



JANUARY 2023

gazette

THE
YEAR
IN PICTURES



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PURINA
PRO PLAN

FERRIS
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2022 IDC Eastern Regional

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Happy New Year to everyone!

We start the year with the crowning of a brand-new National Champion. Congratulations are in order for GCh.G Cherokee Legend Encore, a Bulldog known as Star, owned by Alaina Moulton, Kevin Mason, and Natalie Mason, of Glen Rose, Texas, and bred by Cody T. Sickle, Sherry Hazelett, and Connie A. Chambers. Star, judged by Mr. Desi Murphy, beat out more than 5,300 dogs from the 50 states, Washington, D.C., and 20 countries to win Best in Show. Congratulations also to our Reserve Best in Show, GCh. Crivitz Humphrey Bogart Von Diable, a Standard Schnauzer known as Bogart, owned by Amy Shaffer, J. Low, W. Matthews III, and T. Skinner, of Crivitz, Wisconsin, and bred by Amy Shaffer. We are very proud of these dogs, owners, and breeders, and we look forward to their achievements in 2023. And a hearty congratulations to each of our winners during the National

Championship weekend in conformation, obedience, agility, and Fast CAT.

I am excited to share with you that 2022 was a record-breaking year for AKC sports and events, with more than 25,000 events and over 3.5 million entries. We are grateful to our exhibitors and their dogs, clubs, and our AKC staff that made this possible. Congratulations to Doug Ljungren, Tim Thomas, and their quality staffs.

And now we are on to another major event, [AKC Meet the Breeds](#), which will take place on January 28 and 29 at the Jacob K. Javits Center in New York City. Thank you to the more than 120 clubs that have signed up to share your knowledge and educate the public about purebred dogs and how to find the right breed for their lifestyle. This wildly popular family-friendly extravaganza gives attendees the unique opportunity to meet and play with a variety of different dog breeds while learning about responsible pet ownership and talk directly



to breed experts. From Affenpinschers to Yorkshire Terriers, this canine weekend is fun for the whole family. Not only will the public get to meet the breeds, they will also get to see exciting demonstrations of canine athleticism, as well as seeing them doing jobs that keep their communities safe via the NYPD K-9 team and the United States Police Canine Association.

Educational endeavors like AKC Meet the Breeds are made possible by the commitment and enthusiasm of our clubs and their members who staff the booths, engage with the public, and offer them guidance on their dog-ownership journey. We thank each exhibitor, and their parent and local clubs, who volunteer their time and energy to make this a success.

Dennis B. Sprung
President and CEO

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We'd Love to Hear About Your 2023 National

Happy New Year! We begin 2023 with a look back at 2022 in our photo-feature “A Year in Pictures.” In recent years, many of the GAZETTE’s best photos have appeared in the Breed Columns section, contributed by our columnists from AKC parent clubs. A happy trend within that trend is the number of columnists who file reports, complete with vivid photos, from their club’s national specialty shows.

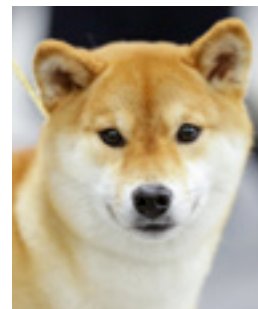
National specialties are vitally important events, and the GAZETTE coverage of these shows provide fanciers with a “state of the breed” report for a given year. These reports will reside forever in the [AKC Digital Library](#), where fanciers can glean the historical knowledge necessary to wisely plot the future of their breeding programs and club activity.

We urge our breed columnists to continue and broaden their national-specialty reports. If your parent club does not currently have a contributing columnist, please contact Managing Editor [Bud Boccone](#) about running national-specialty coverage elsewhere in the magazine.

***About this issue:** You have perhaps noticed a change in the orientation of our pages, from horizontal to vertical. Our analytics indicate that many subscribers are reading the GAZETTE on phones and tablets. The new format enables this growing contingent of readers to scroll through an issue with greater ease, without diminishing the experience of those reading on computers.*



The Tibetan Terrier Club of America’s annual show was among the nationals covered by the GAZETTE in 2022.



On Our Cover
Shiba Inu, courtesy
Kathleen Riley
Photography

COURTESY TIBETAN TERRIER CLUB OF AMERICA

UPDATES

Bulldog Prevails

Star takes BIS over record ANC entry

ORLANDO, FLORIDA—On Sunday evening, December 18, at the finale of the AKC National Championship presented by Royal Canin, judge Desi Murphy gave Best in Show to Bulldog GCh.G Cherokee Legend Encore (Star). Reserve Best in Show went to Standard Schnauzer GCh.G Crivitz Humphrey Bogart Von Diable.

In a post-show interview with Gina DiNardo on AKC.tv, Murphy said about his BIS choice, “I’ve had an interest in the breed for about 55 years, and I’ve judged them for well over 40 years. She’s the best



Bulldog bitch I’ve ever judged.”

Congratulations to all the winners during a memorable weekend in Orlando.

Hours of video from the 2022 National Championship, including groups and BIS, obedience, and agility, are archived [here](#).

[Unofficial ANC Results](#)

Breeder Toolkit Updated

The AKC has updated its Breeder Toolkit for the new year. New in 2023 is a link to the [Breeder Programs & Services page](#). The page provides details on many of the resources the AKC provides to breeders.

More Breeder Toolkit updates:

- Based on breeder feedback, the cards on the Breeder Toolkit page have



been reordered.

- More details are provided in the “Manage Dogs and Manage Litters” cards content. These are just a few new helpful hints on what you are able to do with each page.

- Two new cards have been added: “Registration,” where you will find short-cuts to “Register a Dog,” “Transfer a Dog,” and “Register a Foreign Dog.”
- “My Transactions,” which shows details of any transactions started while you are logged in to your MyAKC account. This will allow you to see if your items are still in process, completed or if you need to take further action on your end.

[Create a Breeder Toolkit](#)

UPDATES

Japanese Akitainu, Tsvetnaya Bolonka *join Miscellaneous Class*

Effective January 1, the Japanese Akitainu and Russian Tsvetnaya Bolonka are eligible to compete in the Miscellaneous Class at AKC conformation events. This addition was approved by the AKC Board of Directors at its February 2022 meeting.

The **Japanese Akitainu** is the largest of the native dog breeds of Japan and was originally used for hunting game in the mountainous terrain of the Tohoku region where Akita Prefecture is located.



The Japanese Akitainu is a large, sturdily built, well balanced spitz-type dog whose head, triple coat, and curled tail are defining physical features of this unique breed. Males and females are clearly distinguishable from

each other with males possessing a more robust body structure and masculine facial features, and females a more refined body structure and feminine facial features.

[Breed Standard](#)

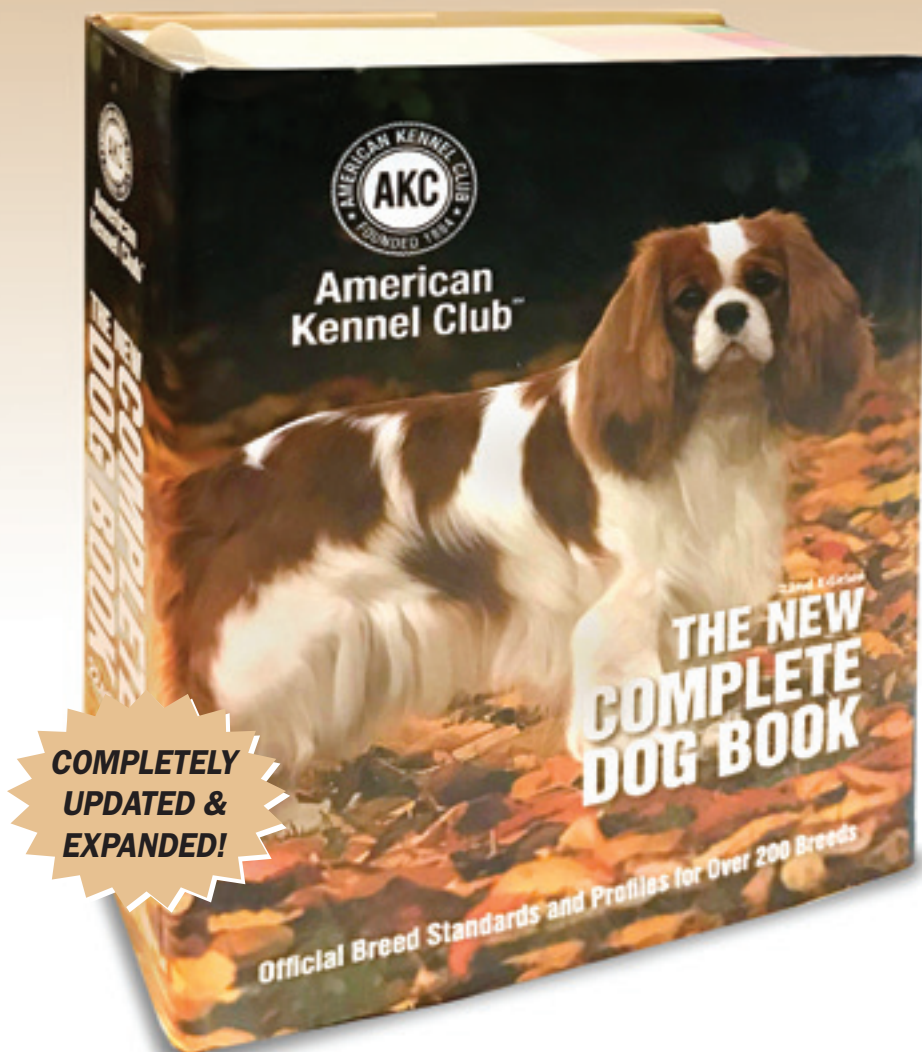


Developed to be the ultimate house pet and companion, the **Russian Tsvetnaya Bolonka** is a small, sturdy, balanced dog, slightly longer than tall. The breed appears disheveled due to the wavy or curly coat. He moves gracefully with the tail carried over the back.

The Russian Tsvetnaya Bolonka is friendly to all and shows no sign of aggression. He is sweet, loving, intelligent, and willing to please.

[Breed Standard](#)

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- Spotlight on finding well-bred puppies, sports, and activities for dogs and owners

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

UPDATES

Judith M. Russell Named Breeder of the Year

At the AKC National Championship Presented by RoyalCanin, Judith M. Russell (Karnovanda Siberian Huskies) was named the 2022 AKC Breeder of the Year.

“We are thrilled to honor Judith M. Russell with the 2022 AKC Breeder of the Year Award,” AKC President Dennis Sprung says. “The Karnovanda prefix has been associated with top-quality, healthy Siberian Huskies, and their impact on the breed will be seen for many more years to come.”

Karnovanda has produced approximately 500 cham-

pions, including 12 Best in Show winners, one of which has won 32 Bests-in-Show. In addition to conformation awards, Karnovanda Siberian Huskies have won five consecutive Siberian Husky Club of America Working-Showing trophies for excellence in showing and sledding.

BREEDER OF THE YEAR GROUP WINNERS

Sporting Group Dennis and Katey Brown (Solivia Pointers), **Hound Group** Maggie Mott and Sally Simmonds (Kamgaard Norwegian Elkhounds), **Terrier Group** Geri Kelly and Suzanne Steele (Kelly’s Miniature Schnauzers), **Toy Group** Kim Calvacca and Robin Greenslade (KimRo Miniature Pinschers),



Judith M.
Russell



Walter F. Goodman

Non-Sporting Group Bob, Nancy, Brenda, and Link Newcomb (Newcomb Bulldogs), **Herding Group** Gloria Birch (Covy-Tucker Hill German Shepherds)

Posthumous Breeder of the Year Walter F. Goodman (Glamoor Skye Terriers)

AKC, ESPN Extend Broadcast Agreement

The AKC and ESPN have entered into an expanded five-year agreement, renewing ESPN’s media rights for televising of AKC events. The agreement, extending a relationship begun in 2019, retains ESPN as the AKC’s exclusive dog-sports media partner. AKC events will be distributed across ESPN’s TV and digital platforms.

ESPN will distribute a minimum of nine AKC events a year, beginning with February’s AKC Agility National Championship. Other events to be distributed on ESPN platforms under the agreement include the AKC National Championship, AKC Agility Premier Cup, AKC Diving Dogs Premier Cup, AKC Flyball Dog Challenge, and AKC Fastest Dogs USA.

NEW for AKC Breeders

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Insurance is underwritten and issued by Independence American Insurance Company, 6100 4th Ave. S., Seattle, WA 98108). Insurance plans are PPI and is not an AKC business nor an insurer. AKC does not offer complete details, refer to www.akcpetinsurance.com/sample-policy-details. ©2022 AKC Pet Insurance.

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Mastitis



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Thoroughly Modern Maud

Alice Maud Earl (1863–1943) single-handedly dragged Victorian sporting art into the 20th century by utilizing modern impressionistic techniques and theory. Born in London’s West End, Maud Earl was the daughter of George Earl and the sister of Percy Earl, both accomplished painters of sporting themes. She grew up surrounded by her father and his fellow sporting artists, whose stature rose with the popularity of dog shows and field trials in England. In the opinion of many dealers and curators, Maud topped them all.

“She was the most accomplished female painter of dogs,” [AKC Museum of the Dog](#) Adjunct Curator Alan Fausel says. “She even



surpassed her father in canine art. Her inventiveness is what sets her apart from other painters. Even while doing dog portraits, over and over again, she always managed to make it fresh each time.” Earl was a master of layering paints to create texture in dog coats and the use of glazes to make the coat shine. Sir Edwin Landseer pioneered these processes and, Fausel says, “Maud Earl no doubt studied his techniques.”

Earl was the first female artist to receive sporting commissions from the British royal family and the first to have one-woman shows in London and Paris. In 1916, with war looming in Europe,

she relocated to New York City, where she spent the rest of her life.

Earl excelled in bringing a dog to life on canvas in a different way than Landseer, John Emms, and other Victorian contemporaries. “Maud Earl was the Georgia O’Keefe of the dog painting world,” Fausel says. “She’s very inventive in how she presented the dogs. Her paintings have satire and humor without being coy or anthropomorphic. She could capture a fleeting second of a dog’s behavior through her observation.”

The paintings are identified on the slideshow’s YouTube page.

Minneapolis Kennel Club, November 19 and 20

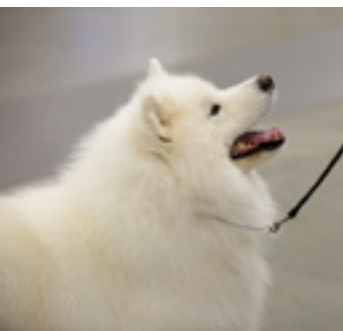
SHAKOPEE, MINNESOTA— In its 88th year, [Minneapolis KC](#) presented two all-breed dog shows, Junior Showmanship, and AKC National Owner-Handled Series competition at Canterbury Park, with a combined two-day entry of 2,011.

Congratulations to the team behind Australian Terrier GCh. Temora Reason Gone Mad, Dr. Steve Keating's Best in Show winner on Saturday and Nancy Smith Hafner's BIS on Sunday.

Results

[Saturday](#)

[Sunday](#)

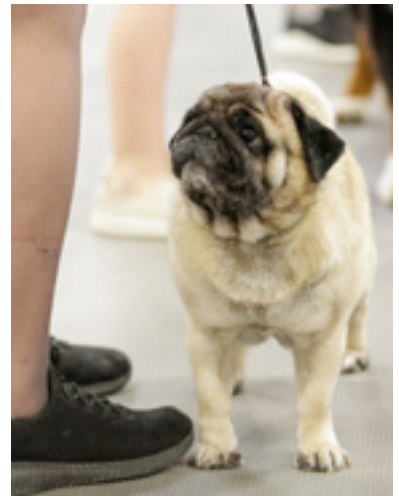


COURTESY KATHLEEN RILEY

RINGSIDE

Photos courtesy Kathleen Riley

Minneapolis Kennel Club, November 19 and 20



COURTESY KATHLEEN RILEY



Julia Gasow and the Salilyn English Springers

This month, our most-watched slideshows of 2022. Number 1: A great breeder's life in pictures.

1:16



What Kind of Dog Is That?

Number 2: A roundup of the AKC's most unusual dog breeds. 2:30

VIDEOS



Chicago, Chicago!

Number 3: A retrospective of [International KC](#), “the Westminster of the Midwest.” 1:16



High Speed Pursuit

Number 4: A salute to the swift and powerful hounds of AKC lure coursing. 1:03



Spanish Water Dogs,
courtesy Marnie
Harrison

A Year in *Pictures*

*Gazette's top photos of 2022,
the year dog sports and canine
culture made it all the way back*

After nearly two years of restrictions, cancelled events, and shows without spectators, things began looking more like normal in 2022. The record entries across all events at the AKC National Championship

suggest that by year's end the sport was all the way back.

The GAZETTE's contributing photographers—including parent-club members and AKC staff—documented the revived show circuit while keeping an eye on the

wider canine community. In this year-end roundup, we present editor's picks from 2022 reflecting the talent and dog sense of these photographers.

Thanks to all contributors who helped us report on a year of renewal.

FEATURE
a year in pictures

Ring Time

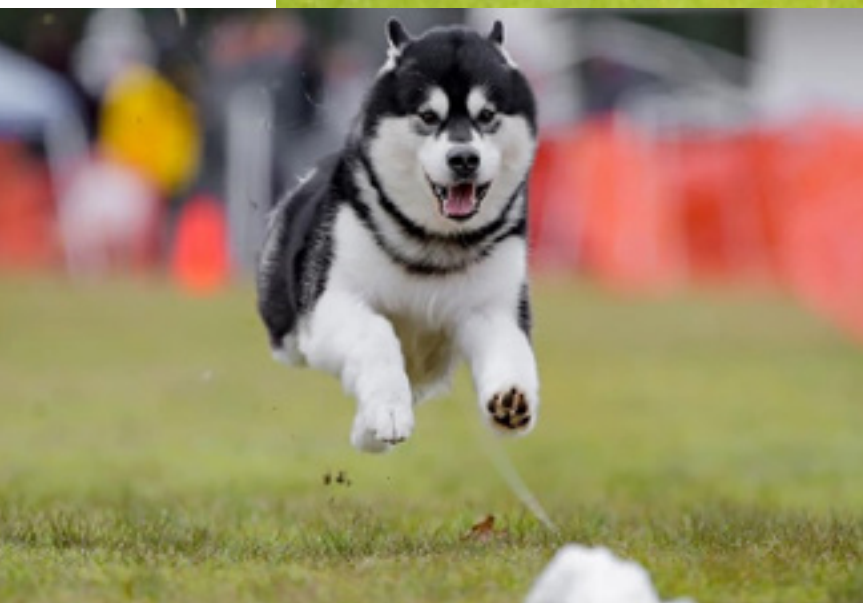


2022 yielded a bumper crop of wonderful show shots. Havanese and Borzoi, courtesy Lynda Beam; Vizsla, courtesy Kathleen Riley; Bullmastiff, Currey photo courtesy Lindy Whyte; Cocker Spaniel, courtesy HotDog Photo

FEATURE
a year in pictures



Hot Pursuit



The popularity of Fast CAT events picked up where it left off pre-pandemic. Dogs of all breeds enjoy the uninhibited joy of the chase once reserved for coursing hounds only. Belgian Malinois, courtesy owner Carilee Moran and photographer Alex Cabildo; Sealyham Terriers, courtesy Witzn Kennels and photographer Tracy Patton; Alaskan Malamute, courtesy Chelsea Murray

FEATURE

a year in pictures

Dog Folk



Barby Gonzalez Tamburello and her FEMA Golden Retriever Blaze from *"Blaze of Glory,"* courtesy Tamburello; Members of the Belgian Dog Rescue Team with Basenji pups on the Poland-Ukraine border, assisting refugees and their dogs, courtesy Sam Bakkali; A Tibetan Mastiff appears much larger than actual size thanks to a trick of perspective, courtesy Jason and Nicholas Stabenow-Schneider; Dandie Dinmont Terrier fanciers visit Scotland in *"Third Time's the Charm,"* courtesy Sandra Stuart

FEATURE

a year in pictures



Portrait Gallery



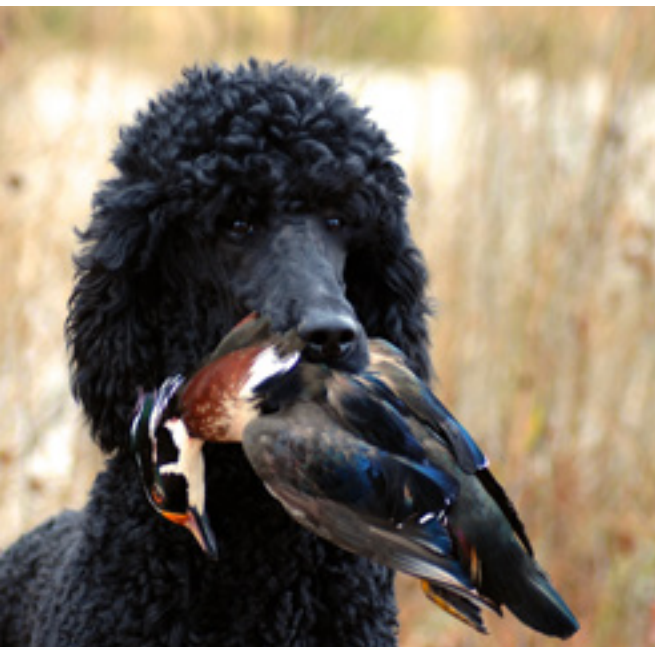
Finnish Lapphund, courtesy Maria Swarts; Belgian Sheepdogs, courtesy Susan Reed Davis; French Bulldog, courtesy Lynda Beam; Samoyeds, courtesy Angela Dunkle; Bernese Mountain Dog, courtesy Marjorie Geiger

FEATURE

a year in pictures



A Good Day's Work



Every year we receive wonderful pictures of dogs doing the work they were bred to do—2022 was no exception.

Pembroke Welsh Corgi driving livestock, courtesy Lynda McKee;

The Long Lake (Minnesota) Hounds assembled for the hunt, from [“The Scent of a Fox,”](#) courtesy Kathleen Riley;

Standard Poodle GCh. LouterCreek Wonderful Tonight, SH, MHU, MHUA18, DN, CA,BCAT, FDC WCX, UWC (Clapton), subject of Penny Leigh’s story [“Grand Master”](#)

FEATURE

a year in pictures



Downtime



A newly AKC-recognized Bracco Italiano relaxes backstage at Good Morning America, AKC photo;
American Eskimo Dog GCh.B Debonair's Rock Star, RA, NA, NAJ, SCN, SEN, SBN, SHDN, RTN, CGCA, TKN, makes time in her busy career to play with her pup, courtesy Michelle and Mark Fitch;
Between ring times at the American Manchester Terrier Club national specialty, one of several nationals covered by GAZETTE columnists in 2022, courtesy AMTC/Robin Gates

FEATURE

a year in pictures

Parting Shots



Harley the multisport Staffordshire Bull Terrier on the way to splash-down, Groove Star Studios photo courtesy Debra Roseman; Ibizan Hound pups, one of several great 2022 photos contributed by the IHCUS's Pierotti-Tietje; Susan Thibodeaux contributed this triple portrait of the "sugar and spice" Toy Fox Terrier; Smokin', an Australian Shepherd, was among the high-flying athletes profiled in "[A League of Their Own](#)," our story about the AKC Agility League, Pix 'N Pages photo courtesy Amanda Swanson



The waspish Mrs. Longworth at Santa Barbara KC, 1941



The President's Daughters

At Santa Barbara KC, 1941, Cocker Spaniel Ch. Stockdale Town Talk, owner-handled by C.B. Van Meter, took Best in Show under judge Joseph Quirk. This rare Joan Ludwig photo came to us 81 years

ago with a handwritten note from Van Meter, boasting that Town Talk remained undefeated in the breed in 99 times shown.

The trophy was presented by Alice Roosevelt Longworth, the eldest child

of Theodore Roosevelt. The 26th U.S. president was a knowledgeable dog man and passed along that passion to his children.

A teenager during TR's presidency, Alice became notorious for her

AKC GAZETTE COLLECTION

TIMES PAST



Greyhounds, among the 20 Pope prints displayed in the AKC's Roosevelt Room

unconventional antics. “I can run the country, or I can run Alice,” her exasperated father said, “but I can’t do both.”

Later, as the wife of Speaker of the House Nicholas Longworth, Alice was the doyenne of Washington society, famous for her stinging wit. (A sofa cushion in her salon was embroidered with the words, IF YOU CAN’T SAY SOMETHING GOOD ABOUT SOMEONE, COME SIT RIGHT HERE BY ME.) She

died in 1980, age 96, during the administration of Jimmy Carter, the 14th occupant of the White House during her long life in Washington.

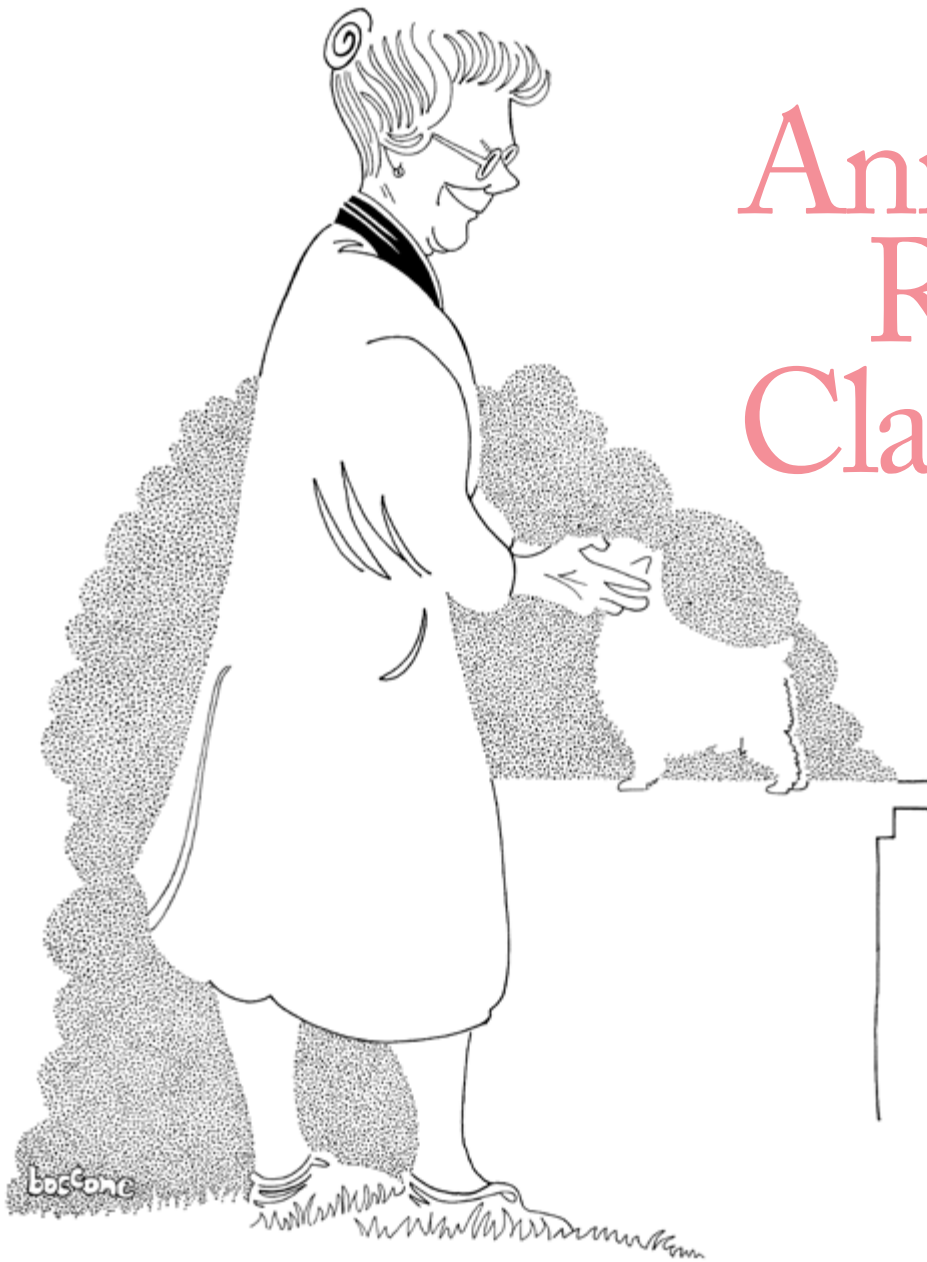
Alice was the longest-lived of TR’s six children, outliving her younger half-sister, Ethel Roosevelt Derby, by three years. In 1974, Ethel donated to the AKC her father’s portfolio of *The Celebrated Dogs of America* (1878), a set of 20 sporting prints made by Alexander Pope Jr.

The collection now hangs in the Roosevelt Room at the AKC’s New York headquarters, alongside a handwritten note that reads:

OYSTER BAY, NY
MAY 1974

THESE PRINTS OF CELEBRATED DOGS IN AMERICA WERE COLLECTED BY MY FATHER THEODORE ROOSEVELT WHEN HE WAS A STUDENT AT HARVARD IN 1879.

ETHEL CAROW ROOSEVELT
DERBY



Anne Rogers Clark

The GAZETTE has been publishing these “Dog People” caricatures since 2007. As we enter the page’s 16th year, we reach back to its earliest days for this drawing of Mrs. Clark judging at the Morris & Essex show.

“We live, in my opinion, at the best time to be involved in the sport of dogs,” Mrs.

Clark wrote. “In spite of all the criticism of our American Kennel Club, it is certainly the best kennel club in the world. It oversees the sport in a huge country, and it is a huge sport with many facets. Our kennel club is in a growth process and needs all the support it could muster. It is not perfect, but we can help it strive in that direction.”

BUD BOCCONE © 2023

BREED COLUMNS



Edited by [Arliss Paddock](#)

GCh.G LongHorn's Ready and Raring to Go, Best of Opposite Sex at the 2022 Giant Schnauzer Club of America national specialty. For more from this gala 60th-anniversary event, see this month's GSCA column by Mary Falls.



COURTESY OWNERS/GSCA

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

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BREED COLUMNS

SPORTING GROUP

Brittanys

IT'S A DILEMMA

Let's set the stage. You and your family have decided to purchase a Brittany pup. There are several reasons why the breed has been selected. The focus at the time is on the desire to have a dog and a family pet and also to use the dog to hunt birds. Every family has their own unique reasons for making the decision.

In our case, some 50 years ago, it's because this author had been involved in several corporate hunts (entertaining customers) at two southern locations, at bird plantations in Georgia and Alabama, with quail being hunted.

On each occasion, as compared to other pointing breeds, the Brittany seemed to me more willing to take direction from the handler. After a morning hunt, I just did not care for the appearance of the other pointing dogs.

Our family had had already experimented with



Brittanys in the field; Herbie completing his show championship, handled by Cindy Miller.

COURTESY DAVID A. WEBB

Thank You to the 100+ Clubs that have already signed up for Meet The Breeds NYC!



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Barbet Club of America
Basenji Club of America, Inc.
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Nederlandse Kooikerhondje Club of the USA
Norfolk Terrier Club
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Norwich Terrier Club of America
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Poodle Club of America
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Xolocuiltl Club

It's not too late to sign up!



BREED COLUMNS

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a Beagle-terrier mix and a pup of unknown breeding, from when the neighbors down the street had a litter of pups. Charlie Brown was a four-legged disaster. After my own experience hunting on the plantation and further investigating the breed, my wife and our boys agreed that a Brittany pup would be a welcome addition to our family.

The search began. We went to our local library to read more about the Brittany. The AKC breed book was helpful. Because we had minimum knowledge of where to get a pup, our local newspaper was used as our source. One Saturday after making an appointment, the boys and I visited a small farm to look at a litter of Brittanyys.

We came away with a small, bundle of joy orange/white female; she was the beginning of our great adventure with the Brittany. That took place roughly 50 years ago. There have been all varieties and appearances—

orange/white, white/orange, liver/white, white/liver, and liver roan—however, with breeding always for temperament and trainability. Performance has always been more important than appearance. At the same time, consideration is given to the dual aspect of the Brittany.

What eventually will be created is a dilemma:

1. The Brittany is an upland bird hunting dog. This is exactly the reason a Brittany pup was brought into our family. With three boys, who all passed their hunter safety course, the objective during the beautiful fall season in western Pennsylvania was to hunt birds with our Brittany.

2. As the years advanced, more Brittanyys became part of our family. At the same time, in order to spend more time with the dogs, interest was developing in other activities. First came show competition. Our family joined and became members in the Flying Feather Shooting

Preserve, operated by Dick and Esther Keenan. Esther had competed in the show events with a high degree of success, finishing many Brittanyys as champions. She taught me handling techniques. The next phase was to enter local show events. Eventually due to my own limited time—travel for work—and lack of handling experience, Nuf Ced Herb Score (Herbie) was finished as a champion by Cindy Miller. Subsequently a collection was made, and Herbie is now part of our breeding program.

3. As mentioned above, our family joined Flying Feather. Dick was the field trial competitor. When in 1966 the AKC recognized the American Brittany Club (ABC), thus establishing the Amateur Field Championship (AFC) title, Dick Keenan's Beau'pere was one of the first Brittanyys to earn the AFC title.

On a regular basis training sessions were



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conducted at the Flying Feather grounds. Following one of those field sessions with our new Brittany—a Flying Feather pup, Magnums Magic Coco—Dick asked, “Do you know anything about field trial events?” My answer back was “Not really.” He then gave me a copy of the Anthracite Brittany Club premium. Coco won the Open Walking Puppy Stake at that event, and I was hooked on field trials.

At the time of writing this piece, one of our Brittany, 2-year-old Glade Run Tiger, sired by Herbie, shows promise in field events. Knowing his sire, the question could be, what about consideration for show events?

This is the dilemma—time to spend with your Brittany. Hunting birds is a given; what about show, field, agility, obedience, AKC rally, and so on? Also consider that Brittany are a versatile breed and suited for a wide range of events and activities.

It’s all about time to spend with your Brittany. Whatever your choice, it’s going to be an adventure!

—David Webb,
davidawebb@aol.com
[American Brittany Club](#)

Lagotti Romagnoli

PREVENTING FEARS BEFORE THEY START

Lagotti are loving, smart, and gentle dogs who want to please and hang out with their pack. However, they may also be shy and fearful. I spoke to breeder Robin Morehouse, of Fino Lagotto in Santa Fe, New Mexico (<https://finolagotto.com>), about this issue.

Robin believes you have to start with their history. She said that the ancestors of this ancient breed were raised in the mountains of Italy, where their strong sense of smell and talent for agility made them useful as hunting dogs. These were not companions; rather, they were a ragamuffin bunch of inbred village dogs running

free. Eventually, many may have been “adopted,” but they were likely still confined until time for the hunt. They didn’t socialize and were not bred for sociability.

As the lakes in the region dried up and disappeared the dogs were no longer useful, and they most likely would have become extinct were it not for a group of dedicated people who set out to save the breed in the latter part of the 20th century. Working with the few purebred Lagotti remaining in the Romagna region of Italy, they transformed them from water retrievers to truffle hunters. The strong senses of scent and hearing that made them excel at retrieving ducks from the water or truffles from the ground kept them overly sensitive to new experiences. Hair covered their eyes, exacerbating the issue.

When the breed was re-established, eventually recognized by the AKC in 2015, the mission of many breeders was (and still is)

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Watson, above and right. A young Lagotto Romagnolo should be exposed to a wide range of people, places, and things.

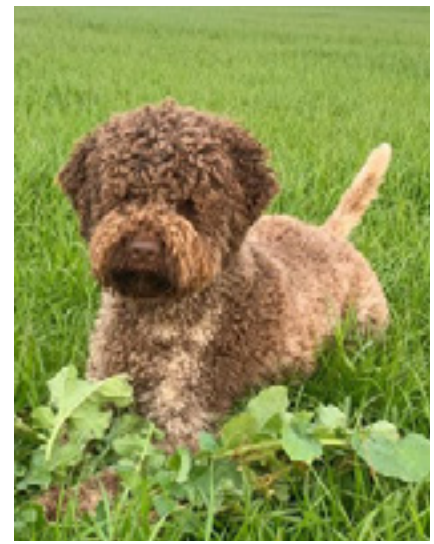


to raise show dogs, rather than companions. But even if the goal is congeniality, Robin mentioned that it takes 10 generations to breed a dog to have a dominant friendliness trait, and, she said, “We are five generations in.” She added, and I concur, that the objective should not be to completely breed out a sense of caution, because then we would have a different dog. That cautious, sensitive, and somewhat shy behavior is part of a Lagotti’s charm. As owners, we just have to be aware that we need to prevent problems before



they start.

For this reason, she said, “Puppies should be trained for sociability and hyper exposed to people, places, and things in the first three months.” When I mentioned that most people pick up their pup-



pies when they are about 10 weeks old, she stressed that is why it is so important to get a puppy from a good breeder, and the puppies should continue to be exposed to sounds and unusual situations three to five times a week until they

TOP LEFT AND RIGHT: COURTESY SUSAN YAGER; BOTTOM LEFT AND RIGHT: COURTESY ROBIN MOREHOUSE

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are a year old.

I know Lagotti who are, or have been, afraid of thunder, sirens, stairs, or riding in cars. They will usually overcome these fears with training. I also know Lagotti who are not afraid of a thing. Genetics plays a part.

Sound, however, is a common and prevalent fear, and an easy one to understand in a dog with such acute hearing. Robin strongly recommends sound desensitization, a combination using food and counter-conditioning. For example, she says that you can ask Alexa to play thunderstorms during your puppy's formative period—low at first, and gradually louder and louder. Also, if any strange noise occurs—say, you accidentally drop a frying pan to the floor—overreact in a positive way. Lagotti like to be told what to feel by their people. Act as if a crashing pan is the most wonderful thing, and to make it even better, it results in a delicious biscuit.

At this point I would like to tell you why I think this is so important. Watson, our wonderful 4-year-old Lagotto, was raised in New York City. Everything was fine at first, but when he was about a year old, he became terrified of city streets. Did this happen gradually without us noticing? Probably. One day he became so scared to be outside that he began to shake with fear when we left the apartment. He had to be carried into the elevator. Walks were out of the question. He still seemed to feel secure in confined spaces, so several times a day we would drive to a dog park for him to exercise and relieve himself. We tried trainers, and several times we saw a veterinary behavioral specialist, who prescribed drugs. (They didn't work.) Then, the pandemic happened, and we were fortunate to have a house in the country and were able to work from home. We stayed away from the city for more than

a year. Watson's fear was put on hold.

When we decided to return to New York it was with trepidation, but by that time I had read books on fear in dogs and had spoken to anyone who might be helpful. My plan was to walk Watson with a pocket full of treats and constant words of encouragement. Puppy steps.

That year out of the city seemed to have erased a lot of bad memories for Watson, because it was simpler than I thought it would be. The first time back went reasonably well, and eventually he began to look forward to being in Manhattan. I still always carry treats, and the moment he seems afraid of anything—a loud siren, for example—I give him a small piece of a biscuit and exclaim how much I love that sound! We walk for miles, and although we usually keep the walks confined to Central Park, he is fine elsewhere.

The ultimate test was a

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Sunday in the IKEA store. He was so calm in the crowds that several people took his picture and inquired about the breed.

If I could go back to the day we brought Watson home, I would do things very differently. How much better it would have been for all of us if we desensitized him to loud noises and tumult from the start.

—Susan Yager,

Susanyager1@gmail.com

Lagotto Romagnolo Club of America

Nederlandse Kooikerhondjes

UPCOMING EVENTS

The Nederlandse Kooikerhondje Club of the USA (NKCUSA) is excited to announce two special events ahead in 2023.

Meet the Breeds

NKCUSA will be participating in the AKC’s Meet the Breeds event to be held at the Jacob K. Javits Center in New York City

on January 28–29. Meet the Breeds is an action-packed, high-energy event that showcases dogs from the huge variety of breeds recognized by the AKC. NKCUSA is pleased to return to this fun, family-friendly experience that allows members of the public to meet and greet our ancient Dutch sporting dogs.

Few present-day Kooikerhondjes are able to do the work for which the breed was originally developed: working with Dutch duck trappers in elaborate enclosures called *eendenkoois*. Today, Kooikerhondjes are more likely to find homes as valued family companions. They are spirited and smart little canines, and they need to have a job to keep them occupied. They thrive on physical and mental stimulation and excel in the agility ring. They have been successful in obedience, rally, tracking, and search and rescue, among other dog sports and competitions. We are

looking forward to sharing more about the breed with the public at the Javits Center in New York.

AKC’s Meet the Breeds website describes the event this way: “AKC Meet the Breeds® gives pet lovers the unique opportunity to meet and play with more than 150 different dog and cat breeds in booths individually decorated to depict each breed’s country of origin, historical purpose/function, and attributes as a family pet, all while learning about responsible pet ownership and which breeds may be right for them.”

Additionally, the AKC’s Meet the Breeds website provides the following information. In addition to meeting and greeting canine companions, the event includes “a Demo Ring highlighting dog sports and activity demonstrations; vendors with gear and gifts for humans and dogs; and an interactive area featuring games, photo opportunities, and a chance

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Nederlandse
Kooikerhondje

to try out an agility course just like the dogs do (it's not as easy as you think)!"

