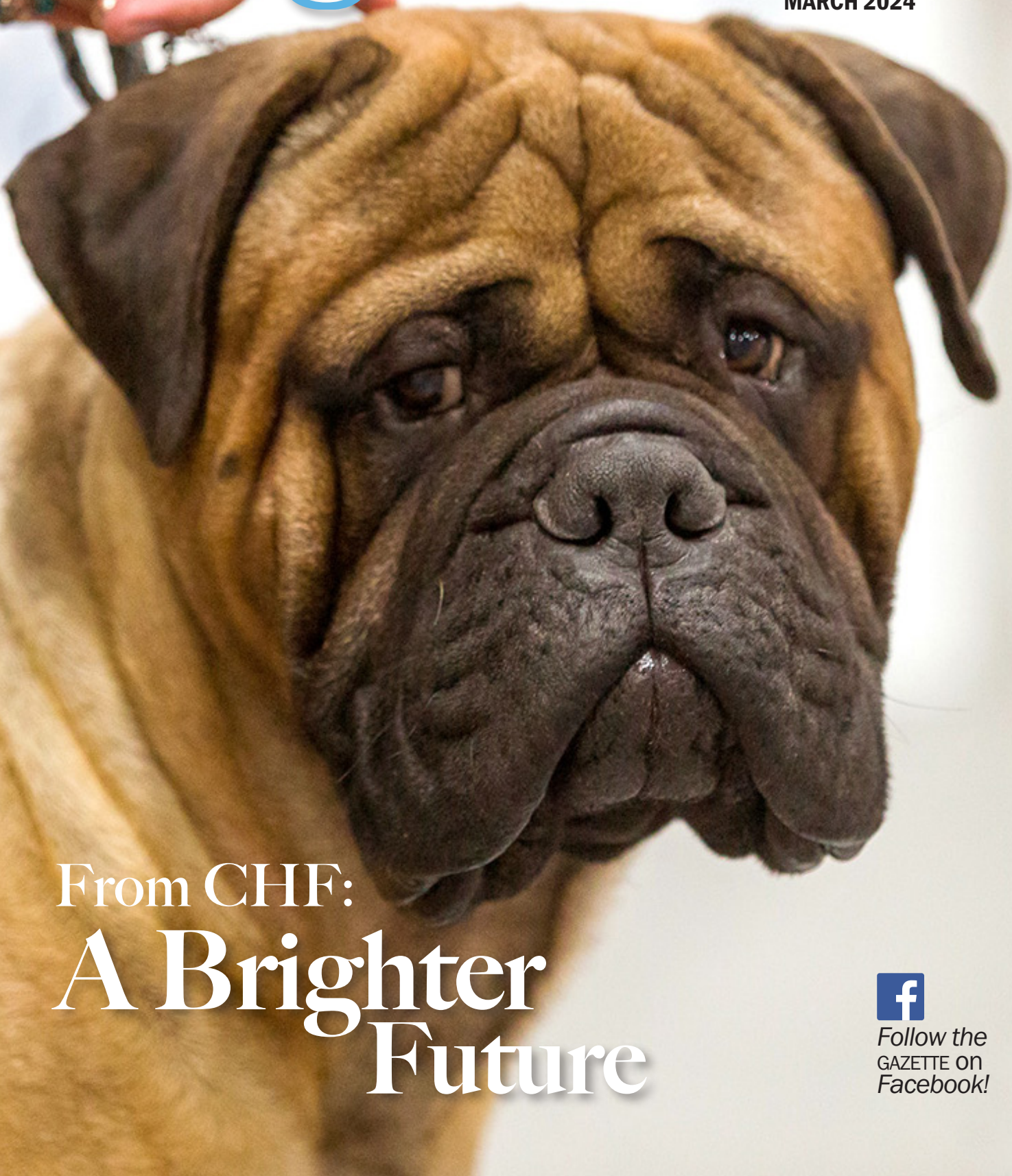




gazette

MARCH 2024



From CHF:
**A Brighter
Future**



Follow the
GAZETTE ON
Facebook!

