



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

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

February 2016



How Airedales handle a blizzard!  
Copper and Aquila Hokamp forging a path.

### Club Officers

President	Corally Burmaster
Vice President	Karl Broom
Corresponding Secretary	Jeanne Esmond
Recording Secretary	Ginger Robinson
Treasurer	Deborah Carroll

### Directors

#### Susan Crawford

Marie Hammond  
Pam McKusick  
Jessica Rabin

### Committee Chairs/Coordinators

Airedale Rescue	Pamela McKusick
Breeder Referral	Pamela McKusick
Newsletter	Jessica Rabin
Scottish Parade	Susan Crawford
Specialty Ads	Jessica Rabin
Specialty Show	Corally Burmaster
Trophies	Deb Todhunter
Website	Karl Broom

### 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.

## President's Message

This has certainly been a winter of mixed weather! While I confess I do like the warmer weather we had in December, it made for sloppy footing and plenty of muddy feet. And our Airedales LOVE the cold. There are pictures throughout this issue of Airedales not only coping with the huge snowfall, but loving it! This is my first year with a roof over the outdoor runs which meant that I didn't have to shovel 30 inches of snow out of each run. Given that and the fact that my power didn't go off, I didn't dare complain!

The flyer for our meeting on February 27 is on page 10. If you haven't already called me to declare your lunch entree, please do so. We are fortunate to have another great program by Drs. Hinn and Embry on innovations in health care for our dogs.

Our next event will be our Specialty, held in conjunction with Columbia Terrier Association of Maryland. The date is **April 22, 2016**. The show will be held at the Maryland State Fairgrounds in Timonium, MD.

And don't miss the announcement of ATCMW Rescue **NEW TAX EXEMPT STATUS** on page 4.

*Corally Burmaster*

## **Membership Renewal Reminder**

Membership dues are payable before January. We extend that deadline to March, which is rapidly approaching. The renewal form is on the last page of this newsletter. Just print it, fill it out and send in the fee for the applicable membership level. If you have any questions, contact Deborah Carroll at [carrolldp03@yahoo.com](mailto:carrolldp03@yahoo.com).

## From the editor:

I hope that everyone has recovered from our historic blizzard, which dumped record-setting amounts of snow on the Baltimore/Washington region. I'm grateful to have gone through it with Willa, who is an adventurer and game for whatever Mother Nature throws her way. My first Airedale, Toby, and I lived in Atlanta for the first four years of her life, and she never did reconcile herself to co-existing with the cold, white stuff. We had a number of uncomfortable conversations along the lines of, "No, you really can't hold it until the snow melts." Willa has no such reservations and, indeed, finds the snow a lot more amusing than I do. Of course, she doesn't have to shovel it.

ATCMW congratulates Pam McKusick on obtaining non-profit status for ATCMW's Airedale Rescue and Adoption Service, Inc. (ARAS). Now donations to Rescue will be tax deductible. Thank you, Pam, for your tireless work on behalf of Airedales in need.

Please help me ensure that the newsletter reflects the interests of our members by contacting me with ideas for features, questions for Ask the Trainer, and news of your dog's accomplishments. I look forward to hearing from you at [jgrabin@aacc.edu](mailto:jgrabin@aacc.edu). Please contact me whenever the spirit moves you; there is no need to wait until I send out a formal request.



Jessica Rabin's Willa, dressed for the cold.

Veterans of this region know that February and March are often our snowiest months—good luck out there!

*Jessica Rabin*



Aquila Hokamp, taking advantage of the snow blower!

## Spotlight On Rescue:

*As told to Ann Riley by Pam McKusick*

Currently in rescue there is an 11-month-old, 70 lb male named Bogart and he has a prospective home lined up! He was bred by a farmer in Oklahoma and bought by a family in Texas. Their toddler developed allergies and they were unable to keep him. In January, Pam placed Henry, another young male, with a family in Virginia that has another Airedale at home. Between May and September, Pam had 4 dogs that were successfully placed in new homes, including Teddy who had neurological problems.

Pam reports a new dog coming to AR as part of the Rockville 66. Montgomery County Animal Services seized 66 dogs of varying breeds from a home in Rockville, MD and turned them over to the Montgomery County Humane Society Animal Shelter. There is an 8 year old Airedale bitch in the mix and Pam is picking her up in the next couple of days. She has an ear infection and a badly healed broken femur. AR partners with Montgomery County Humane Society. They will turn Airedales over to AR but only if they are sick, injured or otherwise considered unadoptable to the general population. Pam had to agree to take this dog to an orthopedist for a consultation. Stay tuned for more news on this new girl, Topaz.

