

# The Cowichan Canine Coacher - additional

February 2012



## NEWS

### **“DOG PLAY” - FREE SEMINAR**

Have you considered taking your dog to a dog park, but aren't sure if you should? Do you want to learn more about reading dog body language and what good play and bad play looks like, so you can keep your dog safe when playing with other dogs?

**Not every dog is, or should be, a "dog park dog"!** The safety and enjoyment of dog parks depends on one thing- dog owner education. This presentation will help teach dog owners watching off-leash play how to recognize red flags and when to step in and help their dog out of a risky situation.

This two-hour presentation is part of our new FREE SEMINAR series, for students and the general public. Bring family, friends and neighbours! Coffee, tea and snacks will be available.

**Saturday 11 February 2012 at 3:00pm**

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### **COWK9 Walking Club**

Our Cowichan Canine Walking Club is starting up! This event is open to dogs and handlers that have either graduated from our Foundation Programme, passed Come When Called level 4, or worked privately with us and been assessed for and passed Come When Called level 4, AND owners must have attended the “Dog Play” seminar. Certain other restrictions apply, inc a liability waiver. Membership Fee \$10.

**All Dogs Walking Club** meets on Sundays at 3pm at the end of Deloume Rd, off Benko Rd in Mill Bay, starting on Sunday 12 February.

**Small Dogs ONLY Walking Club** meets on Tuesdays at 3pm, at the end of Johnston Rd in Duncan, starting on Tuesday 14 February.

Dates and times may vary in future, particularly as evenings get lighter.

**Cowichan Canine Coacher 2012-1**

## London: The Shetland Sheepdog that was Lost—and FOUND

by Judy

### Friday 6 January

I received an email late on Friday evening that London had bolted out her new owners' (Kyle & Stephanie) front door in Saltair. She apparently stopped in front of a lady and her dog -- and started to walk with them, but when she saw her new owner come running after her she high-tailed it down the road. Maybe she thought she was in big trouble and she kept on going. Kyle must have chased her about 8 blocks until he could no longer see her. He went back home and got into his vehicle and drove around for several hours, trying to get a glimpse of her. They searched the area for most of the night, up and down the railway tracks and into the Stocking Creek Park area.



I started my own campaign with the Cowichan & District SPCA and the pound at Herd Road (Coastal Animal Services). Kyle and Stephanie also contacted the veterinarians in the area, as well as the veterinarians, SPCA and dog pound in Nanaimo.

This is a presentation in our new FREE SEMINAR series, for students and the general public. Bring family, friends and neighbours.

### Saturday 7 January

I came out to Saltair early in the morning. We searched everywhere with no sighting of her. I made up some quick posters to put up around the area where she was headed. However, my posters were in black and white so they didn't really show the true colours of the dog. Kyle also posted notes at most sites near mailbox pick-ups. A Great place for posters to reach area residents to inform of any sightings was Byron's Grocery Store on Chemanius Road. They were very nice and helpfully informed their customers about London going missing.

I belong to the Shetland Sheepdog Club of BC and it was suggested by our secretary, Joanne Howe, that we should post to our members of London's disappearance. Club member Sharon Boehm responded quickly with some contact names of people who could help with our search, like Jean Ballard, a volunteer at the Cowichan SPCA, Jill & Gary who work with BC Border Collie Search and Rescue. Other club members were also offering to help with the search.

After Sharon contacted Jean Ballard, the ball got rolling quickly. I am amazed how much it does help to get the word out. I wasn't going to send any emails out, as I figured that I didn't know anybody in the area, so it wouldn't make any difference. Internet is so amazing and with contacts made through the club posting, it made us find London safe.

At Stocking Creek Park, I met Doug Bell, who had heard about London's disappearance through Cowichan Canine's Newflash the night before from one of Stephanie's co-workers, Sandra Robinson [*Newman's mum/Ed.*] He was so generous and stated that he was very committed to help find London. He hiked the trail every day and put up posters in the area and all the way up to Ladysmith. He also met up with the Corix Group that BC Hydro has contracted install the smart meters in the area. They said they would discuss her at their morning meeting and hand out posters to their members and let us know if they spotted her during their work hours.

Still no sightings of London. We decided to place London's crate in a yard where we figured she might visit.

### **Monday 9 January**

I was unable to go up in the morning, but I received a call about 11 am that London was lying in her crate. They were looking right at her when a cell phone went off, so they backed up. They had offered her some food. She then backed out of the crate, stood there for a moment and then left, going down the bank back into the park area. I drove up right away, but by that time she was nowhere to be seen. I met up with a fellow who lives in that area and hikes the Park. He said he saw her that afternoon still around where we had placed her crate. He had a compost pile that he figured she might be eating from.

I put an Ex Pen around her crate and fixed it with a long rope, so if she came back I could just pull the rope and it would contain her. I stayed there that night and watched the crate from 2:30 until 10:30 pm with no luck.

I stayed overnight in order to get an early start with the search in the morning.

### **Tuesday 10 January**

Kyle and Stephanie were trying to locate some type of animal trap. We walked and called her name for hours. Again, no sighting. Linda put up posters in the core of Chemainus and was then so thoughtful as to bring me some hot lunch. Her husband also took posters to the Duncan RCMP.

Jill had gone up to try to get a scent with her tracking dog, but came up with nothing. She asked me to call her the next time we had a sighting of her.

We made up new colour posters and received help from Joniah Wilbee to distribute them. We also brought out some of my other dogs to mark the area and to play and bark in hopes she might hear them and come in.

Jean suggested that we bring a couple dogs to walk the route she made on her flight.

It was frustrating. Another day went by and no one had seen her anywhere. I brought out some bedding that London used to sleep on and Doug suggested I hang it on the clothes lines hoping a new scent would bring her around again.

### **Saturday 14 January**

Kyle had to take a trip to Alberta so I went back out on Saturday. I would stay overnight to be there in case we got a call of a sighting. We searched all day and then again at night in a different area away from where she was last spotted.

### **Sunday 15 January**

I got a call at 8 am that she was on a surveillance camera going through a fellow's back yard. About five minutes later, I got another call that she was spotted and was headed up the Trans Canada Trail towards Stocking Creek Park. I called Doug and asked if he could meet me by Camper's Corner to check out the Park.

Jill & Gary came out with their dogs and we briefly talked to Mike who had spotted her. Just after I got the call, I was able to get to that area in about 10 minutes—but I never saw her. Joggers and other

people hiking the park never spotted her either. I walked around that area for about four hours and was then going to head back to the place where the trap was.

Jill thought it might be a good time to move the trap closer to the place where she was spotted, but first they were going to head through the trails to see if her dog could get a visual sighting of her. We then received a call that Jill saw her pop her head up from the bank and -- Jill's dog brought her up from behind the shed where we had placed the dog trap and she was looking right at her from 3 feet away. Her dog barked at her and she just sat down.

I had her mother, Brie, with me. When she saw Brie, she took a small step forward. I called her, and then she took another step. I was worried she might try to back up and go down the bank again, so I started to back away. Brie followed me. Maybe London thought we were leaving. She moved forward and Jill got her. Yeah!

London was so excited to see her mother ---I think more so than me. Tail wagging and kisses for mom.

I am so happy that we got her before all this cold weather surfaced. She is fine but has lost weight from her nine day adventure. I am so grateful for everyone's help from start to finish.

The main focus is **Get The Word Out**.

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Lost Dog Advice can be found on:

<http://www.missingpet.net/advice/index.html>

<http://www.lostdogsearch.com/>

<http://www.fidofinder.com/find-your-lost-dog.php>