



# Speed

Volume 51 Issue 1

The Official Newsletter of the NCWFA

January/February 2016



# Jack





# Speed

The newsletter of the NCWFA  
**"Whippets - The Dog For Every Reason"**  
**January - February 2016**

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SPEED is published every other month to acquaint its readers with NCWFA activities and coming events. All items of general interest, whether informational, fictional, or educational will be included. The Editor reserves the right to withhold material that is not in the best interest of the NCWFA. All submissions to SPEED must be signed. For publication dates contact Editor. Also, please contact the Editor to share information and ideas for inclusion in SPEED.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO NCWFA.

**RATES FOR SUBSCRIPTION AND ADVERTISING**

One Year Subscription	\$15.00	Cover Ad	\$50.00
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## 2016 Save the Date

Mar 26	NCWFA Meeting	Vallejo
Apr 27	NCWFA Hospitality Day @ National	San Diego
May 21	NCWFA Meeting	Vallejo
June 4-5	NCWFA CWA Racing	Fairfield
June 12	NCWFA Meeting	Fairfield
June 25-26	NCWFA AKC Lure Coursing	Dixon
Aug 7	NCWFA Meeting	Dixon
Sep 17	NCWFA Meeting	Vallejo
Sep 24-25	NCWFA CWA Racing	Fairfield
Oct 22-23	NCWFA Specialty Show/Sup Entry	Pleasanton
Oct -Nov TBA	NCWFA AKC Lure Coursing	TBA
Dec TBA	NCWFA Holiday Party	TBA

\* all dates subject to change & all events subject to cancellation \*



# Whippet Whispers by the Rover Reporter

All the news that's fit to print—and then some!

**So much news since we all  
got together last back in  
November...**

There is a new Champion in the Majeod household—Finis (Ed & MJ Odran) finished with a BOB & OH & Regular Group III and then waltzed off with an AOM at her first show out as a Special, the GSDWA show in Palm Springs. Way to go Miss KissyFur!



The handsome superstar puppy, Clark Kent (Donna O'Toole & Guin Borstel) had a nice start in the show ring, winning BOS in Sweepstakes at Palm Springs and then on to BOS & BOW at GGKC both days & BOW and BOB OH in Fresno. Great beginning Clarkie Malarky! Clark's sister Portia (Guin & Heather Borstel) had a nice



Having a very good start to the year is Nick (Brad Briscoe). After some years in his National Specialty winning sister's shadow, handsome fawn Nick has come into his own and is on a winning streak—Select and AOM in Palm Springs, Res BIS OH at GGKC and then BOS, BOB, and OH & Regular Group II in Arizona, all in an exciting January and February. Good job Nick!

Boss (Charlotte & Martha Fielder) was AOM & then Select in Palm Springs! Boss is the Boss!

Nick's niece, Angie (Tina Graham & Brad Briscoe), picked up her first two show points at the GGKC shows in January. More exciting (to Tina at least) is her keenness on the lure in her practice runs.



Those smart girls in Sandy Holley's house, Minnie & Lily, did a lot to make her proud in 2015 — Minnie achieved her NW 3 title, becoming only the second whippet to go this far. She also was awarded her OAP & OJP in agility. Lily got her RAT O title & her OAP Agility title. Many other agility titles were earned in CPE agility in 2015 for this dynamic duo!

start in the ring with Group I Beginner Puppy in Stockton! After that, Portia has decided that her life's goal is to be comic relief at the shows, tripping her handler, spinning out of her lead, and generally entertaining ringside, a goal that she is excelling in!

Pretty Vesper Lynde (Erin Campbell) finished off 2015 as the Number Eight whippet in the ring and began 2016 strong with three big BOBs in Oregon, followed by an exciting AOM at the prestigious Westminster KC. Vesper is starting off 2016 as a Top Five whippet!

Vesper's cousin Dixie (Erin Campbell) picked up her first two points at Santa Clara KC, with Avery (Andrea Meyer) getting the points the next day. Carson (Erynn Lucas) was BOS at this same show!

Dallas (Erynn Lucas) won two more AKC coursing points in January!

Zenith (Bonnie Moore) won another two coursing points in January, and that other handsome redhead in the Moore household, Comet (Bonnie Moore) was awarded his NW 1 title!