Many thanks to Pam McKusick for chauffeuring, fostering, and finding nice homes for all the Airedales who come through our club's rescue organization!!! It is a herculean effort and it is expensive!

Want to help Airedale Rescue??? Here are some of the things you can do. 1) Foster a dog! Bring a buddy home for your dogs, or fill your empty nest, and provide a temporary home to an Airedale that needs one. 2) Be a dog walker for AR dogs who are kenneled. Remember, dogs who are fostered and/or walked are easier to adopt out because they are calmer and more accustomed to being around people. 3) Make a tax-deductible donation to Airedale Rescue! It is expensive to house, feed, and vet the dogs that come through rescue and your donations really help. Adoption fees cover only a tiny fraction of the costs. 4) Consider adopting! Contact Pam McKusick ([mckusick@verizon.net](mailto:mckusick@verizon.net)).

We are happy to announce that on January 29, 2016, ATCMW's Airedale Rescue and Adoption Service, Inc. (ARAS) has been granted 501 (c) (3) non-profit status by the IRS. This means that donors can deduct contributions made to Airedale Rescue and Adoption Service, Inc. under Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 170. ARAS is also "qualified to receive tax-deductible bequests, devices, transfers or gifts under Section 2055, 2106, or 2522." The effective date of our exemption is October 7, 2015.

We genuinely appreciate all of the support our members provide. It is only with your assistance that we can continue to provide for the Airedales who through no fault of their own have come into our care.

With Sincere Gratitude.....Pam McKusick



# Puppy Head Start Revisited: Willa's Wild Walk

Jessica Rabin

Each summer, my Hearing Dog Willa (Coldstream Undaunted Willa CGC RE) and I spend some time with my mother in Cranberry Lake, a tiny town in the rural western Adirondacks, about 60 miles west of Lake Placid. One of our favorite places to visit is the Wild Center, the natural history museum of the Adirondacks, in Tupper Lake, NY ([www.wildcenter.org](http://www.wildcenter.org)). We have a long and happy history with the Wild Center, having visited pretty much every summer since it opened nine years ago. In addition to considering the Wild Center a great place to spend the day, I've been extremely impressed over the years with its



commitment to inclusivity, accessibility, and education. Willa and I have done numerous training sessions and presentations about Service Dogs for Wild Center staff, volunteers, and interns, as well as visiting members of the public. As a nice aside, since children tend to norm on their own experience, there are a passel of rural upstate NY kids who think that *all* Service Dogs have to be Airedales! (*Service Dog* is the general

legal term for all dogs that mitigate a disability for their handler, including Guide Dogs for the blind or visually impaired, Hearing Dogs for the deaf or hearing impaired, and dogs that assist with medical conditions such as mobility impairment or psychiatric conditions such as PTSD.)



This past summer was a special one at the Wild Center, featuring the launch of its spectacular new exhibit, Wild Walk (<http://wildcenter.org/wildwalk/>). I was eager to see the award-winning "High Line of the Forest" but feared taking Willa into a situation that combined massive crowds with open metal grate suspension bridges thirty feet above the ground. Service Dogs have to reliably perform alerts in all kinds of situations and be unflappable even when encountering something really new, but a

handler must be reasonable in what she asks of her dog so as not to erode the trust that is the bedrock of their partnership. Fortunately, our friend Tracy Thomas, Manager of the Visitor Experience, arranged for us to visit Wild Walk before the museum opened for the day. I knew that I would be limited in where I could take Willa—it was not fair to ask her to attempt the narrow, unstable bridges, all of which were on substantial inclines—but I was still excited about having access to such a stunning natural display.

The day was extremely memorable, but it did not turn out exactly as I had anticipated. When I told Corally about our adventures and mentioned the suspension bridges, Corally immediately interjected (in her inimitable Corally way), "You did *NOT* make that dog go across those bridges!" I replied, "I certainly did not *MAKE* her. She *CHOSE* to." And that's what happened. When we approached each bridge, Willa led the way across. She walked carefully but confidently, more confidently, if I'm being honest here, than I did. Although I had never exposed her to this particular challenge, Corally's Puppy Head Start program ([www.clickertrain.com](http://www.clickertrain.com)) had prepared her for it. This is such an important element of Head Start because while no early socialization program can introduce a puppy to every possible obstacle or stimulus the puppy will encounter in a lifetime, Head Start makes puppies comfortable with changes and challenges. Willa's success as a Hearing Dog stems from a number of factors: breeding, Head Start, selection (Corally chose her for me as the puppy in the litter that most wanted to be a Hearing Dog when she grew up), intensive socialization from 8 weeks to six months, formal training, and, of course, the trust Willa and I have in each other. All puppies benefit from Head Start, but the advantage it confers to a future working dog cannot be overstated.