2023 National Specialty

Save the date and come to the breed's 2023 national specialty, to be held at the Heart of Illinois cluster of dog shows in May in Bloomington, Illinois.

The Heart of Illinois cluster is held each year during the Memorial Day weekend and consists of four days of conformation shows in air-conditioned buildings. Fast CAT is currently offered on Saturday and Sunday during the show. We are working on plans to add other performance

sports to this event such as rally, obedience, Farm Dog, and CGC testing. Please e-mail Specialty2023@KooikerhondjeUSA.org for more information.

The national specialty is a great opportunity for owners of the breed to highlight their dog's skills and accomplishments

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and to meet other Kooikerhondjes and their owners. For those interested in seeing Kooikerhondjes in action, the specialty provides an excellent chance to see what these clever little dogs can do, and to discuss the breed with “Kooiker bosses” (as we like to call Kooikerhondje owners).

For news about other upcoming events, or for more information about Kooikerhondjes, please visit the NKCUSA website (linked below).

—Melanie Joy
McNaughton,
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Nederlandse
Kooikerhondje Club of the
USA

Pointers

Ria Nelis, of Freebreeze Pointers in the U.K., contributed the following for this column in 2014.

HEADS AND TAILS

It’s usually a choice of heads or tails, but in the

case of the Pointer, both are very important for both the breed’s function and in assessing correct breed type.

The head of the Pointer is perfectly designed to help the dog pick up the scent of game carried on the air. The Pointer does not work on ground scent, and therefore his head carriage should not be low when on the move. A gentle dish to the muzzle brings his large, spongy nostrils up higher in order to catch the scent on the air. In the U.S. breed standard, parallel planes are equally correct, meaning that the tip of the nose won’t be higher than the nasal bone, and two imaginary lines along the top of the skull and along the muzzle will be parallel. However, the nasal bone should never give a down-faced appearance.

The skull itself should be balanced; the skull should look neither too wide nor too narrow. The zygomatic arch forms a gentle bow to the skull. The length of the head from the pronounced

occipital bone to the stop and from stop to nose should be equal.

Ear-set, eye-set, and shape of the ear and eye can have a huge effect on the dog’s expression.

For a pleasing, correct expression the ears should be set on fairly high, roughly level with the eye. They should be pointed at the tip. For an extra touch of quality, the ear leather should be fine, with veins that are visible like those of a thoroughbred horse. The Pointer is the thoroughbred of the gundog breeds. The bright and kindly eye should be set so that it looks ahead, and it should be rounder in shape rather than oval. The eye is dark brown in black and white Pointers, and brown to dark brown in orange and white dogs. In liver and white and lemon and white dogs, it is hazel brown or darker, but it should not be hard in expression.

(I should perhaps mention here that whether a Pointer is orange or lemon

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*Pointer,
Evelyn Shafer photo*

is not determined on the color of his coat but on the pigment of his nose and around his eyes and in his eye color. Orange, being recessive black, has black pigment and a dark eye, even if the coat patches are pale. Lemon, being recessive liver, has a liver or flesh-colored nose and a lighter eye, no matter how dark or light the coat patches might be.)

Solid colors are also correct, and the same rules for eye color depend on the coat color and pigment.

Under the eye-socket there

is chiseling in the skull—that is, indentations. You can feel these with your thumbs. The cheekbones should not be prominent.

The gentle curve of the lip is part of the flowing lines and curves that make up the Pointer's outline. "Snipey" flews are undesirable, as are pendulous ones, which give the head a heavy, unbalanced look. In the U.K. we do not usually trim whisker hair. Like the ears, the flews should be reasonably fine in texture.

The bite of the Pointer is usually a scissors bite,

although a level bite is permitted in the U.S.

At the other end of the Pointer is his tail, which is usually described as "bee-sting" owing to its shape. From this you will gather that the tail tapers from the root to end. It should not be equal in diameter throughout its length, which would give it a ropey look. There should also be no upward curl or kinks.

The Pointer's tail can never be too short (unless it has been docked!); but it can be too long. I have seen judges measuring the tail to the hock and appreciate that the U.S. breed standard states that the tail should be no longer than to the hock. However, the ideal tail will finish well short of the hock, so please don't make the mistake of thinking that it ought to be reaching to the hock. Longer tails that reach the hock tend to go with a Pointer who is too long in body.

The tail should be closely covered in fine, even hair



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and should never need to be trimmed on the underside, as there should be no feathering or hair long enough to be trimmed. Some people do tidy up the tip of the tail, which it gives a cleaner outline for the show ring.

When it comes to tail carriage on the move, the ideal is for the tail to be carried level with the back of the dog, or slightly lower, while it lashes from side to side as the dog moves. The U.S. breed standard permits higher carriage up to a maximum of 20 degrees, but it is preferable if it is level with the back. Too often, tails are either carried too high, or they don't lash, or both. The tail should never be tucked between the legs, as this indicates a shy Pointer. While the Pointer may be slightly aloof and sensitive to his surroundings, he should not be timid.

The overall look to aim for, whether choosing a puppy or when judging the breed, is one of balance.

The head and tail should be in proportion to the body. There is little finer than watching a beautiful, lissome Pointer with lovely carriage and head high moving round the ring with a neat tail that is lashing. —R.N.

Please visit the American Pointer Club website at americanpointerclub.org for information on our wonderful breed.

American Pointer Club

German Shorthaired Pointers

FORM FOLLOWS FUNCTION

“Undoubtedly selection and careful training has a lot to do with the shorthair's performance. But the innate qualities of the breed play an important part, too. I for one, after considerable observation of the German shorthair pointer, am convinced the dogs are made for hunting. And made well, too.” —C. Blackburn Miller, from *German Shorthaired Pointer*

Activities, editor George J. Ruediger—1953 National Breed Committee, German Shorthaired Pointer Club of America, Inc.

The AKC parent club for the German Shorthair was established in 1938, and according to director Edward J. Loring, many months were spent on the breed standard, not for changes but to clarify its reading for a more uniform interpretation by those judging the breed. It was the hope that this would provide consistency of type when judges selected their winners. In his writings Mr. Loring lamented that the judges either don't know the breed or have not read the standard, and he questioned if there are other considerations that influenced a judge's decision.

So what does all this have to do with “form follows function”? The Shorthair standard descriptions are predicated on the function required of a versatile hunting dog. The versatile or “utility” dog sought by

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the developers of the breed was one that could do multiple jobs, thus not requiring a pack of specialty dogs to be maintained.

Initially there were two dissenting groups. There were the “form” breeders aligned with Herrs’ Brandt and Samezki, who wanted nothing that didn’t have the traditional German look and disdained any stock, in their opinion, with a British look (that is, with pronounced stop, small ears, and round eyes). Then there was the “function” group aligned with Prince Albrecht zu Solms-Braunfels and Baron von Zedlitz, whose adage was “Don’t worry so much about looks but breed for the desired functions, and once those are set, through selective breeding the desired form/type would follow.” The “form” group was adamantly against any Pointer in cross because of that breed’s aversion to water retrieving and shyness in the face of predators, but the “function”



*German Shorthaired Pointer,
Peter Nicholas photo*

group was not so because of the breed’s good “nose.”

Once they came together, there was agreement not only on the dog’s form but also in how best to test for its desired functions prior being used for breeding stock.

Before AKC recognition of the parent club in 1938, there was a 1935 breed standard used by AKC judges for the Shorthair classes. It was modeled after the 1902 German standard and subsequently used by the parent club for the 1946 standard revision mentioned above. In 1963

the parent club was reorganized, with a 1976 standard revision done adding four disqualifications, and in 1992 the revision added one sentence to the “Proportion” section.

With each revision the committees understood the importance of maintaining relevance to the original concept of the Shorthair as a versatile hunting breed.

A breed standard is more than a jigsaw puzzle where pieces are put together to produce a finished picture. Like a lovely profile on the stack, both lack the element of movement. To function

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as a versatile hunting dog the Shorthair must have efficient, effortless movement to do his job; otherwise, like the jigsaw puzzle, the pieces will come apart with movement.

Thus the Shorthair standard is a balance of descriptive terms and understanding of the desired functions for the breed to be a versatile hunting dog.

—Patte Titus,
chexsix@me.com

[German Shorthaired Pointer Club of America](#)

Chesapeake Bay Retrievers

OUR NATIONAL SPECIALTY SHOW—MICHIGAN, OCT. 2022

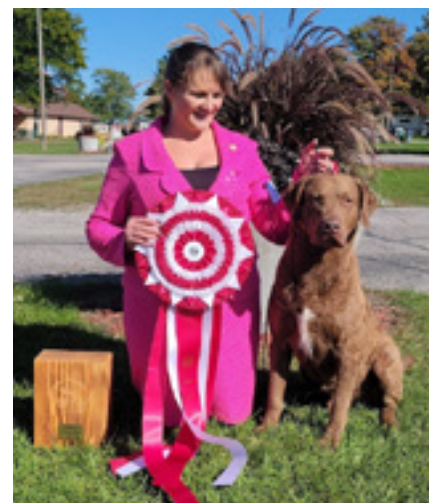
The national specialty comes once a year. On September 29 to October 1, 2022, the American Chesapeake Club held its annual event in Midland, Michigan, at the Midland County Fairgrounds. This was a “separate,” stand-alone specialty.

Over 50 years ago, in



April 1972, the ACC held its first standalone specialty on the grounds of an estate called Marshy Point in Chase, Maryland—on the Chesapeake Bay. Prior to that, ACC nationals for the previous 15 years were held with all-breed dog shows.

One of the more memorable stories that is handed down over the years is the Chesapeake from Florida who was entered in Novice B. Rings consisted simply of stakes with rope tied to them. There were no gates and stanchions, as in most of today’s rings. When it came to the Heel Free

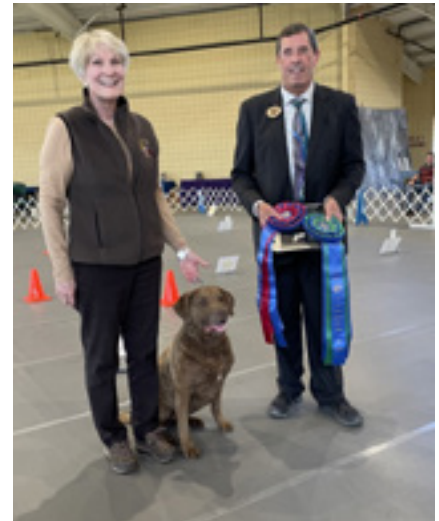


Best of Breed, GCh.B Pond Hollow Sweet Victory, JH, NA, NAJ, CGC, ow. Jennifer and Tom Martin, handler Jennifer Martin, photo by Tom Martin; Best in Sweepstakes (Puppy), Weatherdeck Quietly Making Noise, ow. Klaus and Jeanne Ohrnberger, handler Klaus Ohrnberger, also pictured is breeder Gina Downin; BOS, GCh.G Valhallas Commander-in-Chief, ow. Charles Kling and Laura Bergstraser (handler Laura Bergstraser).

COURTESY OWNERS/AMERICAN CHESAPEAKE CLUB

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Top row: Select Dog, 1st Stud Dog, Best in Veteran Sweepstakes (10 yrs.+)
 GCh. Albridens the Show Must Go On, ow. Diane Baker and Kelli Corcoran, handler Diane Baker; WD, Next Generation I'm Your Huckleberry, ow. Adam Levy and Tate Romnes, handler Adam Levy; Rally, Highest Scoring Combined Triple and Highest Scoring Combined Double Scores, also BOS in Veteran Sweepstakes Ch./RACH Pinewood River Song By Sebascodegan, CDX, RM2, TAE2, TD, JH, BN, TKN, ow. Jana and Dan Hope, handler Jana Hope.
 Middle row: Award of Merit, GCh. Eastern Waters' Wind on the Weskeag, CD, JH, NA, NF, RI, BN, TKI, WD, ow. Doreen and Gary Palmer; BW/WB, Susquidilla's One Tough Cookie, ow. Patty and John Martin, handler Patty Martin; Canada basket in silent auction.
 Bottom: Brood Bitch Challenge Trophy, 1st place, GCh.B Eastern Waters' Pink Power O' Mesa Ridge, BN, RI, ow. Betsy and Rupe Humer.

COURTESY OWNERS/AMERICAN CHESAPEAKE CLUB



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exercise, said Chesapeake gaily left the ring and went for a swim in the Chesapeake Bay. She was officially excused for being “out of control,” and it took her owner a little time to convince her to come out of the bay.

It was a cold April day, with snow the first thing in the morning. Nathaniel Horn (now an AKC judge) reports that when he was showing Eastern Waters’ Independence in the sweepstakes under judge Terry Correll, the judge finished the exam and gaiting and was about to make a decision. Nat picked up some snow and tried to bait the dog, to get some more animation. Unfortunately, the bait (pieces of snow) went right into the judges’ face. He said that while he was totally embarrassed, the judge was kind and forgiving, and he did win the class.

The entries at the specialty in the East had grown every year. Once it looked like entries would reach

the magic number of 100, it was decided to go “separate.” With the advent of more do-it-yourself print shops and an able volunteer (George Bragaw, a Labrador breeder who would act as trial secretary), a show committee was formed to hold the first “separate” specialty.

Judge Mr. William Kendrick presided over this very first specialty held on the Chesapeake Bay. A short interview follows with Sheila DiVaccaro (Chesarab), who showed the WD and then also went Winners Bitch, Best of Winners, and on to Best of Breed with Chesarab’s Little Acorn.

During Best of Breed judging, Billy Kendrick said, “Let’s go for the big ice cream cone” and had everyone in the ring go around one more time. Sheila said she felt that “Cornny” was just floating next to her. She saw Mr. Kendrick watching her and thought she might end up with Best of Opposite Sex. Then he pointed, and he said to Sheila—Best of Breed—“I

see you chose the right one!” (She had also gone WD, and her husband, Dick, handled the WD while she chose to show the WB.)

Comparing national specialty entries in 1972 and now, 50 years later, the main difference was in the number of “specials”:

1972 entries: Best of Breed, 28; Dogs, 25; Bitches, 46; Stud Dog, 9, Brood Bitch, 4.

2022 entries: Best of Breed, 58; Dogs, 19; Bitches, 46; Stud Dog, 7, Brood Bitch, 4.

Over the years we have added a Veteran Sweepstakes, which drew 24 entries, and in 2019 added a Hunt Test/Field Trial Sweepstakes, with an entry of 23 in 2022.

The 2022 national was run by a dedicated group of Michigan club members—using a “specialty in a box” from a superintendent, these members hefted mats and laid down three rings for obedience and rally to be held on Thursday. There was help from exhibitors

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who arrived on the grounds the day before and came into the building and unrolled and taped mats. There were more volunteers helping late Thursday, when two rings were removed and one ring was reformatted for breed judging the next two days.

Behind the scenes, on Thursday, September 29, Hurricane Ian came into play when it became apparent that he was heading north out of Florida, and one of the conformation judges might not be able to fly out of Charleston, South Carolina. The show committee had a find a new judge in less than 24 hours. They arranged for a local judge, Mrs. Kathy Lorentzen, to judge class dogs and replace Mrs. Terry DePietro. These were stressful times for the committee. In the meantime, it was thought that Ian's path might also drift into North Carolina, and we might lose yet another judge. Fortunately, Ms. Bonnie Threlfall was able to fly out

of Raleigh, North Carolina, and she judged class bitches and took over Mrs. DePietro's Best of Breed assignment on Saturday.

There were many friendly touches during these three days, with snacks and water for all. Especially good were Pixie Crunch apples handpicked by Deb and Rick Ruzs. Magnets and mugs were still available for sale, and also gratis decals and bookmarks.

A breed seminar was held for all interested exhibitors and members on Thursday night, given by Betsy Horn Humer and Angie Cox, ACC mentor-presenters. On Friday night a two-hour seminar was given by Dr. Carmen Battaglia, covering principles and types of movement, pedigree analysis, and why dogs are built as they are.

Obedience and rally took place on Thursday. There were 95 Chesapeakes, with total entries of 151 (65 obedience and 86 rally.)

High in Trial, with a score of 199, came from the

Novice B class: Moonlight Bay's Stonewashed Denim, RN, DCAT, CGC, TKN, owned by Olivia Huston and Gail Evans, and trained and handled by Olivia. Highest Scoring Champion of Record, with a score of 198, also from Novice B, was awarded to Ch. Eastern Waters' Chief Passamaquoddy, BN, RA, owned by Rupe and Betsy Humer, and trained and handled by Rupe.

There were qualifiers in the following classes: Novice A, 1; Novice B, 7; Open B, 2; Utility A, 2; Beginner Novice B, 8; Puppy Novice, 1; Graduate Novice, 1. The rally judge took a lunch break while four obedience teams competed, which is always a favorite for spectators.

Rally judging was very competitive, with three dogs entered having a RACH title. Most exhibitors earned qualifying rosettes. Highest Triple and High Double were both awarded to Ch./RACH Pinewood River Song By

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Sebascodegan, CDX, JH, TD, BN, RM2, RAE2, TKN, with perfect scores: 300 out of 300 points, and 200 out of 200 points. Mocha is owned by Jana and Dan Hope and trained and shown by Jana.

Friday's activities consisted of three Sweepstakes: Puppy, Veteran, and HuntTest/ Field Trial judged by Dr. Dana Bleifer of California. The sweepstakes were followed by regular and non-regular class dogs, judged by Kathy Lorentzen.

Saturday began with Junior Showmanship judging, with three competent juniors competing, followed by class bitches. Best of Breed was after lunch, and judging was completed with Stud Dog, Brood Bitch, and Brace.

Following are comments from Jennifer Martin, owner/handler of Best of Breed, GCh.B Pond Hollow Sweet Victory, JH, NA, NAJ, CGC.

"When the judge change was announced that it

would be Ms. Bonnie Threlfall, I remembered that I had shown to her before at Westminster Kennel Club, and we made the cut. Nike was still young, just 15 months.

"Here we are in the ring, and I thought we made the first cut, but I wasn't sure, because the judge was changing her procedure. Sometimes the dogs she wanted to keep were told to step back against the gating; the next time, she pulled out the dogs she wanted to keep, and those being excused were told to step back. We were in the second group of bitch specials. Once we went into the ring, we were there until the very end with no break. The other dogs who made the cut were called back. Another cut was made, and I wondered if this was the line to the exit—but no, this is the 'good line!'"

"After we made the second and third cut, I thought, WOW! I might get something. We were

re-gaited with Montana, and then the Winners Bitch was called up and placed behind me. It began to fall into place. I was worked up, and Nike was worked up, and the judge pointed: Best of Breed! And I cried in the ring. We did it again ... and I was so tired after the long week of events. It was our dog, and our day. I felt both relief and validation of the Best of Breed win in 2021. Enjoy the moment!"

Saturday night was the banquet, held in another building on the fairgrounds. The auctions held in conjunction with the specialty have become a major fundraising event. There were "silent auctions" daily for three days, and on Saturday night there was a huge collection of state baskets, with the contents brought and donated by members from many states. Silent bids began, with bidders leaving their dinnerplates to check out the latest bids. A live auction is the



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finale—usually with several hand-made quilts, decoys made by famous carvers (sold for \$1,100 apiece) and handcrafted wooden signs with a Chesapeake motif.

Field events were held the previous weekend, with back-to-back AKC Hunting Retriever tests (Chesapeakes only). Saturday’s Master Test had 23 running, 12 Passes; Senior: 12 running, 8 Passes; Junior: 18 running, 13 Passes. On Sunday, Senior: 14 running, 10 Passes; Junior: 17 running, 13 Passes.

On Monday, ACC Working Dog tests were held, leading to WD, WDX, and WDQ titles. Field events were chaired by Jennifer and Tom Martin, David and Michelle Keehn, and Rick Ruz.

An all-breed agility trial was sponsored by the ACC on Wednesday, with 22 Chesapeakes running in agility, chaired by the Martins.

We thank all the chairs

and co-chairs: Tina Cox, Michelle Keehn, Deb Ruz, Deb Rhodes, Rebecca Kowalski, Carolyn Johnson, and everyone else who jumped into help run another successful “separate specialty.” It takes an entire village to run our national, with all the events that are part of it, as we strive to keep and present the versatility of our all-American breed!

Plan ahead to join everyone in South Jordan, Utah, this fall, on September 13–15. Show chair is Sonia Cunningham (sonia.cunningham@gmail.com).

Comments welcome.

—Betsy Horn Humer, Pungoteague, Virginia, tiderunr2@verizon.net

American Chesapeake Club

Curly-Coated Retrievers

Our author once again is Jenny Dickinson, who looks at the topic of stewarding.

THE BEST SEAT IN THE HOUSE

If you haven’t learned to steward, you are missing out! Being in the ring with a judge is an unmatched learning opportunity.

Often folks who are new to showing find stewarding intimidating. The steward appears to have secret knowledge. But believe me, the chief steward and obedience chairperson will welcome your interest. They will want to initiate you!

There are several ways to learn the procedures for stewarding. I come from the obedience side of the sport, and I will start with that venue.

When I have taught competition obedience, I have always urged (and probably pressured) my students to learn to steward. Seeing the mechanics of ring setup, especially in the advanced classes, gives the steward an important perspective on how a good routine develops. It is completely different from watching from outside the ring.

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So how does one learn to steward in obedience? The best method is shadowing an experienced steward. The judge has to be in on this, and certainly may or may not allow this. The inexperienced person must stay silent and must position herself exactly where told. Talking or asking questions must wait until between routines. We certainly don't want to interrupt the flow of

the class. Competitors need to get in and out without interruptions.

Your obedience instructor has presumably had you steward at run-thrus and matches, and has talked about what the steward needs to do at each point of the class. Another important option is stewarding clinics put on by all-breed clubs.

The all-breed clubs are

more likely to give stewarding clinics or programs in conformation stewarding skills than in obedience, but members have a chance to suggest further training in the club. Since all-breed clubs create the shows, they absolutely must have capable stewards to make the event run smoothly. The judges expect this from us.

The AKC has printed guides that describe

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stewarding skills. The guidelines for judges are also a terrific resource for stewards. These are part of your homework!

Stating the obvious, we cannot have our wonderful trials and shows without the support of the stewards who keep the rings running efficiently. I encourage you to join their ranks! —J.D.

Thank you once again, Jenny!

—Ann Shinkle,
annshinkle@aol.com

Curly-Coated Retriever
Club of America

Golden Retrievers

RESCUE: CANDLES IN THE DARKNESS

In this era of disposable everything, society looks to rid itself of anything used, inconvenient, or unnecessary. Witness the waste dumped on highways, beaches, and parking lots.

Sadly, that same mentality often includes society's pets. We've all seen the throw-aways: the dogs, cats, and other animals that roam



Golden Retriever

the streets at the mercy of speeding cars, freezing weather, and abusive human beings. The fortunate ones end up in shelters, waiting and hoping

The most recent estimates are that about 4 million dogs and cats enter shelters every year, with an estimated 350,000 of those pets euthanized. A percentage of dogs entering shelters are purebred, and over the years a plethora of purebred rescue services have been created, each one devoted to salvaging its

own breed.

The Golden Retriever Club of America (GRCA) was among the first to come to aid of their breed. By 1991, the GRCA had 32 rescue services, and today that number has grown to well over 100 full-service rescues.

This network of Golden rescue groups represents the best in dogdom. The breed is blessed with a national cadre of dedicated volunteers who donate countless hours to the rescue and rehabilitation of



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abused and abandoned Golden Retrievers of all ages, sizes, and character. Their only compensation, one that cannot be measured in money or rewards, is a recycled Golden made happy and whole again.

At the bottom of the heap of rescues is the fact that there is a need for rescue in the first place. The burgeoning Golden population, fattened by irresponsible individuals who mass-produce poorly bred puppies, many with unstable temperaments and serious health and genetic problems, provides a supply-side basis for rescue groups.

The problem is also compounded by hundreds of well-bred pups that are placed with families or individuals who are unprepared or unwilling to deal with the usual problems of raising an untrained and rambunctious retriever. There is often a misconception that a Golden is a wonder dog, an easy keeper who trains himself—but then, surprise! He

also barks too much, sheds, digs, and chews, then grows too big and costs too much, adding to the dilemma of Golden abandonment.

What can we as responsible Golden owners do to combat the problem? There are no easy answers, but we can light a few candles in the darkness. Contact your local rescue group (find them at www.grca.org), visit the local shelter, perhaps volunteer. Consider fostering for rescue or the shelter. I have fostered many times, and each of those Golden Retrievers was definitely a keeper!

Open your heart, and maybe your pocketbook. You *can* make a difference!
—Nona Kilgore Bauer,
nona@nonabauer.com
[Golden Retriever Club of America](http://www.goldenretrieverclubofamerica.com)

Labrador Retrievers

PUPPY SOCIALIZATION

Everyone looks forward to bringing home their new puppy. There is a

cascade of names, toys, collars, and a sundry of other very essential paraphernalia accumulated by the new owner. Along with the above items, every breeder and veterinarian has expressed their ideas about the type and quantity of food to feed the puppy. However, has anyone considered the actual socialization of the puppy to the home, neighbors, children, and the world?

Having been a veterinarian for 47 years, I have seen just about every mistake a new dog owner can make and have made them myself. There is no such thing as an auto-trained dog. I have obedience trained my own dogs, participated in running and judging AKC hunt tests at all levels, and worked with several field trainers over the last 25 years. I am not a dog behaviorist. As with anything else, everyone, including myself, has the perfect type of dog they enjoy training, but we occasionally forget that that

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puppy/dog is a blank notebook just waiting to have the pages filled.

I relate inviting a new puppy into the home as I would inviting company for dinner. If you come into my home and decide to throw an empty wineglass against the wall, I would immediately ask you to leave. Well, the new puppy is no different than that guest. The puppy needs to understand they are a guest into my home—*but* it is our responsibility to introduce them to the rules of the home. One cannot assume they will learn the rules by osmosis.

Just remember, a puppy at 8 weeks of age has been exposed to its littermates. They now understand who is the bully, and who is the passive, laid-back littermate. They have learned litter socialization. Now it is time to learn human socialization. And guess what: That is our job and obligation. Every new person, sound, and sight is just one more experience to be



learned by the puppy.

I hear all the time owners telling their puppy/dog they are “all right” when he or she alerts to a new sound or sight. The puppy is *not* “all right,” and we are just reinforcing a negative behavior in the puppy.

Instead, we should use the “jolly” routine, which is laughing and giggling and acting stupid so the puppy is taken into a happy behavior situation.

In our planning for the new puppy, the puppy needs an area it can call

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home. I firmly believe in crate-training puppies. Providing a safe area for the puppy is essential as the puppy grows into an adult dog. The crate provides not only the home it needs, but also will be used for establishing rules of behavior, an area to sleep, and preparation for eventual car rides. Crate training is as important as obedience training.

One of the first things the puppy needs to learn is what is ours and what is theirs. Puppies need their own toys to chew, carry, and eventually destroy. As new owners, we should have “puppy-proofed” the home by picking up shoes, articles of clothing, and anything else we do not want the puppy to chew. Remember, puppies only chew up your expensive shoes, so do not give them an old, wrecked tennis shoe for practice.

As we establish the rules of the house, we need to decide what the word “no” means. Does it mean

now, an hour from now, or tomorrow? Some new owners say *no* to a puppy multiple times, to the point of confusion. If “no” means *no*, then once is enough. Also, in the home with several family members, consistently is essential in the puppy’s training. Sending mixed messages about the word “no” or any other command just adds more confusion.

Families with young children frequently make the mistake of allowing children to run from the puppy. Children also like to wave their hands in front of the puppy. The kids are happy and want to play, and so does the puppy. As the child runs from the puppy, the puppy is in “chase mode” and biting at the heels of the child—normal for the puppy, but not so with the child. The child waving their hands in front of the puppy is called “jump.” Also, holding a favorite toy above the head of a puppy is encouraging jumping. The puppy is

being taught by the child and parents to chase, bite heels, and jump on people.

With our socialization of the puppy, it is up to us to change that behavior so the child is not afraid of dogs and the puppy learns not to jump. Nothing is more annoying than having an adult dog jump up all the time because we reinforced that behavior as a puppy.

In our socialization of our puppy, obedience training is essential. Again, they don’t learn do’s and don’ts by osmosis. *Sit* is an easy command to teach our puppy. Simply using a small treat to teach the puppy the command gives us the foundation to obedience training in a formal class situation. Also, teaching the puppy to come to us is vital. Again, a treat along with a long line (a 10-foot piece of thin rope with a buckle collar) helps with the teaching. Just remember, if you are not using the long line and the puppy is in the backyard “smelling the roses,” do not ask



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the puppy to come. They are on “puppy time” and will ignore you. You just lost that battle and reinforced that you really did not mean you wanted the puppy to come to you.

The puppy is that blank-paged book, and it is our job to fill in the pages.

We live in a mobile society and want our puppy or dog to be part of activities involving travel in the car or truck. If the puppy or dog has never been for a car ride before, we cannot expect them to readily just jump into that box-looking thing. Also, as with some people, dogs do get carsick. Most of the time that can be overcome by frequent, brief car rides. It could take backing out of the driveway two dozen times just to get the puppy associated with car rides. Using the “sit” command along with the “kennel” command, which was started the day the puppy came to our home, helps the puppy because of a known positive experience. Car rides

should be associated with fun and excitement.

Just a small note to owners: Do *not* allow puppies/dogs to ride in a car loose or with their head out a window. A sudden stop could cause an injury. Dogs with their heads facing out of a window risk the chance of a foreign object flying into their eyes and causing a permanent injury.

As I keep saying, that new puppy is a book with blank pages just waiting for you to fill them in with new and exciting experiences. The puppy’s brain is just a sponge waiting for you to add water. Our input to the socialization of the puppy is what our adult will be like in the future.

—John Lawrence, DVM

[The Labrador Retriever Club](#)

English Setters

WHICH TESTS DO ENGLISH SETTERS NEED?

I always tell people that the hardest part about

writing this column is coming up with good topics. Writing the column itself four times per year is not difficult. It had to be much harder in the old days when columnists wrote monthly columns.

I usually have several possible topics rumbling around on my computer, partly written, in case of emergency. Fortunately, I found some inspiration this month on the Facebook health page for English Setters in the U.K. A new person on that page asked a marvelous question: “Do I need to test my dog for PRA4 and NCL, since these diseases don’t appear in our [British] dogs?”

I’ll tell you why I think this is such a great question. Years ago, when I began perusing the OFA pages for English Setters in earnest, I noticed that some people seemed to test their dogs for all kinds of diseases and conditions that I had never heard of English Setters having. I couldn’t figure out why

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they were testing for these problems. This remained a mystery to me until one day on Setters-L (remember Setters-L?), one of the people who had submitted so many of these test results confessed that she worked at a vet's office, so it didn't cost her much to have the tests done, and she thought, "Why not?" Mystery solved. Perhaps other people were just being extra cautious.

As a reminder, the English Setter Association of America recommends that English Setters be tested for autoimmune thyroiditis, hips, elbows, and congenital deafness (see <https://ofa.org/chic-programs/browse-by-breed/?breed=ES>). These are the tests required for CHIC certification. They can certainly be tested for anything else you like.

I had my dogs CERF'd at one time just because I was at a show where the testing was offered. Other people have probably had testing done for things that don't



appear in English Setters for the same reason—the testing was available, and they decided to have it done.

The only downside that I can see to testing a breed for things that really aren't known to occur is that the breed can get a reputation for having some of these probably nonexistent health problems. I have seen clickbait pet articles about English Setters that mentioned some of these health issues simply based

on the things tested for on the OFA website.

The other great thing about the question posed by the person on Facebook was the discussion that followed. The English Setter Association in the U.K. conducted a breed health survey several years ago. For the most part they found that the breed was similar to our English Setters in North America. The dogs are healthy. There are some recommended tests, and a dog

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that is imported for breeding by an Assured Breeder (think Breeder of Merit) must have the dog's hips scored.

As a result of the health survey and recent research, the English Setter Health Committee and the Kennel Club (UK) agreed on the following:

To this effect the committee made proposals to all the [English Setter] breed clubs that all imported dogs, or litters sired by a foreign dog should be tested for PRA 4 and NCL before being bred from, unless the imported dog or sire are shown to be hereditary clear. That the breed should seek to have these tests recognised by the Kennel Club ...

This does not mean that there is a requirement to test UK bred English Setters. There is currently no evidence that these conditions are an issue for the UK setter currently. More about the ESA Health Survey and Breed Health & Conservation Plan can be

found at

<http://www.englishsetterassociation.co.uk/health.html#header3-6q>.

English Setters in the UK have an even smaller gene pool than we do in North America. They register fewer than 300 dogs per year. This stance appears to be precautionary, in light of Britain's close relationship with the European continent, but it is one worth noting.

Neuronal ceroid lipofuscinosis (NCL) is a group of progressive degenerative diseases of the central nervous system.

Signs of disease in affected dogs begin between 1 and 2 years of age and include behavior issues such as anxiety, constant circling, aggression, compulsive behaviors, and loss of learned skills. It was first described in an English Setter in Norway in 1950. It is an autosomal recessive gene.

As for PRA4, Progressive Retinal Atrophy 4 is an inherited form of PRA which leads to a degeneration of the retina resulting

in blindness. Symptoms are typical of other PRAs in that the dog has normal vision at birth, and then progresses to complete blindness.

Both of these diseases have been found in other breeds, including other setters. It's possible they have been lurking in some setter lines back to the early times, when there was considerable cross-breeding among the setters.

Again, as the ESA states, there is currently no evidence that these conditions are an issue for English Setters in Great Britain. However, if North American breeders are importing dogs from abroad, it would be a good idea to look at testing for these conditions before breeding any dog you import. Our gene pool is small, and we need to use caution before possibly introducing any health problems.

—Carlotta Cooper,
eshever@embarqmail.com
English Setter Association
of America

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Gordon Setters

DUAL CHAMPIONS: PART TWO

At the close of part one of this article on Gordon Setter duals, in the October issue, we mentioned that three currently active kennels are proudly responsible for a fair number of those dual dogs. Let us look at each of them.

Susan DeSilver, Gordon Hill (Connecticut)

Gordon Hill is certainly the oldest Gordon Setter kennel operating today, having begun with the late Muriel Clement in the late 1930s and carried forward to today by Susan DeSilver.

The very first Gordon Hill dual was in the 1950s and was DC Gordon Hill Lollipop, owned by Sam and Kit Christine from eastern Pennsylvania. Then there was a slight break (almost 40 years) until things got serious with this kennel and dual champions. Since their second start, with DC Gordon Hill Chantilly Lace in



DC/AFC Sun Yak Spellbound Heaven Scent, "ET." ET is the only Gordon Setter to win an all-breed Best in Show while a dual champion of record at the time of the win.

1988, there have been ten additional dual champions bred by, co-owned, or acquired as stud fees from this kennel. The stud dogs from Gordon Hill have also played large roles in both Spellbound and Tartana kennels.

Chantilly Lace, it should be noted, was a full sibling to Ch. Gordon Hill Alabama Slammer, the Sporting Group winner at the Westminster Kennel Club dog show in 1985. Additionally her son, DC/AFC Gordon

Hill Hangfire, CD (Hobey), is the grandson of Ch. Afternod Yank of Rockaplenty, who won the Westminster Sporting Group in 1975. And he in turn is the sire of the only Gordon dual to ever earn an all-breed Best in Show. Bred correctly, Gordons are very capable of doing both show and field, and doing both well.

Tartana, Holly Wachuta (Wisconsin)

Tartana began in the late 1970s in rural Wisconsin.

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A litter whelped in 1984 produced the first dual in DC Tartana Champagne Charlie, CDX, MH. His sire, Ch. Gordon Hill Artful Dodger, was a litter-mate to Ch. Gordon Hill Alabama Slammer, and his twice-granddam was DC Gordon Hill Lollipop. That began the breeding cooperation between Tartana and Gordon Hill, an arrangement that produced great results for both kennels. Charlie also won the retrieving stake at the first-ever Gordon Setter national field trial.

The second dual was Tartana Clarion Clipper, who was sired by Ch. Gordon Hill Alabama Slammer. She in turn produced two more duals, DC Tartana Cutty Sark and DC/AFC Gordon Hill Tartana Triton, sired by DC Gordon Hill Hangfire.

Tartana is also behind the only two Gordon dual champions from Texas, DC Taimen Talos Thunderbolt and DC Tartana Pollyana, both owned by Charlie and

Sandy Clock.

And as a final note, there is another Tartana dog who currently needs a single field point to finish his dual championship. There are currently seven Tartana dual champions.

Carolyn Gold, Spellbound (California)

This kennel was founded on a very old Gordon kennel, Sun-Yak, of the late Don and Celeste Sunderland (Washington) and had great success when incorporating the previously discussed Gordon Hill kennels. To date it has produced six dual champions.

The foundation bitch of the kennel and the first dual was DC/AFC Elysian's L'Areyal, WDR, CD, CGC (Arie), who was whelped in 1987. She completed her dual title in 1996 by earning her field championship. That began a string of success for this kennel that continues to today. Along the way Arie was bred to DC

Gordon Hill Hangfire, and from that breeding came Carolyn's second dual, DC/AFC Spellbounds Notorius (Indy), JH, WDR, RN, whelped in 1994. And from the same litter came DC Spellbound's North by Northwest (Eden), owned by George and Amy Lutz. Indy finished his dual in 2000, while Eden completed the task by winning both his show and field title in 1999.

A most interesting dual came next as Indy was bred back into the Sun Yak kennel to produce DC/AFC Sun Yak Spellbound Heaven Scent (ET). ET is the only Gordon dual champion of record to win an all-breed Best in Show as a dual, and did so multiple times.

Per Carolyn's research there have been 15 AKC dual champions to win an all-breed Best in Show, but ET is the only one to have been a dual champion of record when winning the Best in Show awards.

ET also produced three dual champions as a sire:

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DC/AFC Shadowmere Spellbound HiFlyer, DC Indian Sky Spellbound's Superman, and DC/AFC Indian Sky Gordon Hill Scout. ET's picture accompanies this column.

Good, solid breeding wins out both in the field and the show ring, and these three kennels certainly prove that point. Well done, folks.

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



Irish Setters

Irish Setters

A SENSE OF STYLE

What is “style?” If one reads the *New York Times*, style means one thing. If you read one of the tabloid magazines, it means another. If you get your sense of style from movies or television, you get a different perspective depending on what you watch—for example, the difference between the gentry on *Downton Abbey* and the many crime shows on

network TV provides a stark contrast in style.

How does this translate into the dog world? Astute and experienced breeders can tell whether a dog will have *style* from the time he stands on his unsteady legs in the whelping box. The late, great Annie Clark said she could tell immediately whether one of her Poodle puppies will have the quality of style that will set it apart from the others as he grows up.

If a dog enters a show ring saying to the world by his presence, “Here I am—you have to look at me,” that dog has style! There was

an Irish Setter years ago whose very presence commanded attention. This dog had his detractors, of course. However, there was no denying his presence. Other exhibitors, bystanders, and the judge in the center of the ring all recognized that this was no run-of-the-mill dog. He had star quality. He had style!

Dogs who excel in all sorts of venues also may have style. A hunting dog locked up on a staunch point has style. A hound covering ground as though he was flying has style, just as a model carrying herself like a queen has style.

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Style is an inborn quality. It cannot be taught. Nor can it be denied. Dogs cannot fake it, though some of their human counterparts try. Style and elegance go together. They might even be synonymous, though not always.

Style in humans can be taught to a point. One can dress up a person to make him or her appear to be “stylish.” But the minute the mouth opens, it becomes apparent that this person has no style. Not everyone has a mentor like Henry Higgins in *My Fair Lady*.

Style shows in other ways aside from outward appearance. Dogs who are born to be guide dogs, or service dogs of any sort, have style. This is the term being used in its broadest fashion. It is an instinct, bred into the genes, that makes one breed different from another.

Sometimes dogs will surprise you by the style they reveal during times of joy or stress. We once had an Irish Setter who displayed

both qualities at different times. He loved boat rides, and he would trot over to the neighbor’s on our lake just in order to jump into a waiting boat that would ferry him across the bay, as he proudly stood in the prow, feathers flying, king of all he surveyed. On another occasion a bicyclist came racing down the road, greeted by Casey, who, teeth bared, knocked the unwelcome guest off his seat.

The term “style” can be as broad or as narrow as the person wrestling with the term wants it to be. There are many judges who view style as a nice polish to an otherwise acceptable dog in the venue in which he is competing. In some breeds, style is built-in to the model; one can hardly imagine an Afghan Hound who does not exude style. On the other hand, one rarely can describe a Bulldog as “stylish,” as unfair as that statement may be for this honorable breed.

