

# Rural Hill

## 15th Annual Sheep Dog Trials

Special Bulletin - October 2009

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PETCO presents the 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Rural Hill Sheep Dog Trials on November 7 & 8, 2009. The Trials are sanctioned by the United States Border Collies Handlers Association and more than 100 dogs will be competing throughout the weekend.

The Trials are open to any herding breeds, but the majority of entries are Border Collies. The Sheep Dog Trials are based on tasks that a working dog is asked to do on the farm. Points are earned for each phase of work. The dog and handler team is awarded points for



demonstrating precision in the time allowed. One of 13 dog breeds that developed in Scotland, the Border Collie first appeared in the Border country in the 1700's.

In addition to the regional sheep dog competition, Rural Hill offers a variety of family activities each day including the Dog Sport Demo Field presented by the Greater Charlotte Sheltie Club. Many other family activities will be available including a bounce house and inflatables, hayrides around the farm, an antique tractor display, Pumpkin Chunkin' with a model of an 11<sup>th</sup> century trebuchet (bring

your leftover Halloween pumpkin or purchase one at Rural Hill), cornfield and logic mazes, the Rural Hill livestock, and more! The 1760's Davidson Family Homestead site will be open for visitors. Open hearth cooking and blacksmith demonstrations will take place during the event.

Food and beverages will be available for purchase. Visit us online for complete event details, [www.ruralhill.net](http://www.ruralhill.net).

NEW IN 2009! On Saturday a "Rally to Rescue Pet Expo & Adoption Fair" will be hosted at the Davidson School House. See page three for details.

**Gates open each day at 8 AM, competition begins at 8:30 and activities begin at 10 AM. Admission is \$10 per person ages 13+, \$7 per child ages 5-12, children ages 4 and under are admitted free.**

*Proceeds from annual events are used for the preservation of Historic Rural Hill and its educational programs.*



## ABOUT THE BORDER COLLIE

While the Rural Hill Sheep Dog Trials welcomes any herding breed, the Border Collie predominates. Physical appearance has no strict standard. You will see smooth, medium or rough-coated dogs. Colors are black, black and tan, and reddish-brown, all usually with white markings. Although appearances may differ, the working style of the Border Collie is distinctive. The dog moves with its head low to the ground, its hindquarters high and its tail tucked between its legs. This unique position exhibits the very traits inherited from the Border Collie's ancestral breeding.

This dog was bred to gather, not drive, sheep. Hence, it works calmly and swiftly without barking or nipping (Whippet influence), unlike some other herding breeds. The intense gaze or "eye" (pointer/setter influence) wills the sheep to obey. Bred to "clap" or face the sheep head-on with its belly close to the ground, the Border Collie controls by imitating the stance of a predator. The successful dog combines all these characteristics to elicit respect, not fear, from the sheep. With its flock under control, the dog herds with calm precision, lightning quick reflexes, an uncommon intelligence and an innate desire to please. Keep these points in mind as you enjoy the fieldwork of these amazing dogs.

## THE HISTORY OF DOG TRIALS

On October 9, 1873, in Bala, Wales, 300 spectators braved the wet and cold to witness the earliest recorded dog trial. They saw a Scotsman best all other competitors, who were Welsh, to take top honors. Trials quickly gained popularity with the first Scottish trial in the early 1870's and the first English trials in 1876. In 1906 the International Sheepdog Society was founded to bring organization to the trialing world and to "improve the breed of the collie with a view to the better management of stock." After World War I, the term, "Border Collie," was adopted to distinguish the working collie from the show collie.

American trialing began with Philadelphia's 1880 centennial year celebration. The first U.S. "official" sheepdog trial, however, occurred in 1928 in Bennington, Vermont where 1500 people gathered to watch a competition among seven dogs. Since then, event and attendance numbers have risen dramatically. Over the past twenty years, stockmen and spectators alike have discovered the challenges of the new sport. Across the country hundreds of trials are now held throughout the year. The National Finals, sponsored by the United States Border Collie Handlers' Association and the American Border Collie Association, is run annually to select our country's champion herding dogs.

**Full event information is available online at [www.ruralhill.net](http://www.ruralhill.net)**

*Portions of text taken from [meekersheepdog.com](http://meekersheepdog.com)*

November 7 & 8, 2009

# Rural Hill Sheep Dog Trials

Presented By **PETCO**  
Where Our Pets Go

Bring your kids  
and dogs  
out to the farm!

Photos by James J. Shaffer

# Rural Hill Hosts the STRUT YOUR MUTT MARCH

**NEW  
in 2009!**

On Saturday at 10 AM Rural Hill will host the "Strut Your Mutt" Spay/Neuter March. Participants will be able to strut their favorite K9's in competition in the southern area of the historic Rural Hill grounds to raise funds for Humane Animal Rescue efforts and Friends for Life Spay/Neuter Programs.

The first three K9 competitors to finish the walk, and if their human companions correctly answer trivia questions, will win valuable prize baskets. There will also be an award for Best-Dressed K9 competitor. There will be registration gifts for all entrants. No retractable leashes will be allowed for K9 competitors.

Rural Hill executive director Ed McLean commented, "We are always open to building community partnerships and the Strut Your Mutt Spay/Neuter March is a natural fit for our Sheep Dog Trials event. It is a privilege to open Rural Hill to the community for outreach activities."