TABLE OF CONTENTS

MARCH 2024

Volume 141, Number 3



FEATURE

A Brighter Future

New researchers tackle new strategies for canine bone cancer.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

SECRETARY'S PAGES

MASTHEAD

Remembering
Dr. Bryant Freeman

UPDATES

AKC Museum welcomes
Pequest Pokes;
Whippet National
preview

RINGSIDE

National Shiba Club of
America

SLIDESHOW

Meet the Breeds,
New York style

VIDEOS

TIMES PAST

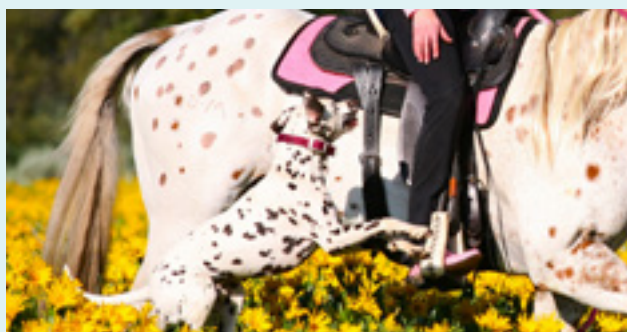
Esme Treen:
There Is No "o" in
Dalmatian

DOG PEOPLE

Eddie Dzuik

AKC PARENT CLUBS

BREED COLUMNS



Toy

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

Keeshonden
Lhasa Apsos
Poodles
Schipperkes
Shiba Inu
Tibetan Spaniels
Tibetan Terriers

Herding

Bearded Collies
Belgian Malinois
Belgian Sheepdogs
Canaan Dogs
Cardigan Welsh
Corgis
Collies
German Shepherd Dogs
Icelandic Sheepdogs
Norwegian Buhunds
Old English Sheepdogs
Pembroke Welsh Corgis
Pulik
Shetland Sheepdogs
Swedish Vallhunds

Non-Sporting

American Eskimo Dogs
Bichons Frises
Boston Terriers
Bulldogs
Chinese Shar-Pei
Chow Chows
Dalmatians
French Bulldogs