Personality is a major component of style, especially in dogs who are less complicated in behavior and their approach to life than people. We equate style with attitude, and that is probably as good a simile as any. —
Connie Vanacore, 2013

[Irish Setter Club of America](#)

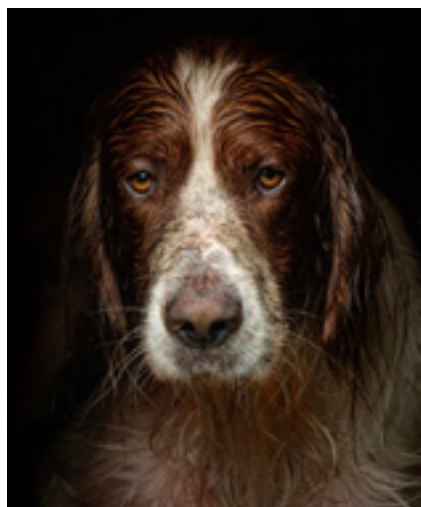
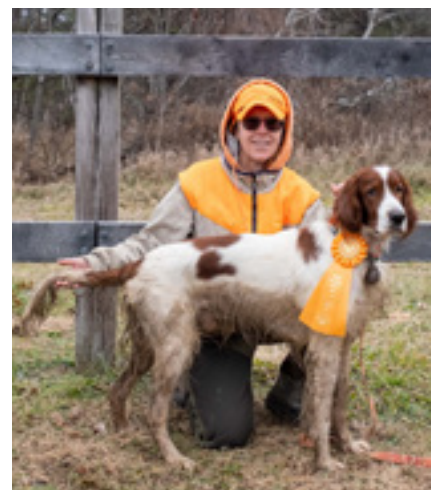
Irish Red and White Setters

IRWS FIRST DUAL CHAMPION, AND MORE BREED ACHIEVEMENTS

One of the best benefits of being the club newsletter editor is sending out the “Call for Brags.” Yes, we are the lucky recipients of photos capturing recent accomplishments or just silly and sweet moments the owner wants to share. Sure, there are the obligatory win photos, but sometimes we get to see the dog’s personality shine through while participating in an event they genuinely enjoy. In the past several years dogs notched breed

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Top row: Hoover in the field; Clancy with Master Hunter ribbons; Rhory. Middle row: Finn; Fernley, GCh. DC Truly Love Long and Hold Fast, CD, BN, SH, CGX, TKI, shown with owner Katie Donovan, is the first Irish Red and White Setter dual champion; Finn and owner with ribbons. Bottom: Kane and owner with scent work equipment; Seneca at a field trial on a frosty morning.

JERRY IMPREVENTO; DEBBIE REED; KATIE DONOVAN; ROMANA LARSON

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records.

You all know how much I love “flying Claire,” the 12-year-old super agility girl. Her owner found an activity for them to enjoy into her senior years after competing and succeeding in other AKC events. The photos of Claire in action are stunning. She was not the first, she continues.

There are other stand-outs, such as Magairlin Flying Fortress, Finn, who passed his AKC Master Hunter test. He is the third to achieve the title. His owner, a professional photographer, generously shares photos of their adventures.

Another boy, Hoover, Ch. Magairlin High Velocity, MH, CGC, TKN, became an AKC Master Hunter on October 31, 2021. He is the first breeder-owner-handled/trained IRWS Master Hunter, and only the fourth to earn the title.

Then there is Kane, Ch. Aislingcudo Mairnealaigh Gus, CDX, RN, JH, SWD, SWM, SHDN, THDA,

CGC, TKN. Kane is busy using his nose. He and his owner are exploring canine scent work. The sport is designed to mimic the work of detection dogs whose job it is to find drugs, explosives, and other contraband. Kane has attained the highest-level AKC title, which is the Detective Dog title.

Scanning the “Awards Chair’s New Title Certificates Issued” column published in the *Forum* newsletter, it’s clear that owners and dogs are active in most any AKC offering. Barn Hunt, Dock Diving, or Fast CAT—you name it, Irish Red and White Setters are doing it. We are keeping the awards chairperson very busy! I wish I could list them all.

The club usually does not make a fuss over firsts. I am not sure there even is any record. My thought is it would be a relevant story for this breed column, to show we are producing dogs true to our breed standard.

A few years back, brags for Fernley started coming in. She and her owner, Katie Donovan, hit the road running—winning conformation shows, getting hunt test passes, going to field trials, and earning other AKC titles. And having so much fun along the way. Now, with lots of training and support from the entire village, GCh. DC Truly Love Long and Hold Fast, CD, BN, SH, CGX, TKI, is the first Irish Red and White Setter Dual Champion. This took years of work in studied pedigrees, planned breeding, owner selection, puppy raising, training, support, patience, and love.

Fernley recorded her journey to be published in the club newsletter. Fernley says, “All my Red and White relatives are capable of this skill with the right opportunity and encouragement. We enjoy being fit for purpose.”

Looking at the Ohio Valley Irish Red and White Setter Club *Legacy of the*



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Irish Red and White Setter Pedigree Collection 2013: Volume 1, and the *20th Anniversary Pictorial*, the history of the IRWSAA comes to life. So many familiar faces; founding members, charter members, judges, breeders, and owners. Together they started what we have today—a club working to keep the breed going and growing. Most impressive is page after page of *all* the beautiful, accomplished dogs. Dogs fit for purpose.

As we celebrate 25 years, we also celebrate the breeders, owners, and our lovely Irish Red and White Setters past, present, and future. Cheers to all.

—Cynthia Lancaster,
Lake Jackson, Texas
clclancaster@gmail.com
[Irish Red and White Setter Association of America](#)

Clumber Spaniels

SUPPLY VS. DEMAND

It was love at first sight while wandering around

the benching area of the Westminster Kennel Club show, in February 1968!

Suddenly appeared the two most gorgeous yet goofy creatures I had ever seen. Instantaneously I knew Clumber Spaniels were the breed I had always been looking for. And this first impression has never changed after more than a half-century of cohabitation with three to seven of this quiet, utterly devoted breed.

Naturally I immediately asked their breeder-owner Eunice Gies about puppies available. Politely but firmly she answered, “I’m sorry, but I don’t know you.” At the time I had organized a course titled “Canines” at the University of Virginia and was founder and president of the Charlottesville-Albemarle KC, but this was not enough. Quite correctly, I had to be thoroughly investigated.

After a two-year wait, Eunice called, inviting me to spend a week on her and Milton’s lovely estate near

Albany, New York, learning about Clumbers while working in their kennel, and returning with my first Clumber. The price was \$500—the equivalent of \$3,840 today.

But as many have discovered, Clumbers are like potato chips: One is not enough. To get my second Clumber, I had to fly to Canada, and for my third, to England, paying much more.

Such was the supply situation in the late 1960s. Eunice was the only active Clumber breeder in the U.S., with hardly more in Canada, and only a limited number in England.

So what is the situation in the U.S. today? Do we need a wakeup call?

“Hard to breed, hard to whelp”—as one so often hears about our breed and its built-in rarity, not to mention the labor-intensive aftermath involving factors such as the tendency of Clumber dams to inadvertently roll over on a pup. But one also often hears



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Clumber Spaniel

that Clumbers are many people’s “second-favorite breed.”

Finally, in 1972, Eunice founded the Clumber Spaniel Club of America, with six members in as many states. In 2022–2023 the club counts 352 members in 45 states. In 2021 the AKC registered 51 Clumber litters, with 239 puppies, of which 172 have been individually registered. Thus the average litter size was between four and five puppies. Unknowable are the unsuccessful matings. Our breed was ranked 149th, meaning there were 51 other breeds

registering even smaller numbers.

There are now 28 breeders on the CSCA Breeder Referral List—rather evenly spread, with 11 on the East Coast, nine in the Midwest, and eight on the West Coast. Washington heads the list, with four; there are three in Florida, two each in California, Iowa, and Michigan, and one each in 15 other states.

It is estimated there are some 2,000 Clumber Spaniels in the U.S., out of a canine population estimated at 90,000,000. Our small gene pool certainly limits breeding options; the

average canine inbreeding coefficient in the U.S. is 15 percent, but for Clumbers it is between 40 and 50 percent.

Most CSCA breeders attempt one to three litters a year, but only too frequently one finds posted “No puppies available”—or worse, “No litters planned.” Breeders report interest ranging from receiving “a moderate amount of inquiries” to getting queries regularly. Any exact quantification is not possible, but the consensus today among U.S. Clumber Spaniel breeders appears to be: “We definitely have a supply issue.”

The 28 individuals on the CSCA’s Breeder Referral List were queried for this column. The most extensive reply was from Washington’s Raina Moss (Rainsway), presented here with her permission. She said:

“I can answer about the demand I have had for Clumbers—I believe we

DAVID WOO ©AKC

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do not have the supply for the number of people who want Clumbers. There is a demand for this breed! In 2022, I opened my puppy applications for a two-month period, in which I received nearly 150 serious, good applications. Some have dreamed of owning a Clumber for years ... I received heartwarming stories of watching Clumbers on TV at Westminster for years and falling in love, writing papers on the breed in school years ago, multiple people knowing since they were a child that they wanted a Clumber someday, and some even meeting a Clumber at an AKC Meet the Breeds Event and having a “love at first sight” moment. A good number of applicants already owned Clumbers, while others are looking to downsize from larger breeds like Saint Bernards or Newfoundlands.

“There is a good amount of new, young interest looking to own this breed as well. I do have to mention

that there is unfortunately not a ton of young interest to become breeders.

“While this demand I have experienced is not something I aim to supply, this gives me hope that the interest and love for this magnificent breed is alive and well. In 2021, I had three litters totaling 21 puppies, while in 2022 I had one litter of three puppies. Unfortunately for 150 applicants, of that litter of three I only had one puppy to place.

“It does seem some breeders are struggling with placing puppies, yet [those breeders] aren’t very friendly, they don’t have their dogs ‘out there’ to gain interest, and they aren’t trying very hard to be ambassadors for the breed or market their breeding program. AKC Meet the Breeds events are wonderful for getting out there with your breed, and I encourage all to take part and support these events. Talking to spectators at dog events—especially

being nice and welcoming to them—is huge. I have found that even taking my dogs to farmer’s markets or busy parks also stirs up great local interest.

“In this day and age, social media is a great tool to reach the masses! I have drummed up a lot of interest in purebred dogs and the Clumber Spaniel breed on social media with now over *one million* views/likes, and over 40,000 combined individuals ‘following’ my dog accounts.

“I do not believe Clumbers are in a bad place numbers-wise, as other rare breeds who I fear are, but I do believe the demand for our wonderful breed is out there, and it is greater than our supply.” —R.M.

Many thanks, Raina!

—Bryant Freeman, Ph.D.

Breed Historian,
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[Clumber Spaniel Club of America](http://www.clumberspanielclub.com)

BREED COLUMNS

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Cocker Spaniels

This month our column encompasses two topics: generating love for the breed, and learning to evaluate dental structure.

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOVE OF THE COCKER SPANIEL

The American Kennel Club now recognizes 200 dog breeds, each with its own history, purpose, and evolution of function. One can gather information about the purpose and primary characteristics of each breed through the official standard for that breed.

No question, there is “something for everyone” among the many breeds. Different characteristics of each breed catch the eye of a dog lover. But what is it that first attracts a person to a breed, and where is the opportunity for that moment of specific imprint to occur? What does it take to create a person’s imprint with a breed so strong that the person will devote end-

Cocker Spaniel



less effort, time, money, and emotional investment to participate in the chosen breed’s ongoing well-being and conservation?

Sometimes the opportunity for an “imprint moment” is completely fortuitous. I am sure a collection of these moments as experienced by numerous dog fanciers would make a wonderfully inter-

esting book.

I distinctly remember my “imprint moment” with the Cocker Spaniel. No more than age 7 years, I accompanied my mother to an obedience training class with our beloved family Collie, who was a “handful,” to say the least. While my mother was trying to cope with the Collie in class, I was walking around



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in the training center. And then I saw it, at the “moment of imprint”: a beautiful black and white Cocker Spaniel sitting with a woman. The softness of expression and striking markings of the Cocker’s face never left me and propelled a lifelong interest in this breed. That scene is forever imprinted. Interest launched!

I was able to find out that the Cocker’s call name was Stormy, that he was a show champion, and I learned his owner’s name and where she lived. Thereafter, when the time of year rolled around for me to sell Girl Scout cookies, I made a beeline to Stormy’s home.

On one occasion, Stormy’s sister, also a black and white, was visiting. I was in my glory to see both of them! Stormy’s owner became a mentor, giving me lessons in her backyard as to gaiting a dog, ring procedure, and use of a Resco show lead. She was the first of my three prized mentors.

Now my question is: “How best do we longtime fanciers provide opportunities for new fanciers to fall in love with the Cocker Spaniel?”

First, we make certain that each time out, our Cockers are ready for public exposition: fully groomed, and with temperaments that are sweet and stable. We should, as presenters to the public, be prepared to be helpful and engaging in answering questions about the breed we cherish.

A list of some possible venues for these opportunities include dog shows, matches, obedience training centers, shopping centers, parks and trails that allow dogs, some state fairs that allow for a schedule of public appearances of various breeds through purebred dog organizations, grooming clinics, even appearances of your Cocker at town business expositions, and programs at schools, sporting dog clubs’ fun field days, or even your appoint-

ments at your veterinarian’s office. Enduring follow-up to any inquiries (and after dog placements) is so important for encouraging interest in the breed.

Devoted Cocker Spaniel fanciers strongly want to encourage conservation of their breed long into the future. Every time you bring your Cocker into public view, your love and dedication to the breed should be on display. You never know just when your actions will be creating that “imprint moment” for a new lover of the Cocker Spaniel.

Now, onto our next topic.

GETTING TEETH INTO THE MATTER

Note that with most features of canine structure and the AKC official breed standards, the prescribed form of the dog follows the function for which the breed was originally developed. The teeth are no exception! The standard for the Cocker Spaniel says regarding the skull, “The muzzle is broad

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and deep, with square even jaws”; and regarding the teeth, “Teeth strong and sound not too small and meet in a scissors bite.” A common definition of a scissors bite is “when the upper incisors overlap the lower, but are touching or in very close proximity to the lower incisors, this is considered a scissors bite.”

Further, as to function, it is noted that a dog’s canine teeth (in proper position) also help the dog hold onto an object, such as game-birds.

The Cocker Spaniel was developed to find, flush, and retrieve birds in upland game hunting. They are willing retrievers. The parent club of the Cocker Spaniel, the American Spaniel Club, has an excellent website section on the Cocker Spaniel as a hunting companion. This section describes the Cocker’s style and activity as a hunting companion.

Doing a knowledgeable job as a Cocker breeder should include understand-

ing and working with the Cocker structures which in all aspects relate to the breed’s function in the field, whether an individual dog is going to participate in that activity *or not*. You want to preserve the characteristics and structure that contribute to the function these hunting companions were developed and bred to do. These are essential qualities. Successful obedience and hunting dogs came directly from my lines of Cockers which were bred for generations to be “show dogs,” true-life examples of conserving the needed functional characteristics.

You should, at a minimum, evaluate and select for Cockers that meet the standard as to teeth and as to jaw construction. The standard does not say scissors *or* level bite allowed or acceptable.

It can be helpful to have a veterinary canine dental expert evaluate the Cocker’s tooth and jaw structure to assure yourself

there are no abnormalities. Some abnormalities can get to be a health problem if the teeth are positioned such that they interfere with soft tissue or the other teeth, causing difficulty in the ability to keep the teeth clean or adding extra wear and tear on the enamel.

It is helpful to carefully read veterinary articles on a canine’s dental occlusion, a term used to describe the ways the teeth align with each other. These articles will describe in great detail the differences between the features of normal occlusion and malocclusion (including the two types: skeletal and dental). The descriptions will go into detail talking about the effect of abnormal jaw lengths on the position of teeth, and the situations where the jaw lengths are considered normal but there may be one or more teeth out of normal alignment. Some conditions may indicate not only that dental treatment will be necessary, but also that



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the individual dog might, if used for breeding, pass on abnormalities you do not want continued on into future generations.

So, learn about dental structure, evaluate your dogs (or have them evaluated), and select for and conserve good function in the dental and jaw construction of Cocker Spaniels. There are many educational materials and professional resources available regarding dental matters and genetics.

—Kristi L. Tukua

[American Spaniel Club](#)

English Cocker Spaniels

2023 ECSCA NATIONAL SPECIALTY

The 2023 English Cocker Spaniel Club of America national specialty will be held in beautiful Olympia, Washington, in early May. The local English Cocker Club for this area, the Cascade English Cocker Fanciers (CECF), has worked in conjunction with the

Southern California and Northern California English Cocker clubs to put on what portends to be an amazing West Coast national specialty.

The Pacific Northwest is not only a place of breathtaking beauty but also home to many performance venues. Nearby Argus Ranch (www.argus-ranch.com) will be the site of both ECSCA agility (Friday, May 5), with Torka Poet as the judge, and all-breed agility, as well as Barn Hunt, Canine Good Citizen, and Trick Dog on Saturday, May 6.

Scent Work will be offered on Sunday, May 7, at Frontier Park in Graham, Washington. Diane Porter and Sandra Tung will be judging. Frontier Park is a 71-acre park situated about 45 minutes from the host hotel. It has all the trappings of a big park—sports fields, restrooms, and playgrounds—but for hikers and walkers, the draw is the network of trails in the forest.

Scatter Creek, near Rochester, Washington, will be the site for the Hunt Test and Working Test on Monday, May 8. This beautiful area of 960 acres combines rare prairie wetlands and a large forested area. Alan Wilson will be one of the judges.

Conformation, obedience, and rally events will be held at the host hotel, the Olympia Hotel at Capitol Lake in Olympia, Washington. Set on 12 acres of lush woodland, it provides ample grassy areas to walk your dogs, as well as lakeside walking trails. The rooms are spacious, with laminate floors and beautiful views of the surrounding grounds. The Washington State Capitol Building, Capital Mall Olympia, and Heritage Park are only minutes away.

The Welcome Party will be at the host hotel on Monday, May 8.

Obedience, rally, and puppy and veteran sweepstakes will be at the host

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Mt. Ranier; Olympia Hotel

hotel on Tuesday, May 9. Our Sweepstakes judge is Virginia Cordes, of Maple Lawn English Cocker.

The obedience and rally judge is Debbie Addicoat. There will also be a health research update presented

by Dr Bruce Barrett, DVM.

Wednesday, May 10th will have the dog conformation classes and the 4–6 Months Puppy class. The conformation judge is Judy Corbett, of Jaybriar English Cocker. Judy was slated to judge the 2019 ECSCA national in Fallbrook, California, but was unable to come because of a health scare. We are so thrilled to welcome Judy in 2023!

Wednesday evening will have the fun and educational “Build a Dog,” where teams work with anatomically correct/or incorrect felt pieces to build the correct Cocker from head to toe. This fun and engaging process results in camaraderie, learning, and a few good laughs. This develops the eye as to what one is looking for in a correct silhouette.

The annual meeting will also be held on Wednesday, and we are working on adding an eye clinic as well.

Bitch classes will begin on

COURTESY OLYMPIA HOTEL



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Thursday. Thursday evening will have the annual banquet, with all of the year-end awards and our extremely fun auction. The auction is a major fundraiser for the ECSCA and an opportunity for the participants to acquire fabulous English Cocker items.

The national fun will culminate on Friday, with Junior Showmanship and the Best of Breed competition. It is such a wonderful opportunity to see some of the finest specimens in our breed, as well as to watch the juniors, whose participation is so important to the future of dog shows.

—Sally Rosenthal,
barristerec@att.net

[English Cocker Spaniel Club of America](#)

English Springer Spaniels

PERFECT! MATCHING PUPPIES TO OWNERS

Puppies! One big-boned, liver fellow tried to climb up my arm while I tried to reach in and pick

up the tiny, quiet girl in the corner of the puppy pen. Three little black girls were yanking on one fuzzy dinosaur with all the ferocity of band of tigers.

How can you look at a full-of-promise litter of pups and know which will fit in best with which owner? Breeder Laurin Howard, of Keswicke English Springer Spaniels, who has bred lovely pups for 34 years, performs a standardized puppy aptitude test on all her litters. She tests them at exactly 49 days of age, in a place unfamiliar to the pups and by a tester whom the pups have never met.

There are several well-known puppy aptitude/temperament tests. Wendy and Jack Volhard wrote about puppy testing in their books and taught the skill in their dog trainer camps. Joyce Guthrie's book *PAT Testing to Pick the perfect Puppy for Particular Puppy People With a Particular Purpose in Mind* (<https://www.amazon.com/PAT-pick>

[Testing-Pick-Perfect-Puppy/dp/1300049049](#)) offers forthright predictions for how and why one pup may be the couch potato a quiet adults-only family would love, but might not be the pup with desire and aptitude to go out into the field to leap, heel, or retrieve.

Standard aptitudes assessed are a pup's response for social attraction, following, restraint, social dominance, elevation dominance, retrieving, touch-sensitivity, and startle- and sight-sensitivity.

Howard performs all of those aptitude checks, plus one especially for her Springers: response to a bird wing. She laughs and says, "All Springer pups retrieve!"

Joyce Guthrie's "PAT" book addresses how to best identify a pup who needs the low startle- and pain-threshold of a service dog who may be rushed and prodded by strangers but also needs strong working and retrieving drive to work long hours

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and serve his human.

To test social attraction, Guthrie claps her hands a few feet from the pups and judges who comes and at what speed. She says, “If you are not fairly close to them, they will find something before they get to you that will grab their attention, and you will all but be lost in the new slurry of sights and smells. Many

times, what is interpreted as confidence or exuberance in a puppy is more a lack of self-control. A puppy that immediately comes and jumps up on you does not impress me. It is important to know the history behind how the litter has been raised.”

On all components of the tests, Guthrie reminds us to read the pup’s body

language to interpret his or her actions. Is his tail wagging? Is it tucked between his legs or is it carried high? Are the pup’s eyes soft? Or, are they worried, wide, with lots of white showing? Guthrie also stresses that if a pup has an unusual response—becomes rigid and will not perform, or offers a growl or his teeth—it is important to first rule out a health issue that could be causing pain or discomfort before the tiny pup is labeled difficult.

The aptitude for “following” a human, and body language during the interaction, tells so much about the pup’s desire to be with his human and his interest in doing things asked by his human. Guthrie points out, “The puppy who wags may always hesitate just for a moment at a first meeting but will warm up instantly upon seeing the situation/person is amenable. The puppy who does not wag will be hesitant and may or may not warm up to people or situations, even upon see-

DAVID WOO ©AKC



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ing everything is acceptable. They will always be a little suspicious. They will always take a little convincing to accept the situation/person as okay. Persistence is the key with these puppies, and establishing a strong relationship based on a trust. These can be wonderful companions and competitors, but not service or therapy dogs.”

For the sound-sensitivity test, Guthrie uses a metal spoon struck sharply on a metal pan twice, from a few feet away. Guthrie is most concerned to see if the pup registers a startle response from which he quickly recovers. She offers tips for recognizing the pup who may be too bold, explaining, “The puppy who walks to the sound and barks at it tends to be the brave but stupid one in the crowd. This is the ‘act first, think later’ type of puppy. These are the bold puppies, but they need to be reined in from time to time. They tend to lack self-control, so are impulsive and do need

lessons in self-control right from the start or they will become the terrors of the neighborhood, especially if a strong prey-drive goes along with this.”

“The puppy who ignores the sound either doesn’t want to investigate on their own—is used to relying on its littermates to make the first move. These are the more analytical puppies. They will stop to think before forging ahead. Puppies that run like hell at the slightest noise are a challenge.”

Breeder Nancy Johnson (Wedgewood) found that the “startle/noise sensitivity test is the one test item that pups are least likely to outgrow. Desensitizing and confidence training may not change this pup’s sound sensitivity as he matures.”

Guthrie’s experience has shown that “strong sight-sensitivity responses indicate a strong prey drive. This is a puppy that would never do well in a home with a novice dog owner or a home with

small children. This is a mistake I see most often make that lands many dogs in shelters.”

Whether the pup will retrieve a crumpled ball of paper, Guthrie sees as a “high correlation between ability to retrieve and successful service dogs, obedience dogs, and field trial dogs. “

This brilliant and honestly written book is a great addition to every dog reading library. —2018

—Sarah A. Ferrell,
saf@abrohamneal.com,

Locust Grove, Virginia
[English Springer Spaniel Field Trial Assoc.](#)

Field Spaniels

HIGH EXPECTATIONS AND FALLING SHORT OF STANDARDS

I have been guilty of confusing the idea that lowering my expectations is lowering my standards. For many of us, professionally or by activity, *standards* is a loaded term in which we envision perfection to be

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strived for, whereas it truly means a level by which something is measured. In reality, it is a set of criteria that is universally accepted. I certainly hope heads are nodding that we produce dogs who “meet the breed standard.”

As someone who wants to grow and be the best they can be, realignment of thinking and actions to support effective communication and subsequent emotions must occur in order to make sense of these concepts.

I find myself thinking, “I want to exceed the standard and meet expectations,” which is clearly unrealistic. What does it mean? That, psychologically speaking, we want to be the “best”? That we will improve and impress and go “above and beyond”? And do what? Create the uberdog?

The reality is that perfection does not and never will exist. A Field Spaniel breed standard does exist as a real and tangible set of



Field Spaniels Brigadier of Mittina and Flowering May of Mittina with Richard Squires, 1968

criteria to breed towards. We won't wow judges, fanciers, or puppy buyers by going *extreme*. We can achieve greatness in breeding to the standard.

As an AKC parent breed club, we have control over

a standard. Changes have occurred over the years. (I discussed the old point system in a previous article.) Standards are always open to judges' interpretations as things stand today, with no point system, and no

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disqualifying faults. The current standard is a written description. By word or deed, it is a level that is set by our own definition, and it can be achieved through personal effort. If I choose to adopt a specific standard in my life, I can alter my behavior, production, or thinking to meet or exceed that level.

Can one fall short of a standard? Absolutely.

Expectations, on the other hand, are fictitious by nature or at least not the known entity, commonly accepted.

I see how these separate concepts can be confused. Still with me? Semantics aside, my logic applies to our dogs, our goals, our breeding programs, and conduct in dog activities.

I had always felt that I was proud to have “high standards and great expectations,” but I can see that it is possible to maintain a set standard while understanding that many things, situations, and even individuals will disappoint if

expectations are too high.

All of this boils down to “living to a standard, communicating the expectation.”

I have come to accept that, while not easy, it is possible to have high standards but lowered expectations. This seems a difficult formula, as it can lead to frustration in day-to-day life, but it is necessary to avoid disappointment.

Achieving clarity in definitions as they relate to our world is not only our responsibility, but our reality.

So in revisiting the breed standard, we find verbiage describing the acceptable characteristics. The word *moderate* appears in our standard 10 times, and our breed is quite “medium” and middle-of-the-road in many respects.

No AKC standards mention that the dog should have four legs, two eyes, one nose, and one tail, because these are assumed characteristics. Some will declare faults to be penalized, and many have beautiful descriptions of our

dogs’ physical attributes—the hallmarks and characteristics that make a breed unique. Many descriptors create the image of the ideals in parts, and in movement, temperament, colors, markings, and patterns.

What is it we do in dogs that “ups the ante,” so to speak—that creates that *je ne sais quoi* we are wanting so badly? Ring presence? Drive? Heart?

That answer lies within each one of us—knowing what we look for in the bond. I know I love size, bone, and substance. I adore a gorgeous head. My Fields have lovely temperaments and work with me in numerous disciplines. We want that whole package—health, type, balance, and structure, along with biddability and working ability—and it is that individual character, that particular dog or bitch who just “*does it for you.*”

So we go on. We breed to the standard. We also set our own expectations in terms of what we will and

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won't accept, what we are after, and how our hopes and dreams are shaped. We needn't settle for less; our dogs are much too deserving of our attentions.

Have a great year, everybody! Hug your dogs!

—Shannon Rodgers

[Field Spaniel Society of America](#)

Irish Water Spaniels

FINDING AN IRISH WATER SPANIEL

When I graduated from college, I began looking for an Irish Water Spaniel. I had never met one, but I was intrigued by the breed's quirky appearance and personality, and a statement I read in a book: "Once you have one, you will have no other breed."

In those days, finding an Irish Water Spaniel was not easy. I obtained a list of breeders from the secretary of the Irish Water Spaniel Club of America (IWSCA), and I wrote a letter to each one and hoped they were expect-

ing puppies and would sell one to me. It wasn't a given. Irish Water Spaniel breeders do not breed often, and they seek to place every puppy in a great home with the same care as if they were finding new homes for their children. I still have the responses I received, typed or written in longhand on beautiful stationery with exquisite IWS kennel logos.

I was fortunate to connect with a breeder with a litter who was three hours away.

Not much has changed in 40 years. We are still a rare breed. Over the last nine years, we have had an average of 18 litters registered each year. To get an Irish Water Spaniel, you need to be flexible and patient and contact as many breeders as you can and get your name

Irish Water Spaniel



ISABELLE FRANCAIS FOR AKC



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on their lists as a prospective puppy owner. The breeders will keep in touch with you as their planned litters turn into reality. They will be happy to answer your questions about health testing, and parentage, and help you figure out if an Irish Water Spaniel is right for you. Most people have to travel to obtain an IWS puppy. Up to about 10 weeks, they can fit in an under-seat carrier on an airplane. Alternatively, some breeders are willing to ship. You can Skype to see the puppies and the parents and even to select a pup.

Keep a record of whom you contact. We have a wonderful breed, and they are worth waiting for.

—Dana Louttit, President, IWSCA

louttit.dana@gmail.com
[Irish Water Spaniel Club of America](#)

Sussex Spaniels

2022 NATIONAL SPECIALTY

The Sussex Spaniel Club of America 2022 National Specialty was held

in September in Olympia, Washington. Pat Shaw put on an unforgettable show. It was lovely that so many exhibitors came from clear across the country for this event. I flew out without dogs, to judge sweepstakes, and thoroughly enjoyed myself.

While the shows,—the national, plus four shows by the Pacific Northwest Sussex Spaniel Club—were well done and well attended, my favorite part was the Judges' Seminar and hands-on. Dee Duffy (always a star!) and I conducted the seminar. We had a small turnout of actual judges—which was sad, as it was a great opportunity for West Coast judges to attend, but the best part was that over 25 club members and exhibitors filtered in after we started.

Dee and I immediately altered the seminar to include aspects of the breed including breeding and showing as well as judging. We have done

this before. The questions were good, the comments were good, and everyone thoroughly enjoyed themselves! It was a very educational event, and so many people came and told Dee and me how much they appreciated it.

Everyone should try to come to your club's national. It is wonderful to meet new people, enjoy being with old friends, and see a great number of dogs, and it is the most educational Sussex experience of the year.

This will be a short column, as we had a hurricane here in Florida a few days ago, and phone and internet are unreliable.

Our next national will be held in Nashville, Tennessee, in October 2023. Trailer shows will be the Tri-Star Kennel Club. Sue Caniff is in charge and will do her usual wonderful job. Please try to join us!

—Marcia Deugan,
ZIYADAHreg@aol.com
[Sussex Spaniel Club of America](#)

BREED COLUMNS

SPORTING GROUP



The Sussex Spaniel Club of America held its 2022 national specialty in Olympia, Washington, with many exhibitors coming from clear across the country for the event. Best of Breed was GCh. Clussex Separates Le Mans From Le Boys, owned by Jeane Haverick, Kaileigh Gonzalez, Pluis Davern, and Juliet Clendenon.

COURTESY OWNERS/SSCA

BREED COLUMNS

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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 third and final portion presented in the AKC GAZETTE.

INTERVIEW WITH BETTY

CUMMINGS PART THREE

Betty and Ned's First Kennel

AL: You and Ned had a kennel on Long Island, and you had something like 24 Newfs?

Betty Cummings (BC): I had 24 Newfs in residence.

AL: And things were getting too built up, so you moved to ...

BC: Well, before they got too built up, we had an immediate neighbor, but they liked the dogs.

When they built their



Welsh Springer Spaniel cigarette card

house and they moved in, I went over a week after they had been there and asked them were my dogs in any way disturbing them. And they said, “No, not at all. We enjoy watching them.” The husband worked nights, slept days. And I thought, “Oh, God, he sleeps days!” He said, “But I love to eat breakfast and watch the dogs.” So I said, “Thank you. If they ever disturb you, let me know, please.”

But there I was, with Newfoundlands, Golden retrievers, Keeshonds—whatever happened to be in, being shown. A Bull Terrier whom I loved dearly.

Margaret Hilliard

(MH): A Bull Terrier?

BC: Yes, she came from California. A colored Bull Terrier, and her name was Sacagawea, and we called her Sacky.

MH: Well, Sacagawea would be quite a mouthful.

BC: It was. But when I was annoyed with her, she became Sacagawea.

Betty and Ned Move to Upstate New York

AL: I asked you when you moved upstate, how did you move all the 24 Newfies? And you had other dogs.

MH: How many dogs roughly, altogether?



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BC: We moved 32 dogs that day, and a horse and a pony.

MH: I can barely get myself and one dog to a show.

BC: Oh, that was easy. The horse van pulled up...

AL: You had a friend who had a horse van?

BC: Yes. Well, it was the place owned by Harry Greer where we used to board Gep, our horse. And he left the big moving-van trailer overnight—not one of these little, tiny horse trailers. So, we loaded all the crates and everything pertaining to the kennel in the trailer the night before, except putting the dogs on. They went straight out of the kennel into the crates, and then the pony got on, because he lived at home; and Harry came to pick us up at nine o'clock with the tractor and hooked on. And we went down and picked up the horse, then we were on our way upstate.

AL: How many stalls did the van have?

BC: (*counting on her fingers*) I think it had three, six, twelve closed stalls.

MH: Didn't you have a bitch in whelp when you were doing this?

BC: Yes, I had a bitch in whelp, a Newfoundland bitch. She was due to whelp in three days. So, I packed my little bag and put a whole lot of hay down in one of the separate stalls, just in case. And Harry said, "What's that for?" I said, "Well, I've got a bitch due to whelp in three days." He said, "What do I do?" I said, "Keep driving! I'll whelp." And he kept driving.

Well, we got on the New York Thruway, and all of a sudden, he pulls over. And I thought, "Oh, my God, I hope the trailer's not breaking down! This is what I don't need." And he comes back, and he said, "There's no noise in here. Are you all right?" I said, "There's not supposed to be any noise in here. Everything's fine. The bitch isn't whelping yet. Drive on." So, he

gets back up in the truck and he drives on.

—Wendy J. Jordan,
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Welsh Springer Spaniel Club of America

Spinoni Italiani

THE SPINONE ITALIANO—IN A NUTSHELL!

First of all, the name of the breed is *Spinone*, and never, never, ever *Spumoni*. It is bad enough to hear "Spumoni" from folks hearing the name of our breed for the first time, but to hear judges say "Spumoni" is incredibly disappointing. And no, it is not funny.

The Spinone Italiano is an all-purpose gundog. He is primarily a pointer, but he also flushes and retrieves. The breed hunts upland game birds and waterfowl, and in some parts of Europe he is still used for rabbit and fox. The Spinone is considered a "feather and fur" hunting dog.

The Spinone is a robust



Spinone Italiano

dog, as in rawboned, with depth of chest and spring of rib; as in heavily built and husky, but never robust due to being overweight.

The build of a Spinone is square, or almost square. To be specific, a Spinone is as long as they are tall, from the point of sternum to the point of the buttocks and from the ground to the withers, with an inch of forgiveness in length.

The Spinone has a unique head, with its diverging head and

muzzle planes that allow the nose to naturally point downward to catch scent while still looking forward so the dog can see where he is going. A Spinone should be allowed to carry his head naturally as he moves out. As such, a Spinone is to be exhibited on a loose lead. Stringing a Spinone's head up defeats the purpose of the breed's distinct head and nose.

The head is long and lean, with an oval skull that tapers at the sides and a prominent occipital protuberance. The muzzle should be square when looking straight, on versus the triangular shape of many of the hound breeds. A classic Roman nose is desirable. Think about Michelangelo's sculpture of David—classic!

A Spinone has an almost humanlike eye. The eyes are yellowish-brown, with the darker eye on darker-colored Spinone and the lighter eye on lighter-

colored Spinone.

“That nose!” and “Those paws!” are often-heard exclamations from people first meeting a Spinone. The nose is large, bulbous, and spongy, and the paws are large yet compact.

No, a Spinone is not “swaybacked,” as we Spinone folk have heard so many times. The Spinone topline has a break at the 11th thoracic vertebrae, about six inches behind the withers. If you can't see the break, then feel for it—it's there!

After the break, the second section of topline rises into a solid loin. The hipbones then fall away from the spinal column at an angle of about 30 degrees, with the tail following the line of the croup. A Spinone's tail is carried horizontally or down, never up. Do not think a Spinone is not a happy dog because his tail is not up—far from it!

A Spinone is different from so many other breeds in that he has shoulders that form approximately a 105-degree angle, pasterns

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that are slightly slanted, moderate bend of stifle, and long hocks that are one-third of the length of the rear leg. Speaking of hocks, a Spinone's hocks are also straight and perpendicular to the ground, as cowhocks are a fault.

The skin is thick, and the coat is harsh and wiry, and the skin and coat are a main part of what the breed is all about. The name Spinone comes from the Italian word *spino*, which translates to “thorn.” The Spinone's coat allows the dog to get through heavy, thick brush, particularly brush that has sharp, slicing knifelike needles or the ever-so-sticky little seeds, as his coat either glides right through or the coat pulls out, staying with the brush rather than the brush coming with the Spinone. That is also why there is no undercoat on a Spinone; there is nothing soft and downy to catch and hold them in the brush.

The Spinone's coat

should not be soft and fluffy and long, nor should it be tight to the skin. The ideal coat is one-and-half to two-and-a-half inches in length, with a tolerance of a half-inch under or a half-inch over the designated length. Measure out two inches, say, with your thumb. Two inches is right in the middle of the one-and-half to two-and-a-half-inch coat length per the breed standard. Two inches it is not as short nor as long as most seem to think, based on what is being exhibited in the show ring. The legs should form a rough, brushy column, never with any long, floppy fringes—that is, no fluffy, puffy legs.

The Spinone is the ultimate wash-and-wear dog and should remain in a natural state with just occasional brushing and hand-stripping. Yes, he does have to be groomed in order to keep that natural look, and stripping helps keep a correct coat harsh and wiry. A Spinone

should never be scissored. To scissor a Spinone coat results in a soft, thick coat that defeats the entire purpose of the dog's hunting abilities in harsh and brushy terrain. No excessive grooming and no scissoring does not mean no grooming at all.

As a hardworking gun dog, the Spinone has an easy, pounding trot that goes the distance—never fast, but easy and determined. With his solid underline and minimal tuck-up, a Spinone was not built for speed. Picture in your mind the terrain of the Spinone's land of origin: northwest Italy. This hunting dog hunted on the foothills and mountainsides of the Italian Alps (think mountain goat) and down low in the swampy, thick marshes at the base of the mountains. Speed was not required. A strong, substantial, and unhurried yet steady-going dog was needed, and that was the Spinone.

Overall, the Spinone is a hunting dog who is not high octane, who will put food on



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your table, and who when not in the field loves to be on the sofa right next to you. — *Daina B. Hodges, 2018*

[Spinone Club of America](#)

Vizslas

VIZSLAS RAISING THE BAR WITH LOWER PENNHIP SCORES

The Vizsla Club of America recently voted to recognize PennHIP (Pennsylvania Hip Improvement Program) to evaluate hip health in our breeding stock. OFA (Orthopedic Foundation for Animals) had been the gold standard since 1966, until PennHIP was established in 1990. The Golden Retrievers jumped right in, with approximately 25,000 dogs logging results. The Vizslas are relatively new to it, with about 1,300 dogs in the system.

So why do we need another means to evaluate hip health? In the opinion of Ken Bruner, DVM, Vizslas are beyond where

OFA can take them. That's because OFA improved hip health by just eliminating the really bad. Now we can embrace new evaluation methods and take our breed to the next level.

In Vizslas, our average dog has above-average hip health when compared to many other sporting breeds. The breed has a nickname, "the versatile Vizsla," and we're seeing a lot more of them in sporting activities. Our canine athletes aren't showing for just a few years and moving on or working in the field for a few months during the season. Today's Vizsla is out competing year-round in a variety of activities and well into their senior years.

