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HOLIDAY PARTY ISSUE



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

VIDEOS

BREED COLUMNS

Toy Group

Brussels Griffons	Havanese	Pekingese
Cavalier King Charles Spaniels	Italian Greyhounds	Pomeranians
Chihuahuas	Maltese	Shih Tzu
	Papillons	Toy Fox Terriers

Non-Sporting Group

American Eskimo Dogs	Chow Chows	Schipperkes
Bichons Frises	Dalmatians	Shiba Inu
Boston Terriers	French Bulldogs	Tibetan Spaniels
Bulldogs	Lhasa Apsos	Tibetan Terriers
Chinese Shar-Pei	Poodles	

Herding Group

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

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
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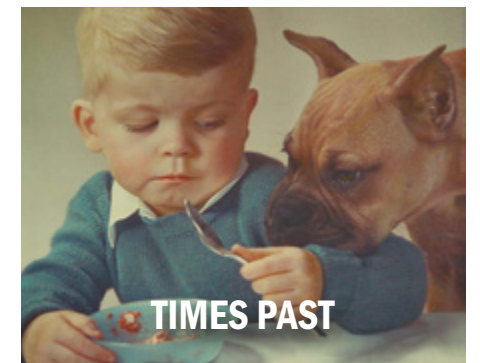
SLIDESHOW



UPDATES

SECRETARY'S PAGES

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



TIMES PAST

FEATURE THE POPULARITY CONTEST



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.



CONGRATULATIONS, WINSTON!

Congratulations to Winston, the **2022 NATIONAL DOG SHOW BEST IN SHOW WINNER**.

With his balanced and beautiful breed structure, expressive eyes, and big personality, the 3-year-old French Bulldog won over the crowd and judges. We're proud to be a part of Winston's amazing victory, fueling him with the advanced nutrition of Purina Pro Plan Sport Performance 30/20 Salmon & Cod Formula*.

*The handler or owners of this champion may have received Pro Plan dog food as Purina ambassadors.



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Your Pet, Our Passion.

ANC Caps a Banner Year

it is a joyous time of year for us at the American Kennel Club. We are grateful for Sports and Events having a banner year! We are beyond thankful to every breeder, exhibitor, judge, delegate, and AKC staff member for their work and commitment to ensure that our sports continue to grow and are shared with the dog-loving public. We are also grateful to the AKC Board of Directors for their ongoing support.

Our AKC National Championship presented by Royal Canin is once again upon us. North America's largest dog show will be held December 17 and 18 at the Orlando County Convention Center in Orlando, Florida. Now in its 22nd year, the show has a brand-new record-breaking entry total with 5,376 dogs competing for the title of America's National Champion. This year's Best in Show competition will be judged by Desmond Murphy, of Monroe, New York. We are very fortunate to gather again and crown America's newest champion.

The weekend will also include several action-packed companion and performance events that demonstrate the incredible versatility and athleticism of our dogs, including the AKC

Agility Invitational, the AKC Obedience Classic, and the AKC Fast CAT Invitational. As in previous years, the North America Diving Dogs Association will host their very popular special attraction, "Santa Splash." Each of these events give dogs and their exhibitors the opportunity to display their training and expertise. We cannot wait to see them shine.

Our AKC National Championship will be broadcast on ABC, New Year's Day, January 1, 2023, as a three-hour special at 12 P.M. ET (check local listings). Hosted by our AKC Executive Secretary Gina DiNardo and sportscaster Carolyn Manno, the show will be a fun and educational experience for viewers. It is also a great way to introduce dog lovers across the country to our brand, our values, and our mission.

If you cannot join us in Orlando, there will be several live-streams available for you to enjoy on [AKC.tv](https://www.akc.tv). The National Championship group judging and Best in Show, Best Bred-by-Exhibitor and BBE Groups, National Owner-Handled Series groups and finals, Puppy and Junior Stakes groups and Best in Stakes, Junior Showmanship finals, Agility and Obedience will each be livestreamed on AKC.tv and will be available on-demand.



We are thrilled to be headed to Orlando to share this amazing event with you.

Wishing you a safe and happy holiday season and a healthy new year.

Dennis B. Sprung
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Our Annual Holiday Party

The GAZETTE was founded in 1889, and by the mid-1920s it was an illustrated glossy magazine. During the nearly hundred years since, our December issue has arrived in mailboxes and inboxes with a smile on its face, delivering holiday gifts and goodies with warmest wishes. The GAZETTE has

always celebrated the holidays grandly, and with this issue we do our best to uphold the tradition.

In “The Popularity Contest,” we revisit the 20th century to trace a hundred years of ups and downs of the most-registered AKC breeds, illustrated with favorite breed photos from our files.

In recent years our December issue has featured the best of modern dog poetry. We change it up this year by going back to ancient Rome, where

the poet Martial sings the praises of his friend’s dog, Issa. One of the world’s oldest known dog poems comes to us in a delightful new translation.

In “Kids and Dogs,” from our December 1985 issue, a former GAZETTE editor salutes the tail-wagging teachers of our youth.

An honored guest to our holiday party is Rudolph Tauskey, dogdom’s ace photo portraitist, and the subject of this month’s slideshow.



On our Cover: “Under the Mistletoe,” by Marguerite Kirmse (1935), AKC collection



A record-setting entry will take the ring beginning December 17.

Record Entry in Orlando

ANC Draws 9,404 entries across all events

ORLANDO, FLORIDA—The 2022 [AKC National Championship presented by Royal Canin](#) has drawn a record-breaking entry: 5,376 dogs will compete for the title of America’s National Champion on December 17 and 18.

The 2022 ANC’s combined numbers represent nearly 9,400 entries. These include dogs entered in the AKC/Royal Canin National All-Breed Puppy and Junior Stakes, the AKC Agility Invitational, the AKC Obedience Classic, the AKC National Owner-Handled Series Finals, the AKC Fast CAT Invitational, Juniors events, and the North America Diving Dogs’ “Santa

Splash” special attraction. The ANC remains by far the largest dog show in North America.

“The AKC National Championship presented by Royal Canin continues to be one of the world’s premier dog events,” AKC President and show chairman Dennis Sprung says, “and we feel very fortunate to host the knowledgeable breeders, exhibitors and judges who are the heart and soul of the National Championship. We look forward to an exciting week.”

Link

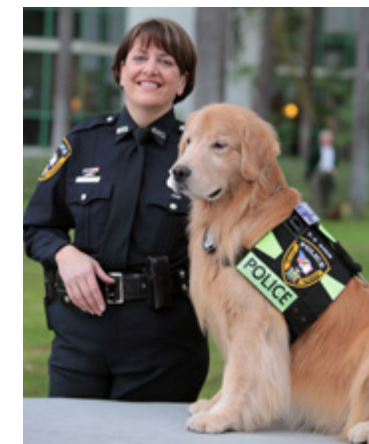
[AKC GAZETTE 2022 ANC Preview](#)

New AKC Titles: **Public Service Dog**

A titling program honors K-9s serving our communities

The AKC has announced the new Public Service Dog titles, honoring dogs who work for government agencies. To earn a title, a dog must have worked for a minimum of two years and received a minimum of two certifications in its discipline from the [United States Police Canine Association](#).

To help identify the accomplishments of these outstanding dogs, the AKC offers the following titles.



Public Service Detection Dog (PSDD) A detection dog is trained to locate and alert to a substance which may be illegal or unauthorized to possess. Examples include illegal narcotics, explosives, cadaver work, accelerant detection, game detection and contraband detection which is unauthorized to possess within a correctional facility, jail, or prison.

Patrol Dog (PSPD) A patrol dog is trained in criminal apprehension, human scent detection, obedience, and evidence detection.

Tracking Dog (PSTD) A tracking dog is trained to detect and follow the scent of a specific person and/or locating evidence on that track and to discriminate from a cross-track (separate person).

“Police K-9 officers are an extremely important and valuable part of law enforcement in our country,” says AKC Board member Christopher Sweetwood, ambassador for AKC Reunite’s [Adopt a K-9 Cop](#) matching-grant program.

“The AKC is proud to recognize the service provided by these amazing K-9 officers.”

Contact: publicservicedog@akc.org/919-816-3687

LEFT: DAVID WOO ©AKC; RIGHT: AKC GAZETTE COLLECTION

UPDATES

Family Dog Wins Eddie Award

AKC Family Dog magazine's January/February 2022 issue, "The Sniffer Issue," won Folio magazine's 2022 Eddie Award for Best Magazine in the category of Full Issue > Consumer > Animals > Pets. The Folio Eddie & Ozzie Awards is the most prestigious recognition program in publishing, recognizing excellence in editorial content and design across

print and digital media.

Family Dog's "Sniffer Issue" featured stories of a police Bloodhound on the job, a canine tracking killer whale scat on the high seas, a Rat Terrier seeking lost pets, and the art of teaching your dog to forage truffles.

"We are very grateful to receive this award from Folio Magazine," Family Dog



Managing Editor Mara Bovsun says. "We work hard to make this magazine enjoyable for readers and being recognized is a huge honor."

2023 Juniors Clinics

Informal free clinics, conducted by [AKC Registered Handlers Program](#) members, are open to anyone under the age of 18 interested in learning more about handling. The exact times and ring locations are posted at the superintendent's desk on the day of the event. Pre-registration is not necessary.

Denver Colorado KC Saturday, February 18	Saturday, March 11 Gray Summit, Missouri Columbia Missouri KC Saturday, April 1	West Springfield, Massachusetts Farmington Valley KC Saturday, July 8
Tallmadge, Ohio Medina KC Saturday, March 4	Timonium, Maryland Baltimore County KC Saturday, April 22	More information Registered Handlers: handlers@akc.org Juniors Program: juniors@akc.org
Franklin, Tennessee Tullahoma KC of Tennessee		

THE ONE BOOK EVERY DOG LOVER NEEDS



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

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UPDATES

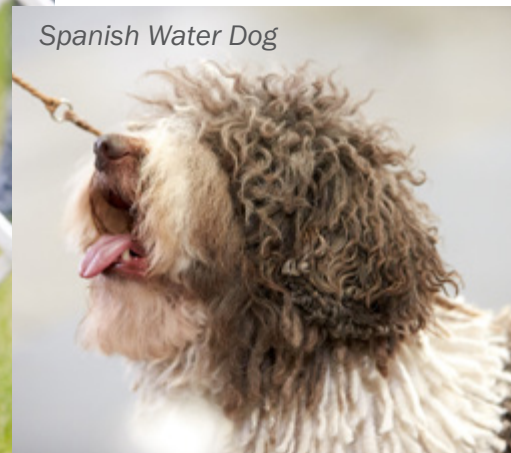
Breed Standard Revisions for 2023



German Shorthaired Pointer



Brussels Griffon



Spanish Water Dog

The AKC Board of Directors, at its October meeting, approved revisions to the German Shorthaired Pointer breed standard. The changes brought forth by the parent club are effective January 1, 2023. They involve the nose and color sections of the standard, including removing the disqualification for black.

As a result, all judges assigned to judge the German

Shorthaired Pointer, or assigned to judge the Sporting Group or Best in Show where the breed may be present at AKC conformation events held on or after January 1, 2023, will be required to judge in accordance with the newly approved breed standard.

The AKC Board of Directors, at its November meeting, approved revisions to the Brussels Griffon and Spanish Water Dog breed

standards. The changes brought forth by each parent club are effective February 1, 2023.

As a result, all judges assigned to judge the Brussels Griffon, the Spanish Water Dog, the Toy or Herding Group, or Best in Show where the breed may be present at AKC conformation events held on or after February 1, 2023, will be required to judge in accordance with the newly

approved breed standards.

The revisions to the Brussels Griffon standard are limited to the tail section of the standard: the addition of a description of an undocked tail.

The revisions to the Spanish Water Dog breed standard are extensive and affect many sections of the standard.

Previews of Revised Standards

- [German Shorthaired Pointer](#)
- [Brussels Griffon](#)
- [Spanish Water Dog](#)



Gazette Extra

Holiday-themed stocking stuffers from December issues past

1940: A Christmas Snapshot

The U.S. dog fancy's last Christmas before the war

Big Bob's Christmas in July

The Great Dane story behind a classic GAZETTE cover

The Gift of Love

A holiday pep talk for breeders from our 1960 issue

Holiday Foolery

Some of the silliest photos from our vintage collection

Temperamental, eccentric, and uniquely talented, Rudolph Tauskey became the king of canine photography in the 1920s and reigned supreme until his death in 1979. Generations of owners and handlers made the pilgrimage to his Tudor “castle” in New Jersey to have their top dogs photographed by the master. In the process, Tauskey became as famous in the dog world as the champions he immortalized.

Tauskey died on July 30, 1979. Soon after, his children donated the old man’s entire archive of canine negatives to the AKC. Sadly, most of these were destroyed in a flood during the mid-’80s. Those that survive are lovingly preserved in the AKC GAZETTE photo collection. After Tauskey’s death, Wendell Sammet said, “When Rudy passed, so did an important chapter in the history of dogs.”

Our holiday slideshow is a sampler of Tauskey portraits of show-ring immortals. The names and accomplishments of the dogs are listed on the slideshow’s YouTube page.

(More Tauskey: See [“The Tauskey Touch”](#))



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DOGGEREL

Issa is a bigger scamp than Catullus's
Sparrow—purer than the peck of a dove;
More seductive than any louche slave-girl;
More precious than strings of Indian pearls:
Issa, darling lapdog of Publius.

He hears her speak in her croons; she
knows when
He's happy or sad; she slumbers, her snout
On his neck, so soundly he can't hear her
Breathing. When her bladder's full
to bursting,
She won't let a drop touch the
sheets, instead

Nudging him with
her pawpad so that,
when
Roused, he sets her on the
floor, and lifts her
Back on the bed when she's done.
Innately
Chaste and modest, she's a stranger to love,
No mate being equal to the tender
Young bitch. Lest the Grim Reaper remove all
Trace of her, Publius paints her portrait
Which is more lifelike than the dog herself:
Place them side by side, and you would suppose
Both the real thing or both works of art.

"Sleeping Dog," watercolor by Hendrik Johannes Haverman, c.1900



“Issa”
(Epigram 1.09)

By Martial, Roman poet, circa A.D. 100
Translated by Duncan Woo

The American Kennel Club was founded in 1884 but really hit its stride during the 100 years, beginning in 1900, known as the “American Century.” At the beginning of the new century, the AKC was a gentlemen’s club ruled by the narrow interests of Northeastern power brokers. At century’s end, the AKC was a multifaceted service organization of national scope and reach.

The engine that drove the AKC’s growth and diversification was a simple fact: Americans love our breeds and cannot imagine life without them. Here, we take a look at the variable popularity of those breeds, based on a hundred years of AKC registrations.

PRELUDE

As the 1890s draw to a close, the Saint Bernard reigns as the decade’s most-registered AKC breed. This is due to the Saint’s vogue as a popular show dog among big-kennel owners of the late 1800s. To this day, the Saint is the only giant breed to secure the AKC’s top spot, as well as the only number-one breed to never again appear in the top 10.

Also in the 1890s’ top 10 is another giant never again to reach such heights in the registration rankings, the Great Dane.

Among other high-registration breeds of the Gilded Age are English Setters, Pointers, Collies, and the fox terrier breeds.



The ups and downs of the 20th century’s most-registered AKC breeds.

The Popularity Contest

The Saint Bernard began the 1900s as the AKC’s top dog, but the breed’s popularity soon plummeted (Lynda Beam photo).

Lynda Beam

COURTESY LYNDA BEAM

1900S

1. Collie

The Collie, on a continual climb since its number-seven position in the 1880s, becomes the number-one breed of the new century's first decade. The breed ranks in the top 10 for seven decades of the 20th century.

The decade's number-two breed, the Boston Terrier, stays in the top three for five decades, peaking at number-one in the 1910s and 1930s.

2. Boston Terrier
3. English Setter
4. Bull Terrier
5. Pointer
6. Cocker Spaniel
7. Bulldog
8. Airedale Terrier
9. Beagle
10. Irish Terrier

1910S

1. Boston Terrier

The Boston Terrier, a top-10 breed for six decades of the 20th century, remains the



COURTESY REE SMYTH



The dashing German Shepherd Dog ruled show rings of the Jazz Age.

Lynda Beam

1920S



The city-built Boston Terrier prospered during the new century's demographic shift from country to town.

1910S

only “made in the U.S.A.” breed to reach the number-one position, a feat the breed accomplished twice. The Airedale Terrier reached the number-two position, the highest the breed would ever climb. The King of Terriers appeared in the top 10 for three consecutive decades

and then never regained such popularity. The decade also marked the French Bulldog’s climb into the top 10. It would be a hundred years before the Frenchie returns to that rarified air.

Recognized by AKC in 1906, the Pekingese makes its first appearance in the top 10.

It would remain there for six consecutive decades.

2. Airedale Terrier
3. Collie
4. Beagle
5. Bulldog
6. French Bulldog
7. English Setter
8. Cocker Spaniel

9. Pekingese
10. Bull Terrier

1920S

1. German Shepherd Dog
GSD movie stars Rin Tin Tin and Strongheart help popularize their breed in America. The GSD overtakes the Boston Terrier in 1925 and becomes the decade’s number-one breed. The GSD then disappears from the top 10 until after World War II, when it reemerges as the number-six dog of the 1950s.

The 1920s also see the Chow Chow climb to number three, the highest ranking the breed would ever achieve.

2. Boston Terrier
3. Chow Chow
4. Pekingese
5. Wire Fox Terrier
6. Collie
7. Beagle
8. Airedale
9. Cocker Spaniel
10. Bulldog

FEATURE

1930S

1. Boston Terrier

The Boston becomes the first breed to enjoy the number-one position for two decades; the breed fell to the number-two position in the 1920s after its initial reign as number-one in the 1910s. The records of the Boston Terrier Club of America show that the breed was number-one or number-two for every year between 1905 and 1935.

A top-10 breed since the 1890s, the Cocker Spaniel began an impressive climb in the 1930s, gaining the number-two position. It is no surprise that during the Great Depression all 10 top breeds are small- or medium-sized companion dogs.

2. Cocker Spaniel
3. Smooth Fox Terrier
4. Scottish Terrier
5. Beagle
6. Pekingese
7. Chow Chow
8. English Springer Spaniel



The small but plucky Boston was the ideal Depression-era companion.



The Cocker Spaniel is the 1950s' glamour breed.

9. Pomeranian
10. Bulldog

1940S

1. Cocker Spaniel

No doubt spurred by the well-publicized Best in Show wins of Ch. My Own Brucie in the early 1940s, culminating in Brucie's picture on the cover of *Life* magazine, the Cocker Spaniel becomes America's most popular breed. Cockers retain the number-one ranking for 16 years, from 1936 to 1952.

The Pekingese never becomes a number-one breed,

but it ranks in the top 10 for six consecutive decades, from the 1910s through the 1960s, reaching its apex as the number-four breed of the 1920s.

2. Beagle
3. Boston Terrier
4. Collie
5. Boxer
6. Dachshund
7. Pekingese
8. Smooth Fox Terrier
9. English Springer Spaniel
10. Scottish Terrier

1950S

1. Beagle

The only breed to rank in

BOSTON TERRIER: COURTESY LYNDIA BEAM; COCKER SPANIEL: DAVID WOO ©AKC

FEATURE

the top 10 every decade since the AKC's founding became the nation's top breed in the 1950s: the Beagle. Not coincidentally, Snoopy makes his first appearance in newspaper comic strips on October 4, 1950, and swiftly becomes a pop phenomenon. The Beagle reigns as number-one from 1953 to 1959.

The Boxer's rise to the number-three position may be linked to the career of one of America's most famous show dogs, Ch. Bang Away of Sirrah Crest, who made history by winning 121 Bests in Show, including Westminster in 1951.

2. Cocker Spaniel
3. Boxer
4. Chihuahua
5. Dachshund
6. German Shepherd Dog
7. Poodle
8. Collie
9. Boston Terrier
10. Pekingese

1960S

1. Poodle
- The Poodle, in the AKC



The Beagle is number one: Thanks, Snoopy!

1950S



The Poodle begins a long sit atop the AKC rankings in the 1960s.

1960S

since 1887, did not make the top 10 until the 1950s, when it ranked number seven. This glamorous show dog and companion rises to number one in the 1960s and becomes the first breed to hold the number-one spot for two straight decades. The Poodle held the record for most consecutive years atop the AKC rankings (1960–1982) until the spec-

tacular rise of the Labrador Retriever later in the century.

2. German Shepherd Dog
3. Beagle
4. Dachshund
5. Chihuahua
6. Pekingese
7. Collies
8. Miniature Schnauzer
9. Cocker Spaniel
10. Basset Hound

BEAGLE: COURTESY LYNDIA BEAM; POODLE: DAVID WOO ©AKC



The Poodle is still number one in the '70s; the Labrador Retriever begins its climb to the top.

1970S

Lynda Beam

1970S

1. Poodle

Poodles retain their position as the country's top dog for a second decade and have remained in the top 10 every decade since.

The Doberman Pinscher makes its first appearance in the top 10 in the 1970s as the number-three breed and would hold that position in the 1980s.

The Miniature Schnauzer enters the top 10 in the 1960s, as number eight, and uniquely sustains the eight spot for three consecutive decades.

The 1970s mark the first appearance of the Labrador Retriever in the AKC top 10.

2. German Shepherd Dog
3. Doberman Pinscher
4. Beagle
5. Dachshund
6. Irish Setter
7. Cocker Spaniel
8. Miniature Schnauzer
9. Labrador Retriever

COURTESY LYNDA BEAM

FEATURE

10. Collies

1980S

1. Cocker Spaniel

The number-one breed of the 1940s, the Cocker Spaniel, enjoys a renaissance in the 1980s, climbing to the number-one position. After two decades as the country's number-one breed, the Poodle slips into the number-two position and would continue falling in subsequent decades.

The Labrador Retriever betters its number-nine position in the 1970s by leaping to the number-three spot in the '80s, and the Golden Retriever breaks into the top 10 for the first time at number five.

2. Poodle
3. Labrador Retriever
4. German Shepherd Dog
5. Golden Retriever
6. Doberman Pinscher
7. Beagle
8. Miniature Schnauzer
9. Dachshund



The Cocker makes a spectacular comeback in the 1980s.

1980S

Lynda Beam



10. Chow Chow

1990S

1. Labrador Retriever

The Lab moves into the top spot in 1991. The Rottweiler, an AKC breed since 1931, makes its first appearance in the decade's top 10 as the number-two breed.

The 1990s also marks the first appearance of the Yorkshire Terrier in a decade's top 10.

The Pomeranian returns to the top 10 for the first time since the 1930s.

2. Rottweiler
3. German Shepherd Dog
4. Golden Retriever
5. Cocker Spaniel
6. Poodle
7. Beagle
8. Dachshund
9. Yorkshire Terrier
10. Pomeranian

POSTSCRIPT

The 20th century began with a population shift from

COURTESY LYNDA BEAM

FEATURE



country to city. A hundred years later, a similar demographic realignment occurs. Young suburbanites relocate to the newly rebuilt downtowns of American cities. The Labrador Retriever continues a history-making reign as top dog—but the early 21st century sees smaller, city-friendly breeds like the Dachshund and Yorkshire Terrier making gains in popularity. In the 2010s another town dog, the French Bulldog, begins a rapid rise in the rankings that would place it number two, all breeds, in 2021 registrations.

As we approach the century's quarter pole, it remains to be seen if such factors as inflation, the Baby Boom's exit from the workforce, and the work-from-home options available in the post-COVID era will again reshuffle breed popularity. It can be said with some certainty, however, that there will always be AKC breeds to suit how and where we live, work, and play.—**BB**

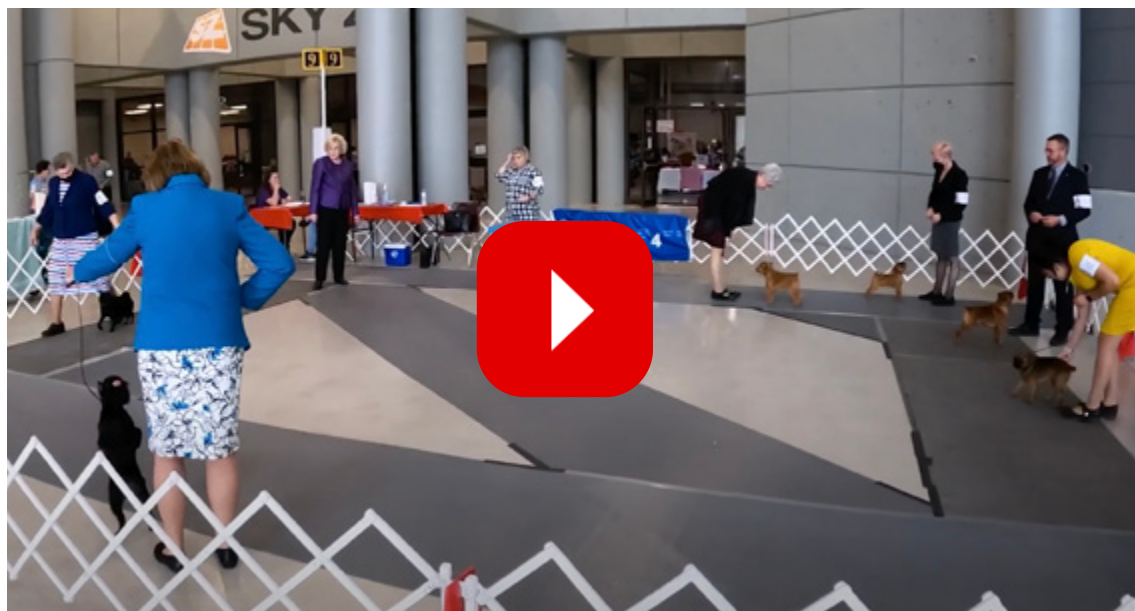
1990S



As the 20th century comes to a close, the Labrador Retriever becomes AKC's top dog.

COURTESY LYNDY BEAM

Lynda Beam



Griffs Take Manhattan

TOPEKA, KANSAS—[Manhattan Kansas KC](#): Vicki Abbott judges Brussels Griffons, and Butch Schulman does the honors for the Owner-Handled Toy Group. 18:10



Mane Attraction: Lion Dogs

MCDONALD, TENNESSEE—At [North Georgia KC](#), judge Robert Hutton runs the Löwchen ring. 41:28



Pups on Parade

WEST FRIENDSHIP, MARYLAND—Non-sporting breeds in the 4-to-6-Month Puppy class are judged by George Howes at [Catonsville KC](#). 6:10



Season's Greetings!

Our collection of vintage Christmas cards sent to the GAZETTE offices by fanciers of times past. 1:15

Kids *and Dogs*

By Judy Hartop

Photos by Contance Bannister

From our December 1985 issue, a GAZETTE editor salutes the tail-wagging teachers of our youth.

It's often said that Christmas, like birthdays and other festive holidays, is for children. Many of us can recall childhood Christmases, sneaking early in the morning over to the ornament-laden tree, rubbing the sleep from our eyes, and filled with jittery excitement that simply cannot be rivaled during the other 364 days of the year. Perhaps the only time that adults can experience the thrill we felt by the sight of brightly wrapped gifts surrounding a freshly cut tree, is when we bestow upon the current toy-loving generation, the games and toys that sent our heads spinning when we were young.

These strong and recurring childhood memories serve us well. They remind us of what we found earth-shatteringly important at the time, how our values have

changes, and more important, where our priorities ought to lie.

These reminiscences often show the intensity of the bond between the child and the parents, siblings, friends, and, of course, pets. We remember that special dog with whom we discovered mysteries of nature, like where to find frogs and baby rabbits.

We recall the exuberant dog who was always willing to run, chase, and play whatever we wanted (never to whine, “You’re just a girl”—or boy—or “You’re too little”).

We recollect the “gentle giant” of a dog who—when walking by our side—made us feel like a quarterback when the local “tough guy”—spotting the dog—would cross to the other side of the street.

We reminisce about the



CONSTANCE BANNISTER/AKC ARCHIVES



compassionate dog who, stretched out on the bed, gazing up, patiently listened to a litany of agonizing, adolescent complaints. (“You’re the only one who loves me!”)

Such is the dog’s life with a growing child. It’s no wonder that canine fanciers often choose breeds we had as children. Or, we find ourselves

saying, “He looks just like (you fill in the blank), a dog I had when I was a kid.

Growing up with a dog by our side, we learned the importance of gentleness toward living creatures. And we learned about loyalty, and what it’s like to always be there when somebody wants you. The



concept of unconditional love may have taken its roots in our relationship with a favorite dog. We gained pride in ourselves and our accom-

plishments—when we taught the dog “a *real hard* trick,” for example. The value of responsibility became apparent taking care of what we

love. In his book *A Dog for the Kids*, author Mordecai Siegal adds another value learned:

“Of all that children derive from their pets, including understanding birth, death, growth and relationships, one of the most worthwhile lessons is leadership. I don’t mean leadership in the sense of high-school graduation speeches or militaristic virtues, but rather in the vital areas of independence, self-sufficiency and competent self-management. If leadership is understood as the willingness to assume responsibility, to make decisions, to risk failure, then a child living with a pet is, indeed, involved with leadership.”

Perhaps all these lessons could be taught without a dog; surely, they are successfully instilled by diligent, well-intentioned parents. But, they wouldn’t be nearly as much fun to learn!

As fanciers we know the importance of encouraging that special bond between children and dogs, acknowledging that as the dog has so much to offer the life of a growing child; the child, in turn, will have more to offer those around him.—**J.H.**

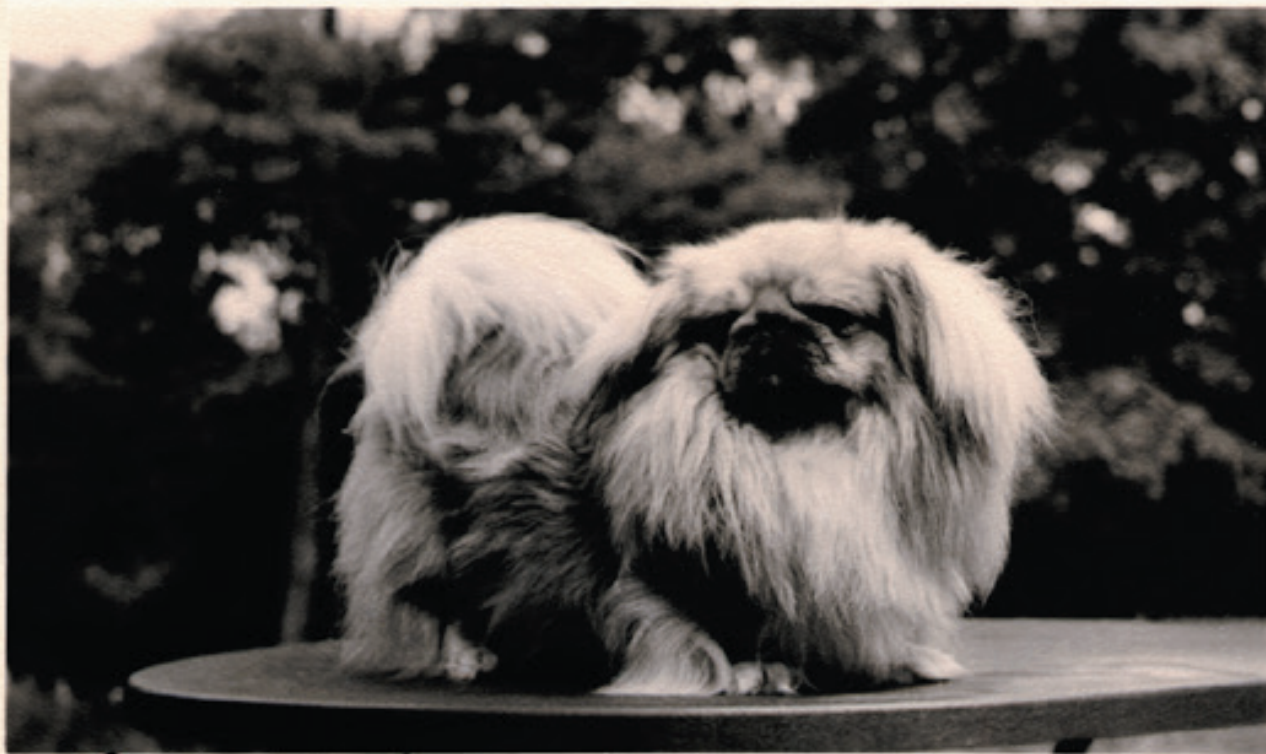


Dr. Donald Sturz Jr.

don Sturz judges the Best Bred-by-Exhibitor Sporting Group in Orlando this month. In a freewheeling installment of the *Pure Dog Talk* podcast, Sturz discusses his philosophy of breeding and judging. Here's a taste: "People have gotten so caught up in immediate gratification and looking for the outcome rather than the process. I think it's important for us, especially in dogs, to kind of catch ourselves. If we find ourselves in that kind of moment, I'll say wait a minute, slow down Skippy, you know there's a bigger picture and a much longer story and you need to keep reminding yourself of that."

"I'm big on there being gray areas. I can allow for some stylistic differences on the continuum. But there's a point, there's a line where you get, that's too much, that's too far. It's either too moderate or too extreme. I have a little wiggle room on both sides of that..."

"I think the mistake, unfortunately, is people are like 'oh, I'm gonna breed to this dog from wherever and I'm gonna bring in these qualities' and then they have a litter and it's like 'oh, I didn't get what I wanted.' You're probably not gonna get what you want. You have to keep working and building and choosing and selecting. It's a longer-term process when one tries to do something like that. Does it sometimes click? Yeah, it sometimes happens. But I think that's unusual. You have to kind of make a commitment to a few generations out, at least, to see what you were trying to get to."



Ch. Tai Chuo's Sun of Dah Wong



Season's Greetings from
all at-

Dah Wong Kennels

Sara Hodges (Dah Wong Kennels) of Wilton, Connecticut, sent this holiday postcard to the GAZETTE 70 years ago. Her Ch. Tai Chuo's Sun of Dah Wong, pictured, was Best of Breed at the Pekingese Club of America nationals in 1952 and '53. In this month's PCA column, "Living with Pekingese," Susan F. Shephard writes that "living with Pekingese is more than sharing your life with a dog; it is as necessary as breathing and drinking."

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.

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TOY GROUP

Brussels Griffons

TAILS DOMINATE BRUSSELS GRIFFON NEWS

The Brussels Griffon has been around for a long time. For all that time, his distinctive outline shows a docked tail. A little Griffon graces the Jan van Wyck painting *The Arnolfini Marriage*, dated 1434, and sports a docked tail.