BREED COLUMNS SCHEDULE

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

THE 2023 PURINA® PRO PLAN®

RANK	DOG'S NAME OWNER(S) NAME(S)	BREED	DOGS DEFEATED	HANDLER(S)
1	GCHP CH Hallmark Jolei Out Of This World <i>L Ehrlich/D Ehrlich/B Miller/S Carter</i>	Shih Tzu	94684	Luke Ehricht
2	GCHG CH Zaida Bint Muti Von Haussman <i>R Podesta/S Pfeil/J Donahue/A Sobrado</i>	Afghan Hound	67189	Willy Santiago
3	GCHP CH Northbay Xsell That's A Wrap <i>B Evans</i>	Australian Shepherd	60926	Jessica Plourde
4	GCHG CH Telltale Bohemian Rhapsody <i>E Fink/T Lowe/J Vanderlip/E Pike/S Hatch</i>	English Springer Spaniel	60744	Robin Novack
5	GCHG CH Kaleef's Mercedes <i>C Wilhelm/S Moses Combs</i>	German Shepherd Dog	59622	Kent Boyles
6	GCHP CH Cherokee Legend Encore <i>K Mason/N Mason/A Moulton</i>	Bulldog	58635	Dennis O'Connor
7	GCHB CH Fleet St. Roque Down Easter <i>G Herrick/N Herrick/R Carusi/H Griffith</i>	Wire Fox Terrier	58015	Robert Carusi
8	GCHP CH Sunlit's King Of Queens <i>A Jones/J Souza-Bartlett</i>	Afghan Hound	55803	Alicia Morrison-Jones
9	GCHP CH Aicher Tmac Witchcraft V Gentry <i>C Green/T Mackenzie</i>	Doberman Pinscher	48503	Diego Garcia
10	GCHG CH Aspyre Cat Got Ur Tongue <i>K Spey/T Truesdale/D Truesdale/H Spey</i>	Pointer	44389	Ashley Oldfield
11	GCHP CH Goodspice Erbe Money Stache <i>H Good/F Bergeron/S Middlebrooks/E Bennett/L Spiegel</i>	Sealyham Terrier	43024	Margery Good
12	GCHG CH Bright'on Hightide Valkyrie <i>A Carter/K Lefrak/M Galloway</i>	Standard Poodle	40533	Christian Manelopoulos
13	GCHG CH Cussexx On Red Alert At Stonecroft S Bleu	Welsh Springer Spaniel	39715	Roxanne Sutton
14	GCHG CH Wishing Well Bobcat's Peace, Love & Pixie Dust <i>P Keenan/E Boyes/P Catterson/J Rich</i>	Brussels Griffon	38230	Paul Catterson
15	GCHP CH Bluecrush Freedom And Whiskey! <i>E Hart Hansen</i>	Kerry Blue Terrier	35653	Blake Hansen
16	GCHG CH Surrey Sage <i>C Gauche</i>	Miniature Poodle	29956	Kaz Hosaka
17	GCHG CH Rivergroves Wonder Dog At Pyrcreek CGC TKN <i>C Palmer-Persen/S Axelrod</i>	Great Pyrenees	29652	Stephanie House
18	GCHP2 CH Kolmar's & Los Feliz The Man Of Steel <i>A Stevenson/N Brown/L Soars/G Brown</i>	Havanese	29189	Tara Martin Rowell
19	GCHS CH Rivergroves Beyond The Pale <i>J Boyle/J Boyle/J Boyd</i>	Great Pyrenees	27326	Aaron Wilkerson
20	GCHP CH Eb The Relentless Pursuit Of Perfection <i>E Bustillo/P Bustillo/R Pineiro/E Betancourt</i>	Great Dane	27084	Elyades Betancourt
21	GCH CH Monocacy Bend's Lady Of The Chase <i>T Koerber/S Nordstrom</i>	English Foxhound	24939	Adam/Katie Bernardin
22	GCHG CH Cloudpointe Ringside Gossip <i>A McLaughlin/G Sharp/O Stensen</i>	Norwegian Buhund	24436	Amie McLaughlin
23	GCHP CH Wymark's Les Bijoux's Rock'N Rollz At Reverie <i>F Holt/M Coombs/B Hewlett/C Hewlett/B White</i>	Havanese	24216	David Murray
24	GCHG CH Abbeyrose Black Chrome <i>M Duatale/J Anspach/P Allen/S Williams/D Peters</i>	Welsh Terrier	23617	Leonardo Garcini
25	GCHG CH Spicerack's Shotgun Rider CGCA TKN <i>R Henderson/K Opydyke/D Henderson</i>	Giant Schnauzer	23481	Leonardo Garcini
26	GCHP CH Barbary's Reigning Royalty CGCA TKN <i>R Silva</i>	Chow Chow	22663	Ralph Silva
27	GCHP CH Topaz Wildfire For Umunhum THDN TKN <i>R McQueen/L House</i>	Siberian Husky	22285	Lauren House
28	GCHP CH Highlander's Snow Pilot <i>A Palmer/H Shimizu/B Palmer</i>	Siberian Husky	21166	Tim Terella
29	GCHG CH Afterglow De La Passion <i>C Dean/N Yamada</i>	Toy Poodle	21090	Chelsay Grubb
30	GCHP CH Lbh's Rebel And Proud Party Crasher <i>L Benitez/L Benitez Leva/T Chan/I Spas/J Branch</i>	American Staffordshire Terrier	20826	Blair Aguillard
31	GCHS CH Lost Heritage Knight Of Eldorado <i>C Vanover/K Lawless/S Hickman</i>	Treering Walker Coonhound	20712	Cole Vanover/ Kristin Lawless
32	GCHG CH Bagatelle Rainbow Moon <i>R Corbett/B Charest/J Charest</i>	Old English Sheepdog	20055	Clifford Steele
33	GCHG CH Horse And Hound Full Of Hope <i>S McGraw/J Spiers/S Iwakiri</i>	Borzoi	19859	Stuart McGraw