Our dogs are getting regular use, and the structure, health, and longevity of our lines are what we would certainly like to preserve, if not improve. As we've watched the human medical industry improve over the last 56 years, we've also seen improvement in

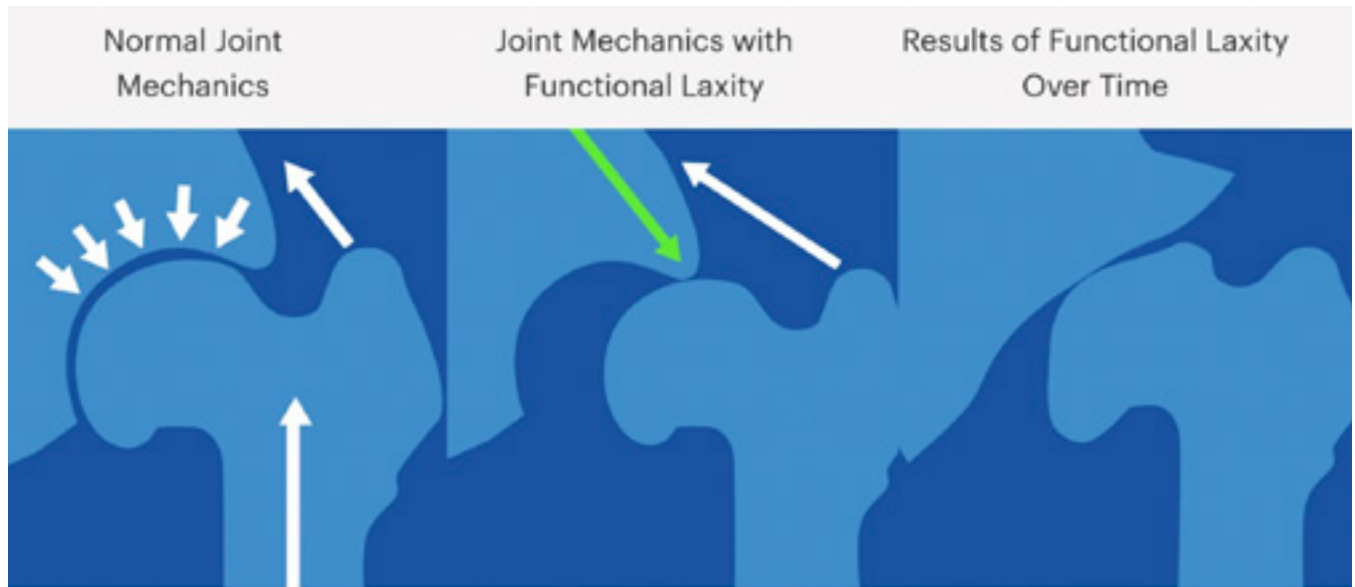
the canine medical field. PennHIP has a more objective evaluation. OFA offers a good skeletal screening with one view; PennHIP has the same skeletal evaluation but also measures the laxity of the joint with two more views.

The cause of joint laxity is a loose femoral-head ligament that doesn't hold the ball tightly in the cup of the hip joint. Over time, if it's loose, the bone will move around and wear out the hip pocket, in turn causing dysplasia. A taut femoral-head ligament will keep the hip joint up in the pocket and not allow it to wear down.

PennHIP measures that ligament and gives the hip a score between 0 and 1. Essentially, it's a percentage of how far the hip bone will move out of the pocket. A score of 0.30 (or 30%) movement out of the pocket is considered a tight hip not likely to develop arthritis. Vizslas' current average is 0.40 (or 40%). By comparison,

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Over time, functional hip laxity results in erosion of the femoral head and flattening of the acetabulum. (Illustration courtesy Antech Imaging Services)

Goldens' average is 0.56 (or 56%) movement out of the pocket. Looking at the numbers, it appears that Vizslas are doing pretty well, but we have the opportunity to improve with this newer science.

An OFA Excellent grade bred to another OFA Excellent can produce dysplasia if those two Excellents have loose femoral ligaments. Those loose ligaments will allow even initially good skeletal structure to wear out over time. One thing breeders need to be cognizant of is not

just breeding individuals to individuals but considering the litter's average PennHIP scores. The more dogs tested from a litter, the more information you'll have about your actual average. If you have three dogs in a litter, one with 0.25, one with 0.30, and one with 0.35, your litter average will be 0.30. PennHIP recommends breeding only those Vizslas testing lower than today's breed average of 0.40. If we can place higher selection pressure on breeders to breed dogs with better-than-average

PennHIP scores, it will equate to rapid genetic change per generation.

With the VCA standing up and encouraging their breeders to take the extra step and seek more hip-health information, we could be looking at improving our breed even more in the next generations. It's an exciting time, and I personally can't wait to see what my next few generations produce.

—Jamie Walton,
jamie@professionaldesign.org

Vizsla Club of America



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Weimaraners

IT'S A SLIPPERY SLOPE

What an innocent you were. All you wanted was a healthy, happy Weimaraner puppy. How adorable the puppies were when you first visited the litter—a pile of gray fur-balls, cuter than any stuffed toy, playing and tumbling on still-uncoordinated, pudgy legs. You were hooked.

Little did you know that your life was about to change in so many ways.

The breeder asks if you wanted to get involved in dog sports. You'd never thought about it, but it sounded like a great hobby for you and your future dog. An offer of mentorship by the breeder cinches the deal. It's something to explore with your brand-new puppy. What could be better?

Then you're told about something called Puppy Kindergarten, where your puppy gets to play with others and gets a little basic training. Who knew? You'd never heard of it before, but

it sounds like such a logical and fun thing to do. You enjoy the class, meet other dog people, and before you know it you sign up for the next, more advanced puppy-training class.

You drive off to your classes, having a good old time, but you notice that the car that was “just big enough” for your dog's crate is getting very cluttered with all the dog equipment that you've somehow accumulated. How can one little puppy have so many things? You've been thinking about a new, bigger vehicle, and the puppy and all his stuff pushes you over the buying edge.

Your breeder encourages you to come out and try some field work. “Let's see if your puppy is birdy.” Ah, a chance to get into the great outdoors and let the puppy try what he was bred to do. Now that could be fun too. Being an average puppy, with average instincts, the little twerp produces a shaky point at

the sight of his first bird, and you marvel at your puppy who is obviously the smartest, most talented, most beautiful dog in the world. Oh, that hook is being set even deeper.

You are dazzled by your puppy and the enthusiasm from your breeder. Your life has opened up to a world you never knew existed. The breeder's suggestion to take your puppy to a dog show stops you in your tracks for a moment. You already know that you have the most wonderful Weimaraner that ever existed—but a dog show? That's a huge nudge out of your comfort zone. You don't know the first thing about it. You've only seen dog shows on TV. Would it even be a possibility for your puppy?

A little encouragement and a bit of “arm-twisting” from your breeder, and you send in your first entry. To prepare you get signed up for some handling classes, read some books, watch a few videos, groom your dog, and meet the breeder

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at a show.

Although you've seen dog shows on TV, the live experience is a sporting event unlike anything you've experienced before. All these "dog people" gathered together with breeds that range from the familiar to the exotic. There's a hustle and bustle, and you get the impression that everyone (except you) knows what to do and where to go. You find your ring number, and thank goodness you find the friendly face of your breeder. The excited, welcoming conversation is peppered

with terms and jargon that only a veteran of dog shows could understand. You do a lot of nodding and try to follow what you've been told to do.

The time has come to show your puppy, and you fumble but make it around the ring. The judge is businesslike and seems to understand you're greener than the grass and more confused than your puppy.

It's over before you know it, and you leave the ring on shaking knees with a ribbon in hand. Little did you know that little piece of

silky cloth was your passport into the world of dog sports.

Have you identified with this description? Is it how you got started? Remember to give a helping hand to the next newbie you encounter, so they too can enjoy our world that is so enriched by our dogs.

Dogs have a way of changing your life, and almost always for the better.

—Carole Lee Richards,
zarasweimaraners@yahoo.com

[Weimaraner Club of America](#)

WORKING GROUP

Akitas

HISTORY IS MADE!

The Akita Club of America national specialty was held in October in beautiful Virginia Beach, Virginia. One very special veteran, Gabby, stamped her performance in the rally ring and made history for our breed.

Gabby earned the first AKC Rally Champion title for an Akita. The RACH (pronounced “rock”) is the highest AKC Rally title, requiring 20 triple-qualifying scores in Advanced, Excellent, and Masters. Also required are 300 championship points earned by high scores. Not an easy feat.

Gabby put on a beautiful performance in the rally ring. She qualified in all three required classes—tough classes, all off lead. The weather was less than perfect, with temps in the high 90s and high humidity. The rally ring was set up in a tent on a tennis court. It was *hot!* But nearly-11-year-old Gabby

strutted her stuff to the adoring crowd. She knew the applause was for her, and she smiled at her fans.

Congratulations to owner Barbara Sikkink and Gabby for their history-making performance, and for sharing that performance with all of us in attendance.

Gabby’s official name with all her numerous AKC titles is RACH Minda & Midnite the Gods Have Spoken, CDX, BN, GN, RM4, RAE3, FDC, OAP, NJP, CA, SCN, SIN, SBN, TT, THD, RATO, DN, CGCA, CGCU, TKE, ATT, VSWI.

There were numerous rally exhibitors entered in the Novice A and B classes. Many were in the Novice A class, which is where the real beginners start. Judge Betsy Horn Humer was one of their biggest supporters. Her courses were challenging but fun. Many of the teams earned qualifying scores and were greeted with loud applause from the crowd.

One of those Novice A participants was my hus-

band Frank and his dog Heat. I wrote about Frank in a previous column, where Frank was just learning the rules of sportsmanship. He learned quick, and the “no swearing rule” was followed. Frank and Heat earned their very first title together. Frank also watched each team and supported all with loud clapping. Sportsmanship was exhibited by all in attendance.

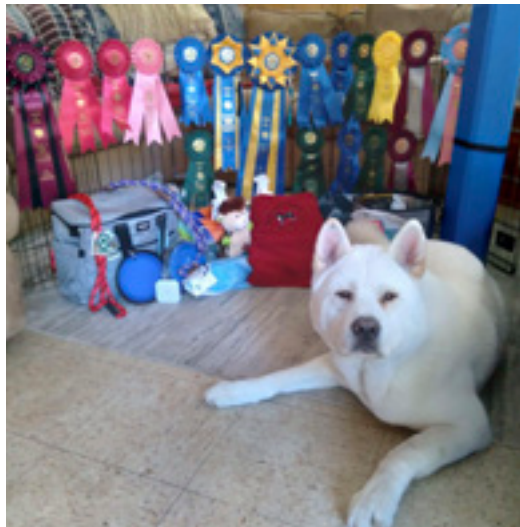
Obedience was also offered in the very hot tent. The heat did not stop one team from earning High in Trial at the pre-national and national. Kaizen’s Vanilla Wrapper, FDC, CGCA, CGCU, TKN, VHMA, earned both awards. Vanilla also earned her CD, PCD, and RN titles. Congratulations to her owners Janet Yates, Elea Warf, and Angel Swift.

Canine Good Citizen tests were offered, along with Tricks testing. The following passed their tests: Janice Jones, with Bliss and Eno; Jane Yates, with

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Upper left: Veteran Akita Gabby with her owner, Barbara Sikkink, having earned the breed's first RACH title. Also pictured are Frank and Heat, top center, and other happy participants at the breed's national.

Tonka T; Katrina Vaughn, with Adrienne; and Michael Gardner, with Marty, who also earned his RN.

Special thanks to Deb Karfs for the awesome

bags given to each performance exhibitor containing homemade treats for the nervous exhibitors and lots of goodies for their special Akitas.

COURTESY OWNERS AND AKITA CLUB OF AMERICA

WORKING GROUP

—Linda Wolf,
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The Akita Club of
America

Alaskan Malamutes

RAVEN SAVES THE SUN: AN INUIT FOLKTALE

We have recently passed the Winter Solstice and the darkest days of winter. Each day sees the sun arc a bit higher in the sky, and each week brings more daylight and blesses us with the promise of spring.

The Inuit people of North America, with their rich oral traditions, inspire us once more with this marvelous story of Raven, the clever trickster, and how he saved the Inuit and brought back the sun once more. So please enjoy this timeless folktale for the Winter Solstice, and share it with someone you love!

Raven: Trickster and Changeling

“The evil wizard Tupilak had a pair of magic shoes

that allowed him to move a great distance with one single step. These shoes allowed him to walk up to the sky and cut a hole in it. He moved his wife into that hole so they could have privacy. His wife disliked their new home in the sky because she had no neighbors, so he gave her a child to care for. Still, she was unhappy because there was no light and it was always cold. So Tupilak returned to this side of the sky, where he captured the sun and the moon, tied them into bags, and knotted them with strong sinew.

“At first, this darkness suited the Raven, for he liked to nap. Eventually, the lack of light made the people of the earth weak, for no food would grow in the darkness. The people came to Raven and beseeched his assistance. Once he understood what was happening, he knew it was the work of his old foe, Tupilak.

Raven Finds Tupilak’s Lair

“Raven went soaring

across the dark, freezing sky until he found the hole in the sky that Tupilak had gone through. The sun was blazing bright on the other side of the sky. Raven found Tupilak enjoying the heat and called him out. Tupilak laughed at the trickster, saying it took one thief to find another. The old wizard refused to give up the sun and told Raven to return to the darkness.

“Raven watched Tupilak’s little world until one day he saw Tupilak’s daughter out walking. Knowing what he must do to gain access to Tupilak’s home, he balled up his raven cloak and turned himself into a feather, casting himself into the stream where she drew forth her drinking water. Sometime later, she birthed a strong baby boy who was, of course, the Raven himself.

“His grandparents and mother doted on the child, refusing him nothing except the bags that contained the sun and the moon. Every time he

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reached for one of these bags which hung from the rafters, He was denied. Eventually, the baby would not take no for an answer. Finally the daughter of Tupilak talked her own mother into letting the baby play with the bags. So, when Tupilak went out, the baby’s mother brought down the bag containing the moon and gave it to her son to play with.

“Mother and daughter enjoyed the sweet silence of the contented child, but the minute their attention was diverted, Raven released the moon which bumped along the sky until it found Tupilak’s hole and then escaped back to the world.

Raven Brings the Sun Back to the People

“Tupilak returned, for he had seen the moon escape. He was angry, but then the baby greeted him with such happiness at the sight of the old wizard, Tupilak was unable to stay angry. Raven waited until Tupilak was snoring in sleep before he

demanded the bag containing the sun. The women were careful this time—they double-knotted the bag before handing it over. Raven was unable to open it with his uncoordinated little baby hands. It was

time to steal away, gather up his Raven feather cloak and return to his true form. He escaped through the hole in the sky where the humans had started to get used to being in the light of the moon once more. Now



Alaskan Malamute

COURTESY LYNDA BEAM



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they rejoiced in the light of the sun. Each year at this time, Tupilak re-emerges and tries to steal the sun back, but Raven always saves it and brings it back to our people.”

Wishing all of you and your marvelous dogs the very best in the New Year!

—Phyllis I. Hamilton,
benchmark1946@gmail.com

[Alaskan Malamute Club of America](#)

Anatolian Shepherd Dogs

This month we continue a three-part series on raising Anatolian pups, which began in the October 2022 issue.

RAISING ANATOLIAN PUPS, PART TWO: AGE 2 WEEKS TO 6 WEEKS

The volume of poop and pee the pups produce greatly increases after they have turned 2 weeks. I hate moving them outside because I feel they are safer inside with me. However, they are either Anatolians,

or they aren't! It is important for them to hear, smell, and see the environment in which they were bred for thousands of years to live and thrive. I bite the bullet and take the pups outside by the time they are 3 weeks old.

When I move them outside, I begin offering them mushy high-quality, large breed, grain-free puppy food. To prepare the puppy food, I add water and heat it in the microwave. I let it sit in the microwave undisturbed until all the water is absorbed and when it is stirred it has no hard parts (about 30 minutes). I add goat's milk (*never cow's milk—ever*) just before I offer the mush to the pups.

As they get older, I let the food be more solid and less mushy. I also include duck eggs, shredded cheese, and a very small amount (a teaspoon or less daily for the entire litter) of raw liver mashed almost to a liquid. Whatever amount of puppy food the pups don't eat, I give to their mom

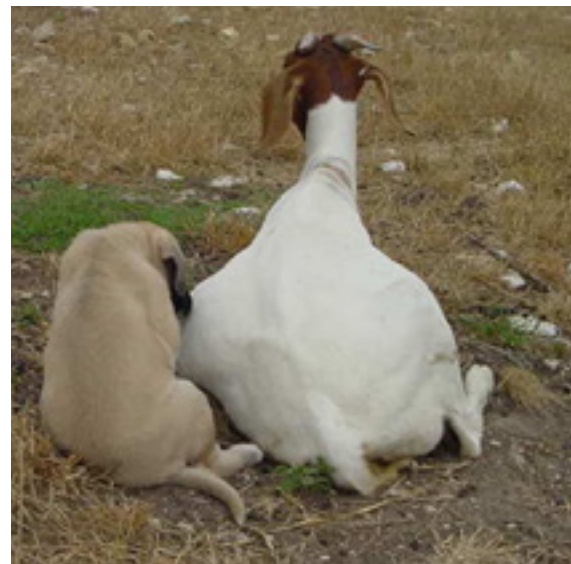
to finish so their food is always freshly made. Liver is powerful, so feed liver in moderation. If you give too much, it will loosen their stools. When they stop liking it, I stop feeding it.

In my small barn I have two runs separated by a 20-foot x 6-foot horse panel. I place the pups and their mom in the barn on one side. The goats have the other side, with a salt feeder to keep them coming by occasionally. On the puppy side, I set up empty mineral-supplement tubs, creating a physical barrier with spaces that can easily be walked through. That leaves another 10 feet to the gate at the end of the run. I close that gate for the first three days. I want to be certain the pup's mom doesn't decide to move her litter somewhere else!

Besides the goats in this small four-acre pasture, I keep Indian Runner ducks in a pen beside the small barn. As the pups age I let them out, but only when I'm right there to supervise.

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Top: Lucky Hit's Shadow Kasif (Case) keeping company with the goats as a young pup. Case would grow up to be the top producing Anatolian male for 2009 and 2011 and designated a Sire of Merit, siring 11 champions. He lived to 13 1/2 years guarding his animals in the big pasture, including driving off and killing a large male mountain lion with his mom and several other 14-month-old pups. Bottom: Anatolian Shepherd dam Beton—with her pups, and taking a break a short distance away. The primary selection criteria for all Anatolians must be superior working ability, the essence of the breed.

COURTESY ERICK CONARD

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I also have the pup's dad (or another young male I'm testing for nurturing ability) and two or three young females. These dogs create a pack environment for the pups.

On their fourth day in the run, I open the gate. Excellent mothers teach the goats and the dogs that they are not allowed past the gate. An especially protective and nurturing male will spend hours lying down at the gate watching over the pups, seeing just how close to the pups the female will allow him to go.

For almost a week the pups don't go past the mineral tub "barrier." But they don't like pooping near where they live, and they move a bit further each time they poop.

At about 3 weeks their nails might be too long and sharp. When they fight over a nipple, they might be making small scratches there, causing the dam to want to get away from her nursing pups. Since I want my pups to

nurse as long as possible, I begin trimming their nails weekly, being extra careful to never, ever quick them. They won't forget it if you do!

I worm the pups and their mom when the pups are 2 weeks old. I worm them every two weeks after that. Initially, I use pyrantel pamoate (usually one ml for each 10 pounds of body weight—or better, as indicated by your vet). Pyrantel pamoate is an effective dewormer if your dog has hookworms, roundworms, or stomach worms, but it will not effectively treat whipworms or tapeworms. Pyrantel is safe to use in puppies that are at least 2 weeks old and in pregnant or nursing mothers, but do not overdose.

By 4 weeks the pups are coming out into the lane, and occasionally they move past the gate. An excellent male lies down quietly and allows the pups to come to him to play. If a pup cries out, the dam immediately rushes to the pup to pro-

vide any needed protection. The behavior males exhibit with young pups is similar to the behavior those males exhibit when surrounded by young kids.

When dealing with pups this age, I expect my males to lie quietly while the pups play around them. Calm enjoyment of the puppies is behavior that I believe demonstrates the best nurturing working behavior. Of course, if a breeder is afraid their males can't be trusted with puppies, those males probably can't be trusted with young kids either! I believe that any Anatolian that can't be trusted with puppies should never be bred. I place a male and several females with my pups and their dam with every litter.

When the pup encounters a goat, the goat generally tilts its head, and the pup, no matter how young, drops to the ground and lies very still until the goat no longer pays attention to the pup. This is a correct response for an Anatolian

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pup. Watching the pups interact with the goats, I learn a great deal about the type of future guardian the pup will become.

In addition, with each interaction the pup's working genetics are being reinforced (as long as the sheep and/or goats you have with your pups are excellent training animals). The pups must never be with goats or sheep that are either bullies or cowards. Bullies teach a young pup that it needs to be very aggressive toward its charges to keep them under control. Cowards, by running away, incorrectly teach a young pup that their charges enjoy play. Selection of training animals is under your control. Observe the interactions daily and make changes immediately the moment the interactions are incorrect.

This article will continue in the April 2023 issue.

—Erick Conard, Lucky Hit Ranch, erickcon@icloud.com

[Anatolian Shepherd Dog Club of America](#)

Bernese Mountain Dogs

ARE YOU INTO CLUBBING?

Do you belong to a dog club? With the new year comes dues. Each year when dues are due, I evaluate the place my current clubs have in my life. All-breed, Berner clubs, training clubs, and freestyle clubs ... each club has its purpose and personality. Each helps me be active in a different facet of dog activities. I really enjoy teamwork, and I get excited with the synergy.

I ran a very unofficial yet

interesting survey to discover reasons people do or do not join clubs. The general comments on why they are part of Berner clubs included meeting people, to join activities, and education. Many said that regional clubs held wonderful social events and provided networking opportunities. Those in training clubs were appreciative of the expertise available. All said they rely on their dog friendships to enrich the good days, and be supportive in the bad.



Bernese Mountain Dog puppy

COURTESY MARJORIE GEIGER



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Clubs do require input from each of us to survive and thrive. Is your club inviting new people? Does it have a welcoming environment? Clubs can be wonderful places to develop professional experience and build leadership skills (and add this to your resume!).

I have enjoyed seeing my network of friends expand. Some of my favorite memories were created while setting up dog shows and working at events. Being a pole-setter at an agility trial is a stress-free assignment, and yet is so helpful and important.

Many other jobs help to develop and sharpen skills through club activities. Participating in a club allows an opportunity to broaden and improve teamwork skills in a diverse population. One of the important attributes is the opportunity to see objectives from other perspectives, while reaching for a common goal.

The BMDCA website

(<https://www.bmdca.org/>) is a treasure trove of Berner information. Are you a member? One new feature is the online membership application. Membership in the BMDCA offers the following benefits:

- A subscription to *The Alpenhorn* (the BMDCA's official breed magazine), along with the BMDCA monthly *Bulletin* newsletter, which provides vital information on Bernese health, education, and activities.

- Access to a larger network of Berner owners.

- Access to a larger platform for support of the Berner-Garde Foundation DNA Tissue and Repository at the Michigan State University, to improve the health and longevity of our Berners.

- BMDCA Breed Ambassadors and Breeder Mentor Programs.

The BMDCA also offers events and programs, such as:

- Support for our regional club rescues

- A yearly national specialty, which includes conformation, companion, performance, and draft events, Berner University, health clinics, rescue gallery, annual meeting and awards, a health auction fundraiser, and social gatherings.

- Financial support of canine health studies and grants affecting the health and longevity of Bernese Mountain Dogs.

- A larger platform for effecting change in AKC policies and legislation.

Consider volunteering at the next show in your area. Getting involved does not mandate extreme amounts of time. There are many short-term or one-person jobs. Pick a job! Being a distraction at a draft trial or a leash-runner at agility are necessary, and so much can be learned while watching.

Clubs can provide a healthy social interaction, boost knowledge and skills, increase self-esteem, and perhaps even increase longevity. Studies have

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shown that people who are socially involved tend to have longer and healthier lives. So whether it is a local, regional, or national club, being active in a club is a healthy choice. Most importantly, clubs give us access to more Bernese Mountain Dogs. That's the best perk ever.

I hope to see you at the club!

—Marjorie Geiger,

marggeiger@yahoo.com

Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America

Black Russian Terriers

GETTING TO KNOW THE BLACK RUSSIAN TERRIER

Black Russian Terriers are often referred to as BRTs, Russian Terriers, and Blackies. They are often misunderstood and misjudged. To really get to know the BRT, we must first understand what they were originally bred to do: to become the ultimate utility and protection dog.

The Red Star Kennel of Russia aimed to develop



Black Russian Terrier

a large, brave, strong, and manageable working dog with pronounced guarding instincts. It was also bred to be naturally aloof to strangers. At AKC events, some people deem the breed unapproachable and go out of their way to avoid them. As a proud owner of several BRTs, I want to introduce you to the softer, gentler side of this breed—the side many of us, privileged enough to be “owned” by these wonderful dogs, get to see.

In public, the BRTs maintain a regal, dignified

demeanor, but once home with their people, they have a silly, most comical side to their personality. Shenanigans like joyful bounding and leaping and “zoomies” are often a backyard pastime that’s a delight to watch. Mine have even, patiently and in good spirits, participated in the occasional dress-up tea party!

The Black Russian Terrier is one of the most empathetic breeds I’ve ever met. They show great gentleness and kindness to those they love. They

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instinctively know when you're sad and will come to console you. When you are sick, they'll jump into bed and stay by your side until you're feeling better. These wonderful and sensitive traits are the reason you will often see the Black Russian donning a service-dog vest.

There are many reasons why so many of us share our homes with these endearing dogs. Their desire and need to be with you is why most owners lovingly consider them to be extensions of their own shadow. Wherever you are, there they'll be.

—Emily Foster,

leighfost@gmail.com

Black Russian Terrier
Club of America

Boerboels

BOERBOEL TEMPERAMENT— DEVOTED FAMILY GUARDIAN AND MUCH MORE!

As it is January (hence a lull in showing and other competitions), I wanted to pause the discus-

sions of sports and events at which Boerboels excel to focus on Boerboel temperament and character—which is as, if not more, important to an owner or breeder.

In understanding correct Boerboel temperament, one thing that should be kept in mind is that the Boerboel *is* a dominant breed. Our ABC (American Boerboel Club)/AKC standard says:

“...When approached is calm, stable and confident, at times displaying a self-assured aloofness... An aggressive or belligerent attitude towards other dogs should not be faulted.”

Boerboels are also a highly intelligent breed, and are completely devoted to and loving with children and family and sensitive to their moods and emotions. Some owners have described them as “Velcro dogs” who have a strong desire to physically be with family members.

Sometimes this quality may seem a bit excessive.

One owner told me that her Boerboel follows her from room to room and insists on accompanying her into the bathroom, and guarding her in the shower. Hence, unless you have working Boerboels with jobs (guarding livestock, or other daily duties), they do not make good “outside” dogs. However, if they don't have a job, they need mental challenges and stimulation as well as sufficient exercise.

Boerboels generally get on well with other household pets and will add them to their retinue of “family members needing protection.” (Our Boerboel has become upset and barked for help when one of our tortoises rolled upside-down while climbing in their terrarium.) They are friendly (even enthusiastic) in welcoming friends and relatives they know into their home, but they should be properly introduced to “strangers” before they enter.

They demonstrate *very*

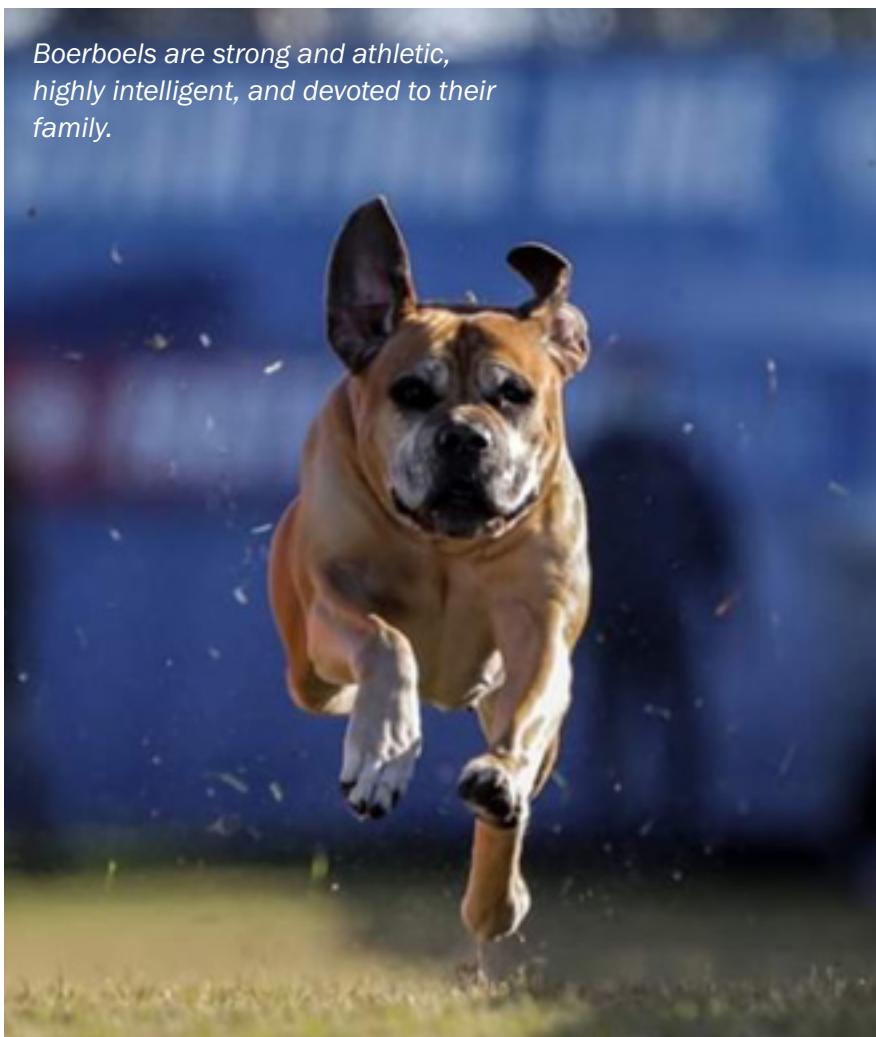
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Boerboels are strong and athletic, highly intelligent, and devoted to their family.



strong protective instincts if they discern a threat to a family member, sometimes whether that family member agrees or not.

Here are some examples from our experience. In our neighborhood, we still have areas of natural growth among the houses, and we are close to forest preserves. One night, after dark, I had taken our Boerboel, Maksim, out in our backyard, which is bordered by trees and thick brush. He immediately began barking stridently. At first, I saw nothing! Then a coyote emerged—head lowered, creeping forward, and looking threatening. Maksim aggressively

COURTESY KAREN CORNELIUS



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charged towards him, barking and ferociously snarling. The coyote fled! Maksim returned to me, and not so subtly suggested we go inside.

My husband takes our Boerboel for brisk early-morning walks. Maksim is generally obedient, although watchful. Recently on such a walk (while it was still quite dark) an unfamiliar dog began barking loudly. Maksim moved in front of my husband to stand on guard, attempting to see where the dog was and assessing the threat. When he could not locate the dog, Maksim insisted on turning my husband around and going home.

Boerboels often extend their protection to their families' property—sometimes encompassing their entire immediate neighborhood. One Boerboel owner friend described her dogs becoming alarmed when people or dogs dared to walk along the sidewalk just outside their

fence line. Another contributor said his Boerboels watched the next-door neighbors' property as diligently as they did his own.

Given the breed's temperament, early socialization and training are extremely important—particularly for Boerboels who will be showing in conformation classes or other competitions in which they will be in close proximity to other dogs. Visiting dog parks is *not* recommended!

Training should be focused on creating a bond of trust and respect with a Boerboel. They do not respond well to harsh treatment or the long-debunked “dominance theory” methods (e.g., “alpha rolling,” or pinning the dog to demonstrate dominance).

As adults they are also extremely powerful. Hence, they are *not* good choices for people who want a big, scary-looking dog to parade about but are not willing to devote the essen-

tial time and effort to him or her.

With a knowledgeable and committed owner, Boerboels can be exceptional companions and protectors!

—Karen Cornelius,
klc@klcassociates.com
American Boerboel Club

Boxers

BUSY BOXERS

The American Boxer Club says, “the Boxer is truly a dog for all seasons, suiting the need for a household guardian, attractive companion, and children's playmate and loyal friend.”

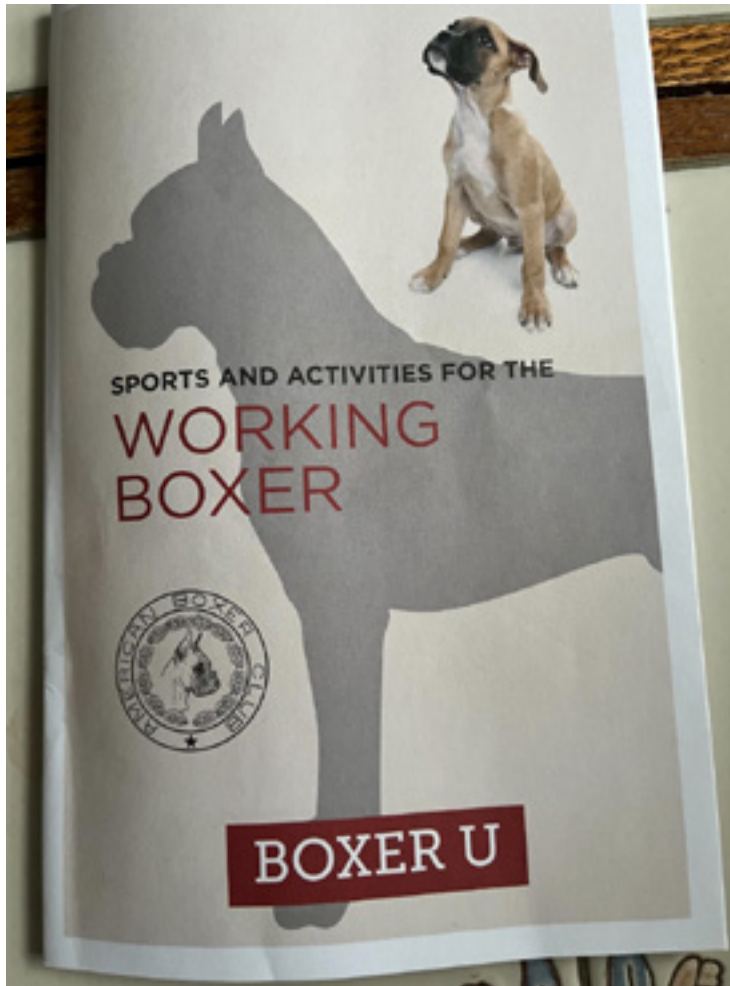
The personality and companionship of the Boxer make him a wonderful housepet, while the breed's energy and intelligence also provide opportunities for the owner and Boxer to explore many of the venues available to participate in.

As dog sports have developed and their number increased over the years, the breed has increasingly

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Materials available from the American Boxer Club's "Boxer U" includes information on the wide range of activities you can do with your dog.

gained recognition as very competitive participants in a range of venues.

While Boxers have made their mark in AKC conformation competition for years, the breed is also gaining respect and recognition in many additional AKC sports. These activities have opened the door and challenged the Boxer and owner

to explore new adventures. The beauty of the breed is not only as a “pretty face” but also an intelligent and willing companion in a variety of events.

The intelligence of the Boxer makes them a perfect candidate for obedience and rally activities; however, the Boxer is known for being a “bit of a clown”

to anyone who has ever attempted to train—so firmness as well as a good sense of humor are necessary.

Agility is a wonderful sport for an energetic Boxer and owner. There are many levels of competition, and the camaraderie between the dog and owner is intense and rewarding.

With exposure to the

COURTESY AMERICAN BOXER CLUB



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numerous dog sports available, we are finding Boxers are making their presence known in many competitions.

Barn Hunt—Boxers *love* the challenge of finding those vermin.

Dock Diving—Boxers will chase a thrown ball anywhere and are great swimmers.

Lure Coursing—Chasing and running fast after a “prey” is perfect for an energetic Boxer!

Nose Work—For a Boxer who can sniff out a dropped crumb at home, this is a great sport to challenge a dog to search and find.

Herding—While not considered a “herding breed,” Boxers have proven to be intelligent and quite enthusiastic and capable of demonstrating herding abilities. And of course there is carting—Historically, working dogs have been used to aid humans in this manner; with training, Boxers have the strength and intelligence to excel in this activity.

Tracking—The Boxer’s

sense of smell is 100,000 times stronger than that of humans, and in tracking the dogs learns to follow the scent with guidance and encouragement.

And we cannot forget the tremendous contributions that Boxers have made as therapy dogs, service dogs, military dogs, and in other support functions. If interested in doing therapy work with your Boxer, check with your local nursing homes or elementary schools, as they may have programs available and can give you information about requirements.

Much of this information was compiled and produced by ABC member Regan Ray in a booklet titled *Sports and Activities for the Working Boxer* from the ABC Breeders Education Committee (“Boxer U”). This booklet is available upon request. Contact Arribatali@aol.com for more information.

—Virginia Shames,
Arribatali@aol.com
American Boxer Club

Bullmastiffs

Happy New Year! Thanks to our friends in the dog world who have contributed to this message of hope. Your words stay with us, remind us of the ideals we share, and strengthen our resolution to do better. May we all resolve to be the people our dogs believe us to be as we welcome 2023.

NEW YEAR, NEW HOPE

Puppies are hope on four paws. I really do believe that and know that is what keeps us doing what we do. Hope. To us, as breeders, owners, and exhibitors, our puppies embody our pasts, presents, and futures.

As we celebrate the holidays and hope for puppies in the year ahead, we find ourselves with accomplishments to acknowledge, challenges to overcome, and goals yet to achieve. We relish our successes and resolve to turn any regrets into resolutions for 2023.

• *We resolve to adhere to*

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Harriet the Bullmastiff and her person: "The dogs are what we love, and what we have in common; they give us all hope."

the breed standard. Our Bullmastiff standard is only as valuable as we are honest and objective in our breeding decisions, in evaluating our dogs, and in choosing those we exhibit and plan to breed moving forward. While we all know that there are no perfect dogs, the standard is meant to be the template, not only when it is easy to apply, but more importantly, in

COURTESY LINDY WHYTE



WORKING GROUP

making the difficult choices with regard to size, structure, and type, as well as about mental and physical soundness.

- *We resolve to volunteer.* We need to be active members of the American Bullmastiff Association, of the regional clubs in our area, and to join local dog clubs. It is important not only to attend the events, but also to volunteer for committees, and to take part in the work of planning, preparation, and putting on such events as clinics, shows, and trials. The clubs are only as strong as are those who belong.

- *We resolve to embrace the concept of sportsmanship.* This can be challenging, but it is about respect, respect for the sport and adherence to acceptable behavior. We do not have to agree on the merits (or the lack thereof) of dogs or their people, but we do need to be good sports, to follow the rules and regulations, if we want to continue to earn the privilege

of participation.

- *We resolve to keep learning.* We owe it to our dogs to avail ourselves of new ideas and information, even if we consider ourselves to be experts at animal husbandry and veterans in the dog world. We know that old dogs can learn new tricks, and so can we. New techniques and processes are always being discovered, and it is our responsibility to explore new ideas and innovations so that we continue to do our best for our dogs.

- *We resolve to keep teaching.* Whether it is an old remedy or a new discovery, if it has helped us and our dogs, it may be valuable for others. From DNA testing to nutrition and training, there is always something innovative to understand and offer to your community. The true value of knowledge is in sharing it with others and in benefiting our dogs.

- *We resolve to be mentors, and to be mentored.* There are always new people at shows and trials. A word

ringside or an invitation to a potluck after judging can be so important. Also, we must remember our veterans and value the wisdom they have generously shared with us, never forgetting that they and their dogs have cleared the path we now walk with ours.

We are all stewards of our breed, whether as breeders, exhibitors, owners, rescuers, or in all these roles so essential to the preservation of Bullmastiffs.

- *We resolve to remember it is all about the dogs.* This is not about our egos, not about our need for recognition or for remuneration. The dogs are what we love, and what we have in common; they give us all hope. We all fell in love with a puppy or a dog, once upon a time, whether from a breeder or a rescue. However we came to the fancy, it was because of a dog, and it is still about the dogs. We stay invested because of the hope on four paws, looking up at us with love.

—Lindy Whyte,

PHOTO CREDIT HERE



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American Bullmastiff
Association

Chinooks

The following article about Arthur Walden and the death of the breed's foundation sire, Chinook, famous sled dog of the Antarctic expedition, appeared in the Hamilton [Ohio] *Daily News*, on April 25, 1930.

CHINOOK SAID GOODBYE!

Just an Arctic Dog But Master Weeps As He Praises Him.

NEW YORK, April 26— (AP) Arthur T. Walden, veteran of a thousand snowy trails, who went down to Antartica [sic] as chief dog driver c. the Byrd expedition, came home on the ice-scarred whaler C. A. Larzeu today.

Sixty-eight dogs came back with him—heroes, their job well done.

But Chinook, their undisputed king when they sailed from Norfolk a year and a

half ago—Chinook, who always slept at the foot of his master's bed—was not among them.

And Chinook's master will never return to Antartica.

The gray-haired Walden, who was driving dog teams in Alaska before the gold rush of '98, paid his tribute to Chinook.

As he finished he turned away, and his keen blue eyes—so intensely blue in his face, reddened by nearly 40 years on the trails—were filled with tears.

"I'll never be half the man Chinook was," he said simply.

"It was January 17 a year ago, his twelfth birthday, that Chinook passed away. The going was pretty hard down there, and, you see, Chinook was an old dog.

"The day before he went away, three of the other dogs pitched on him and put him down. That was the first time Chinook had ever been off his feet in a fight in his life. I guess he realized that he was through.

"That night he said good-

bye to me. Three times in the night he woke me up, putting his paw on my face. He didn't whine or anything but he seemed to be trying to tell me something.

"I didn't harness him the next morning, but as I started down the trail he followed me a little way. Then he just—disappeared.

"One of the men said he saw him last, a long way off on the ice barrier, going away. That's the way they do, you know. When they realize they're through, they just go off by themselves and die. Chinook never came back.

