

the dog & ewe



~ WHERE HERDING HAPPENS ~

TO BE ANNOUNCED
FLYING BUCKET FARM

*Located in the hills above
Hemlock Lake*

Harder Road Hemlock, NY.

Here we offer herding lessons
with Sheep, Cattle & Geese.

ALL HERDING HERITAGE
BREEDS WELCOMED

*Come participate in the historic
tradition of moving stock with a
dog!*

Jean Barrett, your trainer &
coach, will help you & your dog
learn how to work livestock.

SATURDAY
HOOD'S FARM

*Located near the southwestern
end of Chautauqua Lake*

Wellman Road Ashville, NY.

Here we offer herding lessons
with Sheep & Cattle.



JEAN BARRETT

Jean's love of herding shines through in her dogs. They LOVE their work, they are confident in what they do & they want to be a partner with her.

Come to the dog & ewe and be a part of something special...herding happens here!

NOTES FROM THE DOG & EWE.....

We have had some changes going on with the two training facilities. Since the weather is not cooperating for lessons at Flying Bucket Farm in Hemlock, NY – I have decided to just cancel the “every Saturday” lesson schedule there. We do not have access to work inside so it makes outdoor training very hard if it s muddy, rainy or hazardous. IF there are some nice dry conditions for Flying Bucket Farm, then of course, lessons will be scheduled but that is on a week to week basis. You may only get a couple of days notice if lessons are going to be on the weekend. Also – I have had to change some requirements. One is that I am going to have to have at least 6 students to travel to Flying Bucket. Traveling 2.5 hrs for two people is not a good business practice for me. I LOVE giving time to my students, but like everyone else, I do have bills to pay. So, I really need to not spend money to go teach when I can paint artwork at home.

The indoor area at Hood’s Farm is already set up and ready to be used....and we have lights this year! I can offer consistent weekly lessons at Hood’s Farm in Ashville, NY because of access to an indoor working area. Saturday will be for beginner teams and Sunday will be for more advanced team lessons.

Next year the lesson days will change, too. I am hoping to add more stockdog trials to compete at to my schedule and that will eliminate the 20 prime herding weekends available....so plan on not having many weekends for herding lessons if at all. I am looking at offering a mid-week lesson day instead. If lessons go to mid-week, then herding lessons can take place almost weekly instead of 1x a month. My goal is to make enough points to be invited to the ASCA National Finals competition. I have to trial to get points.

In 2024 – the major clinics and other events will take place at Hood’s Farm. Both Novice Border Collie Field trials, the September ASCA trial, an AHBA trial or two, and Cappy Pruett’s June clinic as well as both Jan’s clinics will be at Hood’s Farm next year. Sheep & Cattle will still be available to work on.

That is a lot of changes happening for next year.

Hood’s Farm – a couple of projects we are going to be working on –

The inside training area is going to double in size and be able to be sectioned off as needed too. That should be finished before the next round of lessons happen.

Another training field will be built outside just beyond the training area now. Estimated to be 120x200. I am hoping that will be done for Cappy’s clinic in June.

That is the plan so far.

SSCNY & HACNY AKC Herding Trial Recap - October 22 & 23, 2023

Jean and E'ire traveled to Central Square, NY to attend a two day AKC Herding Trial on sheep & ducks. They offered A Course Sheep & Ducks along with B Course Ducks.

The facility is very nice. Easy access to all the arenas and an indoor heated area to get in out of the cold weather was very welcomed. Anya and I drove up on Sunday morning. Of course – my low tire dash light came on. It could not do that the day before – nope – I had to be on the road. So a few minutes and dollars later we got back on the road.

We arrived at the trial in plenty of time to attend the handler's meeting and get ready for the competition under judge Carol Donnelly.

E'ire was entered in all the Advanced Classes the Clubs offered. First up was A course Sheep. The arena was tiny and I did have a hard time trying to get my timing right. The sheep where a bit too fetchy for advanced. They got near you and did not want to move off without a lot of push on your dog....but then once off you they where very light.

The next classes were A Course & B Course Ducks and they had cute Call Ducks and other mini breeds. The ducks where awesome as far as ducks go. Really nice groups and moved very well.

E'ire and I did really well with negotiating those courses. She took three first placements each day and High In Trial each day, too.

A course sheep scores: 90.5 & 89

A course duck scores: 93 & 94

B course ducks scores: 92 & 98

She earned 2 Qualifying scores per title & next year we will go after the third Qualifying scores to finish those titles.



