



AIREDALE TERRIER CLUB  
OF METROPOLITAN  
WASHINGTON, DC, Inc.  
*Newsletter*

---

[www.airedales-dc.org](http://www.airedales-dc.org)

March 2018

---



Another successful December Scottish Walk!

### Club Officers

President	Corally Burmaster
Vice President	Mary Morningstar
Corresponding Secretary	Ginger Robinson
Recording Secretary	Elaine LaMontagne
Treasurer	Jeanne Esmond

### Directors

Pam McKusick  
Jeff Miller  
Wilder Leavitt  
Jackie Peebles

### Committee Chairs/Coordinators

Airedale Rescue	Pamela McKusick
Breeder Referral	Pamela McKusick
Newsletter	Jessica Rabin
Scottish Parade	Wilder Leavitt
Specialty Ads	Jessica Rabin
Specialty Show	Corally Buraster
Trophies	Deb Todhunter
Website	Karl Broom

**Website:** [www.airedales-dc.org](http://www.airedales-dc.org)

### The Club Objectives

- (a) To encourage those who breed Airedale Terriers to do so responsibly and with the welfare and improvement of the breed having highest priority.
- (b) To urge members and breeders to accept the standard of the breed as approved by the American Kennel Club as the only standard of perfection by which Airedale Terriers shall be judged.
- (c) To do all in its power to protect and advance the interests of the breed by encouraging sportsmanlike competition at dog shows and obedience trials.
- (d) To conduct sanctioned and licensed specialty shows under the rules of the American Kennel Club.
- (d) To institute and maintain programs which promote the welfare of individual Airedale Terriers through rescue and education, and through any other means which the Club considers helpful.

### Newsletter Disclaimer:

Newsletter articles are the views and opinions of the authors and are not official Club policy. Club policy is made only by motions passed by the board or by the voting membership.

## From the Editor

Jessica Rabin

I hope all of our members and their Airedales enjoyed the holiday season. I recently heard the weather from February 17-23 described as "four seasons in a week," from snow and ice to 80 degrees. That seems a fitting way to characterize this issue of the newsletter, as well: our members have had cause for celebration and suffered devastating losses, and their contributions to this newsletter range from light-hearted to solemn. As we reminisce about the Scottish Walk in December and look forward to the Specialty in April and the picnic in May, I hope you will enjoy reading about what your fellow club members are doing with their Airedales and how they are striving to improve their relationships with their dogs.

It is never too early to start thinking about submissions for the next newsletter. You can send in your articles, announcements, or photos at any time. If you have any idea for an article but don't wish to do the writing yourself, I'm happy to help you put your thoughts on paper. Hope you and your Airedale(s) have a great spring!



Willa the "sand angel," spending Christmas holiday on the Florida beach.



## Another Successful Scottish Walk!

On Saturday, December 2, members of the Airedale Terrier Club of Metropolitan Washington, DC, Airedale Terrier Rescue of the Virginias and other Airedale owners joined to walk in the Old Town Alexandria parade. There was a group of approximately thirty people and 20+ well behaved dogs that walked the route on a crisp, cool but dry morning. The parade began at 11:00 AM and the Airedale group passed by the Alexandria dignitary stand about two hours later.

Wilder Leavitt checked in the group with the event organizers and arranged the Airedale owners & dogs behind the Club banners for the walk. There was an enormous turn-out of parade watchers due to the good weather. They applauded the Airedales and petted many as they passed by. It was a lovely event and we're hoping to return next year.







# Ask the Trainer

Ann Riley

## **Q: How do you teach a puppy to stay?**

First, you remember that he is just a puppy! The answer varies depending on the age of the puppy, but if your puppy is 3 or 4 months old you will expect less of him than for a puppy who is, say, 10 months old. Every puppy is different, so the best advice is to fairly evaluate what your puppy is capable of and work to make staying fun and non-stressful. I think the stay is one of the hardest exercises for dogs to master, especially young, active puppies. I hate training stays because I find them really boring. A one minute sit seems like an hour. The out of sight stay in the Open obedience class is torture for me. I can only imagine what it is like for our dogs. It comprises two very difficult things for them, boredom and separation. And, if you are trying to train a stay anywhere around other dogs, people, etc, there might be a level of distraction that your puppy is not ready for.