RANK	DOG'S NAME OWNER(S) NAME(S)	BREED	DOGS DEFEATED	HANDLER(S)
34	GCHP CH Simpatico Journey Of Thrills <i>B Rosenberg MD/J Rosenberg</i>	Weimaraner	19847	Keith Pautz
35	GCHG CH Vlk-Myst Heir To The Throne JH FCCA CGCU TKN BN-V <i>R Grant/V Nunes-Atkinson/Y Hassler-Deterding/S Stutz</i>	German Shorthaired Pointer	19676	Valerie Nunes-Atkinson
36	GCHS CH Sherwood Ck Dexter Haven <i>L Bryan/S Bryan</i>	Airedale Terrier	19630	Alfonso Escobedo
37	GCHG CH Carmel Sky High Stargazer <i>M Lande</i>	Miniature Schnauzer	18928	Susie Olivera
38	GCHB CH Kilgawny Take My Man <i>J Garahan/K Garahan</i>	Kerry Blue Terrier	18724	Dana Bryson-Benn
39	GCHP CH Good Fortune Good And Ready II <i>M Mauk/V Mauk</i>	Chinese Shar-Pei	18660	Clint Livingston
40	GCHB CH Random Rumblebee <i>Fan Yu</i>	Wire Fox Terrier	17854	Fan Yu
41	GCHP2 CH Fox Canyon's I Won The War At Goldshield CGCA CGCU TKN ATT S <i>Fox/F Cashin/A Geremia/M Fox</i>	French Bulldog	17581	Perry Payson
42	GCHP CH Cammcasette's Back To The Future TKN <i>S Roberts/P Marsh/J Roberts/S Guynn</i>	Rottweiler	17369	Erin Piercy
43	GCHG CH Hamersmith Heathcliff Heathcliff CGCA TKN <i>K Barrow/J Parnell/P Zapf/A Funk</i>	German Shepherd Dog	17351	Lenny Brown
44	GCHG CH Majestic Sweet Apple Friends In Low Places <i>K Belter/D Belter/N Sweet</i>	English Cocker Spaniel	17305	Kay/Doug Belter
45	GCHS CH Dobhran's Alexa Play Some Music <i>S Wilkins/A McIlwaine/J Wilkins</i>	Otterhound	17019	Jason McIlwaine
46	GCHG CH Rnr Impact N Heywire Walk On The Wilde Side <i>L Napoli/E Gorney</i>	German Wirehaired Pointer	16790	Chatham Napoli
47	GCHG CH Monamour Beyond and Above <i>P Howard/J Malvar/J Ferrera/A Hargrave/V Swarowski</i>	Russell Terrier	16763	Gustavo Molinari
48	GCHS CH Touche & Infinitistar's The Puppet Master <i>P Hill/J Martenson</i>	Japanese Chin	16620	Rowan Baggenstos
49	GCHP CH Adibeir Red Carpet Affair CGC <i>E Shauck/D Musto</i>	Cane Corso	16171	Kathy Musto
50	GCHP CH Planet's Pop Star <i>B Kaplan-Barrett/E Barrett</i>	Dalmatian	16031	Michael Scott
51	GCHP CH Alta Oceans Symphony Of The Seas <i>V Nilsson</i>	Miniature American Shepherd	15962	Kara Janiszak
52	GCHS CH Ringo Star Ot Nevskogo Hobbita <i>P Caldwell/R Caldwell</i>	English Toy Spaniel (B&PC)	15437	Christopher Keith
53	GCHG DC Ace's Chain Reaction HXAd HXBd <i>J Reifschneider/S McDaniel/K Libertore/T Libertore</i>	Bouvier des Flandres	15342	Larry Fenner
54	GCHG CH First Class Victoria Berland Empress Of Magic <i>J Fogel</i>	Bedlington Terrier	15272	Kellie Miller
55	GCHP CH Rising Star's Happy One CGC TKI <i>M Tobias/J Aniskoff</i>	Border Collie	15225	Jamie Clute
56	GCHP CH Fabelfhaft Robobull Ferragamo FDC TKN <i>M Mulchahey/J Dalton</i>	French Bulldog	15163	Alberto Montila
57	GCH CH Studio Be curious Jp Justice Hero <i>J See/Y Iguchi/G Rangell</i>	Welsh Terrier	15105	Gabriel Rangell
58	GCHS CH Rejoices To The Point <i>J Stevens/P Maher/P Rismyhr/B Pike</i>	Black Cocker Spaniel	14831	Per Rismyhr
59	GCHG CH Hallam Desert Phoenix Bakhu's Max One In A Million <i>R Newman/D Carota/S Threlfall/K Williams</i>	Pharaoh Hound	14594	Stacy Threlfall
60	GCHP2 CH Geran's Big Money Of Glasshouse BCAT <i>CGC G Roach/M Stahr</i>	Cardigan Welsh Corgi	14555	M'Kayla Stahr
61	GCHG CH Hyspire Ghostone A Tough Nut To Crack TKN <i>J Chambers/V Russell/J Russell/S Brown</i>	Labrador Retriever	14484	Christian Ruten
62	GCHP CH Aurora's Rhythm Of My Heart <i>J Mueller</i>	Saluki	14132	Julie Mueller
63	GCH CH Good Luck Chuck V. Tani Kazari <i>B Phifer/J Epperson</i>	Affenpinscher	13972	Adam Bernardin
64	GCHP CH Brigadier Shamrock All Silver Stars <i>J Lee/M Lee/B Rosener</i>	Brittany	13876	Diego Garcia
65	GCHG CH Mountain Crest My Boy Watson <i>D Gilstrap/A Gilstrap/C Gilstrap/J Marshall</i>	Pomeranian	13633	Michelle Jones
66	GCHS CH Texano Order Of The Phoenix <i>O Cano/L Wilson/J Zolezzi/J Truitt/D Jaffe/K Padon</i>	Whippet	13613	Lori Wilson-Paust

