



Follow the  
GAZETTE on  
Facebook!



WHERE  
**FANCIERS**  
GATHER

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

## TIMES PAST

## BREED COLUMNS

### Toy Group

Brussels Griffons	Havanese	Papillons
Cavalier King Charles Spaniels	Italian Greyhounds	Pekingese
Chihuahuas	Maltese	Pomeranians
	Miniature Pinschers	Shih Tzu

### Non-Sporting Group

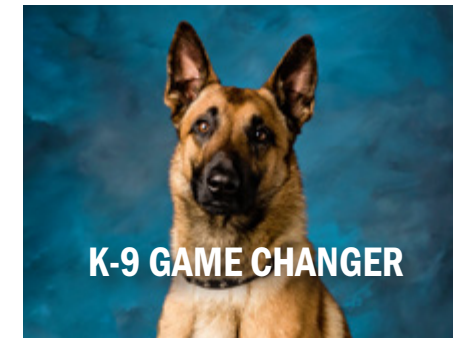
Bichons Frises	Dalmatians	Schipperkes
Boston Terriers	Finnish Spitz	Shiba Inu
Chinese Shar-Pei	French Bulldogs	Tibetan Spaniels
Chow Chows	Lhasa Apsos	Tibetan Terriers

### Herding Group

Bearded Collies	Cardigan Welsh Corgis	Pembroke Welsh Corgis
Belgian Malinois	Collies	Pulik
Belgian Tervuren	Finnish Lapphunds	Shetland Sheepdogs
Briards	Norwegian Buhunds	Spanish Water Dogs
Canaan Dogs	Old English Sheepdogs	

### BREED COLUMNS SCHEDULE

Sporting and Working Groups January, April, July, and October issues	Hound and Terrier Groups February, May, August, and November issues	Toy, Non-Sporting, and Herding Groups March, June, September, and December issues
---	--	--



**K-9 GAME CHANGER**



**SLIDESHOW  
MORRIS & ESSEX**

## SECRETARY'S PAGES

\*  
Links to AKC Parent Clubs  
appear following  
Secretary's Pages

\*



**UPDATES**



**RINGSIDE**

**How to download or print the AKC GAZETTE:** At the upper left of this screen, press either the download or print icon, and print the pages you need once the PDF of the issue downloads and is opened.



PURINA®  
PRO PLAN®



FIND YOUR LOCAL TV LISTINGS AT  
[PROPLAN.COM/INCREDIBLE](http://PROPLAN.COM/INCREDIBLE)

— “ —

HE'S SUCH AN INCREDIBLE PARTNER.  
HE DESERVES INCREDIBLE NUTRITION.

— ” —

MARIA BADAMO

As a champion agility trainer and a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, Maria Badamo, DVM knows a thing or two about high-performance canine nutrition. And whether she's preparing her dog, Kenobi, to bring home another title on the agility course or fueling his best in-between events, there's only one food she trusts — Purina® Pro Plan® Sport Performance 30/20.

KENOBI

2020 Agility National Champion (IDC) | 2019 European Open Finalist (Netherlands) | 2-*Time Team USA Member*

SEE WHY CHAMPIONS TRUST PRO PLAN AT [PURINAPROCLUB.COM/EXPERTS](http://PURINAPROCLUB.COM/EXPERTS)

PURINA®  
PRO PLAN®



FUEL THE CHAMPION  
IN YOUR DOG



OPTIMIZES OXYGEN  
METABOLISM  
(VO<sub>2</sub> MAX) FOR  
INCREASED ENDURANCE



30% PROTEIN AND  
20% FAT TO FUEL  
METABOLIC NEEDS AND  
MAINTAIN LEAN MUSCLE



OMEGA-6  
FATTY ACIDS AND  
VITAMIN A TO  
NOURISH SKIN & COAT

[ProPlanSport.com](http://ProPlanSport.com)

EXCLUSIVELY AT PET SPECIALTY AND ONLINE RETAILERS

Purina trademarks are owned by Société des Produits Nestlé S.A.

PURINA® Your Pet, Our Passion.®



## Summer *Wrap-up*

**a**s we close out the summer months, we are encouraged by the very high number of clubs that have safely held events. In a year that required us to make more adjustments than before, we have shown that we can do so and create safe environments where we can compete with our dogs.

Last month we had the honor of participating in ESPN's *Bark in the Park*, airing on International Dog Day, August 26. The event took place on August 24 at Dunkin Donuts Park in Hartford, Connecticut, and highlighted such canine action sports as agility, flyball, Diving Dogs, and the new Weave Pole Challenge. It also included a mini AKC Meet the Breeds event, highlighting some familiar breeds featured in Disney films, such as Cocker Spaniels, Dogues de Bordeaux, and Dalmatians. The show also featured Dr. Terrence Ferguson and Dr. Vernard Hodges from Nat Geo Wild's show *Critter Fixers*. Replays of the show are available on the ESPN App. It was a wonderful celebration of our incredible canines and their amazing athleticism.

And while events keep us busy, we are

always working on ways to improve and enhance our services for dog owners. Most recently we announced that our [new DNA test kit](#) is now available. This updated product utilizes an improved method of submitting canine DNA samples to the American Kennel Club.

The DNA kits now contain a barcode and an activation code that customers will enter via an online portal along with their contact and dog information. Paper forms are no longer required, and customers will now be directed to mail their DNA samples directly to the lab. The new DNA kits will automatically send status updates and notifications by e-mail, eliminating guesswork and keeping customers informed throughout the entire process. These updates greatly reduce turnaround time and streamline the process. Results and DNA certificates will still be mailed directly to the customer when the processing of the sample is complete.

We know that tools like these make it easier to assist breeders with registration and health goals.



Lastly, there are several natural disasters affecting our country at this time. [AKC Reunite](#) has been donating to shelters in California during the numerous wildfires and is now taking donations to assist organizations in Mississippi and Louisiana. If you would like to contribute to their efforts, please visit [www.akcreunite.org](http://www.akcreunite.org).

We are looking forward to fall and wish you a safe and healthy season. Be well.

Dennis B. Sprung  
President and CEO



**managing editor** BUD BOCCONE  
**senior editor** ARLISS PADDOCK

**senior designer** KATE MCCROARY  
**publications director** RUSSELL BIANCA  
**senior graphic designer** CHRIS ESPIRITU  
**archivist-librarian** BRYNN WHITE

**FREE**  
**AKC GAZETTE**  
**SUBSCRIPTION**

**advertising & circulation administrator**  
 VENUS RODRIGUEZ  
[venus.rodriquez@akc.org](mailto:venus.rodriquez@akc.org)  
 212-696-8260

**advertising representatives**  
 JAMES G. ELLIOTT CO, INC  
 626 Wilshire Blvd.  
 Suite 500  
 Los Angeles, CA 90017  
 (213) 624-0900  
[www.jamesgelliott.com](http://www.jamesgelliott.com)

**Write to the editors** [gazette@akc.org](mailto:gazette@akc.org)

AKC GAZETTE (ISSN 1086-0940), September 2021, Volume 138, No. 9, published monthly at 101 Park Ave., New York, NY 10178, USA, by The American Kennel Club, Inc. Copyright The American Kennel Club, Inc., 2021. No portion of this magazine may be reprinted without permission of the publisher. AKC is a registered trademark of The American Kennel Club, Inc.

## Mrs. Sacks

*This issue contains the second instalment of an occasional series we call “Where Fanciers Gather.” The [first instalment](#) appeared in the April 2020 GAZETTE. It was an idea born more of desperation than inspiration.*

*The pandemic, in its mysterious and deadly early stage, was upon us. AKC clubs had no choice but to cancel shows and trials. The dog world—the whole world, really, especially here in New York, where the virus hit early and hit hard—was shut down tight. We had pages to fill and no show news to report.*

*And so, we cobbled together “Where Fanciers Gather,” a digest of show-ring know-how and opinion culled from our parent-club breed columns of the recent past. It was intended simply to buy us a month until we could figure out what to do next. But—surprise!—it turned out to be the best-read feature of 2020. We had stumbled upon a good thing, hence the sequel in this issue. Necessity was indeed the dam of invention.*

*Among the experts heard from in that first “Where Fanciers Gather” was Rita Laventhall Sacks, our [Pharaoh Hound Club of America](#) columnist since 1985. Rita, or Mrs. Sacks, to employ the gracious formality of the world into which she was born, was an ideal breed columnist. She was a highly respected fancier, one of the founders of her breed in America. She combined an unsurpassed knowledge of Pharaohs, a conversational approach to writing, and a knack for the “all-breed” column that could engage fans of any breed. (See Rita’s [“The Value of Breed Education”](#) from May 2013, selected for this occasion by her longtime editor, Arliss Paddock.)*

*Rita Laventhall Sacks died on June 13 at age 93. It was yet more sad news in a year of sadness. It is, however, a comfort to know that the dog fancy, her beloved breed, and this magazine are much the better for her having passed our way. We dedicate this issue to Rita’s memory.—B.B.*



Rita Laventhall Sacks in 1969 with her first Pharaoh Hound, the import Twinely Queen Nemathap

**On Our Cover**  
 Pomeranian,  
 courtesy [Lynda Beam](#)

THE PHARAOH HOUND/AKC LIBRARY



# 43' 2016 Dutchstar RV

## Customized for the serious dog sport enthusiast

Bunk bedroom converted to dog room with four stainless steel sliding door crates that provide access to animals, with slides open or closed, with access to top crates via detachable stainless ladder.

Provides quiet for pets and allows “dog free” entertainment in the main salon.

Available for delivery in Florida after November 1, as owner takes delivery of new 43 with same custom dog room.



For more information, contact [custom.dog.rv@gmail.com](mailto:custom.dog.rv@gmail.com)



## EXECUTIVE FIELD STAFF NEWS

# D'Andrea New Field Director; Proctor Retires



January 2006 AKC National Championship: D'Andrea's Alaskan Malamute Ch. Nanuke's Snoklassic No Boundaries wins Best in Show and Best Bred-by-Exhibitor in Show.

**A**KC Executive Field Representative Sandra D'Andrea has been promoted to Field Director of Conformation. In her new role, she will be responsible for managing the field staff at conformation events. D'Andrea joined the AKC as a field rep in November 2012.

"We are very happy to

promote Sandra to Field Director of Conformation," Vice President of Judging Operations Tim Thomas says.

"Her experience as a successful breeder, handler, and show chairperson made her a valuable addition to the conformation field staff and will continue to serve her well in her new responsibilities."

D'Andrea assumes the position of Field Director of Conformation from Patricia Proctor, who retired from the AKC on August 31.

Proctor spent years as a breeder-exhibitor, owner, and professional handler before joining the AKC as a field rep in 2007. She was promoted to Senior Executive Field Representative in 2012, and later to Field Director of Conformation.

Proctor's responsibilities also included serving as a field director of the [Registered Handlers Program](#) and serving on the Judges Review committee.

## FROM THE COMPANION EVENTS DEPARTMENT:

# Remembering Ronald Roberts

We are saddened to report former AKC Executive Staff, Obedience Field Representative, Ronald Roberts passed away in November 2020. Before he joined the staff at AKC, he successfully trained and competed in obedience with several top working German Shepherd Dogs and Golden Retrievers. He became an obedience judge in 1970 and began working for AKC as a part-time field rep in 1982, where he oversaw obedience events and judges primarily in the Midwest and the South. He retired from AKC in 2005 with more than 20 years of service and immediately returned to the obedience ring training, showing, and judging.

Ron joined the Ocala Police Department in 2002 and served with honor and distinction as a city watch volunteer, and served as a volunteer for the Marion County, Florida, sheriff's department at Oak Run Security for more than 13 years.

Ron was well respected by all, always a perfect gentleman, and although perceived as quiet and all business, he had a wickedly charming sense of humor. He was a wonderful mentor to many obedience judges and will be greatly missed and fondly remembered.

The AKC Companion Events department will dedicate the [2021 AKC Obedience Classic](#) in Ron's memory. The event will be held on December 18 and 19.



Ron Roberts (far left) with Companion Events colleagues at the 2005 National Obedience Invitational

LEFT: AKC GAZETTE COLLECTION; RIGHT: AKC COMPANION EVENTS



# UPDATES



## 9/11 Heroes Honored

NEW YORK—Winning entries in the [AKC Museum of the Dog's](#) 9/11-themed art contest are part of *9/11 Remembered: Search & Rescue Dogs*, the museum's exhibition honoring the dogs and handlers who worked at the sites of the September 11, 2001, terror attacks.

The show examines the history of search-and-rescue dogs and highlights the K-9 teams who worked so valiantly in the wake of 9/11. Alongside the contest winners will be several sculptures from the AKC [DOGNY](#) project that raised over 3.5 million for search-and-rescue organizations. The exhibition will also feature portraits by artist Ron Burns, creator of the book "The Dogs of Ron Burns: A Tribute to the Dogs of 9/11."



Contest winner: "Porkchop the Search Dog," by Sylvia Kim

TOP: AKC MUSEUM OF THE DOG COLLECTION; BOTTOM: COURTESY SANDY PARDEE



Cassie Pardee

### Family Dog Editor a FOLIO Finalist

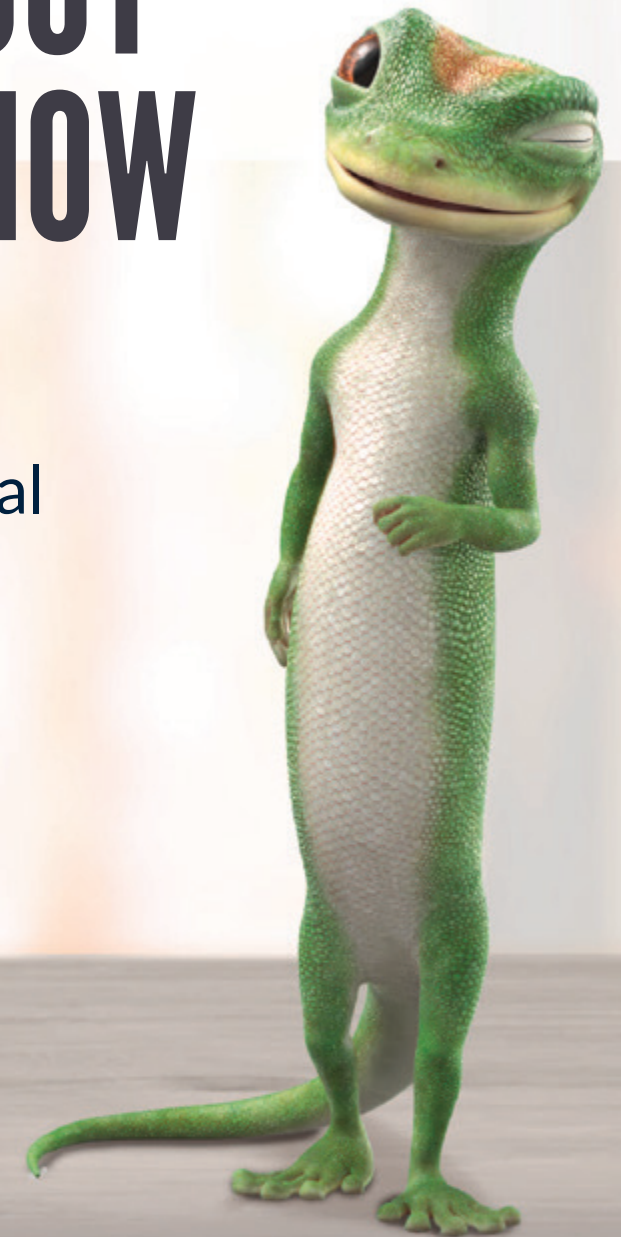
AKC FAMILY DOG Senior Editor Lindsey Dobruck is a 2021 FOLIO award finalist for her feature "The Champion" in the magazine's March/April issue. The story profiles autistic junior handler Cassie Pardee and how she became a confident young woman by showing English Setters.

Dobruck began at the AKC in 2009 as an intern for AKC Publications and has served in editorial roles for both FAMILY DOG and the GAZETTE. FOLIO's "Eddie & Ozzie" awards are among the most coveted in the magazine industry. The names of the award winners will be announced at an October gala in New York.



# IT'S ALL ABOUT WHO YOU KNOW

## AKC Dog Lovers could save more with a special discount with GEICO!



**GEICO**  
MEMBER DISCOUNT



[geico.com/disc/akc](https://www.geico.com/disc/akc) | 1-800-368-2734 | Local Agent





# Otto Wins

Dr. Otto and a distinguished colleague

RALEIGH—Dr. Cynthia “Cindy” Otto (University of Pennsylvania) is the recipient of the [AKC Canine Health Foundation’s 2021 Asa Mays, DVM](#), Excellence in Canine Health Research Award. The award is a biennial honor presented to a research investigator who demonstrates meritorious achievements in furthering

## Mays Award

the mission of identifying, characterizing, and treating canine disease and ailments.

The cornerstone of Otto’s funded research has been the [9/11 Medical Surveillance Study](#), now in its 20th year. Since 2001, Dr. Otto has received almost \$600,000 in funding to study the physical and behavioral consequences of search-and-rescue dog deployment to the 9/11 disaster sites. To date, the work has produced 11 peer-reviewed publications describing the short- and long-term effects of deployment on toxicology, behavior, mortality, the dog-and-handler relationship, and more. Findings will help us protect not only the health and safety of search-and-rescue dogs, but provide valuable translational information benefitting the health of human handlers and first responders.

“Dr. Otto’s groundbreaking research and dedication to advancing the health of working dogs and their handlers exemplifies the AKC Canine Health Foundation’s mission and vision,” CHF Scientific Review chair Dr. Stephanie A. Montgomery says. “This One Health approach can accelerate medical discoveries that impact both species. We are honored to present Dr. Otto with this award and look forward to our continued collaboration to benefit the health of all dogs and their owners.”

## AWPG Foundation:

The American Wirehaired Pointing Griffon Foundation, established by the [American Wirehaired Pointing Griffon Association](#) in 2017, is making an impact in canine health. The Foundation has helped to fund CHF research studying epilepsy, tick-borne disease, and the development of cognitive traits in dogs.

The Foundation’s research support demonstrates a commitment to advancing knowledge of diseases that affect not only Wirehaired Pointing Griffons, but all dogs.



“Our dogs are the winners!”

# Way to Go!

“By working with CHF, we are able to leverage our donors’ dollars to support important research into issues that we know affect our breed,” Foundation board member Melanie Tuttle says.

“We honor CHF’s significant work on behalf of all dogs and their families. We are grateful for the opportunity to play a part in its successes and those of the funded researchers. Our dogs are the winners!”

## AKC Bids Farewell to Piucci

Even the most dedicated longtime AKC constituent might not know the name Laurie Piucci. The Human Resources manager is, after all, the ultimate organization insider, dealing almost exclusively with staff. For 29 years, Laurie fielded our queries and helped us maneuver through the arcane realms of benefits and company procedures. She is beloved by her co-workers for her good humor, professionalism, and saintly patience—imagine all the dumb questions she must have answered graciously during nearly three decades!

Laurie retired on September 10. She begins the next chapter of her life with the warmest wishes from all of us in Raleigh and New York. Truly, she put the *human* in Human Resources. We will miss her.



# SLIDESHOW

*From the collections of AKC Archives and the AKC GAZETTE, we present vintage photos—some of which have not been seen since the year they were taken—of the fabled Morris & Essex KC show, the platinum event of our sport's golden age.*

**1935:** BIS Irish Setter Ch. Milson O'Boy with breeder-handler Harry Hartnett and club president Geraldine Rockefeller Dodge

**1940:** Edward Hurd judging Beagles

**1941:** Working Group judging

**1947:** BIS Bedlington Terrier Rock Ridge Night Rocket with BIS judge Joseph Quirk, handler Anthony Neary, and Mrs. Dodge

**1947:** Non-Sporting Group winner Ch. Blakeen Osprey with judge Mervin Rosenbaum and owner-handler Hayes Blake Hoyt

**1949:** Hound Group winner longhaired Dachshund Ali v. Herrenwald with judge Anton Rost and handler William Ake

**1951:** Sporting Group winner English Setter Ch. Rock Falls Colonel with judge C.J. Cassleman and owner-handler William Holt

**1952:** BIS Wire Fox Terrier Ch. Wyretex

Wyns Traveller of Trucote with handler Seth Campbell and owner Mrs. Leonard Smith

**1953:** Toy Group winner Pug Ch. Pugville's Mighty Jim with judge Gertrude Rowe and handler James Geddes

**1955:** Best of Breed Afghan hound Ch.

Taejon of Crown Crest with judge Christian Knudsen and owner-handler Kay Finch

**1956:** BIS Dalmatian Ch. Roadcoach Roadster with Mrs. Dodge, judge Mrs. Edward Renner, presenter Mrs. S.K. Allman Jr., and handler Charlie Meyer

**1957:** BIS Miniature Poodle Ch. Fircot L'Ballerine of Maryland with handler Ruth Sayres and judge Mrs. Saunders Meade

*Photos: William Brown, Percy Jones, Evelyn Shafer*





# Join the AKC Breeder Rewards Program

Earn up to **\$10** per puppy when new puppy owners:

1. Register with the AKC
2. Activate their 30-day pet insurance policy
3. Download the TailTrax app

**Learn more & enroll**

[www.akcpetinsurance.com/akc-breeder-rewards-program](http://www.akcpetinsurance.com/akc-breeder-rewards-program)



**PET  
INSURANCE**

Underwritten by Independence American Insurance Co.

This program is offered through PetPartners, Inc. and is not sponsored or endorsed by the American Kennel Club (AKC). Eligibility restrictions apply. See program terms and conditions for details [and limitations]. Program questions and incentive disputes should be directed to AKC Pet Insurance/PetPartners at 866-725-2747.

Insurance is underwritten and issued by Independence American Insurance Company, rated A- (Excellent) by AM Best Company, with offices at 485 Madison Ave, NY, NY 10022 and in WA, by American Pet Insurance Company, 6100 4th Ave. S., Seattle, WA 98105. Insurance plans are offered and administered by PetPartners, Inc., a licensed agency. "American Kennel Club," "AKC" and the AKC logo are trademarks of The American Kennel Club, Inc.; used under license by PetPartners. "AKC Pet Insurance" is the name used by PetPartners to offer and administer insurance plans and is neither an American Kennel Club business nor an insurance company. American Kennel Club does not offer, administer, solicit, market or sell any insurance plans. For complete details refer to [www.akcpetinsurance.com/sample-policies](http://www.akcpetinsurance.com/sample-policies). The 30-day coverage must be activated in most states. Eligibility restrictions apply. For more information, visit [www.akcpetinsurance.com/certificate](http://www.akcpetinsurance.com/certificate) or call 866-725-2747.



# RINGSIDE

NORTHEASTERN MARYLAND KC, SATURDAY, JULY 10



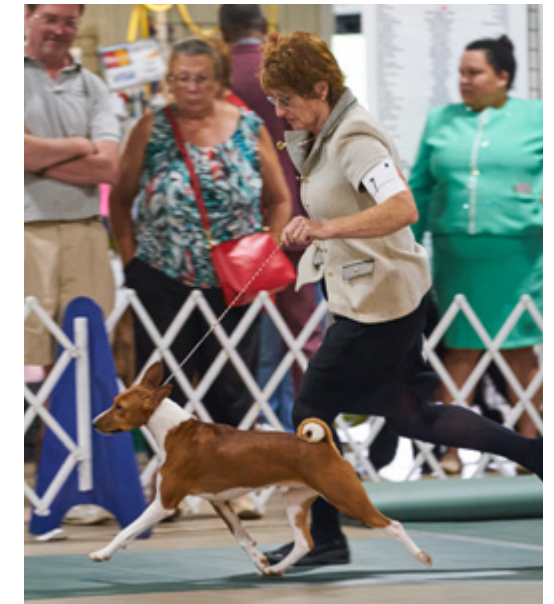
Photos [David Sungha Woo](#)

WEST FRIENDSHIP, MARYLAND—It was a big weekend for GCh.S Foxcliffe Claire Randall Frazer, going BIS under Tom Ward at [Northeastern Maryland KC](#) on Saturday, and again on Sunday under Dr. H. Scott Kellogg at [National Capital KC](#). The Scottish Deerhound prevailed over a combined weekend entry of 2,483. Our old friend David Woo filed this photo report.

## Results

[Northeastern Maryland](#)

[National Capital](#)





# RINGSIDE

NATIONAL CAPITAL KC SUNDAY, JULY 11



Photos *David Sungha Woo*





**I**n the mid-1920s, when the *GAZETTE* was transformed from a stark rundown of AKC business into a full-fledged magazine, the editors launched a new department called “Where Fanciers Gather.” This roundup of news from the show world, contributed by AKC club members, soon evolved into what we now know as our “Breed Columns” section.

In the more than 90 years since, parent-club correspondents have contributed thousands of columns of breed-specific and all-breed interest touching upon all things canine—but most particularly the conformation dog show in all its many aspects. Over the decades, parent clubs have put forward accomplished and articulate members to represent their breeds in our pages.

The following is a sampler of excerpts from *GAZETTE* breed columns of all-breed interest. It is hoped that as you read you might chuckle, nod in agreement, or even disagree. Disagreement, longtime breed columnist Dorothy Macdonald once told us, is what makes dog shows necessary: “If everyone agreed on what constitutes a good dog, we could all stay home and have a computer send out the ribbons.”

Here, then, is a virtual roundtable of recent contributors to our “Breed Columns” section, a place where fanciers still gather.

## FORM, FUNCTION, AND TYPE

**Jacquelyn Fogel, Basset Hound Club of America** Form follows function. I want judges to understand that Basset Hounds



# Where Fanciers Gather:

# The Essentials

*In this installment of an occasional series, our breed columnists weigh in on essential concerns of the committed fancier.*

*“If everyone agreed on what constitutes a good dog, we could all stay home and have a computer send out the ribbons.”*

DREW AVERY/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS



were designed for endurance in the field, not as couch ornaments. This is a sound breed, and it must not have any characteristic so exaggerated as to inhibit its work in the field. The standard reads that the gait is *smooth, powerful, and effortless*. Movement is deliberate and in no sense clumsy. Yet I see judges point to big, overdone, clumsy dogs much more often than more refined, good-moving, soundly structured dogs without exaggeration. Judges sometimes confuse caricature with type.

... Form follows function, whether we like it or not. Our Bassets are supposed to be able to hunt all day in difficult terrain. The dog described in our standard is a short, athletic hound who is never clumsy. I understand that few of us hunt with our Bassets anymore, but that does not mean they shouldn't be able to do the job for which they were designed. Bigger isn't better; sounder

is better. Exaggeration isn't better, either. Our standard doesn't use the word "moderate," and I personally wish it did, though it hasn't protected other breeds.

**Andrew H. Brace,  
American Pointer Club**

When we are evaluating type, we need to examine the conformation of a dog in the context of its original function, from nose to tail. The neck should be of a certain length, the shoulder laid at a particular angle, the ribcage of a given length and depth, and the angulation as required for that breed to do the job it was originally designed to carry out. Given that the construction of an individual dog is correct as detailed in its breed standard, if that dog is in hard, muscular condition and moved at the optimum speed it should display a gait that is entirely breed specific. That individual movement is, in my opinion, very much a part of *breed type*, and it is never a

matter of having one or the other.

**Betsy Copeland,  
American Bloodhound Club**

There was a famous working dog about 20 years ago who was responsible for closing a case involving a child abducted by car. The dog trailed the scent of the child down the freeway, but eventually he had to be lifted off the trail because he could physically go no further. This dog had a marvelous nose, but his structure simply could not keep pace with the demands of his job. A working Bloodhound should be a correctly structured Bloodhound, but conformation showing and man-trailing training are both time-consuming and absorbing passions, and you do not get many dogs that cross between the two. This is a shame. For a breed to stay true to its working past, the working dogs must get into the ring to be judged and compared to their peers.



*Pointer "Individual movement is, in my opinion, very much a part of breed type."  
(photo Kathleen Riley)*

COURTESY KATHLEEN RILEY



## BREED STANDARDS

**Laurie Friesen,  
Bedlington Terrier Club  
of America**

The dogs of yore were not perfect. Some traits have been improved upon, while others have been suppressed. But the standard is more than a guideline; it is a constitution. Its words were carefully chosen based on the breed's function and purpose. Descriptions can be subjective. It is important, however, to not lose sight of what is and is not correct. If the Bedlington were still a working terrier, breeders would be less likely to manipulate the standard for personal preferences. ...

Written by devoted fanciers, the standard is a blueprint for correct breed type. It is the responsibility of today's breeder to remember the breed's history, its original purpose, and its standard—and to never breed for personal preference or what is currently in vogue.

**Stephanie Hentschel,  
American Pomeranian  
Club**

Breeding dogs is an art and a science and requires, at the most basic level, a deep understanding of the standard for your given breed. Standards are the blueprints that outline the exact features and qualities of a given breed. It is our duty as breeders to know why our breed was developed, to understand the qualities essential for the breed to do the job it was created to do, and to carry these qualities into the next generation of purebred dogs.

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



*Pomeranian “Exhibiting dogs is a natural extension of breeding.”*

*Lynda Beam*

COURTESY LYNDA BEAM



**MaryLynne Elliott,  
Rhodesian Ridgeback  
Club of the United States**

If the standard is confusing, is that because it's too wordy, with too much explanation, or is it lacking, in not having enough explanation? Or is a little to none better, as in "Just the facts, ma'am"?

How do we get the point across? What is our intent? It is to guard our most precious breed! If we can't put it properly in words on paper, or if it may be misunderstood, then we darn sure better put it in our seminars. Is there such a thing as too many pictures? In my eyes, no; the more we see, the better.

In the long run, if it's out there, you will see it in the ring. Our judges need the proper tools to best assess what's in the ring, and the education we provide needs to be understood. And I don't just mean for the ring, but for the breeders watching over our whelping boxes, and for our future puppy owners.

Whether it's an education committee of five or 25, it's still difficult. We all have our words that we think will serve best. This is not an easy task. If a DQ is needed to safeguard the breed, then so be it. We have a choice to make. We can do a little, or we can do a lot.

Some will say this article is a little too long, while others will say it's not short enough. Are they saying the same thing?

**Patte Titus, German  
Shorthaired Pointer Club  
of America**

In an effort to enhance the breed education of judges, in recent years the AKC has asked each of the parent clubs to produce an illustrated standard for their breed. The ideal place for such a document to be used is at a judges' education seminar presented in conjunction with a breed's national specialty show. An illustrated standard allows an individual who might be unsure of how



*Bull Terriers "The goals for exhibitors should include training, learning about grooming, and becoming a proficient handler."*

to interpret the standard's written description to see it—and if still unsure, to ask for clarification. The illustrated standard can be further reinforced by a hands-on and/or ringside observation, because even the best illustration cannot provide the same experience as putting one's hand on a dog. Touching will indicate what is actually there, where an illustration or a photograph may only provide an illusion.

**BREEDING AND NOT  
BREEDING**

**Carolyn Alexander, Bull  
Terrier Club of America**

The goals for most breeders should include learning, progressing, and breeding better, mentally and physically healthier dogs. The goals for exhibitors should include training, learning about grooming, and becoming a proficient handler. The goals for judges should include being thoroughly familiar

with the breed standard and constantly trying to improve their understanding of breed type.

Life is a continual process of learning and growing. Knowing the history of any breed and the perspectives of the past, while working with modern technology and medical improvements are part of a recipe for success. Another component in succeeding as a breeder, handler, or judge is persistence with regard

to learning and broadening one's approach to the varying important factors in what one is trying to achieve, whether it be handling, breeding, or judging.

The good news is that it is never too late. Anyone feeling overcome by lack of success in these areas really just needs to look around for opportunities to learn and improve. It takes effort, time, and ingenuity. Most in our society tend to think in terms of immediate reward. This is usually not the best for things that really matter.

**Phoebe Booth, American  
Whippet Club**

Breeding quality dogs is having a vision. It is studying and interpreting the standard, researching pedigrees, breeding for a purpose, and never being completely satisfied. It is not only assessing faults but also having the ability to recognize virtues, even in dogs who may never see a show ring but may have an





*Whippet "Breeding quality dogs is having a vision."*

elusive quality that might benefit your breeding program. It is recognizing that the value of an individual dog might be so much more than a win record. ... For serious, dedicated, and ethical dog breeders, the exhibition and numerous competi-

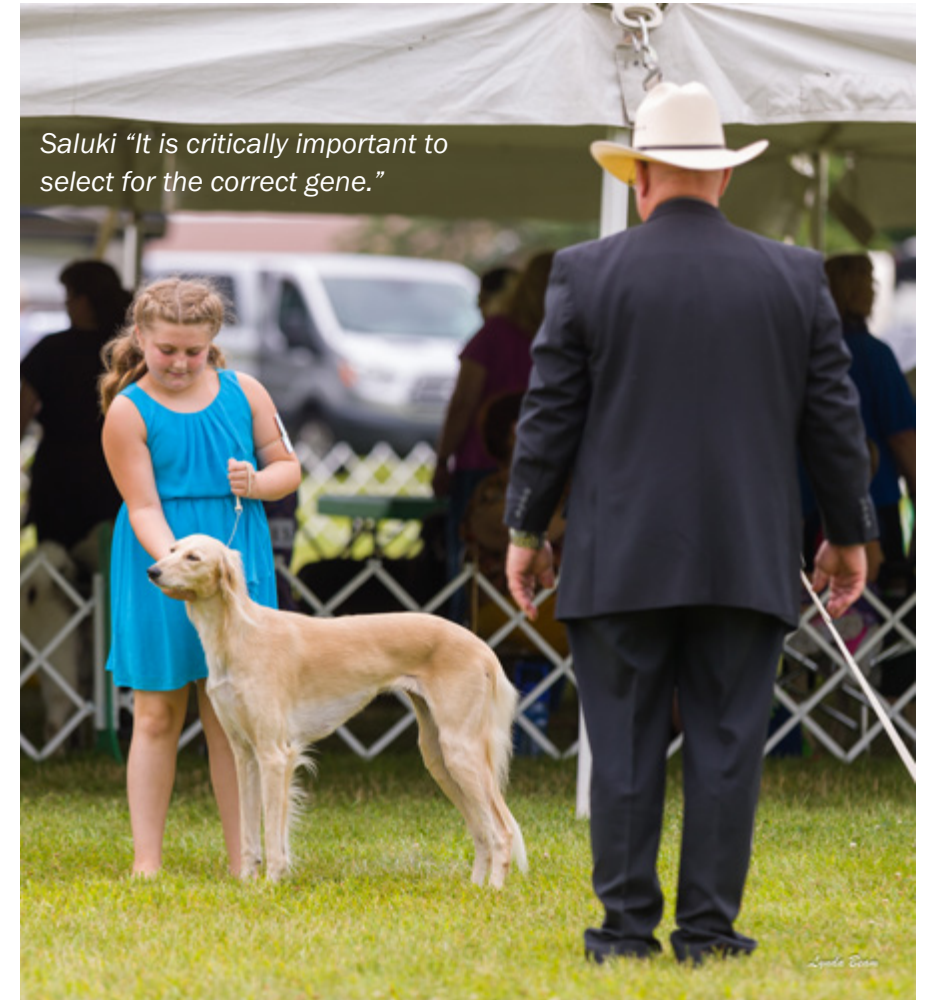
tions devoted to purebred dogs is not a whim but a proving ground. It is not about fashion or fad, and it is surely not about money. It is an effort to preserve and protect the rich history of each breed. The goal is to honor the past and look

toward the future. It is to guard the type and temperament and improve the health and soundness of our dogs.

