



*Rocky Mountain
Bearded Collie Connection*

Beardie Works
April 2026



RMBCC Beardie Works April 2026

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RMBCC Officers	Committee Chairs	
	Agility: Kim Krueger	Hospitality: Colleen Fitzgerald Nan Matthews
	Awards: Kathy Zeschin Olivia Lazarus	Newsletter: Nan Matthews
	Constitution/Standing Rules: Nancy Shock	Obedience/Rally: Meg Naylor
	Herding: Meg Naylor	Barn Hunt: Olivia Lazarus
	Therapy Dogs/ScentWork: Norm Lazarus Olivia Lazarus	Membership/Insurance/Taxes Meg Naylor
	Condolences: Laura Tappero	
President: Olivia Lazarus doriswoodsong@yahoo.com		
Past President: Nancy Shock Nashock55@gmail.com		
Treasurer: Karen Deitke KarenDeitke@gmail.com		
Secretary: Deb McAlister dmcmarley@msn.com		
Directors: Colleen Fitzgerald Meg Naylor Kathy Zeschin		

BEREAVEMENT COMMITTEE CHAIR: Laura Tappero

While my duties as chair might make you believe I am the bearer of bad news, let me reassure you that I can bring good news also. Especially the good news as it pertains to your Beardies' accomplishments. But and this is the biggy, *I can only do this if you, the membership, let me know.*

We all mourn when we lose our beloved pets or a family member. It's important to know how much your sadness at this time is shared.

If you have news for me, good or sad, please e-mail me @ ltappero@myctl.net



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RMBCC PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I hope you have been enjoying our warm winter and hope our summer is not going to be too hot.

I started doing Scent Work with Roy and wrote a little article about beginning Scent Work. Nan and I have been practicing during our Rally class on Thursdays. The dogs love it.

We had our Board meeting on March 29th.

I look forward to seeing the club members at the picnic in May.



Olivia Lazarus

2026 RMBCC BOARD MINUTES - March 29, 2026

The Zoom meeting commenced at 7:10 PM

Attendees: Olivia Lazarus, Meg Naylor, Deb McAlister, Colleen Fitzgerald, Nancy Shock, Karen Deitke, Kathy Zeschin

The minutes were approved as amended.

Treasurer's Report:

Balance: \$5024.29

Expenditures included \$25 for Colorado tax, \$438 for insurance, and \$100 to reserve DeKoevend Park for our club picnic.

Club picnic-May 17, 2026. We will serve a deli tray, and members will be asked to bring a side dish, as at past club picnics.

The membership will most likely be the same as last year, with 28 household memberships. There have been 11 renewals so far. The board voted in the past to eliminate a grace period.

A discussion to have club business cards made ensued, but no decision was made.



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Newsletter-Nan Matthews asked for brags and stories about our Beardies for the newsletter.

Board member slate-no board member contested the slate of officers, so it was unanimously approved.

Awards-Olivia Lazuras-awards will be presented at the picnic.

The board passed a resolution to donate an amount to the National Specialty to get our club's name in the catalog. We need to confirm the exact amount.

Scent work-Olivia Lazuras and Nan Matthews presented ideas for having a rally/scent class.

BCCA-Kathy Zechin has the contact information for the club to apply for a maximum of \$500 reimbursement for the club. She will report at another board meeting whether our club has qualified.

The next board meeting: June 28, 2026

Respectfully submitted, Deb McAlister, secretary

RMBCC's Annual Summer Picnic

Sunday, May 17, 2026

9:30 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.

DeKoevend Park, Centennial, CO

A park for Beardies to run and play frisbee....

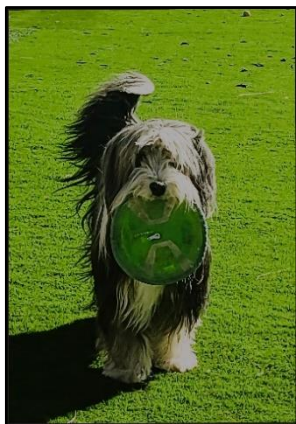
We are meeting again at DeKoevend Park – our favorite place for the annual picnic. After lunch we will have a short annual meeting and present the 2025 awards.

The club will provide a deli tray with rolls and condiments. Everyone is encouraged to bring desserts or salads and whatever refreshment you would like.

If you have a portable tent or awning, please bring it for shade. Do include a chair for seating, plenty of water and of course poop bags for your dogs.



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Directions

6580 S. Vine Street, Centennial, CO 80122. The nearest cross streets are Arapahoe Road and University Boulevard. South Vine Street is the first light west of University. BMO Bank on the South—Post Office on the north.