MOVING STRAIGHT

Last issue we discussed the basic maneuver for Circles, in this issue we will discuss the basic straight line....aka....the DRIVE or FETCH. If your dog is not flanking, then walking straight at the stock would be the next big movement to discuss. Basically you want to see a dog move straight at the stock in a calm working attitude. The dog must read the stock to either push them or gently touch the flight zone or stay well behind it and not make the stock just run away from the dog...PLUS...the dog must control the stock to a straight line. Below is a German Shepherd moving straight at the sheep in a drive position. There is a starting point and a stopping point if the dog is in a driving position.



Notice how the dog is not dragging the handler forwards or see that the handler is not holding the dog back. The line is taught but only to maintain contact and not to physically control the German Shepherd. The dog is walking calmly forwards at a nice pace with the sheep.

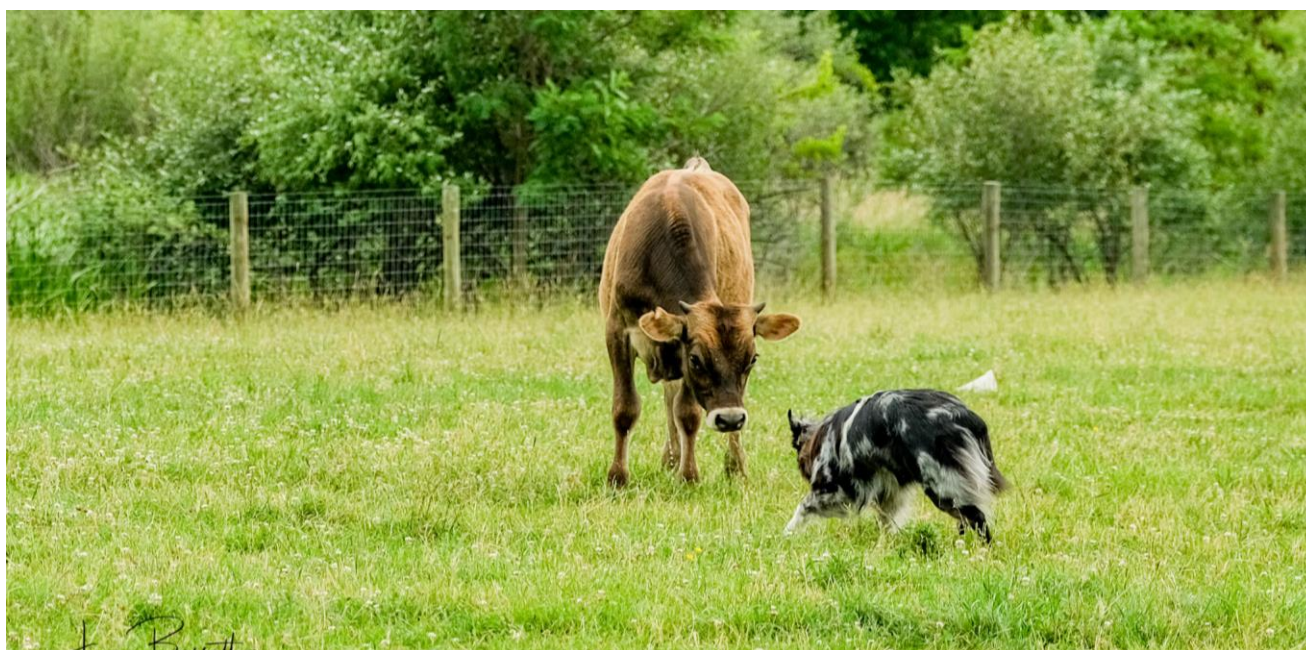
The photo below shows the stock bending at the corner to follow the next fenceline. The START point for this drive section was the corner behind the dog. The STOP point is the next corner – the one in which they are currently negotiating. Part of the responsibilities of the dog is to keep the stock on a straight line. The photo also shows the sheep making a right hand turn from the corner. The sheep should have been stopped on their original straight line before they turned. You can see the beginnings of the dog rolling out to halt the sheep before they get further onto the new line.



If the turning sheep were allowed to continue on to the next corner and then the next – just follow the stock and a circle is taught not straight line driving. The goal is for the dog to pick up on the stock moving off the established line and to bring them back...not simply follow the stock to a new line.



