



gazette

DECEMBER 2023



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Breeders
and Vets



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February, May, August, and November issues

Toy, Non-Sporting, and Herding Groups
March, June, September, and December issues

 **PURINA**
PRO PLAN



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Your Pet, Our Passion.[®]

It is our favorite time of year here at AKC! As we head towards our 23rd annual AKC National Championship, we are grateful for another amazing year for AKC sports and events, with more than 26,000 events held across the country in 2023. We are thankful for each of our breeders, exhibitors, judges, and AKC staff who made this wonderful milestone possible. The growth of dog sports would not be possible without your valued contributions.

And now we have the privilege of crowning America's next top dog. This year the AKC National Championship (ANC) presented by Royal Canin boasts a record-breaking entry of more than 5,762 dogs that will compete for the title of AKC National Champion. Combined with our other ANC weekend events, including the AKC/Royal Canin National All-Breed Puppy and Junior Stakes, the AKC Agility Invitational, the AKC Obedience Classic, the AKC National Owner-Handled Series Finals, the AKC Fast CAT, the Junior events, and special attraction North America Diving Dogs' (NADD), the overall show entry totals top an astounding 9,807 entries, cementing its place as the largest dog show in North America.

This year's entries include each of the AKC recognized breeds, with dogs from the 50 states, Washington, D.C., and more than 20 countries. Best in Show will be



judged by Mr. Clay Coady, and Best Bred-by-Exhibitor in Show will be judged by Mr. Terry Stacy. This will undoubtedly be a wonderful weekend of competition with many magical moments and memories.

The events of the Championship weekend will be covered extensively on AKC.tv beginning on Tuesday December 12, with the first of three all-breed shows held by the Space Coast Kennel Club of Palm Bay, Brevard Kennel Club, and the Central Florida Kennel Club. Other covered events include the AKC Obedience Classic, the AKC Agility Invitational presented by YuMove, the AKC National Owner-Handled Series finals, the AKC/Royal Canin National All-Breed Puppy and Junior Stakes,

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



the Best Bred-by-Exhibitor groups, Best in Miscellaneous, Junior Showmanship, as well as the evening group competitions.

AKC.tv can be watched on your tablet, computer, or smartphone, or through the AKC.tv app on Roku, AppleTV, Amazon Fire TV, and the Google Play store. All the coverage will also be available on-demand to be accessed at any time.

Make sure you do not miss the three-hour broadcast of our show on ABC, December 31 at 2 P.M. ET (check your local listing). Hosting the broadcast are AKC Executive Secretary and spokesperson Gina DiNardo and noted sportscaster Carolyn Manno. It will be a fabulous way to end the year.

Lastly and importantly, AKC Meet the Breeds is coming back to New York City

January 27 and 28, 2024, at the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center. This family-friendly educational outreach event teaches the public about our beloved breeds and responsible dog ownership. Make sure your breed is represented! For more information and to sign your club up, write to meetthebreeds@akc.org. We look forward to seeing you!

As this year comes to a close, we wish you and your families a safe and happy holiday season, and health and joy in the new year ahead.

Dennis B. Sprung
President and CEO



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Stone and Bearo foraging for mushrooms during a trip to Scotland



The Exquisite Ache of Happiness Delayed

It is a GAZETTE tradition, going back nearly a century, to feature poetry in our December holiday issue. In recent years, we have presented the work of accomplished poets who have unique insights into the mysteries of the human-canine bond.

This year's "Gazette laureate" is Nomi Stone, an anthropologist and assistant professor of literature and creative writing at the University of Texas at Dallas. Her poem "Waiting for Happiness" is based in part on her dog, Bearo, a rescue acquired at the beginning of the pandemic. "He waits tirelessly for us to arrive by the window every day when we are at work," Stone told us

in November as she prepared to teach her poetry class. "But all other times, we bring him everywhere.

"The dog in the poem is also a figure for happiness itself—the ache of waiting for it, the goodness when it arrives."

Here's hoping you and yours receive the happiness of the season with doglike wonder and delight.

On Our
Cover: *Boy and Saluki, circa 1957, photographer unknown;*

colorized by Chris Espiritu



COURTESY NOMI STONE



AKC National Championship Preview

The 23rd **AKC National Championship presented by Royal Canin** (dedicated to the memory of Ronald H. Menaker)
 Orange County Convention Center
 Orlando, Florida
 December 16 and 17

The 23rd **AKC National Championship presented by Royal Canin** (dedicated to the memory of

Ronald H. Menaker)
 Orange County Convention Center
 Orlando, Florida,
 December 16 and 17

JUDGES

Best in Show: Clay Coady; **Best Bred-by-Exhibitor in Show:** Terry Stacy

Sporting Group: Plus Davern; **Bred-by-Exhibitor:** Dana Cline

Hound Group: Charles Olvis; **Bred-by-Exhibitor:** Daniel Smyth, Esq.

Working Group: Victoria Seiler-Cushman; **Bred-by-Exhibitor:** Rita Biddle, Esq.

Terrier Group: Harold “Red” Tatro, III; **Bred-by-Exhibitor:** Kathleen Ferris

Toy Group: Rosalind Kramer; **Bred-By-Exhibitor:** Andrew Brace

Non-Sporting: David Kirkland; **Bred-by-Exhibitor:** Robin Stansell

Herding Group: Dr. Carmen Battaglia; **Bred-by-Exhibitor:**

Jon Cole

Miscellaneous Classes and Best Miscellaneous: Desmond Murphy

Junior Showmanship

PHOTOS BY STEPHANIELLEN PHOTOGRAPHY ©AKC

UPDATES



Finals: Dr. Adam Stafford King

AKC NATIONAL OWNER-HANDLED SERIES FINALS

Best in Show: Dennis Sprung

Sporting breeds/group: Alessandra Folz; **Hound**

breeds/group: Dr. Daniel Dowling; **Working breeds/**

group: Dr. Johan Becerra-Hernandez;

Terrier breeds/group: Dr. Adam Stafford King; **Toy**

breeds/group: Robin Stansell;

Non-Sporting breeds/

group: April Clyde; **Herding breeds/group:** Linda Clark

AKC ROYAL CANIN NATIONAL ALL-BREED PUPPY AND JUNIOR STAKES

Best in Stakes Judges panel: Clay Coady, Terry Stacy, Dennis Sprung

Sporting: Desmond Murphy; **Hound:** Vicki Seiler-Cushman; **Working:** David Kirkland; **Terrier:** Amy Rodrigues; **Toy:** Linda Rowell; **Non-Sporting:** Joseph Verngetti; **Herding:** Nioma Stoner Coen

AKC OBEDIENCE CLASSIC Premium List

AKC AGILITY INVITATIONAL Premium List

FAST CAT INVITATIONAL Premium List

AKC.TV LIVESTREAMING FROM ORLANDO

December 13: Brevard KC; December 14: Central Florida KC; December 15: All-Breed Puppy and Junior Stakes; December 16 and 17: AKC National Championship

NEW YEAR'S DAY SPECIAL

ABC will broadcast a special three-hour presentation of the AKC National Championship on January 1 at 2 P.M. EST.

PHOTOS BY STEPHANIELLEN PHOTOGRAPHY ©AKC

UPDATES

Stocking Stuffers

Catch up with some of our best-read stories of 2023.

Good Sports

Our breed columnists weigh in on good sportsmanship.

Welcoming Juniors to Your Club

Recommendations from the Delegate Juniors Committee

Gene Blake: Young and Gifted

A rare photo recalls a great one's early days.



Balto Lives!

New research reveals insights into one of the world's most famous dogs.

COURTESY HOTDOG PHOTOGRAPHY

THE ONE BOOK EVERY DOG LOVER NEEDS



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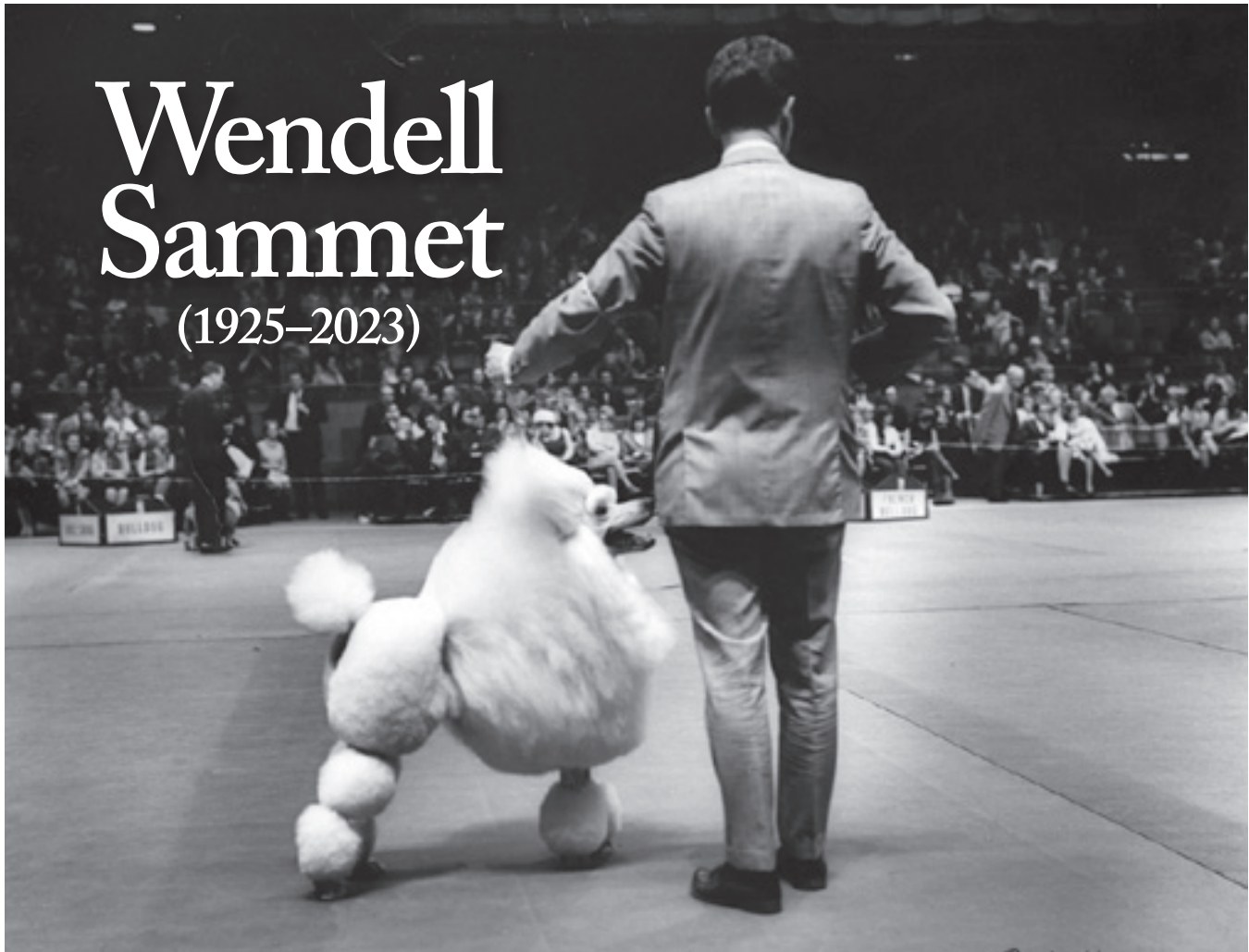
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Wendell Sammet

(1925–2023)



Wendell J. Sammet, the mastermind of Ale Kai Kennels, and the AKC’s first Breeder of the Year recipient, died in his sleep on November 9. The dog-show sage of Bryantville, Massachusetts, was two weeks short of his 98th birthday.

It seemed fitting that we heard the news at the start of Veterans’ Day weekend:

A veteran of World War II, Sammet fought at the Battle of the Bulge and was held as a Nazi POW for six months. He was a recipient of the Purple Heart.

Sammet was born on November 23, 1925, to Minnie and Joseph Sammet of Milton, Massachusetts. As a teenager, he trained a Dalmatian in obedience, and in 1950 he began breed-

ing them. That first Dal, Roadcoach Frou Frou, CD, was better suited to the obedience ring, and Sammet handled her to a win in 1950 at the New England Road Trials.

Mary Barrett, of Roadcoach Kennels, became Sammet’s mentor in Dalmatians and, eventually, Poodles. “I bought my road-trial and obedience bitch from

PAULA WRIGHT PHOTO/AKC GAZETTE COLLECTION

UPDATES



Sammet and Karen LeFrak with their Ch. Ale Kai Mikimoto on Fifth, Westminster Non-Sporting Group winner in 2003 and '04.

Roadcoach and bred to one of their dogs, producing Ch. China Doll of Dalmatia, an American and Canadian champion who won Best of Breed at Westminster in 1950,” Sammet said.

He bred Ch. Boot Black From Dalmatia, a beautifully sound, well-spotted Dal who won Best of Breed at the 1953 Morris & Essex show and eventually sired Ch. Roadcoach Roadster, who in 1956 won Best in Show at Morris & Essex.

Soon after, Sammet found himself in the breed in which he truly made his mark: Poodles. He established a

breeding program for Mr. and Mrs. Henry Kaiser under the Alekai banner.

The Kaiser fortune combined with Wendell Sammet’s skill as a breeder-handler went a long way toward building Alekai into a powerhouse kennel. Utilizing Puttencove and Blakeen stock, Sammet established a line built to last.

He inherited Alekai after Mrs. Kaiser’s death and—pausing just long enough to insert a space between the kennel name’s “Ale” and “Kai”—continued Ale Kai’s run of uninterrupted success for decades.

Through the years, he prided himself in breeding for health, temperament, and breed type—and he always found time to serve as a mentor for newcomers to the breed and the sport.

“Wendell’s emphasis is always on working with the very best dogs, not on how many champions he can have,” Karen LeFrak told the GAZETTE in 2003. LeFrak and Sammet co-owned



Wendell Sammet with Ch. Alekai Airy in one of the most famous photos in dog-show history.

Standard Poodle Ch. Ale Kai Mikimoto on Fifth, a Westminster group winner in consecutive years (2003–04). In 2005, Sammet’s old friend Frank Sabella summed it up best: “If I had to pick somebody in dogs who I wanted to be just like when I ‘grow up,’ it would be Wendell.”

Donations in Wendell Sammet’s memory may be made to the [Poodle Club of America Rescue Foundation, Inc.](#)



“Through the Years We All Will Be Together ...”

For nearly a hundred years our December issue has featured holiday-themed art. Something about this time of year really inspired generations of GAZETTE artists and designers. We present this slideshow gallery of festive December covers with wishes for peace, prosperity, and puppies in the coming year.

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*Dog knows when friend will come home
because each hour friend's smell pales,
air paring down the good smell
with its little diamond. It means I miss you
O I miss you, how hard it is to wait
for my happiness, and how good when
it arrives. Here we are in our bodies,
ripe as avocados, softer, brightening
with latencies like a hot, blue core
of electricity: our ankles knotted to our
calves by a thread, womb sparking
with watermelon seeds we swallowed
as children, the heart again badly hurt, trying
and failing. But it is almost five says
the dog. It is almost five.*

Waiting for Happiness

©2018 Nomi Stone. Used with permission of the author. This poem originally appeared in *Tin House*, Summer 2018. Photo by Daniel Turner, 2014 AKC Photo Contest entry.

Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine students participating in the Tufts-AKC Canine Whelping Pilot Program



Breeders and Veterinarians: **Bridging *the* Barriers**

A new program at Tufts vet school expands future vets' understanding of breeders and the breeding process. | By Katie Dolan

COURTESY DR. MEERA GATLIN

FEATURE

A survey of dog and cat breeders and veterinarians recently published in the *Journal of the Veterinary Medical Association* assesses the significant obstacles to collegial relationships between breeders and veterinarians. In their responses to the survey, breeders cited frustration with veterinarians who have disapproving attitudes toward breeding, who refuse to acknowledge breeder expertise and knowledge, and who they feel lack sufficient knowledge about breeds and breed standards, nutrition, vaccinations, and reproductive health.

They also are frustrated by practitioners who have inadequate business procedures and harbor negative assumptions about breeders. Veterinarians, meanwhile, cited off-putting breeder attitudes, breeder financial considerations that limit patient care, and differences of opinion about what constitutes reliable information.



Alexandra Damren and
Isabella Swift—DVM
Class of '26

How can we bridge these attitudinal barriers to foster better collaboration and care of our animals?

A new program available to veterinary students at the Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University, dubbed the [Tufts-AKC](#)

[Canine Whelping Pilot Program](#), seeks to address these issues. First- and second-year veterinary students in the program take an optional semester-long course that pairs them with breeder-mentors to learn about all aspects of canine reproductive health.

COURTESY ALEXANDRA DAMREN

FEATURE



A Newfoundland working in water rescue. The program includes learning about breed-specific purpose, skills, and traits.

Each student accompanies their breeder-mentor to veterinary visits, health-certification testing, whelping, semen collection, delivery, and placement of puppies. The students also attend a dog show, meet for round-table discussions, and attend guest lectures with breeders and veterinarians.

A SERIOUS SHORTAGE

Stacey Ober, J.D., the AKC's Government Relations regional manager for New England, provides

background on establishing the Tufts AKC Whelping program selective. "The AKC and a local AKC Breeder of Merit reached out to Dr. Alastair Cribb, the Dean of Cummings School, in 2022. The AKC and its affiliated clubs strongly support and actively promote a wide range of programs to educate about responsible breeding practices and dog ownership to ensure that all dogs receive the care, love, and attention they deserve."

She adds, "One of the best routes to support responsible breeders is the education and partnership with knowledgeable veterinary professionals. Currently, there is a serious shortage of veterinarians with canine reproduction expertise practicing in New England. Veterinary practices report a persistent inability to identify and hire individuals with small animal theriogenology backgrounds, and skills. As Tufts is the sole veterinary

COURTESY PATTI SUTHERLAND

FEATURE



Vet students Allie Damren, V26, and Noah Dwyer, V26, at the 2023 Springfield KC dog show, flanked by AKC Chairman of the Board Dr. Thomas M. Davies and Laurie Maulucci.

school in New England, we proposed a pilot program that would partner volunteer veterinary students with select AKC breeder club members. Our collective goal is to promote interest in the process of conducting health evaluations, selecting a stud, breeding, and whelping a

litter of healthy puppies.”

IMPROVING THE CONVERSATION

Assistant Teaching Professor Meera Gatlin, DVM/MPH, DACVPM, who oversees the course, says that student understanding of specific breeds—including traits

and genetics—and what goes into breeding dogs and cats improves the conversation when they become practicing veterinarians.

Gatlin asks, “Can we improve veterinary student knowledge and attitudes toward canine breeding through mentorship and hands-on learning? Can

COURTESY LAURIE MAULUCCI, AKC

FEATURE

we challenge those underlying attitudes and biases early on in their education?” As she points out, reproductive health can be emotionally charged regarding both canines and humans.

Veterinary-education programs typically provide only about 11 hours of reproductive health education, and many schools foster a mentality in favor of early spay/neuter and “adopt, don’t shop.” The Tufts-AKC Selective program combats that limited perspectives by giving students hands-on experience with breeders outside the classroom.

The students discuss ethical issues and “hot spots” where vets and breeders might disagree, such as vaccination schedules and feeding raw foods. One student in the Selective notes, “A lot of questions surrounding ethics were discussed fully in this selective ... the most predominant belief that was

challenged for me as a veterinary student is that not all breeders are the same.”

Gatlin adds, “As a veterinarian, you must decide what you agree with and where you disagree. But if you have a well-balanced perspective in your education, you are more likely to collaborate with rather than combat a breeder. We all have the same end-goal of quality patient care.”

Gatlin would love to see the program become a model for partnerships between other veterinary schools and breed clubs. She adds, “I believe in purpose-bred dogs” and suggests a regional Newfoundland club might invite local veterinary students to see our working dogs in action—including doing draft work and water rescue and as therapy dogs. Veterinary students could also learn more about what constitutes a great home for a Newfoundland, and what conditions are less

ideal. They can also advise on breed-specific vulnerabilities and diseases.

THE FUN FACTOR

In addition to fostering better client care for all breeds, the new program is just plain fun for veterinary students. As veterinary student Alexandra Damren (V26) says, “This selective was fabulous. I had zero experience with breeding before Tufts. It did a wonderful job breaking down a barrier between breeders, veterinarians, and the public.

“I have gained so much knowledge from both veterinarians who breed and the breeders themselves about the process, intricacy, and professionalism of dog shows.

“What I loved most was the valuable hands-on experience with breeding procedures during a more didactic learning year!”

Veterinary student Isabella Swift adds, “I really

FEATURE



Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine students Jullian Nazzaro and Marisela Gonzalez-Cruz (both DVM class of 2025) hold newborn French Bulldogs born via planned C-section. The pups were at the local veterinary hospital being mentored by the breeder and the hospital staff, including a theriogenologist.

enjoyed learning more about the AKC and all the work that goes into dog breeding. Being able to participate in everything from dog shows to transcervical inseminations and C-sections exposed me to an entirely new side of veterinary medicine I would have never thought I was interested in before participating in this selective.”

A BREEDER’S VIEW

The participating breeders also praise the program. Susan Patterson, long-time breeder of Labrador Retrievers and Gordon Setters and an AKC Breeder of Merit, who helps teach the course, explains, “I’m passionate about supporting both breeders and veterinarians so that my

grandchildren will have the same chance I’ve had to participate in the joy and satisfaction of breed-specific animal husbandry and AKC competition.

“A course like this helps us to change the conversation in a positive way. In lunchtime discussions of genetics, euthanasia, and temperament, students see

COURTESY MARISELA GONZALEZ-CRUZ

FEATURE

a breeder and veterinarian exchange ideas and questions with deep respect for the other's expertise. The students also come to my home to see the whelping process; the birth, caring for newborn pups, feeding the growing pups, and observing how they react to early neuro stimulation."

She adds that AKC staff are critical to the program's success, contributing informational resources. "The local kennel clubs whose breeders donate their time have also raised monies to support the course," she notes.

A MODEL PARTNERSHIP

Gatlin notes, "I believe in purpose-bred dogs. My definition includes companion animals as purpose bred.

"Many breeders have litters with the intent of placing puppies as pets in good homes; purebred dogs are not necessarily being used for their historical purposes. It's important to

ask the students, what do you think this dog was bred for? Why is the breeder so invested in the breed? What got them interested in the breed? If they come to you with health concerns or an intention to breed, what are the things you'd want to discuss that are relevant to the purebred traits?"

Gatlin would love to see the program become a model for partnerships between other veterinary schools and breed clubs. Veterinary students could also learn more about what constitutes a great home for a specific dog breed, and what conditions are less ideal. With more knowledge, they can also advise on breed-specific vulnerabilities and diseases.

THE TAKEAWAY

A preliminary assessment of the program finds a major shift in the attitudes of the students. Before taking the selective, most students disagreed with

the statement "There can be a healthy relationship between canine breeders and small animal (general practice) veterinarians." After the course, the students agreed with the statement. Additionally, the students feel more confident about their ability to serve a breeder clientele when they become practicing veterinarians. These outcomes are good for dogs and their owners, breeders, and veterinarians alike. **GZ**

Katie Dolan, MBA, MS, MFA, is a conservationist, dog breeder, and writer who teaches Storytelling for Conservation and Animals at the Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine at Tufts University. She is the author of the Bella, the Wildlife Ambassador series and The Complete Guide to Newfoundland Dogs. She also serves as board chair for The Nature Conservancy in Rhode Island and a trustee of the Wildlife Conservation Society.

AKC Meet the Breeds® is coming to New York City at the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center January 27th and 28th, 2024.

Sign up to represent your breed and join in the fun!



Meet the Breeds®

AKC Meet the Breeds offers a unique opportunity to educate the public about our wonderful breeds and responsible dog ownership. With colorful breed booths and exciting demonstrations, it is a fun, family-friendly event.

Your breed deserves to be represented! Come meet and greet thousands of dog lovers and be a champion for your breed!

To get the form, scan the QR code
or email meetthebreeds@akc.org

The deadline to register is December 28, 2023





Tricky Business

Meet Paula Jarabin and Rosie, winners of the 2023 AKC Trick Dog competition. 6:00



“As Nature Designed Them”

Dogumentary TV gets lots of lovely footage of Marla Haney's Heritage Canaan Dogs. 10:06

VIDEOS



A Vermont Miracle

CBS Sunday Morning visits the late artist Stephen Huneck's famous Dog Mountain in Vermont. 7:07



Season's Greetings!

A selection of vintage holiday cards featuring dogs and dog breeds, sent by fanciers to the GAZETTE. 1:15

Judge Murr Lays Down the Law



Westminster KC, 1969: Murr, a contender for the title of “Mr. Westminster,” gives his BIS to Skye Terrier Ch. Glamour Good News. Also pictured: owner-handler Walter F. Goodman and club president William A. Rockefeller.

Between 1920 and 1943, Louis J. Murr, of Spring Valley, New York, built his Romanoff Kennels into America’s most influential Borzoi line. After Romanoff dogs took the group at Westminster in 1942 and ’43, Murr made the leap from breeder-exhibitor to judge.

A revered and sometimes feared all-rounder, he was among those who could vie for the title “Mr.

Westminster”—he judged at the Garden for 21 straight years. “I judge them according to the standard and not for their pictures in dog magazines,” he maintained. Murr judged his final show in 1976. He died two years later at age 84.

Following are excerpts from a December 1952 GAZETTE article in which Murr sets down his “commandments” for competent dog-show judging.

EVELYN SHAFER PHOTOS/AKC GAZETTE COLLECTION

TIMES PAST

First, [a judge] must be honest in both thought and action. However, I would like to elaborate on honesty, for it is my belief that anyone, in his or her own way of thinking, is honest—but all are also human. In other words, when a judge is convinced in his own mind that a dog should be sent to a certain placing he should actually do so. He should not vacillate.

A judge should be gentle and patient with both exhibitors and their dogs. The judge should first let the exhibitors place or move their dogs the way they want. If he is not satisfied with their performance, he should then direct them so that he can see each dog properly.

I believe that judges are responsible for the continuation, improvement, and propagation of each breed. Any judge should feel the responsibility of his or her task very deeply and must—



KC of Philadelphia, 1965: Club president William Kendrick and handler Ted Young Jr. join Murr in the winner's circle with Cocker Spaniel Ch. Pinefair Password.

and this is really a *must*—be familiar with the history of each breed. Especially he must know the basic origin or creation, and the purpose in back of the creation of each breed. He should be able to interpret the Standard accordingly, without fear or prejudice, and make allowance for the difference between sexes.

Judges should judge dogs as they are on the day

that they are exhibited. He should not allow for past or future. I don't think that a judge should ask the age of any dog in the ring during the procedure of judging.

A judge should not discuss faults of a dog he has judged with anyone but the person who exhibited the dog—and then only if he is asked to explain the placing.

Terry Stacy

Master breeder Terry Stacy will judge Best Bred-by-Exhibitor at Orlando this month. The teenaged Stacy bred his first Cocker Spaniel champion in 1955, and his distinguished career as a pro handler brought him show-ring fame. But, AKC old-timers remember him best as a shrewd executive who pulled off a spectacular achievement: His Dog Show Events department staged the 1984 AKC Centennial Show in Philadelphia, the biggest dog show ever held in North America.



BREED COLUMNS



Edited by [Arliss Paddock](#)

In "The Gift that Keeps On Giving," Jan Warren Linné, of the Dalmatian Club of America, encourages breed-specific holiday giving.



COURTESY JAN WARREN LINNÉ

BREED COLUMNS

ABOUT THE BREED COLUMNS

The breed columns are a time-honored feature of the AKC GAZETTE. Each columnist is appointed by the breed's national parent club, which preserves the breed's standard and helps to educate breeders, judges, and the public about the breed's traits, history, care, and training. A national parent club is made up of dedicated breeders and fanciers and represents many years of collective experience in the breed. Columnists are asked to write about topics of interest to serious dog fanciers in general as well as those of specific interest to judges and devotees of the breed. The breed columns rotate quarterly by group so that each breed's column can appear four times a year. Information and opinions expressed in the breed columns represent the views of their authors, not necessarily those of the breed's parent club or the AKC. For questions about the breed columns, e-mail ArlissPaddock@akc.org



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Brussels Griffons

THE ABGA NATIONAL SPECIALTY SHOW

As December arrives, everyone is busy getting ready for Christmas, but there is another big event in the Brussels Griffon world to look forward to: the national specialty show, which will be held on Wednesday, March 13, in Louisville, Kentucky. That's been the location of the American Brussels Griffon Association show for more than 20 years.

The annual get-together attracts around 100 Brussels Griffons. Nowhere else in the U.S. will you see 100 Brussels Griffons in the same place. Many longtime breeders exhibit there. For most of the club members of ABGA, this event is the only time of the year they will see each other, as some live in Alaska and some in Florida, and every state in between.

When I was a newcomer to the club, I asked longtime breeder Jeff Bazell, "Why is this show held on a



Brussels Griffon

Wednesday? Why not on a weekend, when most people have off?"

"Because that's when Iris held her bridge games," he joked. Iris de la Torre Bueno held the reins of the Brussels Griffon club for 50 years, but she was long gone when the show moved to Wednesday. The show is part of the cluster of dog shows called Kentuckiana. Four all-breed shows follow the Griffon national, Thursday to Sunday, with large entries in our breed. The club moved to

Wednesday to have a day of their own.

On Tuesday, March 12, there are seminars for everyone interested at the Hilton Garden Inn, which is behind the Expo Center. First, the judges' seminar, a discussion of the breed standard; then the breeders' seminar, focused on the inheritance of patella problems; then a health seminar with Dr. Marthina Greer, Westminster Kennel Club's Veterinarian of the Year and author of *Canine Reproduction and*



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Neonatology on all issues related to breeding and whelping. Lastly, the general membership meeting of the ABGA.

If you are new to the breed, this is where you will see the best Brussels Griffons and meet some of the best breeders. If you are an old hand, you should help out. Many years ago, Borzoi breeder and head of the AKC Board of Directors, Dr. Asa Mays, pulled me aside one day and said, “You are getting a lot of enjoyment out of showing. When are you going to give something back?”

He explained that anyone involved in dog shows should, at some point, join a club and work on a committee to support this hobby that we love. A good point. I took his advice and worked with clubs for many years, leading up to this year, when I am National Show Chair for the ABGA.

A second national specialty show, called the Roving, is held wherever in the States that a member

offers to sponsor it. In 2024, it will be held on December 13, in Orlando, the day before the AKC National Championship, which is held there every year.

Here’s the really good reason to come to Louisville; this year, our theme is “The Great Griffsbly,” and participants are invited to wear Roaring Twenties dress! And, for the first time, we’re holding a Griff costume contest at the Wednesday evening cocktail party, where Griffs will parade in whatever costume they choose. This will be something to see. You’re invited.

