



Potomac Piper

Newsletter of the Potomac Skye Terrier Club

Fall/Winter, 2006



Happy New Year!



The Potomac Skye Terrier Club Officers and Board Members - 2006

President

Michael J. Pesare
225 Opossum Hill Road
Aspers, PA 17304-9504
Phone: 717-677-0700
E-mail: mpesare@comcast.net

Vice President

Karen G. J'Anthony
P.O. Box 295
Camden, DE 19934-0295
Phone: 302-698-9741
E-mail: ambleon@aol.com

Treasurer

B. Nolan Dale
180 Marsh Creek Road
Gettysburg, PA 17325
Phone: 717-334-0303
E-mail: gleanntan@earthlink.net

Secretary

Maida Connor
225 Opossum Hill Road
Aspers, PA 17304-9504
Phone: 717-677-0700
E-mail:
maidaconnor@comcast.net



Directors

Jo Ann M. Lyons
P.O. Box 218
Amissville, VA 20106
Phone: 540-349-8215

Darren McMillion
1877 Warrenton Road
Fredericksburg, VA 22406
Phone: 540-752-9771
E-mail: dmcmillion@verizon.net

Travis S. Wright, Ed.D
2213 Flagler Place, NW
Washington, DC 20001
Phone: 202-210-5142
E-mail: traviswright@yahoo.com

Advertise in the Potomac Piper!

The Potomac Piper is the official newsletter of the Potomac Skye Terrier Club. The Potomac Piper is mailed four times a year to Skye Terrier owners and admirers.

Advertise a big win, a promising youngster, a deceased cherished friend, or send a message to others who love the breed.

One full page - \$25.00
Half page - \$15.00

As a PSTC member, you will receive an e-mail invitation to advertise in advance of each issue. The next issue will be published in March, 2007.

Send your ad and payment to Maida Connor, 225 Opossum Hill Road, Aspers, PA 17304-9504.

Message from the President

The Montgomery Weekend has come and gone; the holidays are now behind us; and we are once again beginning to plan for a Potomac Skye Terrier Club Specialty Show. Where does the time fly? The Potomac Skye Terrier Club Specialty will be held in a new location in Timonium, Maryland which is the site of the Old Dominion KC, Baltimore County KC and Catoctin KC shows. The advantages to this venue are many. Most notably, it will be far more convenient for exhibitors to set up in one location for up to four days of shows.

This issue of the Piper once again features a wonderful range of articles on life with Skyes, health issues and other human interest stories. In this issue, we are delighted to be able to share a recent interview with PSTC member and dear friend to many of us, Carol Fink.

Looking back on the Skye Specialty Weekend in October, I am amazed at what our small club was able to accomplish. To all who helped with the PSTC Terrier-ific Booth at Devon I would like to extend my deepest thanks. We could never do this without you! Two PSTC members who must receive special thanks this year are Darren and Lynn McMillion. Darren and Lynn arranged for, and helped to fund, the purchase of a significantly larger 20 x 20 tent for the club. They also secured heated storage for our store items at no charge to the club. As in years past, they arrived at the Devon site well before sunrise with a trailer filled with our store items. Once the items were moved to the tent, the trailer became a weatherproof grooming area for club members, complete with generator-supplied electricity.

I also want to thank PSTC Public Education Chair, Travis Wright for creating an outstanding new feature to our tent, the "Kiss the Skye" exhibit. Armed with not much more than a cute Skye or two, a grooming table and a warm, friendly smile for show visitors, the table attracted a significant amount of new interest in the breed. Quite a number of folks who stopped by for a kiss remarked, "I had never seen a Skye up close. They are a wonderful breed."

As many of you know, our Treasurer and longtime PSTC member, Ben Dale, overcame a health challenge in the weeks leading up to the Montgomery Specialty. While cruising the coast of Alaska, Ben ended up in a hospital in Jeaneau. After being transported to a hospital in Seattle, he returned to good health just in time to fly home to judge 80 Kerry Blue Terriers at their National Specialty at Montgomery. Please join me in extending congratulations to Ben for being given the honor of judging the Kerry Specialty and also to send him warm wishes for continued good health for future travel adventures!