*Got news for Rover? Email it to MilesCross@gmail.com.*





# Club News and Notes Pages

## General Membership Meeting, 1/3/16 Fairfield, CA

Members Present: Jean Balint, Guin Borstel, Martha Fielder, Tina Graham, Jen Haas, Don Honor, MJ Honor, Debby Knutson, Rick Knutson, Marianne Lu, Bonnie Moore, Rick Ragan, Kim Robinson.

The meeting was called to order at 4:15 PM by President Debby Knutson. She wished all a happy New Year and wished Vince Balint at happy birthday. She expressed our thanks to Jean for hosting this wonderful party. The minutes of the last meeting as published in SPEED were approved by the membership present.

### Officer Reports

President's Report: Debby expressed her thanks to Brad for all his many years of service as NCWFA President.

Secretary's Report: No report.

Treasurer's Report: In Delia's absence, Guin reported that the bank balance is approximately 24 thousand dollars. The Treasurer switch from Kellee to Delia will be completed in February, when Kellee is back in California.

### Committee Reports

Coursing: Tina reported that the November event went well. She and her committee will be trying some changes going forward to streamline some processes. (JC/QC testing needs some administrative changes). Events are planned for June and either October or November of 2016. We would like to either bring in a judge from out of the area or use new judges as much as possible. Going forward, our most pressing need is for someone or a few people to transport equipment trailer to the event site before the events, and bring it back to the trailer storage site after the weekend.

Events>Show: MaryJean asked for Sweepstakes judges suggestions for Specialty before February so we can vote at our February meeting. This year we will have new trophies, since our Armetale pattern has been discontinued. MJ and Ed really need help with set-up on Saturday in the morning before the show to put up all the tables and chairs. This year's show will be dedicated to the memory of Don McGuire. There will be a memorial for Don in late February in Pebble Beach.

Membership: No report.

Racing: Jean hopes we can schedule a practice for early 2016. She and Bonnie will discuss this further, as of course, we would need to find someone to

bring the trailer to the race site. Discussion ensued about the trailer tow weight.

Rescue: There is a four-month old puppy bitch, from a backyard breeder, who has already been rehomed three times, hovering near Rescue. \*\* update: This puppy did not come into Rescue, as her owner decided to sell her to recoup her investment. Grrr. \*\*

Whippetbilia: Marianne reported that two more shirts have been sold via the website since October.

Old Business: Ed recapped plans for NCWFA hosting a day of Hospitality for the National in San Diego in April. Our day will be Wednesday and we hope to have a Wine and Cheese in the afternoon. There will be a "Basket Raffle" to benefit expenses at the National which MJ will be coordinating. The NCWFA will be doing a Bay Area/Northern California themed basket.

New Business: The next meeting will be scheduled for Sunday, February 21st, with the SCVKC show in San Jose. Tina brought up the subject of CAT Testing. She suggested that we think of putting on a day of CAT testing, as it is a huge money maker. Discussion ensued on this subject and it will be revisited at a later date. Discussion ensued regarding coursing "day of" entries being allowed again at our events, at a more expensive entry fee. The membership present voted to institute a \$30 "day of" entry fee, with no break for multiple entries, to start with our June events.

Braggs ensued.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:22 PM.

## General Membership Meeting, 2/21/16 San Jose, CA

Members Present: Valerie Barnard, Guin Borstel, Brad Briscoe, Erin Campbell, Tina Graham, Jen Haas, Justine Kay, Debby Knutson, Rick Knutson, Erynn Lucas, Marianne Lu, Andrea Meyer, Ed Ordon, MJ Odron.

Applicants/Guests Present: Pearl Barnard, Emma Burgess, David Kay, Che Lopez, Katie Sanderson.

The meeting was called to order at 1:10 PM by President Debby Knutson. She asked all the members and guest present to introduce themselves.

As the minutes of the last meeting have not yet been published, they could not be approved. There were no President's Report, Secretary's Report, or Treasurer's Report presented.

### Committee Reports

Coursing: Tina reported that she and Guin and Jen would be redoing the premium list template and updating it. She hopes to go on a field trip to look at potential new fields soon, but we should count on the June event being held in Dixon. Discussion ensued about our dates for events for 2016. June does not conflict with any events in the area, but our November dates appear to be in conflict with some events. The Coursing committee will be looking into moving the November events either to earlier that month, or perhaps to October. Tina mentioned that we are always looking for helpers; no experience necessary.