—Sharon Sakson,
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American Brussels Griffon Association

Cavalier King Charles Spaniels

We are fortunate to again have Dr. Leslie Slusher educate us on the genetics of breeding in a manner that we can understand. It must be wonderful to be one of her students.

MEASURES OF INBREEDING: OLD AND NEW

At your next all-breed show, take a moment to appreciate the stunning amount of phenotypic diversity surrounding you. The Great Dane and the Chihuahua, the Puli and the Chinese Crested Dog, the Afghan Hound and the Pekingese: All of these dogs belong to the single taxonomic classification *Canis lupus familiaris*. No other animal has the level of phenotypic diversity as that found in the domesticated dog. This diversity is the result of intense selection that occurred primarily in the last 200 years. Breeders faithfully selected specific characteristics generation after generation to obtain the animal with the desired phenotype. Breed clubs were formed, and genetic books were closed, requiring that all future selection must occur from within the breed.

Breeding from within a closed population is by definition inbreeding. The gene pool is limited to the alleles

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present in the founding population. The positive effects of crossing two related individuals are predictability and a fixation of desirable traits (prepotency), both of which are due to an increase in homozygosity of favorable alleles.

But inbreeding comes with a cost. Each founding dog carried deleterious alleles that cause health problems. Since most of those alleles are recessive, they were hidden in the founding population because they were in a heterozygous arrangement with a dominant allele. However, as desirable alleles become more homozygous, so do the deleterious alleles, particularly those that are located on chromosomes close to the favorable alleles. Each successive generation will carry a higher risk of a decrease in fertility and viability, along with an increase of genetic-based disorders.

How quickly these detrimental effects are observed depends on the size and diversity of the founding population, along with sev-



*Cavalier King
Charles Spaniel*

eral other genetic factors. Inbreeding is then a balance of two opposing effects; an increase in predictability, and uniformity accompanied by a decrease in health and viability.

The most often used measure of inbreeding is Wright's Coefficient of Inbreeding (COI). Based

on pedigree analysis, the COI provides an estimate of the probability that the two alleles at any gene locus will be inherited from a common ancestor of the parents. It is an estimate of the loci that are homozygous by descent (autozygous) and provides a measure of risk for genetic-based disorders (Wright

COURTESY LYNDA BEAM

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1921). The higher the COI, the higher the risk that any given puppy in that litter will have a genetic abnormality.

The accuracy of the COI depends heavily on the accuracy and depth of the pedigree. A COI based on two to three generations will be lower and less accurate than an COI that traces pedigrees back to the founding population of the breed. Most breeders, however, don't have 10- to 12-generation pedigrees, so the standard COI calculations are based on four to five generations.

It is important to note that the true autozygosity of any individual puppy may differ substantially from the estimated COI, due to genetic factors that the pedigree-based COI does not consider (Chu 2019).

Recent advances in DNA technologies allow identification of long stretches of homozygous loci. Known as Runs of Homozygosity (ROH), these regions were inherited from a common ancestor and are a

direct result of inbreeding. Determining the fraction of the genome actually contained in ROH provides a direct measure of an individual dog's level of inbreeding, and potentially a more accurate measure of inbreeding than the COI.

Additionally, studies have shown that deleterious homozygous recessive genotypes are concentrated in ROH (Sams 2019). Knowing the location and extent of ROH within individual genomes may enable an assessment of risk posed by a given breeding. Every dog breed has regions of autozygosity that are not fixed. Identifying and preserving these regions through marker assisted crosses may help to preserve diversity within a breed.

Although this technology is still in its preliminary stages, inbreeding coefficients based on ROH have the potential to maintain and perpetuate dog breeds (Chu 2019). —L.S.

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About the author:

Leslie Slusher, Ph.D. received her doctoral degree in pharmacogenetics from Pennsylvania State University College of Medicine. She then completed a five-year National Institutes of Health sponsored postdoctoral fellowship in Molecular Genetics. She joined the Department of Biology faculty at West Chester University of Pennsylvania in 1991. She spent the next 26 years teaching Genetics, Human Genetics, Bioethics, Medical Genetics, and Molecular Genetics at both the graduate and undergraduate levels. She was the recipient of many teaching awards, perhaps the most significant being named



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Professor of the Year by the university's honor students the year preceding her retirement. Her area of research was the genetics of prostate cancer, specifically racial differences in the incidence and progression of prostate cancer. She was the recipient of numerous grants from both the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation. Her research was also supported by several pharmaceutical companies.

For the last 12 years, Dr. Slusher and her husband Roger have pursued their passions in breeding Cavalier King Charles Spaniels and the continuation of the family farm, Fields Edge (field-sedgecavaliers.com and fieldsedgefarms.com) in Floyd, Virginia. They have shown and bred 27 AKC champions and their dogs have earned two Register of Merit Awards. Leslie serves as a Director of the ACKCSC and serves on the Health Committee.

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Chihuahuas

YOUR CHIHUAHUA MIGHT ENJOY “DRESSING UP”!

I found something exciting and fun to do with my little dogs. It was years ago when I attended my first national specialty. One of the vendors had these cute little clownlike collars, so of course I bought one and put it on my dog while we watch the show. Time after time I got comments such as “Bet he hates that” and “Why would you do that to your dog?” So being new to nationals, I took the clown collar off, and I never put anything but show collars and leashes on them again.

Then Goldie was born. Being a show breeder, I always placed my tiny dogs in pet home, as I did not keep any dogs whom I considered too small to breed. With each placement, I

would think how much I would love to have a tiny one, but it just wasn't practical. Twenty-plus years later, Goldie was born. She had a twin sister, both so tiny and so beautiful. Perfect show-quality girls, but much too tiny to breed. So I decided to place one and *keep* one for myself.

What a wonderful decision. This barely three-pound dog stole my heart and has become the ruler of all the bigger dogs. Goldie is the epitome of the tiny little pet to be carried in your purse.

By the time Goldie was born, I was an established breeder known for my quality dogs. I was now secure enough and didn't need to let others tell me what I should or should not do with my dogs. I decided that I wanted to dress up my little girl and carry her around just like I'd seen in the movies.

Goldie *loves* dressing up. At first I could hardly find any little dresses to fit her, but as she grew, she finally fit in the extra-extra-small

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Sometimes a special dog enjoys being “dressed up,” and this can be a great way to bring a smile to people’s faces.



clothes. Who knew these tiny little dresses could be so expensive? There are designer dresses with hats to match costing more than my own. I was given one of these gorgeous designer dresses, but then I scanned the internet for more affordable outfits and sweaters. I found so many cute things,

and Goldie has her winter and summer wardrobes.

During the holidays we are especially excited because there are so many fun doggie clothes out there now. The costumes are hilarious, and everyone enjoys seeing the dogs dressed up. I get people stopping me in the stores asking about Goldie and

admiring her outfit for the day. It’s fun for mommy to show off her little darling!

Of course not all dogs enjoy being dressed up, but when you have those special ones who do, it can be so much fun finding those perfect outfits, taking photos, and having strangers admiring your beautiful little dog.

PHOTO CREDIT HERE COURTESY VIRGINIA HAUBER

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Goldie loves when we get a new dress in the mail. She watches me unwrap it and then can't wait to try it on and prance around as though she were the Queen.

What a wonderful new dog world I discovered. Try it. You'll like it!

—Virginia (Jenny)

Hauber, 2020

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Chihuahua Club of America



Havanese

JUST SAY NO!

The Havanese standard is rich with words descriptive of the breed's temperament and personality. *Immense charm, friendly, intelligent, playful* (mentioned three times), *spirited, alert, soft, intelligent, mischievous, sweet,* and *non-quarrelsome* are the adjectives that together describe the essential characteristics of the breed and which, in combination, cause the breed to be adored by everyone who meets them casually or by living

with them.

Perhaps one more descriptive term should be added to the list: *manipulative*.

When I place a puppy with new owners who have not previously owned a Havanese, I always caution that they should watch their credit card account, as it wouldn't surprise me if the puppy orders a gold-plated Rolls Royce! Havanese puppies have an unerring ability to get what they want.

It never fails to amaze me that the new owner who

swears that the puppy will never sleep in bed with them (tee-hee) will report weeks later, in answer to my question, "Where is the puppy sleeping?" "Well ... in my bed... on top of my head... on top of my pillow." I could have told them that weeks ago.

Sometimes they go on to add, "The puppy starts out on top of my head and then moves between the two of us, pushing against my back with his feet!"

Why this turnabout in



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resolution that the puppy would be sleeping in his crate at night? Pure willful manipulation! You don't own a Havanese, they own you. It takes great resolve and tenacity on the part of the owner to set the rules and stick to them. Sleeping in bed is fine, as long as the new owner realizes the annoyance of having an untrained puppy soiling the bed linen!

The main difficulty with setting the rules and sticking to them is the uncanny plea on their faces—the velvety look in their usually dark brown, almond-shaped eyes melts hearts. The annoyance of bed-wetting is one thing; that penetrating stare while begging for food is another thing. All new puppy owners get a strong lecture on that.

Havanese normally love to eat—their food, the food of other pets in the house, and people food, too. All owners of Havanese need to be repeatedly cautioned about indulging that cutie with food rewards and treats. Fat dogs are not well dogs, and

obesity in pets is a nationwide crisis.

People love feeding their pets, and Havanese are very vulnerable to their owners' food indulgence. Throughout a puppy's life I require that owners send photos, and I am quick to say, "Little Lola is too fat! What are you feeding her?" The answer is usually something like, "She only gets a quarter of a cup of kibble twice a day." No, I am not dumb, and I know exactly the problem. "How many treats does she get during the day?"

Then the truth comes out, and I recite the very specific instructions in the puppy handbook I gave them: *No table scraps!* No denials of the truth dissuade me, and I implore them to stop being manipulated and get those extra pounds off the dog. More exercise, less food. But those deep-brown bedroom eyes are very hard to resist. I get that, but my puppies' health is of paramount concern and owners' feelings be damned. I call it like I see it.

Havanese seldom fail to live up to these adjectives liberally listed in the standard. I don't know if any other breed standard is so descriptive of temperament and personality, but ours certainly nails it. And that's why we love them so much. We all need to be aware of how insidiously manipulative they are!

—Alice L. Lawrence,
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Havanese Club of America

Italian Greyhounds

"BEWARE THE DOG"

Over the next few articles I will like to clear up some of the popular misconceptions and inaccurate notions that people have regarding the Italian Greyhound breed.

Beware the Dog. My, how the meaning of this present-day well-known and well-used adage has changed through history. The Italian Greyhound is probably the first breed of dog that was kept by those who could afford to have dogs for no

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Italian Greyhound



particular utilitarian purpose but to be a companion as well as a living object of art decorating an

estate and home. *Beware the Dog* alerted guests that there were small dogs underfoot, and I'm sure even more

so, curled up on a pillow at either end corner of a couch. Fashion in the day was dominated by oversized hoop dresses, perfect hiding places for curious but somewhat timid little dogs.

With their delicate appearance that has historically attracted the eye of painters and sculptors, the Italian Greyhounds are not necessarily fragile; rather, they are athletic. These little dogs are and should be fine boned. Very importantly, they are refined in their size *and* for their size. The bladed leg bones are long and fine, and finer than what we see comparatively on the larger breeds that Italian Greyhounds resemble.

It's hard to avoid the fact that too many people equate delicate bone with fragility, Here is where I implore that the reader becomes familiar with the dik-dik and the chevrotain. The dik-dik is the tiniest of antelope, measuring 12-16 inches at shoulder. The chevrotain, or mouse deer, is the most ancient living representative of hooved

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mammal, referred to as a “living fossil” and measures 8 to 14 inches at the shoulder. Thus both species are comparable in height to the Italian Greyhound. The dik-dik has been around for thousands of years, and the chevrotain has existed millions of years. These creatures live their lives running on toothpick legs, meeting their demise not by broken bones but by natural predation and of course by human interference and predation.

When raising young Italian Greyhounds, they should be given plenty of space to run and play with obstacles few and far between. This is important in the development of coordination and muscle.

Two big mistakes that are repeated over and over, are the following. First toenails are not trimmed adequately. Although their fine hare foot does accommodate a bit longer toenail, nails should be trimmed so the dogs have full use of the foot pads. The other mistake is giving the

puppy too much unsupervised freedom in the house. The house is set up for human living and basically is an obstacle course in close quarters. That doesn't deter the young mind, and Italian Greyhound puppies think they can fly. Compare this to a child who attempts to climb a tree before he or she has the strength and skill to do so. It takes time to master the twisting and turning at high speed that it takes these little dogs to navigate furniture, hard surfaces, narrow passageways, and all the rest that we take for granted in the home. But rest assured, it happens.

Being cognizant of this will raise the puppy to become a happy and healthy Italian Greyhound who will enjoy all the activities of life—including those which people play a part in, like agility and dock diving. Of course, in adulthood they still may be seen spending more time curled up in the comforts of home, but it won't be the same as a child throwing away a college

education to become that couch potato.

—Harry Bennett,
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Japanese Chin

The following is excerpted from an article by Sari Brewster Tietjen that appeared in the December 1998 GAZETTE. Sari was a highly respected multigroup AKC judge and bred, owned, handled, and lived with Japanese Chin for more than 40 years. She passed away in 2019.

SARI TIETJEN ON THE JAPANESE CHIN

The Japanese Chin actually owes its origins to China, not Japan. Small dogs were known to have criss-crossed the Silk Road, accompanying travelers as both presentations of trade and companions on long journeys. Some became the pets of Buddhist monks, who bred various types in their monasteries. Eventually,

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Japanese Chin, Leland R Schenck photo; Louise van der Meid, 1966.

these little pets were given as gifts to traveling dignitaries. They quickly assumed their rightful position in imperial palaces, where they were closely kept and guarded for the imperial family. Peasants were not allowed to own them, as the small dogs became treasures more valuable than gold.

It has long been surmised that the Japanese Chin and the Pekingese were once the same breed, with the

Pekingese having been bred out to create the type we know today. The Chin is believed to have been kept pure, but in searching through Far Eastern works of art dating from the 17th to 20th centuries, several patterns emerge. First, early small Japanese dogs resembled the Continental Toy Spaniel of Europe—aristocratic, square-bodied, and up on leg, with a distinctive long muzzle and

a luxurious, flowing, silky coat. Second, the Chinese Chin was a flat-faced, straight-legged, slightly long-backed parti-color dog called the Imperial Ch'in. And third, these two types were blended together to bring about the Japanese Chin of today—a dainty, square-bodied, flat-faced, richly coated, and elegant toy breed.

With the exception of a small Dutch trading

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post and limited contacts through China and Korea, Japan closed its doors in 1636 to the outside world in an effort to prevent foreigners from further influencing their people and culture. This isolationist policy prevailed for more than 200 years. It was not until Commodore Matthew C. Perry forced the opening of Japan in 1853 that Westerners again visited the country on a regular basis. Perry had been sent to Japan by President Franklin Pierce, with the good wishes of Great Britain's Queen Victoria. Both countries wanted to establish trading posts in the closed empire.

When Perry finally accomplished the task, his ships returned home laden with many imperial gifts for himself, President Pierce, and the queen. Among the gifts were three pairs of small imperial dogs—one for Perry, another for Pierce, and a third for Victoria. Of the six dogs, the only ones to survive the voyage were those kept by

Perry, who in turn gave the dogs to his daughter, Caroline Perry Belmont, who was married to August Belmont. (Their son, August Belmont Jr., served as president of the AKC from 1888 to 1915). According to the Belmonts, the two Chins were never bred but were beloved house pets.

By 1858, a full trade treaty had been negotiated between America and Japan. An exodus of the small imperial dogs soon followed. Many of them soon found their way, officially and otherwise, onto clipper ships and steamers. The long ocean voyage was taxing to the small dogs, and many perished en route, their bodies wrapped in silk as they were buried at sea. Those that did survive helped to establish the breed in Europe, England, and America. They became not only pets in castles and palaces throughout the Western world but also beloved treasures for sailors' wives and girlfriends.

A Royal Favorite

It was Britain's Queen Alexandra who drew worldwide attention to the Japanese Chin—or, as the breed was known in America until 1977, the Japanese Spaniel. (The name was changed at the parent club's request, for two reasons: First, no other country called it that; second, American breeders felt that the word "spaniel" was misleading, in that it denoted a hunting dog.) Alexandra, a Danish princess prior to her marriage to the future King Edward VII of Britain, received her first Chin as a gift shortly after her wedding in 1863. Other Chins soon followed, coming from both China and Japan as well as the European continent.

Alexandra popularized the breed, and it became a favorite with members of her Marlborough House set. This led to increased attention for the Chin, not only in England, where it became a sought-after lapdog, but also on the Continent, where



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it was the darling of many royal cousins. It was also highly favored in America among the well-to-do. The Japanese Spaniel was one of the first breeds accepted into the AKC registry. In 1888, a dog simply called Jap, with pedigree and breeder unknown, was the first Japanese Spaniel registered by the AKC.

A handful of dedicated early breeders, such as Lida Domler, Mr. and Mrs. Roger Harrison, and Mrs. Fred Senn nurtured and developed the breed in America. One of the American stalwarts of the breed in the early 1900s was Hannah Berendsohn, who wrote the first Japanese Spaniel breed column in *The American Kennel Gazette* in 1929 and was secretary and treasurer of the Japanese Spaniel Club of America and an AKC judge. Berendsohn described the breed as being “dainty, dignified, and disdainful, affectionate but easily offended, and can be extremely deter-

mined and stubborn.”

She and her husband, Dr. Edward H. Berendsohn, a Brooklyn dentist, were avid admirers of the breed, having bred and shown them successfully under the Brookdale kennel name. Through force, determination, and sheer pluckiness, Berendsohn succeeded in working with breeders from other countries to organize the breed in America. She imported dogs from Europe (most notably Austria and Germany) and forged a union with Madame Ineko Shimokawa, an American-born woman living in Japan. Shimokawa is credited with preserving the breed in Japan, especially after World War II, when the dogs became practically extinct. It was reported in 1947 that only 30 were left in the entire country. Berendsohn kept many of Shimokawa’s dogs before, during, and after the war—and, indeed, many American pedigrees reflect Shimokawa’s kennel name of Kumochi-No.

Friendly Rivals in the Ring

As the war ravaged Japan’s dog population, it also had a devastating effect on European breeding. In England, food was rationed, there was little nonessential travel, and shows came to a halt. Breeders on the war-torn Continent endured even more heartbreaking circumstances; disease was rampant, and medicines difficult to find. But throughout the war, several English breeders, including Naomi Wharton-Tigar and Constance Jameson, managed to preserve the old lines. Two others in particular were May Tovey of Yevot Kennels and Eileen Crauford of Riu Gu Kennels. After the war, they endured further hardships: There were food shortages, and diseases such as distemper and hardpad dealt deadly blows to the Chin for years prior to the development of vaccines.

Tovey and Crauford were competitors. Each tried to breed a better dog; each wanted to beat the other in



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the ring. This competitive spirit resulted in top-quality dogs in England. While Tovey favored small, fine-boned, refined dogs, Crauford sought sturdier, sound, large-headed Chins. As a result of the keen competition and the occasional mixing of the two lines, “neither went too far in either direction.

It was a natural progression for the new breeders in America to look to England to replenish their stock and redefine the breed in this country. Two influential American breeders were Catherine Cross of California and Mary Sandford Brewster of Virginia and later New York. (Joining Brewster in this endeavor was her daughter, Sari Brewster, later Tietjen.) Unlike the competitive atmosphere which existed between Tovey and Crauford in England, Cross and Brewster rarely competed against one another. Rather, Cross and Brewster were friends who helped each other as they started in

the breed.—S.B.T.

This article will continue in an upcoming issue.

—Jennifer Baumer,
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 Japanese Chin Club of America

Maltese

WHAT MAKES THE MALTESE UNIQUE?

What constitutes a Maltese and makes it unique from any other breed? Most importantly, it is a toy breed with a white, silky coat, and with black eyes and nose, that flows around the ring. With this in mind our standard describes our dogs, and basically this will be the end result.

The word *medium* is used many times in our standard, which should be kept in mind in judging the breed. Nowhere does it say anything about exaggerated necks, legs, or heads. Our standard calls for a dog ideally from four to six pounds, but overall quality is to be considered before size.

Sometimes pounds do not

properly describe a dog, as you can have a large, rangy Maltese who weighs only five pounds, and you can just as easily have a very well-bodied, smaller dog who can also weigh five pounds.

Our breed’s coat texture is unique as it is silky, but not at all the same as that of Yorkies or Silkies. You can have a Maltese who has silky hair and has 100 hairs per square inch, which will make the coat look fuller, but still silky, or you can have a dog who has silky hair and has only 50 hairs per square inch. Beware, as sometimes Maltese who have less hair may not necessarily have silky hair, but very fine hair that easily breaks, and this does not mean it is silky. Those types of dogs even have a very fine undercoat that mats, therefore easily damaging the long hair that grows.

Our dog’s expression is unique to our breed as well. Their heads are not rounded, as what would be referred to as a Chihuahua

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Maltese

head, nor are they totally flat terrier heads. Our standard says “moderate,” from the rounding of the skull to the moderate stop as well. Of course we do not want upturned Shih Tzu faces, nor down-nosed “pencil faces” either. The Maltese expression is enhanced by black rims around the eyes and a black nose.

As fashion has set in other breeds, the word “halo,” or the skin around the eyes, does make a more piercing expression; however, nowhere in our standard is that called for. Many dogs who are from regions where the sun is stronger or out longer often have better halos. However, if a dog is a very good specimen of the breed, it should not be penalized for lack of halos, providing the total eye pigment is around the eye.

If the Maltese flows around the ring, generally the build of the dog is correct. Just think if you can put a plate on the back of the dog in your mind, and the plate doesn't go up and

DAVID WOO ©AKC

BREED COLUMNS

TOY GROUP

down but stays level, all the legs are working correctly. Also, the tail-set should be coming straight off the back-line, up and over the back, with the tip touching the hindquarters. If you see a twitch to the tail, it is working like a rudder, and there is something wrong with the rear assembly.

I have just touched on a few things regarding the breed. Please feel free to contact me for more information, or visit the American Maltese Association website, <http://www.americanmaltese.org>.

—Daryl Martin,
daryldmartin@sbcglobal.net
 American Maltese Association

Papillons

A LIFE IN ART: BREEDERS ARE DESIGNERS

It's been many years since I was a fashion designer and designed junior sportswear in New York City. However, I still use my artistic skills, but in a different way. Instead of designing



Papillon

garments and working within the limitations of a basic pattern, I now strive to breed beautiful and healthy Papillons and work within the confines of the breed's blueprint—its AKC breed standard. As designers make their design fit the human form, breeders strive to produce dogs who conform to our standard and never

go beyond its scope or be influenced by trends in the ring.

First and foremost, the dogs I choose should be in excellent health, passing all health tests for eyes, hearts, and patellas, and be free of any known hereditary diseases. They should possess superior breed type, be well balanced and of pleasing

COURTESY LYNDA BEAM



BREED COLUMNS

TOY GROUP

proportion, move soundly, and have outgoing temperaments characteristic for the breed. Breed type for me is important, and I'm always mindful not to neglect breed details or type could easily be lost.

Like any designer who uses art forms as details to make a beautiful garment, a breeder chooses breed characteristics as their details in striving to create their ideal Papillon. Every dog or bitch should complement their mate, breeding like type (phenotype, to phenotype), with each dog bringing positive breed traits into the gene pool. Equally important is to avoid breeding extremes, and to never double up on the same faults.

Similarly, in order to achieve soundness, avoid breeding dogs who both share a faulty front assembly. Good front movement is the easiest to lose and the most difficult to regain, particularly when doubled up on skeletal faults, such as short upper arms and improper layback and/or

alignment of shoulders.

It's always important to research the dogs in the pedigrees, and one should never be impressed just by a dog's wins. It's more important to know their positives and negatives, if they are well constructed, and if there are or were any health issues, but most importantly what they have produced.

You never want to lose elegance, because our standard specifically mentions *elegant*, *fine-boned*, and *dainty* repeatedly. Having a lovely outline adds that elegant look and catches the judges' eye for the first go-around as well as the last and final decision. Proper neck length visually balances the dog in conjunction with the correct "teacup" tail carriage. However, some breeders have gone extreme with too long a neck, while the standard says neck of medium length. Also, some have neglected the importance of a correctly set tail, which is long, set high, and carried well arched over the body, covered with a long, flowing plume.

I still maintain that the Papillon is a "head breed," and I love a beautiful head! I readily admit I won't keep one who is "hard on the eyes." Having excellent pigmentation with dark, round eyes is a must, because it affects the sweet expression. Equally important is correct, 45-degree ear-set, never keeping one with high- or low-set ears because you will easily lose the beautiful, butterflylike appearance. Abundant ear fringing runs in lines and is considered the icing on the cake but adds so much to the beauty of this wonderful breed.

—Roseann Fucillo,
cilloette@yahoo.com
Papillon Club of America

Pomeranians

WHY ARE THERE DIFFERENT "TYPES" IN THE BREED?

Breeding dogs is an art and a science and requires, at the most basic level, a deep understanding of the standard for your given breed. Standards are

TOY GROUP



Pomeranian

the blueprints that outline the exact features and qualities of a given breed. It is our duty as breeders to know why our breed was developed, to understand the qualities essential for the breed to do the job it was created to do, and to carry these qualities into the next generation of purebred dogs.

Exhibiting dogs is a natural extension of breeding. We all have a desire to share the best of our breeding programs with the fancy, and there is a thrill that accompanies the recognition of a beautiful dog winning in the show ring. At these events, we rely on judges to share a similar expertise

of the breed standards, and objectively evaluate and reward the dogs they judge compared to the breed blueprints.

The logical question, then, is if our standards are descriptive, why do different “types” and “styles” exist within the breed? And if our standards outline what is important, why do different judges award different placements when looking at the same group of dogs?

This is due to the fact that the words and descriptions in any breed standard leave room for interpretation, and as with many things in life, each individual has personal preferences and differing opinions about those interpretations. This is what continues to make the sport of dogs so interesting!

However, what becomes a problem is when breeders, exhibitors, and judges are attracted to traits that are explicitly defined as incorrect for the breed. This is a continued trend and a danger of showing as certain breeds become more



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“fancy” or “flashy” and begin to win. Often the extra “flair” comes from incorrect structure, movement, coat, or head/eye shape. Dogs bred to work in the field all day have become more bulky and overdone in the name of being “fancy.” Breeds bred to work in the pasture have lost their head carriage, an essential characteristic of herding and moving livestock. These are problems that result not from a difference in interpretation of a given trait, but rather a move away from what the standard is describing altogether.

In a recent discussion ringside with another exhibitor, we were discussing the appropriate head and expression required for a Pomeranian. They were arguing that they prefer a “Chowlike” head and expression, a shorter, wider muzzle with bigger, rounder, wider-set eyes—all traits in complete opposition to the wording of the breed standard. On Facebook I saw a post of a dog mov-

ing around the ring with an extremely high-stepping and overreaching front, combined with improper head and tail carriage. Several individuals commented on the photo saying they knew that the type of movement photographed was incorrect, but they liked it anyway!

This type of thinking is extremely dangerous to the continued improvement of our breeding stock and preservation of purebred dogs. While varying interpretation and individual preferences are a necessary and expected part of breeding and judging, we cannot allow those preferences and the things we like to be a contradiction to our breed standards.

—Stephanie Hentschel,
darrightpoms@gmail.com
American Pomeranian Club

done by the late Kandy Jones, was one of the very first breed-club websites. Originally developed to be used on a computer by Shih Tzu owners or those interested in our breed, it still serves this function. The current ASTC site, <http://www.shihtzu.org>, is actually the club’s third. It has had the same webmaster and editor for the past 18 years.

The site now serves as the main vehicle for delivering accurate information about everything Shih Tzu to club members, pet owners, judges, breeders, and participants in dog sports and activities of all kinds. Because new material has been added monthly for many years, [shihtzu.org](http://www.shihtzu.org) has become one of the largest breed-club websites in existence. One veterinarian said she told clients of all breeds to check it out for the useful information found there.

However, the site is now used on many devices, some of which do not communicate well with each other. Accordingly, it has received

Shih Tzu

FOR EVERYTHING SHIH TZU, VISIT SHIHTZU.ORG

The American Shih Tzu Club’s first website,

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Shih Tzu

the third major redesign in 18 years, to make it work as well on a cellphone as it does on a computer, and to remove or consolidate content so that it remains timely and useful and easy to locate regardless of the device you are using.

Information about the upcoming national specialty, a list of new articles, and some other often-used links still appear on the home page, as does a calendar with information on upcoming Shih Tzu specialties. Club business and financial

information is located on a Members Only page requiring a password.

Much of the edited content has been organized under eight new photo icons—Deadlines and Forms, About the ASTC, About Our Breed, Breeder Referral, Health, Grooming, Training, and Breeder and Judges Education. Some of the most useful information for GAZETTE readers can be found under the icon Breeder Education and Judges Education.

We celebrated our 50th

national in 2023, and we are looking forward to seeing everyone in Orlando in December and in Louisville, Kentucky, in April 2024. Please join us if you can, and in the meantime check out our website. Whether you want to know how to examine a Shih Tzu on the table, how to do pet therapy with your Shih Tzu, how to deal with face staining, provide instructions on pet clips for your groomer, select a handler or pet sitter, find a responsible breeder, or look at photos of the winners of the 50 nationals, it is all here.

—Jo Ann White,

joawhite@juno.com

[American Shih Tzu Club](#)

Toy Fox Terriers

CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF AKC RECOGNITION

The American Toy Fox Terrier Club held its 20th Anniversary National Specialty Show this past June, with an entry of nearly 60. Toy Fox Terriers converged in Oklahoma City this year just as they did at

COURTESY MELISSA HAMPTON

TOY GROUP



Logo celebrating the Toy Fox Terrier's 20th year of full AKC recognition; below, a veteran TFT at the national specialty.



the first national specialty after admittance to the Toy Group in 2003.

In the 20 years since full

recognition by the AKC, Toy Foxes have excelled in conformation, with some even winning groups and Best in Shows. Primarily handled in the ring by their owners, many have earned their championships and grand championships, including up to Platinum. Members who were celebrating 20 years in the ATFTC were recognized at our annual awards banquet for their ongoing support and dedication to the breed since that key year.

In addition to the conformation ring, Toy Foxes have shown they can excel in many AKC events over the

past 20 years. Toy Foxes are found in agility rings around the country and at events such as the AKC Agility Invitational in Orlando every December. Owners and their Toy Foxes are also found competing in rally and obedience.

In addition to those companion and performance events, Toy Fox Terriers love to show their natural instincts in Barn Hunt and Scent Work trials. During our national specialty, many Toy Foxes went directly from the conformation ring to the Barn Hunt trials in the next building. It was a joy to watch our tiny terriers eagerly hunt among the hay bales, their eyes bright with excitement and their tails wagging, as they looked for the hidden tubes which held the rodents.