"Chinook was the grandest lead dog I've ever seen. And he was more than a dog. I miss the old fellow more all the time. Often at night I dream about him.

"Well—he didn't die in the harness. But he died with his boots on, and he was more of a man than I'll ever be." [April 25, 1930]

—Kathleen Riley,
kathleenrileyphotography@gmail.com

[Chinook Club of America](#)

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Chinook Said Goodbye!
JUST AN ARCTIC DOG BUT MASTER WEEPS AS HE PRAISES HIM.

NEW YORK, April 25.—(AP) Arthur T. Walker, victor of a thousand snowy trails, who bred Chinook as sled dog 4,717 of the Byrd expedition, camp home on the ice-covered wharf G. A. Laporte today.

Sixty-eight dogs came back with him—three, their job well done.

But Chinook, their undisputed king when they sailed from Nome, a year and a half ago—Chinook, who always slept at the foot of his master's bed—was not among them.

And Chinook's master will never return to Alaska.

The gray-haired Walker, who was driving dog teams in Alaska before the gold rush of '98, said his tribute to Chinook.

As he finished he turned away, and his keen blue eyes—so famously blue in his race, reddened by nearly 45 years on the trails—were filled with tears.

"I'll never be half the man Chinook was," he said sadly.

"It was January 31 a year ago, his tenth birthday, that Chinook passed away. The gate was pretty hard down there, and you see, Chinook was an old dog.

"The day before he went back, some of the other dogs pitched on



Chinook; Chinook and his sons; Chinook on the Byrd Arctic Expedition (BAE); BAE dogs and drivers; BAE dogs in training; original article in the Hamilton [Ohio] Daily News, April 25, 1930.

ALL COURTESY KATHLEEN RILEY

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Doberman Pinschers SOCIALIZATION IS ESSENTIAL FOR DOBERMANS

You've bought your new conformation, performance, working prospect 10-week-old bundle of Doberman Pinscher potential! He or she has an amazing pedigree and was raised by a well-known breeder. Now it's your turn. You have plans for this dog, and you are willing to put in the tremendous amount of effort to reach your goal.

There is no magic, no easy method, no short-cuts to the Ch., OTCH, MACH, RACH, or SchH II. They are the product of careful, consistent, humane training—and trainers.

Though genes play a huge role, one can take a puppy with an outgoing, spunky, bright, and curious temperament and ruin it in an instant. The puppy you take home—the genetic blueprint, if you will—can only live up to his potential if you supply the environmental, social, and behav-



Doberman Pinscher Ch. Baroness Brenda V D Hohen: January 1938 (Tauskey photo)

ioral building blocks.

Each puppy must be evaluated individually, assessing his pluses and the areas where extra effort is needed. For example, a sound-sensitive puppy is thrown off balance by new or loud noises, and you must work in that area to develop confidence.

According to many experts, there is a time to work with each area of personality, and these are based on a pup's critical periods.

The importance of socializing puppies has been

evident for decades. The general consensus is that the first three months of a puppy's life are the most important in developing a stable, confident, and fearless adult. Dobermans seem to be one of the breeds that push the critical periods beyond 12 weeks to at least 16 weeks. Socializing puppies is of such importance that the American Veterinary Society of Animal Behavior wrote a paper in 2008 stating, "It should be the standard of care for puppies to receive such socialization before they are fully vaccinated."

Scientific research suggests that dogs are "wired" in such a way that after 12 to 16 weeks—depending on the breed—the sociable puppy who was afraid of nothing can become fearful of anything new. Why? Because in the wild, running up to predators would not make survival sense. So as pups become more independent, they begin to see new things as things to leave alone, to be fearful of.

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That new sound, child, or room becomes something to flee from. There is little that can be done to counteract evolution, even in the domestic canine.

Research has suggested that there are two fear-impact periods, generally at 2 to 3 months and at 6 to 14 months, and a “flight” period, at 4 to 8 months. During the “flight” period young dogs do not hear a single thing you say, and testing begins. Reinforce the positive, and try to ignore the bad behavior.

Dobermans are often the poster puppy for these times. They exhibit “DTMB” behavior: *Don’t touch my body*. Don’t do my nails, ask me to stack, or move my legs, I’ll do it myself! I’ll roll my eyes until the whites show. I’ll test every nerve in your being.

During this stage, simply take a deep breath and support the puppy ... this, too, shall pass.

I believe Dobermans are one of the breeds that need

serious efforts in socializing. When he is stalking the mean-looking fire hydrant—thinking, “What is it? Check it out!”—point to the red or yellow monster, and when they go up to it and reach as far as their neck and body can, without falling over, say, “Good dog!”

Then they’ll look at you in triumph: “I don’t know what you were afraid of, it’s only a fire hydrant!” On to the next new thing.

—Leslie Hall,

pajant@aol.com

[Doberman Pinscher Club of America](#)

Dogue de Bordeaux

EXPRESSION

The DDBSA-developed acronym HEARTS defines the major points of our breed—that is, *Head, Expression, Athletic, wRinkle, Trots like a Lion, and Substance*. Our focus today is on the second part of the acronym: Expression.

Expression gives the Dogue de Bordeaux his

distinctive “look,” which is described as a “dissuasive” and/or “sourmug” appearance. Expression in the Dogue de Bordeaux is the totality of all of the facial attributes, in conformance with the breed standard, that come together to create the proper and correct appearance. When one or more of the facial attributes are incorrect, it will detract from and “throw off” the expression to the point of significantly changing it.

A brief review of the attributes that contribute to expression is in order. The ears are small in proportion to the skull, and the front edge of the ear is close to the cheek when the dog is attentive. The tip is slightly rounded and should not reach beyond the eye. Ears are set rather high at the level of the upper line of the skull, serving to emphasize the width of the skull even more.

The eyes should be oval-shaped, and the space between the eyes should be roughly equal to twice the

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length of the eye opening. Eye color should be hazel to dark brown in dogs with black masks; lighter-colored eyes in dogs with brown or no masks are tolerated but not sought after. Haws should not be visible, and protruding eyes are a breed-standard fault.

Muzzle length measured from the occipital bone to the tip of the nose should be between one-third and one-quarter of the total length of the head. Too short of a muzzle is called “hypertypical,” while a muzzle that is too long would substantially detract from the Dogue de Bordeaux’s distinctive appearance. The muzzle is powerful, broad, and thick; when viewed from above, it should generally be square-shaped. When viewed from the side, the top lines of the skull and muzzle form an angle that converges at or near the end of the muzzle.

The lower jaw curves upward and is sufficiently undershot so that there is no contact between the



lower and upper incisors. The chin, also called the “chin mark,” is very pronounced, giving the Dogue de Bordeaux his distinctive “sourmug” appearance.

Expression as it pertains to the Dogue de Bordeaux is explicitly defined by the saying, “*The whole is greater than the sum of its parts.*”

At our judges’ education seminars, our “hands-on” exercise portion after the classroom part is completed covers proper evaluation of conformation characteristics as contained

in the AKC Dogue de Bordeaux breed standard. Judges are advised that when evaluating a dog in the ring, it is important to look at the dog’s expression—as we know that if attributes contained in the breed standard are in conformance, it will result in correct expression. Conversely, if one or more attributes do not conform to the breed standard, expression will not look correct and will appear to be “off.”

We advise judges when



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evaluating a dog in the ring that they must look at the dog's expression from the front in an unobstructed manner. If the handler in the ring is baiting the dog or otherwise handling it in a manner that obstructs the judge's view of the dog's expression, don't be shy about asking the person to remove their hand and/or display the dog so that the judge can make a proper assessment of the dog's expression, head, and frontal profile.

—Victor C. Smith, AKC Liaison, Chair, Judges Education Committee, v102071@inreach.com
Dogue de Bordeaux Society of America

German Pinschers

WHEN THEY BECOME YOUR DOG

I recently lost my oldest German Pinscher, Blue. He was just shy of his 15th birthday. I've been thinking about him a lot, of course, and specifically about something I

wrote on Facebook when I announced his passing:

“He once completed the last leg of a qualifying rally leg on his hind legs because he was so busy sniffing the chicken pot pies in the kitchen. He also once went to the top of the tunnel in Barn Hunt in Masters and wouldn't come down because they'd just put a bunch of hamburgers on the grill at the concession stand, and they smelled really good. In his younger days his vertical leap was higher than my fence, and a couple of times he ended up on the wrong side and wasn't completely sure how he got there.”

We also had accomplishments of which I'm very proud and which did not involve obsessively sniffing food. He was a conformation champion as well as a Champion Tracker. He titled in rally and obedience and Barn Hunt. The accomplishments were memorable. It was one of the highlights of a life spent with dogs when he passed

his VST (Variable Surface Tracking title). I loved doing sports with him and finding sports he loved. But it's things like the above paragraph that truly made him *him*.

I choose to own German Pinschers for specific reasons. I want dogs I can pick up if I have to—German Pinschers typically weigh between 35 and 45 pounds. I want a breed that is generally healthy—German Pinschers have few inherited diseases. I want a short-haired breed with working capabilities. I want independent thinkers. German Pinschers can spend hours solving problems that interest them, even when they're not necessarily problems you wanted them to solve.

But individual dogs have, in addition to the traits that make them German Pinschers, personal traits that make them, well, *them*. Some of those traits are frustrating. Blue hated to be wrong, which sometimes made him a challenge to



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German Pinscher

work with. I always said that he was the best at activities where he didn't have to listen to me. Some of those traits are amusing. And some of them are what make them That Dog, the one who lives with you, the one you wouldn't trade for any other dog—not even another German Pinscher, not even if they looked exactly the same.

—Deb Coates,

charmingbillie@gmail.com
[German Pinscher Club of America](#)

Giant Schnauzers GSCA 60TH-ANNIVERSARY NATIONAL SPECIALTY

Fans of the breed gathered at Purina Farms in Grey Summit, Missouri, on a beautiful fall weekend in October for the 2022 60th Year GSCA national

specialty. The event's theme was "Honoring the Past ... Flying Into the Future."

The venue at Purina Farms is awesome, and the club had a great setup within the beautiful facility. Gorgeous posters of past GSCA national-specialty winners and a photographic history of Giant Schnauzers through the years were impressively displayed for viewing.

A very well done 2021 GSCA Awards video, created by Awards Committee chair Suzanne Johnstone, was running on a big-screen TV all weekend. Check it out at <https://youtu.be/3rIUcRslNfs>.

The weeklong schedule of events available for competition included Scent Work, herding, lure coursing, rally, obedience, agility, and conformation. All were well attended by members and their working dogs.

High in Trial in Scent Work was Celestial Distilled Excellence, CGC, CGCU, TKN,

DAVID WOO ©AKC

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VHMA, SWN GSCA. High in Trial for Rally was RACH Indigo Gwynnie, CD, RM2, RAE2, BCAT, CGC, TKA.

Obedience High in Trial was earned by Ch./OTCH Magna's Can't Take My Eyes Off of You, UDX3, OM7.

Best of Breed was awarded to GCh.G Lagniappe's From the Mountains to the Bayou, and Best of Opposite Sex went to GCh.G LongHorn's Ready and Raring to Go.

The Education Committee gave a well-attended seminar regarding the breed standard on Thursday.

On Friday evening, hospitality chairs Holly Reed and Cornelia King put on a fun pizza party, with lots of laughs during the donated



From the Giant Schnauzer Club of America 2022 national specialty, held in October at Purina Farms in Grey Summit, Missouri: a photographic history of Giant Schnauzers through the years; Best of Breed GCh.G Lagniappe's From the Mountains to the Bayou; Scentwork High in Trial, Celestial Distilled Excellence, CGC, CGCU, TKN, VHMA, SWN GSCA; Rally winner, RACH Indigo Gwynnie, CD, RM2, RAE2, BCAT, CGC, TKA; Obedience High in Trial, Ch./OTCH Magna's Can't Take My Eyes Off of You, UDX3, OM7.

COURTESY OWNERS/GSCA



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door-prize drawing.

Saturday evening's awards banquet, catered at Purina Farms, was delicious. The auction offered beautiful works of art, Giant Schnauzer historical mementos, and fun items for every dog owner.

Overall, the week was a great success!

Congratulations to all competitors and the great work of all volunteers and sponsors. GSCA is flying into the future!

—Mary Falls,
classicgiantschnauzers@gmail.com

[Giant Schnauzer Club of America](#)

Great Pyrenees

GPCA—PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

I've been a member of the GPCA club for 27 years. When I receive my annual membership renewal, I make it a point to review the GPCA Code of Ethics. The COE reminds me of why I'm a GPCA member and my responsibilities to

the club and the breed.

Some might ask why I feel this way. Briefly, the COE review reinforces why I belong to the club, and it stands to emphasize appropriate club behavior, our responsibilities, and our overall commitment to our beloved breed.

Below are the first six items in the Member Relations section of our code of ethics.

1. Members shall be aware at all times that the Club exists to protect the breed and that these aims are to be uppermost in the minds of members in all their activities in the breed.

2. Members will at all times, whether at home, traveling, at shows, or at motels, display good sportsmanship and conduct themselves in such a manner as to reflect credit upon the club and the breed.

3. Members shall refrain from unnecessary and unconstructive criticism of another's dog and from personal attacks upon a

fellow member.

4. Novices are encouraged to seek the advice and assistance of more experienced owners and breeders, and the more experienced shall graciously assist the novice with his problems, and share for the good of the breed, the benefits of his knowledge.

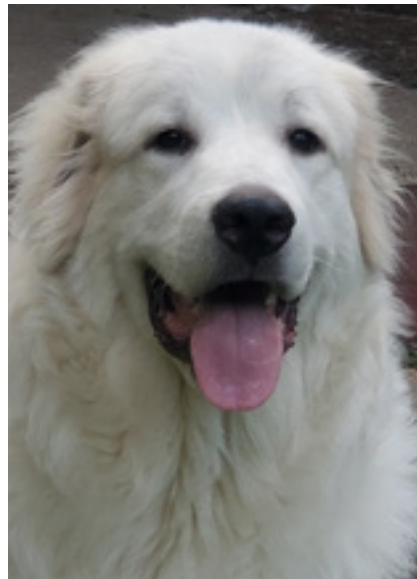
5. In all questions of ethics, covered or not covered by this Code, the individual member shall act solely in the best interests of the breed, and the membership as a whole shall willingly aid any fellow member in upholding these interests.

6. Members shall bear in mind that a Code of Ethics is more than a set of rules; it is a commitment to a high standard of practice in owning and breeding and that adherence to the spirit of the Code is as important as adherence to its law.

My topic selection for this article is because I'm bothered by some recent events I've witnessed, become aware of, and experienced. Membership



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most obvious and frequent reason was poor and unfair treatment from other club members.

The intent here is not to make accusations or point fingers at club member(s) for not performing their function as representatives of the GPCA. It *is* meant to help us understand and realize the importance of passing the torch to other Great Pyrenees owners who may or may not be national or regional club members.

I don't want to make this discussion about blame; I want to discuss what we need to do as a club, our obligations to existing and new members, and how we increase our growth and encourage future generations.

I remember when I first joined the club and my different mentors. Hours were spent talking about the breed's health, conformation, type, livestock guardians, and behavior; the list is endless. There was respect among members of



is declining in many clubs for various reasons, some of which are consistent among many.

Since I like to converse with people, I've been engaging dog owners, breeders, handlers, and club members about how they feel about their local, regional, and national dog clubs. We've discussed whether they were members of any clubs, if they still belonged to their club(s), and why or why not.

Many enjoy camaraderie and sharing experiences and knowledge with other long-time friends and dog lovers. Others have moved on for various reasons. The



"Let's make this a time for rebirth, growing our membership, and sharing our love for the Great Pyrenees."

COURTESY KAREN REITER



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the club; we reached out to non-members and freely provided guidance, support, and education.

Younger generations of Pyr owners are our future. They're the future of our national and regional clubs. I fully understand the temperament of our breed, and many of us share those traits; independent, stubborn, loyal, and protective. Sometimes, we must put those traits aside and move forward with what is best for our breed. As with anything, we should want to pass our knowledge to the next generation.

What can members do?

Members should be fostering an environment of inclusion, not opposition, and education rather than misinformation. Take an opportunity to speak with other members. Reach out to those new to the club, especially those from your area. Talk about movement, type, conforming to a standard, and breed history. Tell people the pros and cons of the breed.

They might be the same thing! Submit articles of all kinds to your regional and national club(s). Work to expand our knowledge base so we can share it with other members and non-members.

Let's encourage newer and prospective members by sharing our knowledge and love for our beloved breed. Be kind and open-minded. Not everyone shares the same background, commitment, and knowledge base as you. It is vital to our future as a club to continue with the education, history, and essential knowledge of the function of our club and why it exists. It is vital to the future of our breed.

What should members *not* do?

Don't tell someone their Pyr is unattractive or doesn't belong in the show ring. Whether they have a pet, show dog, livestock guardian, or a combination, these people have a Great Pyrenees. Whatever their reason is, they should be encouraged, mentored, and

educated, not alienated.

What can the club do?

A suggestion I have is to add a popup window on the club website explaining the function and programs of each of the committees. For example, what is the function of the Legislative Committee, or the Great Pyrenees Achievement & Hero Awards? How do the committees work? Can anyone contact the committee chairs? Non-members that visit our site won't know what these committees do. If we afford them the information, they may reach out to the chair for more details. It's a way to draw in nonmembers and increase awareness of current members.

Many feel that losing membership for regional and national clubs is a genuine concern. For anyone that hasn't helped out in a club in some capacity, it's hard work!

We should treat our current and prospective members with kindness and respect. We should mentor



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and educate them. We should encourage them to learn more about the breed. Explain the importance of the Breed Standard and the Illustrated Standard and their significance to the continued generations of traits. Please share the link to our new website. It is an excellent resource for information!

Looking back on the generations of Great Pyrenees lovers who shared what they knew, you will understand the importance of mentoring and support. Whether it's a brand new or long-time owner, we should be reaching out to them.

Finally ...

We should all be steadfast in maintaining the highest standards for our breed and our club. We should be true to our convictions which, over the years, should always be in the club's best interest and the breed. The two should go hand-in-hand. If there's something you disagree with, speak up. Your voice is important; let's hear what

you say.

Perhaps I wax poetic on the seasons of my life, of life in general—time for birth, growth, and ultimately, rebirth.

Founded in 1934, The Great Pyrenees Club of America is 88 years old. Are we approaching our winter, soon to be our spring? Let's make this a time for rebirth, growing our membership, and sharing our love for our breed.

"Ain't no time to hate

Barely time to wait

Woah, oh, what I want to know

Where does the time go?"
—"Uncle John's Band,"

The Grateful Dead

—Karen Reiter, AKC

GAZETTE Columnist

[Great Pyrenees Club of America](#)

Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs

ENSURING THE FUTURE OF THE GSMD BREED ONE VOLUNTEER AT A TIME

As we come toward the close of the holiday

season and the beginning of a new year, I am reminded of all the blessings that come our way through our volunteers. Like any breed parent club, the GSMDCA is run by a large community of devoted volunteers—volunteers who know and are dedicated to preserving the integrity of our breed and our community through committee work, by spending a few hours at a Meet the Breeds event talking with the public about our breed, managing membership in an 800-plus-member club, by running and helping with events from major national specialty conformation shows to pack hikes and serving on the Board and its committees, and everything in between. We rely on volunteers for everything we do.

Peter Drucker (management consultant, educator, and author, whose writing contributed to the philosophical and practical foundations of the modern

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“Like any breed parent club, the GSMDCA is run by a large community of devoted volunteers ... we need to work together with respect and our primary objectives in mind—to work together and to do all in our power to protect and advance the interest of the Greater Swiss Mountain Dog.”

business corporation) tried to convert volunteer efforts into the following monetary form: “If we put even minimum wage to the time spent by volunteers, it would be 12% of GNP compared to 2.5% we give in the money.” And perhaps that percentage would be even higher if we factor in the increase in highly educated volunteers and even corporations using their knowledge to support their communities in volunteer roles.

The GSMDCA has hordes of volunteers—11 Board members; an AKC Delegate; 25 appointed positions, to lead efforts in various areas; 10 sub-committees, who each have

COURTESY GSMDCA

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a chair and two to four members; and 11 regional clubs, with their officers and hordes of volunteers. It takes a village to pull off all that we do each year to serve our members, as well as puppy buyers and the Swissy community at large. We couldn't begin to calculate the value of those volunteer hours, but we do know that without their willingness to serve, we wouldn't survive or thrive.

As the current president of the GSMDCA, I am reminded that the success of a volunteer-based organization is based on one notion: that we all share a common motivation. In the case of the Greater Swiss Mountain Dog Club of America, that common motivation is to fulfill our club objectives as defined in our Constitution:

- to do all in its power to protect and advance the interest of the Greater Swiss Mountain Dog (GSMD)
- to encourage and promote quality breeding of

purebred GSMD and to do all possible to bring their natural qualities to perfection

- to encourage sportsmanlike competition at dog events

- to conduct sanctioned matches and specialty events under the Rules and Regulations of the American Kennel Club

- to encourage the organization of independent local Greater Swiss Mountain Dog specialty clubs in those localities where there are sufficient fanciers of the breed to meet the requirements of the American Kennel Club

- to urge members and breeders to accept the standard of the breed as approved by the American Kennel Club as the only standard of excellence by which Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs shall be judged

As our breed continues to grow in popularity, our vision and motivation is being tested. It is likely we are faced with the same

challenges other larger breed communities have faced: the emergence and growth of the “less responsible” breeder, the breeder whose primary purpose is to fill the growing demand for Swissy puppies quickly, if not responsibly. This onslaught of breeders who do not share our objectives—objectives that center and motivate our volunteer-driven club—are testing our resolve and our stamina.

Which brings me to my point ...

How do we navigate this changing landscape, keep the integrity of our breed intact and central per our club's constitution, *and* keep our volunteers motivated and optimistic?

First, we all need to step up buyer education to help our puppy buyers to know better, to be informed to help us preserve our breed and to make better choices. That responsibility falls both to the AKC, to the breed parent clubs, and to our GSMDCA breeders as



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well. That task is complex, involving communications to the public, judges who know and understand our breed and the parent club priorities for preserving it, breeders who find success by breeding responsibly, and a parent club who supports all the above.

Second, we need to take care of our volunteers to ensure they continue to find fulfillment and feel success.

Here are some thoughts on the culture of a volunteer-based organization based on my experience:

- Volunteering must help the volunteer as much as, or more than, the community they serve. The organization must foster the intrinsic motivation of the volunteer by keeping the mission/vision central—in our case, preserving the future of the breed. That is what binds our volunteers together and keeps them volunteering.

- Volunteering is free, but other forms of reward need to be in play: devel-

oping deeper friendships, networking, increased happiness, and importantly, a feeling of success and appreciation.

- It is often a small, core group that holds everything together, with many others contributing at different levels. Since the group is usually self-selected, based on passion and purpose and a desire to help, you often get the right people. You also get a group of people who may on average be more passionate about the mission than the less or uninvolved members. That is inevitable, and not necessarily a bad thing—it is what keeps the heart of the breed parent club beating. But it requires awareness and balance, and civility by all.

Third, we must keep our eye on the prize: the future of the purebred Swissy. Ultimately, volunteers should believe in their individual role but share common goals. They chose to volunteer mainly to give back to society and

try to improve conditions within it. All we need to do is ensure that they continue to share our vision and retain the passion they already have. However, to do that we must first acknowledge their value to the volunteer-run club and appreciate their efforts to make it all work.

The GSMD breed and the GSMDCA (club) are growing, and as such, in a transition. We need to work together with respect and our primary objectives in mind—to work together and to do all in our power to protect and advance the interest of the Greater Swiss Mountain Dog.

—Elizabeth Coit,
President, GSMDCA

[Greater Swiss Mountain Dog Club of America](#)

Komondorok

PRIORITIZING KOMONDOR QUALITIES FOR JUDGING AND BREEDING

Our Komondor standard describes the whole dog. For breeding

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and judging, we need to know how to prioritize the many aspects which are described. The disqualifications in the standard define the highest priorities. Except for the DQ for teeth (no more than two missing), the rest of the DQ's basically say the dog must be a Komondor: No blue eyes, no flesh-colored nose, coat corded by age 2, doesn't have Kuvasz coat patterning, must be white.

While these do not describe the dog well, they describe what it must *not* be. They also raise the importance of the description of the coat before cording: soft and falling into cord like curls, faulted if straight or silky.

We have a tooth DQ because the breed sometimes had a genetic problem, and a strong bite is essential to the function of the breed. The DQ focuses judges and breeders in the mission of eliminating the problem for the future of the breed.

What else is essential to the



function of the breed that could be considered most important in making breeding and judging decisions? Soundness, size, bone, and shape are high on the list. Soundness and movement are interdependent. The dog must move to do its job as a livestock guard dog; it must have good legs, feet, and muscle to move well.

Our standard asks for the upper arms to be carried close to the body and for the front legs to be vertical columns, viewed from all sides.

Hidden but quite import-

ant to movement is joint health. That is why every breeder must X-ray every potential breeding animal to guard against transmitting hip dysplasia. Now, routine elbow X-rays are also a good idea.

Our standard calls for good angles; well-boned, steely, strong bone structure; and a powerful deep chest, a level and strong back, and a muscular and proportionately wide body. Most importantly, it asks for gait that is light, leisurely, and balanced, with long strides, agility, and



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lightness on the feet.

The standard also says: “While large size is important, type, character, symmetry, movement and ruggedness are of the greatest importance and are on no account to be sacrificed for size alone.”

So, our desire for a powerful, well-boned dog must be balanced against the need for movement, ruggedness, and agility.

Why? Komondors guard by being with the livestock until a threat occurs. They then must leap to their feet and either drive off or otherwise dispatch the threat. That means they must have the physical and mental ability to meet a wolf or other predator in its hunting ground and threaten or kill it. *Steely, well-muscled, powerful, agile, protective coat, back level and strong, ruggedness, vigilant, courageous, and very faithful*—these are the descriptors of a dog who is up to that task.

There are words in our standard that may seem cosmetic. *Good pigment, dark*

eyes, medium set ears, dark skin, tail carried no higher than the back are among them. These are important (and each to the degree it is met) as aids to working with the livestock. Dark eye-rims help reduce glare in the bright sun. Dark skin and pigment help keep the skin healthy in the sun. Erect ears, high tails, and piercing eyes are the traits of the predators the livestock fear. Komondors are better without these traits so that the sheep will be comfortable and stay near their protector.

The dog’s dignity and courageous demeanor are the personality aspects which also allow working with the livestock.

—Eric Liebes,
ericliebes@earthlink.net
Komondor Club of America

Leonbergers

IS THE “LION” A FAST CAT?

Fun fact: Despite its size and mass, the adult lion is the second-fastest animal in all of Africa,

second only to the cheetah. Lions cannot maintain their top speed for long, but their burst of speed can be up to 52 miles per hour. While Leonbergers are much smaller than the lions they were bred to resemble, they can nonetheless put on an impressive burst of speed that belies their size and substance.

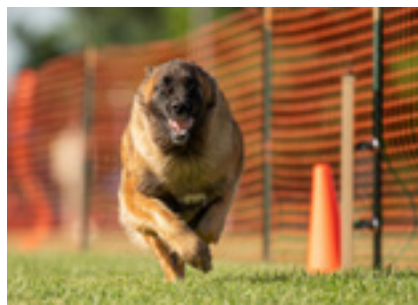
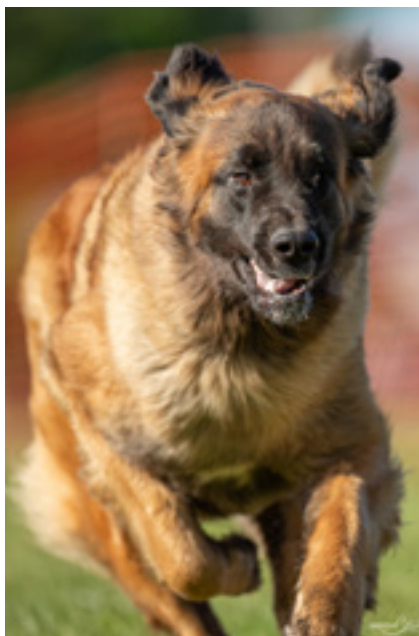
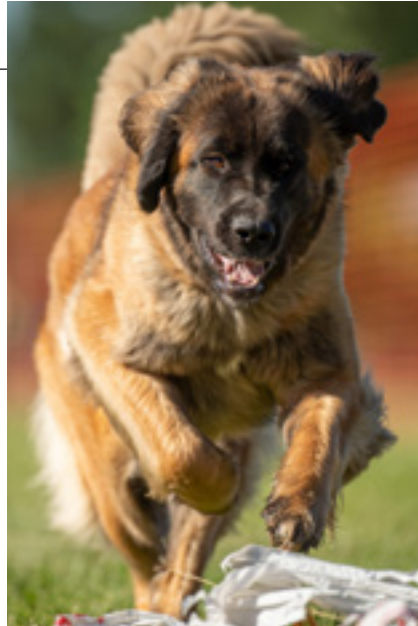
Once upon a time, there was a lovely Leonberger puppy called Abby (also known as Sarita von Alpensee). She was all wiggles and wags, sporting a gorgeous black mask with dark eyes that positively sparkled with joy and energy. Her owner was Aleida Rios, who previously owned Dozer, the first Leonberger to win an AKC all-breed Best in Show. Little puppy Abby was appropriately nicknamed “the missile,” and Rios jokingly threatened to send her back to her breeder, as “the missile” had a hard time keeping her feet on the ground.

Abby went on to have

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Leonbergers can put on an impressive burst of speed that belies their size and substance.

a successful career in the conformation ring, with wins that included two appearances at Westminster, taking Winners Bitch one year

and Select at her second appearance. She was awarded Best of Opposite Sex at the Leonberger Club of America national specialty show in 2019,

where she ran from the Barn Hunt event to the grooming table to have the straw brushed out of her coat, and then was escorted directly into the breed ring. While in Michigan for a water rescue test, she won Best of Breed and a Group 4 over the top males in the country, while not yet 2 years old.

Being more than a pretty girl with a lion's mane, Abby was a Versatile Advanced Leonberger. She excelled not only in the show ring but also in companion and performance events, with Fast CAT and Barn Hunt being two of her favorites. In 2019 she

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became the first and (as of the time of the writing of this article) the only Leonberger to earn the Barn Hunt Senior title.

Her “missile launch” antics eventually led Rios to the Fast CAT events. AKC’s Fast CAT (which stands for Coursing Ability Test) is a relatively new activity which is already very popular, even among breeds not known for high prey-drive or racetrack speeds. Unlike sports such as competitive obedience, agility, and rally obedience, there is really nothing to “teach” your dog before competing in Fast CAT. It is all about the dog’s natural instinct. In an enclosed area surrounded by a four-foot fence, the dog is given the chance to chase a lure over the timed 100-yard course. The dogs run one at a time.

To earn the first title (BCAT), the dog must earn 150 points, and their fastest three runs are averaged for ranking. Their run time on the course is converted into miles per hour, and points

for each run are calculated based on the dog’s height times the handicap. Three of Abby’s offspring from the Siempre Sarita “A” litter are in this year’s top 20 Leonbergers in this sport. At the number one position is Meelie (aka Siempre Sarita A Little Bit Stronger, BCAT), who inherited her mother’s missile launch and also happens to be the number-two all-time Leonberger in the sport. Her speed is listed at 25.85 miles per hour! At number eight is her sister Gracie (Siempre Sarita Amazing Grace BCAT), with a speed of 23.11 miles per hour. And currently at number 16 is brother Austin (Siempre Sarita Ace in the Hole, BN, RN, THDN, CGCA, CGCU, TKN, ATT), with a speed of 20.90 miles per hour. Their brother Rilian (Siempre Sarita Angels Among Us, CGC, TKN) has just completed his third and fourth runs and is expected to join his siblings in the rankings in the near future.

So it would seem that, yes, indeed, a “lion” can be a Fast CAT! It is yet another way that the Leonberger demonstrates its versatility and enthusiasm.

For more information on the sport of Fast CAT, check out the AKC website (<https://www.akc.org/sports/coursing/fast-cat/>). For information on getting your Leonberger started in the sport, contact the Leonberger Club of America.

—Shannon White,
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[Leonberger Club of America](#)

Mastiffs

Our column for this issue is by Diane Collings and Toni Hyland.

THE MASTIFF FRONT

This article addresses the Mastiff front as it relates to proportion, as stated in the standard:

- “Rectangular, the length of the dog from the fore-

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chest to rump is somewhat longer than the height at the withers.”

- “The height of the dog should come from depth of body rather than from length of leg.”

- “Great depth and breadth desirable.”

The proper construction of the front of the Mastiff addresses the bullet points noted above. The prosternum, or forechest, as mentioned in the first bullet point needs to be prominent, as this is the initial point in measuring the overall length of the dog, to establish its rectangular shape. Less prominence of the prosternum or an upright front gives the dog a more squared and leggier appearance, contrary to the standard and not in keeping with the third bullet point.

Having a prominent prosternum ensures that correct layback, which is the angle of the scapula in relationship to the spine, is established. Correct angulation also requires that



The Mastiff’s AKC standard says, “The height of the dog should come from depth of body rather than from length of leg.” “Great depth and breadth is desirable,” and the chest should be “wide, deep, rounded and well let down between the forelegs, extending at least to the elbow.”

the humerus be of similar length to the scapula and is angled back on the body so that the elbow is at the deepest part of the chest. This also establishes the moderate angulation called for in the standard. The standard says:

“Chest—wide, deep, rounded and well let down between the forelegs, extending *at least to the elbow.*” Any less depth of chest will be contrary to the *overall height of the dog coming from depth of body rather than length of leg,*

making this what is called a 50/50 dog. When viewed from the profile the elbow should be back under the withers and the chest well below the elbow, as seen in the accompanying picture.

The prosternum should be used as a “landmark” that is discernable at 6 weeks of age—perfect timing for evaluating puppies. At 8 weeks the angulation of the front is what it will be as an adult; this is your preview of the dog to come. What you see is what you get. It is a myth that the

COURTESY DIANE COLLINGS



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front will come in later. Angles don't change; what one feels when a prominent prosternum is not present is the accumulation of muscle, skin, and fat that comes with maturity.

As mentioned, muscle, skin, and fat can be deceiving to the eye, giving an impression of a front where there isn't one. In our opinion, the best technique to determine the presence of the prosternum is to take your open left hand, find the point of shoulder with fingers pointed, and move straight across the front; the tips of the fingers should run into the prosternum. If they don't, the prosternum is not sufficiently prominent and is contrary to the standard.

As the Mastiff is the heaviest breed, males most weighing over 200 pounds, correct structure ensures the majority of the weight is supported by a well-made front. A strong front isn't exclusive to correct angulation but also requires heavy bone and

powerful musculature, as well as correct feet—"large, round and compact ... with well arched toes," which are all necessary to carry the dog's weight throughout their lives.

The Mastiff is a working breed. The standard says, "the gait denotes power and strength." "The forelegs should track smoothly with good reach." Many are surprised by the athleticism, agility, strength, and drive observed when a correctly structured Mastiff is moving. It is truly a sight to behold.

—Diane Collings and
Toni Hyland,
[Mastiff Club of America](#)

Neapolitan Mastiffs

WHAT KIND OF CLUB ARE WE?

Recently a new member asked me "What kind of club is the United States Neapolitan Mastiff Club? Are you a club for breeders? Or a club for exhibitors? What kind of members do you want?"

Ringside at a national, a

lady standing next to me, chatting most amiably about this and that, said, "I am not a breeder. I do not show my dog. I just love him. Would your club want a member like me?"

Stunned, I just stared at her. She took my breath away. And nearly broke my heart.

The USNMC is a breed club. Not a breeder's club, not an owner's club. We do not limit our club to just one type of member nor do we value one over another. We do not even require that all members actually own a *Mastino*. Everyone with an interest in the Neapolitan Mastiff has a place in the club.

And indeed, the strength of the club is in having members with different interests. For example, we should not go off in one direction in support of breeders to the exclusion or detriment of pet owners. Nor should we lionize those who exhibit or participate in various aspects of performance over those

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who simply love their couch-buddy. We must honor all types of members equally. And by understanding and answering their different needs we will stay moderate in how we work. And in that moderation is strength.

It is just like breeding dogs. Each breed has unique characteristics. The breeder who focuses on one aspect to the exclusion of another will not have a correct dog that fulfills the whole breed standard.

A good breeder looks to create a balanced dog paying attention even to the unglamorous parts as they are also critical to the overall dog. If you ignore one aspect you lose correctness and you will suddenly see all kinds of wonkiness in other areas too. It is tough to address everything all the time but that is simply the job.

Same thing in a club. It is our job to understand the needs of each category of breed fan, and to develop the materials for education;



Neapolitan Mastiff

to provide the forum for members to show off their accomplishments and to provide the social network to the enjoyment of each member.

A breeder's goals should be to predictably create fine examples of the breed. In the same way a club's goals should be to be able to predictably meet the needs of its audience (both members and other stakeholders).

This means the club's management must understand three things: (1) basic AKC dog club opera-

tions (the universe in which we live); (2) the needs of its audience (our unique piece of this universe); and (3) how to build standard procedures that enable to club to meet these audience needs within our fancy.

At the September Delegates meeting it was suggested that parent clubs develop a five-year plan. These are common in the business world, and I have found them useful to provide the North Star necessary to allow the organization to regularly orient itself so it knows it is still heading in the desired direction.

The first two steps to a five-year plan are fairly easy: Define the club's purpose, and define the customers. The next step is somewhat less easy: to outline the needs of the different customers. And the fourth step can be interesting: to outline what the club is currently doing to do to meet those needs—and by extension, what unaddressed needs exist.



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Then comes the really hard part: to develop step-by-step activities to do those things you are not.

Putting these in writing and available to all members gives the club a foundation for development. Regularly reviewing the club activities against this outline gives the club stability and true progress.

It is important to be stable and to be making progress. If you aren't, and don't, all you are doing is busywork. And busywork without a goal is just frustrating. In these chaotic times, we are all too busy to tolerate much frustration. Frustration leads to people throwing up their hands and saying what's the use? Frustration leads to the loss of workers, enthusiasm, and in the end, members.

Those three problems are a common mantra whenever clubs get together.

I look forward to developing a five-year plan for us to answer that question: What kind of club are we?

—Margaret R. (Peggy) Wolfe,

Margaret.peggy.wolfe@gmail.com

United States Neapolitan Mastiff Club

Newfoundlands

WINTER READING

Winter is always a wonderful time to curl up with a couple of good books, a cup of hot tea or an adult beverage, and a Newfoundland or two by your feet. Whether you are a new or experienced owner, exhibitor, breeder, or judge, it never hurts to review the books that serve as the “bibles” of a breed. The internet now makes it possible to find those older treasures that are out of print, and very easy to add that one book that isn't on your bookshelf yet.

The Newfoundland Club of America website (<http://www.ncanewfs.org>) has a page titled Newfoundland Dog Library (<https://www.newfbooks.org/>) that makes shopping even easier, with direct links for some of the

books listed below.

For Newfoundland fanciers, we are blessed with a number of breed books. While there hasn't been a new release recently, the books that are available are wonderful for research and history, and quite possibly will help answer a question or clarify what makes a Newfoundland a Newfoundland.

Following is a list of books (in no particular order) that are still relatively easy to find.

The Newfoundland—Gentle Giant, by Jo Ann Riley

The Newfoundland (The Pure-Bred Series), by Emmy Bruno

The Newfoundland: Companion Dog—Water Dog, by Joan Bendure

The Newfoundland, by Betty McDonnell and Jo Ann Riley

Newfoundlands Today, by Hedd and Del Richards (England)

The Newfoundland, by Carol Cooper (England)

Some older books that



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are particularly interesting are:

This Is the Newfoundland, by Mrs. Maynard (Kitty) Drury

Newfoundland (How to Raise and Train), by Kitty Drury and Bill Linn

The New Complete Newfoundland, by Margaret Booth Chern

Two books, while specifically about training, are still valuable resources for studying the Newfoundland temperament and instincts

as well as how structure and movement are integral in obedience, water and draft training. And they just might inspire you to add a working title to your Newfoundland's name!

The Newfoundland Puppy: Early Care, Early Training, by Judi Adler

Water Work, Water Play, by Judi Adler

Time spent with some of these “bibles” will be well worth your while and will add to your understanding of this wonderful breed we call the Newfoundland. — Mary Lou Cuddy, 2019

[Newfoundland Club of America](#)

Portuguese Water Dogs

Our guest writer for this month is Kari L. Lavalli.

THE VERSATILE PORTUGUESE WATER DOG: NOT JUST A WATER DOG, BUT ALSO A HERDING DOG

Dog origins remain a puzzle, but one thing we do know is that canine domes-

AKC GAZETTE COLLECTION

WORKING GROUP

tication, some 15,000–30,000 years before present (YBP), preceded the domestication of livestock(11,000 YBP) and the growing of crops(10,000 YBP). (References below.) A number of hypotheses exist as to why wild canids may have developed an association with us, and these include exploiting leftover carcasses, following humans eventually becoming part of the hunt as they became tamer, or humans copying wolf packs in following herds and eventually becoming herders themselves. Eventually this relationship would develop into a division of labor between proto-dogs that were the least timid and most friendly, and pastoral humans who herded livestock while following the availability of water and pastures.