**Diane Divin, Saluki Club of America** Years ago, a breeder told me she

was going to mate her bitch and to a specific dog. Her female had a shoulder that was not well laid-back, and the male had the same fault. I asked her if she was concerned about breeding two dogs together that had this particular structural problem, and the response was, "I won't throw the baby out with the bathwater." That type of response had to come from a lack of genetic education, because no one who truly loves and respects their breed would ignore this issue if they realized the consequences. Her female could be bred, but she needed to be bred to a male with excellent shoulder layback and with a pedigree that consistently demonstrated that trait. It is critically important to select for the correct gene (which happens to be a recessive), and it should be a priority every time or you risk losing correct structure.

Is this a problem elsewhere? Yes. I see articles written



*Saluki "It is critically important to select for the correct gene."*

on this issue in many other breeds.

**Karen Kleinhans DeSilva, Chinese Shar-Pei Club of America** So you have a bright, shiny, new big stud dog? And based on his early show career, people are filling up your inbox

with stud-service requests? And you believe, based on his pedigree and show wins and great looks, he could be the "next great thing" to impact your breed? Very cool. Wonderful. Congratulations! ... OK, so you know the strengths and weaknesses of your stud dog, you know

COURTESY LYNDIA BEAM



# FEATURE

the lines used to produce him, and you know that not all lines cross the same. No? Oh. Well, you might want to talk to longtime breeders who have used these lines. For example, the only place Breeder X ever saw underbites was when she crossed A line (your stud's lines) to B line, and the whole litter went undershot! The one time that Breeder Y had bad ears was when he used A lines with the C lines out of the Northwest. And Breeder Z, who's been around forever and has dogs five generations back from your stud dog, can pull out the pictures and pedigrees and show you where the overbite lurks, where the bad toplines hail from, and where the short shoulders will show up if you line-breed that way.

**Frances Smith, Scottish Deerhound Club of America** Each of us who has fallen in love with our dogs winds up contemplating at some point whether our dogs

should be bred. We tend to see all the good points of our dogs and become convinced that they are really worthy. And yes, they are very worthy—of our love, of our admiration, and of our devotion. But does that mean they are worthy of being bred? That's the hard question. ... What will happen to the puppies that result from this breeding? Do we have people ready who will give our puppies loving, permanent homes? If we don't, are we willing and able to keep those puppies for six months or longer, until we find that kind of home for them?

If we can't answer all these questions positively, then perhaps we should forego breeding.

**Virginia (Jenny) Hauber, Chihuahua Club of America** Many new to the breeding process suffer from idealism. Although this is not a bad thing, one must have some realistic expectations

when dealing with possibilities beyond our control.

The genetics of dogs can be a huge handicap. Humans have 46 chromosomes (23 pairs), as compared to a dog's 78 chromosomes (39 pairs). The arrangement or sequence of the genes of the chromosomes is astounding. So you see, when dealing with living beings, we are at the mercy of genetics.

Awareness of the intricate patterns of heredity is a good way to begin to realize why traits don't always fall into predictable dominant-recessive patterns. The varying degrees of dominance, polygenes, and environment will affect the outcome of your planned breedings.

**Roseann Fucillo, Papillon Club of America**

[A]s a breeder, you need to attend shows, exhibit, and have your dog compete with others to see how they measure up to the competition. When you compete regularly,



it will help to avoid “kennel blindness”—and it would be near impossible to avoid it for someone who doesn't show. Therefore “breeding to the standard” and maintaining type, structure, and soundness without seeing how the offspring measure up to other Papillons, for example, would prevent one from consistently breeding excellent quality. If one produced an exceptional puppy using this non-competi-

tion approach, it would certainly be considered a fluke, never to be seen again, even if the breeding were repeated.

**Pat Rock, United States Lakeland Terrier Club**

If you are a breeder, you are also a judge; you judge your own dogs, and you judge others when looking for a mate or an addition to your stock. However, have you ever consciously thought about the dif-

ferent ways you look at a dog when wearing your “judge hat,” as opposed to your “breeder hat”?

When I am wearing my “judge hat,” I am looking for the total package—the dog who represents the overall best of my breeding program, or someone else's dog whom I would like to include. I don't know about you, but I haven't bred the perfect one yet.

In order to continually improve, I have to switch hats. When I am wearing my “breeder hat,” I am going to take that “total package” dog apart and see what pieces I've got, and what pieces can be improved on.

**Jane R. Schubart, The Norwich Terrier Club of America**

As a breeder I repeat the mantra, a declared truism: I show dogs to showcase my breeding stock and to advance the results of my breeding protocol. I look for validation and an objective interpretation of our breed





*Great Pyrenees “As breeders, we seek the show dogs, but we love all the dogs we bring into the world.”*



*Keeshond “Make someone happy!”*

arms, and two very happy young daughters. My son said, “Mom, have you ever thought about how many people you have made happy by breeding dogs?”

Put that way, it makes you think. ... Whatever happens, we need our dogs and our breeders. Think about your next litter, and how many people you will make happy. **GZ**

standard. ... I appreciate the whole dog and the importance of evaluating the health of the breed, the temperament, the reproductive qualities—these are the things that protect and preserve the breed. The dog in the show ring should reflect all these qualities, and not the hand at the end of the lead.

**Gail Knapp, Ph.D., J.D., Great Pyrenees Club of America** The breeder will almost always explain to the knowledgeable pet person why he believes this pup does not qualify as show quality. It is important to recognize that these dogs will be excellent pets, however. ... The

pet buyer must expect that the breeder will ask a lot of questions to be sure that this is the ideal home for the pup. As breeders, we seek the show dogs, but we love all the dogs we bring into the world. And we want to be assured that they will have long and happy lives in the right kind of home.

**Debbie Lynch, Keeshond Club of America** As I think back on my own career in dogs, I remember what my son said to me. He was only 14 years old, and we were standing in our driveway waving goodbye to a happy family who were leaving with their new puppy in their

## Good Questions

*So many of our most popular breed columns begin by asking a provocative question. Here are three recent reader favorites.*

### “Why Do Puppies Cost So Much?”

Sarah A. Ferrell, English Springer Spaniel Field Trial Association

### Educating the Novice—What Do You Say?

Amelia Averill, Bulldog Club of America

### The Dog World of Today: Where Have All the People Gone?

Diana Fielder, Airedale Terrier Club of America

GREAT PYRENEES COURTESY LYNDA BEAM; KEESHOND COURTESY REE SMYTH





### Santa Barbara KC

A local news team visits the Earl Warren Showgrounds for the annual running of this crown jewel of the West Coast circuit. 1:10



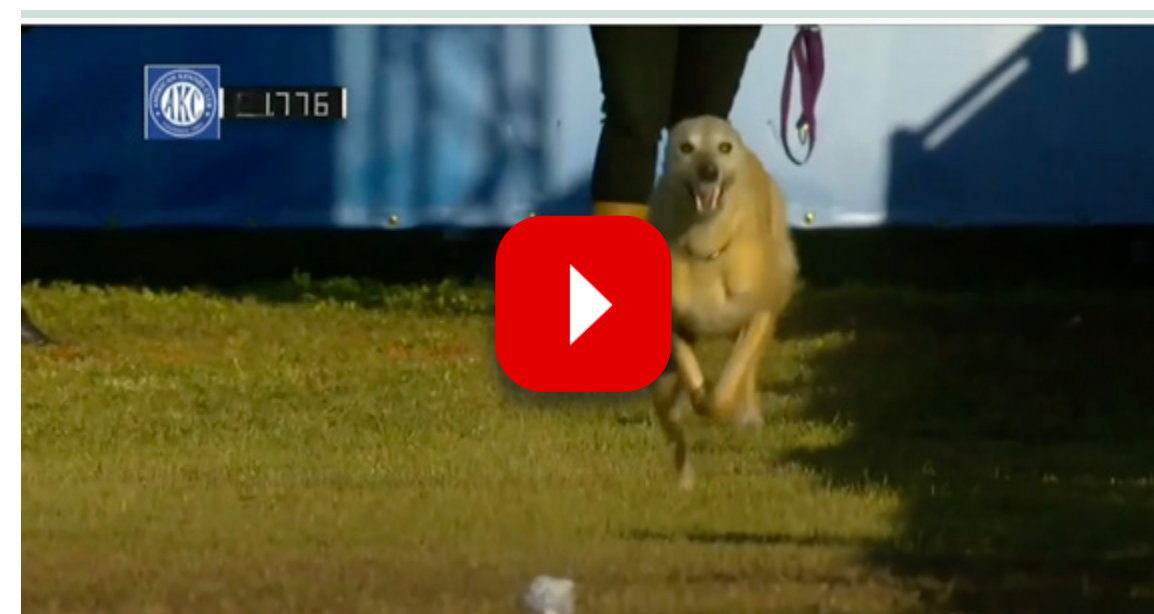
### DOGNY: 20 Years Later

Alan Fausel interviews AKC President Dennis Sprung, founder of the DOGNY public-art program launched in the wake of the 9/11 terror attacks. 21:05



### Leave It to Biewer

History in the making: The Biewer Terrier makes its Westminster Toy Group debut under George Milutinovich. 23:29



### Go, CAT, Go!

Longtime coursing competitor and AKC field rep Sharon Webb discusses getting started in the popular CAT and Fast CAT programs. 35:08



As a volunteer with her local police department, retiree Linda Bergstrom makes an impact.

She files, looks up information, and provides other clerical duties that free up the officers in the Fortuna Police Department to better serve their community.

But that is not all; her contributions go far beyond the typical tasks.

Thanks to Bergstrom, the citizens of Fortuna, California, are protected by an additional officer—one who gives her a kiss or two when he greets her.

Bergstrom, a member of the [Lost Coast Kennel Club](#), saw the need for a canine officer in her small town. With the support of her club, she connected the department with the AKC Reunite Adopt a K-9 Cop matching-grant program.



*The partnership between AKC clubs and Adopt a K-9 Cop is a nationwide grassroots effort.*

*Thanks to a funding increase for AKC Reunite's Adopt a K-9 Cop program, more police dogs are on the job.*

*By Penny Leigh*

## A K-9 Game Changer





*Linda Bergstrom (Lost Coast KC) saw the need for a police K-9 in her hometown.*

The program brings together kennel clubs with their local law-enforcement agencies. Kennel clubs donate money toward the acquisition of police dogs; AKC Reunite matches the amount and issues grants to purchase canine offi-

cers for departments that otherwise could not afford one.

In February, the program enabled Cain, a 2-year-old Belgian Malinois, to join the Fortuna Police Department.

“I am so very grateful that Cain is a part of our organi-

zation and community. In the short time Cain has been with the department, he and his handler Officer Dennis Stevens have made an enormous impact with our community,” Fortuna Police Chief Casey Day says. “I feel better that our

patrol division is supported by a K-9 team.”

AKC Reunite, an affiliate of the American Kennel Club, is the largest nonprofit pet identification and recovery service provider in the United States. It operated a fund for search-and-rescue dogs when it expanded to include police dogs in 2013. Reunite matched funds from AKC clubs, one-to-one, up to \$5,000 per grant through the Canine Support and Relief Fund.

But in May, the AKC Reunite Board of Directors increased the match to three to one. If a club raises \$2,500 toward a police dog purchase, AKC Reunite now will match up to \$7,500.

Additionally, the public can donate directly to the fund on the [website](#) to help cover the club’s portion of the grant.

“This is a game changer. It allows AKC Reunite and AKC to better support our first responders and provide them with the tools they need to protect the American public,” says



*A first-class K-9 like Cain can cost \$10,000 or more—a big outlay for a small town.*

Chris Sweetwood, Ambassador for the Adopt a K-9 Cop program and Delegate from the [Trap Falls Kennel Club](#).

Following her loss of K-9

Officer Baro from cancer, Newtown, Connecticut, Police Officer Felicia Figol became the first recipient of a dog through Adopt a K-9 Cop.



Sweetwood was manning a booth at an obedience trial when he spotted Figol and Matt Hayes, another Newtown police officer, walking across the grounds. Sweetwood and Hayes served together in Iraq, so they stopped to chat and the topic of Figol's dog came up.

"This was shortly after the Sandy Hook school tragedy, and the police department had spent a lot of funding so had no future reserve for a new dog," Sweetwood says. "I told them, 'Let me see what I can do.' I knew Reunite had a fund for search-and-rescue dogs, so I talked to the president, Tom Sharp, about extending the program for police dogs."

Figol filled out a grant application, and soon the Trap Falls Kennel Club presented the Newtown Police Department with \$14,000. The experience led to the establishment of Adopt a K-9 Cop.

## 1 DOG = 5 COPS

Police dogs are a major expenditure, running \$10,000

or more. So far, 26 departments have welcomed canine officers to their forces through the Reunite program. The increase in matching funds will enable even more law enforcement agencies to buy dogs.

"This partnership with AKC clubs is a grassroots effort working across the country," AKC Reunite Chair Rita Biddle says. "AKC Reunite is very pleased to increase our contributions to our Adopt a K-9 Cop program as the service of these dogs and their handlers is so important in the protection of our communities."

Figol believes there is no greater asset than a patrol dog for law-enforcement agencies: "One dog is equivalent to having an additional five men on the shift. The minute I bring out the dog in any force-related situation, 90 percent of the time we have compliance. They say, 'We do not want to mess with the dog.'"

Lost Coast Kennel Club (LCKC) member Bergstrom



*Cain and Officer Stevens are local celebrities and effective fundraisers in Fortuna, California.*

said her club hopes to facilitate the purchase of more police dogs for her community.

"LCKC is a tiny club in a financially challenged area with a relatively low population, so our own funds were

limited. Still, our club did manage to contribute \$300," she said.

Even though her kennel club did not have the funds for the matching grant, they made it happen by working with the

Fortuna Police Employees Association & Foundation (FPEA). Bergstrom explained the program to the foundation and put the police chief in touch with AKC Reunite contacts. After a series of meetings, the FPEA donated \$10,000 to LCKC, earmarked for the purchase of a police dog for the Fortuna Police Department. With the matching funds of \$5,000 from AKC Reunite, the police department received a \$15,000 grant.

Reunite issues the funds to the law-enforcement agency, and the agency selects and purchases the dog that suits its needs.

## CAIN IS ABLE

The Fortuna Police Department bought Cain from a company that imported the Malinois from Czechoslovakia. He is a dual-purpose canine who performs apprehension and narcotic detection—a plus for a small department.

In addition, Cain has been a big hit with the community.

The foundation is selling miniature replicas of Cain to raise money for its K-9 program, and Cain is happy to pose for photographs with contributors.

Seeing the results of her efforts is a highlight of her volunteer time, Bergstrom said.

"I volunteer two days a week, and Officer Stevens and Cain usually pass through at least once a day. ... They go for walks downtown and for physical-conditioning runs in the local parks, so the community is getting to know Cain and vice versa," she says. "He's a wonderfully social, stable dog who delights in working with his human partner."—**P.L.**

*Penny Leigh is the program manager of AKC Canine Partners and an avid competitor in dog sports with her canine team.*

*For more information, to download a grant application, or to make a donation, visit the Adopt a K-9 Cop page at [akcreunite.org](http://akcreunite.org).*

PHOTOS COURTESY DENNIS STEVENS



## Rudy, Bunny, and the Leaf

This 1972 portrait of Cocker Spaniel Ch. Sagamore Toccoa (Bunny) is a late-career gem taken by Rudolph Tauskey. Ken-L Ration sent it to the GAZETTE in a publicity packet supporting the company's annual Show Dog Awards.

Bunny, called a “golden-buff bundle of dynamite” by Rick Beauchamp in *Kennel Review*, truly earned her 1972 Ken-L Ration award. She was the year's top-ranked dog, all breeds, with 29 Bests in Show and 59 Sporting Group wins. She would retire with a career 40 BIS and 108 groups, including the group at Westminster in 1973. (When Adelaide Riggs put up Bart the Standard Poodle as BIS over the popular Cocker bitch, the Garden faithful serenaded the esteemed judge with a chorus of boos.)

It comes as no surprise to learn that Bunny was handled exclusively by Ted Young Jr. If you see a photo of a top-quality Cocker from the

1950s into the '80s, there's a good chance that the man behind the dog will be the late, great “Teddy.”

Our photo collection houses scores of win shots featuring Young and the spaniels he handled for top kennels. The honor roll of Young's charges included, but was not limited to, Cockers Ch. Harrison's Peeping Tom, Ch. Taylor's Dark Knight, Ch. Kamps' Kaptain Kool, Ch. Hickory Hill High Jack, Ch. Biggs' Snow Prince, Ch. Tabakas Tidbit of Wynden, CDX, and English Cocker Ch. Ancram's Simon.



There's a story behind that leaf.

Inset: Teddy and a “golden-buff bundle of dynamite” graced the cover of *Kennel Review's* 1972 annual.

“Ted Young Jr. was like a movie star to me as a little girl in awe of all those famous dog people,” longtime fancier Sandra Pierce says.

Peggy Westphal, Bunny's owner, commissioned the Tauskey portrait. “Peggy Westphal was an artist in

her own right,” Bonnie Threfall recalls. “Nobody, I mean nobody, ever told Rudy Tauskey what to do or even dared make a suggestion. Except for Peggy. She was the one who put the leaf into the picture. She wanted it to look as natu-

ral as possible. Finally, Tauskey agreed—a first.” Tauskey's acquiescence to an owner's suggestion was such a singular event, it passed into show-dog lore. “I will never forget being told the leaf story,” Threfall says.



## Desmond Murphy

**d**esi Murphy will judge Best in Show at next month's long-awaited [Morris & Essex KC](#) show. A third-generation dog man who grew up at the fabled Mardormere Kennels in upstate New York, Murphy didn't have to look far for boyhood mentors in the sport. He was taught well by his uncle, the distinguished dog man Johnny Murphy. But, he once told the GAZETTE, he was schooled in the judge's trade by some great teachers beyond his family circle:

"I will always be thankful to have known and been taught by Bill Kendrick, Alva Rosenberg, and Beatrice Godsol. Even in the briefest conversations with Bill, I always learned something important about dogs. Alva emphasized to us that we must look for quality and never reward mediocrity. Beatrice's wisdom included this advice: All dogs have faults; the great ones carry them well."







This month Mayno Blanding, of the Bichon Frise Club of America, explores her breed's colorful history, from rat killer to lap filler. Art: "A Young Girl with a Bichon Frise," by Fritz Zuber-Buhler (1822–1896)



## 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 [Arliss.Paddock@akc.org](mailto:Arliss.Paddock@akc.org).

### THIS MONTH

#### TOY GROUP

- 27 Brussels Griffons
- 28 Cavalier King Charles Spaniels
- 29 Chihuahuas
- 30 Havanese
- 32 Italian Greyhounds
- 33 Maltese
- 34 Miniature Pinschers
- 34 Papillons
- 35 Pekingese
- 37 Pomeranians
- 38 Shih Tzu

#### NON-SPORTING GROUP

- 39 Bichons Frises
- 39 Boston Terriers
- 40 Chinese Shar-Pei
- 41 Chow Chows
- 42 Dalmatians
- 43 Finnish Spitz
- 44 French Bulldogs
- 45 Lhasa Apsos
- 46 Schipperkes
- 47 Shiba Inu
- 48 Tibetan Spaniels
- 49 Tibetan Terriers

#### HERDING GROUP

- 50 Bearded Collies
- 51 Belgian Malinois
- 52 Belgian Tervuren
- 52 Briards
- 54 Canaan Dogs
- 55 Cardigan Welsh Corgis
- 56 Collies
- 57 Finnish Lapphunds
- 58 Norwegian Buhunds
- 59 Old English Sheepdogs
- 60 Pembroke Welsh Corgis
- 61 Pulik
- 62 Shetland Sheepdogs
- 63 Spanish Water Dogs



## TOY GROUP

### Brussels Griffons

#### REFLECTIONS ON RAISING A LITTER

The AKC requires a judge starting out to judge their own breed to ideally have bred and raised at least five litters. Whenever one has the opportunity to watch puppies grow day by day, it reinforces the validity of that requirement. Structures, and, consequently movement, change as puppies mature. Being able to sit at length and observe them get on their feet, begin to move, and then rapidly become little tornadoes storming around the yard in hot pursuit of the leader (who is often in possession of a toy, a twig, or some other treasure) provides advanced education in structure and movement. What fun to discover a pup moving with purpose and reach and drive typical of the breed! (And what a disappointment to have one come joyfully to you looking like an eggbeater.)

Then there's the evaluation of breed type. What Griff breeder hasn't wished they could put Fido's head on Gizmos' body, or Fifi's coat on Sprout? So for future breeding the question becomes, can I live with that body if I keep the dramatic head? Or should I go for the cobby body, feeling I can breed a better head next time around? Most Brussels Griffon breeders would say that the head is easier to improve upon than the fronts,



rears, and toplines. This may be true in generalities, but in specifics, there are head faults that are just as difficult to breed out as the structural issues—light eyes, for example, or wry mouths. Once accepted into a breeding program, they are there for generations to come.

In Griffs, one learns to tell a rough-coated puppy from a smooth-coated puppy early on. However, I confess the process is easier if there are both coats in the same litter. It is logical to look for beard growth to determine whether the puppy is rough or smooth, but one can tell much sooner by looking at the feet. Hair growing over the toenails is most certainly a rough coat, and the task is admittedly simpler if there are both coats for comparison.

Just as in human families, siblings develop differently despite equal parentage and experiences, and it's such fun to discover the emerging personality traits. The troublemakers usually make themselves known first.

We can't keep them all, and so the weeks of observation eventually lead to deciding who stays and who goes, and in some cases, who goes to a show home and who goes to a pet home—and that's another column.

—Anne K. Catterson,

[annecatt@gmail.com](mailto:annecatt@gmail.com)

[American Brussels Griffon Association](#)

DAVID WOO ©AKC



## TOY GROUP

### Cavalier King Charles Spaniels

The old adage about life presenting you with lemons and choosing to make lemonade was never made truer by some ingenious members of the American Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club in their approach to having not one but two consecutive national specialties canceled due to COVID-19. We have the great fortune and pleasure today to have as our guest writer Eileen Starks, one of the architects of that success—CavaCon 21.

### CAVACON21—BREED OUTREACH IN A POST-COVID WORLD

COVID-19 changed the world of dog fanciers overnight. As happened for many parent clubs, the restrictions put in place due to the global pandemic necessitated cancellation of our ACKCSC 2020 national specialty shortly before our event date. We looked hopefully toward 2021, anticipating that the pandemic would subside enough to host our national and renew acquaintances with our fellow exhibitors, breeders, and friends.

Disappointment was widespread among our Board, show committees, and members when, just two months out from our 2021 national, COVID-19 restrictions in our host state increased, rather than loosened. If the national specialty were held, it would consist



solely of judging—no spectators, with exhibitors masking and only attending during their ring time. In short, it would be a national specialty without many of the things that make a national “special.” After a survey of our membership, we reluctantly cancelled the 2021 national.

The thought occurred to me that while we may not be able to host a full-fledged national,



Flyer and logo for CavaCon21—a weeklong virtual event presented by ACKCSC in place of the cancelled 2021 national specialty.

the widespread acceptance of platforms like Zoom might allow us to take some of those things that make a national “special” and package them in an electronic format that our members could participate in. After receiving positive feedback from our National Specialty Oversight Committee, we presented the idea to our Board as a week-long “Cavalier Conference 2021” that would take place the same week as our cancelled national specialty.

Mark Baillie, who is the A/V and Technology specialist for ACKCSC, took to calling the event “CavaCon21”—a takeoff on ComicCon, the annual worldwide animation event and one of the largest trade shows in the country. We began by sketching a basic schedule of what we would like to provide.

CavaCon21 was originally planned for parent club members only. But wait—why not open it to anyone who owned a Cavalier, so that they could also have access to the breed health seminars? CavaCon21 was marketed by email those on our membership, regional clubs, and dog show email lists. We utilized

social media, posting information on our club and affiliated Facebook pages and cross-posting announcements on pet group Facebook pages our breed. We encouraged people to share the information with their veterinarians and friends.

There were challenges. Since we were presenting the conference via Zoom, it was critical that the presenters be capable at visual presentations. We had to replace one speaker at the last minute when we found this was an issue.

We set up a Zoom account for the conference but had little idea what the actual attendance might be. With this in mind, we selected a large package with the ability to register attendees. This feature permitted us to send invites to this and future presentations and allowed attendees to interact and ask questions.

One challenge was how to limit the annual meeting to members. Some form of unique registration was needed as there might be voting. Personalized email invitations to our members solved this.

The event was informational, but to add some excitement and fun our Oversight Chair, Rick Alexander, opened the “Prize/welcome bag closet” and took inventory. We utilized about 25 bags and filled them with fun



## TOY GROUP

items—no two bags were alike. Our national specialty sponsor, Royal Canin, also provided items for the bags. During each event, we randomly selected four or five names of those in attendance, and the “virtual door prize” winners were announced and mailed their bags. The door prizes were quite nice and a big hit among attendees.

CavaCon21 involved a core group of about 10 to 12 people who pulled the event together as we aimed at providing “something for everyone.” Gail Katz and Beci Markijohn put together slideshow presentations on Trick Dog and Fast CAT. Since our Futurity for 2020 and 2021 was cancelled, we are now adding a Maturity event to our 2022 show, and Sandra Harrison provided a presentation explaining Maturity and what that would look like at our 2022 national.

We allotted time for the ACKCS Rescue Trust. Each year they provide heartwarming stories of their successes. They had one of their volunteers (Burke Hughes) interview Laura Reeves of *Pure Dog Talk*. This was followed by a “Rescue Dog Parade” slideshow officiated by Rescue Director Renee Bruns. This is always important to our national specialty. Our Breeders’ Education and Health Education Chairs (Charlie Fippin, Kim Baillie, and Tina Sterling) organized fabulous educational seminars related to Breeding, Puppy Survival, and

Cavalier Neurologic issues.

The ACKCSC Charitable Health Trust had much to share. The Trust had recently completed a health research fundraiser (a topic for a future article!), and Trustee Mark Baillie presented the exciting details and an update on those results. The Charitable Trust also provided a presentation on some extremely promising funded heart research which is of special interest and attraction. There should also be a future article on this amazing research.

The club’s Legion of Merit and Register of Merit recipients for 2020 and 2021 were honored via a slideshow by club president Bettina Sterling. Our annual meeting was conducted by the president and included a slideshow presentation commentary by each of the reporting chairs.

Our club secretary LuAnn Dunham organized a “Junior’s Jumble” for our Junior Showmanship group. This featured a “special guest,” Major the Talking Dog (club member Vicky Bailey) to ask and answer questions. Finally, we ended the weeklong conference with a fabulous health seminar.

We were thrilled with the participation. As many as 188 people signed up for each of the days’ events. This was a marked increase compared with in-person numbers usually attending lectures during our nationals. We received overwhelming positive comments and requests to continue to offer virtual presentations. Of

particular interest to our Board was that the virtual annual meeting attendance was three times what we normally experience when held in person. Providing the annual meeting information in a slideshow format held attendees’ interest and invited more participation.

The outpouring of positive feedback from those in attendance indicates a need for this type of breed outreach. We would encourage other parent clubs to give this type of event a try. Dog shows are on the upswing, but not every fancier can attend their national specialty. We feel this event was inclusive to those who want to be involved with the breed, but whose circumstances prevent in-person attendance. —E.S.

Thank you, Eileen.

—Dr. John V. Ioia, MD, Ph.D.

[bonefixr@gmail.com](mailto:bonefixr@gmail.com)

[American Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club](#)

---

## Chihuahuas

### SUCCESS: AS MUCH PREPARATION AS MOTIVATION

What motivates you? What makes you wake up at 4 a.m. to show your dog?

The motivation to show can be a mixed bag. It can include love for your breed, enjoyment of fellowship with those who love dogs, desire

to be the best, and much more. Many people are driven by a strong competitive streak. Some may simply aspire to finish a dog to his or her championship. For others it can be a burning desire to succeed, predicated on a fear of failure.

Are successes because of luck, fate, or destiny? Make your own luck! Keep your ears and eyes open, and your mouth closed. Luck is applying lessons you’ve learned, even when it would be more convenient to do otherwise. Everyone encounters obstacles as well as opportunities. Sometimes one leads to the other, and we need to recognize the difference. Simply put, good luck is the ability to learn from bad luck.

*Fate* and *destiny* both refer to a predetermined course of events. They can be distinguished in that fate is defined as “inevitable,” while destiny is used with regard to the finality of events as they have worked themselves out, determined at least in part by our own actions. Therefore although fate is unalterable, we are in charge of our own destiny.

To be successful, we must look at our dog—not just in the face, but at his body and structure, including both front and rear assembly. We need to acknowledge where he falls short and be objective about what our eyes see. We should not overlook faults and health defects in our dog. Unless quickly diagnosed and



## TOY GROUP



Chihuahua

addressed, the presence of defects can lead to the demise of a successful breeding program. The Chihuahua Club of America has a list of health testing suggested for our breed.

We need to read and re-read our standard and come to understand it. Developing an “eye” for a good dog is the ability to view a dog as one piece and to recognize balance, quality, and correctness in any breed. If you find you are unable to truly grasp what your standard means, seek a successful person to be your men-

tor. To help in the development of your “eye,” sit next to the designated mentors at shows and ask about what you’re seeing in the ring.

To be successful, we must truly be objective about what we choose to reproduce or put in the show ring. As breeders, we must always strive to improve the next generation. If a problem is discovered in a breeding program, we must be prepared to adjust our plans, even to the point of starting over with new foundation stock.

What sacrifices are you ready to make on your road to happiness? Dreams do find direction. Make yours come true.

—Virginia (Jenny) Hauber,  
[wynjynchis@yahoo.com](mailto:wynjynchis@yahoo.com)  
 Chihuahua Club of America

### Havanese

#### WHO NEEDS THERAPY?

Everyone always wants to know what a particular dog breed is “used” for—whether guard dogs, herding dogs, hunting dogs, and so on. When it comes to the dogs in the Toy Group, too often the designation of “lap dog” is assigned. Havanese are much more than that! While many of them do enjoy a snuggle ranging from just a few minutes (those Havanese have more on their agenda than just a cuddle) to all-night bed companions, perching either on top of a head or snuggled between the people occupying “their” bed, Havanese have historically been circus dogs, playmates for rough-housing children, and even herders of chickens!

Here are the adjectives the official AKC standard for the Havanese uses in the first two sentences: *small, sturdy, immense charm, friendly, intelligent, and playful*. These attributes in combination have allowed Havanese to excel in conformation, performance, and companion

canine events. Given the dedication of their owners, Havanese are happy to please.

There is one area, however, in which Havanese seem to truly shine above all the others: *therapy work*. Perhaps because they don’t receive rosettes in front of a cheering crowd, the successes of these Havanese are often overlooked. Yet the number of the breed doing therapy work is noteworthy. (Therapy work has been relatively dormant during these long pandemic months, but I have no doubt these little treasures of comfort and joy will be able to get back to work soon.)

Many people say they want to do therapy work with their dog, but it is important to realize that it takes long hours of training for both the handler and the dog to become good working therapy partners. Sometimes, when people find out that they just can’t walk into a school or hospital and announce they are there to do “therapy work” with students or patients, their interest wanes. However, there are several organizations that train people and their animals to do therapy work and become certified. These certifying organizations can be found by inquiring at a local obedience school or club, or by doing an internet search on the words “pet therapy training in my area.” The AKC website lists [recognized therapy dog organizations](#). PAWS for People and Pet Partners are two such organizations that can



## TOY GROUP



*Havanese therapy dogs Dylan and Darci bring comfort in a variety of settings.*



be found in many states, but there are several others.

Some large medical institutions require a specific program and long interview process before a team can become part of their in-house pet-therapy program. If there is a particular place where you want to work with your dog, ask about their requirements.

Havanese do extremely well in every therapy setting for which they are trained and acclimated. Because they often have an innate attraction for children (and vice versa), Havanese can often be seen working in schools, libraries, and hospital pediatric departments.

Several Havanese work with church youth groups, entertaining and amusing children in the programs.

Havanese seem to especially enjoy participating in reading programs. Children who are reluctant to read out loud or even to verbalize at all will joyfully sit with a Havanese next to them, telling them stories or reading a book to them. One of our dogs works with autistic children who have never spoken. The first word they utter consistently is “dog” whenever our Willie enters their classroom. Willie has never lost patience and always sits quietly with them, listening and watching.

Many work assiduously in hospitals, rehab facilities, and palliative care units. The dogs will easily accept being around people using wheelchairs, crutches, or artificial limbs and with severe physical and cognitive disabilities of all types. These frisky and playful souls know intuitively what is needed of them. They learn to lie still on a bed, if permitted, or to do a myriad number of tricks, room by room.

It is important to never have a dog do therapy work for more than a maximum of one hour. It is exhausting for them (and for the owner, too). The AKC recognizes therapy dogs with a certificate and title program.

Depending on the number of hours served, five different titles can be obtained, ranging from Therapy Dog Novice to Distinguished Therapy Dog. Havanese are credited with having been awarded 118 titles achieved by 92 individual dogs as of March 1 of this year.