Events>Show: MJ reported that she needs help with trophies this year. Our Armetale pattern has been discontinued, so she would like to go with cozy cave beds and throws for prizes but cannot transport those to the show. Brad volunteered to have the items shipped to him and he will bring them to the event.

Membership: Associate applicant Che Lopez is attending her second meeting.

Racing: Debby spoke with Jean and our upcoming race practice for next Saturday is HUGE! Jean has over 50 dogs listed as attending. Practice will begin at 10 AM.

Rescue: There have been several dogs "hovering" near Rescue, but in all cases, they went to a new home without involving our rescue.

Speed: Guin is working on the January/February issue.

Website: Guin asked any members who note broken or out-of-date links to let her know so she can remove or fix them.

Whippetbilia: Marianne requested that our members who may have a booth at the National to allow her a little space for Whippetbilia. Debby or Erin should be able to allot the space, but neither will know until they set up at the event.

Old Business: Ed reported on "our" National Hospitality day, which will be Wednesday, April 27. We will be hosting Morning Hospitality from 6:30 to 9:30 AM. We will also be hosting an afternoon wine and cheese reception one hour after Winners Dog judging. Discussion ensued about purchasing supplies for both parts of our day. MJ reminded the members that she will be taking "Northern California" themed items for our entry in the National Basket Auction at our next meeting in March.

Braggs commenced.

New Business: Specialty Sweepstakes Judge 2016 voting - Elena Edwards received the most

# Club News and Notes Pages



## Recommended Veterinarians

The following veterinarians are recommended by the members listed as reputable whippet/sighthound practitioners. Please use common sense when choosing a vet for your whippet. This listing herein in no way constitutes any endorsement by the NCWFA.

**Dr. Craig Brown, DVM**  
Look Ahead Veterinary Clinic  
1451 Clark Road  
Oroville, CA. 95965  
530-534-0722  
Endorser: Libby de Mille

**Dr. S. Gary Brown, DVM, DACVS**  
1618 Washington Blvd.  
Fremont, CA 94539  
510-657-6343

Specialty: Orthopedics  
Endorsers: Libby de Mille & Justine Kay

**Dr. Lauren Knoble, DVM & Dr. Eleanor Dunn DVM**  
Grand Lake Veterinary Clinic  
3331 Grand Avenue.  
Oakland, CA. 94610  
510-350-8538

Endorsers: Brad Briscoe & Susan Moore

**Dr. Nancy Ramsey DVM**  
Winters, CA  
530-795-5243  
Specialty: House calls in Sacramento, Davis, Fairfield, Vacaville area  
Endorser: Sarah Herrick

**Drs. Conner & Thompson**  
Camino Real Pet Clinic  
1317 Bayswater Avenue  
Burlingame, CA 94010  
650-344-5711  
Endorser: Judy Benson

**Dr. Richard Keinle, DVM, DACVIM**

Mission Valley Veterinary Cardiology  
1810 Wayland Lane  
Gilroy, CA 95020 (also practices @ BAVS, San Leandro, CA /510-483-7387)

408-842-2899;  
[rdkeinle@garlic.com](mailto:rdkeinle@garlic.com)  
Specialty: Cardiology  
Endorsers: Guin Borstel & Brad Briscoe

Loomis Basin Veterinary Clinic

3901 Sierra College Blvd.  
Loomis, CA 95650  
916-652-5816  
Specialty: 24 Hour Specialty Clinic  
Endorser: Libby deMille

**Dr. William St.Lawrence DVM**  
Village Square Veterinary Hospital  
884 Portola Rd.  
Portola Valley, CA 94028  
650-851-3244  
Endorsers: Guin Borstel & Kellee Livingston

**Dr. Lori Siemens, DVM, DACVIM**  
[www.healinghearts.net](http://www.healinghearts.net)  
PO Box 1898  
Diamond Springs, CA 95619  
916-254-0399

Specialty: Cardiology  
Endorser: Delia Zarges

Blue Ravine Animal Hospital  
421 Blue Ravine Rd. Suite 300  
Folsom, CA 95630  
916-984-0990  
Fax 916-984-6510

Endorser: Libby de Mille  
**Dr. Joshua Stern DVM, DACVIM**

UC Davis Teaching Hospital  
Assistant Professor Medicine & Epidemiology

CCAH Room 258, Davis, CA 95616 530 752 2475;

[jstern@ucdavis.edu](mailto:jstern@ucdavis.edu)  
Specialty: Cardiology  
Endorsers: Guin Borstel & Kellee Livingston

*Do you have a veterinarian that you just love? Ask them if they want to be on our list. It's great marketing for them AND it helps your fellow whippet fanciers find a trusted, sighthound-savvy practitioner!*

votes from among the Active members present and will be our judge.