Breeders in the 21st century continue to carry out the tradition. Because of the protests of animal-rights groups, tail-docking was banned in most European countries starting in the late 1990s. England followed suit, banning tail docking in 2007. Spain held out the longest but adopted the no-docking rule in 2017.

In recent years, many Americans look to Europe, Eastern Europe, and Russia to acquire new dogs. For AKC show breeders, it's a way to refresh their line with an outcross. Pet owners were also taking the option of importing their new Griff, as puppies can be hard to find in the U.S.

This brought to our shores many Brussels Griffons with long tails. As these tailed dogs entered the show ring, judges were perplexed. The Brussels Griffon standard says, "Tail—set and held high, docked to about one-third." There is nothing to guide a judge about whether undocked tails are allowed, nor about how a natural tail should look. And the natural tails coming into the ring were all over the place. Some curled like that of a Spitz; some



Brussels Griffon

lay well over the back like that of a Pekingese; some hung off the croup like a German Shepherd's; some carried a lot of fringe. Judges asked for guidance as to what this new appendage should look like.

The president of the American Brussels

Griffon Association, Meg Prior, asked the Breed Standard committee to come up with a good description of the correct undocked tail. The committee prepared the language that will be official in the breed standard as of February 1, 2023:

"Tail—set and held high. If docked, it is docked to 1/3. If undocked the tail is carried upwards with the tip towards the back without ever reaching the back or being curled. This is a gracefully held saber type tail."

This description is similar to the one recognized by the British Kennel Club and the European FCI registry. The British Kennel Club standard reads: "Undocked: High set, emerging at right angles from level topline. Of moderate length, curved gently over back when moving."

The FCI writes, "A non-docked tail is carried upwards with the tip towards the back without ever reaching it or being curled."

The description is meant as an aid to judges, who must evaluate the tail along with the rest of the dog. It is also an aid to breeders, who may wonder what a correct undocked Brussels Griffon tail should look like. Showing Griffons have been docked since the AKC recognized the breed in 1910, so no one had seen an undocked tail.

There is a little puzzle in the U.S. standard, which says, "docked to about one-third," and

similarly the FCI standard, which says "shortened by 2/3 of its length."

That sentence could guide breeders in how long to dock the tail. But how is the judge to know what length equals one-third if he has not seen the whole tail?

Looking around the show ring, one-third is not the usual dock. Some breeders leave only a short nub, which equals about one-sixth of the tail. In recent years, many breeders make the dock slightly longer. But even these longer tails might not be equal to one-third of the original length.

The AKC position is that ear-cropping and tail-docking are "acceptable practices integral to defining and preserving breed character and/or enhancing good health."

In 2013, the American Veterinary Medical Association issued the statement: "The AVMA opposes ear cropping and tail docking of dogs when done solely for cosmetic purposes." As a result, some veterinarians will no longer perform docking.

Tails are docked when the puppy is two to five days old. The tail is soft cartilage at that stage and causes little distress. A slight yelp is the most I've heard in 30 years of docking Brussels Griffon litters.

English breeders say that after the ban in 2007, they sometimes had to sacrifice something else, like a good head or short back or

BREED COLUMNS



TOY GROUP

well-knit front, to get that upright, saber-like tail. Fifteen years on, the English Griffon Bruxellois mostly have correct tails, but it's still an added consideration in the hard job of the breeder to produce a healthy puppy who is also correct.

Now, American breeders can choose if they want to face that challenge. The docked tails will continue to dominate, as breeders honor the traditional docked tail outline. But there are sure to be more long tails among Brussels Griffons in the future.

—Sharon Sakson,
[American Brussels Griffon Association](#)

Cavalier King Charles Spaniels

THE BREED'S NATIONAL: A DISPLAY OF CAVALIER QUALITY AND HEALTH

The 2022 ACKCSC national specialty, held last April in Wilmington, Ohio, was a truly exciting place to be as we emerged from the disappointment of no national competitions for 2020 and 2021. With over 452 dogs and 584 entries in conformation and companion events, this was amazing both in terms of size and quality.

No competition was more exciting and no display was more beautiful than the Veteran classes and the Veteran Parade. With 20 veterans competing, including three in the

over- 11-year class and one a 15-year-old, there was much to cause excitement, including the fact that Best of Breed/Best in Show went to a veteran. Halfmoon N Cobb Rock It CA, a 9-year-old dog, bred by Lorraine Cobb and Jean Tremblay and owned and shown by Jean Tremblay took top honors.

This was an honor not only for this dog and his breeders but also for our breed in general. In fact, the size and quality of the Veterans classes, and the beauty of all, including 15-year-old Ch. Rossony Rebus, bred by Elaine and Alan Shail and owned by Carol Rose and Darlene Petralia, spoke to the merits of our breeders.

There was a time when simply having a senior dog, a veteran over 7, was enough to earn applause and a ribbon. Cavaliers were thought of as a breed plagued with health problems and having a short life expectancy. Now, though the efforts of reputable breeders, health testing, and careful breeding practices, we have come to expect dogs to be healthier and live longer, healthier lives. It's not uncommon to have dogs living into their mid-teens, and I myself had a 17-year-old and a 16-year-old.

One of the most important issues affecting Cavalier health and longevity is heart disease. It's important when considering cardiac problems, and degenerative mitral valve disease (MVD) in particular, that we remember that it

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



Meet the Breeds®

January 28th and 29th, 2023
Jacob K. Javits Convention Center!

The following clubs will be in attendance

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Alaskan Klee Kai Club of America
American Eskimo Dog Club of America
American Maltese Association
American Spaniel Club
Australian Cattle Dog Club of America, Inc.
United States Australian Shepherd Association
Barbet Club of America
Basenji Club of America, Inc.
Berkshire Valley Basset Hound Club
Bearded Collie Club of America
Bergamasco Sheepdog Club of America
Berger Picard Club of America
Bichon Frise Club of America
Biewer Terrier Club of America
Black Russian Terrier Club of America
American Bloodhound Club
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American Bouvier des Flandres Club
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American Brittany Club
BTCA Bull Terrier Club
Cairn Terrier Club of America
Canaan Dog Club
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American Chinese Crested Club
Chinese Shar-Pei Club of America
Chow Chow Club, Inc.
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Dandie Dinmont Terrier Club of America
Doberman Pinscher Club of America
English Cocker Spaniel Club of America
English Setter Association of America
English Toy Spaniel Club of America
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German Shepherd Dog Club of America
Giant Schnauzer Club of America, Inc.
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Havanese Club of America
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Pug Dog Club of America
Schipperke Club of America
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Welsh Terrier Club of America
Welsh Springer Spaniel Club of America
Xolocuitli Club

It's not too late to sign up!

TOY GROUP



Parade of Veterans at the 2022 ACKCSC specialty, held in April in Wilmington, Ohio

accounts for about 75 percent of cardiovascular disease in dogs and occurs in both mixed-breeds and purebred dogs, including most toy dogs as well as the Cavalier.

At present, MVD inheritance in the Cavalier is speculated. Research funded by the ACKCSC Charitable Trust is ongoing to confirm this hypothesis. The inheritance is suspected to be polygenetic (several genes involved) with multifactorial influences (for example, the dog's environment, diet, and weight). In other words, there is a genetic predisposition for MVD, but other factors come into play, as is the case with other species (such as humans). The Cavalier King Charles Spaniel has been studied and screened for over 25 years thanks to the dedication and

generosity of owners, breeders, and cardiologists in the U.S.

The recommended health screening for Cavaliers includes annual auscultation (listening to the heart with a stethoscope) by a cardiologist and Doppler (echocardiogram) if there is a question on auscultation. ACKCSC Regional Clubs host health clinics each year with cardiologists accessible to breeders and owners throughout the U.S. Currently, the recommended practice is to wait until a Cavalier is 2 years old or older before the first breeding and to know the parents and ancestral cardiac status. Cavaliers with early-onset presentation of MVD (before 4 years of age) should not be bred, and breeders need to work with the guidance of their cardiologists.

The ACKCSC Charitable Health Trust is working with scientists, including cell biology labs, through research grants to help with the prevention and treatment of this and other Cavalier health issues. This was well demonstrated by our 2022 Veterans classes.

—Dr. John V. Ioia, MD, Ph.D.,

bonefixr@gmail.com

American Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club

Chihuahuas

THE BEST SOURCES OF INFORMATION AREN'T ALL ONLINE

Doesn't anyone read books anymore? With the abundance of information on the internet, great print books full of information about the breed might not get opened as much as they should. All the answers seem to be just a click away. Really?

What each of us should consider is that information gleaned online is often the opinion of someone with limited information. Topics of discussion are expounded on by many, and the reader must decipher which response is correct and may possibly be left believing that a statement is right when in fact it is wrong. Do we believe the person who is always winning in the show ring, the judge who has given us a great win, or the person we



Chihuahua

bought our favorite dog from? Be careful of the information you take from online conversations, as some of it may be inaccurate and could ultimately slow your progression to a successful breeding program.

Online, we hear the dog world “lingo” and learn the right words to use. We are all instant experts, or so it seems. Breeding our first litter and getting a dog who is “good enough” to show is great—but is “good enough” really good enough? Do we even know and

TOY GROUP

understand our breed standard?

This is a process that can take years of understanding. As time passes and we learn more, we will understand the standards more clearly and be able to breed better dogs.

Breeding dogs is truly a science. There are so many books on the subject. The information from these books cannot be learned from a few conversations online or captured in photos of the latest show win.

Photos posted on the internet can be deceiving. The dogs can be manipulated by the handler and posed for a particular look. They are groomed to perfection to hide any flaws. And let's not forget our being "polite" in telling our friends how gorgeous their show dog is when they post his photograph. Not wanting to hurt feelings, we've all contributed to this behavior that is ultimately detrimental to our breed. Indeed, some dogs posted are mediocre examples of the breed and should not be used as breeding stock.

Judges award wins to undeserving dogs. Instant "stars" can be made through online exposure.

Those who have been around and done their homework know differently. These are the folks who have a plan. They are not breeding for the next big-winning show dog, nor are they breeding for accolades they expect to receive online. They breed for the love and

betterment of their breed.

The good news is that there are fabulous books written by those who have the talent and experience to excel and breed top dogs time after time. They understand the structure of the dog and the significance of breed type. They put science to work, along with a natural ability to have an eye for balance and beauty. Trust those who have put the years into these wonderful creatures and were generous enough to write it down on paper for all to read!

—Virginia (Jenny) Hauber,

wynjynchis@yahoo.com

Chihuahua Club of America

Havanese

PICKY, PICKY PUPPY PICKER

Fortunes (small ones) have been made writing about and designing "how to pick a puppy." Approaches include some by moonlight, some by astrological signs, and some by any of a variety of whims and fancies. Which is the right method to use?

First and foremost, you need to know the criteria you want to achieve for a particular puppy.

Someone recently posed an interesting question in social media. She said:

"A breeder offered me two puppies. One was



outgoing and gregarious but wasn't perfect conformation-wise; it had a minor fault. The other was a 'perfect' puppy according to the standard but was laid back and very easygoing. Which one should I choose?"

In my opinion, to answer that question you need to decide if you are looking for your next Best in Show prospect or your next stud dog or brood bitch. Since anyone is quick to tell you that there are "no perfect dogs," you must be able to select the elements you are looking for in a puppy.

Less than "perfect" conformation dogs can

produce some truly remarkable offspring, bred appropriately to the right dog or bitch. But (here is the critical issue), a great show dog is very hard to come by. The Great Show Dog has to possess the "Look at Me Gene." It is the puppy in the litter who you see every time you look in the whelping box or pen. It is the one who says, "Look at me!"

If you don't have the eye to do that, ask a few friends who are show experienced. Ask a judge or field rep you may know. Just say, "Which of these puppies stands out? Which one catches your eye?"

TOY GROUP

Don't expect them to evaluate the puppies conformation-wise if they are not familiar with Havanese. It is your responsibility to know the standard. It is your job to know correct topline, tail-set and carriage, bite, and all the DQs in the standard. (Of course, eliminate immediately any puppies with DQs from your selection process. Wait a reasonable amount of time for pigment to develop and testicles to descend on those puppies you really want to consider for future breeding and/or showing prospects. Six months is my absolute limit on possible DQs seen at birth to disappear on the possible wonder puppy.)

By asking objective but experienced eyes to look at your litter, you will be surprised to learn that the puppy with the "Look at Me Gene" is invariably the one who gets picked by most people! That's *the* show dog! That's the one the judges in the ring will pick, too.

Our puppies are born in our family room/kitchen area. It is the room we spend 90 percent of our time in when we are not sleeping or grooming dogs. The puppies are under our constantly watching eyes. We keep a written track of everything, day by day, in a three-ring binder on a table adjacent to the whelping box/pen. Using old-fashioned green ledger-accounting sheets (yes, they still are available), the puppies are listed in birth order with an assigned colored string/collar. Each day has a

vertical column, headed with the date and day number from date of birth, and the day of the week. That enables us to compare their progress litter by litter. How much did Fido weigh on day 35, for example, compared to the new litter of pups on day 35? If Fido as a grown adult is very small, then the new puppies' weights on day 35 give us an indication as to their relative size as adults to Fido. We track everything.

We have had the good fortune to never be rushed to select a puppy. It is a long process for us. We are never in a hurry to sell our puppies. We don't sell to show homes, so the ones we keep are for us to show and/or breed. The ones we place with well-vetted people are meant to be lifelong cherished companions.

Temperament in Havanese bred by responsible and caring owners seems to be exceptionally wonderful; it is a hallmark of the breed. They make great additions to families with children, elderly, and disabled people. I spend little time evaluating puppies for temperament, as I see very lovely temperaments in most Havanese.

Regardless of the system or method you use to evaluate your litters, be consistent. Keep track of why you picked a particular puppy, and keep track of what you did right and what you did wrong. Never stop watching your puppies as they mature. Stay in touch with the new owners to see if your observations early

on were correct. We all make mistakes ... "the ones we should have kept!"

We have found, time and again, that the "Look at Me Gene" has brought home the most ribbons!

—Alice L. Lawrence,
pulifuzz@aol.com
Havanese Club of America

Italian Greyhounds

GIFTS FOR AN ITALIAN GREYHOUND

Does that title sound a little off the wall? I guess it should be "Gifts for an IG Owner," but that's not really the point. So many people these days look at their pets as being one of the family. That means giving holiday and birthday presents for those pets right along with gifts for the humans in the family. So, what *does* one buy for the iconic little dog?

Let's start with the edibles. Dog food? No, that can't really be considered a gift item, at least not until Omaha Steaks comes up with an Ultimate Doggie Pack or something of that sort. On the other hand, doggie treats are akin to giving a human a box of candy. The possibilities are endless, but caution must be exercised. Some dog treats can be hazardous. I would definitely recommend staying with something made in the U.S., and it might be a good idea to check the label out online



Italian Greyhound

to see if there have been any recalls. This is especially true of an item most dogs find truly delightful: beef jerky.

Something else that will make a dog happy would be toys. There is a plethora of dog toys on the market, and they can be found in all kinds of stores as well as online. Again, due

LORI BRANHAM/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

TOY GROUP

caution should be exercised. Many dog toys seem attractive and harmless and, according to the ads, are made to encourage and supply healthful play. Online promotions and colorful tags on the toys themselves may utilize fine print to offer a warning. Often the really cute items—such as soft, brightly colored, animal-shaped “doggie dolls”—are totally unsuited for an active, hound-minded, and strong-jawed breed. As sweet and gentle as the IG is reputed to be, one only has to briefly watch two or three of them play a wild game of tug-o’-war with one of these toys to see the floppy limbs ripped off, eyes removed, and stuffing drifting everywhere. Most dog toys are rated on the packaging for degree of toughness. My recommendation is for the strongest of them, toys that don’t contain stuffing and don’t include any material that looks as if it would be easily ripped. Never mind the cuteness factor.

Other items often given as gifts include sweaters, coats, and other clothing, as well as collars and leads. These are things that are generally more pleasing to the owner than to the dog himself but can be valuable accessories. Coats and sweaters are especially appreciated by this short-coated breed. Again, it’s good to keep in mind that most standard dog coats and sweaters are not designed to fit the deep chest and narrow waist of an IG. Collars and leads should also have been configured

with the streamlined shape of the IG in mind. Martingales work very well as do some harness vests, although the latter make it difficult to teach the dog not to pull when being walked. Custom clothing and appropriate collars and leads are available online from IGCA Rescue and other sources.

IGs are comfort-loving creatures, and cushions, beds, or blankets would also be welcomed, especially the clamshell type of bed into which the dog can snuggle.—*Lilian S. Barber, 2014*

[Italian Greyhound Club of America](#)

Maltese

BACK TO BASICS

In this day and age of retouching with Photoshop and skilled cosmetic grooming of our beautiful breed, please beware. When starting a breeding program, don’t be fooled. In order to produce sound-structured and -minded dogs, and dogs like that described in our standard, look beyond the pictures.

First, be well versed in structure. Read some books, go to shows, and talk to breeders—not only breeders of Maltese, but of working breeds, hound breeds, sporting breeds, and others—so you can realize what canine structure is all about.

Look at and feel the coats of many dogs.



Maltese

Ask to see dogs’ coats before they are ironed to straighten them. Examine coats closely to see if they have color. The Maltese is a white breed; the standard only permits slight lemon on the ears. Look at the parents of dogs. Assess the head structure of many dogs before their topknots are up. Question why the topknots of some dogs are hiding the muzzle or the eyes.

Maltese should not have Chihuahua heads. Check dentition, pigment ... the list could go

on and on.

In a nutshell, the overall balance of a Maltese is important, as are good pigment; wonderful, silk-white coat; soundness; and great attitude. Simply read the standard time and time again, and learn structure.

Yes, presentation is a must. But to produce or keep our breed healthy and correct, we must get down to basics.

—Daryl Martin,
daryldmartin@sbcglobal.net

TOY GROUP

Papillons

A POISONOUS SUBSTANCE

With my December column, I hoped I could spread some cheer. Instead I have a more serious column to write. It is about a poisonous substance that has “proven its uses at home, on the job, on the farm, and for recreational purposes, which cleans and protects most surfaces of grease, grime, tar, crayons, gum and adhesives, while it also protects all metal against rust and corrosion.” You may not be aware of the dangers of this substance and think is not harmful. However, it can be extremely dangerous and deadly to all of us—grownups, our children, our Papillons, and all our dogs and pets for that matter.

This product is most often used as a lubricant that stops irritating squeaks and can loosen rusted parts like bolts and screws, pipe fittings, and even zippers. It displaces moisture, driving any moisture off metal surfaces. It is “the be-all to end all” when you have a problem with your home or car. (I have always kept a small can in the trunk of my car, and it’s proven useful when I had a trolley cart that squeaked.)

This substance contains petroleum distillates. If swallowed, you should *not* induce vomiting. Also, most importantly, it should be kept away from children. However, the company should also read “keep away from pets.”



This dangerous substance is WD-40.

Papillons, as a rule, are always curious and love to investigate everything. With the fall season and the dropping of leaves from the trees, my dogs have found it even more fun, because the leaves on the ground are dried and crunchy! They love to run around with a leaf in their mouths and see if anyone will chase them with it. Whenever they come

inside from the outdoors, they go through the garage and circle around my car before going up the steps to enter my home. They always “hunt” to find a dried leaf inside the garage and eat it, with a tenacity to keep their “prize” away from the other Papillons. However, this time was a dangerous consequence.

Now was not the time for playing with dry leaves, ever since I found that a noisy cricket entered the garage! How could I get rid of this creature without him jumping on me? “Oh, here is a can of WD-40 on the shelf. If I give this cricket a spray, hopefully off he will go.” Well, this cricket did not “go away,” nor did he do what I thought would be the plan... Instead, what happened was the spray must have gone onto the few dried leaves that had fallen on the concrete of the garage.

This awful scenario led my dogs to eating some of these leaves and getting sick. Luckily, the puppies were not sick, because I always pick them up and bring them inside, and the adults thankfully only had mild symptoms. However, please be mindful not to keep any dangerous and poisonous substances around your dogs and children. And, of course, always wash your hands and/or use disposable gloves when using dangerous chemicals.

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

Pekingese

LIVING WITH PEKINGESE

For me and most Pekingese enthusiasts, living with Pekingese is more than sharing your life with a dog; it is as necessary as breathing and drinking. Once you have been captivated by this diminutive Emperor, there is no other dog who will do.

My love affair began as a toddler with my grandmother’s Pekingese, Footsie. I was allowed to interact with him—worship him, that is—as long as I didn’t complain if he occasionally gave me a little pinch. And he did (pinch), and I didn’t (complain), as it was all worth it to be in the presence of such greatness.

Today, many years and many Pekingese later, the love affair is as strong as it ever was.

The Pekingese is a large dog in a small and very attractive package. Not only do they lift surprisingly heavy for their size, within that chest beats a heart surely as big as a lion’s. They are brave to the point of foolish, regardless of the size of their opponent. When ill or injured, they are stoic to the point of endangering their own lives. They are quite intelligent, intuitive and sometimes stubborn like a petulant toddler. They truly have this bigger-than-life personality.

Living with Pekingese is one of the greatest joys of my life. My father once commented to me that they were charming little dogs in spite of their sense of self-importance. They

TOY GROUP



Pekingese: 1968 PCA national-specialty winner Ch. Nia Ku Tulyar of Orchard Hill, handled by Richard Bauer for owner Mrs. G. Blauvelt Moss

are a dog who doesn't require a lot of exercise; although most love to chase a ball, bring it back ... not so much.

There are many fallacies about Pekingese, as everyone seems to have an aunt or grandmother who kept a Peke back in the day, and they were always of the biting variety. Today's purposefully bred Pekingese is a wonderful family dog. Like any small dog, probably not a great choice for a home with toddlers, but do well with older children, teens, and adults.

Pekes are definitely a "people" dog; they require human interaction as much as they require fresh food and water every day. Pekes do tend to bond strongly with their family and initially be cautious of those they don't know. They are independent and strong-willed, and every one of them knows they have descended from Chinese royalty.

Just as people do, Pekingese have a variety of personalities. Some are outgoing and have never met a stranger, while others are aloof and take time to warm up to a new person. However, once you get to know this delightful breed, they will capture your heart. As a whole, they are a cheerful little dog whose entire being exudes joyfulness.

Pekingese are generally a healthy, long-lived, and sturdy breed. We are fortunate, as the breed is not cursed with genetic conditions such as PRA, and so on. Currently the

parent club has no recommendations for health testing. Breeders need to be constantly vigilant of potential breathing issues, as with any brachycephalic breed. Brachycephalic airway syndrome (BAS) refers to a particular set of upper-airway abnormalities that can affect brachycephalic dogs. Mildly affected dogs will have noisy breathing, especially with exercise, and most will snort when excited and snore when relaxed or asleep. Severely affected animals have more pronounced airway noise, appear to tire easily with exercise, and may collapse or faint after exercise. Symptoms are often worse in hot or humid weather. Because of conscientious breeders, this symptom is seldom seen in the show rings any more. Other health concerns include intervertebral disc disease (IVDD) and sebaceous cysts.

Pekingese require regular grooming. A dog with a correct harsh outer coat will generally only need to be brushed out once a week. They do benefit from regular bathing. If you have trained your dog to be groomed on the table and on his back, they will enjoy the grooming and the time spent with you.

Nigel Aubrey Jones, of St. Aubrey Elsdon fame, says, "*Breeding Pekingese is not for the faint-hearted. It is probably the most difficult of all breeds to produce consistently.*" I know this to be the absolute truth. C-sections are more often the rule than the exception, and at times the puppies

TOY GROUP

can be difficult to rear. Show breeders generally run puppies on for four to eight months to assess quality.

Pekingese generally enjoy the shows and even enjoy them long after their title is attained. Several years ago I showed a 14-year-old veteran bitch. Well, Busy hadn't forgotten her old tricks; when we came back up the diagonal mat to the judge, she walked into her stack and within five seconds stomped her foot and "woo—wooded" the judge. She had been out of the ring for at least 12 years at that point. Yes, she absolutely was Best Veteran that day—who would have ever said no to that!

My husband took our first homebred champion, Widget, to work with him every day for 12 years. After Widget passed, Baby Grace filled the position, and after she passed last year at 14 years old, the mantle passed to Fiona. They also are regulars at Home Depot and Lowe's. His office dogs have always been great ambassadors for the breed, as they are out in public and seemingly thrive on the attention.

In closing, I feel so blessed as to have these little dogs in my home and in my heart for all these years. What started as a love affair with a little exotic dog many years ago has bloomed into an all-consuming passion. I cannot imagine my life without the dogs and am grateful

every day that I am blessed with so many little flat faces, and every night I go to sleep serenaded by Pekingese snorts and snores. What could be any better than that?

—Susan F. Shephard, Deja vu Pekingese ROM,

www.dejavupekes.com

[The Pekingese Club of America](#)

Pomeranians

JUDGING COLOR

Pomeranians come in a wide variety of colors and patterns, all of which are allowed and are to be judged on an equal basis. These colors range from pure white to solid black, and everything in between.

The Open classes at specialties or larger shows are often divided by color. This includes:

Red, Orange, Cream, and Sable—Any solid or sable Red, Orange, or Cream plus any other color that also has sabling such as Wolf Sable, Beaver Sable, Chocolate Sable, or Blue Sable. Generally these colors have black pigment, but note that Liver Pigmented Orange (Beaver) plus Chocolate Sables/Blue Sables will be pigmented accordingly and may also be found in this class.

Black, Brown, Blue (BBB)—This class is for any self-colored Black, Brown (Chocolate), or Blue. Chocolates, and Blues can range from a very



light brown or blue to a very dark brown or blue, and dilute chocolates, called Lavender or Isabella, are also acceptable.

Any Other Allowed Color (AOAC)—This class includes anything that does not fit into the above two classes, including Whites, plus any pattern: Tan Point Pattern, Brindle, Merle, or Parti. The Tan Pattern can appear on solid colors and also

the Merle pattern. Parti consists of white markings on any base color or combination of colors and other patterns:

Red and White, Orange and White, Cream and White, Sable Pattern and White (Blue Sable, Chocolate Sable, Cream Sable, Orange Sable, Red Sable, Wolf Sable, Beaver sable), Black and White, Chocolate and White, Blue and White, Brindle and White, Beaver and White, Lavender and White, Merle and White (blue or chocolate merle), Tan Pattern and White—sometimes referred to as tricolor (Black and Tan, Blue and Tan, Chocolate and Tan, Merle and Tan).

When judging the Pomeranian, type and soundness are the most important considerations. A dog needs to first and foremost be a good Pomeranian, no matter its color or pattern. Judging certain colors or patterns may require more observation, as it can be harder to see what is really there. Certain markings can be deceiving: For example, tan markings on a muzzle can make a muzzle appear longer, or tan points above the eyes can make an expression appear more harsh.

Darker colors can "hide" certain details and make movement harder to see, especially in bad lighting. Different patterns can also create optical illusions when a dog is moving down and back, or can change how square the body looks or where a tail is set. It is important to use the examination on the table to parse through these

COURTESY LYNDY BEAM

TOY GROUP

illusions and feel the structure under the hair.

More specific details about the individual colors and color genetics can be found on the color reference page of the American Pomeranian Club website (link below)—

Stephanie Hentschel,

darrightpoms@gmail.com

[American Pomeranian Club](#)

Shih Tzu

THE BEST ADVICE I EVER GOT

While ago I asked exhibitors old and new to tell me, in a single sentence, the most valuable tip regarding dogs they had ever received—the thing that someone had told them or shared that really stuck in their mind. Here are some of the answers, which might inspire those in Shih Tzu or other breeds as they try to mentor and inspire newcomers.

Look at the whole picture.

Have fun!

Be a good sport—always congratulate the winners and be kind.

Don't throw the baby out with the bathwater.

They don't walk on their mouths.

Don't give up.

Remember that you have a different judge every day.

Train before you go into the ring, to make



Shih Tzu: December 1976

sure that dog is going to do what you want it to do.

Balance, balance, balance—moving and standing.

Your first impression is usually the best.

Breed to the older dog first.

Find the right products for your dog's coat,

and learn how to use them.

Good sportsmanship is essential.

A good mentor willing to share makes all the difference.

Remember that you always go home with the best dog!

Rinse thoroughly.

Brush daily.

When brushing, don't flip your wrist or dig. Brush straight.

Act like you know what you are doing—chin up, back straight, long strides.

You can't groom or show as well as a handler, so you have to breed a better dog.

Start with the best.

Just be calm and smile.

Don't take anything too seriously. It's just a dog show.

The judges put their pants on just like you do—they're just people.

Concentrate on the advantages of your dog and ignore the faults; your real competition is yourself and your dog.

Only show your best.

Relax and have fun!

—Jo Ann White,

joawhite@juno.com

[American Shih Tzu Club](#)

Toy Fox Terriers

TOY FOX TERRIERS ARE PERFORMERS!

Do you have a Toy Fox Terrier and are wondering what you can do to build your partnership with your dog? A benefit of owning a Toy Fox Terrier is they love to learn, and they love to perform. Teaching them fun skills is a great way to exercise both their mind and body.

Toy Fox Terriers were often used by clowns in circus acts in the early and mid-1900s because they are so easy to teach and because they love to perform. These dogs, while small in stature, have big personalities and are generally fearless due to their terrier heritage. Toy Fox owners have found their dogs be quite versatile, and they are excelling in many dog sports and activities.

One convenient aspect of the breed is with their very small size, finding places to train them is simplified. If you live in the city or a neighborhood with no yard space, it's not a problem. A large yard or area isn't necessary. You can do much of the training for Toy Fox Terriers in your home or apartment! Even equipment necessary for some of the activities can be made or modified or buy smaller versions to do the initial training.

With their circus history, earning trick titles is one activity all Toy Fox Terrier

TOY GROUP

owners can aspire to. AKC's Novice Trick Dog title, TKN, incorporates both simple tricks and some very basic obedience skills. As the dog proceeds through the various title levels, the complexity and numbers of tricks increase, but one thing is for certain: Toy Foxes love to perform for their owners.

Toy Foxes in general are very food focused, which makes trick training something the dogs really get into. One Toy Fox owner who competes in various events with her dogs says, "Their high intelligence coupled with fun-loving attitude makes them a quick study for any new skill"—but a caution here—"one had best teach a skill correctly the first time, because once retained, change becomes nearly impossible!" The Trick Dog titles can even be earned virtually via video submissions online.

At the AKC's Meet the Breeds held in Orlando in conjunction with the National Championship dog shows, American Toy Fox Terrier Club members constructed a circus-themed booth and had their Toy Fox Terriers dance, jump through hoops, stand on a bucket, climb a ladder, and walk a tightrope and return down a slide, along with doing other tricks.

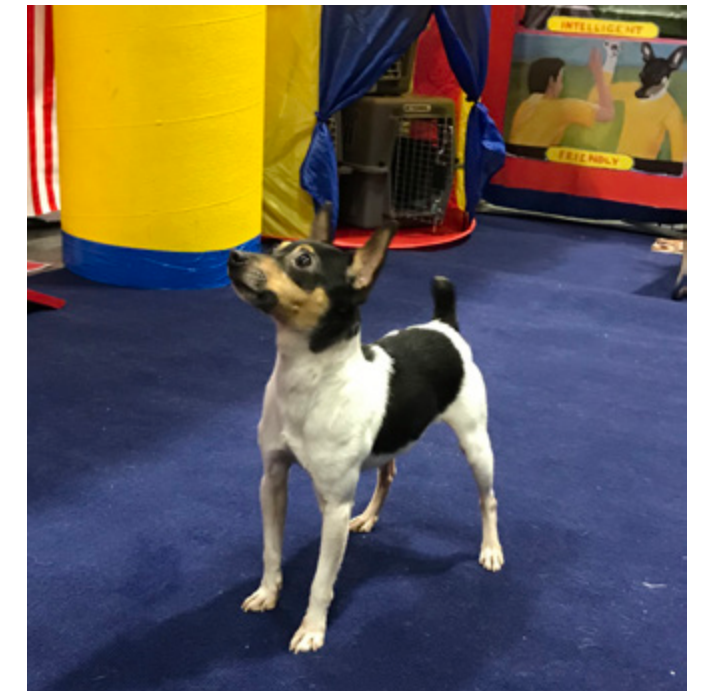
In addition to the basic skills used for trick training, obedience skills can quickly earn your Toy Fox Terrier titles such as Canine Good Citizen, rally, and obedience titles, and



Toy Fox Terrier Honey Boy, seen in this 1953 photo, performed with his owner Charlie Bell in the Ringling Brothers Barnum and Bailey Circus.



Above and right top and bottom: TFTs love doing tricks! Here are two showing off at Meet the Breeds, while another aces the hiding-in-a-box trick at home.



maybe even the Farm Dog Certification. Training and practicing these tricks and skills also help your dog avoid boredom and get exercise during inclement weather as they are easily practiced indoors.

You can find more information on these activities on [AKC.org](https://www.akc.org). Videos on training tricks are available online, and classes are available from many AKC clubs and other providers. Training for these activities with your Toy Fox can be accomplished in short five-minute segments a few times a day,

making building rapport and a rewarding relationship with your dog easily achievable.

You and your dog will find training with high-value treats and praise to be a fun way to spend time together. Once you get started, you will be delighted by the number of tricks and skills your Toy Fox will learn and the entertainment you will both find in the sessions.

—Susan Thibodeaux,
vicepresident@atftc.com
American Toy Fox Terrier Club



TOP LEFT: PUBLIC DOMAIN; CENTER AND RIGHT TOP AND BOTTOM: COURTESY OWNERS

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American Eskimo Dogs

Our column this month is from Michelle and Mark Fitch, of North Texas. Michelle and Mark each first acquired a love of dogs as children, with the family's black Labrador Retrievers and a cream Chihuahua-terrier mix, respectively. Dogs regained a prominent place in their lives once in their first home together when Leo, a white Pekingese, joined their family. Leo was featured in engagement pictures and known and loved by all, and neighbors merely referred to Michelle and Mark as "Leo's parents." After Leo "just kind of faded away at 18," they made a list of preferred mid-sized breeds. As the Westminster broadcast aired, Michelle and Mark were intrigued by the Eskie—a breed on their "list." Soon thereafter they phoned AKC and contacted Debbie Mitchell, an Eskie breeder mentioned in nearby Krum, Texas. She welcomed them into her home, placed an Eskie in their laps, and so began their love affair with Eskies.

