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# THE SENTINEL

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Sealyham Terrier Club of Canada - October 2020

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## Message from the President.

Heather-Anne EM

As the weather turns wintery pushing us inside and the covid19 environment continues I hope this newsletter finds you and your Sealys well. I think everyone is looking forward to the coming of 2021 with its promise of an end to the isolation though having a Sealy at your side to keep you entertained we are much luckier than those without furry friends to snuggle.

As many of you may be aware we lost one of our founding members this fall, Valerie Burch of Winsome Ways Sealys. Kim Gibson was kind enough to work to find homes for Val's remaining two Sealys. Val was always ready to step up whenever we needed someone to assist with tasks for the Sealyham Terrier Club.

Sadly, the specialty planned for Erie Shores, Ontario last summer was delayed due to the pandemic, so we did not get to catchup in person with our Sealy friends. We hope we will be able to hold it as planned this coming summer 2021.

We are working to revitalize our web site with new and interesting areas so if you have something you think you would like to access on the Sealyham Terrier Club of Canada web site drop us a line with your suggestions or submissions.

It has also been brought to my attention that there are a number of members who have not renewed their membership for 2020. I am hoping that it is an oversight on your part due to the confusion of the world situation. Please remember that to be able to hold a specialty the club depends on the membership dues to be able to support the club and hold regular breed specialties. We will forgive you this year but make sure you all renew for 2021.

From Hitch and I, we wish you good health, a great holiday season and New year.

## Sealyham Lockdown Diary. Carina Roter

My name is Amber. Canadian Champion Bushaway Bacardi Amber. I was bred in Minnesota by Sally Sweatt in 2007. My next human was Florence Yunik of British Columbia. Florence showed me to championship. Those were the glory years. I lived for the applause. I was a show girl. (photo 1)

When I retired Florence let me go and live with Carina. Florence assured me that Carina would be easy to train and would make a fine maid/chef/driver.

I have been with Carina for four years.



Carina taught yoga at the studio. I would go along so that the students could bask in my beauty. I would snooze on comfy yoga cushions during class. We would drive there and back. Carina referred to me as Miss Daisy, as I sat in the back seat.

We would go on daily walks with our friend Alix, the best dog trainer in the world. I am not crazy about walking. But walking with Alix is great. She dispenses many treats throughout the walks. I love Alix (photo 2) For the rest, I pretty much stayed home and spent the day sleeping and dreaming of mealtime or at least waiting for something tasty to fall on the floor.

I LOVED my life.

### March 2020 - LOCKDOWN

I thought that sounded right up my alley. We would get to stay home and do very little. WRONG!

All of a sudden Carina and Alix were walking non stop! Socially distancing at each end of a two metre measuring tape (photo 3).







The walks seemed endless. My beauty sleep was severely interrupted. I made it known that this new policy was not appreciated. I sat down and refused to walk. Alas, Carina, my maid/chef/ driver was more stubborn than I had ever imagined. Instead of cutting the walks short, she made me endure more time outdoors! So we compromised. Technically, I was outdoors. No one said it had to be on my own steam (photos 4 and 5).



To add insult to injury, I was reduced to being a yoga prop as all yoga was now taught via ZOOM (photo 6).

## APRIL

Carina, got a REAL job at a small hotel. We moved to an island off the coast of Vancouver. On the first day I discovered deer. Their scent was highly intoxicating. I had never experienced anything like it. I was infused with energy like never before. I was off. Deep into the forest chasing this elusive scent. I came home after many hours and collapsed. I could not move at all.



All I could do was shake uncontrollably. Not even a treat interested me. I was in great pain. It looked bleak. We had to get on the ferry and find an EMERGENCY veterinarian open on Easter Sunday. When the vet asked what my name was, Carina answered "Moneypit." Diagnosis: subluxated vertebra. I was put on really GOOD pain killers (photo 7).



A session with the doggy chiropractor, a bit of forced rest (never a problem), and a few days on those excellent drugs, I was as good as new.

I celebrated my pain free status with a romp in the park. I felt great. I looked great. Suddenly, something hit me. I mean, LITERALLY, something hit me. I was run over by a person in a mountain bike! I mean RUN OVER. I had tire marks on my body (photo 8). For some spectacular reason I was fine. I got up and trotted off as if nothing happened.