While many of the dogs we have bred go on to serve hundreds of hours as therapy dogs, one I have been personally most touched by was our puppy Rubik. We placed Rubik in a home where his new mother had tragically lost the use of her arms and legs as a result of a surgical mishap. Rubik became her most devoted companion and true soulmate. She had trouble holding her head in an erect position when she sat. He would climb up on her and drape his body over her back and place his head ever so gingerly under her neck to support her head. He would stay in that position for a very long time. No one taught him that; he just did it! While she had 24/7 help in the house, the very best help to her was Rubik. That alone makes breeding worthwhile!

Personally, I am prouder of the successes so many Havanese have had as therapy dogs than I am of any of the many impressive rosettes the breed has received. This is what Havanese were truly meant to do! Finding the right owners who have a passion for the training and the work is paramount to the success of any therapy dog. We are very blessed to

COURTESY ALICE L. LAWRENCE



## TOY GROUP

have been able to place our dogs with so many people dedicated to this mission.

*This article has been approved by the Board of Directors of the Havanese Club of America.*

—Alice L. Lawrence,  
[pulifuzz@aol.com](mailto:pulifuzz@aol.com)  
 Havanese Club of America

## Italian Greyhounds

### WHAT? HOUS TRAINING AGAIN?

This subject has been addressed previously in this column and everywhere else that anything has been written about the Italian Greyhound. However, it remains the same old story. Far too many IGs are either returned to their breeders or turned in to a shelter somewhere because the owner has become exasperated with attempts to train the dog to be clean in the house. Please notice that we are using the term “houstraining” rather than “housebreaking.” We really don’t want to train our dogs to break houses, nor do we want to break the dog.

Joking aside, the IG has a reputation for being difficult if not impossible in this respect, but I don’t believe that they are any more so than most other small dogs who tend to look at their humans’ home as being large enough to move outside of their own space, which they will keep clean, and doing their business



*Italian Greyhound, Jacques Raymond Brascassat, 1836*

elsewhere in the house. Living with Italian Greyhounds for the past 50 years has taught me a few things about the breed that I think

must be understood in order to get along with these little charmers.

Firstly, they have small bladders, and waiting

until it’s convenient for someone to let them out can be very difficult for them. They are intelligent little beings and quite aware of a human who is doing something else when their first order of business is wanting to relieve themselves. This explains why so often the resident IG will do something just inside the door while the human is on the telephone or wants to finish doing the dishes. IGs also have an extreme dislike of cold and don’t enjoy going outside in winter even when bundled up in a fancy doggie snowsuit. They still have bare feet, head, and tail.

The most successful way to train IGs to be clean in the house is to have potty facilities they can reach at will, without having to ask or, especially, without having to wait until it’s convenient for someone to take or let them out. During warm weather a dog door leading to a safely enclosed area will suffice. Most IGs can be trained fairly easily to use one, providing it is one that won’t smack them in the rear as they pass through it. Recently a friend of mine who lives in Wyoming acquired an IG after having been without one for quite a few years. She had had Italian Greyhounds before and had always found them to be difficult to deal with during the very cold and wet winters in her state. I convinced her that an indoor “comfort station” would make things much easier. This can consist of a litter box

PUBLIC DOMAIN



## TOY GROUP

(I recommend using a pad or artificial turf in the box rather than litter, which can be messy) or simply a pad placed out of the way but in a convenient area for the dog. Special holders are available from pet stores or online to keep the pad neatly in place. The more experience I have with this breed, the more I realize that they aren't that difficult to train, as long as it's understood that it should be their way, rather than yours. —Lilian S. Barber, 2016

[Italian Greyhound Club of America](#)

### Maltese

#### MALTESE SHOULD “FLOW” AROUND THE RING

Whenever I sit down to write my column, it involves a thinking process as I consider what is important for the people in our breed to be informed about. Sometimes I ponder and ponder, *What should I write about?*

This month it is a piece of cake. Let's consider the breed's *movement*. Breeders, judges, and exhibitors, look at your dogs: Can they go around the ring without any “hippity-hop”? Can they keep a straight topline? Do they flick their tail a number of times? Do they cross their front legs and try to cut the ring?

These are all indications of something wrong with their *structure*. Perhaps too many breeders are just breeding for pretty faces, good coats,



and small size? Our breed is losing the soundness it was built with to begin with.

As I always say in my AKC judges' education seminar, a Maltese should flow around the ring, and if you can imagine a plate on the dog's back not falling off or tipping, that would mean all the parts are put together correctly.

Our standard says “*the Maltese moves with a jaunty, smooth flowing gait.*” Since the Maltese has a cute temperament, he sometimes tries

to be naughty, and the “jaunty” description refers mostly to his temperament. However, “smooth flowing” creates a picture that many of the dogs shown today do not reflect. They should glide around the ring with their coat flowing. If the head is bobbing up and down, that is not flowing. If the appearance of the side movement every 10 steps looks like the dog has a flat tire, this is totally incorrect—something is wrong with their rear-end assembly, either hips or patellas.

I am not certain (as with some other breeds, where much emphasis is put on topknots and/or not getting the coat messed up) if some of the behavior is due to the dog not having enough time “just being a dog” or practicing on the lead. If so, it is a shame for our exhibitors and breeders. I also am hesitant to say that many new breeders have no concept of soundness. This is very sad for the future of our breed. Maltese are a toy breed, yes, but they need to be able to play with their owners and kids, and they need to be able to get around well.

When you have class dogs or puppies at a show, sometimes besides being naughty they just are not as adjusted to showing in the ring. This should not be penalized that much. Generally, it's because the dogs are not as well trained. However, they still should have a smooth gait when they gait for most of the time. When it comes time for Best of Breed competition with seasoned, campaigned specials, there must be a *continuous flow* to the gait!

Breeders and exhibitors, please be aware of soundness when breeding or showing your dogs. Judges, please do not award big wins to Maltese who are not sound! Don't let Photoshopped ads mold your opinions.

—Daryl Martin,  
[daryldmartin@sbcglobal.net](mailto:daryldmartin@sbcglobal.net)  
[American Maltese Association](#)



## TOY GROUP

### Miniature Pinschers

#### THE VERSATILE MIN PIN

Did you know the Miniature Pinscher is *not* the small version of the Doberman Pinscher? In fact the breed was developed long before that breed was created by Herr Dobermann in the 1800s. The Miniature Pinscher originated when folks wanted a small dog who could keep their homes (not as well insulated and chemically protected as our current homes) rid of small vermin, and who could play with the children as well.

Did you know Miniature Pinschers can be trained as small and quick hunting dogs? Roger and Ronna Roberts, of Erie, Pennsylvania, have a black-and-rust Min Pin who helps Roger hunt pheasant. The Min Pin, Robbie, is right there when Roger shoots and then takes off to help find the birds. The breed is quick and strong enough for hunting rabbits, too.

Did you know that Miniature Pinschers can be trained as Canine Good Citizens and are perfect for therapy work? Joanne Wilds took her dog Chaz into nursing homes, and the laughter and smiles that ensued were heart-warming to witness. Folks who had been huddled in their rooms came out for a pet and to hold and hug the little dog. Chaz took it all in stride and provided mental and emotional comfort to many people who needed to feel



that unconditional love and to love in return.

Did you know Miniature Pinschers are so smart and clever that they're great at obedience? Holly Boyd and her little boy Buzz have diligently worked on Rally titles. When you watch the team in the ring, they are almost magical—albeit a bit funny. Here's this lovely woman working her way through the signs (and there are lots of them to read and know),

and her red old man is walking right beside her, and every once in a while he looks up as if to say, "Poor Mom! She just keeps messing up my work!"

Did you know Miniature Pinschers are great trucking dogs? Larry and his dog Sammy and Lee and his dog Bebe, travel all over the beautiful United States in their big rigs. The dogs have their own crates, beds, and equipment

bags. They protect their "mobile homes" with a vengeance. Even the Department of Transportation inspectors are wary when coming up to the trucks with a barking Miniature Pinscher in it. It is better to travel with a friend with you, and the Min Pin adds protection, says Lee.

Did you know Miniature Pinschers are great at agility? Doralyn Wheatley and her dog Tessa run their trials with strength and speed. It takes a lot to work a Miniature Pinscher off-lead and trust he or she will make the marks. Doralyn and Tessa have the most amazing relationship and understanding. To watch them fly through their paces is a wonder!

Miniature Pinschers are versatile dogs and can adapt to just about any situation you put them in. Those of us who are breeders and trainers know it is important to socialize this smart, tough, entertaining breed early and always treat them with respect. The Miniature Pinscher is a talented and intelligent partner in any endeavor! —*Kim Byrd, 2012*

[Miniature Pinscher Club of America](#)

### Papillons

#### OUR SOLITARY WORLD

It seems many people today have become satisfied living within their own solitary world. They have become loners who would



## TOY GROUP

rather stay at home than have a social life in the real world. Sadly, they lack a desire to mix and mingle with friends in any form of physical activity, instead looking to their cell phones, computers, TVs, and social media outlets like Facebook, Twitter, and so on for entertainment, and even for companionship.

Many years ago, there were more local movie theaters. Now many in small towns have disappeared, replaced by larger businesses with higher-priced tickets. Today, due to COVID-19 and now the Delta variant, many people would rather stay at home and watch a movie by just calling up any title on their cell phone or cable TV provider, through Netflix or Amazon Prime or another service. And if you like to play games, or even gamble, you don't even have to leave your home as well.

Meanwhile, even while being at home with their own families, they would rather stare into their cell phones and let their fingers do the walking instead of engaging in conversation and good old physical activities that we used to do in “days gone by.”

Whatever happened to sitting on your front porch and having conversations with your neighbors? This is what my parents did many years ago. Today we have decks that are in the back of the house so you can be private without speaking to your neighbors. This is



Three Papillons, Kris Justini, 1995

our choice, and many would rather choose being solitary.

However, I say, thank goodness that we have our dogs and can indeed become involved in a variety of AKC sports events. Our sports allow us to share time with our dogs, our families, and our friends in the dog fancy. There are many different AKC sports events in which we all can share a common interest! With involvement in dogs, we do have a social life and indeed love to catch up

on the latest news with our friends who share in our mutual hobbies and activities.

We look forward to going to dog shows to compete, whether to see which dogs conform best to the breed standard or to compare our down dogs to those of other breeders. We compete for championship titles, and many go on to achieve grand championships and higher levels. And there are other AKC sports such as Junior Showmanship, where young participants compete with their dogs, as well

as agility, rally, and many other events and activities.

I always enjoy seeing my “dog friends” at the shows to know how well they are doing and also to chat about their breeding programs. I always learn so much from them and their experiences, whatever their breed is. Even when we compete with each other in our respective breeds, there shouldn't be any hard feelings, and we should all congratulate the winners—the next time, it could be one of us winning. It would be poor sportsmanship if no one congratulates the winners!

—Roseann Fucillo,  
[cilloette@yahoo.com](mailto:cilloette@yahoo.com)  
Papillon Club of America

## Pekingese

### PEKINGESE EXAMINATION IN THE RING—USING THE STANDARD

The Pekingese standard is very well written and clearly explains the correct type. The breed is one of the oldest recognized toy breeds and should depict its Chinese origin and its “lion dog” image. *Quotes from the standard will appear in italic font.*

When the Pekingese enter the ring, the first thing the judge looks at is the overall balance and outline of every dog. *The Pekingese is a well-balanced compact dog of Chinese origin with a*



## TOY GROUP

*heavy front and lighter hindquarters. Its temperament is one of directness, independence and individuality. Its image is lionlike, implying courage, dignity and self-esteem rather than daintiness or delicacy.*

First of all the judge will consider the profile of the dog, the body shape and the overall movement. Overall balance is of utmost importance. The head is large in proportion to the body, which

*is slightly longer than tall. The overall outline is an approximate ratio of 3 high to 5 long when measured from the forechest to the buttocks.*

The large head in proportion to the body is essential to breed type. The head should be massive, broad with a flat topskull combined with wide set, large dark eyes and a shallow rectangular, envelope-shaped head. The type of “envelope shape” required

here is a standard business-size envelope—not a square birthday-card-type envelope.

The judge should be able to see a line drawn horizontally over the top of the broad short black nose that intersects slightly above the center of the eyes. The wrinkle separates the upper and lower areas of the face and frames the nose. The ears are set on the front corners with long heavy fringing that frames the face. The muzzle and the mouth should be broad with an undershot lower jaw. Since dentition is not part of the standard, it is not necessary to open a Pekingese mouth. Pekingese are not trained or used to having their mouth pried open.

The judge should then move their hands down the short, thick neck and feel the well laid back shoulders and tight elbows as well as the short, heavy-boned forelegs that are moderately bowed between the pastern and elbow. This is accompanied by a broad chest with well-sprung ribs slung between the forelegs.

Moving around to the side of the table, the judge will examine the body and topline and determine that the topline is straight and level and with both hands will feel the pear shape and lighter loin with lighter boned hindquarters and moderate angulation. The tail should be high-set with long profuse fringing. The rear legs are reasonably close and parallel with feet pointing straight ahead. Because the Pekingese has a long, coarse-textured, straight, stand-off outer coat, with thick, soft under-

coat, it is necessary to hand-examine beneath the coat to determine body shape.

Because the Pekingese, when lifted is surprisingly heavy for its size, it is necessary to determine this by properly lifting the dog. Some judges and exhibitors think the dog should be lifted because of the weight disqualification over 14 pounds. The reason a Pekingese is lifted is to determine that it is compact and surprisingly heavy for its size, with the majority of the weight in front. Gently lifting the dog a couple inches off the table will confirm this. If the judge suspects the dog is over 14 pounds, the scales will be called.

Correct movement on the Pekingese is only possible when the body is correct. The characteristic Pekingese roll must be smooth and effortless and is created by the correct body shape along with the bow of the forelegs.

Rose Marie Katz, one of the prominent American breeder-exhibitors of Pekingese in the 1950s and '60s, said, “The Pekingese dog should be judged as a whole. It must present a picture of balance and type. It must be evaluated for its good points rather than torn apart for its faults. In evaluating a Pekingese, one must keep in mind that it is a toy dog of great substance and character for its small size.” — Carol Kniebusch Noe, 2014

—Susan Farrer Shephard

[The Pekingese Club of America](#)



Pekingese



## TOY GROUP

### Pomeranians

#### SIZE MATTERS

A true toy dog, the Pomeranian is compact, square, and short backed. Bred down from larger Spitz dogs, Pomeranians can trace their history to a family of dogs used for herding, pulling sleds, and guarding. Many characteristics required for these tasks, such as the profuse double coat, remain an important part of the breed. Now, however, bred to be a devoted companion breed, Pomeranians are a much smaller version than their ancestors, which were known to be 30 to 40 pounds.

In the FCI, there are still several distinct sizes of German Spitz; the smallest is known as the Toy Spitz, or Pomeranian. The FCI standards specifically state that the Spitz breeds are measured by height, and the weight should correspond to the size. Pomeranians are to be 21 centimeters (+/- 3 centimeters is allowed), meaning the ideal size is approximately 8.2 inches at the withers, but a dog as small as 7 inches or as large as 9.4 inches is considered acceptable; according to the FCI standard, weight is to correspond to size, but there is no reference for ideal weight.

The breed's AKC standard, however, includes no reference to height. Instead, weight is the only reference to size: Pomeranians are to be three to seven pounds, with four to six pounds being ideal. Dogs over

or under these weights are not ideal and are objectionable. However, overall quality is to be favored over size. No matter the weight, dogs are still to be square, compact, sturdy, and medium boned.

As there is no specification of ideal height in the AKC standard, Pomeranians exhibited in AKC conformation events are in a range of sizes. Often in the same class are taller dogs competing against much shorter dogs. What is deceiving is that two dogs with several inches of height difference can still be within the recommended weight range—or even the same exact weight. I hear other exhibitors and even judges say that dogs are “too big” to be winning or “too small” to be winning. Often what they are referring to is a dog that they deem to be “too tall,” when in reality the dog is the ideal weight for the standard and built squarely. On the flip side, the dogs that are “too small” often meet the minimum three pounds.

A three- to four-pound dog compared to a six- to seven-pound dog is a significant difference in weight that may or may not translate to a significant difference in height and overall size. Hair can also be deceiving. A smaller dog who grows more hair can appear the same size as a heavier dog who is out of coat or



trimmed shorter.

So when does size become a personal preference, and how should size be judged? Pomeranians are not weighed or measured, nor are they picked up like the Pekingese. The standard also does not specify that males should be larger or smaller than females. How

does one determine the weight of a dog simply by running their hands over them on a table? Should a larger dog be rewarded over a smaller dog, quality and all else being equal? Is a larger male or female more preferred?

As a breeder, I recognize that weight, height, and overall size all have a time and a place in a breeding program. I cannot continually breed three-pound dogs and expect litters that are free whelped with strong, large, and healthy puppies that thrive by nursing on their own. I also take great caution in placing three-pound dogs into companion homes, as generally they are finer boned, more fragile, and more prone to injury with other dogs and children. However, breeding all seven-pound dogs also lends the style of dog to be more sturdy, heavy boned, and less compact. This is not always the case, though, as I have dogs over seven pounds who are some of the most structurally sound, short

backed, and best moving dogs in my breeding program. As a general rule, I prefer my bitches to be larger than my males, as this generally helps prevent the need for a Cesarean section. Breeding these females to smaller or average-sized males generally produces a puppy that falls within the ideal weight range.

COURTESY MELISSA HAMPTON



## TOY GROUP

As a judge, the emphasis needs to be placed on quality and finding the dogs who have the right make and shape, with correct proportions and correct coat, while still appearing to be a toy breed. If we are judging breeding stock, these foundational elements must be present, no matter the size. Dogs should only be rewarded if they are square, short backed, and sound in composition and in action. A dog of inferior quality should not be rewarded just because he is five pounds, if a more quality dog is present who weighs more or less.

—Stephanie Hentschel,  
[darrightkennels@gmail.com](mailto:darrightkennels@gmail.com)  
American Pomeranian Club

## Shih Tzu

### TRY RALLY!

For the first time ever, a Shih Tzu has earned an AKC Rally Champion (RACH) title. Judy and Tom Harding's Hallmark Jolie Hot on the Trail Tova, VCD2, BN, RN, RAE3, FSC, AXJ, OF, CGC, TKN, was already the top-winning ASTC rally Shih Tzu before this historic first. Judy says that, like most Shih Tzu, Tova is extremely smart ... and sometimes very stubborn! Tova is the third Shih Tzu that Judy has trained. She believes that rally came naturally to Tova once she had a firm foundation in obedience, even



*Tova is the first Shih Tzu to earn the RACH title.*

though Tova sometimes flattened like a pancake (a common Shih Tzu habit) when asked to do something she'd rather not! Tova has also taken eagerly to tracking and agility and seems to love the change of pace involved in participating in many different performance sports.

To earn the RACH title, Tova needed to earn 20 triple qualifying scores (qualifying in the Advanced B, Excellent B, and Master classes at the same event, at 20 separate trials),

plus earn 309 RACH points from the Excellent B and Master classes. Because this Shih Tzu really rocks, she now gets to add RACH (pronounced "rock") in front of her name.

The Shih Tzu has long been known as a great breed for therapy work. More and more Shih Tzu owners are now becoming involved in rally, Fast CAT, tracking, agility, and other performance events. This breed may not be a typical performance dog, but they love atten-

tion and spending time working with their owners. Grooming for the conformation ring may be challenging for a newcomer, but all of these other activities can serve as an introduction to the sport of dogs for the many people who purchased new Shih Tzu during the pandemic. Tova even competes in full show coat!

Because the American Shih Tzu Club was forced to reschedule its national due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we are having separate conformation and performance nationals for 2021. The 2021 Conformation National will be held on December 17 in Orlando, Florida, and the 2021 Performance National will be held October 27–November 1 at the Lucky Dog Training Center in Tyler, Texas. The Texas national will have two Shih Tzu-only obedience and rally trials, and one Shih Tzu-only agility trial, separated by three days of all-breed agility trials. There will also be a performance and versatility awards dinner.

Premium lists, a schedule, and details on the host hotel for the Shih Tzu events can be found at [www.shihtzu.org](http://www.shihtzu.org). If you are interested in therapy, there will also be all-breed Canine Good Citizen (required by most therapy organizations) and Trick Dog testing the first evening. We hope to see lots of people there!

—Jo Ann White,  
[joawhite@juno.com](mailto:joawhite@juno.com)  
American Shih Tzu Club



## NON-SPORTING GROUP

### Bichons Frises

#### HISTORY—WHY IT MATTERS

If you are going to truly understand our loving, smart, resourceful, and quite athletic breed, then you should know the history behind it.

Our Bichons have been around in one form or another since ancient times, when they were popular with sailors and were often used as barter. For the purposes of this article, it doesn't matter where they originated, but we can understand quite a lot about them when we realize that they are probably descended from a medium-sized water-spaniel-type dog from Europe and a small light-colored lapdog from the Far East. There is undoubtedly some spitz in their ancestry also, which would account for the "plumed tail carried jauntily over the back."

Why do we suppose these small, white, fluffy dogs were so popular? In some part, I would guess that they made themselves useful killing rats on the ships. The sailors certainly would have appreciated the hunting instinct that they probably inherited from their spaniel progenitors. However, their diminutive size and loving disposition are primarily what made them favorites. First and foremost, they were—and still are—companion dogs.

In later years, ancestors of our Bichons were the favorite dogs of the royal families in Italy; and during the 1500s, in the courts of Francis



*The Bichon Frise's charming, sweet personality has made the breed a favorite companion for many.*

I and Henry III, they were the pampered, perfumed, and beribboned dogs of choice. Apparently, they were loved as much for their ability to learn tricks and dance on their hind legs as they were for their sweet dispositions.

Often, they can be seen in paintings from the Renaissance period. Many of us have seen prints of Lois Morrow's lovely painting by Henriette Ronner-Knip, entitled *A Bichon*, which depicts a Bichon from over 100 years ago that is quite beautiful and of excellent conformation by our standard today.

As so often happens, in the late 1800s Bichons lost favor in the courts to other cute



little canines. Many found themselves roaming the streets as the "common dogs," often accompanying organ-grinders and tradesmen, leading the blind, and doing tricks at circuses and fairs. Once upon a time, they may have been the pampered dogs of royalty, but there was something special in this adorable breed that insisted on surviving in spite of being tossed out on its own!

Today, these little guys still entertain their owners by walking on their hind legs, performing somersaults, and doing other amazing and endearing behaviors—often with no training at all.

During the two World Wars, the breed might have died out altogether had they not been such capable survivors. Fortunately, they captured the hearts of a few fanciers who preserved them so we can enjoy them today.

With a history like this, it is no wonder we often hear said that Bichons are smarter than their owners! Indeed, these darling doggies seem capable of anything we ask them to do. They excel in companion and performance events and have proven to be perfect therapy dogs as well.

When planning litters, breeders would be well advised to remember the ancestry of the Bichon Frise and strive to preserve the breed's historical traits, as well as breeding for beauty. Please don't breed the brains out of them. Don't breed the sweet temperament out of them. Don't breed the soundness out of them. These characteristics are as important to Bichons as their lovely faces, saucy little tails, and luxurious white coats.

—Mayno Blanding,  
[maynob@gmail.com](mailto:maynob@gmail.com)  
[Bichon Frise Club of America](#)

### Boston Terriers

#### "MY DOG CAN'T BE ALLERGIC TO BEANS"

If dogs have outdoor allergies, it's not hard to identify these. The cause of itchy skin



## NON-SPORTING GROUP

can be blamed on fleas or dry skin. Likewise, certain meats such as chicken and beef can be determined to be the cause of red faces and licking feet. We read how great it is to add vegetables to the diet, and animals supposedly can't be allergic to them.

Selling retired champions to good pet owners has been a blessing in terms of learning more about what a dog needs. Owners call and ask lots of questions, often ones that we as breeders don't even think about. Having only one pet, for these owners often the whole day revolves around noticing every little thing happening to their little darling. It's not a dog to them but an adopted child, and they will go to any extreme to solve a problem. I'd like to thank Boston owners Richard and Carol Kelly for sharing a report of their experience with their dog Carolina's allergies.

They had been to a veterinarian many times seeking help for Carolina's itchy and flaking skin, but nothing seemed to relieve it. Carol fed a good dry dog food and topped it off with green beans and blueberries. She didn't give anything that had red dye 40 or lots of grains. I suggested that the cause of allergic reaction might be the laundry detergent they used, so she changed that. Then I remembered what a doctor told me: Food allergies can be hidden causes that people don't think about.

Not wanting to pay \$300–500 for a test,



Carol looked online and found a place that sent a kit to swab the dog's mouth and send back to the lab for \$99. I am so thankful she did this, so the problem could be solved without using all the medications that often only work for a short while. The report came back, and Carol was surprised to find out Carolina had intolerance to beef and turkey—as well as allergy to green, lima, navy, pinto, and other beans. She was also allergic to white rice, rosemary, halibut, and salmon. Many of these things are found in top dog foods and are good to feed—unless the dog is allergic.

Carolina was happy that blueberries weren't on the list. Following are some of the side

effects to look for. Food allergies can cause a variety of symptoms, including diarrhea or constipation, bloating, vomiting, nausea, a gurgling sound in the stomach, and abdominal pain. Also sometimes occurring are bald patches, chronic ear infections, coughing or wheezing, head-shaking, paw-biting, obsessive licking, hot spots, hives, chronic skin infections, chronic ear inflammation, and hives or rashes.

Food allergies cause the body to defend itself against what it believes to be a threat. A food intolerance, on the other hand, is not caused by a histamine reaction and has no direct involvement with the immune system.

Thanks to the Kellys for sharing this information with our readers. Enjoy this gift of knowledge that cost nothing but is shared by a loving pet owner.

—Patricia S. Johnson, member DWAA and BTCA

[patsgrooming@aol.com](mailto:patsgrooming@aol.com)

[Boston Terrier Club of America](#)

## Chinese Shar-Pei

### JUDGING A VIRTUAL SHOW PROVIDES INSIGHTS

I had the interesting experience of judging my first “virtual show.” The Canadian Chinese Shar-Pei Club asked me to judge a fundraiser, and it was great fun! In this case,

they sent a body picture and head picture of each entrant in the various classes. I knew this would be a struggle for me because I have a strong focus on movement and coat texture when I judge—two things I could not rely on for this assignment. I did miss them, as they are vital for my breed! Also missing would be the mouth pigment and bite concerns, and the feel of the dog, the conditioning. But it did make me focus my attention differently and reminded me that, in a breed with less coat than many, you really can see much of the structure that you feel for in hands-on judging.

As with normal judging, each dog's presentation can make a difference. Pictures that don't quite do the dog justice, that don't give a full side view with the dog in a good show stance, versus nearly professional shots are much like a novice handler with an untrained dog versus a longtime, quality handler with a trained one. Here, I could not “work with” the pictures to see what I might have wanted, which we can do in a ring. (Sometimes it still doesn't work, but I can tell the exhibitor that training will make all the difference!)

I enjoyed really spending some time looking at the heads, the faces, the eyes, the expression, and the ear-set—all details we take in very quickly in the real ring, but I could go back and forth from contenders easier in this format than in a ring. The profiles made me

COURTESY LYNDA BEAM



## NON-SPORTING GROUP



Chinese Shar-Pei

really want to be able to move the dogs, but the photos just teased me with that! I could see the angles, see if the lengths of bones matched properly. I could see the hocks: Were they well let down? The angulation: Was there too little, too much? How is the topline and the tail-set—could I get a good look at that, or did I wish for a hand on the croup, just to be sure? Fortunately, the quality was good, and the

pictures mostly showed what I needed. In the bigger classes, like in the real ring, it comes down to small things when you have two or more good examples of the breed. In each class, I picked a Winner and Reserve, and then the Winners competed for Best and Reserve Best. I may have had a harder time in person, or I may have had an easier time, depending on the things I couldn't see, and the dog's out-

look that day. On the day of judging in a real ring, you judge what you have before you that day. Unlike in the real ring, I could go back and forth at my leisure—no two to three minutes a dog, and then move on.

It was a fun experience, and as always, anything with dogs is a good way to spend time. But I did miss talking to the dogs, as I often do in the ring! (Well, I won't say I didn't talk to the pictures, but don't judge me!)

My thanks to the Canadian club for the opportunity, and thanks to the exhibitors for the entries.

To all who read these columns, if there is anything you'd like to share or see covered, please reach out. Ideas always welcome!

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

## Chow Chows

### CHOW CHOW PROPORTIONS

One of the common questions that Chow Chow breeders receive is “Someone said my Chow is not the correct size; what is the correct size for this breed?” Correct overall proportions and type are more important than size, as based on the faults and disqualifications defined in the AKC Chow Chow standard.

The answer can be found in the approved

AKC standard and visualized in the [Chow Chow Illustrated Standard](#). The Chow Chow is considered a medium-sized breed, and the correct size is defined with: “*Size*—The average height of adult specimens is 17 to 20 inches at the withers, but in every case consideration of overall proportions and type should take precedence over size.”

Size is not considered a fault or disqualification, but the standard also clearly says, “While primarily a companion today, his working origin must always be remembered when assessing true Chow type.”

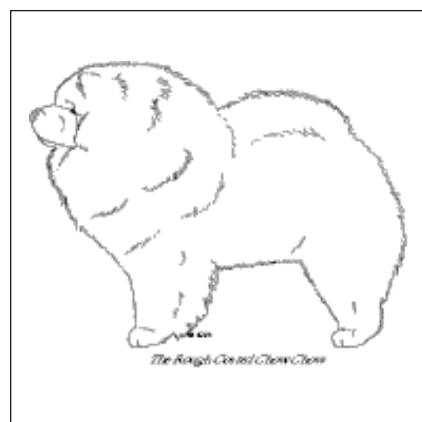
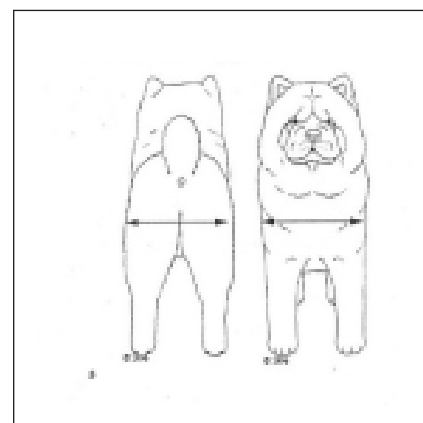
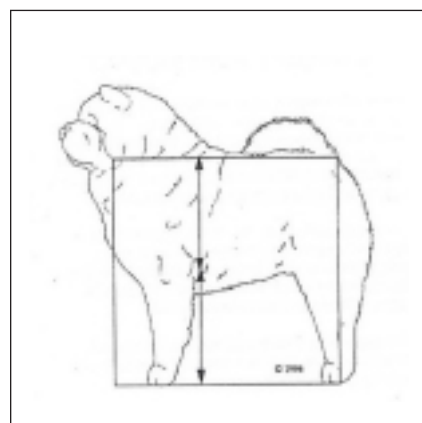
The standard says: “*Proportions*—Square in profile and close coupled. Distance from forechest to point of buttocks equals height at the highest points of the withers. *Serious Fault*—Profile other than square. Distance from tip of elbow to ground is half the height at the withers. Floor of chest level with tips of elbows. Width viewed from the front and rear is the same and must be broad. It is these proportions that are essential to true Chow type. In judging puppies, no allowance should be made for their failure to conform to these proportions. It is these proportions that are essential to true Chow type.”

It is very important to disregard the coat when evaluating a Chow's proportions, as the grooming of a heavy coat may be deceiving. Trimming to create the illusion of correct

COURTESY KAREN KLEINHANS DESILVA



## NON-SPORTING GROUP



Above: Correct proportions in the adult Chow Chow. Left: Incorrect proportions.

proportion is not desirable. The rough-coated Chow Chow may have a profuse double coat. Abundant coat on the chest, rear, and underbelly can make a dog with good proportions look rectangular rather than square, therefore you must use your hands to determine the proportions of structure, even on puppies. Conversely, clever grooming to remove coat from these areas may attempt to make a Chow Chow with incorrect proportions appear square. Since in the U.S. the breed is required to be examined on a ramp, judges

can comfortably feel the dog's proportions to evaluate this important aspect of Chow Chow type.

“Correct proportions are essential to true Chow type” and should never be ignored.

—Love Banghart,  
[Lkendr4300@aol.com](mailto:Lkendr4300@aol.com)  
 Chow Chow Club Inc.

## Dalmatians

### THE NAMING OF PUPPIES

We are on puppy watch at our house as I write this. It's still a little early, but hopefully within a week we will have pretty babies all in a row. We're excited and I know mom-to-be is more than ready for this to be over.

So, with a week to go, it's time to start getting things prepped and ready, such as getting whelping supplies together, making blankets



Dalmatian puppy

to go home with each baby, and making paracord collars for the little darlings. (Dalmatians being born all white, I have to admit I need a little something so I can tell them apart. I know some breeders who are good enough to just look at them and know who they're

talking about, but I have to confess I am not one of them.)

Like other breeders, we love having puppies, and one of the best parts—at least for us—is coming up with a naming theme for the litter. We've done soda pops, mountains,

CHOW CHOW IMAGES: COURTESY THE CHOW CHOW CLUB, INC.; DALMATIAN: COURTESY JAN WARREN LINNE



## NON-SPORTING GROUP

tools, presidents, and so many other themes I can't count them. I even keep a spreadsheet for potential upcoming themes. I know some breeders choose not to use themes but refer to pups by a collar color or a physical ID mark. Someone I knew called one puppy "Cowlick Girl" because of the cowlick she had running down the back of her neck. To each his own, but personally I see some benefit with names and themes.

For one thing, if anyone ever calls me a couple of years down the road about a puppy they got from me, I know immediately who that puppy is, what litter they came from, and who the parents are if they refer to them by their puppy name. Conversely, if you tell me you have Red Girl, I've had many, many Red Girls, and I'm not going to know immediately which Red Girl you're talking about. The name/theme does indeed help narrow things down in my mind.

