

Scott Glen, New Dayton, Alberta, Canada

I first bought some sheep for my own project separate from the beef cattle ranch that my family owned. I was on my way to see a shearing demo at a sheep fair when I stumbled upon a herding demo. I was so fascinated with it that I missed the shearing demo. I found the dog man's name from a fair organizer to see if he'd train my border collie. I didn't think any mere mortal could teach a dog to do what I'd seen him do.

I called him and asked how much it would cost and he said \$200 a month. He asked me some questions about my dog, one of which was, "Does he have any eye"? I was polite and answered yes, but I was thinking to myself that I wouldn't get you to train a blind dog! I made the 8-hour trek north to Richard Tipton's place, to drop my dog off for the magical transformation into that demo dog I had seen at the fair. He looked at my dog with the sheep and said, "Let me show you what I mean by eye." He brought two young untrained dogs out and the difference between the well-bred dogs that he showed me and mine was light years apart; mine was lacking considerably.

I bought the cheaper of the two and off I went home with a small training book by the late Elizabeth Barbara Carpenter. I trained "Moss" on reverse flank commands. I don't know how I made such a mistake and by the time I'd trained a couple more dogs, I'd lost my training book. I switched to the traditional directions because it seriously reduced the dog buyer clientele with flank commands backwards! Years later David Rees got me the same book from Mrs. Carpenter herself. I pored thru it again and realized that, although it named the side commands, it didn't specify which way was which. Years ago apparently there were small pockets in Scotland that did in fact use the reverse commands.

I try to keep them in shape mainly. If they need too much training close to the Finals, I think I'd be in trouble because I'm away quite a bit doing clinics and judging. Your foundation on them has to be solid or it'll be impossible to do well, I think. I would imagine we all have our own little things that are our secrets to getting them ready, as well, but in shape and work of course. The timing on precision largely depends on the dog.

Alice will be coming seven this November. She has had a fantastic career so far. She started early, but I didn't start training her till she was 10 months; she was a sponge. She was eligible for two years in nursery, winning her first National Nursery title in Virginia in 2013. In 2014 she was reserve National Nursery Champion. In 2015 she made the Semifinals in the Nationals here in Alturas, but was, alas, handicapped by an idiot handler - namely me. But her dad, my Don dog, won his second National Finals that year to let me off the hook. In both 2016 and 2017 she was crowned the National Open Champion. Some of Alice's attributes are that she has a never give up attitude. She's usually smart around the course, she can be a bit willful at times but it's a tradeoff for the never give up part. Hopefully she has a handler that makes better decisions

this time at Alturas. There are many great handlers and dogs at the Finals, so a bit of luck doesn't hurt either. She has been an incredible partner and sidekick.

Get a well-bred pup or dog, enjoy the journey in training it. Try to be a good stockman and it will be an enjoyable experience for you. Trialing has highs and lows, successes and failures. Try not to get too down with the failures.

I will be running Alice and Taff this year in Open and Tweed and Jill in Nursery.