



gazette

JANUARY 2024

2023:
A Year in
Pictures



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Your Pet, Our Passion.®

Kicking Off 2024

Happy 2024 to Everyone! We begin this year 2024 with the crowning of our new AKC National Champion. Congratulations to GCh.P Hallmark Jolei Out of This World, a Shih Tzu known as Comet, owned by Bonnie J. Miller, Susan Carter, Luke and Diane Ehricht of Monclova, Ohio, bred by the Ehrichts, and judged by Mr. Clay Coady. Comet beat out over 5,700 dogs from 50 states and Washington, D.C., and over 30 countries to win Best in Show.

Additionally, we congratulate our Reserve Best in Show winner GCh.G Kaleef's Mercedes, a German Shepherd Dog known as Mercedes, owned by Cynthia Wilhelmy and Sheree Moses of Bethesda, Maryland, and bred by Sheree Moses Combs,



Lauren Arbaugh, Madeline Llewellyn, Jeanne Hamilton, and handled by Kent Boyles. We are incredibly proud of these beautiful, responsibly bred dogs.

Now we are preparing for our flagship [AKC Meet the Breeds](#) in New York City January 27 and 28 at the Jacob Javits Center. This educational canine extravaganza is a place where dog

lovers can learn about our treasured breeds, AKC's good works, and responsible dog ownership. There are also exciting demonstrations in agility, scent work, trick dog and more.

Thanks to each and every club that has signed up to represent their breed. Last year over 25,000 people enjoyed these two wonderful days, and so

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



AKC Meet the Breeds returns to New York this month.

many are excited to return. Your breed deserves to be represented and there is time to sign up. For more information, please contact us at meetthebreeds@akc.org.

Speaking of responsible dog ownership, we are pleased to share with you that the AKC is embarking on a new health and wellness initiative with the launch of AKCRx (AKCPetRx.com). The goal of AKCRx is to be pet owners' trusted source for pet medications by supplying reliable options.

AKCPetRx.com has a full complement of FDA/EPA approved pet medication for dogs, cats, farm animals, and birds, sourced directly from the manufacturers and approved distributors.

AKCRx is working with Allivet, a fully licensed pharmacy authorized to dispense prescription pet medications in all 50 states, for over 30 years. All orders placed on *AKCPetRx.com* are processed by Allivet Pet Pharmacy. Additionally, AKCRx holds accreditation from the National

Association of Boards of Pharmacy (NABP).

The profit generated by this wellness initiative will assist AKC in continuing to fund the almost \$6 million dollars we donate annually to the operations of our 501c3 affiliates (AKC Humane Fund, AKC Canine Health Foundation, AKC Museum of the Dog, AKC Purebred Preservation Bank). The website is live now and available for use.

New AKC dog registrants will receive a free month of Simparica Trio through a collaboration with Allivet and Zoetis. AKC will also be launching special offers and everyday discounts for AKC breeders and registered handlers.

We look forward to providing this new service and being of service to pet owners everywhere.

Dennis B. Sprung
President and CEO



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archivist-librarian
JAIMIE FRITZ

FREE
AKC GAZETTE
SUBSCRIPTION

advertising & circulation
manager

VENUS RODRIGUEZ
venus.rodriguez@akc.org
212-696-8260

Write to the editors
gazette@akc.org

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Luke and Diane Win the Weekend at Orlando

Wow—what an AKC National Championship weekend for Luke and Diane Ehricht!

The couple behind the Hallmark Jolei Shih Tzu line were named [AKC Breeders of the Year](#) on Saturday, and on Sunday Luke breeder-owner-handled their GCh.P Hallmark Jolei Out of This World to Best in Show. It was a great way to celebrate a career that includes 16 national specialty winners, 200 AKC champions, the top-winning Shih Tzu of all time, and on and on.

The Ehrichs will be honored with a specially commissioned painting of a prominent dog of their breeding, to be displayed permanently at AKC headquarters in New York.

Congratulations to the

Ehrichs' fellow Breeder of the Year group winners: **Sporting Group:** Dorothy Cherry, Cerise Kennel English Springer Spaniels; **Hound Group:** Harry and Lisa Miller, Kiarry American Foxhounds; **Working**

Group: Amy Kiell-Green and Andrew Green, Pebbles' Run Samoyeds; **Terrier Group:** Keith Bailey, Bayleigh Welsh Terriers; **Non-Sporting Group:** Lorrie Carlton and Larry Letsche, DVM, Belle Creek Bichons; **Herding Group:** Cynthia and Vincent Savioli, Aubrey Pembroke and Cardigan Welsh Corgis.

We will have lots more from Orlando in our February issue. Until then, you can review hours of ringside video at [AKC.tv](#).

On Our Cover:
Tibetan Mastiff,
photo by
Kathleen Riley



AKC PHOTO/AKC.TV

Lancashire Heeler

Is AKC Breed 201

The Lancashire Heeler is now eligible to compete in the Herding Group at AKC conformation events. This happy little worker's acceptance into the AKC Stud Book and eligibility to compete in the Herding Group was approved by the AKC Board of Directors at its April 2023 meeting.

LANCASHIRE HEELER

aka: Ormskirk Heeler

Home turf: Lancashire (*LANK-a-sheer*), a county in North West England, facing the Irish Sea

Kennel Club (England): 1981

AKC Parent Club:
United States Lancashire Heeler Club

President: Sheryl Bradbury
sherylbradbury@windstream.net

Information: info@united-stateslancashireheelerclub.com

Website: unitedstateslancashireheelerclub.com

History: Little is known about the origin of this breed. Many experts posit that the Lancashire Heeler is a cross between the Manchester Terrier and Welsh corgis. It is said that when Welsh farmers used corgis to walk cattle to market in the Lancashire town of Ormskirk, the corgis

intermingled with English terriers and the Lancashire Heeler was born.

Farmers liked these small black and tan dogs, as when used to bring wayward sheep and cattle back to the herd, they did so with a sharp nip to the back of the heel.

From the Standard:

Fine undercoat is covered throughout by weather resistant, short, thick, hard, flat topcoat. Topcoat slightly longer on neck. Undercoat should not show through topcoat nor allow any longer hair at the mane to stand off. Long or excessively wavy coat highly undesirable.

Color: Black and tan or liver and tan with pigment to tone with coat color, with rich tan spots on cheeks and often above eyes. Rich tan on muzzle and chest and from knees downwards, inside hind legs and under tail.

A distinct black or liver mark (thumb mark), according to coat color, immediately above front feet is desirable.

[Full AKC Breed Standard](#)

UPDATES

Murphy Joins Field Staff

The AKC has hired Frank Murphy as an executive field representative, effective January 2.

Murphy has over 40 years' experience handling top-winning dogs in nearly every breed group. He is a two-time AKC Registered Handler of the Year and has been an [AKC Registered Handler Program](#) regional representative for

the past six years. He is a member of the [Clemson KC](#).

“Frank brings a broad background as a breeder and exhibitor of Rhodesian Ridgebacks, expertise as an all-breed professional handler, and extensive hands-on experience in AKC events as an AKC Registered Handler since the program's



inception and all-breed club member, all of which will be valuable assets as an executive field representative,” Conformation Field Director Sandy D'Andrea says. “The American Kennel Club is proud to welcome him to the staff.”

Murphy will be based in Belton, South Carolina.

COURTESY SUBJECT

THE ONE BOOK EVERY DOG LOVER NEEDS



The most successful dog book ever published, with over two million copies sold, **The New Complete Dog Book** is the American Kennel Club's bible of dogs, a celebration of every breed—over 200—recognized by the AKC.

This volume offers readers:

- Official standard for every AKC-recognized breed
- Over 800 exceptional color photographs of adults and puppies
- Spotlight on finding well-bred puppies, sports, and activities for dogs and owners

This 23rd edition of The American Kennel Club's **New Complete Dog Book** belongs in every dog lover's home, the library of every town and institution, and dog club reference section in America.

▶ Available at Amazon or in the AKC Shop at shop.akc.org

UPDATES

A Toast to Canine Health

CHF Honors Hamil, RRCUS at Orlando Gala

The [AKC Canine Health Foundation](#) has recognized the following leaders in canine health with their annual awards, presented at the CHF's annual gala, "Canines & Cocktails," on December 14, 2023, in conjunction with the AKC National Championship.

Susan LaCroix Hamil: **2023 President's Award**

The President's Award is given to a person or organization that has made an exceptional contribution to advancing canine health. Susan LaCroix Hamil has a deep personal and professional commitment to canine health.

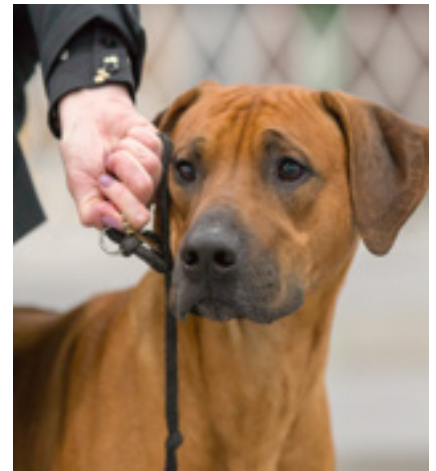
A licensed veterinary technician, Hamil holds numerous influential roles, including as a member of the [American Bloodhound Club](#), an AKC Delegate from the [Shoreline Dog Fanciers Association of Orange](#)

[County](#), California, the chair of the AKC Delegates' Canine Health Committee, and a member of the board of directors at both the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals and AKC Canine Health Foundation.

"Susan is a true champion of canine health, advocating for dogs across her various roles," CHF Chief Executive Officer Dr. Stephanie Montgomery says. "Her passion, dedication, and outstanding contributions to the health of dogs are inspirational."

The Rhodesian Ridgeback Club of the United States and Rhodesian Ridgeback Charitable Foundation: **2023 Distinguished Research Partners**

The Distinguished Research Partner Award is given annually to clubs or organizations for their ongoing and outstanding



commitment to support canine health research. The [Rhodesian Ridgeback Club of the United States](#) and Rhodesian Ridgeback Charitable Foundation are longtime supporters of CHF-funded canine health research.

These organizations have pledged \$90,000 in matching funds for canine cancer research donations during 2022–2024.

"The Rhodesian Ridgeback Club of the United States is an admirable leader in promoting canine health," Montgomery says. "The Rhodesian Ridgeback Charitable Foundation embodies a culture of generosity. Working together, these two organizations amplify their impact and create positive change in the health of dogs."



This month's slideshow, adapted from the AKC GAZETTE's November 2022 feature "[Our Best: The ANC Best in Show Dogs](#)," looks back at some of the great dogs, distinguished judges, and notable exhibitors who have made the AKC National Championship an ornament of the American show circuit. (Photo credits and historical notes appear on the YouTube page.)

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



FEATURE

BEST
IN
SHOW

BEST
IN
SHOW

Gz



GAZETTE photographers are your eyes on the sport and the wider doggy world.

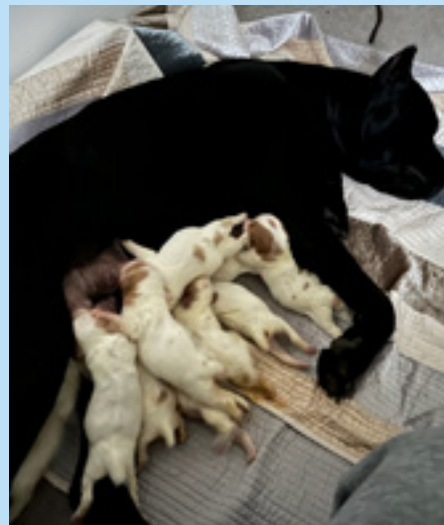
2023 A YEAR IN PICTURES

The GAZETTE's contributing photographers—including parent-club members and AKC staff—documented the bustling show circuit while keeping an eye on the wider canine community. In this year-end roundup, we present editor's picks from 2023 reflecting the talent and dog sense of these intrepid artists.

Thanks to all contributors who helped us report an exciting year in dogdom.

BIS Bulldog GCh. Cherokee Legend Encore was our February cover dog. This shot was part of Stephaniellen Photography's coverage of the AKC National Championship presented by Royal Canin.

FEATURE



PUPPIES

The GAZETTE isn't the GAZETTE without lots of adorable pups. From the breed columns: Anatolian Shepherd Dogs (Erik Conrad), a Cane Corso dam nursing Brittany pups (David Webb), Bullmastiffs (Lindy Whyte), and American Hairless Terriers (Ryan and Karyn Pingel).

In our December feature, *"Breeders and Veterinarians: Bridging the Barriers,"* a vet student showed off a French Bulldog pup birthed by C-section (Marisela Gonzalez-Cruz).

FEATURE



THE SPORTS PAGES



As usual, the year's GAZETTE pages were crowded with dogs in the sporting realm, including dock diving (Belgian Tervuren, courtesy Dana Mackonis), field trials (Irish Water Spaniel, Mary Huff), lure coursing (Borzoi, Lisa Wisminty), and the [AKC Agility League](#) (Great Dane Photos).

FEATURE



PORTRAITS

German Shorthaired Pointer (Kathleen Riley), Toy Fox Terrier (Susan Thibodeaux), Shetland Sheepdog (Lynda Beam), and Akita (Linda Wolf)

FEATURE

Our June issue carried lots of Westminster coverage, including BIS Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen GCh. Soletrader Buddy Holly and Janice Hayes in the winner's circle (Frausini for WKC) and Buddy's day-after visit to AKC headquarters (Chris Espiritu). Our June "Times Past" page presented a newly rediscovered cache of vintage Westminster photos taken by Tara Darling-Lyon in 1998.



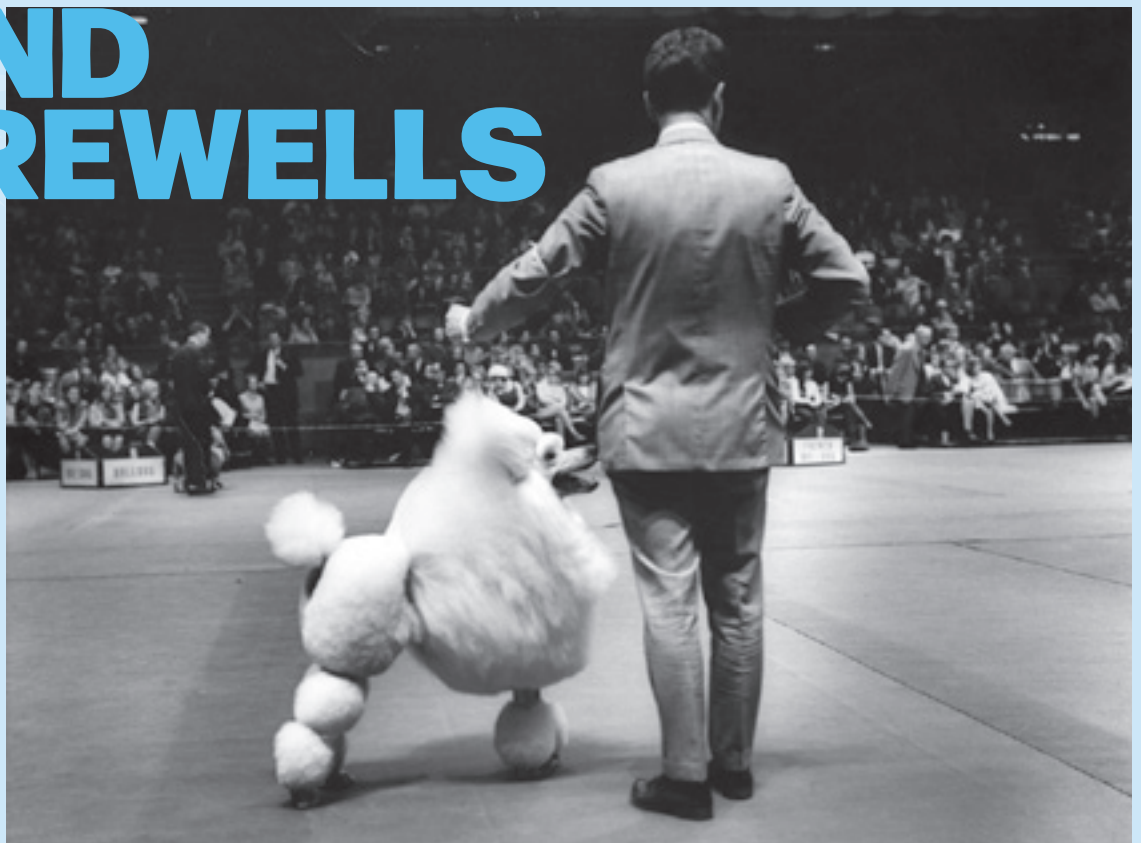
WESTMINSTER

FEATURE



Among the departed fanciers we mourned in 2023 were the doyenne of the English Cocker Spaniel fancy, [Kate Romanski](#) (English Cocker Spaniel Club of America), and the legendary sage of Ale Kai, [Wendell Sammet](#) (Paula Wright/ AKC GAZETTE COLLECTION).

FOND FAREWELLS



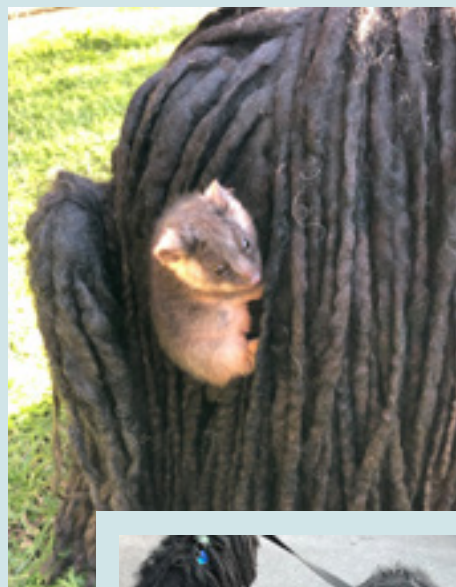
FEATURE



From John Ricard's photo coverage of AKC Meet the Breeds in New York, a graphic answer to a common question of prospective American Eskimo Dog owners.

A March breed column told the story of an Australian Puli named Kato who allowed an orphaned baby possum to hitch a ride.

Our September *"Black & White"* issue featured jewels from AKC Archives, including this Pomeranian show shot taken by famous photographer Elliott Erwit.



ODDS AND ENDS

FEATURE

ODDS AND ENDS



In a October breed column we met Curly-Coated Retriever Bree, who works in search-and-rescue with owner handler Bree Berner (Sarah Gentry Photography).

Olivia Mendelson, of [AKC Museum](#) staff, modeled a vintage Poodle skirt on our November cover. It was the first time in the GAZETTE's 134-year history an AKC staffer appeared on the cover (AKC Museum photo).





A Whole Lot of Terriers

PHILADELPHIA—A generous selection of terrier breed judging at the [KC of Philadelphia](#) “National Dog Show.” 2:03:46



Hawkeye Hoedown

COUNCIL BLUFFS, IOWA—[Council Bluffs KC](#) president Jean Lien welcomes us to the club’s annual show at the Mid-American Center. 4:05

VIDEOS



What's Black and White and Gray All Over?

MARSHALL, TEXAS—Robert L. Robinson judges Irish Wolfhounds at [Caddo KC of Texas](#), shot in artistic black and white. 9:53



Talking Dogs with Mike

NEW YORK—AKC Consultant Michael Canalizo holds forth on breeding, showing, and judging. 1:07:36

Minneapolis Kennel Club, November 18 and 19

Photos by *Kathleen Riley*

SHAKOPEE, MINNESOTA— The Minneapolis KC became an AKC Centennial Club in 2023, and members celebrated the club’s 100th anniversary with a weekend of all-breed shows at Canterbury Park, November 18 and 19. Kathleen Riley was on the grounds to provide photo coverage of this historic show.

Results

[Saturday](#)

[Sunday](#)

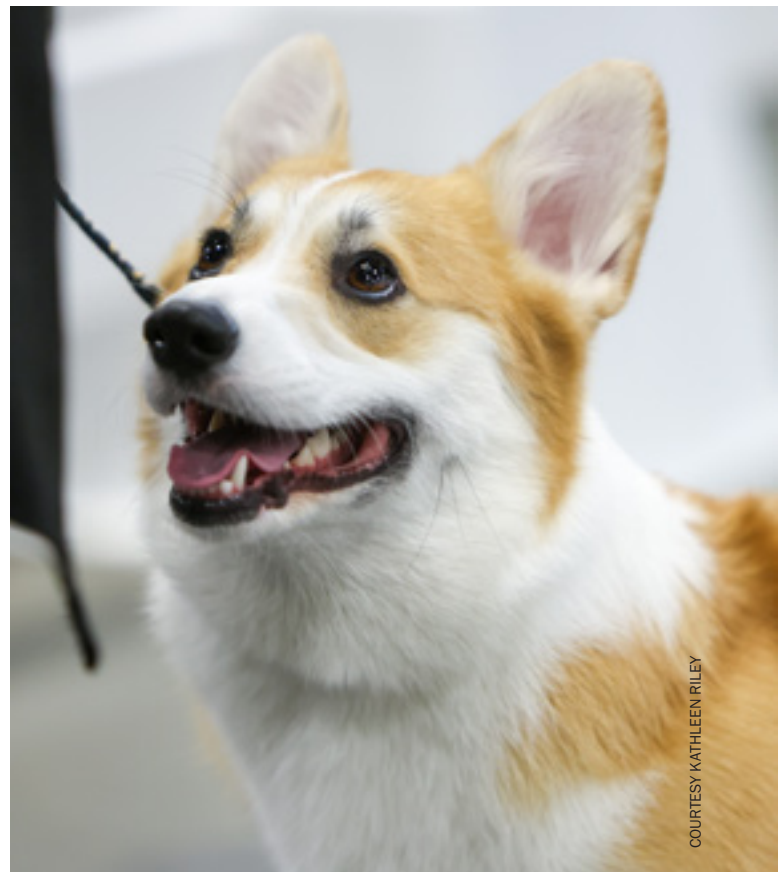


COURTESY KATHLEEN RILEY

RINGSIDE

Minneapolis Kennel Club, November 18 and 19

Photos by Kathleen Riley



COURTESY KATHLEEN RILEY

RINGSIDE

Minneapolis Kennel Club, November 18 and 19

Photos by Kathleen Riley



COURTESY KATHLEEN RILEY

TIMES PAST

Best of the West

*M*mmm, that mildewy old-magazine smell!

We had this 1948 copy of *Kennel Review* lying around the office and just had to share the neat-looking retro cover. The cover photo, by Bill Deopaul, depicts Dachshund Ch. Rivenrock Teak, owned by Nancy Ann Bussey, of Sherman Oaks, California.

Kennel Review was founded in Kansas City in 1898 and relocated to Glendale, California, in the 1930s. The magazine gave West Coast fanciers a monthly forum to advertise their kennels, read in-depth regional show reports, and swap news and gossip. Shrewd exhibitors back East subscribed as a way of keeping tabs on the top Western breeders and exhibitors.

Kennel Review was recon-

ceived and expanded in 1964, after its acquisition by showbiz journalist and dog man supreme Rick Beauchamp. During Beauchamp's 28 years as publisher, a typical issue might carry columns by such luminaries as Anna Katherine Nicholas, Denny Kodner, Vince Perry, Marcia Foy, and Lina Basquette. *Kennel Review* never lost its West Coast

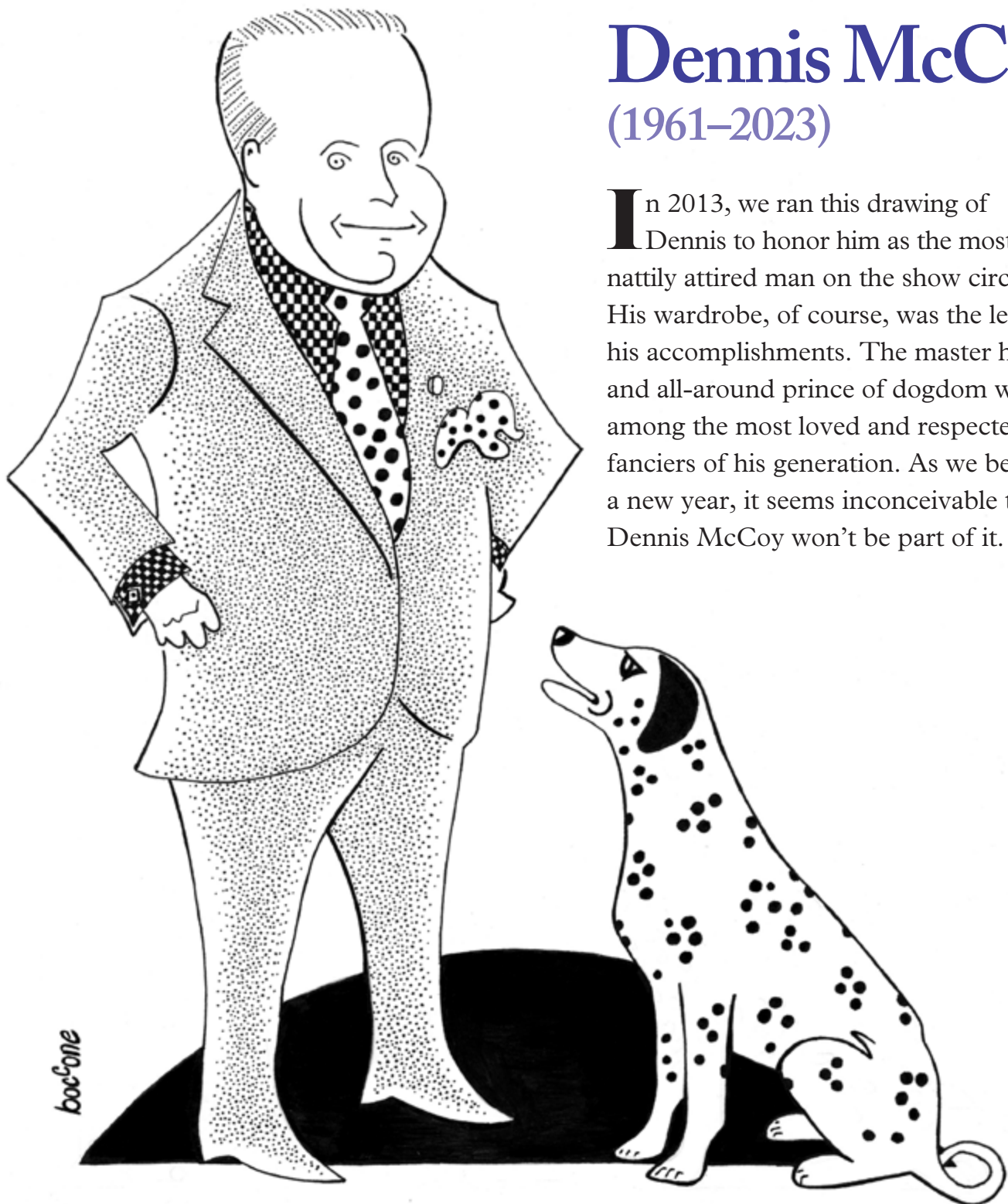
accent, but Beauchamp broadened the scope to be truly international. (It was the only U.S. dog magazine, for instance, to cover the Mexican show circuit in any kind of depth.)

Kennel Review was also a showcase for the photography of Joan Ludwig and Bill Deopaul, with page after page of their now-classic win shots and portraits.



Dennis McCoy (1961–2023)

In 2013, we ran this drawing of Dennis to honor him as the most nattily attired man on the show circuit. His wardrobe, of course, was the least of his accomplishments. The master handler and all-around prince of dogdom was among the most loved and respected fanciers of his generation. As we begin a new year, it seems inconceivable that Dennis McCoy won't be part of it.



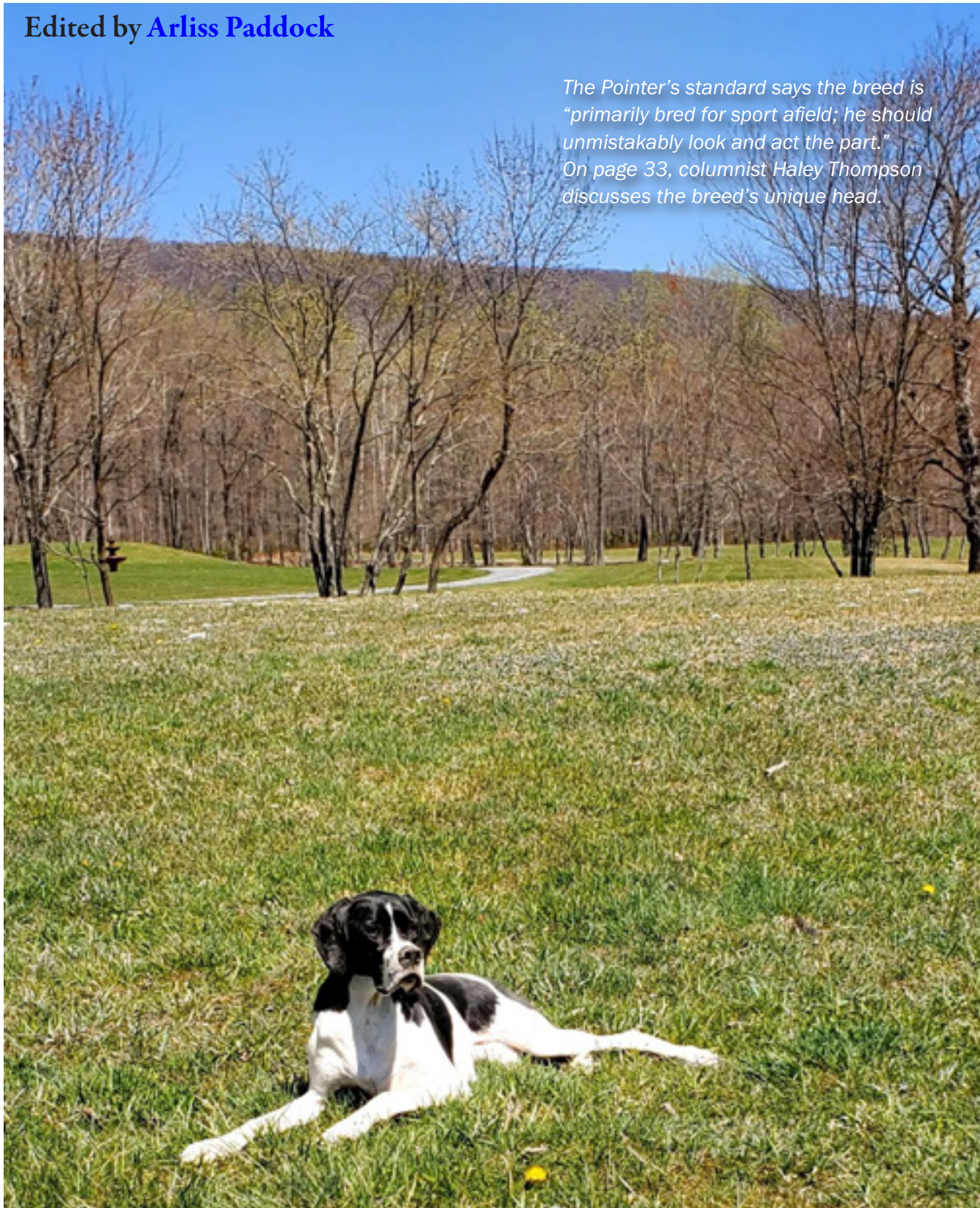
BUD BOCCONE ©2024

BREED COLUMNS



Edited by **Arliss Paddock**

The Pointer's standard says the breed is "primarily bred for sport afield; he should unmistakably look and act the part." On page 33, columnist Haley Thompson discusses the breed's unique head.



COURTESY HAYLEY THOMPSON

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



THIS MONTH

Sporting

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- 34 Pointers
- 37 Chesapeake Bay Retrievers
- 39 Curly-Coated Retrievers
- 41 Golden Retrievers
- 42 English Setters
- 44 Gordon Setters
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- 53 English Springer Spaniels
- 56 Field Spaniels
- 58 Irish Water Spaniels
- 59 Sussex Spaniels
- 60 Welsh Springer Spaniels
- 62 Vizslas
- 64 Weimaraners

Working

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- 77 Black Russian Terriers
- 78 Boerboels
- 81 Boxers
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- 92 German Pinschers
- 93 Giant Schnauzers
- 95 Great Danes
- 96 Great Pyrenees
- 99 Komondors
- 101 Kuvaszok
- 103 Leonbergers
- 106 Neapolitan Mastiffs
- 108 Newfoundlands
- 111 Portuguese Water Dogs
- 112 Rottweilers
- 115 Siberian Huskies
- 117 Standard Schnauzers

SPORTING GROUP

Brittanys

GIFTS FROM BEAR

It is a cold night, a week after the Christmas/New Year season. After all the holiday festivities and our boys' families returning to their homes, it seems to be a bit of a letdown. The flames flicker in the fireplace. It is warm inside, with frigid below-zero temperature outside.

My eyes are tired. I close them, having just finished reading for probably the second time Robert Ruark's *The Gift of a Gun*. The reflections of Ruark's and the dialogue between the Old Man and the Boy were an unusual reason why my thoughts drifted to a recent bird hunt over the holiday season with my oldest son, Geoff, and our Brittany named Bear.

The hunt took place at a preserve that has been our hunting and training grounds for well over 10 years. We had taken several birds over Bear's points but had downed one that we had not been able to recover. It



Bear as a pup (the liver one) with a littermate; Bear hunting

was along a hedgerow where the chukar had gone down; we had tramped and dug around in the foot of deep snow. Bear continued to point and then “relocated” a couple of times. Out of what

must have been pure frustration with us, the Brittany went off his point and began to dig—and there, a foot or so under the packed snow, was the chukar. The bird had been winged with the

COURTESY DAVID A. WEBB

SPORTING GROUP

shot and in an attempt to escape had buried itself in the snow. Geoff and I were amazed. Trust your dog, for he definitely knows where to find the birds.

Over the next few years, Bear was specifically trained for field trials. Well-known western Pennsylvania Brittany retired trainer Gene Stewart called him “The Little Bull.” Indeed, Bear did resemble one—with short legs and wide body, he definitely did not have the leggy look of the Brittany breed.

Gene worked with Bear numerous times over the next few years, from the time when he was a 10-week-old pup chasing quail during our visits to Gene’s training grounds, to the two- to three-month training sessions that led Bear becoming steady-to-wing-and-shot by the age of four.

It was time to determine Bear’s ability to perform in a field trial. My youngest son, Joe, was based in Ames, Iowa, serving his last two

and a half years of eight years recruiting for the U.S. Navy at Iowa State. Many times during the field trial seasons we would meet and run our Brittany in these events. We would meet halfway between Iowa and Western Pennsylvania, in Indiana or Illinois.

The first field trial event for Bear was a walking trial in Northern Indiana. As is said in the field trial world, “dog got around clean.” Bear had two finds steady-to-wing and shot, with a bit of an unusual style. That should have let me know what his field trial career would be.

The next event was one at the Pennsylvania club. Same results, with three finds—except this time, following the trial one of the judges, whom I considered to be a Brittany friend, then remarked, “Know you well enough to say Bear’s style on point is not going to make any score with most judges.” This was the end of Bear’s field trial career.

Bear was with our family

for six years, before it was even considered to let him go to live in another home. We had developed a unique bond. However, because of his physical appearance and awkward pointing style, competition in either or both the show ring and field trials were not going happen. It also was not a rationalization or an excuse, just the question being, “What would be best for Bear?”

Bear’s new family lived in north-central Ohio; they had three boys, ages 10 through 14. Bear’s new owner was an avid upland bird hunter, who most every year hunts grouse in Wisconsin. His boys also were being introduced to the fine art of upland bird hunting. What a great home for Bear of which to become a member.

The little short-legged, liver/white Brittany adapted quickly. The boys have all developed a special relationship with Bear. There have been periodic reports about hunts for grouse, pheasant, and his newly acquired ability to retrieve the bird.

BREED COLUMNS

SPORTING GROUP

Without a doubt, what “The Little Bull” gave to me and our family were many “gifts.” He taught us hunting patience, to trust his nose to find birds, loyalty, and to understand his desire to please us—he would be known as a biddable dog. Over the 50-some years our family has had one or more Brittanys, Bear enticed me to continue working and training the Brittany breed. He will forever have a place in my memory bank.

