



SIDNEY – born August/06 – to TG Riley and Blustarmax Justhetrick (aka Sheila)

1/21/07

Happy New Year!

Just thought I would take a moment to update you on the lovely Sidney. She is, of course, doing just great. She has starting training classes with me at my training facility. She was confused at first by the serious focus. She would get upset and shut down. I convinced her it is pretty fun to learn, though. Now she is learning super good. Fast, of course!

She is 33 lbs. Her growth has really slowed. She has lost most of her baby teeth, and her adult teeth are just about finished.

Her temperament is absolutely incredible! She is friendly, charming, gentle, entertaining. She loves everyone she meets, and they feel the same about her. We just love her.

Nov 21, 2006

Leslie!!!

She just gets better every day. I cannot express how wonderful she is.

Yesterday, she charmed a very nervous and growly dog into playing with her. She also handled a very bossy/barky mature female beautifully. And, she played very gently with an 8 wk Jack Russell Terrier who can't weigh more than 4 lbs. She is sooo great with all dogs and people she meets. And, only 12 wks old so far.

She is calm, clever and hilarious. She learns super fast, of course. One of the best parts is mornings. At about 6:00 AM, she asks to come into bed with us. She sleeps in my arms for about an hour. Omigosh, sooo sweet. Then we let her out for a bathroom break, and when she comes back she goes right back to sleep for as long as we are all sleeping.

She is looking more like a Cattle Dog now, and some people are apprehensive about petting her. There are so many growly snappy aggressive cattle dogs out there, one man asked if she is friendly before petting her. I have to admit, I do the same whenever I see an ACD. So many are not social, it is best to ask.

It is interesting to see people's reaction to her. Most adore her, though. Most also think she is a Cattle Dog cross breed. I think it is less common to see full cattle dogs, so people are always surprised to hear she is not a mix.

Here are some pics of her lately. She is 20lbs now, and grew 2 inches taller in the past 2 weeks. TF

Date: Fri, 03 Nov 2006

Where do I start? She is amazing!! I can't believe what a great job you are doing with your breeding program. She is everything I hoped she would be. She is fearless, confident, friendly, hilarious. We are having an incredible time with her.

She is so clever and sensible. She tells us everytime she has to go outside for a bathroom break. She wanders close to the house, and comes back to the door when she is done. She just had a growing spurt. She has gotten 7/8 in. taller, and gained 2.5 lbs. Her ears are starting to stand up. TF



MOCHA – born Feb 2006 – to Riley and Sheila

23 Jan 2007

He is a real sweet heart. He and Aka (Orange Tabby) are the best of buddies. Coco loves to run and play with him but if he gets to rambunctious she puts him in his place. This lasts for about 10 minutes. So they get along just great. W&S..

1/21/2007 - Last picture, Mocha weighs 65 pounds and is a great dog and all is well.

Date: 8/2/2006

Mocha is now close to 6 months and weighs 45 lbs. He is as you described him when he was a puppy. Smart but pretty laid back. He still has his yip when things are not going right but when he is barking it is a deep bark. He has his buddy Aka the orange tom cat and they have a great time together. The older dog keeps him in

his place but he follows her and does every thing she does. We are very happy with him and he is a great dog. I will send a couple of pictures and thanks for a great dog. W&S

Date: Sun, 16 Apr 2006

Hi Leslie, Sheila and I arrived back in Victoria with Mocha after a long drive with him on my lap. We put him in Coco's kennel for the ferry trip with her outside, which did not make her to happy. They are getting along fine with no blood spilt. We had a busy day with the pup and are very pleased with him. With out a doubt he is a sweetheart. He has a very funny bark or yip, would be a better description. Is this normal for Heelers? We would appreciate it if you can send us his records of shots etc. We would like to get what is needed done as soon as possible as he will be in contact with lots of dogs. We are very pleased with him not only his looks but like you said he is smart also. W&S



SHADOW – born August/06 – to TG Riley and Blustarmax Justhetrick (aka Sheila)

12 Dec 2006

Hi Leslie

Shadow is still a very active and inquisitive puppy, she climbs everything from couches to sawdust piles. She sometimes gets a little too close to the edge and falls off the sawdust but there is lots below to fall on. Shadow is friendly to every dog and has a standing play-date with a Lab on Saturday mornings and she runs the poor dog till it collapses and wonders why it won't play anymore. We love her active nature and her love of life in general . Thanks again for selling us such a wonderful puppy