Michael J. Pesare
President

Meet the Member: Carol G. Fink

Tell us a bit about yourself.

For 32 years I was a Family Therapist in the Intensive Care Unit in San Francisco, California. I retired in 1997 to Yountville, CA which is in the heart of Wine Country. It is also known as the gourmet capital of the U.S. with over 12 world-renowned restaurants in a two-mile radius. I live less than two blocks from the famous French Laundry Restaurant. When I am walking Panya, the two questions I most get asked are "How do I get to the French Laundry?" and "What kind of dog is that?" (in that order).



Tell us how you got your start in Skyes.

I started going to dog shows when I was in Junior High School in Cleveland, Ohio. My first show dog was an Australian Terrier that I acquired the day I graduated from Boston University with a degree in Nursing. I admired the Skyes – their ears and the way they moved – they made me smile. I was determined that once I moved into a real house, the first thing I was going to get was a Skye. After moving to California in 1965, I also noticed them at the local shows and soon made contact with a breeder in the area.

What attracted you to the breed and what are the qualities that continue to endear the breed to you.

I always loved the energy of terriers – we share many traits – the loyalty, the tenacity. I was attracted to the magical look of the breed – their ears, the coat that looked like a wheat field in the wind, their expression, their outline. They looked almost "not real" – with such elegance and grace. You couldn't see their eyes, but you could see their big black nose. To me, the Skye was the most striking dog in the ring. It was the only dog in the ring that spoke to my soul. Since the early 1970's I had wanted a black-colored bitch. My dream was finally realized in July, 2001 when my Panya came to live with me at 10 months of age.

Describe your involvement with the breed today.

I am the proud owner of Ch. Dressed To Kill of Morninsky – "Panya" who

Continued on page 17

Two of Yountville's Treasures.... The French Laundry and Panya

BIS Ch. Dressed To Kill Of Morningsky

(Ch. Crash's Thunder of Wild Orchids x Wenoway The Dazzler)



Shown going Best of Breed at the Devon Dog Show Association show - Skye Terrier Club of America National Specialty Weekend. Special thanks to Skye Terrier breeder/judge Gary Vlachos for this lovely honor.

We wish our two-legged and four-legged friends the happiest, healthiest, most joyous New Year.

Visit The French Laundry website at: www.frenchlaundry.com

Owned and Adored By:
Carol Fink

Bred By:
Elke Spinnrock
Morningsky

Conditioned & Presented By:
Sally & Mark George,
AKC Reg. Handlers
Sonoma, California

Skye Smooches a Big Hit at Devon

By Travis Wright, PSTC Public Education Chair

Members of the Potomac Skye Terrier Club (PTSC) hosted a Skye Terrier Kissing Booth in conjunction with the Terrier-ific Boutique at the recent Devon Dog Show Association show during the Skye Terrier Club of America's National Specialty Weekend. The chief kisser was Emily, Ch. Gleanntan's Grandxpose, Gleanntan Kennel's top show



winner and beloved pet. A fabulous goodwill ambassador for the breed, Emily selflessly shared the magic of Skye kisses with young and old alike.

Though the weather was rainy, Potomac Skye Terrier members and Emily braved the cold and wind to spread the gospel of being loved by a Skye Terrier. Many long-time exhibitors of other terrier breeds stopped by the booth to see a Skye up close and personal for the first time. More than one booth visitor commented, "Wow! They are so friendly. This is the first time I've ever seen one up close! Too bad I didn't meet your Skye before I got my first dog. I would have taken one of these home!"

And that was the point of the whole day. Recognizing the rarity of our special breed, PTSC members decided during last year's National Specialty Weekend that we would like to do something to help attract show fanciers and those seeking pets to Skye ownership. Ranked 144 of 154 AKC-recognized breeds in 2005, with only 76 puppies registered (U.S.), swelling the ranks of Skye owners is something we should all be working towards. In addition to the health and genetic challenges associated with a shrinking gene pool, we must always be concerned that there will simply not be folks to carry our breed forward into the next generation or two. Indeed, the number of active Skye breeders seems to be shrinking each year.

