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FELON FLIES HOME as told by Francie Nelson

When I was finally able to unseal Felon's crate at Minneapolis and know that he was finally here and finally mine, it was a great moment – a moment that I had thoroughly prepared for. Importing a dog from England is complicated, precise, and expensive.

The decision to purchase Felon came first, on my November trip to England. While I was still in the UK, I paid the puppy purchase price in full – a good faith effort made possible by a temporary loan from a friend (I travel with my bank cash card only, and also my American Express card). There are daily limits on cash withdrawals in foreign countries, and many banks don't accept American Express.

With the puppy successfully paid for and a check sent in Sterling, it was time to consider the best arrangement for shipping. I had three options. The first – taking him back with me – was not possible to arrange. The paperwork wasn't done, and the veterinary work wasn't either. I did not know that I was going to purchase the puppy during the trip – so there was no way I could take him home with me. The next option sounded interesting – I could connect with a Minnesota field person who planned to be in England to pick up and transport a Springer in mid-to-late December. Felon might be able to travel with him, excess baggage. This sounded great, because it would be much less expensive than my third option, which was to hire a recommended, trusted agent to manage Felon's exit from England. Best for the puppy, this option was going to cost me as much – and perhaps more – than the puppy himself, at outrageous conversion rates of about 1:2 (in favor of England, not me!).

As it turned out, our field friend planned to bring two dogs back from England as excess baggage – Felon would be the third, and that posed problems. Additionally, he planned to fly from Manchester to Atlanta, then to Minneapolis, meaning more time on the ground and an uncertain situation with US Customs.

So after much thought I hired an agent. There are rigorous requirements, massive paperwork, and stringent veterinary requirements. Dogs are registered (to their new owners) in England before shipment, in order to facilitate re-registration with the AKC once the dog arrives in the US. The volume of paperwork is significant and AKC requirements to re-register are stringent.

The puppy must be current on shots within 48 hours of flight, which is really dicey if there's a threat of bad weather that might cause a major delay. Also in Felon's case, he

was in North Yorkshire; his agent was in the Midlands, and he was flying on the only direct flight to Minneapolis – from London Gatwick to the south of London. We're talking about hundreds of miles, and many hours, of travel before the puppy could even be put on the plane.

My agent did all this – picked up the puppy at the breeder's, then took him to his office where the two got to know each other. Felon had a light meal while the agent (the marvelous Bill Whitley) sent me regular e-mails about how “the young gentleman” was doing. Bill delivered Felon to the airport in the required crate, with the required water containers, and all of his paperwork, and then stayed with him – exercising him and keeping him company until the very last minute AND seeing him safely onto the plane. Then he sent me a text message that all was well and Felon was in the air.

Exactly 8 hours later, Felon was delivered by the Air Cargo folks to International Air Freight pick-up on 34th Avenue. But the adventure wasn't over. You can't go to your puppy until he clears Customs, and you can't clear him through Customs until you get your paperwork. It took another two hours to get the paperwork, then another half hour to clear the paperwork through US Customs at the Humphrey Terminal.

At 5:30 PM CST, about 12 hours after Felon left England, I cut the seals on the crate and there he was. Felon was home.



Francie and Calvdale Felon, at NWA International Cargo, December 8, 2006

From TCVESSA's President-

After the last heavy snow fall we had, one of TCVESSA's members e-mailed me pictures of her dogs racing around shoveled paths in her yard. Of course not to be outdone, but not really being into shoveling, I decided to "blaze" trails through my exercise and fenced in dog areas. An hour later, thoroughly worn out, my dogs too enjoyed running through their new found paths. Only too late did I realize my hairy dog Chester looked like one gigantic snowball! Oh well, into the tub we went for an afternoon that turned into a whole lot more work than I had originally intended. But what fun they had!

Now with the changing of the seasons from winter into spring, won't you think about "springing" into action and consider working on one of TCVESSA's various committees? TCVESSA is always looking for volunteers and people to help with the many events and functions that we are planning. We have an education committee that has two wonderful seminars in the works that we will need help on, a show committee, hunt test/working dog test, a yearly awards committee, a fun match that needs to be planned, and the list goes on. What a wonderful way to serve this organization, meet many new faces and build community with fellow Springer lovers. Let someone on the board know that you are willing to help, and what area you would like to be involved with.

TCVESSA teamed up with Springer Rescue in February to work during the Pet Expo held at the Minneapolis Convention Center. Many thanks to everyone that helped raise funds for rescue, and in general educate the public about our wonderful breed, and the responsibility that goes along with owning one.