Toy Fox Terriers have even participated in dock diving, and four have received titles in the event which involves voluntarily jumping in water to retrieve.

Despite their small size, fun personalities, loving

COURTESY ATFTC / SUSAN THIBODEAUX



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nature, and versatility they are still, after 20 years of AKC full recognition, not a well-known breed. The Toy Fox Terrier has an average annual AKC registration of about only 400 per year and has been on the low-entry breed list for dog shows several times.

The ATFTC is working hard to get our breed better known, and the number of Toy Fox Terrier fans is slowly growing. Our diminutive toy terriers' fun-loving personalities combined with their charisma and intelligence in a beautiful package topped by distinctive large ears, satiny coat, and eyes filled with love for their owners is slowly building a fan base of devotees.

Exhibitors at the national specialty came from all over the U.S. Entries ranged from puppies to veterans, and exhibitors were of all ages and included children and seniors. The Toy Fox Terrier is a breed which is family friendly, and some members go so far as to loan their champion Toy Fox Terriers

to juniors at handling classes and dog shows to introduce them to the breed.

The ATFTC looks forward to our next 20 years as we work to preserve our breed's health and future. We are currently conducting a health survey to see if there are any new issues affecting Toy Fox Terriers and to review where we are on the health issues identified in the past that responsible breeders routinely test for. We are also developing a parent club versatility program to recognize and celebrate Toy Fox Terriers who get titles in the wide variety of AKC events and sports available to them. This easy-to-train breed loves to be actively engaged in the many fun activities AKC offers and approves, and we want to celebrate their achievements.

We are excited about protecting and promoting the Toy Fox Terrier for our next 20 years!

—Susan Thibodeaux,
President@ATFTC.com
[American Toy Fox Terrier Club](#)

NON-SPORTING GROUP

American Eskimo Dogs

Our guest columnist this month is Eleanor Main. Eleanor is a well-known and most respected “Eskie person” who has loved, owned, and bred Eskies throughout her life. She has often been sought as a mentor to both adults and children new to the breed and the world of AKC events, has been a UKC judge since 1982, and put championship and performance titles on her own Eskies—always going into the ring as an owner-handler.

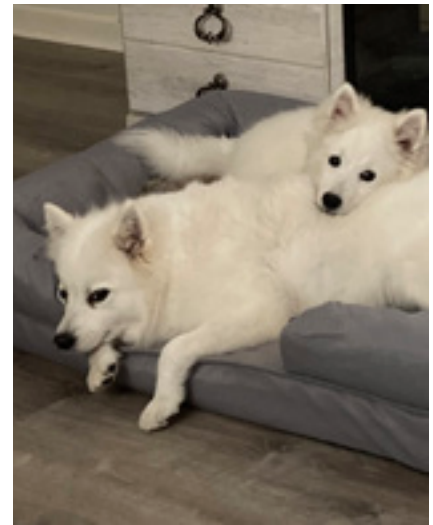
MY LIFELONG LOVE AFFAIR WITH AMERICAN ESKIMO DOGS: A MESSAGE TO THOSE WHO LOVE ESKIES

More than 70 years ago I became enmeshed with the world of the American Eskimo Dog (AED/Eskie) when my father brought home a female puppy purchased at a pet store. Back in those days, they were called a “Spitz.” We named our little girl Teddi. I loved her more than you can ever begin to imagine.

Teddi was *the* ideal dog in

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Eleanor Main with first Eskies Kasper (front) and Navik (between legs); Eryn at 8 weeks old; Ayla and daughter Eryn; Ayla in conformation and running Fast CAT

almost every way. The only problem ever encountered was the fact that she disliked strangers and had a most protective attitude toward her “pack”—my family. Consequently, whenever Teddi was around strangers she had to be kept on a

leash. When the Spitz came to the U.S. they were actually used as working farm dogs and had a strong protective attitude.

Later, as a young adult, I noticed an Eskie puppy in a pet store. It was love at first sight as my heart melted

merely watching this beautiful little boy. I just *had* to ask to hold him. From the moment that he was placed in my arms, I knew that this little dog was to be mine. I named him Kasper.

Kasper was a most special Eskie. Though at one point

COURTESY ELEANOR MAIN



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he contracted distemper, Kasper fought the good fight and won! In fact, Kasper lived to be almost 20 years old. Throughout his life, he would get between me and what may have been a dangerous situation. On an evening walk with Kasper down a Maine street while on vacation, a man walked towards us. As the man got closer, I tried to walk to Kasper to my left side to keep him away from this person. At one point when the man knelt down and appeared to be tying his shoe, Kasper moved in front and slightly to the right of me. I stopped and told Kasper to sit. As the man moved past us he remarked, “No one gets near you, do they?”

Kasper’s refusal to adhere to my instructions in this situation was not a rare event, nor would it be the last time that he behaved this way when faced with strangers. Kasper never showed, nor was he bred. His role was much more important: Kasper became my heart dog.

Eventually, I acquired two more Eskies from a breeder. Over time, and with much practice on my handling skills, these two Eskies became champions. I remained infatuated with Eskies and became a breeder. At that time the United Kennel Club (UKC) was the only registry for the breed. I persevered to breed Eskies that held true to the American Eskimo standard in place at the time. Along with my interest in conformation and breeding, I decided to become a judge for UKC, and I passed the required tests to accomplish this goal.

Eventually, across many decades, the Spitz became what is now known as the American Eskimo Dog in this country—albeit not the breed seen today in the show ring. Indeed, there are quite a few noticeable changes that have occurred throughout my lifetime with Eskies. The coat has changed from what it once was. I now hear stories of Eskies going out in the

snow and coming back in with snowballs attached to their coats. This is not a true Northern-breed coat—a coat that repels snow! I’ve seen young dogs (2 years old, and sometimes younger) with a lack of nose pigment. My Kasper found at a pet store had a pitch-black nose on the day he died. Today it is not uncommon for exhibitors to use a product to darken the nose.

For a while there was a trend wherein the Eskie headpiece was labeled a “bear head.” The AED standard calls for the dog to have a foxlike appearance, with a blunt, wedge-shaped head and a standoff coat—not the long, flowing coat often seen today. This long, flowing coat would never keep this Northern breed protected from the cold.

I know that many things change with the passage of time. I just hope that the AED breeders of today, as well future breeders who love this breed, are able to meet the challenges they face as responsible caretakers of this

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beloved breed. For Eskies to thrive and not merely survive, breeders must create breeding practices that aim to produce Eskies who adhere to the standard created to maintain the role and function of this breed. Yes, the standard is an ideal, but also a most important goal to pursue. Eskies known as “The Dog Beautiful” is a given, but breeding healthy, form-meets-function, long-lived Eskies takes much careful planning with very wise and calculated choices. —E.M.

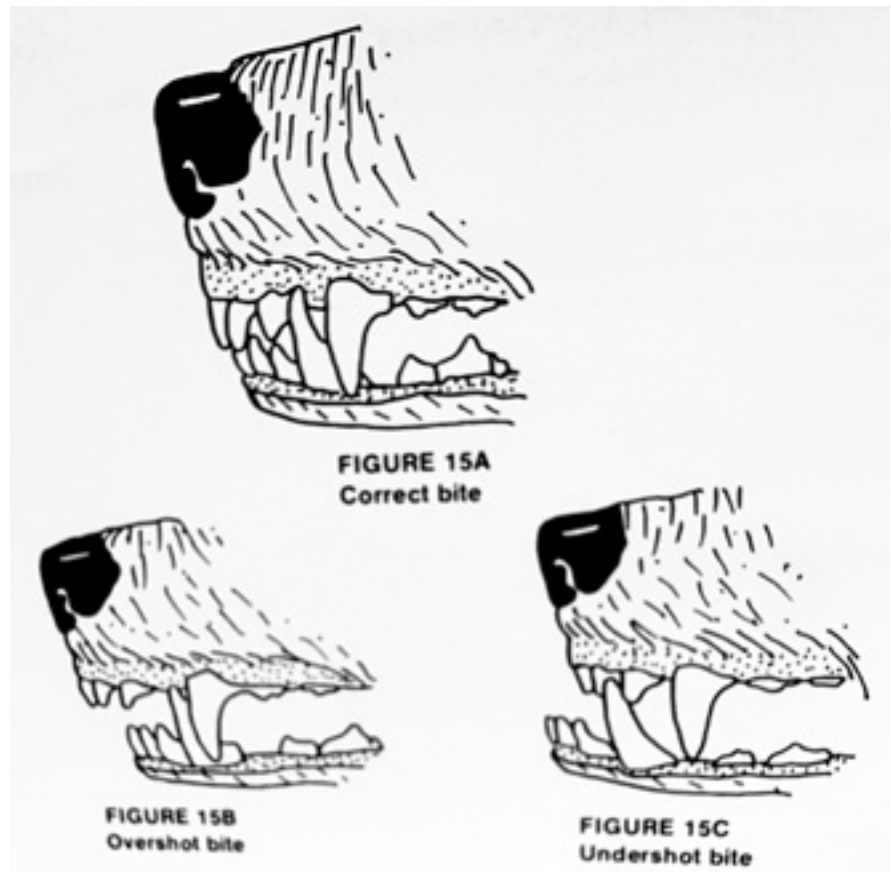
Thank you so much, Eleanor, for disclosing some of your insights on your own Eskies as well as this beloved breed.

—Stella Brown
[American Eskimo Dog Club of America](#)

Bichons Frises

BREEDER GUIDELINES—ARE WE BITING THE STANDARD?

The Afghan Hound breed column entitled “The Fault That May Come Back to Bite Us!” in



The Bichon Frise standard reads, “Bite is scissors. A bite which is overshot or undershot should be severely penalized.” Correct scissors bite shown at top.

the August AKC GAZETTE, written by James Donahue, Judges’ Education chair for the Afghan Hound Club of America, got me thinking about our own breed’s bite issues.

The Bichon Frise and Afghan Hound standards are somewhat similar. The Bichon standard reads: “Bite is scissors. A bite

which is undershot or overshot should be severely penalized. A crooked or out-of-line tooth is permissible; however, missing teeth are to be severely faulted.” The Afghan standard reads: “The mouth level, meaning that the teeth from the upper jaw and lower jaw match evenly, neither overshot nor undershot. This is

COURTESY BFCA



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a difficult mouth to breed. A scissors bite ... can be more easily bred into a dog than a level mouth, and a dog having a scissors bite, where the lower teeth slip inside and rest against the teeth of the upper jaw, should not be penalized.”

Mr. Donahue remarks that in the past, some felt that a level bite made for a stronger underjaw; however, he adds, “In my opinion, this appearance of stronger underjaw is an illusion, created by the fact that jaws with a level bite do not close as tightly as they do with a scissors bite.” He continues, “What I learned from observing these level bites is that there is a strong tendency for one or more incisors to ‘pop’ out of line.... not a desirable trait. I have also found that in a level bite, the teeth tend to wear down more with age, leading to increased dental-care needs in aging dogs.” He added that as a breeder, his preference is for the scissors bite and mentioned that “*the British and*

FCI standard calls for a scissors bite, with level tolerated.”

I have heard the argument from some Bichon breeders that a level bite makes for a stronger underjaw, but my observation is that Mr. Donahue is correct—it is an illusion created because the mouth doesn’t close as tightly. It is a fallacy that a level bite will yield a strong lower jaw with the desirable squared-off appearance. In the *Illustrated Discussion of the Bichon Frise Standard*, one can see this by looking at Figures 15A, B, and C on page 12, illustrating the scissors bite discussion on page 11.

Missing teeth are becoming more common in our breed. Granted, the Bichon is not a hunting dog, although I contend that they were undoubtedly prized for their ability to catch and kill rats on ships in early days. Even now, they have a strong prey instinct. One could argue that as a companion dog, full dentition is not necessary; however, to me, missing teeth is a health

issue that I am loathe to accept as normal. Missing incisors are indicative of a horizontally narrow jaw and head—the opposite of what the standard intends, and not the look called for in a Bichon. Missing or out-of-line teeth may be symptomatic of jaws with less bone to hold the teeth in place. Our standard leaves no doubt about the importance of full dentition to the writers of our original breed standard.

The AKC requires judges to examine the “bite and teeth” of a Bichon, and exhibitors should also know how to examine/show the teeth: “This requires the exhibitor or judge to separate the front of the lips to display the meshing of the incisors and canines [the bite] *and* the flews on each side of the mouth so the judge may observe the pre-molars and molars on the upper and lower jaw for each [the teeth].” https://images.akc.org/pdf/events/conformation/Oral_exams.pdf. There is an excellent

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video, too: <https://vimeo.com/393480664>.

By the way, judges should *never* open the mouth of a Bichon Frise to count teeth as is done for a Chinese Shar-Pei or Chow Chow to see the tongue, or for a Rottweiler or Doberman to count teeth.

Best of luck to you in your breeding program!

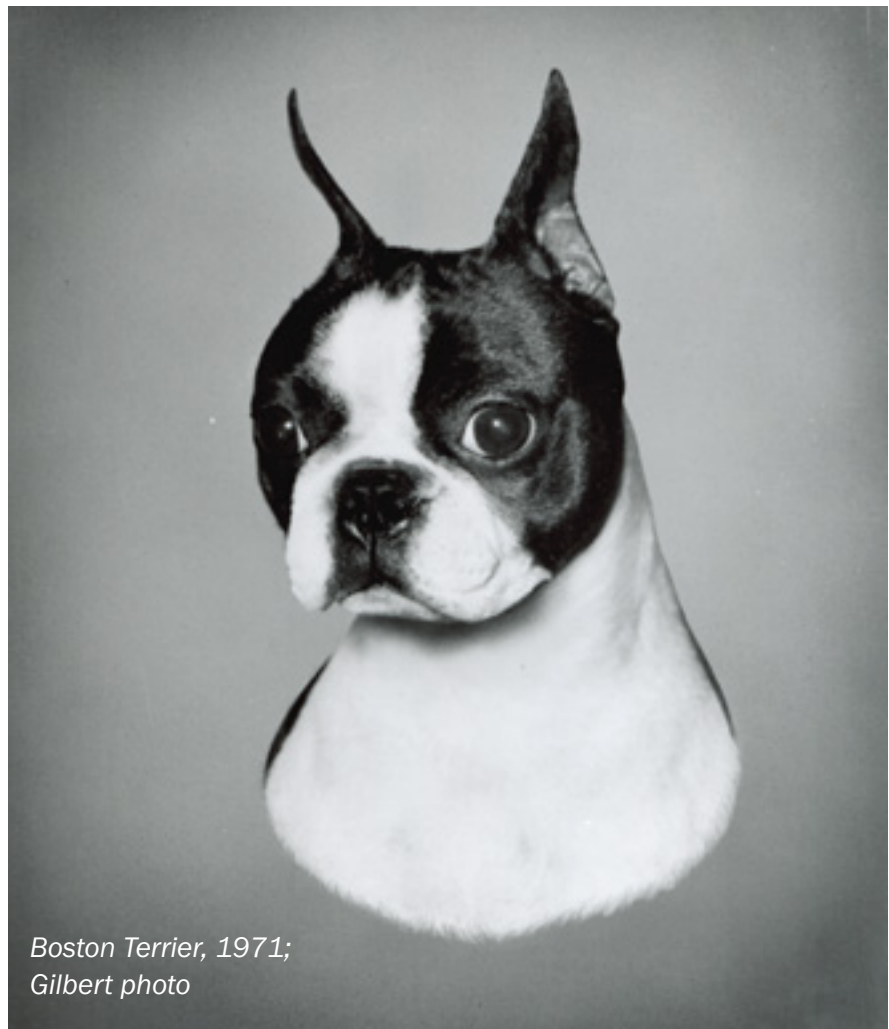
—Mayno Blanding,
maynob@gmail.com
Bichon Frise Club of
America

Boston Terriers

HOW TO IMPROVE ENTRIES AT SPECIALTY SHOWS

I was asked to research why smaller clubs are having fewer entries at their specialties. First, go back in time and see what attracted exhibitors to save their money all year long, looking forward to a certain show.

Going back 30 years, what appealed to people? The club sent information through the mail months ahead; ahead; today we can send it via e-mail to



*Boston Terrier, 1971;
Gilbert photo*

clubs and have it posted on Facebook. We can include information about dog-friendly hotels, with prices; motorhome hook-up, and the person to call for reservations; a map of where the show is to be held, and interesting places to visit, nearby airports, and shuttle service.

I enjoyed meeting a special veterinarian who was invited to the show, which made people feel good knowing if something happened their dog it could be taken care of. Let the vet speak at banquet.

Have a booth where at a special time, someone talks about “Is a Boston Terrier the right dog for you?” This



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will help new people learn if they are the right family to own such a wonderful dog and does it fit their lifestyle.

We looked forward to the banquet theme so we could dress appropriately and try to win best costume. There would be a special cake for all to enjoy. When arriving at the show, we got a bag of all types of treats to eat.

One of the greatest Boston terrier specialty shows I enjoyed wasn't held in a fancy hotel but an old agricultural building. The show-giving committee concentrated on the needs of everyone. There were nametags so people know not only your name, but something about you. They allowed vendors to have booths to sell old Boston Terrier items and had different club function tables selling handmade items plus baked goodies. You had to get there early, or you'd miss out on hard-to-find collectables, plus you could learn the history behind the item from the person. There might be a food truck or a place where

food was available on the site. They realized people came a long way in motorhomes and had no car to separately drive to a restaurant. They appreciated attendees being able to spend time with old-time breeders.

Good show committees have someone in the club contact campers asking if they need anything. This gives people a feeling they are not alone.

The first day of the specialty started in the afternoon, where exhibitors enjoyed the fellowship of meeting old friends and making new ones. There was a social hour later that night, and if people had any problems, there was someone to help solve them.

The specialty was two and a half days. After the first day showing, that night had the themed banquet and auction where items had been displayed all day. People could place bids ahead of time and had lots of fun getting into a bidding war to see who would go home with the prize. All was

in fun that night when the auction started. By having seen items ahead they could talk about its value. If the auction isn't until the last day, many people are in a hurry to get home and can't stay to enjoy the fellowship.

There is no better place to go learn and see great Boston Terriers. Realize the shows are for all people. The person you aren't nice to may be the one that later has a great puppy and won't sell to you because of your lack of sportsmanship and respecting others. People go to certain shows because of the location, convenience, fellowship, a good breeder-judge from another area, socializing, and a club that feels like family.

These are a few ideas from the past. I feel when wanting to learn, go to the past success.

—Patricia S. Johnson,
BTCA and DWAA,
patsgrooming@gmail.com
[Boston Terrier Club of America](#)

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Bulldogs

THE IMPORTANCE OF MENTORS

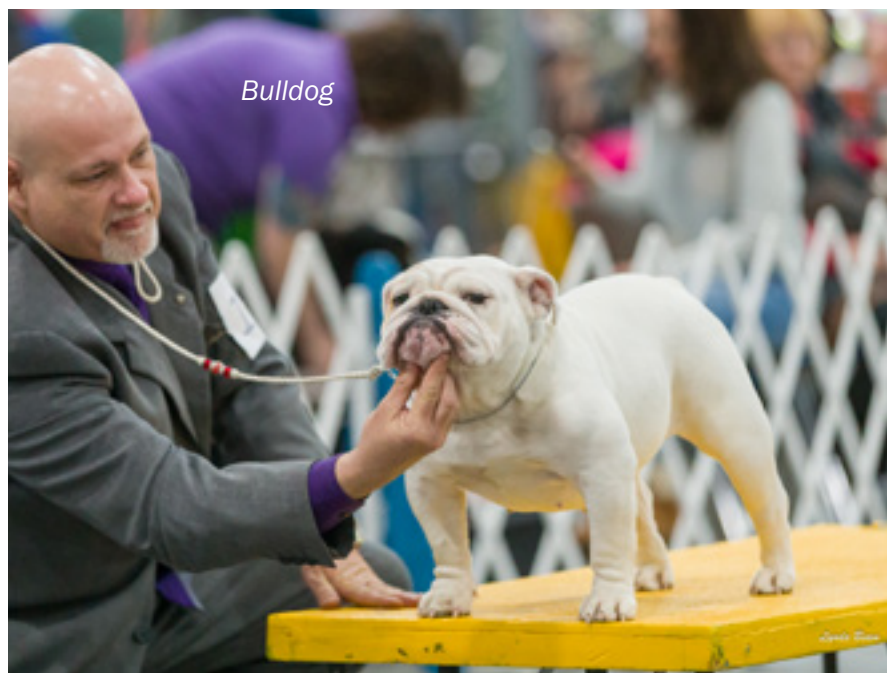
The word *mentor* is defined as “An experienced and trusted advisor.”

That seems pretty fundamental. A mentor or teacher is certainly invaluable in life, and in our case, in dogs. And sometimes the “mentor” comes in the form of educational literature.

It is very important to understand the role a mentor has, or should have, in your dog “life.” They are there to hopefully guide you in the right direction.

Where each “student” has extra work to do is to continually follow up on the lessons being taught in order to make sure your mentor is in fact correct. And of course, understand that mentors cannot be all things. Just like you might not see your kindergarten teacher eventually teach your advanced calculus class, you might just find you outgrow your early mentors.

I know people who are incredibly good men-



Bulldog

tors for newcomers to the breed. They have all the patience and the temperament needed to guide a novice through the basics. And often, their talent for mentoring stops there. This is where it is important to recognize if you have “outgrown” your mentor. This certainly does not mean you have to lose the friendship, although unfortunately sometimes it happens that a mentor “resents” their students who go on to bigger things.

A mentor/student relationship should be built

on mutual respect and not regarded as anything more than what it is. Sadly, sometimes these relationships do end when the students move on.

Do your best to recognize if the relationship gets uncomfortable. Your mentor should encourage you to grow and expand your knowledge. And a mentor can become a source of comfort during times of difficulties.

Learn to recognize the expertise of people you seek to learn from. Perhaps they are really adept at breeding

COURTESY LYNDA BEAM



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and genetics. Maybe they are exceptionally gifted with raising puppies. Another might be outstanding in show conditioning and presentation. Still others are gifted in the areas of history or dissection of the breed standard.

It is perfectly normal to have different “teachers” for different subjects. Or there might be just one, if you can find one so well rounded.

As a mentor, it is important to also understand your own capabilities. And to have the fortitude to encourage a talented student to pursue new avenues if you are not as qualified for an exceptionally gifted learner. By all means, do not take it personally if your student seeks new sources of knowledge.

Mentors can also come in the form of those who are parent club approved. Typically this applies to potential judges, although some clubs offer breeder-mentors as well. A mentor for new judges requires exceptional skill in com-

municating the breed in a condensed amount of time in a limited format. Their knowledge of the breed is hopefully at the highest level of understanding.

It all comes back to our love of the breed. We should want to pass on our learned experiences to the next generation of breeders. Much of what we learn takes years to figure out. A mentor can save a student that time in many cases—although many lessons are best learned by experience.

—Elizabeth Milam,
celticdogges@me.com
[Bulldog Club of America](#)

Chinese Shar-Pei

NATIONAL SPECIALTY

Our lives are complex, and we take in so much information that it can be a struggle. As I sat to write this column, news of the war in Israel and Gaza was top of the news, along with our Congress not being able to figure out having a Speaker. Thankfully, this is about dogs. So I can walk away

from that human drama for a bit.

There was sad dog news today, that 31-year-old dog Bobi passed away. I can’t wrap my brain around having a dog 31 years. Or having a Shar-Pei that has a healthy life after 20! Forty years ago, it was hard to get a Shar-Pei to live past 5 (we even lowered the age of our nationals veteran class!). Slowly, with adaptations to American food, with good veterinary medicine and advances in care, with better testing and understanding, our breed is living longer each passing year. But 31? No, Bobi’s record will not be challenged by a Shar-Pei anytime soon, I don’t think. But we will love them as long as they are in our lives.

So, on to something more interesting and joyous—the CSPCA National Specialty Show. Held once again in Lisle, Illinois, in early September, the show was the usual gathering of “once a year” friends, promising young dogs, shiny champions, events, and fund

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Chinese Shar-Pei

raising. If you don't leave with your Shar-Pei tank filled up, and your wallet lighter, you aren't doing it right!

A great turnout of juniors ended with Best Junior going to Emmaline Blatt, and Reserve to Cora Oster.

A small but mighty obedience lineup was topped by High in Trial RACH2 Jenn's

High Rollin Highbanks Hustle, CDX, RM4, RAE4, FDC, CGC, with Jennifer Kupish, who also won Rally and High Combined!

More winners:

Best of Breed: GCh. Good Fortune Good and Ready 2 (Jeff and Vickie Mauk)

Best of Winners: Winners Dog, Crown Jewel's Asia Ming (Jean Durdin)

Best of Opposite: GCh.P Majesty Legaxy Asias Crown Jewel (Jean Durdin)
Select Dog: GCh.P Gumby's Hey Now You're an Allstar (Rob and Jeanne Bryant, Simone Demirjian, Andrea Robins)

Select Bitch: GCh. Siosalach's Playing the Odds (Michelle Chisholm)

Awards of Merit: GCh.G Something Special With Flash at Whiterose (Rosalee Broguiere), who was also Best Veteran; GCh. Whiterose and Brekkukots the Midnight Special (Rosalee Broguiere and Susanna Bjornsson, GCh.B Lusaviva's What's All the Hype About (Jamie Willoughby Owens);

GCh. Brekkukots N Whiterose Ebony and Ivory (Susanna Bjornsson, Rosalee Broguiere); Ch. Baggins Zomething Different GF (Grace Fritz); GCh. Siosalach's Slayer of Monsters (Bill and Michelle Chisholm), who was also Best National Owner-Handled; and Ch. Asia's Smooth Talker by

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Blackwitch (Sewanee M Kracalik and Lisa Myers).

Best Bred By was Winners Bitch: Stoney's Carmel (Bonnie Stoney)

My congratulations to the winners, and apologies to any I may have listed incorrectly!

Finally, I have been concerned about the direction our sport and breed are going, and I spent much of my time at the national talking to club members, especially those under the age of 50. We have to recognize that times are changing, and so we have to adapt if we will have nationals in the future—or a breed, even! But folks were engaged and there are great ideas out there, we have members active with other clubs and all kinds of dog events, so I left hopeful that we can weather this change.

As always, if you have a topic or an idea for the GAZETTE column, please reach out to me! I'd love to hear from you, love to use this space to publish your articles!

—Karen Kleinhans DeSilva,
kasupei@aol.com
[Chinese Shar-Pei Club of America](#)

Good quality videos can help you evaluate current dogs in the breed and historical videos enable you to view dogs that appear in your pedigrees.

There is an excellent video demonstrating our breed standards available on the AKC website. You can learn how to study and evaluate canine movement with videos like Rachel Page Elliott's "Dogsteps" and Karen Armistad's "Key

Chow Chows

VERY VALUABLE VIDEOS

Today, many aspects of planning and executing your breeding program have been beautifully documented thanks to the widespread use of video.



Chow Chow

DAVID WOO ©AKC



BREED COLUMNS

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to Movement.” “Puppy Puzzle” by Pat Hastings demonstrates how to evaluate the structural soundness of a puppy at 8 weeks of age. If you want to show your dog, you can use videos on the AKC website focused on show handling to learn basic and intermediate handling techniques. Videos and the internet are an incredible resource for information since it gives us access to experts and shows without the need to travel.

It is exciting to see how today’s winning dogs looked as puppies in the puppy sweeps and in turn to see their get in more recent puppy classes. It is invaluable to get someone to record you handling your dog so you can learn from your own performance and improve your techniques each time you go into the ring.

Breeders have used video extensively for selling, buying and evaluating dogs. With video, a prospective buyer can see dogs at work and see their conformation

and movement. Videos enable them to spot good and bad conformation and help people learn which faults they can live with and which they must avoid.

Videos are ideal to provide a permanent record of events like the Chow Chow Club national specialty. Not only do these videos record the top dogs in the nation each year, but they also enable people to go back and study the parents and grandparents of the dogs they have today, and in the future, people will be able to see for themselves the great dogs of today.

These videos are a great way to view potential stud dogs and their progeny.

The Chow Chow Club hires a professional videographer to film our national specialty each year and I encourage you to purchase these DVD sets. They are an investment in your breeding program and a great learning resource.

—Love Banghart,
Lkendr4300@aol.com
Chow Chow Club, Inc.

Dalmatians

THE GIFT THAT KEEPS ON GIVING

It’s the season of giving, with lots of thought going into the perfect gifts for our loved ones. Nothing is too good for them. Our Dalmatians are definitely our loved ones, and we want to make sure that they’re included in our gift-giving thoughts. I know we all have spent money on treats and toys, and if your house is anything like ours, those gifts are done and gone within days if not hours. So how about considering giving a gift that could impact not only our current Dals but our future ones as well? Think DCAF!

DCAF, or the Dalmatian Club of America Foundation, is a 501(c)3 organization founded in 1995. Their mission statement: *Advancing health and quality of life for Dalmatians and all dogs through supported research and education.* Their purposes include but are not limited to the following:

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Dalmatians have a special gift for bringing holiday cheer.

- To foster and promote the public’s knowledge and appreciation of dogs in general and Dalmatians in particular.
- To further understand the diseases, genetic anomalies and injuries which affect dogs in general and Dalmatians in particular.

- To support and promote study of and research on the character, history, genetics, diseases, breeding, and related characteristics which establish the Dalmatian as a distinct breed of dog and, as a consequence, establish a baseline of educational and resource materials on the Dalmatian.
- To develop and make available to the general pub-

- lic, and Dalmatian fanciers in particular, information about the proper care, treatment, breeding, health development, and training of Dalmatians.
- To encourage health testing and full disclosure of results through the Orthopedic Foundation of America to establish a public database of health statistics related to the Dalmatian

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breed.

•To assist approved Dalmatian rescue organizations through reimbursement of approved rescue-related expenses for Dalmatians in need of new homes.

In the past they've provided grants to study the characteristics of kidney disease in Dalmatians, studied hereditary deafness in all dogs by the study of Dalmatians and Australian Cattle Dogs, including the genomics of deafness, and studies on urate urolithiasis in Dalmatians. All of these studies have been given grants in the tens of thousand of dollars by the DCAF.

But the DCAF is never content to sit on their laurels and is currently raising funds to provide grants to study our current nemesis, copper storage disease research, which can affect any line of Dalmatians around the world. This disease is not always fatal, but by the time symptoms are displayed it's usually

too late. How heartbreaking to have an otherwise healthy, young dog pass away before their time. They have also started fundraising to research a study on blastomycosis—another potentially fatal disease. And on an annual basis, they underwrite the James W. Smith Memorial Health Clinics and also fund the Betty Garvin Memorial Lecture at the National each year.