Not all Service Dogs have access to the stellar foundation Head Start provides. Tracy told me that a local resident with a Guide Dog had visited recently, and the Guide Dog needed a great deal of persuasion to cross the bridges. Eventually, the dog reluctantly followed the lead of his more adventurous handler. In contrast, Willa walked sure-footedly across each bridge, sat obligingly in the bird nest swing, surveyed the High Peaks from the

Eagle's Nest, and looked at me like I was out of my mind as I climbed into the spider web trampoline pit. I did not ask or encourage Willa to follow me into the trampoline





pit because that would have been dangerous for Willa and a betrayal of the trust that she has in me. At the same time, I knew I didn't need to accept the kind offer of an intern who asked if she should hold Willa's leash for me. If I was in that pit, Willa wasn't going anywhere. The only thing that threw her ever so slightly was a ground-level sculpture of a bobcat in full chase—that was one fierce-looking kitty! After we enjoyed our private traverse of Wild Walk, Willa demonstrated her alerting behaviors and charmed a crowd as the star of "Working Willa - A close up look at service dogs and training," at least until she got bored by my droning on and took a snooze right up there on the amphitheater stage. A good day was had by all!



We returned to the Wild Center a couple weeks later, this time during regular hours. Knowing what to expect this time around, I decided I wanted to look at Wild Walk again, planning to avoid those



suspension bridges. Well, that wasn't Willa's plan. She went down the first one she encountered, displaying no fear despite other people being on the bridge and causing additional movement. At that point, I knew I needed to quit while I was ahead and started to take an alternative route to leave the exhibit. Willa pulled me over towards the bridge and insisted that we return the way we came. This clear preference on her part reassured me that I had not *made* Willa do anything. She genuinely enjoys new challenges and seeks out opportunities to practice her skills. That's the legacy of Puppy Head Start!

If you find yourself in the Adirondacks, you simply must visit the Wild Center. Be sure to tell the staff that you are a friend of Willa the Airedale!



## Scottish Walk December 5, 2015



The 2015 Scottish Christmas Walk was a great success and loads of fun. This is perhaps my favorite club sponsored event and it did not disappoint this year. Over 25 Airedales (and mixes thereof) showed up with their humans for the event. There was lots of wrestling around as we awaited the start of the parade. It was a large scale Airedale meet and greet and a chance for the owners to chat a bit as well. It was a balmy 60 F day with ample crowds and there were many dog-lovers in the mix. As always, we shared the spotlight with many other dog clubs for breeds with British origins, pipe and drum bands, local politicians, etc. Our dogs sported Christmas ruffs and looked very stylish prancing along. They were model citizens, schmoozing with the crowd along the way. (Submitted by Ann Riley)







# Airedale Terrier Club of Metropolitan Washington

## Luncheon Program and Meeting

February 27, 2016

Indigo Landing Restaurant

One Marina Dr.

Alexandria, VA 22314

703-548-0001

Cocktails (cash bar): 11:45 Luncheon 12:00 Speaker 1:15 Meeting 2:00

Available entrees (Prices include tax and gratuity):

- |  |         |
|--|---------|
| 1. <u>Chicken Cobb Salad</u>                               | \$22.00 |
| 2. <u>Broiled Crabcake Sandwich</u>                        | \$23.00 |
| 3. <u>Char-grilled Angus Burger</u>                        | \$15.00 |
| <u>With Cheese</u>   | \$15.00 |
| <u>With sauteed mushrooms or caramelized onions</u>        | \$18.00 |
| <u>With smoked bacon</u>                                   | \$19.00 |
| <u>With bacon, sauteed mushrooms and carmelized onions</u> | \$21.00 |
| 4. <u>Smoked Salmon Whole Grain Crossaint</u>              | \$20.00 |

Reservations: Please make your reservations no later than 12 Noon, Wednesday, February 24, 2016 with [Corally Burmaster, clickertrain@verizon.net](mailto:CorallyBurmester@verizon.net) or 703-777-227. Please have exact amount in cash for your dinner. Please note: *If you make a reservation and are unable to attend, you will be charged for your dinner unless we are able to cancel it with the restaurant.*

Program: Dr. J. Hinn DVM and Dr E. Embry DVM will speak on wellness in our dogs and the latest veterinarian treatments and medicines, and will take questions from the floor.