—David Webb,

davidazwebb@aol.com

[American Brittany Club](#)



German Shorthaired
Pointer

German Shorthaired Pointers

MY, WHAT A LOVELY COAT YOU HAVE ...

“*My, what a lovely coat you have*”

... but is it functional? For the early developers of the breed, the coat was of utmost importance, because they wanted an all-purpose dog that would be working in open fields, heavy brush, dense woods, water and

potentially adverse weather conditions. Further, it was their desire that the breed would be handsome both in body type and coat.

With the breed referred to as the *Deutsch Kurzhaar* because of its shorthaired coat, there was concern that the reference could be construed to mean any German breed of dog with short hair. However, it was a specific type of shorthaired coat that was wanted.

Throughout the year, the dog would be expected

to work in dense, wooded areas, muddy fields, and heavy underbrush, to do water retrieves during all types of weather conditions, and to live in the home as part of the family. It was the desired water work that led to the observation that using the otter, beaver, and polar bear coats as examples, one does not find longhaired water animals in nature. These types of coats resisted mud and ice and protected from the harsh elements of cold wet weather.

COURTESY KATHLEEN RILEY



SPORTING GROUP

Subsequently a short, dense hard outer coat was achieved, with a very short, dense, waterproof oil undercoat bred in for its insulating qualities, allowing the short outer coat qualities to be retained. The hair shaft is not flat or porous, rather when rolled between the fingers will feel firm and round. While the hair found on the head and ears is shorter and softer to the hand, it has the same qualities as those on the body. *Note: The undercoat reference does not mean the breed has a double coat as found in other breeds.*

This short, tight coat allowed the dog to work in heavy or dense bush conditions without entanglement or picking up burrs. The coat resists ice formation and easily sheds dried mud and doesn't mat or require trimming, making the breed easier to keep in the home.

When the comment was made to Herr Seiger, "You breed your dog too beautiful—it is too beautiful and noble for the rough work outside in the field!"

Herr Seiger replied that the beauty of the dog and its coat was obtained through efficiency trial fundamentals that indicated the desired suitability they wished to attain. He further said their best working-trial Siegers, with maybe a slight exception, were identical to their most beautiful dogs in the ring. He continues in response to the remark if it was aimed at specific dogs because their short coat hair allowed their clean outline musculature and bone structure to be seen. "We are glad of having maintained this beauty, though there has been a change in the hair itself. To prevent the covering hair from becoming longer and losing in beauty, we have bred to our Shorthair an oil dense underwool, that converts him into the most suitable water-dog." (Note: "Underwool" is not indicative of a double coat, as stated earlier.)

When judging the Shorthair, care should be given to coat texture and the

purpose for which the breed was developed.

—Patte Titus,
chexsix@mac.com
German Shorthaired
Pointer Club of America

Pointers

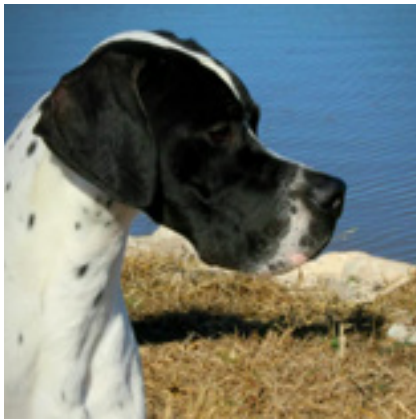
ENGINEERING THE POINTER'S HEAD

The Pointer's body was built to gallop across varied terrains at full speed, for long distances, with head held high and nose scenting the wind, and to stop when the scent of game is caught and lock into a point to indicate the direction of the game. As discussed in the July issue, the Pointer as we know him today was developed when several breeds—from sighthounds to scent hounds, and even a bit of terrier—were combined to improve the ability of the centuries-old pointing dogs from various countries to search, locate, and indicate game found across England.

The Pointer's head has been a very clear example

BREED COLUMNS

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From the Pointer's AKC standard: "... The skull of medium width, approximately as wide as the length of the muzzle, resulting in an impression of length rather than width. Slight furrow between the eyes, cheeks cleanly chiseled. There should be a pronounced stop. From this point forward the muzzle is of good length, with the nasal bone so formed that the nose is slightly higher at the tip than the muzzle at the stop. Parallel planes of the skull and muzzle are equally acceptable. The muzzle should be deep without pendulous flews. Jaws ending square and level, should bite evenly or as scissors. Nostrils well developed and wide open."

of selective breeding to improve the capacity of the created dogs in their task. In the following, I will discuss the logic behind some of the

elements breeders selected for in a Pointer's head.

The head of the Pointer, which may at first appear the work of an artist due to

its elegant beauty, is actually the product of engineering; it is a tool designed by engineers (breeders) to perform a function.

The specifications of the ear laid out in the AKC standard were given to fulfill a purpose: They are pointed at the tip, to make them more aerodynamic; have little or no folding, to protect the ear canal in many hunting environments; are relatively short, hanging just below the jaw, to be out of the way in high-speed and rapid-turn activity; and are fine leathered, with veins visible on the surface, to allow the quickest cooling mechanism during strenuous runs.

The head as a whole was finely tuned one generation of dog after another, by

COURTESY HAYLEY THOMPSON / CLAIRE THOMPSON / KATEY THOMPSON-BROWN

SPORTING GROUP

one generation of engineer after another, to be best formed to pull in through the nose the wind so that the dog could filter quickly the air for possible odor of game while the dog covered as much ground as possible to increase the chances of encountering the game sought.

Breeders selected dogs with well-developed and open nostrils that could better process the scents they encountered in the hunt. The nostrils alone could not improve wind intake on the run, however; the shape of whole head would need design. In order to not slow down and cause eventual arthritis in the dog by pulling the dog's neck back into the shoulders when scenting the wind while running, the top skull needed to at least run parallel to the muzzle line, or have the nasal bone so formed that the nose is slightly higher at the tip than the muzzle at the stop, often referred to as a dish; both are functional and are equally acceptable in the

AKC standard.

Having skull and muzzle aligned in parallel planes is a relatively straightforward form; imagine a brick on a brick. The second form of the head is a bit debated in terms of whether the nasal bone so formed that the nose is slightly higher at the tip than the muzzle at the stop indicates a scoop-out in the muzzle, or convergent planes, or either, but both interpretations support the function of the Pointer.

Engineers of the breed made it very clear, though, that a head shape that does not support the breed's function is a head with divergent planes, whether or not there is a scoop-out in the muzzle. With divergent planes, the nose will face downward, not efficiently pulling in the wind on the run, or the dog suffers the consequences of trying to compensate for the downward-facing nostrils by lifting the muzzle, pulling the neck back into the shoulders.

In determining length of muzzle and width of

skull, the breed's engineers focused on proportion. From the front, the skull should be medium width and approximately (does not have to be exactly) as wide as the length of the muzzle. The proportion is vital here for an aerodynamic head and one strong enough to carry game with mouth partly open so as to not damage the retrieved bird.

An overly lean head with narrow skull compared to longer muzzle, while aerodynamic, may lead to a dog who suffers in keeping the mouth somewhat open, to maintain the necessary soft mouth, for extended periods with heavy game. An overly wide head, while potentially strong, encounters additional resistance through the wind as it hits as if against a wall rather than pulls it across. The proportionate head, skull approximately as wide and the length of the muzzle, is the design for a balanced head with a strong jaw more easily capable of the extended gentle touch



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needed to properly carry the retrieved bird across any required distance, and which pushes well enough through the wind to not inhibit the hunt.

Though the design needed for a Pointer’s head generates a beautiful product, the breeders creating the Pointer were engineers, not (only) artists, as they had a function in mind. As each breeder selects the pairings for another generation and each judge selects another winner in the ring, he or she must reflect back on the purpose of the breed and the design the breed’s engineers created to fulfill that purpose.

—Hayley Thompson,
windlight1@aol.com
American Pointer Club

Chesapeake Bay Retrievers

THE UPS AND DOWNS OF JUDGING OBEDIENCE

This is my 30th year of judging obedience. My first assignment was for the Albany Dog Obedience

Club outdoor trial in May 1993. Over the years, many different and unique things have happened in the obedience ring. I was talking with one of our newer obedience judges recently and said that even though you think you have seen it all, something new can still happen in the ring when you are judging.

I recently judged outdoors at a four-day cluster. Judging began at 8 a.m. every day. It was the final day, and I had a flight scheduled for late afternoon. Everything went smoothly all morning, with 75 percent of Utility B qualifying, placements in Open B, and two qualifiers in Open A, including a dog who had just “moved up” from Graduate Novice.

It was time for a lunch break. Where is the golf cart that would take me to the hospitality tent at the other end of the showgrounds? It turned out that one of the committee had commandeered the golf cart to take herself to lunch. It was nowhere to be seen. I

waited for another cart, but none were forthcoming, so I began to walk. I was met halfway, and by the time I returned from lunch, my 30-minute lunch break had easily become 45 minutes. Back to judging and onto Graduate Novice—the first dog qualified! What a great start! The second dog wandered off on the Heel Free, and there he was, next to the gating and “watering” it. The dog is excused, the ring cleaned up, and the heeling pattern revised.

Onto Novice B. Dog #1 is a very large, black lumbering working breed. He moved very slowly (as did his handler), and he qualified on the individual exercises. Next dog is from the Herding Group. He found another place in the ring, and the dog anointed the grass. More clean-up, and another excusal. The last dog to show was giant breed from the Working Group, steel blue and with natural ears. That team moved *soooo* slowly. What happened to the meaning of the word

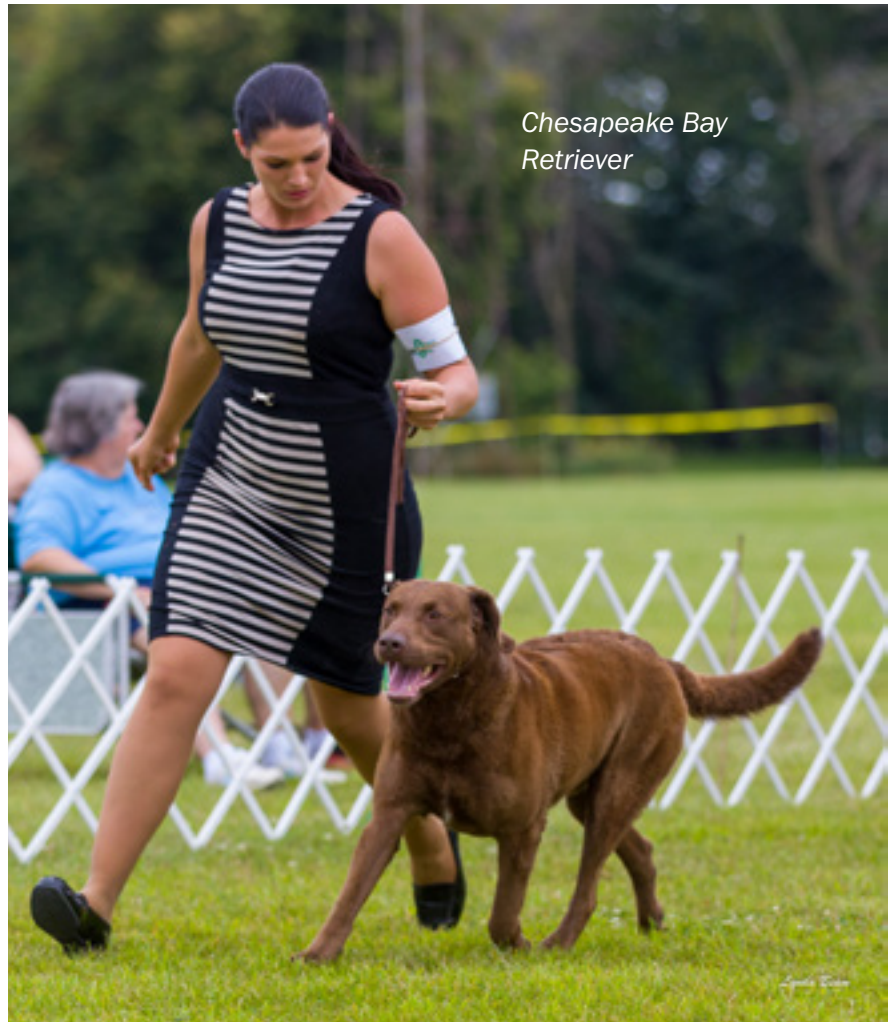
BREED COLUMNS

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brisk? I now have two qualifiers for the Sit and Down Stays. The owner of the tall steel-blue dog chose not to return. Why do the first part and not compete in the second part of the class? I will never know. There was one qualifier in that class.

Onto Novice A. The handler is a very well-dressed, distinguished-looking gentleman wearing a business suit handling a large black dog with tan markings from the Working Group. The first exercises are acceptable, and then we get to the moment of truth: the Heel Free.

After a couple of extra commands, the dog leaves his handler and heads for the open ring gate. The owner caught him, but the dog backed out of his chain collar. Said dog now begins to do “zoomies” around the ring. Several stewards join me in the ring. About four exhibitors go to block the large, open ring entrance. The dog continues to circle wildly, ignoring the handler’s commands to *Come!* I sug-



Chesapeake Bay Retriever

gest that he tell him to Sit or Down, since the dog is obviously ignoring the word *Come*. This handsome dog actually lay down, but as the handler advanced toward him, he was up once more, circling the perimeter of the ring. Now I suggest that the owner pretend that he has treats or cookies to offer

the dog. He reaches into his pocket and comes out with a handful of honest-to-goodness doggie treats! The dog ignores him and runs for the entrance. He is semi-tackled by two exhibitors who hold him by the scruff of his neck until the owner shuffles over to put the dog’s collar back on. (Note: this was a

COURTESY LYNDA BEAM

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breed champion, a gorgeous example of his breed with a lovely temperament.)

So much for the Novice A class—and a point of reference here: Chapter 2, Section 3 of the AKC obedience regulations reads, “Handlers who carry or offer food in the ring ... must receive a non-qualifying (NQ) score.”

Onto Preferred Novice with another “giant” breed. She worked quickly and did all the principal parts of each exercise, qualifying and finishing her PCD title. Kudos to this team! In the meantime, the other judge grabbed my raincoat and boots and took them to the car.

By now it is 2 P.M.—and 2 P.M. is my hypothetical time to finish judging and leave for the airport. There is one single Beginner Novice B dog to judge. During heeling the dog pulled and tugged to go where he wanted. He paid no attention to his handler. It became obvious that three days of obedience and breed competition was too much for him. When

he refused to “set-up” for the Figure 8 exercise, both the handler and I agree that she should self-excuse. It is now 2:03—I gathered all my score sheets and other judging paraphernalia, hastily putting them into my judging bag, thanked all the stewards and workers for their assistance, and raced to the rental car to head to the airport.

Yes, we made it to the airport (driving very quickly, I might add), returned the car, checked our luggage, and trekked our way to the gate, which of course, was at the very end of the terminal.

I hope my adventures in the obedience ring caused some smiles.

—Betsy Horn Humer,
tiderunnr2@verizon.net
American Chesapeake Club

Curly-Coated Retrievers

CURLY-COAT CARE

First-time puppy owners sometimes ask, “Where are the curls? When do they

come in? Will they be soft or crisp? Open or tight?”

Every Curly becomes curly at its own pace and in its own way. Many factors such as genetics, nutrition, and allergies can affect the coat. You can even see variations in the same litter. A puppy may have a “teddy bear” coat—soft, fluffy, and straight with no wave. Or he might have a wavy coat—curls mixed with waves. Or he might have a straight coat. But the puppy coat does not necessarily indicate what the adult coat will be.

I’ve seen good, wavy coats become patterned, and I’ve seen lovely curls appear in a straight, fluffy coat when the dog reached 9 months of age. My 4-month-old puppy had lovely, crisp little curls. A previous pup had tighter waves for a few months, and then her coat developed into a mass of tight, swirled little curls. I’ve seen 2- and even 3-year-old curl-less dogs suddenly grow a beautiful curly coat. I’ve seen a liver with a ridge of darker, coarser hair down the

BREED COLUMNS

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center of his back (some of us say that’s the “big dog coat” starting in).

Only time and maturity will tell what kind of coat your Curly finally has. There is variation, and several types of coats win in the ring.

When a Curly blows coat, you probably shouldn’t show the dog. Wait until the coat grows back in. Some breeders say good coats grow back in faster than poor coats. Bitches will often lose their coats two or three months after their season. Some lose only a little coat, with the most obvious places being shoulders and back. Some go bald after having a litter of puppies.

You can usually rely on a bitch to lose some coat about twice a year. Males usually shed once a year, after the winter. I know of one male here in Florida who never sheds and is always in full coat.

I asked several breeders how they care for their Curlies’ coats. One longtime breeder uses a #4 blade to routinely clip her 9-year-old



Curly-Coated Retriever

bitch’s coat. After a bitch has puppies, and starts to blow coat, she uses a #7 blade to clip the bitch. Using clippers reduces the amount of excess hair all over the house when your Curly blows coat. Within a few weeks, sparse patches fill in, and the full coat comes back in six or eight weeks.

A slicker brush helps to remove dead hair when a Curly is shedding. Another breeder cautions us to never

use a brush, but instead use a metal comb with widely spaced teeth when your Curly is shedding. *A Curly in full coat should never be brushed.*

Unless the dog is shedding, I rarely need to bathe a Curly. I can hose him down, and only use a towel to remove excess moisture. On the whole, a healthy Curly has a wash-and-wear coat!

—Ann Shinkle, 649 Amelia Island Parkway, Apt.

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1123, Fernandina Beach,
Florida, 32034-9141
[Curly-Coated Retriever
Club of America](#)

Golden Retrievers

HOPE AND HEALING

Their mission is always the same. Their message always welcome. Comfort, compassion, and love.

Following the horrific mass shooting in Lewiston, Maine, on October 25, 2023, a network of

LCC (Lutheran Church Charities) K-9 Comfort dog teams responded as they always do, ready to serve, and offer their prayerful presence to the people of Lewiston as a source of hope and healing.

Eight teams of Comfort Goldens from across the Midwest assembled to deploy to Lewiston. They brought with them LCC K-9 Ministries coloring book for the children, and mini stuffed K-9 Comfort Goldens as a reminder that

they are loved and supported by people across the nation.

Upon arrival in Lewiston, the teams joined Lewiston residents at the Basilica of St. Peter and Paul, where the grieving community had gathered for a “One Lewiston” community vigil.

City officials, faith leaders, first responders, and hundreds of community members had come together to pay tribute to the 18 victims who lost their lives, and to share words of



Golden Retrievers

DAVID WOO ©AKC



SPORTING GROUP

hope and healing.

During their deployment, the teams visited schools where the dogs' provided a furry shoulder to cry on and friendly paws to hold. They eagerly nuzzled into laps and welcomed all the hugs and petting.

The dogs were also there for the first responders and volunteers who had been working tirelessly to tend to the wounded. They were exhausted, but the sight of the smiling Golden Retrievers and their wagging tails immediately lifted their spirits, and they reached out for hugs and some of the furry therapy Golden Retrievers are famous for. The teams visited hospitals and care centers to comfort medical personnel who were still caring for the wounded.

Before ending their deployment, the LCC teams hosted a community healing event, so community members could spend some time with the Comfort Golden Retrievers.

On a final happy note, the Maine Nordiques hockey team invited the dogs and handlers to be special guests

at their game and asked them to drop the puck to start the game.

LCC President and CEO Rev. Chris Singer said the deployment to Lewiston had been a powerful and moving experience for the dog teams. "We are so grateful to each of the teams who answered the call to serve."

This column acknowledges the service of the following eight Comfort teams that answered the call to serve during this tragic event: Caleb Comfort Dog, Claudia Comfort Dog, Gideon Comfort Dog, Jared Comfort Dog, Kezia Comfort Dog, Lily Comfort Dog, Lydia Comfort Dog, and Magdalene Comfort Dog

LCC K-9 Ministries currently has 130 Comfort Golden Retrievers throughout the U.S. Each team stands at the ready to go again, wherever there is the need for the peace, mercy, and compassion of Golden Retrievers. They charge nothing for what they do but instead rely on gifts and

donations to cover their expenses. For information on how you can help or support their work in canine-assisted therapy, visit <http://www.K9Comfort.org>

—Nona Kilgore Bauer,
nona@nonabauer.com
Golden Retriever Club of America

English Setters

THE AKC PUREBRED PRESERVATION BANK—A GOOD IDEA?

Many of you are probably aware that the AKC recently announced a new initiative called the AKC Purebred Preservation Bank (AKC PPB). This program is being developed to provide support to preserve the genetic heritage of all purebred dogs. It is especially relevant for breeds with small populations.

The preservation bank will establish a frozen semen program with the aim of increasing gene pools, saving quality producers, and making it easy for each parent club to participate

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on behalf of their breed. Parent clubs would have the authority to set the criteria concerning who can access the semen that is stored, along with making other decisions related to the use of the semen and how it is used in the future.

The program is still under development, but you can learn more about it on the AKC website (<https://akcpcb.org/faqs/>).

As someone who is concerned about the relatively low numbers we register in the United States for AKC English Setters, I was over the moon as soon as I saw this announcement. I thought this sounded like a fantastic and very proactive idea from AKC. That's why I was surprised to find some negative voices from breeders online.

Some people seem to be afraid that AKC will, willy-nilly, allow anyone off the street to use the frozen semen on their female. This is false. There is an application process, and each individual parent club is



English Setters

supposed to set their unique criteria for who will qualify to use some of the available semen. In addition, the parent club may also set criteria for which male dogs have semen which is stored.

Other breeders seemed offended by the idea that their parent club would make breeding decisions using semen from their male dogs, even after they themselves had passed away. Well, I guess if you believe that your fellow fanciers aren't knowledgeable enough to make good use of your dog's semen, you probably should not leave it in their hands. But it's likely that your lifetime of work will be lost when you could provide

something beneficial for the future of your breed. Consider how many times someone with a great stud dog dies, leaving straws of semen in storage, but their relatives want nothing to do with dog breeding. All too often that dog's genetic material is tossed out.

The top dozen or so most popular breeds registered by AKC make up the biggest majority of registered dogs in this country. That means for the rest of us with other, less popular dogs, we could all be considered breeds with "small populations." With our smaller gene pools, sometimes relying on one or two popular sires for several years, it's all too easy for a

COURTESY LYNDA BEAM



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genetic health issue to creep into a breed. Even with popular breeds, new diseases are being discovered as veterinary medicine advances. Any breed can face issues with a genetic bottleneck or a disease that was previously unknown. None of our breeds are immune to genetic disasters. That's why a program like the Purebred Preservation Bank makes sense for every breed.

Some rare breeds, aware of their precarious situation, have already set up a similar storage bank. Even if a breed doesn't choose to participate in AKC's version, it's a good idea for every breed to make plans for the future in case of some of kind health emergency in their breed.

I have no idea what ESAA's position is on the AKC Purebred Preservation Bank. However, the board is already setting up a committee of highly experienced breeders in the Breeders Resource team.

The team will help ESAA provide the membership with the resources needed to educate breeders on all the topics to breed healthy, quality English Setters. The ESAA is committed to providing these resources to create a solid future for our breed. The team members have decades of experience and have each bred top-quality litters. They are willing to advise and mentor our club members.

This kind of committee could serve as a good advisory board to the ESAA if the club decides to take part in the AKC Purebred Preservation Bank.

—Carlotta Cooper,
eshever@embarqmail.com
[English Setter Association of America](#)

Gordon Setters

TWO CENTENNIALS

The Gordon Setter and the American Kennel Club have a long history together in the United States. The American Gordon Setter Club was

founded prior to 1870 and was one of the ten American charter members of the AKC in 1884. (Three Canadian kennel clubs were also part of the original AKC group but pulled out in 1886 to form the Canadian Kennel Club.)

Gordons were in the first group of ten breeds recognized by the AKC.

The breed club was strong at the start, faded a bit, and dissolved in 1902. Several other attempts were made to form a parent club in the early part of the 20th century, but none came to fruition

In August 1924, Charles T. Inglee and a few friends finally formed a new club, the Gordon Setter Club of America, and it was recognized by the AKC as the parent club for the breed that same year. Mr. Inglee had his fingerprints all over the Gordon Setter, and a large number of pedigrees today can trace back to the dogs he imported from Denmark and Norway and to those bearing his

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Inglehurst prefix. He was also the GSCA's delegate to the AKC from 1924 to 1941.

The club has been the guardian of the breed since that time 100 years ago this year. It endured the early years thanks in part to this column in the *GAZETTE* which began at the end of 1924, making this a second centennial. The first columnist was William Cary Duncan. Mr. Duncan was a successful playwright who wrote the book for a number of Broadway musicals between 1911 and 1929. He was also a founding member of the club as well as president of the Irish Setter Club of America and a director of the AKC. He was the Gordon Setter columnist until his death in 1941. Among the others to fill this role have been Jean Look, Muriel Clement, Jane Matteson, and Carolyn Gold—each of whom contributed to the club and breed.

The club made progress for a number of years, with



Peter of Crombie, whelped 1926, painted by Reuben Ward Binks

field trials having been the earliest of its endeavors, mostly shooting-club trials. That said, the second-ever AKC field trial was in 1931, co-hosted by the GSCA and the Irish Setter Club of America. Several others followed. As with other clubs, World War II put a near-halt to most activities thanks to gasoline rationing and travel restrictions. In 1944 there were few dog shows held, and Gordons were entered at only 12 of them. The largest entry at any show was seven Gordon

Setters. Field trials ceased in 1939.

With the end of WWII, the GSCA and the country shared one thing in common: It was a boom time. Gordon registrations, which were only 133 in 1943, soared in 1945 to nearly 250 dogs. It was as if anyone who had a bitch bred her. The first postwar specialty show was held near Baltimore in 1947, and there were 47 Gordons entered. There were two specialties in 1948, annual awards were revived in 1948, and field

COURTESY JAMES THACKER



SPORTING GROUP

trials came roaring back in the fall of 1949. The club treasury, which reached as low as \$350 in 1942, also recovered, along with a growing membership.

In 1947 the club newsletter, *The GSCA News*, was born and is going stronger than ever today. Miriam Steyer Mincieli was the first editor of the *News*. It has become a glue that holds the club together and is read around the globe, thanks to current editor Sue Drum and a number of excellent and underappreciated volunteers.

The growth of the club and Gordons in general was steady and sure throughout the 1950s and '60s. The Midwest specialty began in 1954, followed shortly by both the Tartan specialty and the Combined Setter Specialty held prior to Westminster. Those three specialties still remain and have been joined by a number of others.

By the end of the 1970s a huge boom in registrations and events occurred. Both specialty shows and

field trials spread across the country, not only in the number of events but also in the number of Gordons entered in the events. Things reached a peak for entries at the 1997 national specialty in West Carrollton, Ohio, with an entry of 426 Gordons and total entry of 801. Things have tapered off a bit since then, but both the breed and the club are currently strong and in great hands.

To celebrate 100 years, there will be a party from September 15 to September 20 at the fairgrounds in Marshall, Michigan, at the national specialty show hosted by the Nodrog Gordon Setter Club of Michigan. Field events will follow in October, in Michigan, with the national walking field trial, and in November, in Kansas, for the national field trial. The schedules and exact dates for the field events will be in the July column.

Listed below is the intended schedule for the specialty show. There may be last-minute adjustments,

but there should be no major changes. As always, spectators are welcome, and there is no charge for admission.

GSCA 2024 National Specialty Schedule of Events

Sunday 9/15 the agility trial is scheduled.

Monday 9/16 will be site setup for grooming, raffle, and silent auction.

Tuesday 9/17 will feature the obedience trial, followed by rally obedience, Canine Good Citizen testing, Trick Dog, and a health clinic. Fast CAT will be held outdoors.

Wednesday 9/18 will start with the judges' education program, followed by the 4 to 6 Months puppy competition. Regular puppy sweepstakes will follow. The evening will feature the veterans sweepstakes and the official welcoming party.

Thursday 9/19 will begin with all regular and non-regular dog classes. There will be a breeders' seminar and a general membership meeting. Senior handling



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will be in the evening.

Friday 9/20 will start with the Junior Showmanship competition, followed immediately by all the regular and nonregular bitch classes. Best of Breed will follow lunch. The day, and the event, will conclude with a banquet.

People interested in the judges' education seminar should contact Mick Osman at Scimitargs@Gmail.com.

Folks with other questions may contact me at the below email address. Club members will receive the premium with hotel information, entry fees, and other necessary items.

I hope to see you all there to celebrate and to send the club off into its next century.

An addition to the last column on a brief history of the Midwest specialty; it takes a lot of work, time, and money to earn titles on the dogs, and I left an important title out of the last column. The winner of both 2023 Midwest specialties was not merely a

champion, but a Grand Champion Platinum—GCh.P Shaker Tree's Santana, owned by Ginny Powell of Ohio.

—James Thacker,
dumbargs@sbcglobal.net
Gordon Setter Club of America

Irish Red and White Setters

HOW TO RECRUIT NEW BOARD MEMBERS

It will soon be that time of year again: the search to find empty board and committee chairs. It is an annual task no one wants to take. Why? Do we give the nominating committee the tools they need to find willing club members interested in participating? What is laid out in the by-laws? Does the same group of people serve as nominating committee members year after year?

I have learned how organizations can function effectively, efficiently, and productively. It is not rocket science. It is creating a safe space for people

with a common goal to work together, benefiting both the individual and the group—while having fun and making friends.

I am not saying do it like we always do it. I am for growth and change. Modifying the wheel, not reinvention. Meeting new challenges, conditions, and expectations sometimes require a fresh approach.

Change is the only constant. Change can be good. I understand how clubs delegate roles. At this level you need to know the person and trust them. This is not about an AKC organization but rather a general concept of how to recruit members. Asking them to serve on the board but not neglecting to mention all the extra responsibilities that come with a fancy title, and the understanding that this job is the first step on the leadership ladder.

For the organization's growth, new officers and chairs need to realize this is a long-term commitment. They need learn to as much

BREED COLUMNS

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as they can about how the organization functions. Understand its weaknesses and strengths. They should consider why the nominating committee thought of asking them, what they would contribute, and how they might apply their skills.

People are busy. They do not want to commit to another meeting or obligation. It is unfair to not give an accurate overview to people who are willing to even consider stepping up.

Was it mentioned that everyone brings cookies to this event? What other expectations are omitted? In my experience expectations are not always fully represented. I heard with my own ears a nominating committee member say “It’s any easy job. You just take notes.” Excuse me, it is not. The job description may say “take notes,” but those unwritten rules require never-mentioned expected extras. Surprise! Not advising a new/prospective board member of the responsibilities and role does a



Irish Red and White Setter

disservice to both parties. I suggest nominating committee members should provide written information for consideration by those who are deciding about joining the board or serving on a committee.

Leadership expert Simon Sinek was staying at the Four Seasons and said, “Four Seasons is wonderful, not because of the beds. It is the people who work there.” They say hello to

guests because they care. He went to the coffee bar and had a wonderful interaction with barista Noah. Sinek asks him if he likes his job, and Noah replies that he loves his job. Sinek asks him why, and Noah goes on to describe how managers at all levels stop by throughout the day asking if he needs anything to do his job better. Noah also works at Caesar’s, where managers instead try to catch mistakes. He

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BREED COLUMNS

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stays under the radar there. He says at Four Seasons, “I feel I can be myself.” Sinek concludes that with the same person guests can have different experiences. Management blames people. “Reality is not the people, it is the leadership. ... If we create the right environment, we get people like Noah at the Four Seasons; if we create the wrong environment, we get people like Noah at Ceasar’s Palace.”

This is so beautiful. Putting aside petty politics for the good of the club, I challenge us to do better. To create an atmosphere where Noah can shine.

—Cynthia Lancaster,
clclancaster@gmail.com
 Irish Red and White Setter
 Association of America

Clumber Spaniels

BEST IN SHOW CLUMBER SPANIELS

No, this is not a misprint. Though admittedly a rare breed, in recent years it has become not so rare for a Clumber



Clumber Spaniel

Spaniel to win Best in Show at an all-breed conformation show.

Amazingly, the first Clumber to be awarded BIS anywhere in the world was Ponto, an import from Australia, in 1899 at New Zealand’s first-ever all-breed dog show, at the Auckland Kennel Club. And also amazing that this show did indeed award a BIS title. In

the UK The Kennel Club (now Royal Kennel Club) did not begin to award Best in Show until 1904, and Crufts not until 1928. In the U.S. the Westminster KC, founded in 1877, did not award Best in Show until 30 years later, in 1907.

Unfortunately 60 years had to pass before a Clumber again went BIS, with Sh.Ch. Thornville

DAVID WOO ©AKC

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Swim (bred by Brian Ghent, Thornville), freshly arrived off the ship from England, at Australia's Phillip Island Hospital KC all-breed show in 1959.

Though Clumbers were among the only nine breeds recognized by the AKC at its founding in 1884, it wasn't until 92 years later that the U.S. celebrated its first Clumber all-breed Best in Show. But this is hardly surprising, given that during this length of time AKC registered on average fewer than three Clumbers per year.

Finally on July 24, 1976, Bonus (Ch. Neal's Double Bonus) went BIS at the Ventura Dog Fanciers' Association show in Ventura, California. There were 21 Clumbers entered almost certainly a record for the 1970s—and someone even yelled, "Hey, is this a Clumber national?!" Total entry at the show was 3,136, and a huge audience was still present at BIS competition. Bonus received such a standing, cheering ovation

that the bleachers shook. Clumber people, hugging and laughing, had tears running down their faces.

Bonus had already placed first in the Sporting Group at the Stockton KC, California, show at the ripe old age of 11 months. He was whelped Dec. 28, 1973 (sired by Dutch, Ch. Spirit of Fatpastures, bred to Birtley, Ch. Andronicus Birtley, CD); orange and white; bred by Neal and Karen Johnson (Neal's, Santa Rosa, California), co-owned by Bets Young (Cypress Woods, Los Altos Hills, California) and Neal Johnson; handled by Jo Shellenbarger. Bonus became the foundation sire of Bets' Cypress Woods Kennels. Ch. Spirit of Fatpastures was bred by Bill and Mary Henson (Fatpastures), imported from England by Frank and Imogene Ruckstuhl (Cruzada, Santa Fe, New Mexico). Ch. Andronicus Birtley, CD, was bred by Eunice and Milton Gies (Andronicus, Voorheesville,

New York), owned by Neal and Karen Johnson.

At the Ventura show, Harold Bishop was the Clumber breed judge, and John Lawreck, the Sporting Group judge. The first judge in U.S. history to have the courage to award a BIS to this very rare breed was Winifred Heckmann. "Winnie," who finished her first champion at age 20, had been a PHA all-breed handler and was then an all-rounder judge. She died in 1979.

The Clumber Spaniel Club of America, founded February 14, 1972, had its first national specialty and first official AKC-sanctioned point show on August 18, 1978, in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Don Croake's (Powderhorn) Ch. Satellites Senator (July 16, 1976–November 3, 1989) was its first BISS winner, with an entry of 34. Senator was bred by Leonard and Margaret Batchelder (Satellite, Ontario, Canada) by Ch. Raycroft Skipper x Raycroft Silver Sheen.



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Sunny Dutton was the judge.

In 1986, the first Clumber to go BIS at the American Spaniel Club's annual show was Bear (Eng./Am./Can. Ch. Raycroft Sheriff), whelped June 9, 1982, owned by George O'Neil (Wicksford). Bear was bred by England's great lady of the Clumber, Rae Furness (Raycroft) (Ch. Raycroft Silver Sabre x Ch. Raycroft Sing Song).

Our breed's first BIS in the country where it first became known was in 1991, at—of all noteworthy events!—Crufts Centennial show, in England. Garfield (Eng./Irish Sh.Ch. Raycroft Socialite) was bred by Rae Furness, and owned and handled by Ralph Dunne (Richley) from Ireland—his very first Clumber! At the time this was the largest dog show ever held, with an entry of 22,921.

Five years later, at Westminster KC, on February 13, 1996, at a show for champions only, and with an entry

of 2,571, BIS was Brady (Ch. Clussexx Country Sunrise). Whelped June 5, 1991 (BISS BIS Ch. Smoke Rise Country Gentleman x Ch. Tanelorn's Bubble and Squeak), bred by Douglas A. Johnson (Clussexx), Sandy Blakeley (Sandiam), and Susen Stockill (Tanelorn); owned by Judith and Richard Zalesky from Sorrento, Florida; handled by Jane Alston-Myers. He was from the very first Clumber litter bred by Johnson, to be followed by many others.