Red number (OO) identifies dogs fed Purina® Pro Plan® brand dog food.

**Dog News Magazine Top 100 Dogs based on AKC All-Breed Competition and RBIS through 12/31/23. Purina trademarks are owned by Société des Produits Nestlé S.A.

TOP 100 ALL-BREED CHAMPIONS™

RANK	DOG'S NAME OWNER(S) NAME(S)	BREED	DOGS DEFEATED	HANDLER(S)
67	GCHP CH Irodale's The Legend Exists <i>M Kahlo/A Kahlo</i>	Boxer	13549	Wendy Bettis
68	GCHG CH Normandy Silhouette In A Perfect World <i>S Kaul/B Warren/M Feltenstein/E Charles/R Beinhauer/L Pitts</i>	Parti Cocker Spaniel	13446	Linda Pitts
69	GCHS CH Kiarry's Gotta Have Faith <i>E Charles/L Miller</i>	American Foxhound	13285	Lisa Miller
70	GCHS CH Bugaboo's Let It Be <i>C Johnson/H Johnson/D Johnson/M Johnson/T Johnson</i>	Old English Sheepdog	13082	Taylor Johnson
71	GCHG CH Kriscots He's A Rebel At De La Pomme <i>P Jaruthavee/V Huber/R Cross/H Krisko/D Cross</i>	Scottish Terrier	13008	Rebecca Cross
72	GCHG CH Sweet O'Grady Destined To Be <i>J O'Day</i>	Standard Poodle	12575	Lindsay Gorder
73	GCHG CH Poole's Ide Sargeant Sloane CD RN MX MXB MXJ MJB MXF TZB S O'Reilly/G Siner	Irish Water Spaniel	12556	Joanne Thibault
74	GCHS CH Master Rock Calaco (Alonso Tojo) <i>M Alonso/S Tojo</i>	Xoloitzcuintli	12453	Dylan Kipp Keith
75	GCHG CH Copella La Ren Irresistible Spark <i>M Mosing/P Cox/J McLaren</i>	Papillon	12403	Brian Livingston
76	GCHP CH Riversong's Rockin' At The Ritz <i>C Koch</i>	Pug	11951	Michael Scott
77	GCHP CH Kismet Legendary <i>J French/G Mauldin/M Miller/T Hegarty</i>	Shetland Sheepdog	11824	Marty Miller
78	GCHS CH Scott's Georgia On My Mind <i>C Wathen/S Olivera/T Wathen/J Olivera</i>	Bearded Collie	11686	Susie Olivera
79	GCHS CH Emek Hayarden Cudar <i>C Clegg/M Clegg/B Clegg</i>	Kuvasz	11643	Caroline Clegg
80	GCHB CH Corimist Destiny Awaits <i>J Osterbauer/S Collings Howe</i>	Bearded Collie	11620	Mark Bettis
81	GCHP CH Summit's Silver Lining SWA SCE <i>C Williams/G Dinges/B Johnson</i>	Golden Retriever	11601	Beth Johnson
82	GCHP CH One Love Hashtag Not Vanilla <i>D Shindle/S O'Connell/C Marks/H Maxwell</i>	Long Coat Chihuahua	11476	Erika Lanasa