If you are interested in sharing the good news about Skyes in your neck of the woods, please consider hosting a Skye Terrier Kissing Booth of your own. A grooming table along with a well-trained Skye, a few brochures on the breed, and information on the PTSC is all you need to begin. You can download all of this information from the web. Gatherings such as community festivals, Highland Games, or local dog shows or

Continued on page 7

Continued from page 6

matches could all serve as excellent opportunities to showcase your dogs.

The most important thing that we can do to serve our beloved breed is to tell others about it. It shouldn't be a hard sell. After all, can you imagine what your life would be like without a Skye?



Joining the Potomac Booth at Devon this year was Judith Tabler and her wonderful line of "Beastie Bags". Judith is a long-time Skye Terrier owner and the author of the book, *Skye Terrier, A Complete and Reliable Guide*.

Skye Featured on National TV Broadcast

By Michael J. Pesare

On Thanksgiving Day, November 23, our Skye Terrier, Boz (Gleanntan Gottalookatme) was featured in the NBC broadcast of the terrier group coverage of the National Dog Show (The Kennel Club of Philadelphia).



The show was recorded the previous Saturday and is claimed to be

the most widely viewed dog show in the U.S.. Only a handful of the terriers in the group competition were spotlighted, including the Skye. Commentator David Frei was very complimentary of the breed and Boz and he made note of the fact that Boz participates in therapy work at the Ronald McDonald House in Hershey, Pennsylvania. Ironically, the Director of the Ronald McDonald House, who is a close friend, was in attendance and this was her very first dog show. It was quite a thrill for her to sit with Maida in the owners area during the group competition.

Boz is co-owned with PSTC member, Travis Wright of Washington, DC.

Skye Terrier Club of America National Specialty Weekend Results Summary

Thursday, October 5, 2006

Hatboro Dog Club I

Judge: Mrs. Betsy Dale

Best of Breed

CH. SHAWN-RAE LORD BUCHANAN. Owner: James and Jane Bradner, Breeder: B. & R. Cline

Best of Opposite Sex

CH. DRESSED TO KILL OF MORNINGSKY. Owner: Carol G. Fink, Breeder: Elke Spinnrock

Winners Dog/Best of Winners

FINNSKY GLADIATOR. Owner: Maida Connor. Breeder: Thea Dahlbom.

Winners Bitch

CRY HAVOC THE BLACK PEARL. Owner: Becky Van Hook Spicer. Breeder: Steven and Becky Spicer.

Friday, October 6, 2006

Hatboro Dog Club II

Judge: Mrs. Sue Goldberg

Best of Breed/Winners Dog/Best of Winners(5 point major)

FINNSKY GLADIATOR. Owner: Maida Connor. Breeder: Thea Dahlbom.

Best of Opposite Sex

CH. DRESSED TO KILL OF MORNINGSKY. Owner: Carol G. Fink, Breeder: Elke Spinnrock.

Winners Bitch

JAY-ROY RAILWAY AMERICAN BELLE. Owner: R. Hand and M. Hamaker. Breeder: Robyn G Hand.

Saturday, October 7, 2006

Devon Dog Show Association

Judge: Mr. Gary M. Vlachos

Best of Breed

CH. DRESSED TO KILL OF MORNINGSKY. Owner: Carol G. Fink, Breeder: Elke Spinnrock.

Best of Opposite Sex

FAIRE SKYES MAGIC IN THE MIST. Owner: Maryanne K. Gallagher. Breeder: Maryanne K. Gallagher & Elaine D. Hersey

Winners Dog/Best of Winners(4 point major)

FINNSKY GLADIATOR. Owner: Maida Connor. Breeder: Thea Dahlbom.

Winners Bitch (4 point major)

CLADICH ROVER RUN DANCE CARD. Owner: Carol and Janice Simonds. Breeder: Susan Parsons and Robin Stiles.