Turn on Vine at the Post Office, follow the road until you see the South Suburban Ice Arena on your right. Pull into the parking lot and go to the east side. Take the path across the Highline Canal and down a little hill. You will see the ballpark and set-up area directly ahead.

RSVP by May 8 to Colleen@Fitz1.com

BRAGGS AND WAGGS

Karen Deitke – Kindle



Kindle earned her Masters Century Jumpers Title (100 Masters Level Qualifying runs) and her TQX Title (10 triple Qs from a Q in Masters Standard, Masters Jumpers and Masters FAST on the same day).

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Karen Deitke – Rosie



Rosie earned her Novice FAST, Open FAST and Open Jumpers with Weaves AKC Agility Titles.

Kim Krueger – Daisy



Daisy, Risa Nonesuch Wildflower TKN RN - Got her Rally Novice title at the Golden trial.



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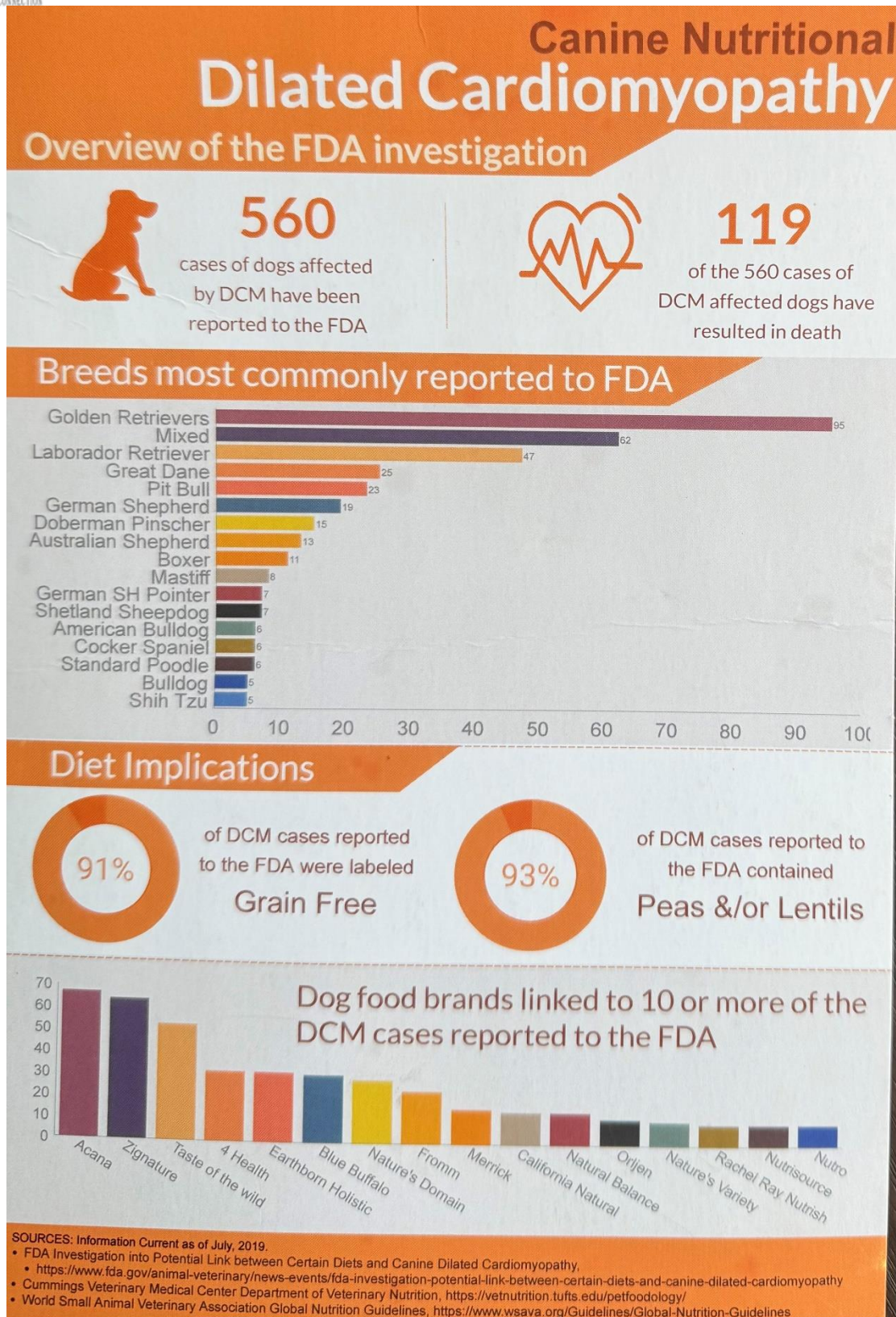
Article on DCM Sent by Karen Deitke

This is the first of any kind of recommendation I've seen from a Vet regarding DCM. Many people are not aware of it and thought it would be good information to include in the newsletter.

