

the dog & ewe



~ WHERE HERDING HAPPENS ~

APRIL - 2024 - TUESDAY FLYING BUCKET FARM

*Located in the hills above
Hemlock Lake*

Harder Road Hemlock, NY.

Here we offer herding lessons
with Sheep, Cattle & Geese.

ALL HERDING HERITAGE BREEDS WELCOMED

*Come participate in the historic
tradition of moving stock with a
dog!*

Jean Barrett, your trainer &
coach, will help you & your dog
learn how to work livestock.

APRIL - 2024 - WEDNESDAY HOOD'S FARM

*Located near the southwestern
end of Chautauqua Lake*

Wellman Road Ashville, NY.

Here we offer herding lessons
with Sheep & Cattle.



JEAN BARRETT

Jean's love of herding shines through in her dogs. They LOVE their work, they are confident in what they do & they want to be a partner with her.

Come to the dog & ewe and be a part of
something special...herding happens here!

NOTES FROM THE DOG & EWE.....

Herding training is slowly getting ready to go on hiatus. I will have “pop up” days if the weather and temperatures cooperate. These days will not be able to be scheduled but will be on a week to week basis. At some point there will not be herding due to the facilities sheep will be lambing. The lambing takes up the indoor training spaces we use and the sheep will not be able to be worked either.

Remember, if you are not herding sheep, then you can always do the dry work exercises. Those help establish a partnership – working together and giving you and your dog more understanding about pressure and moving.

We have events in the planning stages for Hood’s Farm in 2024. Next year we will have AHBA & ASCA Ranch trials and Farm Trials. The Cappy & Jan Clinics are planning on continuing, too.

Start up for herding is tentatively in April.

I will try and continue with a monthly article in the newsletter each month, too...though I have not gotten any feedback – so are you all wanting these articles or not? I spend a lot of time writing them, but I am happy to be doing artwork with that time as well.

Any AKC Club member that would like to offer Herding Trials – LMK as I would be happy to offer Hood’s Farm up for AKC. We have the ability to offer A course, B Course & D Course. Cattle, Sheep & ducks/geese.

Make sure to read the articles that are past the events and farm information.



Jean and E'ire traveled to Berryville, VA to attend a three day stockdog trial on cattle, sheep & ducks. Two trials each day. 18 classes in three days!

Working Aussies of VA & Keepstone Farm hosted a wonderful trial. The weather was cooperative. It was nice to work in a bit warmer temperatures than what we had in Western NY at the time. The trial grounds layout is convenient – parking is just on the other side of some working pens... a short walk down a lane to the duck arena. About 50' next to the duck arena is the sheep & cattle arena. You can watch both arenas from the gallery. Though I do have to say, the duck arena has a drop cage system and I wasn't looking up when walking into the arena the first time. I promptly banged my head into the hanging duck containment basket – did not hurt but geesh, you think I would remember it was there.

My goals were to acquire as many "Final" points as possible. The Berryville trial usually draws in some very competitive handlers to their events. So I wasn't sure how well we would do. I should not have worried – we did awesome!

November 17 – 6 classes – 4 First places & two 2nds. ASCA trials for Advanced is out of 125 points. One out of two High In Trials. I mainly was super nervous – no surprise there – and was not reading my stock very good. My first set of cows I really messed up. They were a bit difficult as in one Charolais did not want to work and I didn't have E'ire stay up on her to push her up with the others... PLUS she was a bit of a handful to maneuver around. Added to that, E'ire was not listening as well as she should have..LOL

AM Trial : Sheep/T Padgett – HIT – 1st - 120 **PM Trial:** Sheep/K Males 1st – 110

Cattle / T Padgett – 2nd – 96

Cattle / K Males 1st – 115

Ducks / K Males – 1st – 114

Ducks / T Padgett 2nd – 115

November 18 – 6 classes – 5 First places & 1 second place & both High In Trials. The second place was a tie score which was broke by faster time....I need to speed E'ire up. I went from too fast /throttle stuck with Mumble to very slow and meticulous with E'ire.

