

TEXAS TERV TRAILS

A Publication of the Lone Star Belgian Tervuren Club
September-October 2018

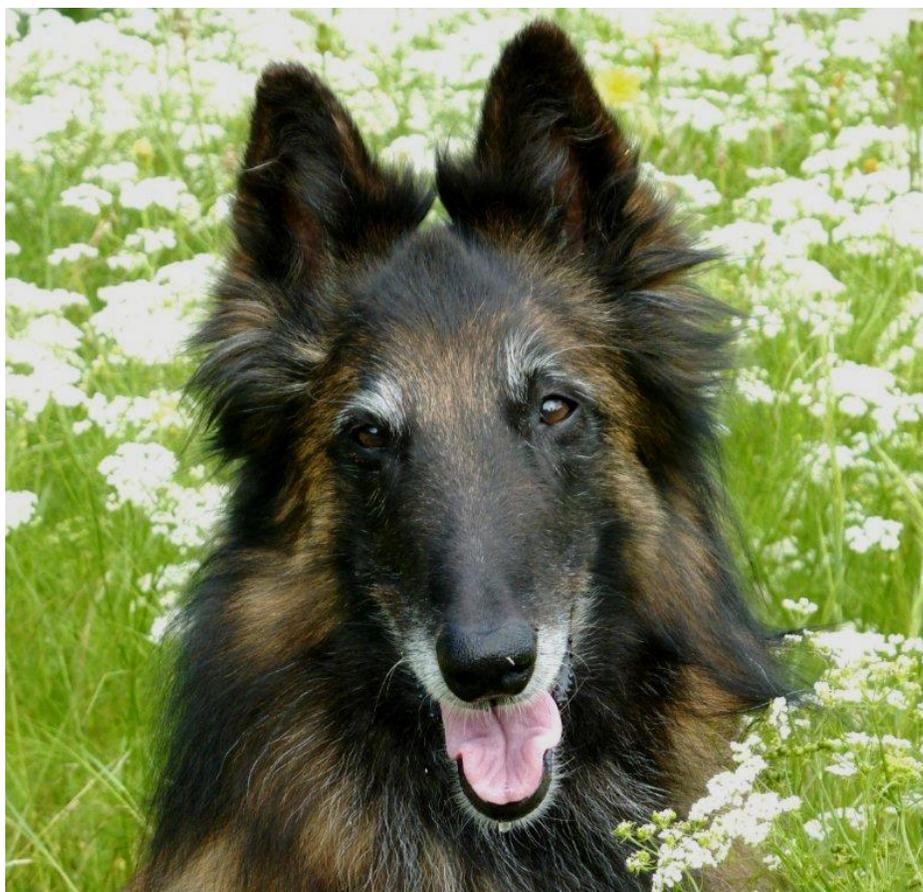


Photo by Susan Hervey

***Belated Memoriam
Rio Lobo Sunlight Grace RN IT CGC L1C L1E***

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Visit LONE STAR BELGIAN TERVUREN CLUB on FACEBOOK!

Membership Information

Individual Membership \$10.00
Family Membership..... \$15.00

***Write to LSBTC Secretary for membership
applications or newsletter subscriptions***

NEXT NEWSLETTER DEADLINE: Dec. 1, 2018
Articles, Pictures, Brags Welcome!

***The next meeting
of the LSBTC
will be Saturday, Oct. 20, 2018
at the Bell County Kennel Club
show, in Belton, Texas***