To participate in the Strut Your Mutt March, you may register on site beginning at 9 AM. Cost to participate in the March is \$10 for the first Canine entry and \$5 for each additional Canine in your walking party. Two legged friends walk for free!

For those who do not want to strut, the "Rally to Rescue Pet Expo & Adoption Fair" by Friends for Life LKN will have something for everyone. There will be many rescue organizations featuring pets available for adoption. This year the Pet Expo will even have some horses, ducks and maybe even a few parrots for everyone one to enjoy.



*Rescue pets Annie and Jack;  
photos by Tracey Young.*



To help protect your pet from being lost, Crossroads Animal Rescue and their vets will provide a low cost Micro Chipping service. There will be educational awareness activities, animal related vendor exhibits, entertainment, food, and children's activities on site until 3 PM. General admission to the Pet Expo portion of the event is free.

Jan Scere of Friends for Life Lake Norman comments, "We are so pleased with the partnership with Rural Hill for this event, and extend our thanks to Purina and our many partners who help make this possible." Jan was recently named as the grand prize winner of WSOC-TV's 2009 Nine Who Care Awards.

For more information visit [www.friends4lifelkn.com](http://www.friends4lifelkn.com).

*Note: The Sheep Dog Trials and activities are held in the northern area of the Rural Hill grounds and admission is separate from the Strut Your Mutt March.*



# About Rural Hill

Rural Retreat, as it was first established, was the homestead of Major John and Violet Davidson. John Davidson served in the American Revolution and was one of the original signers of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence. The small homestead ultimately developed into a thriving plantation. Today, Rural Hill is a restoration in progress. There are 265 acres of magnificent rural vistas, farm animals and walking trails throughout the site.

Rural Hill is open to the public Monday through Saturday and offers a variety of activities such as guided tours, self-guided walking tours, many education programs and our two and a half mile hiking trail.

Reservations are encouraged. *Please note:* These activities may be suspended during our special events that are held throughout the year.

For a complete calendar of events, please visit us at [www.ruralhill.net](http://www.ruralhill.net). or give us a call - 704.875.3113.



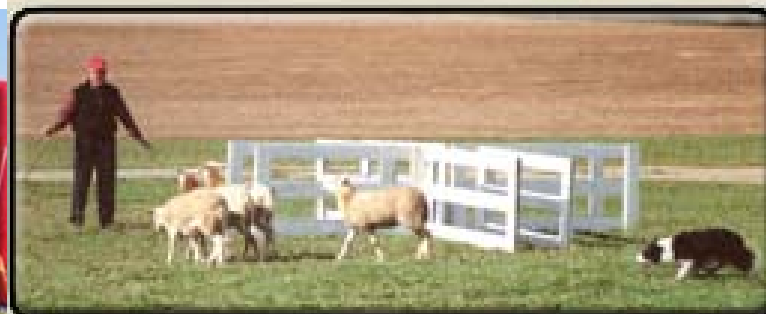
**Rural Hill extends a special**

# THANK YOU

**to its Community Partners for their support:**



**Town of Huntersville, Mecklenburg County Parks & Recreation,  
Camp Wagging Tails, AT&T Yellow Pages, Duke Energy and  
LakeCross Veterinary Hospital**





# Rural Hill Sheep Dog Trials

November 7 & 8, 2009

[www.ruralhill.net](http://www.ruralhill.net)



## SATURDAY

8 AM - Gates Open

8:30 AM - 4 PM  
Sheep Dog Trials (Open Class Competition)

10 AM - 4 PM  
Hayride on the half hour (\$2 per person)  
Punkin' Chunkin'  
Cornfield and mini mazes  
Yard Sale to benefit the Rural Hill livestock  
Bake Sale  
Dog Sport Demo Field Presented by the  
Greater Charlotte Sheltie Club

9 AM - 4 PM  
Davidson 1760's Homestead  
Watch a log cabin being constructed  
which will be auctioned for charity.

5 PM  
Site Closes to the General Public

## SUNDAY

8 AM - Gates Open

8:30 AM - 4 PM  
Sheep Dog Trials (Open Class Competition)

10 AM - 4 PM  
Hayride on the half hour (\$2 per person)  
Punkin' Chunkin'  
Cornfield and mini mazes  
Yard Sale to benefit the Rural Hill livestock  
Bake Sale  
Dog Sport Demo Field Presented by the  
Greater Charlotte Sheltie Club

NOON - Punkin' Fling  
Bring your old Halloween pumpkin out  
and we'll let you fling it for good luck!

4 PM  
Sheep Dog Trial Competition Concludes

5 PM  
Site Closes to the General Public



## Historic Rural Hill

is located at 4431 Neck Road (off Beatties Ford Road) in Huntersville, 28078. The former homestead of Major John and Violet Davidson, the 265 acre site is maintained and promoted by The Catawba Valley Scottish Society (CVSS). Rural Hill features annual events such as the Rural Hill Scottish Festival and Loch Norman Highland Games, the Rural Hill Amazing Maize Maze and the Rural Hill Sheep Dog Trials. CVSS is a non-profit organization supported through membership and donations, and with proceeds from its events utilized for the preservation of historic Rural Hill and its education programs. For more information on events or for financial support accepted securely online, please visit [www.ruralhill.net](http://www.ruralhill.net).