To train a dog to walk in to the stock calmly and without darting forwards, the dog needs to understand how to walk into stock that is standing still. Many dogs do not like to walk straight into the pressure from the stock. They will roll off of that pressure – from ever so slightly to even a flank.



There are many reasons why a dog would roll off of pressure when asked to walk straight. The big three main factors I would have to point out are:

- * The dog learning to move and pressure stock on a flank. The stock is always moving so there is no need to actually call for a straight walk up. The dog uses flanks to move the stock.

- * The dog never learned to rate itself moving at stock. This is mostly seen when a dog is allowed to move as fast as they wish while flanking and attempt to keep that speed up for a walk up...If they did, then they would smash into the back of the livestock, so they speed back up on another flank and then try that speed on a walk up – over and over again.

- * The dog always being told to stay out of the flight zone. This is a big factor in teaching the dog to not move stock that is standing still. They have been told to slow down and not put much pressure, if any on the flight zone. When they encounter livestock that is standing still, they simply go with what they have been taught – don't push on the flight zone.

Below is a Red Australian Cattle Dog rating and moving straight in on a fetch. Check out the dog's distance and steady gait at the stock. Then check out this same dog while in a pushy mode – closer, faster and not thinking.



The bottom two photos show a mild form of the dog not walking in behind the sheep straight. The dog is close trying to maintain the gate and speed from what was happening on the flank. Now on the straight walk up, the same speed is wanting to be kept...but it is not possible because the dog would run into the sheep. So the dog flings out to do more

flanking....which can be confused with “wearing”. This is not wearing. The sheep are tick tocking in front of the handler and not being kept to a straight line.





Photo Above – the dog’s speed has caused the sheep to go everywhere and thus sending the dog back out on another flank at the same speed in which it came in on them. This dog needs to be taught to slow down when approaching stock and to gently get them going and to keep them going at a much slower pace.

Photo Below - This dog is approaching in a smooth walk up. Putting pressure on the single sheep that needs to be moved first. Not using speed to move sheep.





Many of the behaviors a dog does can be changed or learned from the simple use of a long line and smaller training areas. The use of a long line helps a beginner dog learn to walk up straight and to not charge forwards into the sheep.



Dogs allowed to push hard while flanking, run on the flank as fast as they want and moving stock fast does not put a picture of calm and slow. Fast pushing usually ends up with loss of stock downfield and the dog racing out to bring them back to just let more escape again.



Above photo – the dog does not want to slow down behind the handler – so they are forced to continue on a flank to maintain speed. Look at the leaning and push this dog is causing on the sheep.

Below photo – Handler has gotten dog to slow down but the dog is still pushing too hard on the sheep – as the handler tries to forcibly control the sheep from moving away from handler.





These two photos show dogs trying to hold the line given.



Photo Below – Dog not slowing down to give sheep a chance to WALK off, instead leaping off at a dead run