Linus was diagnosed with DCM about 6 years ago when I took him to the vet for a ruptured infected cyst. Upon examination they asked me, "has anyone ever mentioned they've heard a heart murmur? I said no." They said, "what are you feeding him?" I said "Grain Free Zignature." **They said get him off of it!** I followed up with an echocardiogram, and he was diagnosed with DCM. I see now they are calling it nutritional DCM.

After a change of food, very expensive heart medicine and added taurine supplements, his last echo cardiogram no longer showed symptoms. Although it was still recommended to continue the medication and taurine if possible as some dogs that have seen it reverse and was removed from meds gradually saw it return.

See Article on pages 9 and 10.



Until more is understood about the causes of Nutritional DCM



Educate yourself! Consult with a Veterinary Nutritionist, talk to a veterinarian, or consult peer-reviewed resources of pet nutrition.



Check the ingredient list! No more than 1 pulse overall, and NOT in the first five ingredients.



Follow WSAVA Guidelines: Feed food from producers that i) employ a veterinary nutritionist, ii) control their own production lines, & iii) conduct AAFCO food trials.



Still unsure? Most foods produced by Eukanuba, Hills Science Diet, Iams, Purina, and Royal Canin meet the WSAVA guidelines.



Pulses

Peas, Lentils, Chickpeas,
Potato, Sweet Potato,
and Beans

Know the Signs of DCM

- decreased energy
- cough
- difficulty breathing
- episodes of collapse
- exercise intolerance

DCM can cause sudden death, contact your Veterinarian!



DCM can develop without displaying symptoms for years



A Veterinary Cardiologist can diagnose DCM with an echocardiogram

Nutritional DCM may be reversible if identified!



Resources

1

Veterinary Nutritionists

Directory of ACVN Diplomates - www.acvn.org/directory
Resources and advice from Tufts University - www.petfoodology.org

2

Pet Nutrition Toolkits

WSAVA Global Guidelines - www.wsava.org/Guidelines/Global-Nutrition-Guidelines
Home Cooked Diets - www.balanceit.com
PNA Manufacturer Report - <https://petnutritionalliance.org/chart/index.php/manufacturer-report>

3

Online Community

Taurine DCM - www.taurinedcm.org

Petcardia
VETERINARY CARDIOLOGY



Petcardia now offers DCM Screenings at a reduced price for symptom free pets

Healthy Hearts & Happy Pets



Wheat Ridge
720-724-8010

Loveland
970-775-8002

Lafayette
720-724-8012

Castle Rock
720-724-8013

Petcardia Veterinary Cardiology

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Introduction to Scent Work

I recently started a Scent Work Class with Roy. The instructor is Dana Zinn at Zinn Dog Training LLC. We use an 8 to 10 foot lead. We started in a small room where there were many small buckets which were placed by chairs. We were told to use metal or glass open containers, since they don't retain the odors when you are done.

We started with the odor of Birch using one to four Q-tips with the odor placed in a small container with holes, so they can smell the odor. You can start with one hide with a treat, then work to just the hide without a treat. Keep it simple and keep the training sessions short.

You need to keep a tight hold on the lead but remember you are following your dog and cannot give them any directions once you ask them to "go find or search". Also keep your eyes on their feet.

Nose Work Scent Kits

- Paw Plus training Kit
- Let's Get Sniffy Kit
- Valerie's "Famous Seamus" Intro to Odor Kit
- Stacy's Kit – 101

If you have any interest in learning more about scent work and/or perhaps have the club host some classes, contact Olivia Lazarus at doriswoodsong@yahoo.com

BFFs Roy and Skye Taking a Break from Their Playdate





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Kaitlyn Rohr Seminar
May 16 & 17 Steamboat Springs
Contact Host: Cathy Shryock
Location: 29505 Scrub Oak Path, Steamboat Springs, CO 80487

About Kaitlyn Rohr

Kaitlyn Rohr is the owner and trainer of First Class Dog Agility, LLC, bringing over 20 years of experience to the sport. She began as a junior handler in 4-H and has since earned top placements across NADAC, USDAA, AKC, and UKI, including multiple USDAA Regionals, UKI Classics, UKI Festivals, and National podium finishes.

In 2026, Kaitlyn will represent the United States at the World Agility Championships as a member of the IFCS World Team with her 4-year-old dog, Brink, in Valencia, Spain. Kaitlyn and Blitz have also earned an invitation to the 1-TDC UKI Invitationals in 2026.

