bio mechanics and the functional nervous system, which often go unnoticed by traditional veterinary care. By working in conjunction with veterinarians, animal chiropractors aid in restoring your pet's optimal health with a holistic approach. Animal chiropractic does not replace veterinary medicine or assume the responsibility of primary health care of animals, it enhances it through an integrative approach.



Signs that your pet would benefit from a chiropractic visit generally involve difficulties with daily activities, including:

- Getting in and out of the car
- Going up and down stairs
- Jumping on or off furniture
- Getting up from laying down
- Being still and sore after regular walks

When you bring your pet for a chiropractic/spinal manipulation visit the veterinarian will evaluate their gait, muscles and joints. The veterinarian will also make sure there are no other injuries, illness or infections that could be causing discomfort. Depending on the visit you may also be given some at home exercises to help strengthen and improve mobility.

How life in a pandemic made me a better dog trainer

By Paula Webber



I'm a pretty dedicated dog trainer in the best of times. We'd just come home from a very successful road trip to a four day show in the US over the 2019 New Year's weekend, and I was already planning my travel itinerary for 2020; lots of shows, and trials to look forward to, and because our breed is not recognized for Conformation events by the CKC, we were quite used to showing in the US, mostly Washington and Oregon. It was going to be an exciting year for us, and had high hopes of Hektor getting his UKC Grand CH title, and Bri getting her Championship. In the interim, I had the opportunity of a lifetime to be part of the media team for the 2020 Yukon Quest International Dog Sled Race, between Fairbanks, AK, and Whitehorse Yukon... a grueling 1000 mile race between our two countries! That was my February! March and April would be the beginning our 'show and trial season'.

When I came home from my great winter adventure, COVID hit, and everything in my "dog world" came to a grinding halt. Cancellation after cancellation on my calendar! With hopes that things wouldn't be so bad, I still looked forward to some summer fun. And then we were in lockdown...just like that. Now what?

The weather was getting nice and I needed to keep Hektor and Bri busy doing something. There were no classes to attend, no trials to go to, so I had to do some research on what we could possibly do to keep from going stir crazy. I'd done some online training through the Fenzi Dog Training Academy when we first got Hektor and we lived in a tiny town on the north island with no local resources. We started there.

I also started talking to other dog friends, and began learning about other dog trainers, and dog sport venues that were offering online training, and "virtual" events that we could actually earn titles by submitting videos that would be judged and scored! Pretty soon, there were so many choices that I had to create a daily training calendar and virtual "trial" schedule. I've been training dogs for a long time, but now I actually had to have a training plan; one for each dog. Hektor and Bri have very different learning styles, and I had to learn myself how to train each of them at their own individual skill level and ability. But we had the luxury of time, and space, thankfully.

*“Everything I learned,
I learned from my dog”*

anon

We also dove headlong into things that were relatively new to both dogs. Bri was very new to agility and scent work; Hektor had not done agility for almost two years, and I wanted to re-visit that with him, as well as work on advanced level Rally. With all of these new resources available to us, and the time to do these things, my dogs are more relaxed...the stress of travel; the stress of being in a crate waiting to go into a ring...those two things in particular have made a huge difference in theirs, and my learning and a new level of confidence. By not traveling, the training and trialing we're doing at home has not only saved thousands of dollars, but we've benefited from top quality training opportunities from some of the top trainers in performance sports around. I'm so grateful for all those dog sports organizations for thinking outside the box to keep us motivated and becoming better at what we do with our dogs.



In 2020, Bri and Hektor earned more titles in more performance (and Conformation) events than they did in 2019! And we never left our island home. Between them, they earned eight Rally titles, six agility titles, and even some virtual Conformation titles. These are the venues we competed in:

[CARO](#) [WCRL](#), [Cynosport Rally](#) [USDAA Agility@home](#) [UKI Agility@home](#) [Fenzi Team Titles Conformation](#) [UKC Virtual Total Dog 2020](#) and ABI (All Breed International).

Not much has changed so far in 2021, so we will continue our “virtual” training and competition life. I may need to build an addition to our house for all their awards!

How To Make Dehydrated Dog Treats..and save a bundle!

by Paula Webber

Those dog treats in your cupboard likely set you back a pretty penny, especially if you want good, healthy ones, and if you have a multi dog household. I bought myself a dehydrator at Cabela's a few years ago now, and can tell you that it's saved me a lot of money. Not only that, I know what I'm feeding my dogs, and have learned you can dehydrate just about anything, from meat, to fruit and even fish! Here are a few things to consider.

Making treats for your dog can be fun but also time-consuming. However, dehydrated dog treats just involve slicing up the meat, fruit or vegetables and putting them into the dehydrator and leaving them for a certain length of time.



Note*- Please make sure that anything you dehydrate is suitable for your dog. Some fruit and vegetables can be toxic to your dog.

In case you didn't know when you dehydrate something you are removing the water from it in order to preserve and store it. When you dehydrate meat you are still getting all the nutritional benefits of raw meat.

Dehydrated treats are also much easier to store than raw treats and last a lot longer if stored correctly. Here are a couple of recipes:

Chicken Dog Jerky Recipe:

1 1/2 pounds boneless skinless chicken breast tenders, sliced into strips about 1/4 to 1/8 of an inch thick

1/2 cup vegetable oil

1 tbs. salt

Dog Friendly seasonings including parsley, rosemary, and sage

For the chicken, the tenders were already that thin, so I just sliced them lengthwise to make them smaller. For bigger dogs, you could probably dry the whole tender, but it will take longer. I just sprinkled some fresh parsley on them for a bit of extra flavour. Parsley is great for doggy breath.