Another significant BIS also bred by Douglas A. Johnson was won by Willard (Ch. Clussexx Crayola Crayon), whelped Nov. 27, 2002, by Wilbur (BISS BIS Ch. Smokerise Country Gentleman) x Gracie (Ch. Clussexx Little Goatfeathers), at the Scottish KC May 2008 in Edinburgh, from an entry of over 7,800.

As many of us are happily aware, Clumber Spaniels have shown great improvement in recent years, and BIS Clumbers have sub-

sequently become more frequent than their registration numbers would imply.

Reminder: Clumbers make me happy. Humans? Not so much.

—Bryant Freeman, Ph.D., bryantfreeman72@yahoo.com

Founding/Life Member, Breed Historian

[Clumber Spaniel Club of America](#)

Cocker Spaniels

THE ESSENTIAL IMPORTANCE OF COCKER SPANIEL EXPRESSION

The AKC Cocker Spaniel standard does not assign a point value to characteristics of the breed to indicate an order of importance. One could make the case, however, that Cocker expression and eyes would rank at or near the top of the mythical “point value” scale. The standard is very descriptive of the features, function, and look of the breed.

Two sections within the standard section on Head

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are key: “Expression: The expression is intelligent, alert, soft and appealing,” followed by the section that says, “Eyes: Eyeballs are round and full and

From the Cocker Spaniel standard: “The expression is intelligent, alert, soft and appealing” ... “Eyeballs are round and full and look directly forward.”

look directly forward. The shape of the eye rims gives a slightly almond shaped appearance; the eye is not weak or goggled ...”

Explanation of the term “goggled” may be found as originating from a 14th-century Middle English word *gogelen*. Having a goggled expression would be to roll eyes, to look sideways, to look with eyes wide open because you are surprised. You get the picture from the standard’s use of the phrase about the eye not being weak or goggled. We have seen dogs with eyes that look

sideways. A weak or goggled eye completely takes away from the desirable soft, appealing, alert, earnest, and engaging look of the proper expression.

The standard paints a portrait of a small, sturdy, active sporting dog with a beautiful and intelligent looking face. Why is this of essential importance? Because it is necessary that those interested in conserving this breed understand the overall picture and because it is arguably what has kept the Cocker Spaniel in the positive view

COURTESY VICKI ARMSTRONG



SPORTING GROUP

of the general public and so popular in the 1930s, '40s, '50s, and '60s, and again in the '80s, as well as today. Cockers were often featured in advertising, literature, and the movies which mention their “soulful eyes,” “expressive eyes which exude intelligence and affection,” stating that “expression is a hallmark of the breed,” and referring to the breed’s “charm and cuteness.” Cockers have been said to “work it,” using their expressive eyes to very successfully beg for treats.

The proper Cocker expression is a key characteristic which draws people to the breed. The dog’s use of facial expression has developed over a long period of time and is used to communicate effectively with people.

Some breeds are known in the fancy in the colloquial terms as “head breeds,” where the appearance of the head is of the most crucial importance. This writer would say that the Cocker head, expression, and eyes

are essential to draw people to and cause them to engage with this small, sturdy, versatile breed. That is the important role expression plays. It has kept the public interested for many years. It has served well to illuminate the long list of Cocker qualities and functions.

—Kristi L. Tukua,
[American Spaniel Club](#)

English Springer Spaniels

FLY INTO AGILITY: LEAP INTO THE FUN IN 2024

Soaring, weaving—and springing. Agility allows Springers to let loose their working drive and sporting dog athleticism. If you dream of entering your fabulous dog in agility trials at the 2024 national, mark your calendars now for days of agility fun: September 25–28 at Purina Farms, in Gray Summit, Missouri. Explore the planning and myriad activities being planned at <https://essftanational.com>. (Find results from agility at the 2023

national here, too.)

The AKC introduced agility competition in 1994 in Houston, Texas. For 30 years, Springer trainers have loved every minute of training and competition in a sport made for our very eager, athletic breed.

Alan Strauss, an AKC tracking judge, veteran obedience competitor, and dedicated agility trainer, believes “Enthusiasm and teamwork are the basis for a competitive agility training program. My dogs having fun with me is my first training goal.”

Strauss starts training “as soon as possible. Puppies are great to teach because they are little learning sponges. Agility requires basic obedience skills, such as to come when called, sit, and stay. You can teach these things at any age. Building drive in an agility dog is extremely important. Play with your dog, act stupid, run around and have them chase you. Keep that tail wagging and keep that fire in their eyes.”

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Which obstacles are the dogs' favorites? Strauss says, "Each dog is different, but all my dogs love the tunnel; sometimes a little too much." Some dogs hear the siren call of the "tunnel-suckers."

Weave poles and contacts require more training than do running and jumping obstacles. Mastering reliable weave poles in competition has been the hardest.

"Making it fun and building drive helps the most. Don't try to progress too quickly. Break down each obstacle skill into small increments. Slowly build the skill until you have the complete behavior you are working on. Safety is most important. You don't want to injure or stress your canine partner. It's better (and easier) to train good behaviors than to fix bad behaviors."

Strauss observes, "It is not uncommon to see a trained skill break down in competition. For example, a dog may not hold the start-line stay (lead out). At trials, the dog may start to



*English Springer Spaniel
Ch. Salilyn's Private Stock,
1981 (Ashbey photo)*

leave before being released and the handlers don't correct it. The dog becomes 'ring wise,' and before you know it the dog will not stay during competition."

When asked "Does your dog work best for a specific treat?" Strauss proves he really does know the

Springer breed, replying, "These are Springers we are talking about. They would eat dirt. Honestly, any stinky food is the best. Nothing crunchy; to prevent them from hunting for crumbs."

Most agility competitors acquire equipment for frequent at-home practice.

AKC GAZETTE COLLECTION

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Obstacles can be purchased or built by the handy competitor. Check out a few helpful sites at <http://www.campbandy.com/store/build.htm>,

<http://members.peak.org/~helix/Agility/>, and <https://www.cleanrun.com>.

Kim Bolster, obedience trainer, longtime rescue advocate, fundraiser, and ESS foster mom for MAESSR (maessr.org) advises, “Moving fast, praising, and treats” are key to heightened Springer interest in agility skills.

Bolster’s methods for introducing her dogs to agility have “varied over the years, having trained five Springers in agility. The majority were rescues so they came to me with varying amounts of training acquired at different stages of their lives.”

Being prepared to enter a trail “varies greatly by dog and personality. You get better with each dog you train. You learn which foundation skills will benefit a young dog. I probably pushed my first

dogs into competition too early.”

Bolster strives to work carefully to prevent dog injuries, advising, “Start low and work up: jump heights, A-frame, teeter, etc. Don’t push height until dog bones are fully matured and your dog has confidence on each particular piece of equipment.”

Every dog has a different temperament and athletic condition. Bolster has seen trainers “push to train too fast. A friend pushed her dog on teeter training. He was faced with a situation on the equipment that he was not prepared to experience. It took over a year to retrain the teeter before the dog would go on any teeter anywhere.”

Are there any habits Bolster’s first agility dogs learned that she wishes she could have trained to prevent? “Yes. Excitement barking to go into the ring escalated as he got older and became barking on course. Today, I would redirect that excitement to tugging or

some kind of play.”

Bolster believes the most important skill to teach is “Focus! There’s lot to distract a Springer in outdoor agility venues and at indoor sites.

Bolster recommends the website Agility Nerd site (<http://agilitynerd.com/blog>) for news, practice course diagrams, and training techniques.

Sandy Kucaba (Dream Springers) began training in agility in 1994. Kucaba starts her Springers at “6 months with everything low to the ground.” Generally, new dogs enter their first trial at around one year of age. “Make sure your dogs are stretched out before and after running. Avoid long periods of training and pushing the dogs to do things at trial level.” Have a look at the AKC’s “[Easy Exercises for Canine Conditioning](#).”

Windle Ewing began agility training in 1999. Ewing believes dogs love to play and that from a dog’s viewpoint, agility

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is a chance to play with the humans they love. He enjoys agility’s “mental stimulation because each course is unique and challenging. Each dog’s preparation to compete in trials must be adapted to the personality and skills of the dog.”

Ball play, treadmill, acupuncture, massage, chiropractic, cold laser, stretching, and swimming are a few of the supports useful for keeping athletic dogs in better condition.

Ewing’s top advice for staying safe: “Don’t race your dog when teaching jump performance. Don’t drill your dog for long periods on a specific behavior. Make sessions short and frequent. Start weave and teeter training early. Don’t put it off. Make training ‘play.’ Work together as a team.”

—Sarah A. Ferrell, Locust Grove, Virginia

[facebook.com/Valentine-Vishnu-Ferrell-1053487794678146/](https://www.facebook.com/Valentine-Vishnu-Ferrell-1053487794678146/)
[English Springer Spaniel Field Trial Association](https://www.englishspringerspaniel.org/)

Field Spaniels

CONTINGENCY PLANNING

She was small, white, meek, and eating poorly. Her attitude was bleak at best, and she definitely disliked the kind men who worked in the kennel. I spent as much time as I could with her, only knowing a page or two out of her story. I was a teenager at that time, working and learning the ropes in dogs, but this tiny canine gave me food for thought for years to come as I sat in her run, hand-feeding her tempting tidbits to stimulate her appetite for a new life.

She had belonged to

a prominent artist—a renowned comic creator. His life had ended, and she was in a safe place but in a limbo of sorts. I wondered about her next step. I talked with her gently and tried to instill hope that she would live in a loving, comfortable home again, knowing she missed the man who once petted her silky body and cared for her. Even though she was in good temporary hands, I wasn’t sure how her journey would unfold.

Inevitably, we won’t exist forever. Many of us have verbal plans with family or fellow dog people as to what



Field Spaniel

ISABELLE FRANCAIS FOR AKC

SPORTING GROUP

ideally would happen to our dogs should the unexpected happen. In Field Spaniels we have had times where people help each other as fellow breeders, working to assist with dogs needing placement. We like to know that caring family and friends are there for our beloved breed.

No fancier wants to worry about how their dogs would fare without them. We do have the option of preparing and communicating now.

Organizations like [2nd Chance 4 Pets](#) are of great interest when considering “the unthinkable.” Carefully selected caregivers need access to necessary information and assets, should they need to step in if we aren’t there.

Having funds set aside and designated for pet care can affect quality of life for our dogs.

While not the happiest of topics, we need to know what we can do to prepare for that instance. Examining what will happen with our dogs if we are incapacitated or deceased is necessary.

Securing interim and permanent lifetime care for our animals should they outlive us is the goal. Something we can do to ensure our wishes are carried out with regard to our dogs is to document named trustees should circumstances change.

Have you ever stopped to consider a scenario from the perspective of the dog or caregiver in which you are not there to dictate actions?

Make emergency cards for your wallet or purse, home, and vehicle. We may not be able to be a voice for our dogs when it is most needed, and the direction we provide is important to their fate.

Create files that contains individual records, identifying specifics for each animal. Good recordkeeping is a staple in our purebred dog world but should extend beyond veterinary records, show results, and breeding documents. Information about pet insurance, necessary medications and allergies is also helpful. We take for granted our intimate knowledge of our dogs—

their quirks and habits, as well as what we desire for them in terms of their feeding, care, and the making of medical decisions.

As animals are property, they may be listed in wills and provisions made for them beyond that of their current owner. Trusts can be established that will allow our dogs to benefit from continued life care. As we think about estate planning it is important to provide a plan for the pets we leave behind.

Revisiting the memory of that tiny white dog, I smile knowing that she did move on to her next person and home and blossomed. I did not know the details of her past or beyond but imagined snapshots of her life juxtaposed like her master’s comic art, full of varied states and feelings. I like to think those frames changed from despondent, listless, dark ones to an action-packed, lively, colorful story for the rest of her canine life.

Let’s take appropriate actions to ensure our

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wonderful dogs are cared for and not leave it up to chance.

May we all consider our responsibilities in case of an untimely need in our animals' lives, so they too have happy chapters for the rest of their stories.

—Shannon Rodgers,
shannontrodgers@gmail.com
 Field Spaniel Society of America

Irish Water Spaniels

Irish Water Spaniel breeder Colleen McDaniel wrote the following for this column in 2015, and the criteria and exercises shared to help fanciers practice their evaluation skills are worth revisiting.

EVALUATING DOGS IN THE RING

Developing an eye for assessing dogs is like any other skill: You need basic understanding of what you are looking at, and then you need practice. The more you train your eye to look for variations, good and bad, the better you will become at



Irish Water Spaniel

evaluating a dog or group of dogs.

Start with reading the breed standard. The more you can familiarize yourself with what the “ideal” dog should look like, the more successful you will be when given the opportunity to apply the standard to a dog or group of dogs.

Following are four areas to focus on while evaluating, and exercises for each to help develop your skills.

1. Find the good points.

Start by looking for each dog's good points. As there is no such thing as a perfect dog, if you start by looking for faults, you will find them in any dog. It is more

important to learn to find what is good in a dog as you then have that perspective.

Exercise: Pick a class at the show and find two things about every dog in the class that you feel really is a good example of the breed standard. Place the dogs based on which dog has the strongest breed attributes. How did your placements line up with the actual placements?

2. Look at movement.

The standard is written with the intent that a dog so built can do the job it was bred to do. A good part of function is movement.

Exercise: Pick a class at the show and study and compare the movement of

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the dogs in that class. Try to position yourself so you can see the dog coming at you, moving away from you, and going around to evaluate side movement. What did you like about the movement? If there was something that did not appear to be right, can you identify why the dog moves the way it does? Do you feel that the dog could function at the task he was bred to do? Place the dogs based solely on movement. How did your placements line up with the actual placements?

3. Assess type.

To evaluate a dog, you must understand that *type* is a part of being that breed. It is what distinguishes the breed from other breeds. Part of that is knowing the size the standard calls for. Another part is understanding the silhouette or “outline” of the breed.

Exercise: Pick a class at the show and see if you can guess the height and weight of the dogs in the class. Then rate the dogs on just

their outlines, both standing and moving. Place them based solely on “type.” How did your placements line up with the actual placements?

4. Presentation.

Judges have a limited amount of time to make their decisions. Presentation of the dogs can and does have an impact on their decisions.

Exercise: Pick a class and focus on how each dog is presented. That would include grooming and how well the dog is handled and presented to the judge. Is the dog ready when the judge looks? On the go-round, is the dog moving well during the window of time the judge is looking? If you were placing the dogs, would the overall presentation affect your final decision?

If you have placed the dogs using only one of the above criteria, your placements may not line up with what actually happens in that class. That could be because all four areas must be considered for every class. Practice the

pieces, with the goal of being skilled to apply all areas when evaluating an individual dog or a show class.—C.M.

[Irish Water Spaniel Club of America](#)

Sussex Spaniels

STANDARD CHANGE:

TAILS EITHER DOCKED OR UNDOCKED

There has been a change in the standard for our breed. While judging undocked tails was previously addressed in a separate document, now it is official: Tails are allowed to be either docked or undocked. This change officially took effect on January 1.

Judges and others, please take note, tail *set* remains the same—set low, not carried above the level of the back.

The undocked tails we are seeing at present vary as to length, some being not too much longer than a long docked tail, as it has always been difficult to closely predict adult tail length. Some undocked dogs are shown with a



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Sussex Spaniel

great deal of feathering on the entire tail, while others show very little or none. Exhibitors sometimes hold the tail out to the total length, while others grasp the tail halfway and let the last few inches hang down. This may have something to do with the length of the dog (remember *long*, *low*, and *level*) and the length of the exhibitor's arms.

In any case, showing style aside, any length tail is now acceptable for undocked dogs in our standard, while

tails on docked dogs remain at a recommended 5 to 7 inches.

Good Sussex Numbers in 2023

2023 was a banner year for Sussex puppies! A new litter of eight has just been born, bringing the total so far for the year to almost 50—a huge number for this breed!

Congratulations to the breeders who have done such an outstanding job. As a club we are responsible for protecting and promoting

the breed—and it is much easier to promote a breed when we have puppies!

—Marcia Deugan,

ZiyadahReg@aol.com

Sussex Spaniel Club of America

Welsh Springer Spaniels

Several years ago, storied Welsh Springer breeder and all-breed handler Betty Cummings (Wynfomeer) was interviewed by Anne Legare (Holly House), Margaret Hilliard (Farhill), and Judy Hogentogler (Cornerstone) about her life in dogs, which began in the 1930s. This lightly edited excerpt from that interview is the sixth portion presented in the AKC GAZETTE.

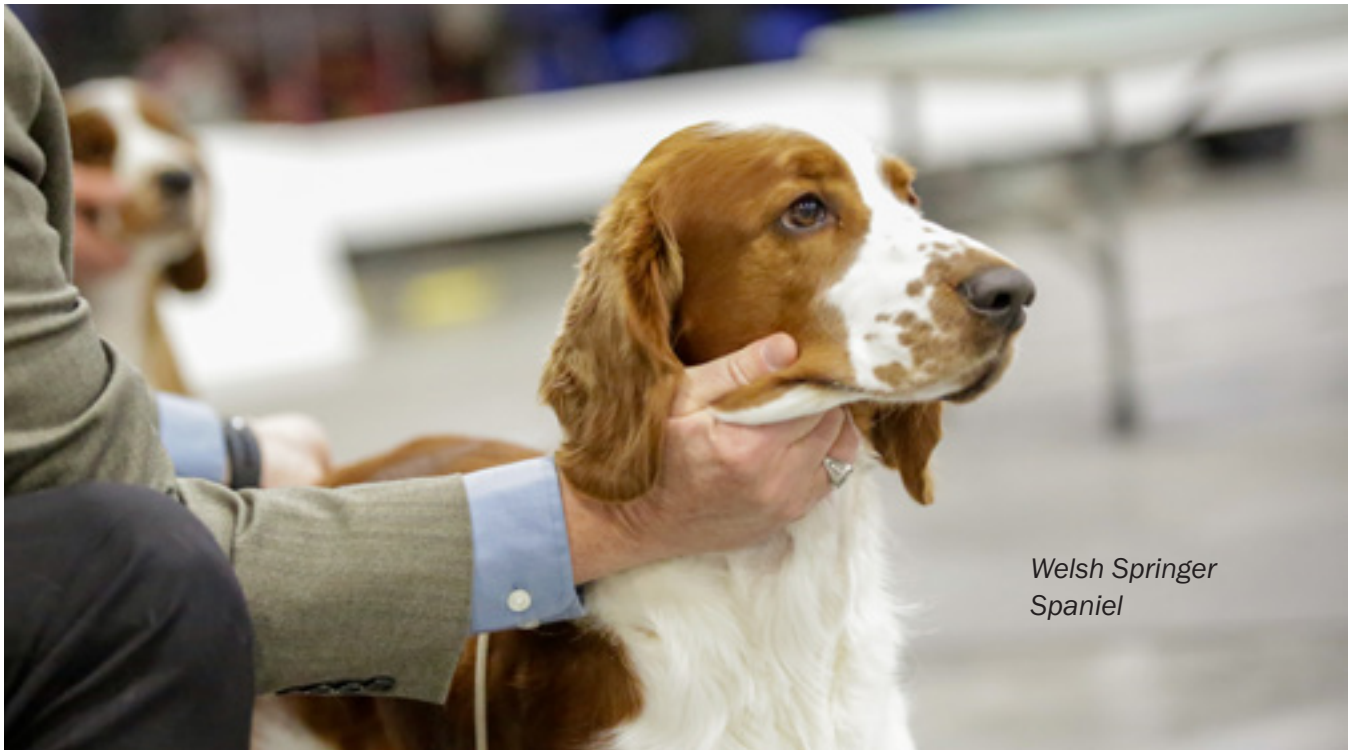
BETTY HAS A CHILDREN'S BOOK WRITTEN (KIND OF) ABOUT HER KEESHOND

Anne Legare: You lent me a book that was written about a Keeshond.

Betty Cummings: Oh, that's Gabriel. Gabriel is fiction. It sounds like it was based on this client of mine

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*Welsh Springer
Spaniel*

that I showed Kees for. She was an author, a children’s author, and she wrote a book called *Gabriel*. The illustrator came out and followed me all around a dog show one day, and he illustrated what the horse van looked like inside with the crates set up, and so forth.

So anyway, she wrote this book about a dog where apparently the mother dog had been sent away to be bred, and there was a train wreck, and she got knocked off the train and this kid

finds her. She has a puppy, and the puppy grows up to be this kid’s dog. The kid starts working for a handler—supposed to be Ned and I—and she told the handlers about this dog she found in the woods. And they said, “Well, bring him over, and we’ll take a look at him,” because he looked like one of the Keeshonds they were showing. So, she brings him over, and they realize this was the result of a breeding they knew about when the bitch was lost.

So, the girl keeps the dog,

and the dog goes on to show, and the book leaves it up in the air at the Garden. But the dog goes into the Garden with the kid. But the story ends, and you don’t know what happened at the Garden.

Margaret Hilliard: And you knew it was the dog who had been lost; the bitch in whelp who had been lost?

BC: Yes, that part was true.

MH: And you recognized that this had to be the puppy?

BC: Yes, because they

COURTESY KATHLEEN RILEY

BREED COLUMNS

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were totally line bred. I could walk down the bench at the Garden, “That’s a Wynfomeer dog ... that’s a Wynfomeer dog ... that’s a Wynfomeer dog,” without even picking up a catalog—and anybody else who had been a breeder for a while could do the same thing.

AL: But didn’t you have to prove its breeding to show it at the Garden?

MH: They took your word?

BC: This was the 1950s and ’60s. The kennel club took our word for it.

MH: Those were the days.

BC: Yes. Well, no. (chuckles)

—Wendy Jordan,
wendy.jordan@capstrategiesgroup.com

[Welsh Springer Spaniel Club of America](#)

Vizslas

WHY RESPONSIBLE BREEDERS NEED DOG CLUBS

Every Vizsla club or rescue organization has encountered individuals or families who are ready

to give up on their dogs because of behavior or temperament problems; all too often the dog has come from a breeder who lacks knowledge and doesn’t feel any responsibility to help the owners or (if problem-solving fails) to take back the dog.

There are so many things that go into being an ethical breeder: carefully studying pedigrees, doing appropriate health clearances, socializing the puppies, screening buyers, considering every puppy a lifetime responsibility, and more. Going even deeper, though, I think one characteristic of good breeders is that *they value connecting with knowledgeable people who are committed to the breed’s purpose and heritage.*

When people ask how to find the right breeder, I strongly encourage them to ask whether a breeder is an active member of at least one dog club, because that is an indication that they value the good things that happen when committed breeders

and owners work together.

There are a lot of organizations to choose from: local/regional breed clubs, the breed’s parent club (the [Vizsla Club of America](#)), local all-breed clubs, field-training clubs, obedience/rally/agility clubs, and other groups that promote training, good sportsmanship, and responsible breeding. If one kind of club isn’t a good fit for an individual, it’s likely that another will be. Each organization has its own individual purpose and bylaws, and its own ways to disseminate information, encourage responsibility, and support members’ activities.

Membership in a local or regional Vizsla club or the Vizsla Club of America is a good indication that a breeder values connecting with experienced, informed Vizsla owners and breeders. Members are not going it alone because:

- There are connections with knowledgeable people. Committed Vizsla owners are always looking to learn

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Vizsla

more about health issues, temperament, conformation, puppy socialization, training, and everything else that goes into having healthy, sound, happy dogs. Breeders who choose not to participate in a club are saying they don't value this sharing of information.

- Members help each other sort through the almost infinite quantity of online information and misinformation. A club is a good place to find mentors who can provide guidance about what is accurate and import-

ant and real and helpful. When these mentors team up with tech-savvy club members, there are great opportunities to provide solid information on websites and social media.

- Clubs encourage participation in activities that help provide objective assessments of hunting ability, conformation, trainability, and so on. Reputable breeders don't rely solely on their own opinions of their dogs' qualities. They want to participate in trials, shows, and tests where their dogs can

demonstrate their abilities.

- When problems happen, there's almost always someone who has been through it before and can provide help and advice—or empathy and understanding when the worst things happen.

- A club's Code of Ethics provides a framework for decisions about responsible breeding—a basic blueprint for doing the right thing. In situations where doing the right thing isn't easy, this ethical compass becomes especially important.

- Club members can

COURTESY KATHLEEN RILEY



BREED COLUMNS

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provide mentoring and guidance to promote careful, ethical breeding that is true to the breed’s heritage of health, temperament, trainability, and suitability for its purpose.

- Mentoring tends to have a domino effect, as new breeders mature and become mentors to others.

Other types of clubs also have something to offer, especially in locations where there isn’t a nearby Vizsla club. All-breed clubs or training clubs can provide a more general kind of mentoring, and often there is a lot of value in the knowledge and perspective of owners of other breeds.

We all know that dog clubs aren’t perfect; *what should be* isn’t always *what is*. Like any group of human beings, clubs can be subject to differences of opinion, personality conflicts, political maneuvering, and various time-wasting distractions. People make mistakes. Sometimes it’s tempting to give up and retreat from participating—

but that means being cut off from the useful resources a club can provide. If one club isn’t a good fit, another club could be more suitable.

If we want to do right by our dogs—especially when it comes to producing and raising puppies—I think we owe it to them to work with other people who share a commitment to learning, sharing and mentoring.—

Beth Nash, 2020

[Vizsla Club of America](#)

Weimaraners

UNCOVERING OUR EARLY ROOTS

During the first part of the 20th century Weimaraners were unknown in America. It was through the efforts of Howard Knight that the first dogs were brought to our shores.

Howard Knight was a wealthy avid sportsman from New England who heard of this incredible silver-gray German hunting breed and became determined to acquire breeding stock.

Getting access to these

dogs was almost impossible because of their rarity, and because the ownership of a Weimaraner was highly regulated by the German Weimaraner Club. To own a Weimaraner a person had to be a member of the German Weimaraner Club, and this was a group that was *not* seeking to increase membership. Weimaraners were only owned by a select, protective group of individuals who were determined to maintain the highest quality in the breed.

Knight was on his personal quest to own and hunt over Weimaraners. To accomplish this, he befriended a member of the German Weimaraner Club, demonstrated his zeal for sportsmanship, and finally in 1928 was granted membership in the German club.

Membership required a pledge to protect the purity of the breed and preservation of its hunting abilities. Howard Knight fit the bill with a long list of credentials as a hunting aficionado. In 1928 he was granted

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Weimaraner

ownership of two Weimaraners. However, these dogs were not breeding stock, since they had been sterilized using radiation before they were sent from Germany. These dogs were exquisitely trained, and Howard Knight hunted with them for nine years. Not until 10 years later, in 1938, did Knight receive foundation stock in the form of three bitches and one puppy dog.

In 1942 the Weimaraner Club of America (WCA) was formed, with Howard Knight as its first president. Today the WCA publishes

a monthly magazine for its members, but in the early days a monthly newsletter was issued to the membership of about 100. The newsletters started in 1946 and have been preserved on the WCA website. Reading the newsletters gives insight into the goals of the fledging club and how important the stewardship of the breed was to them. Following are a few fascinating, eye-opening quotes from the 1946 WCA newsletter.

An appeal for importing “new blood” to the U.S.:

“If you know *any* angle that might get us

Weimaraner stock through the Russian lines, please advise your president or your editor. It appears that the bulk of Weimaraner stock is held in that Russian zone.”

A connection with a famous person that didn’t happen—a message from the president of the WCA:

“I regret to advise you that a contact I had established with Gen. Patton in Europe, who has taken a keen interest in our breed and who was to have helped in procuring new stock for breeding, was terminated by his unfortunate and untimely death.”

Patterned after the



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German Weimaraner club's tight hold on proliferation of Weimaraners, efforts were made to restrict ownership in the U.S.:

"... the rule of the Club demands that a person be eligible for membership in the Weimaraner Club of America before being allowed to purchase a puppy or grown stock."

The WCA established a Breeding Committee in an effort to maintain the quality and purity of the lines of Weimaraners which were available as foundation for the breed in the U.S. It was patterned after the German Club's policy. The WCA Breeding Committee's recommended "that no bitch be bred under 20 months of age and that only five pups of this first litter, be given to her to raise."

Founding officers of the WCA were highly motivated to maintain the Weimaraner as a working/hunting breed. There was implied disdain for use of the breed for purposes other than as a hunting partner

as evidenced by numerous editorial comments such as "While the majority of our members are not bench show conscious, and we aim on not spoiling the working-hunting qualities of the breed for some vain show glory, it is wise that we use the shows for window dressing and here is a chance to let thousands of people see a great number of our beloved Weimaraners."

Although there were negative comments regarding the popularization and showing of Weimaraners, there was also pride in how they were received by U.S. judges and how the WCA membership was growing. An annual specialty show was held as a national event and reported as a milestone for the breed in America. "Our annual specialty show was held on the gorgeous Raceland estate of John R Macomber of Framington Center, Mass. An annual meeting was held after the specialty and members were from 20 states and the District of Columbia."

The 1946 specialty judge complimented the members on their Weimaraners. President Howard Knight reported to the membership:

"Let us keep up that gain and put ourselves in line for high show honors, and at the same time hold the resolve that nothing shall swerve us from the original purpose of the breed of field excellence. Let us not be blinded by show glories ... there are 10 times as many people interested in the hunting qualities of the Weimaraner, for every one that wants a dog for show or purely pet purposes."

It is now almost 100 years since Weimaraners were known to be in the U.S. Reading the 1946 national newsletter gives us a glimpse of how some attitudes and concerns have changed, while others have remained the same to this day.

—Carole Lee Richards,
zarasweimaraners@yahoo.com

[Weimaraner Club of America](#)



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Akitas

THE PERFORMANCE AKITA

The Akita standard describes the breed as “Large, powerful, alert, with much substance and heavy bone.” As a judge, handler, or exhibitor at a dog show, you have many times watched the Akitas in the ring. Now I would like to you to meet another side of this breed: the performance Akita. Yes, I said “performance.”

This breed can be seen in rally, obedience, and even agility rings. They are also competing in Barn Hunt, scent work, and Fast CAT. Many are earning the three levels of Canine Good Citizen, Temperament Test titles, and Farm Dog.

Training an Akita for performance is not an easy feat. This breed bores easily. Teach them something, they pick it up fast. Repeat it more than a few times, and the Akita is ready to move on—do it, move on. Those of us you will see at a trial who take the leash off, that Akita is ready, and their

owner/handler is confident that their dog is of great temperament and ready for the task.

The Akita national specialty was held this year in Mesa, Arizona. Rally and obedience trials were offered two of the days. There was also the first ever Scentwork trial held at the breed’s national. Numerous Akitas qualified! In the balance of this article you will hear from the owners of some of those special Akitas.

One such Akita is Gabby, a nearly 12-year-old who is the most titled Akita in the history of our breed. She has quite a following and brings a smile to not only her owner, Barbara Sikkink, but also to all who meet her. She is one of the “special” ones.

Let’s meet some other performance Akitas, as introduced by their owners.

Forest, by Dorothy Carroll-Moors

Forest is best described as a part-time working dog—in other words, when

he feels like it. We made our first attempt at the Mission Circuit shows, where the judge was unfortunately deeply concerned about the Akita in his ring that was about to be taken off lead. This was despite sitting outside the ring for an hour and a half, where Forest was graciously greeting anyone who approached. It was a warm afternoon, and it was nap time. He decided he liked the center of the ring so well that he would just stay there.

Not a qualifying round.

The next try, at the Akita pre-national, Forest again sat and stayed beautifully for his recall. When called, he slowly sauntered over as if he was very busy and sat too far away to qualify. The third try at the national was a charm. While he was busy looking for girls, he still heeled adequately, actually came (no one said he had to be speedy), sat right in front of me, and put his paw up as if to say, “I am done now, and a treat would be good.”

The challenge is to both the exhibitor and our special

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Akitas and their owners demonstrated the breed's versatility in performance events at the breed's national specialty held Oct. 30–Nov. 3 in Mesa, Arizona.

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dogs. They are as smart as they have to be, and as dumb as they can get away with. I look forward to our new adventure together in obedience and rally.

DeVylle, by Heathyr Aguilar

DeVylle happily competed in Beginner Novice obedience and Rally Novice. She earned her Rally Novice title at the Akita national, and on the same day she went on to be awarded a five-point major as Winners Bitch and Best of Winners at the pre-national. We couldn't be prouder of this young girl and look forward to a bright future.

Buddy, by Anita Palmer

Buddy is our fourth male Akita, and our third champion. Buddy is working both sides of the dog show world: He is a champion in conformation, and he is now starting to compete in performance events. He is very enthusiastic, and we look forward to learning and working together as a team. At the Akita national

Buddy qualified in Beginner Novice obedience as well as rally. He also earned his Urban Canine Good Citizen (CGCU) title.

Roxy, by Tracy West

Roxy earned her Rally Advanced title at the 2023 Akita national as a veteran. Roxy has always loved to show and to go to Meet the Breeds events, like at the San Francisco Cherry Blossom Festival. She is also a certified therapy dog. It never occurred to me she would love to do other things like rally. Obedience isn't as fun to her (although she earned her first leg of Beginner Novice obedience at the national), because she loves the verbal interactions that rally encourages. Because she seems to really enjoy going to class and working toward different titles, we will keep at it. Our next big goal is earning a CD.

Corra, by Kate Mangubat

Corra's journey to obtaining her Scent Work HD Novice title is a typical Akita

training story. She asked why she had to do this thing, then did it when she felt like it. We were mentored by ACPS vice president Tom Knoebel, watched a few YouTube videos, and tried to make it as exciting as possible. Convincing Corra that finding my smelly sock would result in a treat was not the hardest part—that was keeping her from destroying the scent boxes. It took about three tries for her to learn this activity. She completed her Scent Work Handler Discrimination Trial 1 at Monroe, Washington (second place), Trial 2 (first place), and Trial 3 (first place) at the Akita national. Our key take-away: Make it exciting, and trust your Akita.

Yeti, by Ilka Wagner

The 2023 Akita national was the venue where I decided to take the jump into rally with one of my Akitas. Yeti received a score of 93 and first place in our first attempt at Rally Novice. I could not have been more

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proud of him! Two years ago at the Akita national he earned his CGCA, CGCU, and TKN titles, and I realized how much fun it was to work as a team with him in something other than conformation.

I have been contemplating doing performance work for years, but just didn't quite have the right Akita to do this with—or maybe I just didn't have the gumption to try.

I chose Yeti to start working in performance because he is so biddable. If he knows what you would like him to do, he will do it, and he will do it with enthusiasm! He is just happy to be doing something with his mom—treats are great, but praise is just as good. He is so willing to try new things, and I love seeing his big smile when we get it right. He seems to know when we are spot on with a trick or a new rally sign.

In true Akita spirit, after we have done something three or four times, we have to move on to another challenge, but I like this about

the breed. They are easily bored with things, so we have to keep on our toes to keep them engaged and enthusiastic. Yeti makes this easy for me. Something new ... let's do it, Mom! I have the performance bug now and plan on getting some of my other kiddos out as well.

Gabby, by Barbara Sikkink

Gabby is the most titled Akita in the history of the breed.

Gabby earned her Rally Championship 2 (RACH2) at the Akita national along with her Rally Master 7 (RM7) and Rally Advanced Excellent 5 (RAE5) titles. She was High Triple and High Combined at the pre-national and national. She also Q'd in three of her Scent Work classes at Master level. She is just one Q from earning her overall Scentwork Master Title. She will be 12 years old this month. Her full name, with titles, is ACH NNCH ALCH NHD EN UCD ROM RACH2 Minda & Midnite The Gods Have

Spoken, CDX, BN, GN, RM7, RAE5, FDC, OAP, NJP, CA, BCAT, SWNE, SCAE, SIAE, SCM, SIM, SEM, SHDE, TT, THDX, RATM, CZ8B, DN, CGCA, CGCU, TKE, ATT, VHMA, VSWE, FITS, SPOT-ON SD-1, VAX9, HOF-Rally HOF-Barn Hunt.

Dublin and Koko, by Suzi Aleksander

Dublin, at 7 months old, blew me away by taking a High in Trial at the Novice level in Scent Work, meaning he passed all offered elements. It was only his second trial, so clearly Akitas have a lot of natural ability in scent work. It's a great sport for Akitas, as it lets them work independently and at their own pace. Dublin also passed two Trick levels to earn his Trick Dog Advanced title, and his CGCU, as well as earning his third Rally Novice leg for a Rally Novice title.