FIRST TIME FOR EVERYTHING

Twenty years ago, in 2002, it was love at first sight when we had our first in-person Eskie experience and brought home Jet—an 8-month-old Standard. Several years later, Jet needed a companion, given we were not yet retired. At the breeder's home, one puppy followed Jet *every-*

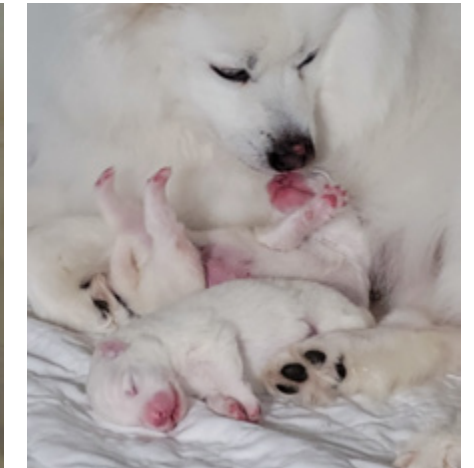
where, and she selected Jet—our first bitch, Sky. They never left each other's side until 15 years later when cancer took Jet in July 2017. Sky needed another companion.

Later that year, we picked Thunder, though we also fell in love with his most charismatic littermate, Star. The breeder wanted Star shown, given she was the "pick" puppy and most well-conformed. Now retired and sometimes RVing as tennis officials, we thought, "Why not? We can stop at some shows along the way."

And so it followed that a "star" was born. First she aced conformation, accompanied by rally to build confidence. Trick dog, agility, scent work, and Barn Hunt followed. Star was a true athlete! Frequent questions of "Are you going to breed her?" together with the realization that Star had many amazing qualities to contribute to her breed, gave us both desire and confidence. And so began our journey with Star toward motherhood at 4.5 years old.

Initial breeding preparations included numerous physical and genetic tests for Star,

Top row: Star in her custom whelping crate, with stethoscope and other supplies close at hand; little babies off to a good start at 3 hours old; 4 days old; Center row: at 5 weeks, pups starting to play with toys; the first boy to try something new, at 5 weeks; Star loves to play with her pups, at 6 weeks; Bottom row: Star and pups at 11 weeks; Star finishing her GCh.B title with owner-handler Michelle.



COURTESY MICHELLE AND MARK FITCH

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together with books on breeding, prenatal care, and whelping. Finally, after much searching, we found the perfect dog to breed her to, albeit during February in the frigid upper Midwest. So ... we drove 16 hours to Indiana, arrived in the wee morning hours, and, after a brief nap, Star met her mate. Her first breeding was followed by three subsequent occasions every other day.

Next came efforts to determine if Star was pregnant. Her first sonogram showed four heartbeats; an X-ray confirmed three puppies, and home doppler detected three heartbeats. So ... we readied our “nursery” for triplets.

Finally one morning Star went into labor. Between a 24-7 whelping support service, a great relationship with our veterinarian, and our physician-friend whelping-helper present, we gathered around Star. After what seemed like an eternity, her contractions intensified around noon. Star’s water broke at 8:30 P.M., and her breeder was en route. Star’s first little boy was stillborn at 9:30 P.M. Visible contractions stopped at 12:30 A.M. Star’s veterinarian recommended an oxytocin injection and, if no further progress within 20 minutes, an emergency Cesarean section.

Nineteen minutes 17 seconds later, Star pushed out her second puppy, followed by a third one within several minutes. An audible group sigh of relief followed as both puppies were breathing

and nursing, and appeared to be healthy. Bailey’s for all at 1:19 A.M.

The final phase of our first litter meant little sleep. Thunder and my husband became backyard-RV residents; Star, her puppies, and I remained in our “nursery.”

Nothing can equal the “never-a-dull-moment” experience of puppies from birth as they grow, learn, play, and develop their most unique personalities and habits.

At the end of our journey with Star and her first litter, a kennel name was needed. “Kennel name” seems over the top to just a girl and her Eskies. Nevertheless, “SkyFlyer” evolved—a tribute to our first Eskies: Jet, Thunder, Sky, and Star.

After a tough decision, the perfect fit for Star’s little boy was my physician-friend whelping-helper. We will love and show our little girl, SkyFlyer Piper Cub Power.

I’m looking forward to Round Two. You never know where life may lead you, but it’s always a joy to follow an Eskie.

With all my love,

GCh.B Debonair’s Rock Star, RA, NA, NAJ, SCN, SEN, SBN, SHDN, RTN, CGCA, TKN
—Michelle and Mark Fitch

Thank you, Michelle and Mark!

—Stella Brown,

[The American Eskimo Dog Club of America](#)

Bichons Frises

LOOKING FOR A BREEDER?

Naturally, when I have no puppies available, prospective buyers ask me to refer them to other breeders. Since I don’t feel comfortable telling them whether or not another breeder is reputable, I have developed the following document.

Looking for a Bichon Frise breeder?

Start by finding breeders in good standing with the Bichon Frise Club of America at <http://bichon.org/breeders/>. Next, ask some important questions.

- *What is your health test protocol?* At a minimum both sire and dam should have been tested for hip dysplasia at two years of age, and they should have been tested for patellar luxation and eye disease within six to twelve months of the current breeding. More health tests are desirable. Visit <http://www.ofa.org/search.html?btnSearch=Advanced+Search> to find this information confirmed. After Part of Name, enter the kennel name or AKC name of the dog to find out what tests have been performed on that dog. Click on Vertical Pedigree at the top of the page to see how many generations have been tested (the more the better).

- *Do your dogs have allergies?* Allergies are a major health problem in Bichons, but unfor-

tunately you can’t go online to check this. Ask about dog food, because if it is something unusual it may indicate that their dogs have food sensitivities. When you visit the breeder’s kennel, observe the dogs for healthy coats with no signs of scratching.

- *How do you socialize your puppies?* Bichons can grow to be very fearful if they are not regularly exposed to different types/ages of people, riding in the car, new places and experiences, and so on, when they are 5 to 16 weeks of age. All breeders will say that they socialize their puppies—you must ask what they *do* to socialize them.

- *May I come and meet the puppies and their mother?* Before you buy, insist on visiting the home where the pups are being raised. It is important to meet the dam, because her temperament and looks will have a huge impact on the puppies. If the sire is on site check him out also, but many breeders don’t keep boys because of the difficulty of having them around intact girls. *Never* meet a breeder in a parking lot or other place to purchase a puppy! This is a sign that the seller is trying to hide something from the buyer. Reputable breeders *want* you to visit, so they can see how you and your family relate to the puppies.

- *At what age do you place your puppies?* If puppies are sold too young they often have lifelong socialization problems. They need to be with

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Bichon Frise puppies enjoying a roomy play environment with a variety of things to investigate

their littermates and dam for *at least* 8 weeks, and many breeders will not place puppies before 10–12 weeks. Breeders usually hang on to their most promising pups for a while, so don't reject an older puppy.

Reputable breeders will ask you questions also, because they want to make sure that their puppies are going to the best possible homes. For information about questions to expect, please go to <http://bichon.org/before-you-buy-puppy/>

Good luck! If there is anything I can do to help you, please do not hesitate to contact me.

I have had wonderful response to this, and I hope other breeders will want to reach out to the public in similar ways.

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

Boston Terriers

BOSTON TERRIER WEIGHT CLASSES

At the annual meeting at the BTCA National this year, there was a lot of discussion about asking clubs to offer all three Open classes (under 15 pounds, 15 to under 20 pounds, and 20 to 25 pounds). Some exhibitors thought using just two Open weight classes didn't sufficiently recognize larger dogs that are often very good. It was discussed that



Boston Terrier: Ch. Conde's Corky, August 1932

there are already three divisions since 1926. The president texted me some research on shows in the Open class: In 2018 and 2019, there were three dogs 20 pounds but under 25 pounds, no bitches; 2021 and 2022, no dogs or bitches 20 pounds but under 25 pounds.

The original standard in 1900 was revised about certain features in 1914, then again in 1919, where other problems and type were established. The interesting thing is the mat-

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ter of size set originally was about 20 to 25 pounds (as found in *The Boston Terrier*, by Anna Nicholas, p. 178). One of the top-winning dogs was Ch. Ravenroyd Rockefeller—heavy-weight class at his best, being close to 23 pounds, and sired six champions in 1931 (*The Boston Terrier*, by Vincent Perry, p. 36). Vincent Perry helped provide the second factor for size reduction in our breed: What made it hard to win in earlier days, the big dog was clean, rightly proportioned in size, and had the type of head we can see in many large dogs today.

After a lot of hard work in the 1930s a smaller Boston, Int. Ch. Globe Glowing Ember, was judged best of all breeds by the judge Charles Hopton, at the kennel club show in New Orleans. It was a rare occasion and almost unheard of, because most judges didn't expect perfection of form from the smaller-size Boston then.

Before 1900 there became a commercial interest to create a Toy Boston Terrier weighing in at between 9 and 12 pounds. You can see in took a lot of effort to make our Boston Terrier standard of today. To reverse the breed back as in the past, we have to breed great dogs.

Judges aren't familiar seeing correct larger Bostons. There was a period where downsizing the dog caused a bad change in the way bigger dogs looked. They became coarse, too "bully"

and high-stationed. It took a lot of hard work to straighten this out to bring back the correct bigger dogs of the past that are shown today. Vincent Perry stated in his book that big dogs at all-breed shows and specialties became rare not because of size, but because of lack of true type and quality (p. 47).

To sum up the article, the bigger, heavy-weight Boston Terriers of the past won because of type and conformity to the standard. Later, when breeders wanted to have a middle-sized dog, it took a lot of time and money to breed a smaller correct dog. The tables have turned, and now it's time to put the same sweat and tears as they did in the past to have the bigger dog win.

Never be afraid to show any dog who fits the standard. When a judge would tell me a dog was a little big, I'd say, but he is correct and fits the standard. Be proud and never show fear when you are on the end of the lead with a great dog. If a puppy is going to be large, start showing in the classes early. When the quality is there, he or she will win their championship early. Seen as a winner, then the judges will take a second look if the Boston shows in the breed ring.

We must prove the bigger dog is just as correct according to the breed standard as the others, like the small Boston had to do in the past.

Enter, show up, and have a dog who fits the

standard and will show proudly. The person on the end of the lead has to present the dog's qualities and groom it to perfection.

If the breeders of the past can do it, so can we. Then maybe there won't be a problem with the kennel clubs when we ask to have three class divisions.

—Patricia S. Johnson, BTCA and DWAA
patsgrooming@gmail.com
Boston Terrier Club of America

Bulldogs

THE BULLDOG STANDARD AND BREED HEALTH

The Bulldog Club of America (BCA) standard was written in 1896 and is directly based on the official standard of the Bulldog

Club Incorporated (England) that was written in 1875. The standard of the Bulldog Club Incorporated was based on an earlier standard, called the Philo Kuön standard, that was written in 1863.

The BCA standard remains unchanged to this day, with the exception of a format change, and more recently a disqualification for odd and nontraditional colors.

A breed's "Standard for Excellence" is, in the simplest terms, a blueprint for the perfect dog. Everything from eye color to toenails are mentioned in the Bulldog standard. The standard is a guide used by breeders, judges, exhibitors, and other enthusiasts to guide them, whether in the show ring or in their breeding decisions. It preserves and protects



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the breed.

Interestingly, very few people outside of the group referenced above are aware of what this standard even says. It is not uncommon to hear the standard misinterpreted, misquoted, and very often assigned verbiage that is completely foreign to it.

More recently, we have seen the standard targeted as something desperately needing a change, in order to “save the breed” from poor health. Most often, the demands for this change are coming from people who have never even read the standard.

Additionally, going by official AKC statistics, the vast amount of people who are currently breeding Bulldogs are also very likely completely unaware of what the standard actually says.

Therefore, “changing the standard” as a means to “make the breed healthier” would effectively do nothing productive and would in fact, be monumentally destructive.

The standard as written describes a vibrant, healthy Bulldog. Many of our top-winning show dogs also are our highest-ranked Health Ambassadors.

We find the following in the second sentence of the opening paragraph, under “General Appearance”:

“The general appearance and attitude should suggest great stability, vigor and strength.”

The Bulldog is described as a “medium

sized” breed. Correct size is about 50 pounds for males, and about 40 pounds for females.

This is stature, not fat.

A very important sentence in the standard is worded this way: “The ‘points’ should be well distributed and bear good relation one to the other, no feature being in such prominence from either excess or lack of quality that the animal appears deformed or ill-proportioned.”

This means that any extremes in conformation are not what is desirable in a Bulldog. People who breed extremes (for example, excessive facial wrinkles, overly short legs, or extremely curved legs) are not following the standard. It is important to note that this does not infer at the expense of classic breed features.

Eyes should be quite round in form, neither sunken nor bulging, and in color should be very dark. Entropic eyelids are not desirable in any dog and certainly should not be considered “normal.”

The feature that carries the most points in the point scale is the nose. Open nostrils are of critical importance. “The nostrils should be wide, large and black.”

The belly is tucked-up and not rotund. Fat dogs are not virtuous.

The deformed, inverted tails that are so often seen are completely counter to the standard:

“The tail may be either straight or ‘screwed’ (but never curved or curly) and in any case

must be short, hung low, with decided downward carriage. ... If straight, the tail should be cylindrical and of uniform taper. If ‘screwed,’ the bends or kinks should be well defined, and they may be abrupt and even knotty ...”

Inverted, curled-up, tight tails are not what the standard describes. A “screw” tail according to our standard is essentially a normal tail that has a bend or kink in it but still should be on the outside of the body.

The forelegs should not be curved or “bandy,” according to the standard. “Chippendale” legs are not desirable. The feet should be moderate in size, compact and firmly set. Interdigital cysts are not considered normal.

The coat should be straight, short, flat, close, of fine texture, smooth and glossy. Skin conditions are not considered normal.

In the “movement” section we find this: “The action must, however, be unrestrained, free and vigorous.” Lame, unfit dogs who cannot move freely are not considered normal for the breed.

We are hopeful more people will read the standard and apply it to their dogs as they plan their breedings.

—Elizabeth Milam,
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[Bulldog Club of America](#)

Chinese Shar-Pei

2022 CSPCA NATIONAL SPECIALTY

Another national specialty show is in the books, and it was an interesting one, with much to make us look at the future of our sport.

The CSPCA always tries to have great hotels for our nationals, and they are held over many days. Unfortunately, our 2022 event was the smallest in years, especially for one held in the central part of the country (Nebraska). Perhaps numbers would have been better if the hotel had been closer to tourist sites, in an area of the state with more non-dog things to do (many people like to combine nationals with vacations). But the hotel itself was great, and they had the best banquet food I’ve ever had! For some, the site was not near enough to an airport, or it was not an easy drive for others. Add in the economic conditions and the general shrinking of our sport, and it makes one wonder if we will need to rethink our plans in the future. Entries this small can allow us to move to holding the event over fewer days and having fewer judges (one judge could easily do our sweepstakes entries, for example). Definitely a time to adjust and reconsider choices.

One of the highlights of the national for many people over the years has been the Top 25 Invitational—a “dress up, watch the best

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Chinese Shar-Pei

of the best” evening. Sadly, the number of participants this year was very small, with less than 10 I believe. On the plus side, seeing two junior handlers out there with their champions was positive! Another special event taking a numbers hit is the Futurity/Maturity—this was inevitable, though, given the smaller number of litters.

Classes were also small (or had no entries at all). It was disturbing for those of us who have been around and saw the huge events of the past. But we can adjust! It is time for the club

and members to move in some new directions.

Fortunately, we had good entries in Junior Showmanship, *and* we had many younger breeders and owners who have shown an interest in leading the club into the future. Fresh eyes on the future we face!

The awards banquet is always fun. (And our dogs and owners are active in so many areas! Impressive.) I was honored to receive my 40-year pin, and I tried to imagine telling my 24-year-old self that I would *still* be doing this in 40 years!

On to the winners!

Best of Breed went once again to last year’s winner, GCh. Good Fortune Good & Ready II, owned by Jeff and Vickie Mauk. He also won the Invitational!

Lisa Moller (and Dale) had one of the best nationals ever, as they won Winners Dog, Best of Winners, Award of Merit, Best Bred-by *and* Owner-Handler—all with a young dog named Sentry’s Get Back. Great start for him!

Best of Opposite Sex was GCh. Good Fortune B and G Hot Toddy, owned by Grace Fritz.

Select Dog was GCh.G Gumby’s Hey Now You’re An AllStar, owned by Rob and Jeanne Bryant, Simone Demirjian, and Andrea Robins.

Select Bitch was GCh. Blurubein Forward Don’t Look Back GF, owned by Joy Lockery. Awards of Merit went to: Ch. You Kou N Willo Believe in Forever Xiao Mai, owned by G. Shaefer, J. Kolnik and Dr. A. Bauer; GCh.S Blackwitch Asias Win It With a Shot of Tequila, owned by Denise Beagle; Ch Good Fortune State of the Art, owned by Jeff and Vickie Mauk; and GCh.B PLK N Xu-Fei Exquisite Citrus Delight, owned by Lindsay and Robert Ellis and Ann Cookson.

Winners Bitch was GCh. Gumby’s Somewhere in Heaven, owned by Maureen Trodd-Nichols and Andrea Robins.

Best Junior was Isabella Morgan—topping one of the largest turnouts of juniors we’ve had in years!

And there was a beautiful group of heart-tugging veterans, with top honors captured by the oldest competitor, the lovely GCh. R-Lee Sparkle Plenty, owned by Larry and Deena Harvey.

It was wonderful, as always, to visit with old friends, meet new friends, and look to the future of this breed and sport I’ve loved for so long!

—Karen Kleinhans DeSilva,

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[Chinese Shar-Pei Club of America](#)

Chow Chows

THE CHOW CHOW BREEDER’S CODE

Through the years, I have enjoyed collecting Chow Chow memorabilia and books. One of the more enlightening books was *The Chow Chow*, published in 1933 and written by Captain Will Judy, a past editor of *Dog World* magazine and considered a recognized canine authority of the time. It is always a pleasure to periodically review this book and refresh in my mind the vision of the Chow during that period.

I share with you an excerpt that was written by the author a number of years prior to 1933.

COURTESY LYNDA BEAM

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Chow Chow



The book says that this “Chow Breeder’s Code” has been quoted many times in different languages. It reads as follows:

The Chow Breeder’s Code

- I. I will give chief attention to the bitch.*
- II. I will study grandparents rather than parents.*
- III. I will keep breeding records.*
- IV. I will read a pedigree not by names and titles, but by breeding facts.*

- V. I will put away all culls and weaklings at birth.*
- VI. I will never breed a shy or excessively nervous dog, not sell or give away such dog.*
- VII. I will pay no attention to superstitions and untested ideas about breeding.*
- VIII. I will honor the bred-by-exhibitor most of all.*
- IX. I will judge stud or matron by the offspring.*
- X. I will breed dogs for disposition as well as for physical perfection.*

This breeder’s code contains many guidelines that continue to be applicable not only to Chows, but to most of today’s breeds. The knowledge shared from publications of the past may well continue to guide us through the confusion of the present.

In addition to this breeder’s code, the book contains sections entitled “Origin and history of the Chow”; “Official Chow standard and interpretation”; “Principles of Chow breeding”; “Mating and whelping of Chows”; “Feeding, care and training”; “Showing of Chows”; and “Efficient and profitable kennel management.”

I encourage you to search for these books and articles from respected Chow fanciers and canine authorities, as they furnish us with an insight to the origins, problems, and early history of the Chow Chow.

—Love Banghart,
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Chow Chow Club, Inc.

Dalmatians

PICTURE PERFECT

The holiday season is upon us once again, and I, personally, look forward to seeing our dogs photographed in all their festive glory. However, like children, dogs can be a challenge to photograph *and* get it right. Not only are they wiggly, but there are also other factors that need to be considered, including lighting, sets, and shot angles.

Let’s look at some of these so we can get it right.

- You would think you would have to have a well-trained dog to get the quintessential holiday shot. Actually, a candid picture, showcasing their personalities, can often be better than the most perfectly posed pic. A tilt of the head or a tongue-lolling smile can add so much character and charm to a photo that perfection may not be required. Play up to the dog’s strengths and look for an “honest” shot.

- One of the most important aspects of getting a great picture is to make sure you are on your dog’s level. Sitting or squatting in front of them makes for the perfect perspective. If you stand over them, you’re not likely to get the most flattering angle. You don’t want the nose of the dog being the focus of your shot, nor do you want them looking small and disproportionate. Also look them in the eyes. Dogs are one of the few animals

who enjoy making eye contact with their people. Give them a look of love, and you can bet they’ll reciprocate with an adoring gaze.

- Know your dog. He or she may not like Santa, with his imposing white beard and hearty laugh at the store, or be uncomfortable around the noise and clamor of a public place. Think of a place where they’re comfortable and happy, and build around that. You can plan a backdrop with a blanket or wrapping paper, and make sure things are centered so you don’t get the edges of the backdrop. If you do, make sure the picture is centered so you can crop it out proportionally if need be. And don’t forget the props. A string of lights, reindeer and a sleigh, or wrapped Christmas presents can add so much charm and appeal to the subject matter.

- Use natural light to your advantage. Flash-effects can be startling to the dog and may make them look like an alien with the eyeshine you can get when they are hit with unnatural light. If outside, the best days are the cloudy/bright ones—enough sun to lighten the shot, but not too much to the point that the dog looks like he’s under a spotlight being interrogated. And thankfully, these days we have Photoshop and other photo-editing apps where many errors are easily corrected—even for the amateur.

- Practice makes perfect. I remember the

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“Who’s a good dog?” The best photos capture a spark of the canine’s personality.

days where you had to actually wait for the film to be developed, and one-hour processing was the most wonderful thing ever. However, now we have *digital!* It’s so much easier to get

that amazing shot—point, shoot, and delete if it’s not what you want.

So, take your time, be patient, and wait for that one shot that will make your holidays even

more festive. Cards, Instagram, Facebook—social media makes it so much easier to share your BFF with the world.

—Jan Warren Linné,
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Dalmatian Club of America

French Bulldogs

THE WEIGHT LOSS PLAN FOR THE OVERWEIGHT FRENCHIE

My 35-pound male Frenchie had resisted losing weight through every method I used. After feeding him the same amount I fed the 20-pound Frenchie for three months without any loss, I threw in the towel and contacted Cornell University vet school.

Almost all vet schools have a department specializing in nutrition. I simply contacted Cornell through their website. You have choices. Your hometown vet needs to be on board, because the vet/nutritionist will require all of your dog’s medical records.

Cornell has a nutrition department that specializes in canine diets. I paid a fee and was assigned a veterinarian to help with my dog’s issue. I was cautioned to stay the course and not give up or deviate from the plan.

You have guessed the plan, no doubt. I am cooking for him, and it really hasn’t been a stress. I cook enough for four days, which

provides him with eight meals. I alternate between ground turkey and ground beef. I get the lowest-fat meats I can find at the grocery, then I cook oatmeal and green beans to be added to the meat. I buy organic, frozen beans, and they can be alternated with zucchini or cauliflower. The nutritionist vet had a list of supplements for me to purchase as additives to the diet. He gets calcium carbonate powder, salt, sunflower oil, and omega-3 oil. He also gets a capsule of choline, and one-half tablet of Centrum Silver multivitamin, formulated for women over 50. The Centrum is given every other day.

At first, my Frenchie refused to eat the green beans, but he got over that quickly. He is always hungry—and there is no counting possible of the calories he consumes from rabbit pellets. But there is great news finally: He has lost over six pounds. It has taken six months to do it.

His weight loss slowed somewhat, because I couldn’t bear the guilt of giving the other dogs a treat and seeing his crestfallen face. Naturally, the lowest-calorie treats possible are given to him. I use the Honest Kitchen “pecks” at four calories each, and the tiny Meaty Littles by Honest Kitchen, which are two calories each.

He looks great, and we both want him to go on the maintenance diet, but his hometown vet says he needs to lose a little more. She is

COURTESY ROBIN MENDEZ

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French Bulldog

worried about his back carrying too much weight, along with being heavy boned.

Soon he will reach his desired weight, and then the nutritionist will provide a maintenance diet. Surely it will not be a cooked one, but if it is, I shall keep cooking.

It is worth the effort when you see such dramatic results. He looks wonderful, and he is more active and playful and is running with-

out stress occurring. And he is not so hard to pick up when necessary.

We all know the future problems awaiting the overweight dog. If it is time for you to do something, I highly recommend Cornell University.

—Sande Abernathy,
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 French Bull Dog Club of America

Lhasa Apsos

THE ELUSIVE FRONT

As I accepted a red ribbon from a judge who had always appreciated my dogs, she offered terse advice: “You are losing your fronts.” She was a former highly successful toy breeder and handler, and I respected her opinion. The comment stung, as I had always been proud of the fronts we were able to achieve, a legacy from our Hamilton foundation bitch. Our bitch had a long, properly sloping shoulder blade, a matching upper arm in both length and return, and straight forelegs. And she produced it.

It is widely accepted among dog experts that correct fronts are the hardest to achieve and easiest to lose in a breeding program. That proved true in my case, as unintended consequences from an outcross yielded straighter shoulders, a shorter upper arm and bowed front legs. It took 10 years to reverse the problem. To recognize and breed a proper front, one must know what to look for. This is but a primer on front assembly, intended to provide the reader an appetite to read something more in-depth.

The shape of the skeleton determines each breed’s required movement. A Bulldog is built differently from a Saluki, and they do not move the same. The Lhasa Apso standard states that movement should be “smooth and effortless with good front reach and equally

strong rear drive without any hint of wasted action”; forelegs should be straight. To achieve movement beneficial to a tough little mountain dog, the front assembly must be correct.

The front assembly carries over half the body weight and is responsible for forward movement. Head carriage serves as a counterweight to forward motion and should be slightly forward and not perpendicular to the ground. Forward movement is based on muscles and tendons. The skeleton provides the attachment mechanism for the muscles and tendons, which do the work. But the shape of the skeleton governs the range of motion.

The front framework consists of the scapula (shoulder blade), humerus (upper arm), the foreleg from elbow to pastern, the pastern, and the foot. The main joints consist of the point of the shoulder (where the upper arm attaches to the scapula) and the elbow (where the upper arm attaches to the foreleg).

Angulation and bone length determine what kind of forward movement is possible. The length of the scapula and humerus should be nearly the same. In addition to bones being matched in length, angulation governs range of motion. To achieve proper reach, the shoulder blade should slope at an angle of approximately 45 degrees to the ground. Layback references the angle from the point of shoulder to the elbow, which ideally is approximately 45

COURTESY SANDE ABERNATHY

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Lhasa Apso: Am./Can. Ch. Rimar's Rumpelstiltskin
ROM, 1978



degrees to the ground as well, forming a near right-angle with the scapula. Both angles and bone-length angles are rarely exact. The scapula and humerus form a straight line when extended, which is maximum reach.

Forward reach will be restricted if the shoulder blade is steep and/or the upper arm is short. When the upper arm rotates forward, reach will not exceed its length, regardless of the length of the shoulder blade. Even a long upper arm cannot achieve maximum extension if the shoulder blade is steep. And a combination of steep shoulder blade and short upper arm will yield mincing movement—a lot of motion while going nowhere.

A well-built front is an important starting point for proper movement. Other factors include, but are not limited to, rear assembly, length of body, and muscle tone.

Learning the mechanics and value of the front assembly is invaluable to breeders, exhibitors, and judges.

—Cassandra de la Rosa,

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[The American Lhasa Apso Club](#)

Poodles

RALLY ON, POODLES!

First started in 2005, rally obedience is one of the newest companion sports offered by

AKC GAZETTE COLLECTION

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the AKC. Since its beginning, it has become very popular, and for good reason; it is both fun and challenging at the same time. As a result, rally is a sport enjoyed by Poodles and their owners.

In a trial, a Poodle and their handler complete a course designed by the judge. No two courses are the same, so each time you show, you are presented with different challenges. The judge tells the handler when to begin, and the team proceeds through the course at their own speed. Since it is a timed sport, the idea is to complete it briskly. This brisk pace, combined with changes of direction and the different stations along the course, keep our Poodles interested and engaged.

Handlers are allowed to encourage their dogs during the course, and Poodles seem to appreciate this connection with their owners. Because the jumps in the upper-level rally classes are low, it is a sport that the more mature Poodle can continue to compete in.

Rally is scored less precisely than traditional obedience and can be more forgiving of the “creativity” that our Poodles occasionally exhibit!

All these reasons combine to make rally an ideal sport for our breed. If you haven’t already, we encourage you to give rally obedience a try. It really is a fun sport that appeals to our intelligent and active Poodles. Also, if you try rally



Poodles (Edwin Megargee painting, 1937)

and find you like it, or if you are already training and exhibiting in rally with your Poodle, you should plan on entering rally at the Poodle Club of America’s 2023 national specialty. Rally will be held on Tuesday, April 25.

In addition to the regular classes, PCA offers Rally Novice Team and Rally Novice Pairs at the national. In the Team class, there are four handlers and their individual Poodles competing on a Novice course—one

at a time, and in succession. Each dog and handler are judged separately, but the final score is a combination of all four Poodles, and the time is the total time all four complete the course. Although not necessary, having a theme and all team members dressing alike is customary and adds to the fun. Rally Pairs is one handler with two Poodles doing a Novice course together. The Poodles do not have to be the same variety, but they

must work together in unison.

Most of the skills required to compete in rally can be trained in a smaller space, making it ideal for winter indoor training.

So start working now, and we hope you will join us at PCA 2023 for some rally fun! —Jan Hopper

[Poodle Club of America](#)

Schipperkes

GOOD FEET AND NAILS

Our standard reads: *Feet are small, round and tight. Nails are short, strong and black.* One part of having good feet is most certainly genetic just as a tighter ear-set or dark eyes are. Feet are one of those small details that breeders prize, and good feet can really contribute to a well-conditioned dog’s overall appearance. Great-looking feet don’t just happen; the very best Schipperke feet are due in no small part to proper and frequent maintenance. You cannot just trim back the nails on Friday night and hope for the best. I know, I have done it!

Let’s take it back to the beginning. If you plan to exhibit your Schip in conformation, you should start all of your training early. That includes grooming in general, and especially nail trimming. When your Schip puppy is young, it is important to begin to keep the

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nails short so the quick doesn't grow too long. Otherwise, in trying to cut the nail back to a shorter length you can end up "quicking" the dog and causing him to bleed and be sore. The dog may limp and also run a risk of infection from bacteria entering what is now an open wound. Not to mention, Schips have a very long memory, and since it is easy to cut the nails too short (having those black nails means you cannot see the quick in order to avoid cutting it), do that just once or twice, and it can become a two- or three-man job to hold them for a nail session!

Most serious exhibitors use one of the grinding tools commercially available. For a young dog, trimming can be done once a week or so, depending on the surface they spend their time on. (Keep in mind that dogs mostly kept on concrete tend to wear their nails shorter than those who spend time on gravel runs or grass yards or in the house.)

If the nails have grown long on an older dog, you must either first trim them back a bit with nail clippers before using the grinder or grind those nails down over several days, a little at a time until they are short enough.

Frequent use of the grinder is pretty much a "must" in this breed. I called five top breeders, and to a one they said that when they are showing a dog they grind the nails every week. It's a good idea to do nails on the Wednesday

before a show weekend. This way they have time to darken up again (the tip of the nails may turn white for a bit from grinding), and it also allows time for healing of any sore toes that might occur. (It will also time to be forgiven if there is any sort of uncomfortable episode!)

Remember, trimming of the hair between the pads is allowed. Do not underestimate the value over time of keeping that hair trimmed! It all helps.

One last word about the effect of kenneling surface on feet: Schips tend to be quite active, and those kept constantly on concrete may not have feet and pasterns as tight as those kept on other softer or more giving surfaces. If you have a dog who does not have the very best feet, consider keeping him at least part-time on pea gravel or sand. I once sent a dog with very mediocre feet and not the best pasterns to another breeder for a visit. When he returned, he was a different dog! In a few months that whole aspect of his looks had changed. He had lovely, tight feet and much tighter pasterns. When I asked what the secret was, she said all of her dogs are kept in runs with fairly deep sand. So there's an interesting tidbit for you!

—Virginia Larioza,
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Schipperke Club of America



Schipperke

COURTESY HOTDOG PHOTO

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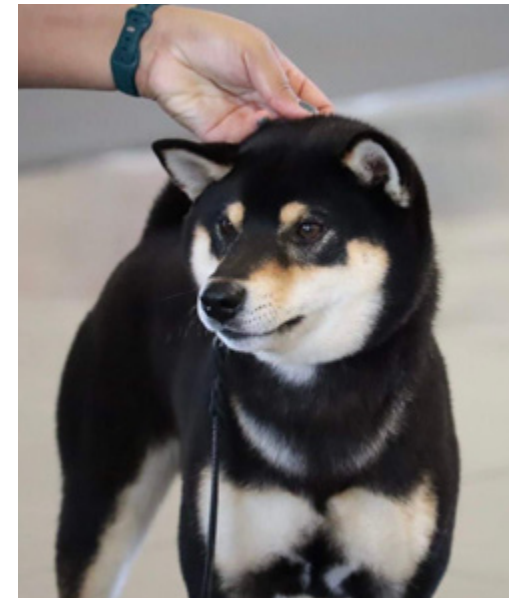
Shiba Inu

2022 NATIONAL SPECIALTY

The National Shiba Club of America (NSCA) held the club's 2022 national specialty in Santa Rosa, California, the week of October 19–23—the same week as the Harvest Moon Classic cluster of all-breed shows. It was the NSCA's 30th anniversary, and the location was a fantastic way to enjoy national festivities with proximity to breathtaking wineries and delicious tastings in Sonoma County. The Shiba Inu Fanciers of Northern California also held multiple specialties to celebrate their club's 30th specialty. The annual gathering was an opportunity to make memories with new and old friends and to see up-and-coming dogs.

Attending your breed's national specialty is important as a spectator-breeder and an exhibitor. The event generally provides the opportunity to see dogs from outside of one's area and to view firsthand the dogs you've seen in ads or on social media. This is important for those planning potential breedings and striving to enhance lines and continue to preserve the breed.

The national-specialty entries this year were the largest the NSCA has seen



The National Shiba Club of America held its 2022 national specialty in Santa Rosa, California, October 19–23: Best of Breed, Best of Winners, and Best of Opposite Sex in lineup; black and tan Shiba; red female; red male; sesame female; Winners Bitch class.