83	GCHG CH Loral's Naughty But Nice SIN CGC TKN <i>L Pyeatt/A Pyeatt</i>	Rottweiler	11416	Holly Eldred
84	GCHB CH Rockledge Knock On Wood At Thornton's <i>L Honey/C Comstock/S Mansfield/E Fujiwara</i>	Irish Terrier	11405	Simon Simaan
85	GCHB CH Keralane's Mandate <i>B Prato/Keralane Kn/E Takamoto</i>	Lhasa Apso	11320	Devon Kipp- Levy
86	GCHP CH Spotlite & Dblshot's Premier Edition CGC TKN <i>J Meisch</i>	Dalmatian	11125	Anthony Cantor
87	GCHS CH Wingfield 'N Chebaco Link To Bridgewood <i>D Collier/P Collier/E Hackett</i>	English Setter	11028	Abigail Van Meter
88	GCHG CH Starlaine Standing Ovation <i>K Kato/K Schoning/E Hopper</i>	Doberman Pinscher	10894	Andy Linton
89	GCHB CH Players Alitara Magic In The Air <i>S Getman/D Getman/J Krynzyl/G Mattison</i>	Tibetan Terrier	10885	David Murray
90	GCH CH Solettrader Buddy Holly <i>J Hayes/E Cadmore/C Neill/C Peterson</i>	Petit Bassett Griffon Vendéen	10859	Janice Hayes
91	GCHG CH Watersong Pouch Cove Resolute <i>M Lint/P Helming/M Oldham</i>	Portuguese Water Dog	10735	Michael Scott
92	GCHG CH Ne Orageux's Nudge Nudge Wink Wink <i>T Millner/M Millner/B Weber/B Weber</i>	Briard	10658	Joan Scott
93	GCHS CH Legend's Follow The Dream <i>T Tucker/E Beckman/T Hawk</i>	Bichon Frise	10612	Bill/Taffe McFadden
94	GCHP CH Chancellors "Radioactive" Thanos V Barste <i>B Thomas</i>	Rottweiler	10611	Rich Mysliwiec
95	GCHS CH Solettrader Dean Martin <i>N Frost/C Livingston/K Livingston</i>	Petit Bassett Griffon Vendéen	10584	Clint Livingston
96	GCHG CH Chyscott's The Greatest Showman <i>W Shafer/L Shafer/K Simmons</i>	Scottish Terrier	10527	Krissy Simmons
97	GCHB CH Realta Sycomore Spry CGC <i>M Barker/S Barker/R Sexton</i>	Irish Water Spaniel	10482	Mark Barker
98	GCHG CH Sheeba Ladies Man <i>K Ostmann/I Cahin/D Robinson Saathoff</i>	Cavalier King Charles Spaniel	10316	Tabatha Bettis
99	GCHS CH Eclipse Ace In The Hole <i>C Ruppenthal/D Beadle/G Thomas/B Thomas</i>	Berger Picard	10233	Amanda Giles
100	GCHG CH Barnstorm One Chance Fancy By Dzine <i>D Planche/P Bernardo/L Cook/M DeMers</i>	Tibetan Terrier	10164	Lois DeMers