Koko, who is 11 years young and still as patient and deliberate as always,



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passed nearly all her runs at the highest Scent Work levels and even earned her penultimate leg of the 10 required for her Handler Discrimination Master Elite.

One of my favorite experiences with Koko was competing in the AKC West Regional Championships, where Koko earned a second place overall in the Master HD division against some very experienced teams. She also earned her Rally Master 2 title and the new Rally Choice title in Mesa, with her 20th Master Q and 10th Choice Q. Koko regularly competes in shed, carting, obedience, FCAT, and rat sports.

Thank you all for sharing your stories with us about your performance Akita.

I hope that judges, handlers, exhibitors, and the general public will look at our Akitas as more than gorgeous show dogs. They are so much more!

—Linda Wolf,

Okamiakitas@aol.com

[The Akita Club of America](#)

Alaskan Malamutes

CHOOSING OUR PATHS IN OUR BREEDING PROGRAMS AND IN LIFE

Remembering Dreamer: Ch. Benchmark Over the Rainbow, and her litter sister, Ch. Benchmark Winter Solstice, ROM.

Please walk with me down a gentle path: a memory of my life in breeding dogs. And so, let's share this moment: a tribute to Dreamer, Ch. Benchmark Over the Rainbow, and her contrast with her litter sister, Haven, Ch. Benchmark Winter Solstice, ROM (Ch. Cold Creek's True Blue x Ch. Benchmark Champaign's Lakota). I was so blessed to co-own Haven with Pat Kostock, my mentor in our beloved breed. These photos are such treasured moments for me, as each girl soared to a finish in the mid-1990s.

Dreamer and Haven were quite different, as their photos reflect. Dreamer was more athletic, more of a working Malamute; Haven, with her huge coat, was

more of the show dog, with her spectacular bone, and gave everything to her nine champion get by Monty (Ch. Benchmark Captain Montague, ROM), the greatest achievement of my breeding program.

But there is another story, which I have never shared before: With my lovely Dreamer, I had the opportunity to make a breeding decision for the one precious moment in her life. And in that moment, I chose to breed her to Monty's litter brother Tank (Ch. Benchmark Smooth Operator). At the time, it seemed to me that the "converse" of the Juneau x Savvy crosses (Ch. Northpaw's Ghostbuster, ROM x Ch. Champaign Benchmark Big Shot ROM) would give me a whole new vista of brilliance, which I could use down the successive generations.

But, dear breeder friends, it did not. Instead, Dreamer's litter gave me, and a host of beloved friends, sweet and beautiful yet very average

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Haven, Ch. Benchmark Winter Solstice, ROM; Dreamer, Ch. Benchmark Over the Rainbow

companions who blessed their families for their whole lives. Yes, that is a wonderful achievement, but it was not the quest I was aiming for.

And so I come to the message I want to give to all of you, who like myself, live in our world of breeding for excellence, with visions that fly before us, night and day.

So here are my final thoughts: Never breed for the “converse”—our lives in dogs are not an academic quest, nor are they a theoretical adventure. Life is short, and so we must approach every single breeding as though it were our *last*. In that moment, had I bred Dreamer to Monty (the best producer in my life), a whole new legacy would likely have resulted, resounding down the generations even today.

It is so poignant, these days, to look back upon these years and reflect upon the love and energy we put into our campaigns and our



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breeding programs, and most of all, with our dearest friends and the life we share in dogs. This has nothing to do with wins. Instead, this has everything to do with life.

So I just wanted to offer these thoughts and learnings to you, my dear friends, as the years go on and I want to share what I have learned. Blessings!

—Phyllis I. Hamilton,
benchmark1946@gmail.com
Alaskan Malamute Club
of America

Anatolian Shepherd Dogs

THE IMPORTANCE OF PRESERVING WORKING TEMPERAMENT

Working temperament is what makes the Anatolian Shepherd Dog what he is: an outstanding guardian of livestock. Anatolians are low-energy dogs. High-energy behavior, such as that exhibited by herding breeds, excites stock and draws the attention of predators in the environ-

ment, whereas low-energy behavior has a calming effect on stock. These are dogs who can move through a herd or flock with barely a ripple.

Picture a flock of sheep in a pasture, guarded by their Anatolians. They calmly graze and put on weight and fiber while the dogs worry about security. The only time the stock show any degree of excitement is when their dogs sound an alarm. The Anatolians are scattered through the flock—some lying in the shade, some wandering among the sheep, and one dog is lying on a small rise where she has a clear view of the area.

A pack of half a dozen stray dogs are out looking for some entertainment and they spy our flock of sheep. The stray dogs head toward the flock. They are quickly spotted by the Anatolians. The lead Anatolian is instantly on her feet from her high perch and the rest of the dogs in her group follow suit. The Anatolians

move from where they were resting within and near their flock. Their heads and tails come up, and they begin to bark to let the predators know that they have been spotted. The sheep bunch together and place themselves behind two of the dogs who have stayed behind to guard them while the other three dogs rush in the direction of the threat.

Once the stray-dog threat has been dealt with, the two Anatolians who stayed behind with the sheep move toward their fellows who are returning to the flock. Where the Anatolians raced out to face the threat with heads and tails high, their return is marked by a slower pace, tails at half-mast, and heads more on a level with their toplines, a couple of them even curling their bodies into an arc and pinning back their ears as they move toward their fellows and their charges. They greet the dogs who stayed behind and seamlessly melt back in with their sheep, sniffing a few of their charges, scent-marking

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in a couple of places, and resuming their chosen stations to watch for anything out of the ordinary, anything that might pose a threat to their flock.

Where the sheep were alert and agitated at the predatory behavior of the stray dogs, the calming, nonthreatening behavior of their Anatolians means that all is right in their world and they can resume their lives, safe from molestation.

The importance of correct temperament and behavior cannot be overstated. Correct livestock guardian dog temperament and behavior is what sets the Anatolian apart from the rest of the dogs in the Working Group. Correct temperament for the breed is aloof, although dogs who have been well socialized will generally be more tolerant of new people in off-territory situations, and some may be more tolerant of strange dogs off-territory.

Correct temperament for the breed also means that Anatolians don't make the



Anatolian Shepherd Dog

best show dogs. Yes, some individuals do tolerate showing, but my concern is that in the effort to be competitive on a national level, where group wins and placements are important, that we may end up breeding for incorrect temperament and behavior just to be more competitive in the ring.

Breeders, if you have your dogs around livestock to assess their working temper-

ament, or if you are lucky enough to have a working situation where the dogs are the only thing standing between your animals and predators, thank you. Thank you for keeping working temperament at the forefront of your breeding program. Please keep breeding for true working temperament because that is the only thing that will save our breed from becoming generic show dogs.

DAVID WOO ©AKC



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For those breeding Anatolians who do not have the luxury of keeping stock, please work to incorporate dogs into your breeding program who are proven working dogs.

Handlers—both owner and professional—and judges, please understand that the things that make the Anatolian what it is also make it a sometimes poor choice for a show dog. Show the ones with good working temperament, but understand that they are not going to welcome the advances of complete strangers, and they are not going to sparkle and shine like other breeds do. If you are showing a dog with good working temperament, respect that aspect of your dog. Present the dog as he is, and don't ask him for things that are alien to his nature, such as manically alert expression and animation. This is a breed that is not so much handled as shown to the judge. Don't try to make the dog behave in a manner that is unnatural for the breed. Anatolians

are far more than a handsome face—they are a true working breed and must remain so. —*Jo Lynne York, 2018*

[Anatolian Shepherd Dog Club of America](#)

Bernese Mountain Dogs

YEARBOOKS ARE NOT JUST FOR HIGH SCHOOL

Do you enjoy perusing pages of photos of beautiful Berners? Do you enjoy seeing the accomplishments of dogs and their people? If you answered yes to any of those questions, you would enjoy a Berner yearbook.

Imagine 300 pages of award-winning Berners. The yearbook is a picture book of breed education created by the Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America (BMDCA). It allows you to see the winningest dogs in the comfort of your home. It can be described as a year at a glance, full of member accomplishments. It covers the gamut of sports and helps celebrate the work

you put into earning titles. Whether the title is before or after the name, it represents a lot of time with that partnership. Publishing your information in the yearbook is a way to celebrate the teamwork you have developed. Breeders, you are encouraged to help your puppy people submit info to the yearbook. Imagine a whole chapter of your kennel accomplishments!

The BMDCA Yearbook contains the following information, with photographs:

- U.S. records
- Canadian records and titleholders.
- Pedigrees and photos
- Top Winners and Top Producers
- Versatility and Working Dog Award recipients
- Active Dog Award (Active Dog is the most recent recognition developed by BMDCA, recently created to honor Bernese Mountain Dogs demonstrating a high degree of achievement in several different companion activities.)



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Awards, accomplishments, and the breed's outstanding qualities are celebrated annually in the Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America yearbook.

- New Titleholders and Advanced Titles

- Top Junior Handler

The BMDCA honors dogs belonging to members. Every Berner (owned/co-owned by a member) who has earned an AKC, BMDCA, or AHBA title receives a title medallion and

is eligible for a page in the annual BMDCA Yearbook. (In the instructions there will be many references to a “page” in the yearbook. It could be described as an entry, because in most cases the space allotted will be a half-page and not a full page.) The entry is

a wonderful perk of a membership.

Your Bernese Mountain Dog is eligible for a page in the BMDCA Yearbook if one of the following is true:

- You were notified by the BMDCA Records or Awards Committee that your dog was eligible for a special BMDCA honor. This includes honors such as Top Winner, Top Producer, Versatility/Working Dog, Grand Master Draft Dog, and Advanced Title.
 - Your dog was awarded a top placement in the most recent BMDCA national specialty.
 - Your dog earned a new an AKC, BMDCA, or AHBA title in the past calendar year, and you would like to honor him or her with a page.
 - Each dog can have one free “new title” page during his or her lifetime.
- After the first free entry, further honors can be celebrated in the yearbook with a paid page. There are two types of paid entries: new



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Title pages; a half page with one picture is \$25, a full page with one picture is \$40.

It is very possible that your dog has earned more than one honor in the past calendar year. If they have earned multiple titles/awards in a section such as Versatility/Versatility Dog, Versatility Dog Excellent, Working Dog, Working Dog Excellent, Active Dog, or Active Dog Excellent, there could be one page for each title/award, or you could cover multiple awards in a single page submission. The staff leaves that choice to the submitter.

Yearbooks can be pre-ordered by U.S. members when you update your membership. Unfortunately for the international members, you can't preorder to buy from BMDCA. For international shipping quote, contact the store when you order.

If you have any questions, are having trouble with the online submission tool, or scanning a quality photo, please do not

hesitate to contact the Yearbook Committee Chair, Teresa Dominguez, at BMDCAyearbook@gmail.com.

—Marjorie Geiger,
marggeiger@yahoo.com
Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America

Black Russian Terriers

ENJOY YOUR BLACK RUSSIAN!

When I write about Black Russian Terriers, I have often put emphasis on obedience training and socialization, and rightfully so. I just hope that I have not made it all work and no play. Some people really enjoy going to obedience class with their dogs, while others just view it as work or just another task that has to be done. Training must be enjoyable for you and your dog! If not, ask yourself why you are not having fun in class, and see if there is something you can do to change it. Or maybe you need to find a different teacher. A good teacher will keep the class interesting,

safe, and educational for both two- and four-legged students.

Once you complete beginner-level training and socialization, you can work your way into the advanced levels of obedience, which can be very rewarding for you and your Black Russian. Maybe you would also like to go on to therapy work or agility, which will require a well-trained dog. Black Russians love to work with you, and they are very quick to learn. They may get bored with repetition, however, so the lessons must be fun and progressive.

Dog shows can be a great place to test your new skills and enjoy the day with other people and their dogs. The AKC offers competition in all levels of obedience where you can earn titles on your dog. Black Russians can also be taught to pull carts and compete in weight-pull classes, but for these activities make sure you have a well-conditioned, sound dog and proper-fitting gear.

You will find that all the



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training and socializing you do with your BRT will make it possible to take him just about anywhere. Taking walks in parks or on a busy street is much more enjoyable with a well-trained dog. Our dogs attract many admirers who want to meet and touch them, and we often cannot go more than a few blocks without being stopped. All Black Russians are protective, so without socializing them this would not be possible. Most of all, they need to know you are in charge at all times.

Another way to enjoy your Black Russian is to get involved with the breed's parent or regional club. The clubs have yearly events and can always use a helping hand such as serving on a committee or working at a show, etc. Most members are longtime owners of the breed, and by meeting and talking with them you can gain more knowledge and understanding of the Black Russian.

How about taking a vacation with your Black

Russian? There are many hotels that will accept dogs. You can go for a hike in the mountains, walk on the beach (but not in the heat of the day, in full sun), or a swim in a lake or pool—or maybe you just want to stay at home and watch TV with your dog!

Most of all, have fun with your BRT and make the most of your time, as he or she is a wonderful, loving family member. I personally cherish and feel grateful for every moment spent with my Black Russians. —*Mary Curtis, 2010*

[Black Russian Terrier Club of America](#)

Boerboels

MAKING A “SPLASH” WITH YOUR BOERBOEL

Though summer may seem far away, it is not too soon to begin considering activities you and your Boerboel may enjoy during the hot months. The Boerboel's typical high energy level, drive, and athleticism are perfect for

dock diving—one of the more recently added sports included by the AKC. Dock diving events are conducted under the auspices of North American Diving Dogs (NADD); however, results and titles are recognized by the AKC.

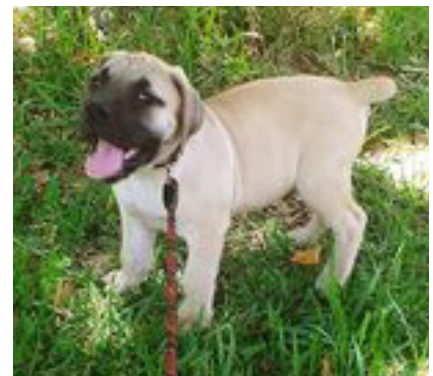
What exactly is dock diving? The main element of dock diving is an exciting distance competition that entails your Boerboel running down a 40-foot dock—set two feet above the water—and leaping into a pool in pursuit of a “lure” (generally a favorite toy).

The competition is judged by the distance your Boerboel remains airborne, measured from the point your dog crosses the end of the dock to the point where the base of his or her tail enters the water. Two trained judges visually assess the distance achieved. There is a ramp for your dog to return to the dock.

There is also a related discipline called air retrieve, which entails running down the dock but then leaping

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Recognized colors/patterns in the Boerboel include (pictured) fawn; red; brown; brindle; cream; Irish marked; piebald (total area of white may not exceed 33 percent). All can be with or without a mask, though the black mask is desirable. Black base color is a disqualification in the Boerboel.

into the air to retrieve—or knock down—a suspended “bumper” over the pool. However, most aficionados I spoke with recommended beginning with distance competitions. Another

important point to note is that life preserver vests *are* allowed for dock diving dogs.

A dock diving “team” consists of your Boerboel accompanied by one or two

handlers—who may divide the tasks of throwing the lure and releasing your dog. In any case, for this event, each team takes two leaps into the pool (back-to-back). These are referred to as

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“splashes.” (Note: The dog leaps, not the humans.) The longest of the two leaps is recorded as that splash’s qualifying score. There may be six or more splashes over the course of weekend.

There are five distance divisions—Novice, Junior, Senior, Master, and Elite—and two placement classes: Open (16 inches tall and over) and Lap (under 16 inches). Additionally, there is a class for dogs over 8 years old.

The top three dogs in each division receive a placement ribbon. One qualifying score jump per “splash” counts toward NADD and AKC titles. However, it is necessary to belong to NADD to participate, and AKC to earn AKC titles. (Please see Diving Dogs—American Kennel Club (akc.org) and NADD (northamericadivingdogs.com) for additional information.

How to Get Started

Although dock diving is, thus far, not the most popular sport among

American Boerboel Club members, those owners who participate are very enthusiastic—and some have earned top titles! They have generally advised that if your Boerboel enjoys swimming in a pool or lake, you have established a solid first step. Participants recommend that it is best to begin to introduce them to swimming when they are puppies.

One owner I interviewed, Morgan Jacoby, explained how she first became involved:

“My first Boerboel to Dock Dive was Amina. My dogs always have been raised on farms and have helped with pinning/sorting, and protection. For a Boerboel, Dock Diving is a very different kind of mental and physical challenge, and the reciprocation of love and trust needed to be successful for many of this breed in this sport is paramount. For Amina, known nationwide as ‘The Flying Brick,’ it started out very humbly.

“We learned right off

the bat that you must have a life jacket to start this breed off swimming. Yes, your Boerboel knows how to swim ... OK, great, but starting in a life jacket does help the canine hone in on learning to use his entire body. Part of Amina’s response when first learning to swim was to not use her rear end, causing her to sink like the Titanic. The life vest, like training wheels, really helped her utilize her body and the workout completely. And I believe it made her tremendously more body conscious and confident.

“It was not long before Amina was crying and barking to get out of the car and run up the dock ramp. And her love of the water was born. Every dog is different, some just naturally have a great feel for their body and are naturally athletes.

“Since we started diving, we have now had many firsts in the Boerboel (and other breeds). In that time I have learned a lot of really

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fascinating things about the different breeds and their psychology. How their different roles, drives, and breeding affect their learning and thinking, how to teach them to be thinkers instead of reactors. The water and a dock edge bring some incredible challenges to a canine/human team. I recommend this sport to all of my Boerboel puppy family. It is worth the money, the distance, and the time commitment.”

Other Boerboel owners echoed many of these sentiments, but emphasized that the draw for them was that is a really fun activity in which to participate with your dog.

Please see Diving Dogs - American Kennel Club (akc.org) and NADD (northamericadivingdogs.com) for additional information and helpful hints to get started in a fun and very rewarding activity for you and your Boerboel!

—Karen Cornelius,
klc@klcassociates.com
[American Boerboel Club](http://AmericanBoerboelClub.com)

Boxers

RESOURCES

There are always questions when you are investigating bringing a dog into your family. You’ve narrowed the search down and decided a Boxer would be the perfect fit for your family. So now the search begins for your newest family member.

There are so many questions ...

Where should I find the new family member?

There are many resources, depending on what will fit in your lifestyle. The American Boxer Club (<https://www.americanboxerclub.org/>) has a list of over 700 members. All have been involved with the breed and can often point you in the right direction.

What are your plans for the dog?

Are you looking for a conformation “show” dog? Would you be interested in obedience or performance activities? Do you intend to eventually breed your Boxer,

or will this solely be a wonderful family companion?

Age?

Do you want a young puppy? Keep in mind the time and attention this requires, as well as the training a puppy will need to become the “perfect” companion for the many years ahead. A consistent routine, persistence, and lots of praise and attention can lead to a wonderful lifetime companionship.

An older puppy (or teenager) probably has some basics, like housebreaking, but will need to adjust to his or her new life. An adult or veteran may have a few habits to change and adjust also, but attention and love will make that journey so rewarding.

Where can I get a Boxer?

As mentioned above, the American Boxer Club has an excellent website (<https://www.americanboxerclub.org/>) that offers extensive information about the breed. There are also many regional Boxer

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clubs throughout the U.S. that can provide information about local breeders. The AKC also has a very informative site, with specifics on each dog breed.

There are also several Boxer rescue organizations throughout the U.S. that have saved many Boxers that have become homeless, whether because of an owner's death, changes in family situations, abandonment, or other reasons—whatever the cause, these devoted rescues are always searching for and awaiting the perfect home for Boxers in need.

Do I want to show my Boxer?

There are so many options. The Boxer is a natural showman, and their outgoing personalities and athletic prowess lead them to be successful in most dog sports.

Conformation—In conformation judging, the dog is judged against its peers (according to age and sex) as the best specimen representing the official AKC Boxer standard. If this is of



These two “human-sized Boxers” have brought a humorous touch to many American Boxer Club events over the years

interest, attend some shows and ask questions. There is a great deal involved in pursuing this venture, but it is very rewarding.

Obedience and rally—The Boxer is classified as a working dog by the AKC and excels in many of the obedience activities. However, if you are training the breed, you must acknowledge that a Boxer has a sense of humor and is very smart.

The relationship between

owner and Boxer, when fine-tuned, is a lifelong relationship.

Other activities

There are so many fun activities that you and your Boxer can do. These include:

Dock diving—and yes, most Boxers are great swimmers.

Agility—This is great for the Boxer with tons of energy and enthusiasm.

Barn Hunt—Boxers love

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to hunt and enjoy this sport.

Herding—This is very specific training, but an intelligent Boxer will love the challenge.

Lure coursing—What Boxer doesn't love chasing anything that moves fast?

Now that the decision is made, you can take advantage of the many resources available to help you and your Boxer to have an exciting, fun, and loving future.

The only requisites your Boxer asks of you ... are to love, laugh, and enjoy the ensuing years.

—Virginia Shames,
arribatali@aol.com
[American Boxer Club](#)

Bullmastiffs

LOVE THE DOGS IN YOUR LIFE RIGHT NOW

Almost 30 years ago, when my husband and I were new to the sport of purebred dogs and learning as we lived with the first two Bullmastiffs we owned together, we decided that we needed help showing our dogs. While we are now

proud breeder-owner-handlers, at the time we took the sound advice of our mentor in the breed and hired a professional to do our dogs justice until we could do so ourselves. (Note number one to anyone who needs to read this: Get mentors.) We searched for and found a respected local handler to show our first two Bullmastiffs, and that truly changed the course of our lives in dogs.

Over the next few years, we were lucky enough to travel with Tommy to a number of shows in the region. Over time, he became a valued friend as well as a valuable mentor. One night, after dinner with him and his wife, we found ourselves sitting in their living room, surrounded by a handful of their dogs, and listening to them reminiscing about some of their past successes while planning a few future breedings. By their count, given the number of dogs in the room, and there were six or seven, they came up with a number well

into triple digits as the number of Best in Show wins awarded to the dogs lounging on the couches, when the wins were combined and totaled.

We were, of course, dazzled by their accomplishments while we enjoyed hearing what they envisioned as their future objectives. As newbies, we were fascinated to hear about successes, challenges, and even the unexpected occurrences, good and bad. Tom was always incredibly generous about sharing his ideas and insights with us and about encouraging us in our own small endeavors. I will never forget that night, those friends, and, of course, those beautiful dogs.

Toward the end of the evening, after regaling us with some of the records they had broken and some of the dreams they still aspired to make realities, Tom looked at me and said, in his self-deprecating way, as though his advice were nothing special:

“Love the dogs you live

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Bullmastiffs Cheeky (as a pup) and Wagner, and Crystal and Shandy

with, Lindy. It is important to have memories and hopes, sure, but don't forget to love the dogs in your life right now."

(Note number two to anyone still reading: Listen to your mentors.)

I went home that night and wrote Tommy's heartfelt words in my journal. That was not the only time I committed his wisdom to my nightly writings. For whatever reasons, and because that was who he was, he found us worthy of his time and talent and gave us advice on everything from breeding to campaigning over the years. He was always so happy for our modest successes, and so encouraging.

We learned so much from him, but the most valuable lesson? Well, he gave us that by his words and by his example. He loved his dogs. He loved our dogs, too, and always had time for them,



COURTESY LINDY WHYTE



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just as he did for us.

Dogs live and love in every moment, don't they? And that is their message to us, just as it was Tommy's to me. Maybe he learned it from them. I like to think so. Yesterday was and tomorrow will be, if we are lucky, but today, today we are here, whatever else is going on in this world, and we need to make the most of this time.

We don't forget advice from our mentors, and we try to pass on what we learn. Celebrate past successes, dream of future accomplishments, and right now, as we begin 2024, let's all love our dogs, from puppies to veterans and all the ones in between.

Odds are that anyone reading this is doing so watched by a dog or two or three, more if you are lucky. Go ahead, pick up the ball, share some hugs and treats, or go for a pack walk. Let your dogs take you with them into the moment. Take their lesson to heart, and live in their love.

—Lindy Whyte,

Tryumphe@comcast.net

January 2024

[American Bullmastiff Association](#)

Chinooks

THE CHINOOK'S HUMAN FOUNDERS

The Chinook breed has a cast of human characters that deserve a spotlight along the trail, starting with the breed's founder, Arthur Walden, and his wife, Katherine "Kate" Sleeper.

Arthur Walden was an explorer, and his wife Katherine Sleeper was a community builder. Although quite different, they were very much in love and had a fascinating life together.

One of their favorite activities was to snowshoe and cross-country ski up to a small warming hut half-way up New Hampshire's Whiteface Mountain, toward Blueberry Ledges, as a respite from running the Wonalancet Inn.

Walden learned about sled dogs when he went to the

Klondike during the 1896 Gold Rush. Walden's dog, Chinook, is the foundation sire of the Chinook breed. All known dogs of this breed descend from Chinook. The breed is known for pulling heavy loads quickly over long distances. Chinook and 16 of his descendants accompanied Walden and Admiral Richard Byrd to Antarctica in 1928.

Chinook was very popular in the press during the Antarctic expedition. When he disappeared during the trip to the South Pole, the newspapers were full of stories about this faithful and unique dog.

Kate Sleeper (1862–1949)

Katherine "Kate" Sleeper was born near Boston in 1862, the only child of Charles F. Sleeper and Zilpha Thomas. Her grandfather, John Sherburne Sleeper, spent 22 years in the merchant marine service, making captain by age 28. After retiring from the sea, he became the editor of the *Boston Journal*, mayor of

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Chinook adult and pup; Perry Greene Barrow (or Bering) with Chinook pup



Roxbury, and state senator.

Although her mother died when she was ten, Kate Sleeper was raised in a setting rich in education and community involvement. After her mother's death, she moved with her father to her grandfather's Roxbury, New Hampshire home. She had frequented the Chocorua area of Tamworth during vacations, visiting friends and family for many years. She was enamored with the place and decided to go into business for herself during one of these visits by moving to the area and opening an inn.

In 1890, while visiting Tamworth, she searched for a good location. During her earlier scouting trips, she fell in love with Birch Intervale (later renamed Wonalancet) and decided to settle there. She bought a 600-acre farm and renamed it "Wonalancet Farm." Wonalancet began to take form, rising to regional prominence and hosting

COURTESY KATHLEEN RILEY



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tourists, outdoor enthusiasts, and members of society into the 1930s.

Kate was young, charming, energetic, friendly, sincere, and determined. She possessed a rare quality of inspiring others to want what she wanted. One of the things she wanted was help running her farm. She asked her 19-year-old friend and relative by marriage, Arthur Walden, to help her with the farm portion. The pair married in 1902 after living and working together for 12 years.

Kate initiated the first church service held in Wonalancet Chapel. Reverend Walden, Rector at St. Paul's Cathedral in Boston, and Arthur Walden's father was a guest at the Inn when Kate asked if he wanted to hold a sermon in the chapel.

Kate loved the outdoors and formed the Wonalancet Out Door Club (WODC). In the summer of 1891, she had the four-time Appalachian Mountain Club (AMC) president Charles E. Fay and

Councillor William Ladd as guests at the Inn. She thought that Birch Intervale would become more attractive to visitors if they made Wonalancet an easy access point.

Kate was the first postmaster in Wonalancet when a post office was established in 1893. The post office was originally in the Antlers Tea Room early in the century. Kate Sleeper and friends sorted and distributed mail. Kate also brought in the first telephone to Wonalancet. In 1914, Kate secured 3,000 acres of forest around "the Bowl" north of Wonalancet to become part of the White Mountain National Forest (WMNF) instead of being clear-cut and logged. She organized a big parade in Wonalancet to celebrate this event. Around the same time, she was recognized by the French government and decorated for running an operation and making surgical dressings and clothing for suffering people in Europe.

The conjunction of the

Great Depression of the 1930s and World War II resulted in financial hardships for innkeepers. The Waldens retired to "Brookwalden," leasing Wonalancet Farm to others.

On March 26, 1947, Brookwalden burned. Arthur rescued Kate from the flames, but he died while fighting the fire. His death was a significant loss to the community, and of course for Kate.

Sometime later, Kate remarked, "He went as he would have liked to go, in the glory of flame."

Kate and Arthur are buried side by side a few yards east of the Wonalancet Chapel.

—Kathleen Riley,
kathleenrileyphotography@gmail.com

[Chinook Club of America](#)

Doberman Pinschers

CAN WE CLOSE THE DIVIDE?

While browsing old magazines and online GAZETTES, I came upon a few articles asking

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things like “Where have the breeders gone?” “Why are registrations down?” and other questions covering the downturn of the dog sport we love.

One article was written by Faye Strauss, who saw the animal-rights agenda as part of society’s “sub-conscious.” This mindset *has* crept more deeply into “our” world. We are, and have been, in a climate that discourages breeding. Breeders are going the way of the dinosaur. Breeders are often vilified if they produce more than a litter a year, or breed a bitch more than twice, or own more than “X”-number of breedable bitches.

I can attest to those perceptions. My neighbors ask, “Why do you breed dogs? Get a dog from the pound.” I’ve thought that a few breeders have produced too many litters. But breed too few litters, and one might wind up with nothing to move forward with.

This mentality of tarring and feathering breeders



Doberman Pinscher Ch. Mia von Stresow, owned by E.J. Robinson, painted by Emmo Meyer

seems to have even infiltrated our sport to some extent. One vocal contingent seems to be anti-breeder and suggests that fund-raising efforts for trophies and awards at the national take money away from funding health and rescue.

The national is important. Our national is a place where breeders showcase the results of their efforts—

where we often go to “find” a dog to breed to our bitch, experience is shared and gained; where seminars on health, performance, barn hunt, Schutzhund, structure, and more are offered.

Breeders—ethical, responsible breeders—are the backbone of this breed. They are tasked with the exciting, expensive, exhilarating, exhausting, and

AKC GAZETTE COLLECTION



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often heartbreaking, efforts of whelping puppies for all venues. They do their best to produce healthy, happy, up-for-everything Doberman Pinschers. Then hope for amazing homes for the lives they've created, where they can watch teams achieve success in whatever they pursue.

Parent clubs, like the DPCA, create the backbone of the AKC. The AKC helps protect breeds—including ours—from the deep and growing anti-dog atmosphere in this country. The disconnect being seen within our club is a microcosm of the world outside the sport. We face continuous waves of anti-crop and -dock, of homeowners insurance being difficult to get in states that have not enacted laws preventing breed discrimination, of “Adopt, don't shop.”

When a parent club sees some within its “walls” promote this “us and them” rhetoric, it raises a red flag. Peggy Adamson, one of

this breed's first ladies, said: “A breed will stand or fall according to its breeders—not its loyal fanciers, not its judges and handlers, not its exhibitors and trainers. For the breeder is the only link between the past and the future; only through him can the breed stay alive.”

It is my opinion that breeders also need to be more open in “accepting” an unknown into their family—to mentor, welcome, and offer support to all who walk up to them with a question about the Doberman Pinscher. Breeders need to stop and remember when they were first starting out, the support they received before they were “someone,” to take the time to offer a hand. To be approachable.

Ideas on how to close the divide are invited. A small divide, like a pull in a sweater, needs to be repaired immediately

—Leslie Hall,
pajant@aol.com

[Doberman Pinscher Club of America](#)

Dogues de Bordeaux

AKC BREED STANDARD

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

As we begin the new year, it is educationally beneficial to review the core themes in the AKC breed standard for the Dogue de Bordeaux (DDB) and cover some of the questions most frequently asked during our judges' education seminars and mentorship sessions. Periodic refreshers on breed standards are good practice and serve to facilitate the continuation of the learning experience for fanciers, breeders, judges, and the public.

The central theme in the AKC Dogue de Bordeaux breed standard is that it calls for consistency and no exaggerations in any features of the breed. This is borne out by emphasis on similar words throughout the document.

The standard begins by calling for a *harmonious general outline*. The following terms are repeated throughout the standard for emphasis, along with their

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The AKC standard for the Dogue de Bordeaux calls for the head to have a trapezium shape (illustration of trapezium); top: rare historical photo of a Spanish Bulldog

frequency in parentheses: *proportional* and *proportions* (4), *disproportioned* (1), *symmetrical* (1), *extremes* and *extreme* (2), *moderately* and *moderate* (3), *exaggeratedly* (2), and *excessive*

(1). The constant presence of these words reinforces the concept of moderation and no exaggerations in the DDB's conformation features to guide the process of judging against the standard

accordingly.

The following are often-asked questions at our judges' education seminars and mentorship sessions, with the corresponding answers:

- *Is there a preferred mask color?*

The breed standard calls for three mask colors—brown mask, black mask, and no mask; all are equally valid and conform to the DDB breed standard.

- *What is the frequency of the mask colors?*

Dogues de Bordeaux having brown masks are the most common, followed by black masks, and lastly, no masks.

- *What is a distinctive feature of the Dogue de Bordeaux as compared to other molossers?*

The Dogue de Bordeaux is the only *molosser* breed whose standard calls for a *trapezium-shaped* head. A *trapezium* or *trapezoid* is a quadrilateral having four sides, with two of those sides being parallel, as shown in the left visual. In

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the Dogue de Bordeaux, the two parallel sides would be the rear of the skull and the front of the muzzle, as shown in the right visual (DDBSA, Inc., 2010).

- *Why is there a concern with fused tail vertebrae or kinked/atrophied tails?*

Considering that the tail is part of the spinal column, any deformities in the tail vertebrae may reflect the possibility of additional deficiencies further up the spinal structure. Triquet (2013) emphasizes the importance of suppleness in the tail and examining for fused tail vertebrae and other tail deformities.

- *What purpose does the dip in the topline serve?*

The dip in the topline is part of the DDB's concave-lined features. As the AKC breed standard states, "the topline should be as level as possible with a slight dip behind the well-marked withers." This is consistent with the features of a concave-lined dog. Triquet (2013) states, "in the Dogue de Bordeaux,

we aim for it as straight as possible in a concave-lined dog." However, it would be against the nature of the breed for the topline to be perfectly straight.

- *What type of bulldog is in the Dogue de Bordeaux's ancestral history?*

Some cynologists hypothesize that now-extinct "large-framed" Spanish Bulldogs from the Iberian Peninsula contributed the "bulldog influence" to the breed while others theorize that it was the bulldogs brought to France by the British during England's presence in that country. It may have been a combination of one or several scenarios. In any case, the bulldog's contribution to the DDB is readily apparent. Catherine Marien-de Luca (2011) of the Bulldog Information Library provides insight into the features of the Spanish Bulldog by stating, "This dog was taller than the present-day bulldog (60–65 cm) with a weight of around 50 kg. He had a

massive, rounded head with a short muzzle and was flat-faced." Triquet (2013) wrote, "smaller than the Dogues de Bordeaux are the dogs from Spain which are used to hunt the boar and to excite the bulls in fights in the arena." Alamy, a U.K. company that stores a vast collection of past and present photos, artwork, videos, and other creative images that are available for license purchase, housed a rare photo of the extinct Spanish Bulldog available for license purchase which allowed publication, as shown.

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Delegate, Judges Education
Chair, DdBSA
V102071@inreach.com
Dogue de Bordeaux
Society of America

German Pinschers

THE PERFECT DOG WHO NEVER COMES

My first dog as an adult—not a German Pinscher—was a long time ago. Not, technically, before the internet, but well before breeders, breed clubs, the AKC, and a dozen other sources of information developed web pages with tons of information about dog breeds and breeders and health checks. I did my research in libraries and found breeders in the classified ads. I wanted the best dog, the best breed of dog, the exact right fit for me and my life and who I wanted to become.

That dog, a female Rottweiler I named Riley, came from a dam and sire with all the appropriate health checks. I met the dam and saw all the puppies, and



German Pinscher

I knew the pedigree and what had happened in the litter's early life. Still, she was the classic “too much dog for me.” I loved her dearly, and though I had just wanted a dog to hang out with and go for walks, she pushed me to get involved in obedience, and eventually tracking. I learned a ton from her, and I will always be grateful for everything she taught me and everything she demanded we

do. But she was absolutely not the perfect dog of my dreams.