Another thing I do is build off the theme for registered names. As part of the price of a puppy, I include AKC ownership registration, as well as AKC Reunite registration, in the new owner's name. Since I am paying the price of registration, my theory is I get to pick if I'm paying. It's a win-win situation as far as I'm concerned. No goofy registered names, as well as yet another point of identification. For example, my last litter was classic authors, so

all puppies were registered with page or book names.

And silly as this may sound, secondly, I also want my puppies to have some sense of identity. No, they don't know it, but it makes us feel better talking about a puppy with a name versus one with just a color ID. I think it gives people on the puppy list a sense of fun and connection with the litter as well. Some people have even chosen to keep the pup's litter name as their call name once they go home.

So, give those babies a name—nothing better than having a good name for oneself.

—Jan Warren Linné,  
[janlinne56@yahoo.com](mailto:janlinne56@yahoo.com)  
Dalmatian Club of America

### Finnish Spitz

Peggy Urton wrote the following for this column in 2015.

#### TIPS ON PHOTOGRAPHING YOUR DOG

Twenty years ago, pictures of top-winning Finnish Spitz were only available as advertisements in magazines catering to the fancy or photos shared directly with interested individuals. Smart owners were careful to choose photos that displayed the best qualities of their dogs. They understood that anyone unable to see the dog in person would evaluate him



Finnish Spitz

COURTESY HOT DOG PHOTO



## NON-SPORTING GROUP

based on what could be seen in the picture.

Today, electronic images are shared instantly via Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest, e-mail, and a whole host of other online media. Although it is delightful to be able to see so many examples of our breed, I often wonder if those posting these instant pictures are aware of exactly what information they are sharing about their dogs to the worldwide audience. Cute photos are enjoyed by family and friends alike for just what they are, but win pictures are often evaluated by prospective breeders and judges in an entirely different light.

A good tip is to keep the breed standard in mind and review your photo carefully before posting it. Make sure you understand the terminology used to describe canine anatomy so you can evaluate your dog intelligently, keeping in mind that terms used with other breeds may not mean exactly the same thing when used to describe a Finnish Spitz.

Camera angle can often distort what may otherwise be a good example of a breed characteristic. Head-on shots may make your dog's eyes appear round instead of almond-shaped, especially if a flash is used. Shots not taken at eye level with the dog can distort leg and body proportions, giving the appearance of a dog that is too short on leg or too long in the back or loin.

How you bait a dog can also affect his or her appearance. Finnish Spitz often crouch when

being baited, making the hocks appear sloping instead of straight, as they should be. When a dog has correct forequarters, a vertical line can be drawn up through the legs to the withers—but holding bait too high will make the dog throw his head back, changing that angle so that the line moves incorrectly up through the neck. Thus the legs no longer appear under the body as they need to be for support and correct movement.

And speaking of movement, these types of photos pose their own specific challenges. If taken while the dog is gaiting down even a slight incline, he or she may appear to be high in the rear. Side-movement photos should show a dog who is placing the inside rear foot in the spot just vacated by the opposite front foot. If the inside rear foot crosses in front of the front foot, the dog is overreaching. This indicates incorrect structure, not wonderful reach and drive!

If you take the time to evaluate your photos before posting them online, you will present your dog in a way that will highlight his or her best features instead of leaving people with the impression that your dog is incorrect in any way.

Remember ... every picture tells a story! What story do you want your dog's picture to tell? —P.U.

[Finnish Spitz Club of America](#)

## French Bulldogs

### CANINE HEALTH RESEARCH: HELPING DOGS, HELPING PEOPLE

From the archives: The FBDCA supports canine health research through our Donor Advised Fund with the Canine Health Foundation. Many of the projects that we have helped fund benefit dogs in general, not just Frenchies. Less well known is the fact that canine health research is having a significant impact on the diagnosis and treatment of human diseases as well.

About 85 percent of the genetic map of dogs and people is the same, and there are a number of inherited diseases for which the genetic basis is the same or very similar in our two species. We and our dogs also share many anatomic and physiological features. So when canine health research produces positive results, similar human studies often use this as a basis for similar research.

One such project focuses on the treatment of glial cell brain tumors. Four dog breeds—Frenchies, Bulldogs, Boston Terriers, and Boxers—develop more than *half* the glial brain cancers in all canines, a remarkable predisposition, and totally disproportionate to those breeds' numbers. A study recently undertaken at the University of California at Davis vet school has showed such promising results in treating canine brain cancer that the UC-San

Francisco medical school began a parallel program in human patients suffering from this devastating disease.

Surgical and drug treatments developed in dogs for treating canine osteosarcoma, a common bone cancer most often found in the limbs, now enable doctors to reconstruct long bones and spare humans from amputation, which used to be the only option considered. Tumors of the mouth and throat, breast and



COURTESY SANDE ABERNATHY



## NON-SPORTING GROUP

prostate, and non-Hodgkin's lymphoma are similarly in the forefront of what is now called "comparative oncology" or "parallel research" in which veterinary researchers collaborate with their counterparts in human medicine.

Cancer is only one medical condition for which research on dogs serves as a springboard for advances in human medicine. One especially promising area is in the use of stem cells for treating a variety of conditions. There are various types of stem cells, but all share the characteristic of being "multipotent," which means that they are undifferentiated cells that have the ability to differentiate into specific specialized cell types when put into an appropriate tissue environment. Current research in dogs includes studies using stem cells from various sources to treat dogs with damaged cartilage in the hip joint, damaged or degenerated spinal cords, retinal diseases, dilated cardiomyopathy, and metabolic disorders. It is hoped that knowledge gained from such work will help doctors treat people with osteoarthritis, eye diseases, heart disease, spinal cord injuries and diseases like ALS (Lou Gehrig's disease), and inborn errors of metabolism.

Finally, thanks to the similarity of the canine and human genetic codes, knowledge of how many diseases and birth defects are genetically inherited is rapidly increasing with canine gene mapping and the development of DNA

tests to identify individuals who carry specific genes. The fact that researchers have available to them detailed pedigree information in dogs is proving invaluable in studies that will be used to provide similar diagnostic tests for humans. We can thank our dogs for the rapid advances in our own medical care that the future will bring.—*Jan Grebe, French Bulldog Breed Columnist, 2010*

To donate, visit <https://www.akcchf.org/donate2015/DAF-donate.html>.

—Sande Abernathy,  
[jpaplay@comcast.net](mailto:jpaplay@comcast.net)  
French Bull Dog Club of America

## Lhasa Apsos

### SEEING THROUGH A DIFFERENT LENS

We've all heard the critical appraisal of dogs others are showing, and most of us have been guilty of it at one point or another in our show careers. In an era of declining breed numbers, show entries, breeders, and serious exhibitors, it might be helpful to take a peek through a different lens.

Police and attorneys will tell you that that three people can witness the same accident, and each will detail a different description of what happened. Two reviewers will critique a performance, and reading their reviews leaves one uncertain that they were at the same



Lhasa Apso

event. Let's consider how a breeder, competitor, judge, and spectator might view the same hypothetical dog named Lhasa.

*The breeder:* Lhasa is the only puppy from his sire and dam, and both are important in my breeding program. I really don't like his head, which is broader than I prefer, and the eye is a bit round, but he has a good bite with straight teeth. His balance is ideal, with good length of neck but not extreme. Coat texture is accept-

able. I'm thrilled with his excellent shoulders, a trait I have been trying to improve in my line. His rear is average, like his sire's, but I can get by with it for now and improve it later. He has great temperament and is fun to show.

*The competition:* Lhasa is a respectable dog, but he lacks correct head type. His movement is bouncy, not smooth, and his rear lacks proper drive. He appears to have good shoulders, but I'm not so sure about that rear. I like



## NON-SPORTING GROUP

his color but the coat texture looks a bit soft. To my eye, I'd like more neck to balance him out properly. He is presented well, has a good attitude, and won't give you an advantage by making mistakes in the ring.

*The judge:* I like this breed, but it's hard to judge, because there are so many differing opinions on what is correct. I like to find a quality dog with proper breed type, then decide whether I can forgive its faults. Lhasa presents a very nice picture when standing. He is moderate in size, has a great silhouette, heavy coat, a level topline and is in good condition. His head is mediocre, but he has a better bite than most in this breed, which is refreshing. He's a flashy showman with good head carriage. His rear demonstrates a fault that I am finding often enough that it could represent a problem for the breed as a whole.

*The spectator:* What a cute dog! He has a very pretty face, and all that hair is amazing! They must brush him every day. He seems to be having such a good time, so he really must like being a show dog. I love how he prances around the ring and takes his treats. My cousin rescued a part-Lhasa that looked just like that, only the hair was different and he wasn't as friendly. I want to meet this dog and learn more about the breed.

Each of us see things based on our own priorities and preferences. Therefore, difference

of viewpoint is inevitable, an opportunity to learn, and should be respected.

—Cassandra de la Rosa,

[dlrcas@msn.com](mailto:dlrcas@msn.com)

The American Lhasa Apso Club

## Schipperkes

### IF TOMORROW NEVER COMES

It's really a tough subject none of us wants to think about: What would happen to my dog(s) if something happens to me? We have lost club members to sudden illness or accidents, especially in the past several years. Some of these situations have been prepared for by the individual, and others not so much. Have you taken any measures to ensure the care and welfare of your Schipperke in the event you are no longer able to?

First of all, do not assume family members or friends will be willing to take your dogs on a temporary or permanent basis. Have this very real, hard conversation with them. Designate one or (preferably) two trusted and clearly defined people to be notified and who can take charge of your animals should the need arise. Have your dogs identified, be it microchip or tattoo—as we all know, people who are not familiar with Schipperkes may not be able to tell them apart. Don't assume anyone but you can do so. This is essential if

Schipperke: Ch. Maroufke of Kelso, drawing by Lillian Tiffany, 1941



you are a breeder who keeps more than one or two dogs.

Leave clear written instructions and permission to treat or make decisions in your file at your vet. Have a folder or notebook with all pertinent information on each dog. A binder with plastic sheaths for each dog works great! AKC papers, health records, medication list, feeding instructions, and any other important information should be kept here. Let your designated person know where this is kept.

Write down your instructions/wishes for the disposition of each dog. Preferably in a legal document—but at least write it down somewhere! Consider having more than one person who knows the whereabouts of the “dog files.”

I got some great advice from a club mem-

ber who is single and lives alone. He suffered a serious heart attack while out shopping. Following are things he feels contributed to the welfare of his dogs while he was in intensive care:

- His phone was unlocked, so EMS was able to find out and reach his “in case of emergency” contacts.
- Additionally, they contacted his last-called number, who happened to be a close friend and breeder—she galvanized action for his dogs. (Dog people are absolutely the best when help is needed!)

• Several close friends had keys to his home. Having those keys with a neighbor or nearby friend is an important factor. Try to have multiple trusted people with spare keys.

- Keeping a kennel lead easily accessible for each dog—another good idea.

I spoke with AKC, because I myself didn't know exactly how they deal with ownership/papers in the event of one's death. I wondered, would it help to pre-sign papers and leave them in your dog file just in case? Well, the answer to that is no—it is technically against AKC rules to pre-sign papers in blank. So here is some valuable guidance: The AKC's *Procedures for Registration Matters* outlines what the AKC requires for someone to sign on behalf of a decedent.

The person signing for the deceased must



## NON-SPORTING GROUP

complete a Statement of Legal Rights form. They should submit it to AKC along with the paperwork showing they are the executor (if applicable) and a copy of the death certificate. Here are the links to those two items:

<https://images.akc.org/pdf/rulebooks/RREGS2.pdf>

<https://images.akc.org/pdf/ASCU03.pdf>

And while we are organizing ourselves and planning, check out this [Emergency Preparedness Plan](#).

Lastly, if at all possible, set up some sort of financial arrangement to pay for the cost of caring for your pets. If for any reason “tomorrow never comes,” rest easy knowing your beloved Schips will be cared for the way you’d want them to be. And if you have extra funds, please donate to one of our amazing rescue groups who so often step in and step up to care for Schipperkes in need.

May your tomorrows be many!

—Virginia Larioza,

[v.larioza@gmx.com](mailto:v.larioza@gmx.com)

[Schipperke Club of America](#)

## Shiba Inu

### CARETAKERS HELP PRESERVE OUR BREED

There is a lot of discussion in articles, in social media chatter, and overheard at events on the topic of being a mentor to our

peers, fellow breeders, fellow competitors in the ring, and aspiring breed judges.

The National Shiba Club of America (NSCA), like many parent clubs, provides official breed mentors through an application process for general and judge mentorship (Approved NSCA Judges’ Education Mentors). It’s certainly not the only valuable knowledge and skills available, but being an official mentor means you are the person’s first point of contact about the breed. Mentoring requires devotion, passion, and hours of time, and truly never stops. The responsibility of club members to seek and build capacity development of mentees and mentors is vital to the success of the NSCA and the preservation of the Shiba Inu.

A mentor needs to recognize his or her own strengths and weaknesses in order to help an exhibitor or future reputable breeder work toward their goals and dreams. As one exhibitor noted, “A mentor doesn’t need to be knowledgeable in every aspect, so long as they act with the sole purpose of unbiased honesty.” One needs to recognize when to pull in additional mentors within or outside of the breed so your mentee may continue to grow. It’s the necessary goal to provide knowledge to the earnest student in hopes they will be better than you; in return, they will pass on their breed experience to the next generation.



*Good mentors are especially important in guiding young fanciers in knowledge of the breed and its care, training, and presentation in the show ring.*



A longtime successful breeder—and a mentor to many in the Shiba breed—responded as follows to my question of what makes a mentor:

“One of the most important things each mentor did was encourage me to make my own decisions from what they taught me. They didn’t mentor me to follow or be like them. My mentors gave me knowledge they had learned over the years but wanted me to follow my own path.”

A non-Shiba breeder said that she and her mentor “go over the breed standard time and



time again. Read and re-read pedigrees.” This statement carries a lot of weight, because all Shiba breeders should be re-reading the standard to make certain our breed is being preserved. When is the last time you have reread

COURTESY SUBJECTS



## NON-SPORTING GROUP

the Shiba breed standard with fresh eyes and new questions arose? Notice how much emphasis is placed on the Shiba Inu tail in the “Neck, Topline, and Body” section of the breed standard. Talk to a NSCA mentor to understand the importance of points in the standard, and be provided with descriptions and examples. Even more important is to have hands-on experience with a NSCA mentor when learning the intricacies of the Shiba Inu—an example being in-depth teaching regarding the three allowed coat colors, which are given equal consideration.

When was the last time you sat down with a new breeder or junior to teach them how to read and understand a pedigree? A mentor helps to apply the teaching toward a successful program and understanding why a specific female or male prominent in pedigrees was influential in preserving the breed. The latter, in my opinion, is becoming lost on many new generations, and we should strive to fix this.

Take a moment from your schedule next time you see someone at an event or fun match who will benefit from your mentorship on breed standard specifics, ring procedures, grooming tips, or handling. You never know who you will inspire by being one of many mentors to your fellow peers.

—Letty Hughes,

[lettyhughes.nasca@gmail.com](mailto:lettyhughes.nasca@gmail.com)

National Shiba Club of America

## Tibetan Spaniels

### LIFE WITH TIBETAN SPANIELS—AND THEIR HABITS

People will often ask me why Tibetan Spaniels are not a more popular breed, not only with general pet owners, but also with seasoned show people. It is a puzzle to many, with the breed’s easy-care ocoat, general good health, and love of children. They are easy in apartments or homes, not picky about exercise, and are all in all a wonderful breed to live with.

They do have a few habits that, though endearing, can be a challenge. First of all, they love to climb. No back of the sofa to look out a window is safe, and I will never forget the owner who called me in a panic when her Tibbie had decided to jump from floor to chair to counter, where her tail caught fire as she walked past a candle! You can come home to find your Tibetan Spaniel enjoying the sun—lying on the breakfast table you were sure they could not reach.

There are occasionally Tibbies who will climb ex-pens or fences. I had one, named Luke; there was not a fence that would hold him. Not only would he climb out, but he would climb in to suit himself. He had to be neutered because no girl could be safely inside a fence with Luke around. Not a vehicle was safe if their windows were down, as he would climb up on the



Tibetan Spaniel

bumper, slide along the side of the car, jump inside, and eat whatever someone had thought they would have to snack on later.

They have a “war whoop.” Tibetan Spaniels are not a yappy breed, and are not big barkers; they do, however, have a bark to advise there is an intruder or another dog around. You know it when you hear it! In hotel parking lot, this can be a challenge. I find myself out really early in the morning to hopefully get them all walked before anyone comes out so as not to disturb people sleeping.

They can be a wild, wild thing as a puppy. My kids used to call my puppies sharks. No pants legs, fingers, hands, or toes were safe. Thankfully the dogs have outgrown this.

In the show ring, it is always a challenge to show the bite to a judge. Training must start early and often, or you will be wanting to slink from the ring as you and the judge do your best to see that bite.

They dig. Holes big enough to cover them up can easily be attained in one romp in the yard.

Tibetan Spaniels are fast. They can slip out

DAVID WOO ©AKC



## NON-SPORTING GROUP

the door before you know it, and run like the wind. My husband left the gate opened the other morning, and they all took off. They ran around the yard, and there was no catching them. So he got some toys and treats and was able to entice them home—all but one. I came home and figured out where she had probably gone. She was sitting on the neighbor's porch, very proud of herself.

Though they have these habits that can try your patience, all in all, they are still the best-kept secret in the world of dogs. I would not trade them for anything!

—Mallory Cosby Driskill,

[Ambrier@aol.com](mailto:Ambrier@aol.com)

[Tibetan Spaniel Club of America](#)

## Tibetan Terriers

### EXTRAORDINARILY ORDINARY

One of the best ways to learn about a breed and gain insight into the essentials of breed type is to befriend those whose dogs you see consistently epitomize what is described in the TTCA and AKC breed standard, and illustrated in breed-specific reference literature. Even better, sit next to these exceptional breeders at the TTCA national specialty or regional sweepstake events where there is a good TT entry, and listen to their comments and critique of exhibits.

I feel quite fortunate to have abundant

mentoring from passionate, educated, preservationist-leaning breeders both locally and nationally, as well as from breed specialists internationally.

In hindsight, it has occurred to me that these TT experts all have a singular word they bestow to convey their highest praise for superb TTs. With concise brevity, the word that sums up a supreme TT for all of them is *moderate*.

That word *moderate* is something I think I dismissed early on. It seemed “code” for boring and possibly lacking in any particular attribute. My eye for a dog was just beginning to develop, and like a teenager going for the latest trending fashion, it was drawn to pizazzy angles, the perfect shoulder layback, the stand-out rear, and big, fleet, striding movement around the ring.

In other words, my eye was drawn to exaggerated parts and aggrandized presentations of dog exhibits. That unlearned eye was oblivious at how all those anatomical elements came together (if at all) in a pleasing harmony.

Luckily my perceptions evolved, and somewhere along the way my fashion penchant became more timeless Giorgio Armani and less avant-garde Pierre Cardin. Likewise, my eye for a correct dog became drawn to the natural beauty and balance of that which is normal, typical, and correctly proportional in



Tibetan Terrier

a TT—the magnificently moderate!

Moderate is from the Latin *moderat*, which means “reduced, controlled” and derives from the verb *moderare*, related to modest. The American Heritage Dictionary defines *moderate* as “Being within reasonable limits; not excessive or extreme... of medium or average quantity or extent” ([ahdictionary.com](http://ahdictionary.com)). The word is used at least six times in the *Illustrated Guide to the Tibetan Terrier*, with cautionary statements such as “In judging the Tibetan Terrier, it is important to keep in mind that it is a moderately sized, moderately angled dog.”

So, “moderate” by its very definition indicates something commonplace, ordinary, and typ-

ical. However, it is ironic that “moderate” used in the context of describing a TT is in fact anything but common. Perhaps in the same way that “common sense” ends up being relatively uncommon, the ordinary, “moderate” TT is also somewhat extraordinary.

There's much written about how judges often have succumbed to award those dogs most exaggerated, the most extreme, creating over time a generic, flamboyant show dog seen across all breeds. In a ring of TTs, however, a judge should

endeavor to find the moderate exhibits, perhaps scaling them on a continuum. Try to observe what is typical and correct in each exhibit, and how that converges to create a balanced picture possessing the essential breed characteristics. Award that which best exemplifies a moderate TT on that given day, and breed experts will applaud, as such decisions have positive impact on the breed over time.

And as the saying goes, “Do not let the perfect be the enemy of good,” as the perfectly moderate TT is a rare sighting indeed. —*Andrea Reiman, 2015*

[Tibetan Terrier Club of America](#)



## HERDING GROUP

### Bearded Collies

#### STORMY WEATHER

**W**hoa! A slightly battered running shoe comes sailing past at eye level. Its mate follows at a slightly lower trajectory, its shoestring antenna trailing behind. I step back out of the line of fire as a bedroom slipper wings its way into the hall and a boot-skids across the floor, too heavy for takeoff.

Is that it? No more flying footwear?

OK. I call to my son, “Kelly, would you check that the windows on the van are closed? There’s a thunderstorm on the way.”

Bounce doesn’t like T-storms, and at the first premonition one is incoming she hides herself in the hall closet, digging away at anything that blocks her access to a cozy corner where she takes refuge, hence the shoe shower.

Bounce’s predictions on approaching storms have proven to be far more accurate than the national weather bureau’s alerts.

Bounce, one of my early Beardies, lives on only in memory now, but over the ensuing years several others have displayed aversions to stormy weather. However, she’s the only one to sling shoes. The breed has long been described as “sound sensitive.” For a herding breed, that might be both good and bad: good, to be tuned in to the whereabouts of the sheep or to approaching danger; bad, if the rumbling heavens cause them to abandon



Bearded Collie

their duties and take shelter.

That sensitivity comes in varying degrees. Some Beardies just don’t give a darn. Let the thunder roll. Others have strong reactions. Like Travis. We were at a show in Tampa, and there were distant growls of thunder. I prayed it wouldn’t strike till after Travis and I had made it through the Bearded Collie judging. It did. Just as we walked into the ring, the sky opened up and attacked the metal roof of the building with a downpour like a rain of bullet to the accompaniment of cloud-bursting thun-

der. Travis freaked. He tried to go four different directions at once. “May we be excused?” The judge nodded. Game over.

Once of the strangest reactions to thunderstorms came from Kendra who wanted to get someplace high. Perhaps she was expecting a flood. I woke one night during a storm when she climbed from my bed up onto the bureau, knocking down a pile of books and magazines in the process. She was trying to climb up the side of the mirror when I plucked her off. Another time she ascended the kitchen table

to be able to take refuge in an open cabinet. The crowning touch was when I opened the fridge while rain pounded on the roof and she immediately hopped in and curled up on the bottom shelf. A real cool character.

Some Florida thunderstorms mumble and grumble in the distance, giving warning while advancing on the area. Then there are the sneaky one: clear blue skies, bright sunshine, and suddenly—*boom!* Aline was in the ring at Daytona, working in Graduate Novice with her Bearded Collie Lacie in the club’s building. Lacie was doing nicely, trotting happily back to Aline with her dumbbell when out of nowhere came a thunderclap so outrageously loud that the building seemed to shake. *Plop.* The dumbbell dropped out of her mouth as Lacie stopped and stood there with a *What-Was-That?* look. Another case of incredibly bad timing. Unlike her dad, the aforementioned Travis, Lacie doesn’t freak out at thunderstorms, though she doesn’t particularly like them. It was just the shock of the sudden deafening thunderbolt that stopped her in her tracks with her mouth open.

There are some Beardies who don’t mind thunderstorms at all. Crispin positively enjoyed them. When a hurricane headed our way, the gang and I rode out cane at a friend’s home. Crispin thought her indoor/outdoor kennels were wonderful. Popping

DAVID WOO ©AKC



## HERDING GROUP

through the dog door, he stretched out in front of the building while rains lashed the area, high winds swept around him, and fierce thunder and lightning crashed. He seemed to be enjoying it so thoroughly, I half expected him to break into a chorus of “Singing in the Rain.” Enough. It finally became necessary to bring him inside and lock the dog door. Oddly enough, when the hurricane had passed by and we returned home, I brought out the vacuum to do a little cleaning. As the vacuum snarled into action, Crispin jumped up and ran into the bedroom to hide under the bed. I guess every Bearded Collie has their own hang-ups.

—Alice Bixler,

[alice@bedlamkennels.com](mailto:alice@bedlamkennels.com)

Bearded Collie Club of America

## Belgian Malinois

### THE LESS “PROSPEROUS” MALINOIS

In March 2021, I wrote about how to figure out whether your Belgian is “overly prosperous,” and promised some suggestions for resolving the situation. Most dogs are not in favor of being made “less prosperous”—and who can blame them? Even so, you’ve decided to help your Malinois reach a healthy weight ... but now you’ve thought of a few reasons why it’s not going to work:

- “He just blew up like a balloon, I didn’t

change anything!” There could be a medical reason why your dog has become an air fern. Maybe you should see your veterinarian first, to exclude medical causes of weight gain (such as hypothyroidism).

- “But I’m just feeding him the amount listed on the dog food bag.” I believe you. It’s been my experience that the dog food manufacturers’ recommendations are often on the generous side.

- “But he’s still hungry. He stares at me. I can’t resist those eyes.” Dieting requires willpower. Even though it’s the dog who is dieting, the willpower still has to come from you. You are the one with the opposable thumbs and the big brain. Show some leadership.

- “But my husband and kids are slipping him extras on the sly.” This can be a real challenge. You might try explaining why the dog is on a diet and enlist everyone’s help. Put a portion of the dog’s daily kibble into a bowl on the kitchen counter and let family members dole it out as treats. If the sabotage doesn’t stop, you might find that silence works better. Notice well, say nothing, and simply reduce the dog’s mealtime rations to compensate for the contraband.

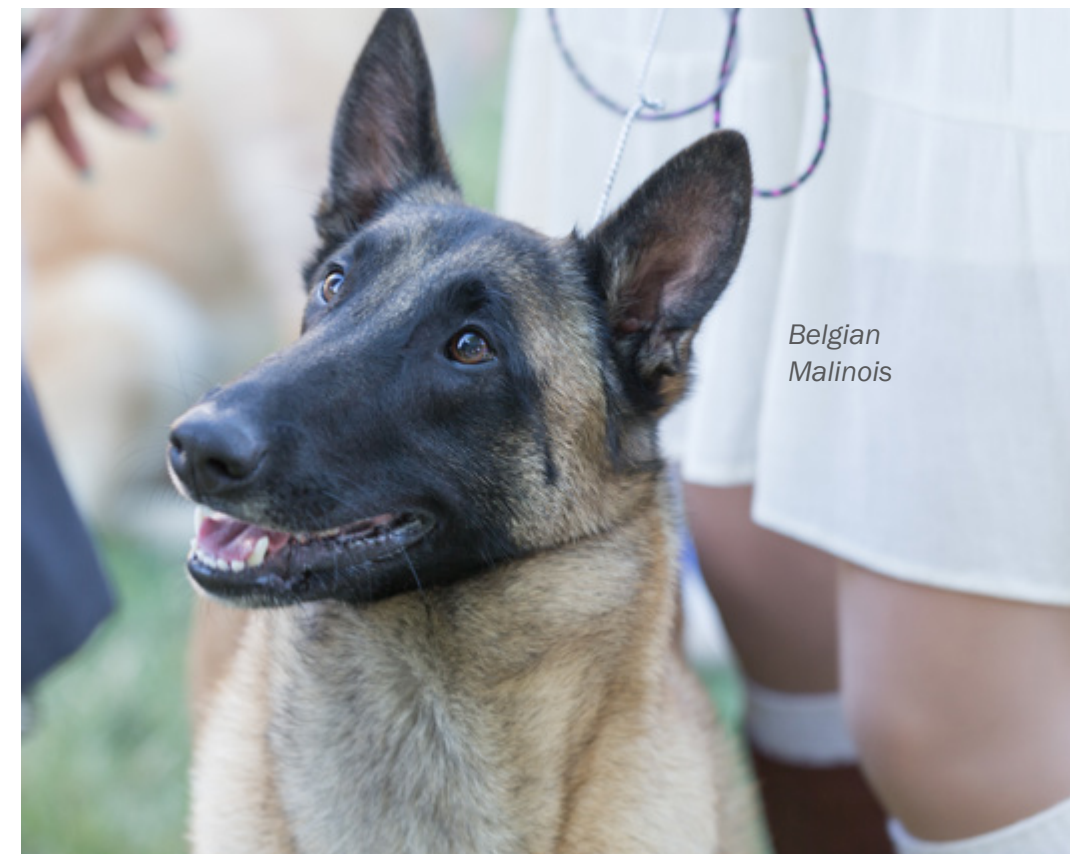
- “But I train with treats. How can I get any training done if I reduce my Belgian’s rations?” Most Belgians are sufficiently fond of eating that they will be thrilled to receive

a portion of their total daily kibble as training treats. On training days, your dog might get more “treats” and less “dinner.” He will still get the right total amount for the day.

If I decide my dog needs to lose weight, I start by cutting his food by 10 percent. I weigh my dogs’ food with a digital kitchen scale, which makes it easy to accurately make small

changes. Taking a dog from 10 ounces to 9, for example, or from 7 ounces to 6.3, becomes a breeze. In my opinion, weighing the food is the key to cutting back by an amount that will affect your dog’s weight without making him so hungry that you give up. Some people like to add canned pumpkin or green beans as filler, believing that it will make the dog feel full. If that helps you and your dog be successful with his diet, then do it. I have never found it to be necessary.

While my Belgian is dieting, I check his



Belgian Malinois

weight weekly and use the hands-on technique I described in my earlier column. If reducing his food by 10 percent has no effect after two weeks, I reduce it another five percent. When I find an amount of food that results in a reasonable rate of weight loss (about one percent of body weight per week, according to the Cummings Veterinary Medical Center at Tufts University), I keep at it until the dog gets close to the goal weight, and I can feel ribs under a modest layer of fat. When my dog reaches his goal weight, I bump up his food

DAVID WOO ©AKC



## HERDING GROUP

back up by five percent and keep monitoring. If his weight does not remain stable, further adjustments may be needed. Raise or lower the food quantity as needed to keep a steady weight. I routinely adjust my dogs' food ration in increments of 2.5 percent as they age and as their activity levels fluctuate.

This approach to restoring and maintaining a Malinois' athletic build has always worked for me, and I hope it helps you, too.

—Carilee (Cole) Moran,  
[colemich@sbcglobal.net](mailto:colemich@sbcglobal.net)

[American Belgian Malinois Club](#)

---

## Belgian Tervuren

### TELL US WHAT YOU WANT, WHAT YOU REALLY, REALLY WANT

We pour our heart, soul, and wallet into breeding litters. Buyers come to us with a checklist of what they are looking for in a prospective puppy. It can be someone's next special, a top winner in any of the myriad sports where Tervs excel, or it can be companion for a family, an active young adult, or a senior seeking companionship.

Many Terv litters are raised indoors—often in a kitchen or family room—to acclimate them to being a housedog in their next home. Breeders socialize puppies, acclimating them to collars, leashes, crates, cars, movement,

noises, handling, brushing, nail-clipping, baths, and so much more in the time they are in our lives. Then at the end of the day, when your neglected human family is likely not speaking to you, you sit down and work on your puppy evaluations. *What did Pink Collar do today that was noteworthy? How has Yellow handled the vacuum? Is Orange still posturing at the food bowl?*—all sorts of questions that we keep track of to be sure we select the correct puppy for your lifestyle and family, regardless of your goals for a particular puppy.

Realize that when buying a puppy, you are buying a relationship. In this relationship, you need to be upfront about your lifestyle, your home, and your family. These are all factors that a breeder needs to know about to help select the best puppy for you in a litter. Don't tell us what you think we want to hear; tell us like it is. Life is not perfect, families are all different, and many are downright weird—but isn't it better for your breeder to understand that your sister and her five kids under 10 are at your bachelor pad every weekend? Or that you are the lead singer in a heavy metal band? Or that you host a dinner party for 20 in your book club twice a month? No matter what your goals are for your puppy, your lifestyle is what your pup needs to fit into first and foremost.

But you still ask why we need to know all this. “The puppy will adjust,” you say. To all

of these questions, a conscientious breeder will respond, “I want that puppy to be a part of your family until the day he dies. Because no matter what your plans are for a particular puppy, a breeder really wants your puppy to be an important part of your family.”

That is what we all really, really want.

—Dana B. Mackonis,

[cachetnoir@yahoo.com](mailto:cachetnoir@yahoo.com)

[American Belgian Tervuren Club](#)

---

## Briards

### A SALUTE TO STEWARDS

Each year, dog clubs, groups, and organizations hand out awards for the year's top participants. First on the list goes to conformation's top dogs, followed by those who excelled in obedience, rally, agility, hunting, and all the other activities for our four-pawed companions. But we're not finished. There are also the accolades for the top pro handlers, top owner-handlers, top amateur handlers, top breeders, top shows, top judges, and so on.

Who is missing?

*Stewards*, that's who. Largely unnoticed and unappreciated except for the occasional (and very welcome) “thank you” from thoughtful exhibitors and judges, they go on about their business sans trophies, certificates, or plaques. (For the record, almost all obedience judges

publicly thank their stewards before handing out placings for each class. Nice people.)

Stewards may be loosely classified into one of three groups. Professional stewards belong to organizations that represent them, line up assignments and arrange payment for their services. They're likely to be kept busy for a multitude of shows in their area. General stewards are often club members who get roped into helping at their club's annual events or graciously volunteer. Normally they find their stewarding assignments on their own and may or may not be compensated for their work. Lastly, there are the “wannabe” judges who are required to steward a certain number of times before being granted the privilege of judging. These come and go rather quickly.

The advantages of stewarding include being an important part of the show scene, the opportunity to observe competent judges in action at close range, learning handlers' tricks of the trade, gaining knowledge on a wide variety of breeds, getting well versed in all the rules and regulations in effect and usually getting payment and a free lunch.

The disadvantages? How about getting up at “0-dark-thirty” to head to the show site and get everything set up for the 8 am start time? Then there's working outdoor shows in blustery cold, sweltering heat, or persistent rain that still manages to soak books and ribbons



## HERDING GROUP

though under a tent. Worst of all are the windy days with gusts that whip judges' books, ribbon holders and half-filled coffee cups off the table and scatter them throughout the show grounds. Or how about the occasional superintendent who sets up the schedule so that a ring has a table breed followed by a breed judged on the ground, followed by two breeds judged on a ramp, followed by another table breed, and then another ramp breed. Moving day.