AM Trial: Sheep/K Males – 1st – 111

PM Trial: Sheep/T Padgett 2nd – 116

Cattle/K Males – 1st – 115

Cattle/T Padgett – HIT – 1st – 121

Ducks/ T Padgett – HIT – 1st 120

Ducks / K Males – 1st – 110

November 19 – 6 classes – 4 First places, one 2nd & a third. Both High In Trials. E'ire just kept getting more responsive with each class and trial. I was super proud of her work. This trial I was experimenting on a few things that I thought we could do... in the future I would need to be able to change strategies but some of it was not smooth enough to get higher placements... But my score only needed to be over 100 anyways (Final scores over 100 count)...so I was happy with E'ire trying to do a different maneuver during the course but my timing sucked and we ended up with a third place for the sheep class.

AM Trial: Sheep/T Padgett – HIT – 1st – 120 **PM Trial:** Sheep/K Males – 3rd – 109
Cattle/T Padgett – 2nd – 111 Cattle/K Males – 1st – 116
Ducks/K Males – 1st – 119 Ducks/T Padgett – HIT – 1st – 121

E'ire came home with the Overall Combined Points for WTCh dogs (Working Trial Ch dogs only)...and won a beautiful Silver Belt Buckle.





The photo below is a bit of a blooper – E'ire hit the heel but held on a bit too long and got flung up. Camera got this part but not the heel grip. But that Galloway calf stayed up with his buddies the rest of the course!



This first article PARTNERS IN PLAY starts it all off. Herding is not just about bringing your dog to herding training, dropping him in a pen with livestock and see what happens. It is about being a partner with your dog....and that starts at home...well before any herding training was thought about. I have listed a number of exercises that I feel is important in your daily relationship with your dog. I believe these to be more important than taking a dog to obedience class to do sit, down, stay etc. These gauge how my dog will react to situations, how much they trust in me and that gives me an idea of how my dog will react with livestock.

Do I actually do all these exercises on my dogs – Yes. It is like a check list to do before I get started with serious training. From the time I start sharing my life with my puppy, these exercises are worked on. Not all at once but many are. It is up to you and your personal preferences as to how many, and how much effort to put into each of those exercises. For me, I want better than average. Other people may want average or even below that is acceptable. It is not wrong, just a choice. They are merely suggestions to bring about a better relationship for working in partnership with your dog for herding training.



Always take the time to see what your dog will offer – then go back to training. Give your dog an opportunity to see if he is behind or has learned what you've been trying to teach.

PARTNERS IN PLAY

Does your dog trust you? What is your dog most interested in – is he a partner or focused on the world around them?

Train & perform these exercises until the dog is calm and confident. Issues with these exercises will hinder your progress in training – especially herding.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---|
| 1. Safety-Comfort-Play-Work | 6. Sit still & do nothing at home / with other dogs at play |
| 2. Trust Me | 7. Walk with loose leash |
| 3. Collar On | 8. Walk through crowd of people |
| 4. Catching Me | 9. Roll dog over in a crowd |
| 5. Do Nothing | 10. Clip dog's toenails |

1 SAFETY-COMFORT-PLAY-WORK Observing and understanding what your dog is communicating to you is what you will be learning. Knowing this will give you answers on what to do next. Learning the steps of how the dog becomes confident. Once confident, then you can teach and the dog can relax and learn. If your dog is unconfident – getting confidence overrides all other goals for that training session. Once confident your training goal can be worked on.

To bring a dog up in confidence – first we would like to see the dog touch its nose to the object it finds fearful. If possible, allow dog to follow fearful object as it moves away from dog. Allow dog to catch scary object with its nose. Next walk directly at object but retreat if dog escalates. Do not go closer until dog is relaxed and can try and sniff- go back to following it. Try again - See if dog will touch its nose to scary object.

Safety – in you, surroundings, environment, mentally & emotionally. *Comfortable* with you, surroundings, environment, etc... Only then will the dog begin to be curious and try to do what you want. After experimenting with trying they will begin to *work* at what you want.