When training any new exercise, you want to give your dog the best chance possible to succeed and then reward him. Often with stays, we ask too much of the dog too soon and then correct him when he fails. The exercise becomes very stressful, very quickly. Check the mats after the stays at most obedience clubs and you will see a row of sweaty paw prints! If you work gradually, you can teach your dog to stay without stressing him.

Before teaching a stay, you need to have a position. Your puppy needs to have a solid sit and/or down on cue. He should be dropping into position quickly with one word. You should be able to have the dog go into position when he is in front of you and beside you at a minimum. Try giving the dog the cue while you are sitting in a chair or lying on the floor too! Hopefully, you are clicker training and you are clicking to mark the behaviour and release the dog. If you don't have a very solid sit and/or down on cue, you need to do that before you work on stays.

The next step is just to delay the click, maybe by only a second or two at first. Don't use any other cue after the sit or down yet. Don't hold your hand in front him or say anything. Many puppies will throw another behaviour if you don't click and treat right away. If you ask him to sit and he offers you a down or some other behaviour right away, break off and re-do the exercise. He needs to learn to wait for the click before he ends the behaviour.

Once you can give him the cue for sit or down and he will stay in position for a few seconds without any other cues until you click and treat him, you are ready to step away. Tell him to sit (or down) and take one small step forward. (If you are training for obedience competition, make sure you step away on the right foot because stepping with your left will be a cue to heel). Click the moment you step away if he holds his position. Once you have this, I would add the cue. Tell him to stay (you can

use a hand signal too) but do not hold your hand in front of him and do not repeat the command. When you start taking a few steps away, walk forward normally. Do not slink away backward.

Now, you need to work on 3 things: distance, duration, and distraction. You can **ONLY WORK ON ONE OF THEM AT A TIME**. This doesn't mean that you can't work on them in the same day, or even during a training session, but not simultaneously. And when you are working one thing, you are going to make the other two components really easy for him. If your puppy can reliably hold a stay with you standing in front of him for 30 seconds and you want to work on distance, you are going to ask him to stay for 5 seconds while you take a step away. When you introduce distractions, be close and make it short.

## **DURATION**

You should start with duration because you can't work on the other two until you have at least 10 seconds or so. Bear in mind that you are not teaching distraction at this point, so choose a place to train that is familiar to your dog and has no other distractions besides you. Pick a short time and bounce around it. During your training session, you will ask your dog to stay, count 3 seconds click and treat. The next time will be 5 seconds, and the next only 2. You want to change the duration a little each time, but you don't want to always make it longer. Increase duration slowly. If your puppy keeps breaking his stay, you are asking too much. Don't be afraid to back up and shorten the time. You will be more successful if you are rewarding him almost every time than if you set him up to fail and have to correct.

## **DISTANCE**

When you work on distance, you should make the duration piece really easy for the dog. Let's say your dog can hold a stay with you right next to him for 30 seconds, and you want to add distance. You don't want to step away from him and make him wait 30 seconds. Tell him to stay (you can use a hand signal, too). Step away and wait 2 seconds or 5 seconds, and then go right back to your dog or, better, click him from where you are and step back to give him his treat. Don't worry if he gets up when you click. That ends the exercise. Work in small increments as you increase the distance (like 6 inches). Vary your distance like you vary time, so that you are not moving farther away each time. Once you have a little distance, make sure that when you leave your dog you walk away normally and do not slink away backwards.

## **DISTRACTION**

You are going to introduce distractions just like you would for any other exercise. You start with mild distractions and then work up to big ones, and you start with distractions that are far away and bring them closer. What is a big distraction vs a small one? Well, that depends on your dog. Many dogs find other dogs the most distracting thing there is. Others cannot resist a tennis ball, or a squeaky toy, or food. You have to know your dog. Some dogs are more likely to



break a stay to go after something they really like, while others find it harder to resist what they hate. Others are skittish and are more likely to break because they are afraid. Know what motivates or upsets your dog and help him learn to resist temptation and trust that he is safe if you put him there.

