September 2026

The Shaggy Rag



The Bearded Collie Club of Southern California

Founded January 12, 1997

BCCSC website: www.bccsc.net



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President's Message

Dear BCCSC members:

Well, here we are in September already! Where did the year go?

It's been a fairly quiet year for the club, but our members and their Beardies are always keeping life interesting. One of the things I especially enjoy about our club is the history we share and the many people and dogs who have been part of it over the years.

Emerald and Deeks continue their therapy work, and I also volunteer with Love on a Leash, a wonderful National dog therapy organization, helping with their voicemail messages..

For this issue of The Shaggy Rag, we're once again putting the spotlight on our members and their Beardies. This year, along with their names and photos, we're sharing their ages and favorite things to do. I think it's always fun to learn a little more about the dogs behind those shaggy faces, and I have a feeling we're going to discover some pretty interesting personalities!

And aren't we lucky to have Sue Cassidy writing articles for us? She always brings something interesting to The Shaggy Rag, and I hope you'll enjoy what she has to share in this issue.

And don't forget, we'll be getting together in December for our annual gathering. We're looking at the first Saturday or Sunday in December and will let everyone know the date once we've checked our calendars and confirmed the venue's availability.

I hope you enjoy this issue of The Shaggy Rag and getting to know a little more about the Beardies who make our club special.

Sue, Gibbs, Jewel, Deeks, Tootsie, Kensie, Emerald



The Beardie Board Room

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A friendly reminder that our annual membership fee is due and payable during the month of October. We will be sending eblasts with the form link and its ALWAYS available on our club website.

If paying after November 1, your dues are then considered deliquent. Please add $10.00 to your membership renewal.

For those that pay on time: Thanks so much!

Remember, you can always use Zelle to pay your membership fee to our treasurer. Super easy! The email for that is on our renewal form.

Our club's Beardie Blast newsletter is sent via email, so please feel free to send ads/brags/advertising to Susann Brody at any time. Susann can design something special for you OR you can do it yourself OR have it done and submit it.

The Beardie Blast is sent to all current members!! Please send checks to the Mary Parker, treasurer, payable to the BCCSC.

Please feel free to reach out to any of us on the Board with questions. We are here for all members. We would love to hear from you with ideas for events you want to attend.

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**Advertisements and statements in this newsletter are not necessarily endorsed by the Editor of the BCCSC.*

**We've done our best to name people and dogs and there may be errors and/or omissions. If there are any, we apologize in advance.*

Living with a Beardie

The joys, challenges, and occasional insanity of sharing your life with a Bearded Collie!

If you live with a Beardie, you already know that you don't really own one. You simply provide food, transportation, entertainment, and a comfortable place to sleep while your Beardie runs the household.

Beardies are smart, social, curious, and wonderfully entertaining. They also have their own ideas about how things should be done. Living with one means learning to appreciate their quirks and sometimes wondering who is actually training whom!

THE SHADOW

Need to go to the kitchen? Your Beardie is coming. Going outside? They're coming. Moving to another room for absolutely no reason? They're already there. Beardies are social dogs who want to be wherever their people are. You may think you're walking alone, but your Beardie knows better.



And bathroom privacy? Forget it. Your Beardie sees a closed bathroom door as a personal invitation to investigate. Why would you possibly need privacy when you have a Beardie?

THE BEARDIE STARE

Every Beardie owner knows the look: "I love you." "I need something." "You have food." "You said the word walk." Sometimes you'll never know exactly what they're thinking, but you can be pretty sure they expect you to figure it out. And if you don't? The stare gets stronger.

SELECTIVE HEARING

Beardies can learn an impressive vocabulary. They know what "come," "sit," "wait," "walk," and "treat" mean. The tricky part is that understanding a command and deciding to act on it are two entirely different things.

You can call your Beardie from three feet away and get absolutely nothing. But whisper the word "treat" from another room? Suddenly they're standing beside you. Coincidence? We think not.

Keep training fun, reward the behaviors you want, and remember that a Beardie's brain needs exercise just as much as their body does.

LIVING WITH A BEARDIE (CONT)

THE HELPFUL ASSISTANT

Whatever you're doing, your Beardie would like to help. Laundry? They can carry the socks. Gardening? They can dig. Cooking? They can supervise from approximately six inches away. Making the bed? Excellent opportunity for a Beardie to lie directly in the middle of it.

Their definition of helpful may differ slightly from yours.