2 TRUST ME - Training can begin after TRUST is gained.

This exercise starts the bonding and trust process which will help overcome unconfidence and fear reactions. Trust Me proves to the dog that his initial assumption of unconfidence or fear was incorrect. This grows the dog's trust in you because you helped the dog overcome something he was fearful of. Teaches the dog how to handle a situation in which they may be afraid, scared or even aggressive with. Many dogs run away when they get afraid. Wouldn't it be nice for the dog to seek you out in times of fearfulness, instead of running off? This exercise will help this happen.

Our objective for the dog is to gain confidence, acceptance & understanding with you, the environment and with anything you present or ask of the dog. This exercise also teaches the handler to observe dog's reactions and behaviors and then to make appropriate choices based on those observations. This exercise will also help the dog understand to come to you for reassurance when they are confused or just need a little bit more communication from you to know they are on the right path.

You will be working with a tool. A stock stick, broom handle, bamboo – about 3'-4' long. The goal is to be able to rub the dog with the tool and be relaxed. Rub the head, neck body, and legs. The first approach should be the dog putting nose to tool, then make gentle contact with the dog's body.

Some dogs may have an issue with the tool – run off from it or bite it. IF a dog wants to run away from the tool – DO NOT CHASE THE DOG WITH THE TOOL!! Place the tool on the back of the dog and leave it there – whatever the dog does – until the dog stops. Teach the dog to gain power over the stick – it will go away when all motion is stopped. Do not let dog run off, keep on a short leash and let dog run circles around you. The circles should be close enough to be able to keep the tool on the dog's back.

The first step in having a partnership is TRUST, then training can begin. After Trust is gained, the dog will trust what you ask him to do, trust your directions and to not put him in a dangerous situation. You will be there to help the dog.

3 COLLAR ON – Does your dog run away or cringe when you present their collar or go to attach a leash? Present the dog's collar and the dog should put their head into the collar. If you have to grab them and struggle to put it on, the dog is not thinking of what you want. Gain respect by helping the dog into wanting to work with you. Once the dog is putting their collar on standing still, start walking away from the dog to get the dog to go to you. Then present it so the dog comes from various distances and angles, through things, over jumps etc, to put their collar on.

4 CATCH ME – Your dog is off leash and won't come when asked to. What do you do... generally people try to corner the dog, or lunge at the dog as it is running past them. They try to physically contain them, then physically control them with their leash. None of these actions show that you are in control. You need to be a focus for the dog to come to. Most dogs are trained to put their focus outwards towards the world...not in towards their handler. This game will teach you how to get your dog to "catch you" instead of you going and catching the dog.

Teaches dog that you won't always have food as the main reason to come. This exercise begins to teach the dog to respond to commands at a distance. To stay, to sit, down or stand from a few feet to many feet away from you. Drop on Recalls are also worked on with this exercise.

To start training this, a cord should be attached to the dog at least 20' and can be more. Simply step on the cord if the dog leaves when you ask it to come to you. Try not to reel in the dog. You want the dog to want to come to you. Don't force it. I don't use food, but that doesn't mean you can't. I usually walk away and the dog drifts in behind me. I praise the dog when they come to me. If the dog runs off, I turn and go the opposite direction, praise when they come to me.

Once you have the dog coming now let's refine the skill even more. In this step, the dog leaves you going backwards, waits and then comes into your pressure. Make sure you hold on to the end of the line and that the line is also laying on the ground between you and the dog. Start cue by grasping line and pointing at dog, lean forward on same leg with the hand you are holding rope with. Look up over dog's back. Start moving finger back and forth. Next cue is rolling wrist back and forth. Next cue is rolling forearm back and forth. Next cue is rolling whole arm back and forth. Stop when dog moves backwards. Only use the cues needed, some people may not need to use their whole arm. Always start with the first cue. When this happens the rope should be swinging in front of dog...side to side.

This Skill will eventually help the dog to change gears from fast to slow.

Don't just start flinging the rope all over, start with the first cue and move on from there.

It's very important that you remain in one spot. Try not to travel around.

Keep the dog out where you stopped him until he regains confidence or about 30 seconds.