If you think they sound pretty amazing, you'd be right. But they operate all of these initiatives through donations, and that's where we can help. If you are able, please consider digging deep this holiday season and giving to this amazing organization. It's a win/win situation with funds helping dogs, *and* you get a tax write-off. I mean how many a gifts of this nature will long outlive those soon-to-be destroyed plushies?

For more information you can visit their website at <https://dcaf.org>.

May your holidays be

merry and bright. Hug your Dals and let them know you're providing for the future of the breed though your gift to DCAF.

—Jan Warren Linné,
janlinne56@yahoo.com
Dalmatian Club of America

French Bulldogs

CHEERS FOR THE "PET PEOPLE"

The dog world is a big tent. It has to be. We need breeders, show people, and pet owners. So why are we hearing derogatory comments in any breed club such as "Unfortunately pet people outnumber us and get to vote"?

How could the interests of pet people, breeders, and show people be at odds? All three groups want the healthiest dogs with the best temperament. Breeders want to achieve these goals in a body that is superbly conformed; who would disagree with that? We want our breeds to look like the breeds they are.

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Let's not listen to those who want to start a fight; let's keep our eyes on the prize—the dogs.

There are many “pet people” who are involved in other activities with their Frenchies. Some do therapy work. Some work to educate the public about the breed. Some spend considerable time, energy, and emotional capital rescuing Frenchies. People who care enough about our breed to join its parent club want to learn about Frenchies, support the breed and the club, and do what they can to help, whether they show and breed their dogs or not. They may not have a financial interest in selling puppies, or ego involvement in winning prizes; they may simply love Frenchies.

Breeders should keep in mind that it is the “pet people” who take in their retired brood bitches or the dogs who are returned to them for various reasons. If people did not want these “pets,” or the puppies that the breeders deem to be less



French Bulldog

than show quality, would breeders keep them all themselves? One suspects not.

The next time you go to a specialty show, look around at who is making the show happen. At least half of the volunteers are “pet people.” They are not in the ring showing their dogs, or sitting at ringside watching the show, or off somewhere grooming their dogs. They are selling raffle tickets, handing out welcome bags, organizing the silent auction, working at the souvenir table, running

errands for the show chair, serving as judges’ wranglers, hauling decorations around the hotel, helping set up the rings, policing the ex-pen area, and doing a million and one other tasks that have to be done.

Years ago, dog clubs were for people who bred and showed dogs. Today, though, clubs must deal with many issues that did not exist in earlier times. Now we have too many dogs in rescue; too many irresponsible breeders, brokers, importers; too many problems with supply and demand. Health issues

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require clubs' attention, and legislative issues are popping up everywhere, and the intimate "breeder club" is a thing of the past. Dog clubs and their boards need people with a variety of skills, interests, backgrounds, and experience who recognize and can deal with the issues of the present, not just hark back to some "golden age" of the intimate breeder club.

Thank heaven for the "pet people." They provide the backbone of our club and should be exalted, not derided.

—Sande Abernathy,
jpaplay@comcast.net
 French Bull Dog Club of America

Keeshonden

HOW TO EXAMINE A COATED BREED FOR CORRECT STRUCTURE

This article discusses the relationship between structure and movement in the Keeshond. However, it is applicable to many breeds and covers how to examine coated breeds with your

hands for correct structure. Basic anatomical references are used. If you are a student of dogs and breeding you will be familiar with them; if not, please refer to texts like Rachel Page Elliott's *Dogsteps*, McDowell Lyon's *The Dog in Action*, or Gilbert and Brown's *K-9 Structure & Anatomy* for details and illustrations.

Structure and Movement

The rules regarding structure and movement dictate that form follows function. This means that the structure of a dog will control to a great degree how that dog, or any animal will move. So, why do we qualify this by saying to a great degree? That is because movement is affected not only by the way a dog is built, but also by how he is conditioned and how he feels at that given moment. Think about yourself. If you played an intense game of tennis the day before, you may be stiff when you get up and not so sprightly when you jog. The same is true for your dog. If

you are evaluating an individual dog for the purposes of your breeding program, you will want to see the dog on more than one occasion.

That being said, what are we looking for in the Keeshond is structure that will produce the movement described in the standard, this being "They should move cleanly and briskly; the movement should be straight and sharp, with reach and drive between slight and moderate." Also, "Dogs should move boldly and keep tails curled over the back." The movement is described as "A distinctive gait ... unique to the breed."

Front, Examining the Shoulders and Chest

Balance is the first requirement. When you look at the dog in profile, the dog should appear balanced in three parts, front, middle, and rear; they should blend smoothly and be in equal proportion.

When you go over the dog, examine the shoulders. Place

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Keeshond



your right hand on the withers and follow that down to the point of shoulder. You should feel a moderate lay-back of shoulder. Then place your left hand at the point of shoulder and move it toward the point of the opposite shoulder. In between these points you should find the prosternum even with the points of shoulder.

If the prosternum is higher than the point of the shoulder, that means the shoulder is steep and lacks angulation.

Unless the dog also has very little rear angulation, the dog will not be balanced. For the health and performance of the dog, a minimum of angulation should be present, which will bring the prosternum even with the points of the shoulder.

Go back to the withers and feel the width between the shoulder blades; this is sometimes one or two fingers. If it is more, the dog may move wide in front, and wing or paddle, depending

on his other physical characteristics.

Body and Loins

Keeshonden should slope slightly from the withers to the tail. Some call this being “built uphill.” A dog who is “built downhill” will slope downward from tail to the withers. This will produce a dog who is heavy in front and moves with the head low. The standard says, “The body should be compact, with a short,

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straight back sloping slightly downward toward the hind-quarters; well ribbed, barrel well rounded, short in loin, belly moderately tucked up, deep and strong of chest.”

Okay. Are most of our dogs built like this? A few are; many are not.

Now, run your hand from the withers straight down to the point of the elbow. The body should at least meet your fingers at this point. This means that the dog has good depth of body. The distance from the withers to the point of elbow and bottom of the body to the ground should be roughly equal.

Now, starting again at the withers, run your hand from the withers to the base of the tail. The withers should be higher than the base of the tail. Also, importantly, the back should be short, straight, and not dip, so that the body is not slung between withers and hip. Dogs who are built with a dip will generally trot with their heads down, and without a firm midpiece to transfer

energy from the rear quarters to the front will have poor, shambling movement—not the brisk, sprightly movement described in the breed standard.

To find the length of loin, find the last rib, and measure from there to where the hip begins. You will have to go over several dogs to determine average length. Dogs who are long in loin will generally have flat topline and sloppy movement, although there are exceptions.

Examining the Rear Quarters

Begin at the base of the tail, and determine the set-on of the tail. Find the point of the hip, and run your hand down the inside of the thigh. When you get to the second thigh muscle, on the inside of the thigh, just run your fingers down the second thigh, and feel for the muscle development. Dogs who are well exercised with have a firm and well-developed second-thigh muscle that feels like a small bicep. Dogs who are strictly couch potatoes will have a

flat second-thigh muscle and generally sloppy and poor rear movement. They will have poor control of their rear movement and may move with hocks in or twisting out.

It is important to observe the length of hock in the Keeshond. Hocks should be short and well let down. Dogs with long hocks will have difficulty producing correct movement and will not be well balanced. Long hocks may also cause them to be high in the rear.

Putting It All Together

You will want to observe the dog on a loose lead, standing in a position that is natural for him and not posed. Dogs with good natural balance will find it easy to stand squarely. Look for balance. Examine the front, middle, and rear quarters.

Ask the handler to move the dog on a loose lead, from the side. You are looking for a dog who moves with his head up naturally and moves off his hocks, smoothly transmitting

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energy from the rear to the front. The end of the front foot at good-paced trot will reach the end of the dog's nose. The hind foot will extend at the same length and angle as the front foot.

Coming at you, you are looking for a dog who moves smoothly and at brisk trot the legs will converge slightly toward the centerline. There will be no rocking, paddling, or winging.

Observing the dog from the rear, you will look for smoothness and steady hocks, with no inward or outward twist. At a brisk trot the legs will converge slightly toward the centerline. There should not be any cow-hocked movement or spraddle-hocks.

Lastly, observe the dog standing naturally after he is moved. A dog who is properly built will have a nice arch of neck and will stand squarely and comfortably. This is the dog you are looking for—first place!

—Debbie Lynch

[Keeshond Club of America](#)

Lhasa Apsos

OLD-FASHIONED OR NEW-FANGLED?

What is an old-fashioned Lhasa Apso? And if there is, is a new-fangled one better or even different?

I pondered that question as I sat in a chair made by a skilled New England craftsman roughly 250 years ago. It's called a bow-back Windsor armchair. It was designed and made with an eye toward its purpose and a creativity to please its maker in both function and form.

Windsor armchairs have a design pattern, designating the elements required for its genre. Yet no two are identical, even when built as sets. Each has a unique character, whether it's the grain of the wood, a subtle change in shape to match the owner's body, or a bit of creativity in the hand-turned legs, making it distinct yet immediately recognizable. Today, Windsors are considered old-fashioned and not in keeping with modern tastes. Current



CAROL BEUCHAT PHOTO

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trends favor gray colors, straight, industrial lines, and mass-produced uniformity.

This raises the question: Has our breed changed to meet modern tastes?

The original breed standard described the ideal specimen, and though some may disagree, updates to the standard were intended as clarifications, not changes. Interpretations of the standard are more often the culprit for confusion than the standard itself. Opinion on old-fashioned seems to focus on, but is not limited to, three aspects: proportion, color and size. I would add coat texture.

Correct proportion was as highly debated 50 years ago as today. The standard description of longer from point of shoulder to buttocks than height at the withers leaves room for personal interpretation over what is correct, ideal or plain awful.

Historically, there always has been a mix of dogs both higher and lower on leg. Years ago, lower stationed

dogs tended to have longer bodies and heavier bone. Those with excessive back length sometimes suffered spinal problems and were not bred. There were dogs with longer legs and sufficient back length to be deemed correct, but also dogs who were short-coupled and lacked the flexibility to move smoothly. These latter were avoided as well. The question of ideal balance with a correct rectangular shape was then and remains one of personal preference while avoiding exaggeration and preserving free fluid motion.

Much is said about “small” being old-fashioned. The original AKC standard listed size as variable with approximate expectations being 10 to 11 inches at the withers. It is undisputed that there were specimens both less than ten and more than eleven inches at that time as there are now, though we currently see fewer smaller dogs or bitches. While one inch may not sound like much variance, the visual

impact of a ringside comparison is dramatic, with a smaller, appropriately masculine dog tending to appear bitchy. Similarly, an 11-inch bitch may appear doggy against smaller bitches.

The notion that a larger dog is necessary to have a better chance in group competition has merit, but only if the dog lacks the powerful presence and attitude that make it a true group competitor. The late James Roberts (Abbotsford) said that in over 50 years of breeding, size was the only trait he was unable to control.

Certain colors have dropped from favor. These would be mostly the dark sables and grizzles which are considered outdated, with tastes favoring the flashier creams, reds, and golds. Black, once decidedly out of favor, has gained acceptance provided the coat texture is correctly hard and shiny. Parti-colors, once questionable, now find acceptance provided they are well-marked.

The hard, human-like coat

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texture taken for granted fifty years ago is far less common today. Lacking today's sophisticated products and skill used to control softer coats, breeders usually selected away from this trait. Today's coats are certainly better groomed and conditioned, but not necessarily true to the original.

Is there a distinction between old-fashioned and new-fangled—or have current tastes made it seem there is?

—Cassandra de la Rosa,
dlrcas@msn.com

[The American Lhasa Apso Club](#)

Poodles

THE POODLE CLUB OF AMERICA FOUNDATION

The Poodle Club of America Foundation Inc. was incorporated as a non-profit charitable organization in 1989 in the State of Minnesota as a 501(c)(3) tax-exempt company. As with other 501(c)(3) foundations, PCAF's annual IRS filings are available to



Standard Poodle Ch. Broadrun Cherry, Blakeen Kennels (a Duc grandson); photo by Tauskey, 1942

the public and can be found online.

The PCAF Board of Directors are all volunteers, and no PCAF donations are spent on administration.

In keeping with its dedication to the future of Poodles, PCAF is operated exclusively for charitable, scientific, and educational purposes. While PCAF and the Poodle Club of America are separate organizations, we are partners and support each other's missions.

Among PCAF goals:

1. To foster and promote the public's knowledge and appreciation of dogs in general and Poodles in particular;
2. To further understanding of the diseases, genetic anomalies, and injuries that affect dogs in general and Poodles in particular;
3. To support and promote the study of and research on the character, history, genetics, breeding, and related characteristics that establish the Poodle as a distinct breed of dog;



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4. To establish a database/library of educational and resource materials on the Poodle;

5. To develop and make available to the general public and the Fancy information about the proper care, treatment, breeding, health, development, and training of Poodles.

Since its inception, PCAF has funded well over \$700,000 in research grants to fight health problems common in Poodles and other dogs and to identify genetic causes of Poodle disease.

Advances resulting from PCAF-funded studies have included new DNA tests that allow breeders to avoid the devastating genetic diseases neonatal encephalopathy and prcd-progressive retinal atrophy.

PCAF contributes funding to many AKC Canine Health Foundation-sponsored projects with the potential to benefit Poodles, such as the current CHF Epilepsy Research Initiative

and the CHF Bloat Initiative aimed at ending the toll of bloat and torsion.

Much of the funding we donate goes directly to universities and other institutions for studies of specific disorders in Poodles.

Please see our home page and Samples Needed page for news on projects we fund. Exciting Poodle-health research is underway!

The recent (thanks to all who participated!) PCAF Poodle Health Survey drew responses from 848 dogs and will help us focus our future efforts on areas of greatest need.

Every year at the Poodle Club of America National Specialty show, PCAF presents a free seminar offering education on topics such as health issues, breeding strategies, training, structural soundness in dogs, and Poodle wisdom from revered authorities like the late Mrs. James Edward Clark. When possible, these sessions are videotaped. Click on the “Seminars” and “Support PCAF” tabs

for more information and to order videos of past seminars. PCAF sent a free video of the 2010 session “What Everyone Needs to Know About Vaccines and Vaccination Programs” to all PCA Affiliate Clubs for circulation among their members.

At the PCA National, PCAF also offers health screenings, generally at a special PCA discount.

Of course, all of this is only made possible through the generosity of our donors and the volunteers who keep things running smoothly during our events.

—Mary Olund
[Poodle Club of America](#)

Schipperkes

WHERE HAS THE JABOT GONE?

Attending specialties is a great way to both see a number of Schips and to observe “ trends” in the breed. Judging a sweepstakes recently, I was pleased to note how many of the dogs had very nice forechest.

Along with health, sound

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structure, and good temperament, we as Schipperke breeders and exhibitors must also pay close attention to coat pattern and texture. The distinctive coat pattern is a hallmark of the breed and per the AKC standard contributes to the unique silhouette. The coat lying flat along the back (in a wide-ish

stripe) behind the cape is part of the correct pattern, and a conversation for another time. In this column I want to address specifically the jabot. More than simply an attractive attribute, the jabot also has physical and historical significance.

Before delving specifically into Schipperkes, it's essen-

tial to define what a jabot is. In fashion, a jabot refers to “an ornamental frill or ruff on the front of a shirt or blouse, usually made of lace.” However, in the context of Schipperkes, a jabot is the characteristic slightly longer hair continuing down from the even longer, abundant ruff on the chest to *between* the front legs. In the AKC glossary of terms it says, “The apron of the Schipperke; the part situated between the front legs.”

Unlike the rest of their shorter body coat the jabot area fur is noticeably longer, providing a contrast easily observed. And yet, speaking with other breeders, we are noticing a lack of jabot in more Schips. Are we losing this distinctive feature? And what is the “why” of this? Could it be a coat which is overall too long and lacking sharp pattern? Could it be excessive trimming? (none is allowed per the standard) Could it be too flat a coat (lacking undercoat)? Could it be a very soft coat? (Again, the standard explicitly calls

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for the coat to be slightly harsh.)

Historically, Schipperkes were bred in Belgium as primarily ratters and for guarding canal boats, ships, stables, and homes. Their distinctive thick ruff, cape and jabot would have provided protection against harsh weather as well other threats from vermin attacks to their neck and chest.

Let’s all start taking a good, hard look at proper coat texture and pattern, because “Lack of differentiation in coat lengths should be heavily penalized, as it is an essential breed characteristic.”

—Virginia Larioza,
P.O. Box 51, Fowlerville,
MI 48836
Vice President, [Schipperke Club of America](#)

Shiba Inu

MAINTAINING THE SHIBA INU FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS

The following was written by Patricia Doescher.

You’ve all heard the once

famous slogan for “Lays” potato chips, “You can’t have just one,” has now become a familiar catchphrase between exhibitors and pet owners alike.

So, what is the “irresistible” factor of this breed? Think back to the first time the Shiba caught your attention. Why did you give the breed a second look? Shiba breeder, Jane Chapin

of J-Ann Shibas in Cuba, Illinois, says, “Like everyone, I thought they looked like foxes. I thought they were so cute and I like the exotic look about them.” Geert Jan Wagemans of Jaklho Shibas, a breeder in the Netherlands, tell me he was hooked after seeing a picture of a Shiba. He said, “I gave this picture another good look, and it was this



Shiba Inu

COURTESY LYNDA BEAM



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‘something’ what no other breed has. There is no other dog that can look like this. It’s mysticism. It is difficult to put into words.”

My own feelings were quite similar. I was contentedly exhibiting my lovely Keeshonds when I saw a Shiba puppy owned by a friend. I became intrigued immediately with the little red dog, my attention caught by its nice, clean lines and muscle-bound little body. At the time the Oriental appearance of the head unknowingly played into the draw this creature had over me. However, only after studying the Japanese standard and its history did I become fully aware of the idiosyncrasies of “type” that make up this breed.

Breed type is explained as “Those things about a breed of dog that make it uniquely different from every other breed of dog.” With the Shiba, it’s the way the eyes are positioned on the head in relationship to the ears, the pitch and placement of the ears with nice back-skull,

a bright colored harsh coat which is well-fitted without looseness, the carriage of the tail reflecting the attitude and character of the breed which exudes boldness without aggression, and an over-all attitude of pride and dignity, yet with an inner calmness.

The future of all breeds is dependent upon the integrity of its breeders, past, present, and future. The characteristics that attracted us to the Shiba did not evolve by accident. Due to the Shiba’s near demise in the past, the early 1900s found the breeders in Japan (its country of origin) creating a distinctive “type” as a guideline to reestablish the breed. The standard of the National Shiba Club of America is based on these same guidelines. As breeders in the present we must hold ourselves accountable to preserve these qualities that will allow the Shiba Inu to continue to stand out in its individualism among other Northern breeds. Only by doing so will we guarantee a future of continued appeal

toward this captivating breed.—P.D.

—Letty Hughes,
lettyhughes.nasca@gmail.com
National Shiba Club of America

Tibetan Spaniels

NEW OWNERS, DID YOU KNOW ...?

While the history of the Tibetan Spaniel has been well chronicled, our breed has some charming—and even at times alarming!—quirks that may take a first-time Tibbie owner by surprise. As breeders who live with them every day, we might forget to prepare new Tibbie folks for the assorted noises and behaviors that we simply take for granted.

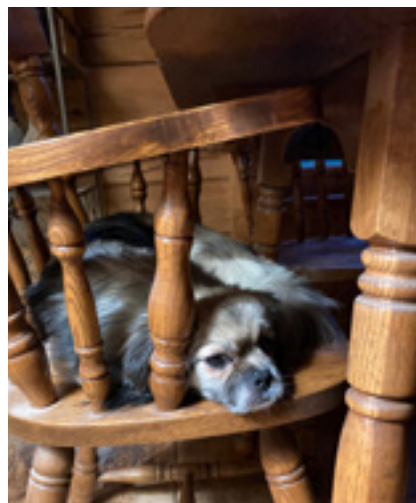
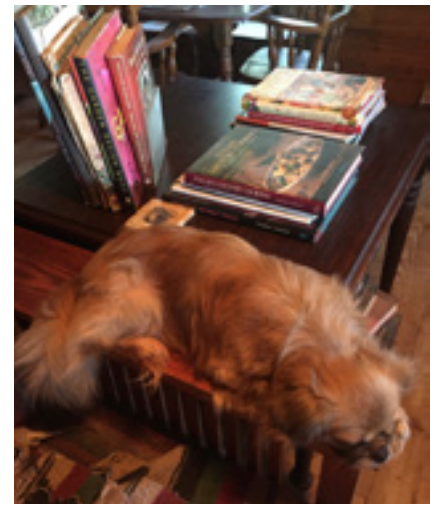
So, new Tibbie owners, be aware that ...

Tibbies snort! It’s actually reverse sneezing, formally called “paroxysmal respiration.” The dog rapidly pulls air into the nose, whereas in a regular sneeze, the air is rapidly pushed out through the nose. The dog makes a snorting sound and seems

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Tibbies climb! Their “explanation” for this behavior is “any old dog can lie or sit on upholstered furniture, but we prefer to perch on the back of a sofa, particularly if it gives us an elevated view.”

to be trying to inhale while sneezing. You can gently close your Tibbie’s mouth and cover one nostril for about five seconds, which will generally end the episode. Reverse sneezing can be caused by pollen, allergies, foreign bodies like dust, excitement, eating or drinking—basically anything

that irritates the throat. It may look and sound scary the first time you witness it, but rest assured your Tibbie is not choking or having a convulsion.

Staying with scary audible noises, we have a phenomenon known as the “Tibbie scream”! It is a loud, high-pitched,

blood-curdling sound that will alarm you, especially if several Tibbies raise the volume by chiming in. It is mostly a rare occurrence, and we are thankful for that. Tibbies find these occasional vocal sessions frightfully fun.

Tibbies climb! Their explanation is that any old dog can lie or sit on upholstered furniture, but “we prefer to perch on the back of a sofa, particularly if it

COURTESY ALLAN REZNIK



BREED COLUMNS

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gives us an elevated view.” Consider it the Tibbie equivalent of “Neighborhood Watch. “You may find your Tibbie on an end table, a coffee-table, a low windowsill, or using a chair for a boost to land on the dining room table. Of course the breed comes by this trait honestly, the Buddhist monks having placed the dogs on the roof of the temple to keep watch, and alert the Tibetan Mastiffs on the ground if they saw anything untoward. The monks referred to their Tibetan Spaniels as one-third dog, one-third cat, and one-third monkey, and today’s Tibbies absolutely demonstrate qualities of all three species. Dexterity and mischief are a devilish combination.

Tibbies have an incredible memory. The other day, mine were crated in the early morning, as they watched me putter in the kitchen. While I refilled a canister of cat food, a morsel or two of kibble fell on the floor. I couldn’t find them, so thought no more

about it and went downstairs to my office to get a few hours of work done. When the Tibbies were uncrated around noon, they raced into the kitchen and in about 10 seconds had found those specks of cat kibble. If they should happen to see a rabbit, a turtle, or deer in the course of a leashed walk on our country road, they will return to those same spots each and every time, hoping to see that wildlife again.

Tibbies are incredibly agile and sure-footed. Again, consider their heritage, walking the perimeter of the temple roof high above the ground to survey the goings on. With that skill hardwired, they can easily move across a tabletop without knocking over knickknacks or books. One of my favorite anecdotes dates back to my time living in the city, when the Tibbies and I went for frequent walks. Although they could have walked side by side and taken up the width of the pavement, they preferred to walk single file, along the

very edge of the curb—my Tibbie conga line! Those little showoffs were channeling their ancestors and having an edge-of-the-roof, Buddhist temple moment.

Tibbies are at all times observant, and they like things just so. Having also lived with Tibetan Mastiffs and my sister’s Lhasa Apso, I think it’s something they share with the other Tibetan breeds. Pull fresh laundry out of the dryer and place a throw-rug on the “wrong” side of a table, and most Tibbies will fret about it. Something just isn’t right. The throw-rug will not upset a Beagle in the slightest, but a Tibbie ... yes! They overthink! But since I do as well, I consider that another sign of a discerning breed.

Our Tibetan Spaniels really are old souls ... quirky, goofy, occasionally exasperating, and great fun for the right people. Definitely not a push-button dog!

—Allan Reznik,

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[Tibetan Spaniel Club of America](#)

BREED COLUMNS

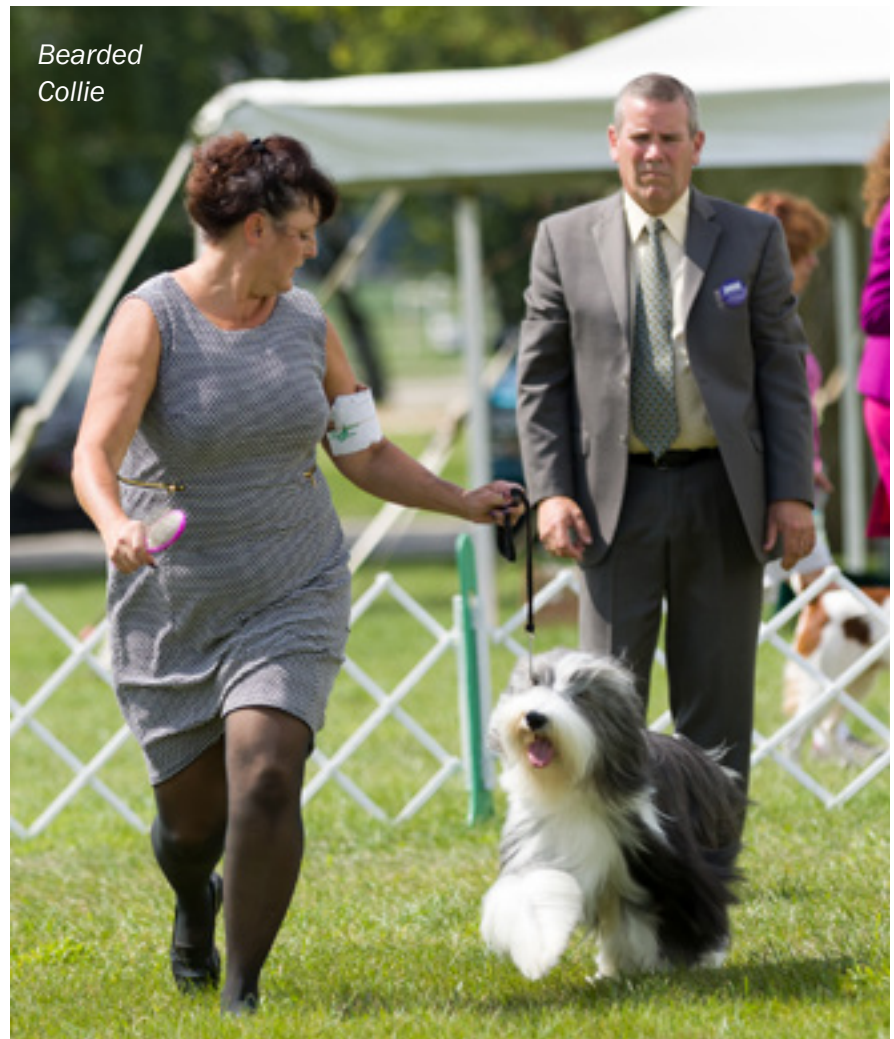
HERDING GROUP

Bearded Collies

THE SHOW MUST GO ON ... OR NOT

Dog show. Perhaps those two words conjure up images of the historic Westminster show or the AKC/Royal Canin annual extravaganza in Orlando: Spacious halls. Generous-sized rings. Judges and exhibitors dressed in their best. Glitz and glamour. Everything on time and flowing as smooth as syrup.

But not all dog shows are so blessed. For some, cursed seems to be more like it. Some years ago there was a memorable show in Sarasota. Ordinarily the polo grounds would have been an ideal site, but heavy storms lashed the area and the grounds, already saturated by earlier rains, turned into a quagmire better suited to swamp-buggy races than dog shows. Oozing, mucky, shoe-sucking mud, churned into ruts and depressions by golf carts, crate trolleys, and hundreds of paws and footwear made for a treacherous pathway to the rings.



Bearded
Collie

The rings themselves were almost as bad. Samoyeds, Great Pyrenees, and other furry-footed breeds arrived at ringside draped around their handlers' shoulders in an effort to at least enter the ring in pristine condition. But for all the Herculean efforts, the dogs remained clean for approximately 10

feet or 10 seconds, whichever came first. After that, it was a lost cause as dogs and handlers slogged through the mire. The Maltese entry declared their ring a disaster area and withdrew *en masse*. In one terrier ring the judge kindly tried placing dogs on the one relatively dry area, only to discover it

COURTESY LYNDA BEAM



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was already occupied by an army of fire ants—insidious insects with savage biting power. An entry of unsuspecting Wheatens suddenly began dancing about like an out-of-step chorus line as the fire ants went into attack mode.

To add to the misery, damp and bone-chilling winds whipped over the site. Overcoats and trench coats were the uniforms of the day for most judges, several of whom had probably looked forward to judging in the warm Florida sun. Suffering ring stewards were so bundled up they resembled an army of Michelin men as they handed out armbands and marked placings with numb fingers.

“Even so, it’s not the worst show I’ve ever been to,” remarked one of the vendors at the show as he surveyed the soggy scene before him. “I’d place it third or fourth.”

“So, tell me about these others,” I suggested, leaning against his counter in order to dislodge a clump of mud the size of Connecticut from

my left shoe. Having survived seven hours of judging in subhuman conditions, the idea that there had been worse shows was intriguing.

“Well,” he immediately replied, “I remember one Montgomery County show that ran quite late, and it started snowing hard. The daylight faded fast, and they finished up the group judging with a bunch of car headlights aimed at the ring to provide the lighting. The blustering way the snow was coming down, visibility was really limited. I knew the Westie wouldn’t score at the show because you couldn’t even see him.”

“And not all the bad weather happens outdoors,” he continued. “One year at Harrisburg, some overhead pipes broke in the arena and flooded the rings. The Chessies, Labs, and Porties enjoyed it, but no one else was happy about the situation. Then there was Grand Rapids, Michigan, where the lights went off for several hours. And I’ll never forget New Orleans! I should

have known something was wrong when only three vendors showed up. The show was inside but the vendors were outside, and it was freezing out there. Even my best friend wouldn’t come out to say hello. I only made two sales for the entire show.”

By this time, a vendor from the adjoining booth joined in the conversation with some stories of her own. “Do you remember Old Dominion about eight years ago? Talk about mud! I think the only vehicle that left the grounds under its own power was the tow-truck. Absolutely everyone had to be towed out! And how about that tornado that hit Waukesha a couple of years ago? Some of those pop-up frame tents were so twisted they looked like aluminum foil. Then there was the Edwardsville, Illinois, show, where lightning struck one of the show supervisors. He recovered, but it sure was a shocking experience.”

