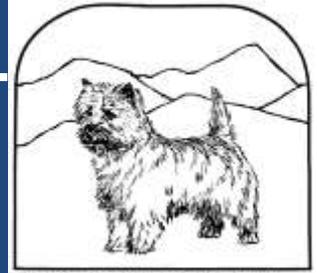


# The Cairn Connection



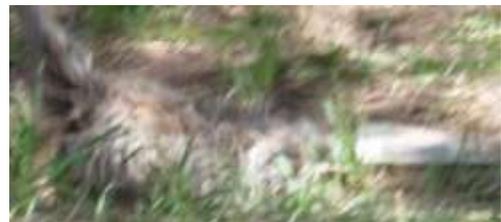
CAIRN TERRIER CLUB OF DENVER

Issue 118

June 2013

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## President's Letter

We just completed another successful and profitable agility trial over the Memorial Day weekend. Proceeds from this trial will support our annual specialty, hospitality and prizes at upcoming performance events, and – weather permitting – future fun days.



We expect a great turnout at our annual Earthdog tests at WildeOaks June 15 and 16 in conjunction with the Rocky Mountain All Terrier Club. We could not hold these events if Dick and Mary Lou Wilde were not such generous hosts. We are also grateful to Ann Brodie: without her rat wrangling expertise, our Cairns could not enjoy Earthdog and Barn Hunt.

Speaking of Barn Hunt, you really need to try it. Cairns love it. Look for details about the sport in an accompanying article in this newsletter, and look for upcoming events at [www.barnhunt.com](http://www.barnhunt.com).

Please join us at our annual specialty in Greeley on August 16. Our show chair, Sandy Trzos, has done a great job of managing all of the details for this event (in addition to chairing the Earthdog tests and assisting with all of our agility activities). CTCD will offer a delicious (and free) breakfast spread ringside, and we are hosting a free seminar on barking Friday afternoon. Stay for the banquet Friday evening. Chris and Christel Gray do a fabulous job of coordinating a fun evening, and the dinner is subsidized by CTCD.

Finally, CTCD performance members are working hard to ensure that all Cairns have a great time at the upcoming Terrier Only Performance Summit (TOPS), which is sponsored by RMATC. Imagine a room full of more than 100 working terriers, not barking. It is a fun event.

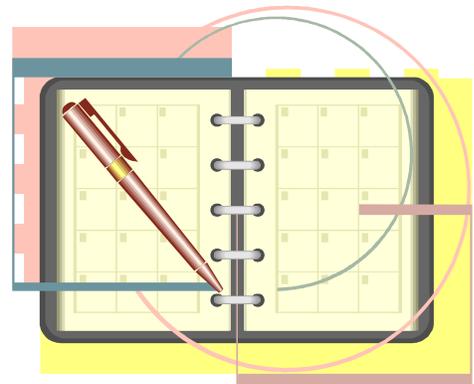
# Andrea

Mark it in your calendar

NOW—

CTCD Annual Specialty

Friday, August 16



## Companion Events—Barn Hunt

### Digging Barn Hunt

*By Andrea Faucette*

In April, I signed up Aleck and Mack for a Barn Hunt test, the first such test in Colorado and the second in the nation. My intent was to attend one test so I could evaluate the game as a potential activity for our club and write an article about it. It only took a few moments to realize that our Cairns were born to play this game, and I was hooked.

Barn Hunt is not complicated. The Colorado tests were held in an old, rarely used sheep barn at Jefferson County Fairground. Organizers marked off the test area (about 20' x 20') with x-pens and created a small maze out of hay bales stacked two to three bales high, including one short tunnel.

For the novice class, the judge hides three PVC tubes in the maze while the handlers and dogs waiting to compete are not in the room. One tube is empty, one holds rat bedding, and the third houses a live rat. The point of the game is for the dog to alert the owner to the tube containing the live rat within two minutes. The owner tells the judge the dog found the rat, and if the team is correct, they qualify. Successful teams are ranked according to how quickly they discover the rat, so speed matters. Dogs also have to stand on a bale and go through the tunnel, not a significant challenge for our Cairns.