*Dog doesn't go back – Make sure you are going through all your cues, don't leave any out. Making sure your other Skills are in place before trying this again, especially Being Partners Skill.

If you find your dog stops and pulls back on the line when you are asking them to come to you, first try not to drag them back to you. Hold the same tension the dog is applying and wait – or slowly run the rope through your hands and slightly increasing the pressure your hands are moving over the rope. Remember, you want the dog to come to you, it is not about how you can reel them in to you.

This exercise – Catch Me will also work well with a dog that wants to keep moving past you while walking on lead. As they move past your knee, wiggle the rope so the dog moves in a slower motion or goes backwards.

5 & 6 DO NOTHING – This is simply having the dog and you sit and hang out. Do Nothing. Think of a cookie bag filled with delicious dog treats for your dog. We don't really use treats for what we do, but the dog still needs a reward and that comes from YOU. Each training session depletes our cookie bag. If we aren't using cookies how do we replenish them? By all the times you pet and massage your dog and by doing nothing. For as much time as you train, you should be Doing Nothing just as long. Preferably, right after a training session.

After working on an issue or training goal, take a seat with your dog. If the dog wants to be petted – do so until the dog tells you they have had enough. Usually, they get up and walk away or lay down or stand not seeking your touch. They may also shake. If it doesn't look like it will happen and you have given the dog a good long chance to move off, then you can break it off. That time may be much longer than you may think especially in the beginning when the dog really needs a fill up.

7 & 8 LOOSE LEASH WALKING – Be persistent. This is one of the most important exercises to give a dog a job to do – to listen and have responsibilities. If the dog does not have to pay attention to you while walking – how do you expect your dog to listen to you while working livestock. What is rehearsed is learned.

HOMEWORK: Work on all of these at home, while out for a walk, or during a training session. You want the dog to not have to think about what you are asking. There should be no resistance or hesitation for any of these commands. These goals are an 8 week project or more – do not think they need to be perfect in a week or even two. Work at the dog's pace.



SAFETY – COMFORT – PLAY – WORK

Observe your dog and write down any issues you notice

SAFETY CONCERNS - _____

CONFIDENT AREAS - _____

PLAY (unconfident/confident) - _____

TOTALLY CONFIDENT - _____

- | | |
|---|---|
| _____ Adjusts to following scary object | _____ Observes when to stop and retreat |
| _____ Handler allows dog to move without help | _____ Handler praises and retreats after nose touch |

TRUST ME – dog should not be apprehensive, fearful or aggressive towards the stick.
Calm relaxed attitude.

- | | |
|---|---|
| _____ Can touch dog with stick | _____ Can wave stick from one side to other over back |
| _____ Can wave stick from one side to the other, in front of dog's nose | |
| _____ Can bounce stick off ground on either side of dog, near ribcage | |
| _____ Jumping jacks with stick in front of dog | _____ Can walk around dog moving stick |
| _____ Can observe when dog is fearful and take actions to bring back confidence | |
| _____ Can maintain pressure and release when dog learns | |

COLLAR ON – the dog should willingly want to put his head through the collar. Calm and relaxed

- | | |
|--|---|
| _____ Collar presented, dog looks right at collar | _____ Dog leans into collar |
| _____ Dog waits as collar is secured to neck | _____ Dog stays with handler after collar is on |
| _____ Collar is presented about 5' away – dog walks towards collar | |

CATCH ME – the dog should willingly move towards handler when asked to

- | | |
|--|--|
| _____ Dog catches handler within 5 minutes | _____ Dog rolls head towards handler |
| _____ Handler can make dog move if inattentive | _____ Handler eases pressure when dog is attentive |
| _____ Can come while doing any activity | _____ Can come while toy playing |
| _____ Can come while playing with other dogs | _____ Can while chasing something – ball |

CATCH ME BACKING UP – response from dog should be on 1st or 2nd cue – backwards & forwards – straight lines. If dog is not going straight – the mind isn't thinking back.