**Next Meeting:** Our next meeting will be held in conjunction with the Oakland KC on Saturday, March 26th.

The meeting was adjourned at 1:52 PM.



## NCWFA Breeder Listing

Available pups/adults as of 3/1/16. For more current info, please check <http://ncwfa.com/breeders-listing>

(If you have a puppy or adult to place, or if you want your information listed as a contact, you MUST contact Guin, the webmistress, in order to have your listing activated at [ncwfainfo@gmail.com](mailto:ncwfainfo@gmail.com) or 415-826-8853. Your listing will appear on the Website & in SPEED until you contact Guin to change it.)

NCWFA Member	Puppies?	Adults?	Information?
<b>Guin Borstel</b> <i>Milescross Whippets</i> <a href="mailto:milescross@gmail.com">milescross@gmail.com</a>	NO	NO	YES
<b>Brad Briscoe &amp; Denise Stokowski</b> <i>Lakota Whippets</i> 510.339.7427 <a href="mailto:briscoebad@msn.com">briscoebad@msn.com</a>	NO	NO	YES
<b>Erin Campbell</b> <i>Kimera Whippets</i> 408.248.3844 / 408.496.6469 <a href="mailto:Erin@hounddogs.com">Erin@hounddogs.com</a>	YES	NO	YES
<b>Cheryl Boyer</b> <i>Avita Whippets</i> 650.361.1770 <a href="mailto:ccboyer@gmail.com">ccboyer@gmail.com</a>	NO	NO	YES
<b>Libby deMille</b> <i>Taliesin Whippets</i> <a href="mailto:taliesinwhippets@aol.com">taliesinwhippets@aol.com</a>	NO	NO	YES
<b>Martha Fielder</b> <i>Crestfield Hounds</i> 707.252.1404 <a href="mailto:charlottefielder@me.com">charlottefielder@me.com</a>	NO	NO	YES
<b>Frank Herald</b> <i>WhippetShire</i> 530.367.3088 <a href="mailto:voyagers@sebastiancorp.net">voyagers@sebastiancorp.net</a>	NO	NO	YES
<b>Andrea Meyer</b> <i>Santa Rosa, CA</i> <a href="mailto:alynnmyr@gmail.com">alynnmyr@gmail.com</a>	NO	NO	YES
<b>Mary Jean &amp; Ed Odron</b> <i>Hounds of Majeod</i> <a href="mailto:majeod@aol.com">majeod@aol.com</a>	NO	NO	YES
<b>Sharron Simmons</b> <i>Nipomo, CA</i> <a href="mailto:sadewhip@hotmail.com">sadewhip@hotmail.com</a>	NO	NO	YES

# Barn Hunt with Whippets OR, Sometimes It's Good to Smell a Rat!

Anyone who has been on Facebook over the last two years and has a lot of Whippet friends cannot help but notice that more and more of them are trying the new, fast-growing sport of Barn Hunt. According to the description on the official website for the Barn Hunt Association, the purpose of Barn Hunt is "to demonstrate a dog's vermin hunting ability in finding and marking rats in a "barn-like" setting, using straw/hay bales to introduce climbing and tunneling obstacles in the dog's path. Barn Hunt is based on the skills historically used by itinerant 'ratcatchers' in traveling the countryside, ridding farms of vermin, thus helping conserve and preserve food grains and cutting down on disease."

Whippets, although not specifically included as a traditional ratcatcher's breed, do in fact have a long history as helpful eradicators of vermin and there is likely considerable infusion of terrier blood into the lineages that eventually became the purebred Whippet. It is no wonder, then, that more and more Whippet owners are taking their dogs to Barn Hunt events, and Whippets are increasingly showing up in the placements and title statistics. So, for those who have not yet seen or tried Barn Hunt, here follows a primer.