My first German Pinscher came along years later. I knew many people in the dog community by then. Breeders, breed clubs, the AKC, and others had web pages with news of upcoming litters and pedigrees online. I could go to dog shows and talk to breeders, though at that time—sixteen years ago—there were

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very few German Pinschers showing in my area. I visited the breeder and met the dam and sire. I saw pictures of the puppies as they grew. I knew what I wanted: a medium-sized dog, a short-haired dog, an independent thinker. I knew the history of the German Pinscher. I wanted an active dog, with few health problems, that I could continue to do the dog sports I loved with as I got older. And he was those things, checked every box on my list. Was he perfect?

Oh, no.

No, he was not.

Blue, my first German Pinscher, was an unrepentant counter-surfer. He was a swift and lethal hunter. He barked in his crate at dog shows and trials. He checked out when things got hard, and he sometimes acted like he didn't even know me. Like Riley, I loved him desperately. Like Riley, I learned new ways of training, learned a different kind of patience. He was a conformation champion and a Champion Tracker. We had

many adventures together. He also loved to just hang out with me, especially when he was older. He was a great dog, but he definitely wasn't perfect.

I don't know what my perfect dog is. Is it a dog who bonds instantly, who anticipates my every desire, who is my constant companion? Or is it the dog who challenges me, who makes me a better person, who asks for more than I knew I had to give?

Over the years my dogs have made me laugh and made me cry and broken my heart and mended it. Every puppy comes with a world of hopes and dreams. Some of those hopes and dreams come true, and some of them don't, and always there are things I never expected.

I don't know if there are perfect dogs in this world, but one of the great things about dogs is they don't need to be.

—Deb Coates,

charmingbillie@gmail.com

[German Pinscher Club of America](#)

Giant Schnauzers

LET'S RALLY!

Giant Schnauzers love to work in obedience, and rally obedience—or Rally O, as it is known in the U.K.—is a dog sport based on obedience. It was originally devised by Charles L. “Bud” Kramer from the obedience practice of “doodling”—doing a variety of interesting warmup and freestyle exercises. The “doodles” were usually parts of obedience exercises that taught the skills and improved performance and accuracy.

Unlike regular obedience, instead of waiting for the judge's orders, the competitors proceed around a course of designated stations with the dog in heel position. The course consists of 10 to 20 signs that instruct the team what to do. Unlike traditional obedience, handlers are allowed to encourage their dogs during the course.

In AKC Rally, which is open to AKC breeds and mixed-breed dogs registered in the AKC Canine Partners program, the team

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starts with 100 points, and the judge deducts points for mistakes. Examples of errors include the dog leaving heel position when not cued to do so or the handler holding the leash too tightly, miscounting steps on certain exercises, or incorrectly performing the sign.

After qualifying three times under at least two different judges, the dog earns a title, which appears after the dog's registered name. Each qualifying trial earned is known as a "leg."

There are five levels in AKC Rally:

- Novice, the beginners class. The dog is on leash, and there are 10 to 15 stations. The title is RN (Rally Novice).
- Intermediate—an optional title for dogs who have completed their Novice title but have not yet completed their Advanced title. The dog is on leash, and there are 12 to 17 stations of signs from the Novice and Advanced levels. The title is RI (Rally Intermediate).
- Advanced, for dogs who



Giant Schnauzer

have completed their Novice title. Dogs are judged off leash, and there are 12 to 17 stations of signs from the Novice and Advanced levels. The title is RA (Rally Advanced).

- Excellent, for dogs who have earned their Advanced title. 15 to 20 stations,

including two jumps, are used in this class. The title is RE (Rally Excellent).

- Master, the highest class, for dogs who have earned their excellent title. The title is RM (Rally Master). This title requires 10 qualifying scores.

There are also three higher titles. There is the Rally

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Advanced Excellent (RAE) title, in which the team has to qualify in both Advanced and Excellent in 10 trials.

The highest title for most competitors is the Rally Championship title (RACH), for which the team must qualify in Advanced, Excellent, and Master in the same trial at least 20 separate times and earn 300 points, based on earning scores of 91–100 points out of 100 points in those classes, and that earn the required championship points.

Dogs and their handlers who meet the required qualifications have a chance to compete at the yearly Rally National Championship for the Rally National Champion (RNC) prefix title.

As noted in the October 2023 issue, two Giants competed at the AKC Rally National Championship held in Wilmington, Ohio, June 16–17:

Noche (GCh. Elegy's You Live in the Dark, RE, CA, DJ, DN, PSD, CGCA, CGCU, TKE, VHMA,

VHMP, FITB), owned by Melissa Weldishofer, Annika Charo, and Dr. Dorothy Izmilian, placed 39th out of 143 entries, with scores of 96, 98, and 100 (294/300);

Chili (Riesenrad's Changes in Attitudes, VCD1, RN, MX, MXB, MXJ, NF, BCAT), owned by Teresa Higgins and Tarja Ahlgren, placed 46th out of 143 entries, with a score of 293.

Giant congratulations!

—Mary E. Falls,

Classicgiantschnauzers@gmail.com

[Giant Schnauzer Club of America](#)

Great Danes

OWNING A GREAT DANE

My comments in this column are absolutely prejudicial, for I have had the good fortune of being involved with Great Danes for over 50 years.

Dogs are, to most people, a part of their family. Whether their interest is to have a loving pet, or they are involved in the sport of



Great Danes, February 1975

dogs, their dog is simply part of their lives.

When I started in Danes, the AKC was recognizing 129 breeds eligible to be registered. Today that number has grown to over 200, with additional breeds being added every year.

In 1887 the Great Dane was recognized by the AKC and was the 34th breed to be eligible to be registered. For those wishing to obtain a purebred dog, I would strongly suggest that they consider the Dane. The Great Dane's size is sometimes overwhelming for



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those who have not been around giant breeds, but their personality soon dissuades anyone concerned about this factor. The Great Dane is the epitome of the term “gentle giant.” They are sometimes the calming influence that families may require in their homes.

Great Danes possess high intellect and are great with strangers. The Dane is often a couch potato, and, not unlike a cat, spends a lot of the day resting. (Our Danes grew up with cats in the house, and they got along great. In fact, the cats turned out to be the alphas.)

If you wish to consider a Great Dane and are looking to find a quality breeder, I suggest that you not spend a lot of time looking at newspaper ads for puppies. Go to the GDCA website (<https://gdca.org/>) and look for breeders who are in your area. Another suggestion is to search for a rescue Dane. The GDCA website will list the various affiliated Great Dane clubs around

the country. If you contact one that is in your area, they often have a rescue organization within their club.

Unlike many other breeds, the Great Dane has a variety of colors which can be shown. There are seven: black, blue, brindle, fawn, harlequin, mantle, and merle.

Whether you are looking for a pet or a show-quality puppy, there is some due diligence involved in order to avoid the irresponsible breeder scenario. One of the best things to help you make your decision is to go to an AKC Meet the Breeds event (<https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/news/akc-meet-the-breeds-events/>).

These events are usually held in conjunction with a dog show, and most will have a booth where you can talk to breeders and interact with Great Danes in person. These people will not steer you wrong, since they do not want a bad “fit” with a new owner any more than you would want to get a dog with all sorts of issues not

suitable to your lifestyle. Meet the Breeds events are held in different cities around the country, with locations sometimes varying from year to year. Look on the AKC.org website (<https://www.akc.org/sports/akc-meet-the-breeds/>) for upcoming Meet the Breeds events.

If anyone reading this article is interested in getting a Great Dane, you may contact me at any time at cherdane2@comcast.net. I can probably suggest one or more breeders in your area for you to get in touch with.

—Bill Stebbins,

cherdane2@comcast.net

Great Dane Club of America

Great Pyrenees

A MAJESTIC, VERSATILE LIVESTOCK GUARDIAN AND COMPANION

The Great Pyrenees, also referred to as the Pyrenean Mountain Dog, is an ancient breed with a lineage deeply rooted in the Pyrenees Mountains, a rugged range forming a natural

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Great Pyrenees dam and pups on the farm; historical postcards: Great Pyrenees dogs and pups, and woman of the Osau Valley in the French Pyrenees with sheep and dog



border between France and Spain. Their history as working dogs and distinctive characteristics have made the Great Pyrenees a beloved breed worldwide. They are admired for their loyalty, intelligence, and dedication to their families.

History of the Great Pyrenees

The breed's earliest origins can be traced back centuries, with roots in Central Asia or Siberia. Some historians suggest they descended from ancient flock guardian dogs brought to the Pyrenees by the

Aryans around 3000 B.C. Others believe they have ties to the Tibetan Mastiff, which migrated to the region via nomadic tribes. As humans migrated, these dogs accompanied them, eventually settling in the Pyrenees region.

The Great Pyrenees were primarily bred by Basque shepherds and farmers in the Pyrenees Mountains to protect livestock, especially sheep, from threats such as wolves, bears, and thieves. Their thick, white coat served as camouflage

COURTESY KAREN REITER



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on the steep, snowy mountain slopes, allowing them to surprise potential threats. They were highly valued for their ability to work independently in harsh mountain conditions.

The weather-resistant coats and size of the Great Pyrenees made them well-suited to endure the mountainous climate. These dogs were trained to live among the flocks they protected. They were vigilant, independent, and capable of making decisions to ward off predators without much human guidance. Their imposing size, strength, and protective instincts made them effective deterrents against intruders.

Over time, the Great Pyrenees were associated with French nobility and were highly regarded. They were often present in royal courts and were considered a symbol of wealth and status. The Great Pyrenees were esteemed for their majestic appearance, elegance, gentle temperament, loyalty, and reliability as

guardians and companions. They were also documented in artwork and literature, further solidifying their status as prestigious and sought-after companions.

Breed traits

These dogs are large and robust and possess a thick, double, weather-resistant double coat that provides insulation in cold climates and harsh weather. They have a majestic appearance with a proud stance, a thick mane around the neck, and a gentle expression. They have a calm, composed demeanor yet are naturally protective, making them excellent guardians. Their gentle and affectionate nature towards their human companions contrasts with their alertness and protective instincts when guarding. Their intelligence and adaptability have also made them successful in roles beyond herding, including therapy work and even search and rescue.

The breed's specific characteristics were refined over

centuries. Traits like intelligence, loyalty, and a gentle disposition were highly valued alongside their guarding abilities. Breeders selectively bred these dogs to maintain their original characteristics while ensuring they could integrate well into family life. Despite their historical roles as working dogs, their transition to family companions didn't diminish their protective instincts.

Great Pyrenees are generally healthy dogs, but like all breeds, they can be prone to specific health issues. A few of the more common health concerns for Great Pyrenees include hip dysplasia, patellar luxation, bloat, and others. For additional information on the breed's health, visit the GPCA Health Committee website at <http://www.gpcahealth.org/>.

The Great Pyrenees today

The Great Pyrenees was officially recognized by the American Kennel Club (AKC) in 1933. They were initially known as the Pyrenean Mountain Dog

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but later became commonly known as the Great Pyrenees. Various breed clubs and organizations have been instrumental in preserving the breed's heritage and maintaining its distinct characteristics.

Today, Great Pyrenees dogs continue to excel as guardians, family companions, and working dogs. While they maintain their protective instincts, they are also known for their gentle and affectionate nature, making them excellent family pets. They've continued to be appreciated for their versatility, serving as capable working dogs and beloved family pets. Their protective nature and devotion to their families remain defining qualities. They still serve as excellent guardians but have also found roles as therapy dogs and companions and even participate in dog sports and exhibitions.

Throughout history, the Great Pyrenees has maintained its original purpose as a guardian while

evolving into a cherished companion, admired for its beauty, loyalty, and steadfast devotion to its family. Their rich history, marked by their loyalty, intelligence, and protective instincts, has cemented the Great Pyrenees' place as a beloved breed. Their ability to seamlessly transition from guardians of flocks to devoted family pets has contributed to their enduring popularity across the globe.

—Karen Reiter

[Great Pyrenees Club of America](#)

Komondorok

DON'T WAIT, WE NEED PUPPIES NOW!

We need more Komondors! This declaration sort of sounds like the title to a grade-C sci-fi movie from the 1960s (*Mars Needs Women!*), but it is true. In the 1980s we regularly had national specialty entries of 50 or more; the past two years, our national specialties had sad entries of five (2022) and nine

(2023). Every year the AKC ranks the breeds by number of registrations. In 2021 we were 186th of the 197 breeds; in 2022, we were 175th of the 199 breeds. These were not unusual; we are always right at the bottom. Our breed is tragically fading away here in the U.S.

How do we fix this? Breed your bitch!

Why breed early (aside from trying to help save our breed)? Our experience is that waiting until 5 or 6 years old to breed a bitch severely lowers the chance of pregnancy and a good healthy litter. We have had our best success breeding bitches 2 to 4 years of age. Sometimes having a litter helps a bitch “body up” and they finish their championship more easily. Having a litter also can mature them mentally, so they make better show dogs after the experience. Many of us have had the frustration of doing a good breeding, seeing several embryos on ultrasound, just to see them reduced to one or none at X-ray time

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a week before the due date. This is more likely to happen with an older mom.

Why aren't people breeding now? They are letting excuses get in the way. There are some good excuses: Not yet 2 years old, so they don't have their hip and elbow X-rays done yet is a good excuse. The other CHIC required tests (dentition count, and eye certification, DM or other DNA tests or cardiac screening) can be done earlier, so those are no problem. Also, the bitch may not be a champion yet.

We have finished bitches before and during their show careers. Komondor girls don't shed out with puppies, we just shave their bellies so the puppies can find the milk faucets, and no one ever looks down there in the show ring. One bath gets them clean after puppies. Ch. Summithill Helloise (Marley) had three litters during her career as a show special. So, breeding does not hurt their future show careers.



Komondor bitch Marley, Ch. Summithill Helloise, in 1982, after three litters

Another reasonable excuse is that you may not have a stud dog you like nearby. There is so much good breeding technology available now. A few Progesterone tests predict the timing of ovulation very well. Our expert reproductive veterinarians (theriogenologists) usually breed three or four days after ovulation. That gives you plenty of time to get chilled shipped or frozen semen from any stud dog in the U.S. Some great dogs of

the past are waiting for your call from a tank of liquid nitrogen in a storage facility. The advantage of chilled shipped (also live) is that it lives longer after breeding, so the timing is not as critical as when waking up frozen semen. Speaking of technology, we have found that transcervical insemination works as well as the surgical choice and is much easier on the bitch (as easy as a traditional artificial insemination). So, pick a dog (live, chilled, or frozen)

COURTESY ERIC LIEBES



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and get started!

Another issue can be fitting the breeding and whelping into our busy lives and the uncertainties of whelping. This is where technology helps out again. When you know the ovulation date (from the progesterone tests), you know exactly that the due date is 63 days later. So, you can plan around that date with certainty. If everything goes well, Komondors are often easy whelpers. You set up a whelping box, and mom moves in by instinct a day or two before the due date. If not, you can have a C-section tentatively scheduled for the 63rd or 64th day. Then she moves into the whelping box with her new babies. There are commercial whelping boxes available and a video of how to make your own on YouTube. Any of us old hands can describe it also.

If you are planning to breed your bitch someday, sooner is better than later. We need your help for the

breed we love. The last time I had a litter, I had many more calls than puppies. Again, your breeder or any of the old hands in the national club can help you with that and with recommending a stud.

—Eric Liebes,
ericliebes@earthlink.net
[Komondor Club or America](#)

Kuvaszok

Our guest columnist is KCA board member Laurie Leslie Leevy, now in her fifth decade of living with Kuvasz and training the breed in conformation, obedience, rally, therapy work, and scent work.

THE QUEST FOR VERSATILITY ON BOTH ENDS OF THE LEASH

Recently I had a conversation with a longtime Kuvasz owner whose conformation dogs are also therapy dogs. Although her dogs had participated in obedience and rally, therapy work was the place that her great white livestock-guardian dogs

could shine while satisfying the owner's commitment to furthering the healing nature of the human-canine connection. However, her newest Kuvasz was proving to be a high-energy, athletic girl. A friendly, well-socialized Kuvasz, this young bitch was happiest in the high-drive world of agility, and it was that fact that sparked the discussion. Was it fair to force her into therapy work, ignoring her high-energy proclivities?

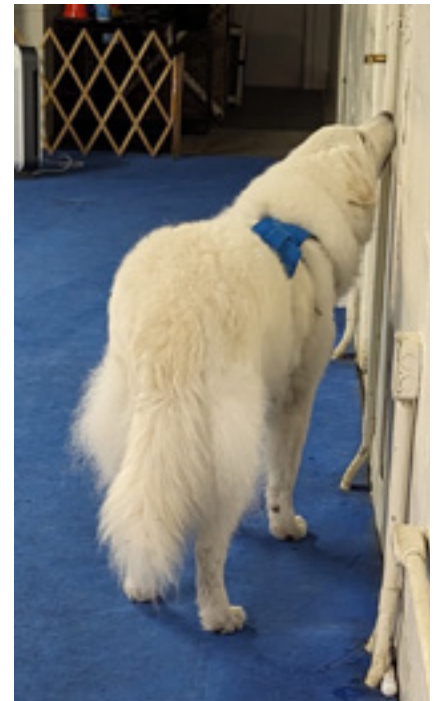
We Kuvasz Club members relish those owners who step outside the demanding world of the breed ring to allow their Kuvasz to demonstrate versatility by trying the various dog activities and sports available. And while we all understand the importance of being partners in the preservation of one of Europe's great heritage livestock-guardian breeds, we also seek to find environments of achievement for our noble breed in the modern world.

The Kuvasz is an interesting and sometimes

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Lahdee the Kuvasz on a therapy visit in a hospital; “The Kuvasz is an interesting and sometimes contradictory breed. The same dog who is a fierce guardian, noticing every different thing in the environment ... is the gentlest, calmest, most emotionally intelligent of therapy dogs.”

contradictory breed. The same dog who is a fierce guardian noticing every different thing in the environment—“Who put that box by the door? It was not there before” “Is that a truck I hear approaching the house, while you hear nothing?” “Who moved that piece of furniture in the living room?”—is the gentlest, calmest, most emotionally intelligent of therapy dogs.

My own experience with Kuvasz over 45 years has led me to appreciate their plasticity as I try to find the best activities for my dogs

COURTESY LAURIE LESLIE LEEVY



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to become solid members of the family. I too have gotten enormous fulfillment from therapy work, yet I know that not every dog will find the work fulfilling. Many of our dogs are exceptional athletes with incredible rear end awareness which make them great candidates for the twists, turns, tunnels, and jumps that make agility the fast fun team sport that it is. Obedience and rally too have an important place of learning and teamwork, with the understanding that a Kuvasz is neither a retriever nor a dog whose natural posture while walking is to look at you and ignore the surroundings. That said, a positive attitude, patience, and thoughtful training can make obedience and rally great fun sports for our dogs.

Scent work and tracking are universally many dogs' favorite activities, as it puts the dog in charge, while the handler learns to read and trust the dog—a challenge for the human partner. Drafting offers another

opportunity for exceptional teamwork and precision, a skillset our big athletic breed can master. Fast CAT, Barn Hunt, dock diving, and the myriad other activities folks pursue tell us our dogs are versatile!

But the question arises: Can we, their human companions, exhibit that same versatility?

Every dog comes to us with individual potential and arrives to a home of dreams and aspirations, but we often let the narrowness of our experience or desire drive the choices we make for our dogs. Many will begin in conformation with the thoughts of great wins based on sound type and movement while also entertaining work in therapy, obedience, or agility. Only by exposing our dogs to as many environments and opportunities as possible can we find the activities that best suit our dogs physically and emotionally.

Kuvasz are a slow-maturing breed, going from clownish to aloof

behavior as the circumstances change. Whether their own talents are actualized, or an illness or accident precludes certain activities, honoring who they are while understanding that today's goofy, athletic youngster with socialization, opportunity, and enjoyment might one day mature into a therapy or scent work dog or *not* can only happen when we their human family embrace the concept of versatility at both ends of the leash! — Laurie Leslie Leevy

—Lynn Brady

[Kuvasz Club of America](#)

Leonbergers

HOPE-FUL LEOS

There's a special organization named HOPE Animal-Assisted Crisis Response (<https://www.hope-aacr.org/>). Their mission is “To provide comfort and encouragement through animal-assisted support to individuals affected by crises and disasters.” HOPE brings solace and comfort to people who have been through

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Leonbergers are especially suited for work in HOPE Animal-Assisted Crisis Response teams, bringing comfort and solace to people who have been through a wide variety of traumatic events; HOPE dogs and handlers in group photo.



COURTESY HOPE

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a wide variety of traumatic events, from large-scale natural disasters to localized catastrophes such as bombings or mass shootings. The organization utilizes teams of therapy dogs and their humans to bring calm and balance to those affected.

As it happens, Leonbergers are uniquely suited to this role as HOPE dogs. In HOPE's Eastern Region alone (consisting of the area from the southern border of Virginia up to Canada and west to Pennsylvania and West Virginia), currently seven of the 67 dogs in the region are Leonbergers. That's just over 10 percent of the dog teams in that densely populated region.

Not just any dog-handler team can become part of HOPE, and the work differs from regular therapy-dog work in several key ways.

Jennifer O'Keefe has had three of her Leonbergers certified as HOPE dogs, beginning with her first Leonberger, Aslan, in 2011, followed by Digory, and

now Caspian and Rilian. O'Keefe provided some insight on the process of becoming a HOPE canine team, along with some important details about how to help both the dog and the human navigate the sometimes-turbulent waters of being a HOPE crisis-response team.

There is a complicated process to get involved, which includes an initial screening process for both the dog and human with an interview and completion of an eight- to nine-page form with detailed questions. In addition there are a variety of screening tests, including a crate test, supervised separation, and role-playing in which the dog and human are evaluated. These scenarios include sirens and chaotic situations.

If the dog and handler team pass the screening, then a three-day mandatory workshop follows. The workshop consists of morning classroom instruction on a variety of topics, including how to recognize

signs of stress in the dog and in yourself, and how to respond. The afternoons are spent on situational/scenario training to familiarize the teams with things they might encounter in crisis situations. These include going through security checkpoints, being wanded by security personnel (for both the dog and the human), fire stations (including sirens and firefighters in full gear), law enforcement officers in tactical gear, and so on.

Following the successful completion of this process, the canine teams must be active in AAA/T (Animal-Assisted Activities or Animal-Assisted Therapy) before moving on to AACR (Animal-Assisted Crisis Response). Canine teams must stay active, with a minimum of 12 visits required per year. Continuing education is also required every year—two credits for the dog, and two for the human. For the human, CPR and canine first aid skills are also required to be kept current,

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along with psychological first aid.

These canine teams do not self-deploy. They are asked to participate by various organizations, including the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, the Red Cross, school systems, college campuses, and FEMA and other federal government agencies, including the United States Secret Service.

The canine teams can be deployed outside of their geographic region. O’Keefe, who resides in Virginia, has traveled to North Carolina and Ohio, as well as within the eastern region, including the White House and Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. She said there were HOPE canine teams deployed following the recent mass shooting in Maine.

Because these situations can be very stressful and emotionally and physically taxing, O’Keefe said it is very important to know when the dog and the human have reached their limit, and to

know when to remove themselves from the scene.

When asked what activities may help the dog recover and reset their emotional balance, O’Keefe listed swimming as a very good activity, as well as play with other dogs. She added that it is important for the human to not use the dog for their own emotional “therapy” afterward, which is why it’s so important for the human to recognize their own stress responses and know when to step out for the day. She said handlers are allowed to bring more than one certified dog on a trip, but only one dog can work at a time.

O’Keefe finds HOPE work very rewarding, and in addition to her profession as a veterinarian she still stays involved with HOPE crisis response.

For more information on HOPE, visit <https://www.hopeaacr.org/>.

— Shannon White,
oceanleonbergers@gmail.com

[Leonberger Club of America](#)

Neapolitan Mastiffs

JUDGES’ EDUCATION

PRESENTATION HINTS AND CLUES

I recently developed the following material for our own new presenters.

General hints and clues:

- Start by introducing yourself with a brief history of your experience.
- If you are nervous, say it. It will help relax you. Judges are accommodating to “newbies.”
- Repeat a question before answering. Two reasons: To make sure the entire audience heard it and that you understand the whole thing.
- After answering, it is useful to ask, “Does that answer your question?”
- Always tell the truth. If you don’t know something, say so. Judges know when someone is blowing smoke.
- Always tell the truth. If you want to say something that is your opinion, say, “In my opinion, ...” and say why.
- It can be nice to occasionally tell an anecdote of

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Neapolitan Mastiff

your personal experience. But tell the truth. If you want to relate an anecdote that you heard from someone else, make it clear that this is something you heard from someone else. Much better than to have multiple peo-

ple tell the same story as if it were theirs. Judges notice.

Pertaining to dogs in the presentation:

- Do *not* criticize anyone or any dog. It is hard enough to get people to bring their

dogs for such viewing, and if they fear they will be torn apart they will be reluctant to cooperate.

- Always refer to the words of the standard when going over a dog, as in “the standard says ...”
- If necessary to comment on a dog, *after* using the standard to describe some desirable feature, use your viewpoint by saying, “I would like to see ...”
- Ask the owner to describe the best feature of the dog and/or what they would like to see improved on that dog. And ask, “What you would like improved?” rather than “What do you think is wrong with your dog?” If they cannot say anything (maybe they’re too shy), don’t make a big deal of it. We all know there is no such thing as a perfect dog.

- Let yourself be led by the questions of the judges. And always be positive in your comments.

Other advice:

I strongly recommend attending presentations on

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other breeds—especially similar breeds, but you will learn from any breed presentation. For example, it is pretty common to remind the judges that a giant breed is “slow to mature,” but I attended a Pomeranian seminar, and they were quite serious when they cautioned judges about their “slow to mature” breed. So it’s not just us.

Listen to every question, and inside your head, ask, “Why are they asking that question?” It might be because they’re thinking about something that’s been said about another breed, and they’re trying to understand if it can be applied to ours. Welcome all such questions! If they don’t ask you, they will ask each other afterward or at a different show, or over dinner or drinks.

Judges remember catchy phrases and concepts from other presentations and will apply what they’ve learned to your breed. For example: One judge told me that they had been taught that

if a standard says “complete dentition preferred,” it means you are supposed to count the teeth. This is probably something someone said about a breed where they *do* want you to count the teeth. So it is important for us to say that we do *not* want you to count the teeth. And our dogs are not trained to “open wide” and tolerate such intrusion.

This is also why judges don’t understand why we “want” the dog to pace. They’ve been taught that pacing is a “lazy gait,” and that a dog paces because it’s got a problem—maybe not feeling up to snuff, maybe a hidden construction issue. So it is important to explain that pacing is not to be penalized in our breed.

Understanding how judges think and why lets you anticipate questions. This not only gives you credibility but makes you look smart besides!

Final comment:

Some breeders want to present to the judges to

show off their own dog and make themselves more visible, in hopes that this will give them an “edge” in the ring later on.

Judges attend lots and lots of presentations. They can tell the difference between ego and valid content. Even if you end up bringing your own dogs to the presentation, resist the ever-strong temptation to brag. If you discuss the standard and show your dogs, it should be obvious, eh?

—Margaret R. (Peggy) Wolfe,
Margaret.peggy.wolfe@gmail.com

United States Neapolitan Mastiff Club

Newfoundlands

BIG DOGS, BIG PROGRAM

Suppose you are watching the Purina National Dog Show on Thanksgiving and admire a giant, shaggy, friendly, drooling Newfoundland. You decide this might be the dog for you. How do you learn more about the breed, its history,

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and life with such a big beast? Thankfully, you can find a local Newfoundland owner, meet their dogs, and learn more before adding a giant dog to your family.

The Newfoundland Club of America (NCA) Ambassador Program connects knowledgeable Newfoundland owners with people who want to learn, get involved in therapy, water, or draft work, need help with grooming and health questions, or are looking for a puppy. Like the breed itself, the Ambassador program of 88 current ambassadors is the largest of its kind. Tara Kelley-Bertrand, who has led the program for nearly a decade, says the ambassadors are “boots on the ground for the NCA, serving as liaisons between the public and regional clubs. We want to welcome new Newf people.” Tara adds that extra-large breed dogs can develop serious, expensive health problems and behavior issues can create big problems, so it is



Through the NCA's Newfoundland Ambassador program, experienced owners and their Newfoundlands provide outreach and education about the breed and about responsible dog ownership

COURTESY JOHN AFFEL / KATIE DOLAN



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important that prospective owners get the information they need to raise well-trained, happy dogs.

The Newfoundland Ambassador program, started in 2010, has evolved and expanded over the years. Ambassadors now meet quarterly by Zoom and discuss questions via an active Facebook page. Ambassadors proudly wear their pins and logo clothing at the annual Newfoundland specialty.

A video about the program is being developed and should help spread the word to other Newfoundland owners who want to get involved with their dogs. The NCA website has a searchable database of ambassadors across the country. Ambassadors help people assess whether a Newfoundland is the right dog for them, encourage Newfoundland owners to join their regional club, share information about NCA resources, and introduce owners to ways to have fun with their dogs (including water work,

parade carting, draft work, therapy dog work, obedience, CGC, and more).

John Affel notes, “As a Newf Ambassador, folks come to my house to meet the crew, I answer emails about special issues and how to find a breeder, and we do therapy visits. My Landseer, Jake, and I enjoyed immensely our two days at the AKC Meet the Breeds in the Javits Center this year. We also regularly attend the Kennel Club of Philadelphia Purina National, where we spend eight hours with people saying nice things about our dogs. More importantly we get to interact with potential Newf owners and share the real truth—slobber and all—about this wonderful breed. Especially satisfying is the joy that my pups give to special-needs families. The screams of joy of a young wheelchair-bound child as he scratched Hope’s or Jake’s head made my year.”

Several other giant-dog-breed clubs also have ambassador programs.

For example, the Bernese Mountain Dog ambassador program has 30 current ambassadors and is organized much like the Newfoundland program. Chairperson Wendy Kirk notes Berner ambassadors are asked to maintain up-to-date information on their dogs’ health status in Berne-Garde. Linda Seaver, a Bernese Mountain Dog Breed Ambassador, adds, “I tell prospective puppy owners that you’ll spend the equivalent of a new car over the lifetime of your Berner’s life. It is not a decision to make lightly.”

In addition, the American Kennel Club offers a Canine Ambassador program where trained, credentialed dog-owner teams visit schools or scout troops and talk about responsible pet ownership. The program, which recently revamped its application process, currently has 50 approved ambassadors, representing a wide range of purebreds and mixed-breeds.

As a Newfoundland Ambassador in Rhode Island



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for the past decade, I've received about 10 inquiries a year, mostly with questions about locating a puppy. I encourage new Newf people to take the time to learn about the breed and love watching them connect with other owners at regional club events. Even more, I love how our two dogs enthusiastically greet families who want to live with these amazing beasts.

—Katie Dolan,
katie@katedolan.net
Newfoundland Club of America

Portuguese Water Dogs

PHYSIOLOGY AND MORPHOLOGY OF THE PWD AS IN THE BREED STANDARD

As a society we have come to believe that larger is better. One 2012 study looked at how “supersizing” our food and other items makes us feel more powerful (<https://business.time.com/2012/04/16/study-how-supersizing-makes-us-feel-more-important/>).

But when it comes to

dogs, is larger size really an improvement for the breed?

Each breed of dogs has a physiology and a morphology that is specific to that breed’s “what the dog was originally bred to do.” Is supporting a deviation from a historical standard the best thing for that breed, or will it eventually lead to unintended changes?

For the Portuguese Water Dog, visualize the physique of an Olympic swimmer. Their physique is defined by exceptional muscle tone and a “V”-styled body shape, not coarse like that of a football player. The coarser the dog, the more resistance in the water as they swim. The Portuguese fisherman wanted a dog whose physiology allowed them to be agile in the water.

The PWD should be of medium size (build); this enabled the Portuguese fisherman to haul them back into the boat with one hand while maintaining control. The breed’s AKC standard describes the PWD as “a swimmer and diver

of exceptional ability and stamina.” The ribs should be well sprung for maximum lung capacity, and the chest broad and deep, with correctly positioned upper and lower arms.

Along with those well-inclined shoulders, forelegs should be strong and straight, with discernable muscling.

To kick effectively in the water, tendons and hocks should be strong, and the metatarsus long.

The tail, like the rudder of a boat, which is set slightly below the line of the back, should be correctly positioned to help with swimming.

The head has breadth, but it should also be proportionate to the body; while a barge needs a tug to navigate coastal waters, a sailboat can cut through the water effortlessly. A similar analogy is the bite, which should be scissors or level. Think of the *Titanic*—would you want a gaping hole in your boat?

Major faults, such as

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Portuguese Water Dogs Avi (top) and Polar

incorrect bite or tail-set, should not be overlooked or excused in a conformation dog. An early study conducted by PWDCA member Roy Cawley, of Makitso Kennel, showed how the correct structure in a PWD resulted in improved water-trial performance.

PWDs have evolved in the

past 40 years from a mix of wavy or curly, long, or shorter coats, to a focus on grooming a short, compact, highly polished silhouette; incorrect bites, rears that move unsoundly; front legs that in motion are extended way beyond the nose; and a head held straight up to reach the heavens. Dogs with these traits should not be rewarded in the conformation ring, yet they are, for a multiplicity of reasons.

When you look at a Portuguese Water Dog, all the parts should equal the whole, not a “greater than” equation. If the function of the breed is swimming, then the physiology/morphology should follow.

— Angela Kalmanash,
ackalmanash@ruffwave.com

[Portuguese Water Dog Club of America](#)

Rottweilers

CHANGE IN TEMPERAMENT

Here is a topic for conversation for which there is no right answer. I

COURTESY ANGELA KALMANASH

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have discussed and grappled with this issue for a very long time—two decades. Traditionally and historically (before, say, 1992) our breed is aloof, intolerant of fools and stands its ground. You didn't touch someone's dog without asking first and allowing the dog

time to decide if you were an acceptable human being. It used to be normal for a Rottweiler to give a low, soft grumble when a judge bent over them to feel their chest. It didn't mean aggression, it meant "I don't know you."

We worked our dogs in difficult venues, such as

Schutzhund, cattle-herding, and military-style obedience. In the decade of the 1990s, our breed went from unknown to top 10 in AKC registrations, not to mention unregistered dogs. Hundreds, if not thousands, of pet owners who had no experience with a

COURTESY LYNDA BEAM

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serious-in-disposition breed wanted a Rottweiler.

Between the media slamming us as vicious and unpredictable, and judges complaining about the unfriendliness and their fear of our breed, the Rottweiler had to change.

The truth is very few folks can live with a correct Rottweiler. Our breed is too smart, and so much work is involved: extensive socialization with people and animals, copious and continual training, mental and physical fulfillment, deep personal relationships with their families. But the general public can live with a dog that is not as ambitious, is sensitive and acquiescing to correction, compliant and—dare I say it?—submissive.

The Rottweiler has become friendlier, more open to accepting strangers, more tolerant of being physically handled by unknown people (judges, handlers, veterinarians, groomers, friends, and neighbors). But in my opinion, this came at a cost: The Rottweiler became more

sensitive, more dependent, sometimes a little more quick to animal-fighting, quicker to the bite, noise-sensitive, and a little more frantic and hyper instead of calm during their work.

I posit that in an effort to increase the Rottweiler's friendliness with strangers, their aloofness (which is rooted in being confident and discerning) has become so diminished that it has made them fearful and anxious instead.

So, here's the quandary: Do we continue to breed correct, strong Rottweilers that few can handle, or do we continue to water down our breed and make them acceptable for the general public? "Real" Rottweilers often end up in rescue or unstable situations because the average person can't live with them or obtain homeowner's insurance. Yet the average dog owner loves the new version of our breed—sweet, compliant, a little lazy, low in prey drive, not challenging. These dogs stay in their homes, loved, until

their passing.

As I said in the beginning, there is no right answer to this question. I grapple with it myself as someone who loves to work her dogs and prefers the "jerk" Rottweilers—but I also love a sweet dog who doesn't press me all day for something to do, push back when told "no" and then figure out a workaround to get what they want. I appreciate how lovely a dog like that is, and I think many breeders are on board, too. They want to breed and place puppies that are sweet and easy to love and live with, that don't need to be rehomed a year or two later. But are we compromising our vow to uphold our breed standard, which includes our iconic temperament? Is this a change that serves the breed, or just those who are selling puppies? Or, by changing our breed's temperament, do they live a better life in the long run? I can vouch that soft Rottweilers are easier to place when in rescue.