. J&P

MAGGIE - born Feb 2006 – to TG Riley and Blustarmax Justhetrick (aka Sheila)

4/10/2006

Hi Leslie

We love our Maggie. She slept the first night from 11-6, then whined to go out.(of course she was in our bed).Have had no accidents, and no crying. I think she likes us. Here she is helping (if that's what you would call it) in the garden. Thanks so much, we needed her



NICO - born Feb 2006 – to TG Riley and Blustarmax Justhetrick (aka Sheila)

12/05/06

Well, I don't know if you remember our names but I got Nico (cappy) off you in April? Anyway I have met alot of cattle dogs in north van... but no siblings I'm leaving on sat or sun this week and would love for her to see a brother or sister, I remember you saying that there was one in north van... so if you don't mind if i got the info or if you could forward my number I would be so pleased i have been teaching her in signs with my hands a well as voice commands. She has a real good personality and temperament, so happy with her

JACK – born August/06 – to TG Riley and Blustarmax Justhetrick (aka Sheila)

January 24, 2007 Just looking around on the internet and thought I would drop you a quick note on Jack our puppy. Great dog, very smart he is quite aggressive, I find it funny how the other comments I read are dogs that are from the same litter and are not. He is though with other heelers and he has learnt from them. I am not saying he is too aggressive because he is going to be a cattle dog. When we were processing cattle a few months ago he would follow every steer out of the chute to the pen. He is very, very smart almost too smart, but we love him I will definitely get another pup from you when we need to. Thanks, JC

GIMLI – born Feb 2006 – to TG Riley and Blustarmax Justhetrick (aka Sheila)

Gimli is a fantastic dog...probably the friendliest dog I have ever met...wants to play with everybody and everything...a constant source of amusement...but active..oh my god how active!...go a for a 3 hour run and 10 minutes later it is time to play again...anyway...I had serious debates on getting a dog when I got him, but I am so glad I took the plunge...worth every minute...

anyway...thanks again for the fantastic dog...if I had the energy I would get another one!! JS



NIKKO - born August/06 – to TG Riley and Blustarmax Justhetrick (aka Sheila)

Nov 2006

Hello Leslie,

I wanted to say thanks for the awesome dog. Nikko has been so much fun and is doing very well.

here are some photos of him now. Thanks again. AL



KOBE - born Feb 2006 – to TG Riley and Blustarmax Justhetrick (aka Sheila)

6/19/06

Thought you might like to see how Kobe is growing and here how he's getting on. He's now just over 4 months and on a visit to the vet a couple of weeks ago, he was 24 lbs.

He's now familiar with a number of dogs in the neighbourhood and we just finished an 8 week Puppy Kindergarten class with him which was great fun. There was quite a mixture of breeds in the class - 2 german shepherds, a lot of labs - golden, black, chocolate and a lovely little white bichon frise called Harry who was just gorgeous. We learned basic commands, but the main emphasis was on socialising with other dogs and playing games.

Yesterday Mike and Craig went up the top of Mount Seymour and Kobe came across snow for the first time - they had great fun and he was digging away in the snow. He's been up a number of trails now and each time we meet people who ask where did we get him etc. In fact you might get a couple of enquiries about when the next litter is due. Would you believe, we've met a couple in the park who have

a blue heeler and a red heeler and apparently they got the blue heeler from you and his father was T.G Riley, so Kobe met a half-brother.

We're off up the Sunshine Coast at the end of July for a vacation and have a cottage booked, so he's coming with us and the boys are dying to get him swimming!

Anyway, hope all is going well for you and that the other pups are doing fine. He's just a joy and we can't imagine life without him. The nipping and biting is just about gone, although he has the odd nip at your heels when he's out on a walk. We're about to go into the "teenage phase" so he's starting to ignore us when we ask him to sit or come, but apparently that's all just normal.



KONA - born Feb 2006 – to TG Riley and Blustarmax Justhetrick (aka Sheila)

5/25/06

Kona had her first puppy class last night and did great. A lot is socializing with other dogs, but learning sit etc, which she can already do. She is a great dog and gets lots of compliments. As I have said before I will strongly recommend you to any one looking for a good dog. My dad now says in 4yrs he wants another heeler, and my sister says they also may get one. Anyhow have to run to work, so again thanks and will keep in touch.