Unlike other instinct tests like Earthdog and Lure Coursing, Barn Hunt gives the handler an important role in the game, since the handler must recognize the dog's signal. Some dogs are easier than others. Aleck seizes the tube with his front paws and hurls it behind him, like a center hiking the ball to his quarterback. He then shreds the hay bales that sheltered the rat.

Mack, who is barely a year old, is quicker to the rat but more restrained in his mark. He snorts when he finds the rat, and if I wait too long to call it and grab him, he will lift his leg on it, an instant disqualification.

Other dogs indicate the rat with subtle signals. Some sit and look at their owners. Some sniff harder or whine a little. Nervous handlers sometimes miss marks that are obvious to spectators. A Labrador Retriever, for example, laid her paw on the hay bale containing the rat, but the owner missed the mark and repeatedly called the dog off to other areas in the maze.

Barn Hunt is a cinch to hold compared to other companion events or specialties. It requires very little space and can be held indoors or outside, so it can be held all year long in all parts of the country. Tests require no expensive equipment, mats, or underground tunnels – only x-pens, a few dozen hay bales, and rats are required. We are grateful to Ann Brodie, Colorado's rat wrangler, for providing rats for all of our Earthdog and Barn Hunt activities.

AKC does not regulate Barn Hunt tests, but for a fee, AKC will accept Barn Hunt titles. CTCA does not yet allow Barn Hunt titles to count towards versatility awards, but my guess is that it will in the future as the sport matures.

Even if you are not looking for another weekend dog activity, you should try this fun new event. Charles Schulz once said that a human's greatest contribution is to "go home and make your dog happy." He (and Snoopy) would have loved Barn Hunt.



## Companion Events—Lure Coursing

### Cairns Conquer Coursing (Again)!

By Suzanne Trzos

On April 27 – 28, the Colorado Rhodesian Ridgeback Club and the Rocky Mountain Borzoi Club held Coursing Ability Test (CAT) events at Peyton, Colorado. The CAT is one of the more recently AKC approved events in which dogs of all breeds, not just coursing breeds, can compete for titles. As you

looked around the field on Saturday morning you saw dogs of all shapes, sizes, and breeds checking in and staring longingly at the white plastic bags being attached as “lures” to the lines making up the 600 and 300 yard courses used for CAT events. Although there were several representatives of the traditional coursing breeds like Whippets, Borzois, and Rhodesian Ridgebacks present, I also noticed that the largest group present appeared to be.... TERRIERS! There were Australian Terriers, Border Terriers, Miniature Bull Terriers, Miniature Schnauzers, Norfolk Terriers, Norwich Terriers, Parson Russell Terriers, West Highland White Terriers, and, of course, Cairn Terriers! All of the terriers seemed more than willing to demonstrate, as many of us know from our experiences with our terriers, that **BIG** prey drive can come in small packages.

The weather was nice for most of the weekend, although there was a “dust devil” pause and a few impressively windy moments! During the course of the weekend, 14 Cairn Terriers competed and all of them qualified at least twice while showing off the energy, enthusiasm, and drive that Cairns demonstrate when doing something they love. Of the 14 Cairns that participated, 7 completed the 3 qualifying runs needed to earn their Coursing Ability (CA) titles (Abbey, Annie, Bean, Chase, Jilly, Kin, and Skye), several completed qualifying runs towards their Coursing Ability Advanced (CAA) titles (CAA = 10 qualifying runs), and 1 completed her CAA title (Callie).



Photo provided by Jerry Knaus

On Sunday, some of our Cairns decided it wasn't enough just to compete in coursing when they could also demonstrate one of their other skills for the captive audience – earthdog nosework! At about halfway around the 300 yard course, the

first Cairn suddenly stopped, sniffed, and began to roll on her back at a spot next to the course. She seemed so intrigued with the spot that the course crew stopped the lure and headed over to see what was there, but were unable to find anything. When it came time for the second Cairn to run, she also stopped at the same spot, sniffed, and began to roll around. This Cairn, however, recognizing that the course crew was, after all, only human, and didn't have her earthdog nose skills, kindly waited for them to arrive and then pointed out what she had found....a dead mole! Once the Cairns had completed their unscheduled earthdog demonstration and the mole was removed, the dogs were ready to continue with coursing and all of the Cairns, including the 2 “earthdoggers” (allowed a rerun), finished the course successfully and well within time! Go Cairns!



