

Lights! Camera!

Ginny Redder, of **Pennsylvania Preceptor Gamma Phi, Lock Haven** – has unabashed devotion to her old English Sheepdog, Tux, he of the permanent shag hairdo, a fur coat that is PETA-friendly and a disposition that showcases those dual personality traits we love in our guys - machismo and vulnerability. Tux has, in that pawsitively dog-eat-dog world of camera-ready canines, become a star.

He is a former pin-up model, and is so doggone in demand that his hirsute physique will be showcased in not just one, but two, wall calendars this year, proving that at age six he is in his prime. But in his world off camera, he loves being the pride and joy of Ginny and her husband Warren. Tux is featured as the January model in the *Brown Trout Old English Sheepdog Calendar*, and he's seen in July with two of his siblings in *Pet Prints' OES* calendar.

Tux lives in a pooch perfect world, he is surrounded by love. The Reeder's home is easy to spot, it is graced by a 400 pound cement doggie. When you read this next paragraph it will be abundantly clear as to why.

Some were placed on this earth to take care of the most precious of beings, those four-legged angels we call our dogs. Put Warren and Ginny in that category. When the owner of Tux's sister called the Reeders, (she had heard about the major love fest they had with Tux) and confessed that circumstances were forcing her to give sister Isabella away, Ginny and Warren gladly welcomed her. After all she was *family*. After Isabella joined them, Ginny discovered Gabby, a deaf Old English Sheepdog rescued from a puppy mill. The home also includes Lily, cousin to Tux and Isabella. Thrown into the mix is Brandy, a Samoyed just to mix it up and keep the others from getting the big head. This is, of course, figuratively speaking only, as sheepdog's heads are huge.



Ginny Reeder, member of **Pennsylvania Preceptor Gamma Phi, Lock Haven** and her Old English Sheepdog, Tux, strike a pose with some of his plush look-a-likes. We would like to thank the *Lock Haven Pennsylvania Express* for allowing the *Torch* to reproduce this photo.

Ginny said she's always liked the loveable sheepdogs, while her three children were growing up, Molly was their family member from the breed. Then came Chelsea who lived to the ripe old age of 15 and a half.

"I just love this breed," she said. "Somebody asked me how I could have so many, and I said it's like chocolate cake. You can't have just one bite."

And before our readers think of couches, floors and clothing covered with fur, according to Ginny, her Old English Sheepdogs do not shed. They are also never destructive, and are in awe and have complete respect for an invisible fence surrounding the front yard.

Bark!

Tux's worst habit is rolling the couch cover up into a ball. Lilly paws at Warren the entire time he is in his favorite recliner, and seizes the chance to make it her own every time he gets up. All of them, like most dogs, love walks and car rides, Ginny said. "If you get your keys and your shoes, they're at the door before you are," she said.

Tux, whose registered name is Reflections of a Black-tie Affair, completely changed Ginny's life, prompting her to retire from teaching after 27 years. "I looked at him one day and thought, 'I can't leave him,'" Ginny recalled. "Even the breeder said I was crazy...but I retired in 2004 because of him and I'm glad I did." This reporter does not think you are crazy Ginny, just very fortunate.

"I get a kick out of telling people the dogs are easier than kids," she said. "They don't ask for the charge card or money, they're just always there to give you unconditional love."



Members of **West Virginia Laureate Lambda, Princeton** got all dressed up including hats, purses, and gloves for their meeting with a garden party theme, held at the home of Charlotte Thomas. Her yard was decorated with flowers, lanterns, and a fish pond.

The occasion was to greet a very special guest, Deputy J. Ellison Mercer of the K-9 County Sheriff's Department, Drug Dog Program.

The deputy brought his dog Max, a German Shepherd, to demonstrate how well trained and obedient the dog was. He also related some instances in which the dog had been successful in helping arrest drug dealers. The chapter gave a donation of \$800 to this worthy program. The money was earned in a yard sale in which all members participated.

The ladies thoroughly enjoyed the evening and were thankful that they could make a contribution to the community.

Our sisters have love for all animals, not just dogs. Dakota, this miniature horse, has become an Honorary Member of **Nebraska Preceptor Alpha Lambda, Nebraska City**. Dakota appeared in the Nebraska City Holiday Parade sporting this Beta Sigma Phi blanket made by the Preceptor Alpha Lambda members.



Ohio Laureate Delta Beta, Bryan collected funds and various other items to assist the Williams County Humane Society. From left to right; Pat Jolly, Trudy Day, Humane Society Representative, Jean Ely, Sue McCartney and Sandy Gordon.



Members of **Florida Xi Kappa Kappa, Homestead** spear-headed a service project for war dogs and their handlers. Members collected items for both the dogs and handlers to send to Iraq. They were able to collect non-perishable food items, books, games, toiletries, etc for the wonderful servicemen and women dog handlers. They collected dog biscuits, food, and chew toys for the brave dogs that serve our country.



War dog in Vietman

For information on how you can make a donation to the War dogs and their handlers go to www.dogpro.org and click on War dogs, located under Working K-9 Division.



War dogs in Iraq