Known for her positive, foundation-focused training style, Kaitlyn works with all breeds and skill levels. She believes that when dogs and handlers train in a fun, encouraging atmosphere, both develop confidence, clarity, and a lifelong love for agility.

Kaitlyn Rohr contact info: firstclassagility@gmail.com (970) 640-5693

Follow her on Facebook: [First Class Agility, LLC](#)

There will be one session each day: 8-5 with lunch break
Each session will have an Elite/Masters course set with all equipment available.
Participants may choose what they want to concentrate on during their turn.
The course will accommodate all levels of dogs.
Each day is \$170 per team 8 dog limit

\$50 deposit due at registration to be sent to Cathy, the remainder paid at seminar.
Auditors are welcome \$50 per session
Private lessons are available on Friday night for \$90. Contact Kaitlyn to arrange lessons.
Checks can be made to First Class Agility

Contact Information: Cathy Shyrock
boomer@springsips.com
970-896-9130

The arena is 100 x 200 with a sand footing. Plenty of space for crating and shade tents. Contacts are rubber.

Lunch will be provided for those attending each day.

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THEY'VE GONE TO THE RAINBOW BRIDGE



Sophie Sweeney 4/25/10- 3/4/26

My beloved Sophie lived to the age of almost sixteen. We were lucky to have our beautiful Beardie with us for so many years, because most dogs don't live as long. Considering her diagnosis of Addison's Disease (adrenal gland insufficiency) at her age of three (when she almost died), her long life was an amazing gift. With the good support of her veterinarian, we took care of Sophie, and she took care of us and loved us for so long that we can hardly remember life without her!

Because of her Addison's, she was a different sort of girl from the very beginning. Excitement could be too much for her. Her early group training sessions had Sophie turning to look towards the exit because she was desperate to leave. Having fun was number one on her list but sometimes activity was overstimulating, and she would need to be alone to calm down.

In later years, she looked for respite under the bed when another dog came to our house, or when it was too much for her, she pulled us to the car to go home after a Bearded Collie Walk at Washington Park.

We took Sophie's journey with her, learning to understand her, and always, we adored her. We were impressed that she knew just what to do to take care of herself. An independent Beardie, for sure. She adored car rides and walking in parks. If we were walking in the neighborhood, she would instead head in the direction of the park. It was hard to coax her to turn in the direction of our home instead. As a young dog, she barked in the backyard too much at neighbor dogs. With correction and training, she quickly understood that this was not acceptable. She found her own solution, taking up running in the yard with a ball in her mouth that muffled her bark. Then, she did the same in the house with stuffed animals that she'd grab anytime she felt the urge to bark at a passing dog or truck.

In her last year, Sophie could not see or hear very well but that did not stop her from letting us know what she wanted. It was both annoying and humorous. No more barks were muffled with balls. No. If she wanted to go outside or come in, if she wanted us to play in the yard or get up on the living room couch, she would bark continuously because maybe we did not hear her! If she wanted to sleep on our bed, that was going to happen! Ask for a Cheeto and get a Cheeto. In her last year, we saw how well she had behaved most of her life. In old age, dementia or not, she was determined to get what she wanted.

And we wish we could still give her everything she wanted. Rest In Peace, our Sophie.

Kristi, Brooks and Meghan Sweeney.



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To Aunt Beardie Readers:

Before Aunt Beardie answers issues from those darling little ones, she requests some stories from her readers about the adorable habits, tricks, actions, or routines that your Beardies entertain you with daily. Especially those habits that are not trained or “requested.”

Aunt Beardie shares an example of Beardie actions that routinely entertain her humans below:

Dear Readers,

- 1) One of my little darlings takes notice of what her humans are doing routinely. After pup's dinner and humans' dinner have been enjoyed, she brings a Kong -type toy to her human asking for a treat to be inserted. Is she asking for dessert? This is an endearing, regular, daily activity. Her humans say they did not teach her to do this. Her humans tell me they believe it is the result of the Beardie ability to think independently; as an intelligent herding breed.
- 2) One day my little darling, Bo, sat quietly watching the humans pick up leaves that stuck to his coat and dropped onto the floor. His human turned toward little Bo to see that he was offering his human a small piece of paper that he too found on the floor. His humans believed he was copying their actions picking stuff off the floor. What do you think? What are your stories? How do your little ones entertain you with their antics?

Dear Aunt Beardie,

My baby brother just came to live with us. When will he know his name?

Sincerely,

Bro

Dear Bro,

Those young puppies learn their names quickly. The more often your humans use his name and the more it produces a positive reward for him, the sooner he will know his name. It is so cute when they come scampering to the humans as their name is called. Treats always provide an irresistible reward.

Sincerely,

Aunt Beardie