Sunday, October 8, 2006
Montgomery County Kennel Club
Skye Terrier Club of America National Specialty

Regular Classes Judge: Mrs. Michelle Billings

Best of Breed

CH. FINNSKY XCALIBUR. Owner: E.Z. Zaphiris & M. Stander & K. Sainio & T. Dahlbom.
Breeder: Thea and Rolf Dahlbom.

Best of Opposite Sex

CH. DRESSED TO KILL OF MORNINGSKY. Owner: Carol G. Fink, Breeder: Elke Spinnrock.

Winners Dog/Best of Winners(5 point major)

KISHNIGA'S HMS GUNSMOKE. Owner: Richard Meen & Sharon Kleim. Breeder: Richard Meen & Sharon Kleim

Winners Bitch (5 point major)

GOLD RIVER I GET AROUND. Owner: Karen L. & William T. Sanders, Jr. Breeder: Karen L. & William T. Sanders, Jr.

Awards of Merit

CH. FAIRE SKYES MAGIC IN THE MIST. Owner: Maryanne K. Gallagher. Breeder: Maryanne K. Gallagher & Elaine D. Hersey

CH. OF SKYELINE ALBATROS. Owner: E.Z. Zaphiris & M.H. Stander & K. Sainio & C. Ruggles.

CH. LAIRDOGLEN GEORDI MACFORGE. Owner: Laura Tiktinsky. Breeder: Laura Weber.

Sweepstakes Judge: Mrs. Wyoma M. Clouss

Best Puppy in Sweepstakes

SOLANA AVANTGARDE. Owner: Michelle Shiue. Breeder: Michelle Shiue.

Best Junior in Sweepstakes/Best in Sweepstakes

CLADICH ROVER RUN DANCE CARD. Owner: Carol and Janice Simonds. Breeder: Susan Parsons and Robin Stiles.

Best Veteran in Sweepstakes

CH. BLUESKYE HORSEFEATHERS. Owner: Susan Parsons. Breeder: Nancy L. & George L. Adams.



PSTC Member - judge Gary Vlachos examines the BOB lineup at Devon - October 7, 2006

The Case of the Itching Dog and the Frantic Owner

By Janet Weiss

Piper was a lovely puppy—beautiful conformation, biddable temperament, a show-dog attitude and strong dark-blue color. At 10 months the bomb dropped on him and us. Piper had allergies.

We took him to veterinary dermatologists, who, without any compassion or dog sense, poked and scratched him—and declared he was allergic to many things like trees, grass, and essentially the whole world. They made up a desensitizing serum which we injected and he endured.

Finally we noticed his problem had a pattern: without prior symptoms, he developed terrible hot spots in the early fall. We took turns sleeping on the sofa with him, since he did the mayhem to his coat at night. Many times I woke during the night to find him staring at me. When I fell asleep he did his dirty work and I awoke to find large hot spots near his tail. Although he finished, his show career was cut short by this and I went on a quest to find out all that was known about allergies—cause, cure and prevention.

After many canine dermatologists, I finally found one who got to the basis of Piper's problem. We followed his instructions—although late in the game, Piper grew a big, healthy show coat and had no further trouble.

This is what I found—none of which is absolute.

1. Allergies have a hereditary component.
2. Desensitizing shots do work up to a degree and are worth trying.
3. Some dogs, the most unlucky, have year-round allergies. Seasonal allergies are more common and easier to deal with.
4. The symptoms are these: scratching, hot spots, red feet from licking, ear infections or dark wax in years, ripping out coat, diarrhea, personality changes (grumpy). With these symptoms I'd be grumpy too.

What to do:

1. Go to the vet (preferably a dermatologist) at the first sign of these symptoms. Most likely the vet will give the dog a cortisone injection or a

Continued on page 12

BOZ



Gleanntan Gottalookatme

(Ch. Gleanntan Going For It x Ch. Gleanntan Grandxpose)

In a period of one month, Boz earned two Group 2 placements, a Group 3 placement and a Group 4 placement in end-of-year competition.

His Group 3 at the Kennel Club of Philadelphia Dog Show under respected terrier judge, Mr. Peter J. Green, was broadcast nationally on NBC on Thanksgiving Day.