### General Meeting Agenda

President's Report  
Recording Secretary's Report  
Treasurer's Report

Committee Reports  
New Business  
Adjourn

Directions: **Indigo Landing** is located just north of **Old Town Alexandria** and one mile south of Ronald Reagan National Airport off the George Washington Memorial Parkway. For detailed directions go to: [http://indigoland.com/directions\\_details.html](http://indigoland.com/directions_details.html)



# Ask the Trainer

by Ann Riley

## **How can I stop my dog from counter surfing?**

Counter surfing, swiping food from the countertop, is at the very least an annoying behavior for your dog to develop. At its worst, it is a potentially life threatening behavior should he get into a cooked chicken, bones and all, or sticks of butter that could trigger pancreatitis.

Most undesirable behaviors will go away if you ignore them and the dog is not rewarded, but this is not one of them. Counter-surfing is an example of a self-rewarding behavior. These behaviors are inherently fun for dogs like barking, chasing cats, and chewing Gucci shoes. Counter-surfing is the ultimate case because it provides intermittently, excellent food, like the roast beef cooling on your counter, or a turkey sandwich while you turn your back to open a beer. Sometimes the dog jumps up on the counter and finds nothing but a few good smells and sometimes there is something really good to eat. This is intermittent reinforcement and that type of reinforcement strengthens behavior. In short, your dog need only find a delectable treat on your counter once in a blue moon to make him want to jump up and see what is there every chance he gets. The solution depends on the nature of the problem. Do you want to prevent counter surfing in a new puppy or an older dog that is new to your home, or has your dog been stealing food off the counter for months?

You can really take several different tactics depending on the situation. You can train an alternative behavior and reward that with positive reinforcement, you can punish the dog for the behavior if you catch him in the act, or you can manage the behavior.

Let's start with the best case scenario, where you have a new dog or puppy and you want to make sure she does not start this very annoying behavior. Management is the best tool you have to prevent it from starting. It is your responsibility to make sure that your dog NEVER gets rewarded for putting feet on the counter. Keep food out of her reach. This may mean putting up a baby gate across the kitchen door when there is food out or putting your dog in an x-pen or crate. If you can really pay attention, just keeping her under surveillance will work too. But you will also want to teach your dog an alternative behavior that you can reward her for.

Find a spot in your kitchen, or just outside, where really tasty things appear when dogs are sitting or lying there. Have a little mat or bed that you get out and put there when you are cooking or eating. Train the dog to stay on this spot. (I have used this to train my dog to sit lie quietly beside me while I eat at an outdoor café too.) If your dog never gets food off the counters or tables and he is reenforced for being in another spot, you can avoid

developing the counter-surfing habit. I have done this successfully with my 18 month old Airedale Gibson, to date. I started out putting him in an x-pen in the kitchen, but he is loose in the house now whenever I am home. He has never gotten food off the table or counter, and he does get treats when he stays out of the way. Although I don't have to watch the counter like a hawk to protect my food, I am very careful not to set myself up for disaster. Everyone in the house knows not to leave anything delectable on the edge of a counter or table. It would only take one successful food heist to have him coming back again and again.

My success with Gibson was preceded by my experience with my last Airedale, Digby, who could reach every corner of every food surface in my house. He once ate an entire chocolate birthday cake I made for my son. So we will progress to what to do with a dog for whom counter-surfing has become a lifestyle. Theoretically, you can use positive reinforcement and train an alternative behavior, but good luck finding something more rewarding than a pan of lasagna or a roast chicken on your counter! And, even if the dog learns to offer the alternative behavior when you are standing in the kitchen, he will probably jump on the counter the minute you leave the room. You are probably going to have to use punishment to stop this behavior. You're not going to hurt your dog but you need a way to give him the information he needs in order to be a civilized member of your household!

