



Pet Tips 'n' Tales

by Mary Ellen "Angel Scribe"

"Chili in Italy"

Destiny is amusing. When I read a Canadian newspaper article on Wendy and her World Team member, Border Collie, Chili, I resolved to feature them in an article. Five days later, at the beach in a city of 3,000,000 people, I randomly started talking to a woman, Anne, Wendy's mother! That is how I miraculously connected to Wendy for this article!

Destiny also guides Wendy's life.

"When I was four-years-old," said Wendy, "I played 'dog training' with my uncle's two Golden Retrievers, teaching them to jump over obstacles that I made. I rewarded them with treats. I'd never heard of the sport, but in my innocence or inner knowing, my actions were paving the future!"

Growing up you assume that you have to earn a living doing something practical, but life is measured in doing things that you love. I love dogs!

With toddlers and working part-time, my dogs were not getting much attention, so when I read an article on dog agility, 'we' signed up. I instantly 'knew' this was my destiny, Nirvana — a place of perfect happiness surrounded by dogs and dog lovers watching canines excitedly paw-forming!

Witnessing dogs mastering a variety of obstacle courses is a fluffy fluid metaphor of life about meeting obstacles head-on, barking at them and keep on going.

That was 15 years ago, 'back in the olden days' of dog agility. The sport was so new that there were only 2-3 competitions a year held great distances apart. Over the years, the sport exploded! When I registered my youngest dog, Crush, with the Agility Association of Canada (AAC), her number was in the 22,000's!

This sport is fun! Dog guardian's ages range from 5-90 years old. Participants have one common denominator — they all LOVE canines.

In 2010, I began teaching dog agility. I was finally doing what I loved! Now I instruct 12 weekly classes, plus private lessons. My clients vary from those who enjoy spending time with their dogs to those striv-

ing to earn titles or aspiring to qualify for a world team. This sport benefits pets and people on an emotional, social and physical level. Our dogs are our pets, companions and partners." www.DogWorks.ca

Wendy's oldest Border Collie, Phoenix, won the 2012 National Championships, and her current competition dog is a red merle Border Collie, 'Red Hot Chili Pepper'. Chili has an im-paw-sibly high drive for paw-formance. Fitting of any paw-fessional athlete, Chili is on a raw food diet, receives acupuncture, and visits a chiropractor keeping her healthy and fit.

Last year, in Chili's first World Competition, she placed fifth! Her resume includes competing in most of Canada's 10 provinces, coast to coast, across 2,800 miles. As a world traveler, she enjoys the scenery in California, Florida, Oregon, Washington, Austria, Belgium, Croatia, France, the Netherlands and Italy — and like any typical tourist dog, she wants her head out the window!

At the AAC Nationals, Chili qualified to represent Canada in the 2015 World Agility Championships in the Netherlands and the World Agility Open in Italy.

"Upon arriving in Europe, Chili had jet lag," said Wendy, "but after a few days of R & R she sprang back. In Italy, she shifted into an entirely new and yet undiscovered gear and speed. It was brilliant witnessing her among the 400 dogs representing their 34 countries."

Chili's career titles: Agility Trial Champion of Canada, Versatility Silver Award and podium finishes in regional and national championships. In the USA, she competes at the US-DAA's Master Level.

"But titles don't really mean a thing!" said Wendy, "Running on course with this beautiful, inspirational, and amazing teammate is reward enough!"

While interviewing Wendy, we were suddenly interrupted by frenzied barking. No matter how well-trained her four dogs are, when they see the mailman, they explode into "mailman-mayhem" — just for the fun of it!

Wendy at "work":

<https://www.facebook.com/optiklocal/videos/669140429857070/?fref=nf>



Courtesy Photo

Wendy and her champion, Chili, have competed in the World Agility Championships in Italy — twice! Here, the winners are enjoying a mountain hike along with Chili's buddies, Crush and Phoenix.