Jilly pointing out dead mole to coursing crew

Abbey enjoying “dead mole roll”



Photos provided by KC's Snaps

## Summer Safety Tips from the AKC

From the AKC website. Thanks to Fred Trzos for submitting.

- ⊗ If kept outside, make sure your pet has plenty of shade. Remember that doghouses are not good shelter during the summer as they can trap heat.
- ⊗ Make sure your dog has access to plenty of cool, fresh water 24 hours a day. If your dog travels with you, bring along water and a bowl.
- ⊗ Never leave your dog in a vehicle on a warm day. Even with the windows open the temperature inside a car can rise to over 100 degrees in a matter of minutes.
- ⊗ It's fun to take your dog with you to run errands, but if you can't bring your dog inside the store, it's best to leave him home. Tying a dog outside a store is dangerous because he is exposed to the hot sun and strangers who could be unkind.
- ⊗ Avoid strenuous exercise on extremely hot days. Take walks in the early mornings or evenings, when the sun's heat is less intense.
- ⊗ Make sure your dog's vaccinations are up-to-date. Dogs tend to stay outdoors longer and come into contact with other animals more during the summer months.
- ⊗ Keep dogs off lawns that have been chemically treated or fertilized for 24 hours (or according to package instructions), and away from potentially toxic plants and flowers. Visit [http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public\\_education/hazardous\\_plants.pdf](http://www.akc.org/pdfs/public_education/hazardous_plants.pdf) for a list of toxic plants.
- ⊗ Mosquitoes (which carry heartworm disease) along with fleas and ticks are more prevalent in warmer months. Ask your veterinarian for an effective preventive to keep these parasites off your dog.
- ⊗ Many dogs like swimming, but some cannot swim or may not like the water. Be conscious of your dog's preferences and skills before putting him in the water.
- ⊗ Always supervise your pet while swimming.
- ⊗ Chlorine from pools and bacteria from streams, lakes and ponds can be toxic for a dog's system. Always rinse your dog with clean water after swimming. Beware of the wildlife that may pose a danger to your swimming pet. Some catfish are known for attacking small dogs.
- ⊗ Many airlines will not ship animals during summer months due to dangers caused by hot weather. Some will only allow dogs to fly in the early morning or in the evening. Check with your airlines for specific rules. Shipping policies can be found at [http://www.akc.org/pdfs/canine\\_legislation/airline\\_chart\\_0605.pdf](http://www.akc.org/pdfs/canine_legislation/airline_chart_0605.pdf).
- ⊗ If traveling by car, keep your dog cool by putting icepacks such as frozen water bottles in his crate. DO NOT use freezer ice packs which contain poisonous materials. Make sure the crate is well ventilated. For more traveling tips visit [http://www.akc.org/public\\_education/travel.cfm](http://www.akc.org/public_education/travel.cfm).
- ⊗ Be aware that asphalt can quickly get hot enough to burn the pads of dogs' paws. In hot weather, walk your dog on the grass or dirt where is it cooler.



AMERICAN  
KENNEL CLUB<sup>SM</sup>

## Breeders' Corner

### Is Quality Breeding Important?

*By Ray Daniels, SkyeHigh Cairns*

As a Cairn Breeder, I constantly look for ways to improve my knowledge of the breed. This is a broad field. Most recently I enrolled into an online course, Canine Theriogenology for Dog Enthusiasts. The more I learn about breeding, the more I realize how much there is to know. Being a responsible breeder is so much more than putting two Cairns of opposite sex into a room and having puppies. I believe the foundation of successful breeding is research. Understanding the physiology of the reproduction process and knowing what to look for and test for improves chances of whelping healthy puppies. This certainly is important, but to preserve the Cairn Terrier breed attributes, careful selection of breeding partners and brood bitches is paramount.