A passerby stopped at the booth to join the conversa-



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tion and chimed in with the tale of a north Florida show inundated by a sudden horrendous downpour. RVs were mired on the grounds, and the local tow-truck operator was positively gleeful. Charging gouging prices, he envisioned making enough to retire from one afternoon's work. That is, until *he* got stuck. Then the gouges all had a good laugh while he sputtered and stomped in anger and finally had to call in another tow-truck to haul his rig out.

The fates are always ready to throw a monkey wrench into the works of the most carefully planned shows and that wrench is often in the form of violent weather. Back in 1992, Credit Valley, one of Canada's largest shows, had moved into Toronto's SkyDome for the first time. An immobilizing blizzard struck not only the city but right throughout the eastern portion of Canada and the U.S. airports closed down, and highways were impassable. About one third of the exhibitors never made

it to the shows. Judges were stranded at airports all over North America.

"We were literally picking judges out of the stands," recalled the show chair.

Headaches mounted as the Credit Valley crew juggled scheduling to allow late-arriving judges to still handle assignments. They attempted to locate missing judges to learn if they'd still be attending, or whether it was better to just head home. In addition, many of the SkyDome employees couldn't leave, and their replacements couldn't arrive to take over.

"Waits in the restaurants were incredible," according to the show chair, "and the staff was dead on its feet."

The hoped-for spectator gate was virtually nonexistent. Those who actually made it to the show were rewarded with comfortable surroundings and an impeccable show site inside while the blizzard raged outside.

Credit Valley had another unpleasant surprise in store a few years later, when early

arrivals to the SkyDome found a veritable fountain spouting 30 or 40 feet in the air in the center of the arena. Burst water pipes had caused the added attraction to the show site.

Rain in its many variations has caused more than its share of problems from mud to flood at outdoor shows. Decades later, exhibitors still recall the flood at Ballston Spa in upper New York state. One Briard exhibitor who was camping in her van had originally left her dog outside in his crate when she turned in for the night. Waking to check on her dog, she found the water had risen to the point where it was beginning to run into the crate, so she brought her soggy canine inside. By morning, the storm had dumped so much water that the ex-pen was all but submerged and her dog's favorite toy, a small plastic boat, sailed round and round inside the pen, propelled by the raindrops.

Most rain falls outside, but there was one instance



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where it rained indoors (and on a sunny day too). That was the case for the St. Catharines (Ontario, Canada) show back in the 1980s. Pressed for a show site, the club decided to rent a giant tent to house their April shows. It was erected on a parking lot, and the surface was covered by plastic Astroturf. As the morning sun beamed down on the tent-top, condensation formed, which drizzled down steadily into the rings. Unlike natural grass, the artificial turf held the water, making the surface slippery. Exhibitors were sliding and falling like small boats in a storm.

The Aurora and District K.C. had the same problem, but excess moisture came from below rather than from above. Like many other Canadian shows, the venue was a hockey rink. The hockey season had run past its regular schedule due to playoffs, so the ice was removed only the day before the show. The combination of cold cement and warm

May weather caused the floor to sweat copiously, resulting in acrobatic maneuvers and painful falls by show participants.

My vote for the worst show conditions, however, goes to an event near St. Augustine, Florida, about a decade or more ago. The first clue of what was ahead happened when sleet began to pelt the van's windshield on my way to the site. On arrival, things proceeded to get worse. The show was held mainly in an open pavilion with wind, rain, some sleet, and frigid temps slamming the site. Despite having lived in Canada for 22 years, I can't remember ever being so cold and miserable. Ever try handing out armbands while wearing two pairs of mittens? Propane heaters fought a losing battle, with their heat extending no more than three feet. There's the saying that "what doesn't kill us makes us stronger." If true, show stewards (and judges) must be some of the toughest people on planet Earth.

—Alice Bixler,
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Bearded Collie Club of America

Belgian Malinois

THE WAY HOME

My elderly Malinois approached his 14th birthday diminished by age, but still enjoying life. Still, I knew he couldn't last forever, and I began to reflect on the manner of the deaths of my 40 years' worth of previous Belgians. I still have flashbacks about some of them. I wanted something different for Scotch.

The new trend for home euthanasia struck me as something that might be an improvement, although it was a difficult calculation. The surroundings would be familiar, but there would be an intruder. The other dogs would surely bark, perhaps alarming the sick, old dog. Perhaps the other dogs would be upset at the death in their midst, and handling the remains might be more complicated. Worst

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Baby Scotch, in 2009; Scotch—Avonlea’s Stuck On You, UD, TDX, AX, AXJ, RA, CGC, TKP; Scotch at age 3 with young Belgian Tervuren Copper, in 2011.

of all, what if something went wrong? Nevertheless, everyone I consulted assured me that it was a much better path. This may be so, but now I realize that it is not the whole story,

so I want to share what I learned on the one bad day of Scotch’s life.

To prepare for Scotch’s eventual demise, I consulted a local vet who offered home euthanasia

services. The vet was likeable, and Scotch seemed invigorated by the massage and acupuncture treatments he received. We scheduled future acupuncture treatments.

But only three days later, as the sky lightened on a gray and rainy Sunday morning, I arose to find Scotch awake and aware, but unable to move anything but his eyes. I thought he had suffered a massive

COURTESY ANN MACKAY / CARILEE MORAN / ROSALYN RUSSELL

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stroke. It seemed that home euthanasia would be needed sooner than I had anticipated.

I called my new hospice vet, left a message, and settled down to wait for a call back. It was a long wait. Eventually, I called the emergency clinic I normally patronize and was told they could not see my dog—or any dog—that day, due to lack of staff. This is the sad new reality for people seeking prompt pet care.

I decided to call an emergency clinic further away, one with which I had no prior relationship. The receptionist listened carefully and said that I could either bring Scotch in or call a recommended home euthanasia consortium. I called. Nope, nobody available. They referred me to an internet site with the names of many more home euthanasia services. I decided I could not entrust my dog to a random person from a random website. Thus, I ended by doing what I had sought to avoid: taking

Scotch to an unfamiliar emergency clinic and hoping for the best.

Hope is not a strategy, but I was lucky that day. The unfamiliar techs treated him kindly and gently, moving him on a cushioned rolling bed, covering him to keep him warm, and snuggling a stuffed animal next to him for comfort. The clinic quickly determined that Scotch's heart was pumping just enough blood to keep him conscious, but not enough for him to live. He would not rise again.

In most emergency clinics, everyone seems to be in a hurry. But this one had a plan to shield end-of-life clients from all the commotion. In the last hour of his life, my dog had me, a warm, comfortable bed, a peaceful space, and a quiet, steady vet who shared a few tears with me at the end.

I accidentally chose well. But after reading this, you can stand on my shoulders. You can call today and ask how the clinics in your area handle end-of-life patients,

even if your dog currently seems healthy enough to continue for months or years.

In preparing, consider that home euthanasia may be a great option if your dog declines in a way that makes a scheduled end the best choice. That has never actually happened to me. If your dog crashes at an inconvenient time, like a Sunday morning, you had better know beforehand the boundaries of your home practitioner's availability. If your dog's timing is off, you will have to take him to a clinic. Will your regular vet make himself available during off hours? Find out. If not, you will end up at an emergency hospital, a place you probably don't spend much time at and don't know very well. Ask specific questions about how you and your pet will be treated.

I know, now, what to ask about. The comforts offered to us were logical, inexpensive, and effective. But we got that care by chance, not by design. Now you know. Now you can prepare. You

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owe it to the Belgian who has looked up to you all his life.

—Carilee (Cole) Moran,
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 American Belgian
 Malinois Club

Belgian Sheepdogs

THE MAKING OF A GOOD PUB DOG

As I write this column, I am sitting at a local brew pub, enjoying a local hazy IPA while waiting for a plate of BBQ brisket. Like many native Oregonians, I love craft beer, particularly when sitting outdoors with my friends and our dogs. Yes, with our dogs, usually higher-energy herding breeds or terriers!

I've done this with my last three Belgian Sheepdogs. I have learned over time how to prepare them for outings like this. Here's a tip: Don't start the first time you want to take them out! If you go to dog shows or do performance events, chances are your dogs have already acquired some of the skills needed. But it's just easy



This is the way: A Belgian Sheepdog shows how to be a good pub companion.

to start them as puppies, at home. Teach them that relaxing can be a rewarding “non-activity.” A dog who learns to settle himself is generally a dog ready to venture out.

Years ago, many of us just tossed down a crate-pad and rewarded them for getting on it, then for relaxing on

it, then for doing that and staying there. Nowadays, it has gained a bit of sophistication, with props like a cot bed or some sort of platform, but the concept is basically the same—plant yourself here and chill out for a bit.

Suzanne Clothier has a DVD/download available

COURTESY SHELLY BROSNAN



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called “Really Real Relaxation.” It’s also available online as a PDF. One can also take an online or in-person class on mat or place training. They all follow a similar basic concept: Have the dog make the choice to just relax in place. Impulse control, plus trusting in the handler. These tools will help you to work with your dog around people and other dogs—or to be in a mindful state when you’re about to enter an agility ring! When your dog can trust you to make thoughtful choices, they can feel free and more willing to relax.

It comes down to a few things to consider. Are you having as good of a time when your dog is with you as you would without? Or is it more stressful for you or for the dog, or even for others in your party? Be mindful of others; believe it or not, everyone enjoys dogs!

Keeping things simple and low-key go a long, long way toward setting a good

example of how dogs should behave in venues where they are allowed. Also, know your dog! By this I mean be watchful of how they are behaving. Are they having an enjoyable time, or are they showing signs of stress or overstimulation? Even if your dog usually enjoys meeting new people or dogs, in unfamiliar places or in higher-than-usual numbers this can be stressful.

Try sitting on the outskirts of the action. Don’t sit overly close to the register, restrooms, or bar where there is bound to be more foot-traffic. Always, watch your dog.

I was recently at a local hop farm/outdoor taproom. I had my own dog with me, and she was just lying in the grass. I was people-watching, but also dog-watching. Several dogs were there that day with their people. There were a few Border Collies, a Great Pyrenees, a couple of Golden Retrievers and Labradors, a few mixed-breeds, a Belgian Malinois, and my own 5-year-old

Belgian Sheepdog. It was easy for me to see which of the dogs were used to this and were relaxing in the cool grass, and it was such a lovely sight to see!

Prepare your dogs, in small increments, if you plan to take them out and about with you. It will definitely make life easier for you and your dog, and not to mention anyone sitting near you!

—Shelly Brosnan,

3busydogs@gmail.com

[Belgian Sheepdog Club of America](#)

Belgian Tervuren

A DOG WHO THINKS

All breeders feel strongly about the characteristics of their breed. Belgian Tervuren breeders are no exception—Tervs are unique, like no others, we say. We talk about the high energy level, the brilliance and versatility of a Terv, the fact that they need a “job.”

But how do we explain their personality? What do you say about that?

When a prospective puppy-

HERDING GROUP



Belgian Tervuren, 1961, Evelyn Shafer photo

buyer contacts you, they have many questions. As breeders, we have many answers. But the one question that is asked that is difficult to put into words: *What are they like to live with?* Are they intense? Demanding? Pushy? Encroaching?

What is that one word? It is the one word, I

believe, that describes the miasma of issues a new Terv owner can encounter with their darling fluffball, the one with those tiny black eyes. A Terv *thinks*.

You get laughter. You get looks. You get assurances that they have owned and trained plenty of dogs. But no, we insist, they *think*. Too much. You need to be

careful. Again laughter, looks, nods, and superficial acceptance of my words.

If you are lucky, a few days—maybe even weeks—pass, and you get “the call.”

“Are they all like this?”

Yes, you say. To some degree. It does increase in intensity as they mature. There is often silence on the other end of the line as you explain this wonderful breed to its new owners. You laugh and tell them that how soon the puppy will learn to look up at things, and then they will discover a whole other world about them as well. It will be so much fun as you discover the world all over again from those dark little eyes that look upon everything as an adventure—some of which will make you look at the world in a whole new way.

So while you enjoy the laughter and the adventures that your new Terv puppy brings you, realize you will also be learning how to look at the world through the eyes of your Tervuren—a different kind of world than

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you have had before, so be prepared for the ride!

—Dana B. Mackonis,
cachetnoir@yahoo.com
 American Belgian
 Tervuren Club

Canaan Dogs

FROM THEN TO NOW

On Memorial Day weekend 1972, Bert and Jay C. Sheaffer, of Spatterdash Kennels, summoned the Canaan Dog troops for the first Canaan Club of America (later Canaan Dog Club of America) national-specialty match. Tess Hensler, of Doberman fame, judged—and yelled at anyone who did not follow directions. That included me and my dog, Spatterdash Dreidle. We lost to a well-built, well-handled button-eared dog who had started life among Norwegian Elkhounds.

(Button ears are an obvious fault, but the rest of the dog shouted *good Canaan Dog*.)

Around 20 dogs made up the entry, and their pedigrees went back to the B’Nei



Canaan Dogs Comet, herding; Wolf working in the sunset

Habitachon Kennels of the Menzels in Israel, and to the first four imports sent to the States by the Menzels, the founders of the Canaan Dog

breed. Around 20 dogs were sent to the U.S. for breeding and show purposes by the Menzels in Israel and B’Nei Habitachon kennels.

COURTESY DENISE GORDON



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From the 1930s, fellow cynologists, especially Dr. Hauck in Vienna, had urged the Menzels to study the pariah dogs in Palestine, now Israel, before it was too late. Time, civilization, rabies laws, and interbreeding with European dogs would erase the ancestry of pariah dogs in Israel and destroy their heritage. As scientists and dog trainers familiar with German Shepherd Dogs and Boxers from their ben Satan Boxer kennel in their native Austria, they had been reluctant to investigate the shy pariah dog creations, but they soon befriended and grew to care for them. They called the dogs “Canaans” after their new homeland, the Land of Canaan.

Dogs of pariah dog ancestry were a far cry in temperament and behavior from the dogs they had trained in Austria. German Shepherd Dogs were trained in Austria as attack dogs and quite possibly as leader dogs for the blind, along with Labrador Retrievers. (The

Menzels founded the first institute in the Middle East to train leader dogs for the blind.)

While they were still living in Austria, an amusing anecdote was told when they were asked by the resident Nazis to train dogs for them. The Menzels complied and gave them commands in Hebrew, the language they would use after settling in Israel, then Palestine. Imagine Nazis speaking Hebrew, a language with no cuss words! Their mirth was short lived, however.

Encouraged by their colleagues the Menzels built upon the natural traits of their selected pariah dogs, whom they trained to serve their (the Menzels’) adopted country as natural watchdogs, leader dogs for the blind and infirm, primitive herding dogs, and war dogs to locate landmines. Thus the growth of a remarkably versatile breed began its development and was destined to make its mark among the fancy in the service of man.

On their road to full AKC recognition, Canaans were faulted at every turn for lack of consistency of breed type and extremes of temperament. Finally Yogi Berra himself (not!) told the Canaan Dog community to “take the fork in the road”! Denise Gordon stepped up with her dog, Wolf, to introduce Canaan Dog owners to sheepherding, and CCA (CDCA) offered its first tracking test. Ted Hoesel and Ronnie Greenberg judged.

It would be October 15, 1989, before Misha, TD, earned his AKC Tracking Dog title. Alan C. “ACE” Greenberg was the first in CCA to earn his club TD title, partnered with his teammate “Hertzi” at the 1982 national specialty match in St. Charles, Illinois. Our kids showed the fancy that they could get the job done. Spatterdash Dreidle and his son, Petro, passed their tracking tests on the same day.

Canaan Dog owner-handlers were no slouches in the obedience world either.



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Becky showed off her training to the Utility Dog level at Ellen (Klein) Minto's 1988 national-specialty match in New York, and several other dogs followed suit. Two of Victor Kaftal's dogs competed at this level and, I believe, earned their AKC UD titles. We'll hear their stories in another issue.

Let's not forget the sport of carting, and Ellen Minto's Anacan breeding of Shay. He and his companion, Big Heart (Lev Gadohl), bred at Ha'Aretz Kennels, were both trained as carting dogs and happily pulled people and beer at dog shows.

The most recent Canaan Dog national-specialty show was held at Purina Farms during the week of Rosh Ha Shona, 2023. Two breeder-judges and two all-breed judges officiated. Entries hovered around 20 each day, including sweepstakes, and included remarkable performances in Fast CAT competition. All this was a far cry from the late judge Mr. Steve Gladstone's event with 60

Canaans participating two decades ago near Leesburg, Virginia. Both oldies and newbies were still learning the ropes while hanging on to the leads of their beloved and exasperating Canaans. Most important: Today's examples of Canaan Dogs keep consistency of breed type and acceptable working temperaments.

—Bryna Comsky,
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[Canaan Dog Club of America](#)

Cardigan Welsh Corgis "CARDIFICATION"

I invited a puppy buyer to accompany me to the Cardigan Welsh Corgi Club of America's national specialty some years ago. We had corresponded a great deal and hit it off, so I felt comfortable inviting her along on the two-day drive.

My new friend had been in Collies and Shelties for years but decided she wanted a Cardigan Welsh Corgi. By the time she contacted me, she'd already

begun her breed research. The trip to the national was to allow her to see a cross-section of the breed to further her education.

My friend helped me a great deal with my two class bitches on the road, and then at the national. Because our dogs are so versatile, the breed's national lasts a whole week to fit in all the performance events in addition to conformation, so my friend had a great chance to observe hundreds of Cardigans.

As we headed home afterward, I asked for her honest opinion. I wondered, what did she think of Cardigans, now that she'd seen so many?

Her answer: "I adore them."

Many people, exhibitors and companion homes alike, discover just how special the breed is. I call it "Cardifying," or the "Cardification" of someone; an act whereby an introduction to the breed often results in new owners reacting the same way my friend

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Cardigan Welsh Corgi

did. They fall in love.

Cardis are addictive. We say, “Cardigans are like potato chips; you can’t have just one!”

A friend who’s been breeding Labs for over 30 years saw one of my dogs at a show and said that if I ever had a blue girl like him, she wanted her. Later she waffled on whether it was a good thing to commit to a Cardi puppy, but when my next litter contained a lovely blue girl, my friend agreed to take her.

When she saw the 8-week-

old blue baby, she fell in love on the spot. As time went on, she fell more deeply in love. Her Lab friends fell in love as well with the blue baby and threatened to kidnap her. And when the girl was old enough to be bred, even though my friend really hadn’t planned on breeding her, she was bred. My friend wasn’t going to keep a puppy, however.

She kept two.

What we in Cardis love to hear is the wonderment in voices when someone from another breed marvels at

what their Cardigan is like. They feel the magic. This happens to professional handlers as well. Several have started breeding Cardigans after taking one on the road.

They are goofy dogs who make you laugh ... serious dogs who think through challenges ... happy dogs who want nothing more in life than to be with their humans. These are dogs who can herd, smoke through an agility course, track, win HITs in obedience, and go BIS in the conformation ring.

But most of all, they are magic.

—Jennifer Roberson,
[Cardigan Welsh Corgi Club of America](#)

Collies

ARE YOU AN INSIDER, OR AN OUTSIDER?

Years ago I went to an outdoor dog show where a group of friends had taken their vans and campers and formed a circle, wagon-train style. Inside

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Collie: book covers, AKC Library collection

the circle they set up their grooming and it was comfy for meals and socializing. Approaching this circle, however, as someone who didn't know them well, was daunting. Going inside felt like breaking a barrier—and would I be welcome, ignored, or worse?

Viewed from outside, this was literally the “inner circle.” An inner circle is defined as a group of like-minded people who want to achieve the same things, whom you trust will give you support, and who also have similar goals.

As anyone who has been to high school knows, inner circles can be hard to break into, and while benefitting

those on the inside, they can feel quite intimidating to those on the outside.

But the funny thing about inner and outer circles, it can also be a matter of perception. How we perceive the group or how we perceive ourselves can determine where we stand in this. Sometimes a simple “can I join you?” is all it takes to break that invisible line. Or getting to know someone individually in the group can break you into it too.

There are advantages in being part of a group of insiders; they can share information or knowledge not available to others, they can provide support in good times and bad, and they can

work toward common goals more efficiently. This network of information-sharing gives them an advantage and makes them feel powerful, and this feeling of authority reinforces their position that they are the insiders.

But insiders aren't the only ones with advantages. Outsiders can provide perspectives others don't have and challenge the status quo. (This can be perceived as a threat by the insiders, however.) Those in the inner circle might discount outside information as less valid than their own, as unreliable, and this in turn curbs innovative thinking. Being in a group requires conformity, there is peer pressure to do what is expected, while the outsider is more independent and a better observer.

Outsiders are free to make their own choices about what to do or think; primarily because there is no fear of rejection, they can make their own path. They have a fresh perspective, and it is easier to be objective and more creative.



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An example in my own life is in breeding Collies. The vast majority of Collie breeders I knew when I was starting out bred dogs solely for the conformation ring. I knew no one who wanted to combine conformation and performance into one and the same dog. Years later I did come across a handful, literally, of other like-minded folks. I'm sure there are more examples of others who feel they broke the mold and branched out into new territory. Because I wasn't part of the inner circle in those early days, I wasn't limited by the same perspective as the conformation only people.

But as any outsider can tell you, being different can sometimes be lonely and difficult. The good news is, there is little evidence that outsiders are less successful or less happy! Quite the opposite, in fact—outsiders develop strength, flexibility, and resiliency that the insiders don't have. In fact, being an outsider can be a predictor of well-being, of emotional

strength, and be a protection against depression.

If you are in the inner circle, make friends with an outsider. You'll reap the benefits. If you are an outsider and feeling left out, just remember all the advantages you have in the long run.

Dog show people gravitate towards cliques. Geography, clubs, and similar beliefs or interests cement these associations. In this day of challenges to our sport, we all need to be talking to each other and maybe give up some of these perceptions.

—Marianne Sullivan,
Charlottesville, Virginia,
millknock1@gmail.com
[Collie Club of America](#)

safe, we teach them behavioral cues, which may be signals (gestures with our arms, whistles) or words (“leave it,” “come,” “stay”), all of which may be reinforced with rewards. Giving them skills to move away from something risky, to return to us quickly, or to stay in place may at some time prove to be lifesaving.

Our dogs respond well to training and structure, and the expectation of good behavior at home and elsewhere. Many seem to enjoy the partnership and connection that comes from working on a task with us. With training, we have dogs who are reliable, who like to join us on a walk or for a run in the woods, and who seem very happy to warm laps and toes on cold nights. But the connection between us also runs deeper, much deeper.

Scientific research is demonstrating that dogs exposed to positive interactions with humans can reap hormonal and neurochemical benefits. Studies

Icelandic Sheepdogs

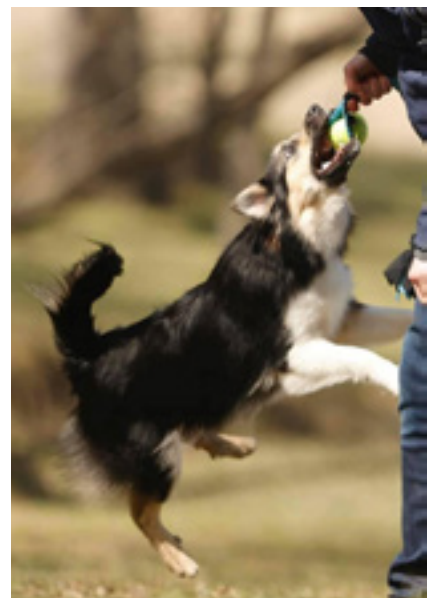
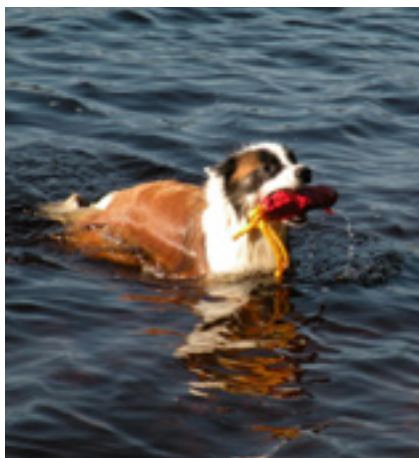
WHY TRAIN OUR ICELANDIC SHEEPDOGS?

Training our dogs is beneficial for them and for us, whether it be for practical day-to-day life or more formally for competition in one or more canine events.

In order to keep our dogs

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Icelandic Sheepdogs benefit from doing activities with their owners. Pictured: Ch. Foothills Laki, RATO, TKN; Greenstone Grima Tofa, PT, CGC, TKN; Red Cedar Tri-Star Not the Same Moon, RE, PT, SWA, RATN, DJ, CGC

have shown, even when taking into account multiple variables present in the interactions, that after a short period of positive contact with humans, canine blood and urine samples register increases in oxytocin, dopamine, prolactin, and beta phenylethylamine.

Similar physiological and chemical changes can be found in humans who have attachments to their dogs. Dog owners are generally less likely to have high blood pressure and also tend to have lower levels of cholesterol and triglycerides. Simply gazing into a beloved dog's eyes

or receiving a tender touch from a paw can significantly elevate the amount of oxytocin detected in a person's urine. Oxytocin, sometimes called the "bonding hormone," is known to calm depressive tendencies and anxiety, and can even stimulate the healing of wounds. Taking time to connect and train with our Icelandics can increase their—and our—sense of well-being and further solidify the bond between us.

Because of the mutual benefits that can come through our interactions, I have chosen to train as positively as I can. My dogs all



love to work for food, which gives them an added incentive to play "my" games; I take note of an individual dog's favorite treats and use those when the training may be challenging. A beloved toy or a session of "tug" can be a reward for a job well done—or a good attempt. Casual play together (e.g., "touch," spins) can help to sustain interest or re-engage.

COURTESY OWNERS

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All of my dogs have been willing to be challenged to do new things because they know that there is something in it for them. I try to make training a fun time (for both of us!) and mix up verbal, physical (pats, scratches, and belly rubs), and food rewards. Over the years, I have learned that we can make mistakes as readily as the dog in the *process* of training. A partnership requires responsibility on both sides.

Out of respect for my dogs, I have chosen to engage in activities in which they are the “smarter” partner. Tracking and scent work have enabled me to start to get a sense of the canine world of smell and to marvel at their ability to decipher a single scent from a cornucopia of odors. For me it is almost mystical to participate with a non-human sentient creature in an activity in which he “knows” more; it is also quite humbling. Training has given me an appreciation for the gifts and special qualities of my

own dogs—for Icelandic Sheepdogs as a breed, and for canines as a species.

—Dr. Karen B. Westerfield Tucker,

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Icelandic Sheepdog
Association of America

Norwegian Buhunds

TEACHING CONCEPTUAL THINKING: CAN YOU COPY ME?

One of the newer ideas that is being talked about today is canine concept training, or teaching conceptual thinking skills to dogs. I was unsure as to whether these ideas would be applicable to Norwegian Buhunds and started experimenting with a few of the concept training skills.

The idea behind this type of training is that dogs can learn a broad framework of rules that can be applied to different new situations. This is unlike regular training in which the dog learns to perform a specific behavior pattern when given a cue (e.g., sit, down, heel, and so on).

A frequently used example of concept training is guide dog training, in which the dog is taught concepts such as making sure that they do not lead the handler under low objects on which the person might bang his head. The guide dog learns to apply this concept of avoiding low-hanging objects, even with items never-before encountered in completely new places.

There are many such concepts that people use when training their dogs. One concept that Norwegian Buhunds appear to learn easily is that of mimicking others’ behavior. Norwegian Buhunds, like most dogs, find it easier to mimic the behavior of their fellow canines compared to mimicking human behavior. This is not surprising. All of us with multi-dog households have seen how the newer member of the pack learns behaviors from the older dogs. My young puppies typically watch from a crate while I am training the older ones. Sometimes the puppy

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will surprise me by learning a new behavior quickly and accurately; for example, puppy Linzie learned to spin to her left and right after watching my older ones perform this trick just a few times.

Of course, our dogs also learn not-so-good behaviors from each other. My older Buhund, Finna, has already taught the puppy to push toys under the couch and then have the fun of barking at the toy until a person comes and retrieves it for

her. Not to be left out, the puppy taught Finna how to stand with her paws on the kitchen counter and supervise food preparations, as well as how to unlatch the crate door and run to the nearest person to show off this new “trick.”

Concept training involves dogs not just copying the behavior of other dogs, but also mimicking the behavior of humans. Claudia Fugazza (<https://www.doasido.it/>) in her book *Do As I Do: Using Social Learning To Train*

Dogs describes the work that she did showing that not only are dogs capable of copying human behavior, but they also can remember the behavior and copy it even after some time has elapsed.

When I used Claudia Fugazza’s protocol to teach my Buhunds to copy my behavior, I discovered that several new behaviors were relatively easy for them to pick up. They found it easy to copy my jumping over a bar jump or climbing onto an ottoman, but not other behaviors, such as those that involve touching a nose to an object. And attempting to use the mimicry protocol to teach them to pick up their toys and place them in the toybox turned out to be hilarious. When I used my mouth to demonstrate the behavior, they just sat and looked highly entertained. When I used my hands to carry the toy, they moved the toy around with their front paws, probably in an attempt to carry it—an attempt doomed to failure

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because of their lack of opposable thumbs. I did manage to show them that I meant them to use their mouths when I used my hands, but this suggests that while the mimicry protocol can be a useful training tool to teach certain types of behaviors, it probably does not apply to all behaviors.

Ultimately, we have to keep in mind that the most important aspect of mimicry training is not whether the dog can actually perform the behavior accurately, but whether she understands the concept of “copying” what a human does.

—Jasmine Tata,

jtata2@yahoo.com

Norwegian Buhund Club of America

Old English Sheepdogs

PROTECTING OUR BREED REQUIRES PROTECTING OUR PUPPIES

Dedicated, ethical breeders of Old English Sheepdogs have always been concerned about the placement of their puppies.

Puppies in “pet” or “companion/family member” placements were a particular concern, especially bitch puppies. We worried about them becoming part of an indiscriminate backyard breeding scheme—or worse, a commercial puppy mill.

Then about 25 years ago the AKC instituted a Limited Registration option on the AKC forms that prevented those puppies from being shown or bred to produce registerable offspring. Brilliant! That change and public education and widespread support for spaying and neutering of pets gave us all a lot of comfort.

In the last decade a more existential threat to our breed has arisen—the attack of the “designer dogs,” AKA the “Sheepadoodle.” This development is viewed with revulsion by genuine OES breeders, and rightfully so. We take great care to prevent our dogs from being exploited in such a deplorable fashion. Using contracts to require spaying and neutering and the Limited



Old English Sheepdog, February 1932

Registration option led us to believe that our dogs are protected from this blight. We are wrong.

I witnessed something very disturbing at the clinic of a well-regarded repo specialist. I had arrived very early for my appointment, and as it was quite warm that day, I stayed in my vehicle with the engine and air conditioning on. While waiting I saw two people come out with a very nice OES bitch. She was in less than two inches of coat, and I got a good look at her as they loaded her in their SUV and left.

