

CONFORMATION

GR CH GlenLea's South Shore Qwik Step

July 9, 2011 Ann Arbor Kennel Club, Judge: Mrs. Knowlton Reynders, **Grand Champion Select Award!!!**

July 15, 2011 Holland Kennel Club, Judge: Ms. Linda More, Best of Breed

July 16, 2011 Battle Creek Kennel Club, Judge: James Ham, Best of Breed

July 17, 2011 Battle Creek Kennel Club, Judge: Mrs. Kniola, Best of Breed

South Shore It's All About the Qwik Step

July 9, 2011 Ann Arbor Kennel Club, Judge: Mrs. Knowlton Reynders, Winners Bitch - 1 pt.

July 3, 2011 Lima Kennel Club, Judge: Mrs. Robert Smith, Winners Bitch/Best of Breed-1 pt.

July 17, 2011 Battle Creek Kennel Club, Judge: Mrs. Kniola, Winners Bitch/Best of Opposite-1pt.

We're On The Move!

By Sue Peters

Our Club has been traveling the roads of Michigan attending various pet events. At our booth, we promote the breed, the Club and our Rescue organization. Our Education Committee has provided us with various handouts, including Westie 101. Most locations allow us to sell merchandise for fundraising.

We began the year at the Detroit Kennel Club Show at Cobo Hall. In May, we traveled to Michigan's east side for a pet festival at Bark-a-Bout Training Center in Shelby Township. Memorial Day weekend found us at the Frankenmuth Dog Bowl. We didn't want to slight our friends to the west, so we attended Dog Days in the Park in Grand Rapids.

Below is a list of our upcoming events. Please stop by and say hello!

August 10 6-9 pm	Dog Days in the Park Community Park	Marysville, Michigan
August 20 & 21 10 am – 7 pm	Renaissance Festival Pet Fest Weekend www.michrenfest.com/generalinfo.htm	Fenton, Michigan
October 20 12 pm – 4 pm	Howl-o-ween Lyon Oaks Dog Park	Wixom, Michigan
November 18-20	Metro Detroit Pet Expo Suburban Collection Showplace www.metrodetroitpetexpo.com	Novi, Michigan



Glenninn's Pride

"Glennie"

8/20/00 - 6/6/11



Glennie, an Angel in Life
And now, Living with the Angels in Heaven

Glennie came to us unexpectedly. Every day of his life, he made our lives better. Glennie, my hope is that you had the best life we could possibly give you. You were so shy and had so little confidence at first. I didn't believe anyone could truly have their "best life" if they were afraid. Sometimes you must have wondered why I made you go to school and trials and work so hard. But near the end of your life, you got up on stage and played your role as Toto. We let you do it because you begged to go on stage when you saw Molly doing her part. You showed us how truly brave you had become! Maybe that was the accomplishment that showed God you didn't need to be here any longer. You were already perfect.

Watch for us Glennie. One day we will all be together again.

With so much love,
Mom, Molly and Jake

Most of you know Jake. He is my little "troublemaker". Earlier this year he was making more trouble than usual. He has begun to be more and more crate "aggressive". When he is in the crate, I can control this by covering the crate. But when he is outside the crate and being "aggressive" to the dog in the crate, I had no idea how to deal with it. When it occurs, it happens so quickly that my usual "control" mechanisms don't have time to get in place. I needed help to work through this issue or find a way to control the issue. Without help, we can't continue to enter trials where other dogs are crated. Because he has had two occurrences in a month, I had become very concerned. And I felt it warranted to work with someone in person at this point. After the last incident, I contacted Brenda Aloff in Midland. She is well-known for working with dogs with behavior issues. I was given forms to fill out and return and we set up an appointment. I want to share our session with you in hopes it may help others.

A side trip, first. On Wednesday in class, my instructor mentioned that Jake is totally ignoring his name. Well, I have seen this for some time. It is a large part of my frustration. He seems sometimes to be almost "autistic". He gets into an activity such as running and he mentally goes into a place that I cannot reach. For example, often she tells us that the dog will look for us first when coming out of a tunnel, but Jake seldom looks for me. He looks for the next obstacle regardless of how hard I am trying to get his attention and direct him. Some runs we have, he is more attentive but many runs he is in his own world. This is fine in fly ball and lure racing but not so good in agility and obedience!