COURTESY ANNA-LEE FORSBERG AND SHAWN KASNER

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in many years, with 65 national-specialty entries and 24 national sweepstakes entries. Participants traveled from all parts of the U.S., and breeders and fanciers traveled from abroad to support their fellow friends and look at U.S. breeding stock. There was a 14-year-old Shiba who made the cut in the Veteran Sweepstakes at the Shiba Inu Fanciers of Northern California show. All three allowed colors—red, black and tan, and sesame—were represented and given equal representation. In fact, two sesame Shibas earned their conformation championships that week.

National sweepstakes judge Mr. Masaki Shimizu and national-specialty judge Ms. Rita Biddle, Esq., each had the honor to put their hands and eyes on this compact Japanese hunting breed.

Ms. Biddle had judged the Shiba national in 2014 in Orlando, so it was a compliment that the NSCA membership voted to have her return. During the NSCA dinner banquet each judge had the opportunity to speak, and Ms. Biddle stated how the Shiba breed was much better than in 2014, with a lot more consistency in size and proportion. She said she had a great time and that it was a challenge for her to judge. She explained why she started the ring procedure the way she did; dogs were able to have approximately

five seconds in the ring by themselves, and that is important. The down-and-back with a go-around without stopping provides a good, fluid motion to show off each dog to his or her advantage.

Mr. Shimizu noted that he was extremely thankful to be invited to the special event and had an enjoyable time. The 2022 NSCA president, Ms. Jeri Burnside, spoke before the start of judging to provide historical feedback on the improvement of the breed over the 30 years of AKC recognition. I believe this statement aligns with the statements made by multiple judges.

The national specialty provided an opportunity for judges' education mentorship by Ms. Kathy Bube and Ms. Lori Pendergast, and hands-on education with multiple Shibas provided to AKC judges looking to add the breed. (If you missed being able to attend judges' education, there will be another opportunity the week of December 12 at the AKC National Championship in Orlando.)

The Shiba breed fancy is a fairly small and closely knit group. I was pleased to see the sportsmanship and congratulatory atmosphere that was spread around by all exhibitors and breeders. See everyone in 2023.

—Letty Hughes,
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National Shiba Club of America

Tibetan Spaniels

THE INS AND OUTS OF GROWING IN POPULARITY

I began in Tibetan Spaniels in the early 1970s and had my first litter in 1975. Tibetan Spaniels were a very rare breed at the time, and you could forget selling one to anyone, so family members became owners of my puppies. As my sister reminded me a few years ago when I had a litter of puppies that were already promised, she took in a puppy back in the day. She got her new puppy!

In 1984 the Tibetan Spaniel was recognized by the AKC, and that brought some atten-



Tibbie love. Left: A Tibbie makes a great companion for a newborn joining the family.

COURTESY MALLORY COSBY DRISKILL

NON-SPORTING GROUP

tion—mainly from other exhibitors in other breeds, looking for a Tibetan Spaniel to show. It was the first change of attention for the breed, but it was not a bad thing at that time. I became a great friend to many newcomers, and many are still in the breed. We had breeder-exhibitors who became active in the Tibetan Spaniel Club of America, holding offices and as heads of committees, helping with our matches so that the club would later be able to hold a national specialty. Everyone in the breed took the opportunity to get to know each other, even though we were spread out across the country. We worked together for the betterment for the Tibetan Spaniel, and for the Tibetan Spaniel Club of America. The club had supported entries around the country, giving everyone a chance to get to know the exhibitors and breeders who were active in the different regions of the country, and introduce them to other members of the club.

I am going to now fast-forward to today. The Tibetan Spaniel is getting much more popular, and with this, I now have waiting lists of some wonderful people who would like to get a Tibetan Spaniel. Other members of the club are also finding they have waiting lists. The members help each other out with sending potential puppy owners to other member/breeders. That is the “In” of popularity.

Now to the “Outs” of growing more popu-

lar. Recently, two situations have made members of the TSCA worried. One is where a “breeder” had her dogs taken away by the local animal control for the bad situation these dogs were found in. Another involved a “breeder” who had listed puppies on the different “for sale” puppy sites and dumped her two litters in a shelter due to the fact she “could not sell” the puppies.

I hope potential buyers will consider looking for the parent club member when searching for a puppy. The Tibetan Spaniel Club would welcome newcomers to the breed and would like them to be active on the different committees and continue to for the betterment of this wonderful breed. We have an active Rescue and Health Trust that actively keeps records of potential homes for rescue Tibbies. I love the fact that Tibetan Spaniels are being discovered, as they make great companions and are a great breed to start in all the different AKC activities, including showing in conformation and participating in all the different performance events the breed excels in. The members hope to protect the breed by being very careful in placements of their puppies.

The holiday season is here, and as a reminder, it is not a good time to bring a new puppy home. Give a dog toy in the stocking, with a note that the puppy can join the family after the holidays.

With that note, I would like to wish everyone Happy Holidays and a great New Year, as we welcome 2023!

—Mallory Cosby Driskill,

Ambrier@aol.com

[Tibetan Spaniel Club of America, Inc.](#)

Tibetan Terriers

Margy Pankiewicz is our guest writer for this month’s column. Margy has been involved with Tibetan Terriers since 1979. Along with her husband Ron, they have been breeding under the Malishar prefix. Although keeping their breeding program small, they have produced over 50 champions. Margy has been an active member of TTCA, serving on various committees and elected offices. She established the TTCA Judges Mentoring Program and co-authored *The Illustrated Guide to the Tibetan Terrier*. Margy maintains a deep desire for the preservation of type in the Tibetan Terrier, and she brings a perspective of many years observing various lines and styles as a breeder, exhibitor, and student of the breed.

MENTORING

From my first day with dogs, I was blessed with excellent mentors. I wanted to use their example to pay it forward as I progressed in

the dog world.

Good mentoring begins by nurturing the family who is taking their first pup home. Those hours of support can help ease the transition to a successful placement. This mentorship can be a lifelong relationship, resulting in rewarding friendships.

Along the way, some new owners may decide that dog shows sound like fun. Their breeder or mentor should encourage them to study the standard and see how it applies to their dog. By helping them also see how it applies to the dogs they see at shows, this will teach the owners the concept of type. They should also learn what it means to model good sportsmanship and how to groom and present their dogs. It’s important for new exhibitors to learn about structure, movement, basic ring procedure, and etiquette. Playing nice in the ring is key—remember, we were all new at one time!

New exhibitors can often go on to become breeders and stud dog owners. They will need guidance in pedigree studies, including learning how to evaluate a pedigree for health, structure, temperament, pigment, bites, coats, and size. Use photos of the dogs that are in the pedigree and discuss their littermates. The website of the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (www.ofa.org) is an invaluable source in studying the depth of a pedigree’s health testing. Review old issues of the *TTCA Journal* for

NON-SPORTING GROUP



Tibetan Terrier Ch. Malishar's Phoenix, ROM: early table training at age 6 months, and in the show ring as a veteran.

Journal for photos, then discuss the theories of line-breeding, outcrossing, and judicious inbreeding when planning a mating.

Mentors should also impress upon them the responsibility of breeding a litter and the use of their stud dog. Be direct and remind them to respect information given in confidence. While it's flattering that someone wants to use Rover as a stud, there may be better possibilities. If you know in your heart it's not a good combination, suggest another dog—maybe even a rival if it's a better fit.

The next vital step in mentoring involves judges. The TTCA's Judges' Education

program teaches the next generation of judges about the unique qualities and nuances of our breed, as described by the standard and *The Illustrated Guide to the Tibetan Terrier*. Seminars, hands-on workshops, kennel visits, and ringside mentoring are important to understanding distinguishing breed characteristics. Form and function are vital to the breed based on its native Himalayan environment. While there are some differences in style which are acceptable, there is only one type. National and regional specialties are excellent places to review a wide variety of Tibetan Terriers

from different kennel lines.

One constant throughout all phases of mentoring is *tradition*. From the newest exhibitor to the most experienced judge, we want to acknowledge the ancient history of the Tibetan Terrier, reflecting its roots and evolution. The breed had a storied past long before it ran around in the show ring winning ribbons. That tradition is crucial to the preservation of the breed. With our dogs, we represent a people living in diaspora.

This breed is a lesson in

patience. Appreciate it as such.

Someday if the people you mentored stick it out, they will be also become mentors. Hopefully they will pass on the lessons they learned with grace and support to the next generation. Remember to hold the door open for those who come behind us, so that our breed will thrive for many years to come, with great people leading the way. —Margy Pankiewicz, Malishar

Thank you, Margy.

—Sonam Kushner,

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[Tibetan Terrier Club of America](#)

HERDING GROUP

Bearded Collies

HAVE YOU HERD?

A few decades ago, a British Beardie historian visited the U.S. and took in a dog show where one of the country's top conformation Beardies was being shown. Viewing him in action, she penned, "He sailed round the ring, silken locks flowing in the breeze while the ground rumbled beneath my feet as a thousand Scottish shepherds whirled in their graves." Viewing modern Beardies in the show ring—primped, polished, and artificially parted—it's easy to forget they were once hardworking herding dogs. Fortunately, some still are working, having never lost the instinct. What were those early Beardies like?

Old books can sometimes give us a glimpse. *The Livestock Journal* of 1878 carried an article in which the author referred to the early Beardie-like canine:

"It is shaggy-coated, thick-skinned with short, powerful limbs. Shepherds prefer it for its endurance of cold and fatigue and its ability as a driver, considering it the best dog for sheep. It is the size of an ordinary collie but a good deal deeper-chested and flatter in the forehead: a dark grey in colour, short-tailed; at home among the drift and snow; finely adapted for hill climbing."

He added that "this type of shaggy-coated collie instinctively made a wide sweep," with

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shepherds saying they could safely trust 200 or 300 sheep “to the sagacity of this valuable dog which does not hurry or push, but drives them as coolly and as cautiously as if its master were present.” Shepherds of that time often referred to the dogs as “goat-haired collies.”

In *The New Book of the Dog*, by Robert Leighton, published 1912, there was a bonanza of Beardie info:

“Then there is the Scottish bearded or Highland Collie, less popular still with the flockmaster, a hardy-looking dog in outward style but soft in temperament and many of them make better cattle than sheep dogs. This dog and the Old English Sheepdog are much alike in appearance but that the bearded is a more racy animal with a head resembling that of the Dandie Dinmont rather than the square head of the Bobtail. The strong-limbed bearded Collie is capable of getting through a good day’s work but is not so steady nor so wise as the old-fashioned black and white. He is a favourite with the butcher and drover who have sometimes a herd of troublesome cattle to handle and he is well-suited to rough and rocky ground, active in movement and as sure-footed as the wild goat. He can endure cold and wet without discomfort and can live on the Highland hills when others less sturdy would succumb. As an outdoor dog he is less subject to rheumatism than many.”



Bearded Collie

In the late 1930s, British naturalist Richard Perry elected to live the life of a hill shepherd on the Isle of Skye, Scotland. Later he wrote a book, *I Went A’Shepherding*, which was published in 1944. In it he writes about using three dogs: one to gather small lots, the second to hunt and move sheep, and the third “a noisy fellow this, for these mountain sheep were so darned obstinate and head-strong, especially those from a hill not regu-

larly shepherded, the only a strong rough dog would keep them on the move—and none better at this game than the shaggy Beardie of the old crofting folk, a smaller, long-tailed and straight-haired likeness of the English Bobtail.”

Back in 1949, James Garrow, acknowledged as a working sheepdog expert, penned a letter to Mrs. G.O. Willison, the British lady credited with reviving the breed. In it he noted,

“The Beardie was essentially a worker, famed for fleetness and brains, kept by butchers and farmers. The coat should not be overlong and of a raw, harsh texture. Have you drawn up the standard for the KC yet? You want to emphasize the rule on coat.”

Though books can provide insight into our breed in earlier days, there’s nothing like someone relating personal experiences. I was fortunate to be contacted in 1999 by a 78-year-old Scottish gentleman, Bill Remwick, who was living on Vancouver Island. A column I wrote on early Beardies started him reminiscing. Bill, his father, and his grandfather all raised cattle and sheep in Scotland and used no other dogs but Beardies as their herding dogs. Bill claimed his memory only went back to 1925 but his grandfather herded with Beardies as early as 1890. His grandfather, he recalled, would not own another breed of dog. And with good reason: “The Beardies,” he related, “were great dogs for the drovers. When it came time to sell the sheep, they would be driven by the thousands the length of Scotland, through Falkirk to the English market. On the road, the flocks would get mixed, but the Beardies could ‘shed out’ their own sheep without fail. The dogs had to be incredibly good to keep on the road for weeks.”

The Highland drovers themselves were

COURTESY LYNDA BEAM

HERDING GROUP

unbelievable characters, according to Bill. They spoke only Gaelic, ate little else besides oatmeal, and weren't particularly fond of baths. However, they were organized folk who kept the flocks moving at the rate of four miles a day, lined up rest pastures along the way, and could identify all the sheep in their keeping. Often they drove sheep for 20 or 30 owners, kept track of the sales prices on each, and delivered the money in cash back to the owners. "The drover's word was his bond." Sadly, the drove roads disappeared when railroads came in and flocks could be moved to market more efficiently.

Bill remembered his and his father's dogs as being exceptionally hardy. Heat was their only enemy, and he recalled them heading for a creek or the nearest horse trough to cool off when necessary. Then it was back to work.

"They were incredibly brave and gutsy dogs," Bill commented. "They had courage in spades." He confessed Border Collies were good workers, "but lacked the outright courage the Beardies showed in facing down obstreperous cattle or stubborn sheep." The dogs were never abused but they were working dogs rather than pets. Every year we weaned the lambs from the ewes. Tweed (Bill's Bearded Collie) separated 600 reluctant ewes from their lambs routinely."

In recent years since moving to Canada, Bill

had watched Beardies in the show ring and remarked, "They've changed so much. I don't know if they'd still be able to herd with all that long, flowing coat." His working Beardies were "raggy" and never combed out. But the Bearded Collie coat was simply an example of the "wilder part of Scotland" that included the coats found on Highland cattle and the black-faced colley sheep.

In those times, many sheepdogs were shorn with the sheep and slathered with a tar and oil mixture to act as a weather-proofer and insect repellent. A far cry from silken show coats. (I'm guessing they weren't invited to share the shepherd's bedding.)

Looking back, Bill recalled, "You did difficult things with your Beardies, and you thought nothing of it." It was simply expected of a good working dog.

—Alice Bixler,
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[Bearded Collie Club of America](#)

Belgian Malinois

UNNATURAL SELECTION

This summer, I entered my Belgians in several Fast CAT trials. Fast CAT is a simplified, straight-line version of lure coursing that any breed—including Malinois—can try. My Dora seems made for Fast CAT. At 6,



Belgian Malinois Dora has a passion for Fast CAT.

she still chases blowing leaves, and she would set herself on fire to keep up with my bigger dogs. From the first time she ever left the Fast CAT start line, she strained every sinew to catch that dancing plastic bag. When the bag stopped after the finish line, she punished it for its impertinence.

Despite her gameness and commitment, Dora's top speed of 26.3 mph places her around number 106 in the Malinois rankings. The number-one dog runs at about 30.4 mph. So much try, so little gold for Dora. To get to the top of the heap, I must not only reach, but

exceed 30.4 mph! How can I do that?

The suspicion comes upon me that I will have to breed my own line of Malinois Fast CAT specialists. I will breed for speed. After all, a breeder's choices in trying to produce the "stunningest" beauty, the "stock-sensiest" herder, or the "baddest" protection dog, are pretty much the only selection pressures our well-cared for dogs will ever experience.

My goal to maintain breed type *and* select for speed may be challenging. Some of my selection criteria may be difficult to combine, if not mutually exclusive. How can I make this work?

HERDING GROUP

First, I must decide what traits to select for. I scan the rankings and quickly realize that the Greyhound, at 38 mph, will be my lodestar. I watch videos of Greyhounds running and discover that my dogs need a flexible spine and a rise over the loin to help maximize stride length. I need a long, strong neck that can stretch forward and down to reach for more ground. I need a body that is mostly legs and muscle, no wasted anything, including hair.

Huh. This is a lot different than the short-coupled, powerful athlete I'm starting with. I've got a lot of work to do!

Fortunately, there is a large reservoir of Malinois that have been purpose-bred for activities that require top-notch athletic and working ability. I can start by looking for the leanest, rangiest Malinois I can find. Secretariat with fangs. Nothing else matters right now. I would never, of course, slip a fawn-colored racing Greyhound with a black mask in there somewhere. No breed steward would do a thing like that just for a competitive edge.

Time passes.

My "FastCATinois," bred now for seven generations to win Fast CAT trials, are competitive with Greyhounds. What do they look like? Well, that wasn't my top concern at the time. I bred my dogs for performance. I did notice the other day that some of my dogs

now have hanging ears. I didn't breed *for* that. Of course, I didn't *not* breed for it, either. I produce heads that are sleek, smooth bullets: no extra muscle in the jaws to disturb the aerodynamics. True, the FastCATinois fall off the sleeve now if they try to do protection work, but you can't have everything. Some of my dogs have tight, short coats, while others are more traditional. I'm not sure why there is so much variation. I didn't breed for that.

I still show my dogs in conformation. But my project has had some consequences. People are saying that there's a split developing between the Fast CAT dogs and the show dogs. I don't get it. All I wanted to do was be the best at something, and now I am. So why is everyone so unhappy with me?

—Carilee (Cole) Moran,

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[American Belgian Malinois Club](#)

Belgian Sheepdogs

HUMBLE HERDING

The AKC standard for the Belgian Sheepdog reads: "*Head: Clean-cut and strong, overall size should be in proportion to the body. Expression indicates alertness, attention, readiness for activity. Gaze should be intelligent and questioning.*"

That was the last thing I saw when I tripped, dropped the line, and watched my young,



The Belgian Sheepdog is adept at herding.

enthusiastic Belgian Sheepdog running off into a flock of sheep in all her glory. I just knew I had bought my first sheep that day. In herding sports, there are monetary fees associated if your dog does any damage to livestock. We found my young Belgian in the corner of an open pen with her stray sheep. She barked loudly once and stood there as we approached. We removed her and then returned the stray sheep to its flock.

Mortified, I looked at my instructor, who smiled and said, "Well, now you know that's what she'll do." My instructor then patiently

explained to me that my exuberant 1-year-old puppy had done her job. When the sheep split from the flock, she stayed with the one stray sheep. She also didn't know what to do once she cornered the sheep. Five months earlier, we had had taken our first Herding Instinct Test, and since then we have been training in tending work.

I have two younger Belgians. One did not pass the instinct test, and the other did. Some will argue you breed for instinct and ability, and others will tell you a dog either has it or not. The dam of my girls famously failed Herding Instinct tests twice at the 2019 national. She has also produced three herding-titled offspring, with two more that have instinct-tested well. In hindsight, their puppy

COURTESY SUSAN REED DAVIS

HERDING GROUP

testing shed some insight one might say. One puppy had good prey drive, and the other showed very little. Fast-forward, I have one dog who's climbed through a gate to get to sheep, and another that refused to look at them and instead glared at me with all her might.

In all the sports I have encountered with Belgians, I can say herding is by far the most humbling, yet equally rewarding. Obedience, rally, and agility, while off lead, do not begin to take on the task of learning to control prey drive and instinct. AKC Herding A, B, C, and D courses and French-style herding offer Belgians and their handlers a variety of tests and titles to train for and compete in.

To get started in herding, you will need to find a Herding Instinct Test and instructor in your region. Facilities with livestock typically include sheep, ducks, goats, and even geese. Puppies must be a minimum of 6 months old to be tested for instinct. Plan to wear clothes you are comfortable getting dirty in, and a pair of gloves with good grip are handy to have.

Most people do not have readily available access to sheep, so rest assured you are not alone. Your instructor will give you lots of homework you can do at home without livestock. Herding can be done successfully with dedication, time, and weekly lessons.

Throughout your herding journey you will learn to implement terms like *go-by* and *lie down*. You will learn what it means for a dog to stay perfectly in balance with the sheep.

There are so many fun venues you can train and compete with Belgians in. The hallmark versatility of the breed is what draws most people to the breed. So, whether you're feeling humbled with your first herding dog or focused on reaching new goals with your fifth, just remember to have fun.

Stay safe, friends.

—Susan Reed Davis,

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[Belgian Sheepdog Club of America](#)

Belgian Tervuren

HIDE AND SEEK: CRYPTORCHIDISM

“Come out, come out, wherever you are!” We all remember what fun that game was. What is no fun, however, is when a breeder is waiting for a male puppy's testicles to make their final descent.

Undescended testicles have become an issue in Tervuren litters in the last decade. In my last litter, I had seven inquiries for male puppies from people who had been on other waiting lists for showable males and there were too many puppies missing testicles. Cryptorchidism was made a disqualification



for all purebred dogs by the AKC in 1956. Therefore, for a male dog to enter a show ring, both testicles must be fully descended.

Cryptorchidism is a condition that refers to

the failure of one testicle (unilateral cryptorchid) or both testicles (bilateral cryptorchid) not descending into the scrotum. At birth, a male puppy's testes are located near the

DAVID WOO ©AKC

HERDING GROUP

kidneys, migrate down the inguinal canal, and as early as 2 to 3 weeks of age, they can be in the puppy's scrotum. Normally they can be easily palpitated between 6 and 8 weeks.

The word *cryptorchid* is derived from the Greek, literally meaning "hidden testicle." So, if not in the scrotum, where did they go? Using ultrasound, a retained testicle can often be seen in the abdomen or the inguinal canal. Sometimes it can be just under the skin in the subcutaneous tissues in the groin region, between the inguinal canal and the scrotum. Generally, it is the right testicle that is retained.

The word *monorchid* is a scientific term relating to a dog where one testis is entirely absent, not just retained. This condition can be determined with ultrasound as well but is much less common and is different than a cryptorchid.

There is no reason that a dog with either of these conditions cannot be an excellent family pet. Dogs with these conditions should be neutered and not bred. Neutering is more complicated with a cryptorchid, as two incisions must be made—one to remove the retained testicle, and one to remove the one in the scrotum.

Cancer is a risk: "The risk of developing testicular neoplasia is estimated to be at least ten times greater in dogs with cryptorchidism than in normal dogs."

Another medical condition that can occur

is called testicular torsion. This is a fairly rare situation. With this, a testicle that is retained in the abdomen is "free floating," so it can twist on itself. This is a painful condition and can be challenging to diagnose.

Research points to cryptorchidism being an inherited hereditary condition since it is found in families of dogs and is thought to be a recessive. It has been a recognized problem for many decades, and there is no simple answer as to the question of transmission. It appears that both dogs and bitches can be carriers of this gene. When planning a breeding, be sure to check littermates of dogs in your pedigrees, as this is "baggage" you bring into your breeding program and you need to be aware of these issues.

The rise in this problem is one that breeders need to pay closer attention to in order to preserve the health of the Belgian Tervuren.

—Dana B. Mackonis,
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[American Belgian Tervuren Club](#)

Briards

RING STEWARDS: THE ULTIMATE MULTITASKERS

Did the major hold? How many bitches have picked up? May I borrow your pen for just a second? How many dogs have picked up before Open Bitches in Golden's?



Briard

My wife sent me to pick up the armbands, but I can't remember the numbers. I'm going to take her armband now, but I may turn it back if the major breaks. Can you let me use your pen for a moment?

I didn't bring my glasses, so I can't read the names in the catalog. What's this say? May I see your book? I need to count the entries. When will the judge have time for photos?

COURTESY LYNDA BEAM

HERDING GROUP

I brought the wrong dog into the ring. What do I do?

What class is in the ring now?

I need to use your pen for a minute.

My dog just threw up and I'd like to borrow a paper towel. (Absolutely not! We'll give you a towel, but we don't want it back.)

Oh, did you call my number? I didn't hear you. You don't shout loudly enough.

Ring stewards are the unsung heroes of dog shows, fielding unending questions, handing out armbands, calling classes into the ring, shuffling trophy cards, notifying the judge of handler-change requests, calling for clean-up, informing the judge of absentees ... well, you get the idea.

Experienced ring stewards usually come prepared to handle a variety of minor emergencies. Did something rip when the judge bent over? Here's a safety pin. Cut finger? Here's a Band-aid. Headache or a cold? There's aspirin and tissues on hand. Forget a pen? The steward has an extra one.

There was a time not so long ago when stewarding for conformation wasn't rocket science. And then the Powers That Be decided to make competing more interesting, or perhaps tried to ensure that more exhibitors left the ring (comparatively) happy. And so Selects were added to the mix, and champions could go on to work toward becoming Grand Champions. Some clubs, in efforts to spread the happiness,

offer competitions for Best Bred-by-Exhibitor, Best Puppy, or Best Veteran.

In some competitions the winner is obvious. Other times, it requires the steward to keep track of who defeated who and to call the undefeated ones back into the ring to duke it out—if they haven't forgotten that they're still in contention and taken off in the meantime.

Then of course, there are always the miscellaneous cards to be handed out to the proper winners for donated trophies. Then throw in the occasional regional specialty plus sweepstakes, with trophies for each placement and double armbands for the same dog.

And we haven't even mentioned the afflictions of certain outdoor shows, where winds whip armbands and ribbons off the table.

Yes, indeed, stewards take multitasking to a higher level.

The latest duty to be dropped on unsuspecting stewards involves the Owner-Handled Series. The exhibitors love it—but if you ask a steward what he or she thinks of it, be prepared to duck. The catch is that the judge has not much to do with that, outside of handing off the ribbon. The decision of who gets that ribbon all falls to the steward, who must keep track of who is in contention and then wait till the judge makes the final breed choices before being able to deduce the OH winner. Since there's only a matter of seconds involved in

coming up with the right recipient, the steward often bears a remarkable resemblance to a squirrel in the middle of the road.

Yet for all the work they do, stewards go mostly unnoticed.

In all fairness, it should be mentioned that judges in obedience, rally, and other dog sports ask for a round of applause for their stewards before handing out awards. A nice touch indeed. There's no applause for conformation stewards, though most judges will offer a thank-you at the end of the day. (My choice for judge of the year goes to the gentleman who gave his steward a box of See's truffles.)

—Alice Bixler,

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[Briard Club of America](#)

Canaan Dogs

THE CLEVER CANAAN DOG

Many dog owners believe that their dog is the cleverest in the world, and several surveys and scientific experiments in recent years have explored the subject and ranked dog breeds by intelligence. Regardless of their conclusions, however, Canaan Dog owners know with absolute certainty that our dogs are by far the cleverest by virtue of their historical background. There's no dispute: Dogs that survive in the desert must be clever, for without the wits

to find food, locate a safe shelter, and avoid enemies (including humans), one does not survive long. Consequently, only the most intelligent and resourceful live to pass their genes to the next generation.

Coming from a feral population of desert survivalists, the Canaan Dog is a stoic, highly adaptable, keen observer of his surroundings. These characteristics make Canaans quick learners, excellent problem-solvers, and consummate game-players. Such traits can be readily seen in puppies: One owner reported that her young bitch picks up a soft toy and uses it to bat a tennis ball hockey-style around the room, unzipped a show bag to get at the items inside it, steals things from unzipped jacket pockets, and figured out how to get on the coffee table to survey her world.

Food can be a great motivator for Canaan problem-solving, especially in young dogs. One young dog steals something and waits for the owner to open the refrigerator door to get a food bribe, then drops the item for the treat. Another owner entered her 12-month-old puppy in an AKC Trick Dog Novice evaluation sans any prior trick training. The puppy easily followed directions through the 10 requirements in hopes of a food reward and achieved the title. Half-sisters living miles apart exhibited the same trait of flipping their food bowls then righting the bowls to get to the kibble trapped underneath.

BREED COLUMNS

HERDING GROUP

Another Canaan carries his filled bowl to his bed to prevent it from sliding across floor as he eats. A doorknob's string of bells for the dogs' signal to be let outside was quickly manipulated by a Canaan, who instead of going into the yard would make a quick circle just outside on the deck and come back inside for her treat; this was repeated several times in succession for a while, before the owners realized the trick and halted the "game."

Adult Canaans are no less adept at learning new ways to get what they want. A pair of owners who lived in a two-story flat taught their dog to find a Kong toy filled with treats using the command "Find it" after they had hidden it somewhere on the ground floor. One day the owners hid the Kong in an upstairs bedroom, and when the dog failed to find it on the ground floor, they told the dog "Upstairs. Find it." The dog immediately connected the two separate and unrelated commands and raced upstairs to locate his prize. Another Canaan had a habit of climbing out of her four-foot indoor kennel pen, despite numerous attempts to prevent the exodus. When she was ready to whelp, her co-owner built a nine-foot outdoor kennel run, complete with cover, in the whelping area in her home to contain "Ms. Houdini" until maternal instincts took over and she settled in with the new puppies.

There is a fine line between cleverness and



Canaan Dog

instinctive behavior, and it can be difficult to separate the two. For example, dandelions are an ancient remedy for stomach upset, so is one Canaan's penchant for dandelions instinctive, or a clever way to ease some gut discomfort?

For all of the ways that Canaans exhibit their resourcefulness, their owners know only that they must always be on their toes to be one step ahead of these clever dogs.

Thanks to the following owners (and dogs) for their anecdotes: Norma Bennett Woolf (Sprite, Zephyr, Nova, Luna, Dart), John Relph (Tycho), Denise Gordon (Nova, Rivi), Cynthia Dodson (Kaleb, Kizzy), and Christina Miller (Bertie). Thanks also to Norma Bennett Woolf for her assistance with

this column. —Denise A. Gordon, 2018
[Canaan Dog Club of America](#)

Cardigan Welsh Corgis

BARTHOLOMEW AND BETTINA

Here in the U.S., Cardigans are thriving. In conformation, classes are larger, majors are more common, and there may be a handful of specials, when years ago it was not uncommon to see only one special and perhaps two to three class dogs. And more and more are showing up in performance events.

Those who have been in the breed 30 years, 40, 50—even longer!—have watched the breed's popularity increase. With that

increase comes a recognizable identity. These days, some strangers may ID Cardigans as Cardigans, instead of some convoluted genetic hodge-podge of Aussie, Basset, and Dachshund. But the senior breeders have also seen quality increase.

In all breeds, a cycle occurs. This is when newbies enter the ring and, over time, become breeders themselves. Some drop out after a couple of litters (or bad luck), while others slowly educate their "eye," realize what needs to be improved in their dogs or how a fault can be bred around to get that desirable virtue, and eventually they stop breeding puppies and start breeding *quality of type*.

This is the time when long-established breeders should, at the end of the class at the national, stop merely watching at ringside. This is the time they should approach the less-established breeders who have worked so hard on educating their eye and developing a breeding program, or perhaps even a "look," and *tell them* they are doing well.

It means the world to them. It is validation from those who have been in the trenches far longer, who understand how difficult it is to breed true, to *breed better*, with a dwarf breed.

Mentorship is so important. It can be difficult to do it long distance, though thanks to the internet communication is easier. But that's still not nearly as vital as hands-on mentorship.



HERDING GROUP

And that is often done at the national.

All less-established breeders should attend hands-on education at the national. They should attend judges' education. They should ask a breeder whose dogs they admire to go over their dog.

And they should listen in order to learn. Defensiveness is not a good teacher. If you want to know what Bartholomew Brindle Breeder thinks of your dog, be prepared for an honest critique. And learn from it. Then ask Bettina Blue Breeder to go over your dog. If both of them find the same virtues, be very pleased indeed. And if both of them find the same fault, that information is every bit as valuable.

As for you, Bartholomew Brindle Breeder and Bettina Blue Breeder, sitting on different sides of the big ring at the national, if you see that a less-experienced breeder is now moving a program forward by breeding better dogs than they were at the beginning of their journey, get out of your chairs. Go find that breeder. Let her know, let him know, that they have made it through the apprenticeship.

We support the junior handlers—as we should—calling them the future of our breed. We should also support our junior breeders, as they are most definitely the future of our breed. Without them, in fact, the Cardigan will fade once again into obscurity.

—Jennifer Roberson

Jennifer Roberson has been showing and breeding Cardigans for over 30 years. She has served as an officer on the Board of the CWCCA and as chair of Breeders Education.

[Cardigan Welsh Corgi Club of America](#)

Collies

CONSIDER THIS

“I wish more people loved dog shows.” This one line caught my eye on social media. Discussions about the demise of dog shows has gone on for years with the usual explanations of aging population, expense, no new people. But have we considered this: If you compete at dog events, is it fun? Some of us think it's fun when we win, or fun hanging out with friends, or some think it's fun when it's over (haha). The definition of fun is that which gives us enjoyment and is playful.

When I showed dogs as a kid, it was a lot of fun. I did some winning, I got a lot of positive attention from adults, and everyone was nice to me. After a long hiatus, when I returned to showing I discovered it wasn't as much fun. Hardly anyone spoke to me, my dog was third out of three, then everyone would leave. I'd go back to the motel and wonder why I was doing this.

The dog show world can be the greatest, and



Collie: Lassie with June Lockhart, National Dog Week, 1963

it can also be not. Whether you are a novice or a seasoned exhibitor, chances are good you've run into cranky or even mean judges, poor sportsmanship in the ring, total put-downs outside the ring, nastiness in the grooming area, and comments that pretend to be innocuous but are really passive-aggressive. It's disheartening to hear stories from friends of things said to them when they were starting out.

Even more alarming is evidence we as a society are becoming meaner. A lack of trust,

a cynicism pervades, escalating into violence at times. The climate is getting hotter, and it's not just the weather.

Recently I judged 4–6 months beginner puppy competition, and many people told me it was their first time in the ring. I discovered that a simple “good job” after gaiting, for example, lit their faces up. They later shared with me how much they appreciated the recognition for trying. If I had said nothing, it would have been totally different, and not as much fun for any of us. Don't we have a responsibility to make that experience fun for them? Otherwise, why would they return? Jay's lament of wishing more people loved dog shows is so sad and telling.

Are you supposed to love dog shows when they aren't fun? We've all had bad days; it's the good times that keep us coming back. Unless it's a business, why are we there? How are they going to love dog shows if those of us who “know the ropes” aren't kind and inclusive of them?

When we are kind we can make it more fun, and we typically don't realize the impact kindness can have. Studies show we underestimate how much our acts of kindness are appreciated. If we knew, we would likely engage in more kind acts, and this in turn makes us feel better.