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Not recognizing the people but impressed by the bitch, I inquired about her when I went in for my appointment. The person checking me in was clearly uncomfortable with this and did not want to identify their client. The shocking information I did receive quickly explained why. The owners were running progesterone tests, and as the numbers had risen were rushing back home to breed her to a Poodle!

I have no doubt that this very nice bitch came out of a serious, dedicated breeding program. I can even hazard a guess to the bloodlines, but I won't. Her owners, no doubt, purchased her on a non-breeding agreement that they are breaching with impunity. They won't be registering her litter(s), so her breeder will never be the wiser.

It is not reasonable to expect such unethical people to abide by even a minimum of responsible breeding practices. They won't be conducting any

of the health clearances required in the breed, even if she is old enough to qualify. They won't be skipping seasons between litters. They won't be health-checking puppies before placement, nor providing any contracts, guarantees, or puppy support to buyers. They will just be cashing checks without incurring any of the expenses or responsibilities that ethical breeders have.

So what can we do to protect our puppies? Following are some actions we can take:

- Microchip every puppy before it leaves your hands.
- Send in the individual registration yourself. You can have the buyer give you a separate check made out to AKC. Be sure to darken the Limited Registration box and list the microchip. You need to add that amount for the buyer to pay for the AKC microchip listing.
- Strengthen your sales contracts. Check with your state to make sure it conforms. There are a couple of groups on the internet that could be useful. Use

liquidated damages clauses (for potentially damaging your reputation as an ethical breeder) for any unauthorized puppies, whether purebred or crossbred, intentionally or accidentally produced. Use the maximum amount available in small claims court in your state, and make it per puppy. Require any dispute must be adjudicated or arbitrated in your home county and state. Have a space for the buyer to initial every major requirement.

- Collect a DNA swab on each puppy sold, preferably with the buyer witnessing. This may seem excessive but is a very inexpensive deterrent. You don't need to process them. Store it properly, and hopefully you will never need it.

None of us want our dogs to end up being exploited in the nightmare life of a puppy mill, but do you want them to end up in a "doodle" breeding situation? I am sorry to report that it is happening. So please, dear breeders, take whatever

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steps you can to protect your puppies. Old English Sheepdogs deserve better than this.

—Anne Marie Ritchie,
OES Breed Columnist,
AKC GAZETTE
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Old English Sheepdog
Club of America

Pembroke Welsh Corgis

STUBBORN, OR SMART?

The breed standard for the Pembroke Welsh Corgi states in the section on Overall Impression: “Outlook bold, but kindly. Expression intelligent and interested. Never shy nor vicious.”

The standard does not address what longtime Pembroke fanciers know to be true: This breed is intelligent, clever, and can be conniving to get what they want. In other words, they can be a master at training their owners rather than the other way around.

Newcomers to the breed are often unaware of this trait that was probably



A Pembroke Welsh Corgi puppy shows the desired outlook—bold, but kindly, the expression intelligent and interested.

passed down through their heritage as a herding breed. Pembrokes needed their wiles to manage their livestock as well as their household.

I was watching a video posted on a local Pembroke Facebook page. The owner was frustrated because she was attempting to teach her puppy “down,” and the puppy just was not getting it unless she lured him with a cookie.

The owner never showed the little guy what she wanted. She was luring him

into a down position but gave no additional assistance. Gentle pressure on his shoulders would have put him in the desired position, and then she could reward him with verbal praise followed by the cookie once he was down.

In watching this puppy, it was clear he was totally engaged with his owner. He was trying to do what she asked, but she was not communicating well nor giving rewards in a timely manner. He showed utmost in will- ingness, a trait cherished by

TAMARA NOVA



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anyone who is training in any of the dog sports. Stubborn? Not at all. Yet the puppy was quickly characterized by an overwhelming number of group members as being stubborn, and that it was “the breed”—stubborn.

It is important that long-time fanciers of any breed join some of their local breed Facebook pages if nothing more than to be a persistent source of *correct* breed information, whether in terms of training tips for the breed, health concerns, salient breed characteristics, or referrals to knowledgeable training centers.

A recent post characterized the breed as one that bites. Biting is not the same as nipping, and we do have a few Pembroke who will nip at heels—again, from their herding heritage. And again, suitable, consistent training is all that is needed. Pembroke need boundaries set and consistently enforced.

Others say that the breed is smart, and there is no doubt about that. A

Pembroke tends to learn quickly when given appropriate training. A Pembroke is also a problem solver, figuring out how to get what he wants. A piece of hot dog that sunk to the bottom of the wading pool at a fun day led one Pembroke to frantically dig to get the hot dog to float to the top, then pushed it to the side to eat it off the side of the pool rather than putting his face in the water to do so. He learned to do this by watching a housemate do the same a few years earlier. Another figured out how to circumvent a temporary fence by going up several deck steps, putting himself between the banisters, and then jumping to the ground to freedom. He proudly led his owner to the escape spot and showed her how to do it! An airline crate inside an ex-pen gave the height needed for one Pembroke to jump onto it, then onto the kitchen counter—then onto the floor and freedom. Never underestimate a Pembroke!

The AKC Canine College now has a course available on the breed: https://www.caninecollege.akc.org/visitor_catalog_class/show/1128884

—Lynda McKee,
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Pembroke Welsh Corgi
Club of America

Pulik

WINTER WEATHER AND YOUR PULI

Given the opportunity, your Puli likely enjoys running through the snow, rolling in it, and eating snowflakes. If fully corded, the crisp air that winter brings is most definitely enjoyed by this breed. (I affectionately refer to cold temperatures as “Puli weather.”)

However, while cold air and snow can be fun, it is important to remember that as a Puli owner, you still need to pay attention to how winter weather might impact your dog. For example, the Jan 1974 issue of the AKC Gazette relates a story of three Pulik sent outdoors

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Like many dogs, most Pulis enjoy being out in the snow—but preparedness on the owner's part is essential to protect vulnerable (or any!) dogs from the cold.

unsupervised in Wisconsin, with one dog venturing out on the first crust of ice bordering the lake on the owners' property and falling through the ice. Luckily, the

youngest Puli of the three alerted the owners with its alarm barking, and the Puli was pulled out of the freezing water with no major ill effects.

What happens physiologically with your dog during cold weather? Strenuous exercise in dogs (as with humans), particularly while breathing cold air, results in heat and moisture being lost from the surface of the lower airways of the lungs, resulting in mucosal cooling and desiccation. The combination of exercise and living in a cold environment dramatically increases a dog's daily water requirement.

Studies also suggest that dogs subject to low-temperature exposure need two to three times the normal calories as they need at a more moderate temperature. However, that depends on the activity level of your dog. Less exercise means less calorie expenditure. When dogs are expending fewer calories, they need less food (and treats!).

Is your dog getting enough

COURTESY DAGMAR FERTL

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exercise during colder weather? Very often the level of exercise is likely reflected more by the owner's willingness to brave weather conditions more than the dog's willingness.

Pay attention to your dog and your surroundings. Icy conditions are hard to manage with the likelihood of slipping, falling, or injury to the footpads. Human feet would quickly freeze if exposed to snow and ice without proper footwear. The pads of a dog's feet aren't protected by fur like the rest of their bodies, but there is a countercurrent heat-exchanger (that is, arterial and venous vessels enmeshed with one another) in the footpad. This way, dogs' internal body heat is not lost through the soles of their feet. Instead, cold blood is warmed right in their paws before it re-enters the main blood supply. Plus, most of the core body blood recirculates back into the body, instead of straight to the feet, to keep the animals' temperature consistently warm even

when walking on ice.

One of the biggest nightmares for anyone with a corded Puli is when the dreaded (pardon the pun) snowballs form on the legs and between the toes. While outside running around, your dog's body is generating body heat. The snow attaches to the dog's long hair, melts from the body heat, and forms snow/ice balls that grow larger. Snowballs also can form underneath the paw-pads which they will then be walking on, compacting the snow even more into their fur. This can be painful and distressing for your dog. Dogs often throw themselves to the ground trying to chew them out as fast they can. It is generally recommended not to pull out snowballs by hand or let your dog chew them out. Pulling and chewing the snowballs will pull the hair which can be painful and cause more irritation to the paws. The licking can tear the stressed skin and can create pathways for

infection, including yeasty feet.

So what can you do? Prevention is the best strategy. The AKC provides some good winter dog care and gear tips [here](#). Some of the tips below include information mentioned by the AKC:

- You could invest in dog boots to combat snowballs on dog paws. The problem with using dog boots is that most dogs don't like wearing them, and some won't even walk with them on. If you plan on trying them, be sure to give your dog some time to get used to wearing before you send them out in the snow, and reward them well (i.e., don't wait until that snow hits to ask your dog to wear boots for the first time).
- Paw balm, or paw wax, is another great way to protect your dog's paws from snow, ice, and road salt, which is sharp and often combined with harsh chemicals. (Not only is it an irritant, but it's also potentially toxic if ingested.) The balm will

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protect a barrier between the hair on the paws and the snow, so the snow won't collect in between the pads and on the hair. I did read elsewhere that some people use Vaseline or non-stick spray Pam (or even Crisco!) on paws, but those options seem like a bad choice since they would make the paws slick on ice (not to mention the mess you'd have on your floors).

- Dog pants or a dog snowsuit are not insulated yet provide protection from snow (they would help to prevent snowball formation in the cords and would keep snow from melting into the cords).

- Using warm water to melt snowballs is not really a great option if you have a corded Puli, since the cords don't dry quickly, and you don't want to create a potentially yeasty situation.

- Use a hair-dryer to melt down the snowballs (knowing how most Pulik feel about hair-dryers, this also is probably not the best option for snowball removal).

It is critical to remember that weather extremes are especially hard on very young and senior dogs. Puppies, canine senior citizens, and dogs with underlying health problems cannot regulate their body temperatures as well as healthy dogs in the prime of their lives. An old dog may show signs of a restricted, stiff gait that are especially evident during cold weather. In short, be sure to protect vulnerable (or any!) dogs from the cold.

Given the extreme weather patterns in recent years (for example, the Texas "Snowmageddon," when there was no power or heat for much of a week), it would be good for all of us to consider emergency preparedness. The AKC has prepared an informative page: <https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/health/keep-dog-warm-without-power/>

—Dagmar Fertl,
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 Puli Club of America

Shetland Sheepdogs

WHAT IS EXPRESSION?

Understanding Sheltie expression is paramount when evaluating a Sheltie, whether for purchase, breeding, or judging.

Is expression just the eyes to you, or is it the sum total of the components of the head? How much do the ears play into the effect of how the dog appears to you?

Is expression just the size, shape, set, and color of the eyes, or is there something deeper in the soul of the dog that can be read there?

Sheltie expression is referred to in the standard as "alert, gentle, intelligent and questioning, watchful and reserved toward strangers, but no fear." How can a dog look alert, but gentle, and intelligent, but questioning at the same time? All these things must be apparent while evaluating Sheltie expression.

The Sheltie expression is not that of a terrier who is hoping that squirrel will come just a step or two further down the tree. It is not

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Shetland Sheepdog

staring mindlessly at a bit of food. I think one of the best descriptions I heard many years ago is a “soft, melting expression” that looks into your soul. When that look moves something inside you to connect with the beauty and allure of the perfect proportions of the head and ears, you will begin to understand what the writers

of our standard were trying to convey.

Early on I looked at a lot of Sheltie heads and expressions. I read and reread the standard and tried to apply it technically, looking for smooth cheeks, flat top-skulls, full muzzles, good bites, almond-shaped eye-rims, correct eye color, ear-set, stop, and on and on.

I listened to breed experts and put my hands on numerous dogs, but not until Anne Pepper Power moved into the area years ago and I saw my first Sheltie with what I would describe as the softest melting expression did I truly begin to understand the goal of correct expression. It made me almost want to fall forward and place my hands on the beautiful head-piece, stroke the top skull, and smooth and check the actual stop at the inside corner of the eye... cradle the rounded, full muzzle and gaze at the dark eye set obliquely in the skull with almond-shaped, medium eyes.

The standard goes on to discuss and describe all the pieces of the head, the teeth, the size, tip and placement of the ears, and head carriage. The balance of all these head qualities are vital to producing the correct expression of the Shetland Sheepdog. This is what we are striving for, regardless of color and acceptable markings.

If you are new to breeding,

DAVID WOO ©AKC

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judging or just attracted to the breed, please approach a veteran fancier and ask them to teach you how to evaluate a head correctly. Learn what to look for at each position of your hands, and especially to show you an example of the soft, melting expression. Keep looking at expressions until you have the *Ah-ha* moment and begin to internalize beautiful Sheltie expression.

—Janice M Leonard,
ASSA 50-Year Member
[American Shetland
Sheepdog Association](#)

Swedish Vallhunds

“WHAT DO YOU MEAN, A ‘SHOW DOG’?”

Those should not be the first words you, as the potential owner of a new puppy, speak when the subject comes up. This is probably the third or fourth visit, teleconference, or phone call you have had with the breeder. By this time, you have discussed conformation, temperament, health clearances of the par-

ents and the puppy (if one is available now), and at least a rudimentary discussion of what makes a puppy a show/conformation prospect.

So why is there still confusion?

Ideally, you have met a number of (insert your breed here) and can recognize some of the disqualifying faults of the breed: things like bad bites, incorrect color or pattern, and so on. You should also realize that all puppies in the litter have received the same prenatal care, nutrition, puppy vaccinations, socialization and are (ideally) the result of a carefully planned breeding program.

But not all puppies in a litter are created equal. Some will be show prospects, and others, companion dogs. All (hopefully) will be loved.

Some breeders breed prolifically, with every bitch they own being bred. Others breed selectively, only the best bitch to a similarly outstanding dog, with the intent of keeping the best puppy to

carry on the pedigree lines. This is the point at which the purchase contract comes in, and can make the difference between a frustrated newcomer to the breed and an incipient avid fancier who will go on to contribute to the breed’s legacy.

A contract can do that?

Really? Much depends on how it is written. The intent is that the contract will spell out most clearly the rights and responsibilities of both the breeder and the new owner.

There are attorneys that specialize in contracts. Finding one may be both difficult and costly, but could prevent further expense and heartache down the road.

Factors to look for in the contract

Ownership of the dog. Is it to include the breeder? Co-breeder? Owners’ spouses and/or children? This is a case where “the more” is not necessarily “the merrier.” The AKC is

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Swedish Vallhund puppies, off in dreamland after a play session

not a fan of co-ownerships and states that AKC will not become involved in disputes regarding co-ownerships.

Further, no one person is the primary owner, so financial issues involving general upkeep and medical care, training costs, transportation, entry fees, handler costs (if any) all need to be resolved. The contract is the place to spell out these responsibilities.

Also, it is customary to include a clause specifying the return of the dog to the breeder if, for any reason, the custodial owner is unable to keep the animal.

Naming the puppy can be a really big deal. Breeder and stud-owner kennel names and the order in which they appear can cause arguments. There are also other elements, such as litter themes (“the D litter,” “the

baseball litter”) that may need to be included. Since these will appear on the registration papers and maybe in show catalogs and advertising, names are important. Co-owner/breeders may specify that you may not register your puppy as Spot (for a Dalmatian) or Lassie (for a Collie). You can call the dog anything you like at home, but registered names matter.

COURTESY LAURA KIEDAISCH



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Full versus Limited registration and the ability to change limited to full. A dog on Limited registration can participate in all AKC dog sports except conformation, and its offspring cannot be registered with the AKC. At what point will the breeder reevaluate the puppy to determine if the registration should be changed? How does that shape the puppy's future?

Showing—how much is enough? Who will actually handle the dog? If not one of the owners, how will a handler be chosen? At what costs for boarding, training, travel, and showing? What about grooming? Advertising? How many shows is a fair trial to determine the potential of the dog as a show prospect? How often and for how long will the dog be gone? How will it all be paid for?

Breeding stipulations tend to be more complicated with a bitch. Does the breeder have the right to have a litter from the bitch, either as the co-owner or in other sale

terms of the contract? Who provides the care during gestation, whelps the litter, raises, socializes, vaccinates and places the puppies? What happens if the breeding doesn't take—how many times will the attempt be made to breed the bitch? If there is a litter, do all the owners split all the expenses *and* all the income of the litter?

Ending the co-ownership may occur at a time after contract conditions have been met. Sole ownership is conveyed to only the “pet” owner. This may also include permission to spay/neuter the animal.

Including remedies and damages clauses clarifies what happens if the contract is breached by *either* party. Terms may include returning the dog to the breeder, a co-owner signing off the registration of the dog, and/or financial recompense in the form of attorneys' fees or payment for loss of the dog, as in the case of death of the animal or injuries making the dog unable to be

shown or bred. Specifying maximum financial penalties in advance can reduce litigation time later.

The bottom line: Have frank, open discussions with your prospective breeder about expectations and concerns before an agreement is made, and draft a contract tailored to the terms of that agreement. Then, if you deem it feasible, bring that draft to an attorney experienced in contract law for a last review. This will help you gain assurance that your written co-ownership agreement will achieve your expectations, while protecting you from possible pitfalls.

Lifelong friendships can be made with co-owners and fellow dog sports enthusiasts. A clear, well-designed contract can mark the beginnings of a future of wonderful participation in the wealth of opportunities available to AKC-registered dogs and their families.

—Laura Kiedaisch

[Swedish Vallhund Club of America](#)



SECRETARY'S PAGES

MISSION STATEMENT The American Kennel Club is dedicated to upholding the integrity of its Registry, promoting the sport of purebred dogs and breeding for type and function.

Founded in 1884, the AKC and its affiliated organizations advocate for the purebred dog as a family companion, advance canine health and well-being, work to protect the rights of all dog owners and promote responsible dog ownership.

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THOMAS POWERS

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ROBERT W. MONTLER

ATTENTION DELEGATES

NOTICE OF MEETING

The next meeting of the Delegates will be held at the Rosen Centre Hotel, Orlando, FL on **Friday, December 15, 2023**, beginning no earlier than 10:30 a.m. It will follow the Delegate Forum which will begin at 9:00 a.m.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Bracco Italiano Club of America
Dog Obedience Club of Hollywood

DELEGATE CREDENTIALS

Robin Barkhaus, Hartford, WI,
Kettle Moraine Kennel Club
Wendi Freedman, Milford, NJ,
Old English Sheepdog Club of America
Cindy Grodkiewicz, Glen Gardner, NJ,
American Wirehaired Pointing Griffon
Association
Laura Johnson, Shelton, CT,
American Toy Fox Terrier Club
Mike Kriegel, Stanwood, WA,
Bell Vernon Kennel Association
Margaret Kudirka, Ellicott City, MD,
Dog Owners' Training Club of Maryland



gazette

[Click here to read the December 2023 issue!](#)

Karen Park, Layton, UT,
Mount Ogden Kennel Club

NOTICE

As a result of an Event Committee determination the following individual stands suspended of AKC privileges. It should be noted that this determination may still be appealed and may be reversed. Upon expiration of the appeal process, an appropriate notice describing the status of the individual's suspension, if any, will appear in this column:

Ms. Martha Wilder (Magnolia, TX)

NOTICE

Mr. Cody Bowen (Kerrville, TX). Action was taken by the Austin Kennel Club for conduct at its September 24, 2023 event. Mr. Bowen was charged with inappropriate public criticism of a judge, not disruptive, but demonstrating a lack of sportsmanship and unsportsmanlike conduct during an event. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the Event Committee's report and set the penalty as a combined three-month event suspension and a \$300 fine, effective September 24, 2023. (Dogo Argentinos)

NOTICE

Mr. Bob Burgess (Aurora, CO). Action was taken by the Great Dane Club

of Greater Denver for conduct at its September 22, 2023 event. Mr. Burgess was charged with inappropriate public criticism of a judge, not disruptive, but demonstrating a lack of sportsmanship and set the penalty as a reprimand and a \$50 fine. (Great Danes)

NOTICE

Mr. Jeff Cox (Reno, NV). Action was taken by the Marin Retriever Club for conduct at its September 9, 2023 event. Mr. Cox was charged with inappropriate, abusive, or foul language directed personally towards a judge. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the Event Committee's report and set the penalty as a two-month event suspension and a \$100 fine, effective September 9, 2023. (Labrador Retrievers)

NOTICE

Mr. Paul Dochmaschewsky (Huntington Beach, CA). Action was taken by the Shoreline Dog Fanciers Association of Orange County for conduct at its September 3, 2023 event. Mr. Dochmaschewsky was charged with physical contact of an insulting or provoking nature and inappropriate, abusive, or foul language. The Staff Event committee reviewed the Event Committee's report and set the combined penalty as a three-month suspension from AKC event priv-

ileges and imposed a \$500 fine, effective October 23, 2023. (Golden Retrievers)

NOTICE

Ms. Dee Miller (Bastrop, TX). Action was taken by the Austin Kennel Club for conduct at its September 23, 2023 event. Ms. Miller was charged with inappropriate, abusive, or foul language. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the Event Committee's report and set the penalty as a one-month event suspension and a \$500 fine, effective September 23, 2023. (Cocker Spaniels)

NOTICE

The AKC's Management Disciplinary Committee has suspended Mr. Jeffrey Creasey (Bedford, VA) from all AKC privileges for one year and imposed a \$2,000 fine, for circumvention of suspension, effective November 14, 2023. (St. Bernards)

NOTICE

The AKC's Management Disciplinary Committee has suspended Mr. Mark Gonzalez (Austin, TX) from all AKC privileges for six-months and imposed a \$500 fine, for refusal to make their dogs and records available for inspection when requested, effective November 14, 2023. (French Bulldogs)

NOTICE

The AKC's Management Disciplinary Committee has suspended Mr. Gregory Houser (Dos Palos, CA) from all AKC privileges for a lifetime and imposed a \$10,000 fine, for violation of AKC's Judicial or Administrative Determination of Inappropriate Treatment policy, effective October 10, 2023. (Multiple Breeds)

NOTICE

The AKC's Management Disciplinary Committee has suspended Mr. Matthew Perry (Berkeley, IL) from AKC event privileges for two-months and imposed a \$1,000 fine, for circumvention of suspension, effective November 14, 2023. (Multiple Breeds)

NOTICE

The AKC's Management Disciplinary Committee has suspended Ms. Karla Kay Wormington (Purdy, MO) from all AKC privileges and imposed a \$1,000 fine, for non-compliance with AKC's Care and Conditions Policy (unacceptable conditions, dogs, and/or facility), effective November 14, 2023. (Multiple Breeds)

PROPOSED BEAGLE STANDARD FOR COMMENT:

In accordance with the Guidelines for Breed Standard Revisions this is being

published to receive any comments prior to the balloting of the club membership. Any comments may be forwarded directly to: Mari-Beth O'Neill
VP Sport Services
mbo@akc.org

Head: The *skull* should be fairly long, slightly domed at occiput, with cranium broad and full. *Ears*-Ears set on moderately low, long, reaching when drawn out nearly, if not quite, to the end of the nose; fine in texture, fairly broad-with almost entire absence of erectile power-setting close to the head, with the forward edge slightly inturning to the cheek-rounded at tip. *Eyes*-Eyes large, set well apart-soft and hound-like-expression gentle and pleading; of a brown or hazel color. *Muzzle*-Muzzle of medium length-straight and square-cut-the stop moderately defined. *Jaws*-Level. Lips free from flews; nostrils large and open. Defects-A very flat skull, narrow across the top; excess of dome, eyes small, sharp and terrierlike, or prominent and protruding; muzzle long, snipy or cut away decidedly below the eyes, or very short. Roman-nosed, or upturned, giving a dish-face expression. Ears short, set on high or with a tendency to rise above the point of origin.

Body: *Neck and Throat*-Neck rising free and light from the shoulders strong in substance yet not loaded, of medium length.

The throat clean and free from folds of skin; a slight wrinkle below the angle of the jaw, however, may be allowable. Defects-A thick, short, cloddy neck carried on a line with the top of the shoulders. Throat showing dewlap and folds of skin to a degree termed "throatiness."

Shoulders and Chest: Shoulders sloping-clean, muscular, not heavy or loaded-conveying the idea of freedom of action with activity and strength. Chest deep and broad, but not broad enough to interfere with the free play of the shoulders. Defects-Straight, upright shoulders. Chest disproportionately wide or with lack of depth.

Back, Loin and Ribs: Back short, muscular and strong. Loin broad and slightly arched, and the ribs well sprung, giving abundance of lung room. Defects-Very long or swayed or roached back. Flat, narrow loin. Flat ribs.

Forelegs and Feet: Forelegs-Straight, with plenty of bone in proportion to size of the hound. Pasterns short and straight. Feet-Close, round and firm. Pad full and hard. Defects-Out at elbows. Knees knuckled over forward, or bent backward. Forelegs crooked or Dachshund-like. Feet long, open or spreading.

Hips, Thighs, Hind Legs and Feet:

Hips and thighs strong and well muscled, giving abundance of propelling power. Stifles strong and well let down. Hocks firm, symmetrical and moderately bent. Feet close and firm. Defects-Cowhocks, or straight hocks. Lack of muscle and propelling power. Open feet.

Tail: Set moderately high; carried gaily, but not turned forward over the back; with slight curve; short as compared with size of the hound; with brush. Defects-A long tail. Teapot curve or inclined forward from the root. Rat tail with absence of brush.

Coat: A close, hard, hound coat of medium length. Defects-A short, thin coat, or of a soft quality.

Color: ~~Any true hound color.~~ Any allowed hound color. Merle and brindle colors patterns are not acceptable and shall be disqualified.

General Appearance: A miniature Foxhound, solid and big for his inches, with the wear-and-tear look of the hound that can last in the chase and follow his quarry to the death.

Scale of Points

Head

Skull	5
Ears	10

Eyes	5	
Muzzle	5	25
<i>Body</i>		
Neck	5	
Chest and Shoulders	15	
Back, Loin and Ribs	15	35
<i>Running Gear</i>		
Forelegs	10	
Hips, Thighs and Hind legs	10	
Feet	10	30
Coat	5	
Stern	5	10
Total	100	

Varieties: There shall be two varieties: Thirteen Inch-which shall be for hounds not exceeding 13 inches in height. Fifteen Inch-which shall be for hounds over 13 but not exceeding 15 inches in height.

Disqualification: *Any hound measuring more than 15 inches shall be disqualified.*

Packs of Beagles

Score of Points for Judging

Hounds

General Levelness of Pack	40%
Individual Merit of Hounds	<u>30%</u>
	70%
Manners	20%
Appointments	<u>10%</u>
Total	100%

Levelness of Pack: The first thing in a pack to be considered is that they present a unified appearance. The hounds must be as near to the same height, weight, conformation and color as possible.

Individual Merit of the Hounds: Is the individual bench-show quality of the hounds. A very level and sporty pack can be gotten together and not a single hound be a good Beagle. This is to be avoided.

Manners: The hounds must all work gaily and cheerfully, with flags up-obeying all commands cheerfully. They should be broken to heel up, kennel up, follow promptly and stand. Cringing, sulking, lying down to be avoided. Also, a pack must not work as though in terror of master and whips. In Beagle packs it is recommended that the whip be used as little as possible.

Appointments: Master and whips should be dressed alike, the master or huntsman to carry horn the whips and master to carry light thong whips. One whip should carry extra couplings on shoulder strap.

Recommendations for Show Livery: *Black velvet cap, white stock, green coat, white breeches, or knickerbockers, green or black stockings, white spats, black or dark brown shoes. Vest and gloves optional. Ladies should turn out exactly the same except for a*

white skirt instead of white breeches.

PROPOSED SCHIPPERKE STANDARD FOR COMMENT:

In accordance with the Guidelines for Breed Standard Revisions this is being published to receive any comments prior to the balloting of the club membership. Any comments may be forwarded directly to: Mari-Beth O'Neill
VP Sport Services
mbo@akc.org

General Appearance: The Schipperke is an agile, active watchdog and hunter of vermin. In appearance he is a small, thick-set, cobby, black, ~~tailless~~ dog, traditionally docked to appear tailless, with a fox-like face. The dog is square in profile and possesses a distinctive coat, which includes a stand-out ruff, cape and culottes. All of these create a unique silhouette, appearing to slope from shoulders to croup. Males are decidedly masculine without coarseness. Bitches are decidedly feminine without overrefinement. Any deviation from the ideal described in the standard should be penalized to the extent of the deviation. Faults common to all breeds are as undesirable in the Schipperke as in any other breed, even though such faults may not be specifically mentioned in the standard.

Size, Proportion, Substance: *Size* -

The suggested height at the highest point of the withers is 11 to 13 inches for males and 10 to 12 inches for bitches. Quality should always take precedence over size.

Proportion - Square in profile. *Substance* - Thickset.

Head: *Expression* - The expression is questioning, mischievous, impudent and alert, but never mean or wild. The well proportioned head, accompanied by the correct eyes and ears, will give the dog proper Schipperke expression. *Skull* - The skull is of medium width, narrowing toward the muzzle. Seen in profile with the ears laid back, the skull is slightly rounded. The upper jaw is moderately filled in under the eyes, so that, when viewed from above, the head forms a wedge tapering smoothly from the back of the skull to the tip of the nose. The stop is definite but not prominent. The length of the muzzle is slightly less than the length of the skull. *Eyes* - The ideal eyes are small, oval rather than round, dark brown, and placed forward on the head. *Ears* - The ears are small, triangular, placed high on the head, and, when at attention, very erect. A drop ear or ears is a disqualification. *Nose* - The nose is small and black. *Bite* - The bite must be scissors or level. Any deviation is to be severely penalized.

Neck, Topline Body: *Neck* - The neck is

of moderate length, slightly arched and in balance with the rest of the dog to give the correct silhouette. *Topline* - The topline is level or sloping slightly from the withers to the croup. The stand-out ruff adds to the slope, making the dog seem slightly higher at the shoulders than at the rump. *Body* -

The chest is broad and deep, and reaches to the elbows. The well sprung ribs (modified oval) are wide behind the shoulders and taper to the sternum. The forechest extends in front of the shoulders between the front legs. The loin is short, muscular and moderately drawn up. The croup is broad and well-rounded. ~~with the tail docked. No tail is visually discernible.~~ If the tail is docked it should create a tailless appearance.

Undocked, the tail may be carried high over the back, may curl or hang straight. It is acceptable for the tail to drop when relaxed.
Partial or bobbed tails are allowed.

Forequarters: The shoulders are well laid back, with the legs extending straight down from the body when viewed from the front. From the side, legs are placed well under the body. Pasterns are short, thick and strong, but still flexible, showing a slight angle when viewed from the side. Dewclaws are generally removed. Feet are small, round and tight. Nails are short, strong and black.

Hindquarters: The hindquarters appear slightly lighter than the forequarters, but are well muscled, and in balance with the front. The hocks are well let down and the stifles are well bent. Extreme angulation is to be penalized. From the rear, the legs extend straight down from the hip through the hock to the feet. Dewclaws must be removed.