ONLY ONE
BRAND FUELS
96
OF THE TOP
100*
SHOW DOGS



SEE WHY CHAMPIONS
CHOOSE PURINA PRO PLAN.

PURINA
PRO PLAN

purinaproclub.com/top100

*The handlers or owners of these champions may have received Pro Plan dog food as Purina ambassadors.



Your Pet, Our Passion.®

Busy and Buzzing

March is abuzz with activity at the AKC.

This month, we will host the 2024 [AKC National Agility Championship](#) presented by YuMove, March 14 to 17, at the Georgia National Fairgrounds and Agricenter in Perry, Georgia. A total of 1,330 dogs from 48 states and three countries will descend on Perry to compete for the title of National Champion at each height division. This competition is a wonderful demonstration of the trust between dogs and their owners at the highest levels and is thrilling to watch. The competition will be livestreamed on [AKC.tv](#), and the finals will be filmed for broadcast on ESPN.

Congratulations are in order for our 2023 Junior Versatility Scholarship winners. Scholarships totaling \$12,000 are awarded to the top 10 juniors who competed in a minimum of three different competitive AKC



events. The scholarships are offered by Carolyn and Gary Koch in memory of Pug, GCh.P Hill Country's Let's Get Ready to Rumble through the AKC Humane Fund, Elizabeth Fletcher in memory of Doris A. Wall, the North Carolina Triangle Judges Education Group, and the AKC National Junior Organization. A full list of winners is available on [akc.org](#).

Congratulations to these very deserving Juniors, who

are the future of our sport. We wish them well in their educational endeavors.

And lastly, the newest exhibition, *Outfoxed: Fox Terriers and Friends*, at the [AKC Museum of the Dog](#) honors the history of the Fox Terrier. The exhibition is sponsored in part by the American Fox Terrier Club. Of the breeds represented in the collection of the AKC Museum of the Dog, the Fox Terrier ranks among the highest with just under

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



“Ch. Flornell Checkmate,”
Edwin Megargee (1940)

100 depictions in paintings, prints, sculpture, and porcelain. Not just the sheer number, but also the quality and importance of the dogs portrayed, makes this collection so special.

Outfoxed: Fox Terriers and Friends explores the development of the breed and the variety of their jobs, and it chronicles the many champions in the collection.

The list of famous Fox Terriers in the show reads like a who's who in the history of the breed. Visitors will encounter portrayals of such notables as Belgrave Joe, one of the early fathers of the breed, and Cackler of Notts, the Duchess of Newcastle's masterpiece. Additionally, works showing the breed “on the job” are featured prominently.

Outfoxed: Fox Terriers and Friends runs until March 4. For more information or tickets, please visit museu-mofthedog.org.

Until next time, have a safe and healthy spring.

Dennis

Dennis B. Sprung
President and CEO

SAFARI[®]

by Coastal

NAIL CARE

BATHING

FLEAS

DE-SHED

COAT CARE



- COMFORT-GRIP HANDLES PROVIDE A SECURE HOLD
- OPTIONS FOR ANY BREED & HAIR TYPE

SHOP NOW

managing editor
BUD BOCCONE

senior editor
ARLISS PADDOCK

senior designer
KATE MCCROARY

publications director
RUSSELL BIANCA

design projects manager
CHRIS ESPIRITU

archivist-librarian
KIM ROSS

FREE
AKC GAZETTE
SUBSCRIPTION

advertising & circulation
manager

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

Write to the editors
gazette@akc.org

AKC GAZETTE (ISSN 1086-0940),
March 2024, Volume 141, No.
3, published monthly at 101 Park
Ave., New York, NY 10178, USA,
by The American Kennel Club, Inc.
Copyright The American Kennel
Club, Inc., 2023. No portion of this
magazine may be reprinted without
permission of the publisher. AKC is
a registered trademark of The
American Kennel Club, Inc.

