

Handler of the Month

Nov. 2008



Butch Dodson, Lake Texoma fishing guide, loving “Papa”, Border Collie breeder and handler, from Mead Oklahoma is this month’s featured Handler of the Month. Butch and his wife Linda have 3 children and 5 grandchildren. Butch’s hobbies include metal fabrication and filming and editing videos.

Grand-daughter Haley seems to be the next in line to the Border Collie business. Butch enjoys teaching Haley about dog handling. She comes to the trials with Butch and according to him loves working with the dogs. His proudest moment was when 8 yr. old Haley competed in her first youth cattle trial with his dog Thunder and her Papa by her side, guiding and encouraging her all the way.

Butch Dodson got his first cattle dog in 1971, a bob-tailed Border Collie that went with him team roping on the weekends. This dog had no stock dog training but learned how to bring cattle down the return alley for the ropers. On Feb.14, 2005, Linda his wife, gave Butch a Border Collie puppy for Valentine’s Day. Later came dog #2, #4, #8, #16, well, you get the picture. He was bitten by the cattle dog trial bug and as he puts it, “the rest is history.” Butch enjoys the challenge of teaching the dogs to work a job. He prefers training dogs with psychological issues and older dogs that are considered hard to train. He has even been able to rescue and place in suitable homes several dogs down through the years. “Every collie is a great dog to somebody—somewhere,” he says.

“Select a dog that suits your personality and don’t hurry the dog through training. Don’t work the dog past it’s attention span and always leave the dog looking for more” These are his words of advice to beginners. When asked what he has learned or what benefit he receives from his dogs he replied, “Patience, compassion, admiration for the breed and best of all I get plenty of exercise,”

Butch credits Paul Gilbert, Lynn Daniel, Dave Mollenhour and Cotton Wartchow for helping him get started and guiding him through some rough patches with his dogs. He does go on to say that everyone associated with Sundowner Stockdog Association has been an encouragement to him, and Bryan County Animal Hospital assists him in keeping his dogs healthy.

Told by Butch--- “On October 20, 2008 a raging out of control brush fire threatened the farm and all the livestock. When I arrived at the farm you could not even see the livestock for the smoke. Because of a brave Border Collie’s willingness to take a command and despite the dangers to its own safety, went into the smoke and drove the livestock back to the barn. Without the dogs it would have been very difficult for me, on foot, to save the stock. My Border Collies are very special to me.”

**Favorite type of cattle,
“Hamburger and steak”.**