Finally, have a plan for what you will do if your dog breaks. With a puppy, you are probably just going to let him know he missed his chance and give him another try. The worst thing to do is set him to fail over and over. He will get frustrated and stressed, and so will you. In addition, if he is breaking while you are away from him and you come back when he stands up, you are rewarding the breaking to some degree, even if you punish him. Avoid this cycle at all costs! Set him up for success and reward as much as humanly possible. This may mean holding off on too much stay training until he is a little older and has more focus. I don't do too much with stays in very young puppies because I think it is too much to ask. The most critical thing for me is getting the dog to hold or repeat any behaviour I ask for until he is released.

## ATCMW Online

Karl Broom

One of the ways we try to attract interest in our club's activities is online. The "official" site is our web page at <http://www.airedales-dc.org/>. With the assistance of our webmaster, I post announcements about upcoming events, and reports and photos of various club activities, and anything else of an official nature.



We also have a page on Facebook that I established about four years ago. Although Facebook considers me the owner, it is open to all. The page has been seen by several thousand people and we have over 500 likes. We've connected with people new to the area and several looking for an Airedale.

When our club was founded, more than 60 years ago, most members were showing in conformation, although there was interest in health and rescue of Airedales in need of a new home. Today, our interest in health and rescue continues, but most of us are now into training and activities shared with our Airedales.

Let's show others what we are doing. That will make our Facebook page more attractive and increase traffic to it. Please feel free to post photos, video, and/or notes about what you are doing with your Airedale - no need to ask permission - just do it!

A holiday present arrived early for Nancy Nykamp, daughter, Olivia, and Bailey their Airedale. On December 2d at the Chesapeake Kennel Club of Maryland Dog Show, Judge Charles Olvis awarded Bailey Best of Opposite Sex. This win fulfilled the requirements for Bailey to earn the Grand Champion title. Nancy trained, groomed and showed Bailey to her Grand Championship. Nancy and Bailey are all smiles with this hard earned holiday accomplishment.



GCh. Joval Opportunity Knocks

## Specialty Shows...what are they?

"Conformation" is the official name for "dog shows." While conformation shows may seem glamorous, their true purpose is to evaluate breeding stock. The dog's conformation—his overall appearance and structure—is an indication of the dog's ability to produce quality purebred puppies, and that is what is being judged in the ring.

There are "all breed" shows where any or all of the 190 AKC recognized breeds can compete for points towards a championship. "Specialty" shows are shows that are limited to just one breed. They are put on by either a national breed club, such as the Airedale Terrier Club of America, or one of the regional breed clubs around the country, such as our Airedale Terrier Club of Metropolitan Washington.



# Save the Dates

## April 20, 2018

The ATCMW will hold its annual Specialty on April 20, 2018 at the Maryland State Fairgrounds in Timonium, MD. The Club held its first AKC-sanctioned matches in 1968-1970, and the AKC approval for our own Specialty was granted us in early 1971. Our first Specialty was held at the Rock Creek Kennel Club show in October of 1971, with 45 Airedales competing. The 1972 Specialty was also held with Rock Creek. In 1973, our Club was one of the original three member-clubs holding specialties with the newly formed Columbia Terrier Association of Maryland. Since then, our Specialty has been held with CTAM in April of each year. **This will be our 47th annual Specialty!**

It's an indoor show, so weather's not a factor, and the shopping for dog products and toys is great! Our Club will have a Hospitality table where we can meet and greet.

More details when we know the judging time for Airedales.