Today's PWD is known for its great versatility in many AKC venues: obedience, rally, agility, scent work, tracking, and Fast CAT, as well as dock diving,

Barn Hunt, disc dog, and flyball. The breed is best known for water-work tasks created by the PWD parent clubs in the U.S. and Canada. Its origins are unknown, but it is an ancient breed whose ancestors likely emerged from rugged Asian herding dogs that were brought into Portugal. Historical accounts talk about their instinctive desire to chase and retrieve fish, and some accounts mention that these dogs were taught to herd fish into a net.

Wait! So, PWDs herd? Not according to the AKC, which does not include the PWD in its list of eligible herding breeds. However, that has not stopped some from training PWDs to herd livestock.

One such person is Jules Asbed, of Hat Trick PWDs. On a whim, she took several PWD puppies to a workshop on herding and they all showed instinct. She became fascinated with the entire process and worked with a trainer

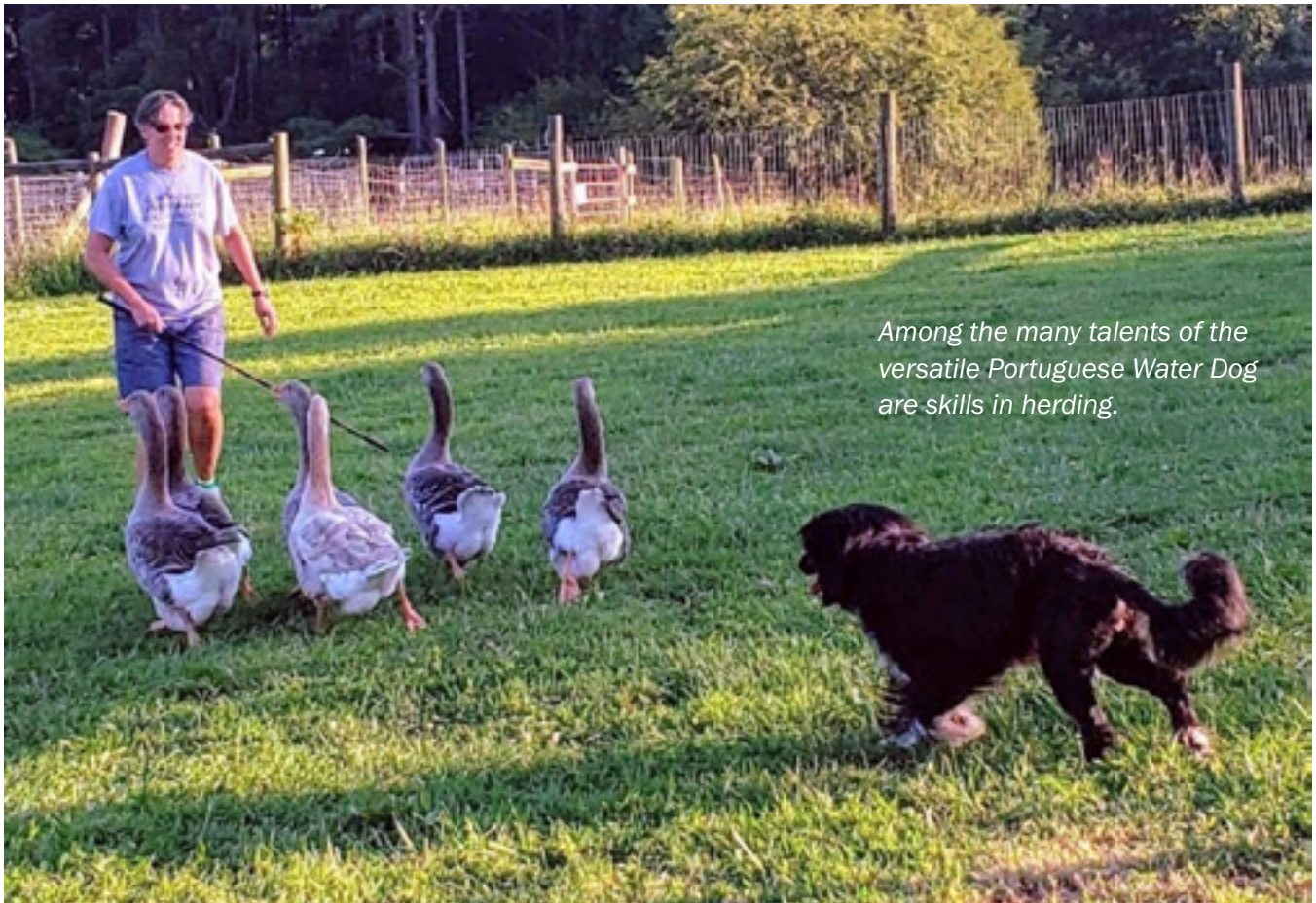
to see if her PWDs could herd stock, eventually building a course in her field to increase practice time.

Her dogs varied in their techniques, some with a strong-ish eye, others with a loose eye, and all with an upright posture. She found that herding increased the confidence level of her dogs.

Since starting her herding journey with PWDs 11 years ago, Jules has titled seven PWDs at various levels in herding, in the only venue that allows PWDs to compete (American Herding Breed Association, AHBA). One of her dogs has even earned a herding championship. When she breeds a litter, Jules tests all of the 9- to 10-week-old puppies on ducks. Some puppies don't even notice the ducks; others follow the ducks. But the ones you really want for herding are those who get upset when the ducks shed and want to bring them back together again in a single group!

So yes, PWDs can herd—that instinct is still there—

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Among the many talents of the versatile Portuguese Water Dog are skills in herding.

which just makes them even more versatile than we thought, and circles back to their origins. —K.L.

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COURTESY KARI LAVALLI



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[Portuguese Water Dog Club of America](#)

Rottweilers

THINKING ABOUT TOENAILS

I think about toenails, and I ponder their natural shape versus “show shape.” Assuming a dog has good feet, the toenail will naturally take on a sharp end. This is not by accident: Pointy toenails will dig into grass or dirt, giving a dog more stability under the foot for pushing off, turning, and sharp pivoting. This provides stability for the entire leg and foot, including the tendons and ligaments. It’s also handy for digging and clawing at

coveted items. An active dog with correct feet will naturally keep their nails sharp, with the nail just hovering over the substrate the dog is standing in but not quite scraping the ground. Nails that are too long will push the foot back, displacing the dog’s ability to stand squarely over his feet and distribute his weight evenly, putting more strain on the pasterns.

Rottweilers, like many other breeds that work, are to have strong, thick, black nails that can withstand all types of terrain and weather without breaking, cracking, or splitting. Such injuries would make the dog lame and unable to work. A dog that can’t work is of no use as a helper.

On the other hand, we show-folks like to grind our dog’s nails into pretty, round nubs. Indeed, they are very neat and pretty. This kind of pedicure allows a good foot to really stand out, as there is no visual incongruence of the

nails exiting the toes. Yet this is not normal or functional for a dog. We have removed the dog’s ability to grip the ground, which may also influence the way the dog’s body shifts and its muscles contract in order to compensate for the ground beneath slipping away. We essentially remove the dog’s ability to grab footing with their toenails.

I have always used a grinder, starting with my first dog. However, my current young dog is displaying intense dislike and discomfort of the tool (even if paired with super tasty treats). Interestingly, he will allow me to use the clippers, no problem. So, I have taken to clipping off the very sharp ends but leaving the nail otherwise intact. He has good, well-arched feet, and the nails do not touch the floor when he is standing, yet many friends and fanciers have admonished me for his nails not being shorter. Like I said, I have come to think about toenails.



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As my dog is training in dog sports, he needs to grip the ground. I do plan on showing him occasionally, but I have no plan to grind his nails short and round at this time. I believe it wiser, for my dog and his situation, to have slightly longer nails. He has his dew claws in front for torque and pivoting, and slightly pointy-ended nails for grasping the ground and pushing off when running and jumping. As long as they are not so long as to push his feet back and they are not touching the

ground when standing and relaxed, then he's fine for exercising and our sport training.

—Jill Kessler Miller,
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American Rottweiler Club

Samoyeds

Our guest columnist for this issue is Alyssa Storm-Gould, MA, MT-BC, of Wedgewood Samoyeds. Alyssa is a music therapist and music minister. She has owned and trained dogs her

whole life. She has been owned by Samoyeds since 2003, and established Wedgewood Samoyeds in 2011. She currently has two Samoyeds, Hali, and Jubal, her service dog. Alyssa shows her dogs in AKC events. She lives in New Jersey with her husband Bill, their daughter, and beloved pets. Alyssa has handled Samoyeds as her personal service dogs since 2003.

TRAINING IN BOTH OBEDIENCE AND CONFORMATION

This article is inspired by my experience being attacked by unruly dogs three times in two months while at dog shows, at hotels that were housing exhibitors and their dogs.

Myth: Conformation dogs can't train in obedience simultaneously.

Truth: Overlap of commands will help you and not hinder you in the conformation ring. Here are some examples:

Stand for exam = the judge's exam.

COURTESY LYNDA BEAM

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Stand-Stay = free-stacking.

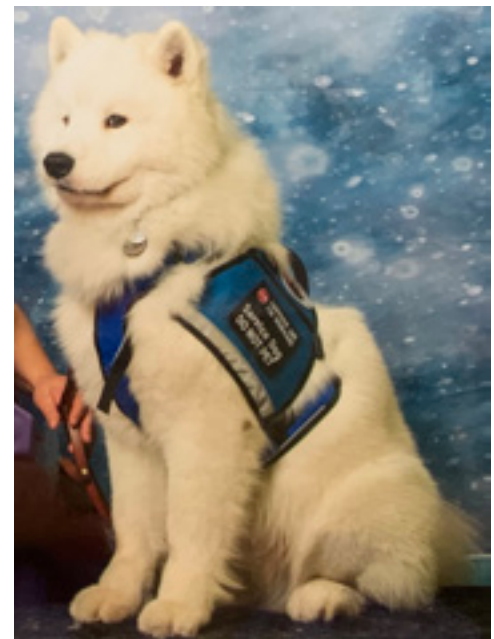
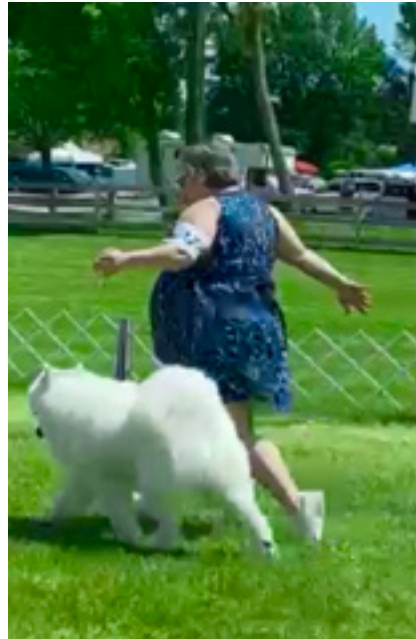
“Watch me” = keeping attention on the handler during free-stacking and hard stacks.

Heel/Fast Heel = gaiting/movement and patterns.

Tolerance of strange dogs, people, sights, sounds, smells, and so on in crowded areas at shows and hotels is crucial for the conformation dog. Show environments are extremely stressful and unnatural for dogs.

The space around ring entrances and exits are cramped, and dogs often come in close contact with one another. Dogs see these strange dogs and people as being outside their pack, and this is stressful for them. I have seen dogfights erupt many times because of an overly stressed dog reaching its breaking point. This creates a dangerous situation.

My goal for the show ring is a well behaved, balanced dog. In Samoyeds, temperament is of utmost



Samoyed Jubal easily switches between the different expectations of the obedience and conformation rings.

importance. A dog with a foul temperament should not be bred. Since the purpose of conformation is to evaluate breeding stock, it is important to pay attention to these things. Movement is extremely important and must be carefully evaluated to ensure the dog is fit for the tasks it is bred to do. An overexcited, stressed, reactive, and untrained dog who is wiggling, jumping, and pulling cannot be properly evaluated while standing or gaiting. If the

judge can't properly see the dog it goes unrecognized, many times losing to an inferior specimen. This can be frustrating and makes it a waste of money to be at the show.

This begets the question: How does one train their dog for both conformation and obedience?

My dog, Jubal, knows how to sit, yet he knows not to sit in the conformation ring. He knows the command “Down,” yet he does not lie down in the conformation ring. How

COURTESY ALYSSA STORM-GOULD

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does he know what to do and where to do it?

Jubal is also my service dog. I have devised a system of hand-signals and words, as well as the use of separate collars and leads and separate types of bait and ways I hold the bait to him. He understands each thing as a separate task. For example, instead of saying “Jubal, heel,” to move him, I say, “OK, Jubal, with me,” or “let’s go!” This lets him know his head will be down and forward in a working position, rather than looking up at me as is done in obedience. It’s a signal to Jubal that he will be gaiting in the conformation patterns.

Teaching the dog to focus on you crosses over into both disciplines. The “Leave it” command is a lifesaver when there’s bait on the ground from other exhibitors, and when they throw bait to get the attention of their dog. It also is essential along with the “On by” command, when passing other dogs

and people while walking around.

Basic obedience manners are important at the hotels as well. As stated earlier, Jubal and I were attacked at hotels. It cost me hundreds of dollars and many hours of training to get Jubal over being reactive, and to get his confidence back. If we want hotels to continue to welcome us with our dogs, we must not become a liability to them. A dog-bite case is not something they want to have to deal with. It’s up to us to train our dogs to safely be in public situations.

I start training my dogs for all things the day they come home. Place your puppy on a grooming table and introduce him or her to being groomed. Touch your puppy all over with hands and with brushes and other grooming tools. Practice the judge’s exam by checking the puppy’s bite and having him examined by yourself and by others. Give lots of treats and praise.

Puppies should be

exposed to things that activate their senses, and they should be brought out as much as possible once they are properly vaccinated.

Group classes are important because it teaches the dogs how to be in the ring with other dogs. Understand that puppies and young dogs go through two to four “fear phases” during their development. Don’t be discouraged by this. Keep training, and keep positive. The AKC STAR Puppy program and Canine Good Citizen® certification classes are wonderful experiences that teach basic obedience, with dogs earning AKC titles upon class and exam completion.

In conclusion, it *is* possible to train your show dog in basic obedience without ruining their ability to show well in conformation. A dog who has a leader and is trained is happier and less stressed and will be seen and rewarded. They will be welcomed at hotels, campgrounds, and other public venues, and they will be calm and well-adjusted



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at shows. You can do it!

—A.S.-G.

Thank you, Alyssa.

—Heather LoProto, SCA
Public Education Chair,

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Samoyed Club of
America

Siberian Huskies

A CYNIC'S GUIDE TO PRESERVING THE SIBERIAN

The dwindling number of people involved in the purebred dog fancy has been a subject of much discussion over the years. Most of us who have been showing dogs long enough can recall a time when it took 20 to 30 class animals just to make a three-point major in either sex—and now we are lucky to get that number as a total entry. The AKC has long been working to find ways to revive reduced registration numbers. This trend is equally evident in our breed: Longtime breeders are aging out of Siberians, and younger people are not coming in to replace them.

Where will this leave us in another 25–50 years?

Attracting new people to a breed like ours and keeping them around long enough to make a positive impact is a difficult prospect, and I will tell you the reason is not the breed itself; it is us. The current custodians. The people who have adored, nurtured, and defended this breed for decades. Our breed may be friendly to one and all, but owning and breeding Siberian Huskies makes you the worst kind of gatekeeper. You meet people who stubbornly refuse to believe you when you try to tell them that Siberians are not Labrador Retrievers in wolf suits. You screen dozens of potential puppy buyers and realize that perhaps one in ten is a good fit for the breed. You look around at your Fort Knox-like kennel yard, your collection of strong leashes hanging by every door, and your home's complete lack of small animals (cats, squirrels, birds), and—after

a while—you become cynical. You develop the mindset that a person must work to deserve this breed. And you don't trust that anyone will do the work.

If you're involved in Siberian Husky rescue for any length of time, it gets worse. So much worse.

This is why the idea of attracting new people to the breed makes some of us wince. Most Siberian people are not promoters—we don't "sell" our breed. In fact, most of us try to talk people out of them. (There's that cynicism again, throwing up the first gate across the path to Siberian ownership.)

But the fact is our breed is in jeopardy. Preservation breeders of Siberians are far outnumbered by careless, irresponsible people producing unsound and unhealthy dogs that stray so far from standard they often barely resemble the breed. You see these dogs by the dozens in shelters across the country. If we do not encourage the next

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Siberian Husky Ch. Wonalancet's Baldy of Alyeskac (Chinook Kennels)

generation of preservation breeders to join us, the mentally and physically sound, standard-fitting, and healthy Siberian Husky will eventually cease to exist.

So what do we do, as the suspicious gatekeepers of our breed?

Be nice. When people approach you at a dog show or a sled dog race and show an interest in the breed, stifle your knee-jerk desire to tell them how

difficult Siberians are to own, and let them simply enjoy being around your dogs. Tell them about other events coming up in your area. Be willing to act as a contact point for their questions. Respond promptly to emails and messages. Return phone calls (if that's your thing).

Be nice. When newbies appear at your handling class or a show with their Siberian—regardless of where it came from—make yourself approachable (or even approach them!). Tell them about your local Siberian club if you have one or your local kennel club if you don't. Find something to compliment them on when they come out of the ring (“You did a great job keeping your dog's attention during the exam”) and, if it comes to it, congratulate them on their win.

Be nice. If someone tells you how great a sled dog their Siberian would be because it drags them on walks, offer to help them fit

it with a proper harness and tell them about scootering and bikejoring (you might also give them some tips for good leash manners!). You may even wish to invite them out on a run with your dogs so they can see a team first hand. This is what my neighbor did for me when I was just a kid ... and here I am decades later.

It can be hard to accept people new to Siberians with open arms when you've spent so much time trying to protect the breed from people who were simply the wrong fit for it. But the fact is, one kind gesture or a simple willingness to help can be the difference between fleeting interest and a lifelong passion that guarantees our breed is left in good hands.

The SHCA Board is always discussing how we might bring more people into the club and help ensure our breed has plenty of passionate individuals to support, preserve, and defend it. If you have ideas,



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please reach out!

—Jessica Breinholt,
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America

Standard Schnauzers

DOGGY DENTAL CARE

February is National Pet Dental Health month. Dental care, like toenail and foot care and veterinarian visits, should be part of a responsible dog owner's regular maintenance schedule for their dog's well-being; it should be part of your Standard Schnauzer's daily ritual.

When I began showing Standard Schnauzers in 1967, my mentor—exhibitor, Standard Schnauzer breeder, pro handler, and show photographer Sue Baines—taught me that maintenance of teeth, ears, feet, and toenails was a vitally important component of grooming a show dog, whether “dog show” meant conformation or obedience, the only venues the AKC offered back then.

The Standard Schnauzer breed standard states that correct dentition is “A full complement of white teeth, with a strong, sound scissors bite. The canine teeth are strong and well developed with the upper incisors slightly overlapping and engaging the lower. The upper and lower jaws are powerful and neither overshot nor undershot.

Faults—A level bite is considered undesirable but a lesser fault than an overshot or undershot mouth.”

A puppy has 28 teeth, whereas almost all adult dogs have 42 teeth—the exception is the Chow-Chow, with 44 teeth (having an extra two upper molars). Poor dental hygiene can cause tooth decay, which can lead to bad breath, discomfort, and even tooth loss. But more importantly, dental disease is linked causally to other health problems, including heart disease. The bacteria that cause gum disease can get into the bloodstream and

negatively affect the heart and other organs such as the kidney and liver, triggering inflammation.

Pat Hastings, a popular AKC judge among SS exhibitors, says, “When I first started judging, I was shocked at how offended I was by dirty teeth. I had no idea that I would react to such a thing, but most judges I have talked to feel the same way. To open a dog's mouth and see teeth encrusted in tartar offends a judge's sensibilities. ... This does not bode well for your chances in the ring.” (Patricia Hastings, *Let's Make You a Winner: A Judge's Perspective on Showing Dogs.*)

Most veterinarians agree that one of the best things you can do for your dog's health is brushing his teeth daily. Allowing tartar to build up on your dog's teeth leads to gingivitis (inflamed gums), often making it painful for the dog to eat. Worse, the tartar builds up under the gumline (canine periodontal disease),

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causing tooth loss, permanent jaw disorders, and bacteria invading the blood stream.

But far worse, inattention to good oral and dental care can lead to such serious systemic problems as diabetes and heart disease. (Beware—this happens in humans, too!)

The American Veterinary Medical Association recommends having your dog's teeth and mouth examined during his regular health checkup. An immediate dental examination is necessary if you observe any of the following problems:

- Bad breath;
- Broken or loose teeth;
- Extra teeth or retained baby teeth;
- Teeth that are discolored or covered in tartar;
- Abnormal chewing, drooling, or dropping food from the mouth;
- Reduced appetite or refusal to eat;
- Pain in or around the mouth;
- Bleeding from the



Standard Schnauzer Flash, awarded Reserve Winners Dog at the breed's 2022 national specialty.

mouth;

- Swelling in the areas surrounding the mouth;
- Any changes in your dog's behavior (irritability could signify dental problems).

The AKC suggests ways you can maintain good oral health for your Standard Schnauzer:

1. Brush your dog's teeth regularly. Use a soft dog toothbrush with angled bristles, a soft toothbrush like those for baby humans,

or a finger brush made for dogs. Always use a toothpaste made for dogs, such as C.E.T. Enzyme toothpaste, Kissable All-Natural Toothpaste for Dogs, or Arm & Hammer Dog Toothpaste. Human toothpaste contains detergents and other ingredients that can make your dog sick.

2. Rub doggy dental-wipes against your dog's teeth to help remove plaque. However, wipes can't get into the tiny nooks

COURTESY SUZANNE T. SMITH

WORKING GROUP

and crannies that a brush does. Wipes that smell like peppermint are good as a last-minute breath touchup before your SS goes into the ring—for you, use dental wipes made for humans.

3. Dog dental treats are made specifically to remove plaque buildup and often contain ingredients that freshen breath and clean your dog's mouth, and what dog doesn't like treats? (*Treat* is on our list of words to use carefully in our dogs' presence, along with *squirrel*, *chipmunk*, *ride*, *walk*, and others.)

4. Gnawing on dog chews can help to scrape plaque off your dog's teeth. Many all-natural chews that are made from meat contain enzymes that help promote dental health. Never give your dog cooked bones—they splinter—but raw bones are OK if they aren't so large that they could cause damage to the dog's teeth, or so small that they could get stuck in your dog's throat.

5. "Although much more

expensive than the other tips we've mentioned, a professional dental cleaning is the best way to maintain your dog's dental hygiene. Your veterinarian is experienced in preventing, locating, and treating any issues that might go unnoticed by even the most dedicated dog owner. If there is one option you choose to promote your dog's dental health, we suggest visiting your veterinarian for a professional exam."

Pets WebMD lists 10 easy steps for getting your dog accustomed to having his teeth brushed. These steps may take several repetitions to prepare your dog fully:

- Pick a time when your dog is calm and relaxed.
- Gather your tools: a soft, angled toothbrush made for dogs, or a finger brush; toothpaste made for dogs; treats for rewarding your dog for a job well done.
- Kneel or sit in front or beside your dog; play to relax him. If the dog seems anxious, stop and

try another time. Keep the process fun.

- Using light pressure, rub your dog's teeth and gums with your finger. Rub top front, bottom front, sides, and back to get him used to feeling the oral invasion.

- Put a sample of doggy toothpaste on your finger and let your dog lick it off. If your dog seems not to like the taste, try another flavor until you find one he likes.

- Using the toothbrush with doggy toothpaste on it, lift the upper lip and hold the bristles at a 45-degree angle against the dog's teeth and gums so the bristles massage the gum line and clear away plaque.

- Brush lightly in small circles, moving the bristles along the gum line to get top and bottom on each side. Slight bleeding is OK, but ongoing or heavy bleeding may mean you're brushing too aggressively. It also may be a sign of gum disease, so speak with your veterinarian promptly



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for advice.

- Focus on areas where plaque tends to form, such as on the outsides of the canine and back teeth.

- Brush a few teeth at a time if your dog resists—eventually it will become easier. Keep it fun.

- Talk to your dog throughout the daily brushing, praising him and explaining exactly what you're doing; tell how gorgeous he'll be with clean sparkling teeth.

- End on a positive note. Be liberal with praise, pats, hugs, extra attention, and dental treats and toys.

<https://pets.webmd.com/dogs/ss/slideshow-brushing-dog-teeth>.

Most veterinarians and veterinary dentists agree that 80 percent of dogs show evidence of dental disease by the time they are 3 years old. The bacteria associated with gingivitis and periodontitis find their way into your dog's bloodstream, where they migrate to your dog's internal organs such as heart, kid-

neys, liver, and pancreas, and cause disease.

Short videos about doggy tooth brushing begin with Dr. Jerry Klein, AKC's chief veterinary officer:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=F6S50BZU1D0>.

The only way to prevent and/or treat dental disease is by brushing your dog's teeth every day or at least a few times a week. The best way to do this is to teach your dog to associate tooth brushing with a positive experience, like receiving a treat, and to introduce the process slowly.

Kibble doesn't clean teeth, despite the persistent belief that it does. In fact, this starchy food can actually contribute to plaque buildup and the development of dental disease, so read the guide to brushing your dog's teeth on thefarmersdog.com and start creating a positive routine with your bearded buddies today. <https://www.thefarmersdog.com/digest/how-many-teeth-do-dogs-have/>

—Suzanne T. Smith, Los

Alamos, New Mexico,

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Standard Schnauzer Club of America

Tibetan Mastiffs

THE IMPORTANCE OF THE PEDIGREE

The greatest threat to the preservation of the Tibetan Mastiff (TM) breed is the introduction of mixed-breed dogs from China marketed, sold, and now registered as Tibetan Mastiffs that first appeared on the scene about 15–20 years ago. These dogs were referred to initially as Chinese Market-type Mastiffs, because they were bred specifically to be sold on the dog market in China. Marketability, not breed preservation, was the driving force: huge, hairy, and haunting. The Tibetan people take particular offense to these dogs being misrepresented as aboriginal dogs and refer to them as “pig mastiffs.”

It is disconcerting to be discussing the Tibetan

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Mastiff with someone outside the breed who has seen photos of these Chinese dogs on the internet and feel it is their duty to “correct” my perception of the breed. These dogs catch the attention of those who are unfamiliar with the breed because they are flashy and flamboyant and fit the image that they want to have of a Tibetan Mastiff, as opposed to the sturdy working dogs that accurately represent the true nature and purpose of the breed. Those in the breed refer to them as Chinese Mastiffs, even though they are marketed and sold as Tibetan Mastiffs, and I will follow through with that term in this article, because they are without question a different breed.

Someone recently posted a show win photo of a dark red mixed-breed Chinese Mastiff in a Tibetan Mastiff group on Facebook. When group members questioned it, the owner denied that the

dog was a Chinese Mastiff, stating the dog was from the Ukraine, the sire was from Mongolia, and the dam was from Russia. I inquired about the pedigree, and the owner was nice enough to send me the dog’s pedigree via private message, but with strict instructions that the pedigree was not to be made public. It showed Chinese Mastiffs on both sides, both sire and dam.

Where a dog lives or where a puppy is born does not determine its lineage; the pedigree does. If I bought two Chinese Mastiffs, imported them to the U.S., and bred them here in America, the dogs would still be Chinese Mastiffs, and the puppies would be Chinese Mastiffs, not Tibetan Mastiffs or American Mastiffs. (For those of you who want to be picky, we all know there is no such thing as an American Mastiff, but I phrased it that way to make a point.)

A Tibetan Mastiff is a

Tibetan Mastiff if the pedigree traces back to Tibet, Nepal, Bhutan, or surrounding regions in the Himalayas where these dogs originated. It does not matter in which country a Tibetan Mastiff is living; it is still a Tibetan Mastiff if its lineage is pure. The same is true of a Chinese Mastiff. The dog does not change when its location changes. Importing a dog to Europe or the U.S. does not change the dog into something that it is not. If the dog descended from the mixed-breed dogs out of China, the dog is not a Tibetan Mastiff, regardless of where it was born, where it is located, what it looks like, how many shows it has won, or how it is registered. Always look at the pedigree to identify the dog.

For all those who don’t understand the importance of the AKC, this is the reason the AKC and other kennel clubs around the world exist—to provide

BREED COLUMNS



WORKING GROUP



Tibetan Mastiffs vs. Chinese Mastiffs: In each of these pairs of photos, the Tibetan Mastiff is on the left, and the dog of Chinese pedigree on the right.

pedigrees where you can trace the heritage of pure-bred dogs. But even there, the pedigree is only as good as the breeder is honest. As the old saying goes, if it looks like a duck, walks like a duck, and quacks like a duck, it's a duck: The same is true of a Chinese Mastiff. A mixed-breed Chinese Mastiff registered as a Tibetan Mastiff is the product of its pedigree, not of its namesake.

There has been a movement within the breed for several years to encourage owners of the Chinese dogs to create a separate breed and to own the heritage of their dogs, rather than try to piggyback off the reputation of the Tibetan Mastiff, but the idea has met with resistance. The legend and lore associated with the Tibetan Mastiff has a particular mystique and appeal that breeders of the mixed-breed Chinese dogs want to capitalize on. Until the issue is addressed, we must continue to promote authentic Tibetan

TIBETAN MASTIFFS COURTESY BRAD MOORE, MAYLAN MURRAY, TOM DUFFY; CHINESE TYPE COURTESY MARTHA FELTENSTEIN

WORKING GROUP

dogs, and our AKC and FCI judges must look for true type to represent the breed.

Before you buy a puppy, no matter who or where you buy it from, check the pedigree. If you want a Tibetan Mastiff, buy a Tibetan Mastiff. If you want a Chinese Mastiff, buy a Chinese Mastiff. But either way, know what you are buying, and don't try to fool yourself or others about it. In addition to those who simply don't care about preserving the breed, we have very well-known show breeders even in this country who are importing dogs that have Chinese Mastiffs in their pedigree and incorporating them into their breeding programs to get bigger coat and bigger mane *because that is what so many judges award in the ring*. If all you look at are the parents of the puppies, all may look good ... but go back two or three generations, and you may find mixed-breed Chinese dogs in the pedigree.

Why is this important?

Because of what these dogs bring to the mix, from harsh, unstable temperaments to serious health issues. The Chinese Mastiffs are bred for an aggressive temperament and for the most part, they are not health tested, and they frequently present with health issues previously unknown or obscure in the breed. These kinds of genetic traits can show up five generations down the line, so just because the parents of a pup don't have hip dysplasia, for example, does not mean it is not in the lines, and with the Chinese dogs, hip and elbow dysplasia as well as other major health issues are pervasive.

While there are obvious physical differences between traditional Tibetan Mastiffs and Chinese Mastiffs, more important is what you can't see: temperament. Tibetan Mastiffs have traditionally been known as a protective breed, not an aggressive breed, but

with the introduction of the mixed-breed Chinese Mastiffs, that is changing. No matter how big, fluffy, and beautiful a dog is, if the dog has an aggressive nature, as so many of the Chinese Mastiffs do, it is a threat to the safety of the people the dog comes into contact with and a liability for the owners.

It is once again fall/winter, and "puppy season" for the Tibetan Mastiff breed. In addition to visiting your breeder to meet their dogs, please take this information to heart, and ask to see the pedigree of any puppy you are planning to buy. You can also purchase a certified pedigree from AKC through their online store.

If you don't understand how to read a pedigree, contact the American Tibetan Mastiff Association for help. Check the pedigree and know what you are buying before you buy!

—Deborah Mayer

[American Tibetan Mastiff Association](#)



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

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

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ATTENTION DELEGATES

NOTICE OF MEETING

The next meeting of the Delegates will be held at the Doubletree Newark Airport Hotel on **Tuesday, March 14, 2023**, beginning no earlier than 9:00 a.m. There will not be a Delegate Forum.

DELEGATE CREDENTIALS

Jean A. Boyd, Brookeville, MD,
Bayou Kennel Club

Dr. Marci J. Cook, Columbus, MT,
Miniature Bull Terrier Club of America

Zac Crump, Georgetown, KY,
Lexington Kennel Club

Arlene Czech, Naples, FL,
Greater Naples Kennel Club

Joseph Fitzgerald, Jefferson, MD,
Catocin Kennel Club

Linda Gagnon, Wendall, MA,
Pioneer Valley Kennel Club

Carla D. Giroux, Stevensville, MT,
Idaho Capital City Kennel Club

Holly Johnson, Ipswich, MA,
North Shore Kennel Club

Kim Raleigh, Albuquerque, NM,
Finnish Spitz Club of America

Jessica Ricker, Youngstown, OH,
Mahoning-Shenango Kennel Club

Lisa Diane Summers, Geneva, OH,
Ashtabula Kennel Club



akcgazette

Click here to read the **January 2023** issue!

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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:

Mr. Cody Bowen (Kerrville, TX)

Mr. Tim Reagan (San Dimas, CA)

Ms. Brandi Ritchie (Jarrell, TX)

NOTICE

Mr. Philip Boyce (Waxhaw, NC). Action was taken by the Bald Eagle Kennel Club of Williamsport, PA for conduct at its July 29, 2022 event. Mr. Boyce was charged with harassment, verbal or written. The Board of Directors set the penalty as a two-year suspension from all AKC privileges and imposed a \$2,000 fine, effective July 30, 2022. (Multiple Breeds)

NOTICE

Mr. Robert Margolis (Cerritos, CA) Action was taken by the San Mateo Dog Training Club for conduct at its September 10, 2022 event. Mr. Margolis was charged with inappropriate, abusive, or foul language. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the Event Committee's report and set the penalty as a one-month event suspension and imposed a \$500 fine, effective November 8, 2022. (Golden Retrievers, Weimaraners)

NOTICE

At its November 2022 meeting, the American Kennel Club Board of Directors suspended the judging privileges of Sheila D. Paske for a period on three (3) months effective December 9, 2022, and imposed a fine of \$300.00 for Failure to Disqualify as required by *AKC Rules, Regulations and Policies*, and Attempting to Influence Other Judges.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE RULES APPLYING TO DOG SHOWS – CHAPTER 6, SECTION 2A – PREMIUM LISTS AND CLOSING OF ENTRIES

The AKC Board has endorsed the following amendment to **Chapter 6, Section 2A**, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*, proposed by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee. This will be voted on at the March 14, 2023 Delegate Meeting.

CHAPTER 6 SECTION 2A.

Previous portions of this section are unchanged.

The conditions of all prizes and trophies offered must conform to the provisions of Chapter 5 of these rules and Chapter 1, Sections 19, 20, 21 and 30 of the Obedience Regulations. A club using a condensed form of premium list is obligated to prepare lists of the breed and obedience prizes and trophies for distribution to prospective entrants and exhibitors on request. Such lists can be printed and distributed by US mail

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or in person or emailed. In each condensed form of premium list there must be the notation: "A list of breed and obedience prizes and trophies offered can be obtained by writing to (name and address of club secretary, show secretary and/or superintendent and address)."

Remainder of this section is unchanged.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE RULES APPLYING TO DOG SHOWS – CHAPTER 7, SECTION 6 – JUDGES

The AKC Board has endorsed the following amendment to **Chapter 7, Section 6**, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*, proposed by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee. This will be voted on at the March 14, 2023 Delegate Meeting.

CHAPTER 7 SECTION 6.

Event committees, show secretaries, or superintendents shall, in every instance, notify appointed judges of the breeds and group classes upon which they are to pass, and such notifications shall be given before the publication of the premium lists.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE RULES APPLYING TO DOG SHOWS – CHAPTER 7, SECTION 7 – JUDGES

The AKC Board has endorsed the following amendment to **Chapter 7, Section 7**, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*, proposed by the

Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee. This will be voted on at the March 14, 2023 Delegate Meeting.

CHAPTER 7 SECTION 7.

Event committees, show secretaries, or superintendents shall not add to or subtract from the number of breeds or variety groups which a selected judge has agreed to pass upon without first notifying said judge of and obtaining his consent to the contemplated change in his assigned breeds or variety groups, and the judge when so notified may refuse to judge any breeds or variety groups added to his/her original assignment.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE RULES APPLYING TO DOG SHOWS – CHAPTER 7, SECTION 9 – JUDGES

The AKC Board has endorsed the following amendment to **Chapter 7, Section 9**, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*, proposed by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee. This will be voted on at the March 14, 2023 Delegate Meeting.

CHAPTER 7 SECTION 9.

Should an Event committee be informed at any time within ten days before the opening of its show, or after its show has opened, that an advertised judge will not fulfill his or her engagement to judge, it shall substitute a qualified judge in his/her place and shall obtain

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approval of the change from The American Kennel Club if time allows. No Notice need be sent to those exhibitors who have entered dogs under the advertised judge.

The Event Committee, Superintendent, or Show Secretary will be responsible for having a notice posted in a prominent place within the show precincts as soon after the show opens as is practical informing exhibitors of the change in judges. An exhibitor who has entered a dog under an advertised judge who is being replaced may withdraw such entry and shall have the entry fee refunded, provided notice of such withdrawal is given to the Superintendent or Show Secretary prior to the start of the judging of the breed which is to be passed upon by a substitute judge.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE RULES APPLYING TO DOG SHOWS – CHAPTER 7, SECTION 13 – JUDGES

The AKC Board has endorsed the following amendment to **Chapter 7, Section 13**, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*, proposed by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee. This will be voted on at the March 14, 2023 Delegate Meeting.

CHAPTER 7 **SECTION 13.**

Previous portions of this section are unchanged.

When the entries have closed, if the entry under any judge exceeds the above limits, the Event

Committee must select some other judge or judges to whom sufficient breeds can be assigned, to bring the total assignment of every judge within and as close as possible to the limit without removing provisional breeds listed in the judge's contract without the judge's agreement. The removal of any breeds is to be discussed with the assigned judge. If a judge is assigned four or fewer breeds, the assignment shall be reduced first by reassigning to another judge sufficient classes from one breed to eliminate the overload, with any non-regular classes in that breed being the first removed. The same procedure shall then be followed for as many breeds as necessary until the overload is eliminated. This will apply whether or not the breed in question involves varieties. Notice must be sent to the owner of each dog affected by such a change in judges at least five days before the opening of the show, and the owner has the right to withdraw his entry and have his entry fee refunded provided notification of his/her withdrawal is received no later than one half-hour prior to the start of any regular conformation judging at the show, by the Superintendent or Show Secretary named in the premium list to receive entries.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE RULES APPLYING TO DOG SHOWS – CHAPTER 7, SECTION 17 – JUDGES

The AKC Board has endorsed the following amendment to **Chapter 7, Section 17**, of the

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Rules Applying to Dog Shows, proposed by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee. This will be voted on at the March 14, 2023 Delegate Meeting.

CHAPTER 7 SECTION 17.

A judge shall be supplied with a book called the judge's book in which he/she shall mark all awards and all absent dogs. The original judges' books at shows shall be in the custody of the judge, steward, superintendent, superintendent's assistant, or show secretary. None other shall be allowed access to them. At the conclusion of the judging, the book must be signed by the judge and any changes which may have been made therein initialed by him/her.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE RULES APPLYING TO DOG SHOWS – CHAPTER 9, SECTION 10 – SUPERINTENDENTS AND SHOW SECRETARIES

The AKC Board has endorsed the following amendment to **Chapter 9, Section 10**, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*, proposed by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee. This will be voted on at the March 14, 2023 Delegate Meeting.

CHAPTER 9 SECTION 10.

Event committees, show secretaries, and superintendents of dog shows shall be held responsible for the enforcement of all rules and regulations relating to shows and must provide

themselves with a copy of The American Kennel Club rules and regulations for reference.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE RULES APPLYING TO DOG SHOWS – CHAPTER 11, SECTION 6 – DOG SHOW ENTRIES, CONDITIONS OF DOGS AFFECTING ELIGIBILITY

The AKC Board has endorsed the following amendment to **Chapter 11, Section 6**, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*, proposed by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee. This will be voted on at the March 14, 2023 Delegate Meeting.

CHAPTER 11 SECTION 6.

No entry may be changed or canceled unless notice of the change or cancellation is received in writing by the Superintendent or Show Secretary named in the premium list to receive entries, prior to the closing date and hour for entries. However, prior to the judging the Superintendent or Show Secretary may:

- make a correction in the sex of a dog,
- transfer a dog within the divisions of the Puppy Class, the Twelve-to-Eighteen Month Class, the Bred-by-Exhibitor Class, or the Veterans Class,
- transfer a dog between the Puppy and Twelve-to- Eighteen Month Classes or appropriate divisions thereof.

Remainder of this section is unchanged.

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PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE RULES APPLYING TO DOG SHOWS – CHAPTER 8 – SELECTION OF SUPERINTENDENT, SHOW SECRETARY AND VETERINARIANS

The AKC Board has endorsed the following amendment to **Chapter 8**, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*, proposed by Staff. This will be voted on at the March 14, 2023 Delegate Meeting.

CHAPTER 8

Prior to receiving permission to hold a dog show and/or companion event, every licensed or member club must submit the name, complete address, and daytime telephone number of the Superintendent and/or Show Secretary contracted by the club to service the event.