BEARDIE ZOOMIES

Few things are more entertaining than a Beardie suddenly deciding it is time to run around the house, around the yard, around the furniture, and possibly around you. There may be no obvious reason, no warning, and not even enough room. But apparently, none of that matters.

THE BUSY BEARDIE BRAIN

A tired Beardie isn't always just a physically tired Beardie. These dogs love having something to think about. Hide-and-seek with treats or toys, sniffing games, puzzle toys, learning a new trick, changing your walking route, or giving your Beardie a little job to do can all help keep that busy brain occupied.

You don't need fancy equipment. A few minutes of searching, learning, and interacting with you can make a big difference. Because sometimes the best way to prevent a Beardie from inventing a job... is to give them one.

THE BEARDIE MAGIC

For all their quirks, silliness, stubborn moments, muddy feet, flying hair, and occasional questionable decisions, Beardies have a remarkable way of becoming part of everything we do. They make us laugh, keep us moving, keep us company, and somehow turn even the most ordinary day into a Beardie story.

Life with a Beardie can occasionally feel like living with a very hairy roommate who has strong opinions, questionable boundaries, and absolutely no understanding of the concept of personal space.

But we wouldn't have it any other way.



MEMBERS' CORNER - OUR DOGS

Andie Cassidy - 2 years old
Diva sister of Archie Harrison Cassidy exists to merely make the world a prettier place.

Loved and pampered by Mike and Sue Cassidy.

Pretty Girls Make Life Brighter





Archie Harrison Cassidy - 6 years old
Channeling, Ralph Lauren but with better hair.

Archie proves that a well-chosen necktie can make the man, but magnificent hair makes the legend.

Loved deeply by Mike and Sue Cassidy, and kinda sorta by Andie Cassidy.

Handsome Boys Have More Fun

MEMBERS' CORNER - OUR DOGS



Hercules - 9 years old

Ferris Bueller and Hercules had a great summer in Wisconsin, swimming everyday for four weeks.

We loved seeing them splash around and nap in the afternoon from all the fun in the sun.

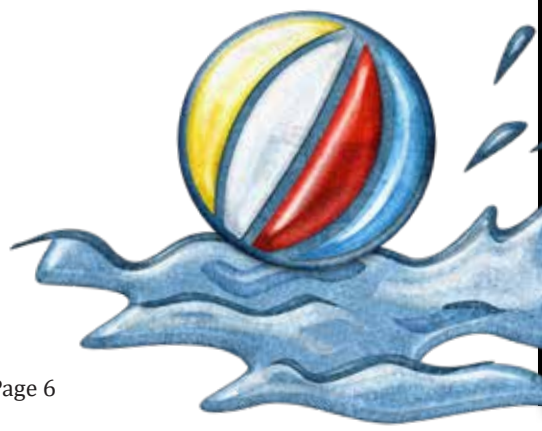
We drove back and they enjoyed many snacks along the way.

Ferris Bueller and Hercules are happy to be back at home in California and back to their routine of playing ball and neighborhood walks.

Josh and Laurie Siegel

Ferris Bueler - 10 years old





MEMBERS' CORNER - OUR DOGS

Casey - 8 years old

What does he like to do?

He likes to think that he only weighs 20 pounds, when he sits on your lap.

Casey loves to nibble on people's chins. He loves to lay in the shade when we have it and it's not 100°. He loves car rides and barking at no one in particular.

Kim Wallace & Deb Brunner





MEMBERS' CORNER - OUR DOGS



Abbit - 11 1/2 years old

Abbit is Tammy Begler's hiking buddy but mostly enjoys her leisurely days watching the neighborhood!

She often makes trips to CO to visit her cousins or visits her aunt Beagle.

Abbit is slowing down a bit but never turns down an outing.
Tammy Begler

Enzo loves his 5:30a.m. walk when he sees many of his dog friends and the other walks during the day.

There isn't a day that someone doesn't tell me how pretty/handsome he is.

There are certain stores and doctor offices we go to that he gets to go in with me, the people just love him.

He really likes it when we are at our cabin and go fishing and hiking. Carole Desmond

Enzo - 4 years old





MEMBERS' CORNER - OUR DOGS



Aspen - 9 years old

Aspen during a herding event.

Aspen was so happy that she got to do her thing she just jumped into my lap and cuddled in appreciation after her second tour de' sheep. of the day.

No glamour on this day; all glory. Steve Garraffa



Matilda - 7 years old and daughter **Lucy - 3 years old**

Matilda and Lucy Hardy had a fabulous summer vacation in the Pacific Northwest.