## May 26, 2018

The Club will host the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual ATCMW Bethesda Picnic on Saturday, May 26 from 10:00AM to 2:00PM at the Cabin John Regional Park in Bethesda, Maryland. Please mark your calendars and come out and join us with your Airedale(s) to share some good food and socialize with your fellow club members and their dogs. We will have a general membership meeting, serve a delicious lunch, take some photos, and meet each other's dogs. Additionally, this will be the first session of a two-part series of training and certification opportunities for the newly-created **American Kennel Club Trick Dog** title. During the Bethesda Picnic, we will explain the Trick Dog title requirements, share some training ideas, and offer a few practical training demonstrations. At the Frying Pan Park Picnic in September, we will provide you and your Airedale with an opportunity to take the AKC Trick Dog test and earn the title. This is a great opportunity to teach your dog something new and enhance your relationship with your beloved Airedale.

Last year's Bethesda event was very well attended and everyone had a great time. Please come and join us. We look forward to seeing you there this year.

## September 15 2018

Our very popular picnic at Frying Pan Park!! In addition to our Club meeting, we will have a picnic and a testing session aimed at certifying dogs who are ready to earn their AKC Trick Dog Novice title!



The ATCMW *presents*

## AN ENCORE EVENT!!!



***Another Parent Club Approved Judge for our Specialty!***

***Margo Dupre*** has been a breeder and owner-handler for 50+ years with over 75 "Traymar" champions to her name.

### 3 Days of Shows

April 20, 2018 Columbia Terrier Association of Maryland  
Airedale Terrier Club of Metropolitan Washington  
Sweepstakes - Phillip Weinberger  
Regular Classes - Margo Dupre

April 21, 2018 Old Dominion Kennel Club  
Mr. Charles Olvis

April 22, 2018 Baltimore County Kennel Club  
Mrs. Charlotte P. Patterson

All 3 shows held indoors in a spacious, well-lit, climate-controlled building. Grooming space is plentiful, stretching along both long sides of the building, with the roomy show rings clustered in the center. Outside, unlimited paved parking for both cars and RVs surrounding the Exhibition Hall.

***COME JOIN US FOR ANOTHER "SPECIAL" SPECIALTY!***

## It's a Family Affair, Plus 2

Ginger Robinson

This past August, Bailey and I were tag along buddies to the Arily Family Reunion in Palmyra, VA. Breeder extraordinaire, Karen "Skippy" Curley, gathers the extensive Arily Family for a summer potluck picnic at Pleasant Grove Dog Park, conveniently located along the Rivanna River. What's not to like for an Airedale in August: food, family, and an opportunity to swim in the river!

Our neighbors, Ron & Ursula Canada, adopted retired Momma Frankie from Karen in 2016. Given a pleasant Saturday afternoon, Bailey and I decided to join in on the fun. Our road trip to Fluvanna County included a stop at Rick's for a box of their fried chicken. Ursula had brought along a batch of tasty deviled eggs. Yes, the fried chicken was secured in the trunk. Arriving at Pleasant Grove, I was thrilled to see the



covered and well-shaded pavilion. The pavilion was rapidly filling with Arily-dales from all over: Maryland, Pennsylvania, New York, Florida, and even Maine. There were over 25 brown and black saddles, all sniffing and inspecting the food, tails a-wagging.

The chit-chat with all these new faces was about lineage. Who is your dog related to? Frankie got to reconnect with a number of kids, cousins, and even a parent. But Bailey was the odd girl out, being from Coldstream. It was a great relief when Cathy Biersack arrived with a recent rescue, Mr. Astor Marshall. Cathy and I got to watch the huge family reunion and connection these folks will always have with Skippy. It was fun to observe their many similarities, as well as the differences we saw with our two kids.

One of the big pluses of Pleasant Grove Park is being right along the Rivanna River. For Bailey, being a resident of Lake Anna, a daily swim on a hot summer day is a must. A large group of us strolled down to the river and off my girl went. I was relieved to see the gentle sandy entry. Bailey was happy and wet, and her mom was happy not to have a muddy dog!

Astor enjoyed the day socializing and seems happy to be with his forever family. Bailey and I enjoyed sharing the day with this one big happy Arily family, too. Airedales Rule!