I usually use a squirt bottle with plain water, set on jet stream, not plant mist, to stop unwanted behaviors. You need to catch the dog in the act, hopefully when his nose goes on the counter, but anytime he is still in the act of actually jumping on the counter is fine. (If you catch the dog slobbering over the remains of your dinner on the kitchen floor you are too late and it is your fault, not his.) You need a negative marker first. Think of it as an anti-clicker. You can say 'stop it' 'eh-eh', 'pshhht', etc. Just use the same thing consistently and pick something that you can use only when your dog does something you don't like. I recommend against 'NO' because we use that too much in everyday language, especially if you have teenagers in the home. The sequence is: Behavior > negative marker > squirt. You need to squirt the dog in the face. You want him to back off, or turn his head away. If he's on the counter, he should get down. You will probably need to do this a few times, before you will only need the negative marker. The minute you say 'stop it' the dog should stop. He stops. He does not get squirted. He feels relief ...a reward. Ask for your alternative behavior (sitting on his mat) and click and treat. You will need to quickly move to click-and-treating ONLY for going to the mat without jumping on the counter first or you will train the whole sequence (go see if there is anything good on that counter and then go sit on my mat and get another treat).

This method will work for some dogs, especially if they are not habitual counter surfers yet. For the determined dog, you may end up with a dog who never counter surfs when you are in the room, but will clear the counter the minute you leave. If this is your case, you need a punishment that occurs even when you are not around. I have used plastic mouse traps that you can buy in any hardware store with great success. Do not use the wood ones with the metal bars! They could injure your dog. I have put my own fingers in the plastic ones and if you have a dog big enough to counter surf, I don't think it will



hurt him. But, we are just going for noise here, not really trying to catch the dog in the trap! Set a few traps on the counter facing toward the wall, put where your dog's paws will reach when he jumps on the counter. You can place a sheet of newspaper or paper towel on them or set up a line of them on a piece of upside down packing tape. The traps are pretty sensitive and you want all of them to go off when the dog jumps up. It's not a sound that most dogs like. Ideally, you want to leave food on the other side of the traps so that the dog has to disturb the traps before he gets to the food. This solution will be most successful if the dog



Ann Riley's "Gibson."

cannot see the traps over the top of the counter before he jumps up and does not see you set them up ahead of time. He needs to think that jumping on the counter at any time is really unpleasant. You can also use one of those scat mats, but again the dog can't see it until it's too late and his paws are on the counter. If the dog cannot predict when he will find the traps on the counter, he's not going to jump up there anymore. It may take only once, or it may take a few tries.

If the dog sees the traps or the mat, it will still work to prevent the behavior but only when that visual deterrent is present. This is really behavior management, very much like putting your dog in a crate when there is food out. In this case, you are warning the dog when the counter isn't safe for surfing. If you don't mind using it every time you have food out, you can put the scat mat on the floor in front of the counter. The down side is that you really have to remember it every time and the mat has to be big

enough to cover the whole area in front of the counter.

In sum, you can use different training tools to keep your dog off the counters. What you choose really depends on your particular situation and you may end up using a bit of all three, management, positive reinforcement, or positive punishment.

*Ann Riley lives part-time in Baltimore Maryland and part-time in La Minerve Québec. Trained for gainful white collar employment she fritters away her time painting and training dogs. She has taught dog training classes for Capital Dog Training Club in Silver Spring Maryland and the Takoma Park Recreation Center and gives private lessons. She trains her own dogs for obedience competitions and pet therapy. She has had an Airedale since she was 7 years old (back when phones were attached to walls and had rotary dials). The last one, Digby, earned a UD and performed once with the Baltimore Opera Company in 2007. She currently owns Gibson (Coldstream Joli Coeur) who is in training and Rosie (12) the Sealyham who retired with a CDX when she lost her vision.*

**Don't forget to check out our website at [www.airedales-dc.org](http://www.airedales-dc.org). And join us on Facebook by friending Airedale Terrier Club of Metropolitan Washington.**



Ann Riley's "Gibson" having a run in the woods in Quebec.



Karl and Joyce Broom's "Farrah"  
taking the road less traveled.



## NEW TITLE

Many congratulations to Jeanne Esmond and "Indy" for achieving their Rally Novice title on February 6, 2016, followed on the 7th by an additional leg and a 3rd place in her class. Jeanne has always allowed that Indy can be creative in her interpretation of each of the exercises, so her astonishment on being awarded a third place is clearly evident on her face as the ribbons are announced.



Who me?



Jeanne and Coldstream Indian Summer CGC RN



### New Member Application

An application for membership has been received from Joshua Brewer and Melissa Tyson who live in Maryland. They are on a breeder's waiting list for a puppy in the Spring and have attended the September picnic and the December Scottish Walk. A motion to accept their application will be voted on in our next meeting on February 27th.

Corally Burmaster's "Drew" showing common sense by using the shoveled path.