On Thursday I decided to give him a nickname; something to which he has never connected anything negative. I figure he has had 5 years of being scolded to the name "Jake". He needs something positive to relate to. I chose "JJ". He seems to like the softer sound and the double syllable. I began to "load" it like you would load a clicker. Name/Treat; Name/Treat. Then I began using it in situations where it was very positive and often involved a treat. It is only Monday and already, he is coming to me quickly when I use his new nickname. (I think this is a great endorsement to the idea of renaming foster dogs when they come from a difficult situation. It is a chance to start fresh.)

Back to the subject at hand. Today we drove up to Midland for our session. I expected to spend the time trying to get him to walk past a crate without reacting to the dog inside. But that did not happen. We never even looked at a crate. The approach by Kim Veldheer (assistant to Brenda Aloff) was totally different. I think hearing of this approach may be very helpful to those of you with Westies who need help. I will try to explain as I understand it.

Their approach is to address "Front Brain" vs. "Hind Brain". Dogs who are reactive are working out of their "hind brain". (I suspect this is what is called the primitive brain in humans.) It is a place where they don't think; they just react. The front brain is what they use when they are thinking and connecting.

While Jake is quite bright, he is most often working out of his "hind brain". He has a hard time switching to the front brain. We need to teach him to use his front brain, to be able to switch from the hind to the front and connect so that he can respond. Why he is this way is hard to say. He has so many things that could have created the situation.

- He was neutered at 8 weeks by Hunte. He never got the "hormones" a dog would normally get. A hormone imbalance may be a reason.
- He was probably taken from mom and litter by 6 weeks and didn't get the things a puppy needs from that environment.
- He was sick and starving at 13 weeks. He barely survived. A nutritional deficit could be at issue.
- We don't know who his parents were. Maybe they were also reactive dogs.
- He was the third dog and got less individual attention as a puppy than did his siblings.

In the end, it doesn't matter. We have to deal with what we have now.

Here are the exercises and what we are hoping to get from them:

Note: Some of these things we have always done with verbal cues. We are taking away all verbal cues to force him to think for himself and take responsibility for doing these things.

1. Eye Contact. Food treat in outstretched arm. JJ gets the treat when he makes eye contact instead of staring at the treat; over time, extend length of eye contact. (We did this when he was a puppy using the clicker. The exercise just faded away over time.)
 - Teaches him to connect to me
2. Food towards Nose. Lower food treat to his nose. JJ must stand still and not reach out or jump up and try to get the food. If he does, the food is pulled back and then offered again when he is back with four on the floor.
 - When giving the food, put it solidly into the mouth with a forward motion, almost pushing it into his mouth so that he isn't trained into snapping to get the food.This is to teach impulse control.
3. Treat on the Floor. Put a treat on the floor. Keep my body between the treat and the dog so that he cannot get the treat. At first do this on leash and as he improves, do it without the leash. As soon as he looks at me instead of the treat, back up so that he comes around with his back to the treat and give him a treat from my hand. He never gets the treat on the floor, not even at the end. This is basically a "leave it" exercise without the words. This teaches impulse control.
4. Back-away. Take 2 - 3 steps forward (on lead) and then back up a step. He comes around to a front. Give treat with the treat right on the leg just below the knee (for a Westie-sized dog). This gets him in close. Do it over and over, in many places. Add distractions as he improves.
 - a. This is to pattern his response to things that make him revert to hind-brain. Sudden environmental changes mean "look to Mom".
 - b. This gives me time to see the issue and redirect attention.
5. Tug/Downs. Play tug with him and then suddenly tell him to "down".
 - a. This is to help him make that switch from hind brain activity to front brain activity. This is something he does not do well. Once he starts getting excited, he cannot focus on me any longer. This will help him focus more quickly.
6. Give treats for "acquisition". That is, give treats when the dog is acquiring a new behavior. It trains him to mark the behavior in his memory.
 - a. Don't give treats for things he already knows. Those treats should be rare at best. HE is responsible for sitting and downing and doesn't need to be paid to do these routine things. (This is something I have heard and tried to do for centuries, it seems. It is the hardest thing in the world to do. We have made progress but need to make much more progress before we will get there.)
7. When he jumps on me in excitement, simply step into his space. That will send him a strong "doggie" message about who is leader.

I've been warned to expect a rebellion as he begins to understand that there is a new "pay scale" in place. And that has always been true in the past and probably the reason I'm so poor at it. But we are ready to try it again.

JJ and I are ready to make a new start.

(Brenda Aloff is giving a seminar in Dexter on August 13 & 14. Her website is www.brendaaloff.com.)



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FIRST CLASS