***The meeting will be after
conformation judging***

Honoring Grace

11-8-02 to 11-8-15

A Belated Memoriam

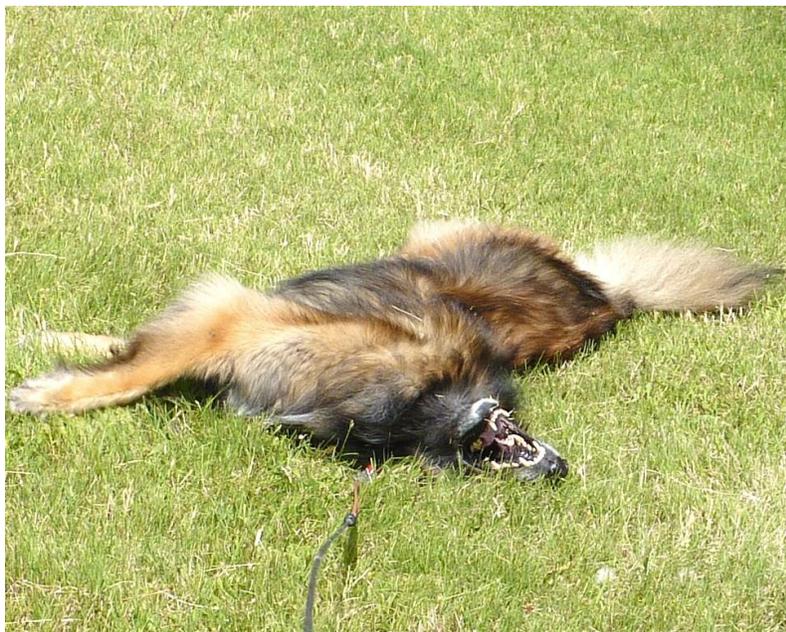
by Susan Hervey

I've wanted to write a story honoring Grace since I lost her almost 3 years ago, but it was and is difficult to put how I feel into words. But Grace deserves honor, in her own unusual way.

I got Grace when she was almost 2 years old. She had stayed with her litter and a large dog family for 14 weeks, then after another brief stint in another home, moved in with another friendly pack of dogs. When I saw that she wasn't paying attention to her owner's verbal cues, I agreed to take her for 6 months and put some training on her. It soon became apparent that she needed more than just training! The sudden move and lack of early exposure to lots of people made her very leery of new people.

She learned "Sit" rapidly. Or at least I thought she had learned it. What I didn't know was that her owner had a wonderful wolf cookie jar that howled when the lid was opened! When the wolf howled, all the dogs in the family rushed to the kitchen, and sat to receive their snack.

Grace had apparently learned that when anyone looked expectantly at her, she should sit. I don't think it had anything to do with the verbal cue "Sit!"



Grace Rolling on a Dead Crowdad!

We walked every day, and I decided to teach her to return to me for a snack when I called her name. Day after day she would return for her snack about 50% of the time.

HONORING GRACE, Continued

One day we got 60% and I was so excited that some learning was taking place. Then the next day we only hit 40%. That should have been a clue!

It was dawning on me that she might have a hearing problem. On a snowy day in December, about two months after I got her, she was tested for hearing loss at the specialty clinic. The doctor warned me that lots of dogs were tested and had nothing wrong with their hearing. She tried to dissuade me from doing the test.

When the doctor came back, she acted surprised. Grace had no hearing in her left ear. The doctor said it was probably that way since birth. The 50% response rate on her walks suddenly made sense! Her hearing depended on which way her head was held.

Grace never learned that words had different meanings. Even in humans there is apparently a point beyond which learning words is very difficult for a child. Grace had passed that threshold.

We switched to hand signals, and she learned very rapidly, and loved to learn new signals. We went to several training classes, and Grace became used to people. We entered Rally, and she did well, and I had high hopes of her becoming my next obedience dog.



Then one day I came home, and everything had changed. Not only was she back to all her old fears, she developed new ones, including fear of noises and shiny surfaces. I wish I knew what happened that day. About a week later her buddy Onyx died suddenly and I've always wondered if that was related.

So the socialization started all over again. By this time my friend and I agreed it would be better if Grace stayed with me.

Grace and I walked or hiked three or more miles each day for almost every day she was with me. It was her greatest joy. She loved the car more than she loved me!

To counter all her little fears on a walk we started doing obedience and tricks. She especially loved "101 Things to Do With a Bench." Which translated of course to her loving benches! She would brighten every time we'd pass a bench.