I've been following Steve Hartman's series Kindness 101. With his kids, Steve offers many

BREED COLUMNS



HERDING GROUP

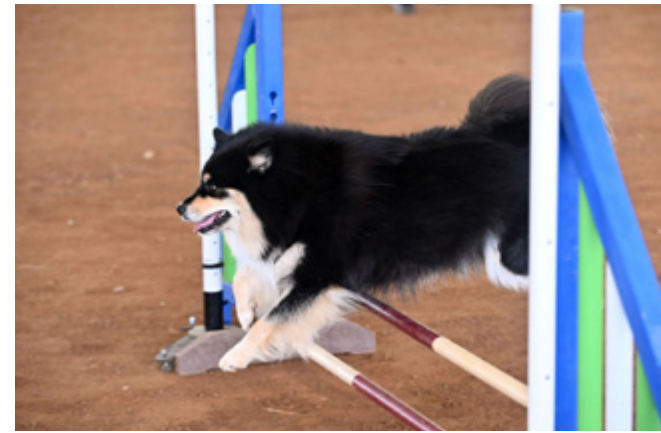
insights on how to be kind. I highly recommend it! They tell stories of ordinary people that explore inspirational topics such as inclusion, self-improvement, and determination. All can be found on CBS News or YouTube.

If we want dog shows to survive, we need to think more broadly about how we affect people by what we do and say. Yes, the competition can be intense and we get discouraged, but it can also be fun. A kind word or gesture could turn a day around completely. It's that childlike definition of fun we need reminding of, that this is the thing that is supposed to give us enjoyment, and to approach it with a sense of playfulness and kindness has its own intrinsic rewards.

—Marianne Sullivan, Charlottesville, Virginia

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[Collie Club of America](#)



Finnish Lapphunds excel in a wide range of activities, including agility, Barn Hunt, Fast CAT, scent work, tricks, and therapy work.

Finnish Lapphunds

FINNISH LAPPHUNDS—ACTIVITIES THROUGH TIME

While the dog fancy is now seeing more Finnish Lapphunds in the show ring here in the U.S., people unfamiliar with the breed might not know what they are like outside of the show ring. Along with their wonderful diversity of coat colors and markings, Finnish

Lapphunds participate in a diverse range of activities with their devoted owners. Versatility in this breed came along down a slightly different path, so let's take a look.

Many modern breeds were developed to help humans with specific tasks such as hunting, herding, guarding, or simply being a companion—breeding for these jobs fine-tuned many breeds' abilities in scenting, agility, alertness, or friend-

liness. The Finnish Lapphund's ancestors were originally an Arctic landrace dog that assisted the Sami people on their reindeer herding journeys. (For a more in-depth anthropological read, click [here](#).)

Those ancestor dogs changed through time from primitive nomadic hunters to semi-domesticated reindeer herders to alert, friendly camp dogs. Because the dogs were



COURTESY OWNERS

HERDING GROUP

historically needed to fill a few different jobs, a litter that resulted in puppies that could become hunters, herders, or camp dogs would have been valued. Puppies were not selected for a particular job, but instead were allowed to naturally grow into the job that fit them best. In the harsh Arctic environment, with limited resources, this versatility within a litter made sense and resulted in several traits being baked into the breed.

If a new owner hasn't done their research, they might be surprised if they get a puppy with prey drive for small critters, or a desire to play games with the household cat. Some people don't understand why their Lappy wants to run in one direction all day and finds competition heeling excruciatingly boring. And many people may not appreciate that their Lappy tells them loudly every time a package has arrived at the front door. But all are pleased when they find themselves with a friendly companion who is happy to move around the house or yard with them as they do daily chores.

Depending on which traits shine through, Finnish Lapphunds and their owners enjoy activities such as agility, Barn Hunt, coursing, scent work, tricks, and therapy dog work. In agility, they might not be the fastest dog, but they learn quickly, working consistently and efficiently. In Barn Hunt, they either love it

enthusiastically or can't be bothered with that smelly chore. In coursing, some clearly love the game while others will say they don't get it.

Many Lappies love scent work, and all owners should be encouraged to try sniffing activities. Many Lappies also excel in trick training, as they thrive on constantly learning new things, and getting lots of treats makes tricks even more fun.

Lappies are very in tune with people, and some make good therapy dogs, but care needs to be taken to protect their emotional needs while doing this important work.

And lastly, a few Lappies have done exceptionally well in obedience and rally (the right dog with the right trainer), but most will turn their nose up and walk away from the formal, repetitive training these sports require.

Finnish Lapphunds are in the Herding Group, and this author was surprised to learn that only a few Finnish Lapphunds have trained for herding trials in the US. It helps to know that reindeer are large-footed, dangerous, semi-domesticated animals, and very different from the domesticated farm animals used in herding tests. The Lappy herding style is to emit a persistent, piercing bark while jumping and bouncing to annoy a stray reindeer to move back into the herd. Moving behind a [herd of hundreds of reindeer](#), day after day over long distances in the [snow and](#)

[ice](#), requires a different type of stamina and independence than taking human direction to move sheep or ducks from pen to pen. As this herding style does not always translate well to trials in the U.S., perhaps some effort should be taken to find a way to adapt this activity to better fit this breed.

Even though Finnish Lapphunds were not historically bred for one specific job, they do love to work. They have some limits on what they can be trained to do, but they can be good at several sports if given the opportunity to try new activities and given leeway to go with what clicks. New Lappy owners should understand that as their adorable, fluffy puppy grows up, their Lappy might enjoy doing activities they hadn't planned on. Owners often find that these dogs don't train quite the same as other breeds they have had.

Lappies are smart, creative, and resourceful, and so their owners must be as well. Finnish Lapphunds are an absolute joy to live with and to train if you treat them well, respect their limits, explore their potential, and listen to what they have to say.

Anthropological references:

<https://anthrosource.onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/abs/10.1525/cia.1986.6.2.3>

Video of moving a herd: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Wpbkto6Q2m4>

Huge herd of reindeer: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zXGfuQveQYs>

<https://www.facebook.com/sofiajannok/videos/193951731652129>

Herding in snow: <https://www.facebook.com/sofiajannok/videos/193951731652129>

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[Finnish Lapphund Club of America](#)

Norwegian Buhunds

BUHUND PUPPIES

We have a new Norwegian Buhund puppy in our household. It has been a few years since our last puppy, and it is fun to see all the characteristic Buhund traits in this tiny little package.

Like most Buhunds, puppy Linzie loves all people, especially children. She has no concept of personal space and believes that the sole purpose of humans is to pet puppies. After all, puppies are so cute—why would you not want to pet them? Linzie is willing to perform all kinds of puppy antics to get attention and petting: wriggling her little behind, slicking back her ears, wagging her curly tail and, occasionally, trying to jump up on people.

The puppy has not yet shown an interest in joining the neighborhood watch, something that all Norwegian Buhunds are required to do at some point. (How else could they report the suspicious-looking khaki-clad person delivering boxes four houses down?) But she does

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Norwegian
Buhund

take her job of watching over our (nonexistent) flock of sheep very seriously, and reports to us every rulebook violation by a bird flying over our property. It does not matter that the bird is a tiny woodpecker not a hawk—a bird over “her” property is a violation that must be reported loudly.

Linzie must have been taking secret lessons in math and physics when I was not looking. Like her breed, she is smart and catches on quickly. Her lessons have been paying off, and she can apparently count up to four. I am in the habit of tossing in four little treats every time she goes into her crate. My husband, on

the other hand, tosses in a random number of treats. If the number of treats is less than four, Linzie spends a while making sure that a treat has not fallen under something—and then sits and waits for the remaining treats to arrive. She is the first of my puppies to figure out how to open both latches on her crate by putting a paw through the bars and pushing at the latch until it lifts and opens. And then she comes up to me, very proud of the new trick that she learned all by herself.

Norwegian Buhunds are athletic and full of energy, and this puppy is no exception. At 10 weeks of age she could easily jump on the couch without even thinking about it. At 12 weeks, she managed to jump on to the dining table. And immediately after I lifted her down from the table, she started powering up to take another jump. Hopefully we will be able to channel that athleticism and energy into dog sports.

The world is a gigantic smorgasbord that Linzie finds to be deliciously tasty. She has declared herself the official taste-tester of all things organic (leaves, grass, sticks) and a few things inorganic. She especially loves going out after a fresh snowfall when she has unlimited access to “ice cream.” She has also become good at multitasking—she can eat grass and go potty at the same time. Of course, this means that I spend most of our

walks taking things out of her mouth. The flip side of this is that she does not seem to be fussy about food—we could probably bait her with a piece of lettuce if we were so inclined.

In some ways, the puppy seems to know more about training than I do. Within a couple of weeks she has trained my husband to carry her around. And convinced him that the only place she can possibly nap in the evenings is on his lap, even though she has a soft, padded, comfortable bed of her own. I look forward to seeing what happens when she is a full-grown Norwegian Buhund.

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[Norwegian Buhund Club of America](#)

Old English Sheepdogs

ELMO'S TALE

A cold nose and a warm tongue coaxed Clarke out of a deep sleep. Looking up at the top of the tent, he could see that it was getting light. He pushed the emergency survival blankets aside, pulled on his boots, and unhooked the entrance so the dog could go out. Then he got out the bag of kibble and mixed it with water for Elmo and found the leftover soup kitchen dinner for himself. When they both had eaten, Clarke folded up the tent and packed everything on the rolling frame.

COURTESY LYNDA BEAM



Old English Sheepdog: AKC Meet the Breeds

He looked down at the dog, gave him a pat, and the two of them started out along the shoulder of the rural road.

As the morning wore on they came to a large, shady tree that overhung the road and Clarke decided it was break time. He filled Elmo's water dish and drank some himself. He could see a house back a ways.

Two girls playing in front of the house saw them as well and hurried down to investigate. They were full of questions.

"Hi, mister, that's a neat dog. Is he friendly? Can we pet him? What's his name?"

"Hello, girls. This is Elmo, and he loves to play with our kids, so sure, go ahead and pet him. If you scratch his butt in front his little stub of a tail, he will really wiggle." By then the girls' father had noticed the grouping and came down to see what was going on. As he approached, one of the girls called out, "Daddy the dog's name is Elmo, just like my doll."

"Hello there, I'm Larry. Are you sure it's all right for my girls to play with him?"

"I'm Clarke—and sure, the dog is good with kids. They can even brush on him if they like. He played with ours kids when times were better. Then when I came back from my third tour in Iraq, I just couldn't readjust. Things went from bad to worse, and the wife finally took the kids and left. Now it's just me and Elmo on the road."

"I've seen some sad statistics indicating that about 20 percent of the homeless are veterans. The suicide numbers are scary, too, with around 20 veterans a day punching their own ticket. I hear that rate is about 50-percent higher than it is for groups with a similar makeup who aren't veterans."

Clarke responded, "I can tell you there were times when I thought just hand me the Kool-ade and let me end it. Then I'd ask, but what would become of Elmo if I checked out? Would he just stay with my lifeless body until animal control picked him up and took him to a shelter? Would there be much chance that as an older, bigger dog he would be rehomed? Or worse, would he try to go for help and get hit by a passing vehicle, then left there dying? It's thoughts like these that have kept me going."

"It sounds like he needs you as much as you need him. I'm just wondering how you are even able to take care of him."

"You don't want to know what we sometimes had to do for food. However, through a bit of good fortune, he now eats better than I do. A while back we met another veteran who also had a dog. It had a smooth, short coat, and I couldn't help noticing that it seemed to be in good weight. Since Elmo was on the thin side, I asked the guy how he kept his dog fed. He said, 'Oh, don't you know about Feeding Pets of the Homeless? They have a nationwide net-

work of donation centers that make pet food available through food banks, soup kitchens, and other places that serve the homeless. They even have pro bono groups of veterinarians that hold wellness clinics for shots and stuff like that.' He told me how to get signed up, and I have been taking advantage of their programs ever since."

At that point there was a lull in the conversation, and one of the girls called out, "We've been busy brushing, and Elmo is looking like some of the dogs we see on TV."

Clarke agreed and said, "Well, he didn't always look that way. Then we hit the jackpot. Last winter when it was so miserable, we were both wet most of the time, and poor Elmo was muddy as well. As we were trudging along the road, this van went by, slammed on its brakes, and pulled off on the shoulder ahead of us. This girl jumped out of the van, took one look at Elmo and said, 'Is that poor dog an Old English?' I said, 'Yes, I'm afraid so.' She responded that he needed a complete make-over. I said, 'I couldn't agree more, but I'm in no position to afford it.'

"This was her response: 'I see from your service cap and jacket that you're a veteran. I'm sure we civilians have no clue about the hardships you've been through, or what you face when you return. Now I really have a chance to say thank you in more than just words.

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Take a look at the back of my van—it says Judy’s Mobile Grooming Service, I Do It All. I had a client cancel on me, so your dog is going to get the full nine yards as my thanks for your service.’

“With that she got a cordless clipper and set about taking off his dirty, matted coat. As I watched, hunks of fur came off, and the old Elmo began to reappear. When she finally finished clipping, I couldn’t believe the change.

“I thought she was done, but she said there was more to do. Then she showed me the flakes left in his fur. She explained that the skin grows from the inside out in layers, and that the outer most layer repeatedly flakes off. She told me that a bath would remove the flakes and that she had a tub in the van. With my coaxing, Elmo climbed into the tub for his bath and blow-dry.

“At that point she said she understood that I could not be giving him baths. Instead she gave me some gently used tools of the trade—a pin brush, a slicker brush, and a comb with close and widely spaced teeth. If I could keep him brushed, she said it would help keep his coat clean. That worked out well, too.

“A few days later we stopped in a park for a rest, and I started brushing. Some people came over to see him, and when they left, the lady dropped a couple dollars in his empty water bowl. Other people came by, and by the

end of the day there was about 10 dollars in the bowl—a real bonanza.”

When Clarke finished the story, he said that it was great to visit, but that they really needed to push on and find a place for the night. Then one of the girls said, “Daddy, why can’t they stay here? You and Mommy were just saying that you needed another ranch hand to replace the guy that quit.”

Larry responded, “Out of the mouths of babes. She’s right. Do you think you might want to catch on here? You’d get a salary, plus room and meals. You’d get your own sleeping unit, which Elmo is welcome to share. Then there is a common shower and bathroom, and a cook house with a TV you can watch in the evenings.”

While this conversation was going on, Elmo pushed his head between Clarke’s thighs. Clarke reached down and patted the dog’s head. Then he spoke up and said, “Elmo’s telling me we should give it a try.”

“Good,” said Larry. “Girls, why don’t you show these two where things are, and which unit will be theirs. Then I’ll see you in the cook house at six o’clock and introduce you to the others. Looking forward to having you on board.”

Next morning Elmo’s cold nose and warm tongue roused Clarke from a sound sleep. Then he sat straight up and said to himself,

“My God, it wasn’t a dream. That really is a roof over my head, and those are my clothes hanging on that chair. There is even a door for me to open for Elmo.” Then he got dressed and headed to the showers. When he came out, the older girl was there with the dog. “Hi there,” said Clarke. “You’re Jill, aren’t you?”

“Yep, and if you are headed for breakfast, I’m going that way, too.” So the two of them headed toward the rising sun, with the dog trotting between them.

Clarke thought to himself, “Another new day, and just maybe a new beginning.”

Just a reminder: This is my last column. I am retiring as the OES columnist after 11 years.

—Joe Schlitt,
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Pembroke Welsh Corgis

THE RULE OF THREE

It’s said that good (or bad) things come in three. Through my over 50-year association with Pembroke Welsh Corgis, I’ve found lots of things that come in threes.

When I’ve had a litter, it’s three hours, three days, three weeks. If I can get a puppy to live three hours, then three days, I feel I can finally

relax when the litter reaches three weeks of age. I was told many years ago that weight should be two-thirds to one pound per week of age, up until about 4 months of age. It’s just a rule of thumb, but so is the Rule of Three.

Basic grooming for the breed: greyhound comb, pin brush, nail clippers.—three grooming items, to which I have of course added other things: shampoo, towels, blow dryer. And much more!

Crates come in threes: one for the house, one for the car, and one for the show site. Multiply that by the number of dogs, and it’s easy to see why we have so many crates!

Collars come in threes. One collar for “leisure” wear. Another for training. Another for showing. Times the number of dogs means a lot of collars to go with all those crates! The same could be said for leashes—those for walking, training, and showing.

Conformation shows are also threes: class, Winners, Best of Breed. Or Best of Breed, Group, Best in Show.

Three legs for titles in obedience, agility, rally, and herding trial classes. (But only two legs for titles in the herding test classes, and only one pass is needed for each tracking title.)

Training goes well if you remember the “threes.” For training treats: Good, Better, and—“Oh, my gosh! Give me *more!*”—Best.



*Pembroke Welsh Corgis—
driving livestock in threes*



The “Best” ones are used to mark those outstanding efforts. Keep a mix, and you and your dog might both be surprised as to your reward. For rewards, it’s verbal praise, physical praise, and treats ... three again!

Most Pembrokes do not like to be drilled on anything. Training sessions should start with something they know, then move on to something they need to work on, and then end on a very high note. Again, three things.

In heeling, I start with 1-2-3. That means

one step, and then release and reward. Then two steps, release, and reward. Then three steps, release, and reward. And stop, on a high note. The duration of heeling is short, keeping the dog in correct position and focused on the handler. Gradually extend the session and mix up the number of steps, such as 1, then 3, then 2. Or 3 then 1 then 2. Or 1, then 4, then 2. And so on.

Three repetitions work well with training just about anything. Stack the puppy on a

table and show it what you want. Praise/treat and release. And repeat. And then one more time. Remembering “three” keeps you from overtraining as well, as the “let me try that one more time” effort beyond that is generally not as good as the previous effort. (Of course, if the first attempt is outstanding, quit while you are ahead!)

With tracking training, my dogs do sets of three tracks in those initial training sessions. The first track might be 10 steps long, then 15,

then 25, and we’re done for the session. The next session starts at half the length of the last track and increases on the two subsequent tracks. We continue to increase the length and upping the age until they are ready to do turns. Those initial one-turn tracks are also in sets of three.

Club memberships can come in threes: local all-breed club, local specialty club, and national breed club. Or you can think of it in terms of belonging to a conformation club, a

COURTESY OWNER

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companion events club, and a performance events club. Our breed thrives on a variety of activities. Club memberships make it easy to explore those events and help you decide which ones to pursue.

Lastly, three colors: red, tricolor, and sable!
—Lynda McKee,
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[Pembroke Welsh Corgi Club of America](https://www.pembroke-welsh-corgi-club.com)

Pulik

THE PULI EAR

All three parts of the canine (and human) ear (outer, middle, and inner) are involved in hearing, but only the inner ear is responsible for helping to maintain one's ability to retain good balance. When it comes to hearing low-frequency sounds, dogs and people are about evenly matched. However, dogs can hear high-frequency and high-pitched sounds much more effectively.

So how do you know a Puli hears something—even with all that hair? As with other breeds, you'll see the Puli tipping or cocking its head, and if you look carefully, you'll see movement of the ears—both of which indicate alertness to sound. Dog ears have at least 18 muscles that work to tilt, raise, and rotate the ears, which helps them to identify and capture sounds from all directions (that is,



directional hearing). As with humans, a Puli is capable of exercising selective hearing, so don't assume that they cannot hear you when in actuality they are choosing to ignore you.

Puppies are not able to hear at birth (since their ear canals are still closed), but are able to start hearing when they are a few weeks old. If the breeder or owner notices a pup not responding at all to any noise, it might be advisable to consider BAER (Brainstem Auditory Evoked Response) testing. The Puli is not a breed where BAER testing is part of the breeder health-checks as required by the Puli Club of America.

As dogs and humans age, a diminished response to noises or hearing loss might be noticed. The general consensus (from reviewing comments in an online Puli forum) is that it seems to begin around age 11, though for many Puli owners, it really doesn't become obvious until the dog is age 12 or older. It is of course possible that diminished hearing may occur earlier for a variety of reasons, including whether the dog was prone to ear infections during his or her life.

Cleaning

Internally, a dog's ears may look similar to that of a human. However, canine ear canals are actually L-shaped. It's important to know this, because cleaning a dog's ear is not the

DAVID WOO @AKC

HERDING GROUP

same as how you clean your own. The AKC website shares guidance on how to clean a dog's ears (<https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/health/how-to-clean-dogs-ears/>), and the AKC Health Foundation provides information on ear inflammation and infection (<https://www.akcchf.org/canine-health/your-dogs-health/caring-for-your-dog/canine-ear-inflammation-and.html>).

As a breed with hanging ears, hygiene is particularly important to avoid ear infections. Some Puli owners report that after cleaning the ear with a liquid, they use a medicated powder to help grab hold of the hairs within the ear and remove (“pluck”) them out. Most people use their fingers, while others use a hemostat. Care must be taken so the hemostat doesn't get too deep into the ear canal, or that you don't pinch the skin (especially if you have a Puli who is bored and wiggling around). Tweezers should not be used.

While researching ear health, I was very surprised to read that some vets do not recommend removing hair from inside the ears. Under vet advice, some Puli owners just trim the hair in the ears with blunt scissors, while others do not even do that, and a Puli might even grow a cord out of each ear (gasp!). Some vets are concerned that when you pluck, you open the hair follicles, which can be an avenue for infection, so there are some Puli owners who follow through with a prescription ear

ointment after plucking.

Whether you pluck or at least trim the hair within the ear, be sure the hair is at least thin enough for air to flow freely into the ear. A moist and warm environment in the ear may result in an overgrowth of yeast and bacteria, particularly if you leave in a humid climate.

Cording

When the young Puli starts forming cords, one of the first places is behind the ears. It is absolutely imperative to *not* neglect addressing this area. The ears are very sensitive, and clumps seem to form almost overnight. By careful observation daily you can keep the hair separated with the use of your fingers. If you find a clump has formed, you can separate it by carefully running a pair of scissors through it. It is best to start at the skin and work the scissors toward you. By doing it this way, you don't accidentally cut into the skin or earflap (“ear leather”). (Many Puli owners use a plastic letter-opener that has a razor blade embedded; using this protects both your fingers and the ear flaps, and it helps you more easily slice through the mat or cord. However, this can be a dangerous tool for a novice Puli owner, so only an experienced person should use this method.)

The cords on an adult Puli's ears are about three inches in length on the ears themselves, trimmed somewhat more at the bottom of the

ear to blend with the rest of the head coat. If the ear cords are allowed to grow too long, you end up with a Puli with spaniel-looking ears. The initial trimming involves pulling the ear cords forward and trimming evenly with the nose. A benefit of a properly groomed (that is, trimmed) head is helping to keep cords out of the food and water dish.

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Shetland Sheepdogs

THE IMPORTANCE OF HEAD TYPE

The dog's head should signify the breed. It is one of the hallmarks of a breed. Most people can identify most breeds by just a picture or even a silhouette of the head. People involved in purebred dogs have a higher rate of identification. If a member of the general public is shown just a silhouette of some breeds such as Akita, Shiba Inu, or say Finnish Spitz, they may be hard pressed to accurately name those breeds if all examples are of the same size.

Students and judges of Shetland Sheepdogs would find it easy to distinguish between Sheltie and Collie silhouettes of the same size. The differences are not extreme but are very marked to the practiced eye.

A beautiful Collie head is still not correct

for a Sheltie in many ways. Shelties require a “slight, but definite stop” at the inner corner of the eye. The Collie standard calls for a “very slight, but perceptible break or stop.” As one becomes more involved you must become aware of the head virtues from our standard.

Reading the standard carefully, our breed is not extreme in any way. Long, heavy heads are not what is called for in our breed. We have a moderate body, and the head should fit the picture. The clean sides of the back-skull need to blend smoothly into the well-rounded muzzle, with parallel planes of the top skull and the top of the muzzle separated by that correctly placed stop right at the inner corner of the eye. It should not start an inch or more behind the eyes and slide between the eye to a point an inch or so in front of the eyes.

At a recent specialty weekend I was pleased to see the three non-breeder judges doing correct head exams plus finding and rewarding the best heads on the soundest, correct bodies. There were many entries that displayed receding back-skulls, sliding stops, and too much depth of the skulls from the side. However, to see those with virtues of equal, flat head-planes, correct stops, clean skulls from the top and sides, correct finish of under-jaw and correct set, color, and placement of eye being the ones making it to final consideration was refreshing.

We can only expect that a judge can find

HERDING GROUP



Shetland Sheepdog

correct if we bring them correct to find.

—Janice M. Leonard, 50-year member ASSA, 60 years in the breed

[American Shetland Sheepdog Association](#)

Spanish Water Dogs

AND WHAT ABOUT COAT CARE?

Questions about coat care are very common from people unfamiliar with Spanish Water Dogs, and especially those who are searching for their “next breed.” When considering a dog for performance events or as a family pet, potential owners want to know what to expect.

As with all of the curly coated, minimal-shedding breeds, the SWD does require clipping on a regular basis. When not showing, I prefer to keep my dogs in short coat. For me, this means clipping them the same length *all over*, typically with a number 4 or number 5 blade. If the dog is matted or a short cut is preferred for the summer, a number 7 blade makes for a fast job that is easy on both groomer and dog. It is this “all over” that seems to be a nearly impossible concept for many groomers.

This breed does not wear a moustache; the face is done with the same blade as the body. A Spanish Water Dog does not keep prettily combed-out hair on its ears; the earflap is done

KOSTOMAY/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

HERDING GROUP



Spanish Water Dogs

with the same blade as the body. In fact, I often go one blade shorter on the ear leather to make it very tidy, and then carefully scissor around the entire edge of the flap. I use a mini clipper to scoop out the hair between the pads on the bottom of the feet, and after clipping the legs (yes, the same blade as the body) some trimming is usually needed on the paws.

I often do use a short blade (number 7 or number 10) for the underside, particularly the groin area for general cleanliness, and also so that the dog can cool off by lying on cool surfaces in the summer. The “armpit” under the front legs is an area that can become quite matted more quickly

than the rest of the dog, and I will “scoop out” this area with a short blade as well.

Groomers often chastise owners for not having their dog brushed out, and while their frustration with mats is very real, we don’t comb or brush these dogs. It destroys the curl and texture of the coat, ultimately often causing worse mats. And, if left alone, much of that curl will become cords that seldom go right to the skin; the clippers can get under most areas of a corded coat, using one of the blades mentioned above.

I know that groomers do not like to clip dirty dogs because it is hard on their equipment, but with this breed they must forgo the

“compulsory brush-out” prior to bathing and clipping. Unless the coat is already quite short, the process will be laborious and totally unnecessary. If the coat is a mess, go to a shorter blade. My experience is that the longer the coat is left to grow, the shorter it will probably have to be clipped at the next grooming. Depending on weather and personal preference, owners should expect to have their dog groomed about once every 14 to 18 weeks.

So, in a nutshell, the grooming of the Spanish Water Dog really could not be easier—let it grow until you don’t like it, and then cut it off (did I mention the same length all over?) and start again. If one wants to cord the dog, it is of course more work and more complicated, but outside some of those showing, very few SWD owners keep their dogs in cords.

For owners and groomers wanting an “official” reference for the grooming of this breed, they are encouraged to access *Notes From the Grooming Table*, 2016 edition (https://amazon.com/Notes-Grooming-Table-Melissa-Verplank/dp/0692658076/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&qid=1528933876&sr=8-1&keywords=notes+from+the+grooming+table); it provides a very acceptable description of the grooming of this breed. —Marnie Harrison, 2018

[Spanish Water Dog Club of America](#)

Swedish Vallhunds

Our guest author this month is longtime SVCA member and past president David Clayton.

HERDING WITH SWEDISH VALLHUNDS

My wife and I have an active hobby farm with cattle, sheep, and ducks and put on herding events for both AKC and the Australian Shepherd Club of America (ASCA). I have trained and titled five herding breeds, and I am a stockdog and senior breeder-judge for the ASCA. I started working my Australian Shepherds in 1987 and titled Ruff later that year in sheep. Since then, I have finished 16 working trial champions and 230 herding titles in ASCA, and 20 herding titles in AKC. I got my first Swedish Vallhund in 1996 and have put 21 herding titles on Swedish Vallhunds, including the first Started cattle title in ASCA, with Riley, and the first owner-handler Working Trial Champion in ASCA, with Penny.

For those of you interested in herding, it takes an understanding of both the effect the dog has on the livestock and how the different classes of stock move.

There are three classes of stock most herding venues offer: cattle, sheep, and ducks.

Cattle move with pressure behind the shoulder, much like horses, and tend to allow the

COURTESY DAVID CLAYTON

BREED COLUMNS

HERDING GROUP

dogs to be closer to them.

Sheep move shoulder-back also, but they also have something called a flight zone; this is the place where the sheep start to move from the pressure the dog exerts on them. Sheep that allow the dog to work closely to make them move are referred to as “heavy,” while sheep that move or run easily are referred to as “light.” Dogs moving inside the flight zone will make the sheep move more quickly or run.

Ducks also have a flight zone, but they are quite variable; depending on the breed and amount worked, they may be fast, reacting to each move of the dog, or they may require the dog to work inside the flight zone and push to make them move.

I grew up on Clearwater Beach, Florida, far from farm animals, and knew nothing about livestock. I can honestly say when I started herding, I was the guy in the movie *Best In Show* with two left feet. Dogs went one way, I went the other; the sheep were usually all over. Before the day was over, I was also likely to hit the ground at least once. But I learned and persisted. I like the complexity of herding and the partnership with the dog. Herding is a moving puzzle, and to be successful, you must solve the puzzle.

The first thing I had to learn was to understand how the stock move in relationship to



Swedish Vallhund GCh. VSVCH HighCotton's Miracles Do Happen, RA, OA, NAJ, OAJ, OF, HSAsd, RATS, DCAT

pressure. I spent many hours moving stock without a dog to understand how the stock moved in relationship to pressure I exerted on the stock. Owning stock and managing them daily really helped. Having to put stock up at night and move them to different pens or load them for sale will make you a quick study. After I understood how the stock moved, adding the dogs was the next step. I went to some herding seminars with Bob Vest and avidly read Virgil Holland's book, *Herding Dogs: Progressive Training*.

Often it is hard to find a trainer familiar with how the Swedish Vallhund works, as their working style and temperament are different from

that of many herding breeds. Many trainers giving lessons work with Border Collies or other breeds that use “eye” and speed to control the stock. Breeds like Border Collies or Kelpies stare at the stock, and the intensity of the stare influences ducks and sheep, and, to a lesser extent, cattle. Other breeds, like Swedish Vallhunds, are described as “loose-eyed,” and while they may use some eye, instead work closer to the stock to influence them and will naturally nip a heel to move the stock. Many Vallhunds, when starting to work stock, bite heels. They may appear initially as a tough working breed like a cattle dog, but most Vallhunds I have worked are soft dogs that do not need harsh corrections. Trainers not

familiar with the Swedish Vallhund may use training tools such as a rattle-paddle, blocking them with sticks or other tools, that used incorrectly, will cause a Vallhund to quit. Trying to make a Vallhund something he is not usually results in the dog quitting and the trainer saying the dog has no talent.

With my own Vallhunds, I expose them to stock as puppies. I take the puppies from 8 weeks on to help me feed and let out the stock in the morning, so they are familiar with ducks, sheep, and cattle. I also leave the puppies or young dogs out when I am working other dogs so they can watch the other dogs work, and this helps build interest. I think the Swedish Vallhunds learn by watching other dogs. Puppies are not allowed to work the cows or sheep, but they may once a week engage with the ducks. I do not care how long they work the ducks, just that they engage with them; as they get more confident, they will work longer.

Once they are confident with the ducks or start running them over, or ruffling feathers, we stop working ducks. This is when the puppy is put on a leash and buckle collar around stock. This is a good time to teach the puppy to come away from stock. It is much easier to do this on a leash, where you can enforce the come if needed. I will call the pup, and when he comes, I mark the behavior with



HERDING GROUP

a bit of cheese. Puppies or young dogs will have the instinct to work but are not mature enough to handle training.

At about 1 year, I start the dog on sheep and teach a down. The down work starts away from stock. The dog already knows the down from basic training. I use a long line, buckle collar, and cheese. Vallhunds are a breed that likes to get “paid,” and food is a great as a reward and to mark a correct behavior. As I am walking the dog on a loose line, at random intervals I ask the dog to down and immediately help the dog down if he does not. Once down, I repeat the down command and mark the behavior with cheese. It is important to make this a fun game and increase your energy level, so the dog learns this is fun and not a harsh correction.

Once the dog is downing with voice alone, I toss the cheese to the dog. Then I fade the long line. Tossing the cheese to them increases the excitement level for the dog and helps them understand they are rewarded for downing. This is later transferred to downing on stock. This method I have found gives consistent downs on stock that last in training and trialing. Later, you randomly use the food as a reward for downing on stock and can fade as needed.

When I start working my Vallhunds at first, all I want the dog to do is learn directions, “rate” (meaning stay the proper distance

behind the stock so that the stock does not panic), and a call off, where the dog leaves the stock and returns to you. Training the down off-lead usually does not take a great deal of time, but initially teaching them to rate may take some patience. I am not very controlling at this point; I want the dog to develop its instinct, and as long as they are not out of control, we are good.

Directions can be practiced off stock as well by setting up a couple cones and send the dog around the cone paired with the command and supported with food or a toy. This is called dry work.

Most Vallhunds I have worked at first tend to work close and often bite; in the herding world we would say they do not naturally rate or stay off the stock. If the young dog is biting hard or out of control, I switch to a buckle-collar and long line and walk behind the stock. At the point just before the stock moves, or the flight zone as discussed above, I mark the behavior with a vocal there and treat the dog. If the dog is ignoring this, I will add a down command. If the dog strains to get to the stock, we either call the dog off and move back in and or give a slight tug for a loose lead, and as they settle back, I mark that behavior. This is repeated until the dog understands he does not need to bite the stock to move it. In this way, the dog learns to rate. This method gives you a tool

where you can continue to work the dog and get the dog to understand how to rate without shutting the dog down or a harsh correction.

Once he can rate and has some stock miles under his belt, I start an outrun. At first these are short, about 15 feet, and, as if using the face of a clock, the stock is at 6, the dog in a down at 12, and I am in the center. I use my stick to block the direction I do not want the dog to go and leave the other side open. This is repeated in both directions.

As the dog progresses, I practice longer outruns, building distance. Remember, each large increment with an outrun is a new exercise as far as the dog is concerned. With the arena work, I build up the distance between me, the dog and stock adding greater and greater distance while the dog listens and takes directions or downs. If the dog falters or takes advantages of situations, we move back to the distance the dog was successful and work that a bit more.

When the dog is working well, I also teach a “slow down” command, where the dog settles and moves slowly behind the stock. When the dog is working well in the arena, we move to the pasture.

