

# Welcome Wagon



The Capitol City Comets would like to thank the following individuals and their dogs for dropping in to meet the team in November.

We hope you all had as much fun meeting and working with us as we did with you! We look forward to having you back to practice and hopefully January 2002 beginner's class!

*Brandi Blakely & Jupiter*



*Julie Bopp & Abby*

*Sean Cain & Quiche Lorraine*



*Susie Radtke & Moose*

*Warren Wish & Jigsaw*



## Health Report: Canine Epilepsy

It is 8:00 p.m. on a windy, cold night. The seizure begins. Shania backs into the corner and slowly loses consciousness as she aimlessly falls to her side. She vocalizes a slow and terrifying whine as her lower muscles start to contract. She then starts to paddle. This goes on for just a few short minutes. It seems like an eternity. Finally, she lays motionless. It is over. Shortly, she will get up. This I have described as a grand-mal seizure.

Watching your beloved dog in the throes of a grand-mal seizure can be the most horrifying moment you will ever witness. The seizure begins with the contraction of the lower muscles and loss of consciousness. The dog will then fall to its side stretched out with head back. Sometimes they will vocalize. Doctors say this does not indicate pain. Often the dog will drool, urinate or defecate. This portion is very brief and leads to the next stage. This consists of clamping of the jaws or paddling/running movements of the legs. Following the seizures, the dog will lay motionless for a brief period. Eventually they will get up and show post seizure

behavior. These signs include: blindness, disorientation, pacing or running around bumping into objects or walls.

Canine Epilepsy is one of the top ten diseases in dogs today. This silent killer recks havoc in the brain, muscle and nerve tissue of your dog's body. Because there are many causes of recurrent seizures, canine epilepsy is not a specific disease or even a single syndrome, but rather a diverse category of disorders. Idiopathic epilepsy means that there is no identifiable brain abnormality other than seizures. Symptomatic epilepsy is seizures that are the consequences of an identifiable lesion or other specific cause.

Some of us feel very alone when friends or relatives do not understand our grief. It takes a very special person with a tremendous amount of courage, love and patience to deal with seizures and keep up their spirits as well. Shania has now crossed over the Rainbow Bridge and she is playing and running seizure-free with all her other border collie friends awaiting the day that Todd and I will return to her.

## Comments For Comets

The Comets website features a Member's Only section dedicated to fulfilling the internal needs of our team. Among other things, such as the Comet Message Board and detailed tournament data, there is a statistics page. This page, unlike the version available to the general public, is used by the team to chart our growth, performance, and ability. This data is compiled through practices and tournaments and is evaluated by the team captain, assistant training director and stacionian to make well informed decisions about our progress and team capabilities. While one could go on for hours about the different types of data collected and the methods we use to compile the information, this month we are focusing in adding handler comments to individual dog pages. A handler's comments are instrumental in the analysis of an individual dog's performance, after all, who knows the dog better than you? To add your comments for your dog for a

particular practice follow the instructions below:

Visit the Comet website at [www.flyballdogs.com/capitolcitycomets](http://www.flyballdogs.com/capitolcitycomets).

Log in to Member's Only.

Press the "Stats" button from the right sidebar.

Scroll down to "Dog Stats."

Click on your dog's name.

As you scroll through the practices on the dog's page, any where you see a "Add Comments" beside the "Handler" category, just click.

Fill out the form and press the submit button.

And that's it! Remember, our dogs are all learning and negative or derogatory language toward your dog is not accepted by the team. However, be honest with your dog and yourself. If your dog does not yet have his or her own stats page, please contact me at [flyball@fashionpup.com](mailto:flyball@fashionpup.com) and I would be more than happy to get one started for you!