This is their favorite dog park outside of Vancouver. Rhonda Hardy



MEMBERS' CORNER - OUR DOGS



Georgia - 6 years old



Rainey (left), **Georgia** (right)



Georgia (left), **Rainey** (right)



MEMBERS' CORNER - OUR DOGS



Rainey - 10 years old



Georgia and Rainey love being outdoors playing fetch and frisbee.

They love the beach and forests and getting to travel with us.

Rainey loves people while Georgia is a little more shy but she is probably the happiest, sweetest dog we've ever had. She doesn't walk, she prances.

I think Rainey has an innate ability to suss out "good people". While on the beach she will often go up to a stranger and sit close and lean on them. We always apologize and everyone replies that they love dogs!
Susan & Jim Ruppel

Rainey (left), Georgia (right)



MEMBERS' CORNER - OUR DOGS







MEMBERS' CORNER - OUR DOGS

Hi! My name is **Ellie.** I'll be **13 on December 4th**. I LOVE my time outside and it can be anywhere



Noah and Elllie love their time at the beach.

Ellie now needs to be wherever Mary is now, since Mary started taking her to the office each day, she figures she needs to go everywhere with her.
Mary & Chris Parker





MEMBERS' CORNER - OUR DOGS



Tootsie - 4 1/2 years old (left)
Gigi - 10 years old
Grayson 4 1/2 years old

Jack passed away at 13.5 in late May.

We adopted Grayson from Carol in June. He quickly assimilated into the family.

We enjoy going for walks and cuddling on the sofa.

Grayson and Tootsie are littermates.

Anne and Mark Dundon



MEMBERS' CORNER - OUR DOGS



Poppy - 12 years old



Ducat - 11 years old



Poppy's favorite thing: FOOD!
Ducat's favorite thing: TOYS!

Kimberly & Bruce Nicholson

MEMBERS' CORNER - OUR DOGS



Madelyn Jo - 10 years old



I love to snuggle, walk, and play ball with my twin brothers, Jack and Max.

I love these photos because they are our every day life. Max says everyday, " I am so lucky to have a Maddie."
Lindsey Riscalla





Annual Performance Review: Archie & Andie, Sheepdog Division

It has recently come to our attention that Archie and Andie are Bearded Collies, a breed developed in Scotland to herd sheep across rugged terrain in miserable weather. This was surprising to everyone, particularly Archie and Andie. Accordingly, we conducted their annual performance reviews.

EMPLOYEE: ARCHIE
Position: Working Dog, Sheep Management Division
Years of Service: Six
Overall Rating: Needs Improvement

Archie possesses many fine qualities. He is handsome, charming, loyal, and exceptionally skilled at locating the most comfortable piece of furniture in any room. Unfortunately, none of these skills appear to involve sheep. When presented with the concept of running several miles across uneven terrain to gather livestock, Archie declined to participate. Management believes his exact response was to lie down. His productivity tends to peak between breakfast and his first nap, a window currently estimated at eleven minutes.

EMPLOYEE: ANDIE (That's A.N.D.I.E with a heart over the 'I.")
Position: Junior Herding Associate
Overall Rating: Also Needs Improvement

Andie demonstrates considerably more energy than Archie, although virtually none of it has been directed toward useful employment. She is enthusiastic about the idea of being outdoors but has expressed serious concerns regarding mud, wet grass, puddles, dust, and anything else that might adhere to her feet or sully her magnificent neon pink tail. This represents a significant obstacle in the sheep-herding industry.



Management has therefore concluded that both employees are fundamentally unsuited to the occupations for which approximately 500 years of selective breeding prepared them. (Apologies in advance to breeders Patti Palozzola and Kitty Hale.) Rather than terminate them, however, we have decided to pivot to new roles Effective immediately, Archie and Andie will be transferred from Sheep Management to Corporate Marketing and assume new positions as official mascots of California Closets, Orange County. Frankly, it's a much better fit. Archie already has extensive experience with closets, provided there is a comfortable floor nearby upon which he can collapse. Andie appreciates beautiful things, climate control, clean surfaces, and environments where no one expects her to step in anything unpleasant.Their new responsibilities will include greeting clients, posing for photographs, inspecting installations, accepting compliments, and occasionally standing in front of an exquisitely organized walk-in closet looking expensive. As they do. For the first time in their professional careers, they appear highly qualified. Their Scottish ancestors may be disappointed. Human Resources is delighted.

Sue Cassidy

LONNIE & STEPHEN CARPENTER - BART MEMORIAL

Every dog is a once-in-a-lifetime dog.
Doesn't matter how many you've had.
Each one heals you, owns a piece of you.
And when they go, that piece stays theirs forever.