10 TIPS - FLYING WITH A DOG

1. Avoid hot or cold weather. In summer, fly at night.
2. Contact the airline. Ask EXACTLY what is required.
3. Arrive at the airport in *plenty* of time with a well-exercised, pottied, comfortable pet. After checking in, take the pet out one more time.
4. Mark your crate with fun colors so it can be spotted from a distance. Tape the pet's name, photo, flight information, and contact information to the kennel.
5. Don't get on the plane until see that your pet is loaded or have the gate attendant verify that they have loaded your animal by them telling YOU its name, not by you asking. Some airlines hand you a chit when your pet is loaded — these airlines are preferred. If in doubt, call the flight attendant. If they don't respond, stand up! A plane can't take off if you refuse to sit down.
6. Fly direct if possible, even

if it is more expensive.

7. Secure the kennel's door with a zip tie and tighten all screws. Kennels pop open in transit!

8. Strap a pouch outside the kennel containing: quick clean up wipes, treats and water/food.

9. Medicating a pet for air travel can be dangerous. Pets can have a reaction or aspirate.

10. Place a puppy pee pad on the crate's bottom and carry extra for emergencies.

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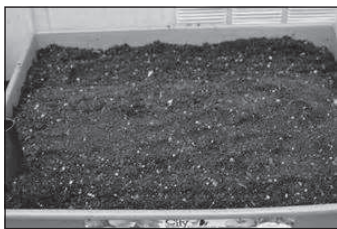
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ODFW: Kids now need fishing license at age 12

As families venture to the outdoors this spring, the Oregon Department of Fish and Wildlife remind parents that youths between the ages of 12 and 17 need a license if they plan to hunt, fish or shellfish.

Although fishing now requires a license two years earlier than in the past — at age 12 instead of age 14 — the cost of the license is significantly less than it was in years past. Now a combination youth hunting/fishing/shell-fishing license costs \$10. For \$5 more, youngsters can also purchase a tag that will allow them to catch salmon, steelhead, sturgeon and halibut. The \$15 combined cost of a youth license

and tag in 2016 compares to a cost of \$41.75 last year, a cost reduction of 64 percent. According to ODFW, youth license was developed to simplify the youth license requirements for hunting and fishing.

Under the new fee structure, a single license permits youth license holders to take part in all three activities — hunting, fishing and shell-fishing. Previously, a separate license was required for each of these activities.

There is no distinction in the fee structure between resident and nonresident youths — they pay the same for hunting/fishing licenses and tags.

Indie folk duo finds healing in song

LeMaster Abrams to perform here March 19

The Northwest indie folk duo of Lori LeMaster and Alex Abrams came together via grief, and they are still finding hope and healing through their music. LeMaster Abrams will be performing at Cottage Grove's Axe & Fiddle on Saturday, March 19 at 8:30 p.m.

LeMaster said she came upon the gruesome scene of her 26-year old daughter's accident two years ago. Ironically, mother and daughter had partnered together to run a grief group for teen girls who had lost a parent to a death.

After Aimee's death, friends and family encouraged LeMaster to write from the heart so that healing would come. However, LeMaster was still dealing with PTSD, and so the thoughts needed for creative lyrics would only strike up traumatic images in her mind.

After many attempts to gath-

er lyrics, she put songwriting aside. One year had passed and Lori found herself on her way to a Christmas dinner. It turns out that the limo driver assigned to her was Alex Abrams, and as LeMaster and Abrams struck up a conversation, she soon learned that Abrams was a professional cellist who also teaches at the Shedd in Eugene. It was after this meeting LeMaster and Abrams blended their talents.

"There was something about Abrams' cello playing that literally struck a chord and pulled at my heart strings. His passion intermingled with the cello strings and literally broke the 'emotional dam' which allowed the tears and words to pour out of me," says LeMaster, who has since written many catchy tunes. The duo now performs throughout the Northwest, sharing LeMasters' originals as well as cover songs.

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