The initial work with Swedish Vallhunds may take more time than some breeds, but be patient and make training fun. Swedish Vallhunds were developed primarily as farm and cattle dogs. I believe they worked independently and used

their intelligence and instinct to do their job. The personality we have today and the retained herding instinct are due in part to the character of the breed that was developed long ago. They are short-legged dogs, and as such see the world very differently than a 20- to 24-inch dog that was bred to get out fast in front of the livestock. The ability of a 12-inch Swedish Vallhund to control and move a 1,200-pound cow is an impressive feat and takes timing and fearlessness. Remember, sending a dog into a pasture to bring the cows in with few commands to a barn or corral is a different task than training a dog for the trial arena.

Swedish Vallhunds are very smart dogs with a keen desire to please, but also, more than other breeds I have worked, they need the support and a partnership with their handler in training for the trial arena. They are useful dogs on the farm and especially are good at working cattle. In my opinion, teamwork and trust are important to Vallhunds to be successful. They are not the kind of breed that in general will work for anyone without a bond, but once they understand what you want, they make a great team and a great herding partner, either for the farm or the trial arena.

Herding is a complex dog sport, and one the hardest things you will ever love doing with your Swedish Vallhund. —D.C.

[Swedish Vallhund Club of America](#)



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ATTENTION DELEGATES

NOTICE OF MEETING

The next meeting of the Delegates will be held at the Rosen Centre Hotel, Orlando, FL on **Friday, December 16, 2022**, beginning no earlier than 10:00 a.m. It will follow the Delegate Forum which will begin at 9:00 a.m.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Chinook Club of America

DELEGATE CREDENTIALS

Dr. Marci J. Cook, Columbus, MT,
Miniature Bull Terrier Club of America

Arlene Czech, Naples, FL,
Greater Naples Kennel Club

Joseph Fitzgerald, Jefferson, MD,
Catoctin Kennel Club

Carla D. Giroux, Stevensville, MT,
Idaho Capital City Kennel Club

Holly Johnson, Ipswich, MA,
North Shore Kennel Club

Kim Raleigh, Albuquerque, NM,
Finnish Spitz Club of America

Bradford Yamada, Las Vegas, NV,
Orange Empire Dog 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. Chase Verdoorn (Platte City, MO)

NOTICE

Ms. Terri Gale (Lincoln, CA). Action was taken by the Marin Retriever Club for conduct at its September 11, 2022 event. Ms. Galle was charged with improper treatment in connection with an event. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the Event Committee's report and set the penalty as a three-month suspension from all AKC privileges and imposed a \$300 fine, effective September 15, 2022. (Labrador Retrievers)

NOTICE

Ms. Kay Jose (Martinez, CA) Action was taken by the Donner Trail Kennel Club for conduct at its September 25, 2022 event. Ms. Jose 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 three-month event suspension and imposed a \$500 fine, effective September 25, 2022. (Newfoundlands)

NOTICE

Mr. Giuseppe Renzulli (Miami, FL) Action was taken by the Tyler Texas Kennel Club for conduct at its October 15, 2022 event. Mr. Renzulli was charged with improper treatment in connection with an event. The Staff Event

Committee reviewed the Event Committee's report and set the penalty as a reprimand and imposed a \$100 fine. (Multiple Breeds)

NOTICE

Ms. Kris Stauffer (Emerald Hills, CA). Action was taken by the San Mateo Dog Training Club for conduct at its September 10, 2022 event. Ms. Stauffer was charged with inappropriate, abusive, or foul language directed personally towards a judge. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the committee's report and set the penalty at a two-month suspension from event privileges and a \$200 fine, effective September 11, 2022. (Belgian Malinois)

NOTICE

Mr. Joshua Washnesky (Lake Dallas, TX). Action was taken by the Austin Kennel Club for conduct at its September 23, 2022 event. Mr. Washnesky was charged with improper treatment. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the Event Committee's report and set the penalty as a reprimand and imposed a \$100 fine. (Border Terriers, Samoyeds)

NOTICE

Ms. Dorinne Waterman (Perris, CA). Action was taken by the Santa Barbara Kennel Club for conduct at its August 27, 2022 event. Ms. Waterman was charged with entering/exhibiting altered dog (temporary alterations). The Staff Event Committee reviewed the committee's re-

port and set the penalty as a reprimand and a \$500 fine. (Multiple Breeds)

NOTICE

The AKC's Management Disciplinary Committee has suspended the following individuals from all AKC privileges for five years and imposed a \$5,000 fine, for non-compliance with AKC's Care and Conditions policy (unacceptable conditions, dogs, and/or facility):

Effective November 8, 2022:

- Ms. Caryn Mullin (Cache Junction, UT) Pugs
- Mr. John Mullin (Cache Junction, UT) Pugs

NOTICE

The AKC's Management Disciplinary Committee has suspended the following individuals from all AKC privileges for five years and imposed a \$1,000 fine, for refusal to make their dogs and records available for inspection when requested:

Effective November 8, 2022:

- Ms. Cindy Elliott (Norwood, MO) Multiple Breeds
- Ms. Magdalena McGowen (Cabool, MO) Multiple Breeds

NOTICE

The AKC's Management Disciplinary Committee has suspended the following individuals from all AKC privileges for six-months and im-

posed a \$500 fine, for refusal to make their dogs and records available for inspection when requested:

Effective November 8, 2022:

- Mr. Jamey Smith (Berea, KY) German Shepherd Dogs
- Mr. Nolan Smith (Berea, KY) German Shepherd Dogs
- Ms. Terry Smith (Berea, KY) German Shepherd Dogs

NOTICE

REPRIMANDS AND FINES

Notification of fines imposed for late publishing of premium lists, Rules Applying to Dog Shows, Chapter 6, Section 2

Onofrio Dog Shows, LLC\$300

Notification of reprimand imposed for late publishing of judging program and distribution of information to exhibitors Rules Applying to Dog Shows, Chapter 7, Section 12

Judy Lowther, Erie K-9 Event Services.....\$300

Notification of fines imposed for late submission of event results, Rules Applying to Dog Shows, Chapter 17, Section 2

Bull Terrier Club of the Niagara Frontier ...\$125
National Beagle Club\$120

OFFICIAL STANDARD FOR THE BRUSSELS GRIFFON

General Appearance: A toy dog, intelligent, alert, sturdy, with a thickset, short body, a smart carriage and set-up, attracting attention by an almost human expression. There are two distinct types of coat: rough or smooth. Except for coat, there is no difference between the two.

Size, Proportion, Substance: *Size*-Weight usually 8 to 10 pounds, and should not exceed 12 pounds. Type and quality are of greater importance than weight, and a smaller dog is sturdy and well proportioned should not be penalized. *Proportion*- Square, as measured from point of shoulder to rearmost projection of upper thigh and from withers to ground. *Substance* -Thickset, compact with good balance. Well boned.

Head: A very important feature. An almost human *expression*. *Eyes* set well apart, very large, black, prominent, and well open. The eyelashes long and black. Eyelids edged with black. *Ears* small and set rather high on the head. May be shown cropped or natural. If natural they are carried semi-erect. *Skull* large and round, with a domed forehead. The stop deep. Nose very black, extremely short, its tip being set back deeply between the eyes so as to form a lay-back. The nostrils large. Disqualifications-Dudley or butterfly nose. Lips edged with black, not pendulous but well

brought together, giving a clean finish to the mouth. Jaws must be undershot. The incisors of the lower jaw should protrude over the upper incisors. The lower jaw is prominent, rather broad with an upward sweep. Neither teeth nor tongue should show when the mouth is closed. A wry mouth is a serious fault. Disqualifications- *Bite* overshot. Hanging tongue.

Neck, Topline, Body: *Neck* medium length, gracefully arched. *Topline*- Back level and short. *Body*- A thickset, short body. Brisket should be broad and deep, ribs well sprung. Short-coupled. *Tail*- set and held high. If docked, it is docked to 1/3. If undocked the tail is carried upwards with the tip towards the back without ever reaching the back or being curled. This is a gracefully held saber type tail.

Forequarters: Forelegs medium length, straight in bone, well muscled, set moderately wide apart and straight from the point of the shoulders as viewed from the front. Pasterns short and strong. Feet round, small, and compact, turned neither in nor out. Toes well arched. Black pads and toenails preferred.

Hindquarters: Hind legs set true, thighs strong and well muscled, stifles bent, hocks well let down, turning neither in nor out.

Coat: The *rough coat* is wiry and dense, the harder and more wiry the better. On no ac-

count should the dog look or feel woolly, and there should be no silky hair anywhere. The coat should not be so long as to give a shaggy appearance, but should be distinctly different all over from the smooth coat. The head should be covered with wiry hair, slightly longer around the eyes, nose, cheeks, and chin, thus forming a fringe. The rough coat is hand-stripped and should never appear unkempt. Body coat of sufficient length to determine texture. The coat may be tidied for neatness of appearance, but coats prepared with scissors and/or clippers should be severely penalized. The *smooth coat* is straight, short, tight and glossy, with no trace of wiry hair.

Color: Either 1) *Red*: reddish brown with a little black at the whiskers and chin allowable; 2) *Belge*: black and reddish brown mixed, usually with black mask and whiskers; 3) *Black and Tan*: black with uniform reddish brown markings, appearing under the chin, on the legs, above each eye, around the edges of the ears and around the vent; or 4) *Black*: solid black.

Any white hairs are a serious fault, except for "frost" on the muzzle of a mature dog, which is natural. Disqualification- White spot or blaze anywhere on coat.

Gait: Movement is a straightforward, purposeful trot, showing moderate reach and drive, and maintaining a steady topline.

Temperament: Intelligent, alert and sensitive. Full of self-importance.

Scale of Points

<i>Head</i>		
Skull	5	
Nose and stop	10	
Eyes	5	
Bite, chin and jaw	10	
Ears	5	35
<i>Coat</i>		
Color	12	
Texture	13	25
<i>Body and General Conformation</i>		
Body (brisket and rib)	15	
Gait	10	
Legs and feet	5	
General appearance (neck, topline and tail carriage)	10	40
Total		100

Disqualifications:

- Dudley or butterfly nose.*
- Bite overshot.*
- Hanging tongue.*
- White spot or blaze anywhere on coat.*

Approved November 8, 2022
Effective February 1, 2023

OFFICIAL STANDARD FOR THE SPANISH WATER DOG

General Appearance: A rustic breed of the Iberian Peninsula, the Spanish Water

Dog is a sturdy athletic dog of medium size and weight suited to perform a variety of tasks including herding, hunting, and assisting fishermen. His working ability is attributed to an intense desire to please. In profile, the Spanish Water Dog is slightly longer than tall. His distinctive rustic curly, single coat is a hallmark of the breed. He must always be shown in a natural coat and *never* be aesthetically groomed in any way. Traditionally, he has a docked tail; today, all tail lengths are equally acceptable.

Size, Proportion, Substance: *Size*-Height at the withers: Dogs, 17½ to 19¾ inches; Bitches, 15¾ to 18 inches. *Weight* - In proportion to height. *Proportions* - Measured from point of shoulder to buttocks and withers to the ground 9:8. *Substance* - Solidly built, robust, muscular with moderate bone but neither coarse nor refined.

Head: *Head* is in balance with the body. *Expression* is alert and attentive. *Eyes* are slightly oblique, very expressive and have a shade of brown from hazel to dark chestnut, with the color harmonizing with the coat. *Ears* are set above eye level. They are dropped, and triangular in shape with slightly rounded tips. The tips should not reach past the inside corner of the eye. *Skull* is broad and flat. Occiput is not prominent. Ratio of cranium to muzzle is 3:2. Stop is apparent but not abrupt.

Muzzle is wide at the base, tapering slightly to the tip, strong lower jaw, never snipey. Cheeks are well filled below the eyes. Planes of skull and muzzle are parallel. Nose is of the same color or slightly darker than the darkest color of the coat and has well defined nostrils. Beige or white dogs may have either black or brown pigment. Lips are well fitting, labial corners well defined and are pigmented as the nose. Flews are tight. Scissors *bite* preferred, level bite accepted. Teeth are strong with full dentition.

Neck, Topline, Body: *Neck* is strong and moderate in length, blending smoothly into the shoulders. *Body* is robust. The body is slightly longer than tall in an approximate ratio of 9:8 measured from the point of shoulder to the point of buttocks. Chest is broad and well let down, reaching the elbows. Depth of chest to height at withers is 50 percent. Back is level and powerful. Loin is short. The length of the back comes from the length of the ribcage, not from that of the loin. Croup is slightly sloping. *Tail* is set smoothly into the croup at medium height. The tail is historically docked; today all tail lengths are equally acceptable. Docked tails are docked between the 2nd and 4th vertebrae. Full length tails reach approximately to the hock. Some individuals display a brachyury (natural bob-tail) gene which

can shorten the tail anywhere from an almost full tail to no tail at all. Preferred carriage is scimitar-like, carried either high or low, with the base not leaning more forward than perpendicular to the top line. Tails should never curl in a ring. Preference is not to be given to docked or undocked tails. Skin is supple and adheres closely to the body.

Forequarters: Shoulders are well-muscled and well-laid back and approximately the same length as the upper arm. Elbows are close to the chest and turn neither in nor out. Legs are straight, and strong with moderate bone. Pasterns are strong and flexible. Front dewclaws may be removed. Feet are round and compact. Toes are tight and well arched.

Hindquarters: The hindquarters give an impression of strength and energetic impulsion. Angulation is in balance with the front. Upper thigh is well muscled. Stifle is well bent. Second thigh is well developed. Hock joint is well let down. Rear pastern is short and perpendicular to the ground. Dewclaws if present are to be removed. Feet are as the front.

Color: The Spanish Water Dog may be solid (in its various shades of black, brown, beige, or white) Irish-marked or parti-

color where one of the colors must be white. Disqualifications - Tricolor, tan-point, parti-color where one of the colors is not white, albino or brindle.

Coat: The rustic coat is a hallmark of the breed. Any brushing, scissoring, aesthetic trimming or sculpting of the coat that destroys breed type and must be penalized so severely as to eliminate the dog from competition. The hair is a single coat, always curly and of a wooly texture. For shows, the recommended extended length of the coat is between 1 to 6 inches to demonstrate the quality of the curl. There is no preference for length of coat. The sole breed clip is a utilitarian kennel clip, one length all over the entire dog. Left to grow long, coats will form staples (sections of hair which curl in the same direction) and/or cords with natural fish-hook curls at the tips indicating a lack of scissoring or shaping. Cords are roughly pencil-thin. The quality of curl in both staples and cords is evident throughout. Different sections of the body (head, neck and body, legs) may exhibit variation of curl, staples and cords. Puppy coats: Puppy coat (up to 15 months) may be wavy and somewhat softer than adult coat. Puppy coat will not form cords. Disqualification - Smooth or wavy coat.

Gait: Movement is efficient, free, smooth,

and ground covering. Balance combines good reach in forequarters with front foot reaching the nose, and equally strong drive in the rear. As speed increases, the feet converge toward the centerline of gravity while the back remains firm and level.

Temperament: The Spanish Water Dog is faithful, obedient, lively, hard-working, and watchful. He is highly intelligent with an outstanding learning ability. His loyalty and protective instincts make him a self-appointed guardian to his owner, his family, and his property. He should be neither timid nor shy, but is naturally suspicious of strangers. He is very affectionate with his own people.

Disqualifications:

Tricolor, tan-point, parti-color, where one of the colors is not white, albino or brindle.

Smooth or wavy coat.

Approved November 8, 2022

Effective February 1, 2023

CONFORMATION JUDGES

Letters concerning judges and provisional judges should be addressed to the Judging Operations Department at PO Box 900062, Raleigh, NC 27675-9062. Letters concerning Agility, Obedience, Rally, Tracking, and VST applicants should be addressed to the Companion Events

Department in North Carolina.

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

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

APPLICANTS

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

NEW BREED JUDGING APPLICANTS

Ms. Lorelei Craig (111563) CA

(530) 277-7011

lorelei@cierastaffords.com

Staffordshire Bull Terriers

Mrs. Janie Pronto (111527) VT

(804) 389-8571

mjp1526@gmail.com

Great Danes

ADDITIONAL BREED JUDGING APPLICANTS

Mr. Richard D. Albee (57263) AL

(334) 821-7829

albeerd@charter.net

Azawakhs, Borzois, Greyhounds, Harriers, Otterhounds, Plott Hounds, Red-bone Coonhounds, Treeing Walker Coonhounds

Mr. James S. Albrecht (100017) MA

(603) 770-6933

nhbriard@aol.com

American Eskimo Dogs, Boston Terriers, Chinese Shar-Pei, Chow Chows, Lhasa Apsos, Lowchen, Tibetan Terriers

Miss Vicki E. Allenbrand (91374) KS

(678) 429-4609

blackjackdogs@earthlink.net

Balance of Herding Group (Bearded Collies, Finnish Lapphunds, Miniature American Shepherds, Mudik, Pulik)

Mrs. Anne Beckwith (100057) TN

(614) 570-9779

halcaranne@gmail.com

American Staffordshire Terriers, Scottish Terriers, Staffordshire Bull Terriers

Mrs. Jennifer U. Bell (109179) LA

(225) 933-6132

mystang50@yahoo.com

Golden Retrievers, Boxers, Giant Schnauzers, Neapolitan Mastiffs, Boston Terriers, Australian Shepherds

Dr. Albert P. Bianchi (5459) VA

(757) 672-4868

k4ux@cox.net

Curly-Coated Retrievers, Nova Scotia

Duck Tolling Retrievers

Ms. Kathi Brown (55262) MA

(978) 897-4717

kmbrownsience@verizon.net

Cirnechi dell'Etna, Greyhounds, Whippets

Mr. Dean Burwell (103997) SC

(803) 831-8375

dean@pawgate.com

Neapolitan Mastiffs, Rottweilers, Bedlington Terriers, Kerry Blue Terriers, Scottish Terriers

Mr. Todd Clyde (52861) DE

(302) 542-3416

tclyde002@msn.com

Chihuahuas, Chinese Cresteds, American Eskimo Dogs, Chow Chows, Cotons de Tulear, Finnish Spitz, Tibetan Spaniels, Xoloitzcuintli

Ms. Helen Dorrance (19022) TX

(512) 964-3294

gdkdogs@gmail.com

Balance of Non-Sporting Group (Bichons Frises, Boston Terriers, Chow Chows, French Bulldogs, Lowchen, Poodles, Shiba Inu)

Ms. Karen A. Dumke (7168) WI

(920) 279-4519

karenadumke@gmail.com

Airedale Terriers, American Hairless Terriers, Bedlington Terriers, Dandie Din-

mont Terriers, Glen of Imaal Terriers, Irish Terriers, Kerry Blue Terriers, Lakeland Terriers, Norfolk Terriers, Sealyham Terriers, Skye Terriers, Tibetan Terriers

Cathy Eke (101345) IN

(317) 695-2829

onlybdogs@aol.com

Rottweilers

Ms. Emily Fish (92354) WA

(360) 904-5765

emilypawcific@yahoo.com

Flat Coated Retrievers, American Water Spaniels, Clumber Spaniels, Sussex Spaniels, Welsh Springer Spaniels, Spinoni Italiani, Weimaraners, Shih Tzu

Mr. Randy Garren (17218) NC

(919) 608-9799

k9pro@aol.com

Balance of Working Group (Akitas, Alaskan Malamutes, Boerboels, Bullmastiffs, Mastiffs, Saint Bernards, Standard Schnauzers)

Mr. Neal Goodwin (45218) CT

doggone1@mindspring.com

Chesapeake Bay Retrievers, Welsh Springer Spaniels, Weimaraners, Wire-haired Pointing Griffons

Ms. Kari Hill (80054) SC

(864) 616-8882

charthill@yahoo.com

American Hairless Terriers, American Staffordshire Terriers, Border Terriers,

Glen of Imaal Terriers, Miniature Schnauzers, Rat Terriers

Mr. Jamie Hubbard (80432) IN

(812) 322-7978

ozjamiehubbard@gmail.com

Balance of Terrier Group (Cesky Terriers, Manchester Terriers, Miniature Bull Terriers, Miniature Schnauzers, Norwich Terriers, Parson Russell Terriers, Rat Terriers, Scottish Terriers, West Highland White Terriers), Belgian Malinois, Belgian Sheepdogs, Belgian Tervurens

Mr. Robert Hutton (15138) KY

(502) 375-4109

brocairetoo@twc.com

Balance of Sporting Group (Barbets, Bracchi Italiani, Lagotti Romagnoli, Nederlandse Kooikerhondjes, German Wirehaired Pointers, Chesapeake Bay Retrievers, Curly-Coated Retrievers, Flat-Coated Retrievers, Labrador Retrievers, Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers, English Setters, Gordon Setters, Irish Setters, Irish Red & White Setters, American Water Spaniels, Boykin Spaniels, Clumber Spaniels, English Cocker Spaniels, Field Spaniels, Irish Water Spaniels, Sussex Spaniels, Welsh Springer Spaniels, Spinoni Italiani, Weimaraners, Wirehaired Pointing Griffons, Wirehaired Vizslas)

Mrs. Stephanie Kaul (110173) CA

(408) 242-7990
stephanie@kauls.com
Pumik

Mrs. Linn Klingel Brown (23263) AZ

(651) 226-9080
linnkling@aol.com
American Hairless Terriers, Australian Terriers, Bedlington Terriers, Bull Terriers, Glen of Imaal Terriers, Miniature Bull Terriers, Rat Terriers, Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers, Staffordshire Bull Terriers, Welsh Terriers

Dr. Laura LaBounty (96455) NH

(603) 313-9597
specialcollies@msn.com
Australian Cattle Dogs, Bouviers des Flandres, Canaan Dogs, Finnish Lapphunds

Mrs. Pamela S. Lambie (96227) AZ

(760) 272-0625
pam@pamlambie.com
Akitas, Boerboels, Dogo Argentinos, Great Danes, Siberian Huskies

Mrs. Joan Luna Liebes (6515) CO

(719) 749-0232
joanluna@hotmail.com
Barbets, Lagotti Romagnoli, Irish Red and White Setters, Weimaraners, Wire-haired Pointing Griffons

Ms. Patricia M. Mullin (101733) CA

(650) 867-2935
pat@lochlinear.com

Airedale Terriers, Border Terriers, Bull Terriers, Dandie Dinmont Terriers, Wire Fox Terriers, Glen of Imaal Terriers, Irish Terriers, Kerry Blue Terriers, Lakeland Terriers, Parson Russell Terriers

Mrs. Sherry Patton (110239) TX

(318) 518-6542
4everbts@gmail.com
American Eskimo Dogs, Bulldogs, Chow Chows, Dalmatians, French Bulldogs, Xoloitzcuintli

Mrs. Dayl Phillip (103551) WA

(541) 340-4036
aurigan@gmail.com
Bouviers des Flandres, Old English Sheepdogs, Pembroke Welsh Corgis, Shetland Sheepdogs

Mr. John C. Ramirez (1814) CA

(310) 991-0241
jram168620@aol.com
Lhasa Apsos, Lowchen, Tibetan Terriers, Shetland Sheepdogs

Mr. John Ronald (4838) FL

(325) 669-0259
karonsams@hotmail.com
Australian Shepherds, Bearded Collies, Briards, Canaan Dogs, Miniature American Shepherds, Old English Sheepdogs, Pulik, Pumik, Spanish Water Dogs

Mrs. Janet M. Schwalbe (48619) GA

(706) 693-7142
reschwalbe@yahoo.com
Parson Russell Terriers, Russell Terriers,

Scottish Terriers, Sealyham Terriers

Ms. Claudia J. Seaberg (22813) FL

(615) 403-6126
rebel.68@comcast.net
Azawakhs, Beagles, Bloodhounds, Portuguese Podengo Pequenos, Redbone Coonhounds, Scottish Deerhounds, Treeing Walker Coonhounds

Mrs. Diana L. Skibinski (7258) IN

(219) 776-8746
skibinski1@aol.com
Brussels Griffons, Papillons, Pomeranians, Pugs, Shih Tzu

Mr. Daniel J. Smyth, Esquire (6347) CA

(609) 351-3647
danieljsmythesq@aol.com
Nederlandse Kooikerhondjes, German Shorthaired Pointers, Golden Retrievers, Labrador Retrievers

Dr. Gary I. Sparschu (6370) TX

(810) 824-8049
glspar@sbcglobal.net
Balance of Working Group (Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs, Mastiffs, Saint Bernards)

Mr. Gary Stiles (51717) WA

(350) 770-6690
lacasitas@aol.com
Rottweilers, French Bulldogs

Marilyn Van Vleit (67040) OR

(503) 510-1332
mvanvleit@gmail.com
Basenjis, Bloodhounds, Greyhounds,

Pharaoh Hounds, Redbone Coonhounds, Sloughi

Mrs. Sherry C. Webster (6863) TN

(901) 289-6239
swakc3@gmail.com
Curly-Coated Retrievers, Flat Coated Retrievers, Golden Retrievers, English Setters, Gordon Setters, Irish Setters, English Springer Spaniels, Sussex Spaniels, Welsh Springer Spaniels, Spinoni Italiani, Wirehaired Pointing Griffons, Wirehaired Vizslas

Pamela Wilson (64914) TX

(512) 280-3103
wilscot@sbcglobal.net
Italian Greyhounds, Maltese, Papillons, Pomeranians, Shih Tzu, Toy Fox Terriers

Ms. Leigh Ann Yandle (82616) GA

(704) 904-8129
leighannyandle@gmail.com
Old English Sheepdogs

JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP JUDGING APPLICANTS

Mr. John Mayhall (101705) OR

(928) 970-0969
mtn dogsrule@live.com
JS-Limited

Ms. Amy Rosling (111603) AK

(907) 317-0057
papa.awc@gamil.com
JS

Mr. Masaki Shimizu (100795) CA

(310) 819-5309

masaki.featherquest@gmail.com
JS

Mrs. Jessica Viera (111633) AK
(719) 322-1397
bjviera@aol.com
JS

PERMIT JUDGES

The following persons have been approved on a **Permit** basis for the designated breeds in accordance with the current judging approval process. *They may now accept assignments* and the fancy may still offer comments to Judging Operations.

NEW BREED PERMIT JUDGES

Mr. Gregory Scott Anderson (111377) NH
(603) 400-5062
simpletruthfarm@gmail.com
Bull Terriers, Miniature Bull Terriers, Skye Terriers, JS-Limited

Dr. Bree Ardizzone (98661) WI
(315) 481-1107
bardizzone315@gmail.com
Collies

Retha Eleanor Cable (111333) TX
(361) 658-8173
rcable@co.kleberg.tx.us
Collies

Marlene Groves (108243) CO
(303) 621-1111
marlene@buffalogroves.com
Bloodhounds

Ms. Julie LaFreniere (111381) MA
(413) 427-3643
julie@admin.umass.edu
Border Terriers

Pamela J. Rhyner-Hirko (93132) TX
(361) 331-0030
dediciwhippets@yahoo.com
Cirnechi dell'Etna, Harriers, Pharaoh Hounds, Whippets

ADDITIONAL BREED PERMIT JUDGES

Mr. Gary L. Andersen (6176) AZ
(480) 991-7485
glandersen@cox.net
Balance of Terrier Group (Cesky Terriers, Dandie Dinmont Terriers, Irish Terriers, Lakeland Terriers, Parson Russell Terriers, Skye Terriers, Welsh Terriers)

Mr. Brian C. Bogart (100059) NY
(716) 984-0012
sumerwyndb@aol.com
Anatolian Shepherd Dogs, Great Pyrenees, Leonbergers, Rottweilers, Siberian Huskies

Mrs. Denise A. Borton (91682) MI
(269) 375-0059
twinpinefarm@gmail.com
Balance of Working Group (Cane Corsos, Dogo Argentinos, Great Pyrenees), Otterhounds

Mrs. Penny DiSiena (76729) FL
(330) 421-3618
pennyd1954@gmail.com

American Foxhounds, Basset Hounds, Irish Wolfhounds, Pharaoh Hounds, Portuguese Podengo Pequenos, Whippets

Mrs. Pat M. Jenkins (99451) UT
(435) 770-0334
pmj16@msn.com
Bulldogs, Dalmatians, Lowchen, Tibetan Terriers

Dr. Camille McArdle (66682) MN
(612) 743-7329
camillemca@gmail.com
Bracci Italiani, Chesapeake Bay Retrievers, Golden Retrievers, Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers, American Water Spaniels, Boykin Spaniels, Cocker Spaniels, Weimaraners, Wirehaired Pointing Griffons

Ms. Sylvie McGee (95341) WA
(360) 705-1233
sylvie@sylviemcgee.net
Balance of Hound Group (American Foxhounds, Azawakhs, Cirnechi dell'Etna, English Foxhounds, Greyhounds, Sloughi), Boxers, Doberman Pinschers, Great Danes

Mrs. Shalisa D. Neely (98547) CA
(707) 834-3672
shalisaneely@gmail.com
Balance of Hound Group (American English Coonhounds, American Foxhounds, Basenjis, Beagles, Bloodhounds, Bluetick Coonhounds, English Foxhounds, Plott Hounds, Redbone Coon-

hounds, Treeing Walker Coonhounds)
Ms. Donna R. O'Connell (81640) TX
(214) 724-6629
tuscanycdoc@comcast.net
Nederlandse Kooikerhondjes, American Water Spaniels, Field Spaniels, Sussex Spaniels

Ms. Louise Palarik (6054) IL
(847) 487-5677
colliejudge@juno.com
Beagles, Dachshunds, Irish Wolfhounds, Treeing Walker Coonhounds

Mrs. Carlin Rasmussen-Johnson (103975) WI
(715) 424-5561
carlinrasmussen@yahoo.com
Curly-Coated Retrievers, Chinese Cresteds, JS

Dr. Judi M. Roller (102261) WI
(608) 370-2679
judi002@centurytel.net
Afghan Hounds, Basset Hounds, Bloodhounds, Grand Bassets Griffons Vendeens, Norwegian Elkhounds, Petits Bassets Griffons Vendeens, Pharaoh Hounds

Dr. Vicki Sandage, DVM (98425) KY
(606) 922-9552
sandfoxdvm@gmail.com
Bracco Italiani, Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers, American Water Spaniels, Boykin Spaniels, Clumber Spaniels, English Springer Spaniels, Field Spaniels, Wirehaired Pointing Grif-

fons, Wirehaired Vizslas

Mr. Thomas Schonberger (107485) AK

(907) 529-6693

yogi@mtaonline.net

Chinooks, Giant Schnauzers, Great Pyrenees, Komondorok, Tibetan Mastiffs

Mr. Harold Tatro III (31708) TX

(817) 320-8737

hredtatro@gmail.com

Balance of Toy Group (Biewer Terriers, Brussels Griffons, Chinese Cresteds, Havanaese, Japanese Chins, Maltese, Miniature Pinschers, Pugs, Russian Toys, Shih Tzu, Toy Fox Terriers), Standard Schnauzers

Ms. Sandy Weaver (94535) GA

(770) 310-6932

golfindogs@att.net

Balance of Working Group (Dogo Argentinos, Komondorok, Leonbergers, Mastiffs, Saint Bernards), Poodles, Xoloitzcuintli

Claire Wisch Abraham (100709) VA

(571) 318-2768

outlawgwp@aol.com

Barbets, Bracci Italiani, Golden Retrievers, Labrador Retrievers, Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers, Boykin Spaniels, Clumber Spaniels, Wirehaired Pointing Griffons, Wirehaired Vizslas

JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP PERMIT JUDGES

Ms. Lucretia Coonrod (111397) OK

(785) 217-5192

kanpoint@yahoo.com

JS

Mrs. Erica Cross (111383) DE

(817) 914-4452

ilvolarespinoni@yahoo.com

JS

Ms. Mara Flood (111427) NY

mbflooded@gmail.com

JS

Vicki Jo Graves (99893) WA

(253) 229-7051

vicdory@msn.com

JS

Mrs. Melissa Hampton (108526) MD

(908) 887-5058

meljoymckenzie@gmail.com

JS

Ms. Joyce Siddall (98695) CO

(303) 548-1125

catalinakennels@yahoo.com

JS-Limited

Mrs. Jessica Smith (111149) HI

(808) 388-5686

jesnmarley@yahoo.com

JS

BEST IN SHOW

The following persons, having successfully **completed** the required Group Assignments in the first Variety Group for which they were **approved**, have been added to the list of judges eligible for ap-

proval to judge Best In Show.

Mrs. Janet Cohen (90134) FL

(516) 459-0211

newfie219@aol.com

Mrs. Janet L. Fink (6374) CA

(909) 499-4347

janetfink@verizon.net

Dr. Adam Stafford King (49694) IL

(812) 568-6972

askingdvm@gmail.com

Mrs. Kathy Lorentzen (15475) MI

(989) 493-1269

kathylorentzen@icloud.com

Ms. Deirdre Petrie (63937) PA

(610) 763-8976

deirdrepetrie@yahoo.com

Mr. Joseph G. Reno (6407) NJ

(908) 561-7098

hicrest121@aol.com

Mrs. Janet M. Schwalbe (48619) GA

(404) 295-4414

reschwalbe@yahoo.com

RESIGNED CONFORMATION JUDGES

Judythe A. Coffman

Mr. Robert D. Ennis

Geraldine (Jeri) Muntis

Mrs. Ruth A. Naun

EMERITUS CONFORMATION JUDGES

Mr. Harry M. Binkow

Mrs. Ruth A. Marcy

Mr. Robert A. Mason

Mrs. Shari L. Mason

Ms. Christiane Scarpino

Ms. Carolyn Strunge

Ms. Rita M. Thatcher

DECEASED CONFORMATION JUDGES

Mr. John R. Boozer III

Mrs. Romaine Strilka-Switch

Mr. Seymour N. Weiss

REGULAR STATUS APPROVED

OBEDIENCE/RALLY/TRACKING JUDGES

The following persons have completed their Provisional Judging assignments and their names have been added to the list of regular approved judges for the class indicated.

Mrs. Dawn M Antoniak-Mitchell (39068) AZ

(402) 203-0369

5cleverk9s@gmail.com

Obedience – Utility

David Brobst (95025) VA

(804) 672-6724

davefromvirginia@verizon.net

Obedience – Utility

Sarah Schroder (34510) MO

(417) 234-6141

wicklowsetters@gmail.com

Obedience – Open

Cheryl Tisdale (94543) TN

(615) 653-5523

eqwynd@peoplepc.com

Obedience – Open

Terry Thornton (Z9697) NM

(214) 405-9871

amigoldretrievers@yahoo.com

Obedience – Open

Renee Hoover (99372) VA

(434) 409-5386

srhrotti@gmail.com

Rally – All

Kim Kearfott (102255) MI

(734) 668-1176

kearfottk@gmail.com

Tracking – TDX

NEW PROVISIONAL**OBEDIENCE/RALLY/TRACKING JUDGES**

The following persons have been approved as a judge on a Provisional basis for the class/test indicated in accordance with the Provisional judging system. They may now accept assignments.