To participate in Barn Hunt, your dog will need to get a registration number from the BHA. It is a fast and easy process on their website and once you have it, you can enter the events. You can also locate clinics, fun hunts, and official hunts near you. You don't need a number to do clinics or fun

hunts, so if you want to wait until you know if your dog is interested in rats, you can do so. You do not need an AKC # to register your dog or receive a title, so this is also an activity which would also be open to Rescue or adopted Whippets that came without any registration.

If your dog IS registered with the AKC, they will recognize your titles from Barn Hunt for a fee, and add them to your dog's permanent AKC record. Information on how to do this can be found here: [http://www.akc.org/dog\\_shows\\_trials/titles/barn\\_hunt/index.cfm](http://www.akc.org/dog_shows_trials/titles/barn_hunt/index.cfm)

Barn Hunt is one of those deceptive activities that looks very simple, but it is in fact quite challenging. The NQ rate is very high and gets higher as one goes up through the various levels. The first level most people attempt is a one time "test" called Instinct. Three identical-looking tubes are offered in a Barn Hunt ring, and the dog has one minute to correctly indicate which one contains the rat. One tube has a rat and litter, another tube just has litter that has been in contact with rats, and the third tube is empty. Believe me when I tell you there is no way to visually tell which tube is which unless you pick them up and hold them up to your eye. The numerous air holes are very small and you cannot see in at all. Also, you will have to spend time in a "blind" before your run. During that time, you will not be able to see which tube is placed in which location. Dogs about to run must be in the blind with their owners before the judge will arrange the tubes.



Axis Imaging Photo

The rats in the tubes are calm and are often sleeping so tubes will not move or shift. You have to learn what sort of signal your dog makes when it senses the tube with the rat in it and call "RAT!" (or "THIS ONE"—any clear signal will do). One thing I have found in my limited experience is that the duration of the sniffing may not indicate a rat is present. Sometimes they will sniff longer at the tube with the bedding trying to smell if there is a rat in there after all. Once you learn your dog's "cue" or "tell" or "signal", you can usually accurately identify which tube is the right one based on the body language of your dog. If you and your dog pick the right tube, you pass, and your first Barn Hunt title is in the bag—the RATI. Yay! Time to celebrate! You can now say you have a BH titled Whippet! With this burst of confidence, you'll definitely want to tackle higher levels.

Do note that some dogs have a tougher time passing Instinct than they do passing Novice, as they are more interested in the hunt than in smelling tubes out in the open. You can enter Novice without having a RATI and you can continue to enter

Instinct until your dog has obtained the Novice title (RATN), and many people do this to refresh their memory about what their dog's reaction to smelling the live rat is.

In my experience of Barn Hunt, I have seen some of the dogs give a very clear signal—standing off and barking at the correct tube—these were frequently the terriers. Others claw at it madly and bite at it. Whippets are often more subtle. My senior veteran just wrinkles her forehead a little more when she sniffs the tube with the rat. So, the first hurdle to being successful in this activity once you have established that your dog is interested in smelling for rats is to learn to read your dog's body language and know what it reacts like when it detects a tube with a live rat vs. one with aromatic, rat urine and poop-scented bedding.

Great, you have your RATI! You and your Whippet have entered in Novice. Now those three tubes from the Instinct test are hidden. You will enter a ring which is completely enclosed and has a variety of bales stacked in some cases two high. The tubes will be covered

with straw and tucked in various corners around or between bales or the ramps for the toy-sized dogs to climb onto the bales. There are three elements to a qualifying Novice run and these can be done in any order but all must be completed within two minutes. These elements are the "climb" (dog must have all four feet atop at least one bale at some point), the "tunnel" (there will be a straight tunnel made from bales and the dog must go through it), and of course, the dog must find and correctly identify the tube with the rat and you must call out to the judge that he has found it.

Three qualifying performances will earn you the RATN, and as of the date of this writing 65 Whippets have earned this title based on the listing on the BHA website. After that it gets much harder to go up through the levels as the dog must do more climbing to find hidden tubes, there are more tubes to find, and more difficult courses and tunnels. If you've gotten this far you've no doubt already watched these higher levels and will understand those rules and so I'll not summarize them here. But rest assured, it goes all the way up to Master, and the failure rate there is VERY high even with good working dogs that are insane to find those rats.