Finally, TCVESSA would like everyone to know that our board meetings are open meetings if you would like to come and visit us; a great way to meet the leadership team of this organization. Future meeting dates are May 23rd, June 27th, July 25th, and August 15th, all scheduled in the Community Room of the Byerly's in Maple Grove, starting time 6:30. We hope that some of you will join us.

Until next time, should I say try to keep warm, again, when it's only 20 degrees the first week of April?!

Julie





TCVESSA BOARD MEETING SUMMARY 03-21-07

- Treasurer Maryevelyn Monty reported that the current balance in the club's checking account is \$9143.96.
- Joan Beck has agreed to proceed with the 2008 calendar. The future of the calendar will depend on Joan's ability to continue and our profit/loss on the project.
- The 2008 banquet has been booked at Dangerfield's in Shakopee, MN for Saturday February 9th, 2008.
- Education Committee Chair Kris Radermacher reported that the Pet Expo was very successful. We had \$130.00 in calendar sales, dogs were adopted, and rescue took in over \$200.00. The board decided that we should do the event again.
- The Reproduction Seminar has been booked for November 10th, 2007 with Dr. Peggy Root and November 11th 2007 with Myra Savant-Harris.
- A second seminar has been booked for February 2nd and 3rd 2008 featuring Patricia McConnell on the 2nd and Steve White on the 3rd.
- Chair Maryevelyn Monty reported that all of the events have been approved by AKC. Carl Walin, the Chief Ring Steward for conformation, has secured all necessary ring stewards.
- A By-laws Committee was formed to work on revising our current bylaws. Kris Radermacher will chair the committee. Francie Nelson and Ann Sunderman are committee members.
- Membership Committee Chair Shirley Harford read the following applications for membership: Kay Esler, Vicki Larson, Ivan and Julie Silverman, and Heather Rand.

The following future board meeting dates have been selected.

April 18th, 2007	6:30pm
May 23rd, 2007	6:30pm
June 27th, 2007	6:30pm
July 25th, 2007	6:30pm
August 15th, 2007	6:30pm

The location for the above meetings will be the community room at Byerly's in Maple Grove.



Club Member Brags and Results

CH Aspen's Ashwyn Explorer "Apollo"

Owned by Carol Hathaway & Jacquie Dean

01/21/07 Chattahoochee Springer Specialty - AOM

01/20/07 Chattahoochee Springer Specialty - AOM

02/08/07 Big Apple Sporting Dog Assoc. - BOB

02/09/07 Long Island Springer Specialty - AOM

02/13/07 Westminster KC - made the cut in Breed

02/23/07 Blackhawk KC, Chicago - BOB

02/24/07 International KC, Chicago Specialty – BOS

02/25/07 International KC Chicago – BOS

Ch Springbrook's Last Magic Act NA NAJ CGC TDI

"Kylee"- owned by Jill Shirley & Rebecca Hoskins

03/03/07 TCOTC Agility Trial

3rd leg Novice Jumpers with Weaves- 2nd place

AKC NAJ title completed

Topgun's Field of Dreams CD RE JH NA NAJ WDX

"Rayne" owned/handled by Shirley Harford

03/04/07 TCOTC Agility Trial

Open Standard- 1st place

03/17/07 NEAM Agility Trial, SPDTC

2nd Leg Novice Jumpers- 1st Place

03/18/07 NEAM Agility Trial, SPDTC

3rd Leg Novice Jumpers- 1st Place

AKC NAJ title completed

Fox Hollow Brand New Day NA NAJ WD

"Kiera" owned/handled by Ann Sunderman

03/24/07 Fargo-Moorhead KC Agility Trial

1st leg Open Standard title- 2nd place

DarTek Ilean's Black Pearl of Chyna...

"Chyna" .owners Barb DiGiovanni & Tekla Viker

03/4/07 ***Tracking Dog Title***

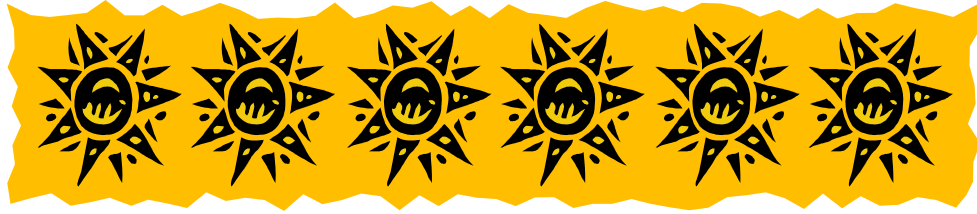
03/23/07 DFWESSA Specialty.WB.5 pt. major!