What do you think? I

BREED COLUMNS

WORKING GROUP

would love to hear your thoughts!

—Jill Kessler Miller,
jilymillysrc@gmail.com
 American Rottweiler Club

Siberian Huskies

Our guest columnist this month is Sheila E. (Blanker) Morrissey, DVM. Sheila previously served as the Genetics and Health Chair for the Siberian Husky Club of America and is also a past member of the club’s Board of Directors.

She breeds Siberians under the Northern Lights kennel prefix.

THE “EYES” HAVE IT— OR DO THEY? PART TWO

A previous Siberian Husky breed column, appearing in the April 2019 AKC GAZETTE and written by me, discussed Corneal Dystrophy (CD). Since then there has been some new and interesting information to share.

It all started when we were campaigning one of our dogs. Both my son, who

was handling our dog, and I noticed a very slight haziness (opacity) to the dog’s eyes that could be seen with the naked eye if you looked carefully. Neither said anything to the other until the haziness progressed. The dog’s vision did not seem to be affected, and all else was normal with the dog.

When the dog was due for an annual eye check, it was not a surprise when we were told that CD was present, but it was a first for our line. I asked the



Siberian Husky

COURTESY KATHLEEN RILEY

WORKING GROUP

veterinary ophthalmologist if the CD appeared crystalline or lipid, as many years ago I'd had a conversation with a well-respected veterinary ophthalmologist and geneticist where he told me that the crystalline form was genetic in nature, and the lipid form could be caused by factors such as hypothyroidism, high levels of fat in the bloodstream, and so on. The examining ophthalmologist did not indicate it was crystalline.

With that in mind, I decided to do an experiment (oh, the perks of being a veterinarian's dog!): After testing for hypothyroidism and having the panel come back normal, our dog was put on a low-fat diet, specifically Hill's Low Fat I/D. Very gradually the haziness started to clear, and after a full year on the diet, the results of the annual eye check were normal!

Now, being a trained scientist, to be sure that the dietary fat content was the cause of the CD, I returned the dog to the original diet,

and indeed over time the haziness did reappear. Not wanting the dog to be on a very low-fat diet lifelong, if at all possible, I researched the fat content of other diets and began feeding one that has a fat content lower than the original diet (19% minimum) but not as low as the low-fat I/D (9% maximum). So far, the haziness has not returned on a diet with 12% minimum fat content.

While very happy for our dog and our breeding program, I wondered about the implications of my small "citizen scientist" study for other Siberian Huskies, and the possibility that a percentage of Siberians who are diagnosed with CD may actually not have a genetic form, but rather a nutritional form, and therefore were being kept out of the breeding population unnecessarily.

With my information, I contacted the American College of Veterinary Ophthalmologists (ACVO) Genetics Committee and presented my study, find-

ings, and concerns. After the committee deliberated on my information, they decided on a consensus statement that has now been added to the Siberian Husky section in *The Blue Book: Ocular Disorders Presumed to be Inherited in Purebred Dogs* (available through OFA). It states under Corneal Dystrophy: "When [CD is] seen, it may be beneficial to feed a low fat diet and recheck the eyes the following year to see if the opacities resolve, ruling out inherited corneal dystrophy."

Please be aware of several important caveats about this information:

- You cannot assume that if your dog is diagnosed with CD that it is not inherited! You must first *prove it* by feeding a low-fat diet and having the eyes rechecked by a veterinary ophthalmologist after a year to see if the opacities have cleared.
- No current studies have been done to say how low the fat content needs to be in order to clear (what I will call) "nutritional CD," so I



BREED COLUMNS

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would recommend using the low-fat I/D (or equivalent), as otherwise the fat content of a diet may be too high to clear the opacities.

- Be aware that when feeding a low-fat diet, the coat will lose some of its luster while on it.

- Also be aware that there are no current studies to know what the optimum fat content to prevent “nutritional CD” from developing (or returning) is. For my dog, 12% minimum seems to be doing the trick—but for other dogs it may not. — Sheila E. (Blanker) Morrissey, DVM

Thank you very much, Sheila!

— Jessica Breinholt,
jbshca@gmail.com
Siberian Husky Club of America

Standard Schnauzers

SO YOU HAVE A NEW PUPPY

So you have a new addition to your family: a fur-covered, stinky-breathed, wiggling bundle of joy. You might be

an old hand at puppy-raising, having lived with dogs for most of your life. Or perhaps this puppy is your first dog as an adult. Whatever the case, now you are responsible (gulp—yes, you are) for the care, feeding, well-being, happiness, and training of this young living being.

While I was growing up, my mother refused to add a dog to our family. My first puppy came after I finished graduate school. Finally in my own home with my own rules and a “real” job, I got my very first puppy: a Standard Schnauzer.

Your first task with a new puppy is inventing his call name (his registered name can come later). Use your puppy’s call name every time you speak to him so he becomes accustomed to it and understands that you mean *him*. It helps to use the names of other household members for a while when addressing them, partly to help the puppy identify them and partly

to let the puppy know you aren’t addressing *him*. As you teach your puppy the basic commands *sit*, *stay*, and *come*, preface every command you give him with his call name.

Baby Charley

My first puppy was the only male in a litter of seven. His call name, Charley, came from the Standard Poodle main character in John Steinbeck’s *Travels with Charley*, which I’d recently read. We live in the high-altitude desert Southwest, where there are many wild fox species, thus his registered name, Wüstefuchs Karl, means Desert Fox Charley in German.

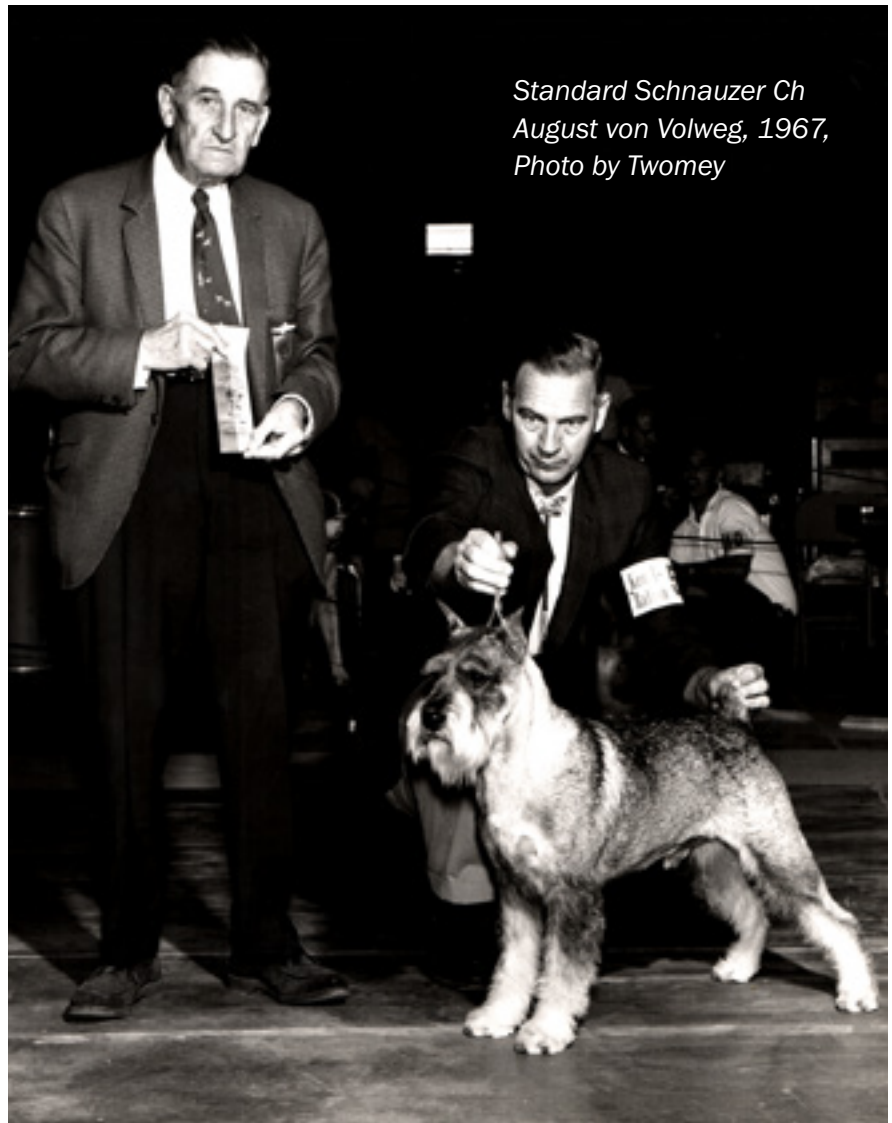
I first met Charley when he was 4 weeks old. I visited him daily, knowing I couldn’t have him immediately. At last, the day he became 6 weeks old arrived, and I could take him home with me. I introduced him to his new house, his fenced backyard, and his new neighbors: the Boxer on the

WORKING GROUP

west side of the fence, and the Afghan Hound on the east. I fed him and played with him, made one last potty stop in the yard, put him to bed, and turned in for the night.

At about 2 a.m., a pitiful howling woke me. Charley missed his mama and six sisters. I snuggled him back in his bed with a lukewarm hot-water bottle and a wind-up clock with a loud tick. I had read that these items simulated the warmth and heartbeats of his canine family; it appeared to work until a forceful howl awakened me again at 5:10 A.M.—an indignant Charley, accustomed to being fed at 5:00 a.m., was hungry. “Where’s breakfast?” he demanded.

I prepared his breakfast—a slurry of Esbilac, puppy kibble, and Gerber’s strained mixed vegetables—which he gobbled up as though he thought he’d never get another meal. I waited until a more civilized hour (10 A.M.), called his breeder, and explained



Standard Schnauzer Ch August von Volweg, 1967, Photo by Twomey

what was happening. His breeder, who lived nearby, laughed and said he’d take care of it. Within half an hour, the breeder and Charley’s mama ambled down our driveway. I rushed to let them in, and he announced, “Milk

wagon calling!” Charley nursed that day, and twice more later in the week, eliminating the night howling.

Remember, puppies are baby dogs

Puppies are still babies. Don’t expect a puppy to

WORKING GROUP

behave as an adult dog would. Your breeder may have begun potty training your puppy with newspapers or specially made pads sold under several brand names. When my first litter went to their new homes, all the puppies vocalized requests to go outside to potty. However, one new owner called me a few days after taking the puppy home. He and his wife both worked outside their home—a 10th-floor apartment. They wanted to paper-train their puppy because taking him outside to potty wasn't always convenient or feasible.

We paper-train by placing several thicknesses of newspaper beside the chosen door to outside. Then we let the puppy know that the paper is an approved potty place. If the puppy gets all his elimination on the paper, he gets effusive praise. Even one foot on the paper shows he's trying and deserves praise and encouragement, but the praise is much less effusive—more like a

restrained “Nice try, but not there yet.”

After the puppies have had their immunization shots, conscientious breeders will socialize the puppies to new people, new places, and other dogs. Now is the time for environmental enrichment to accustom the puppies to new objects, sounds, odors, and textures they may encounter in the big world awaiting them. Otherwise, that's your job.

The Adolescent Years

The next task is the approval word. We use a drawn-out “Good” in a happy, excited voice. Baby puppies, even if they do not yet understand all your words, *do* understand your tone of voice. A recent study by neurologist Attila Andics and team at Hungary's Eötvös Loránd University examined brain scans, done with a functional magnetic resonance imaging machine (fMRI), of thirteen dogs—six Border Collies, five Golden Retrievers, one German Shepherd Dog,

and one Chinese Crested. The team concluded that dogs' brains process human speech in the same way people's brains do: a dog uses the left hemisphere of his brain to interpret words, and the right hemisphere to interpret tone. (<https://www.sciencefriday.com/segments/understanding-canine-communication/>)

Early on, select a release word to let the puppy know he has completed your command. *We urge you not to select “OK.”* Just think how many times each day you use that word in normal conversation or on the telephone!

An admittedly unscientific poll of members of our dog obedience club and several of our dog friends resulted in the following for release commands: “free,” “free dog,” “cut,” “break,” and “end.” A few, whose first puppy arrived before formal obedience training, used the dreaded “OK,” and they still use it so as not to confuse the newer dogs in the pack.

It's a good idea to learn

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and use the “official” hand signals right from the start—it could save your dog’s life, plus it helps older dogs with hearing loss. training techniques for all obedience and rally commands and their accompanying hand signals can be found in various locations on the American Kennel Club’s website, <https://www.akc.org>. Dogs are visual learners, and hand signals are visual learning aids. There is an excellent article and chart by Janet Bowley titled *12 Dog Training Hand Signals and How to Use Them* at <https://www.goodpuplife.com/dog-training-hand-signals/>.

A friend who lives with four CH-UD Doberman Pinschers that patrol a few thousand acres of farmland told me once when the dogs were patrolling a half-mile away, she gave them the hand signal for “come.” The dogs took off toward her at a dead run. As they crested a hill, she saw a fully-loaded coal truck rumbling down the road on a collision

course with the dogs’ path. Heart pounding, she gave the hand signal for “down.” All four dogs immediately dropped to the ground as the coal truck thundered along less than 30 feet from where the four dogs lay flat on their bellies on the ground.

Basic and advanced commands and what they mean

The basic commands your puppy should learn are *no* (or *nein*), *it*, *stay*, *come*, *off*, and *leave it*.

- *No* or *nein* is a corrective word that tells your dog not to do something before it happens or stop doing it immediately.

- *Sit* tells your dog to sit.

- *Stay* tells your dog to stop moving and hold his position.

- *Come* tells your dog to come to you.

- *Off* tells your dog to stop jumping up on a person.

**Note the difference between “down” and “off.”*

- *Leave it* (one of the most useful commands) tells your dog to ignore or not touch something.

More advanced but useful commands are *drop it*, *stop that*, *wait*, *stand*, *down*, *quiet*, and *Good dog*.

Encouragement gets desired results

Curious, energetic, and eager to try new things, puppies explore their new world by taste, touch, and smell. Don’t punish these babies for doing what to them comes as naturally as breathing. Instead, use love, patience, and positive reinforcement to teach them the behaviors you want; this also will strengthen the bond between you and your puppy. A special treat, lavish and enthusiastic praise, playtime with you and a favorite toy, or lots of affection will go a long way toward making habits of the responses you want.

—Suzanne T. Smith (Los Alamos, New Mexico, USA),

WustefuchsSS@aol.com
<http://www.GoodFoodGreatDogs.com>

Standard Schnauzer 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.

8051 Arco Corporate Drive, Suite 100, Raleigh, NC 27617
101 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10178

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ATTENTION DELEGATES

NOTICE OF MEETING

The next meeting of the Delegates will be held at the Doubletree Newark Airport Hotel on **Tuesday, March 12, 2024**, beginning no earlier than 9:00 a.m. There will not be a Delegate Forum.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Dog Obedience Club of Hollywood

DELEGATE CREDENTIALS

Vincent Chianese, Port St. Lucie, FL,
Ashtabula Kennel Club

Wendi Freedman, Milford, NJ,
Old English Sheepdog Club of America

Jason Hoke, Madison, WI,
Chain O'Lakes Kennel Club

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Berna Hart Welch, Monson, MA,
Putnam Kennel Club

Ann Yuhasz, Chagrin Falls, OH
Western Reserve Kennel Club



gazette

Click here to read the January 2024 issue!

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. Wendy Cerilli (Greenwich, NY)

Mr. Jim Keller (Knox, ME)

Ms. Nikki Littleton (Tacoma, WA)

Ms. Stefanie Meinhardt (Napa, CA)

Ms. Janette Parker (Jackson, MI)

Mr. Jeff Pribil (Trenton, SC)

Mr. Fernando Salas (Oakland, NJ)

NOTICE

Ms. Janis Moriarity (Azle, TX). Action was taken by the Greater Humble Area Kennel Club for conduct at its October 8, 2023 event. Ms. Moriarity was charged with neglect of a dog at or in connection with an event. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the Event Committee's report and set the penalty as a six-month suspension of all AKC privileges and a \$1,000 fine, effective October 8, 2023. (Multiple Breeds)

NOTICE

The AKC's Management Disciplinary Committee has suspended Ms. Jennifer

Lopez (Bertram, TX) for one year 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)

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.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CHARTER AND BYLAWS OF THE AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB, INC. – ARTICLE XII, SECTION 1

The AKC Board has endorsed the following amendment to **Article XII, Section 1**, of the *Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club, Inc.*, proposed by the Delegate Bylaws Committee and approved by Staff. This will be voted on at the March 12, 2024 Delegate Meeting.

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 complainant 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.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE RULES APPLYING TO DOG SHOWS – CHAPTER 12, SECTION 1 AND SECTION 4 – THE CATALOG

The AKC Board has endorsed the following amendment to **Chapter 12, Section 1 and Section 4**, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*, suggested by Staff, proposed by the AKC Board and approved by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee. This will be voted on at the March 12, 2024 Delegate Meeting.

CHAPTER 12

SECTION 1. Every Show Committee shall provide a published catalog which shall contain:

- Exact location of the show
- Date/dates on which the show will be held
- Show hours (opening and closing)
- List of all officers and members of the Event Committee
- Name, city and state of all judges
- Name and address of Superintendent and/or Show Secretary
- Name of the Veterinarian or Veterinary

Clinic, and whether the veterinarian will be in attendance or on call.

- Name, city, state, and if provided, e-mail address, of all exhibitors
- Information on all entered dogs as described in Chapter 12, Section 4
- Information on all entered Junior Handlers
- Judging Program

No entry shall be made at any show under a judge of any dog which said judge or any member of his/her immediate household or immediate family has been known to have owned, handled in the ring more than twice, sold, held under lease or boarded within one year prior to the date of the show.

For the purposes of this section, the members of an immediate family are one's spouse, domestic partner, parents, grandparents, children, grandchildren, siblings, mother-in-law, father-in-law, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, daughters-in-law, and sons-in-law; adopted, half, and step members are also included in immediate family.

Judges of sweepstakes and futurities, and all other special attractions held with a conformation show should refer to the Rules, Policies and Guidelines for Conformation Judges for any applicable exhibiting restrictions as they are defined by Board policy.

This provision prohibiting judges or those residing in the same household from exhibiting on the same day does not apply to the judge of the Four-to-Six Month Competition or to Junior Showmanship only judges. Such judges may also exhibit on the day(s) they judge.

CHAPTER 12

SECTION 4. The catalog shall be published and available. The catalog, if printed, shall be in book form. It shall be from 5 ½ x 8 ½ inches to 8 ½ x 11 inches. It shall contain the following information for all entered dogs, arranged in this order:

- Catalog (armband) number
- Complete registered name of dog
- One of the following for each dog:
 - or AKC registration number
 - or PAL number
 - or foreign registration number and country for an unregistered imported dog
 - or identification number issued by AKC
- Date of birth
- Name of breeder(s)
- Name of Sire
- Name of Dam
- Name of owner(s)/co-owner(s)
- Name of owner's agent (if any)

The city, state, and if provided, e-mail address of the owner shall follow the owner's name, or shall be included in a separate

alphabetical list of all exhibitors contained elsewhere in the catalog.

Remaining portions of this section are unchanged.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO BEAGLE FIELD TRIAL RULES AND STANDARD PROCEDURES FOR LARGE PACK FIELD TRIALS – CHAPTER 3, SECTION 1

The AKC Board has endorsed the following amendment to **Chapter 3, Section 1**, of the *Beagle Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures for Large Pack Field Trials*, proposed by Beagle Advisory Committee. This will be voted on at the March 12, 2024 Delegate Meeting.

CHAPTER 3 MAKING APPLICATION TO HOLD A FIELD TRIAL

SECTION 1. A club which has been approved by the American Kennel Club may hold no more than two licensed field trials per calendar year.

PROPOSED BEAGLE FIELD TRIAL RULES AND STANDARD PROCEDURES FOR BRACE, SMALL PACK AND SMALL PACK OPTION FIELD TRIALS AND TWO-COUPLE PACK HUNTING TESTS – CHAPTER 3, SECTION 3

The AKC Board has endorsed the following amendment to **Chapter 3, Section 3**, of the *Beagle Field Trial Rules and Standard*

Procedures for Brace, Small Pack and Small Pack Option Field Trials and Two-Couple Pack Hunting Tests, proposed by Beagle Advisory Committee. This will be voted on at the March 12, 2024 Delegate Meeting.

CHAPTER 3 MAKING APPLICATION TO HOLD A FIELD TRIAL

SECTION 3. A licensed or member club may hold up to two licensed field trials in a calendar year.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO BEAGLE FIELD TRIAL RULES AND STANDARD PROCEDURES FOR LARGE PACK FIELD TRIALS – CHAPTER 4, SECTION 1 AND SECTION 3

The AKC Board has endorsed the following amendment to **Chapter 4, Section 1** and **Section 3**, of the *Beagle Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures for Large Pack Field Trials*, proposed by Beagle Advisory Committee. This will be voted on at the March 12, 2024 Delegate Meeting.

CHAPTER 4 RIBBONS, MONEY PRIZES AND SPECIAL PRIZES

SECTION 1. A club holding a licensed or member field trial shall offer prize ribbons or rosettes of the following colors in the four regular classes:

First prize—Blue.

- Second prize—Red.
- Third prize—Yellow.
- Fourth prize—White.
- Fifth prize or *N.B.Q.—Dark Green.

For additional non-regular classes, a club holding a licensed or member trial shall offer ribbons or rosettes of the following colors:

- First prize—Rose.
- Second prize—Brown.
- Third prize—Light Green.
- Fourth prize—Gray.
- Fifth prize or *N.B.Q.—Orange.

SECTION 3. If ribbons or rosettes are given at sanctioned field trials they shall be of the following colors, and shall bear the words Field Trial, but may be of any design or size:

- First prize—Rose.
- Second prize—Brown.
- Third prize —Light Green.
- Fourth prize—Gray.
- Fifth prize or *N.B.Q.—Orange.

*N.B.Q applies only to brace and gun dog brace formats where there is no fifth place awarded.

PROCEDURE 4. JUDGING

4-B In all classes the Judges shall award places as follows: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, *and 5th.

*For brace and gun dog brace only, after four places have been awarded, the Judge shall designate the next best qualified hound as “N.B.Q.” not fifth place. At the discretion of the judge, a dog designated N.B.Q. can be moved up should any of the top four hounds commit a serious fault so as not to merit further consideration for placement.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO BEAGLE FIELD TRIAL RULES AND STANDARD PROCEDURES FOR BRACE, SMALL PACK AND SMALL PACK OPTION FIELD TRIALS AND TWO-COUPLE PACK HUNTING TESTS – CHAPTER 4, SECTION 1 AND SECTION 3

The AKC Board has endorsed the following amendment to **Chapter 4, Section 1** and **Section 3**, of the *Beagle Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures for Brace, Small Pack and Small Pack Option Field Trials and Two-Couple Pack Hunting Tests*, proposed by Beagle Advisory Committee. This will be voted on at the March 12, 2024 Delegate Meeting.

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4-B In all classes the Judges shall award places as follows: 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, *and 5th.

*For brace and gun dog brace only, after four places have been awarded, the Judge shall designate the next best qualified hound as “N.B.Q.” not fifth place. At the discretion of the judge, a dog designated N.B.Q. can be moved up should any of the top four hounds commit a serious fault so as not to merit further consideration for placement.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO BEAGLE FIELD TRIAL RULES AND STANDARD PROCEDURES FOR LARGE PACK FIELD TRIALS – CHAPTER 9, SECTION 5

The AKC Board has endorsed the following amendment to **Chapter 9, Section 5**, of the *Beagle Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures for Large Pack Field Trials*, proposed by Beagle Advisory Committee. This will be voted on at the March 12, 2024 Delegate Meeting.

CHAPTER 9 DESCRIPTION OF CLASSES AND CHAMPIONSHIP REQUIREMENTS

SECTION 5. Awarding Championship Points.

Field Championship points for Beagles shall be awarded only to hounds placing in licensed or member trials in Open Classes in which there were six or more starters.

The championship points shall be awarded on the following basis:

1 point to the winner of first place for each starter;

½ point to the winner of second place for each starter;

⅓ point to the winner of third place for each starter;

¼ point to the winner of fourth place for each starter;

*⅓ point to the winner of fifth place for each starter.

*The point value for fifth place applies to all hunting formats except brace and gun dog brace, where there shall be no fifth place awarded but a judge can designate a dog as a next best qualified hound "N.B.Q."

A starter is an entered eligible hound that has not been disqualified and that is not measured out for second series or for the winners pack, and that has been cast or laid on a line with its brace mate at the start of its first series heat at a brace trial; or that has been cast at the start of its first series pack at a small pack trial; or that has been cast at the start with the rest of the pack at a large pack trial.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO BEAGLE FIELD TRIAL RULES AND STANDARD PROCEDURES FOR BRACE, SMALL PACK AND SMALL PACK OPTION FIELD TRIALS AND TWO-COUPLE PACK HUNTING TESTS

CHAPTER 9, SECTION 6

The AKC Board has endorsed the following amendment to **Chapter 9, Section 6**, of the *Beagle Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures for Brace, Small Pack and Small Pack Option Field Trials and Two-Couple Pack Hunting Tests*, proposed by Beagle Advisory Committee. This will be voted on at the March 12, 2024 Delegate Meeting.

CHAPTER 9

DESCRIPTION OF CLASSES AND CHAMPIONSHIP REQUIREMENTS

SECTION 6. Awarding Championship Points.

Field Championship points for Beagles shall be awarded only to hounds placing in licensed or member trials in Open Classes in which there were six or more starters.

The championship points shall be awarded on the following basis:

1 point to the winner of first place for each starter;

½ point to the winner of second place for each starter;

⅓ point to the winner of third place for each starter;

¼ point to the winner of fourth place for each starter;

*⅓ point to the winner of fifth place for each starter.

*The point value for fifth place applies

to all hunting formats except brace and gun dog brace, where there shall be no fifth place awarded but a judge can designate a dog as a next best qualified hound "N.B.Q."

A starter is an entered eligible hound that has not been disqualified and that is not measured out for second series or for the winners pack, and that has been cast or laid on a line with its brace mate at the start of its first series heat at a brace trial; or that has been cast at the start of its first series pack at a small pack trial; or that has been cast at the start with the rest of the pack at a large pack trial.

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

Terri Cournoyer (112049) MS

(662) 803-4064

thcournoyer@gmail.com

Bull Terriers, Miniature Bull Terriers, Staffordshire Bull Terriers, JS-Limited

Mrs. Christine Goodin (113467) VA

(804) 310-5203

deellittlepoms@aol.com

Pomeranians

Deb Lesslie (111453) WI

(651) 271-5438

dl920@millerbull.com

Bulldogs

Mrs. Rebecca Myers (113529) FL

rebeccamyersch@aol.com

Doberman Pinschers, Saint Bernards, Collies, Shetland Sheepdogs, JS

Mrs. Marlyss Swanson (36823) WA

(425) 422-4789

marlyss2000@gmail.com

Labrador Retrievers

Ms. Beth Wilder (108923) VA

(703) 608-3441

mary.wilder@vca.com

Cairn Terriers, JS

ADDITIONAL BREED JUDGING APPLICANTS

Mr. Gary L. Andersen (6176) AZ

(480) 991-7485

glandersen@cox.net

Berger Picards, Border Collies, Bouviers des Flandres, Cardigan Welsh Corgis, Collies, German Shepherd Dogs, Norwegian Buhunds, Pembroke Welsh Corgis, Pumik, Shetland Sheepdogs

Maria Arechaederra (110565) CA

(949) 981-7646

ederrakuv@aol.com

Anatolian Shepherd Dogs, German Pinschers, Great Danes, Saint Bernards, Siberian Huskies

Ronde Bermke (94073) WI

(920) 864-3369

bermke@centurytel.net

Sloughi, Belgian Malinois, Canaan Dogs

Mr. Todd Clyde (52861) DE

(302) 542-3416

tcl Clyde002@msn.com

Boston Terriers, Cotons du Tulear,
Keeshonden, Norwegian Lundehunds

Mrs. Vicki Cook (103755) OR

(541) 601-5355

vickycook@mac.com

Portuguese Podengo Pequenos, JS

Mr. James R. Davis (111469) MA

(774) 219-1530

epiccocker spaniels@gmail.com

German Shorthaired Pointers, Boykin
Spaniels, English Cocker Spaniels,
English Springer Spaniels, Sussex
Spaniels

Mrs. Penny DiSiena (76729) FL

(330) 421-3618

pennyd1954@gmail.com

Afghan Hounds, Azawakhs, Bluetick
Coonhounds, Greyhounds, Salukis

Mrs. Beth Downey (102539) MS

(410) 829-2455

bethdowney539@gmail.com

Black and Tan Coonhounds,
Dachshunds, Bulldogs, French Bulldogs,
Lowchen, Tibetan Terriers, Xoloitzcuintli

Ms. Karen Dumke (7168) WI

(920) 279-4519

karenadumke@gmail.com

Manchester Terriers, Norwich Terriers,
Welsh Terriers

Cathy Eke (101345) IN

(317) 695-2829

onlybdogs@aol.com

French Bulldogs

Ms. Mary Lynne Elliott (100062) CO

(720) 289-2517

ml@vedauwoorr.com

American English Coonhounds, Bluetick
Coonhounds, English Foxhounds,
Harriers, Redbone Coonhounds, Treeing
Walker Coonhounds

Mr. Edward A. Fojtik (104757) IL

(847) 254-6166

efojtik@aol.com

Barbets, Pointers, Gordon Setters, Irish
Red and White Setters, Spinoni Italiani,
Wirehaired Pointing Griffons, Poodles

Mr. Larry E. Hansen, Jr. (19512) AZ

(623) 975-0595

ironwoodnewf@cox.net

Boxers

Mrs. Robette Johns (7134) IL

(704) 219-8277

robette1991@gmail.com

Australian Cattle Dogs, Old English
Sheepdogs, Polish Lowland Sheepdogs,
Pumik, Spanish Water Dogs

Ms. Julie Jussaume (78701) CT

(860) 933-3599

juljuss@yahoo.com

Barbets, Lagotti Romagnoli, German
Shorthaired Pointers, Curly-Coated
Retrievers, Golden Retrievers, English
Setters

Mrs. Nancy Lovelady (97313) NV

jwnsl@sbcglobal.net

Basset Hounds, Beagles, Dachshunds, Greyhounds, Ibizan Hounds, Pharaoh Hounds, Portuguese Podengo Pequenos, Rhodesian Ridgebacks

Mr. Brian Meyer (15140) IL

(815) 985-0912

bckennel@aol.com

Balance of Terrier Group (American Staffordshire Terriers, Australian Terriers, Border Terriers, Bull Terriers, Kerry Blue Terriers, Norwich Terriers, Parson Russell Terriers, Skye Terriers)

Mrs. Claudia Miller (98859) CO

(303) 589-9238

edcjmillier@gmail.com

Afghan Hounds, Basenjis, Beagles, Black and Tan Coonhounds, Irish Wolfhounds, Norwegian Elkhounds, Sloughi

Ms. Bonnie Money (105681) IN

(317) 452-2204

blmoney@att.net

Bernese Mountain Dogs, Australian Cattle Dogs, Bouviers des Flandres, Mudik, Swedish Vallhunds

Mrs. Sharon Ann Redmer (2711) MI

(734) 449-4995

sredmer@umich.edu

Balance of Non-Sporting Group (Bulldogs, Cotons du Tulear, French Bulldogs, Shibu Inu), Airedale Terriers, Wire Fox Terriers, Welsh Terriers

Ms. Pamela Schroeder (108285) WA

(778) 834-0059

pam@schroeder.bc.ca

Black Russian Terriers, Boxers, Bullmastiffs, Dogues de Bordeaux, Great Danes, Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs, Samoyeds, Pumik

Ms. Judith White (95513) OH

(330) 854-0354

jubilhill@sssnet.com

Bedlington Terriers, Parson Russell Terriers, Rat Terriers, Sealyham Terriers

JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP JUDGING APPLICANTS

Mrs. Laura Brodigan (104145) AK

(907) 223-7685

laura.brodigan@gmail.com

Mrs. Erin L. McClurg-McRobb (29712) TX

(214) 864-6693

erinlynn999@aol.com

Ms. Madeline McCue (113393) CA

(916) 759-1484

maddiemccue@icloud.com

Mr. Alex Wheeler (113371) MA

(508) 287-9115

alex.wheeler.dogs@gmail.com

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

Mrs. Leonore Abordo (93981) NM

(505) 301-7138
oxota@yahoo.com
Borzois, JS

Mrs. Peggy Browne (103759) TN

(770) 655-5757
peggybrowne1105@gmail.com
Terrier Group (Airedale Terriers, American Hairless Terriers, American Staffordshire Terriers, Australian Terriers, Bedlington Terriers, Border Terriers, Bull Terriers, Cairn Terriers, Cesky Terriers, Dandie Dinmont Terriers, Smooth Fox Terriers, Wire Fox Terriers, Glen of Imaal Terriers, Irish Terriers, Kerry Blue Terriers, Lakeland Terriers, Manchester Terriers, Miniature Bull Terriers, Miniature Schnauzers, Norfolk Terriers Norwich Terriers, Parson Russell Terriers, Rat Terriers, Russell Terriers, Scottish Terriers, Sealyham Terriers, Skye Terriers, Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers, Staffordshire Bull Terriers, Welsh Terriers, West Highland White Terriers)

Stacey L. Green (112951) TX

greenstonelabradors@gmail.com
Labrador Retrievers

Mrs. PJ Harrison (112845) CO

(720) 205-2038

pjharrison3691@gmail.com
Alaskan Malamutes

Mr. Andrew MacArthur (113027) CO

andrewmac1102@gmail.com
Labrador Retrievers

Ms. Dee L. McDuffee (112984) IL

(630) 886-9500
hausfulbmds@comcast.net
Bernese Mountain Dogs

Lisa M. Pruka (100701) IL

(815) 494-0384
czechmatebc@gmail.com
Border Collies, JS-Limited

Ms. Linda Sebastiani (113117) CA

(916) 721-6827
bellawoodleos@comcast.net
Leonbergers

Ms. Marissa Shepherd (95687) MN

(608) 780-5816
shepherdmarissa@gmail.com
English Cocker Spaniels

Michelle VeuCasovic (17767) OH

(734) 674-5468
info@infinitylabradors.com
Labrador Retrievers

Mr. Robert W. Von Mayr (113067) AZ

(520) 975-7841
rwwonmayr@gmail.com
Dalmatians

ADDITIONAL BREED PERMIT JUDGES

Mrs. Denise A. Borton (91682) MI

(269) 375-0059
twinpinefarm@gmail.com

American English Coonhounds,
Black and Tan Coonhounds, Bluetick
Coonhounds, Plott Hounds, Redbone
Coonhounds, Treeing Walker
Coonhounds

Ms. Bridget J. Brown (102665) AL

(205) 515-8753

jackeye@bellsouth.net

Balance of Working Group (Portuguese
Water Dogs), German Shorthaired
Pointers, Curly-Coated Retrievers

Mrs. Danelle M. Brown (7231) TX

(512) 863-4341

nomadcorgis@att.net

Balance of Non-Sporting Group
(Bulldogs, French Bulldogs, Poodles)

Mrs. April Clyde (52836) DE

(302) 542-3033

1aprilclyde@gmail.com

Otterhounds, Chihuahuas, Papillons,
Pekingese, Russian Toys

Mr. Justin Dannenbring (46593) MT

(951) 733-1618

orionkennelsofca@aol.com

Otterhounds, Rhodesian Ridgebacks,
Sloughi

Mrs. Debra L. Davis (25320) MI

(248) 515-2290

emislsdavis@gmail.com

Doberman Pinschers

Ms. Jane M. Engemann (96727) OK

(580) 248-0578

jtodd@aol.com

Norfolk Terriers, Norwich Terriers

Dr. Bev Sigl Felten (65674) WI

(414) 828-2449

beverlyfelten5@gmail.com

German Wirehaired Pointers, Flat Coated
Retrievers, Cocker Spaniels, Welsh
Springer Spaniels

Mr. David Fitzpatrick (27307) PA

(717) 586-0961

dcfitz7@aol.com

Boston Terriers, Cotons du Tulear,
French Bulldogs, Keeshonden, Lhasa
Apsos, Tibetan Terriers, Xoloitzcuintli