I cannot overstate how important it is to know as much as possible about the pedigrees of potential breeding partners. Researching their health histories, dispositions, and the conformation attributes of offspring provides insights for making the best breeding decision possible. Sometimes doing this research takes me to long time breeders that have first-hand knowledge of different lines and about specific members of a pedigree. Obviously this is easier in the US than in foreign countries.

Being able to carefully “go over” a potential breeding partner provides first-hand assessment of this dog’s strengths and weakness. Does this potential breeding partner have the attributes that can compliment the attributes of your female? Knowledge of the potential stud dog’s offspring is an important consideration. Does he produce healthy, consistent litters with traits typical of the breed? Of course, the brood bitch has an influence. By knowing your brood bitch, you can get an insight into what your litter may look like if you breed to him. Breeder’s lore suggests many times puppies will “look like their grandparents”.

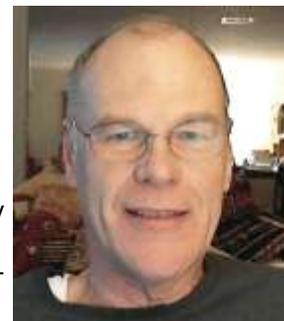
I have observed that breeders sometimes are tempted to short cut doing the research and breed to a dog because he is a current “big winner”. Sometimes breeders get lucky and get an offspring with which they can “win”. Usually it is much more difficult to get lucky in successive breedings. Some breeders select a stud dog because he's owned by their friend; and sometimes because the dog is nearby and his service is convenient. If a stud dog does not appear to have the qualifications to strengthen your bitch's weaknesses/faults and move toward producing puppies that conform to our breed standard, then he should not be used.

When we are exacting in our breeding programs, undesirable traits and health issues can be minimized and potentially removed from the breed. Understanding and making breeding decisions based on health issues (of our line as well as the line of potential breeding partners) is absolutely critical.

So yes, quality breeding is very important and will preserve the traits, health, and longevity of the breeds.

About the author:

Ray Daniels, after retiring from his professional career as an engineer and manager with a major international company, decided (with his wife Linda) to acquire their first Cairn 10 years ago. They got into conformation and become show breeders, owners and handlers. Several litters later and seven finished Champions, including one Grand Champion they are still in love with their Cairns. They participate in their local breed club, Cairn Terrier Club of Denver, and are members of the Cairn Terrier Club of America.



## Rescue Perspective

### Why I Rescue

By Andrea Faucette

Jerry and I volunteered to foster a homeless Cairn at the first CTCD meeting we attended at Wildeoaks about twelve years ago. Our first rescue, Rusty, is more than 15 years old now and too old to climb fences (the reason he came into rescue), but he still helps his man drive around Grand Junction in the front seat of the pick up truck.

One of the things we have learned in rescue is that all kinds of Cairns need new homes for all kinds of reasons. CTCD has rescued retired champions and dogs bred from champion lines, as well as dogs from backyard breeders and puppy mills. We have rescued dogs bred by local breeders and out-of-state breeders. Most dogs, however, come to us with no history.

Some rescued Cairns are perfect, and some are perfectly monstrous. Some are pampered and some are horribly abused. Their birth origins do not predict behaviors or long-term health.

Cairns often come to rescue because their owner dies or is dying. Often, the Cairn is willed to a family member, and the new family either contacts us, or they dump the dog in a shelter. CTCD rescued a beautiful Cairn whose young owners died in a car accident while on vacation in Colorado. The breeder would have had no chance of recovering this dog, but we imagine he or she is grateful that CTCD was able to find a great home for him.

During the Iraq surge, National Guard reservists contacted rescue when they were called up to active duty. I am proud that our club could provide a measure of comfort to these servicemen and women by finding great new homes for their beloved pets.

The Great Recession created enormous stress for many families, animal shelters, and rescue groups. CTCD members received emails from Harry Cornelius pleading for new foster homes because every day brought desperate requests for help with homeless Cairns. Shelters filled to capacity. In addition to the surge in homeless pets, people stopped adopting dogs and buying puppies.