Laura Rixham (111076) NJ

(856) 520-9025

kiwirix@yahoo.com

Rally – All

Mary Waugh Swindell (106477) TX

(214) 476-5577

dancingdobe@aol.com

Rally – All

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:

ARC'S-Golden Retrievers- Adrienne M.

LeHuquet

BELLEAME-French Bulldogs- Tracy L.

Griffith & Carol Hurst-Neville

BLULAKE-Lakeland Terriers-Philip J.

Lemieux & Jose C. Benavidez

CHAN-DRI-LLA- Giant Schnauzers-Chandrilla Holley

EGA'S- Giant Schnauzers – Keith W. Smith

CORAM DEO-Labrador Retrievers- Lauren R. Davis & Rebecca L.W. Davis

EMPIRE- Boston Terriers-Sandra L. Ayer & Danielle K. Campbell

ERSA ACRES- Golden Retrievers- Renee J.

Anderson & Sydnie T. Anderson

FIREBALL'S -Nova Scotia Duck Tolling

Retrievers-Kirk J. Rich

HAMBONE'S-Cavalier King Charles

Spaniels- Jennifer A. Hamilton

HONEYPOT- Chihuahuas- Cindy Williams

HOUSE ISABELA-Bulldogs-Joseph Chen

KIGLETH-Labrador Retrievers-Juan Marrero

KOMOREBI-Shiba Inu-Meagan T. Olivera

NOMAD-Doberman Pinschers- Paula D.

Vester

RIVER BEND-Bullmastiffs- Laurie L. Daniel

niel

SANDLEFORD-Golden Retrievers-Tyler A.

Hambley & Crystal S. Hambley

WATER'S EDGE- Leonbergers- Susan R.

Herman and R. Scot Herman

REGISTERED NAME PREFIXES GRANTED

The following applications for a breed-specific Registered Name Prefix have been granted

BLUE SPRINGS'- Poodles- Patricia Hobbs

BRINYBAY- Newfoundlands- Theodore R. Hanson

IRONHEAD-Miniature Bull Terriers- Bethany H. Parry & Jeffrey F. Parry

JORDAN- Standard Schnauzers- Sondra J. Lambert

KRAFTBREW-Australian Shepherds- Jodi L. Noble

MEADOWPARK-Belgian Tervurens- Debbie K. Vincent

OLIVE TREE- Bullmastiffs- Jessica Hamman

PRIMA- Doberman Pinschers- Shayna Sitton

RED PEPPER'S -Vizslas-Kevin McCrae

SHAMBRAY-Cavalier King Charles Spaniels-

James R. Jurgensen & Dianne K. Jurgensen

STONEGATE- Doberman Pinschers- Leslie M. Stone

SUNSET AST-American Staffordshire Terriers-

Nancy E, Hjelmstad



**AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB, INC.
MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
AKC OFFICES AT 101 PARK AVENUE,
NEW YORK, NY
NOVEMBER 7-8, 2022**

The Board convened on Monday, November 7, 2022, at 8:30 a.m. Eastern Time.

All Directors were present in the New York office. The Executive Secretary was also present.

The October 7-8, 2022, Board Meeting minutes, copies provided to all Directors, were reviewed.

Upon a motion by Mr. Sweetwood, seconded by Mr. Hamblin, the October 2022 Board Meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Sprung reviewed the status of the action items from the past Board meetings.

Mr. Sprung reported that: AKC executed the agreement with the Javits Center for

AKC Meet the Breeds®. The dates are January 28-29, 2023. Mr. Sprung encourages all Parent Clubs to sign up to be certain their breeds are represented.

Another AKC Affiliates meeting will be held to share ideas, calendar schedules, and collaboration.

We completed some filming for the Conformation, and Stewarding Courses this past weekend at the Warrenton shows. There will also be complimentary Stewarding Courses for Rally and Obedience.

Legal Update

The Board reviewed the Legal Department update as of October 2022.

CMS Rewrite Project

Doug Ljungren, Alan Slay, Torraine Williams and Keith Frazier, AKC Staff, participated in this portion of the meeting.

The Sports & Events and Information Technology Departments meet regularly to assess the progress of the Board approved CMS project. Late this summer, discussions focused on developments by Apeon, the company that owns PowerBuilder, the platform currently utilized by CMS. Apeon has launched a web-based version of PowerBuilder, and they have tar-

geted customers using legacy systems as candidates to upgrade to the web-based PowerBuilder platform. Additionally, they have established a pool of Apeon Certified Programmers knowledgeable in the older programming languages commonly used in legacy systems to further promote their new platform's use. These two developments, coupled with the current progress of the rewrite effort, have caused staff to reassess AKC's approach to this project.

Following a motion by Dr. Battaglia, seconded by Dr. Garvin, the Board VOTED (unanimously; Dr. Davies abstaining) to accept the Staff recommendation to shift approaches from the current approach, a complete rewrite of the CMS in the current programming language to upgrading the CMS by moving to the web-based PowerBuilder platform. This change requires additional off-budget expenditures in 2023 but will reduce the total cost by \$2,614,000 and reduce the time to complete the upgrade by two years and three months.

AKC Humane Fund Update

Daphna Straus, AKC Humane Fund (HF) Secretary, presented an update to the Board.

The purpose of the AKC Human fund is to:

- Provide support to AKC affiliates.
- Make grants to other like-minded non-profit organizations, including Parent Club breed rescue groups.
- Offer a tax-deductible option to supporters and general dog lovers.
- Promote the human canine bond.
- Sponsor educational programs.

The HF programming consists of grant-making and support to charitable and educational activities, including:

- Breed Rescue Grants
- Grants to Domestic Violence Shelters
- Scholarships
- AKC Awards for Canine Excellence (ACE Awards)
- Funding the AKC Library

The AKC Humane Fund has distributed \$1.3 M in funding for domestic violence shelters, disaster relief, rescue organizations, and scholarships since the organization was founded.

FINANCE

Ted Phillips, Chief Financial Officer, presented preliminary financial statements (unaudited) as of September 30, 2022.

Unaudited Financial Results for the nine months ended September 30, 2022

Net Operating Income is \$18.8 million due

to higher revenue and lower controllable expenses.

REVENUES:

Total Revenues of \$80.4 million exceeded budget by 14%, led by online registrations. Registration Fees total \$33 million, exceeding the budget by 14%.

Recording & Event Service fees, Title Recognition, and Event Applications fees total \$12.2 million, exceeding the budget by 9%.

Product & Service Sales total of \$9.2 million are higher than budget by 13%.

Advertising, Sponsorship, and Royalties total \$14.4 million, exceeding the budget by 15%.

EXPENSES:

Controllable Expenses total \$53.6 million are lower than budget by \$2.9 million or 5%. Non-Controllable expenses were lower than budget by \$862k or 10%.

Non-Financial Statistics as of September 30, 2022 Registrations

Registrations: 2022 YTD Litter Reg. 17% ahead of budget, 1% ahead of 2021 YTD. 2022 YTD Dog Reg. 14% ahead of budget, 9% lower than 2021 YTD.

Events and Entries

Compared to the same period in 2021,

Events & Entries were up by 19% & 13%, respectively.

Review of IRS Form 990

The Board was notified of the details and filing of the 2021 IRS Form 990.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Brandi Hunter Munden, Vice President, Communications, participated in this portion of the meeting. Sheila Goffe, Vice President, Government Relations; Mari-Beth O'Neill, Vice President of Sports Services and Ashley Jacot, Director, Education, participated in this portion of the meeting via videoconference.

2023 and 2024 Delegate and Board Meetings

For planning purposes, meeting dates should be set as far in advance as possible. The Board approved the 2023 meeting dates in January 2020. The Board reviewed the 2023 meeting schedule and the proposed 2024 meeting schedule.

Following a motion by Mr. Powers, seconded by Mr. Tatro, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to consider the matter at this meeting, waiving the normal notice procedures.

Following a motion by Mr. Tatro, seconded by Mr. Smyth, the Board VOTED unani-

mously to change the February Board meeting dates to February 13 -14, 2023.

Following a motion by Mr. Smyth, seconded by Mr. Carota, the Board VOTED (in favor: Battaglia, Carota, Hamblin, Garvin, Powers, Smyth, Sweetwood, Tatro, Wallin; against: Davies, Knight; abstained: Biddle, McAteer) to change the May Board meeting date to May 5, 2023.

Group Designation Change for Kishu Ken

The Board reviewed a request submitted by the National Kishu Ken Club asking to change the group designation for this breed from Working to Hound based on the breed's function.

The club has requested the change in group designation based on the breed's function historically and in its modern use, hunting, particularly of boar, deer, bear, and other legal game and nongame animals.

This will be discussed further at the January 2023 meeting.

American Eskimo Dog Stud Book

The American Eskimo Dog Club of America has submitted the request to open the Stud Book. The original Stud Book closed in 1992.

Following a motion by Mr. Powers, seconded by Mr. Tatro, the Board VOTED (unanimously, Dr. Garvin abstaining) to consider the matter at this meeting, waiving the routine notice procedures.

Following a motion by Mr. Tatro, seconded by Mrs. Wallin, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to allow the American Eskimo Dog Club of America to ballot its members on the question of opening the stud book, in accordance with the AKC Board Policy on opening a Stud Book.

Chinook Stud Book

The Board reviewed a request from the Chinook Club of America to keep the Stud Book for the Breed Open. The Chinook Stud Book is scheduled to close on January 1, 2023.

Following a motion by Mrs. Wallin, seconded by Mr. Tatro, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to consider the matter at this meeting, waiving the routine notice procedures.

Following a motion by Mrs. Wallin, seconded by Mr. Powers, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to keep the Chinook Stud Book open until January 1, 2025.

AKC Communications Q3 2022 Report

The quarterly report highlights the achievements of the Communications department on behalf of the AKC.

TOTALS*:

Clips Evaluated in Q3: 5,852 (+23% from 4,754 in 2021)

Q3 Estimated Audience Reached: 13,196,474,696

Publicity Value for Q3: \$17,295,134.50

* Numbers are independently monitored by Cision.

Highlights include:

Executed a PR plan to announce AKC's 200th breed on July 6, 2022 including post-announcement media requests:

- More than 900 organic media clips around the 200th breed announcement.
- Satellite media tour results:
 - o Total Placements: 24
 - o Total Impressions: 1,074,762
- Broadcast exclusive on *Good Morning America*.
- Online exclusive with the *Associated Press*.

Ran the second annual My Canine & Me Award, garnering more than 70 nominations from across the country.

Promotion of The AKC Museum of the Dog which was featured on the show *NYC-Arts* on PBS' affiliate channel, Thirteen.

More than 600 ACE nominations were reviewed, and winners were selected and notified.

AKC Communicates newsletter is distributed weekly with pertinent information and updates from the AKC and affiliates.

Weekly "AKC Tips" articles written for McClatchy-Tribune reached 600 newspapers, including the *Chattanooga Times Free Press*, *Dayton Daily News*, *Duluth News-Tribune*, *Fresno Bee*, *Idaho Statesman*, *Kingsport Times-News*, and *Rochester News Democrat and Chronicle*, among others.

AKC Education Q3 Review **Breed and Breeder Courses**

A total of 60 breed courses have been developed. The Scottish Terrier course was launched in Q3, four additional courses are complete and are in various stages of review (English Setter, Bergamasco, Pembroke Welsh Corgi, Shih Tzu), and two courses are under development (Ibizan Hound and Lhasa Apso).

Canine College is actively collaborating with Parent Clubs on the development of future breed courses for 2022/2023 to include but

not limited to: Akita, Beagle, Bearded Collie, Biewer Terrier, Bracco Italiano, Canaan Dog, French Bulldog, Golden Retriever, Komondor, Leonberger, Manchester Terrier, Mudi, Old English Sheepdog, Puli, Russian Toy, and Spinone Italiano.

Stewarding at the Dog Show

Canine College is producing an eLearning series that will help bolster stewardship participation and provide critical educational resources for this crucial role.

Three complimentary eLearning modules to be developed in Q4 of 2022:

- Course 1: Stewardship 101
- Course 2: Preparing for the Ring
- Course 3: Running the Ring

The same will be developed for Rally and Obedience Stewards.

Obedience Education

Canine College is developing a series of 6 courses for Judge's Education for the sport of Obedience.

- Course 1: Obedience Judges' Getting Started – Development completed
- Course 2: General Regulations – Development completed
- Course 3: Judging Standards and Procedures – Development completed
- Course 4: Judging Novice Classes –

Under development, acquiring course assets

- Course 5: Judging Open Classes – Storyboard complete, acquiring course assets
- Course 6: Judging Utility Classes – Storyboard complete, acquiring course assets

Service Dog Pass Program

In coordination with Government Relations, Canine College is working to develop a series of multimedia and eLearning components for a nationwide initiative to train SDP evaluators and employees on providing appropriate support and etiquette to service dog teams.

- Video 1: General Public/Promotional
- Video 2: Business-Centered
- Course 1: Understanding the Role of Service Dogs and Service Dog Pass
- Course 2: Service Dog Etiquette
- Course 3: Service Dog Pass for Evaluators
- Course 4: Service Dog Pass for Teams

Public Education

"Read with Bailey" is AKC Public Education's newest initiative. These videos feature dog-themed children's books and were created and read aloud by Public Education staff. Videos include images of the book and fun sound effects. Each video ends with

a Public Education resource linked to the story. Some of those resources include dog breed fact sheets, information about safety around dogs, and resources in Spanish.

These read-aloud videos are helpful in the classroom in many ways. Teachers can access thousands of books that they may not be able to purchase or borrow from the library. They are provided important time to complete other tasks while “someone else” reads the book. It also allows students to see some of their favorite books “come to life” on the screen and learn about dogs and the importance of the human-canine bond. Videos are uploaded to the AKC YouTube channel, and videos will be released twice a month. Currently, there are four read-alouds uploaded to YouTube and combined; they have over 1,000 views and more than 50 likes.

AKC Patch Program

With AKC Meet the Breeds® in mind, the Public Education team revamped the AKC Patch Program to add a more hands-on approach for younger children. This included visiting booths to meet a breed from each of the seven groups and collecting stickers at the various sponsor booths by asking prompted questions to learn more about how to care for dogs. The older participants’ activities included

meeting different breeds and answering questions on grooming level, activity level, and general appearance.

The goal is to make the AKC Patch Program more specific to the traveling Meet the Breeds® educational tour and to improve their visual appeal and engagement level for children in attendance.

AKC Education Webinar Series

In Q3 of 2022, AKC Education hosted nine webinars for 711 participants, bringing the total number of participants to 57,371 since the Series began in 2018.

Those webinars include:

- “AKC DDTF Webinar Series: 9-12 Month Puppies, Getting Started Right for Detection Work.”
- “AKC Canine College FAQs.”
- “Judges Education Webinar: Sloughi.”
- “2022 AKC Education Webinar Series: A Live Panel Discussion with CHF.”
- “Show Chair Webinar Series: #2.”
- “Review and FAQs on Conformation Judging Procedures, Policies and Guidelines.”
- “AKC Obedience Classic Random Draw.”
- “2022 AKC Education Webinar Series: Sports Services.”

Government Relations Q3 2022 Update

Sheila Goffe highlighted active, priority legislative issues that AKC Government Relations (GR) is actively working on and a status update on current department activity, major projects, significant activities, and legislative successes.

To date this year, GR has monitored more than 2,200 pieces of legislation that could impact dog ownership, the well-being of dogs, or AKC events and operations. This includes positive as well as negative legislation. GR is also monitoring approximately 586 actively pending proposed regulation (administrative or implementing changes) at the state and federal level.

To date, AKC GR has released more than 220 geo-targeted legislative action alerts on important legislation asking club members to take action. The team has also provided official comment or written and /or in person testimony on approximately 200 measures, and published more than 65 blogs and published articles.

GR emphasizes collaborating with dog owners impacted by potential changes in dog laws to provide the tools and empower them to be successful grassroots advocates. GR communicates to dog owners, club members, lawmakers and the public via

geo-targeted and online legislative alerts as well as Facebook/Twitter and other social media; The *Taking Command* (monthly advocacy) and *In Session* (policy) newsletters (<https://www.akc.org/clubs-delegates/governmentrelations/newsletters/>); blogs, Op Eds, as well as through direct one-on-one contact and outreach with club-based legislative liaisons. More details and resources are available online, at GR’s legislative action center, www.akcgr.org.

By volume, the most common types of bills monitored at the state level related to:

- Cruelty, including breeder regulations and restrictions (267)
- Working Dogs (226)
- Animal Control (207)
- Veterinary (121)
- Retail pet sales (99)
- Rescue/Shelters (97)
- Dogs in Public (87)
- Performance Events (83)

Legislator/Policy maker Conferences and Outreach Events:

Throughout the year, AKC sponsors educational booths, policy discussion and/or provides sponsorship at a series of legislator/policymaker conferences. These conferences host large numbers of lawmakers and provide a unique opportunity to raise awareness about AKC, speak one-on-one

with policymakers, offer legislative/policy solutions and introduce model legislation. GR Staff participated in the following conferences/events in the third quarter of 2022:

- The National Conference of State Legislatures (NCSL) Annual Conference, Denver, Colorado. Once again, AKC was among the most-visited booths by the approximately 5,000 attendees. GR Staff met legislators and staff from around the country to discuss dogs and canine legislation.
- National Association of Counties 2022 Annual Conference, attended by nearly 2500 county officials from across the United States.
- American Legislative Exchange Council annual convention in Atlanta, GA.

The team also staffed exhibitor booths and provided one-on-one assistance at several dog events:

- The Pennsylvania Animal Welfare & Safety (PAWS) Pet Breeder's Expo.
- Educational Booth: Tar Heel Labor Day dog show cluster, Raleigh, NC.
- Educational Booth: Houston World Series of Dog Shows, Houston, TX.

Constituent Education & Advocacy Training: GR provided 10 presentations on canine legislative/advocacy topics to

clubs/federations, breeders, and the public.

The AKC National Detection Dog Conference was held in Durham, NC, in August. This year's emphasis was practical information and networking opportunities to bring together breeders, puppy raisers, trainers, and other key industry players.

GR is planning for a national legislative conference which it will host January 21-22, 2023, in Raleigh, NC.

American Service Dog Access Coalition: American Airlines is currently beta-testing SDP technology and programming. Additional updates and announcements will be forthcoming.

Information on specific legislative alerts, legislative successes, and accomplishments was also provided.

CLUBS

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, information on Member Club Bylaws approved, and clubs newly licensed.

REPORT ON MEMBER CLUB BYLAWS APPROVED IN SEPTEMBER and OCTOBER

American Cesky Terrier Fanciers Association (2021)

Central Ohio Kennel Club, Franklin County, OH (1949)

Lake Champlain Retriever Club, Burlington, VT (2004)

Oakland Dog Training Club, Oakland, CA (1956)

REPORT ON NEWLY LICENSED CLUBS APPROVED IN SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER

NorCal Miniature Bull Terrier Club, greater San Francisco Bay, CA (including communities north to Windsor, south to San Jose, east to West Sacramento/Stockton), 37 households, 15 local.

Sleeping Giant Agility Club of Connecticut, greater Hamden, CT (including communities north to Meriden), 25 households, 16 local.

Triangle Agility Group Club of North Carolina, Raleigh, NC (including com-

munities of Cary, Chapel Hill, Moncure, and Wendell), 27 households, 15 local.

Wirehaired Vizsla Club of America, 41 total households (14 households in 19 states west of the Mississippi River; 27 households in 16 states east of the Mississippi River.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was an EXECUTIVE SESSION to discuss sensitive business matters. Nothing was reported out of this session.

COMPANION and PERFORMANCE

Doug Ljungren, Executive Vice President, Sports & Events; Caroline Murphy, Director, Performance Events; Carrie DeYoung, Director of Agility; and Diane Schultz, Director of Obedience, Rally and Tracking, participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

Rally Choice – New Rally Class for All Exhibitors

The Board reviewed a recommendation to modify the *Rally Regulations* to add a new optional titling class named Rally Choice (RC). The course will be the same as the Master course without the jump. All Rally signs, except jumps and the stay sign, may be used to design the course. The course will be judged with the dog off-leash. All

dogs will be eligible to enter this class and may continue to compete indefinitely. To earn the RC title, the dog must receive ten qualifying scores under at least two different judges. A numeric designation will indicate the number of times the dog has met the RC title requirements, i.e., RC2, RC3, etc. Clubs will be required to offer this class. Following a motion by Dr. Battaglia, seconded by Dr. Garvin, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to modify the *Rally Regulations* to allow the addition of a new optional titling class named Rally Choice, in which all dogs will be eligible to enter and compete indefinitely. All Rally signs, except jump and stay signs, may be used to design the course. The course will be judged with the dog off-leash.

Clubs may start applying for the Rally Choice class on or after April 3, 2023; and events may start holding the Rally Choice class on or after June 29, 2023.

RALLY REGULATIONS

CHAPTER 1

GENERAL REGULATIONS

Section 2. Premium Lists, Entries, Closing of Entries and Catalog Order.

A catalog must be provided for sanctioned "A" licensed or member trials. The jump heights in the catalog for the Rally Ad-

vanced, Rally Excellent and Master classes will be arranged in either ascending or descending order. The catalog must be prepared in the following class order, regardless of the order in which the classes are listed in the judging program.

- Novice A
- Novice B
- Intermediate
- Advanced A
- Advanced B
- Excellent A
- Excellent B
- Master
- Choice
- Any non-regular classes offered

CHAPTER 1

GENERAL REGULATIONS

Section 3. Rally Classes Offered. A licensed or member rally trial need not include all the regular rally classes, but a club will not be approved to hold the Intermediate class unless it also holds Novice classes. Likewise, it will not be approved to hold Advanced classes unless it also holds Novice and Intermediate classes. Nor will it be approved to hold Excellent classes unless it also holds Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, Master, and Choice classes, except at Special Event Rally Trials (see Chapter 1, Section 1a-2). Whenever classes are divided into Divisions A and B, both divisions must

be offered, except at Special Event Rally Trials (see Chapter 1, Section 1a-2).

CHAPTER 1

GENERAL REGULATIONS

Section 23. Judging Assignments, Scheduling and Judging Program.

To facilitate a more efficient trial it is strongly recommended that clubs assign the A and B classes of the same title level, to the same judge. The order in which classes are scheduled each day may vary, e.g., Master or Choice, Excellent, Advanced, Intermediate then Novice or Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, Excellent, then Master or Choice.

CHAPTER 3

CLASSES AND TITLES

Section 18. Rally Choice Class. All dogs are eligible to enter this class and may continue to compete indefinitely. There are no jumps in this class and all signs are judged off leash. Verbal encouragement, multiple commands, and/or inaudible signals using one or both arms and hands are allowed; the handler's arms need not be maintained in any particular position at any time. Penalties will be assessed for handlers clapping their hands, patting their legs, touching the dog or any physical corrections. Failure of the dog and handler to perform the sign correctly on the first attempt will

result in a ten-point deduction for an incorrectly performed (IP) sign, and the handler should move along without attempting a retry. For additional scoring information, please reference Chapter 2, Section 30. Scoring.

The Choice course will have 15 to 20 signs (Start and Finish not included) with a minimum of three and a maximum of seven stationary signs. Courses will have a minimum of four Master level signs, a minimum of three Excellent level signs, and a minimum of three Advanced level signs. When this class is being judged by the same person judging the Master class, the course will be the same except the jump will be replaced with any other class sign.

Section 19. Rally Choice Class Title. The letters RC may be added after the name of each dog that has been certified by at least two different judges to have received qualifying scores in the Choice class at ten licensed or member rally trials. That dog will receive a Rally Choice certificate from the AKC. The letters RC will be followed by a numeric designation indicating the number of times a dog has met the requirements of the RC title as defined in these Regulations. (RC2 for 20 qualifying scores, RC3 for 30 qualifying scores, RC4 for 40 qualifying scores, etc.

CHAPTER 5

AKC RALLY® NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Section 1. Rally National Championship Defined. A Rally National Championship shall be held annually at a time and location as determined by the American Kennel Club. The Rally National Championship shall consist of a Championship class which shall be comprised of a varied combination of upper-level class challenges, all of which may be modified. The event may also include competition at the Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, Excellent, Master and Choice class levels as determined by the AKC.

CHAPTER 6

NON-REGULAR CLASSES

Section 1. Rally Pairs Class. Rally Pairs class consists of a handler working two dogs at one time through a rally course. Any of the class levels listed in Chapter 3 may be offered. The courses will be designed as stated, except there will not be any jumps in any class levels in the Pairs class. A club may offer any non-regular class levels without having to offer all levels and all dogs are eligible to enter any class level. Scores will be based on a possible 200 points, with ties being broken by time.

CHAPTER 2

RALLY JUDGES' GUIDELINES COURSE DESIGN

Section 1. Course Design and Setting the Course.

The first course of the day should be nested with multiple signs per holder, for the following class levels, to allow for an efficient and easy course change between levels. The Intermediate course is the same as the Advanced course without the jump. The Master course must include one of the Master jump signs, 301, 302 or 303. The Choice course is the same as the Master course without the jump.

Jump Equipment Changes – Obedience and Rally

The Board reviewed a recommendation to modify the *Obedience Regulations* to allow clubs the option of using 4-foot-wide jumps and to modify the *Obedience and Rally Regulations* to transition to high jump panels that are displaceable. If approved, Host clubs will have until July 1, 2024, to transition to high jumps with displaceable panels.

This will be discussed further at the January 2023 meeting.

AKC Regional Competitions – National Obedience Championship

The Board reviewed a recommendation to

modify the *Obedience Regulations* to allow the redistribution of states to host a regional qualifying event for the National Obedience Championship (NOC) in two specific regions. This modification aims to increase the availability of clubs to host qualifying events in Regions 2 and 10.

The recommendation is to modify the *Obedience Regulations* to move New York from Region 1 to Region 2 and to move Minnesota from Region 6 to Region 10.

This will be discussed further at the January 2023 meeting.

International Sweepstakes Class Updates

The Board reviewed recommendations to realign the AKC Agility Non-Regular International Sweepstakes Class with the updates of Fédération Cynologique Internationale (FCI) Agility Rules which will go into effect on January 1, 2023.

The International Sweepstakes Class was designed to offer classes where exhibitors could demonstrate their advanced training and handling skills on international-style courses. Every five years, the FCI Agility Commission reviews the rules and guidelines for Agility, and the changes affect all countries that have teams that compete at the FCI Agility World Championship, FCI

European Open, and FCI Junior Open Agility World Championship. Those changes directly impact the AKC International Sweepstakes Class (ISC) because the class is based on the FCI Agility Program.

This will be discussed further at the January 2023 meeting.

Employee Participation in AKC Sports

Based on a request of the Board in October, the Staff reviewed the Employee Participation in AKC Sports policy and recommended a policy modification to allow for the highest title in each sport to be earned in three sports – Lure Coursing, Earthdog and Agility.

This will be discussed further at the January 2023 meeting.

Cane Corso Request to Participate in Herding

The Board reviewed a request from the Cane Corso Association of America (CCAA) asking for Cane Corsos to be allowed to participate in AKC Herding events.

AKC Performance Events are designed to test how well a dog can perform the historical function for which the breed was developed, which is an important consideration when making breeding decisions. Accord-

ingly, participation in the AKC Herding Program is only open to specific breeds.

Following a motion by Mr. Powers, seconded by Mrs. Wallin, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to consider the matter at this meeting, waiving the normal notice procedures.

Following a motion by Mr. Powers, seconded by Mr. Sweetwood, the Board VOTED unanimously not to allow the Cane Corso breed to participate in Herding.

AKC Trick Dog – Elite Performer Virtual Competition

The Board reviewed a memo on the results of the fourth national AKC Trick Dog Elite Performer Virtual Competition that was judged in September 2022. Implemented as part of the AKC Family Dog Program, Elite Performer is the most advanced level of AKC Trick Dog and requires dog owners to put together a routine using advanced tricks. This virtual competition gives Elite Performers from across the country an opportunity to showcase their trick dog routines.

This year's 2022 competition was the largest one to date, with 151 competitors from 35 states and Canada.

In 2021, a Junior Division was added. This

year, 50 Juniors entered the competition. They were grouped by age, including nine and under, 10 to 13, and 14 to 17.

CONFORMATION

Doug Ljungren, Executive Vice President, Sports & Events; Tim Thomas, Vice President of Conformation; Alan Slay, Director, Event Programs; and Glenn Lycan, Director, Event Operations Support, participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

AKC Certified Ring Steward

The Board reviewed a recommendation to establish an AKC Certified Ring Steward Program to coincide with the Stewarding Courses currently in development by the AKC Education Department.

Aware of the need for resources to educate interested individuals on the fundamentals of stewarding, Staff placed on its project list the development of a Canine College course on ring stewarding. Recognizing the increasing concerns of clubs, Mr. Dennis Sprung directed Staff to prioritize the development of the Stewarding Courses with the goal of a Q4 2022 launch.

To be listed as an "AKC Certified Ring Steward," one would be required to (1) complete the online course, (2) complete at

least three stewarding assignments after the course (no less than two as a solo steward), (3) submit a form to the AKC, and (4) be in good standing with the AKC.

Information on the AKC Certified Ring Steward Program would be posted on the AKC website and communicated to the fancy and licensed and member clubs. A link to information on the program will also be added to the end of the Stewarding 101 Course in AKC Canine College.

Following a motion by Mr. Hamblin, seconded by Mrs. Wallin, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to consider the matter at this meeting, waiving the normal notice procedures.

Following a motion by Mr. Smyth, seconded by Mrs. Wallin the Board VOTED (unanimously) to Board approve the adoption of the AKC Certified Steward Program. The effective date will coincide with the launch of the Stewarding 101 Course.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was an EXECUTIVE SESSION to discuss sensitive business matters. Nothing was reported out of this session.

JUDGES

Doug Ljungren, Executive Vice President,

Sports & Events and Tim Thomas, Vice President of Conformation participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

Mandatory Ramp Examination – Kerry Blue Terrier

The United States Kerry Blue Terrier Club ("USKBTC") has requested that the Board of Directors mandate the use of a ramp for all examinations of the breed including during group and Best in Show judging. Currently, Kerry Blue Terriers may be judged either on the ground or the ramp at the discretion of the judge. A similar request was submitted by the USKBT in 2021 which was eventually denied by the Board at its May 2022 meeting based on the club's method for polling its membership.

Following a motion by Dr. Battaglia, seconded by Mr. Powers, the Board VOTED (in favor: Battaglia, Biddle, Carota, Davies, Hamblin, Knight, McAteer, Powers, Smyth, Sweetwood; against: Tatro, Wallin; abstained: Garvin) to consider the matter at this meeting, waiving the normal notice procedures.

Following a motion by Dr. Battaglia, seconded by Mr. Hamblin the Board VOTED (unanimously) to add the Kerry Blue Terrier to the list of breeds required to be

judged on the ramp through all levels of Conformation competition.

COMPLIANCE

Bri Tesarz, Director of Compliance and Jessica Lopez, Compliance Specialist, participated in this meeting portion via video conference.

Adding New Penalty for the Offense of Abuse of Authority by Club Official

The Board reviewed a recommendation from the Staff Event Committee to add a new penalty to the *AKC Discipline Guidelines* relating to conduct.

Following a motion by Mr. Powers, seconded by Dr. Garvin, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to add a new penalty, "Abuse of authority as a club official", to the AKC Discipline Guidelines with the following ranges and definition of a club official.

VII. Disorderly Conduct (suspension of event privileges)

h. Abuse of authority as a club official

Mitigated: one month/\$200

Standard: three months/\$500

Aggravated: Up to one year/\$1,000

Definitions of Offenses

Club Official: Any person acting on behalf of the club in a position of authority or

influence in the administration, management, or organization of the club's event.

These changes are effective December 1, 2022.

(Final Board Disciplinary actions are reported on the Secretary's Page.)

BUSINESS INTELLIGENCE

Kassandra McCombe, Chuck Bettini, Seth Fera-Schanes and Mark Dunn participated in this portion of the meeting.

Estimate Age of AKC Judges Over Time

It is well known that AKC Judges are paramount to the health and longevity of our AKC Sports. Staff conducted and presented an analysis seeking to objectively review the growth of approved, new, and retiring AKC Judges over the past twelve years (2010-2021) and to append modeled age data to assess claims of changing age demographics in the population(s). Since 2010, the number of approved judges (across all disciplines) has increased from ~10,650 to a high of ~13,800 judges in 2021, a 12-year growth rate of 29%. The average age of approved judges is currently 61.1 years and has gradually increased since 2010. The average age of new judges is currently 50.3 years and appears to be stable over time.

Conversely, the average age of retiring judges exhibits an upward aging, trend. Critical insights by sport were provided.

Key findings from this analysis regarding the age of judges include:

- Conformation Judges are consistently the oldest population of judges, followed by Obedience and Rally.
- Hunt Tests Judges exhibit the youngest average age.
- The overall judging population exhibits a linear aging of 0.62 years (~7.5 months) annually.
- Individuals continue to enter the AKC judging population around the age of 50.
- Individuals are retiring from judging at a later age.

Key findings from this analysis regarding the health of judging populations include:

- The AKC judging population is continuing to grow.
- The rate of growth is declining.
- Sports should be monitored for growing disparities between the number of approved judges and the number of events.

AKC Corporate Project Roadmap Review

The American Kennel Club Staff uses a corporate roadmap to prioritize projects

across departments. This leads to staff objectives for the business year and beyond. The roadmap serves multiple purposes, including understanding cross-team dependencies, highlighting the status of projects, ensuring transparency, and optimizing decision-making, and helps to correlate the roadmap with objectives and budgets.

The AKC Board of Directors has asked for roadmap status updates. Seth Fera-Schanes presented the third and final update of the year. A sample of work completed and work in progress in the third quarter was reviewed, including:

- Virtual Home Manners (TAP)
- Dog Grooming Institute and Master Groomer launched
- Outbound Dialer (CRM)
- Digital Library
- One Group of Automated Letters Companion Events (CMS)
- Photo Uploader (Marketplace)
- Shop Phase II
- Breed Info Tool (ARGOS) Phase II
- AKC Judge Demographics (3rd Party Datasets)
- Humane Fund Conversion
- Storage Encryption
- Intrusion Detection System
- Active Directory Auditor ZOHO

REGISTRATION DEVELOPMENT

Mark Dunn, Executive Vice President, participated in this portion of the meeting.