Prior to the event, the club must arrange with a veterinarian(s) or local veterinary clinic to serve as the Show Veterinarian. The name of the Show Veterinarian must be published in the premium list (as defined in Chapter 6, Section 2).

For unbenched shows, the Show Veterinarian may be either in attendance or "on call." The club must provide adequate contact information of the "on call" veterinarian to the Superintendent and/or Show Secretary.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE RULES APPLYING TO DOG SHOWS – CHAPTER 10, SECTION 2 – SHOW VETERINARIANS

The AKC Board has endorsed the following amendment to **Chapter 10, Section 2**, of the

Rules Applying to Dog Shows, proposed by the Staff. This will be voted on at the March 14, 2023 Delegate Meeting.

CHAPTER 10

SECTION 2.

The Show Veterinarian must be available to examine any dog that becomes ill or injured at the dog show during show hours. It will be the responsibility of the owner or owner's agent to transport the dog to the veterinarian and for any cost associated with the dog's illness or injury. "On call" veterinarians are not required to be present at the event.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE RULES APPLYING TO DOG SHOWS – CHAPTER 11, SECTION 8 – DOG SHOW ENTRIES, CONDITIONS OF DOGS AFFECTING ELIGIBILITY

The AKC Board has endorsed the following amendment to **Chapter 11, Section 8**, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*, proposed by the Dog Show Rules Committee. This will be voted on at the March 14, 2023 Delegate Meeting.

CHAPTER 11

SECTION 8.

A dog which is blind, deaf, castrated, spayed, or which has been changed in appearance by artificial means except as specified in the standard for its breed, or a male which does not have two normal testicles normally located in the scro-

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tum, may not compete at any show and will be disqualified except that a castrated male may be entered as Stud Dog in the Stud Dog Class and a spayed bitch may be entered as Brood Bitch in the Brood Bitch Class. A dog will not be considered to have been changed by artificial means because of removal of dewclaws or docking of tail if it is of a breed in which such removal or docking is a regularly approved practice which is not contrary to the standard. Neutered dogs and spayed bitches would be allowed to compete in Veterans and all other single entry non-regular classes only at independent specialties and/or those all-breed shows which do not offer any competitive classes beyond Best of Breed.

Remainder of this section is unchanged.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE RULES APPLYING TO DOG SHOWS – CHAPTER 6, SECTION 2 – PREMIUM LISTS AND CLOSING OF ENTRIES

The AKC Board has endorsed the following amendment to **Chapter 6, Section 2**, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*, proposed by the Dog Show Rules Committee. This will be voted on at the March 14, 2023 Delegate Meeting.

CHAPTER 6 **SECTION 2.**

Previous portions of this section are unchanged.

- the name and address of the superintendent and/or show secretary who has been approved by The American Kennel Club
- the entry fee(s)

- whether the show is benched or unbenched
- the exact location of the show
- the date or dates on which it is to be held
- the times of opening and closing of the show

Notification must be printed in the Premium List only if the club is not offering the three-point major to the Reserve Winners at the National Specialty.

Notification must be printed in the Premium List for independent specialties and/or all-breed shows which do not offer any competitive classes beyond Best of Breed only if neutered dogs and spayed bitches are allowed to compete in Veterans and/or any other single entry non-regular classes.

All-Breed Conformation events whose entries are limited must have a defined date and time for the opening of entries that is to be prominently displayed in the premium list. For these events, the premium list is required to be published at least 72 hours prior to the acceptance of entries.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE FIELD TRIAL RULES AND STANDARD PROCEDURE FOR RETRIEVERS – CHAPTER 14, SECTION 11 – RULES FOR RETRIEVER TRIALS

The AKC Board has endorsed the following amendment to **Chapter 14, Section 11**, of the *Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedure for Retrievers*, proposed by the Retriever Field Trial Advisory Committee. This will be voted on at the March 14, 2023 Delegate Meeting.

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CHAPTER 14

RULES FOR RETRIEVER TRIALS

SECTION 11. Number of Trials/Stakes.

(New paragraph 7)

Local Trials Held During National

Championships. No local Retriever Field Trials that award championship points will be allowed during the running of the National Retriever Championship Trial or the National Amateur Retriever Championship Trial.

OFFICIAL STANDARD FOR THE SPANISH WATER DOG

General Appearance: A rustic breed of the Iberian Peninsula, the Spanish Water Dog is a sturdy, athletic dog of medium size and weight that is suited to perform a variety of tasks including herding, hunting, and assisting fishermen. His working ability is attributed to an intense desire to please. In profile, the Spanish Water Dog is slightly longer than tall. His distinctive rustic curly, single coat is a hallmark of the breed. He must always be shown in a natural coat and *never* be aesthetically groomed in any way. Traditionally, he has a docked tail; today, all tail lengths are equally acceptable.

Size, Proportion, Substance: *Size*-Height at the withers: Dogs, 17 ½ to 19 ¾ inches; Bitches 15¾ to 18 inches. Weight- In proportion to height. *Proportion*-Measured from point of shoulder to buttocks and withers to the ground 9:8. *Substance*- Solidly built, robust, muscular with

moderate bone but neither coarse nor refined.

Head: *Head*- is in balance with the body. *Expression* is alert and attentive. *Eyes* are slightly oblique, very expressive and have a shade of brown from hazel to dark chestnut, with the color harmonizing with the coat. *Ears* are set above eye level. They are dropped, and triangular in shape with slightly rounded tips. The tips should not reach past the inside corner of the eye. *Skull* is broad and flat. Occiput is not prominent. Ratio of cranium to muzzle is 3:2. Stop is apparent but not abrupt. *Muzzle* is wide at the base, tapering slightly to the tip, strong lower jaw, never snipey. Cheeks are well filled below the eyes. Planes of skull and muzzle are parallel. Nose is of the same color or slightly darker than the darkest color of the coat and has well defined nostrils. Beige or white dogs may have either black or brown pigment. Lips are well fitting, labial corners well defined and are pigmented as the nose. Flews are tight. Scissors *bite* preferred, level bite accepted. Teeth are strong with full dentition.

Neck, Topline, Body: *Neck* is strong and moderate in length, blending smoothly into the shoulders. Back is straight and topline is firm and level. *Body* is robust. The body is slightly longer than tall in an approximate ratio of 9:8 measured from the point of shoulder to the point of buttocks. Chest is broad and well let down,

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reaching the elbows. Depth of chest to height at withers is 50 percent. Loin is short. The length of the back comes from the length of the ribcage, not from that of the loin. Croup is slightly sloping. *Tail* is set smoothly into the croup neither high nor low. The tail is historically docked; today all tail lengths are equally acceptable. Docked tails are docked between the 2nd and 4th vertebrae. Full length tails reach approximately to the hock. Some individuals display a brachyury (natural bob-tail) gene which can shorten the tail anywhere from an almost full tail to no tail at all. Preferred carriage is scimitar-like, carried either high or low. Preference is not to be given to docked or undocked tails. Skin is supple and adheres closely to the body.

Forequarters: Shoulders are well-muscled and well-laid back and approximately the same length as the upper arm. Elbows are close to the chest and turn neither in nor out. Legs are straight, and strong with moderate bone. Pasterns are strong and flexible. Front dewclaws may be removed. Feet are round and compact. Toes are tight and well arched.

Hindquarters: The hindquarters give an impression of strength and energetic impulsion. Angulation is in balance with the front. Upper thigh is well muscled. Stifle is well bent. Second thigh is well developed. Hock joint is well let down. Rear pastern is short and perpendicular to the ground. Dewclaws if present are to be re-

moved. Feet are as the front.

Color: The Spanish Water Dog may be solid (in its various shades of black, brown, beige, or white), Irish-marked or parti-color where one of the colors must be white. Disqualifications- Tri-color, tan-point, parti-color where one of the colors is not white, or albino.

Coat: The rustic coat is a hallmark of the breed. Any brushing, scissoring, aesthetic trimming or sculpting of the coat destroys breed type and must be penalized so severely as to eliminate the dog from competition. The hair is a single coat, always curly and of a wooly texture. For shows, the recommended extended length of the coat is between 1-6 inches to demonstrate the quality of the curl or cord. There is no preference for length of coat within this range. The sole breed clip is a utilitarian kennel clip, one length all over the entire dog. Left to grow long, coats will develop roughly pencil-thin cords that are distinct from those of other breeds in their degree of felting: from loose to tight, with the quality of the curl being evident throughout. Cords must have natural fish-hook curls at the tips indicating a lack of scissoring or shaping. Puppy coats: Puppy coat (up to 15 months) may be wavy and somewhat softer than adult coat. Most puppy coats will not form cords. Disqualification- Smooth or wavy coat.

Gait: Movement is efficient, free, smooth, and

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ground covering. Balance combines good reach in forequarters with front foot reaching the nose, and equally strong drive in the rear. As speed increases, the feet converge toward the centerline of gravity while the back remains firm and level.

Temperament: The Spanish Water Dog is faithful, obedient, lively, hard-working, and watchful. He is highly intelligent with an outstanding learning ability. His loyalty and protective instincts make him a self-appointed guardian to his owner, his family and his property. He should be neither timid nor shy, but is naturally suspicious of strangers. He is very affectionate with his own people.

Disqualifications:

*Tricolor, tan-point or parti-color, where one of the colors is not white, or albino.
Smooth or wavy coat.*

Approved November 8, 2022

Effective February 1, 2023

CONFORMATION JUDGES

Letters concerning judges and provisional judges should be addressed to the Judging Operations Department at PO Box 900062, Raleigh, NC 27675-9062. Letters concerning Agility, Obedience, Rally, Tracking, and VST applicants should be addressed to the Companion Events Department in North Carolina.

The American Kennel Club will, at the request

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

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

APPLICANTS

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

NEW BREED JUDGING APPLICANTS

Ms. Valerie Cromer (111733) FL

(813) 545-6021

vcromer@hotmail.com

Cavalier King Charles Spaniels

Mrs. Junko Guichon (111435) VA

junko@guichonchi.com

Chihuahuas, JS-Limited

Mr. Douglas H. Jones (111741) CO

(248)561-1802

dougmusher@gmail.com

Siberian Huskies, JS-Limited

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Collies

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Cairn Terriers

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Balance of Herding Group (Bearded Collies,

Finnish Lapphunds, Miniature American

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Ms. Diane Collings (94897) CA

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Standard Schnauzers), Portuguese Podengo

Pequenos

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Old English Sheepdogs

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Affenpinschers, Chihuahuas, Toy Fox Terriers

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Chihuahuas, Maltese, Toy Fox Terriers

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sels Griffons, English Toy Spaniels, Pugs, Russ-

ian Toys)

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Brittanys, Whippets, Pomeranians

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Bracci Italiani, German Shorthaired Pointers, Labrador Retrievers, Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers, Bouviers des Flandres

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Black and Tan Coonhounds, Greyhounds, Whippets, Boxers, Doberman Pinschers, Great Danes, Airedale Terriers, French Bulldogs, Poodles, Tibetan Terriers

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Bernese Mountain Dogs, Black Russian Terriers, Boerboels, Chinooks, Komondorok, Leonbergers, Rottweilers, Standard Schnauzers

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Afghan Hounds, Dachshunds

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Australian Cattle Dogs, Australian Shepherds, Bearded Collies, Border Collies, Bouviers des Flandres, Briards, Icelandic Sheepdogs, Pembroke Welsh Corgis, Pumik

Ms. Nancy Talbott (5898) CA

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Balance of Sporting Group (Bracchi Italiani, Lagotti Romagnoli, Pointers, Irish Red and White Setters, Wirehaired Vizslas)

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Belgian Sheepdogs, Collies, Pembroke Welsh Corgis

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Black and Tan Coonhounds, Bluetick Coonhounds, English Foxhounds, Harriers, Portuguese Podengo Pequenos, Redbone Coonhounds

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Miss Alaina House (111681) IN

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Ms. Lucinda Napoli (111625) FL

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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

Ms. Maria Arechaederra (110565) CA

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Kuvaszok, Pumik, JS-Limited

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Cocker Spaniels

Mr. Dale R. Martenson (111413) OK

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Pointers, Cocker Spaniels, Beagles, Cavalier King Charles Spaniels, Chihuahuas, Chinese Cresteds, English Toy Spaniels, Japanese Chins, Maltese, Papillons, Pekingese, Pomeranians, Shih Tzu, Chow Chows, French Bulldogs, JS-Limited

Mr. Adam Protos (111376) MS

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Great Danes

FOREIGN JUDGE APPLICATION UNDER AKC SYSTEM

The following persons have been granted approved status 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.

Mr. Johan Becerra-Hernandez (111406) FL

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Working Group (Akitas, Alaskan Malamutes, Anatolian Shepherd Dogs, Bernese Mountain Dogs, Black Russian Terriers, Boerboels, Boxers, Bullmastiffs, Cane Corsos, Chinooks, Doberman Pinschers, Dogo Argentinos, Dogues de Bordeaux, German Pinschers, Giant Schnauzers, Great Danes, Great Pyrenees, Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs, Komondorok, Kuvaszok, Leonbergers, Mastiffs, Neapolitan Mastiffs, Newfoundlands, Portuguese Water Dogs, Rottweilers, Saint Bernards, Samoyeds, Siberian Huskies, Standard Schnauzers, Tibetan Mastiffs)

Mrs. Wendy Paquette (111059) IN

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Toy Group (Affenpinschers, Biewer Terriers, Brussels Griffons, Cavalier King Charles Spaniels, Chihuahuas, Chinese Cresteds, English Toy Spaniels, Havanese, Italian Greyhounds, Japanese Chins, Maltese, Manchester Terriers, Miniature Pinschers, Papillons, Pekingese, Pomeranians, Poodles, Pugs, Russian Toys, Shih Tzu, Silky Terriers, Toy Fox Terriers, Yorkshire Terriers)

SECRETARY'S PAGES

ADDITIONAL BREED PERMIT JUDGES

Mrs. Mary E. Benedict (66054) NY

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Bergamasco Sheepdogs, Canaan Dogs, Icelandic Sheepdogs, Miniature American Shepherds, Swedish Vallhunds

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Papillons

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Chihuahuas

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American Eskimo Dogs, Chinese Shar-Pei, Dalmatians, Finnish Spitz, Keeshonden, Lhasa Apsos, Schipperkes, Shiba Inu, Tibetan Terriers, Xoloitzcuintli

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French Bulldogs, Beaucerons, Belgian Laekenois, Berger Picards, Briards, Canaan Dogs, Cardigan Welsh Corgis, Finnish Lapphunds, Mudik, Pembroke Welsh Corgis, Swedish Vallhunds

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Balance of Hound Group (Afghan Hounds, Basenjis, Basset Hounds, Beagles, Cirnechi dell'Etna, Irish Wolfhounds, Portuguese Podengo Pequenos, Salukis), American Staffordshire Terriers, Staffordshire Bull Terriers

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Airedale Terriers, American Hairless Terriers, American Staffordshire Terriers, Australian Terriers, Bedlington Terriers, Cairn Terriers, Glen of Imaal Terriers, Miniature Schnauzers, Scottish Terriers, Sealyham Terriers, Staffordshire Bull Terriers, West Highland White Terriers

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Balance of Hound Group (Afghan Hounds, American English Coonhounds, Azawakh, Basenjis, Basset Hounds, Beagles, Bloodhounds, Bluetick Coonhounds, Borzois, Dachshunds, English Foxhounds, Greyhounds, Harriers, Irish Wolfhounds, Norwegian Elkhounds, Plott Hounds, Redbone Coonhounds, Rhodesian Ridgebacks, Salukis, Sloughi, Treeing Walker Coonhounds, Whippets)

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Terriers, Brussels Griffons, Chihuahuas, Manchester Terriers, Miniature Pinschers, Poodles, Russian Toys, Shih Tzu, Silky Terriers, Toy Fox Terriers)

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Balance of Terrier Group (American Staffordshire Terriers, Australian Terriers, Cairn Terriers, Miniature Schnauzers, Skye Terriers), Bichons Frises, Cotons du Tulear, Lowchen, Poodles, Schipperkes

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Belgian Tervurens

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BEST IN SHOW

The following persons, 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.

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Mr. Rick Blanchard (90228) RI

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REINSTATED JUDGE

The Judging eligibility of the following person has been reinstated.

Clifford Steele (16630) NY

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Junior Showmanship

RESIGNED CONFORMATION JUDGES

Ms. Judy Bradley

Mr. Patrick Garcia, Jr.

Mr. Bradley Jenkins

EMERITUS CONFORMATION JUDGES

Mrs. Mary Bernhard

Ms. Helen M. Haas

Mrs. Mary C. Jones

Mrs. Deborah Rairie

Ms. Kay A. Reamensnyder

Mr. C. Glen Walter

Mrs. Helma N. Weeks

DECEASED CONFORMATION JUDGES

Mrs. Barbara L. Barfield

Carole A. Beattie

Mr. Melvin Character

Mr. John J. Frisby

Mrs. Elaine Young

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.

Letters in regard to these applications should be addressed to Gina DiNardo, Executive Secretary:

ARROWWOOD ACRES- Shetland Sheepdogs- Annika Arrowwood

BORA-YA-BORA- Basenjis- Christian A.

Morales Reyes

CRIMSON-Miniature American Shepherds- Teresa Hunt

ERSA ACRES- Golden Retrievers- Renee J. Anderson & Sydnie T. Anderson

INSIGNIA-Golden Retrievers-Robin B. Miller

MOON PHASE- Miniature American Shepherds- Jenipher M. Helms

PEIBYBEARS-Chinese Shar Pei-Chris BC. Compton & Kim B. Compton

REDBUD- Clumber Spaniels-Gaye Horton

REMIS-Portuguese Water Dogs- Remy L. Smith-Lewis

STARLIGHT- Italian Greyhound-Bruce G. Richter & Christina D. Richter

SHINING STAR'S- Pomeranians-Tammie R. Tubbs

VOM BETHEL- German Shepherds- Joseph A. Maridueno & Todd R. Stanley

WESTERN FAMILY-Rottweiler- Teren Western

ZELOSIA-Cavalier King Charles Spaniels & English Toy Spaniels-Mia S. Lawson

SECRETARY'S PAGES

REGISTERED NAME PREFIXES GRANTED

The following applications for a breed-specific Registered Name Prefix have been granted

BASIA MILLE-Bernese Mountain Dogs-Cole B. Shanholtz

BELLA ROSA-Bernese Mountain Dogs- Dorene L. McCune & John E. McCune

COOLIBAH- Danish Swedish Farmdogs- Aimee P. Kincaid

EDENCROFT- Pomeranians- Kelly J. Eden & Jim M. Eden

ENZO'S-Great Danes-Nichole D. Bartlett

FAIRWILDE-Cavalier King Charles Spaniels- Amy Dettore

FIERCE'S- French Bulldogs- Bridget K. Webb

FOREST LAKES- Poodles- Michelle Harvey

KELSIA-Doberman Pinschers-Kellie Valencia

KYCHEL- Labrador Retrievers- James R. Cutcher, Jr. & Catherine E. Cutcher

LIL PINES-Australian Shepherds-Peggie L. Ransom

MONFLOS-Doberman Pinschers-Jorge I. Montoya-Flores

NAMASTE'-Doberman Pinschers-Jeanne A. Field-Miller

RYLCROWNKEEPERS-Poodles-Jennifer R. Brumfield

SCHUBERTUS-Bohemian Shepherds-Jolanta R. Schubert

SHINING-STAR-German Shorthaired Pointers- Edwin D. Kerr

TERVY ACRES-Belgian Tervuerns-Leon P. Jensen & Rhonda K. Roberts-Jensen

TOP POINT-German Shorthaired Pointers- Meliza J. Ritacca

TRUEELEGANCE-Cavalier King Charles Spaniels-Valerie S. Cromer

SECRETARY'S PAGES



**QUARTERLY MEETING OF
THE DELEGATES OF
THE AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB
DECEMBER 16, 2022**

Dennis B. Sprung, President
PRESENT 257

Abilene Kennel Club—*Richard Nance*
Afghan Hound Club of America, Inc.—*Ms. Constance Butherus*
Akita Club of America—*Steven Lisker*
Alaskan Malamute Club of America, Inc.—*Ruth Levesque*
American Black & Tan Coonhound Club, Inc.—*Robert Urban*
American Bloodhound Club—*Mary Lou Olaszewski*
American Boerboel Club—*Kerri S. Dale*
American Bouvier des Flandres Club, Inc.—*Patte Klecan*
American Boxer Club — *Sharon Steckler*
American Brittany Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Terry Hilliard*
American Bullmastiff Association, Inc.—*Alan Kalter*
American Chesapeake Club—*Heidi Henningson*
American Chinese Crested Club, Inc.—*Neil Butterklee*
American Fox Terrier Club—*Connie Clark*

American Foxhound Club, Inc.—*Harold Miller*
American Lhasa Apso Club, Inc. — *Don Hanson*
American Maltese Association, Inc.—*Ms. Sandra Bingham-Porter*
American Pomeranian Club, Inc.—*Dr. Geno Sisineros*
American Rottweiler Club—*Mr. Peter G. Piusz*
American Shetland Sheepdog Association—*Marjorie Tuff*
American Whippet Club, Inc.—*Karen B. Lee*
American Wirehaired Pointing Griffon Association—*Kate DeSanto*
Anderson Kennel Club—*Laura A. Rockwell*
Anderson Obedience Training Club, Inc.—*Ms. Patricia A. Sample*
Ann Arbor Kennel Club, Inc.—*Anne R. Palmer*
Arkansas Kennel Club, Inc.—*Pamela J. Arwood*
Arrowhead Kennel Club—*Deb Phillips*
Asheville Kennel Club, Inc.—*Corie Haylett*
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*
Baltimore County Kennel Club — *Lucy C. Campbell*
Basset Hound Club of America, Inc.—*Dr. Norine E. Noonan*
Bayou Kennel Club, Inc.—*Linda C. Wozniak*
Baytown Kennel Club, Inc.—*Jean W. Durdin*
Beaver County Kennel Club, Inc.—*Phyllis Belcastro*

SECRETARY'S PAGES

Bedlington Terrier Club of America—*Laurie W. Zembrzuski*

Belgian Sheepdog Club of America, Inc.—*Mary G. Buckwalter*

Belle-City Kennel Club, Inc.—*Carole A. Wilson*

Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America, Inc.—*Sara Karl*

Bichon Frise Club of America, Inc.—*Mayno Blanding*

Black Russian Terrier Club of America—*Susan Sholar*

Borzoi Club of America, Inc.—*Prudence G. Hlatky*

Bull Terrier Club of America—*Ms. Jan Dykema*

Bulldog Club of America—*Link Newcomb*

Bulldog Club of Philadelphia—*Elizabeth H. 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.—*Jacque Glenn*

Carolina Kennel Club, Inc.—*Jaimie Ashby*

Carolina Working Group Association—*Matthew Townsend*

Carroll Kennel Club—*Mrs. Rachann E. Mayer*

Catonsville Kennel Club—*Beverly A. Drake*

Cedar Rapids Kennel Association, Inc.—*Robert E. Tainsh, M.D.*

Central Ohio Kennel Club—*Rebecca Campbell*

Channel City Kennel Club, Inc.—*Anita R. O'Berg*

Charleston Kennel Club—*Terri Hallman*

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*

Chow Chow Club, Inc.—*Margaret DiCorleto*

Clackamas Kennel Club—*Tami Worley*

Clearwater Kennel Club—*Daniel T. Stolz*

Clumber Spaniel Club of America, Inc.—*Kelly E. Lease*

Colorado Kennel Club—*Mrs. Louise Leone*

Colorado Springs Kennel Club—*Douglas Johnson*

Columbia Kennel Club, Inc.—*Nili Young*

Conroe Kennel Club—*Jane Bates*

Conyers Kennel Club of Georgia—*Michael Houchard*

County-Wide Dog Training Club, Inc.—*Timothy Gulley*

Cudahy Kennel Club—*Mr. Don H. Adams*

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 Dog Training Club, Inc.—*Sherri Swabb*

Dayton Kennel Club, Inc.—*Leah H. Schiller*

Del Monte Kennel Club, Inc.—*Carey Fayram*

SECRETARY'S PAGES

- Delaware Water Gap Kennel Club—*Dr. A. D. Butherus*
- Doberman Pinscher Club of America—*Glen Lajeski*
- Dog Owners' Training Club of Maryland, Inc.—*Nancy Zinkhan*
- Durango Kennel Club—*Donald E. Schwartz, V.M.D*
- 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 Setter Association of America, Inc.—*Dr. Brenda J. Parsons, D.V.M.*
- English Springer Spaniel Field Trial Association, Inc.—*Susanne Burgess*
- 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*
- Finger Lakes Kennel Club, Inc.—*Margaret B. Pough*
- 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 Shorthaired Pointer Club of America—*Ms. Karen R. Nauer*
- Giant Schnauzer Club of America, Inc.—*Chris Reed*
- Golden Retriever Club of America—*Ellen Hardin*
- Gordon Setter Club of America, Inc.—*Nance O. Skoglund*
- Grand River Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Cindy Stansell*
- Great Barrington Kennel Club, Inc.—*Dr. Ellen C. Shanahan*
- 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 Ocala Dog Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Penny DiSiena*
- Greenville Kennel Club—*Gloria Askins*
- Greenwich Kennel Club—*Donna Gilbert*
- Harrisburg Kennel Club, Inc.—*Sandie Rolenaitis*
- Hatboro Dog Club, Inc.—*Sally L. Fineburg*
- Hockamock Kennel Club, Inc.—*Nancy Fisk*

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Hungarian Pumi Club of America —*Nancy Nelson*

Huntington Kennel Club, Inc.—*Ms. Marile A. Waterstraat*

Ibizan Hound Club of the United States—*Michelle Barlak*

Ingham County Kennel Club, Inc.—*Rita J. Bidde*

Irish Setter Club of America, Inc.—*Ms. Karolynne M. McAteer*

Irish Wolfhound Club of America—*Eugenia Hunter*

Italian Greyhound Club of America, Inc.—*Ms. Kim Brinker*

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*

Kennesaw Kennel Club—*Bud Hidlay*

Labrador Retriever Club, Inc.—*Tony Emilio*

Lackawanna Kennel Club, Inc.—*Ms. Kimberly Van Hemert*

Lagotto Romagnolo Club of America, Inc. —*James Talbert*

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*

Lewiston-Auburn Kennel Club, Inc.—*Laurie Green*

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.—*James P. Henshaw*

Manatee Kennel Club—*Judy Seltrecht*

Marion Ohio Kennel Club, Inc.—*Lynn Garvin*

Maryland Kennel Club—*Gary Sarvinas*

Memphis Kennel Club, Inc.—*Pam E. Ireland*

Mid-Del-Tinker Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mr. Billy J. Price*

Middle Tennessee Amateur Retriever Club—*John Russell*

Middleburg Kennel Club—*Beth Wilder*

Miniature Pinscher Club of America, Inc.—*Joanne Wilds*

Misphillion Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mr. Todd Clyde*

Mississippi State Kennel Club—*Roxanne Hilsman*

Monticello New York Kennel Club, Inc.—*Barry A. Hoovis*

Morris Hills Dog Training Club, Inc.—*Eleanor Campbell*

Mountaineer Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mary Yoders*

Mt. Baker Kennel Club, Inc.—*Jane F. Ruthford*

Myrtle Beach Kennel Club—*Sylvia Arrowwood*

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National Capital Kennel Club, Inc.—*Norma Ryan*

National Shiba Club of America—*Maggi Strouse*

New England Beagle Club, Inc.—*Blaine Grove*

New England Old English Sheepdog Club—*Mrs. Jane C. Ogg*

Northeastern Maryland Kennel Club—*Ann M. Schultz*

Norwich Terrier Club of America—*Jean Kessler*

Olympic Kennel Club, Inc.—*Tim Ufkes*

Orlando Dog Training Club—*Mary L. Jensen, Ph.D.*

Otterhound Club of America—*Joellen Gregory, D.V.M.*

Papillon Club of America, Inc.—*Miss Arlene A. Czech*

Pasanita Obedience Club Inc.—*Mrs. Betty M. Winthers*

Pasco Florida Kennel Club—*Patricia Lombardi*

Pekingese Club of America—*Steven Hamblin*

Penn Treaty Kennel Club, Inc.—*Bettina M. Sterling*

Petit Basset Griffon Vendeen Club of America—*Helen Ingher*

Pharaoh Hound Club of America—*Dominic P. Carota*

Philadelphia Dog Training Club, Inc.—*Larry Wilson*

Piedmont Kennel Club, Inc.—*Dean Burwell*

Plum Creek Kennel Club of Colorado—*William E. Ellis*

Poodle Club of America, Inc.—*Dennis McCoy*

Portuguese Podengo Pequenos of America—*Diane Conyers*

Portuguese Water Dog Club of America, Inc.—*Janet L. Boyd*

Puyallup Valley Dog Fanciers, Inc.—*Frances Stephens*

Ramapo Kennel Club—*Jeffrey D. Ball*

Redwood Empire Kennel Club—*Johnny Shoemaker*

Rhodesian Ridgeback Club of the United States, Inc.—*Ms. Mary L. Elliott*

Richmond Dog Fanciers Club, Inc.—*Debra Ferguson*

Rio Grande Kennel Club—*Mary E. Ferguson*

Rockford-Freeport Illinois Kennel Club—*Barbara L. Burns*

Rubber City Kennel Club—*Cathy Gaidos*

Salisbury Maryland Kennel Club—*Karen Cottingham*

Salisbury North Carolina Kennel Club—*Leslie Puppo Rogers*

Saluki Club of America—*Monica H. Stoner*

Samoyed Club of America, Inc.—*Gary Griffin*

San Antonio Kennel Club, Inc.—*Nancy J. Shaw*

Santa Clara Valley Kennel Club, INC.—*Mr. David J. Peat*

Saw Mill River Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mimi Winkler*

Sawnee Mountain Kennel Club of Georgia—*Karen W. Byrd*

Scottish Terrier Club of America—*Helen A. Prince*

Seattle Kennel Club, Inc.—*Jeff Ryman*

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- Shenandoah Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—*Sharyn Y. Hutchens*
- Shoreline Dog Fanciers Association of Orange County—*Susan L. Hamil*
- Silver State Kennel Club—*Daniele Ledoux-Starzyk*
- Skyline Kennel Club, Inc.—*Gloria Shaver*
- Somerset Hills Kennel Club—*Harvey Goldberg*
- South Hills Kennel Club—*Raymond P. Harrington*
- South Shore Kennel Club, Inc.—*Linda C. Flynn*
- South Windsor Kennel Club—*Mrs. Laurie Maulucci*
- Southeast Arkansas Kennel Club—*Ricky Adams*
- Southeastern Iowa Kennel Club—*Marilyn R. Vinson*
- Space Coast Kennel Club of Palm Bay—*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. Louis Collie Club, Inc.—*Isabel Osocki*
- St. Petersburg Dog Fanciers Association—*Jan Ritchie 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*
- Susque-Nango Kennel Club, Inc.—*Laura Trainor*
- Sussex Hills Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Florence Duggan*
- Taconic Hills Kennel Club, Inc.—*Marylyn DeGregorio*
- Talbot Kennel Club—*Ann S. Wallace*
- Tampa Bay Kennel Club—*Mary Stolz*
- Terry-All Kennel Club, Inc.—*Kevin O'Connell*
- Texas Kennel Club, Inc.—*Dr. Michael Knight*
- Tibetan Spaniel Club of America—*Mallory C. Driskill*
- Tibetan Terrier Club of America, Inc.—*Stacey La Forge*
- Topeka Kennel Club, Inc.—*Diana J. Komarek*
- 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. Fugiwara*
- Union County Kennel Club, Inc.—*Jennifer V. Modica*
- 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*
- Vancouver Kennel Club—*Jolyne Lea*

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Vizsla Club of America, Inc.—*Mrs. Kathy A. Rust*

Washington State Obedience Training Club, Inc.—*John J. Cadalso, Jr.*

Waterloo Kennel Club, Inc.—*Cindy Miller*

Welsh Springer Spaniel Club of America, Inc.—*Richard Rohrbacher*

Welsh Terrier Club of America, Inc.—*Bruce R. Schwartz*

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.—*Frederick R. Vogel*

Woodstock Dog Club, Inc.—*Karen Dewey*



AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB DELEGATE MEETING DECEMBER 16, 2022

Dennis B. Sprung, President in the Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. ET.

Delegates were reminded to check in at the reception desk, so their participation would be recorded.

The Chair introduced the persons with me on the dais. On my immediate left is our Chairman, Dr. Thomas Davies. To his left is the Vice Chairman, Dominic Palleschi Carota; On my right is Joan Corbisiero, Professional Registered Parliamentarian. To her right is Gina DiNardo, Executive Secretary. To Ms. DiNardo's right is Mae Fisher, the Court Reporter.

Condolences were offered for the passing of members of the Delegate Body:

- Frances Colonna on October 13, 2022. She was the Delegate for St. Joseph Kennel Club since 2017.
- Patricia Laurans on October 10, 2022. She was the Delegate for the German Wire-haired Pointer Club of America since 1981.

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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:

- Sylvia A. Thomas, Chair – Kennel Club of Riverside
- Karen J. Burgess – Greater Clark County Kennel Club
- Marge B. Calltharp – Chinese Shar-Pei Club of America
- Linda C. Flynn – South Shore Kennel Club
- Laurie Maulucci – South Windsor Kennel Club

and Alternates:

- Connie Clark – American Fox Terrier Club
- Don Hanson – American Lhasa Apso Club

appointed by the Board of Directors at its July 2022 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 14, 2023. There are 3 vacancies for the Class of 2027.

CLASS OF 2027

- Dr. Charles Garvin – Dalmatian Club of America
- Steven Hamblin – Pekingese Club of America
- Daniel J. Smyth, Esq. – Burlington County Kennel Club

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 2027, to be filled at the next annual meeting of the Club on March 14, 2023:

- Eduardo Toshio Fugiwara – Two Cities Kennel Club

Mr. Sprung: The Bylaws state that nominations may not be made from the floor. Nominations, therefore, closed on November 15, 2022.

In accordance with the Delegate Standing Rule, each candidate is allowed three minutes to address the Body. Keith Frazier, AKC EVP of Business Support Services, will indicate to the candidates when three minutes have expired. The Chair will introduce the candidates who will speak in alphabetical order and no questions from the floor will be entertained.

The first candidate for the Class of 2027 was Eduardo Toshio Fugiwara, representing Two Cities Kennel Club. He spoke as follows:

My name is Eduardo Toshio Fugiwara, I retired in 2017 to dedicate full-time to our breeding program, the clubs I belong, and my role as Delegate.

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I have a strong business background that has helped the clubs I am involved with and in my role as Delegate serving on the All-Breed Clubs Committee.

I was told I should tell you this – in the clubs I am or was involved we had increased 33.6 times the profit on our shows in one club, and 13.6 in the other.

Approachability, flexibility and open-mindedness are qualities I rely on to be more effective and a better team player.

My involvement with 4-H and Juniors and mentoring the new people that I brought into the sport during the past year has helped me understand their challenges navigating our sport. I plan to remain involved in their mentorship for life. I pledge to remain passionate and dedicated to the betterment of our sport.

I identify myself as a breeder and here is where my passion for dogs rests. As a breeder, I thought the highlight of my year was winning the National Specialties for the second time in three years. But last night, I received a message from one of our puppy homes, and I would like to share that because that's where my heart lies and that really defines why I do this.

"Hi Eduardo and Sean. You gave us an amazing gift this year!

The puppy gives us meaning, purpose, laughter, discipline, fun, sweetness and all the things that an Irish Terrier brings to their family's life.

His essence is kindness. I am a psychotherapist and was in a Zoom call today. The patient was really struggling. Suddenly, the puppy jumped on my lap and start staring to the camera and listening to the client. They were very comforted about that. Of course, this is not that simple.

Later in the day, the patient text me and asked me for a picture of him because HE made them feel so validated and heard. He is very special!!

Thank you for giving a chance at raising one of our – one of your Irish Terriers.”

My speech was originally a little different from this, but the message I read to you reminded me why I'm doing this, why I'm standing here today. My passion for the sport and for purebred dogs is something that I want to have the right to keep doing. I would like that you consider voting for me. Thank you.

The second candidate for the class of 2027 was Dr. Charles Garvin, representing the Dalmatian Club of America. He spoke as follows:

Good morning. I'm Charlie Garvin. Balance. Just as a well-constructed dog needs to be balanced, a successful board member needs

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to have proper balance. Serving as an AKC Board member can be difficult and challenging. We're frequently faced with balancing competing priorities. Problems that are easy to solve have already been solved, so only the most difficult problems reach the board level. The critical challenge is always balancing such things as experience versus innovation; balancing an all-encompassing vision, versus careful attention to details; balancing being a sensitive listener, versus having a tough, thick skin against excessive criticism; balancing analysis, versus action. The AKC Board frequently needs to balance, for example, the needs of an All-Breed Club, versus the needs of a Parent Club; balancing the good ideas of the Delegates, versus the good ideas of the Staff; balancing saving and investing for the future, versus spending now to develop new programs; balancing the benefits of a local show, versus an efficient cluster; balancing the benefits to Conformation, versus to Companion and Performance events; balancing the benefits to judges, versus to exhibitors and breeders; balancing encouraging new people, versus respecting established constituents; balancing the seriousness of the task, versus appropriate humorous levity.

I strive to have the balance necessary to synthesize and integrate varying and competing proposals and ideas. My history of 57 years in the sport, 41 years as a Judge, 32 years as a Delegate, 20 years on the AKC Board, 15 years as President

of the Dalmatian Club of America, 15 years as President of the Marion Ohio Kennel Club and Show Chair, 7 years as Chairman of the Canine Health Foundation and the new Chairman of the AKC Purebred Preservation Bank all have demonstrated and contributed to my effectiveness. Having bred 88 champions and record-setting top winners and producers and winning the Junior Showmanship finals at Westminster a couple of years ago, have helped shape my perspective. My real-world experience of leading a 75-physician group practice for 25 years while practicing full-time as an ophthalmic surgeon has enhanced my organizational skill set. The current AKC Board is a smoothly running, efficient, collegial team. I hope that you'll continue to see me as a valuable, dedicated member of that Board. I respectfully ask for your votes to help me continue to serve you, the AKC, our wonderful sports and the dogs we all love. Thank you very much.

The third candidate for the class of 2027 was Steven Hamblin, representing the Pekingese Club of America. He spoke as follows:

Good morning, fellow Delegates. I'm Steven Hamblin, Delegate for the Pekingese Club of America. I'm going to start out, first of all, by sharing how grateful I am for a lot of things that I've been privileged to experience in my time specifically in the last four years. I go back to when I made a speech four years ago, and I want

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to say thank you to all of those who entrusted me by giving me your vote to put me in the boardroom – the guy that ran by petition and nobody quite expected to be the one that was going to prevail. I would like to believe that I have delivered the voice that you wanted in that boardroom. To those of you that weren't sure that you wanted to take the risk of putting me on the AKC Board, I hope that I have proven to you with my record in that room and the way that I have been fearlessly fighting for your voice and for purebred dogs that you can see me returning to that room to accomplish more.

I want to thank the Delegate Committees that I've had the privilege to serve as a liaison for. I'm going to start with Companion Events because I landed in that committee and they could have looked at me like, who's the guy that's never done Companion Events and what's he doing here? Instead, they have been ever so gracious in teaching me everything that they could possibly share. They have been generous with the information that they have. I absorbed everything like a sponge because the only way to be a more well-rounded dog person within our organization, is by understanding what's happening outside of the world that you may normally play in. Dog Show Rules – I was a bit more familiar with this committee being a Conformation guy. They were also willing to share their in-depth expertise of the way our rules work and how they affect our sports and our competitors. I am grateful

that they spent the time to educate me on what that process looks like. Most recently, the Field Trial folks have been remarkable in welcoming me, finding out what my childhood looked like and how it augments what they do. Once again, sharing their knowledge. All of that is to say that I've had a really rich, blessed life in the last four years specifically in being part of the sport and of this Delegate Body.

Four years ago, I asked that you consider me and to come to ask me if you had questions about what I could do for you. Today, I'm going to ask that you give me a vote to put me back in that boardroom. It was a lot of soul searching about whether or not I really wanted to pursue another four years. It's a lot of work. But I feel that what I wanted to do is not done yet. I feel that we still have more that we can do in public relations, branding and marketing. I think we still need to advance dogs in a way that makes them more acceptable in the world at large. I think that I can do that in the next four years. In closing, I'm going to thank my family and my dogs for tolerating my constant travel to make all of those meetings. Thank you so much.

The final candidate for the class of 2027 was Daniel J. Smyth, representing Burlington County Kennel Club.