Bart - Forever Loved

2015- 2026



Mary with Ellie & Lonnie with Bart









IN MEMORIAM KATHLEEN FLANNIGAN

Some people touch your life and make all the difference. That was my friend and first Bearded Collie breeder, Kathleen Flanagan. She opened up an entire new world to me—not just of wonderful Bearded Collies, but importantly, the community of people who love them. She was the spark that led me to join the Bearded Collie Club of Southern California (BCCSC), which became the conduit to 25 years of beautiful friendships and two more Sebring Beardies, my Poppy Parker and Ducat.

I first met Kathleen in 2000, after spending over a year researching what my next breed should be and landing on the Bearded Collie. As Beardie people, we all know how difficult it can be to get one, especially if you have never owned the breed or even a dog of that size. Most of my previous dogs had been Yorkshire Terriers! For some reason, Kathleen took a chance on me and my young family. She agreed to place Anasazi Willow Bud (our Willow)—out of her Tzootsie (CH Chantilly's Too Dame Hot)—with us.

However, that placement came with conditions. Kathleen knew I had a lot to learn and would need support, so she insisted that I hire a dog trainer and join the BCCSC, an organization she passionately helped found. Through the club, I met so many lifelong friends and even served on the Board. Some of the first people I remember meeting were Julie Sneed and Sandy Dubin (both with Anasazi Beardies), and later, Mary Parker. The circle just kept expanding from there.

Most of all, Kathleen was always there for me personally. It started with frequent phone calls about Willow—like asking what the best brush to use was. She was adamant it had to be a Mason Pearson, which, by the way, I still use on Poppy and Ducat today! Our connection quickly evolved into a deep personal friendship. We discussed her quilting projects and clubs, her husband Paul, her son, my own family, and, through the years, the practical realities of aging. Kathleen made it to her 94th birthday on May 18, 2026, and gained her angel wings shortly after. I am certain that Tzootsie, Willow, and all the Anasazi dogs were bouncing and waiting for her at the Rainbow Bridge.

Kathleen will be missed by so many. She started me on a path with Bearded Collies that ultimately—through my next breeder and friend, Kirsten Andreassend—led me to dog shows and even breeding our Ducat, who has now sired four litters—Kathleen loved this! More than that, she introduced me to friends I cherish. I will always thank her for that incredible gift. Her generosity, guidance, and friendship live on in the dogs we love and the beautiful community she helped build.

Kimberly Nicholson



Cherished memories: Kathleen, Tzootsie, Willow and me at the BCCSC Bearded Collie Specialty Ventura CA. June 2005

In Memoriam

Jean Richland

We are very sorry to share the news of the passing of Jean Richland, a founding member of the Bearded Collie Club of Southern California and someone who holds a special place in the history of our club and our breed.

Jean and her husband, Irwin Richland, established Melita Road Bearded Collies in Santa Rosa, California. The kennel took its name from Melita Road, the street where they lived. Their Bearded Collies became a meaningful part of their lives and their connection to the breed.

Jean was also there when the idea of our club was taking shape. She was an inspiration in those early days and a driving force behind obtaining our AKC affiliation. This important accomplishment made it possible for the club to hold sanctioned and licensed dog shows and helped give us the organization we have today.

Jean's life with Bearded Collies brought friendships and many wonderful experiences. Those who knew her remember her warmth, her good sense of humor, and the big heart she had for producing wonderful Bearded Collies. She cared deeply about the dogs she bred and about the people who shared her love of the breed.

Many of us today never had the opportunity to know Jean personally, but we are fortunate to have the memories of those who did. Through those memories, and through the history she helped create, we can catch a glimpse of the woman behind the name and appreciate how much she contributed to the Bearded Collie community.

Every club has people who help give it its beginning — people with the vision and determination to take an idea and turn it into something that lasts. Jean Richland was one of those people. Because of her efforts, and those of the other founding members, generations of Bearded Collie owners have had a club to belong to, shows to attend, and a community in which to share their love of this wonderful breed.

We are grateful that Jean was part of that beginning, and we will always remember the pawprints she left on our club and on the breed she loved.

Thanks to Michele Ritter for allowing us to use this picture of Jean showing.



Thank you Carole Desmond for finding this picture of Jean and Bracket, your 1st show Bearded Collie.



Our heartfelt sympathy goes to Jean's family, her friends, and all those who were fortunate enough to share their lives with her.

Rest in peace, Jean.
Your pawprints are forever part of our history.