DarTek's Ilean Endeavor

"Trevor"...owners Tekla Viker & Barb DiGiovanni

02/24/07 International KC of Chicago...Sweepstakes...BOS

03/24/07 Fort Worth K.C WD...



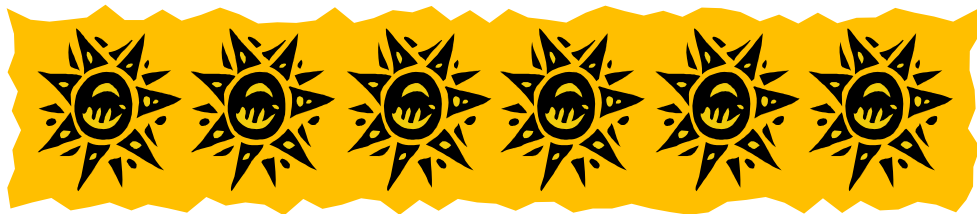
From Kathy Raidt- ESRA coordinator and TCVESSA Board Member-

We had a great time at the Pet Expo 2007 on February 17th and 18th at the Minneapolis Convention Center. I would like to express my appreciation to all of the TCVESSA members for supporting rescue. TCVESSA paid for the booth, designed it and brought in more than \$150. Thanks especially go to the TCVESSA members who were at the booth helping to educate the public on wonderful English Springer Spaniels and also about rescue: Kris Radermacher, Joan Beck, Julie Wilson, Krista Trempe, Shirley Harford, Ann Sunderman, Carmen Laing, and Cindy Myhre.

Joan Beck and CJ brought in \$45 in donations Saturday morning by doing tricks such as answering the telephone and jumping on a boat after it has tipped over in the water. Kris Radermacher and Sweetie made over \$106 by asking for donations to be placed in an Easter basket that Sweetie held in her mouth. The bunny ears and the Easter basket were precious.

Kris also brought beautiful pictures of English Springer Spaniels and fostered English Springer Spaniels to hang on display. Her gifts to the foster parents were the pictures she created. So far, I have received six applications from people in the metro area to adopt springers. This event has brought more attention to our orphaned springers and educated more people on good pet ownership than anything else that we have tried to do as a rescue group. Thank you so much for working so hard.

Besides thanking Sweetie and CJ, I would also like to thank Ann's dog, Grace, Shirley's dog, Aspen, and Carmen's dog, Griffin, for volunteering at the booth. All of the springers were beautiful and wonderful examples of the breed.



Kudos to TCVESSA board member, Kris Radermacher! Her photo of her dog, Sweetie, entitled "Dreams of Seasons Past" will be gracing the cover of the Kansas Humane Society's fundraising calendar.

Legislative Update from Dog News

Sigh of Relief In Minnesota a Speaking of kennel inspections, The House



Public Safety and Criminal Justice Committee pulled the Dog and Cat Breeders Act from its agenda back on March 15th, due in large part to the AKC's Canine Legislation Department input. The AKC CLD was instrumental in getting concerned dog owners and breeders to voice their opposition to the Bill, which sought to establish breeder

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licensing and would require inspection of all "kennels". While all concerned dog owners are strongly in favor of supporting humane treatment for dogs, the Minnesota bill sought to institute sweeping changes that may have forced some responsible breeders to seek other vocations.

The proposed set of laws sought to put forth building requirements for dog owners and breeders that would make it nearly impossible to have dogs in residences. For instance, tethering and leashing as a means of confinement would be eliminated under the proposal, and certain space requirements based on a dog's weight would be mandatory, despite the absence of any scientific support for such a requirement. Once again, the AKC's Canine Legislation Department comes to the rescue of hobby breeders.

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April 1st Obedience Fun Trial

TCVESSA sponsored an obedience fun trial April 1st at C&E Dog Training Center. The weather was a little rainy so it was a good day to spend indoors working with your dog. Even with a less than normal turnout we were kept busy. There were 44 different dogs entered. It is always interesting to watch all of the different breeds doing obedience.

This was the third year in a row we were able to put this fun trial on with just club members doing all of the work. I am happy to thank my judges Deb McCormack, Carmen Laing and Julie Wilson. I really appreciate how they stepped forward to do the “fun” job of judging. We had a great bunch of stewards including some first timers. Maryevelyn Monty, Kathy Raidt and Joan Beck were “broken in” at the busy Open and Novice rings. Deb McCormack and Julie Wilson did double duty as judges and stewards. As always, Shirley Harford did a great job of signing people in at the front desk. She always gets the event started off right. I better not forget to thank my wife, Sandy, who helped at the front desk as well as stewarding.



Jon Pidde

***** P.S. BIG thanks to Jon for chairing this event once again!!! *****