I'm Dan Smyth, most of you know me, I believe. I've been a Delegate for 30 years. As I said previ-

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ously, this is my 118th meeting and I've been very fortunate never to have missed one. My history is significant. Chair of DAAC for 22 years, Coordinating Committee Chair for 6 years, 22 years on Perspectives and Chair of a Trial Board for 22 years. I served 6 years as a Parent Club Delegate, 24 years as an All-Breed Club Delegate. I helped develop the current Delegate Google e-list that you are all using to communicate, and I was the first moderator when it launched in 2018. Four years ago, you all made an investment in me to send my experiences into the boardroom. I am grateful to be a member of one of the best AKC Boards that we've had in the last 30 years. I'm asking you to continue on with our joint investment and allow me to keep representing your interests in the boardroom. I judge three and a half groups. I'm a Cluster/Show Chair for the last 24 years, a Breeder of Merit of Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen and Basset Hounds. I'm fully aware of the problems that our clubs are facing. I continue to support the effort to increase Delegate empowerment. If you take a look at the current mentoring program, I was the Chairman of DAAC when we developed that over the last 20 years. In the boardroom, I have prioritized your interests. It is challenging considering that we get 300-page board books each month, which encompass the financial issues of \$150 million corporation with 325 employees. As an attorney for 47 years and a seasoned board member, I am qualified to continue on in this role and I'm ask-

ing you to allow me to do so. I served on the Audit Committee, the Investment Committee, AKC PAC and I am Chair of the Board Appeals Committee. When COVID hit, this AKC Board kept running and didn't miss a meeting. We got together; We went to Zoom. We began to develop virtual events. We still managed to profit significantly during that time. That, my fellow Delegates, is a good board. It was my initiative, which was joined by the entire AKC Board, that passed the transfer of \$100,000 of board expense money to the fancy as COVID relief. As Chair of the Board Appeals Committee, and with Rita Biddle and Tom Powers, we took a deep dive into the judicial disciplinary issues concerning judges. For the first time in 30 years, we revealed that to the judges and the community so that we all know what judges could do that is wrong. Transparency is a must. That is something that I'm very much in favor of. As we unwind the COVID complications and we see registrations increasing, event entry challenges, we know that we can accomplish anything with the right people in place. I know your questions, I know your concerns, and I know your commitment to our sport. It has been an honor working with you to improve our sport. This board is solid and I'm very proud to be a contributing party. If anyone tells you that this board has issues or change needs to be done, it's simply not true. Together, we must keep improving what we know we can do. The American Kennel Club is the best that it can be, but we can always make it better. That's what

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we're striving for. Please trust in me. I'm a lifelong dog person and I ask for your vote. Thank you.

The Executive Secretary read the names of the Delegates seated since the September 2022 Meeting.

Connie Brown, Camarillo, CA to represent Ventura County Dog Fanciers Association

Lori A. Carver, Belchertown, MA to represent Field Spaniel Society of America

Diane M. Conyers, Narragansett, RI to represent Portuguese Podengo Pequenos of America

Penny DiSiena, Ocala, FL to represent Greater Ocala Dog Club

Jean W. Durdin, Houston, TX to represent Baytown Kennel Club

Theresa Goiffon, Siren, WI to represent Cambridge Minnesota Kennel Club

Sally Green, Terre Haute, IN to represent Terre Haute Kennel Club

Gary Griffin, Randolph, MN to represent Samoyed Club of America

Timothy Gulley, Santa Rosa, CA to represent County-Wide Dog Training Club

Corey Heenan, Loudonville, NY to represent Albany Kennel Club

Agi Hejja, Gum Spring, VA to represent Kuvasz Club of America

Jennifer Martin, North East, MD to represent Weimaraner Club of America

Rachann Mayer, Mount Airy, MD to represent Carroll Kennel Club

Richard E. Nance, Ovalo, TX to represent Abilene Kennel Club

Karen Rooks Nauer, Colorado Springs, CO to represent German Shorthaired Pointer Club of America

Barbara Reisinger, Scottsdale, AZ to represent Scottsdale Dog Fanciers Association

Cindy Stansell, Clayton, NC to represent Grand River Kennel Club

Theresa L. Wilson, Columbia, MO to represent Columbia Missouri Kennel Club

The following Delegates, who were attending their first meeting since being officially seated, were introduced from the floor:

Lori A. Carver to represent Field Spaniel Society of America

Penny DiSiena to represent Greater Ocala Dog Club

Jean W. Durdin to represent Baytown Kennel Club

Mary Lynne Elliott to represent Rhodesian Ridgeback Club of the United States

Sarah Ford to represent Fargo-Moorhead Kennel Club

Gary Griffin to represent Samoyed Club of America

Timothy Gulley to represent County-Wide Dog Training Club

Rachann Mayer to represent Carroll Kennel Club

Richard E. Nance to represent Abilene Kennel Club

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Karen Rooks Nauer to represent German Shorthaired Pointer Club of America

The minutes of the September 13, 2022, Delegate Meeting were published on the online October 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.

Dr. Thomas Davies delivered the Chairman's Report as follows:

Good morning. Once again, we gather together here in Orlando to celebrate the 22nd annual American Kennel Club National Championship, presented by Royal Canin. We also celebrate another successful year for our organization and the promise of the future for our sports. We look forward to this weekend with the excitement of all the individual events that will be taking place. The National Championship, the All-Breed Puppy and Junior Stakes, the AKC Obedience Classic, the AKC Agility Invitational, the Fast CAT® Invitational, the AKC National Owner-Handled Series and the Best Bred-by-Exhibitor competition.

Because we have so much to do, see and hear this week, I am giving you my holiday gift of a very short Chairman's Report.

The continued success of the American Kennel Club in 2023 is not by accident. It is a result of the efforts of a wonderful leadership and a dedi-

cated Staff. We owe much to our Staff who, for the most part consider their efforts a labor of love rather than a job. We wouldn't be what or where we are without your devotion.

A leader has been described as one who can turn indecision into strength, obstacles into progress, and misfortune into triumph. We are lucky to have as our leader, a man who epitomizes these traits. In his many years as our leader, Dennis Sprung has shepherded our organization into the monument to our dogs and our sports that it is today. He has shown us that the only place success comes before work is in the dictionary.

Our activities continue to flourish, especially in our Companion and Performance events, participation is on the increase due in much part to the efforts of Doug Ljungren and the Sports & Events Staff. We enhance the human-canine bond and bring more folks into our sports as we develop our promised "more ways to have fun with your dog" philosophy.

The efforts of Staff, under the stewardship of Mark Dunn, both pre-, during and post-pandemic times has led to a substantial increase in our registrations of dogs and litters, as we creep toward our 1996 highs. Also, under Mark's leadership is our Customer Call Center, second to none, as AKC's face to the dog loving public seeking help and answers.

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As you may know, we have undertaken a major rewrite of our CMS (Competition Management System). This is a multi-year project, which when completed, will allow us all better, clearer and more facile access to our event activities, event planning and record keeping. As the work progresses, we will continue to keep you updated on the project.

I like to refer to our Board with three C's – collective, cohesive, and collegial. You have a Board whose work is done acting as a group; we are together in solidarity; and we look at everything with a shared responsibility. No matter what the issue, we always add a fourth "C" – consensus. We work hand-in-glove with our dedicated Staff, under Dennis's leadership to keep AKC relevant, modern and of greatest value to all our customers.

Finally, I would like to direct your attention to our new AKC Digital Library. For those of you who, like me, have an obsession with history, this archive of our AKC and club activities is an absolute gift. It is an evergreen archive and will continue to showcase the course of our activities.

The Board sends its best holiday wishes for a great 2023 to all our Staff and all our Delegates.

We sincerely appreciate all those of you who actively participate in the governance of our organization. Thank you for all that you do for our

sports and our organization. Enjoy our event with the love of dogs in your hearts.

Mr. Sprung delivered the President's Report as follows:

I am proud that our Championship events of the next few days have a total of 9,395 entries. This is the highest number in the 22 years of America's National Championship. It is the largest dog show as well in North America and a testament to the various sports that we offer, the volunteerism of our Delegate Body, and the work of many others on Staff and our knowledgeable and caring presenters, Royal Canin. Special appreciation goes to Gina, Paula, Anita and Michael.

In my continuing effort to keep you well informed of current happenings, Kirsten Bahlke, Vice President of Marketing, and Melissa Olund, Director of Digital Marketing, will now share an overview of their plans for 2023.

Ms. Bahlke: Good morning, everyone. My name is Kirsten Bahlke, and I have the pleasure of being the Vice President of Marketing for The American Kennel Club. It's been a treat, as always, to sit and listen to everything that has transpired so far because I always love to hear about the passion for purebred dogs and the engagement around our sports. This is a particularly wonderful venue for us to be talking about sports and then, also, about AKC as a brand. What we're here to talk about today is how mar-

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keting impacts all of those as well. What we thought would be good would be to give you an overview of our strategic guidance, how do we think about things as a Marketing group, and then give you some examples of how we've brought that to life.

We have five objectives set, that drive all the marketing programs. I know a lot of you are in the business world, so these are what we think of as overarching and shouldn't really change year to year.

The first is registration. So as a Marketing group, we are looking to increase preservation, ownership and registration of purebred dogs. Everything we've heard so far this morning about the love of the purebred dogs, the stories, is right up our alley, and we are about taking that to the consumers. The second is related to sports and events. As I said, perfect that we are here today with such glorious events going on around us. How do we, as a Marketing group, help increase awareness and participation in all of those sports and events? The third – and this is a very marketing-y term – brand health. What does that mean? We like to, in the marketing world, think of our brand. The American Kennel Club is a brand. A brand needs to be healthy in order to attract the most and best consumers. The way you have a healthy brand is – I've heard the words here today: relevant, modern, for the right people. So those are the things that we are

working on in The American Kennel Club Marketing department. How do we improve to dog lovers? Any dog lover, whether that is someone who's about to get a dog, someone who's got a dog, someone who has been a fancier for 30 years, how do we improve their perception of our brand, The American Kennel Club? Education – very, very important. Just like the other objectives, we are partnering across the organization to achieve these objectives. With Education, we're working with Ashley (Jacot) and her team, the Education department. But how do we become the number one source for breed and breeder tools and learning? What are we doing every day to make sure that when a consumer needs dog information, the AKC is top of mind? What are we doing to help breeders make sure when the new breeder is coming in, that they come to us for the tools and they're getting the right information, again, to be a responsible breeder? We also work with the Registration department when talking about our registration objective. We work with Doug (Ljungren) in the Sports & Events department when we're thinking about how to work with sports and drive interest in sports. We also have our own revenue budgets. Some of you may be familiar with the AKC Shop and Marketplace. So those are two revenue-generating areas that fall within the Marketing group. I'm not going to spend any time talking about those. I'm really going to focus on the previous four. So those are our five: registration, sports and events, brand health, ed-

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education and revenue. Then just like you do in a business, we set goals. Every year, we think, what are our goals? What are we going to measure ourselves to see success in 2023? We work with Registration; what are you looking to do and how can we help? We look to the Sports & Events team; what are you looking to do and how can we measure marketing to make sure that we are driving what you want to drive? We recently introduced something that's called a brand tracker. This is a vehicle where we survey thousands of consumers once a quarter and ask them questions about AKC. What are their perceptions? How aware are they? What do they think of us? This allows us to see how our perceptions are changing so we, as a marketing team, have something to benchmark ourselves against and say, yes, this is moving the needle, or no, it's not. We have a set of measurements that we're using. For example, one of the things we ask consumers is, who is your first source for breed knowledge? That's how we make sure we're keeping track of our education. Are we really there for education? Certainly, with revenue, we align with Ted (Phillips) in Finance. I put this slide up here, not so that you can read it, because it's obviously very difficult to read, but to say we take things to the next level and say, okay, if this is our objective, now you have your goals, these are the strategies. Then what we're going to do today is say, okay, I'm just going to talk to one strategy and give you one example of a program that we've done under that strategy to help you

understand and get a real sense for what we're doing. First, one of the strategies in registration is, how do we enhance the value of registration and make it work better for consumers and for breeders? Recently, we sent a survey out – and we're still collecting data – we have a survey out to folks who did not register their dog and some who did register their dog with AKC. We said, what's going on? We asked about 30 questions. Really lots of data, very insightful. In the next few months, we're working with the Registration team, with Mark (Dunn) and Mike (Isaac), to delve in there and get some more actionable insights. I just wanted to show you one of the things we've seen so far and how we're translating it. One of the questions we asked was, how well did your breeder explain the benefits of AKC dog registration to you? The N means sample size. We had about 1,000 people answer this question. About 26 percent said there was no explanation provided, and 41 percent said not so great. What that says to a Marketing team is, we need to give better tools. How do we help breeders explain the benefits of registration so that you can make that conversation happen more easily? We also asked in this survey, which, if any, of the communication methods below would you prefer to be used when educating you about registration? The top answer, paper information that you send home with me. Now we know that we need to help you, and now we have an idea of how we can help. That's why market research is important. Now what we're working on is, some

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of you already take advantage of the puppy folders, for example, and now we're working on improving the puppy folders, making them easier. How do we make it more accessible to more breeders? That's a translation that goes from the objective, to the goal, to the strategy, to the actual tactic. Sports and events. One of our strategies under this one is, how do we convince sport viewers – with ESPN, a lot more folks are getting exposure to view our sports. How do we convert them to sport participants? Now I'm going to turn it over to Melissa, and she'll walk you through some of the initiatives on that end.

Ms. Olund: Hello. I'm Melissa Olund, Director of Digital Marketing for AKC. One of the most fun parts of my job is to do what I'm about to show you, which is communicate the incredible things that people are out there doing with purebred dogs through the fastest growing social media platform called TikTok. Whether you know about it or not, your kids and grandkids, they're probably on TikTok. When we talk about the future of AKC, when we talk about getting younger people into the sport, getting younger people exposed to purebred dogs, getting them to want to own, want to preserve and want to register purebred dogs, TikTok is very important. You can see some of the demographics here. We're getting all the way down to age 16 to 24. It's a very, very young audience. We need to be there, as the AKC, so that we can have a presence and have people feel how relevant AKC is to

their life when they're on this platform. I'm going to show you a few examples of some of the content that we produced on TikTok that has been successful. This one is taking advantage of something on TikTok called a trending sound. When things are trending on TikTok, that's when you want to jump on them. TikTok is fueled by these sounds, and sometimes they're movie clips, sometimes they're songs. But this is just an example of one that we gathered when we were at Westminster.

(Video played.)

Ms. Olund: Obviously, the sound is quite funny, it's quite appropriate for what we're showing people. Who wouldn't want to put all those beautiful dogs in their truck and take them home? We got over 475,000 views on this short clip on TikTok. But what's even better is that we also get to see how people are reacting to this. The next slide will show you some of the comments. The second comment there says: "Oh, my God. I love AKC. My dog is currently competing in Agility. What's your favorite sport?" We didn't tell them to say this or pay them to say this. Here they are telling all the people who are watching this clip how much they love AKC and how they're participating themselves. This next one might be familiar. We had a great pop culture moment that we got to jump on as AKC. I'm sure everyone here has seen the movie called Best in Show. It became very relevant at Westminster this year. I'll just let this speak for itself.

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(Video played.)

Ms. Olund: It was like worlds colliding. We had a very iconic part of a movie that I don't know if the AKC had ever really kind of commented on, but we did that with this clip. That first comment there: "Best in Show, one of the best satirical movies ever. Where you been, Christopher Guest?" Then we commented, "Wait, it was satire?" This is us getting to be in that pop culture crossover moment, with 850k+ views, 100k+ likes and almost a thousand comments on TikTok. I only got to show you a couple. This was a great opportunity for us. Next is when Trumpet (Westminster Best in Show winner) came to visit the office.

(Video played.)

Ms. Olund: Let us take advantage of the fact that we're the AKC. Trumpet came to visit Dennis in his office. It gives that little behind-the-curtain look of how we connect to that big pop culture moment that everyone was experiencing with Westminster. The first comment was, "Whose office?" We replied, "Trumpet's, apparently." Again, it's modern, it's relevant, it's young. It's us being out there and making sure that people feel that connection and how we are relevant to the modern world. One more. This is an opportunity for us to show people breeds that they might not be that familiar with seeing, or maybe we're showing them a breed doing something that they're not always accustomed to seeing

them do. This example is a Basset Hound participating at the Rally National Championship.

(Video played.)

Ms. Olund: From here you can see some of the comments: "Those ears made my day brighter." "I love seeing breeds like this doing Rally." "Hounds can be so stubborn." It taps into the fact that not only are people loving seeing this content, but we have a very good proportion of followers who are also very involved in the sport, too. It lets us connect with them and make them even more likely to advocate on their TikTok or their Instagram or whatever social media platform they use. "Did you see what the AKC posted?" They share what we posted, they comment and their friends see. It really helps to tap into a lot of different aspects of those objectives that Kirsten outlined. This is a good example of something that's trending on TikTok that we jump in and put our own spin on it. He's a 10, but – in other words saying, this person's amazing, except for – so our version on that was this post.

(Video played.)

Ms. Olund: These clips were really short, but that's the way the platform works. Then we had our followers come back and give their takes. "He's a 10, but he can't tell the difference between a Whippet, a Greyhound and a Galgo." Obviously, this follower is someone who knows their dogs. People viewed that TikTok and gave their version of it and kind of kept it going. We also see people create their own versions of our

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posts and share them back with us. They'll tag us in the comments, etc. Again, we have to be on these social platforms engaging in an authentic way, in a relevant way, in a modern way, and TikTok just gives us the perfect platform to do that.

Ms. Olund: On to the brand health objective. This is a way that we have taken a campaign that taps into what people are searching for answer questions about their dogs. We look at the Google trends, we look at Google searches that people do, and we turn that into an advertising campaign, essentially. It's called If it Barks. I'm sure you've heard of it before. I believe we've presented it in the past, and so we'll look at a few clips. It's approachable, it's accessible, and it's taken right from what people are saying. It's Google search base. Can my dog have grapes? Can my dog do this? All that stuff sort of fuels the content that we then create. Why does my dog have zoomies? What are zoomies? We just work all that stuff into these pieces. As you can see, we've generated 39 million impressions, 6.1 million video views, and 324k clicks already with the campaign this year. It's very successful and the results speak to how relevant it is to what people are looking for.
(Video played.)

Ms. Olund: It's very straightforward. It's very clear. If you've got dog questions, we've got dog answers. We're the AKC. We know better than just about anybody else. These dogs are actually

sourced from club members, we've put out an all-call. You know, we need some folks in the Atlanta area who can help us come film. We were able to tap into our local clubs to get dogs for the shooting as well. The first one here, Zoomies version; Why does my dog do this? We have the laundry version; Why does my dog like to steal all my clothes? We had another one campaign that was about leash training with a really cute Frenchie who just walked around the studio with a leash in his mouth. You see these if you're on Facebook. You might see them across the internet, really, because that's the way that the campaign is structured. If you do see them, engage with them, like them, put a comment on them. We hope that we'll be able to continue this campaign and add more search terms and add more elements to it. So, there we go.

Ms. Bahlke: The final objective we're going to go through is education, to make AKC vital for the responsible dog ownership journey. This is speaking about the consumer side. I will pause for a moment because, as you'll recall, this education objective is actually for breeders, as well for all dog lovers. I'm going to put in a little plug because we have a booth on the floor with Registration. We are educating anyone who cares to come, which I hope will be all of you, about the breeder tool kit, which is a relatively new kit online that has been launched. It will help you manage all of your dogs. It's very simple to use, and we are strongly encouraging folks to come

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see us and we'll help you learn about it. I see someone nodding so hopefully, yes. Yay, nods. They're saying, yes, it is a good thing. We are really encouraging people to use this tool to your advantage and make use of it. We'd love to see you at the booth. Now, back to this objective. Make AKC vital for the responsible dog ownership journey. I don't know how many of you are familiar with a newsletter that the marketing group produces, and it's called *Pupdate*. When someone registers their dog, if the dog is less than 18 months old, they are automatically subscribed to this newsletter called *Pupdate*. Depending on how old the dog is, but let's say the dog is 12 weeks old, they start getting personalized newsletters. We are personalized to at least the top 25 breeds, and after that you're personalized to your group. It includes content about how to raise that dog in the best possible, most responsible way. We continue to work to personalize it. We're getting further down in breeds. We continue with Melissa's leadership of the content group to get breed-specific articles. How do you know breed-specific grooming, breed-specific training, anything you need to know. Again, all about how we make sure that purebred dogs are understood, the whys behind them and how to best live and raise a purebred dog. One of the new things we're doing is, this is actually a commercial we have developed with our in-house resources and our external designer. We are going to put this on when our National Championship airs on January 1, 2023 on ABC.

(Video played.)

Ms. Bahlke: We are hoping to get more people to sign up for *Pupdate* because it is such an amazing resource. If you have a mixed breed, if you have a purebred dog, we want AKC to be your number one resource for all things dog. The *Pupdate* starts in a frequency of every week. The younger your dog is, we then transition to once a month. And then at 18 months, you're going about every other month. Once you complete, then you're automatically transitioned into our general AKC newsletter. We believe it's an important way to get people into AKC so they learn about everything that we do and convert them into everything that we like to do. Those are the five. And if I come here next year and were to show this to you, I'd show you these same five and I would just show you different things that we're doing to exemplify those. That is everything. Thank you very much.

Mr. Sprung continued the President's Report as follows:

It is with a heavy heart that I share that one of our Delegates of 16 years is attending this meeting for the last time. A Parent Club Delegate who also served as its President. An AKC Board member for 8 years who during his leadership as Chairman shared his sophisticated business acumen with us. This tenure included hiring the first Chief Veterinary Officer, welcoming the advances of theriogenology for our breeders, intro-

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ducing Barn Hunt and the initial Rally National Championship. He contributed years of service on the Parent Clubs Committee.

As a renaissance man in our world, he also was Chairman of AKC Reunite from 2013-2018 when the disaster trailer program was introduced as a result of Hurricane Sandy and the Colorado wildfire relief. He remains active on the Board of the AKC Museum of the Dog where he continues to be a most generous donor.

In 2016, along with his wife Chris Lezotte, they were the AKC Breeders of the Year.

I give you our dear friend and Chairman of the AKC Board from 2012 – 2015, Alan Kalter. Thank you for everything.

Chief Financial Officer, Ted Phillips, gave the Financial Report as follows:

Today I'll present the key performance indicators and financial results for the nine months ending September 30, 2022. These data points are essential to telling the story of the AKC nine-month operating results. This chart provides a comparison of litter and dog registrations for these nine months with a comparison to the prior year's same period. The light blue column on this slide reports litter registrations. They totaled almost 250,000 and are one percent higher than the same period in 2021. Dog registrations are in the pink column. For the nine months

ending September 30, 2022, dog registrations total 563,978, which is nine percent lower than the same period in 2021. This lower trend has been consistent throughout this year and the non-financial statistics support the financial results that we will review in a few minutes. It's important to remember that litter and dog registrations represent 41 percent of total revenue for the nine months ended September 30, 2022. We thank all of you, our breeders, the Delegate Body, our Board of Directors and Staff for these achievements.

Let's look at Sports & Events. We've seen a significant improvement in the total number of events and entries. This area has been climbing all year long. The dark blue columns report the total number of events for each period ended September 30, 2022 and 2021. As of September 30, 2022 we see the growth of 19 percent over the same period of 2021; the line across the top shows the number of entries. This climbed by 13 percent to 2.6 million. At the end of this year, we're projecting this number to be close to 3.5 million. This is a banner year for events and entries, for which we're very grateful.

Now, let's look at the financial operating results for the nine months ended September 30, 2022. This is a high-level overview for your review. Revenues total \$80 million, which has generated net operating income of \$18.8 million. Once again, revenues are principally generated by reg-

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istration and event fees. Total revenue for the nine months ended September 30, 2022 is three percent higher than the same period in 2021. Registration and event fee revenue totals \$56 million, which is comparable for the same period in 2021. Within this total, there are two significant revenue lines. As I mentioned earlier, litter and dog registrations lead this line totaling \$44 million, which trails the same period by about 4 percent, that's the impact you see on the lower dog registrations that we mentioned in the non-financial stats discussion. Event fees total \$12 million, which is 15 percent ahead of the prior period. Another key line is the combination of advertising, sponsorship, and royalties. This totaled \$14.4 million, which is 22 percent ahead over the same period in 2021. Overall, obviously, very good news for AKC.

Our operating expenses for this period totaled \$61.6 million, which is 16 percent higher than in 2021. The majority of this is business line operations coming back to higher levels than in the prior period. Management always follows a cost control methodology across all categories, and we make sure that expenses are kept at appropriate business levels. Staff and travel costs comprise the largest component of operating expenses at \$28.6 million, which is 14 percent higher than in 2021. Please note that all programs and activities listed on this slide have available funds and are in line with the 2022 budget. Our Government Relations Staff con-

tinues to support the mission of AKC through its continuing support of legislation at the federal and state levels. Annual donations from AKC to charitable organizations average five percent of operating expenses and are consistent with prior years.

The balance sheet is AKC's financial position at the end of September 30, 2022. Assets total \$236 million, or \$35 million higher than December 31, 2021. Investments and cash comprise the largest group of these total assets at \$153 million. The investment portfolio is professionally managed, has an excellent investment policy statement that's reviewed annually. As we all know, the financial markets have been a challenge this year. Year to date, we are trailing our benchmark by two percent with losses of 15 percent. What's happened in the financial markets this year and especially in October and November and now December is challenging. The overall condition of AKC is healthy due to its positive posture focused on mission-related activities and solid support from the Board of Directors.

We always thank you for your time. The Finance department is always grateful for your support, as is all our Staff. And I'm available to answer any questions that you might have. My contact information is on this slide. Thank you very much.

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The first vote was an amendment to **Article VIII, Section 1**, of the *Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club*, which brings the by-laws into alignment with the current practice for designating the Nominating Committee by the Board of Directors. 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 an amendment to **Article X, Section 1**, of the *Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club*, which reflects the current state of business where the Chief Financial Officer manages the day-to-day financial operations of the AKC. This amendment was proposed by the Delegate Bylaws Committee and brought forward with approval from the AKC Board of Directors.

The Chair recognized Greg Paveza, Elm City Kennel Club, who spoke as follows:
Mr. President, Greg Paveza, Delegate for the Elm City Kennel Club, and until the gavel falls at this meeting, the Acting Chair of the Bylaws Committee. Shortly after this amendment was proposed, several members of the Delegate Body reached out to me and pointed out that the current bylaw and the proposed amendment are a run-on sentence. Several of them proposed that

we make a slight adjustment to this proposed amendment. Since it doesn't substantively change the amendment, I would like to propose the following amendment to the amendment: After the AKC, to insert a period. Strike the word "and" and insert the word "it." That concludes the suggested amendment.

There was a motion and a second to revise the wording of the amendment.

The Chair recognized Steven Lisker, Akita Club of America, who spoke as follows:
Steve Lisker, Delegate from the Akita Club of America. I think another period could be put in after the word invested – “and our balance, therefore, shall be deposited or invested.” Then start again, “It shall have the power to withdraw...I guess it could be "he." ”

There was a motion and a second to revise the wording of the amendment.

The Chair recognized Margaret “Peggy” Doster, Kennel Club of Buffalo, who spoke as follows:
Peggy Doster, Delegate from the Kennel Club of Buffalo. Rather than say “he or she”, could we just say, “the CFO?”

Mr. Sprung: Yes, we can spell it out in the Bylaws.

There was a vote in the majority to amend the amendment.

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There was a two-thirds vote in the affirmative, and the amendment was adopted as amended.

The Chair announced that the proposed rule changes to **Chapter 6, Section 2A; Chapter 7, Sections 6, 7, 9, 13 and 17; Chapter 9, Section 10; and Chapter 11, Section 6**, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* will be read/voted as one amendment.

The Chair now called on the Executive Secretary to read the proposed amendment to **Chapter 6, Section 2A**, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* – Premium Lists and Closing of Entries.

Ms. DiNardo: The amendment to **Chapter 6, Section 2A**, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* – Premium Lists and Closing of Entries, deletes verbiage eliminating outdated means of production and inserts distribution methods consistent with current technology and practices. It also inserts show secretary as a required contact to be included in notice published in premium lists where applicable.

This amendment was proposed 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 2023 meeting. The full text is on the

worksheet previously emailed.

The Chair recognized Cindy Miller, Waterloo Kennel Club, who spoke as follows:

Cindy Miller, Delegate Waterloo Kennel Club and Chair of the Dog Show Rules Committee.

There are amendments that we're going to be reading today that the Dog Show Rules Committee discussed yesterday. We will have some proposed changes to housekeeping and grammar, wordsmithing and reordering of sentences. I want the Delegate Body to know that unlike today, where you didn't have prior knowledge, we're going to get these changes out to the Delegate Body via the Delegate Google e-list, I would say early to mid-January. You'll have the changes that we're proposing to take to your clubs in advance, so we don't have to do the wordsmithing the day of the vote. Thank you.

The Chair called on the Executive Secretary to read the proposed amendment to **Chapter 7, Section 6**, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* – Judges.

Ms. DiNardo: The amendment to **Chapter 7, Section 6**, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* – Judges, inserts "show secretaries" to bring current with existing and long-standing expectations for those serving as a show secretary.

This amendment was proposed by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee and brought forward

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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 2023 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 7, Section 7**, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Judges*.

Ms. DiNardo: The amendment to **Chapter 7, Section 7**, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Judges*, inserts “show secretaries” to bring current with existing and long-standing expectations for those serving as a show secretary. It also replaces gender pronouns for consistency within the Rules.

This amendment was proposed 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 2023 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 7, Section 9**, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Judges*.

Ms. DiNardo: The amendment to **Chapter 7, Section 9**, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Judges*, inserts “Superintendent or Show Secretary” to the list of individuals responsible to ensure notice of a change of judge is posted at an event. It also replaces gender pronouns for consistency within the Rules.

This amendment was proposed 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 2023 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 7, Section 13**, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Judges*.

Ms. DiNardo: The amendment to **Chapter 7, Section 13**, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Judges* replaces the word “other” with “another” for clarity. It also replaces gender pro-

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nouns for consistency within the Rules.

This amendment was proposed 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 2023 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 7, Section 17**, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Judges*.

Ms. DiNardo: The amendment to **Chapter 7, Section 17**, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Judges*, inserts “Superintendent or Show Secretary” to the list of individuals who may be in possession of judge’s books. It also replaces gender pronouns for consistency within the Rules.

This amendment was proposed 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 2023 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 10**, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Superintendents and Show Secretaries*.

Ms. DiNardo: The amendment to **Chapter 9, Section 10**, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Superintendents and Show Secretaries*, inserts “show secretaries” to bring current with existing and long-standing expectations for those serving as show secretary.

This amendment was proposed 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 2023 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 11, Section 6**, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Dog Show Entries, Conditions of Dogs Affecting Eligibility*.

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Ms. DiNardo: The amendment to **Chapter 11, Section 6**, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Dog Show Entries, Conditions of Dogs Affecting Eligibility*, revises and inserts language for clarity about who may make a correction to an entry after closing, and under what conditions.

This amendment was proposed 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 2023 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 8 and Chapter 10, Section 2**, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* will be read/voted as one amendment.

The Chair called on the Executive Secretary to read the proposed amendment to **Chapter 8**, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Selection of Superintendent, Show Secretary and Veterinarians*.

Ms. DiNardo: The amendment to **Chapter 8**, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Selection of Superintendent, Show Secretary and Veterinarians*, replaces “obedience trial or tracking test”

with generic “companion event” per the recommendation of the Companion Events Committee. It also inserts content from the deleted Chapter 9, Section 3, addressing the event committee’s responsibility to complete arrangements with a veterinarian to service its show either in attendance or on call. Additionally, it is revised to be consistent with current application procedures which do not ask or require for the name of the Show Veterinarian. Lastly, it relocates content into Chapter 8 which is proposed to be deleted from Chapter 10, Section 2.

This amendment was proposed by AKC 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 2023 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 10, Section 2**, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Show Veterinarians*.

Ms. DiNardo: The amendment to **Chapter 10, Section 2**, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Show Veterinarians* deletes verbiage related to duty of the club proposed to be inserted into

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Chapter 8. It also replaces “On call” veterinarian with Show Veterinarian, clarifying that whether in attendance or on call, the Show Veterinarian must be available to examine dogs during show hours. Lastly, the word “treat” is replaced with “examine” for veterinary procedural purposes.

This amendment was proposed by AKC 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 2023 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 11, Section 8**, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Dog Show Entries, Conditions of Dogs Affecting Eligibility*.

Ms. DiNardo: The amendment to **Chapter 11, Section 8**, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Dog Show Entries, Conditions of Dogs Affecting Eligibility*, inserts “and all other single entry non-regular classes” to expand the classes in which neutered dogs or spayed bitches may be allowed to compete. It maintains the allowance to only be permissible at independent specialties or All-Breed dog shows where there is no com-

petition beyond Best of Breed. It also maintains that to achieve a Conformation title, a neutered or spayed entrant must have first attained its Championship title by competing unaltered in the regular classes. It corresponds to the proposal to Chapter 6, Section 2, which adds verbiage to clarify that information must be included in the premium list if the club elects to permit neutered dogs and spayed bitches to compete in Veterans, or any other single-entry non-regular class.

This amendment was proposed 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 2023 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 6, Section 2**, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Premium Lists and Closing of Entries*.

Ms. DiNardo: The amendment to **Chapter 6, Section 2**, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Premium Lists and Closing of Entries*, inserts “and/” to reflect the need, when applicable, to

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list both a superintendent and individual show secretary in the premium list. It also inserts for clarity that notification must be included in the premium list for an independent specialty or All-Breed dog show that does not offer Groups or *Best in Show*, if the club has elected to allow neutered dogs or spayed bitches to compete in non-regular classes.

This amendment was proposed 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 2023 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 14, Section 11**, of the *Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedure for Retrievers*.

Ms. DiNardo: The amendment to **Chapter 14, Section 11**, of the *Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedure for Retrievers*, will not allow Local Retriever Field Trials that award championship points to do so during the two National Championship events. This provision does not prohibit clubs from holding derby stakes, quali-

fying stakes or owner-handler qualifying stakes.

This amendment was proposed by the Retriever Field Trial 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 2023 meeting. The full text is on the worksheet previously emailed.

There were no questions or discussion.

The Chair called on Gail LaBerge, Delegate from the Atlanta Obedience Club, to provide an update on AKC PAC. She spoke as follows: Good morning. I also want to say thank you to Alan Kalter because he was PAC Board Chair for a number of years, and we appreciate the leadership he shared with us at that time. Thank you.

I'm here to remind you that this is our annual sweepstakes, which is our major fundraiser for the PAC. This year, the sweepstakes is a very nice set of luggage that will be shipped to the recipient and a \$750 gift card so that when you travel, you have funds to spend. Please go out, you can do it at the table where Sheila is outside to get your tickets today or all through the weekend across at the show. The drawing will be Sunday afternoon. We are doing it earlier than we did last year, so that we can let people know. The

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other thing is that we have our caricature artist back doing ornaments this year. You can do it of yourself, or your dog. He also does them from pictures if you don't have your dog with you. It's a \$35 donation. I've seen some of them, they are really cute. Please support the PAC. I will tell you that we had 100 percent success rate on the candidates that we supported in the fall elections, which we were thrilled about because most PACs don't have that type of rate. Our average is around 90 percent. We've been very pleased, but most of all, we appreciate your support and we wish all of you happy holidays.

The Chair called on Sheila Goffe, AKC Vice President of Government Relations, to recognize one of our Delegates. She spoke as follows: Good morning. Thank you very much. I am honored today to present the Walter Bebout Award for Legislative Leadership to one of our unsung heroes. For more than two decades, Mike Houchard has been an active member of the Georgia Canine Coalition and has used his extensive knowledge and background in government to make a positive difference for dogs. Back in June, at the Delegate Forum, I outlined to you one of the most egregious anti breeder bills we've encountered this year, and really, one of the most egregious I've seen in history. As introduced, Georgia Senate Bill 303 deemed anyone owning two intact dogs and breeding one, to be a commercial breeder subject to the following requirements: An ownership limit of 20

dogs, all dogs spayed by the age of five, require a dog deemed inappropriate for breeding by a vet, any veterinarian, to be spayed or neutered, and an undetermined health test for all dogs, amongst many others. It turns out that Mike had just moved into the sponsor's district. Mike called me to say he was going to go meet with the sponsor. When he did, he found out the sponsor hadn't even actually read the bill. So, he provided him with an impact analysis, and back they went to meetings. Thanks to Mike's incredible relationship building, the sponsor amended his own bill and replaced entirely to a substitute amendment with AKC's model bill for consumer protection. We went from a very strong oppose, to a bill we can happily support. We saved a lawmaker from potentially embarrassing situation. Thanks to Mike, we made a new friend. This is just one example of the incredible work that Mike has done over the many, many years in the legislative arena. I am beyond pleased and honored to present Mike with the Walter Bebout Award for Legislative Leadership and a check for \$1,000 to the Georgia Canine Coalition.

Michael Houchard, Delegate for the Conyers Kennel Club of Georgia, accepted the award plaque.

The Chair informed the Delegates that the Annual Meeting will be held on Tuesday, March 14, 2023, at the DoubleTree Newark Airport in Newark, New Jersey. The meeting will include

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the election of the Board of Directors Class of 2027. More detailed information will be emailed to the Delegate Body as soon as it becomes available.

Lunch will be served next door in the Grand Ballroom C. Delegates are reminded to please leave their badges at the registration desk following lunch.

The following Delegates spoke during New Business:

Don James, Delegate for the Leonberger Club of America referred to his article in the latest issue of Perspectives about COVID relief. The Washington Festivals & Events Association was offering grants to clubs and groups who suffered financial losses during COVID pandemic. The Greater Clark County Kennel Club applied for two grants. From grant one, which was \$3 million, they received \$15,000 and from grant two, which was \$35 million, they were received \$39,000. The total awarded to the club from the program was \$54,000. He recommended that Delegates check in their states and see if there might be COVID relief grants available.

Peter Piusz, Delegate for the American Rotweiler Club spoke on behalf of the Delegate Parent Clubs Committee. He announced that the committee formed the memorial Pat Laurans Parent Clubs of Excellence Award which

will be presented annually during the December Parent Clubs Committee Meeting. More information will be distributed at the March 2023 Delegate Meeting.

Virginia "Gini" Denninger, Delegate for the Genesee Valley Kennel Club and Coordinator for the March 2023 Perspectives encouraged the Delegates to contribute to the issue. The due date for articles is January 15, 2023.

Mary Lou Olszewski, Delegate for the American Bloodhound Club and Chair of the Delegate Advocacy and Advancement Committee provided an update on the Judges Survey on behalf of her committee. She thanked the Delegates for participating with a 50 percent response rate. The objective of the survey was to get feedback on the bylaw that will not allow judges to accept or negotiate fees. She asked the Delegates to consider the challenges for judges inability to recoup expenses. The results of the survey will be posted on the Delegate Portal for review. She urged the Delegates to bring this to the AKC Board.

Marylyn DeGregorio, Delegate for the Taconic Hills Kennel Club requested revisiting the idea of "as the crow flies" and replacing it with actual shortest map distance to make events easier to organize and attend.

Sharon Steckler, Delegate for the American Boxer Club brought up the issue of Westminster

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Kennel Club scheduling that has affected the Parent Clubs and National Specialties for the last two years. She further explained that those breeds who are primarily handled by professional handlers, many of whom handle multiple breeds would be unable to participate in both events.

Don Adams, Delegate for the Cudahy Kennel Club, invited all the Delegates to the Fast CAT® Invitational, which was being held in the adjacent building. Now the third largest AKC Sport, 200 dogs were still eligible and 2 dogs from each breed would be running.

Mary Ellen Ferguson, Delegate for the Rio Grande Kennel Club also shared the difficulty regarding the Westminster scheduling specifically as an Assistant Show Chair for her club, a member of the Cluster Committee and Vendor Chair.

Don Schwartz, Delegate for the Durango Kennel Club, explained that his club faces similar problems with the change in Westminster event dates. The club is unsure if they will get entry for their show.

Maria Sacco, Delegate for the United States Lakeland Terrier Association reminded the Delegates that AKC was not responsible for the dates of Westminster. She suggested contacting Westminster Kennel Club directly with the

scheduling concerns.

Luis Sosa, Delegate for the Louisiana Kennel Club made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

There was a second.

There was a vote in the majority to adjourn the meeting.

Hearing no further business, the Chair adjourned the meeting.

(One sharp rap of the gavel.)

(Proceedings concluded at 12:01 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



Borzo



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



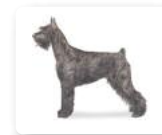
Dogo Argentino



Dogue de Bordeaux



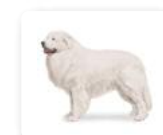
German Pinscher



Giant Schnauzer



Great Dane



Great Pyrenees



Greater Swiss Mountain Dog



Komondor



Leonberger



Kuvasz



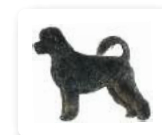
Mastiff



Neapolitan Mastiff



Newfoundland



Portuguese Water Dog



Rottweiler



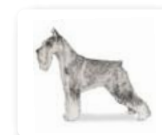
Saint Bernard



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



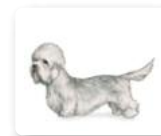
Bull Terrier



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



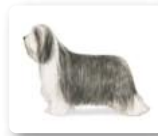
HERDING GROUP



Australian Cattle Dog



Australian Shepherd



Bearded Collie



Beauceron



Belgian Laekenois



Belgian Malinois



Belgian Sheepdog



Belgian Tervuren



Bergamasco



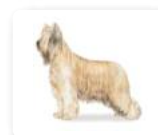
Berger Picard



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/>