Boz is co-owned by:
Travis S. Wright, Ed.D
Washington, DC

Visit our web site at:
www.gleanntan.com



Continued from page 10

course of prednisone by mouth. If there are hot spots, the vet may also give antibiotics to prevent a bacterial infection in the hot spot.

2. The vet will test the dog for allergies by means of a blood test and put the dog on an elimination diet—putting the dog on foods that he or she has not encountered before and then gradually adding food to watch for a reaction. There are many foods on the market today for this problem. There are a number of people who recommend the BARF diet at this point and have good results with it. I remain neutral on the subject.

3. If seasonal allergy is suspected, the vet will put the dog on antihistamines along with the other treatments. The worst seasonal allergies occur in the spring and, most especially in the fall, right around the start of the fall showing season. I was told to start the antihistamines in late summer before the start of the allergy season.

4. Be careful of grooming products, over drying with blow dryers, and, also, be sure to eliminate damp spots in skin folds. Do not over bath the dog—the drier the skin and coat—the more the chance for problems. Do not strip the coat of natural oils.

5.. Watch out for fleas.

As a test of these methods of dealing with allergies, a bitch that I bred was returned to me on the death of her owner. She was an encyclopedia of allergic problems. I followed the above methods, plus cleaning out her ears twice a week and she overcame her allergies. It took about 9 months and she had a fine coat and her nature was much happier. She finished her Ch. and lived to 13 years allergy free.

Addendum

Shortly after finishing this article my attention was called to a product called Atopica which was touted as a magic bullet for allergy. Not only was this product interesting but its web site www.us.atopia.com pointed a pathway to many other allergy solutions. Of course, reading the fine print on these things revealed dire warnings in style of TV drug ads. One warning to be heeded—not to be given to breeding (intact) animals.

Many of the articles were both interesting and informative but few, if any, included specific warnings or instructions about grooming and conditioning practices. No severe warnings about fleas and little specific instructions on how to cope with them. No strong warnings about grooming products, tools and coat maintenance. But interesting reading none the less. Read with an interested eye but some skepticism.

*May your wishes, hopes
and dreams for the New Year
all come to pass!*



*Sandra Goose Allen
Windflower*

Bed and Bisquit University

By Shirley Deasy

When Emmee came to our house in June, I knew it would be a big change for her and she would not only have to adjust to a new set of people and dogs (the strange looking corgis) but start on a new learning adventure. Being a good dog owner, I decided to enroll her in the best college I could find – the Wake Forest Bed and Biscuit University. Of course any respectable University has list of courses to choose from. For Emmee, I identified the following:

101 Adjusting to Your New Home

Prerequisites: must be cute looking Skye Terrier

Brief Course Description: in this course you will learn to love new family, go up and down stairs and restrict your bodily functions to backyard or other grassy areas when out walking.

Emmee's Experience: Any dog that is moved to a new home, needs time to adjust to the shock of leaving the secure and familiar world they new. I think this is easier for young puppies than dogs over the age of 9 months or so. Puppies are big learning sponges and while the new home may be a bit unsettling, they are usually eager to embrace their new owners and new environment. Emmee was 22 months when she came to live with us so she needed to learn a lot of new things, all in a new house with new people and new dogs. Therefore, during her first few weeks with us there was no formal training – just lots of hugs and loves.

For starters there were the stairs – something she didn't really have to deal with on a daily with Mike and Maida but in our two-story home, stairs are a fact of life. She seemed so overwhelmed by every thing that the first few days we just carried her up and down. By the end of her first week, I put her a few steps from the top and encouraged her to go the rest of the way. In typical Emmee fashion, she more or less threw herself up the remaining stairs. At the start of the 2nd week, I carried her up a few steps and then put her down. She initially would not move so I gently pushed her butt up one step which made staying in place rather uncomfortable so her front end went up a step. For going down training, I sat on the steps and guided her down, bracing her chest so she won't fall down them. There were the times that I wanted to go up or down but didn't really need Emmee. Eventually, at one of these times, she wanted to follow me so she just did it and that was that.

