

## It's a dog's life on Magic Island



CRAIG CUNNINGHAM/DAILY MAIL

Debbie Nauman of Hurricane guides Nike, a 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ -year-old border collie, through a series of obstacles set up for practice. She and other members of the Magic Valley Kennel Club will be demonstrating their dogs' skills Saturday.

# Owners can observe canines' obedience training, ask questions about breeds

By **MARY CHILDRESS**  
DAILY MAIL STAFF

**F**or an old gal, she's got all the moves. She weaves, she jumps, she runs like the wind — and she's a grandmother.

In addition to being an agility expert, Nike, a 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ -year-old border collie owned by Debbie Nauman of Teays Valley, also is a working dog.



**MCDONALD**  
President of kennel, training clubs

"She gets to do her herding job by working with sheep at a friend's farm," said Nauman.

"That is what she was bred to do and it keeps her happy and healthy."

Nauman and other members of the Magic Valley Kennel Club will demonstrate their dogs'

skills and obedience traits at the Responsible Dog Ownership Day on Saturday at Magic Island.

From 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. members will

offer demonstrations. The event is free and open to the public.

Club president Gene McDonald encourages people to bring their pets to the island.

Members of the Kanawha Obedience Training Club will be on hand to answer questions.

"We're hoping to have about 15 dogs here demonstrating their skills," McDonald said. "We'll also have a meet-the-breed segment with several types of purebred show dogs."

Nancy Staab of St. Albans will bring her 4-year-old West Highland white terrier, Holyrood's Heaven Can Wait — or Chloe, as she is known.

Staab owns Gaelforce Westies, where she breeds the terrific terriers.

"Chloe's a show dog," she said. "She doesn't participate in the agility trials. She just looks pretty. She goes to conformation events."

At a conformation show, judges determine how closely an animal conforms to breed standards.

■ Turn to **DOGS/2D**



Nancy Staab of St. Albans and her 4-year-old West Highland white terrier, Chloe, travel to conformation shows. Staab is a member of the Magic Valley Kennel Club and owns Gaelforce Westies in St. Albans.



Connie Blake, owner of Jitterbug, a 10-month-old standard poodle, runs K-9 Ad-diction Dog Training and has 37 years of experience in training and showing dogs.



Dessie, left, and Ferdinand, both Pembroke Welsh corgis owned by Beth Rutledge, will be demonstrating their abilities Saturday.

## Dogs

▲ Continued from 1D

### \$5 fee to try the agility equipment to benefit shelter

"To my knowledge, I'm the only one in the state to show Westies," Staab said. "West Virginia is a good hunting dog state, but it's not a show dog state."

Beth Rutledge of Charleston will bring two Pembroke Welsh Corgis, Ferdinand and Dessie.

"Both dogs participate in



■ Go online to watch video of this story.

the rally, obedience and agility events," she said. "They're not show dogs. We'll be there to let them show their stuff."

Connie Blake, who owns and runs K-9 Addiction Dog Training, has been training and showing dogs for 37 years.

She plans to bring Jitterbug, her 10-month-old standard poodle.

"Right now, she's not ready to do all the trials," Blake said. "She's a little too young and inexperienced. But eventually, she'll do it all."

Blake is teaching Jitterbug to retrieve in water and on land. The dogs were bred to be retrievers.

As part of Jitterbug's training, Blake fires a rifle near her to get her used to

the sound.

The Magic Valley Kennel Club was formed in 1950. It is made up of a diverse group of dog lovers who share a common interest in raising, training, breeding and competing with purebred dogs.

"As a club, we sponsor an AKC conformation event in Lewisburg once a year plus several free public education seminars each year," McDonald said.

The club also conducts sanctioned matches, dog shows and performance events under the rules of the AKC.

McDonald has seven baset hounds at his home in Winfield. Some are titled, meaning they have met all the standards that the AKC requires for that breed.

"We're hoping people will bring their dogs, purebred or not, and enjoy the day with us at Magic Island," he said. "They can have fun with their dogs and learn some pointers too."

If dog owners want their pets to try some of the agility equipment or go through the rally obedience course, there's a \$5 fee. The money will benefit the Kanawha-Charleston Animal Shelter.

In addition to the demonstrations, a veterinarian will be present to answer questions. There will be grooming demonstrations and members of the Red Cross will conduct animal CPR demonstrations.

For more information about the event Saturday, visit [www.magicvalleykennelclub.com](http://www.magicvalleykennelclub.com).

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