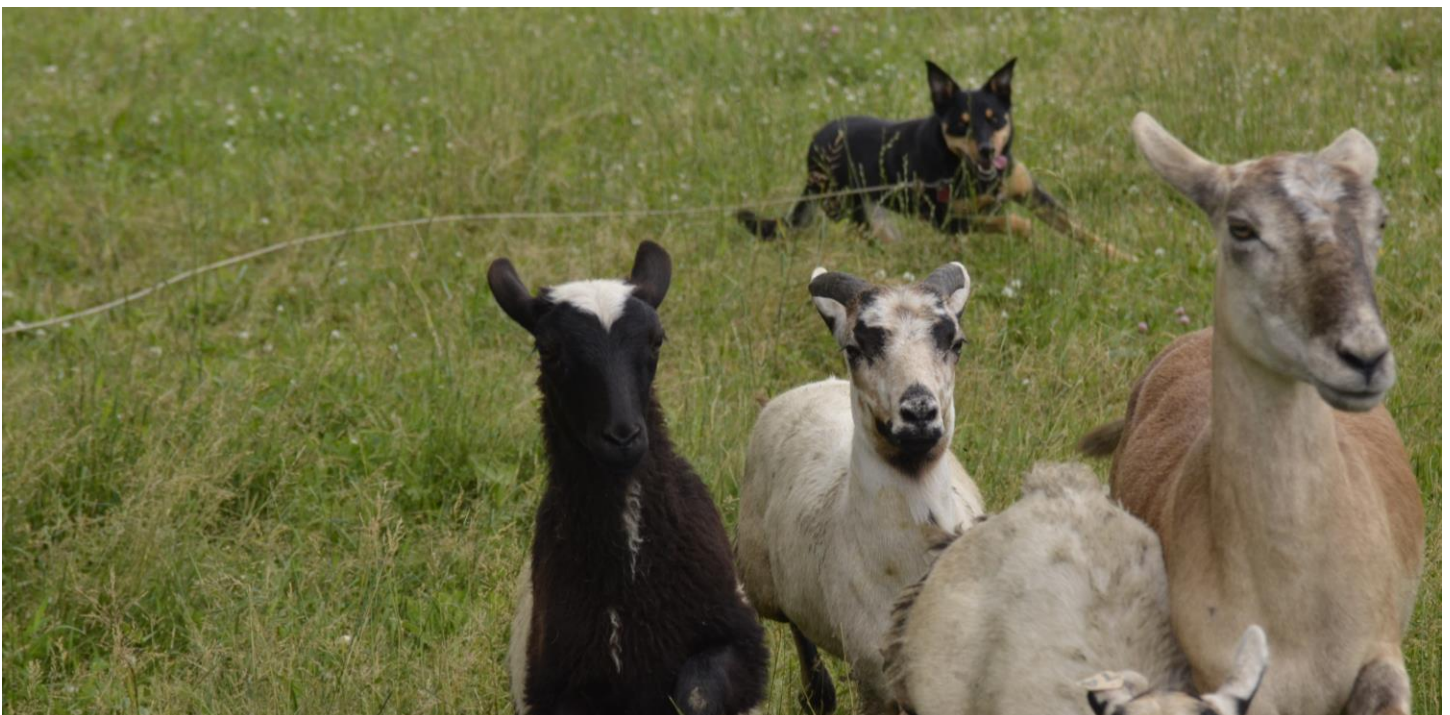




Photo Above – Dog walking straight –

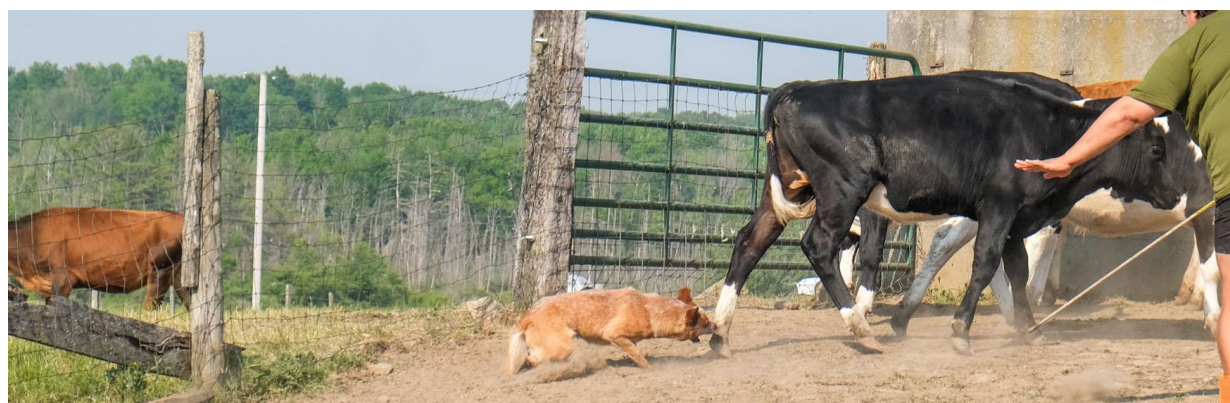
Photos Below – Dog moving at a higher rate of speed. The sheep start zig zagging as the dog is forced to flank from side to side because of the velocity trying to be maintained by the dog. This forces the dog to bend around the sheep in a flanking motion.

These types of flanks need to be controlled back to a straight line. First factor in trying to teach better straight lines, is to get the dog to understand about slowing down the closer they approach the stock. Then about rating the stock – learning to use the brake and gas to keep the sheep at a steady straight pace.