Dogs run naked and except for brief praise or restraint when the rat is correctly found, you may not touch them to guide them in any way. Bitches in season are allowed to run at the end in panties. If the dog marks or fouls the Barn Hunt ring it is immediately disqualified. The Barn Hunt rings are completely enclosed with high

barriers and so your dog will not escape the ring and you need not fear removing the collar and lead at the start of your run.

People who have not yet been around the rats and tubes used for Barn Hunt may well be concerned about the stress for the rats. But these rats are not wild rats. They are instead selectively bred for sociability and being calm when confined in their little tube habitats with snacks and bedding and therefore, it is no more cruel to the rats to be participating in this sport than it is for the dogs who will be confined in comfortable crates with bedding until their turn to hunt. In a rat "meet and greet" my own Whippets attended, the rat in the little cage came up fearlessly to sniff at the questing nose of my Whippets. I had no idea domestic rats could be like this. In fact, they do seem to make friendly and charming small pets.

Barn Hunt is a safe and fun activity for senior dogs, older folks, and for people with minor mobility issues. Although the dogs must be able to climb on a bale, the owner is only required to manoeuvre around a short course with good footing that is flat. All the rings and venue must be handicapped accessible. You can start a dog in Barn Hunt as early as six months of age, and only dogs who would be considered by the judge to be in pain trying to complete a BH course would be prohibited from the competition, so as long as your dog has sufficient mobility to climb on a bale, he can do Novice, and Instinct requires no

climbing at all.

Interested? Don't listen to me, let those AWC Members and Member-applicants whose dogs have earned at least the RATN title in Barn Hunt tell you why you should give this activity a try, or at least encourage your novice puppy buyers or friends to check it out.

Cheryl Boyer has titled several of her Whippets and has experience in other areas where olfactory talent is required. "I have always been amazed at what my girls can do with their nose as well as their sight talents. Big Mo's first title at about 6 months was a tracking title. Corky had a tracking title, too, and was the best in her nose work group. It is almost awe-inspiring to watch them do what they can do with their nose and I regretted that we were not able to continue tracking. Nose work is amazing, but very scarce and lots of upfront costs to get started in competition (surprisingly). When I saw a Barn Hunt workshop I thought 'why not?' and my girls really liked it. It is more available in this area than other sports using the nose."

Gail Ball said, "I chose to try out this sport as my Whippets

are very fond of hunting around the yard and fields, and thought they might enjoy the challenge of Barn Hunt. As it turns out 3 of my 5 are very interested. The other 2 not so much."

Kristy Thomas, whose Whippet "Eats" has the distinction of being the first Whippet to earn a RATN title, decided to try it because she thought Whippets as a breed might be well-suited for a vermin sport.

Donna Miner was looking for something safe to keep her young athlete mentally-engaged while rehabbing from an injury. Gail also appreciated the sport's accessibility to dogs with prior injuries. "One of my Whippets has a leg injury which knocked him out of doing lure coursing, agility, and flyball. But he can do Barn Hunt which really makes me happy he can do something even though he has limited mobility in his right hind leg. And he absolutely loves it and it makes him happy he can do it. Even my 11 year old loves doing it. Actually he's my best Barn Hunter. Only needs one more leg for his Senior title (NB: Since this interview was conducted in early 2015, Gail's dog became the first Senior Titled Barn Hunt Whippet)! He was actually the



# On the Cover - Jack

Oh Jack. I wanted a doberman to guard my house, not another whippet, so saying "yes" to fostering you was easy because I told Guin there was no way you were saying. Then our doorbell rang and you barked like a doberman at those poor Jehovah's Witnesses. I had my guard dog. You even taught Koda how to bark at strangers. And now she won't shut up. And you stuck up for Koda when you thought Imari was getting the better of her. That was cool. Koda can be a bit sensitive, but, in you, she had a protector. That wasn't always an easy task for you: Especially when Koda would start something with another dog and you -- the gentle soul who never had a beef with another canine -- would end up paying the price for her big mouth.

How did your prior owners ever let you go? You were such a GOOD dog: The perfect, well-behaved gentleman in every way. Every single person who visited our house fell in love with you. Don't let the others know, but you were everyone's favorite, with your soulful eyes, gentle demeanor, and extra soft fur. You even have fans in other states who would ask to see pictures of you. And you won my mom over too -- that is not an easy thing to do.