## MAY

If you can believe, in May 2020, I had my first encounter with a cat. We went to visit an old friend on the island with an ancient cat that supposedly slept 24/7. Usually, I hang out in the kitchen no matter where I am. My research has shown that more food drops on the floor in the kitchen than in other rooms.

On this day, I decided to quietly check out this person's house. When I made it to the master bedroom something jumped on my back. I



started screaming and screaming and screaming! Carina, came running to my rescue. She saw the geriatric cat riding me like a jockey. I guess I woke him up. Whilst removing the geriatric feline Carina suffered a few scratches that needed stitches. I was very glad it was not me this time having to see the vet! (photo 9).

## JUNE

During our busy days at the hotel we had a little time in the afternoon to go to the beach. Carina is part mermaid. I, Amber, am not a swimmer. I guard the shoes (photo 10) One day, though, I started barking and barking. There was a whale swimming not far from Carina! I alerted her with my barking. I wish I knew how to use a camera. That would have been a shot of a lifetime. The whale sighting added some much needed excitement.







By this time in the lockdown, dog show people were missing dog shows. Cat show people were missing cat shows. Without anybody asking me, I became the poster girl for a SHOW DOG in a CAT SHOW POSE. Once again, I was not impressed. (photo 11)

## JULY

As you can imagine, after my introduction to cats, I had a healthy respect for them. We feed a very feral cat at the hotel. I politely wait until she leaves her bowl. She leaves a lot of food uneaten. I LOVE HER. For some reason this VERY skittish cat loves me too. We share the sofa at night. Everybody is astonished as no one can get near this kitty. I, Bushaway Bacardi Amber, clearly have zen super powers. Just my mere presence calms wild animals. Carina just says I am lazy as stink. I prefer to think I am zen (photo 12)

## AUGUST

The last time Carina, had a dog in her life, Richard Nixon was in office. At that time folks fed their dogs once a day. Times have changed. For many reasons dogs are now fed twice a day. Carina seemed to get get this memo in August 2020. I started getting breakfast as soon as I woke up. I LOVED LOVED LOVED this. I LOVED this so much that I started waking up earlier and earlier.



**Amber last seen here.**



I would jump off the sofa and start barking at the foot of the bed. One day at 04:19 (!!!) I started barking and barking. I wanted breakfast. On that morning the new breakfast habit became a brunch habit and I was relegated to sleeping in my kennel at night with a tablecloth over it.

## SEPTEMBER

I am not known for my agility. I am actually quite klutzy. This month I outdid myself. I was rolling in some really fabulous deer poop and just... ROLLED OFF A CLIFF (photo 13). Carina saw me... then she didn't.



I landed about 30 feet below, on my feet, on a rocky shoal. Had I continued to roll, I would have ended up in a very strong current as an Orca snack or on my way to Japan. As it turned out, I scurried up what seemed like a 90 degree slope and continued on as if nothing out of the ordinary happened. At this point, Carina had Florence on speed dial looking to see if she could trade me in.

## OCTOBER

We are wrapping up "our" contract here at the little hotel. While Carina worked behind the scenes keeping the little hotel running, I, Bushaway Bacardi Amber was out front greeting all the guests (photo 14) I was the perfect little Sealyham ambassador. I worked hard. I am looking forward to going back to the city where I can catch up on my sleep. I am exhausted (photo 15).



## A Sealy for the Win. Wendie Patrick

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A huge hole in my heart appeared the day,  
My beautiful William had to go.  
He passed in peace and went to the bridge,  
You know the one, with the rainbow.