Since the chicken and sweet potatoes dry at roughly the same temperature, I put them both in at the same time. About 12 hours later, I had chewy dehydrated sweet potatoes and chicken jerky treats for my dogs. Next time, I may wrap the chicken around the sweet potato, for added chew.

Sweet Potato Recipe:

Thoroughly wash and peel sweet potatoes. Slice the sweet potato into 1/4" slices- you can also cut down the middle lengthwise and slice into 1/4" strips.

Dehydrate at the highest setting (145 – 155) until done. Drying approximately 6-8 hours will leave them with a chewy texture. For crunchier treats, dehydrate longer until the desired consistency.

I peeled and then sliced up the sweet potato lengthwise and then cut those in half. It was hard to slice the sweet potato lengthwise. So, for a quick tip for easier slicing, pop the sweet potatoes in the microwave for about two minutes, and it will make slicing easier. You can also cut the other way and make chips.

As I mentioned, you can dehydrate just about anything. Any dehydrator you purchase will come with instructions, from herbs, to jerky treats, and fruits and vegetables. Depending on the size, and price of your dehydrator, drying times can vary.

In the past I've dehydrated fish, beef heart, liver, apples, bananas; all things my dogs love, and that are healthy for them. There are lots of recipes online, and good resources for [using a dehydrator](#), or your oven as an alternative. But at the end of the day, dehydrators are not expensive in the long run. One of the best \$100 I've spent!

Pandemic puppies...some happy endings in challenging times! *A first- person account of the challenges this breeder faced during a pandemic- from Anita Cole Schneller, Sommers Wald Appenzellers*

Who knew, back in the winter of 2019 what the world was in for! Anita Cole Schneller is a breeder of Appenzellers in the state of New York. Sommers Wald Appenzellers is her kennel. She and her husband, Carlo have five Appenzellers. Anita and Carlo wanted to breed their girl Bickli and they approached me to use Hektor as a stud for an AI. Bear in mind, we are in Canada, on Vancouver Island, and they are on the opposite side of the US...a long way from

us. This is Anita's story of their experience whelping a litter and placing 10 puppies at the peak of COVID 19! There were lots of challenges, but in the end, it's a story with a very happy ending!

"February 7..... WOW where did the time go??? Today is my COVID puppy litter's birthday!

Thinking of transporting puppies during the pandemic? Here's an [Air Shipping Update](#) and shipping regulations from a number of US Airlines.

The breeding for this litter with Hek of Canada and Bickli of New York "at the time" that took place long before the country fell apart from Covid. Had I known it was coming I am not sure that the breeding would have been done.

The complications of breeding with AI and counting on Fed-Ex to get things to you in a timely manner is enough to make you nervous. The fact that it was December just added to the anxiety. Then my fear came charging right in my face. A phone call the morning of the scheduled procedure from Cornell University Vet Hospital where the procedure was to take place .. NO SEMEN had arrived. Frantic calls to Fed Ex. Me calling poor Paula, Heks owner in tears that the shipment had not made it Would she send another shipment? Tracers put on the shipment. Paula lives on an island; the package had gone off the island but was on a shelf on the mainland. It "should" arrive the next day.

The window for breeding is closing! Paula sends another shipment, a new appointment is set for the next day at Cornell... Now we wait.

Bickli and I go to Cornell to see the AI team smiling at us. Not only did the second shipment arrive but also the first. The breeding window is closing we have one shot ... They use it all...

We wait..... The lights are low , Bickli is being a good girl laying on her back for the ultrasound ... I look up and see the team SMILING at me. There are puppies. at least 5. A second look a few days before delivery well.....there are at least 7.

Its February 7. Bickli is doing great... 7 puppies are delivered but she isn't done, a full day later we have 10 healthy puppies. One little one was still born. Since it is a large litter, Bickli needed some help feeding everyone so I bottle feed all of them twice a day. My neighbors had spent a lot of time with Bickli before the breeding and volunteered to be my backup should I need help. 1 person and 14 dogs can be a challenge !!! They would come and play with the puppies, etc. No one else ever came in the house since the puppies hadn't had their shots. By the time they had their first shots we couldn't even go into the veterinary office. The puppies were put into 2 wire crates and set in the office vestibule, after I went back outside the staff took the puppies in. Everyone keeps thinking this won't last long, it will get under control. As well all know now that wasn't the case.

By the time the puppies are ready to start going to their new homes COVID is all everyone is talking about here in the USA. People must stay home, not travel anywhere. The families that are going to drive to pick up their puppies are being told to not travel. Families that are coming by plane are told that they shouldn't travel and no animals are being allowed on the plane.

Two families from Colorado decide to take the risk. They drive straight through to upstate New York; pick up the puppy and go straight back, sleeping in their cars since most hotels are closed or are being used for medical personnel.

Another family hires at puppy delivery service. A private car is sent to my driveway to pick up the puppy, and drive her to Colorado to her new family's driveway.

One of my original families who plans to drive is waiting hoping things will calm down. Another from California continues to hope the airlines will start to let pets fly; he will take the risk if they do.. In the end they both had to let the puppies be placed with other families.

I personally drove one of the puppies to the Florida border to meet her new family in a parking lot. If I went into Florida I would have had to quarantine; not an option since I still had puppies at home.

All the other families came to me. They did what they thought was best for their families for protection.

Paperwork was either done online or in my driveway. New owners meet Bickli in my driveway to protect everyone. Most never saw the rest of the litter, just their puppy that they choose from photos online.

In the end all the puppies have wonderful homes, but it was a challenge for me as the breeder and for the families of the new puppies.”



*Bickli babies!
Growing fast.*



*The Bickli x Hektor litter. And then
there were 10.*

Parting Shots...from

Trogen, Switwerland! An aerial view, Appenzeller farm musicians, and a cute bunch of animals. Thanks, Anna Burns.



www.appenzellers.org