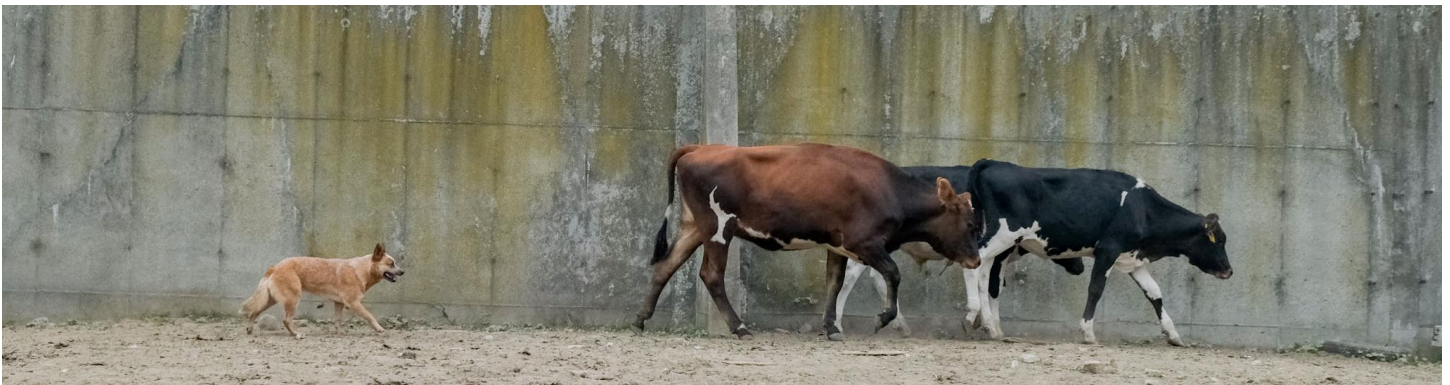




The photos below show what happens when the dog does not slow down on the approach to the stock. This dog also did not flank around but tried to go straight to the stock and line. What ended up happening is that the ducks did not move off quickly enough to give the dog some space. The Australian Cattle Dog has gripped instead of slowing down



Good examples are given to see the dog not having excess speed, and not flanking side to side to maintain excess speed.



HAPPY HOWL - O-WEEN!!!



HOOD'S FARM ~ Ashville, NY
610 Wellman Road

FLYING BUCKET FARM ~ HEMLOCK, PA
6952 Harder Road



HERDING LESSONS!!

Hood's Farm is now 11-1 and drop in and stay as long or as short as you want to make it. Come when you can – you are not constricted to a 6 or 8 week program length. Lessons are a drop in format at Flying Bucket on nice weather days.

FLYING BUCKET FARM & HOOD'S FARM

You can sign up as early as you like to secure your lesson spot for these dates – or any future dates.

thedogandewe@gmail.com * (716) 270-9718 * thedogandewe.weebly.com

*Sign up today –
Come start your
herding journey!*



HOOD'S FARM

At Hood's Farm, lessons can be taught inside the barn. So, if it is rainy or muddy outside, lessons can continue.

Lesson Schedule

Saturday – 11-1 Beginner Teams

Sunday : 11-1 Advanced Teams

October 28 / 29

November 4 / 5

November 11 / 12

****November 25 / 26

December 2 / 3

****May cancel due to Thanksgiving*

LONGING FOR MORE STOCK TIME TO PRACTICE?

At both Flying Bucket Farm & Hood's Farm stock rental is offered.

Flying Bucket is fairly open as to the days available, while at Hood's Farm stock rental is only offered while I am there teaching.

Sheep/Geese rental is \$25 and Cattle rental is \$35 for *STUDENTS*. For all others, the rental fee is Sheep/Geese is \$35 and Cattle is \$50 *** Geese only at Flying Bucket ***