And it's almost funny how many judges neglect to bring a pen to the ring. Most memorable is the judge who forgot a pen, borrowed one from the steward, and promptly broke it. Borrowing another, he was unable to find it when it rolled off the table into the grass. Borrowing one more, he took it with him when he went to judge in another ring but couldn't find it when he started judging and had to borrow another from the second steward. A nice person, but he should never be trusted with a Mont Blanc.

The exhibitors are a microcosm of the dog world. They can be entertaining, irritating, pleasant, gruff, funny, serious, intelligent, rushed, relaxed and so on. The steward is expected to greet all with a smile. Exhibitors invariably fail to bring two things to ringside: their glasses, and a pen. Gripping the catalog, they point to a line and ask, "Can you read this for me? I forgot to bring my glasses." The



others will want to borrow the steward's pen, claiming, "I have to write my dog's name (or class) on the back of the armband." It's surprising how many don't know that most armbands have the name of the show, the date, the ring number, the breed, and the class written in small print across the top. Reading the fine print is always a good idea.

For stewards, the most entertainment occurs when a show-savvy person sends a non-doggy person to run a simple errand. The errand runner is usually the husband of an exhibitor who has been sent to the ring to pick up the armband. It goes something like this:

Person: "I need to pick up the arm band for our dog."

Steward: "Can you tell me the breed and number?"

Person: "Oh, she's a retriever."

Steward: "What kind of retriever?"

Person: "Well, she's yellow."

Steward: "Is she a Golden Retriever then?"

Person: "That doesn't sound right."

Steward: "Well, how about a Flat Coat or a Curly Coat or a Chesapeake Bay or a Labrador?"

Person: "Labrador! That's it."

Steward: "Good. Now what's her name?"

Person: "We call her Bunny."

Steward: "We're going to need her registered name. Do you know it?"



## HERDING GROUP

Person: “I can’t recall it. Maybe it was on that piece of paper my wife handed me. But I didn’t bring it.” Steward: “Well there are other ways to find her name. Are you the owner?”

Person: “No, that would be my wife.”

Steward: “And her name is—”

Person: “Dora. Dora Johnston.”

Steward: “Good. Here in the Open Bitch class we have a Lab owned by your wife, and her armband number is 34. Here it is, and have a good day, sir. Next?”

Former schoolteachers and cheerleaders often make good stewards. They know how to yell or at least make themselves heard over the din of a dog show.

The most popular excuse for being late to class is “I didn’t hear you call my class. You need to call louder.” (Actually, the exhibitor is expected to be at ringside when the class is scheduled, not when the armband number is called.)

Then there’s the person who stands ten feet from the ring with dog and catches up on gossip with friends while the steward shouts the number repeatedly. Finally, someone will glance at the armband and say, “I think they’re calling you.” And the person will rush into the ring with “Sorry, I didn’t hear you call my number.”

Then there’s the exhibitor gabbing with

friends who suddenly realizes what class is in the ring. Racing to ringside, the exhibitor bumps a couple of people out of the way and proclaims, “I need my armband right now! That’s my class in the ring. It’s number 73. Hurry, I’m late. Ask the judge if I can still come in.”

Filed under E for *exasperating* is the exhibitor who picks up an armband only to later report, “I’ve lost it.” Or the handler is wearing it and is in another ring. So can the steward make up another? For some reason, superintendents don’t provide blank armbands for use in such cases. So it’s a matter of digging out a wide-tipped Sharpie and an abandoned armband and finding a way to convert the existing numbers into the missing ones.

At shows where the pandemic has made masks the uniform of the day, exhibitors can not only claim they can’t hear ring stewards but also that they couldn’t understand a word that was said. That’s understandable. The pandemic with its multitude of ever-changing rules has made both more and less work for stewards. Less, because the judge is now in charge of ribbons, trophy cards, and other handouts; more, because (anti) social distancing has moved stewards and judges to opposite ends of the ring, necessitating lots of running back and forth to report absences as well as check armbands and placings because exhibi-

tors can’t always be trusted to stand in the correct order when receiving ribbons.

Without fanfare or awards, today’s stewards handle a difficult task and put in long hours under a variety of conditions. A simple “thank you” now and then would be appreciated. Oh, and don’t forget to bring your own pen and glasses when picking up your armband.

—Alice Bixler,

[alice@bedlamkennels.com](mailto:alice@bedlamkennels.com)

[Briard Club of America](#)

## Canaan Dogs

### DON’T BE COLOR BLIND!

The latest revision of the AKC breed standard for the Canaan Dog says, “Color: There are two color patterns. Pattern 1) Predominantly white with mask and with or without additional patches of color (large body patches are desirable). Pattern 2) Solid colored with or without white trim. Color may range from black through all shades of brown—sandy to red or liver. Shadings of black on a solid brown or tan dog are frequently seen. The trim on a solid-colored dog may include chest, undercarriage, feet and lower part of leg and tip of tail. In all color patterns self-ticking may be present. Disqualifications—Gray and/or brindle. All white.”

The first four Canaans imported into the

United States were white with black markings and their descendants were predominately of that color pattern. However, Canaan Dogs of other natural coloring such as solid tan, cream, red, and brown with and without trim were later imported and a variety of colors appeared in conformation rings in subsequent generations.

Theoretically, there is no color preference when judging Canaans, but sometimes in reality that is not the case, especially in the past few years. For example, some judges will subconsciously eliminate a dog of a different color when all the other dogs in the class are black and white, and some will do the opposite and place a solid-color dog over a white and black patched dog. An added complication is that cream/tan and brown/red Canaans may have black shading, which can cause the former to look gray if the shading is at the hair tips, and hence, be disqualified unless the judge checks to see if the coat and/or skin is cream with shading on the hair tip instead of a true gray. The shading seen in the brown/red coats may cause a judge to stop the examination to check the breed standard to ensure that the shading is allowed, which can give a bad impression to the exhibitor about the judge’s ability to judge the breed. Therefore, Canaan Dog exhibitors dealing with a judge’s favoring a particular color preference is not uncommon, as exhibi-



## HERDING GROUP



*Canaan Dogs have two color patterns: Predominantly white with mask, with or without additional patches of color; or solid color with or without white trim.*



tors of other breeds can certainly attest.

The conformation ring is not the only Canaan Dog setting where “color-blindness” exists. As a breeder, I’ve received numerous inquiries from potential puppy buyers wanting a certain color and only that color because they’ve seen one like it on televised dog shows or in a dog breeds book. Like other Canaan breeders with this frequent request, I explain that Canaans do not have the genes for coat color “fixed” like Dalmatians, Labrador Retrievers, Irish Setters, or many other breeds. Depending on the ancestral coat colors, a Canaan litter can contain solids, white with any color patches, or a mixture of both patterns. As breeders, we’re more concerned with structure, health, and movement; coat

color is the least considered as long as the puppy has the correct pigment of the eye rims, nose, and lips as the traditional survival trait against melanoma.

How does one combat “color-blindness”? Canaan Dog presenters at judges’ education events do emphasize the two-color patterns, though the dogs seen during the hands-on portion are usually white and black. Owners of good-quality dogs of different coat colors need to be encouraged to present them for the judges’ hands-on, or at least as a visible reminder of what they will see in the ring. Likewise, owners need to bring crowd-proof dogs of both color patterns to AKC Meet the Breeds events, as well as to other dog-related events, and promote such through social

media. Years ago I wore a T-shirt with the words *Canaan Dog* and an arrow pointing down toward my non-white and black dog to local parades and community fairs to help promote not only the breed, but to raise awareness that they come in “other colors.”—*DG*

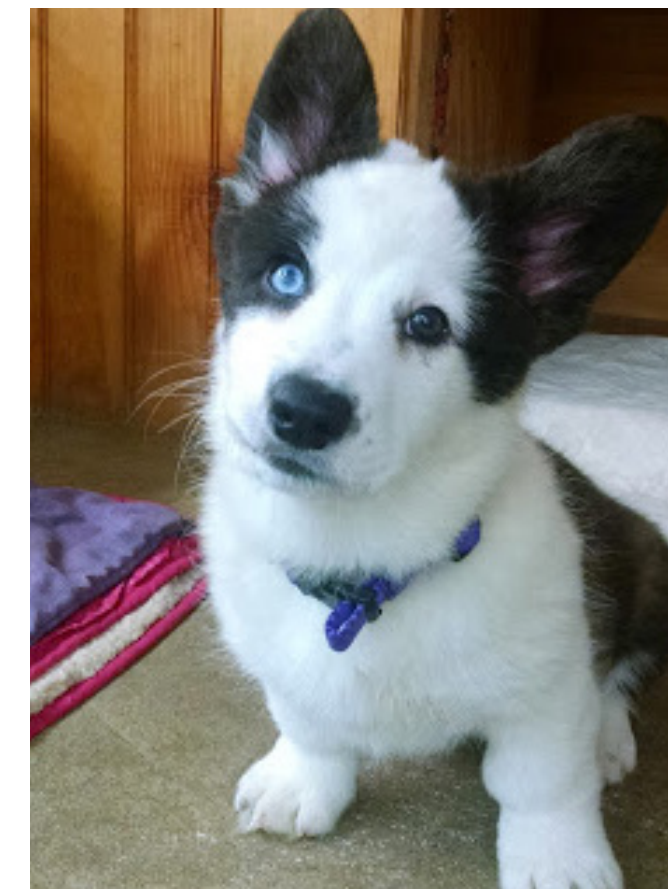
The Canaan Dog Club of America, Inc. would like to invite everyone to attend the 2021 CDCA National Specialty to be held Friday, November 12, during the Canyons Cluster in Tucson, Arizona. For information on all the national-specialty events being held that week, go to the CDCA website ([www.cdca.org](http://www.cdca.org)) or the CDCA Facebook page ([www.facebook.com/CanaanDogClubofAmerica](http://www.facebook.com/CanaanDogClubofAmerica)).

—Denise A. Gordon,  
[desertstarcanaans@yahoo.com](mailto:desertstarcanaans@yahoo.com)  
Canaan Dog Club of America, Inc.

## Cardigan Welsh Corgis

### PICTURES REALLY DO SAY A THOUSAND WORDS

Having attended numerous judges’ education programs on various breeds, the PowerPoint presentation is an important part of the overall process. You learn about the history of the breed and its purpose, whether that is herding livestock or just being a loving companion that was bred to sit on your knee. Judges are programmed to tune into the finer points of the breed, the unique silhouette or



*Cardigan Welsh Corgi puppy*

hallmark that makes this breed different from all the rest. The photos of fine examples are typically conformation show related, whether of the dog standing in perfect stance for the judge’s exam, or caught in mid-stride, showing the proper extension of the front and rear assemblies.

One trip around the grooming area at a national specialty, and you can gather enough quality photos from everyone’s iPhone to fill 10 PowerPoint presentations and then some. We



## HERDING GROUP

all have great photos on our phones that show just how wonderful our particular dogs are, and with a few simple steps, they can become part of a presentation.

All that is great and wonderful, but judges need to see examples of things that are not so perfect as well. As a presenter, one can expound upon the problems of drop ears or a fiddle front, but the old adage *a picture says a thousand words* is true in that a photo can make all the difference to those who may have never seen these traits before. Imagine trying to explain round feet in comparison to hare feet without a photo, particularly to someone who has never seen a hare foot. Now stand in front of your class with two photos, one of a round foot and another of the hare foot, and you will hear that low voice that says, “Now I get it.” Think about the same scenario of a butterfly nose on a black and white dog. Without an example of what is not correct, it becomes perfunctory in the mind of the student and not easily forgotten. They might remember you mentioning something about the color on the nose, but unless you know exactly what you’re looking for, how are you going to know? Think about a cryptic merle, where there is only a small patch of merling on the right side of the dog; having seen an example before judging will allow for a quality lineup at the end. Both the judge and the exhibitor will

avoid the embarrassment of not knowing what is correct in the ring.

Now here lies the problem. No one seems to want a photo of their dog that isn’t flattering used for hundreds to see in a PowerPoint presentation. It is only human nature to shy away from showing photos of the fruits of your labor that perhaps are not the best examples of overall breed traits. That poor rear assembly or roached-back dog that you had hoped to show someday suddenly isn’t up to par. We all have been quoted saying, “Hey, they can’t all be show dogs,” but we really don’t like sharing with others photos of those with less-than-desirable traits.

For this I say, that’s a darn shame. The JEC PowerPoint program is always in need of quality photos of hitches that we all encounter in our breeding program. It is not meant to disgrace any particular dog, it is purely a great learning tool that we must utilize to properly educate our future judges. Having a good supply of modern, clear photos of a variety of faults, undesirable features, and disqualifications greatly improves the program. If you have some good, clear photos, please send them to me for consideration. We will all benefit from it.

—David L. Anthony,  
[Dragonpatch@gmail.com](mailto:Dragonpatch@gmail.com)  
Cardigan Welsh Corgi Club of America

## Collies

### NUMBER CRUNCHING

It might be time to take a serious look at the AKC registration ranking of our breed. There’s a lot to parse when you scroll down the list of breeds and where they place in “popularity.” Labradors, Golden Retrievers, Rottweilers, Beagles, and Poodles are all higher up on the list, if you’ve followed for a while, and they’ve been at or near the top for

a long time. There are the usual expectations in the popular line-up of smaller size, short coats, and those considered for protection or who are all-round family dogs. But then there are the surprises rising to the top 20 of the AKC’s list; dogs that are pretty expensive—the Frenchie, for example, who is number two, or dogs who require considerable research to understand the needs or purpose of the breed, or breeds that are not for the



Smooth Collie

COURTESY LYNDA BEAM



## HERDING GROUP

average, inexperienced pet owner.

Those dogs are a bit more unexplainable, except that the rankings are based on registrations and not on actual breed ownership. Still, it's what we must go by when we look at our own breed and reflect on the future of the Collie. Collies who were once consistently in the top 10 have also been consistently dropping in the last few decades. We are currently 40th, and while we are nowhere near in a tight spot like some of the rarer breeds, we should be paying attention to the downward trend.

What are the numbers telling us when the Bernese Mountain Dog, Cane Corso, Mastiff, and Belgian Malinois are all ranked higher than Collie? I'm not passing judgement on any particular breed, please believe me, but how did we get to be number 40? We are the breed of *Lassie* and *Lad, A Dog*; we're the poster child for the all-round family dog. Collies are the perfect breed for the less experienced dog owner, typically the very ones who go to shelters to get a dog, which might be one clue. We have some pretty good outreach in our breed: the Collie Club of America website emphasizes the positive characteristics; Sunnybank The Gathering every August is a weekend open to all to celebrate the joy of owning a Collie, we have a very strong health foundation promoting the well-being of our

breed, and there's always enthusiastic interest at Meet the Breeds—so what gives?

Some say we don't want the breed to be popular like it used to be, but it's not an either/or issue. With breeds as large or larger than ours ahead of us, size doesn't appear to be an issue, although the smaller dogs still "lead the pack" in general popularity. Amount of coat might be a strong factor. Of the large breeds ahead of us on the list, none of them have big coats. When people see Collies with massive coats, like at the Westminster dog show or the Thanksgiving Day dog show, for example, it's a turnoff. A similar situation arose with Old English Sheepdogs; as the coat got bigger and bigger and maintenance became a hassle, a once-popular breed nose-dived in ranking. Breeding for huge coats or super-soft coats is not only against our standard, it makes a negative impression on the public as too much work to maintain. And while Smooths are steadily growing in interest, they still are not well known to the general public.

Why does any of this matter? When people are looking for puppies, I try to recommend they find a breeder reasonably close to meet the family and see the puppies. My preference is for them to see firsthand how the dogs are cared for, how the puppies are raised, and what the temperaments are like. But they typ-

ically tell me there is no one near them—and this is in major population areas—so they turn to a different breed or the internet.

I have no solutions to offer, I'm sorry to say, but it's something we might want to reflect on.

—Marianne Sullivan,  
[millknock@embarqmail.com](mailto:millknock@embarqmail.com)  
Collie Club of America

## Finnish Lapphunds

### THE PERSONALITY AND MIND OF THE FINNISH LAPPHUND

The personality of a Finnish Lapphund can vary. In general they are a happy dog and can be clownlike. My first Lappy, Tavvi, took any job very seriously. He was very sweet, which is typical, and had general herding traits. My second Finnish Lapphund, Ryp, has the distinction of being the first and only OTCH, MACH, PACH Lappy. He is a workhorse and absolutely loves competing—in anything. My third, Mikie, has a grand championship in conformation and has done obedience, agility, and nose work. His idol is my Siberian, Rudee. I think Mikie and Rudee have been holding secret meetings in the middle of the night, for Mikie has too many mannerisms that mirror Rudee's to be a coincidence. Caution: Finnish Lapphunds are very observant and learn by watching, so be sure

Finnish Lapphund



they watch a "good dog"!

Generally the Finnish Lapphund is extremely trainable, like any herding dog, but they are on the soft side. So you can correct



## HERDING GROUP

them, but not too forcefully. I also do not compete with them in the summertime. Hot, or hot and humid, are a Lappy's worst enemy. Also, be careful with outdoor agility trials in summertime.

All of my dogs have been trained with food and toys. Some Lappys are persnickety and don't like treats very much, and toys are for the "lowly" mutts to retrieve. Females seem to be in this category. If that is the case, then owners need to be very creative. Some Lappys just want to sit on the couch, eat caviar, and watch *Lassie* and help find Timmy who has fallen into the well.

Lappy owners have participated in, and succeeded in, all aspects of AKC performance and conformation events. The Lappy was bred in Finland to herd reindeer, and reindeer are tough animals, so the Lappy works the reindeer from a distance. Those horns and hoofs are lethal weapons. Barking is a vital function used by the Lappy to move the reindeer.

Until next time, hug your pups, and have a happy Lappy day. —*Lorraine Paglini, 2017*

[Finnish Lapphund Club of America](#)

## Norwegian Buhunds

### VIRTUAL DOG SPORTS II

Virtual dog sports have always been around, but there has been an explosion

in such events during the pandemic. Today there are numerous ways in which dogs and their handlers can earn titles without going to a show or trial. These sports are a great way to use up all the extra energy and Norwegian Buhunds have from being at home during the pandemic. Buhunds have been bred to herd for hours at a time and, not surprisingly, the stay-at-home lifestyle does not suit them. And since handlers also might have a little extra time if they are not commuting to work, virtual dog sports provide a nice outlet for both dogs and handlers.

If you have a young puppy but cannot go class to earn your AKC S.T.A.R. puppy title, then the AKC Virtual Home Manners program is a wonderful way to start the virtual adventure. The Virtual Home Manners program is a prelude to the AKC STAR puppy and CGC programs. It provides a nice training goal for a puppy (VHMP) or even an adult dog (VHMA) because it tests skills that everyone needs for a well-mannered dog, such as walking nicely, responding to basic cues such as "sit" "down" and "come" and bonding with the owner or family members.

The Trick Dog program is another way to get virtual titles. Numerous Norwegian Buhunds have achieved these. There are several AKC Trick Dog titles from the novice to the elite performer levels. My Buhunds hope



to get the TDPE titles, since they truly enjoy training for tricks. To them, all the activities that we ask them to do are, in essence, "tricks." An obedience retrieve is a trick. An agility dog-walk is a trick. But for handlers, it makes a big difference when we call an activity a "trick"—we are much more relaxed in our training which, ironically, makes the training progress faster. I always find more relaxed handlers and more laughter in my trick dog classes than in other classes.

If, like many others, you are walking your dogs more nowadays, you can join the AKC

FitDog program and get your free FitDog magnet. All I did was record our walks for three months, making sure that we walked for 150 minutes a week in 30 minute sessions (15 minute sessions for my senior dog). Then I submitted the paperwork and got a nice magnet.

And let us not forget the virtual titling opportunities in traditional companion sports such as agility, rally and obedience. Since my dogs have AKC agility titles, we are doing virtual agility in other venues, but AKC's ACT (Agility Course Tests 1 and 2) provide virtual opportunities for young dogs to get started

DAVID WOO ©AKC



## HERDING GROUP

in agility. ACT1 and ACT2 with standard courses have been available in-person for several years, but this past February the AKC added ACT Jumpers courses to the program (ACT1J and ACT2J). Rally Novice through Excellent titles can also be earned virtually, and so can standalone titles (BNV and CDV) in the virtual obedience test program.

Virtual titles can be earned at home or at a training facility. They allow more people to participate irrespective of the pandemic, especially people who live in more remote locations or find it more of an effort to go to trials. And even though virtual sports are more relaxed than in-person sports, they are still quite different from training. The dogs know that you do not have any treats or toys, and the camera can make a big difference in how you feel and behave. I hope that the AKC continues the virtual dog sports programs even after the pandemic is over.

—Jasmine Tata,  
[jtata2@yahoo.com](mailto:jtata2@yahoo.com)  
Norwegian Buhund Club of America

## Old English Sheepdogs

### WALKIN' THE DOG

If you are part of a multi-dog household, that energetic young dog will likely be the focus of your attention. Maybe you find him

digging in the flower bed or barking at the kids playing next door. Thus, some training time is in order. At the same time, if you look around you may notice that an older dog has gone off to find a quiet spot for a nap. You will also want to interact with this older dog to make sure she remains happy and healthy as she ages. Of course, this could also apply if you are a single-dog family where your furry companion is getting along in years.

There is a certain amount of truth to that old adage “Use it or lose it”. If your older canine’s naps seem to be running together, you need to get the dog up and moving again. However, when you do this some care is in order. The inactivity may be the result of a developing medical condition or another problem.

A likely candidate for the latter is some extra inches around the middle. Just being spayed or neutered can slow the metabolism and add weight if food portions are not adjusted. Any extra weight will put added stress on those old joints and ligaments. If you remember one of my previous columns on the topic of body condition score, or BCS, the ideal rating for an older dog would be somewhere between 2 (underweight) and 3 (normal). Keeping the dog within this range will minimize possible joint damage but still help ensure they have the energy to undertake a variety of activities.



Old English Sheepdog

If the dog’s BCS is more like a 4 (overweight), or even a 5 (obese), then it is time for action. However, crash diets are not the answer. A good target is to lose about five percent of body weight per month. A more rapid decline can cause some health problems, especially with an older dog.

Before you undertake some regime of increased activity, you also need to involve your veterinarian and have a wellness exam done on your oldster. A senior blood panel

will indicate the status of various organ systems. If problems are identified, appropriate action can be taken so that your dog can become more active. The vet should also check for any mobility issues that might limit activities. If necessary, your activity program could be designed to sidestep any serious issues.

Once you are getting any weight issues under control and the vet has given you a thumbs-up, you can start to focus on an



## HERDING GROUP

increased level of activity. For older dogs, there seems to be little doubt that swimming is ideal. This activity allows the dog to work muscles and ligaments without putting a load on their joints. Unfortunately, most of us do not have the necessary aquatic facilities. In addition, a large, wet, shaggy dog wandering around shaking and dripping may not be your cup of tea.

For older dogs, is there much else besides walking? This activity has many advantages and may benefit you as well as the dog. With all the recent covid restrictions, you have probably become a victim of Sir Isaac Newton's Law of Inertia: *A body at rest tends to remain at rest.* Knowing that your dog is in need of some exercise can be the motivation to get off your duff and out the door with your partner. Once you two are on your way, there will likely be some mental as well as physical benefits. Most dogs like the outdoor with its changing sights and smells. The two of you can also be bonding without distractions from family members, be they four-legged or two-legged.

There are many variables you can change as your walking program evolves. Duration is obviously one. You can start with short walks, then add to the distance covered as your conditioning improves. A level route also seems like the way to start, eventually adding some inclines. You should even give some thought to

your walking surface. A sandy beach, mowed grass or a synthetic sports surface will cause less damage to joints than hard surfaces like concrete sidewalks. If you try walking, you can also look for other ways to vary the activity.

Finally, let me close with a tip of the hat to R&B singer Rufus Thomas, whose 1964 hit song "Walkin' the Dog" provided the title for this column, as well as some good advice.

—Joe Schlitt,  
[wylecotejs@earthlink.net](mailto:wylecotejs@earthlink.net)  
Old English Sheepdog Club of America

---

## Pembroke Welsh Corgis

### GETTING STARTED IN HERDING

The Pembroke Welsh Corgi is the smallest of the herding breeds and has a history that goes back hundreds of years. Many are surprised that the instinct to herd is strong in many Pembrokes, even those that are all "show" breeding. So how do you begin?

I recently attended a weekend herding seminar and learned that I had forgotten a lot. One thing was to take sunscreen—though I did remember a hat, shade and water for the dogs, and shoes that I didn't care about! My dog worked on a buckle collar and a long line, as he is just starting. He learned to sit and wait to go through a gate and then to sit and wait while I closed the gate. This skill is basic and



Pembroke Welsh Corgi

is one that you can easily teach at home, using gates, doors, or stairs. He needed to walk on a loose leash to follow the sheep—again, another skill that can be taught at home, with no sheep needed.

Other basic skills that you can teach at home include a sit-stay, especially if you might go on to compete in herding events. You will need to be able to leave your dog on a sit-stay

and walk out to sheep for the beginning test level classes. This stay needs to be solid and reinforced when you do get to work sheep. I've taught "whoa," which means to stop, and it's their choice as to whether it is a sit, down, or stand. If I want a particular position, such as down, then they need to do that, and I of course need to teach it. Your dog also needs a reliable come when called—another thing that



## HERDING GROUP

can be taught at home.

Many of the Pembroke clubs offer herding fun days or instinct tests, though not necessarily every year. Look for the club closest to you, and check their website or contact the club secretary about upcoming events. Several clubs do offer herding tests and trials, so attend one of those if you can. You will meet lots of people and can find out who offers lessons locally. Plan to leave your dogs at home though, or at the very least, crated in your car. Your dogs may become overexcited and inadvertently interfere with the working dogs. You can also go to the AKC website and use the Events search menu to find herding events in your area. Contact the secretary for details. There may not be any corgis of either breed entered, but you will be able to find out about the club and inquire about lessons and instructors. There is also the Facebook group HerdingCorgis, where owners of both corgi breeds are welcome, and it might be a good way to find an instructor close to you.

Your instructor will gauge your dog's interest, but be prepared for your dog to work on a long line and a buckle collar. The first several lessons will most likely be short in duration and focused on getting your Pembroke interested in the livestock. You will be learning along with your dog. Keep in mind that your Pembroke will know more about the livestock

than you will!

To see some of the best herding Pembrokes in action, plan to attend this year's national specialty herding events October 2 and 3, in Denton, North Carolina. Complete details can be found at [www.pwccanational.com](http://www.pwccanational.com). Just remember to bring a hat, water, a chair, and some sunscreen!

—Lynda McKee,  
[TifflynLDM@aol.com](mailto:TifflynLDM@aol.com)  
Pembroke Welsh Corgi Club of America

## Pulik

### MENTAL HEALTH AND THE SHOW RING

During recent years, light is being shed on recognizing the importance of good mental health. The media especially has zeroed in on how performance-related stress can be an unrelenting challenge for Olympic athletes and other elite competitors. Athletes including Naomi Osaka, Simone Biles, and Michael Phelps have come forward with their struggles, and it seems that now, these concerns are finally really being heard and (hopefully) comprehended. As noted by Michael Phelps, we often forget that these highly talented people are human, and not machines. But do we recognize a parallel for our show/performance dogs?

Performance sports involving dogs require



Pulik

© David Woo  
American Kennel Club

that *both* human and canine to be at the top of their game. Stress can affect your performance in two different ways. In the right amount, stress (“pregame jitters”) helps you prepare, focus, and perform at your optimal level. On the flip side, however, too much stress can cause performance anxiety, which can adversely affect your health and does not allow you to perform relaxed, confident, and focused in competition. Agility, especially, can be a challenging dog sport, as it is demanding both physically and mentally for the dog.

Additionally, the dog does all of the physical exertion while being attentive to the handler. Mental health of your agility dog is paramount, since this is a sport where critical injuries can result if the mind and body are not in sync.

When we become frustrated, angry, or stressed, our bodies release hormones (adrenaline and cortisol) that cause changes in our physiology. Our hearts race, we breathe fast and shallow, our hands might even shake, and we move less fluidly. When the person on the



## HERDING GROUP

end of the leash starts get stressed, you will often hear dog show folks say that the stress travels to the other end of the leash. Dogs are very attuned to our every mood. When we get anxious near the ring, our dogs notice the difference in our behavior. If we get impatient with them in the ring in response to our own stress, dogs often start dreading going into the ring. When asked to perform, they may make an effort, but the behavior is unlikely to be of good quality. It is very difficult to concentrate and do well under those circumstances. Stress in either the human or canine side of your team can result in lackluster performance or, worse, a “meltdown” at one end of the leash or the other (or even both ends).

Signs of stress in a dog can include: averting eyes from their handler; “checking out”; avoiding their handler (or “blowing them off”); diarrhea; no eye contact; dilated pupils; excessive scratching; excessive shedding; flinching; “the zoomies”; inability/unwillingness to learn new behaviors; increased respiration; increased startle response; lip-licking; muscle tension; tucking body in close (tail under, butt tucked); scanning the environment; moving slowly; slow or no response to cues; sniffing; sweating (from the pads); yawning; barking; and spinning.

You might see one or more of these behaviors at a time, or even different signs with dif-

fering types of stressful situations. People need to take the time to learn what stress signals look like so that they can recognize them early and help their dogs before they become overly anxious.

Ring stress plagues many dog trainers/handlers and it certainly very frustrating to be in the ring with a dog who doesn’t want to be there and doesn’t perform like the dog you have in training. Most show dogs experience some degree of ring stress at some point in their careers, and some dogs deal with stress better than others. It’s not that someone else’s dog is totally stress free; instead, it is that the dog can cope with it because of training skills and great teamwork/relationship with the handler, and genetics and/or temperament also play a part. Some dogs “grow out” of their ring stress as they gain more experience and thereby, confidence.

Dogs are individuals, and while some are oblivious to the chaos of show environments, others are very sensitive souls who pick up on every nuance they feel is “strange” or “not right.” Environmental sensitivity is especially pronounced with some herding/guarding/working type breeds.

I find that the Puli is one of those breeds that is very attuned to its environment, no matter where they are. And again, some individual Puli are just better at coping with ring stress in

performance sports. It is just something that I deal with, and I work to support my canine teammate as much as possible inside and outside the ring, because this is my breed of choice as my performance sport teammate. I also try to not go into the ring with unrealistic expectations and try to find something positive about every time I go in the ring with my dog. Over time, I have worked to show my dog that a mistake need not be a stressful event, it’s just something we need to work on more at training class.

Besides recognizing stress signals in your dog, it is important to understand how to manage your own stress—“mental management.” Most stress or anxiety management techniques center on breathing and visualization of positive outcomes of your time in the ring with your dog. Mindfulness or “being in the moment” is a great tool in stress management. Recognize your stress and figure out how to address it so that it does not carry over to your dog, if you are able to.

Mental management for the handler can include figuring out who to spend time with at your dog sport event. There will be people whose primary goal is a good time with their dog and camaraderie with other people who enjoy spending time with their dogs, and there will be people who are “serious” about the game (sometimes being around this serious-

ness is great for me personally, while other times I find that it stresses me out too much and sucks the fun out of going to the event).

Sometimes a handler might make the tough decision to pull out of competition and put the mental health of their dog (and themselves) first. Other times, someone might choose to battle through an issue in the ring. Remember, every dog is a different journey; just do what is right for the dog (and yourself). Stop stressing about the win, stop stressing about what other people think (don’t let anyone steal your joy!), and take it as a day out with your dog. Enjoy your dog, and find the positives in what they are doing—nothing else is important.

If you can learn to better manage stress for yourself and your dog, you can achieve things you never thought possible.

—Dagmar Fertl,  
[dfertl@gmail.com](mailto:dfertl@gmail.com)  
Puli Club of America

## Shetland Sheepdogs

### DECISIONS, DECISIONS

Breed standards are written to guide breeders in making decisions in their breeding programs: Who to breed. Who to breed to whom. Who to keep. Who to show. Who to retain for future generations. Who to sell for



## HERDING GROUP

how much. Who is a pet.

There are absolutes mentioned in the breed standard, such as breed disqualifications. These are held by almost everyone as reasons to eliminate a dog from the gene pool. There are serious no-no's that most breeders agree need to be bred away from, such as severe health issues (for example, cleft palates, skin disease, extremely poor structure, and so on). And then there is the long list of possible shortcomings in our dogs that we must decide whether or not we can deal with—"accept"—such as tail sets, ear placement and tipping, color, and indications of less than desirable structure, and so on.

We have all suffered the excruciating calls about disqualifications and severe faults. Will that other testicle drop? Will that puppy make size? Did someone nip that dog's muzzle ... is that the start of DM? Yes or no, we usually make the right decision for that puppy's future.

We have all agonized over our decisions when faced with splitting hairs on lesser faults. Usually the answer comes down to answering two questions:

1. How far away from the ideal described in the standard is this problem?
2. Can I live with this fault if I use this dog and the fault becomes set in my dogs? Do I always want to worry about (for example) size,



Shetland Sheepdog

round eyes, heavy ears, or high tail-sets?

When it comes to decisions about dogs displaying less-than-perfect traits, those decisions can be affected by the breeders' preferences and their knowledge of the meanings in the standard. Our standard has called for a disqualification in Shelties under 13 inches and over 16 inches for close to seven-plus decades. Shouldn't we have eliminated size problems

by now? No, because we have not been selecting for just size all these years. People have used dogs very close to and maybe outside those restrictions that they personally felt had stellar qualities to contribute. Hopefully other virtues were considered, such as pedigree and how heavily these issues were repeated in that pedigree. Find out if possible by doing your research.

Eyes can be another example. The standard says the Sheltie has "medium size, dark eyes with almond shaped eye rims set obliquely in the skull. Blue or Merle eyes in blue merles only." This is very specific—so why do we see so many various sizes and color/shades of eyes? Because many people breeding Shelties have yet to internalize the absolute stunning effect on expression that a beautiful, correct eye has, regardless of the dog's color—sable, blue, or black. I remember at one national seeing a black dog from two aisles away. A bi-black with an all-black head, and I couldn't get to him fast enough. All I could think of is we need this dog for judges' education. He was stellar, and we used him for several years.