There were other things to learn, the right place for potty behavior, how to make the people put you on the bed at night and the importance of barking at birds and squirrels.

Continued on page 16

“Keeleigh”



Our deepest sympathies to Gary and Lynn Wolf
on the tragic loss of their beloved “Keeleigh”.

Michael & Maida

Two Skye Terrier Canine Good Citizens

On December 9, 2006, two Skye Terriers earned their Canine Good Citizens titles. The two awardees were Snickers, a 7-year old Skye owned by Ginger and Joe Lindsey and Emmee, a 2.5-year old Skye owned by Shirley Neil Deasy. Congratulations - well done!



Ginger Lindsey and “Snickers”



Shirley Deasy and “Emmee”

Continued from page 14

102 Loose Lead Walking.

Prerequisites: Cute looking Skye Terrier with collar and leash

Brief Course Description: In this course you will learn to walk, like a lady, without pulling handler down the road.

Emmee's Experience: This was tough at first as she was determined to be in front and to never let Neil and the corgis get away from her. So I put a Gentle Leader (head halter) on her. Like most dogs, she initially seemed irritated with the feel of something around her head. But the really surprise was when she pulled forward, her head came back to me – she seemed so totally amazed that I was at the end of the leash! One week with this on for any walking and I tried walking her without it. I was amazed that it seemed to work – she wasn't pulling! She has had only a few remedial lessons with the Gentle Leader since.

103 Intro to Clicker Training

Prerequisites: Cute looking Skye Terrier

Brief Course Description: In this course you will learn how to learn and that training is a very fun thing to do! In addition, you will learn that any time you do something wonderful, a click sound is heard and you get a treat.

Emmee's Experience: The first step in introducing a dog to clicker training is to connect the click with getting a reward of value to the dog – usually a food treat. (Some clicker trainers call this “charging the clicker”.) Our first lessons consisted of just Click/Treat. Emmee seemed to like the treat part and didn't seem to be really hearing the click. During her first month, we had only a few lessons like this as I thought the stress of adjusting to her new home was enough. Once she seemed less stressed, I would click when she looked at me, then treat. I believe by the 3rd or 4th lesson, it seemed that she had the connection. Now real training could begin.

201 Focused Walking

Prerequisites: Cute looking Skye Terrier that is Clicker savvy

Brief Course Description: In this course you will learn to walk on the left side of your handler with focused attention. If a good student, you might learn to change direction and/or pace as the handler does so. Warning – this course does not have an end date!

Emmee's Experience: Emmee has just started this course. She walks nicely beside me and gets her click/treat when she is looking at me. She changes pace very well and does nice turns to both right and left. I see the beginnings of an excellent Rally dog and maybe some dog dancing in her future!

Continued from page 4

was bred by Elke Spinnrock, Morningsky Skyes in Germany. I am thankful to Olga Smid and Judy Umeck who were instrumental in my getting her. She has been actively campaigned and professionally handled by Sally George with Adrian Ghione as her very capable assistant. She is the first of my Skyes who has adored the show ring. The kind of success she has had is beyond my wildest dreams – I consider it a legal “high”.

What do you consider to be your greatest accomplishment(s) in the sport of dogs.

In May, 2006, Panya achieved Best in Show in Klamath Falls, Oregon under esteemed breeder/judge Sandra Goose Allen. It was like falling in love.... When I was diagnosed with non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma five years ago, I was told that I only had 6 months to live. I feared that I would never see my puppy, Panya grow up and that I would never be able to fall in love again.

What advice would you give to those who might be interested in getting involved with the breed.

Go to shows – especially if there is a benched show in the area. Talk to breeders. Use the web to contact people. Asks lots of questions. If you are lucky enough be able to visit with a breeder do so and spend time with the dogs.

What advice would you give newcomers to the sport specifically the conformation ring.