UPCOMING EVENTS

HOOD'S FARM

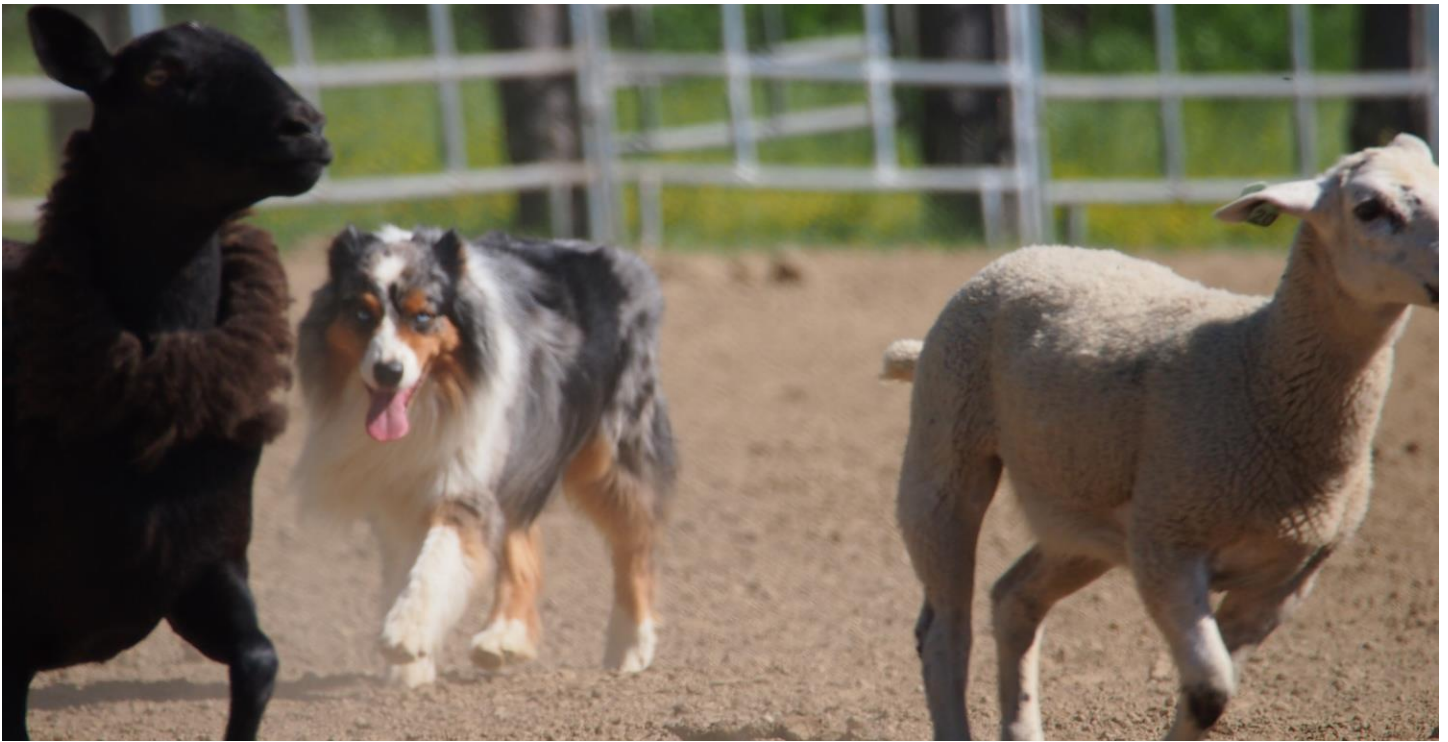
Ashville, NY

FLYING BUCKET FARM

Hemlock, NY

***No special events for the rest of 2023*

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HERDING CLINICS **2024** **HERDING TRIALS**

Cappy Pruett in June Novice Field Trial & Nursery in May & August
Jan Wesen in July & September AHBA Large Flock, Ranch & HTD
ASCA Ranch & Farm Trials in September

ABOUT OUR CLINICS -

All levels of herding skills from Beginner to Advanced are encouraged to participate in any of our clinics. Even students and dogs that have never been introduced to stock before. All herding heritage breeds are welcomed.

Our clinicians that are invited to come to Flying Bucket Farm or Hood's Farm are very knowledgeable in working and training various herding breeds and mixes. These clinicians also bring their extensive knowledge of coaching and training to all skill levels of students.

They are also very accomplished in the venues they compete in and have achieved the highest National honors in those venues.

Many of these clinics are offered for multiple days. I can't stress enough how important it is to participate for more than one day. Optimal is three days, if offered. The first day is so new that there is a massive influx of new information, experiences and concepts to absorb. The second day you start to sift through all that and begin to apply what you learned. The third day you really start to work through exercises and what is happening. To me, three days are the best for learning. As with any of our clinics, you are welcome to come watch as well. Come see what it is all about.



Signing up for lessons?! The best way is to contact me around Wednesday to see if there are openings for the weekend. Many people like to book weeks in advance to secure their “spot”. If you think about it – herding season only really occurs over about 20 short weekends.





Catch us on Facebook, Instagram and on our website –

The Dog & Ewe : thedogandewe.weebly.com

Jan Wesen website – has herding articles janwesen.com

Cappy Pruett on Facebook: Cappy Pruett Stockdog Training

Kelly Malone: karmaperformance.weebly.com

Events - WNY HERDING: wnyherding.weebly.com