It is up to the breeders of Shetland Sheepdogs to select for all areas of the standard and be ruthless if you are truly concerned about something you need to eliminate. The future of the breed depends on our decisions.

—Mrs. Janice M. Leonard,  
Breeder of 60 years, AKC judge, and ASSA Life Member

*Jan acquired her first Sheltie, a son of Ch. Badgerton Alert Alec, in early 1961 and bred her first litter in 1962, when she acquired a daughter of Ch Elfdale Viking. These two Shelties cemented her lifelong devotion to the breed. Jan taught obedience classes in Denver for 38 years and conformation classes for 29 years, and she has been an AKC judge for 25 years.*

[American Shetland Sheepdog Association](#)

## Spanish Water Dogs

### RUSTIC

*R*ustic is the second word in the AKC standard for the Spanish Water Dog. My Concise Oxford Dictionary defines *rustic* as "1. Having the characteristics of or associations with the country [...] 2. Unsophisticated, simple, unrefined." The AKC standard further says, "Any brushing, aesthetic trimming, or sculpting of the coat that alters natural appearance is to be severely penalized."

What does all of this mean for preparation of the Spanish Water Dog for the show ring?

In our Judges' Education, we have worked hard to help judges understand that the coat of our breed is not to be altered aesthetically through scissoring, brushing, and similar techniques.



## HERDING GROUP

Exhibitors must, however, still expect to do some preparation with their dogs prior to taking them into the conformation ring. While the structure and movement of the dog is the main consideration, this is a somewhat formal setting with long history and tradition. It is expected that judges and exhibitors demonstrate a level of respect for each other. Part of the respect for the judges is to have dogs presented in top form.

First, the dog must be clean. The dog should be bathed with an appropriate shampoo and allowed to “air dry” the day before an event. Some exhibitors may even choose to wet or lightly spray their dog at the beginning of each day to refresh the dog’s curls. Coat is such an important component of this breed that it should be presented at its best. This means clean, compact curls on dogs with shorter coat, while longer coats should be free of mats and debris.

Showing a Spanish Water Dog with a longer coat requires time and commitment. Some owners are lucky and have a dog whose coat pretty much takes care of itself. Others require ongoing “splitting” of mats and cords to develop a presentable result. If the dog’s coat is developing some length, one should be able to run fingers through the coat over the dog’s entire body, making sure that those curls/cords go all the way to the skin. Superficial



curls may conceal matting that can form a thick layer close to the skin. In addition to the potential for heat rash/hot spots, a matted coat can also interfere with the dog’s freedom of movement.

Other basic grooming should include

trimmed nails, hygienic trimming of coat as needed for individual dogs, and clean teeth. Your dog will move better with short nails, eliminate more cleanly with some thoughtful scissoring, and give a much better impression with shiny whites when the bite and dentition

is viewed by the judge. Additionally, be aware of your dog’s weight and physical condition; this is an active breed that should appear fit and well-muscled.

The other preparation for the show ring is training of both dog and handler. Those new to the conformation ring often make the mistake of thinking that it is a simple matter of running around the ring with the dog. Subtle proficiency in the show ring is the sign of a seasoned handler and dog. A handler who understands “take your dog around,” “down and back please,” and can present a “free stack” has a significant advantage.

Finally, the inherent reserved nature of this breed does not make a Spanish Water Dog a “natural” in the conformation ring. The judge cannot properly assess a dog that leans away or will not stand to be examined. Owners must take the time to support their dogs in learning to accept the touch and “hands on” of a judge. Handling classes and practice prior to attending a show will increase the likelihood of success considerably.

Good luck, have fun, and remember that you’re the one who entered the dog show; the dog just came along because of his love for you.

—Marnie Harrison,  
[MarnieH52@gmail.com](mailto:MarnieH52@gmail.com)  
[Spanish Water Dog Club of America](#)

COURTESY MARNIE HARRISON





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

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

8051 Arco Corporate Drive, Suite 100, Raleigh, NC 27617  
101 Park Avenue, New York, NY 10178

Raleigh, NC Customer Call Center.....(919) 233-9767  
New York, NY Office .....(212) 696-8200  
Fax .....(212) 696-8299  
Website .....[www.akc.org](http://www.akc.org)

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

DR. THOMAS M. DAVIES, CHAIRMAN • DOMINIC P. CAROTA, VICE CHAIRMAN

#### CLASS OF 2022

CHRISTOPHER L. SWEETWOOD  
HAROLD "RED" TATRO III  
ANN WALLIN

#### CLASS OF 2024

DR. CARMEN L. BATTAGLIA  
DR. MICHAEL KNIGHT  
KAROLYNNE M. MCATEER

#### CLASS OF 2023

DR. J. CHARLES GARVIN  
STEVEN HAMLIN  
DANIEL J. SMYTH, ESQ.

#### CLASS OF 2025

RITA J. BIDDLE, ESQ.  
DOMINIC P. CAROTA  
DR. THOMAS DAVIES  
THOMAS POWERS

RONALD H. MENAKER, Chairman Emeritus  
DENNIS B. SPRUNG, Ex Officio

#### EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

DENNIS B. SPRUNG President Chief Executive Officer	GINA M. DINARDO Executive Secretary	THEODORE PHILLIPS Chief Financial Officer
--	--	--

#### VICE PRESIDENTS

KIRSTEN BAHLKE, Purebred Consumer Demand  
MARK DUNN, Executive Vice President  
KEITH FRAZIER, Executive Vice President, Business Support Services  
SHEILA GOFFE, Government Relations  
BRANDI HUNTER, Public Relations & Communications  
DOUG LJUNGREN, Executive Vice President, Sports & Events  
HEATHER MCMANUS, Deputy General Counsel  
MARI-BETH O'NEILL, Sport Services  
PAULA SPECTOR, Corporate Services  
DAPHNA STRAUS, Business Development  
TIM THOMAS, Judging Operations

#### TRIAL BOARDS

##### APPEALS TRIAL BOARD

MARTHA FELTENSTEIN, ESQ., CHAIR  
BARBARA W. MIENER, ESQ.  
BARBARA PENNY, ESQ.

##### TRIAL BOARD CHAIRS

THERESA DOWELL, ESQ.  
EUGENIA HUNTER, ESQ.  
LAURIE RAYMOND, ESQ.

##### TRIAL BOARD MEMBERS

DR. KLAUS ANSELM  
KATHI BROWN  
CHARLES FOLEY  
MEDORA HARPER  
DONNA HERZIG  
CARL HOLDER  
LAURIE MAULUCCI  
DR. ROBERT MYALL  
HON. JAMES PHINIZY  
ROBERT STEIN  
BETTY-ANNE STENMARK  
SYLVIA THOMAS

##### PERFORMANCE TRIAL BOARD

JOSEPH BENAGE, ESQ.  
TIM CARWILE, ESQ., CHAIR  
JOHN RUSSELL

##### ALTERNATES

BILL TEAGUE  
ROBERT W. MONTLER

## ATTENTION DELEGATES

### NOTICE OF MEETING

The next meeting of the Delegates will be held at the Rosen Centre Hotel, Orlando FL on **Friday**, December 17, 2021, beginning no earlier than 10:00 a.m. It will follow the Delegates Forum which will begin at 9:00 a.m.

### MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Dogue de Bordeaux Society of America

### DELEGATE CREDENTIALS

**Kelly E. Lease**, Woodbridge, VA,  
Clumber Spaniel Club of America

**Laura Myles**, Snohomish, WA,  
Whidbey Island Kennel Club

**Tammy Porter**, Westminster, CA,  
Santa Ana Valley Kennel Club

**Leah H. Schiller**, New Carlisle, OH,  
Dayton Kennel Club

**Mary Lynn Speer**, Glenwood City, WI,  
Mastiff Club of America

### NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The AKC Board of Directors, at its July 2021 meeting, elected the Nominating Committee that is to select candidates for vacancies on the Board of Directors that are to be filled at the March 2022 Delegates Meeting. There are three vacancies for the Class of 2026. The Nominating Committee members are:

Melanie Steele, Chair, Abilene Kennel Club

Pamela Stacey Rosman, Canaan Dog Club  
of America

Patti Strand, Dog Fanciers Association  
of Oregon

Maggi Strouse, National Shiba Club  
of America

Marilyn Vinson, Southeastern Iowa  
Kennel Club

Alternates:

Marge Calltharp, Chinese Shar-Pei Club  
of America

Connie Clark, American Fox Terrier Club

### NOTICE

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

Mr. Phillip Moore (Dunnellon, FL)

Mr. Luiz Ortiz (Clermont, FL)

Mr. Carlos Puig (Round Lake, IL)

### NOTICE

Ms. Jennifer Clare (Kileen, TX) Action was taken by Kennel Club of Greater Victoria for conduct at its July 18, 2021 event.

Ms. Clare was charged with neglect of a dog at or in connection with an event. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the Event Committee's report and set the penalty as a three-month suspension of all AKC privileges and \$500 fine, effective July 18, 2021. (Shiba Inus)

### NOTICE

Ms. Linda Cunningham (Palmer, AK) Action was taken by Kenai Kennel Club for conduct at its July 11, 2021 event. Ms. Cunningham was charged with physical contact of an insulting or provoking nature. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the Event Committee's report and set the penalty at a reprimand and \$100 fine. (Boston Terriers, French Bulldogs)

### NOTICE

Ms. Jana Gibson (Bolivar, MO) Action was taken by St. Joseph Kennel Club for conduct at its July 24, 2021 event. Ms. Gibson was charged with inappropriate, abusive, or foul language. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the Event Committee's report and set the penalty as a six-month event suspension and \$750 fine. (Multiple Breeds)

### NOTICE

Ms. Anne Hier (North Branch, MI) Action was taken by the Ann Arbor Kennel Club



for conduct at its July 10, 2021 event. Ms. Hier was charged with public criticism of a judge, not disruptive, but demonstrating lack of sportsmanship. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the Event Committee's report and set the penalty as a one-month event suspension and \$200 fine. (Bulldogs)

## NOTICE

Mr. Noel Hirsch (Port Jervis, NY) Action was taken by the Kenilworth Kennel Club of Connecticut for conduct at its July 9, 2021 event. Mr. Hirsch was charged with failure to properly control a dog at an event. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the Event Committee's report and set the penalty for as a three-month event suspension and \$500 fine. (Rhodesian Ridgebacks)

## NOTICE

Ms. Kathleen McCoubrey (Lubbock, TX) Action was taken by the Abilene Kennel Club for conduct at its May 22, 2021 event. Ms. McCoubrey was charged with failure to properly control a dog at an event. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the Event Committee's report and set the penalty as a one-year event suspension and \$1,000 fine. (Dalmatians)

## NOTICE

Ms. Tiffany Vallejo (Nolanville, TX) Ac-

tion was taken by the Kennel Club of Greater Victoria for conduct at its July 18, 2021 event. Ms. Vallejo was charged with neglect of a dog at or in connection with an event. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the Event Committee's report and set the penalty as a three-month suspension of all AKC privileges and \$500 fine, effective July 18, 2021. (Bullmastiffs, Yorkshire Terriers)

## NOTICE

Ms. Heide Winings (Tower Lakes, IL) Action was taken by the Starved Rock Kennel Club for conduct at its June 16, 2021 event. Ms. Winings was charged with failure to properly control a dog at an event. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the Event Committee's report and set the penalty at a reprimand and \$200 fine. (Dachshunds, Leonberger)

## NOTICE

The AKC's Management Disciplinary Committee has suspended Mr. Joseph Ensor (Eden, NC) from all AKC privileges for two years and imposed a \$5,000 fine for non-compliance with AKC's Care and Conditions policy (unacceptable conditions, dogs, and/or facility) and AKC's record keeping and dog identification requirements, effective July 12, 2021. (Multiple Breeds)

## NOTICE

The AKC's Management Disciplinary Committee has suspended the following individuals from all AKC privileges for life and imposed a \$10,000 fine, for conduct prejudicial to purebred dogs, purebred dog events, or the best interests of the American Kennel Club based on their violation of the AKC's Judicial or Administrative Determination of Inappropriate Treatment Policy:

Effective August 18, 2021:

Mr. Patrick Darcy (Lafayette, LA)

Labrador Retrievers

## NOTICE

### REPRIMANDS AND FINES

Notification of fine imposed on superintendents for late publication of a premium list, *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* Chapter 4, Section 2

Onofrio Dog Shows, LLC .....\$2000

Jim Rau Dog Shows.....\$250

Notification of reprimand imposed on clubs for advertising and publishing judges prior to approval, *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* Chapter 4, Section 1

Cascade English Cocker Spaniel Fanciers...  
.....Reprimand

Notification of fine imposed on secretaries for failure to include all entered dogs in

the submitted results, *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* Chapter 17,

Section 2

Nina Fetter .....\$300

Deborah Cooper .....\$100

Notification of fine imposed on secretaries for late submission of results, *Rules*

*Applying to Dog Shows* Chapter 17, Section 2

Nina Fetter .....\$285

Michael Work .....\$80

Nancy Fetter .....\$80

Notification of fine imposed on secretaries for failure to include all entered dogs in

the catalog, *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*

Chapter 12, Section 4

Michael Work .....\$50

Nancy Fetter .....\$50

Notification of fine imposed on secretaries for failure to include all entered juniors in

the catalog, *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*

Chapter 12, Section 1

Michael Work .....\$50

Nancy Fetter .....\$50

Notification of fine imposed on secretaries for failure to include the correct points

schedule in the catalog, *Rules Applying to*

*Dog Shows* Chapter 12, Section 5

Michael Work .....\$50

Nancy Fetter .....\$50



Notification of fine imposed on performance clubs for late submission of results, Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedure for Beagle Field Trials

Chapter 10  
 Clay County Beagle.....\$170  
 Delaware Beagle.....\$195  
 Southeastern MO Beagle Club .....\$130  
 Atwood Beagle Club .....\$170

Notification of fine imposed on performance clubs for late submission of results, Regulations for Lure Coursing Tests and Trials, Coursing Ability, and Fast CAT Chapter 10

Cudahy Kennel Club (CAT) ..... \$205  
 Cudahy Kennel Club (Fast CAT)..... \$110  
 Seward County Kennel Club.....\$200  
 Waukesha Kennel Club .....\$135  
 Berkshire Belgian Tervuren Club.....\$135  
 Greater Chicago Whippet Club .....\$110  
 Sighthound Organization of Tidewater .....  
 .....\$130

Notification of fine imposed on performance clubs for late submission of results, Regulations for Herding Chapter 1 and Farm Dog Certified Test Regulations Chapter 9

Northeast Stockdog Assoc of CT .....\$140  
 County-Wide Dog Training Club.....\$180

Notification of fine imposed on performance clubs for late submission of results, Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedure for

Pointing Breeds

Chapter 13  
 Northern CO Brittany Club .....\$110  
 Four Lakes GSP Club.....\$130

Notification of fine imposed on performance clubs for late submission of results, Regulations for Hunting Tests and Pointing Breeds Chapter 1

Buckeye Brittany Club .....\$130

Notification of fine imposed on performance clubs for late submission of results, Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedure for Retrievers Chapter 13

Lumber River Retriever Club.....\$160

Notification of fine imposed on performance clubs for late submission of results, Regulations for Earthdog Tests for Small Terriers and Dachshunds

Chapter 1  
 Greater Twin Cities Earthdog Club .....\$110

Notification of fine imposed on tracking clubs for late submission of results, Rules Applying to Dog Shows Chapter 17

Burlington Obedience Training Club...\$50

**PROPOSED RHODESIAN RIDGEBACK STANDARD FOR COMMENT:**

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

lished to receive any comments prior to the balloting of the club membership. Any comments may be forwarded directly to: Mari-Beth O’Neill  
 VP Sport Services  
[mbo@akc.org](mailto:mbo@akc.org)

**General Appearance:** The Ridgeback represents a strong, muscular and active hound, symmetrical and balanced in outline. A mature Ridgeback is a handsome, upstanding and athletic dog, capable of great endurance with a fair (good) amount of speed. Of even, dignified temperament, the Ridgeback is devoted and affectionate to his master, reserved with strangers. The peculiarity of this breed is the ridge on the back. The ridge must be regarded as the characteristic feature of the breed.

**Size, Proportion, Substance:** A mature Ridgeback should be symmetrical in outline, slightly longer than tall but well balanced. Dogs - 25 to 27 inches in height; Bitches - 24 to 26 inches in height. Desirable weight – Dogs - 85 pounds; Bitches - 70 pounds.

**Head:** Should be of fair length, the skull flat and rather broad between the ears and should be free from wrinkles when in repose. The stop should be reasonably well

defined. *Eyes* - should be moderately well apart and should be round, bright and sparkling with intelligent expression, their color harmonizing with the pigment of the dog. *Ears* - should be set rather high, of medium size, rather wide at the base and tapering to a rounded point. They should be carried close to the head. *Muzzle* - should be long, deep and powerful. The lips clean, closely fitting the jaws. Clear faced or masked dogs are equally correct and neither is preferred. A clear face with black or brown/liver pigmentation only on nose, lips, and around the eyes, or a masked face with black or brown/liver pigmentation is correct as long as the color is not continuing with a solid mask over the eyes. A darker ear often accompanies the darker masked dog. *Nose* - should be black or brown, also known as liver. No other colored nose is permissible. A black nose should be accompanied by dark eyes, a brown or liver nose with amber eyes. *Bite* - jaws level and strong with well-developed teeth, especially the canines or holders. Scissors bite preferred.

**Neck, Topline, Body** - The *neck* should be fairly long. It should be strong, free from throatiness and in balance with the dog. The chest should not be too wide, but very deep and capacious, ribs moderately well sprung, never rounded like barrel hoops



(which would indicate want of speed). The back is powerful and firm with strong loins which are muscular and slightly arched. The *tail* should be strong at the insertion and generally tapering towards the end, free from coarseness. It should not be inserted too high or too low and should be carried with a slight curve upwards, never curled or gay.

**Forequarters:** The shoulders should be sloping, clean and muscular, denoting speed. Elbows close to the body. The forelegs should be perfectly straight, strong and heavy in bone. The feet should be compact with well-arched toes, round, tough, elastic pads, protected by hair between the toes and pads. Dewclaws may be removed.

**Hindquarters:** In the hind legs the muscles should be clean, well defined and hocks well down. Feet as in front.

**Coat:** Should be short and dense, sleek and glossy in appearance but neither woolly nor silky.

**Color:** The color ranges from light wheaten to red wheaten; all shades are equally acceptable. The hair is banded, lighter at the base, darker at the tip. A little white on the chest and toes permissible

but excessive white there, on the belly, or above the toes is undesirable.

Clear-faced dogs or masked dogs are equally correct and neither is preferred. Black-nosed dogs may have black muzzles with or without dark colored ears; brown-nosed dogs may have brown muzzles with or without dark colored ears. Dark hairs (black in black-nosed dogs, dark brown in brown-nosed dogs) on the topkull (widow's peak), throat and tail are acceptable; however, dark hairs should never be so profuse throughout the coat/body as to detract from the overall wheaten impression of the dog. Disqualification: Any color or pattern other than the wheaten shades previously described, including but not limited to black and tan, brown and tan, solid black, sable, brindle, blue dilute, and tricolor.

**Ridge:** The hallmark of this breed is the ridge on the back which is formed by the hair growing in the opposite direction to the rest of the coat. The ridge must be regarded as the characteristic feature of the breed. The ridge should be clearly defined, tapering and symmetrical. It should start immediately behind the shoulders and continue to a point between the prominence of the hips and should contain two identical crowns (whorls) directly opposite each other. The

lower edge of the crowns (whorls) should not extend further down the ridge than one third of the ridge. Disqualification - Ridgelessness. Serious Fault - One crown (whorl) or more than two crowns (whorls).

**Gait:** At the trot, the back is held level and the stride is efficient, long, free and unrestricted. Reach and drive expressing a perfect balance between power and elegance. At the chase, the Ridgeback demonstrates great coursing ability and endurance.

**Temperament:** Dignified and even tempered. Reserved with strangers.

### Scale of Points

General appearance, size, symmetry and balance	15
Ridge	20
Head	15
Legs and Feet	15
Neck and Shoulders	10
Body, Back, Chest and Loin	10
Gait	10
Coat and Color	3
Tail	<u>2</u>
Total	100

### Disqualification:

*Ridgelessness.*

*Any color or pattern other than the wheaten*

*shades previously described, including but not limited to black and tan, brown and tan, solid black, sable, brindle, blue dilute, and tricolor.*

### PROPOSED TREEING WALKER COONHOUND STANDARD FOR COMMENT:

In accordance with the Guidelines for Breed Standard Revisions this is being published to receive any comments prior to the balloting of the club membership. Any comments may be forwarded directly to:

Mari-Beth O'Neill  
VP Sport Services  
[mbo@akc.org](mailto:mbo@akc.org)

**General Appearance:** The Treeing Walker is perfectly suited for the task for which it was bred - locating, tracking and treeing wild raccoons in their natural habitat. The breed's competitive spirit makes it the ideal choice for competitive coonhound events where the breed excels. The Treeing Walker Coonhound is alert, intelligent, active, courteous, and courageous with extreme endurance and the desire to perform. These traits along with dominant success in competitive Nite Hunts, have made the Treeing Walker the most popular of all coonhound breeds and earned it the nickname "The People's Choice". An athletic hound, known to range widely, the Treeing Walker should be muscular and



well balanced. Carrying its head up it moves effortlessly with its tail carried saber-like.

**Size, Weight, Proportion, Substance:**

*Height* - Slightly more at shoulders than at hips. Shoulders should measure: Males, 22 to 27 inches, Females, 20 to 25 inches.

Puppies up to 12 months are exempt from minimum height standards.

Disqualification: Males under 22 inches or over 27 inches and females under 20 inches or over 25 inches.

*Proportion* - Measured from point of shoulder to the buttocks and withers to ground. The length of the body is slightly greater than the height at the withers. Balance is key with all of the parts coming together to form the whole. *Substance* - the individual should have moderate bone with good muscle tone as this breed is bred to hunt. *Weight* - Should be in proportion to the dog's height. Working dogs are not to be penalized when shown, if slightly underweight.

**Head:** *Skull* - Should be medium length with the occipital bone prominent; cranium is to be broad and full. Fault - very flat narrow skull; having excess of bone; not in proportion to the body. *Ears* - Should be set at eye level, slightly above or below is acceptable, and of medium

length, reaching to or almost to the nose leather. Oval or round at the tip, hanging gracefully towards the muzzle. Fault - short ears set high on the head. *Eyes* - large and almond shape, set well apart with soft hound-like expression, pleading and gentle; dark in color, brown or black. Fault - yellow or light eyes, protruding or small or droopy eyelids. *Muzzle* - Medium length and rather square-cut, well-proportioned in width with the skull, flews should cover lower jaw; medium stop, neither Roman-nosed nor dish faced. Nostrils - Well-opened and always black. Fault - any other color than black. *Bite* - Teeth should fit evenly with a scissors bite. A level bite is acceptable. Disqualification: Undershot, overshot or wry bite.

**Neck, Topline, Body:** *Neck* and Throat - clean with no excess of skin, neck of medium length, rising from the shoulders cleanly; strong but not loaded, smooth. Fault - short, thick neck carried in line with the shoulders; throatiness, excessive dewlap. Shoulder - blade sloping forward and downward at a 45-degree angle to the ground; presenting a laid-back appearance, neither loaded nor heavy, providing freedom of movement and strength. Length of shoulder blade and upper arm to be equal. Straight, upright shoulders, short and/or straight upper arms should

be severely penalized. Chest and Ribs - Depth of chest is more important than width; descending approximately to the point of elbow. Ribs well sprung, never flat or slab-sided with a moderate tuck-up. Serious Fault: disproportionately wide or with lack of depth or wasp-waisted. Back and Loins - Strong, muscular back of moderate length; *topline* nearly level or sloping slightly from shoulder to rear with a slightly rounded croup. Fault - higher in the rear (hips) than at the withers, roached or sway-back. *Tail* - Set moderately high, coming right nearly off the topline, carried well up and saber-like, strong at root, and moderately long and tapered without flag or excessive brush. Fault - having an excess of curve in the tail; rat tail; excessive brush.

**Forequarters:** Forelegs - Straight and parallel to each other, from elbow to pastern. Pastern, from the joint to the top of the foot is strong and distinct, slightly slanting but standing almost perpendicular to the ground. Length of leg from elbow to ground is approximately one-half the height at the withers. Faults - out at the elbow, crooked forelegs, weak pasterns, knuckling over. Feet - thick pads, well-arched toes with strong nails, giving a 'cat foot' appearance, tight. No rear dewclaws. Front dewclaws

may be removed. Nails should be of moderate length. Major Fault - flat, splayed feet.

**Hindquarters:** Hind Legs - Muscular and powerful with great propelling leverage. Well muscled thighs of considerable length, with a well-defined second thigh. Stifles are well bent. Clean hocks. Legs viewed from the rear are parallel. Defined angulation denotes endurance and power.

**Coat:** Smooth hair that is glossy and short, yet dense enough for protection while being a close and hard hound coat. Fault - too short or long, too thin.

**Color:** Tri-colored is preferred, white, black and tan. White may be the predominant color with black marking and tan trim; or black may be the predominant color with white marking and tan trim, such as a saddleback or blanket back. White with tan spots or white with black spots. Disqualification: Any color other than listed. i.e. blue, liver, chocolate.

**Gait:** Gait is smooth and effortless, free and balanced, showing good reach in the front with a powerful drive in the rear quarters, producing efficient movement, covering ground effortlessly. The top line should be carried firmly with the head just



above and tail up. Hackney in front or bicycling in the rear, or excessive extension should be severely penalized.

**Temperament:** Even-tempered. May be reserved but never shy or aggressive.

**Note** - Dogs will not be penalized for scars or blemishes due to hunting injuries or freeze brands used for identification.

#### **Disqualifications:**

*Males under 22 inches or over 27 inches and females under 20 inches or over 25 inches.*

*Undershot, overshot or wry bite.*

*Any color other than listed. i.e. blue, liver, chocolate.*

#### **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](mailto: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 APPLICANT**

**Ms. Darlene Steele (109821) VA**  
(815) 325-2429  
927rossans@gmail.com  
Irish Setters, JS

#### **ADDITIONAL BREED JUDGING APPLICANTS**

**Mrs. Terry L. Berrios (7393) GA**  
(678) 447-6383  
judgeberrios@gmail.com  
Dachshunds

**Ms. Alisa Brotherhood (103359) TX**  
(281) 989-3130  
touchstone0525@att.net  
Alaskan Malamutes, Dogo Argentinos, Rottweilers, Samoyeds, Siberian Huskies

**Mrs. Danelle M. Brown (7231) TX**  
(254) 498-3417  
nomadcorgis@att.net  
Lhasa Apsos, Shiba Inu, Tibetan Terrier, Xoloitzcuintli

**Ms. Kathi Brown (55262) MA**  
(978) 807-4593  
kmbrownsience@verizon.net  
Azawakhs, Basset Hounds, Grand Bassets Griffons Vendeens, Ibizan Hounds, Petits Bassets Griffons Vendeens, Plott Hounds

**Mr. Joseph Buchanan (104137) PA**  
(610) 931-3670  
josephbuchanan@hotmail.com  
Azawakhs, Basenjis, Black and Tan Coonhounds, Dachshunds, Grand Bassets Griffons Vendeens, Scottish Deerhounds

**Mrs. Christine E. Calcinari (7041) NH**  
(303) 334-9816  
belhaven.nh@icloud.com  
Affenpinschers, Cavalier King Charles Spaniels, Italian Greyhounds, Maltese, Papillons, Pekingese, Pomeranians

**Mrs. April Clyde (52836) DE**  
(302) 542-3033  
laprilclyde@gmail.com  
Biewer Terriers, Pomeranians, American Eskimo Dogs, Bichons Frises, Boston Terriers, Dalmatians, Tibetan Terriers, Xoloitzcuintli

**Ms. Sandra S. Coffman (96285) KS**  
(785) 582-5186  
coffmantribe@gmail.com

Balance og Non-Sproting (Cotons de Tulear, Xoloitzcuintli)

**Mr. John Constantine-Amodei (26418) FL**  
(215) 527-0056  
john@adamis.org  
American Foxhounds, Black and Tan Coonhounds, Bloodhounds, Bluetick Coonhounds, English Foxhounds, Otterhounds, Redbone Coonhounds, Treeing Walker Coonhounds

**Dr. Daniel W. Dowling (5972) ME**  
(207) 785-4494  
drdaniel@tidewater.net  
Balance of Non-Sporting (Bichons Frises, Cotons du Tulear, Finnish Spitz, Tibetan Spaniels)

**Mr. Ted W. Eubank (53715) TX**  
(214) 649-1104  
teubank143@aol.com  
Barbets, Chesapeake Bay Retrievers, Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers, Weimaraners

**Ms. Julie Felten (17972) IL**  
(847) 526-9332  
jacfelten@aol.com  
Boston Terriers, Bulldogs, Chow Chows, French Bulldogs, Keeshonden, Lowchen

**Mr. Roger D. Gifford (7132) OH**  
(937) 689-2679  
luvfarside@aol.com  
Australian Shepherds, Bearded Collies

**Mrs. Lisa Graser (37267) TN**  
(608) 655-1993  
bluhvns@msn.com



Smooth Fox Terriers, Kerry Blue Terriers, Norfolk Terriers, Sealyham Terriers, Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers, Staffordshire Bull Terriers

**Dr. Cynthia Hutt (95461) CO**

(720) 933-8328  
lapicfern@gmail.com

Balance of Herding (Bearded Collies, Beaucerons, Belgian Laekinois, Miniature American Shepherds, Pembroke Welsh Corgis)

**Mr. Christopher King (107521) TX**

(575) 631-7867  
cmking79@hotmail.com

Boston Terriers, French Bulldogs, Lhasa Apsos

**Ms. Kerry L. Kirtley (101393) CA**

rbisdogs@gmail.com  
Miniature American Shepherds

**Mrs. Linda C. Krukar (7250) FL**

(203) 913-9045  
dabneydobes@me.com  
Brittanys, Pointers, German Shorthaired Pointers, Golden Retrievers, Italian Greyhounds, Papillons, Lhasa Apsos, Schipperkes, Shiba Inu, Tibetan Spaniels, Tibetan Terriers, Xoloitzcuintli

**Ms. Dayna S. Lemke (96959) CA**

(530) 306-0305  
daydreamsbts@gmail.com  
American Staffordshire Terriers

**Mrs. Carol A. Makowski (18958) CO**

(303) 665-9007

bristleconeassets@yahoo.com  
Otterhounds, Scottish Deerhounds

**Mrs. Erika K. Moureau (31655) TX**

(713) 204-6833  
texicandog11@gmail.com  
Bulldogs

**Ms. Mary C. Murphy-East (36967) MN**

(763) 291-2263  
marmcmurph@aol.com  
German Wirehaired Pointers, American Water Spaniels, Clumber Spaniels, Irish Water Spaniels, Sussex Spaniels

**Mr. Gary L. Myers (96615) CA**

(619) 992-4393  
webe\_gm@yahoo.com  
Airedale Terriers, American Staffordshire Terriers, Cairn Terriers, Russell Terriers, Skye Terriers, Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers

**Mrs. Angela Pickett (100269) FL**

(407) 252-3111  
pickettpap@aol.com  
American English Coonhounds, Beagles, English Foxhounds, Greyhounds, Harriers, Norwegian Elkhounds, Redbone Coonhounds, Rhodesian Ridgebacks, Scottish Deerhounds

**Ms. Laura Reeves (105393) OR**

(541) 761-1867  
scotiadawgs@gmail.com  
Brittanys, English Setters, Irish Setters, Field Spaniels, Irish Water Spaniels, Vizslas, Saint Bernards, Manchester Terriers

**Mrs. Vicki Seiler-Cushman (100265) OH**

(513) 638-1585  
seilerva@yahoo.com  
Balance of Non-Sporting Group (Bichons Frises, Chow Chows, Cotons du Tulear, Finnish Spitz, Keeshonden, Schipperkes), Clumber Spaniels, Belgian Sheepdogs

**Mrs. Inge Semenschin (27410) CA**

(707) 639-7555  
midnightpoodles@sbcglobal.net  
Irish Wolfhounds

**Mrs. Keiko Shimizu (101335) CA**

(944) 537-6217  
keiko.featherquest@gmail.com  
Affenpinschers, Japanese Chins, Maltese, Manchester Terriers, Poodles, Silky Terriers

**Mr. Daniel J. Smyth Esq. (6347) CA**

(609) 351-3647  
danieljsmythesq@aol.com  
Barbets, Cocker Spaniels, English Springer Spaniels, Field Spaniels, Vizslas, German Pinschers, Affenpinschers, Biewer Terriers, Manchester Terriers, Toy Fox Terriers

**Mr. Cledith M. Wakefield (80829) MO**

(573) 760-3616  
n2rotts@yahoo.com  
Balance of Working Group (Anatolian Shepherds, Dogo Argentinos, Great Pyrenees), Chihuahuas, Italian Greyhounds, Japanese Chins, Manchester

Terriers, Australian Shepherds, Belgian Tervurens

**Ms. Janet Warner (103607) NM**

(253) 255-6796  
janagram@aol.com  
Spinoni Italiani, Affenpinschers, Chow Chows, Lhasa Apsos, Lowchen, German Shepherd Dogs

**Ms. Margaret "Margie" Wilson (67005) WI**

(262) 498-7896  
wufwuf113@aol.com  
German Wirehaired Pointers, Curly-Coated Retrievers, English Setters, Irish Setters, Clumber Spaniels, Cocker Spaniels, English Springer Spaniels, Field Spaniels, Welsh Springer Spaniels, Vizslas

**JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP JUDGING APPLICANTS**

**Miss Riley Capton (109913) CA**

(213) 434-1103  
moodinteriors@yahoo.com

**Ms. Sandra Ebarb (109893) KS**

(316) 253-4140  
sebarb1954@gmail.com

**Ms. Paula Kropidowski (107280) WI**

(715) 572-9997  
pkropidowski@yahoo.com

**PERMIT JUDGES**

The following persons have been approved on a **Permit** basis for the designated



breeds in accordance with the current judging approval process. *They may now accept assignments* and the fancy may still offer comments to Judging Operations.