Coat: *Pattern* - The adult coat is highly characteristic and must include several distinct lengths growing naturally in a specific pattern. The coat is short on the face, ears, front of the forelegs and on the hocks; it is medium length on the body, and longer in the ruff, cape, jabot and culottes. The ruff begins in back of the ears and extends completely around the neck; the cape forms an additional distinct layer extending beyond the ruff; the jabot extends across the chest and down between the front legs. The hair down the middle of the back, starting just behind the cape forms an additional distinct layer extending beyond the ruff; the jabot extends across the chest and down between the front legs. The hair down the middle of the back, starting just behind the cape and continuing over the rump, lies flat. It is slightly shorter than the cape but longer than the hair on the sides of the body and sides of the legs. The coat on the rear of the thighs forms culottes, which should be as long as

the ruff. Length of hair on the tail is in balance with the rest of the dog's coat. Lack of differentiation in coat lengths should be heavily penalized, as it is an essential breed characteristic.

Texture - The coat is abundant, straight and slightly harsh to the touch. The softer undercoat is dense and short on the body and is very dense around the neck, making the ruff stand out. Silky coats, body coats over three inches in length or very short harsh coats are equally incorrect.

Trimming - As the Schipperke is a natural breed, only trimming of the whiskers and the hair between the pads of the feet is optional. Any other trimming must not be done.

Color: The outercoat must be black. Any color other than a natural black is a disqualification. The undercoat, however, may be slightly lighter. During the shedding period, the coat might take on a transitory reddish cast, which is to be penalized to the degree that it detracts from the overall black appearance of the dog. Graying due to age (seven years or older) or occasional white hairs should not be penalized.

Gait: Proper Schipperke movement is a smooth, well coordinated and graceful trot (basically double tracking at a moderate speed), with a tendency to gradually

converge toward the center of balance beneath the dog as speed increases. Front and rear must be in perfect balance with good reach in front and drive in the rear. The topline remains level or slightly sloping downward from the shoulders to the rump. Viewed from the front, the elbows remain close to the body. The legs form a straight line from the shoulders through the elbows to the toes, with the feet pointing straight ahead. From the rear, the legs form a straight line from the hip through the hocks to the pads, with the feet pointing straight ahead.

Temperament: The Schipperke is curious, interested in everything around him, and is an excellent and faithful little watchdog. He is reserved with strangers and ready to protect his family and property if necessary. He displays a confident and independent personality, reflecting the breed's original purpose as watchdog and hunter of vermin.

Disqualifications:

A drop ear or ears.

Any color other than a natural black.

CONFORMATION JUDGES

Letters concerning judges and provisional judges should be addressed to the Judging Operations Department at PO Box 900062, Raleigh, NC 27675-9062. Letters

concerning Agility, Obedience, Rally, Tracking, and VST applicants should be addressed to the Companion Events Department in North Carolina.

The American Kennel Club will, at the request of a judge or judge applicant, provide that individual with copies of letters received regarding their judging qualifications. As a result, it should be understood that any such correspondence will be made available, upon request, to the judge or judge applicant.

It is the responsibility of all Conformation and Junior Showmanship judges to notify the Judging Operations Department of any changes or corrections to their address, phone, fax or emails. These changes are very important because they affect your judges' record, the web site and the Judges Directory. Please notify Judging Operations by email at judgingops@akc.org.

APPLICANTS

The following persons applications have been submitted for the breed(s) specified ***but they are NOT eligible to accept assignments.***

NEW BREED JUDGING APPLICANTS

Ms. Sheila Taylor Allen (66830) WA

(425) 334-0681

sheez-beez@comcast.net

Smooth Fox Terriers

Mr. James Dickson (97563) NJ

(973) 229-8242

tajback4z@gmail.com

Pointers, English Cocker Spaniels,
English Springer Spaniels, Welsh
Springer Spaniels, Great Pyrenees,
Border Terriers, Smooth Fox Terriers,
Wire Fox Terriers, Irish Terriers, Norfolk
Terriers, Norwich Terriers, Soft Coated
Wheaten Terriers, Welsh Terrier, White
Highland White Terriers

Mrs. Marissa Hendrix (113279) AR

(479) 263-7199

arkgoldens@gmail.com

Golden Retrievers, JS-Limited

Ms. Lalaine Policar (113283) CA

(760) 686-7232

lalinapolicar@yahoo.com

Bulldogs

Ms. Jill Kathleen Sherrin (110721) AZ

(520) 982-3600

cambrycecaivaliers@hotmail.com

Cavalier King Charles Spaniels

Mr. Remy L. Smith-Lewis (109351) CA

(707) 208-0435

rsmithlewis@gmail.com

Portuguese Water Dogs

ADDITIONAL BREED JUDGING APPLICANTS

Ms. Shira Lee Barkon (108315) PA

(610) 587-5542

snocrest1@gmail.com

Doberman Pinschers, Dogo Argentinos,
Dogues de Bordeaux, Great Pyrenees,

Kuvaszok, Saint Bernards

Mrs. Mary E. Benedict (66054) NY

(585) 747-5380

longacrecollies@yahoo.com

Belgian Laekenois, German Shepherd
Dogs, Norwegian Buhunds, Pyrenean
Shepherds

Mr. Dean Burwell (103997) SC

(803) 831-8375

dean@pawgate.com

Cairn Terriers, Wire Fox Terriers,
Miniature Schnauzers, Welsh Terriers

Mrs. Carrie A. Chase (36690) WV

(202) 365-4752

humnbirdcorgis@gmail.com

Beagles, Bluetick Coonhounds,
Dachshunds, Greyhounds, Whippets

Mrs. Linda Clark (94461) OK

(918) 625-8124

lclarkat@aol.com

German Shorthaired Pointers, Boykin
Spaniels, Clumber Spaniels, Sussex
Spaniels, Welsh Springer Spaniels,
Wirehaired Pointing Griffons

Mrs. Terry Dennison (47424) AK

(907) 775-2913

katagnik@yahoo.com

Australian Cattle Dogs, Beaucerons,
Belgian Tervurens, Bergamasco
Sheepdogs, Border Collies, Entlebucher
Mountain Dogs, Finnish Lapphunds,
Norwegian Buhunds, Pumik

Mrs. Edy Dykstra-Blum (20342) FL

(352) 465-7142

bizzeebootsoes@gmail.com
Affenpinschers, Papillons, Pekingese,
Pomeranians

Ms. Denise Flaim (100561) NY

(516) 509-5214
denise@revodanapublishing.com
Balance of Non-Sporting (Bichons Frises,
Boston Terriers, Cotons du Tulear,
Finnish Spitz, Keeshonden, Lhasa Apsos,
Norwegian Lundehunds, Schipperkes,
Shiba Inu, Tibetan Spaniels)

Mr. Rick Fowler (105295) TX

(214) 914-9335
richf45882@aol.com
Airedale Terriers, West Highland White
Terriers

Mrs. Junko Guichon (111435) VA

(540) 247-1121
junko@guichonchi.com
Affenpinschers, Chinese Cresteds,
Papillons

Mr. Duff M. Harris (91790) CA

(714) 425-0454
allegro6@ix.netcom.com
Boxers, Dogo Argentinos, Great Danes,
Great Pyrenees, Kuvaszok, Tibetan
Mastiffs

Cynthia Hutt (95461) CO

(720) 933-8328
lagicfern@gmail.com
Balance of Working Group (Boxers,
Cane Corsos, Chinooks, Great Danes,
Newfoundlands)

Mrs. Joan Luna Liebes (6515) CO

(719) 749-0232
joanluna@hotmail.com
Balance of Sporting Group (Bracci
Italiani, Curly-Coated Retrievers,
Labrador Retrievers, Sussex Spaniels,
Wirehaired Vizslas)

Dr. Camille McArdle (66682) MN

(612) 743-7329
camillemca@gmail.com
Boxers, Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs,
Rottweilers

Mrs. Cindy Meyer (15141) IL

(815) 332-4848
bckennel@aol.com
Balance of Hound Group (Bloodhounds,
Borzois, English Foxhounds, Harriers,
Scottish Deerhounds)

Mrs. Sandra K. Nadalin (104545) OH

(614) 877-3047
sknadalin@earthlink.net
Boxers, Siberian Huskies

Mrs. Diane K. Ondo (95991) PA

(610) 970-9122
melcain@verizon.net
Chinese Cresteds, Pugs

Ms. Louise Palarik (6054) IL

(847) 487-5677
colliejudge@juno.com
Balance of Hound Group (American
Foxhounds, Cirnechi dell'Etna, English
Foxhounds, Norwegian Elkhounds,
Scottish Deerhounds)

Mr. Jerry Parisek (97009) FL

(847) 507-3911

jeromeparisek@gmail.com

Affenpinschers, Brussels Griffons,
Cavalier King Charles Spaniels,
Chinese Cresteds, Italian Greyhounds,
Manchester Terriers, Pekingese, Poodles,
Shih Tzu, Toy Fox Terriers, Collies

Mr. John C. Ramirez (1814) CA

(310) 991-0241

jrami68620@aol.com

Balance of Non-Sporting Group (Bichons
Frises, Cotons du Tular, Dalmatians,
Keeshonden, Tibetan Spaniels)

Mrs. Charlene Rutar (94495) IN

(317) 989-3120

whiteriver.gsp@gmail.com

Finnish Spitz, Lhasa Apsos, Shiba Inu

Mrs. Janice K. Schreiber (17450) WA

(253) 846-7999

ashenafea@msn.com

Pointers, German Shorthaired Pointers,
Chesapeake Bay Retrievers, Flat Coated
Retrievers, Nova Scotia Duck Tolling
Retrievers, English Setters, Field Spaniels,
Weimaraners

Mr. Karl M. Stearns (101597) PA

(570) 595-3097

kstearns@kmstearns.com

Wire Fox Terriers, Glen of Imaal
Terriers, Sealyham Terriers

Mr. Gary Stiles (51717) WA

(360) 770-6690

lacasitas@aol.com

Boxers, Bullmastiffs

Ms. Kathy L. Wilkins (6799) GA

(770) 315-4452

lochlynfarm@gmail.com

Chihuahuas, Border Collies, German
Shepherd Dogs, Miniature American
Shepherds

Ms. Pamela Wilson (64914) TX

(512) 280-3103

wilscot@sbcglobal.net

Chinese Cresteds, Havanese, Japanese
Chins, Russian Toys, Yorkshire Terriers

Ms. Leigh Ann Yandle (82616) GA

(704) 904-8129

leighannyandle@gmail.com

Bearded Collies, Finnish Lapphunds,
Mudik, Pulik, Pyrenean Shepherds,
Spanish Water Dogs, Swedish Vallhunds

Mrs. Lisa Young (43070) AZ

(605) 390-1135

youngsongbeagles@gmail.com

American English Coonhounds,
Azawakhs

**JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP JUDGING
APPLICANTS**

Mrs. Beth Downey (102539) MS

(410) 829-2455

bethdowney539@gmail.com

JS

Mrs. Brandi Jakola (113306) TX

(405) 246-6383

twisterknl@gmail.com

JS

Mrs. Pamela Schroeder (108285) WA

(778) 834-0059
pam@schroeder.bc.ca
JS-Limited

Mr. Scott Toney (110847) NC

(704) 968-4491
midwoodchin@gmail.com
JS-Limited

PERMIT JUDGES

The following persons have been approved on a **Permit** basis for the designated breeds in accordance with the current judging approval process. *They may now accept assignments* and the fancy may still offer comments to Judging Operations.

NEW BREED PERMIT JUDGES

Mr. Israel Garcia (111901) TX

(512) 605-7658
izzy-garcia@hotmail.com
Afghan Hounds

Starkey R. Green (112953) TX

greenstonelabradors@gmail.com
Labrador Retrievers

Dr. Candace Lundin (112536) VA

(540) 869-1238
fzureick@earthlink.net
Russell Terriers

Kimberly (Kim) Rutherford (112975) TX

(903) 388-2505
briobostons@icloud.com
Boxers, Boston Terriers

Mrs. Mary Lee Shingle (113021) PA

dmshingl@verion.net
Collies

Mr. Greg Speeks (113035) VA

(804) 241-9409
gregspeeks@icloud.com
Shetland Sheepdogs

Ms. Anita Osborne Wright (112733) NC

(910) 324-5701
dracopaps@yahoo.com
Papillons

ADDITIONAL BREED PERMIT JUDGES

Mr. Phil Briasco (66406) FL

(352) 427-6992
aranisle@cfl.rr.com
English Toy Spaniels, Japanese Chins,
Miniature Pinschers, Toy Fox Terriers,
Yorkshire Terriers

Mrs. Kathleen J. Brock (47792) WA

(253)988-1764
toccatacockers@aol.com
Black and Tan Coonhounds,
Greyhounds, Portuguese Podengo
Pequenos

Ms. Kathi Brown (55262) MA

(978) 897-4717
kmbrownsience@verizon.net
American English Coonhounds, Borzois,
English Foxhounds, Harriers, Plott
Hounds, Scottish Deerhounds

Mrs. Shawn Brown (106053) CA

(530) 530-1106
alj.ranch@gmail.com

Portuguese Podengo Pequenos, Russian Toys

Ms. JoAnne M. Buehler (22770) FL

(301) 590-9056
joanneb@his.com

Keeshonden, Beaucerons, Bergamasco Sheepdogs, Briards, Old English Sheepdogs

Ms. Kimberly Cardona (110939) FL

(407) 460-0089
vomdrakkenfels@gmail.com

Anatolian Shepherd Dogs, Boxers, Chinooks, Doberman Pinschers, Dogo Argentinos, Dogues de Bordeaux

Diane Collings (94897) CA

(415) 990-3317
dianecollings@verizon.net

Lagotti Romagnoli, Australian Shepherds, Bergamasco Sheepdogs, Berger Picards, Entlebucher Mountain Dogs

Mr. Lloyd J. Constantine-Amodei (95053) FL

(215) 570-6674
ljamodei@gmail.com

Irish Terriers, Skye Terriers

Ms. Dawn D. Danner (93357) OR

(503) 626-6124
sunsetdobe@aol.com

Portuguese Water Dogs, Samoyeds

Elizabeth Greenfield (65122) NY

(315) 363-0012
grnelzb@aol.com

Flat Coated Retrievers

Gigi Griffith (109593) TN

(760) 908-8188
terranova57@gmail.com

Akitas, Bullmastiffs, Samoyeds, Australian Shepherds, German Shepherd Dogs

Mrs. Debra Long Gschwender (18252) ID

(208) 477-3925
dlgschwender@gmail.com

Lagotti Romagnoli, Golden Retrievers, Clumber Spaniels, English Cocker Spaniels, Wirehaired Pointing Griffons

Mr. Jason M. Hoke (92952) WI

(646) 241-5800
jasonhoke@aol.com

Balance of Non-Sporting Group (Norwegian Lundehunds), Barbets, Bracci Italiani, Brittanys, Chesapeake Bay Retrievers, American Water Spaniels, Boykin Spaniels, Clumber Spaniels

Ms. Cheri Hollenback (71029) ID

(509) 993-4504
cascadesamoyeds@aol.com

Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs, Kuvaszok, Newfoundlands

Mr. Jamie Hubbard (80432) IN

(812) 322-7978
ozjamiehubbard@gmail.com

Beaucerons, Bouviers des Flandres, Collies, Norwegian Buhunds, Pyrenean Shepherds, Spanish Water Dogs

Mr. Gregg G. Kantik (94772) MD

(301) 392-3646
greggkantak@yahoo.com

Bichons Frises, Chinese Shar-Pei, Cotons

du Tulear, Finnish Spitz, Lhasa Apsos,
Lowchen, Shiba Inu, Xoloitzcuintli

Mr Dale A. Meyer (6655) WI

(715) 654-5330

meyerd@tds.net

Barbets, Bracci Italiani, Gordon Setters,
English Springer Spaniels, Wirehaired
Pointing Griffons

Ms. Mary C. Murphy-East (36967) MN

(763) 291-2263

marmcmurph@aol.com

Gordon Setters, Wirehaired Vizslas

Ms. Susan M. Napady (95639) IN

(219) 762-5203

susan.napady@frontier.com

Smooth Fox Terriers, Miniature Bull
Terriers, Norwich Terriers, Parson
Russell Terriers, Rat Terriers, Skye
Terriers, Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers,
Welsh Terriers, American Eskimo Dogs

Mrs. Jean Pero (30743) CO

(303) 475-7302

jmpero3@gmail.com

Affenpinschers, Biewer Terriers, Brussels
Griffons, Chinese Cresteds, Papillons,
Pugs

Mrs. Marilyn Y. Pipes (29634) TX

(214) 208-4898

willmarpp1@gmail.com

Australian Shepherds, Mudik, Pumik,
Shetland Sheepdogs

Mrs. Jean Shepherd (95654) MN

(507) 482-6611

jfshephe213@gmail.com

Barbets, Bracci Italiani, Boykin Spaniels,
Irish Water Spaniels

Mrs. Carol Sommerfelt (7007) TN

(865) 986-1614

carolsommerfelt@gmail.com

Beaucerons, Belgian Laekenois, Berger
Picards, Entlebucher Mountain Dogs,
Finnish Lapphunds, Miniature American
Shepherds, Mudik, Norwegian Buhunds,
Polish Lowland Sheepdogs, Pumik,
Spanish Water Dogs, Swedish Vallhunds

Mrs. Wendy Sorrell (75680) TN

(865) 900-2112

sorrellwendy2@gmail.com

Samoyeds

Mrs. Deborah Y. Verdon (7115) TX

(985) 788-1940

debverdon33@gmail.com

Belgian Malinois

Mr. Cledith M. Wakefield (80829) MO

(573) 760-3616

n2rotts@yahoo.com

Belgian Laekenois, Belgian Malinois,
Belgian Sheepdogs, German Shepherd
Dogs, Pumik

Ms. Cynthia Woodward (105631) TX

(501) 425-3454

cyndrwood@yahoo.com

Boxers, Dogo Argentinos, German
Pinschers, Great Danes, American
Hairless Terriers

Mr. Wood Wornall (95931) DE

(805) 264-3304

woodwornall@hotmail.com

Boston Terriers, Chinese Shar-Pei,
Chow Chows, Dalmatians, Schipperkes,
Tibetan Terriers, Xoloitzcuintli

ADJUNCT PERMIT JUDGE

The following person has been approved on a **Permit** basis for the designated breeds in accordance with the current judging approval system. *They may now accept assignments.*

Mr. Jeffrey Kestner (100655) OH

(614) 571-7524
kestnerj@aol.com
Lancashire Heelers

JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP PERMIT JUDGES

Ms. Karen Marie Duprat (112779) MA

(413) 569-2029
kduprat@aol.com
JS

Mr. Edward A. Fojtik (104757) IL

(847) 254-6166
efojtik@aol.com
JS

Ms. Sarah Malinowski (112709) VA

(320) 296-6378
snmalinowski20@gmail.com
JS

Ms. Isabel N. Ososki (109565) IL

(618) 444-8034
silverthreadcollies@prodigy.net
JS-Limited

CONFORMATION JUDGE: RESIGNED

BREED OR JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP

The judge below has notified AKC to resign their privileges for the following:

Mr. Kim Griffith

Junior Showmanship

EMERITUS CONFORMATION JUDGE

Mrs. Jane S. Watkins

DECEASED CONFORMATION JUDGE

Mr. Carl E. Gomes

REGULAR STATUS APPROVED

OBEDIENCE/RALLY/TRACKING JUDGES

The following persons have completed their Provisional Judging assignments and their names have been added to the list of regular approved judges for the class indicated.

Carolee Boyles (105173) FL

(813) 431-4304
carolee@caroleeboylesmediagroup.com
Obedience – Novice

Ted Jewell (106162) MN

(612) 747-3429
nigelbeag@aol.com
Tracking – TD/TDU

NEW PROVISIONAL OBEDIENCE/RALLY/ TRACKING JUDGES

The following persons have been approved as a judge on a Provisional basis for the class/test indicated in accordance

with the Provisional judging system. They may now accept assignments.

Gail Katz (107964)

(626) 253-0060

smlact@aol.com

Obedience – Novice

Donna Meade (6982) CA

(571) 275-1226

meadedonna@ymail.com

Rally – All

EMERITUS OBEDIENCE AND RALLY JUDGES

Kenneth Blanchard – Obedience (CA)

Faye Head – Rally (TN)

Harold Doan – Obedience & Rally (FL)

Rose Doan – Obedience & Rally (FL)

APPLICATION FOR BREED-SPECIFIC REGISTERED NAME PREFIX

The following applications for a breed-specific Registered Name Prefix have been submitted to The American Kennel Club.

74 RANCH – Miniature American Shepherds- Michelle E. Herbst & Thomas L. Herbst

ALPTRAUM- Belgian Malinois- Brittany Roberts

BELL SHARPS- Australian Shepherds- Kaity C. Sevits

KEB BORDEAUX -Dogue de Bordeaux- Liroi Kennedy

SHOCKEYHAUS- German Shepherds -Sydney A. Shockey

SHOCKEYHAUS- Belgian Malinois – Sydney A. Shockey

SHOREPOINT- Poodles- Mary Lou Parsons

SNOWMANS- Beagles- Rick Jay Snow

SOLUNA-Chinese Cresteds- Dina Berrios-Fischer

STORY TIME- Cavalier King Charles Spaniels- Kimberly Blomquist

SUMMER MOON-Bulldog- Jennifer M. Cuipylo-Benedict

SUMMER MOON- French Bulldogs- Jennifer M. Cuipylo-Benedict

VITA FELICE= Lagotto Romagnolo- Helen Korbut

REGISTERED NAME PREFIXES GRANTED

The following applications for a breed-specific Registered Name Prefix have been granted.

AQUARIUIS- Pomeranians – Elaine S. Griffin

BISOU- Biewer Terriers- Jennie Lucier

CHITAWEE- French Bulldogs- Kathy Clayton

EBULLIENT-French Bulldogs- Claudette A. Parker

HUNTSMAN- Norfolk Terriers-Robyn H. Snyder

HYLAND-Chihuahuas- Joao Machado

LANSER- Doberman Pinschers- Fallon A. Houser

MIAMOR - Havanese- Kathy T. Spruiell

MARCHETA-Cavalier King Charles

Spaniels-Alisha M. Harper
MIDNIGHT SUN- Icelandic Sheepdogs-
Audra M. Accola & Brian G. Accola
OZARK LEGENDS- Newfoundlands-
Kimberly S. Ohse
RADIEUX- French Bulldogs- Debra J.
Bruce
SUSQUDILLA- Chesapeake Bay Retrievers-
Robyn Haskin
SUSQUDILLA- Nova Scotia Duck Toll-
ing Retrievers-Robyn Haskin
TANDEM- Miniature American Shepherds-
Regina L. Blair & Jaisa R. Blair
TENAJEFF- Biewer Terriers- Janet L.
Smith & Jeff Smith



MEETING of the BOARD OF DIRECTORS
AKC Offices at 101 Park Avenue,
New York, NY
November 13-14, 2023

The Board convened on Monday, November 13, 2023, at 8:30 a.m. Eastern Time.

All Directors were present in the New York office. The Executive Secretary was also present.

Copies of the October 9-10, 2023, Board Meeting minutes had been previously provided to all Directors for review.

Upon a motion by Mr. Powers, seconded by Mr. Sweetwood, the October 2023 Board Meeting minutes were unanimously approved as amended.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Sprung updated the Board on several business matters and on past action items.

Registration: September YTD Litters are at 249,436, and Individual Dogs are at 524,936.

Mark Dunn reports that economic uncertainty seems to be negatively affecting litter

volume. This, combined with demographic shifts, presents significant challenges, making our decisions to seek out diversification into other profitable endeavors more meaningful. Mark will be presenting today on these issues and opportunities.

Sports and Events is experiencing a record level of activity. September YTD Events are up 7% or 1,286, and entries increased by 5% or 126,080. These increases are led by Fast CAT®, Scent Work, Conformation, Agility, and Rally (in that order). It should be noted that just one of our traditional sports is in the top five.

There are many more advances for our Brand from the Media and Sponsorship department that will be presented later in the meeting.

AKC Meet the Breeds® will be held again at the Javits Center on January 27-28, 2024. Fortunately, there will be 10,000 additional square feet for our use.

Staff under the leadership of Heather McManus, AKC General Counsel, conducted a comprehensive review and renewal of AKC's insurance policies.

Mr. Sprung reported that he had suggested that the library sell excess book inventory, which includes multiple copies of editions

that are not necessary to own nor to pay for warehousing, with the first offers going to Parent Club members. It was a success, and the initial orders received from Parent Club members were over 30. Mr. Sprung has also discussed with the Museum a similar opportunity for artwork in storage that is not Museum quality and will most likely never be displayed in the Museum. Many of these pieces would be in demand by members of the fancy and proceeds could be used to enhance each collection further.

The new 23rd edition of The American Kennel Club's Complete Dog Book is now available for sale in bookstores and online, including on Amazon.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was an EXECUTIVE SESSION to discuss sensitive business matters. Nothing was reported out of this session.

Board Governance

David A. Shevlin and Maura L. Whelan from Simpson Thacher & Bartlett LLP presented information on Board Governance and the Responsibilities and Legal Duties of Directors.

2024 Budget

The 2024 Budget, as described in Mr. Sprung's introduction letter to the Board, was built upon a plan that will allow AKC

to continue to invest in the corporation, to take actions to drive long-term growth, and to be stronger than ever. This Budget will allow us to focus on investing in and supporting our Clubs, Breeders, Systems and Technology, Customer Service, Data, Brand, and Employees. It also allows us to continue making donations of over \$5 million to the AKC Canine Health Foundation, AKC Museum of the Dog, AKC Humane Fund, and other dog-related organizations. This budget was constructed with the understanding that there are still many economic unknowns as we head into 2024 that are outside of AKC's control, including the cost-of-living crisis, interest rate hikes by the Federal Reserve Bank, continuing war in Ukraine, and the lingering COVID-19 pandemic.

Following questions on registration and new business opportunities, Mark Dunn presented the Staff positions.

After discussion, there was a motion by Mr. Smyth, seconded by Mr. Powers, and the Board VOTED (unanimously) to approve the 2024 Budget.

Legal Update

The Board reviewed the Legal Department update as of October 2023.

CMS Upgrade Project

Doug Ljungren, Executive Vice President, of Sports & Events; Keith Frazier, Executive Vice President, Business Support Services; Torraine Williams, Director of Engineering; and Alan Slay, Director of Event Programs, participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

A year-end progress report for the CMS Upgrade Project was presented. The purpose of the CMS Upgrade Project is to provide a comprehensive system that enables all users to collaboratively exchange information to manage their involvement with AKC Sports and events efficiently. It is a three-year project. Key accomplishments in 2023 were reviewed, as well as program development that is currently underway.

FINANCE

Ted Phillips, Chief Financial Officer, presented preliminary financial statements (unaudited) as of September 30, 2023.

Unaudited Financial Results for the nine months ended September 30, 2023.

Net Operating Income is \$10.2 million.

REVENUES:

Total Revenues of \$76.3 million are lower than budget by 2%, excluding Interest &

Dividends.

Registration Fees, excluding Registration-Related revenues, total \$29.7 million and trail by 4%.

Registration-related Revenues exceeded budget by \$77k or 1%.

Recording & Event Service fees, Title Recognition, and Event Application fees total \$12.9 million and are higher than budget by 6%.

Product & Service Sales total \$8.9 million are lower by 11%.

Advertising, Sponsorship, and Royalties total \$14.3 million, which are higher than the budget by <1%.

EXPENSES:

Controllable Expenses total \$59.4 million and are lower than budget by \$4.5 million or 7%. Non-controllable expenses are higher than budget by \$25k or <1%.

Non-Financial Statistics for the 9 months ended September 30, 2023

Registrations: 2023 YTD Litter Reg. <1% higher than budget, 9% lower than 2022 YTD.

2023 YTD Dog Reg. 9% trailing budget, 15% lower than 2022 YTD.

Events & Entries

Compared to the same period in 2022, Events are 7% ahead, and Entries are 5% higher YTD.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Gina DiNardo, Executive Secretary, and Brandi Hunter-Munden, Vice President, Communications and Public Relations, participated in this portion of the meeting. Mari-Beth O'Neill, Vice President of Sports Services, and Sheila Goffe, Vice President of Government Relations, participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

2024 and 2025 Delegate and Board

Meetings

The Board reviewed the 2024 Board meeting dates, which were approved in October of 2022, and the proposed Board and Delegate meeting dates for 2025. Following a motion by Dr. Davies, seconded by Dr. Battaglia, the Board VOTED to move the May 2024 meeting dates to Thursday and Friday, May 9-10. They also approved the proposed Board and Delegate meeting dates for 2025. (Appendix A)

Delegate Bylaws Committee

Recommendation to require a Fee to File a Complaint

The Delegate Bylaws Committee voted unanimously to send a memo to the Board,

which asks the Board to consider requiring a \$50 fee to file a complaint at an AKC event. They concluded that requiring a small fee to file a complaint might deter the most frivolous ones. They also suggest that AKC Judges and show committee members be exempt from this fee.

Following a motion by Dr. Garvin, seconded by Mr. Powers, the Board VOTED (In favor: Biddle, Davies, Garvin, Knight, McAteer, Powers, Sweetwood, Tatro, Wallin; Abstained: Battaglia, Carota, Hamblin, Smyth) to accept the Staff recommendation to keep the current procedures in place and not to require a fee to file a complaint at an AKC event.

Schipperke Proposed Breed Standard Revision

The Schipperke Club of America, Inc. (SCA), submitted a proposed revision to the sections of the Schipperke standard that addresses the tail. The standard was last revised and approved by the AKC Board on November 13, 1990.

Following a motion from Mr. Powers, seconded by Dr. Garvin, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to approve the proposed revision to the Schipperke Standard to be published for comment in the December Secretary's Page of the AKC Gazette for comment.

Parent Club Designation for Eurasier

The United States Eurasier Club requests to be designated as the Parent Club for the breed, allowing them to hold FSS Open Shows.

The United States Eurasier Club has an active membership, participating in Companion Events and FSS Open Shows when available.

This will be discussed further at the January 2024 Board meeting.

Jindo Name Change

The Korean Jindo Association of America has requested that the breed's name be officially changed to Korean Jindo Dog instead of Jindo to be consistent with the country of origin and foreign kennel clubs worldwide.

This will be discussed further at the January 2024 Board meeting.

Appointment of Trial Boards

Under the AKC Bylaws, Article XIII, Section 1, the AKC Board is to appoint Trial Boards and an Appeal Trial Board from time to time. The last time the AKC Board appointed Trial Board members was in 2019, and before that was June 2014.

The Board will discuss this further at the January 2024 Board meeting.

Vet Outreach 2023 Update

The Board was provided with an update on the accomplishments of the Vet Outreach program in 2023.