During this period, some of our conformation members quit breeding because they had trouble finding good homes for their puppies. Rescue had trouble placing dogs, too. So did the shelters. The good news is that many of the big puppy mills in Kansas and Missouri shut down because they could not sell puppies, either. We hope that the pressure from the national network of rescue organizations discourages these mills from restarting operations (mill puppies tend to be very healthy because only the sturdiest brood stock can survive the horrific living conditions; our primary objection to puppy mills is the mistreatment of the adult dogs).

Rescue does not compete with conformation breeders for homes. Not all good families are willing or able to spend more than \$1,000 on a puppy, and most of them want an adult dog. The rescue group will refer people to our breeders if we know of a breeder trying to rehome a retired champion.

Sit down with members of the rescue squad for an hour and you will hear many heartwarming and heartbreaking stories, like the one about the Cairn who was one of only 11 out of 100 dogs found alive in a multimillion dollar mansion; or the Cairn whose hobby was shredding down pillows at the Broadmoor Hotel;

—Continued on page 8

## Thank You

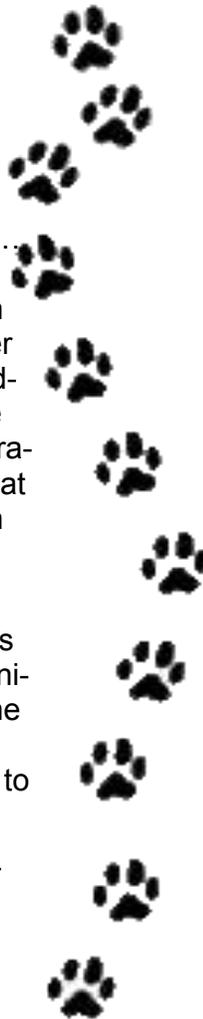
On behalf of the Cairn Terrier Club of Denver, I would like to thank all of you who helped support the Silent Auction and bought t-shirts at the Vizsla / Cairn Terrier Club agility trial over the Memorial Day weekend.

We had some great items donated by vendors and other individuals, and many of you went home with some fantastic things, but it is so much more than that... a check in excess of \$3,200 will be sent this week to the University of Colorado Foundation to be invested in breast cancer research being conducted by Dr. Jennifer Diamond, MD and her colleagues. When the club decided to do this benefit we asked Pat Levy who would she like to have benefit, and she choose University of Colorado Foundation / Dr. Diamond. You should also know that 100% of these proceeds go to research, the foundation retains nothing!

These funds will go a long ways towards continuing research and treatment options for this disease which has touched so many people in our tight knit agility community here in Colorado. If you would like more details on the research being done please drop me a private email, (harry@cairndad.com) and I will pass the details along to you.

You are all truly amazing, you should be proud of yourselves! Thank you for your support.

Harry Cornelius  
on behalf of the Cairn Terrier Club of Denver



For a lovely documentary by Paul Harvey,  
"So God Made a Dog"

Watch the YouTube Video at

<http://www.youtube.com/embed/U7AfSO2fKs>

—Continued from "Rescue Perspective" on page 7

or the Cairn plucked from the Aurora gas chamber at the last moment because the animal control officer thought the father had injured the child and blamed the dog to avoid charges; or the dozens and dozens of Cairns who came into rescue because they were bossy and busy.

We rescue because we love Cairns. For Jerry and me, the perfect Cairn is defined by temperament and not body type. We choose to buy puppies from CTCD club members

because we love puppies and because we want to start working with them as young as possible. We also want to support our member breeders. However, we leave room in our home to help the occasional foster dog because it is rewarding and sometimes very fun, and in spite of the fact that it is sometimes frustrating and disruptive.

Working in rescue has taught us that anything can happen. More than anything, we rescue because we want to help build the safety net that will protect our beloved Cairns should they need the help.