## **"No Kidding . . . My Airedale Does That, Too!"**

Wilder J. Leavitt

About a year ago, I was walking our then 2  $\frac{1}{2}$  -year-old female Airedale, Juno, around the National Institutes of Health campus, close to our house, when I spied a proud-looking Airedale and his owner approaching us on the perimeter trail. He was the first other Airedale either my wife or I had come across since we brought Juno home in June 2014. He was a little bigger than she was, fluffier, and more nonchalant about the encounter than Juno, who was all excitement, ready for roughhousing, and back-legged pogo-sticking. When his owner and I got to talking, we quickly started comparing Airedale notes. And there were more commonalities than differences. Here is some of what I shared with her. See how many behaviors you see in your own dog.

When Juno sits on stairs of any kind, she likes to rest her two front paws on the step below where her back legs and butt are sitting. When she is excited, she prefers to stand on her back legs and pogo-stick hop. She rarely barks outside even around other dogs, but she barks inside the house at the sound of or the sight of anyone coming to the door or walking down the street, or when she hears another dog. When playing with other dogs and running quickly, she will often incorporate one, two, even three simultaneous 360-degree spins as part of her chase. She doesn't swim; she wades. She has dozens of vocalizations from soft whimpering to what one ATCMW president called "a bark that could peel paint." As a corollary to her outside digging, she will make an attempt to dig for China on her bomb-proof Kong daybed, sometimes going at it for a full five to six minutes before finally settling in. And she likes to sleep on occasion in what Mary and I can only describe as her "unladylike position."

For all of Juno's traits about which my new friend said, "No kidding . . . my Airedale does that, too!" her dog also had behaviors that were unique to her beautiful pet. Admittedly, he was older, but he really didn't get that excited when he met other dogs. He didn't like to run with his owner, even though she kept trying to train him to do so. And he didn't demand exercise and attention if she had neglected him for too long. Our conversation reminded me that our challenge to be great dog owners (I like to think of myself as an animal caregiver) is to continuously *observe* our dogs, *see* how they act and behave, and *decide* what they need and what is best for them. We can all understand what scratching at the back door means when the dog wakes up in the morning after lapping up half a lake the day before. But listening to and learning all those audible intonations Juno makes and trying to suss out what is best for her hopefully makes me more in tune with her needs and ultimately improves her life. Sharing our stories with each other helps me learn the intricacies of being a dog owner and an Airedale lover. So, the next time you see me at an ATCMW event, please share your story and something your animal did to amaze you. I know it will help us both and benefit our Airedales more.

# **Pet Loss: Using Bach Flower Remedies to Help a Surviving Dog Adjust**

**Deborah Carroll**

After the sudden loss of their Airedale Yogi, Deborah and Patrick Carroll used Bach flower remedies to help their surviving dog, Sandi, deal with the shock and trauma of the loss, as well as to adjust to becoming a sole pet.

## **Background:** Sandi's and Yogi's relationship

Sandi and Yogi were close in age and played often. They didn't compete for resources. Yogi would start throwing toys around to engage Sandi and vice versa. They didn't fight over food although Sandi hung around to see if Yogi had any leftovers. If she ever tried to enter his space before he was finished, Yogi would give Sandi the Yogi side stare and she would back off. We walked them together on leashes with Yogi on the right and Sandi on the left. Sandi was more reactive than Yogi to moving objects like cars. Yogi reacted to scents from the fox or deer even half a mile away and loud noises. Both dogs slept well at night because they were exercised throughout the day.

## **Causes for concern:**

When Yogi fell ill, we expected a major impact on Sandi (as well as on us). We looked for symptoms of apprehension and distress in Sandi, especially when she was left alone. We noticed the following:

- 1- over-grooming and chewing on her paws
- 2- increased whining and barking when we left the room
- 3- less interest in her surroundings - lying down on her bed with her head between her paws for long periods of time. Also, physical problems such as weakness in her legs appeared more pronounced.

## **Treatment:**

Bach Flower remedies are solely to deal with emotional, not physical, issues. To deal with the emotions behind Sandi chewing her paws, we used the Bach Flower remedy called Crab Apple, which is called the "cleansing remedy."