HONORING GRACE, Continued

Hope the Malinois was elderly when Grace came to live with me, but Hope taught her lots of valuable lessons. She taught her good trail manners--moving to the side of the trail and sitting when meeting other hikers on a narrow trail.

I soon learned Grace's body language when greeting people. Most people she wasn't interested in meeting, but some she wanted to meet. I never figured out how she made that distinction. Maybe they were inherently dog people. Dennis and Deb were early friends, and she never forgot them.

We spent many happy hours on the trail together. I had given up on obedience trialing, but when we discovered Nosework Grace was in love. She did well, and got 2 titles, but she was getting older and slowing down.

She was diagnosed with an unusual kidney disease in July, and despite several trips to the specialist, she became much worse on the eve of her 13th birthday. I took her to the emergency clinic the next morning. The doctor came back with her blood work, and just put it down in front of me. I exclaimed, "Oh--that's much worse than I expected. Her kidneys are shutting down." He said, "And her liver." When I said I guessed it would be the thing to do to put her down, he said the dreaded and comforting words, "That's what I'd do if it were my dog."

It was after this I learned what a valuable service Grace had provided. Person after person on our walking and hiking trails asked me about her. They said how beautiful she was. They especially liked her tricks. Very few had actually petted her.

Probably 100 or more people approached me over the next few months, and a few more still do. Grace provided amusement and beauty to so many people. I had no idea. Everyone was sorry she was gone. I found myself comforting other people for her loss.

Except for her fears, Grace was a near perfect Terv. She was sweet, fun-loving and responsive. If she knew what I wanted her to do, she wanted to do it.

**IN MEMORY OF A BEAUTIFUL, GENTLE SOUL
Rio Lobo Sunlight Grace**





From **Pat Thomas**: This summer Nikki finished her AKC overall Scent Work Novice title and earned her Scent Work Container Advanced at the Wichita Falls trial 8/18 & 8/19. The weekend of 8/25 & 26 Nikki earned her Novice Agility and Novice Agility Jumper titles with her Dad in Fort Worth.

NN CH Hawkeye's Surfer Girl SWN, SCA, NA, NAJ, NW1, L1C

and Pat Thomas and Gerard Bermel

Glenda Fick reports Ready earned two points at the July shows in Dallas.

Blackfyre Playing With Wyld Fyre

Carol Holmes Beranek writes: I have gotten married recently.... Even though I am Colorado my Terv heart is still in Texas with the LSBTC! Love you all!

SHOW RESULTS, TEXAS SHOWS

CEN-TEX KENNEL CLUB, INC., Sept. 29, 2018, Judge Ms Joanne (Jan) N Paulk

American-Bred Dogs

1/W/BB/BW/BOBOH/OHG2 Sky Acres Kobayashi Maru. Narda B. Reed

Open Bitches

1/W/OS Tacara's Kastania Korfu. Georgia Xydes & Linda Newsome

CEN-TEX KENNEL CLUB, INC., Sept. 30, 2018, Judge Mr Rick Gschwender

American-Bred Dogs

1/W/BB/BOBOH/OHG1 Sky Acres Kobayashi Maru. Narda B. Reed

AUSTIN KENNEL CLUB, INC., Sept. 22, 2018, Judge Mrs Cindy Meyer

Twelve To Eighteen Month Bitches

1/R Basquelaine Emerald Steel of Geka. Tom Masden & Dalene Masden

Open Bitches

1/W/BB Takara's Kastania Korfu. Georgia Xydes & Linda Newsome

AUSTIN KENNEL CLUB, INC., Sept. 23, 2018, Judge Mr. Brian Meyer

Twelve To Eighteen Month Bitches

1/W/BB/BOBOH Basquelaine Emerald Steel of Geka. Tom Masden & Dalene Masden

Open Bitches

1/R Tacara's Kastania Korfu. Georgia Xydes & Linda Newsome