Cassie Frank (108441) NH

(702) 595-7607

tailwindcardis@gmail.com

Beaucerons, Belgian Laekenois,
Bergamasco Sheepdogs, Collies,
Entlebucher Mountain Dogs, German
Shepherd Dogs, Shetland Sheepdogs

Mrs. Honey Anne Glendinning (6773) AB

(604) 943-4313

honeyanneg@icloud.com

Otterhounds, American Eskimo Dogs,
Bichons Frises, Boston Terriers, Chinese
Shar-Pei, French Bulldogs, Lowchen,
Schipperkes, Tibetan Spaniels, Tibetan
Terriers

Mr. Neal Goodwin (45218) CT

(626) 327-2311

doggone1@mindspring.com

Barbets, Brittanys, Nova Scotia Duck
Tolling Retrievers, English Setters,
Gordon Setters, English Cocker Spaniels,
Irish Water Spaniels

Mrs. Lisa Graser (37267) TN

(608) 655-1993

bluhvs@msn.com

Lagotti Romagnoli, Boykin Spaniels,
Clumber Spaniels, Cocker Spaniels,
English Springer Spaniels, Field Spaniels,
Welsh Springer Spaniels, Vizslas

Mrs. Nancy Griego (90264) NM

(505) 681-8020

nrgakc@spinn.net

Australian Cattle Dogs, Belgian
Tervurens, Briards, German Shepherd
Dogs, Mudik, Pembroke Welsh Corgis

Marlene Groves (108243) CO

(303) 621-1111

marlene@buffalogroves.com

Dachshunds, Greyhounds, Ibizan
Hounds, Norwegian Elkhounds

Judy A. Harrington (16665) MA

(413) 267-5236

jahyeesss@comcast.net

Bearded Collies, Belgian Tervurens,
Bouvier des Flandres, Cardigan Welsh
Corgis, Collies, Miniature American
Shepherds, Pembroke Welsh Corgis, Pulik

Ms. Dawn Hitchcock (100299) SC

(864) 238-2742

bubblezsc@hotmail.com

Balance of Non-Sporting (Bulldogs,
Chow Chows), Golden Retrievers,
American Staffordshire Terriers

Mr. Fred Hyer (94219) MI

(616) 874-3647

fred@hyerluv.com

Balance of Working Group (Cane
Corsos, Dogo Argentinos, Tibetan
Mastiffs)

Ms. Collette Jaynes (95369) GA

(864) 684-8484

collette@jazzin.com

Balance of Sporting Group (Bracci
Italiani, German Shorthaired Pointers,
Chesapeake Bay Retrievers)

Dr. Adam Stafford King (49604) IL

(812) 568-6972

askingdvm@gmail.com

Boston Terriers, Bulldogs, Chinese
Shar-Pei, Chow Chows, Finnish Spitz,
Norwegian Lundehunds, Tibetan
Spaniels, Tibetan Terriers

Mrs. Martha C. Lageschulte (106091) CO

(303) 929-9064

starqst.mcl@gmail.com

Anatolian Shepherd Dogs, Black Russian
Terriers, Great Pyrenees, Mastiffs,
Newfoundlands

Ms. Betsy Love (110927) OK

(636) 578-7546

loveresidence@aol.com

Dachshunds, French Bulldogs

Mr. Dale R. Martenson (111413) OK

(817) 517-3304

castlemar3@hotmail.com

Affenpinschers, Brussels Griffons, Italian
Greyhounds, Miniature Pinschers,
Poodles, Russian Toys, Silky Terriers,
Toy Fox Terriers, Yorkshire Terriers

Mrs. Janice L. McClary (4812) CA

(562) 697-6212

rjmcclary@gmail.com

Golden Retrievers, Labrador Retrievers,
German Pinschers, Rottweilers,
Samoyeds, Pugs

Mr. Neil McDevitt (91600) OH

(937) 371-8249

nmcdevitt1@woh.rr.com

Pointers, German Wirehaired Pointers,
English Setters, Gordon Setters, Irish
Setters, Irish Red and White Setters

Mrs. Shelley Miller (102995) NC

(919) 525-5001

sunmagicclumbers@gmail.com

German Wirehaired Pointers, Flat Coated
Retrievers, Irish Setters, Boykin Spaniels

Mrs. Kimberly Norton (110967) FL

(352) 606-3328

phasionwpt@aol.com

Ibizan Hounds

Mrs. Janet Parcel (104351) IL

(630) 830-5823

westielyd@comcast.net

American Hairless Terriers, Border
Terriers, Rat Terriers

Mrs. Dayl A. Phillip (103551) MO

(541) 340-4036

aurigan@gmail.com

Canaan Dogs, Pembroke Welsh Corgis

Mr. Jay Roden (104891) OH

(513) 207-4937

jyrogen@yahoo.com

Old English Sheepdogs

Mr. Ken Roux (15654) IL

(815) 285-3647

kensbt@comcast.net

Balance of Non-Sporting Group (Chow
Chows, Cotons du Tulear, Lhasa Apsos,
Norwegian Lundehunds, Schipperkes,
Shiba Inu, Tibetan Terriers, Xoloitzcuintli),
Golden Retrievers, Boxers, Cavalier King
Charles Spaniels, Chihuahuas

Mr. Jeffrey P. Ryman (93219) WA

(425) 876-2213

jeff_ryman@hotmail.com

Finnish Lapphunds, German Shepherd
Dogs, Spanish Water Dogs

Ms. Karen R. Scheiner, Esq (103945) NJ

(856) 428-3745

doxyladydj@gmail.com

Curly-Coated Retrievers, Afghan
Hounds, Pugs

Mr. Thomas Schonberger (107485) AK

(907) 529-6693

yogi@mtaonline.net

Akitas, Bullmastiffs, Dogo Argentinos

Mr. John P. Wade (5936) NV

(916) 508-7979

jpwwade508@gmail.com

Balance of Sporting Group (Bracci
Italiani, Flat Coated Retrievers, Nova
Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers, American
Water Spaniels, Boykin Spaniels, Irish
Water Spaniels, Wirehaired Vizslas)

Ms. Lisa Waldo (110998) AL

kensingtonkennel@msn.com

Australian Shepherds

Berna H. Welch (110818) MA

(508) 364-7343

pebwin@comcast.net

Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers

Claire Wisch Abraham (100709) VA

(571) 318-2768

outlawgwp@aol.com

Balance of Sporting Group (Flat Coated Retrievers, Irish Red and White Setters, American Water Spaniels, English Cocker Spaniels)

JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP PERMIT JUDGES

Mrs. Shannon Barnes (113203) AZ

(480) 334-5099

hausofenvycc@aol.com

Mrs. Kiera Beatty Certeza (113129) CA

(808) 673-6188

kieraleighbeatty@gmail.com

Miss Rebecca Grinsell (110271) FL

(904) 206-3069

beccasbelgians@yahoo.com

Ms. Laura Thomas (113057) CA

(818) 268-6695

gnram415@aol.com

BEST IN SHOW

The following person, having successfully **completed** the required Group Assignments in the first Variety Group for which they were **approved**, have been added to the list of judges eligible for approval to judge Best In Show.

Marilyn Van Vleit (67306) OR

(503) 510-1332

mvanvleit@gmail.com

RESIGNED CONFORMATION JUDGE

Ms. Yvonne DeFreitas

EMERITUS CONFORMATION JUDGES

Mrs. Marilyn Dundas

Mr. James Zarifis

DECEASED CONFORMATION JUDGES

Mr. Ralph (Sonny) Ambrosio

Dr. Louis G. Bond

Mr. Gary A. Dunlop

Mr. David J. Hyman

Mr. Zane Smith

REGISTERED HANDLERS

Letters concerning registered handlers and handler applicants should be addressed to the Handlers Department at 8051 Arco Corporate Drive, Raleigh, NC 27617.

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

It is the responsibility of all registered handlers to notify the Handlers Department of any changes or corrections to their

address, phone, fax or emails. These changes are very important because they affect your handlers record, the Web site and the Handlers Directory.

Please notify the Handlers Department at (919) 816-3884 or Email handlers@akc.org

NEW REGISTERED HANDLER APPLICANTS

The following person has submitted an application for the Registered Handler Program.

Ms. Robin Novack

18118 US 67
Milan, IL 61264

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.

AY CARAMBA- Chihuahuas- Alejandra A. Rodriguez-Ruiz
CASANOVA- Cane Corso- Jessica R. Griswold
ESSEX- Pembroke Welsh Corgis- Chun Ta Lee
FAMILIA GUARDIA- Cane Corso- Daisy Arenas
DAL KASTANA- Cane Corso- Anastasiya Kostyeva
OPK'S – Golden Retrievers- Christine A. Harp

QUAIL RUN- Labrador Retrievers- Cynthia Freeman & Linda Coogan
REDWOOD- James C. Ehrman & Rachelle Ehrman
R-EVOLUTION- Miniature American Shepherds- Terri H. Meyers
PATITAS GRANDES- Briards- Kyle Nugent & Aurorita E. Nugent
SEIFDUNES-French Bulldogs- Roy L. Symes
TOP GUN- Boykin Spaniels- Jacquelin DeAngelo
WHITE DIAMOND- American Eskimo Dogs-Anthony Verrico & Margaret Verrico

REGISTERED NAME PREFIXES GRANTED

The following applications for a breed-specific Registered Name Prefix have been granted.

BLU DIAMOND= Silky Terriers -Johanna L. Shewan & David K. Shewan
CAERLEON- Great Danes- Lucy Conroy
CHALAND- Belgian Malinois- Angela Chamberlain
FIRE SKY- Papillons- Julita A. Deddo
FOREVER CHARMED- Biewer Terriers – Chris Caldwell & Jessica Caldwell
GRAYSON- Boxers- Ashley N. Walker
HALESTORM- German Shorthaired Pointers- Christy J. Hale
LAROH- Miniature Schnauzers- Rod Hartshorn, DVM & Laura Hartshorn
LNL- Giant Schnauzers- Frank E. LaVoie
LOUCAN- Chihuahuas- Candace Henry



SECRETARY'S PAGES

NOBLERIDGE- Cavalier King Charles

Spaniels

PERSEVERE- German Shepherd Dogs-

Chasity Casey

POPOFF-Pomeranians-Mary Hart

RUBYREDS- Poodles- Louie A. Martucci

RUFFIAN'S- French Bulldogs- Stacey D.

Hayes

SUMMERS- Bernese Mountain Dogs-

Anne Summers



**QUARTERLY MEETING OF
THE DELEGATES
OF
THE AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB
DECEMBER 15, 2023**

Dennis B. Sprung, President

PRESENT 270

Abilene Kennel Club—*Richard Nance*
Afghan Hound Club of America, Inc.—
Ms. Constance Butherus
Alaskan Malamute Club of America, Inc.—
Kate McCallum
American Belgian Tervuren Club, Inc.—
Teresa Nash
American Boerboel Club—*Kerri S. Dale*
American Bouvier des Flandres Club,
Inc.—*Patte Klecan*
American Boxer Club, Inc.—*Sharon*
Steckler
American Brittany Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Terry*
Hilliard
American Bullmastiff Association, Inc.—
Howard Gussis
American Cavalier King Charles Spaniel
Club, Inc.—*Claire Parker*
American Chesapeake Club—*Heidi*
Henningson

American Chinese Crested Club, Inc.—
Neil Butterklee
American Fox Terrier Club—*Connie Clark*
American Foxhound Club, Inc.—*Harry*
Miller
American Lhasa Apso Club, Inc.—*Don*
Hanson
American Maltese Association, Inc.—
Ms. Sandy Bingham-Porter
American Miniature Schnauzer Club,
Inc.—*Barbara Donahue*
American Pointer Club, Inc.—*Mr. Danny*
D. Seymour
American Rottweiler Club—*Mr. Peter G.*
Piusz
American Sealyham Terrier Club—
Barbara Shapiro
American Shetland Sheepdog Association—
Marjorie Tuff
Anderson Kennel Club—*Laura A. Rockwell*
Anderson Obedience Training Club, Inc.—
Ms. Patricia A. Sample
Ann Arbor Kennel Club, Inc.—*Anne R.*
Palmer
Atlanta Kennel Club, Inc.—*Ann Wallin*
Atlanta Obedience Club, Inc.—*Gail A.*
LaBerge
Australian Cattle Dog Club of America—
Joyce Rowland
Australian Terrier Club of America, Inc.—
William I. Christensen
Basset Hound Club of America, Inc.—
Dr. Norine E. Noonan
Bayou Kennel Club, Inc.—*Jean A. Boyd*

Bedlington Terrier Club of America—
Howard Solomon

Belgian Sheepdog Club of America, Inc.—
Mary G. Buckwalter

Belle-City Kennel Club, Inc.—*Carole A.
Wilson*

Berger Picard Club of America—*Jacqueline
Carswell*

Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America,
Inc.—*Sara Karl*

Bichon Frise Club of America, Inc.—
Mayno Blanding

Birmingham Kennel Club, Inc.—*Martha
Griffin*

Border Collie Society of America—*Lisa M.
Pruka*

Bulldog Club of America—*Link Newcomb*

Bulldog Club of Philadelphia—*Elizabeth
Milam*

Burlington County Kennel Club, Inc.—
Mr. Daniel J. Smyth, Esq.

Cairn Terrier Club of America—*Pam
Davis*

Canada Del Oro Kennel Club—*Dr. Sophia
Kaluzniacki*

Capital Dog Training Club of Washington,
D.C., Inc.—*Dr. Joyce A. Dandridge*

Cardigan Welsh Corgi Club of America,
Inc.—*David McDonald*

Carolina Kennel Club, Inc.—*Jaimie Ashby*

Carolina Working Group Association—
Matthew Townsend

Carroll Kennel Club—*Mrs. Rachann E.
Mayer*

Catoctin Kennel Club—*Joseph Fitzgerald*

Catonsville Kennel Club—*Beverly A. Drake*

Cedar Rapids Kennel Association, Inc.—
Robert E. Tainsh, M.D.

Central Ohio Kennel Club—*Rebecca
Campbell*

Champlain Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—*John
E. Cornell*

Channel City Kennel Club, Inc.—*Anita R.
O'Berg*

Charlottesville-Albemarle Kennel Club,
Inc.—*Mr. John J. Lyons*

Chattanooga Kennel Club—*Mr. David
Gilstrap*

Chinese Shar-Pei Club of America, Inc.—
Marge B. Calltharp

Clackamas Kennel Club—*Tami Worley*

Clearwater Kennel Club—*Daniel T. Stolz*

Clermont County Kennel Club, Inc.—
Marjorie Underwood

Clumber Spaniel Club of America, Inc.—
Kelly E. Lease

Colorado Springs Kennel Club—*Douglas
Johnson*

Conroe Kennel Club—*Jane Bates*

Conyers Kennel Club of Georgia—*Michael
Houchard*

Dachshund Club of America, Inc.—*Larry
Sorenson*

Dalmatian Club of America, Inc.—

Dr. Charles Garvin

Dandie Dinmont Terrier Club of America,
Inc.—*Karen Dorn*

Dayton Kennel Club, Inc.—*Leah H. Schiller*

Del Monte Kennel Club, Inc.—*Carey Fayram*

Delaware Water Gap Kennel Club—*Dr. A. D. Butherus*

Doberman Pinscher Club of America—*Glen Lajeski*

Dog Fanciers Association of Oregon, Inc.—*Mrs. Patti L. Strand*

Dogue de Bordeaux Society of America—*Victor Smith*

Durham Kennel Club Inc—*Mr. Jack E. Sappenfield, II*

Eastern German Shorthaired Pointer Club, Inc.—*Robert Rynkiewicz*

Elm City Kennel Club—*Dr. Gregory J. Paveza*

English Cocker Spaniel Club of America, Inc.—*Mrs. Beth Hendrick*

English Setter Association of America, Inc.—*Dr. Brenda J. Parsons, D.V.M.*

Erie Kennel Club, Inc.—*Julie W. Parker*

Fargo-Moorhead Kennel Club—*Sarah Ford*

Farmington Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—*Terrie Breen*

Fayetteville Kennel Club, Inc.—*Teresa Vila*

Field Spaniel Society of America—*Lori Carver*

Finnish Spitz Club of America—*Kim Raleigh*

First Dog Training Club of Northern New Jersey, Inc.—*Mary D. Curtis*

Flat-Coated Retriever Society of America, Inc.—*Neal Goodwin*

Forsyth Kennel Club, Inc.—*June Guido*

Fort Lauderdale Dog Club—*Stephanie S. Brooks*

Fort Worth Kennel Club—*Harold Tatro III*

Framingham District Kennel Club, Inc.—*Gale Golden*

Galveston County Kennel Club, Inc.—*Cathy De La Garza*

Genesee County Kennel Club, Inc.—*Ms. Cynthia (Cindy) Collins*

Genesee Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—*Virginia Denninger*

German Shepherd Dog Club of America—*Dr. Carmen L. Battaglia*

German Wirehaired Pointer Club of America, Inc.—*Joan Payton*

Giant Schnauzer Club of America, Inc.—*Chris Reed*

Glen of Imaal Terrier Club of America—*Jo Lynn*

Glens Falls Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Bonnie Lapham*

Gloucester Kennel Club of Virginia—*Debbie Hockaday*

Golden Retriever Club of America—*Mrs. Ellen Hardin*

Gordon Setter Club of America, Inc.—*Nance O. Skoglund*

Grand Rapids Kennel Club—*Mrs. Carol L. Johnson*

Grand River Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Cindy Stansell*

Great Barrington Kennel Club, Inc.—

Dr. Ellen C. Shanahan

Great Pyrenees Club of America, Inc.—

Karen Justin

Greater Clark County Kennel Club Inc—

Ms. Karen J. Burgess

Greater Collin Kennel Club, Inc.—*Barbara*

Shaw

Greater Miami Dog Club—*Dr. Azalea A.*

Alvarez

Greater Murfreesboro Kennel Club, Inc.—

Marie Murphy

Greater Naples Dog Club—*Ms. Arlene A.*

Czech

Greater Ocala Dog Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Penny*

DiSiena

Greater Philadelphia Dog Fanciers

Association—*Mr. Jerry A. Berkowitz*

Greenville Kennel Club—*Gloria Askins*

Greenwich Kennel Club—*Donna Gilbert*

Harrisburg Kennel Club, Inc.—*Sandie*

Rolenaitis

Hatboro Dog Club, Inc.—*Sally L. Fineburg*

Hendersonville Kennel Club—*Elizabeth*

Ann Brown

Hockamock Kennel Club, Inc.—*Nancy*

Fisk

Houston Kennel Club, Inc.—*Thomas D.*

Pincus

Hungarian Pumi Club of America —*Nancy*

Nelson

Huntington Kennel Club, Inc.—*Ms. Marile*

A. Waterstraat

Ibizan Hound Club of the United States—

Michelle Barlak

Icelandic Sheepdog Association of

America—*Patricia Putman*

Illinois Capitol Kennel Club, Inc.—*Ann L.*

Cookson

Ingham County Kennel Club, Inc.—*Rita J.*

Biddle

Irish Setter Club of America, Inc.—

Ms. Karolynne M. McAteer

Irish Terrier Club of America—*Thea F.*

Lahti

Irish Wolfhound Club of America—

Eugenia Hunter

Italian Greyhound Club of America, Inc.—

Ms. Kim Brinker

Jackson Tennessee Dog Fanciers

Association—*Cathy Burleson*

Japanese Chin Club of America—*Cecilia*

Resnick

Kanadasaga Kennel Club—*Christine Cone*

Keeshond Club of America, Inc.—

Richard Su

Kennel Club of Beverly Hills—*Thomas*

Powers

Kennel Club of Buffalo, Inc.—*Margaret*

Doster

Kennel Club of Riverside—*Sylvia A.*

Thomas

Kuvasz Club of America—*Agi Hejja*

LEAP Agility Club of Central

Massachusetts—*Noreen Bennett*

Labrador Retriever Club, Inc.—*Tony*

Emilio

- Lackawanna Kennel Club, Inc.—
Ms. Kimberly Van Hemert
- Ladies' Dog Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Arna B. Margolies*
- Lake Shore Kennel Club, Inc.—
Mrs. Diana L. Skibinski
- Lakeland Winter Haven Kennel Club—
Mary McDaniel, D.V.M.
- Lakes Region Kennel Club, Inc.—*Deborah L. Kreider*
- Land O'Lakes Kennel Club, Inc.—*Jan Croft*
- Lawrenceville Kennel Club, Inc.—*Robert N. LaBerge*
- Leonberger Club of America—*Don James*
- Lexington Kennel Club Inc—*Mr. Zac Crump*
- Louisiana Kennel Club, Inc.—*Luis F. Sosa*
- Louisville Kennel Club, Inc.—*Debra H. Owen*
- Lowchen Club of America—*Lisa Brown*
- Magic Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—*Ruth Crumb*
- Mahoning-Shenango Kennel Club, Inc.—
Jessica Ricker
- Manatee Kennel Club—*Judy Seltrecht*
- Marion Ohio Kennel Club, Inc.—*Lynn Garvin*
- Maryland Kennel Club—*Gary Sarvinas*
- Mastiff Club of America, Inc.—*Mary L. Speer*
- Mid-Del-Tinker Kennel Club, Inc.—
Mr. Billy J. Price
- Middleburg Kennel Club—*Beth Wilder*
- Miniature Bull Terrier Club of America—
Dr. Marci Cook
- Miniature Pinscher Club of America,
Inc.—*Joanne Wilds*
- Mispyllion Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mr. Todd Clyde*
- Monticello New York Kennel Club, Inc.—
Barry A. Hoovis
- Morris Hills Dog Training Club, Inc.—
Eleanor Campbell
- Mount Vernon Dog Training Club
(MVDTC)—*Christopher Marston*
- Mountaineer Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mary Yoders*
- Mt. Baker Kennel Club, Inc.—*Jane F. Ruthford*
- Myrtle Beach Kennel Club—*Sylvia Arrowwood*
- National Capital Kennel Club, Inc.—
Mr. Alfred J. Ferruggiaro
- National Shiba Club of America—*Maggi Strouse*
- New England Beagle Club, Inc.—*Blaine Grove*
- North Shore Kennel Club—*Holly E. Johnson*
- Northeastern Maryland Kennel Club—
Ann M. Schultz
- Northern Kentucky Kennel Club, Inc.—
Darleen Knapp
- Old Dominion Kennel Club of Northern
Virginia, Inc.—*Susan D. Sorbo*

Olympic Kennel Club, Inc.—*Tim Ufkes*
Orange Empire Dog Club, Inc.—*Bradford Yamada*
Otterhound Club of America—*Joellen Gregory, D.V.M.*
Ozarks Kennel Club, Inc.—*Rebecca Barber*
Pacific Coast Bulldog Club, Inc.—*Kathy Delgrande*
Papillon Club of America, Inc.—*Sandra L. Schumacher*
Pasanita Obedience Club Inc.—*Mrs. Betty M. Winthers*
Pasco Florida Kennel Club—*Renee L. Popkey*
Pekingese Club of America—*Steven Hamblin*
Pembroke Welsh Corgi Club of America, Inc.—*Kevin E. Lord*
Peninsula Dog Fanciers Club, Inc.—*Wayne Bond*
Penn Treaty Kennel Club, Inc.—*Bettina M. Sterling*
Pensacola Dog Fanciers Association—*Sandy-Sue McClure*
Pharaoh Hound Club of America—*Dominic P. Carota*
Philadelphia Dog Training Club, Inc.—*Larry Wilson*
Piedmont Kennel Club, Inc.—*Dean Burwell*
Pioneer Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—*Ms. Linda Gagnon*
Plainfield Kennel Club—*Linda A. Deutsch*

Plum Creek Kennel Club of Colorado—*William E. Ellis*
Poodle Club of America, Inc.—*Patti Jason*
Portuguese Water Dog Club of America, Inc.—*Janet L. Boyd*
Queen City Dog Training Club, Inc.—*Erica Behnke*
Queensboro Kennel Club, Inc.—*Cameron Capozzi*
Ramapo Kennel Club—*Jeffrey D. Ball*
Rhodesian Ridgeback Club of the United States, Inc.—*Ms. Mary L. Elliott*
Rio Grande Kennel Club—*Mary E. Ferguson*
Riverhead Kennel Club, Inc.—*Michael Capozzi*
Rockford-Freeport Illinois Kennel Club—*Barbara L. Burns*
Rubber City Kennel Club—*Cathy Gaidos*
Salisbury North Carolina Kennel Club—*Leslie P. Rogers*
Sammamish Kennel Club—*Roberto A. Zorzi*
San Antonio Kennel Club, Inc.—*Nancy J. Shaw*
Santa Barbara Kennel Club, Inc.—*Abbe R. Shaw*
Santa Clara Dog Training Club, Inc.—*Becky A. Richardson*
Sawnee Mountain Kennel Club of Georgia—*Karen W. Byrd*
Schipperke Club of America, Inc.—*Lee A. Stusnick*

Scottish Deerhound Club of America,
Inc.—*Dr. Robert S. Dove, D.V.M.*

Scottish Terrier Club of America—*Helen
A. Prince*

Seattle Kennel Club, Inc.—*Jeff Ryman*

Shenandoah Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—
Sharyn Y. Hutchens

Shoreline Dog Fanciers Association of
Orange County—*Susan L. Hamil*

Siberian Husky Club of America, Inc.—
Ann M. Cook

Silky Terrier Club of America, Inc.—
Leeann Podruch, D.D.S.

Silver State Kennel Club—*Daniele Ledoux-
Starzyk*

Skyline Kennel Club, Inc.—*Gloria Shaver*

Somerset Hills Kennel Club—*Harvey
Goldberg*

South Windsor Kennel Club—*Mrs. Laurie
Maulucci*

Southeastern Iowa Kennel Club—*Marilyn
R. Vinson*

Southern Adirondack Dog Club, Inc.—
John V. Ioia

Southern Colorado Kennel Club, Inc.—
Sheri L. Wright

Space Coast Kennel Club of Palm Bay—
Mrs. Glenda Stephenson

Spinone Club of America—*Karen Luckey*

Spokane Kennel Club—*Tina Truesdale*

Springfield Kennel Club, Inc.—*Dr. Thomas
M. Davies*

St. Bernard Club of America, Inc.—
Susan Weigel

St. Petersburg Dog Fanciers Association—
Jan R. Gladstone

Staffordshire Bull Terrier Club of
America—*Amy J. Schwoeble*

Standard Schnauzer Club of America—
Dr. Harvey Mohrenweiser

Steel City Kennel Club, Inc.—*Miss Susan
M. Napady*

Suffolk County Kennel Club, Inc.—
Mr. Robert Eisele

Sussex Hills Kennel Club, Inc.—
Mrs. Florence Duggan

Taconic Hills Kennel Club, Inc.—*Marylyn
DeGregorio*

Talbot Kennel Club—*Ann S. Wallace*

Texas Kennel Club, Inc.—*Dr. Michael
Knight*

Tibetan Spaniel Club of America—*Mallory
C. Driskill*

Tibetan Terrier Club of America, Inc.—
Stacey La Forge

Tidewater Kennel Club of Virginia, Inc.—
Kathie Vogel

Toy Dog Breeders Association of Southern
California—*Mrs. Marla Meindl-Capozzi*

Trap Falls Kennel Club, Inc.—*Christopher
L. Sweetwood*

Trinity Valley Kennel Club—*Debby Fowler*

Tualatin Kennel Club, Inc.—*James S.
Corbett*

Tucson Kennel Club—*Dr. Kenneth H.
Levison*

Two Cities Kennel Club—*Eduardo T.
Fugizwara*

Union County Kennel Club, Inc.—

Jennifer V. Modica

United States Australian Shepherd

Association—*Jeff Margeson*

United States Kerry Blue Terrier Club,

Inc.—*Mr. Carl C. Ashby, III*

United States Lakeland Terrier Club—

Maria Sacco

Utah Valley Kennel Club—*Kelly D.*

Reimschiessel

Valley Forge Kennel Club, Inc.—

Mrs. Carol Fisher

Ventura County Dog Fanciers

Association—*Mrs. Connie Brown*

Virginia Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Sandie*

Friend

Vizsla Club of America, Inc.—*Mrs. Kathy*

A. Rust

Wallkill Kennel Club, Inc.—*Elisabeth*

Szymanski

Washington State Obedience Training

Club, Inc.—*John J. Cadalso, Jr.*

Waterloo Kennel Club, Inc.—*Cindy Miller*

Waukesha Kennel Club, Inc.—*Marthina L.*

Greer

Weimaraner Club of America—*Jennifer*

Martin

Welsh Springer Spaniel Club of America,

Inc.—*Richard Rohrbacher*

West Highland White Terrier Club of

America—*Tracy J. Pancost*

West Volusia Kennel Club—*Cathy*

Driggers

Whidbey Island Kennel Club Inc—

Laura Myles

Wilmington Kennel Club, Inc.—*Bonnie*

Bieber

Windham County Kennel Club, Inc.—

Nanette Prideaux

Woodstock Dog Club, Inc.—*Karen Dewey*

Yorkshire Terrier Club of America, Inc.—

Pamela A. Langstein



**AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB
DELEGATES MEETING
DECEMBER 15, 2023**

Dennis B. Sprung, President in the Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:36 a.m. ET.

Mr. Sprung: The meeting will come to order. Please stand for the National Anthem.
(National Anthem played.)

Delegates were reminded to check in at the reception desk for attendance purposes. They were advised that a new onsite badge printing system was implemented that will be used moving forward. When Staff prints the badge, the Delegate is marked as present.

The Chair introduced the persons on the dais: Chairman, Dr. Thomas Davies; Vice Chairman, Dominic Palleschi Carota; Joan Corbisiero, Professional Registered Parliamentarian; Gina DiNardo, Executive Secretary; Leah Rivera, the Court Reporter.

Condolences were offered in the recent

passing of a member of the Delegate Body:

Carl E. Gomes passed away on November 1, 2023. He was the Delegate for the Pacific Coast Boston Terrier Club since 1998. AKC knew of his illness, so before his passing, we had his 25-year Delegate service medallion delivered to his home. It meant a great deal to Carl.

The Executive Secretary read the report on the Nominating Committee and on additional nominations.

Ms. DiNardo: Pursuant to Article VIII, Section 2, of the Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club, the **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

- Patti Strand, Chair – Dog Fanciers Association of Oregon
- Marilyn DeGregorio – Taconic Hills Kennel Club
- Florence Duggan – Sussex Hills Kennel Club
- Don James – Leonberger Club of America
- Barbara Shaw – Greater Collin Kennel Club

and Alternates:

- Terrie Breen – Farmington Valley Kennel Club
- Douglas Johnson – Colorado Springs Kennel Club

appointed by the Board of Directors at

its July 2023 meeting have nominated the following Delegates as candidates for such vacancies on the Board of Directors as to be filled at the next annual meeting of the Club on March 12, 2024. There are 3 vacancies for the Class of 2028.

CLASS OF 2028

- Dr. Carmen Battaglia – German Shepherd Dog Club of America
- Sally Fineburg – Hatboro Dog Club, Inc.
- Dr. Michael Knight – Texas Kennel Club, Inc.

Pursuant to Article VIII, Section 4, of the Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club, the following Delegate has been endorsed in writing by the required number of Delegates as a candidate for the vacancies on the Board of Directors for the Class of 2028, to be filled at the next annual meeting of the Club on March 12, 2024:

- Laurie Maulucci – South Windsor Kennel Club

Mr. Sprung: The Bylaws state that nominations may not be made from the floor. Nominations, therefore, closed on November 15, 2023.

In accordance with the Delegate Standing Rule, each candidate is allowed three minutes to address the Delegates. Keith

Frazier, AKC EVP of Business Support Services, indicated to the candidates when three minutes have expired. The Chair introduced the candidates who spoke in alphabetical order and no questions from the floor were entertained.

The first candidate for the Class of 2028 was Dr. Carmen Battaglia representing German Shepherd Dog Club of America. He spoke as follows:

Good morning. My name is Carmen Battaglia. I've had dogs all my life; Pembroke Corgis, English Springers, Portuguese Water Dogs, Long-haired Dachshunds and my primary breed is a German Shepherd Dog. I've been active in Obedience and Agility and finished many dogs in Conformation. I have twice been President of the German Shepherd Dog Club of America and the German Shepherd Dog Club of Atlanta. I belong to a group club in Atlanta, two specialty clubs, and the Atlanta All-Breed club. While in graduate school, I studied Mendel's first and second law of genetics and began doing dog research based on those two laws. When I became Assistant Dean at Emory University in Atlanta, I continued much of the research I started while I was in graduate school. When I became the Regional Administrator for the U.S. Department of Education, I had responsibilities for the 350 post-secondary institutions in the eight

southeastern states. My job was to work with the presidents and the deans. In the south, there are many high profile, quality research institutions, and when I visited one of them, I would stay over and meet with the researchers. Clubs began to ask me to write about these visits. This started my career in research and writing. Since then, I've written 70 articles and four books on breeding dogs, selecting puppies, early neurological stimulation, and the risks of bloat, and have published most of them in veterinary journals. When I became an AKC Board member, I was asked to chair the Committee for the Future, out of which came the AKC DNA Profile Program that we have today. Currently, I co-chair with Chris Sweetwood, the AKC Detection Dog Task Force, whose goal is to develop a domestic breeding program for detection dogs. So far, we've done pretty well. We've placed 80 dogs and we have breeders in 40 states. I am proud to be on the board of the AKC Reunite and work with the Adopt-a-K9-Cop Program, which has placed 500 dogs in police departments throughout the country. As an active member of AKC PAC Board, I hope you all will send in a small contribution to help us support the elected officials who vote to preserve our rights to breed and own dogs. I need your vote in March 2024. I'm asking you to support the Nominating Committee's recommendation for my return to the AKC

Board of Directors. Vote for me. My name is Carmen Battaglia.

The second candidate for the Class of 2028 was Sally Fineburg representing Hatboro Dog Club. She spoke as follows:

Hi. I'm Sally Fineburg, Delegate for Hatboro Dog Club. I am running for the Board because I love purebred dogs and it would be a true privilege to give back serving on the Board of The American Kennel Club.

In the fancy, I prioritize the importance of form following function. It seems an apt metaphor for evaluating Board candidates.

My form, my innate abilities, include:

- active listening skills
- the desire and ability to collaborate
- natural leadership abilities
- strong communication skills
- creativity
- enthusiasm
- and most notably, I am continually learning

My function, made up of diverse skill sets acquired throughout life's journey, include business acumen, fiscal responsibility, intuitive understanding of adapting to corporate cultures and ability to empower a team. They have served me well as a Delegate, dog and non-dog club volunteer, breeder,

exhibitor and business owner and I believe prepare me to function effectively and with confidence on the AKC Board.

I am a preservation breeder, owner, and active exhibitor of Ridgebacks for two decades. I am thrilled to own, handle and breed dogs achieving multiple top rankings in Conformation, Lure Coursing and Obedience.

I have bred dogs earning Multiple Bests in Show and Bests in Show Owner-Handled, Bench Champions, Grand Champions, Dual Champions and a Triple Champion. No easy feat on a sighthound. I am proud to have owned and handled the first and still only Ridgeback to earn a Champion Tracker.

My Delegate credentials include currently serving on the All-Breed Clubs and Juniors Committees. Previously I served on HECS. I participated on various subcommittees on all of them. My favorite achievement, I proposed the newly adopted Junior Coordinator role.

I have been an active club volunteer for 25 years. In fact, I joined my Parent and regional Rhodesian Ridgeback clubs before even owning a dog. I have held almost every position including President, Vice President, Delegate, Board Director, Show Chair and more.

Professionally, I am Vice President of a third-generation family owned and operated petroleum company. It features a network of gasoline stations and convenience stores as well as wholesale and retail fuel oil. I entered the company, bringing a breadth of experience from my careers in advertising, filmmaking, television news production and dot-com start-ups.

I believe my form and function, specifically my strong communication skills, thoughtful approach and business acumen combined with my creative background and dog world experience prepares me to be an asset to the AKC Board. I would be honored to earn your vote.