## Brag—Barn Hunt for Abbey

**Test:** Barn Hunt Association Test  
**Date:** April 21, 2013  
**Dog:** Fionn Wee Abbey (Abbey)  
**Owners:** Suzanna Trzos  
**Location:** Golden, CO  
**Judge:** Kathy Engel-Stabler  
**Title:** Barn Hunt Instinct (RATI)



## Brag—Coursing for Callie

- Test:** Coursing Ability Tests conducted by Colorado Rhodesian Ridgeback Club
- Date:** April 27, 2013
- Dog:** CH Paragon's SkyeHigh Caescence, RN, ME, CAA (Callie)
- Owners:** Fred and Sandy Trzos
- Location:** Peyton, CO
- Judge:** Tom Golcher
- Title:** New Coursing Ability Advanced Title (CAA)



## Brag—Coursing for Abbey



**Test:** Coursing Ability Test (CAT)  
Rocky Mountain Borzoi Club

**Date:** April 28, 2013

**Dog:** Fionn Wee Abbey (Abbey)

**Owner:** Suzanne Trzos

**Location:** Peyton, CO

**Judge:** Patty Olney

**Title:** Coursing Ability Title (CA)

## Brag—Conformation for Star and Luck of the Draw

**Show:** Durango Kennel Club  
**Date:** May 18, 2013  
**Dog:** Cairnloch's Tribute to Star (Star)  
**Owners:** Angie and Brian Chiquette  
**Location:** Cortez, CO  
**Judge:** Mrs. Keke Kahn  
**Placements:** 1/W  
**Title:** New Champion