In the beginning it is fascinating to watch those in the ring to get a feel for how to do it. The challenge is find a person who is friendly and seems open and who has the knowledge and is willing to share that knowledge. Someone who is going to be willing to spend the time to put up with what is going to seem like foolish questions - there are no foolish questions. It is good to be able to be in the ring at the same time/show as your breeder. Video tapes of previous specialties can be instructive. Handling classes were crucial for me – gave me a better sense of what I could then work on at home.

What do you consider to be the main challenges facing the breed today and any advice as to how to address these challenges.

As we who love the breed get older, we need more younger folks who have an interest in the breed – with the stamina and devotion to learn about the breed. In the states, my friends on the West Coast are getting older and not breeding as often. We need young folks who are willing to take up the challenge to take the time to learn to do careful, thoughtful

Continued on page 18

Continued from page 17

breeding. So few litters are now being bred. Also concerned about our breed's ability to maintain a healthy gene pool that will enable them to live long, healthy lives.

What is your involvement with the PSTC and what aspect of the club do you most value.

Because I live on the West Coast, I am not able to participate in many of the club's activities. But I can enjoy them and learn from them through the Piper. I love that fact that PSTC provides opportunities for us to learn from each other. These range from grooming advice to health issues and advice. The Potomac Piper format is beautiful – I love the stories – I love the sharing and hearing what people are doing with their Skyes both in and outside of the show ring. It has a very positive focus. I love the positive energy and enthusiasm that is evident in the Potomac Skye Terrier Club. I like the fact that the focus of the Piper is on our everyday life with the dogs. Because, most of the time, they are our cherished companions – they share our lives with us. The quiet moments that we have together – they can be clowns – and they add so much to our everyday lives. Through the Piper, I feel a connection to many of the Potomac members. The dogs bring us together and our lives become intertwined so we become lifelong friends.



Life Explained

Being a veterinarian, I had been called to examine a ten-year-old Blue Heeler named Belker. The dog's owner- Ron, his wife, Lisa, and their little boy, Shane - were all very attached to Belker and they were hoping for a miracle.

I examined Belker and found he was dying of cancer. I told the family there were no miracles left for Belker, and offered to perform the euthanasia procedure for the old dog in their home. As we made arrangements, Ron and Lisa told me they thought it would be good for the four-year-old Shane to observe the procedure. They felt Shane could learn something from the experience.

The next day, I felt the familiar catch in my throat as Belker's family surrounded him. Shane seemed so calm, petting the old dog for the last time, that I wondered if he understood what was going on. Within a few minutes, Belker slipped peacefully away. The little boy seemed to accept Belker's transition without any difficulty or confusion.

We sat together for a while after Belker's death, wondering aloud about the sad fact that animal lives are shorter than human lives. Shane, who had been listening quietly, piped up, "I know why." Startled, we all turned to him. What came out of his mouth next stunned me - I'd never heard a more comforting explanation.

He said, "Everybody is born so that they can learn how to live a good life-like loving everybody and being nice, right?" The four-year-old continued, "Well, animals already know how to do that, so they don't have to stay as long."



In October, 2006, PSTC member Sue Chandler and her Skye "Gracie" participated in a walk to benefit Alzheimers. Can you find Gracie? Can you find Sue?

About the Potomac Skye Terrier Club

The Potomac Skye Terrier Club is an AKC-sanctioned club devoted to preserving and promoting interest in the Skye Terrier in the Middle Atlantic region of the United States. Since 1972, the club has fulfilled its mission by annually holding a Specialty show as well as meetings, educational seminars, and through communication with its members.

If you are interested in supporting the Potomac Skye Terrier Club through membership, please contact Maida Connor, Secretary, 225 Opossum Hill Road, Aspers, PA 17304-9504, Phone: 717-677-0700 or e-mail: maidaconnor@comcast.net.

Potomac Piper in Print and PDF

Remember that every issue of the Potomac Piper is archived in PDF format on the Potomac website at: www.potomacskye.com.



Save These Dates in 2007!

- January 14** Annual Membership Meeting
- April 4** Closing Date - Potomac Specialty Weekend shows
- April 20** Potomac Skye Terrier Club Specialty
Tinomium Fairgrounds - Baltimore, Maryland
- April (tbd)** Membership Meeting and Dinner