“Meet The AKC”

AKC Chief Veterinary Officer Dr. Jerry Klein, conducted virtual presentations for vet students entitled “Meet The AKC”. AKC offers 12-14 presentations per semester. Utilizing this format assures consistency in the presentations and minimizes the need for travel. AKC provides a Breed ID Guide to each student attending the presentation and will provide a meal. 27 presentations have been given to date in 2023.

Vet Students Tours of Dog Shows or Other AKC Events 2023

Students from 10 different Vet Schools participated in tours at local dog shows or other AKC events.

Communications Quarter 3 2023 Review

Total Clips:

Clips Evaluated in Q3: 5,890 (+0.6% from

5,852 in 2022)

Q3 Estimated Audience Reached:

48,048,800,980 (+264% 13,196,474,696 in 2022)

Q3 Totals Comparison

Year Clips Evaluated Estimated Audience

2020 3,540 6,722,492,060

2021 4,754 8,501,194,293

2022 5,852 13,196,474,696

2023 5,890 48,048,800,980

*Numbers and values provided by media monitoring platform Cision

Media Coverage Highlights Resulting from Proactive Pitches:

Weekly “AKC Tips” articles written for McClatchy-Tribune reaching 700 newspapers, including the *Chattanooga Times Free Press*, *Dayton Daily News*, *Duluth News-Tribune*, *Fresno Bee*, *Idaho Statesman*, *Kingsport Times-News* and *Rochester Democrat and Chronicle*, among others.

Date	Media Outlet	Subject
7/6	CNN.com	Mary Burch expertise
7/12	Yahoo! Finance	AKC World Agility Team
7/24	USA Today	AKC Reunite/Adopt A K-9 Cop program info
Summer '23	Modern Dog	Mary Burch expertise
9/16	Newsweek	AKC expertise

2023 Q3 Highlights

- 5.1% increase in media relations and press coverage in Mandarin and Spanish publications.
- Maintained a 98% positivity rating.
- Proactive PR Campaigns for AKC Reunite Adopt a K-9 Cop, AKC Meet the Breeds® Chicago and Columbus, and the AKC Museum of the Dog's Fashionable Dogs exhibit.

Government Relations (GR) Q3 2023

Update:

Sheila Goffe highlighted numerous active priority legislation and administrative regulations in Congress and State Legislation for Q3, 2023.

She noted that additional information is available on the AKC legislative action center microsite: <https://www.akcgr.org>.

The AKC GR team has been monitoring more than 1,500 legislative bills this year that could impact responsible dog ownership, the health and wellbeing of dogs, the rights of dog owners, and/or the interests of the Sport and The American Kennel Club.

To date, AKC GR has published 236 legislative alerts online and via geo-targeted emails to impacted constituents and social media. GR has provided oral or written testimony or comment on more than 200 of

these measures.

GR is also monitoring approximately 914 actively pending proposed regulations (administrative or implementing changes): 127 from the federal government and 787 at the state level.

In the third quarter, GR prepared and published 30 geo-targeted legislative alerts and provided direct advocacy to lawmakers or written and/or oral testimony or official comments on the same.

The most common legislative issues GR is tracking include: breeder regulation/cruelty (204), working dogs (201), animal control (148), veterinary (105), and hunting/field and land use (87).

The most common type of regulations impacting dogs and AKC events continues to be changes in hunting/land use policy (280), followed by veterinary (147), breeder regulations and restrictions (67) and dogs in public (65).

Policy Blogs and Updates

AKC GR published 21 blogs in Q3 covering policy issues and resources for advocates and the public. Blogs are published on the AKC GR blog site at www.akcgr.org.

A number of new GR advocacy and edu-

cational resources were introduced in the third quarter, including a breeder regulations policy analysis and recommendations white paper regarding federal, state and local breeder regulation and restrictions.

AKC Political Action Committee (PAC)

Rebranding

The Board was advised that the AKC PAC will undergo a rebrand campaign.

AKC Pure Bred Preservation Bank (AKCPPB)

The Board reviewed a memo requesting to appoint members to the AKC PPB Board of Directors.

Following a motion by Mr. Hamblin, seconded by Dr. Battaglia, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to consider the matter at this meeting, waiving the normal notice procedures.

Following a motion by Dr. Battaglia, seconded by Mr Hamblin, the Board VOTED (unanimously; Mr. Powers abstained) to adopt the following Resolution:

Resolution:

Whereas: The AKC, acting in its capacity as sole member of the AKC PPB must elect members to its Board.

Therefore: the AKC Board of Directors approves the appointment of the following individuals to the Board of Directors of the AKC PPB:

- a. Thomas Powers as the first AKC Board Director, as defined in the Bylaws, to serve a term of three years.*
- d. Vanessa Skou as the first AKC Staff Director, as defined in the Bylaws, to serve a term of three years.*
- g. Dr. Jerold Bell as the first Community Director, as defined in the Bylaws, to serve a term of three years.*

Following a motion by Dr. Battaglia, seconded by Mr. Sweetwood, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to adopt the following Resolution:

Resolution:

Whereas: The American Kennel Club founded the AKC Purebred Preservation Bank and is permanently committed to the long-term success of its mission to ensure the viability of purebred dogs. This valuable service is necessary to salvage or restore endangered dog breeds now and in the future. Therefore: While coordinating efforts with non-profit breed-specific clubs, the AKC PPB will educate breeders, clubs, and the public about the importance of safeguarding frozen semen and protecting purebred dog breeds for future decades.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was an EXECUTIVE SESSION to discuss sensitive business matters. Nothing was reported out of this session.

The Board adjourned at 5:12 p.m.

The Board Meeting reconvened on Tuesday, November 14, at 8:30 a.m. All Directors were present in the New York office. The Executive Secretary was also present.

REGISTRATION DEVELOPMENT

Mark Dunn, Executive Vice President of Registration, and Seth Fera Schanes, Director of Planning, participated in this portion of the meeting.

Population Age Pyramids

The Board was presented with a memo outlining AKC breeder population data. This information is helpful in the objective to continue to grow the number of AKC breeders and, thereby, to supply the puppies that younger generations are demanding.

BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE

Mark Dunn, Executive Vice President of Registration, and Seth Fera Schanes, Director of Planning, participated in this portion of the meeting.

AKC Corporate Project Roadmap Review

The AKC Board of Directors has asked the President for multiple roadmap status updates during the year. This presentation was the third of 3 project check-ins for 2023.

Staff gave an overview of work that has been completed between August 2023 and October 2023 as well as several projects that are currently listed as work in progress. The 2024 budget process was also reviewed.

COMPLIANCE

Bri Tesarz, Director of Compliance and Jessica Lopez, Compliance Specialist, participated in this meeting portion via video conference.

(Final Board Disciplinary actions are reported on the Secretary's Page.)

MARKETING

Kirsten Bahlke, Vice President of Marketing; Jake Sisskind, Group Product Manager; Somya Udeh, Product Manager; and Nikhil Kanoor, SEO Manager, participated in this portion of the meeting.

AKC Marketplace and Current Systems Staff presented the history of AKC Marketplace, current issues, and advancements, as well as Marketplace Statistics for

2023, which are the highest since its beginning in 2004.

Enhanced AKC Marketplace Security

Fifteen new security features have been rolled out since October 2022. Some of the most effective new features have been:

1. “Report Spam” Button – Breeders can now report spam accounts, which informs MP Admins and blocks the breeder from having to interact with the scammer.
2. Automatic Rate Limiting and Freeze Periods to limit Scammers
3. ReCAPTCHA: “Are You a Robot” verification boxes have been installed on “Message Breeder,” which trip-up automated bots.

Parent Clubs Education Initiatives

A complimentary ad on every breed page on Marketplace is offered to each Parent Club. Each AKC Parent Club can deploy a free ad at the top of their breed’s Marketplace listings page at no cost to the Parent Club. This ad allows Parent Clubs to direct puppy seekers browsing Marketplace to visit their website and/or contact their breeder referral representative.

There has been an increased emphasis on Paid Search and SEO in 2023 that has benefitted the traffic results to Marketplace.

AKC MEDIA and SALES

Ron Furman, VP of Broadcasting, Sponsorship & Media; Daphna Straus, Vice President of Business Development; and William Ellis, Director of Broadcasting, participated in this portion of the meeting.

The AKC’s over-the-top video network, AKC.tv, has experienced growth in plays across all platforms, including Web plays on AKC.tv via desktop or mobile (745K), AKC.tv app plays (over 518K) and plays on AKC.org via our digital content matching system (over 51M). The channel continues to grow in reach as well as in breadth and scope of content.

AKC Good Dog TV, our weekly show produced for AKC.tv, is now distributed as a syndicated show on broadcast television. AKC Good Dog TV premiered as a syndicated show in the New York City market on July 8-9, 2023 on channels Fox 5 and My 9, respectively. Since premiering in July, AKC Good Dog TV’s syndication has successfully expanded and includes:

- 87 total markets
- 107 total television stations
- 37MM total TV homes

AKC’s dog sports programming on ESPN continued to deliver new audiences to AKC sports across demographics with 11 new shows premiering since the beginning of

2023, and four shows premiering in Q3*:

- AKC National Championship Highlights
- AKC Flyball Dog Challenge Highlights
- AKC National Agility Championship Highlights
- AKC Diving Dogs Highlights
- AKC Flyball Dog Challenge Highlights
- AKC Disc Dog Challenge Highlights
- AKC National Agility Championship Highlights*
- AKC Fastest Dogs USA*
- AKC Agility Premier Cup*
- AKC Fastest Dogs USA Highlights*

Through the first nine months of 2023, AKC had a total of 187 hours broadcast hours on ABC, ESPN, ESPN2, and ESPNEWS, a 17% increase compared with the first nine months of 2022. The total of 187 hours represents 101 broadcasts, an increase of +14 broadcasts compared with the first nine months of 2022.

The AKC National Championship will premiere on New Year's Eve, December 31, 2023 at 2pm ET on ABC. This year's show marks the fourth consecutive year that the AKC National Championship will be broadcast on the ABC Television Network.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was an EXECUTIVE SESSION to discuss sensitive business matters. Nothing was reported out of this session.

Review of IRS Form 990

The Board was provided with a draft of the 2022 IRS Form 990. KPMG participated via video conference to review the Form 990 with the Board.

COMPANION and PERFORMANCE

Displaceable High Jump – Obedience and Rally

The Board reviewed a recommendation to modify the Obedience and Rally Regulations to change the design and construction of the high jump to allow displaceable panels. If approved, clubs will have until July 1, 2025, to complete this transition.

This will be discussed further at the January 2024 Board meeting.

CONFORMATION

Doug Ljungren, Executive Vice President, Sports & Events; Tim Thomas, Vice President of Conformation; Glenn Lycan, Director, Event Operations Support; and Alan Slay, Director, Event Programs, participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

Groups - Rules Applying to Dog Shows.

Chapter 3, Section 1

The *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*, Chapter 3, Section 1, provides the breeds and/or varieties of breeds, divided groups, for which regular classes may be offered at AKC Conformation dog shows. The rule assigns the authority to add breeds to, transfer breeds from one group to another, or delete breeds from a group to the AKC Board of Directors. The Rule defines the number and name of groups, and any change or modification requires approval by the Delegate Body.

The Board reviewed a request from the Delegate Parent Club Committee to modify Chapter 3, Section 1, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* to assign the authority to the Board of Directors to revise the name and number of groups.

After discussion, there was a unanimous sense of the Board that this issue was not in the purview of the Delegate Parent Club Committee per the Delegate Standing Rule on Committees and that the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee should be sent the proposal for its consideration. This issue could also be brought before the Delegate Body by the Board or by a Delegate on the instruction of her/his club.

Handlers in the Four-to-Six Month

Beginner Puppy Competition

The Sanctioned Four-to-Six Month Beginner Puppy Competition Regulations define entry and eligibility requirements and limitations for this competition. Action Items emanating from the Board's October 2023 meeting directed staff to investigate possible enhancements in participation by Professional Handlers and their households in the Four-to-Six Month Beginner Puppy Competition.

Staff was directed to bring back a recommendation in January that includes allowing Professional Handlers to exhibit dogs that they own for "exhibition-only".

Special Attraction Ribbons

Currently, ribbons for special attractions may be any unassigned color. This is not stated in any AKC documentation. Event Operations will add a section to the AKC Show Manual advising clubs that they may use any unassigned color for special attractions. There was no objection to this action.

JUDGING OPERATIONS

Tim Thomas, Vice President of Conformation, and Doug Ljungren, Executive Vice President, Sports & Events participated in this portion of the meeting.

Conformation Judges Assignment Conflict Policy

The Board reviewed a Staff recommendation to modify the Board Policy, which defines the minimum time and distance between assignments to judge the regular classes for the same breed, group, or Best in Show at AKC Conformation Dog Shows. Under current policy, Conformation Judges may not be approved to judge the regular classes for the same breed, group, or Best in Show at AKC Conformation events held within 30 days and 200 miles. Staff recommends the policy be modified to events held within 21 days and 200 miles.

There was a motion by Mr. Powers, seconded by Mrs. Wallin, to consider this matter for a vote. Following the motion, the VOTE to approve the recommendation failed and the policy change was not approved (In favor: Carota, Sweetwood; Opposed: Battaglia, Biddle, Davies, Garvin, Hamblin, McAteer, Powers, Smyth, Tatro, Wallin).

Conformation Judging Approval Process

The Board reviewed recommendations brought forth by the Chairman's Committee on the Judging Approval Process to modify aspects of the Judging Approval Process specific to prerequisite requirements for first-time applicants and applications for additional breeds.

Keeping with its evolutionary approach, the committee is presenting to the Board proposals to (1) modify the New Breed Application Procedures related to pre-requisite requirements for first-time applicants, (2) modify details concerning the weight assigned to an assignment to judge a breed sweepstakes for additional breed applicants, and (3) modify details concerning the acceptance of Virtual Tutoring experiences on applications for additional breeds.

This will be discussed further at the January 2024 Board meeting.

Junior Showmanship Judge Application Requirements

The Board reviewed a recommendation to modify the criteria to judge Junior Showmanship by augmenting the experiences that may be accepted to meet the requirements to apply. Staff recommends that the Board approve the addition of "Two ringside junior showmanship procedural observations with different members of the Executive Field Staff within two years preceding application." as an experience criteria option for Junior Showmanship applicants.

This will be discussed further at the January 2024 Board meeting.

Rules, Policies, and Guidelines for Conformation Dog Show Judges

The *Rules, Policies, and Guidelines for Conformation Dog Show Judges* is a handbook for all judges and aspiring judges that summarizes Rules, Policies, and Guidelines as they relate to procedure and conduct. The Board reviewed the suggested changes to the contents of this booklet intended to be inserted with the next reprint unless directed otherwise by the Board.

There were no objections to the updates.

Conformation Judges Recertification Requirement

Action Items from the Board's August 2023 meeting included the direction to "Institute the format provided to the Board for Conformation Judges recertification test. The test should contain information on best practices for taking a test and links to the booklets or forms where answers may be found. When finalized, distribute as an FYI to the Board."

This Board was provided with an update on the measures instituted to enhance the learner experience for those completing the recertification requirement.

This will be discussed further at the January 2024 Board meeting.

Format

A proposed reformatting of the exam questions suggested by Mr. Sprung to the Board was discussed. To address the sense of being overwhelmed that some judges reported upon seeing a list of six resources, the exam will be modified to direct all learners to *The Rules, Policies and Guidelines for Conformation Dog Show Judges* as their primary resource as essentially all questions can be answered from this booklet. The exam will continue to include a link to *The Rules Applying to Dog Shows*, as much content overlaps between it and *The Judging Guidelines*, and *The Rules* may provide a different phrasing of the same concept that works better for some. The link to access the NOHS flowchart will also remain, as many find it helpful. Links to *Dealing with Misconduct*, *The NOHS Regulations* and *The Occupational Eligibility Addendum* will be removed as they are not necessary. Any questions currently present in the exam that can only be answered using one of the three documents being removed will be deleted from the exam. The "Resources to Study" page and "Instructions" will be updated to emphasize which resources to review prior to and during the exam.

Learner Tools

To assist learners in becoming more comfortable and familiar with completing the

recertification exam, a practice quiz is being generated. This practice quiz can be completed an unlimited number of times, will show correct answers, and will provide feedback for selected answers that will point the learner to where in the resources they should have looked for the correct answer.

The practice quiz will contain 10 questions – eight (8) multiple choice and two (2) scenario-based questions. This quiz will give learners the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the exam interface, the questioning style/phrasing, and the effort required to find correct answers. This quiz will clearly state that it is optional but encouraged and mimics what the learner will see in the full exam.

In addition, a tutorial video is being produced to help learners navigate the exam, answer questions, pause vs cancel, open resources, and complete the exam. This video will include voice over and video/screenshots of actual exam questions.

This video can be shared with learners in a variety of places, including the resources page, exam instructions page, and welcome popup upon enrollment.

To implement the enhancements detailed in this memorandum, the recertification exam will be shut down for a two-week period at the end of December. All learners currently enrolled in a version of the exam will be notified the week of November 27th

of the need to complete by December 18th otherwise any progress in that exam will be lost. The target date to relaunch the exam with all enhancements is January 2, 2024.

CLUBS

REPORT ON NEWLY LICENSED CLUB APPROVED IN SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER

Great Lakes Working Group Dog Association, greater Detroit, MI (including communities north to Saginaw, south to Jackson, west to Route 127), 38 total households, 18 local.

Irish Wolfhound Association of the Carolinas, Asheboro, NC (including communities in North and South Carolina, Virginia communities of Danville, Suffolk, Newport News and Norfolk), 22 total households, 17 local.

CONSENT

After pulling the memo on the Lancashire Heeler out of the Consent section for further discussion; there was a motion by Mr. Powers, seconded by Mr. Sweetwood, it was VOTED (unanimously) to approve the following Consent items:

Delegates Approved

Wayne Bond

To represent Peninsula Dog Fanciers Club
Published October 2023, November 2023

Alfred Ferruggiaro

To represent National Capital Kennel Club

Published September 2023, October 2023

Leslie C. Gelesh

To represent All-Breed Training Club of Akron

Published August 2023, September 2023

Claire Parker

To represent American Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club

Published August 2023, September 2023

Joan Payton

To represent German Wirehaired Pointer Club of America

Published August 2023, September 2023

Susan Sorbo

To represent Old Dominion Kennel Club of Northern Virginia

Published October 2023, November 2023

Exploring Options for Existing Local Specialty Club Territories

The American Kennel Club expands existing club territories upon written request followed by in-house research. The basis for warranting these territory expansions includes household membership shifting over time, event site issues, and the proximity of local specialty clubs of the same breed. Only newly accredited local spe-

cialty clubs are eligible for statewide and multi-state territories to help newly forming clubs meet AKC's minimum household requirements. The Board reviewed a recommendation to permit existing clubs to expand their territories in the same manner as newly accredited local specialty clubs, provided certain parameters are met.

The Board VOTED to permit expanding territories for existing local specialty clubs with the following parameters:

1. Club membership changes and/or event site changes warrant the need for an expansion.
2. Expansion may include statewide or communities in multiple states if necessary to meet the minimum of 12 local households required for local specialty clubs, as long as it does not infringe on another local specialty club's territory.
3. As with all territory expansion requests, AKC reserves the right to adjust club territories by reducing a territory should the breed become more popular in the future and another club in the area is justified.
4. All other policies and standard practices will remain unchanged.

Conflict Distance National Specialty

The current Show Conflict Distance Policy imposes a 500-mile limit on local specialty clubs when participating with the National Specialty. The Board VOTED to remove

the 500-mile restriction.

Danish-Swedish Farmdog Eligibility to Compete in the Working Group

The Board VOTED to approve the petition from the Danish-Swedish Farmdog Club of America, to accept into the the Danish-Swedish Farmdog into the AKC Stud Book so that it may be registerable and eligible to compete in the Working Group. The Board also approved the breed standard. The Danish-Swedish Farmdog will be eligible to compete in the Working Group on January 1, 2025. The breed will be moved from the Foundation Stock Service into the Stud Book of the American Kennel Club on January 1, 2025. The Stud Book will remain open until January 1, 2030.

Perro de Presa Canario Name Change

The Board VOTED to officially change the name of the Perro de Presa Canario to Presa Canario, at the request of the Presa Canario Club of America, to be consistent with the country of origin.

West Highland White Terrier Proposed Breed Standard Revision

The West Highland White Terrier Club of America, Inc. (WHWTCA), submitted proposed revisions to the breed standard. The Board VOTED to approve the WHWTCA to ballot the membership in

accordance with the club's Constitution and Bylaws.

AKC/AKC-CHF Canine Sports Residency Program

The Board VOTED to approve a 3-year AKC/AKC-CHF sponsored veterinary Residency Program in Canine Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation, starting in 2025. The AKC/AKC-CHF Residency in Canine Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation will entail AKC funding a total of \$300,000 via \$100,000 for each of fiscal years 2025, 2026, and 2027.

AKC Bylaw Amendment to Article XII, Section 1

The Board VOTED to approve the recommended changes to Article XII, Section 1 of the AKC Bylaws to make the complaint process easier and uniform for all individuals by removing the requirement of an oath and replacing it with an affirmation.

ARTICLE XII, SECTION 1. Any club or association or person or persons interested in purebred dogs may make a complaint against any other club or association or person or persons for conduct alleged to have been prejudicial to the best interests of purebred dogs, purebred dog events or the AKC, which complaint shall be made in writing setting forth the circumstances. The complaint shall be verified by the com-

plainant stating that the complainant has read the complaint, has knowledge of the facts stated in the complaint, and affirms and verifies under penalty of perjury that the complaint is true and correct. The complaint shall then be sent to the AKC, (ATTENTION: Executive Secretary) with a deposit, the amount to be established annually by the Board of Directors. The deposit shall become the property of the AKC if the Board of Directors does not exercise jurisdiction; or in the event the Board of Directors exercises jurisdiction and the complaint is not sustained to any extent. The deposit will be returned if the Board of Directors exercises jurisdiction and the complaint is sustained to any extent. The Board of Directors has the authority to determine whether the AKC shall exercise jurisdiction.

This will be read at the December 2023 Delegate Meeting to be voted on at the March 2024 Delegate Meeting.

Lancashire Heeler – Eligibility for Earthdog Tests

The Board reviewed a recommendation to approve the request from the United States Lancashire Heeler Club (USLHC) to allow their breed to be eligible to participate in Earthdog Tests. It has been documented that the breed was used and developed to be a successful ratter by local farmers.

They helped farmers hunt vermin and control rat populations in rural areas.

Following a motion by Mr. Tatro, seconded by Dr. Davies, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to not approve the breed to participate in Earthdog Tests.

It was VOTED to adjourn on Tuesday, November 14, 2023, at 12:30 p.m. Eastern Time.

Adjourned

Attest: _____

Gina M. DiNardo, Executive Secretary

APPENDIX A



BOARD & DELEGATE MEETINGS 2024

As of November 13, 2023

All meetings, except December, are in the NYC/NJ area. The December meeting is in Orlando, FL.

JANUARY 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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21	22	23	24	25	26	27
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January

- 8 Board Meeting
- 9 Board Meeting

July

- 8 Board Meeting
- 9 Board Meeting

JULY 2024						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
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FEBRUARY 2024						
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February

- 12 Board Meeting
- 13 Board Meeting

August

- 12 Board Meeting
- 13 Board Meeting

AUGUST 2024						
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MARCH 2024						
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31						

March

- 11 Delegate Committee Meeting
- 12 Delegate Meeting

September

- 9 Delegate Committee Meeting
- 10 Delegate Meeting

SEPTEMBER 2024						
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APRIL 2024						
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April

- 8 Board Meeting
- 9 Board Meeting

October

- 7 Board Meeting
- 8 Board Meeting

OCTOBER 2024						
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MAY 2024						
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May

- 9 Board Meeting
- 10 Board Meeting

November

- 11 Board Meeting
- 12 Board Meeting

NOVEMBER 2024						
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JUNE 2024						
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June

- 10 Delegate Committee Meeting
- 11 Delegate Meeting

December

- 12 Delegate Committee Meeting
- 13 Delegate Meeting

DECEMBER 2024						
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BOARD & DELEGATE MEETINGS 2025

As of November 13, 2023

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JANUARY 2025						
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January

- 13 Board Meeting
- 14 Board Meeting

July

- 7 Board Meeting
- 8 Board Meeting

JULY 2025						
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February

- 10 Board Meeting
- 11 Board Meeting

August

- 11 Board Meeting
- 12 Board Meeting

AUGUST 2025						
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MARCH 2025						
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March

- 10 Delegate Committee Meeting
- 11 Delegate Meeting

September

- 8 Delegate Committee Meeting
- 9 Delegate Meeting

SEPTEMBER 2025						
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APRIL 2025						
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April

- 7 Board Meeting
- 8 Board Meeting

October

- 13 Board Meeting
- 14 Board Meeting

OCTOBER 2025						
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May

- 12 Board Meeting
- 13 Board Meeting

November

- 10 Board Meeting
- 11 Board Meeting

NOVEMBER 2025						
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JUNE 2025						
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June

- 9 Delegate Committee Meeting
- 10 Delegate Meeting

December

- 11 Delegate Committee Meeting
- 12 Delegate Meeting

DECEMBER 2025						
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PARENT CLUB LINKS



SPORTING GROUP



American Water Spaniel



Barbet



Boykin Spaniel



Brittany



Chesapeake Bay Retriever



Clumber Spaniel



Cocker Spaniel



Curly-Coated Retriever



English Cocker Spaniel



English Setter



English Springer Spaniel



Field Spaniel



Flat-Coated Retriever



German Shorthaired Pointer



German Wirehaired Pointer



Golden Retriever



Gordon Setter



Irish Red and White Setter



Irish Setter



Irish Water Spaniel



Labrador Retriever



Lagotto Romagnolo



Nederlandse Kooikerhondje



Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever



Pointer



Spinone Italiano



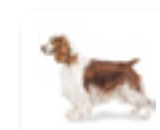
Sussex Spaniel



Vizsla



Weimaraner



Welsh Springer Spaniel



Wirehaired Pointing Griffon



Wirehaired Vizsla

PARENT CLUB LINKS



HOUND GROUP



Afghan Hound



American English Coonhound



American Foxhound



Azawakh



Basenji



Basset Hound



Beagle



Black and Tan Coonhound



Bloodhound



Bluetick Coonhound



Borzoi



Cirneco dell'Etna



Dachshund



English Foxhound



Grand Basset Griffon Vendéen



Greyhound



Harrier



Ibizan Hound



Irish Wolfhound



Norwegian Elkhound



Otterhound



Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen



Pharaoh Hound



Plott



Portuguese Podengo Pequeno



Redbone Coonhound



Rhodesian Ridgeback



Saluki



Scottish Deerhound



Sloughi



Treeing Walker Coonhound



Whippet

PARENT CLUB LINKS



WORKING GROUP



Akita



Alaskan Malamute



Anatolian Shepherd Dog



Bernese Mountain Dog



Black Russian Terrier



Boerboel



Boxer



Bullmastiff



Cane Corso



Chinook



Doberman Pinscher



Dogo Argentino



Dogue de Bordeaux



German Pinscher



Giant Schnauzer



Great Dane



Great Pyrenees



Greater Swiss Mountain Dog



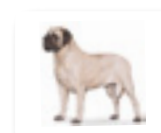
Komondor



Leonberger



Kuvasz



Mastiff



Neapolitan Mastiff



Newfoundland



Portuguese Water Dog



Rottweiler



Saint Bernard



Samoyed



Siberian Husky



Standard Schnauzer



Tibetan Mastiff

PARENT CLUB LINKS



TERRIER GROUP



Airedale Terrier



American Hairless Terrier



American Staffordshire Terrier



Australian Terrier



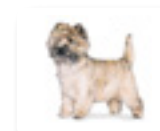
Bedlington Terrier



Border Terrier



Bull Terrier



Cairn Terrier



Cesky Terrier



Dandie Dinmont Terrier



Fox Terrier (Smooth)



Glen of Imaal Terrier



Irish Terrier



Kerry Blue Terrier



Lakeland Terrier



Manchester Terrier



Miniature Bull Terrier



Miniature Schnauzer



Norfolk Terrier



Norwich Terrier



Parson Russell Terrier



Rat Terrier



Russell Terrier



Scottish Terrier



Sealyham Terrier



Skye Terrier



Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier



Staffordshire Bull Terrier



Welsh Terrier



West Highland White Terrier



Wire Fox Terrier

PARENT CLUB LINKS



TOY GROUP



Affenpinscher



Biewer Terrier



Brussels Griffon



Cavalier King Charles Spaniel



Chihuahua



Chinese Crested



English Toy Spaniel



Havanese



Italian Greyhound



Japanese Chin



Maltese



Manchester Terrier (Toy)



Miniature Pinscher



Papillon



Pekingese



Pomeranian



Poodle (Toy)



Pug



Shih Tzu



Silky Terrier



Toy Fox Terrier



Yorkshire Terrier

PARENT CLUB LINKS



NON-SPORTING GROUP



American Eskimo Dog



Bichon Frise



Boston Terrier



Bulldog



Chinese Shar-Pei



Chow Chow



Coton de Tulear



Dalmatian



Finnish Spitz



French Bulldog



Keeshond



Lhasa Apso



Löwchen



Norwegian Lundehund



Poodle (Miniature)



Schipperke



Poodle (Standard)



Shiba Inu



Tibetan Spaniel



Tibetan Terrier



Xoloitzcuintli

PARENT CLUB LINKS



HERDING GROUP



Australian Cattle Dog



Australian Shepherd



Bearded Collie



Beauceron



Belgian Laekenois



Belgian Malinois



Belgian Sheepdog



Belgian Tervuren



Bergamasco



Berger Picard



Border Collie



Bouvier des Flandres



Briard



Canaan Dog



Cardigan Welsh Corgi



Collie (Rough)



Collie (Smooth)



Entlebucher Mountain Dog



Finnish Lapphund



German Shepherd Dog



Icelandic Sheepdog



Miniature American Shepherd



Mudi



Norwegian Buhund



Old English Sheepdog



Pembroke Welsh Corgi



Polish Lowland Sheepdog



Puli



Pumi



Pyrenean Shepherd



Shetland Sheepdog



Spanish Water Dog



Swedish Vallhund



AKC REGISTERED HANDLERS

The American Kennel Club Registered Handlers Program establishes criteria and standards for responsible, knowledgeable professional handlers. All handlers enrolled in the Program have met these criteria and made the commitment to follow the guidelines and Code of Ethics as set forth by the AKC.

For additional information concerning the Registered Handlers Program, click here:

<http://www.akc.org/events/handlers/>

For information on upcoming RHP Handling Clinics

<http://www.akc.org/events/junior-showmanship/junior-clinics/>

<http://www.akc.org/events/handlers/adult-clinics/>