For lack of interest in present, we used the Bach Flower remedy called Honeysuckle, which is used for "living in the past."

We also used Sweet Chestnut, a Bach flower remedy for despair (to include bereavement pain) and Walnut, a Bach flower remedy for helping to cope with a changed situation.

We combined two drops of each of these remedies in a 30ml bottle with a dropper. We added spring water to the blend. Then we administered 4 drops from the dropper in her food or on a treat four times a day. We did this for about three

weeks until we saw the improvement and Sandi's personality began to return. For more information on Bach Flower remedies see: <http://www.bachcentre.com/centre/firstpag.htm>

Based on a veterinary diagnosis of what was needed, Organic Essential Oils were used to support the leg weakness which was caused by nerve damage in Sandi's back (from a tumor bursting in her spine in 2014).



Yogi

**Impact:**

One month after Yogi's loss, Sandi was doing much better, playing with her toys and tennis ball and actually running up and down our driveway.

**A Final Thought:**

Dogs have feelings, too, and while we may not understand what their emotions mean, it is just as important to support them emotionally as it is to visit the vet.

Jackie Peebles writes, "When my late husband, Wes, told Corally Burmaster in 2013 that he couldn't go on without another Airedale, she gave us Alfie. When Wes passed away in March, 2016, our family decided he had wanted to be sure I wasn't alone and arranged to leave a dog to keep me company. When Alfie was hit by a car—in pursuit of a fox, doing what he loved to do—we accepted that Wes wanted his dog back."





## Rescue Report Pam McKusick

### Mr. Blue

In early January, I was contacted by a man who had a soon-to-be 2 year old Airedale named Mr. Blue. The owner dearly loved Mr. Blue, and had taken excellent care of him, but had made the difficult decision that he could no longer keep him. Rather than place him himself, he wanted Mr. Blue to be placed by Airedale Rescue because he knew how careful we are to find the "right" home for a dog who comes into our care. Mr. Blue was purchased in Ohio as a puppy, and soon grew to 27" at the shoulder and nearly 80 lbs. He was too much dog and too enthusiastic for the young family with small children, and the owner's work and travel schedule severely limited the time he had to spend with Mr. Blue. Thus, Mr. Blue spent too much time in his crate. The owner wanted Mr. Blue to have a better life and to go to an Airedale-experienced home where he would get the attention he deserved, and help to develop into the fine Airedale he could be. He wanted Airedale Rescue to rehome Mr. Blue, but not until after the family's celebration with Mr. Blue of his 2nd birthday. Mr. Blue came into Airedale Rescue on February 3.

Before Mr. Blue's arrival, I began considering Adoption Applications, and visited a family who seemed a perfect match. After he began living with us, however, I realized this would not be a good placement. He is a very handsome and sweet fellow, and had learned lots of behaviors (including sit, down, paw, and crate), but frequently became excited during play, and grabbed the closest "thing" (usually a hand or one's clothing) and his size and big teeth made this challenging. So the search continued for an Airedale-experienced family who lived in a single family home (his bark is "impressive") and had a commitment to daily walks and interaction with the family, a fenced yard where he could safely chase his favorite ball, and no young children.



Long-time friends of an Airedale Rescue colleague were the perfect choice for Mr. Blue. They'd previously had 6 Airedales, many as large as Mr. Blue, and their last Airedale had crossed the Rainbow Bridge in late 2017. They are a very active couple whose children are grown and live elsewhere, and they missed having an Airedale to join them on hikes and keep them company at home. On February 24th they drove to meet Mr. Blue and took him home on the 25th! Now he hangs out with his stay-at-home mom, enjoys daily long walks with his new family, and is learning how to control and redirect his "enthusiasm." He is especially fond of his new dad and follows him to the door, whimpers when he leaves in the morning, and is first at the door to joyfully greet him when he returns.

Mr. Blue has a wonderful new home, a new name (Archie, short for Archibald) and a new beginning.