I know there was that one time that you tore open and consumed an entire bag of Zuke's chondroitin treats, but, really, I inadvertently set you up for that by leaving your most favorite treats in a box on the floor. I loved how you let Koda take the fall for that -- until the inevitable gastronomical effects of eating too much chondroitin gave you away.

Your prior owners said you nipped their children, but you LOVED kids -- especially when they had sticky fingers for you to lick. Guin and I were also told that you didn't like toys, but you not only loved toys, you hoarded them. I'll never forget watching you methodically select very specific toys from the toy box, then carry them one by one to your bed, to create a toy fortress. We would put them back, you would retrieve them and reassemble your fortress. Stuffed monkeys were your favorite. When I see a monkey toy, I think of you and smile. I knew we would have to say good-bye soon when you stopped hoarding your monkeys. I am quite sure your heaven is filled with screaming monkeys whose vocal boxes never break, cozy cave beds, sunbathing, and open bags of ZUKES!!! I hope that you have learned to like sofas too. I wish we had been able to persuade you that sofas truly are for good dogs.

DINA



## A GENTLE REMINDER...

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## NCWFA Google Email Group

**CLUB NEWS! PHOTOS! FUN WHIPPET STUFF!**

All members that we have a current e-mail address for have been signed up for the NEW NCWFA Members Email Group! This is a Google Group, open to NCWFA members only. If you are not signed up, please contact Guin Borstel at [milescross@gmail.com](mailto:milescross@gmail.com) and she can add you.

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## DON MCGUIRE

May 11, 1950 Dec. 11, 2015

Don Stevenson McGuire always surprised us. There were few people he met in life whom he did not affect. Don died very unexpectedly, but peacefully, Dec. 11, 2015, near his home in Pebble Beach, Calif., where he lived with his loving wife of 29 years, Clay (Felchlin) McGuire. Don was born May 21, 1950, in San Francisco, to Elinor (Stevenson) McGuire of Portland and John Clark McGuire of Hingham, Mass. After a varied educational experience at schools here and abroad, Don settled into the San Francisco Art Institute and was deeply inspired by his photography professor, Jerry Burchard. Don was a wonderful photographer and really brought out the soul of his subjects as well as producing perfect prints and images. Later with digital equipment, he was integral in the family's business, McGuire Furniture where he ran the in-house publicity department. When Don and Clay retired to their favorite place on earth, Pebble Beach, they became engrossed in Whippets, raising champions, racing winners and becoming very active in the rescue and placement of needful dogs. Sometimes having up to seven dogs in their personal care at one time, Don would cut quite an eccentric figure shepherding a brace of the elegant creatures through the woods of Del Monte, Calif., and on the beaches of Big Sur, Calif. Don is survived by his wife, Clay; only sister, Jean Coleman of Portland and beautiful children by Page Coleman, Mark, Amanda, Jessie, John and Don; the large, close clan of Stevenson cousins of the Pacific Northwest; brothers-in-law, Chris and Tim Felchlin, and Vera Felchlin; nephew, Chris Felchlin and boys, Jake and Alex; niece, Sarah Underhill and boys, Mason and Cedar; and remaining Whippets, Monty, Tiger and Luna. Don will be missed by all, including his close friend and mentor, Frank Doodha of Ross, Calif., and the wonderful members of the Whippet Associations who meant so much to him.



first Whippet to earn the RATO." Cheryl agrees. "It is a wonderful sport for older dogs or those too young to compete in other active sports."

My sources have somewhat varied views on the inherent aptitude of the Whippet breed. Donna Miner states, "I would say Whippets are slightly disadvantaged compared to terrier breeds that compete in Earthdog, however a well-trained Whippet can certainly hold its own and hit the placement ribbons in competition." Lauri Austin replies, "From what we've seen, the aptitude varies pretty widely across Whippets. Some are naturals, and some simply aren't that interested in something that's not moving. But those that do have interest in scent work and finding the rats seem to do extremely well, typically finishing in the placements."

Cheryl has watched a lot of Barn Hunt, and has this to add, "After watching maybe 100 other dogs in the same circumstances as mine, I have concluded that it depends more on the dog than the breed. Working breeds may have a greater desire to please, as a group, and terriers are bred to seek vermin, but my girls hold their own. If the Whippet knows how to focus, likes to play and likes to use its nose, they do very well indeed."