Signatures Required for Semen Transfer

AKC Staff and the AKC Purebred Preservation Bank Workgroup recommend that AKC Procedures for Registration Matters Chapter XI. Artificial Insemination, Section C, #4, be revised to align with AKC policy related to using a stud dog in AKC litters. This change will make it easier for semen to either be used today or preserved for future generations.

This will be discussed further at the January 2023 meeting.

MARKETING

Kirsten Bahlke, Vice President of Marketing and Melissa Olund, Director of Digital Marketing, participated in this portion of the meeting.

Q3 2022 Social Media Update

Highlights of our social media strategy in Q3 2022 included the promotion of the AKC Agility Premier Cup (ESPN), AKC Rally and Obedience National Championships, Queen Elizabeth II remembrance, and the early leadup to the broadcast of AKC Fastest Dogs USA (ESPN).

Q3 2022 TOTALS:

Facebook: 4,111,550 followers
Instagram: 413,870 followers
Twitter: 100,277 followers
TikTok: 217,825 followers
Pinterest: 66,268 followers
Total*: 4,909,790 followers
7.5% total follower increase YOY
2% total follower increase vs. Q2 2022

Q3 2022 Review of AKC Digital Performance

- AKC.org traffic is normalizing from pandemic highs but is holding a significant portion of the gains due largely to the successful Expert Advice section, the top section in bringing organic traffic to our site.
- Marketplace continues to attract breeders, with the opt-in percentage at an all-time high.
- For AKC Shop traffic, Q3 page views, sessions and users are all above Q3 2021.
- Email marketing staff sent almost 50 million emails in Q3 of 2022 amplifying the content produced by the marketing content team, communicating with core constituents, fulfilling ad sales requests, and more.

The Board adjourned at 5:30 p.m.

The Board Meeting reconvened on Tuesday, November 8, at 8:30 a.m. All Directors were present in the New York office. The Executive Secretary was also present.

MEDIA AND SALES

Q3 Report – Mid-Year Report on Media and Sales Activities

AKC BROADCASTING ACTIVITIES

The AKC's over-the-top video network, AKC.tv, has experienced growth in plays across all platforms, including Web plays on AKC.tv via desktop or mobile (800K), AKC.tv app plays (over 600K) and plays on AKC.org via our digital content matching system (over 66M). The channel continues to grow in reach as well as in the breadth and scope of the content. We recently launched the updated AKC.tv mobile and tv app, available on iOS (iPhone), Android, Apple TV, Roku, and Amazon Fire TV. The updated app includes many upgrades, including improved user experience and design, a future events calendar, the ability to mark a video as a favorite, and a "continue watching" feature on the home screen.

AKC's Dog Sports programming on ESPN continued to deliver new audiences to AKC

Sports across demographics, with two premieres of Companion Events competitions since our last update. The third annual AKC Fastest Dogs USA event was filmed on September 16, 2022 in Kannapolis, NC, at Atrium Health Ballpark, a \$52 million state-of-the-art facility. AKC Fastest Dogs USA's premiere was moved from ESPN to the ABC Network, AKC's third show on ABC thus far in 2022. ESPN's social media team took note of the show, posting a video clip across several ESPN social media accounts that went viral, resulting in over 75 million video views.

AKC continued to work with North American Flyball Association (NAFA) to produce the Flyball CanAm Classic for broadcast, premiering on ESPN2 on October 23, 2022. AKC.tv also supported the CanAm Classic by livestreaming all early races across three days of competition and introducing AKC.tv to a new audience.

For the balance of this calendar year, AKC will produce the following four events:

- AKC Disc Dog Challenge
- Dynamic K-9 Duos
- AKC Canine Heroes
- AKC Agility Invitational

The broadcast and distribution of AKC programming on both ABC and ESPN

Networks has achieved vital advancement and promotion of AKC's mission through commercials, signage, branding and custom content in our shows. Year to date, AKC has achieved 172 hours of airtime, compared to 92 hours in the same period last year.

CONSENT

Following a motion by Mr. Sweetwood, seconded by Mr. Powers, it was VOTED (unanimously) to approve the following Consent items:

Neutered Dogs and Spayed Bitches in Non-Regular Classes

The Board reviewed a recommendation from the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee (DSRC) to modify Chapter 11, Section 8, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* to allow dogs that have been neutered or spayed to compete in nonregular classes at independent specialties or All-Breed dog shows that do not offer competition beyond Best of Breed.

The Board VOTED to approve a recommendation by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee to modify Chapter 11, Section 8 of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* to permit neutered dogs and spayed bitches to compete in all single-entry nonregular classes at independent specialties and/or

those All-Breed shows which do not offer any competitive classes beyond Best of Breed; and to correspondingly amend Chapter 6, Section 2 of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* to add verbiage to be clear that it must be stated in the premium list if neutered or spayed entrants are permitted to compete in the non-regular classes.

CHAPTER 11

Section 8. A dog which is blind, deaf, castrated, spayed, or which has been changed in appearance by artificial means except as specified in the standard for its breed, or a male which does not have two normal testicles normally located in the scrotum, may not compete at any show and will be disqualified except that a castrated male may be entered as Stud Dog in the Stud Dog Class and a spayed bitch may be entered as Brood Bitch in the Brood Bitch Class. A dog will not be considered to have been changed by artificial means because of removal of dewclaws or docking of tail if it is of a breed in which such removal or docking is a regularly approved practice which is not contrary to the standard.

Neutered dogs and spayed bitches would be allowed to compete in Veterans and all other single entry non-regular classes only at independent specialties and/or those all-breed shows which do not offer any com-

petitive classes beyond Best of Breed. *The remainder of this section is unchanged.*

CHAPTER 6

Section 2.

Previous portions of this section are unchanged

- the name and address of the superintendent and/or show secretary who has been approved by The American Kennel Club
- the entry fee(s)
- whether the show is benched or unbenched
- the exact location of the show
- the date or dates on which it is to be held
- the times of opening and closing of the show

Notification must be printed in the Premium List only if the club is not offering the three-point major to the Reserve Winners at the National Specialty.

Notification must be printed in the Premium List for independent specialties and/or all-breed shows which do not offer any competitive classes beyond Best of Breed only if neutered dogs and spayed bitches are allowed to compete in Veterans and/or any other single entry non-regular classes.

All-Breed Conformation events whose entries are limited must have a defined date and time for

the opening of entries that is to be prominently displayed in the premium list. For these events, the premium list is required to be published at least 72 hours prior to the acceptance of entries.

These proposed rule changes will be read to the Delegates in December for a VOTE at the March 2023 Delegate Meeting.

Show Secretaries – Rules Applying to Dog Shows

The Board VOTED to approve recommendations by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee (DSRC) to modify various sections of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* concerning show secretaries, to bring applicable rules in alignment with the expected and historically accepted responsibilities of show secretaries.

The sections of the Rules impacted are:

- Chapter 6, Section 2
- Chapter 6, Section 2A
- Chapter 7, Section 6
- Chapter 7, Section 7
- Chapter 7, Section 9
- Chapter 7, Section 13
- Chapter 7, Section 17
- Chapter 9, Section 10
- Chapter 11, Section 6

These proposed rule changes will be read to the Delegates in December for a VOTE at the March 2023 Delegate Meeting.

Show Veterinarians – Rules Applying to Dog Shows, Chapter 8 and Chapter 10, Section 2

The Board VOTED to modify Chapter 8 and Chapter 10, Section 2.

The modification to Chapter 8 will insert content from the deleted Chapter 9, Section 3, addressing the event committee's responsibility to complete arrangements with a veterinarian to service its show either in attendance or on call.

It also replaces "Obedience Trial or Tracking Test" with "Companion Event" per the recommendation of the Companion Events Committee.

The changes to Chapter 10, Section 2 delete verbiage related to the duty of the club, which is proposed to be inserted into Chapter 8 in a corresponding recommendation and replace "On Call" veterinarian with Show Veterinarian clarifying whether in attendance or on call, the Show Veterinarian must be available to treat dogs during the show hours.

These proposed rule changes will be read to the Delegates in December for a VOTE at the March 2023 Delegate Meeting.

Spanish Water Dog Proposed Breed Standard Revision

The Board VOTED to approve the Spanish

Water Dog breed standard as approved by the Spanish Water Dog Club of America with an effective date of February 1, 2023. See Addendum A.

Brussels Griffon Proposed Breed Standard Revision

The American Brussels Griffon Association, (ABGA), has submitted the following proposed revision to the Tail section of the breed standard; the proposed revision includes a description of an undocked tail. The current Brussels Griffon Standard was approved on September 11, 1990.

The Board VOTED to approve the Brussels Griffon breed standard as approved by the ABGA with an effective date of February 1, 2023.

Tail - Tail set and held high. If docked, it is docked to 1/3. If undocked, the tail is carried upwards with the tip towards the back without ever reaching the back or being curled. This is a gracefully held saber type tail.

English Springer Spaniel Proposed Breed Standard Revision

The English Springer Field Trial Association, (ESSFTA), has submitted proposed revisions to the breed standard, specifically to include an undocked tail. The Board VOTED to approve the ESSFTA to ballot its

members on the proposed revisions to the breed standard in accordance with the club's Constitution and Bylaws.

Retriever Field Trials – No Local Trials During the Two National Championship Trials

The Board VOTED to add a provision to the *Retriever Field Trial Rules* that prohibits local Retriever Field Trials that award championship points from being held during the National Retriever Championship and the National Amateur Retriever Championship. This provision does not prohibit events holding a derby stake, qualifying stake, or an owner-handler qualifying stake.

This proposed rule change will be read to the Delegates in December for a VOTE at the March 2023 Delegate Meeting.

Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures for Retrievers

Chapter 14

Rules for Retriever Trials

Section 11. Number of Trials/Stakes.

New paragraph 7

Local Trials Held During National Championships. No local Retriever Field Trials that award championship points will be allowed during the running of the National Retriever Championship Trial or the National Amateur Retriever

Championship Trial.

Pointing Breed Hunting Tests – Allow Clubs to Hold an Amateur Walking Puppy Stake in Conjunction with Their Hunting Test

The Board VOTED to allow Pointing Breed Hunting Test clubs the option to hold an Amateur Walking Puppy field trial stake in conjunction with their hunting test. This is a change to the *Regulations for AKC Hunting Tests for Pointing Breeds* and will become effective February 1, 2023.

Chapter 1. General Regulations

(New)

Section 3B. Amateur Walking Puppy Stake.

Clubs licensed to hold Pointing Breed Hunting Tests may, at their option, offer an Amateur Walking Puppy Stake to be held in conjunction with their hunting test. The AWP Stake is a field trial stake and is to be judged to the same standard of performance as if the stake were held at a field trial. Birds may, but are not required, to be released in an AWP stake. Dogs eligible to participate in an AWP stake must be 6 months of age and under 15 months of age on the day of the hunting test.

Standard of Performance for an Amateur Walking Puppy Stake.

Puppies must show a desire to hunt, boldness, and initiative in covering ground and

in searching likely cover. They should indicate the presence of game if the opportunity is presented. Puppies should not be given additional credit to pointing staunchly.

Puppies should show reasonable obedience to their handler's commands. Each dog shall be judged on its actual performance as indicating its future as a high-class bird dog. The premium list shall state whether or not blanks are to be fired in an AWP stake. If blanks are to be fired, every dog that makes game contact shall be fired over if the handler is within reasonable gun range. At least 15 minutes and not more than 30 minutes shall be allowed for each brace. Championship points will be withheld if a dog has not run for the required time.

The following provisions apply to an AWP stake held in conjunction with a Pointing Breed hunting test.

1. If judges at the hunting test are riding ATVs/UTVs, the judges of an AWP stake are allowed to ride ATVs/UTVs.
2. Individuals approved to judge PBHTs are allowed to judge an AWP stake held in conjunction with a PBHT.
3. If birds are not released for every brace in the AWP stake, the AWP course may not include a bird field.
4. The AWP stake is run under the PBHT

event application. (No field trial application is required.)

5. Clubs licensed to hold PBHTs that apply to hold an AWP stake in conjunction with their hunting test will automatically be assigned their license to hold Pointing Breed field trials by the Performance Events Department.

6. The conflict mileage restriction between similar events will not apply to an AWP stake held at a hunt test and a field trial for Pointing Breeds.

Obedience Optional Titling Classes – Reduced Jump Heights

The Board VOTED to modify the *Obedience Regulations* optional titling classes (Graduate Novice, Graduate Open and Versatility) minimum jump height requirement to half the height of the dog at the withers as stated in the Preferred Open & Preferred Utility Jump Height Table.

This change to the Obedience Regulations will become effective on December 1, 2022.

OBEDIENCE REGULATIONS

CHAPTER 1

GENERAL REGULATIONS

Section 4. Obedience Classes Offered.

Regular classes are the traditional standard titling obedience classes. Preferred classes

offer alternative titling opportunities without a group exercise and have reduced jump heights. Optional titling classes offer a variety of intermediate and standard exercises and allow reduced jump heights. Non-regular classes are not titling classes; they provide an opportunity for dogs and handlers to hone their skills and gain ring time.

CHAPTER 17

GRADUATE NOVICE OPTIONAL TITLING CLASS

Section 1. Graduate Novice Class.

The Graduate Novice class is an optional titling class for all dogs. The minimum required jump height for dogs in this class is half the height of the dog at the withers as stated in Appendix B, Preferred & Optional Titling Classes Jump Height Table. This class may be offered by clubs at obedience events.

The owner or any other person may handle dogs in this class. A person may enter more than one dog in this class.

CHAPTER 18

GRADUATE OPEN OPTIONAL TITLING CLASS

Section 1. Graduate Open Class.

The Graduate Open class is an optional titling class for all dogs. The minimum required jump height for dogs in this class is half the height of the dog at the withers as stated in Appendix B, Preferred & Optional Titling

Classes Jump Height Table. This class may be offered by clubs at obedience events. The owner or any other person may handle dogs in this class.

CHAPTER 19

VERSATILITY OPTIONAL TITLING CLASS

Section 1. Versatility Class.

The Versatility class is an optional titling class for all dogs. The minimum required jump height for dogs in this class is half the height of the dog at the withers as stated in Appendix B, Preferred & Optional Titling Classes Jump Height Table. This class may be offered by clubs at obedience events. The owner or any other person may handle dogs in this class. A person may enter more than one dog in this class.

Agility Updates – Standard Course Times and Course Design Flexibility

The Board VOTED to approve changes to the *Regulations for AKC Agility Trials and Agility Course Test (ACT)* to increase the standard course times for smaller dogs, save judges time in measuring the courses, and making changes to equipment and judging procedures that will provide added course design flexibility in the Premier classes.

- Chapter 4, Section 7 – Allow Judges to only wheel for distance 1 time in Novice

- Standard & Jumpers with Weaves
- Chapter 11, Section 3 – Remove the judging of runouts from the Premier Classes
 - Chapter 11, Section 3 – Increase course time for 8 Inch Regular & 4 Inch Preferred heights in Premier Standard
 - Chapter 11, Section 4 – Reduced number of required spread jumps to 1 from 2.
 - Chapter 11, Section 4 – Allow use of bi-directional weave pole challenge.

These changes will become effective January 2, 2023.

Agility Field Representatives' Participation in the Sport

The Board VOTED to approve a recommendation from the Agility Advisory Committee to allow Agility Field Representatives to participate in AKC Agility events under certain conditions.

The conditions that would apply to participation by the Agility Field Reps, a member of their household, or any dog they own or co-own are:

- A field rep may not participate at an event they are attending as a representative of the AKC.
- No field rep may participate under a provisional judge.
- A field rep may not participate under a fully approved judge during the three

months prior to a scheduled judge observation or the three months following having officially observed the judge.

D. A field rep may not participate if the field rep has reviewed the course design for any class at the event.

E. Field reps may not participate in the AKC Agility National Championship, AKC Agility Invitational or any special AKC Agility event.

F. The Director of Agility may not participate in an AKC Agility trial.

G. Dogs owned or co-owned by Agility Field Reps are subject to the same title limitations that apply to all AKC employees and their household members. For Agility, this means a dog may participate up the point where it has earned the Agility Grand Champion title (AGCH1).

This change to the policy will become effective January 1, 2023.

Member Club Bylaws – Allow the addition of Juniors to the Clubs Bylaws

The Board VOTED to permit existing clubs to add “Junior” as a membership option to their club Bylaws without AKC reviewing and approving each club’s Bylaws.

The Board will receive notice from Club Relations of the Clubs that have added “Junior membership” as a membership option in their Bylaws.

The definition for a Junior Membership is from the Glossary of the *“Sample Constitution and Bylaws for Parent Club.”*

“Junior – open to children under 18 years of age; a non-voting/non-office holding membership which may automatically convert to regular membership at age 18.”

Delegates Approved

Connie Brown

To represent Ventura County Dog Fanciers Association

Diane M. Conyers

To represent Portuguese Podengo Pequenos of America

Penny DiSiena

To represent Greater Ocala Dog Club

Jean W. Durdin

To represent Baytown Kennel Club

Theresa Goiffon

To represent Cambridge Minnesota Kennel Club

Sally Green

To represent Terre Haute Kennel Club

Gary Griffin

To represent Samoyed Club of America

Jennifer Martin

To represent Weimaraner Club of America

Richard E. Nance

To represent Abilene Kennel Club

Barbara Reisinger

To represent Scottsdale Dog Fanciers Association

Cindy Stansell

To represent Grand River Kennel Club

Theresa Wilson

To represent Columbia Missouri Kennel Club

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was an EXECUTIVE SESSION to discuss sensitive business matters. Nothing was reported out of this session.

It was VOTED to adjourn Tuesday, October 11, 2022, at 12:22 p.m. Eastern Time.

Adjourned

Attest: _____
Gina M. DiNardo, Executive Secretary

Addendum A

Current Spanish Water Dog Standard

General Appearance: A rustic breed of the Iberian Peninsula, the Spanish Water Dog is a sturdy, medium sized, well-proportioned, athletic dog that is suited to perform a variety of tasks including herding, hunting, and assisting fishermen. He is a loyal, vigilant, and intelligent working dog with strong herding instincts. His working ability is attributed to an intense desire to please. In profile, the Spanish Water Dog is slightly longer than tall. He has a distinctive curly coat, which is adapted to the variation of humidity and drought of his homeland. Traditionally, he has a docked tail.

Size, Proportion, Substance: **Size** - Height at the withers: Dogs, 17½ to 19¼ inches; Bitches, 15¾ to 18 inches. **Weight** - In proportion to height. **Proportions** - Measured from point of shoulder to buttocks and withers to the ground 9:8. **Substance** - Solidly built, robust, muscular with moderate bone but neither coarse nor refined.

Head: **Head** is in balance with the body. **Expression** is alert and attentive. **Eyes** are slightly oblique, very expressive and have a shade of brown from hazel to dark chestnut, with the color harmonizing with the coat. **Ears** are set at medium height at eye level. They are drooping above the eye, dropped, and triangular in shape with slightly rounded tips. The tips should not reach past the inside corner of the eye. **Skull** is broad and flat. Occiput is not prominent. Ratio of cranium to muzzle is 3:2. Stop is apparent but not abrupt. **Muzzle** is wide at the base, tapering slightly to a rounded tip. Cheeks are well filled below the eyes. Planes of skull and muzzle are parallel. Nose is of the same color or slightly darker than the darkest color of the coat and has well defined nostrils. Beige or white dogs may have either black or brown pigment. Lips are well fitting, labial corners well defined and are pigmented as the nose. Flews are tight. Scissors **bite** preferred, level bite accepted. Teeth are strong with full dentition.

Neck, Topline and Body: **Neck** is in proportion to the length of the body; strong and slightly arched, blending smoothly into the shoulders. **Topline** is straight. **Body** is robust. The body is slightly longer than tall in an approximate ratio of nine to eight measured from the point of shoulder to the point of buttocks.

The length of the back comes from the length of the ribcage, not from that of the loin. Chest is broad and well let down, reaching at least the elbows. Ratio of depth of chest to height at withers is 50 percent of the height. Ribs are well sprung. Tuck-up is slight. Back is straight and powerful. Loin is short. Croup is slightly sloping. **Tail** is set smoothly into the croup neither high nor low. Traditionally docked between the second and fourth vertebra. Some are born with a naturally bobbed tail which can range from almost no tail to almost a full tail. Preference is not to be given to docked or undocked tails. Skin is supple, fine and adheres closely to the body.

Forequarters: Shoulders are well-muscled and well laid back and approximately the same length as the upper arm. The upper arm and scapula form approximately a 90-degree angle. Elbows are close to the chest and turn neither in nor out. Legs are straight, and strong with moderate bone. Pasterns are strong and flexible. Front dewclaws may be removed. Feet are round and compact. Toes are tight and well arched.

Hindquarters: The hindquarters give an impression of strength and energetic impulsion. Angulation is in balance with the front. Upper thigh is well muscled. Stifle is well bent. Second thigh is well developed. Hock joint is well let down. Rear pastern is short and perpendicular to the ground. Dewclaws if present are to be removed. Feet are as the front.

Color: The Spanish Water Dog may be solid (in its various shades of black, brown, beige, or white), Irish-marked or parti-color where the second color is white. Disqualification - Tricolor, tan-point, or parti-color where the second color is not white.

Coat: The hair is a single coat, always curly and of a wooly texture. It is never brushed or combed and is shown either in natural curls or in rustic cords with tapered tips. The ends of the cords usually show a curl. The entire body, including the head, should be well covered with hair. In full coat, the hair will cover the eyes. Clipped subjects are allowed, the clipping always complete and even, never to become an "aesthetic" grooming. Minimal hygienic trimming is allowed but should not be noticeable on presentation. For shows, the recommended extended length of the coat is between 1-inch and 5-inches to demonstrate the quality of the curl or cord. Any brushing, aesthetic trimming, or sculpting of the coat that alters natural appearance is to be severely penalized. Traditionally, the Spanish Water Dog was sheared one time per year (with the sheep); the same length all over. Disqualification - Smooth or wavy coat.

Gait: Movement is free, smooth, effortless, and ground covering. Balance combines good reach in forequarters with front foot reaching the nose, and strong drive in the rear. As speed increases, the feet converge toward the centerline of gravity of the dog while the back remains firm and level.

Temperament: The Spanish Water Dog is faithful, obedient, lively, hard-working, and watchful. He is highly intelligent with an outstanding learning ability. His loyalty and protective instincts make him a self-appointed guardian to his owner, his family, and his property. He should be neither timid nor shy, but is naturally suspicious of strangers. Properly introduced, and given time, the Spanish Water Dog will accept strangers. He is very affectionate with his own people.

Disqualifications: *Parti-colored, where the second color is not white, Tricolor, tan-point, Smooth or wavy coat.*

Proposed Spanish Water Dog Standard

General Appearance: A rustic breed of the Iberian Peninsula, the Spanish Water Dog is a sturdy athletic dog of medium size and weight suited to perform a variety of tasks including herding, hunting, and assisting fishermen. His working ability is attributed to an intense desire to please. In profile, the Spanish Water Dog is slightly longer than tall. His distinctive rustic curly, single coat is a hallmark of the breed. He must always be shown in a natural coat and never be aesthetically groomed in any way. Traditionally, he has a docked tail; today, all tail lengths are equally acceptable.

Size, Proportion, Substance: **Size** - Height at the withers: Dogs, 17½ to 19¼ inches; Bitches, 15¾ to 18 inches. **Weight** - In proportion to height. **Proportions** - Measured from point of shoulder to buttocks and withers to the ground 9:8. **Substance** - Solidly built, robust, muscular with moderate bone but neither coarse nor refined.

Head: **Head** is in balance with the body. **Expression** is alert and attentive. **Eyes** are slightly oblique, very expressive and have a shade of brown from hazel to dark chestnut, with the color harmonizing with the coat. **Ears** are set above the eye level, dropped, and triangular in shape with slightly rounded tips. The tips should not reach past the inside corner of the eye. **Skull** is broad and flat. Occiput is not prominent. Ratio of cranium to muzzle is 3:2. Stop is apparent but not abrupt. **Muzzle** is wide at the base, tapering slightly to the tip, strong lower jaw, never snipey. Cheeks are well filled below the eyes. Planes of skull and muzzle are parallel. Nose is of the same color or slightly darker than the darkest color of the coat and has well defined nostrils. Beige or white dogs may have either black or brown pigment. Lips are well fitting, labial corners well defined and are pigmented as the nose. Flews are tight. Scissors **bite** preferred, level bite accepted. Teeth are strong with full dentition.

Neck, Topline and Body: **Neck** is strong and moderate in length, blending smoothly into the shoulders. **Topline** is straight. **Body** is robust. The body is slightly longer than tall in an approximate ratio of 9:8 measured from the point of shoulder to the point of buttocks. **Chest** is broad and well let down, reaching the elbows. **Depth of chest to height at withers is 50 percent.** The length of the back comes from the length of the ribcage, not from that of the loin. **Loin is short. Ribs are oval and well sprung. Tuck-up is slight.** Back is straight and powerful. Croup is slightly sloping. **Tail** is set smoothly into the croup at medium height. **Tail is traditionally docked between the second and fourth vertebra. Today, docked, natural bobtails of varying lengths, and full tails are all equally acceptable.**

Forequarters: Shoulders are well-muscled and well laid back and approximately the same length as the upper arm. The upper arm and scapula form approximately a 90-degree angle. Elbows are close to the chest and turn neither in nor out. Legs are straight, and strong with moderate bone. Pasterns are strong and flexible. Front dewclaws may be removed. Feet are round and compact. Toes are tight and well arched.

Hindquarters: The hindquarters give an impression of strength and energetic impulsion. Angulation is in balance with the front. Upper thigh is well muscled. Stifle is well bent. Second thigh is well developed. Hock joint is well let down. Rear pastern is short and perpendicular to the ground. Dewclaws if present are to be removed. Feet are as the front.

Color: The Spanish Water Dog may be solid (in its various shades of black, brown, beige, or white), Irish-marked or parti-color where one of the colors must be white. Disqualification - Tricolor, tan-point, or parti-color where one of the colors is not white, albino or brindle.

Coat: The rustic coat is a hallmark of the breed. Any brushing, scissoring, aesthetic trimming or sculpting of the coat destroys breed type and must be penalized so severely as to eliminate the dog from competition. The hair is a single coat, always curly and of a wooly texture. For shows, the recommended extended length of the coat is between 1-6 inches to demonstrate the quality of the curl. There is no preference for length of coat. The sole breed clip is a utilitarian kennel clip, one length all over the entire dog. Left to grow long, coats will form staples (sections of hair which curl in the same direction) and/or cords with natural fish-hook curls at the tips indicating a lack of scissoring or shaping. Cords are roughly pencil-thin. The quality of curl in both staples and cords is evident throughout. Different sections of the body (head, neck and body, legs) may exhibit variation of curl, staples and cords. **Puppy coats:** Puppy coat (up to 15 months) may be wavy and somewhat softer than adult coat. Puppy coat will not form cords. Disqualification - Smooth or wavy coat.

Gait: Movement is efficient, free, smooth, and ground covering. Balance combines good reach in forequarters with front foot reaching the nose, and strong drive in the rear. As speed increases, the feet converge toward the centerline of gravity of the dog while the back remains firm and level.

Temperament: The Spanish Water Dog is faithful, obedient, lively, hard-working, and watchful. He is highly intelligent with an outstanding learning ability. His loyalty and protective instincts make him a self-appointed guardian to his owner, his family, and his property. He should be neither timid nor shy, but is naturally suspicious of strangers. He is very affectionate with his own people.

Disqualifications: *Tricolor, tan-point, or parti-color where one of the colors is not white, albino or brindle, Smooth or wavy coat.*

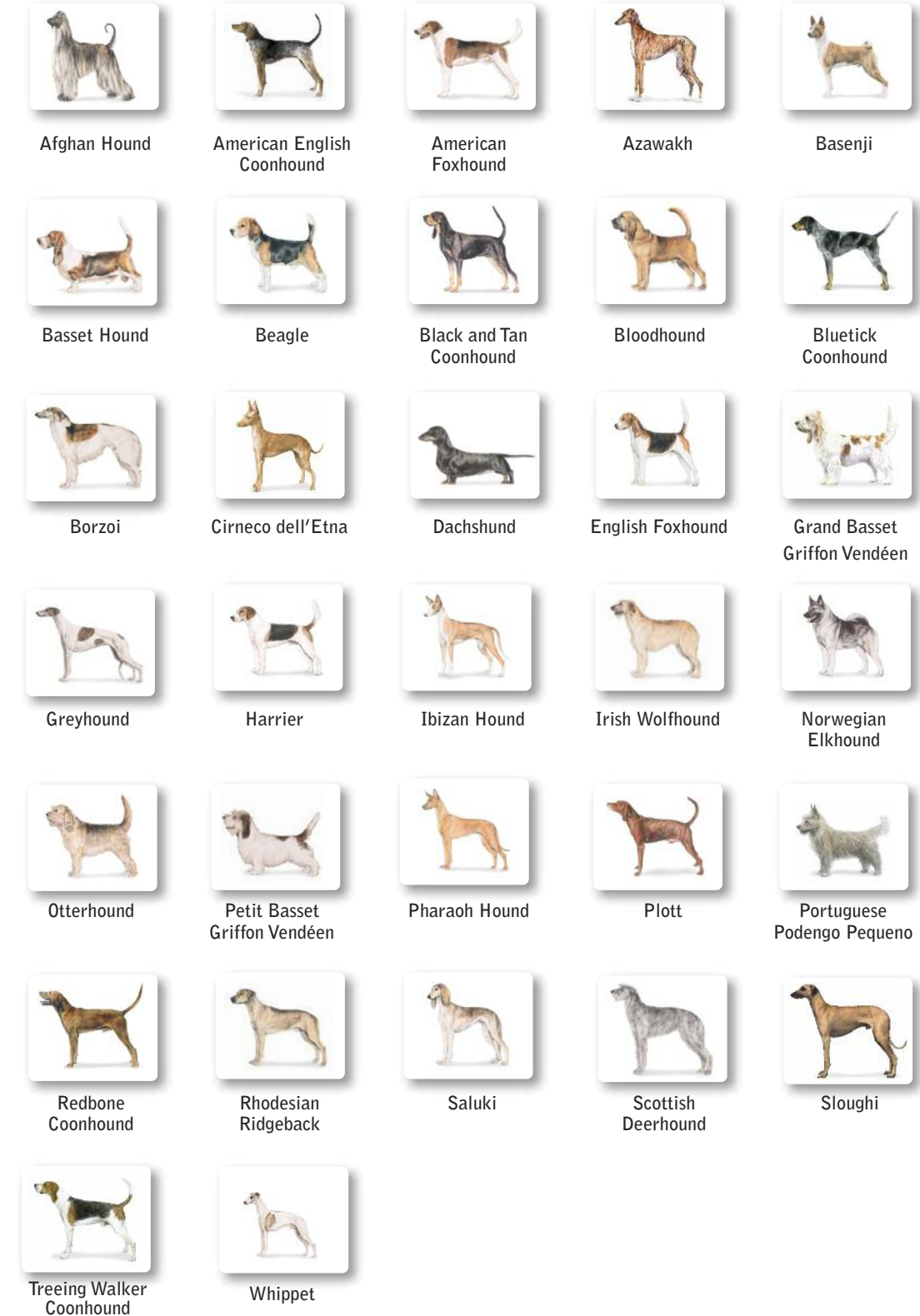
PARENT CLUB LINKS



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



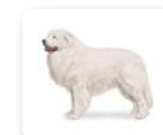
German Pinscher



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

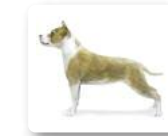
TERRIER GROUP



Airedale Terrier



American Hairless Terrier



American Staffordshire Terrier



Australian Terrier



Bedlington Terrier



Border Terrier



Bull Terrier



Cairn Terrier



Cesky Terrier



Dandie Dinmont Terrier



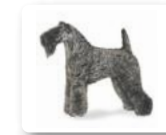
Fox Terrier (Smooth)



Glen of Imaal Terrier



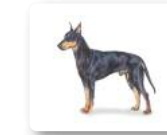
Irish Terrier



Kerry Blue Terrier



Lakeland Terrier



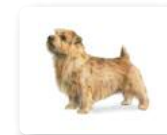
Manchester Terrier



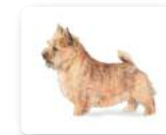
Miniature Bull Terrier



Miniature Schnauzer



Norfolk Terrier



Norwich Terrier



Parson Russell Terrier



Rat Terrier



Russell Terrier



Scottish Terrier



Sealyham Terrier



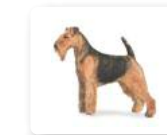
Skye Terrier



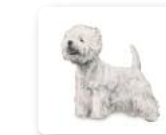
Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier



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



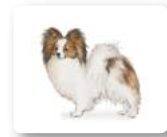
Maltese



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



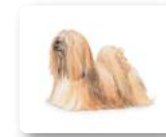
Finnish Spitz



French Bulldog



Keeshond



Lhasa Apso



Löwchen



Norwegian Lundehund



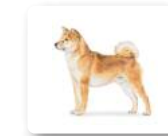
Poodle (Miniature)



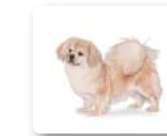
Schipperke



Poodle (Standard)



Shiba Inu



Tibetan Spaniel



Tibetan Terrier



Xoloitzcuintli

PARENT CLUB LINKS

HERDING GROUP



Australian Cattle Dog



Australian Shepherd



Bearded Collie



Beauceron



Belgian Laekenois



Belgian Malinois



Belgian Sheepdog



Belgian Tervuren



Bergamasco



Berger Picard



Border Collie



Bouvier des Flandres



Briard



Canaan Dog



Cardigan Welsh Corgi



Collie (Rough)



Collie (Smooth)



Entlebucher Mountain Dog



Finnish Lapphund



German Shepherd Dog



Icelandic Sheepdog



Miniature American Shepherd



Mudi



Norwegian Buhund



Old English Sheepdog



Pembroke Welsh Corgi



Polish Lowland Sheepdog



Puli



Pumi



Pyrenean Shepherd



Shetland Sheepdog



Spanish Water Dog



Swedish Vallhund



AKC REGISTERED HANDLERS

The American Kennel Club Registered Handlers Program establishes criteria and standards for responsible, knowledgeable professional handlers. All handlers enrolled in the Program have met these criteria and made the commitment to follow the guidelines and Code of Ethics as set forth by the AKC.

For additional information concerning the Registered Handlers Program, click here:

<http://www.akc.org/events/handlers/>

For information on upcoming RHP Handling Clinics

<http://www.akc.org/events/junior-showmanship/junior-clinics/>

<http://www.akc.org/events/handlers/adult-clinics/>