- | | |
|---|-----------------------------------|
| _____ – into and out of dog crate | _____ – into and out of doorway |
| _____ – into and out of a big box | _____ – along a picnic bench |
| _____ – into a wall, a garbage can, or obstacle | _____ – over a pole on the ground |
| _____ – between two poles | _____ – into and out of a ditch |
| _____ – up and down a hill | |

DO NOTHING – Handler and dog sit next to each other. Pet dog until dog has had enough
____ Handler observes when it is time to stop petting dog ____ Handler can do nothing
____ Dog can hang out with handler and do nothing ____ Can keep dog's attention
____ handler is more interesting than other things ____ Handler is constantly
active in seeking to keep dog's attention

STAYS - Dog remains in place under a variety of distractions – both next to and away from handler

____ Dog does not engage in distraction ____ Stays while dogs are moved around area

LEASH PULLING – Dog maintains a loose leash, without reminders to stay next to or behind, handler

____ Can walk dog from car to house ____ Can walk dog down driveway or to
favorite play spot
____ Can walk past other dogs or people ____ from car to sheep pens
____ Sheep pens to working area ____ walk around sheep pen

DOWNS - Dog will go down from a standing, sitting, walking and running position – looking away from handler and at handler. The down is performed on 1st cue, without resistance or hesitation.

____ down in all different locations in house ____ down in different locations outside
____ down while walking away from handler ____ down while walking with
____ down while people are nearby, close distraction
____ down while running away from handler ____ down while going towards toy

THAT'LL DO – Dog will stop what it is doing and leave immediately without resistance or more cues

____ Can call dog off from any activity ____ Can call dog off from toy playing
____ Can call dog off from playing with other dogs ____ Can call dog off from chasing
____ Can call dog off of in high distraction ____ Can call dog off from eating

HOOD'S FARM ~ Ashville, NY
610 Wellman Road

FLYING BUCKET FARM ~ HEMLOCK, ME
6952 Harder Road



Sign up today –
Come start your
herding journey!
2024 season starts
in April!



HOOD'S FARM

Lesson Schedule

*2024 season – will be Tuesday &
Wednesday lessons starting in
April – maybe March.
Saturday/Sunday when available*



LONGING FOR MORE STOCK TIME TO PRACTICE?

At both Flying Bucket Farm & Hood's Farm stock rental is offered.

Flying Bucket is fairly open as to the days available, while at Hood's Farm stock rental is only offered while I am there teaching.

Sheep/Geese rental is \$25 and Cattle rental is \$35 for *STUDENTS*. For all others, the rental fee is Sheep/Geese is \$35 and Cattle is \$50 ** Geese only at Flying Bucket **