Kristy Thomas downplays the enjoyment that her Whippets get from hunting the rats. "Rather than them being excited with finding vermin I find the dogs are doing a task I ask of them and while they enjoy finding the rat, it really seems they are doing it for me. The longer we do the sport the more that rings true for my two

Whippets. The reward is very low to them."

Kristy has a strategy that has been adopted by a number of Barn Hunt enthusiasts, including AWC Member Erin McNeill—the acquisition of a rat or rats as small household pets that can also be used to practice Barn Hunt at home. Kristy says, "One must train your Whippet to find the rat by scent alone. The only way I have done as well as I have is because I train using a rat. We own a rat and use a tube, hiding it around the house and have them find it and we make a big deal of the find. I think having a rat at least at the beginning would be very helpful."

Donna Miner cautions new enthusiasts from trying to push their Whippet too fast into the higher titling events.

"Whippets can do very well in this sport, provided they are afforded the ability to learn the various elements of the sport before being thrown headlong into competition. It seems that dogs that come into the sport without much training can have early success only to have their responses wane over time. Time spent training strong, readable signals before entering your Whippet in competition events will pay off with better long-term success."

If you do have a Whippet who takes to the sport, the positives are MANY. One facet that is mentioned again and again when I talk with current Barn Hunt competitors is the great atmosphere and sportsmanship. "If I had to pick just one aspect," Lauri Austin replied, "I'd say it was the quality of the fellow competitors. We have found them to be consistently friendly, genuinely happy for

our successes and very accommodating for special needs." Kristy points out another frequently-mentioned positive, "Best selling point-- a new experience where the chance of getting hurt is pretty low (in the realm of Whippet life). Something to do together, it is a team sport. Can do it in old age ~ both me and dog!"

Kristy, I think that's still a long way off for you, but kudos for planning ahead!

Erin, who also does obedience and lure coursing, has this take on Whippets in Barn Hunt: "For me, it combines some of the best parts of lure coursing and rally. The dogs get to hunt and be dogs, we get to work as a team, there is objective scoring, and Whippets are naturally good at it rather than being a square peg trying to fit a round, Border Collie sized hole." Gail declares, "I love Barn Hunt because it is really awesome to see your Whippet use his nose and brains to figure out where the rats are. It is really amazing to me even though they are sight hounds they know how to use their nose to find the prey!"

Lauri agrees that Whippets are generally well-suited. "I don't think there are any special challenges for Whippets - assuming they have any interest in rats, because they are smart, fast, agile and enjoy hunting. Pretty much a perfect match for the sport."

Donna does caution that Barn Hunt depending on location and time of year can be very chilly for both the Whippet and the owner, but adds, "The simplicity of the sport is very appealing. There are three basic elements to competition: The Climb, The Tunnel, and Find-

ing the Rat. In addition, the rules are clear and easy to remember. It is especially helpful that the judge offers a review of the rules before each competition. This makes it a sport in which a new participant can experience success rather quickly in comparison to other areas of endeavor."

Lauri stresses that understanding the rulebook thoroughly is very important to being a successful teammate for your BH dog. "As I mentioned, we tried Barn Hunt primarily for our Weimaraner. He's been our Whippets' mascot for years at all their performance events, and he needed a job, too. Never in my wildest dreams did I think that my Whippet, Moe, would have even more natural aptitude for it than my Weimaraner. Moe finished his RATO title with only a few NQs (most of which were due to my blatant handling errors - not only should handlers read the rule book multiple times, but it's good to actually remember the rules during competition!) and his first leg for his RATO title was also a High in Class, in a field of almost 20 dogs. While people at the trials seem surprised at how well a Whippet does, everyone seems to get a kick out of how much fun Moe has doing it. He has generated a lot of laughter during his short Barn Hunt career."

**Article by Karen Lee, who was sufficiently inspired by these interviews to train two RATO Whippets and at this time has the first and so far only RAT Master-titled Whippet in the breed, and is going for the first Whippet RATCH.**



## Rawr! Greet Spring @ the NCWFA Meeting 3/26!

Come to the next NCWFA Meeting, which will be held at the Oakland KC in Vallejo on Saturday, March 26th. Time TBA!

## Inside this Issue...

- All About Barn Hunt.
- A Special Cover-Dog.
- A Tribute to a Special Man.
- Updated Vet/breeder list, meeting minutes, Rover Reporter & lots o' fun photos in full color!!!!

### NCWFA NEWSLETTER

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