## NEW BREED PERMIT JUDGE

**Ms. C. Cornelia (Conny) Hansen (105952) IA**  
(319) 530-7722  
sccch81@netins.net  
Cavalier King Charles Spaniels

## ADDITIONAL BREED PERMIT JUDGES

**Mr. Richard D. Albee (57263) AL**  
(334) 821-7829  
albeerd@charter.net  
American English Coonhounds, Basenjis, Basset Hounds, Bluetick Coonhounds, English Foxhounds, Irish Wolfhounds, Whippets

**Dr. Azalea A. Alvarez (97321) FL**  
(954) 434-0318  
minsmere954@yahoo.com  
Balance of Toy Group (Biewer Terriers, Japanese Chins, Russian Toys ) Bichons Frises, Boston Terriers, Chinese Shar-Pei, Chow Chows, Dalmatians, Lhasa Apsos, Shiba Inu, Tibetan Spaniels, Tibetan Terriers, Xoloitzcuintli

**Miss Camille Lynne Bakker (105195) CA**  
(916) 208-0393  
bobbibakker@aol.com  
Dachshunds, Affenpinschers, Biewer Terriers, Cavalier King Charles Spaniels,

Chihuahuas, English Toy Spaniels, Manchester Terriers, Papillons  
**Mrs. Liz Bianchi (55587) VA**  
(757) 285-4868  
chefliz@cox.net  
Bernese Mountain Dogs, Kuvaszok, Icelandic Sheepdogs

**Mrs. Lorraine Wegmann Bisso (6094) LA**  
(504) 782-1652  
regel@bellsouth.net  
Black and Tan Coonhounds, Borzois, Red-bone Coonhounds, Shetland Sheepdogs

**Mrs. Regina "Regi" Bryant (105299) CA**  
(209) 327-8778  
catoriaussies@gmail.com  
Belgian Malinois, Belgian Tervuren, Miniature American Shepherds, Norwegian Buhunds

**Mrs. Beth Downey (102539) MS**  
(410) 829-2455  
bethdowney539@gmail.com  
Balance of Working Group (Boerboels, Chinooks, Dogo Argentinos, Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs, Kuvaszok), Beagles, Australian Cattle Dogs, Australian Shepherds, Collies

**Mrs. Sulie Greendale-Paveza (7516) FL**  
(815) 353-2241  
suliegp@comcast.net  
Balance of Non-Sporting Group (Bichons Frises, Finnish Spitz, Lhasa Apsos, Shiba Inu)

**Mr. Ronald V. Horn (65755) CO**  
(303) 797-8642  
vnnewf@gmail.com  
Cavalier King Charles Spaniels, Chihuahuas, Miniature Pinschers, Papillons, Pekingese

**Mr. Mark R. Kennedy (1191) PA**  
(724) 733-0588  
mkr404@live.com  
Barbets, Nederlandse Kooikerhondjes, Labrador Retrievers, English Setters, Irish Setters, Clumber Spaniels, English Springer Spaniels, Sussex Spaniels, Spini Italiani

**Mrs. Cindy Lane (65098) GA**  
(864) 316-6351  
glane1464@yahoo.com  
American Staffordshire Terriers, Cesky Terriers, Dandie Dinmont Terriers, Glen of Imaal Terriers, Irish Terriers, Kerry Blue Terriers, Sealyham Terriers, Skye Terriers, Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers

**Ms. Tina Leininger (101522) PA**  
(717) 865-6055  
whytewynd@gmail.com  
Bernese Mountain Dogs

**Mrs. Betty Nelson Pollock (39858) TX**  
(903) 684-3091  
avalonkennel@aol.com  
English Cocker Spaniels, Irish Water Spaniels, Belgian Laekenois, Briards, Canaan Dogs, Collies, German Shepherd Dogs, Polish Lowland Sheepdogs

**Ms. Sheila Dee Paske (46304) CA**  
(530) 306-8889  
sheila@storybookdachshunds.com  
Bernese Mountain Dogs, Bullmastiffs, Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs, Saint Bernards, Siberian Huskies

**Mrs. Carlin Rasmussen-Johnson (103975) WI**  
(715) 424-5561  
carlinrasmussen@yahoo.com  
Norwegian Elkhounds, Pugs, Belgian Malinois

**Mrs. Sharon Ann Redmer (2711) MI**  
(734) 449-4995  
sredmer@umich.edu  
Balance of Sporting Group (Barbets, Lagotti Ramagnoli, Pointers, Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers), American Eskimo Dogs, Dalmatians, Keeshonden, Lhasa Apsos

**Ms. Linda Robey (6621) MO**  
(636) 677-6644  
lrobey@swbell.net  
Dogo Argentinos

**Mrs. Janet M. Schwalbe (48619) GA**  
(706) 693-7142  
reschwalbe@yahoo.com  
Bedlington Terriers, Dandie Dinmont Terriers, Norfolk Terriers, Norwich Terriers, Cardigan Welsh Corgis

## ADJUNCT PERMIT JUDGE

The following person has been approved



on a **Permit** basis for the designated breed in accordance with the current judging approval system. *They may now accept assignments.*

**Mrs. Chris A. Levy (6368) OR**

(503) 390-4864  
chris@abiquadogs.com  
Mudik

**JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP JUDGES**

The following persons' have been approved on a **Permit** basis in accordance with the current approval system.

**Mr. Bill Bates (103321) OH**

(513) 535-9858  
bill@bearcatboxers.com  
JS

**Ms. Vicki Jo Graves (99893) WA**

(253) 229-7051  
vicdory@msn.com  
JS-Limited

**Ms. Brenda Holmen (109522) MN**

(612) 817-6970  
medcitystaffs@gmail.com  
JS

**Mr. George Robert Rohde (108869) IL**

(708) 837-2222  
rohdecollies94@yahoo.com  
JS

**Dr. Geno Sisneros (98459) AL**

(952) 240-3489  
gsisneros@aol.com  
JS-Limited

**BEST IN SHOW**

The following person, having successfully **completed** the required Group Assignments in the first Variety Group for which they were **approved**, have been added to the list of judges eligible for approval to judge Best In Show.

**Mr. Richard J. Berger (5704) NV**

(775) 849-2659  
hawkeye214@charter.net

**RESIGNED CONFORMATION JUDGE**

Mr. Richard Bohannon

**EMERITUS CONFORMATION JUDGE**

Mr. Roy W. Keiser, Jr.

**DECEASED CONFORMATION JUDGES**

Mrs. Gloria Geringer  
Mr. Sherwood (Woody) Harris  
Mrs. Peggy J. Hauck  
Dr. Thomas Lee Hossfeld  
Mrs. Audrey Lycan  
Mr. Donavon Thompson

**PROVISIONAL OBEDIENCE/RALLY/TRACKING JUDGES COMPLETED**

The following persons have completed their Provisional Judging assignments and their names have been added to the list of *regular approved* judges.

**Mr. Ronald Seeley (18975) FL**

(772) 971-4151  
rseeley1337@gmail.com  
Obedience – Utility

**Dr. Kathy Evans (94787) SC**

(803) 269-3872  
arthuriandog@gmail.com  
Obedience – Novice

**Ms. Laura Feldt (100075) IN**

(502) 777-8074  
dog\_trainer411@hotmail.com  
Tracking – VST

**Dr. Cathy Greenfield (100337) FL**

(217) 390-2050  
trackingtervs@gmail.com  
Tracking – TD/TDU

**Miss Renee Hoover (99372) VA**

(434) 409-5386  
srhrotti@gmail.com  
Obedience – Novice

**Mrs. Francis Keays (97639) ID**

(208) 922-9982  
fbkeays@gmail.com  
Tracking – VST

**Dr. Franna Pitt (2941) WA**

(253) 951-9271  
normandylabs@comcast.net  
Tracking – VST

**Mr. Michael Roehrs (94623) OH**

(419) 601-1000  
mjroehrs@aol.com  
Tracking – VST

**Dr. Jeanne Thomas (99811) MI**

(734) 276-9974  
Jthoma25@emich.edu  
Obedience – Utility

**Mrs. Samantha Williams (102089) CA**

(661) 472-2617  
mezzowithcorgis@gmail.com  
Rally – All

**PROVISIONAL OBEDIENCE/RALLY/TRACKING JUDGES**

The following persons have been approved as a judge on a *Provisional* basis for the class/test indicated in accordance with the Provisional judging system. *They may now accept assignments.*

**Mr. Kenneth Kozak (106156) OK**

(405) 602-0219  
kennethjkozak@gmail.com  
Rally – All

**Mrs. Sally Sherman (105923) FL**

(352) 212-0745  
sallyshermangoldens@gmail.com  
Obedience – Novice

**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:



ADARA-Doberman Pinschers- Judy L. Dobler  
ANCHOR UP-Miniature Bull Terriers- Elizebeth A. Spain  
BEL CANTO-English Setters- Eric J. Radcliffe  
BLYTHMOOR- Harriers-Margie Dykstra  
BUCKSTONE-Labrador Retrievers-Faith V. Hyndman  
BUJO-Basset Hounds and Beagles Ann H. Chaffin and Mari A. Jones  
BUTTERFLY-Biewer Terriers-Teresa M. Harrison  
DOMUS AUREA-Doberman Pinschers- Kathleen A. Padilla  
GLENAYR-Airedale Terriers- Peggy F. Frye and Timothy M. Maher  
GOLD CUP-Newfoundlands-Erin K. Murphy and John R. O'Neill  
HEOROT-Bouviere des Flandres- Catherine L. Campbell  
HOWLIN'-Irish Wolfhounds- David W. Berzins and Risha Cupit-Berzins  
KEEPSAKE-Cavalier King Charles Spaniels- Lori C. McCann  
KLOFRON-Norfolk Terriers-Joshua D. McCutcheon  
LEATHER & LACE- Doberman Pinschers- Savannah Lewis and Kathy Twaddle  
MON AMIE-Briards-Gina M. Klang and KayCee N. Klang  
NEMESIS-Dogo Argentinos-Kristin Winter

OGEECHEE-Chesapeake Bay Retrievers- William A. Snider and Teresa C. Snider  
POLAIRE-Siberian Huskies – Kristen M. Neufelder and Nathaniel W. Adams  
PRESTIGE's Chihuahuas – Stephanie N. VanGilder  
RUFA- Dachshunds- Jonell E. Frantz and Karl A. Frantz  
RENASCENT- Welsh Springer Spaniels- Meghan Riese-Bassel  
SOLEIL-American Eskimo Dogs-Leslie K. Floyd  
TE AMO- Australian Shepherds-Kathryn M. Ross-Nash

#### **REGISTERED NAME PREFIXES GRANTED**

The following applications for a breed-specific Registered Name Prefix have been granted:

AMERICA'S DREAM- American Staffordshire Terriers-Luis Y. Morales  
DOCKSIDE-French Bulldogs- Kevin Peppers  
DOUBLE G'S-Pembroke Welsh Corgis and Danish Swedish Farmdogs-Marthina L. Greer & Daniel W. Griffiths  
ENROUTE-Australian Shepherds- Taylor R. Justice  
FOXTAIL-Russell Terriers- Karen & Stanley Kman  
HEAVENLYSCOTS- Scottish Terriers-Kristi M & Matthew L. DuPont

LAGNIAPPE- Giant Schnauzers-Holly W. & Chris J. Reed  
MOON VALLEY-Vizslas- Valorie L. Bordon  
NIOTA- German Shepherd Dogs-Kimberly A. McGrew  
OMEGAMTN-Border Collies-Gail M. Hollon  
PAZ AMOR-Havanese- Diane Moshe  
PEACEMAKERS- French Bulldogs- Lindsey Ponder  
RCKBOTTOM- Beagles- Nathan C. Taylor  
REVEROF- Pumi-Heather M. Phillips  
SOUTHERN STAR- German Shorthaired Pointer- Robbie D. & Kevin S. Jones  
WHISKEY CREEK-Chesapeake Bay Retrievers- Katherine E. Case  
WINDSWEPT-Bouviere des Flandres- Tracy M. Zumwalt



**AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB, INC.  
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
AKC OFFICES AT  
101 PARK AVENUE, NEW YORK, NY  
AUGUST 9-10, 2021**

The Board convened on Monday, August 9, 2021 at 8:30 a.m. Eastern Time.

All Directors were present; also present was the Executive Secretary.

The July 13, 2021 Board Meeting minutes, copies of which had been provided to all Directors, were reviewed.

Upon a motion by Dr. Battaglia, seconded by Mr. Sweetwood, the July 13, 2021 Board Meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

#### **PRESIDENTS REPORT**

Mr. Sprung reviewed with the Board the status of the action items emanating from the July Board meeting.

Mr. Sprung also reported the following up-



dates:

- Due to aging and ongoing maintenance of our printers, as well as service contract issues Staff will replace both printers which are used by every department; but primarily Registration and Sports & Events. This is an unbudgeted but necessary expense of approximately but not more than \$350k to be capitalized over 5 years based upon the bidding process; this is similar to the action staff took last year by replacing the generator.
- Mr. Sprung is planning to resume the Marketing and Educational meetings with The Kennel Club (UK) to exchange ideas, explore new opportunities and share successes.
- We approved another 3 positions for the Sports & Events Department, since last month's report. For a total of 27 unbudgeted positions hired based upon business needs as outlined in his 2021 budget letter. This includes twelve (12) in Sports & Events, twelve (12) Part-time Customer Service representatives, 1 position each in Government Relations, the Library and Finance department.

## **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There was an EXECUTIVE SESSION to discuss sensitive business matters. There was

nothing reported out of this session.

### **Expanded Training for Field Staff**

Mr. Sprung explained his plan to expand the training Staff receives beginning in the 4th quarter. Current required annual training includes 14 courses. This year we added a 15th required course, "Safe Sport" training for the entire company, both at a comprehensive level for those attending events and an abbreviated version for every other employee in a dedicated effort to protect youngsters in the AKC Universe. We make available approximately 300 other optional trainings, as well as presentations at our in-house Business Roundtables.

Additionally, an enhanced training program will be provided to Field Representatives, Inspectors, Directors, and key Managers. This program will provide training in numerous areas of communication, soft skills, and dispute resolution. Some classes will be required and there will be many additional elective courses offered.

### **AKC Board Policy "Event Committee Legal Expenses"**

Heather McManus, Vice President and Deputy General Counsel; Glenn Lycan, Director, Event Operations Support; and Lisa Cecin, Director, Club Relations participated in this portion of the meeting.

Based on a Board request, Staff presented suggested revisions to the Board Policy, "Event Committee Legal Expenses" which was approved in 1985.

Following a motion by Dr. Garvin, seconded by Mr. Powers, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to approve the proposed revisions to the Board Policy, "Event Committee Legal Expenses".

### **Event Committee Legal Expenses Board Policy (August 9, 2021)**

*Clubs are encouraged to obtain insurance coverage that covers all of the club's activities including the holding of AKC event committee disciplinary hearings. Given the American Kennel Club's interest in protecting the integrity of its disciplinary process, a club who receives a claim against it, its event committee or its event committee members with respect to the club's or event committee's handling of an AKC disciplinary matter ("Claim"), whose insurance carrier has denied coverage for the Claim or a club that does not have insurance coverage for the Claim can submit a written request to the AKC requesting the AKC to pay the defense costs associated with the Claim. The written request should include the following information: 1) the Claim; 2) all applicable insurance policies; 3) proof that the Claim was submitted to the club's insurance carriers; 4) all responses from each insurance company to whom the Claim was sub-*

*mitted; 5) a statement as to the club's finances and 6) proof of the subsequent acquisition of insurance coverage for event committee actions. A club that receives a Claim against it while acting as a service provider to another club does not qualify for AKC's financial assistance under this policy.*

### **Club Insurance Recommendation**

Heather McManus, Vice President and Deputy General Counsel; Danielle Weitzman, Attorney, Doug Ljungren, Executive Vice President, Sports & Events; Glenn Lycan, Director, Event Operations Support; and Guy Fisher, Manager, Club Development participated in this portion of the meeting.

Based on a Board request, Staff provided information on insurance coverage and recommended levels and types of insurance coverage for clubs to have. Staff thinks that the AKC should strongly encourage clubs to have the following insurance coverage and limits:

- 1) General Commercial Liability Coverage not less than \$1,000,000 per occurrence and \$2,000,000 in the aggregate.
- 2) Workers Compensation Coverage in statutory amounts and for volunteers if volunteers are not covered under another policy with \$500,000 Employers Liability coverage.



3) Automobile Liability Coverage for owned, non-owned and hired vehicles not less than \$1,000,000.

4) Crime Policy in an amount to cover the assets of the club. This will be discussed further at the October Board meeting.

## **Legal Update**

Heather McManus, Vice President and Deputy General Counsel, participated in this portion of the meeting. The Board reviewed a Legal Department update as of July 2021.

## **FINANCE**

Ted Phillips, Chief Financial Officer, presented interim financial statements (unaudited) through June 30, 2021. Ed Michelson, Founding Partner, Atlanta Consulting Group, participated in this portion of the meeting and gave a detailed review of AKC's Investment Portfolio.

## **Financial Results:**

Net Operating Income is \$17.4 million primarily due to higher registration and event service revenues, along with lower operating expenses.

Total Revenues of \$52 million exceed budget by 36% led by Registration Fees of \$23.7 million, Pedigree and Registration Related Fees of \$7.5 million.

Recording & Event Service fees, Title

Recognition and Event Applications fees total \$6.3 million and exceed budget and prior year by 40% and 67% respectively.

Product & Service Sales total \$6.1 million and exceed budget by 31%.

Advertising, Sponsorship and Royalties total \$7.8 million and exceed budget by 31%.

Controllable Expenses are lower than budget by 5% or \$1.4 million due to careful management of operating expenses. Non-Controllable expenses were lower than budget by \$739k due to timing of software development projects.

Compared to YTD 2020 we see the continued positive trend of Registration Fees and cost containment.

## **Non-Financial Results:**

Registration Statistics: 2021 YTD Litter Registration was 23.4% ahead of budget, 19.6% better than 2020 YTD. 2021 YTD Dog Registration was 31.9% ahead of budget, 21.6% better than 2020 YTD.

Events and Entries reflect the impact of COVID-19 cancellations. Compared to the same period in 2020, Events were up by 110%.

## **EXECUTIVE SECRETARY**

Mari-Beth O'Neill, Vice President, Sport Services; Sheila Goffe, Vice President, Government Relations and Ashley Jacot, Direc-

tor, Education participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

## **Rhodesian Ridgeback Breed Standard Revision**

The Board reviewed the proposed revisions to the Rhodesian Ridgeback breed standard, specifically head and color, submitted by the Rhodesian Ridgeback Club of the United States. (RRCUS). The current standard was approved August 9, 1988.

Following a motion by Mr. Carota, seconded by Dr. Battaglia, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to approve the proposed revisions for publication in the Secretary's Page of the September *AKC Gazette* for comment.

## **Treeing Walker Coonhound Breed Standard Revision**

The Board reviewed the proposed revisions to the Treeing Walker Coonhound Breed Standard submitted by the National Treeing Walker Coonhound Association, (NTWCA). The current standard was approved July 8, 2008.

Following a motion by Dr. Garvin, seconded by Mr. Sweetwood, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to approve the proposed revisions for publication in the Secretary's Page of the September *AKC Gazette*

for comment.

## **Kai Ken – Recommendation to Advance to Miscellaneous**

The Board reviewed a request for the Kai Ken to advance to the Miscellaneous Class. The request was submitted by the Kai Ken Society of America. The Board of Directors approved the Kai Ken to be eligible for recording in the Foundation Stock Service® (FSS®) program with a Working designation in 1997. The Kai Ken Society of America has met the requirements of the Recognition of New Breeds Board Policy approved in February 2017. Requirements include an active parent club, with serious and expanding breeding activity over a wide geographic area, and documented club activity. This will be discussed further at the October Board meeting.

## **Proposed Bylaw Amendments from Delegate Bylaws Committee**

The Board reviewed three (3) proposed Bylaw Amendments from the Delegate Bylaws Committee.

The amendments for consideration are:

- 1) Move Article VIII, Section 6 to Article VII, New Section 3
- 2) Delete unnecessary language from Article VII Section 8
- 3) Delete unnecessary language from



Article X, Section 7

Following a motion by Mr. Hamblin, seconded by Ms. Biddle, the Board VOTED (In favor: Battaglia, Biddle, Davies, Garvin, Hamblin, Knight, McAteer, Powers, Smyth, Sweetwood, Tatro, Wallin, Abstained: Carota) to consider the matter at this meeting, waiving the normal notice procedures.

Following a motion by Mr. Powers, seconded by Mrs. Wallin, the Board VOTED (In favor: Battaglia, Biddle, Carota, Davies, Garvin, Hamblin, Knight, McAteer, Sweetwood, Tatro, Wallin, Opposed: Powers, Smyth) to approve the recommended changes.

These amendments will be read at the September Delegate meeting for a Vote at the December Delegate meeting.

## ARTICLE VIII

~~SECTION 6. All elections shall be by ballot; except, if no valid additional nominations are received by the Executive Secretary by November 15; the Nominating Committee's slate shall be declared elected at the annual meeting and no balloting will be required. If no valid additional nomination(s) are received by the Executive Secretary by November 15; for any partial term up for election, the partial term candidate shall be declared elected at~~

~~the annual meeting and no balloting will be required.~~

## ARTICLE VII

**New SECTION 3.** All elections shall be by ballot; except, if no valid additional nominations are received by the Executive Secretary by November 15; the Nominating Committee's slate shall be declared elected at the annual meeting and no balloting will be required. If no valid additional nomination(s) are received by the Executive Secretary by November 15; for any partial term up for election, the partial term candidate shall be declared elected at the annual meeting and no balloting will be required.

## ARTICLE VII

**SECTION 8.** The unexplained and by the Directors unexcused absence of a Director from three (3) consecutive regular meetings of the Board shall operate as the accepted resignation of that Director from the Board.

## ARTICLE X

**SECTION 7.** The Board shall have supervision and control of ~~the official kennel gazette now called the AKC GAZETTE~~ and shall determine the manner and form in which it shall be published.

## AKC Communications Q2 2021 Report

Brandi Hunter Munden, Vice President, Communications and Public Relations participated in this portion of the meeting.

The Board reviewed the AKC Communications department's media coverage totals and activity highlights for the second quarter of 2021.

- **TOTALS:** Clips Evaluated in Q2: 8,449 (+ 95% from 4,329 in 2020)
- **Q2 Estimated Audience Reached:** 9,862,945,081 (+89% from 5,211,042,070 in 2020)
- **Publicity Value for Q2:** \$13,610,273.11 (+18% from \$11,510,343.29 in 2020)

Select Media Coverage:

- 4/16/21 - Money.com Puppy scams
- 5/18/21 - Newsday Sheila Goffe's op-ed on pet store ban
- 6/2/21 - Newsweek.com Smartest small dog breeds
- 6/9/21 - BeChewy.com Dr. Klein expertise/pet safe paints
- 6/17/21 - DailyPaws.com Unique-looking dog breeds
- 6/21/21 - TheHealthy.com Dr. Klein expertise/can dogs eat strawberries

Mrs. Munden gave a presentation on the successes and new outreach initiatives that began in Q2.

The Board was advised that press releases will now be distributed in Spanish and Chinese in addition to English to reach more dog lovers.

## AKC Education Q2 2021 Report

Ashley Jacot, Director, Education gave a presentation on new Public Education resources for teachers and young learners.

Canine College develops and manages over 600 courses and exams available for Conformation and Performance Judges, Breeders, Groomers, the fancy, and the general public.

Breed and Breeder Courses: A total of 54 breeds are now available on Canine College.

Public Education New Resources: In an effort to continue to provide new and exciting resources for teachers, Public Education created three "Compare the Breeds" passages that are targeted for students in grades 3-6 and could also be used as an enrichment resource for 2nd grade students. In addition to teaching students about different dog breeds, students are learning to compare/contrast, identify author's purpose and main idea, use text features, and identify text structure. Each activity also includes a follow up activity with an answer key for the teacher.



To further educate the general public about breed specific history and culture, Public Education created a resource series that features breeds from different regions of the world. This series is meant to promote more diversity and education for both children and adults, while educating about these breeds. It can be used both digitally and in printed form.

The Public Education team launched a new program intended for high school students seeking service hours for college applications. The AKC Leader of the Pack program is designed to get high school students involved in their communities through dogs. The mission of AKC Public Education is to foster and continue to find ways to ever strengthen the human-canine bond. By participating in this program, students will have an opportunity to give back to their own dog communities by volunteering in a series of activities of their choosing. Activity options include cleaning up your local dog park, completing several of the free courses on AKC's Canine College, participating in the AKC Canine and Me program, and becoming involved with your local dog club, among others. Students will be required to submit to Public Education a project proposal and complete 20 hours of volunteer service. Upon completion, students will receive a written letter of recom-

mendation to use in their college application process.

AKC Education hosted several webinars during Q2, including:

- "Virtual Canine Breeder Excellence Track" hosted by The Theriogenology Foundation for 44 participants.
- "Canine Medical Problem or an Emergency? When to call the vet" hosted by Dr. Jerry Klein for 17 participants.
- "Marketing Tips for Clubs" hosted by Aurora Greenberg and Cody Barr for 111 participants.
- "Whelping and Post-Whelping Care for Mothers and Pups" hosted by Dr. Marty Greer for 389 participants.
- "AKC DDTF Webinar Series: Getting Puppies Started Right for Detection: Experts Compare and Contrast Successful Approaches-Part 2" hosted by Tim Baird and Bart Rogers, in conjunction with Government Relations, for 51 participants.
- "Puppy Training During COVID-19: Advice and Best Practices" hosted by Penny Leigh for 761 participants. Since March 2020, AKC reached more than 41,243 constituents using these educational webinars.

Information was provided on AKC Canine Corner, a new newsletter from Public Edu-

cation which provides teachers with resources and activities for use in their classroom. In the first month of launch, AKC Canine Corner went to more than 1,000 subscribers. In Q3, AKC Public Education will begin offering classes for children via Outschool. Outschool provides children a place to learn about topics of interest. AKC Public Education will offer lessons on responsible dog ownership, dog breeds and groups, and dog sports.

### **Government Relations Legislation Monthly Update**

The Board was provided with Staff's monthly highlight report of active, priority legislative issues that AKC Government Relations (GR) is currently and actively working on as of June 19, 2021. To date, AKC GR is monitoring more than 2,100 pieces of legislation at the state, local and federal level that could impact dog ownership, the wellbeing of dogs or AKC events and operations. This includes positive as well as negative legislation. The most up-to-date information on legislative issues are available via AKC GR's Legislative Action Center, [www.akcgr.org](http://www.akcgr.org).

The most common legislative issues monitored year to date and in Q2 were:

1. Animal Cruelty
2. Working Dogs
3. Animal Control
4. Rescues/Shelters

5. Veterinary.

### **Legislative Alerts, & Testimony**

In the Q2, GR published 103 legislative alerts and provided written comment and/or oral testimony and legislator outreach on nearly as many measures.

### **Federal Legislation HR 4239**

The bipartisan Healthy Dog Importation Act of 2021 in the U.S. House of Representatives by Congressmen Kurt Schrader and Dusty Johnson. AKC is working with NAIA and AVMA, and other likeminded groups to advance this measure, which was developed by NAIA and AKC. HR 4239 requires owners/importers of all dogs imported into the United States to submit a valid health certificate from a veterinary agency accredited by the USDA. Certificates would demonstrate that dogs being imported are microchipped and fully vaccinated/protected against diseases (and parasites) of concern, including rabies. Dogs and records would also be subject to inspection/verification upon entry. Unlike the current CDC temporary rule, HDIA focuses specifically on individual health status rather than by country of origin.

### **AKC Detection Dog Task Force and Patriotic Puppy Program Update**

The Board reviewed a memo presented by



Sheila Goffe that provided a brief update on the AKC Detection Dog Task Force (DDTF), with an additional focus on the progress of the DDTF's Patriotic Puppy Pilot Program.

The purpose of the AKC Detection Dog Task Force is "to study specific areas in which the AKC could help address the crisis of a shortage of high-quality explosives detection dogs for US national and public security while also advancing recognition of AKC as preeminent authority on canines".

A large portion of the DDTF's focus over the last six months has been on the Patriotic Puppy Program (PPP). The purpose of this pilot program is to study whether AKC breeders can provide a suitable and reliable source of future "green" dogs that could then be purchased by law enforcement or government agencies for advanced training and successful deployment, primarily as explosives detection dogs (EDDs). If it is determined that the concept of AKC breeders providing high quality dogs detection dogs is viable, the program should also establish a path for breeders to achieve this goal that is scalable and efficient so that they can continue successfully in this endeavor after AKC tutelage is no longer necessary.

In September 2020, Phase 2 of the PPP

commenced. The primary goal of PPP Phase 2 is to establish training protocols, assist breeders and puppy raisers/trainers and place graduate puppies with local, state and federal law enforcement. The restructured program emphasizes the following:

- Increase the number of breeders/trainers participating in the PPP
- Increase the number of puppies enrolled in the PPP
- Increase awareness of the PPP among all stakeholders
- Develop a replicable and scalable training program that prepares pups for testing and placement with a variety of law enforcement agencies or related work.

For the remainder of 2021 and 2022, the DDTF will focus on the following deliverables:

- 2022 AKC National Detection Dog Conference, August 2022, Durham, NC
- Ongoing outreach with elected and administrative policymakers to improve contracting policies, increase transparency and increase funding and attention provided to U.S-bred explosives detection dogs
- Providing additional input for the Department of Defense US-bred

detection dog pilot project outlined in the proposed FY 2022 National Defense Authorization Act

- Expand Patriotic Puppy Program to increase active participation, bring on new mentors, and increase canine placement by 250% or more
- Completion of AKC Canine College Confident Puppy Courses 1 & 2.

## **COMPANION AND PERFORMANCE**

Doug Ljungren, Executive Vice President, Sports & Events; Mary Burch, Director, Family Dog Program; and Caroline Murphy, Director, Performance Events participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

## **Fast CAT®: Limiting Participation for Timers, Lure Operators and Paid Event Secretaries**

The Board reviewed a recommendation to add eligibility restrictions on dogs owned or co-owned by individuals performing key activities at Fast CAT® events. Specifically, 1. Individuals involved with timing - Currently an individual cannot operate a timer or record the time for their own dog or a dog owned by a family or household member. This is being extended to include that an individual cannot operate a timer or record the time for the same breed they, or any member of their immediate family or household, own or co-own, if their dog is

entered in the event. 2. Lure Operators - Currently an individual cannot operate the lure for their own dog or a dog owned by family or household member. This is being extended to include that an individual cannot operate the lure for the same breed they, or any member of their immediate family or household, own or co-own, if their dog is entered in the event. 3. Paid Event Secretaries - Dogs owned or co-owned by a paid event secretary, or any member of their immediate family or household, are not eligible to enter an event where the individual is the event secretary. Paid means the person is compensated in any manner, whether directly from the host club or as part of a service provider team.

These changes are being made to ensure participants remain confident that everyone is being treated equally and fairly. These are changes to the Fast CAT® Regulations.

Following a motion by Mr. Tatro, seconded by Mr. Carota, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to approve changes to Chapter 16 of the *Regulations for Fast CAT®*. These changes are effective September 1, 2021.

Chapter 16. Section 10. Course/Equipment.  
D. Timing Devices: *New second paragraph.*



An individual shall not operate a timing device or record the time for any run in which they or a member of their immediate family or household own or co-own the running dog. In addition, an individual may not be involved in timing or recording the time for the same breed they, or any member of their immediate family or household, owns or co-owns, if their dog is entered in the event. For the purposes of this restriction, All-American dogs are considered one breed.

E. Lure Equipment: *New second paragraph.* An individual shall not operate the lure for a dog they, or any member of their immediate family or household, owns or co-owns. In addition, an individual cannot operate the lure for the same breed they, or any member of their immediate family or household, owns or co-owns, if their dog is entered in the event. For the purpose of this restriction, All-American dogs are considered one breed.

Chapter 16. Section 3. Eligibility to Enter. *New second paragraph.* Dogs owned or co-owned by a paid event secretary, or any member of their immediate family or household, are not eligible to enter an event where the individual is the event secretary. Paid means the person is compensated in any manner, whether di-

rectly from the host club or as part of a service provider team.

### **Novice Earthdog Class**

The Board reviewed a recommendation from the Delegate HEC Committee to add a beginning level Novice class to the Earthdog program.

The Earthdog program offers 4 classes – Intro to Quarry (non-titling), Junior (JE title), Senior (SE title), Master (ME title). The recommendation is to add a new Novice class that is positioned between the Intro to Quarry and Junior classes. This new class would offer a NE title after having earned two passes. The Novice class is an instinct test requiring very little previous exposure to earthwork. It is very similar to the Introduction to Quarry class except the handler and judge may not provide encouragement once the dog is released. This will be discussed at the October Board meeting.

### **Earthdog Excellent Title**

The Board reviewed a recommendation from the Delegate HEC Committee to create an Earthdog Excellent title for dogs that pass the Junior, Senior or Master level test on six occasions after earning the initial title at that level. The purpose is to encourage dogs and owners to continue to participate in the sport. Approximately 50% of the dogs that earn a title at a given level go

on to participate at the next level. The purpose of the Excellent title is to encourage those dogs and owners who would otherwise dropout, to continue to participate in the sport. This will be discussed at the October Board meeting.

### **Non-AKC Events Policy – Add Three Racing Organizations**

The Board reviewed a recommendation to add three racing organizations to the list of acceptable events an AKC club may hold, provided the events are held separate and apart from an AKC event, as written in the current Board Policy under Club Policies for Non-AKC Events. The three racing organizations are the Continental Whippet Alliance (CWA), the Whippet Racing Association (WRA) and the National Oval Track Racing Association (NOTRA).

All three organizations hold racing events that are not offered by the AKC. These organizations are national, independent racing organizations that operate on a small scale. Each one offers a program different from AKC's lure coursing program that focuses on racing not coursing. The CWA and WRA offer straight track racing at distances of 150 to 200 yards in heats of five to six. These events are open to whippets only. NOTRA specializes in oval track racing for sighthounds at distances of 270 to 440 yards

on a rounded u-shaped or oval shaped track in heats of three to five. This will be discussed further at the October Board meeting.