Won a Group 4 in the Bred by Group on May 13 and May 17, 2013

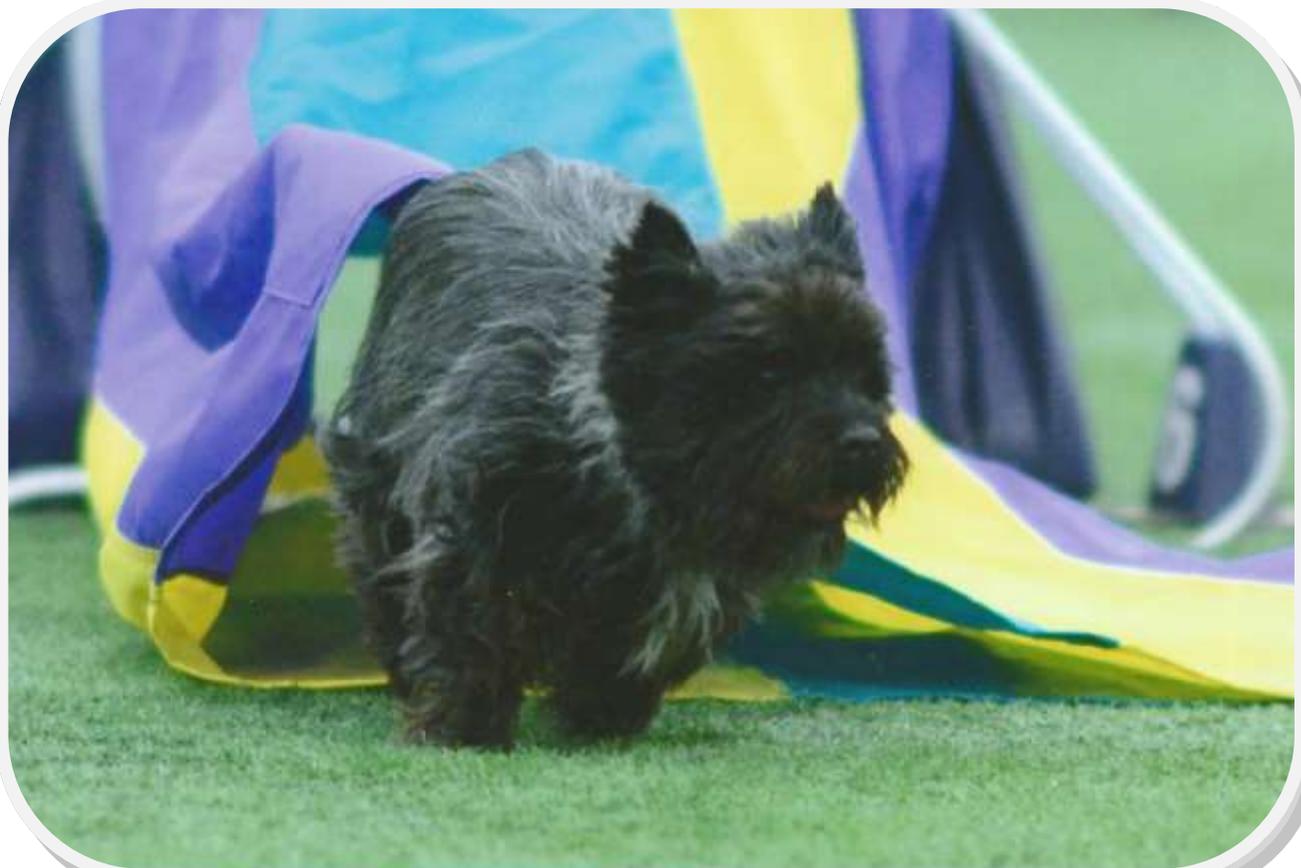


**Show:** Rio Grande Kennel Club  
**Date:** May 12, 2013  
**Dog:** Cairnloch's Makaila's Luck of the Draw  
**Owners:** Barbara Albeck and Margaret Lieber  
**Breeder:** Angie Chiquette and Dawn Phillips  
**Location:** Albuquerque, NM  
**Judge:** Elliot Weiss  
**Placement:** 1/W/BB/BOBOH (over two Specials!)



## Brag—Agility for Thistle

**Trial:** Vizsla and Cairn Terrier Agility Trials  
**Date:** May 26, 2013  
**Dog :** Wildeoaks Soaring With Angels (Thistle)  
**Owner:** Sandra Trzos  
**Location:** Foothills Sports Arena, Lakewood, CO  
**Judge:** Kathy Guerra  
**Placement:** Third Place  
**Title:** AKC Master Jumpers Preferred Title



## Brag—Obedience for Sophie



**Show:** Greater Collin County Kennel Club  
**Date:** April 20, 2013  
**Dog :** Sophie (ILP)  
**Owner:** Sandy Hocking  
**Location:** Mesquite, TX  
**Judge:** Nancy Withers  
**Placement:** First Place Utility A

## Brag—New Skyehigh Litter

**Owners:** Ray and Linda Daniels

**Date of Birth:** May 3, 2013

**Sire:** CH Cairnloch's Commander At Daybreak (Calib)

**Dam:** CH Skyehigh's Cultured Pearl (Pearl)

**Puppies:** 1 Bitch, 3 Dogs  
Naturally Conceived and Whelped



## CTCD Sponsored Events

<b>Earthdog Test</b> WildeOaks	June 15
<b>General Meeting</b> WildeOaks	June 15 noon
<b>Board and General Meeting</b> Denver Dog Sports	July 30
<b>Specialty Conformation</b> Island Grove Park, Greeley	August 16
<b>Terrier Only Performance Summit (TOPS)</b> Schaefer Sports Arena, Denver, 7 am to 3 pm (Friday-Sunday) WildeOaks (Monday)	August 23-25
<b>Board and General Meeting</b> Denver Dog Sports	September 10
<b>Board and General Meeting</b> Denver Dog Sports	October 8
<b>Coursing Ability Test</b> Zoiboys Ranch, Falcon	October 12-13 (tentative)
<b>Earthdog Test</b> WildeOaks	October 19-20
<b>Board and General Meeting</b> Denver Dog Sports	November 5
<b>Agility Trial</b> Denver Dog Sports, 7 am to 4 pm	December 7-8
<b>Christmas Party</b> Date and time to be determined	

Have a Relaxing Summer!

## The Cairn Connection

Editor: **Nancy McNair**

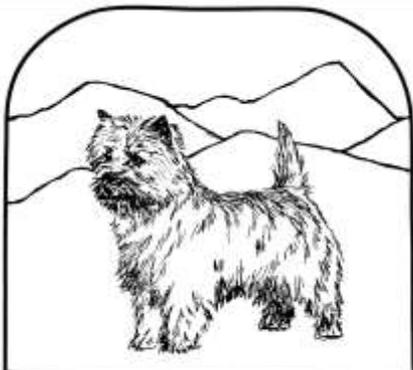
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**We're on the Web**

[www.ctcdenver.com](http://www.ctcdenver.com)



CAIRN TERRIER CLUB OF DENVER



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