2024 EVENTS

HOOD'S FARM

Ashville, NY

FLYING BUCKET FARM

Hemlock, NY

MAY - Novice Field Sheep Trial

JUNE – Cappy Pruett cattle & sheep clinic

JULY – Jan Wesen cattle & sheep clinic

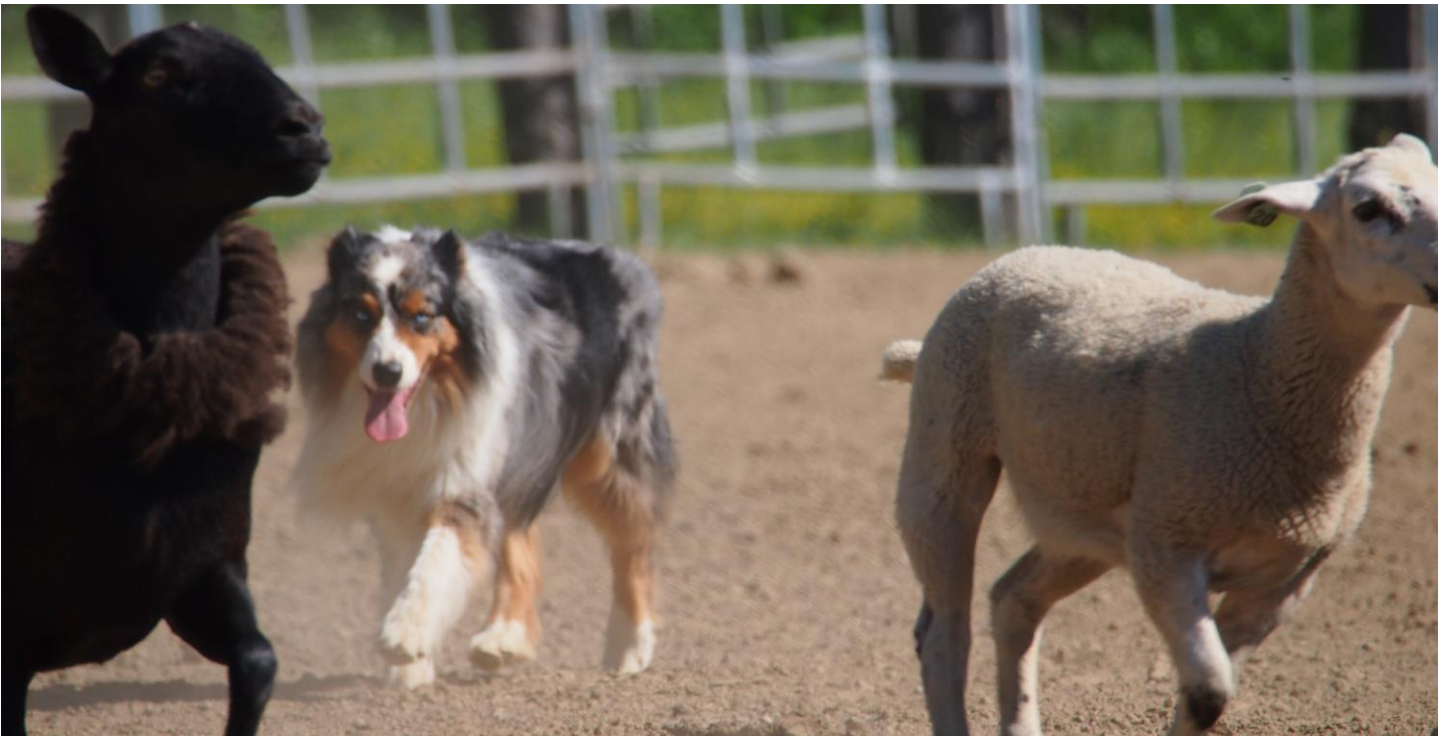
AUGUST – Novice Field Sheep Trial

AUGUST – AHBA Ranch & Large Flock

SEPTEMBER – Jan Wesen Clinic

SEPTEMBER – asca Ranch & Field Trials

Wait for 2024!!



ABOUT OUR CLINICS -

All levels of herding skills from Beginner to Advanced are encouraged to participate in any of our clinics. Even students and dogs that have never been introduced to stock before. All herding heritage breeds are welcomed.

Our clinicians that are invited to come to Hood's Farm are very knowledgeable in working and training various herding breeds and mixes. These clinicians also bring their extensive knowledge of coaching and training to all skill levels of students.

They are also very accomplished in the venues they compete in and have achieved the highest National honors in those venues.

Many of these clinics are offered for multiple days. I can't stress enough how important it is to participate for more than one day. Optimal is three days, if offered. The first day is so new that there is a massive influx of new information, experiences and concepts to absorb. The second day you start to sift through all that and begin to apply what you learned. The third day you really start to work through exercises and what is happening. To me, three days are the best for learning. As with any of our clinics, you are welcome to come watch as well. Come see what it is all about.

Signing up for lessons?! The best way is to contact me around Wednesday to see if there are openings for the weekend. Many people like to book weeks in advance to secure their "spot". You can do that as well. If you think about it – herding season only really occurs over about 20 short weekends.





Catch us on Facebook, Instagram and on our website –

The Dog & Ewe : thedogandewe.weebly.com

Jan Wesen website – has herding articles janwesen.com

Cappy Pruett on Facebook: Cappy Pruett Stockdog Training

Kelly Malone: karmaperformance.weebly.com

Events - WNY HERDING: wnyherding.weebly.com