

July 20, 2008

To: Whom It May Concern

I would like to take this opportunity to thank PRAD for the grant they provided us so that we were able to bring in a qualified instructor to provide a stock dog clinic, a judging clinic, and a sheep shearing demonstration for the members of our agricultural community.

We planned on a clinic from June 13<sup>th</sup> – June 15<sup>th</sup>; however, could not get an instructor for that time. On June 21<sup>st</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup> and 23<sup>rd</sup>, Tom Wilson from Charletville, Virginia came to Pink Mountain to do this clinic. We had 3 great days of instruction. We worked from 8 am until 6 pm every day. Every one in the clinic worked their dogs at least twice a day in the area that they needed help with. The rest of us were able to watch and learn how to solve problems that we may encounter in the future. The dogs ranged from beginning pups to well working cattle dogs. Every dog at the clinic showed an improvement and advanced to the next level. We did many different things throughout this clinic. We taught the dogs how to become more confident, how they could respond to better cues, and we, as handlers, learned how to begin dogs in a better way. All in all, it was one of the best clinics I have ever participated in and everyone benefited from the instructor's outstanding expertise in the area of training and working stock dogs.

Tom did a sheep shearing demonstration for us. It inspired some of us to possibly try shearing our own flock in the future. Tom has done all his own shearing for the past few years and has over 400 head of his own sheep. He gave us a demo on the type of shearing he does. It is called the New Zealand Bone Style Method of shearing. It is quick, efficient, a new method to this area, and very humane for the animals.

As a result of these clinics we have been able to help new handlers start their dogs. Last winter we met every month to work dogs and help new people get started. We worked at the 7up ranch, the Nelson ranch, Pink Mountain, and Flatrock. We have also helped people begin new dogs in Baldonnel, Dawson Creek, Grande Prairie and various other locations. As time passes, many more people are developing, training and using working stock dogs on their ranches.

Every year we do a fun day and dog demonstration at the North Pine Fall Fair. This shows the typical farmer and rancher how useful a good working dog can be. Many of the clinic people have the confidence to compete at this event. The crowd enjoys watching the dogs work on both voice commands and whistles. Over the past eight years of doing this demonstration and mini-trial we have been pleased to note a marked increase of the crowds observing the demonstration from the grand stands. Our announcer explains what the dogs are doing and their natural instincts so the crowds understand and learn from the performances. Many of the observers take the time to come and ask questions, learn about the process and express their appreciation of the dog's working abilities.

I would like to close by saying we had an excellent clinic with more people interested than we could accommodate. We are hoping to be able to do this again in the future as we feel trained dogs are a valuable tool for the farmers and ranchers. We are finding that it is often difficult for the agricultural sector of the community to compete with the oil patch wages in order to hire help for the ranch. The dogs that we are currently training help to fill the void that is created by this gap. We truly appreciate the assistance that was given to us by the grant in order to provide this opportunity for our agricultural friends and neighbors.

Sincerely,

Pam Boring

Pam Boring

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July 29, 2008

To PRAD,

Please find enclosed the additional information requested by Barry Willis regarding the working stock dog clinic held in Pink Mountain during the month of June. (How many people attended the clinic, and the budget sheet.)

There were 12 people that attended the clinic and the budget sheet is included with this letter.

Please note: When I sent my original budget sheet in to PRAD, I estimated the trainer's fees at \$750.00/day (plus GST) and his transportation at \$1000.00; unfortunately, both of these costs ended up being significantly higher than originally estimated. The trainer was \$1000.00/day and the cost of transportation was \$1610.00. Please find enclosed the actual cost of the clinic.

In closing, I would once again like to thank PRAD for the grant and the opportunity it provided us with.

Sincerely,  
*Pam Boring*  
Pam Boring