The third candidate for the Class of 2028 was Dr. Michael Knight, representing the Texas Kennel Club. He spoke as follows: I grew up in a family where we were raised to say, Michael, let everybody see the work. Never talk about it, never say, I, I, I. So, now I have to stand before you and use the words I, I, I, and I apologize upfront. First of all, we have finished 65 Standard Poodles, three Toy Poodles, nine Miniature Poodles, and 14 Pekingese, so we very much love being active in the show ring. I am a Conformation person with a tremendous amount of respect for all the other Companion and Performance Events and everything else AKC does and offers, but

in my core, Conformation is where I am comfortable in the ring. I hold a Ph.D. in Human Resources and a Ph.D. in Theological Marriage Counseling. But if your marriage is in trouble, you don't want to talk to me. I am an active member of the Dallas Philanthropic League. I am considered an extreme wealth fundraiser in my second life. This year, I raised \$50 million for children's cancer. I raised \$20 million for women's breast cancer, I did that by myself. I'm a team of nine people. We try to raise \$100 million every year. We usually go over our goal, but the \$70 million I do each year by myself. Anyway, we turn right around and spend the money mainly on children that are not covered by insurance and can't afford proper or good care.

I speak often at local schools about being active in AKC and our dog show events, how to pick a breed for your family, the possibility of becoming a handler. I put together a program of how exactly to do that and grow your business. The program has gone over very well. So far, I've spoken to 14 local schools. We have 47 locally in the Dallas-Fort Worth area.

I want to thank Dr. Tom Davies, Dominic Carota, Dr. Charlie Garvin, Anne Bowes and Nancy Fisk for putting me on ten committees. I am Chairman of your Investment Committee. I was Chairman of Pension,

but now I am an active member on the Pension Committee. The AKC portfolio is very strong. Our Pension Committee for our retirees is very guarded. We make sure it stays in great shape. I am also on the Compensation Committee. I used my 38 years in staffing, which is what I do for a living. I own a staffing company. We have a small boutique company. We place C-suite people all around the world, but I use my staffing ability to work to make sure our salaries are in line with every other company in our size in the United States. I'm on the Breeders Committee. We've done a tremendous amount of work there. I'm also on the Juniors Committee. I am the liaison for the Parent Club. I work on Mari-Beth O'Neill's Veterinary Scholarship Program which we have tripled. I'm out of time, so the rest I'll send to you in an email.

The final candidate for the Class of 2028 was Laurie Maulucci representing South Windsor Kennel Club. She spoke as follows:

Good morning. My name is Laurie Maulucci, and I am the Delegate for South Windsor Kennel Club. My involvement with AKC was first as an exhibitor and then a breeder of Great Danes.

I fell in love with the sport of Conformation and have bred and owned multiple #1 and record-breaking Danes. I have been an

AKC Judge since 2007 and was chosen by my peers to judge BOB at our National.

I am a contributing member of eight AKC clubs. Positions I have held include Show Chair, Treasurer, Secretary, Cluster Coordinator, Division Chair, Top 20 Chair and Sponsor Chair. My clubs host an RHP Juniors Clinic every November open to AKC and 4-H Juniors with an average attendance of 92 Juniors, and I co-founded Jackets for Juniors. One of my accomplishments as our Parent Club Sponsor Chair was in 2017 raising \$82,000 for our National Specialty through sponsorships.

I am also a member of the AKC Trial Board Committee and President of the Connecticut Federation of Dog Clubs. I work closely with AKC Government Relations and Connecticut residents to protect our right to own the dog of our choice.

As a Delegate, I serve on the All-Breed Clubs Committee, chaired the Event Analysis Subcommittee and served as a member of the Group Realignment Subcommittee and the Nominating Committee.

I hope you can hear I am passionate about my involvement with AKC and the many AKC affiliated organizations to which I

contribute, truly on a daily basis. The wide variety of experience I have gained provides me with the knowledge and skills to make significant contributions to the work of the AKC Board.

I feel strongly about enhancing the general public's knowledge of who we are and the spectacular things that we do. Our detractors constantly find a way to secure media coverage for their good deeds yet our initiatives like trailers being rolled out to disaster sites never make the 6 o'clock news. This has to change, and improved communication is where we begin. My strengths include the ability to effectively communicate and collaborate, both of which are key to success as a member of any board, including that of AKC.

Our current AKC Board continually demonstrates to us its ability to work as a cohesive team in order to accomplish its goals. Serving you on the board would allow me to contribute at the highest level, and it would be my honor. Thank you for your consideration.

The Executive Secretary read the names of Delegates seated since the last meeting: **Wayne Bond**, Silverdale, WA, to represent Peninsula Dog Fanciers Club **Cameron R. Capozzi**, Crossville, TN, to represent Queensboro Kennel Club

Alfred Ferruggiario, Burtonsville, MD, to represent National Capital Kennel Club

Leslie C. Gelesh, Akron, OH, to represent All-Breed Training Club of Akron

Heidi Kilgore, Winslow, IN, to represent Evansville Kennel Club

Teresa Nash, DeSoto, KS, to represent American Belgian Tervuren Club

Helen Norton, Fredericksburg, VA, to represent Greater Fredericksburg Kennel Club

Claire Parker, Nashville, TN, to represent American Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club

Joan Payton, Bakersfield, CA, to represent German Wirehaired Pointer Club of America

Dr. LeeAnn Podruch, Hatley, WI, to represent Silky Terrier Club of America

Renee Lynn Popkey, Brooksville, FL, to represent Pasco Florida Kennel Club

Sandra Schumacher, Great Falls, MT, to represent Papillon Club of America

Susan Sorbo, Bradenton, FL, to represent Old Dominion Kennel Club of Northern Virginia

Elisabeth Szymanski, Milford, PA, to represent Wallkill Kennel Club

The following Delegates, who were attending their first meeting in-person since their approval were introduced from the floor:

Wayne Bond to represent Peninsula Dog Fanciers Club

Cameron R. Capozzi to represent Queensboro Kennel Club

Kathy DelGrande to represent Pacific Coast Bulldog Club

Alfred Ferruggiario to represent National Capital Kennel Club

David McDonald to represent Cardigan Welsh Corgi Club of America

Teresa Nash to represent American Belgian Tervuren Club

Claire Parker to represent American Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club

Joan Payton to represent German Wirehaired Pointer Club of America

Dr. LeeAnn Podruch to represent Silky Terrier Club of America

Renee Lynn Popkey to represent Pasco Florida Kennel Club

Sandra Schumacher to represent Papillon Club of America

Susan Sorbo to represent Old Dominion Kennel Club of Northern Virginia

Elisabeth Szymanski to represent Wallkill Kennel Club

The minutes of the September 12, 2023, Delegate Meeting were published in the online October 2023 *AKC Gazette*, and the complete transcript was posted on the Delegate Portal on AKC's website. There were no corrections, and the minutes were adopted as published.

The **Barbet Club of America** was duly elected a member of The Great American Kennel Club.

Dr. Thomas Davies delivered the Chairman's Report as follows:

Good morning everyone, and welcome to Orlando. It's a pleasure to be with you all as we head into another historic weekend.

The AKC National Championship presented by Royal Canin has the largest entry on record, proving once again that our show is the most anticipated and prestigious dog show in North America. It is certainly the largest, as overall entries for *all* of our AKC events in Orlando total a staggering number: 9,801 entries.

All of these dogs are competing with dedicated breeders, owners and handlers in seven events and attractions:

- the AKC National Championship presented by Royal Canin, with 5,762 entries,
- the AKC Royal Canin National All-Breed Puppy and Junior Stakes,
- the AKC Agility Invitational Presented by YuMOVE®,
- the AKC Obedience Classic,
- the AKC Junior Obedience and Rally Showcase,
- the AKC National Owner-Handled Series Finals, and

- the AKC Fast CAT® Invitational.

I know you will enjoy watching your own breeds, and there's so much to do while we are here. But I urge you to take some time to get to know new people and spend time learning something you didn't know before. Visit more than one event; join the cheering section at the National Association of Diving Dog's annual Santa Splash; or take in some of the educational opportunities at the Royal Canin learning lounge. Watch a breed other than your own.

The world lost a financial genius a couple of weeks ago. Charlie Munger passed at the age of 99. Charlie was the other half of the duo that, with Warren Buffett, created the Berkshire-Hathaway financial empire. I tell you this because Charlie always had a message. He once said, *"Those who keep learning will keep rising in life."* He paraphrased this in a less formal way, saying, *"Without learning, you're like a one-legged man in an ass-kicking contest. It's just not going to work for you very well."* And for the judges in the audience today, remember another piece of Munger's advice as you approach assignments here or in the coming year: *"Own your work and compound credibility."*

It has been another banner year for AKC events. Estimates tell us that by the end of 2023, there will have been more than

26,500 events with over 3.65 million entries. We are delighted that AKC and our clubs are able to offer our constituents so many opportunities to compete with and have fun with their dogs. This incredible range of events adds more potential for us to engage new dog owners as well.

I'd like to tell you about some new developments from AKC that will be important for you to share with your clubs.

Just a few days ago, AKC launched the new AKC DNA + Health. Now, we offer one test for all our breeders' needs. The test includes the 201 markers of the original AKC DNA profile for genetic identity and parentage verification purposes, and now it also includes 328 markers for health and other traits. Our DNA test provides information that is relevant to the conditions that matter most, according to our AKC Parent Clubs. Our test also meets AKC requirements for Breeder of Merit and Bred with Heart. We have two genetic counselors and a breeder veterinarian on staff to answer questions and provide guidance every step of the way, from administering the test to interpreting the results. DNA testing is not required in every situation, but it certainly enhances our knowledge of our dogs and is an excellent addition to our toolkit as responsible breeders. The test is available on AKC.org and you should receive your

results in about four weeks.

Last week, we launched a new web site to provide a valuable incentive for dog registration. AKC Pet Rx is an online pharmacy that sells more than 3,000 prescription and over-the-counter products for pets. The service is provided by Allivet, a website that is fully accredited by the National Boards of Pharmacy, licensed in all states, and has 19 years of experience in pet e-commerce. If you have purchased prescriptions for your dogs on PetSmart.com or WalMart.com, you have shopped with Allivet. Our primary goal with this initiative is to make more dog owners want to register their purebred dog with AKC. With AKC Pet Rx, new puppy owners will receive a free monthly dose of Simparica Trio flea, tick and heartworm treatment when they register their dog and accept this offer with a commitment to auto-shipping on this site. This is a value of more than \$32 for the new puppy owner. AKC Pet Rx will feature other types of discounts for breeders as well. It is our hope that this website will give new dog owners one more reason to join our ranks.

Lastly, I am thrilled to announce that we have recently renewed our contract with Royal Canin to present this incredible dog show to our fancy and the national television audience of millions of people, for

many more years. Please join me in thanking Royal Canin when you see their representatives on the show floor throughout the weekend. Their support is vital to our sport in so many ways.

Enjoy the season, no matter what Holiday you celebrate; Christmas, Hanukkah, Kwanzaa or the Winter Solstice, and live by the words of the Prophet Muhammed, "Speak a good word or remain silent." I learned that lesson well, as a lad from my mother, after she smacked me upside the head. She said, "If you can't say something nice, don't say anything at all." Thank you, enjoy the Show and learn lots.

Mr. Sprung delivered the President's Report as follows:

During my career at The Great American Kennel Club, I have had the privilege of establishing ways of recognizing individuals in our universe. Amongst them are the Lifetime Achievement Awards in Performance, Companion and Conformation Events and the Medallion Programs for Delegates, Show Chairs, Judges and Breeders. I initiated these programs because of my belief that we have an obligation to honor our own.

In 2015 I added the AKC Visionary Awards. These Awards celebrate individuals whose vision and contributions have been

responsible for change and forward movement in our organization. Their collective efforts have protected our rights to own and breed dogs, shared the AKC's dedication and love of dogs with the general public, and educated today's and tomorrow's dog owners about responsible ownership.

Now to today's four Visionary Award recipients:

Michael Houchard serves as the Delegate for Conyers Kennel Club of Georgia. Mike has been in purebred dogs for some 50 years and had the foresight to recognize the central role that legislation would play in our future. Amongst his many, many accomplishments:

- He is a founding member and continuing leader of the AKC Delegate Legislative Caucus.
- He developed and recorded the presentation All Politics Is Local that is a key educational tool in the AKC Government Relations library.
- He remains an active force in the Georgia Canine Coalition, AKC's State Federation.

Attending his last meeting as an AKC Delegate today, we thank you for protecting our dogs, clubs and sports.

Ron Furman, AKC VP Broadcasting & Sponsorship, joined us in 2018. In a

short period of time, Ron transformed the broadcasting, sponsorship, and media landscape at the AKC. Thanks to him, we expanded our television presence with the incredibly successful AKC on ESPN Dog Sports Series. Currently entering its fifth year, the AKC on ESPN series includes over 200 hours of dog sports on television, culminating with the broadcast of the AKC National Championship on the ABC network.

Ron is also the leader with AKC.tv, our digital network available on multiple streaming platforms. Now *AKC Good Dog TV*, a weekly show produced for AKC.tv, is available in syndication on local channels across the country in over 90 markets. This growth in broadcasting efforts has allowed the AKC brand and messaging to reach millions of viewers new to the AKC universe through exciting dog sports, outstanding storytelling, and showcasing purebred dogs.

Dr. Joellen Gregory was an AKC Vet Scholarship recipient while attending Veterinary School. Her current practice supports breeders in their endeavors to be responsible preservation breeders.

Joellen became an AKC Delegate, representing the Otterhound Club of America since November of 2009 and serves on the Delegate Canine Health Committee.

The Otterhound Club began to research whether the Club could establish a semen bank to preserve the breed for the future. Once the Parent Club approved the concept, Joellen spearheaded the work with AKC to establish how the registration process of dogs produced from the semen bank would be registered.

She is an advocate for mentoring new owners and breeders in the breed. We are appreciative of her foresight to look to the future to preserve the breed.

Last but certainly not least, **Karolynne McAteer** is a second-generation Irish Setter breeder. She has never been without one or more Irish Setters at the foot of her bed, and she, like her breed standard, has a rollicking personality. Starting as a junior handler, then as exhibitor of the family dog, professional handler, Breeder of Merit, and judge for Juniors, Sporting Group and Field Trials; her knowledge of our sport is wide and deep. She serves on the AKC Board of Directors, the AKC Canine Health Foundation, AKC Reunite, the AKC Political Action Committee, and the Moore County Kennel Club in North Carolina.

In 2019, Karolynne was appointed to lead the AKC Chairman's ad hoc committee on Canine Genetic Testing which produced 5

papers in 2020. Those papers outlined the future of AKC's DNA Program, setting the agenda for the necessary program enhancements that are launching this very month, including canine health testing and genetic counseling for AKC breeders.

(The recipients that were present accepted the award plaques.)

Ted Phillips, CFO, gave the Financial Report as follows:

Thank you, Dennis, and good morning. Delegates, welcome to Orlando! We appreciate you attending today's meeting and, as always, appreciate your time and support. Today, I'll present key performance indicators and financial results for the nine months ended September 30, 2023. As a reminder, these data points, both non-financial and financial, are essential to telling the story of the AKC operating results.

This chart provides a comparison of litter and dog registrations for the nine months ended, September 30, 2023, with a comparison to 2022. Please note the light blue columns on these slides report litter registrations. As of September 30, 2023, litter registrations totaled 226,939, which is 8.7 percent lower than the same period in 2022. For dog registrations, we'll focus on the pink columns on the slide, and for the nine months ended September 30, 2023, dog registrations totaled 480,128,

which is 14.7 percent lower than in the same period in 2022. Please understand that while these numbers show lower, litter and dog registrations represent 39 percent of total revenue for the nine months ended September 30, 2023. Once again, we always thank our breeders, the Delegate Body, the Board of Directors, and our Staff for these achievements.

Turning to Sports & Events, we continue to see an increase in the total number of events and entries as displayed on this slide. The dark blue columns report the total number of events for each period. As of September 30, 2023, total events are 19,981, which is 7 percent higher than the same period in 2022. The line across the top of the two columns shows that entries have climbed by 5 percent over the prior period to 2.782 million, and as you heard earlier, we expect 2023 to be a banner year for events and entries.

Next, let's look at the financial operating results for the nine months ended September 30, 2023. Total operating revenues of \$76.3 million were reported, which generated net operating income of \$10.2 million. As we mentioned earlier, revenues are principally generated by registration and event fees. When you compare the nine months ended September 30, 2023, for the same period of 2022, total

revenue is 5.3 percent lower. Registration and event fees total \$53 million, or 70% of total revenue. To break that down, we see that litter and dog registrations and related revenues total \$41 million for this period in 2023, and event fees total \$12 million. Advertising, sponsorship, and royalty revenues total \$14.3 million, or 19% of total year-to-date revenue, which is comparable with the same period in 2022. Operating expenses, as of September 30, 2023, total \$67.9 million, which is 10 percent higher than the same period in the prior year. We follow a very tight cost control methodology across all categories and ensure that expenses are kept at appropriate business levels. Half of total operating expenses are related to staff expense and travel costs, and total \$33.6 million, which is 17 percent higher than 2022, representing AKC's efforts of investment in the future. All programs and activities listed here have available funds and are in line with the 2023 budget. Our Government Relations Staff promotes the mission of AKC through its continuing support of legislation at the state and federal levels and is sufficiently funded. Annual donations from AKC to charitable organizations average 5 percent of operating expenses and are consistent with prior years.

This slide presents the AKC's financial position as of September 30, 2023.

Total assets are \$253 million or \$9.6 million higher than December 31, 2022. Investments and cash comprised the largest portion of total assets at \$171 million. The investment portfolio, which is professionally managed for growth using a balanced asset allocation methodology, has returned 6 percent this year, beating its benchmark by 1.4 percent. As we've seen, the financial markets are generally improving in 2023 as compared to 2022. The overall financial condition of AKC continues to be healthy due to positive mission-related activities and solid support from the Board of Directors.

In summary, we thank you for your time today. We appreciate your dedication to AKC, and as always, I'm available to answer any questions. My contact information is noted on the last slide of this presentation. I wish you a good meeting. Thank you.

The first vote was an amendment to **Article XIII, Section 2**, of the *Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club*, which adds clarity and describes the current practice for a Trial Board notice of charges being filed. The amendment was proposed by the Delegate Bylaws Committee and brought forward with approval from the AKC Board of Directors.

There was a two-thirds vote in the affirma-

tive, and the amendment was adopted.

The next vote was on the amendment to **Article XIII, Section 7**, of the *Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club*, which removes the italics that do not affect the meaning of the sentence about an appeal of a Trial Board decision. The amendment was proposed by the Delegate Bylaws Committee and brought forward with approval from the AKC Board of Directors.

There was a two-thirds vote in the affirmative, and the amendment was adopted.

The next vote was on the amendment to **Article XIV, Section 1**, of the *Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club*, which adds clarity and describes the current practice for an Event Committee suspension by a club or association. The amendment was proposed by the Delegate Bylaws Committee and brought forward with approval from the AKC Board of Directors.

There was a two-thirds vote in the affirmative, and the amendment was adopted.

The next vote was an amendment to **Chapter 11, Section 13**, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Dog Show Entries, Conditions of Dogs Affecting*

Eligibility, which removes the reference to sweepstakes and futurity judges from the rule as any restrictions have historically been defined by Board policy. It also replaces the third paragraph of the current rule with a general statement that directs individuals to the *Rules, Policies and Guidelines for Conformation Judges* for information concerning exhibiting restrictions for sweepstakes, futurity and special attraction judges as they are defined by Board policy. This amendment was proposed by Staff, endorsed by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee and brought forward with approval from the AKC Board of Directors.

There was a two-thirds vote in the affirmative, and the amendment was adopted.

The next vote was on the amendment to **Chapter 16, Section 1**, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Dog Show Entries, Conditions of Dogs Affecting Eligibility*, which removes verbiage related to the Parent Club designating one specialty as its National Specialty show as this text was inserted with the amendment to allow Parent Clubs the option to offer a 3-pt. major for Reserve Winners at its National Specialty and it would no longer be relevant for purpose of this section. It replaces Parent Club with breed club and National Specialty with specialty show to reflect the

ability for a 3-pt. major to be awarded for Reserve Winners at any specialty show. It also rearranges text for better understanding and comprehension as well as removes the provision which only applied to the 2021 calendar year. This amendment was proposed by Staff, endorsed by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee and brought forward with approval from the AKC Board of Directors.

The Chair recognized Harvey Goldberg, Delegate for the Somerset Hills Kennel Club, who spoke as follows:

We object to the change in this section and wish to keep it the same as it was before. Thank you.

The Chair recognized Matthew Townsend, Delegate for the Carolina Working Group Association, who spoke as follows:

We strongly endorse the change and think it's wonderful for local specialty clubs, all low-entry specialty clubs nationally and Parent Clubs. It's an option and it's in control by the Parent Clubs. I think that's why it was endorsed by the Dog Show Rules Committee and by the Board.

Mr. Sprung: To clarify, it's an opt-out.

There was a two-thirds vote in the affirmative, and the amendment was adopted.

The last vote for was an amendment to **Chapter 14, Section 29**, of the *Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedure for Pointing Breeds*, which removes the restriction that if the club fails to hold the horseback championship, it may lose the ability to hold the walking championship. This amendment was proposed by the Gordon Setter Club of America and brought forward with approval from the AKC Board of Directors.

There was a two-thirds vote in the affirmative, and the amendment was adopted.

The Chair called on the Executive Secretary to read the proposed amendment to **Article XII, Section 1**, of the *Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club*.

Ms. DiNardo: The amendment to Article XII, Section 1, of the Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club, makes the process of administering oaths easier and uniform for all individuals. It also clarifies the decision to entertain jurisdiction is under the authority of the AKC Board of Directors.

This amendment was proposed by the Delegate Bylaws Committee, endorsed by Staff and brought forward with approval by the AKC Board of Directors.

It will be published in two issues of the *AKC Gazette* and you will be asked to vote on it at the March 2024 meeting. The full text is on the worksheet previously emailed.

There were no questions or discussion.

The Chair called on the Executive Secretary to read the proposed amendment to **Chapter 12, Section 1 and Section 4**, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows – The Catalog*.

Ms. DiNardo: The amendment to **Chapter 12, Section 1 and Section 4**, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows – The Catalog*, deletes the requirement to publish the complete address for judges, replacing with city and state. It also deletes the requirement to publish the address of all exhibitors, replacing with city, state and email if provided. Finally, it replaces the address of the owner with city, state, and if provided, email address, removing the requirement to publish the full address of the owner in the show catalog.

This amendment was suggested by Staff and endorsed by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee and brought forward with approval by the AKC Board of Directors.

It will be published in two issues of the *AKC Gazette* and you will be asked to vote on it at the March 2024 meeting. The full text is on the worksheet previously emailed.

The Chair recognized Mary Grace Buckwalter, Delegate for the Belgian Sheepdog Club of America, who spoke as follows:

My question is on the email provided. Provided to whom? Because at this point, the superintendents and the secretaries all have it. I'm wondering if there could be something indicating to publish my email address or do not publish my email address. Thank you.

Mr. Sprung: If you wish to make an amendment, that could be done at the March 2024 meeting.

The Chair announced that the proposed rule changes to **Chapter 3, Section 1** of the *Beagle Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures for Large Pack Field Trials* and to **Chapter 3, Section 3** of the *Beagle Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures for Brace, Small Pack and Small Pack Option Field Trials and Two-Couple Pack Hunting Tests* will be read/voted as one amendment.

The Chair called on the Executive Secretary to read the proposed amendment

to **Chapter 3, Section 1**, of the *Beagle Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures for Large Pack Field Trials*.

Ms. DiNardo: The amendment to **Chapter 3, Section 1**, of the *Beagle Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures for Large Pack Field Trials*, removes an unnecessary restriction when hosting trials.

This amendment was suggested by the Beagle Advisory Committee and brought forward with approval by the AKC Board of Directors.

It will be published in two issues of the *AKC Gazette* and you will be asked to vote on it at the March 2024 meeting. The full text is on the worksheet previously emailed.

There were no questions or discussion.

The Chair called on the Executive Secretary to read the proposed amendment to **Chapter 3, Section 3**, of the *Beagle Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures for Brace, Small Pack and Small Pack Option Field Trials and Two-Couple Pack Hunting Tests*.

Ms. DiNardo: The amendment to **Chapter 3, Section 3**, of the *Beagle Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures for Brace, Small Pack and Small Pack Option*

Field Trials and Two-Couple Pack Hunting Tests, removes an unnecessary restriction when hosting trials.

This amendment was suggested by the Beagle Advisory Committee and brought forward with approval by the AKC Board of Directors.

It will be published in two issues of the *AKC Gazette* and you will be asked to vote on it at the March 2024 meeting. The full text is on the worksheet previously emailed.

There were no questions or discussion.

The Chair called on the Executive Secretary to read the proposed amendment to **Chapter 3, Section 3**, of the *Beagle Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures for Brace, Small Pack and Small Pack Option Field Trials and Two-Couple Pack Hunting Tests*.

Ms. DiNardo: The amendment to **Chapter 3, Section 3**, of the *Beagle Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures for Brace, Small Pack and Small Pack Option Field Trials and Two-Couple Pack Hunting Tests*, removes an unnecessary restriction when hosting trials.

This amendment was suggested by the Beagle Advisory Committee and brought

forward with approval by the AKC Board of Directors.

It will be published in two issues of the *AKC Gazette* and you will be asked to vote on it at the March 2024 meeting. The full text is on the worksheet previously emailed.

There were no questions or discussion.

The Chair announced that the proposed rule changes to **Chapter 4, Section 1 and 3** of the *Beagle Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures for Large Pack Field Trials and the Beagle Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures for Brace, Small Pack and Small Pack Option Field Trials and Two-Couple Pack Hunting Tests* will be read/voted as one amendment.

The Chair called on the Executive Secretary to read the proposed amendment to **Chapter 4, Section 1 and 3**, of the *Beagle Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures for Large Pack Field Trials*.

Ms. DiNardo: The amendment to **Chapter 4, Section 1 and 3**, of the *Beagle Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures for Large Pack Field Trials*, instructs the judge to use the NBQ designation for brace and gun dog brace trials. It also adjusts the description for placement ribbons and removes the mention of the

NBQ designation unless the format is brace or gun dog brace. Finally, it instructs the judge to use the NBQ designation for brace and gun dog brace trials.

This amendment was suggested by the Beagle Advisory Committee and brought forward with approval by the AKC Board of Directors.

It will be published in two issues of the *AKC Gazette* and you will be asked to vote on it at the March 2024 meeting. The full text is on the worksheet previously emailed.

There were no questions or discussion.

The Chair called on the Executive Secretary to read the proposed amendment to **Chapter 4, Section 1 and 3**, of the *Beagle Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures for Beagle Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures for Brace, Small Pack and Small Pack Option Field Trials and Two-Couple Pack Hunting Tests*.

Ms. DiNardo: The amendment to **Chapter 4, Section 1 and 3**, of the *Beagle Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures for Beagle Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures for Brace, Small Pack and Small Pack Option Field Trials and Two-Couple Pack Hunting Tests*, instructs the judge to use the NBQ designation

for brace and gun dog brace trials. It also adjusts the description for placement ribbons and removes the mention of the NBQ designation unless the format is brace or gun dog brace. Finally, it instructs the judge to use the NBQ designation for brace and gun dog brace trials.

This amendment was suggested by the Beagle Advisory Committee and brought forward with approval by the AKC Board of Directors.

It will be published in two issues of the *AKC Gazette* and you will be asked to vote on it at the March 2024 meeting. The full text is on the worksheet previously emailed.

There were no questions or discussion.

The Chair announced that the proposed rule changes to **Chapter 9, Section 5** of the *Beagle Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures for Large Pack Field Trials* and to **Chapter 9, Section 6** of the *Beagle Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures for Brace, Small Pack and Small Pack Option Field Trials and Two-Couple Pack Hunting Tests* will be read/voted as one amendment.

The Chair called on the Executive Secretary to read the proposed amendment to **Chapter 9, Section 5**, of the *Beagle*

Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures for Large Pack Field Trials.

Ms. DiNardo: The amendment to **Chapter 9, Section 5**, of the *Beagle Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures for Large Pack Field Trials*, allows judges to award a fifth place which would provide $\frac{1}{5}$ championship point to the winner for each starter for all hunt formats except the brace and gun dog brace.

This amendment was suggested by the Beagle Advisory Committee and brought forward with approval by the AKC Board of Directors.

It will be published in two issues of the *AKC Gazette* and you will be asked to vote on it at the March 2024 meeting. The full text is on the worksheet previously emailed.

There were no questions or discussion.

The Chair called on the Executive Secretary to read the proposed amendment to **Chapter 9, Section 6** of the *Beagle Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures for Brace, Small Pack and Small Pack Option Field Trials and Two-Couple Pack Hunting Tests*.

Ms. DiNardo: The amendment to **Chapter 9, Section 6** of the *Beagle Field Trial Rules*

and Standard Procedures for Brace, Small Pack and Small Pack Option Field Trials and Two-Couple Pack Hunting Tests, allows judges to award a fifth place which would provide $\frac{1}{5}$ championship point to the winner for each starter for all hunt formats except the brace and gun dog brace.

This amendment was suggested by the Beagle Advisory Committee and brought forward with approval by the AKC Board of Directors.

It will be published in two issues of the *AKC Gazette* and you will be asked to vote on it at the March 2024 meeting. The full text is on the worksheet previously emailed. There were no questions or discussion.

The Chair called on the Vice Chairman, Dominic Palleschi Carota, to present the Eddy Awards.

Mr. Carota: Breeder education is essential for the success of any breeding program, a fact well understood by all of us. The AKC is deeply committed to promoting and supporting creative methods for educating breeders about canine health, reproduction, and the principles of responsible dog ownership. This commitment led to the establishment of the EDDY Award, designed to honor breed clubs that have made remarkable contributions to breeder education

within their specific breeds and beyond. During our inaugural year, we were thrilled to receive 15 entries from breed clubs across almost every category. Selecting the winners was a challenging task, as we had to consider factors like the user-friendliness, originality, and potential for replication of each program. Ultimately, eight breed clubs distinguished themselves by developing resources and programs that were not only educational and goal-oriented but also engaging and enjoyable. It is with great pride that we award these clubs with certificates, recognizing them as the esteemed 2023 winners of the AKC EDDY Award.

1. Norfolk Terrier Club – Delegate, Susan Schneider
2. Pug Dog Club of America – Delegate, Michelle Anderson
3. American Bullmastiff Association – Delegate, Howard Gussis
4. Dachshund Club of America – Delegate, Larry Sorenson
5. Basset Hound Club of America – Delegate, Dr. Norine E. Noonan
6. Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America – Delegate, Sara Karl
7. Doberman Pinscher Club of America – Delegate, Glen Lajeski
8. American Eskimo Dog Club of America – not yet an AKC Member Club, no Delegate

All those Delegates that are here, please come forward and I will give you your certificates, and for those that are not here, we will send them their certificates. Thank you. (The recipients that were present accepted the award certificates.)

The Chair called on Gail LaBerge, Delegate for the Atlanta Obedience Club, to provide an update on the AKC PAC, who spoke as follows:

Good morning. I want to remind you that the sweepstakes, which is the major fundraiser for the AKC PAC ends Sunday with the drawing. It is a lovely basket of goodies with a \$1000 gift card. I have tickets if you see me right afterwards. Sheila Goffe also has tickets available tomorrow and Sunday at the Government Relations/PAC booth. I come up every time and I thank you, and I mean it sincerely, for your donations, because as we all know, we are really trying to preserve our breeding and ownership of dogs by having officials who think like the AKC does on issues affecting us, but I thought it would be good for you to hear from a long-time donor – why they give and why they think it's important. I have asked Dr. Garvin to speak on why he and Lynn (Garvin) feel the way they do and have been such generous donors to the PAC.

Dr. Charles Garvin, Delegate for the

Dalmatian Club of America, spoke as follows:

Thank you, Gail. We know that we are all in a terrible battle. We're attacked every day from the animal rights radicals and other people, and the battle ground is frequently in the hearts and minds of elected officials or appointed officials, and I don't have a very high opinion of politicians. I find that they are frequently selfish, self-centered, self-aggrandizing, depraved, debouched, disgusting, dishonest, deceitful, disloyal, disingenuous, and have a tendency to be despicable, corrupt, lying hypocrites. I hate politicians. However, I love Sheila Goffe and her team. Sheila Goffe is the person who goes into battle for us. She's our gladiator. When she goes into battle, I want her to have all the ammunition that she needs to confront and to overcome our adversaries on the battlefield with the politicians. In order to have that ammunition, in order that she can do the best job possible, that requires funding, which is why Lynn and I feel it's important to give to PAC so that we can fight the battle. Not that we fight the battle, but Sheila fights the battle with our support and our ammunition to help preserve what we love about our purebred dogs and the sport. I encourage all of you – unless you really love politicians, I encourage all of you to also donate to PAC. Thank you.

The Chair informed the Delegates that the

Annual meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 12, 2024 at the DoubleTree Newark Airport Hotel in Newark, New Jersey. The meeting will include the election of the Class of 2028 Board of Directors. More detailed information will be emailed as soon as it becomes available.

Lunch was served in the Grand Ballroom C. Delegates were not required to turn in badges. New badges will be printed at each meeting using the new system. There was an option to recycle the badge holder and lanyard.

The following Delegates spoke during New Business:

Link Newcomb, Delegate for the Bulldog Club of America, asked that the Delegate Body keep fellow Delegate, Johnny Shoemaker, in their thoughts and prayers over the holiday as he has endured health challenges.

Peter Piusz, Delegate for the American Rottweiler Club, spoke on behalf of the Parent Clubs Committee about the Pat Laurans Difference Maker Awards. The Delegate Parent Clubs Committee created the Pat Laurans Difference Maker Award to celebrate Pat's life and encourage others to follow her example. The award will be given to individuals whose actions are

making a difference for the dogs, their people, and our sport. The recipients will be selected by the members of the Parent Clubs Committee and the awards will be given at each meeting of the committee. The award will include a pin identifying the recipients as winners of the Pat Laurans Difference Maker Award. Three different committee members select four recipients each quarter, which is then discussed and voted on by the committee. The first set of recipients were Alan Kalter, Jeff Pepper, Johnny Shoemaker and Sylvia Thomas.

Virginia "Gini" Denninger, Delegate for the Genesee Valley Kennel Club and Coordinator for the March 2024 Perspectives encouraged the Delegates to contribute to the issue. She announced that the due date for articles was January 15, 2024. She also introduced a new feature of the newsletter *Guess What This Puppy Is* in which the Delegate Body will have the opportunity to guess the breed in photos of puppies.

Don James, Delegate for the Leonberger Club of America shared as President of Greater Clark County Kennel Club, that the club celebrated its 50th Anniversary over two weekends with some amazing entry numbers. During the four days of shows, Conformation, Obedience and Rally had 7200 entries and there were 1100 Agility

runs. There were also 87 Farm Dog passes and over 100 temperament tests. Their Junior Club presented a Junior Showcase as well as CGC tests and Trick Dog.

Bob Rynkiewicz, Delegate for the German Shorthaired Pointer Club, recognized Jim Corbett for his many years of service and leadership on the Field Trial and Hunting Test Events Committee.

Glenda Stephenson, Delegate for the Space Coast Kennel Club of Palm Bay requested that at the upcoming January 2024 meeting, the AKC Board decide on a timeframe that clubs are responsible for incidents during a show. She also made a heartfelt thank you to all the people and dogs who came to Florida.

Hearing no further business, the Chair adjourned the meeting.

(One sharp rap of the gavel.)

(Proceedings concluded at 12:15 p.m. ET.)

The opinions expressed by the speakers may not necessarily reflect those of The American Kennel Club.

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



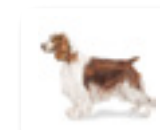
Sussex Spaniel



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



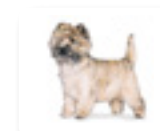
Bedlington Terrier



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



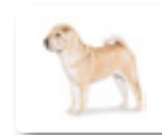
Bichon Frise



Boston Terrier



Bulldog



Chinese Shar-Pei



Chow Chow



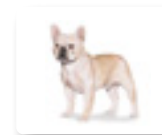
Coton de Tulear



Dalmatian



Finnish Spitz



French Bulldog



Keeshond



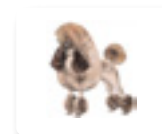
Lhasa Apso



Löwchen



Norwegian Lundehund



Poodle (Miniature)



Schipperke



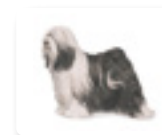
Poodle (Standard)



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/>