### **Amendments to the Regulations for AKC Coonhound Nite Hunts**

The Board reviewed a recommendation to amend the Regulations for AKC Coonhound Nite Hunts.

The *Regulations for AKC Coonhound Nite Hunts* were revamped in 2005 with the last amendment approved in 2012. The regulations need maintenance to include various clarifications and additions. The recommended amendments are based on feedback received in the sport.

The following highlights those areas to be amended:

- Expansion of the hunt times to be at the choice of the host club of 60, 90, or 120 minutes.
- Specific details on how the drawing of the casts should take place.
- Clarifications of the role of the Hunt Director and Hunt Committee.
- Photo requirement of all casts.
- The use of electronic devices – what is allowed / not allowed and when.
- Scoring instructions when using a non-hunting judge, during time-outs.



- Additional scoring clarifications for awarding plus points or deleting points.
- More information on the system of informal and formal questions by cast members.
- Additional detail on conducting youth handled casts.
- Introduction of female only handled casts.

This will be discussed further at the October Board meeting.

### **New Level AKC Therapy Dog**

The Board reviewed a recommendation to expand the AKC Therapy Dog titling program by recognizing a new, higher level therapy dog title.

The American Kennel Club launched the AKC Therapy Dog program on June 27, 2011. The program currently consists of five titles which are:

- AKC Therapy Dog Novice (THDN). Must have completed 10 visits.
- AKC Therapy Dog (THD). Must have completed 50 visits.
- AKC Therapy Dog Advanced (THDA). Must have completed 100 visits.
- AKC Therapy Dog Excellent (THDX). Must have completed 200 visits.
- AKC Therapy Dog Distinguished

(THDD). Must have completed 400 visits.

AKC has received requests from dog owners who have exceeded 400 visits for additional titles to recognize their long-time devotion to therapy work and the continuing, significant, contributions of their therapy dogs. Staff is recommending the title of Therapy Dog Supreme to acknowledge dogs that complete 600 visits.

Additionally, some police departments are beginning to own and utilize therapy dogs. The AKC Therapy Dog program has been contacted and will recognize these dogs. This will be discussed further at the October Board meeting.

### **CONFORMATION**

Doug Ljungren, Executive Vice President, Sports & Events; Mari-Beth O'Neill, Vice President, Sport Services; Tim Thomas, Vice President of Dog Show Judges; Alan Slay, Director, Event Programs; Glenn Lycan, Director, Event Operations Support, Pat Lejman, AKC Booth Program Manager and Guy Fisher, Manager, Club Development participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

### **AKC Banners and Signs**

The Board reviewed a memo on the AKC

Board Policy regarding Banners and Signs and how it is currently administered by Sports and Events.

The Board Policy, Banners and Signs, directs superintendents to place AKC branded banners and signs at superintended dog shows. The policy also urges clubs to display AKC branded banners and signs at non-superintended events.

The Staff will propose recommended changes to the policy for discussion at the October Board meeting.

### **SPORTS & EVENTS COVID PROVISIONS**

Doug Ljungren, Executive Vice President, Sports & Events; Alan Slay, Director, Event Programs; Pamela Manaton, Director, Obedience, Rally & Tracking; Mary Burch, Director, AKC Family Dog Program; Caroline Murphy, Director, Performance Events; and Carrie DeYoung, Director, Agility participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

### **COVID Provisions - Event Application Process Across all Sports**

The Board reviewed a recommendation to allow two temporary exceptions to the standard event application process that were implemented due to COVID to expire at the end of 2021. Specifically (1) Event ap-

plication fees for cancelled events will not be rolled forward to the next event of the same type, and (2) The standard lead time for event applications will be reinstated.

Unless extended, the pre-COVID event application process will apply to all events to be held after January 1, 2022. This will be discussed further at the October Board meeting.

### **AKC's Virtual Sports & Activities**

The Board reviewed a recommendation is to make the pilot programs for Virtual Rally and the Virtual Water Test for Pointing Breeds permanent additions to AKC's sport offerings. Evidence indicates the virtual offerings have been successful in attracting new dog owners to AKC sports. Many of these new exhibitors live in remote areas or have unique lifestyles or challenges at home. The other virtual activities have already been approved as permanent programs. Virtual activities will continue to reach new participants and be of lasting value to AKC sports. These two activities were approved by the Board as pilot programs and may be made permanent by a vote of the Board.

Following a motion by Dr. Davies, seconded by Mr. Sweetwood, the Board VOTED (Unanimously) to consider the matter at



this meeting, waiving the normal notice procedures.

Following a motion by Dr. Battaglia, seconded by Mrs. Wallin, the Board VOTED (Unanimously) to make the Virtual Rally and the Virtual Water Test for Pointing Breeds permanent additions to AKC's sport offerings.

### **COVID Provision - Retriever Hunting Tests – Handing Off the Bird**

The Board reviewed a recommendation to allow handlers, at the direction of the judges, to place the retrieved bird in a bucket rather than hand it off to the judges.

The Retriever Hunting Test Regulations state that the handlers shall hand the retrieve birds directly to the judges. This is done so the judges may examine the bird to assure it was not damaged by the dog during the retrieve. This practice was modified during COVID to allow the handler to place the bird in a bucket, which provided greater physical separation between the handler and judge. This provision is set to expire at year-end. The sport desires to make this a permanent change. This will be discussed further at the October Board meeting.

### **COVID Provisions – Conformation Modifications Due to Expire**

Beginning in April 2020, the Board approved several recommended modifications to event policies to provide clubs greater flexibility to hold events. Most modifications will expire during the year or at year end. The Board reviewed recommendations for each of the conformation modifications made during the pandemic:

1. AKC Show Manual Indoor/Outdoor Ring Requirement
2. Additional Events - Allow up to three events offering Championship points at the same site on the same day. At least one of the three competitions must be held by a specialty club. (Expires December 31, 2021)
3. Distance an All-Breed or Group Club May Travel - Allow all-breed clubs to hold their events up to 200 miles from their territory and up to 300 miles when there are extenuating circumstances. (Expires December 31, 2021)
4. Distance a Specialty Club May Travel - Allow specialty clubs to join other specialty clubs of the same breed up to 300 miles from their territory. (Expires December 31, 2021)
5. Assignment Conflicts for Conformation Judges - Waive the 30 days and

200 miles judge's restriction policy. Applies only to conflicting weekends not events held on the same weekend, circuit or cluster. (Expires July 31, 2021)

6. Junior Qualifications - Allows for movement on the dates that juniors may qualify for AKC National Championship and Westminster. Flexibility based on event opportunities allows the AKC to adjust to meet special circumstances. (Expires December 31, 2021)
7. Premium List and 72 Hour Opening of Entries for Limited All-Breed Events -  
In order to provide fair opportunity for all exhibitors to enter All-Breed Conformation events with an entry limit, premium lists for these events are required to be published at least 72 hours prior to the acceptance of entries. All-Breed events with an entry limit must have a defined Date and Time for the opening of entries which is to be prominently displayed in the premium list.
8. Waive same day restriction for NOHS group and BIS judges allowing them to show on the day (not in NOHS). This will be discussed further at the October Board meeting.

### **COVID Provisions – Obedience, Rally, Tracking and Agility Modifications Due to Expire at Year-End**

The Companion Events department temporarily suspended or modified six regulations to offset the impact that COVID-19 caused with travel restrictions and social distancing requirements. The Board reviewed a memo outlining the Staff's recommendations regarding these modifications. The six modifications were – (1) Waiver of two judges required to earn a title, (2) Waiver of 30 days and 100 miles assignment restrictions on judges, (3) Allow judges to accept assignments to judge the same classes at two Obedience/Rally trials over the course of a cluster (4) Increase the distance between exhibitors in the Obedience Novice group exercises, (5) Increase the Tracking Test Certification expiration dates, and (6) Allow Agility exhibitors to carry their leashes during their Agility runs. This will be discussed further at the October Board meeting.

The Board adjourned at 5:24 p.m.

The Board Meeting reconvened on Tuesday, August 10 at 9:30 a.m. All Directors were present. Also present was the Executive Secretary.



## **CLUBS**

Doug Ljungren, Executive Vice President, Sports & Events; Glenn Lycan, Director, Event Operations Support and Lisa Cecin, Director, Club Relations, participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

### **Winter Garden Specialties**

The Board discussed a request for a one-time exception to the 200-mile Board Conflict Policy for the Winter Garden Specialties (153 miles). The cluster of specialties are requesting to coexist with an event that is in conflict based on the policy. The club is requesting this one-time exception to hold its event on the weekend before Westminster as it traditionally does.

Following a motion by Ms. McAteer, seconded by Dr. Battaglia, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to approve the request on a one-time basis.

### **Sample Bylaws Study Committee Follow-Up Report and Proposed Revisions to Documents**

The Board began discussion of the follow-up report and proposed revisions to four (4) documents: The Local Club Sample Constitution and Bylaws, Parent Club Sample Constitution and Bylaws, Tips and Best Practices for Effective Bylaws, and Sample Constitution and Bylaws Checklist.

In February 2021, the Board reviewed and accepted the Sample Bylaws Study Committee's report including Local Club Sample Constitution and Bylaws; Parent Club Sample Constitution and Bylaws; Sample Constitution and Bylaws Checklist; and Tips and Best Practices for Effective Bylaws. The Board voted affirmatively by majority vote to accept the Sample Bylaws Study Committee's Report at its February 2021 meeting, and the Sample Constitution and Bylaws Checklist was adopted as a new policy.

There were additional changes suggested by the Board. Following a motion by Dr. Garvin, seconded by Dr. Battaglia, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to consider the matter at this meeting, waiving the normal notice procedures.

Following a motion by Dr. Garvin, seconded by Ms. Biddle, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to approve the Sample Constitution and Bylaws Checklist with the recommended changes.

### **Letters of Objection to Delegate appointment**

In accordance with Article IV, Section 6 of the AKC Bylaws which states that "Any person, Club or Association which may desire to object to the admission of a candidate for membership may do so by sending a let-

ter to the Board of Directors of the AKC stating the reasons for such objection and such letter will be considered a privileged communication the contents of which must not be disclosed." the Board reviewed a Staff memo outlining letters of objection that were received concerning the approval of a Delegates credentials. The objections were deemed insufficient to prevent approval which occurred in Consent later in the meeting.

### **Delegates and Member Clubs**

The Board reviewed a report on the prospective Delegate credentials to be published in two issues of the *AKC Gazette*, requests for AKC membership applications, and a report on Member Club Bylaws approved and newly licensed clubs.

### **Report on Member Clubs Bylaws approved in June and July 2021**

Macon Kennel Club, Macon, GA (1994)

### **Report on Newly Licensed Clubs approved in June and July 2021**

Kennel Club of North Mississippi, greater Olive Branch, MS (including communities to TN/MS state line, south to Sardis, east to I-22 including towns of Holly Springs and Ashland), 39 households, 26 local.

Sarasota Kennel Club, greater Sarasota, FL,

46 total households, 32 local.

## **COMPLIANCE**

Bri Tesarz, Director, Compliance, and Heather McManus, Vice President and Deputy General Counsel participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

### **Adding New Penalty for the Offense of Knowingly bringing a dog on event grounds that displayed clinical symptoms or had been recently exposed to a communicable disease**

Following the amendment to Dog Show Rules passed in September 2020, dogs with communicable diseases are prohibited on show premises. However, the language prohibiting dogs that are a hazard because of being exposed to a communicable disease was deleted. The Delegate Canine Health Committee and Dog Show Rules Committees were consulted and recommended that the Board establish a penalty for knowingly bringing a dog onto event grounds that has been recently exposed to a communicable disease.

The Board directed Staff to suggest solutions to solve this conflict which will be discussed in October.

*(Final Board Disciplinary actions are reported on the Secretary's Page.)*



## **INTERNAL CONSULTING AND BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE**

Mark Dunn, Executive Vice President, participated in this portion of the meeting.

### **Further Insights into the Demographics of Subsets of AKC Breeders and Demographics for AKC Registrants**

Seth Fera-Schanes, Director, Planning; Kassandra McCombe, Business Intelligence Analyst and Chuck Bettini, Sr Business Analyst participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

In previous AKC studies, breeders of certain ethnicity were identified as an understudied population. At the AKC Board's request, staff provided data to identify the geographic location of breeder subsets and well as to identify and compare dog breed preferences. Department also presented a demographic overview and some key insights into AKC dog registrants.

Insights from this analysis will be used to further personalize outreach, communications, and services to AKC breeders and registrants. Specific action items which may be taken from this analysis can provide services and communications in additional languages or prospecting areas where the AKC can obtain new customers.

### **Registration Update**

2021 will be the 8th consecutive year of increases in Dog Registration, the 7th consecutive year of increases in Litter Registration and the 7th consecutive year of increases in Unique Breeders.

Actual Registration return rates Return Rate analysis reveals that at 6 Months we are consistently seeing a 5 to 6 percentage point improvement over 2019; the best since 2004.

These successes are attributed to data collection and analysis and cross-functional collaboration across departments including Registration, Business Intelligence, IT, Education and Marketing.

### **Additional Accomplishments 2021 YTD**

- Launched Online Foreign Registration: it is now easier to submit and quicker turn-around; 33% online since launch; expect 50% of applications to be online before end of year
- Launched Electronic Litter Kits: 8.5% of online litter registrants use this service to receive litter kit immediately via digital file, avoiding US Mail delays
- Added Electronic Litter Kit Dupe printing to AKC Breeder Toolkit: any breeder can use AKC Breeder Toolkit

- to easily reprint (\$15 Fee) instead of calling Customer Service and paying for dupe papers to be mailed
- Updated AKC Puppy Folders
- Using CRM data, we enhanced the online certificate transfer process and clarified the messaging people get when they input incorrect PINs in online dog registration
- Greatly enhanced webpage on AKC.org describing Breeder of Merit and Bred with H.E.A.R.T. health testing requirements

### **MARKETING**

Kirsten Bahlke, Vice President, Consumer Demand participated in this portion of the meeting. Melissa Olund, Director, Digital Marketing participated in this portion of the meeting via videoconference.

Staff present Highlights of the second quarter for each digital platform.

- AKC.org
  - When compared vs. Q2 2019, users grew 61%, sessions grew 54%, and pageviews grew 30%.
  - Organic traffic remains by far the largest traffic acquisition source.
    - It grew 64% vs Q2 2019.
  - Key content areas for Q2 included:
    - Breed-specific content (e.g. Breed histories, breed-specific training, etc.)

- Puppy content (Parvo 101, potty training, feeding schedules, etc.)
- Health related articles (e.g. Separation anxiety, tick removal, fireworks safety, heat safety, water safety, etc.)
- Westminster news/coverage
- Marketplace.akc.org
  - Organic remains the largest traffic acquisition source for Marketplace but was down (-57%) in Q2 versus Q2 of 2021
- Shop.akc.org
  - AKC Shop has not held all the "COVID traffic surge" but has grown since 2019
  - Importantly, conversion has been steadily climbing and AKC Shop Q2 revenue beat budget
- AKC Email/Newsletters
  - The Email marketing group sent 29% more emails in Q2 of 2021 vs Q2 of 2020 with a minor decrease in open and click-to-open rates.
  - AKC Pupdate subscribers increased dramatically due to registration performance and the launch of social and paid search promotions; list size is now up to 660,000.
  - Weekly email series launched for Retriever subscribers with good engagement (18% open/8% CTO)
  - Testing of the new Nibble newsletter templates began in June. Engagement metrics remain similar for both tem-



plates but will be monitored and reviewed month over month as the new designs are finalized.

- AKC Shop email open rate and CTO remain healthy and in line with industry benchmarks, despite massive growth in the number of emails sent.

## **CONSENT**

Following a motion by Dr. Garvin, seconded by Dr. Battaglia it was VOTED (unanimously) to approve the following Consent items:

- Fast CAT® – Electronic Timers and Hot Starts
- Bred by Exhibitor Class – Rules Applying to Dog Shows, Chapter 3, Section 8
- Calculation of Age – Rules Applying to Dog Shows, Chapter 3, Sections 2, 4 & 5
- Winners Class – Rules Applying to Dog Shows, Chapter 3, Section 11
- Bracco Italiano Eligibility to Compete in the Sporting Group
- Delegate and Club Approvals

## **Fast CAT® – Electronic Timers and Hot Starts**

The Board VOTED to approve a recommendation from the Delegate HEC Committee to make two changes to the Fast CAT® regulations. The first (1) recommendation will require clubs to use electronic timers with hand-timing to be used only in

situations of equipment failure. The second (2) is to clarify that “hot starts” will not be allowed.

Both of these changes will improve consistency and accuracy of run times. With the growth of Fast CAT® and completion of the first AKC Fast CAT® Invitational, there is an increasing desire among participants to measure each dog’s run exactly the same way. This includes using the same timing devices and start methods.

Chapter 16. Section 10. Course/Equipment.

D. Timing Devices: The time to complete the 100-yard dash is recorded to the nearest 1/100th of a second (e.g. 9.11). Effective March 1, 2022, the time of the dog must be determined by the use of break-the-beam electronic timers. Two stopwatches must be available as a backup in case the electronic timers do not work. \*Through February 28, 2022, the club may use stopwatches or break-the-beam electronic timers to obtain the time. \*Clubs must specify in their premium which timing method is to be used. If stopwatches are used, there shall be two timers positioned at the finish line. An individual at the start line shall signal with an arm drop the moment the nose of the dog crosses the start line. The timers shall start their stopwatches at the start of the arm drop. The timers shall stop their watches

when the nose of the dog crosses the finish line. The times from the two stopwatches shall be averaged to determine the recorded time.

Chapter 16. Section 10. Course/Equipment.

B. The Start: Dogs may start up to 10 feet behind the starting line. Clubs must clearly mark the 10-foot start box on the ground. A dog may be released from anywhere within the start box, however, at a minimum, a dog’s front paws must be inside the start box when it is released. Enough space must be provided behind the back of the start box to accommodate the dog’s body to be aligned straight down the course. At the start, the lure must be resting in front of the dog. When the lure starts to move, the dog may be released. Hot starts where the dog is released as the lure passes the dog are not allowed.

## **Bred by Exhibitor Class – Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Chapter 3, Section 8**

The Board VOTED to approve a recommendation from the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee (DSRC) to modify Chapter 3, Section 8 of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows, which if adopted, would allow clubs at their option to divide the Bred-by-Exhibitor class into two age groups; Puppy, for dogs that are six months of age but

under twelve months, and Adult, for dogs that are twelve months of age and older. This will be read at the September Delegate meeting for a VOTE at the December Delegate meeting.

## **Calculation of Age – Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Chapter 3, Sections 2, 4 & 5**

The Board VOTED to approve a recommendation from the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee (DSRC) to modify Chapter 3, Sections 2, 4 and 5 of The Rules Applying to Dog Shows, which defines the minimum age of eligibility (six months) for dogs to compete in AKC sanctioned events, the Puppy class and 12-18 Month class respectively. The proposals remove language from Chapter 3, Sections 4 and 5 related to the calculation of the age of a dog and inserts similar verbiage into Chapter 3, Section 2 as how age is determined is relative to all classes. If approved by the Board, the proposal will be read at the September 2021 Delegate Meeting and voted at the December 2021 Delegate Meeting. If approved by the Delegate Body, the effective date would be March 31, 2022. This will be read at the September Delegate Meeting for a VOTE at the December Delegate Meeting.

## **Winners Class – Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Chapter 3, Section 11**

The Board VOTED to approve a recom-



mendation from the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee (DSRC) to modify Chapter 3, Section 11 of The Rules Applying to Dog Shows, which defines the Winners Class and those entries eligible to compete in the Winners and Reserve Winners classes.

The DSRC's proposal to modify Chapter 3, Section 11 inserts language to specify dogs eligible for Winners include the first-place undefeated dogs from all divisions of the defined classes. In addition, it inserts language to clearly define that American-bred and Open are the only required classes, and all others are at the option of the club. This will be discussed further at the August Board meeting. This will be read at the September Delegate Meeting for a VOTE at the December Delegate Meeting.

### **Bracco Italiano Eligibility to Compete in the Sporting Group**

The Board Voted that the Bracco Italiano will be eligible to compete in the Sporting Group on June 29, 2022. Further, the Board approved the breed standard as submitted. See Appendix A.

The breed will be moved from the Foundation Stock Service into the Stud Book of the American Kennel Club on June 29, 2022. The Stud Book will remain open until July 1, 2026.

### **Delegate Approvals**

**The Board VOTED to approve the following individuals to serve as Delegates:**

Melissa Lembke, Le Sueur, MN  
To represent Key City Kennel Club

Brian P. Meindl, M. Ed, Hampton Bays, NY  
To represent American Cesky Terrier Fanciers Association

Jennifer Modica, Cape May Court House, NJ  
To represent Union County Kennel Club

Betty Winthers, Lynnwood, WA,  
To represent Pasanita Obedience Club

### **AKC Membership for Approval:**

**The Board VOTED to approve the following Club for membership:**

Jackson Tennessee Dog Fanciers Association

Focal Point: Jackson, TN  
First License Trial: May 15, 2004  
33 Households/26 Local

### **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

There was an EXECUTIVE SESSION to discuss sensitive business matters. There was nothing reported out of this session.

It was VOTED to adjourn Tuesday, August

10, 2021 at 12:56 p.m. Eastern Time.

Adjourned

Attest:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Gina M. DiNardo, Executive Secretary

### **Appendix A – Bracco Italiano Proposed Breed Standard**

#### **STANDARD OF THE BRACCO ITALIANO**

##### **GENERAL APPEARANCE**

Of strong and harmonious construction, powerful appearance. The preferred subjects are smooth coated, with lean limbs, well-developed muscles, well defined lines, and a markedly sculpted head with very obvious chiseling under the eyes. These elements all contribute to give distinction to this breed. The Bracco is tough and adapted to all types of hunting, reliable, docile, and easy to train.

##### **SIZE PROPORTION, SUBSTANCE**

Height at the withers between 21 to 27 inches. Preferred size for males: 23 to 27 inches; preferred size for females: 21 to 25 inches. Weight between 55 to 90 pounds, depending on height. The Bracco is a solidly built dog with powerful bone, but without lumber, and without sacrificing balance and harmonious appearance. A dog in hard and lean

field condition is not to be penalized.

Important Proportions: The body is square or slightly longer than tall.

Length of head is equal to two-fifths (40 percent) of the height at the withers; its width, measured at the level of the zygomatic arches, is less than half its length. Skull and muzzle are of equal length.

##### **HEAD**

Head - Angular and narrow at the level of the zygomatic arches, its length corresponds to two-fifths (40 percent) of the height at the withers; the middle of its length is at the level of a line that unites the inner angles of both eyes. The upper planes of the skull and muzzle are divergent, i.e.: if extended, the top line of the muzzle emerges in front of the occiput, ideally at mid-length of the skull (down-faced). Dish face (convergence of the planes of the skull and muzzle) is a disqualification. The head and neck are moderate in skin. The head should have a soft fold of skin from the outer corner of the eye, falling down the cheek. When the head is down and relaxed, there is a skin fold across the skull from ear to ear. Eyes - Semi-lateral position, neither deep set nor prominent. Eyes fairly large, eyelids oval-shaped and close-fitting (no entropion or ectropion). The iris is a dark amber to orange or brown color de-

pending on the color of the coat. Wall eye is a disqualification. Expression is soft, gentle and intelligent. Ears - Well developed. In length they should, without being stretched, reach the tip of the nose. Their width is at least equal to half their length; raised only very slightly; base rather narrow, set at level of zygomatic arches. A supple ear with a front rim well-turned inwards to frame the face; the lower extremity of the ear ends in a slightly rounded tip. Skull Region: Seen in profile, the skull shape is a very open arch. Seen from the top, it forms lengthwise an elongated oval. The width of the skull measured at the level of the zygomatic arches should not exceed half the length of the head. Cheeks are lean, the bulge of the forehead and the supra-orbital ridges are perceptible. The stop is not pronounced. The frontal groove is visible and ends at mid-length of the skull. The interparietal crest is short and not very prominent. The occiput is pronounced. Muzzle - Fore-face is either straight or slightly arched. Its length is equal to half of the length of the head and its depth measures four-fifths (80 percent) of its length. Seen from the front, the lateral sides of the muzzle converge slightly, still presenting a fore-face of good width. The chin is not very apparent. Nose - Voluminous, with large

well-opened nostrils, protrudes slightly over the lips with which it forms an angle. Color brown or from pale pink to more or less deep fleshy red depending on the color of the coat. A split nose is a disqualification. Lips - Upper lips well developed, thin and floppy without being flaccid, covering the jaw; seen in profile, they overlap the lower jaw slightly, seen from the front, they form an inverted "V" below the nose; the corner of the lips must be marked without being droopy. Teeth - Dental arches well adapted, with the teeth square to the jaw. Bite - scissor or level. Any deviation (overbite or underbite) should be faulted in accordance to its severity.

## **NECK, TOPLINE, BODY**

Neck - Powerful, in truncated cone shape. Length of the neck is at least two-thirds but not greater than the length of the head. Well detached from the nape. The throat shows a soft double dewlap. Excessive skin with exaggerated wrinkling or single dewlap is faulted. Topline - The upper profile of the back is made up of two lines: one, almost straight, slopes from the withers to the 11th dorsal vertebrae (mid-back); the other is slightly arched, joining with the line of the croup. Body - Chest is broad, deep and well down to level of the elbows,

without forming a keel. Ribs well sprung, particularly in their lower part, and sloping. Wide lumbar region. Loin is well muscled, short and slightly convex. Croup is long (about one-third of the height at the withers), wide and well-muscled; the pelvic angulation (angle formed by the pelvic girdle with a horizontal line) is 30 degrees. Underline - Lower profile almost horizontal in its rib cage part, rising slightly in its abdominal part. Tail - Thick at the base, straight, with a slight tendency to taper, hair short. When the dog is in action and especially when questing, is carried horizontally or nearly. Docked - Should be docked 6 to 10 inches from the root. Undocked - Carried horizontally; length of the undocked tail is to the hock. May be slightly curved but never held high or carried bent over the back.

## **FOREQUARTERS**

Withers are well defined, with the points of the shoulder blades well separated. Shoulder strong, well-muscled, long, sloping, and well laid back, very free in its movement. The upper arm sloping, fitting to the rib cage. Forearm strong, straight, with well-marked sinews; the point of the elbows should be on a perpendicular line from the rear point of the shoulder blade to the ground.

Metacarpus (pastern) well proportioned, lean, of good length and slightly sloping. Feet strong, slightly oval shaped, well arched and closed toes with strong nails well curved towards the ground. Color of nails is white, yellow or brown, of a more or less dark shade depending on the color of the coat. Foot pads elastic and lean.

## **HINDQUARTERS**

In balance with the forequarters. Thigh long, parallel, muscular, with the rear edge almost straight when viewed from the side. Strong limbs; hocks wide, metatarsals (rear pasterns) relatively short and lean. The feet, with all the characteristics of the front feet, have dewclaws, the absence of which is not a fault. Double dewclaws are tolerated.

## **COAT**

Skin - Ample skin, tough but elastic, well separated from the tissues underneath; fine on the head, the throat, inside the elbows, and on lower part of the body. The visible mucous membranes must be a corresponding color with the coat, but never show black spots. The mucous membranes of the mouth are pink; sometimes with light brown spotting. Coat - Short, dense and glossy, fine and shorter on the head, the ears, front part



of the legs and feet.

## **COLOR**

The base color is white. The colors acceptable in this breed are: solid white, white with orange markings, or white with brown markings. The markings are of varied sizes (patches, ticking, or roan). A symmetrical face mask is preferred, but the absence of a mask is tolerated.

The orange color can range from a dark amber to rich orange. It is not lemon or yellow. The brown color is a warm shade that recalls the color of a monk's frock (Crayola Brown); it is not liver. A metallic sheen is appreciated in brown and white dogs. Disqualifying colors - Tricolor, or with tan markings, fawn, hazel. Any trace of black on coat or mucous membranes. Any solid color other than white. Albinism.

## **GAIT**

Extended and fast trot, with powerful reach and drive. Head raised, nose held high in such a way that, when hunting, the nose is higher than the topline as if the dog is being "pulled along by the nose." The fluid, powerful, and extended trot is hallmark of this breed.

## **TEMPERAMENT**

The Bracco is tough and adapted to all types of hunting, reliable, docile, and intelligent. Friendly, not shy, never aggressive, and readily makes eye contact. Extreme shyness is a fault. Aggressiveness is a disqualification.

## **FAULTS**

Any departure from the foregoing constitutes a fault which when judging must be penalized according to its seriousness and its extension.

## **DISQUALIFICATIONS**

Above or below the height in the standard  
Dish face (convergence of the planes of the skull and muzzle)

Wall eye

Split nose

Tricolor, tan markings, fawn or hazel color

Any trace of black on coat or mucous membranes

Any solid color other than white

Albinism

Aggressiveness

*Approved October 2018*

*Effective July 3, 2019*

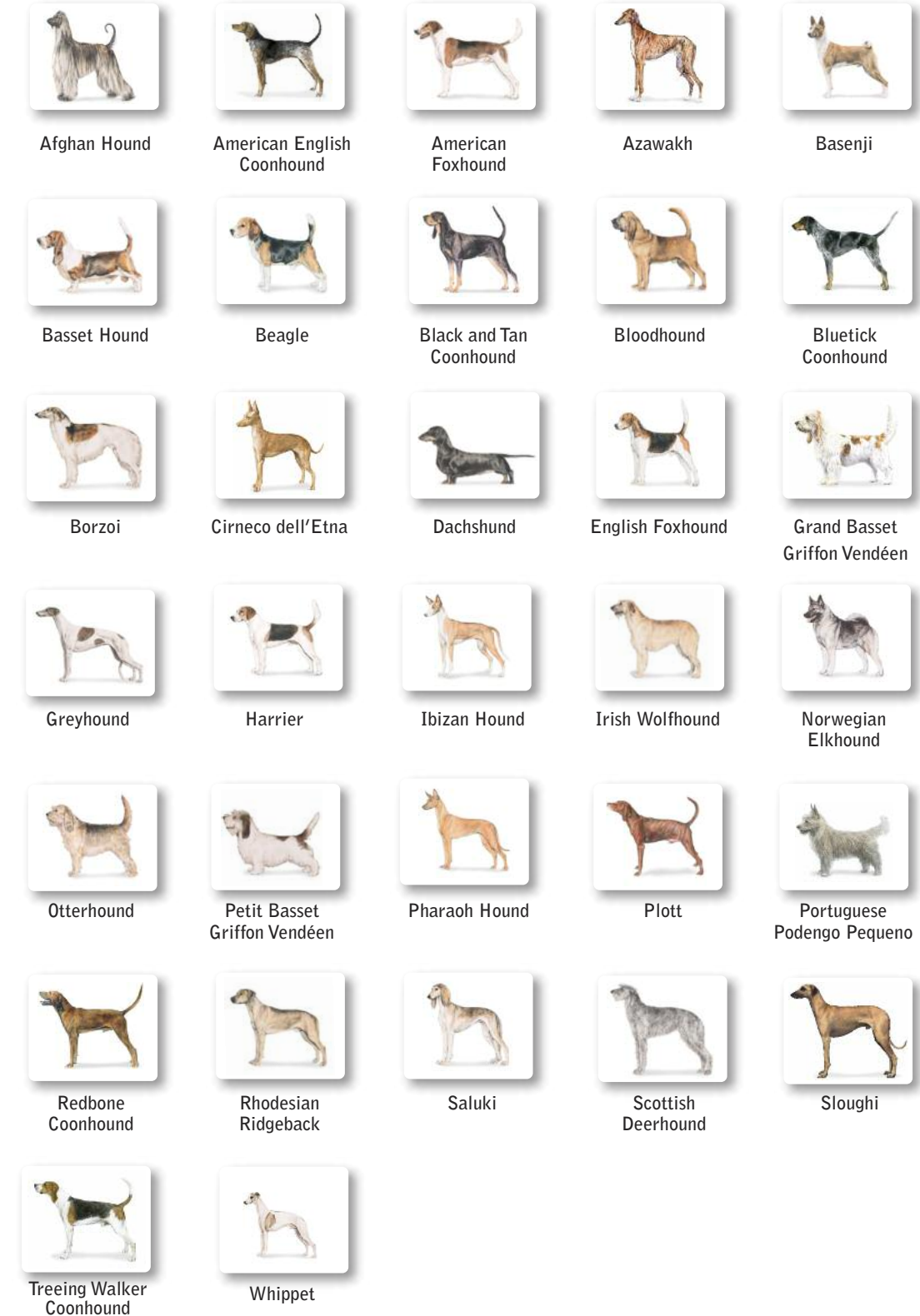
# PARENT CLUB LINKS



## SPORTING GROUP



## HOUND GROUP





# 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



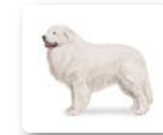
German Pinscher



Giant Schnauzer



Great Dane



Great Pyrenees



Greater Swiss Mountain Dog



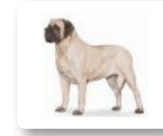
Komondor



Leonberger



Kuvasz



Mastiff



Neapolitan Mastiff



Newfoundland



Portuguese Water Dog



Rottweiler



Saint Bernard



Samoyed



Siberian Husky



Standard Schnauzer



Tibetan Mastiff

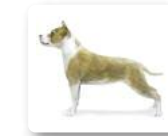
## TERRIER GROUP



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

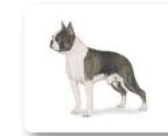
## NON-SPORTING GROUP



American Eskimo Dog



Bichon Frise



Boston Terrier



Bulldog



Chinese Shar-Pei



Chow Chow



Coton de Tulear



Dalmatian



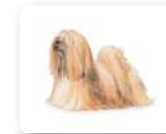
Finnish Spitz



French Bulldog



Keeshond



Lhasa Apso



Löwchen



Norwegian Lundehund



Poodle (Miniature)



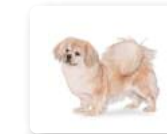
Schipperke



Poodle (Standard)



Shiba Inu



Tibetan Spaniel



Tibetan Terrier



Xoloitzcuintli



# PARENT CLUB LINKS

## HERDING GROUP



Australian Cattle Dog



Australian Shepherd



Bearded Collie



Beauceron



Belgian 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



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/>