SKYE - born June 2002 – to TG Riley and Suzie Q

31 Dec 2006

From pictures of Riley I thought that Skye looks like him too. She is 21 inches at the shoulder. Her weight is about 43 pounds. Compared to most of the Heelers I have seen Skye has quite long legs. She sure is a fun dog to have around. She is also the most people friendly dog that I have ever had. She loves everyone. Sometimes with other dogs she feels the need to show them who's boss. I just have to be aware read the body language and divert it. Usually its a case of "get out of my face." AB



2/22/2006

Skye is one of Suzie's pups from June 2002. It's hard to believe she will be four this year. She has turned into a great dog. Very athletic. She lives for her ball (soother). It's never far away and always magically appears if the door is about to open. She has been a bit of a test at times but we sure have had a lot of laughs with her. When we first got her I had never actually met another Heeler, now we meet them quite frequently. We have retired and moved to the Sunshine Coast. There is someone here in Gibsons that breeds Blue ones. When I get a picture of her I will forward it to you. I think she looks a lot like Riley in his picture. AB

SADEY - born December 2002 – to TG Riley and Suzie Q

2/18/03

Hi Leslie, Sadey is fine, she's very affectionate, naughty, stubborn, brave, intelligent & bitey. I love her very much. She has met many family members, friends, & 5 other dogs connected to the family. She was slightly intimidated at first but very gutsy. Her bladder is good & she does go outside very nicely. A fellow on the ferry has a heeler who's 6 & wanted me to take his card so that I could give her to him when I tired of her... She does have to be walked he said, arrogantly. I was annoyed to say the least. She is absolutely delightful....hates the leash & the kennel used for transporting, & sleeps with me.... Thanks again, cheers Diane

Are You The Right Type of Person for this Dog?

The Australian Cattle Dog is not for everyone.

An ACD has boundless energy which means they need exercising regularly and often. Destructive behaviour can result if this requirement is not met. ACD's were bred to have enough stamina to work hard all day every day. The enormous natural energy this trait gives them must be channeled into walks and energetic games, such as throwing and retrieving a ball or frisbee. (They are highly regarded for their ability in Agility and Flyball competitions.) You can pretty much count on twenty minutes a day minimum of strenuous exercise, but an hour a day (or more) is desirable. This requirement is even more important if you have a small back yard where the dog cannot siphon off some of this energy by running around.

The ACD is not suited to being left in the back yard. They are a friendly, gregarious animal that needs to be part of the family. Serious behavioural problems can result in ACD's who are locked out of family life, especially if there is not enough mental stimulation, as they are as intelligent as they are energetic. In a best case scenario if they feel they are not part of the family they will find mischief to get up to, or in a worst case scenario may even become aggressive and dangerous.

Australian Cattle Dogs are very conscious of their social standing in their family. As with most intelligent dogs, the ACD may seek to elevate their position by seeking to be dominant over others. This may be shown by aggressive behaviour, such as knocking over and standing over children, or even showing aggression to an adult or teen that it suspects is afraid of him. There are various behavioural techniques which can be used to overcome this behaviour.

As the ACD is protective and loyal, they will be suspicious of strangers and particularly other dogs. This may be nothing more than the usual growling, but may also translate into quite antisocial behaviour. This varies widely from dog to dog, but as a breed it is better to keep your ACD under control in such situations where you suspect a problem may arise. Bear in mind the ACD is very strong and a child hanging on to the dog's lead would not inspire any confidence in anyone that this animal is under control. They like to bond to a single person or couple, be friendly to others in the house and treat everyone and everything else with suspicion. If you have children, especially young children, it is a good idea to acquire your ACD as a puppy rather than an adult dog.

Having given these rather dire warnings, it is important to understand that each dog is an individual, with their own personality and traits. They may exhibit all, some or none of the above behaviour, but they will always be a great dog who will be loyal, friendly, protective but also a high maintenance pet.

One of the many tools that can be used to moderate undesirable behaviour is dog obedience classes. This activity is good for the dog's mental stimulation and for maturing his social skills with other dogs and people. The ACD has a natural affinity for obedience training, so both dog and owner should enjoy the classes, and the techniques learnt should be used throughout the dog's life.

ACD's must be treated with respect, and they will give you the same. Like a strong willed child they require gentle discipline. If their needs are met the ACD is a loving, affectionate, playful pet that is willing to please.