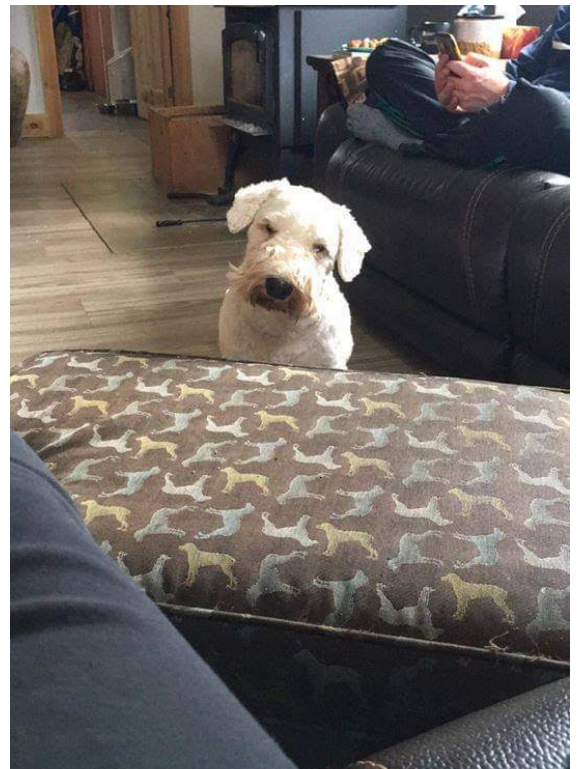
I thought that we would never heal  
A huge gap was left behind.  
Lizzy and myself were stricken with grief  
A resolve we thought we'd never find.

Kim had puppies, I admired them all,  
I hoped, maybe we could help raise a boy.  
"But they're all girls", she told me, how I'd messed that up.  
"But I've an older one" Oh what joy!

Dimitri was the litter's father  
And was about to be retired.  
"I want him in a pet home", Kim said,  
"That's the last litter he has sired".

So... Dimitri arrived on a plane one night  
Threats of a snow storm on the way.  
A long trip home, he was nervous and timid  
Glued in his kennel after a very long day.

Once back at the house I had to convince  
Him to come out of the kennel, "K, buddy lets do this!"  
After hours and hours in his wee kennel.  
I knew for sure he needed to p\*\*\*! (sorry, but it was a good rhyme!)





Once that hurdle was over, good sleeps were had  
And the next morning he met Lizzy poodle.  
He seemed quite enamoured (phew) and had a good sniff.  
I think he was pleased that she wasn't a doodle!

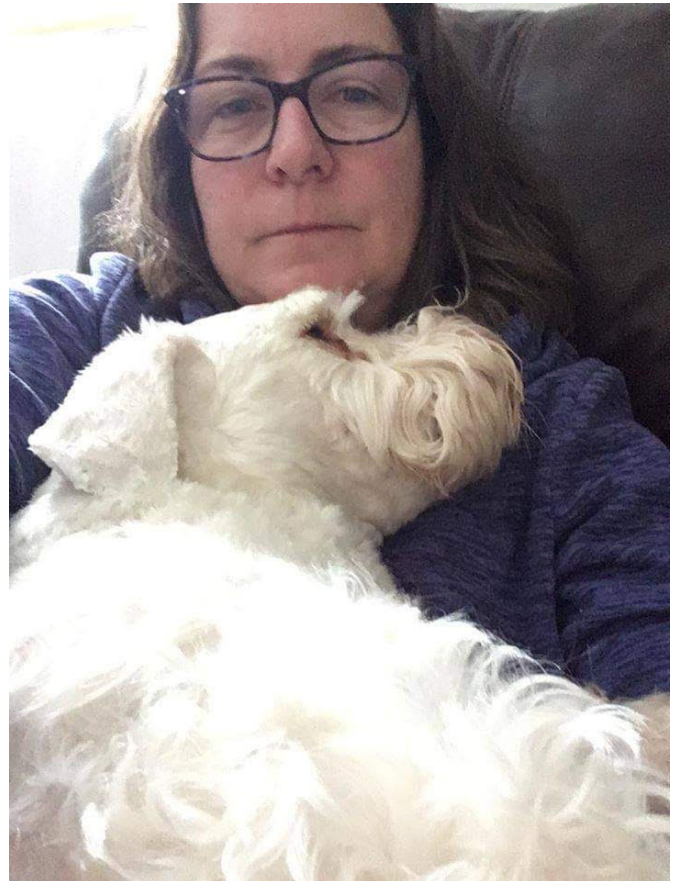
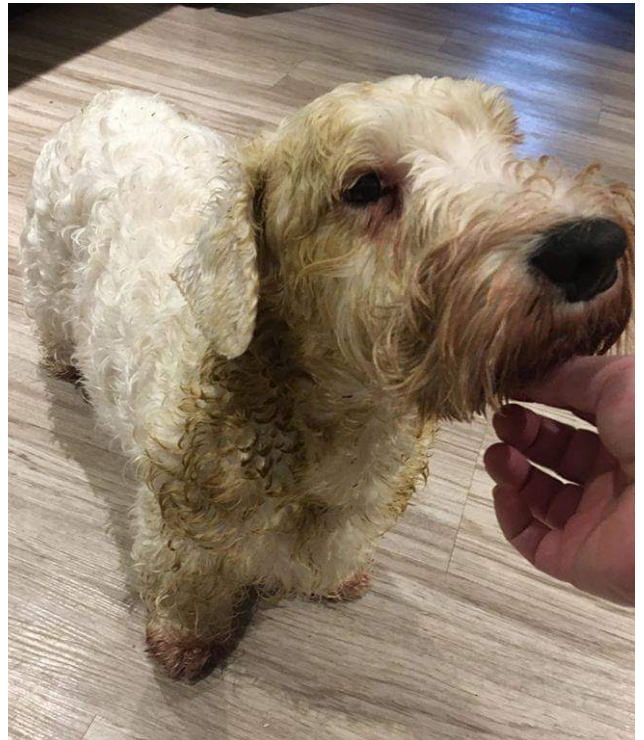
A sooky and cuddler he's been glued to me since.  
His funny little antics are quite a sight.  
But beware of stranger danger, he'll let out a bark  
And be sure to give anyone a bit of a fright!

He must have been a Shetland pony in a former life  
As he didn't bark or give us a clue,  
That he may be frightened by the big horses in the yard,  
But instead showed his love for rolling in pooh!

He loves all his comforts and towers of pillows,  
Gives us bedtime stories with this funny bear noise.  
Carries his favourite sooky toy wherever he goes  
And if there's food on the go, by your chair he will poise.

The joy in our house was certainly back.  
Lizzy loves her wee brother and thinks he's her baby.  
He's even got over his fear of the cats,  
He knows to avoid one, but likes the other one... maybe!

So many thanks to Kim, for all she's done  
And for sending Dimitri to his new home freely,  
And to anyone who's considering a new dog for their home,  
Don't think twice about breed – it has to be a SEALY!





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## Thank You Val. Kim Gibson

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The passing of Val Burch is a great loss to the entire Sealy community, especially the STCC. I would like to thank her for being such an important person in my life. I will miss her dearly.

- Thank you Val for coming into the grooming salon I was working at many many years ago asking me to groom your sealyhams
- Thank you Val for trusting me to listen and learn from you about this amazing breed, Sealyham Terriers
- Thank you Val for trusting me enough to allow me to take your Sealy Breezy to a grooming competition in Minneapolis. I won my class and you were as proud as I was
- Thank you Val for breeding Nevada and trusting him to my care. He was my first Sealyham and the patriarch to my clan
- Thank you Val for mentoring me and encouraging me at the dog shows, especially since I was new to the breed. It was so good to have your encouragement
- Thank you Val for flying to Italy to pick up my second Sealyham for me
- Thank you Val for introducing me to the STCC
- Thank you Val for attending Sealyham specialties and bringing back pictures and stories and building my interest in attending such events
- Thank you Val for helping me in the show ring when I had too many dogs to handle myself
- Thank you Val for lending me a whelping box for my first litter and for being "on call" during the whelping
- Thank you Val for taking our d'Artagnon to the Sealy specialty in Ontario, and handling him to his win and several group placements that weekend
- Thank you Val for coming to the shows, just to cheer on Sealys, even when you were not showing a dog
- Thank you Val for traveling with me and a bunch of dogs to shows
- Thank you Val for introducing me to a very important friend in my life, Florence Yunik.
- Thank you Val for co-breeding and co-owning dogs with me
- Thank you Val for laughing and celebrating with me in the happy times and comforting me and crying with me during the sad
- Thank you for your ever present positivity, kindness and charitable heart



Valerie Burch, you changed my life for the better. Thank you ❤️



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