The Passing of a Remarkable Man

Dr. Bryant Freeman, University of Kansas Professor Emeritus and longtime AKC GAZETTE Clumber Spaniel columnist, died on February 3 at age 92. At the time of his passing, he was the last surviving founder of the [Clumber Spaniel Club of America](#). Freeman was a founding member of both the [Charlottesville-Albemarle KC](#) and the CSCA, later serving as president of each, and as parent-club Delegate.

Freeman was among the most diligent and talented writers in the GAZETTE's 135-year history—but that barely scratches the surface of his achievement.

As one of the world's leading authorities on the language and culture of Haiti, his vast knowledge of the island nation was utilized by the State Department, Justice Department, U.S. Navy, United Nations, and Peace Corps.

“The amazing thing about Bryant is that he was ‘just another Clumber lover’ when you met up with him at specialties—he



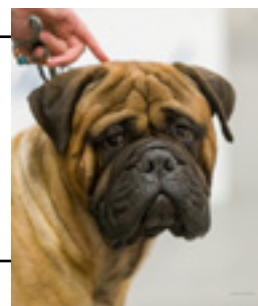
1978: Dr. Bryant Freeman with *Satellite's Stalwart* at the first CSCA national specialty

loved to talk Clumber,” Linda Fraser wrote in her comment on our [Facebook obituary](#) of Dr. Freeman.

“His generosity to CSCA was phenomenal. While doing other amazing things, he was a ‘great dog man’ to those of us who knew him through the breed, and we will miss him.”

It should be a point of pride to all connected to the dog game that this remarkable man walked among us.

On Our Cover:
Bullmastiff,
courtesy
Lynda Beam



COURTESY CHELSEA PARTEN



Peke Performance at AKC Museum

NEW YORK—The [AKC Museum of the Dog](#)’s “Breed Spotlight” series recently featured breeder-owner-handler David Fitzpatrick and AKC Board member Steven Hamblin ([Pekingese Club of America](#) president). Fitzpatrick charmed and delighted 171 museum visitors with a troupe of his famous Pequest Pekingese, and Hamblin

gave a talk about the breed.

“The event was an absolute smash,” Museum CEO and Executive Director Christopher Bromson says. “It broke some Breed Spotlight records. David and Steven were spectacular, and their passion for and advocacy around the breed is so strong and clear.”

Perhaps no one got a bigger kick out of the event than

Fitzpatrick himself. “The first Pekingese Club specialty was held at the Plaza [Hotel],” he said afterward in an Instagram post about New York’s long love affair with his breed, “and my dogs enjoyed having their photos taken in trophies that were offered then in the early 1900s! Thanks to the AKC and the Museum for all they do to support our dogs!”

AKC MUSEUM OF THE DOG

UPDATES

Westie **Standard Revision**

The Board of Directors at its February meeting approved revisions to the West Highland White Terrier breed standard. The changes, brought forth by the parent club, are effective **May 1**.

All judges assigned to judge the West Highland White Terrier, or assigned to judge the Terrier Group or Best in Show where the breed may be present at AKC conformation events held on or after May 1, will be required to judge in accordance with the **newly approved standard**. The revisions are extensive and affect every section of the standard.



DAVID WOO ©AKC

THE ONE BOOK EVERY DOG LOVER NEEDS



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

This volume offers readers:

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

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

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

UPDATES

Whippeteers to Converge on Kingsport

Phoebe Booth, our Whippet columnist, provides a preview of her breed's national specialty

Every April, Whippet fanciers from all over the U.S. gear up for the spring extravaganza known as the American Whippet Club national specialty, this year at the Meadowview Conference Resort and Convention Center in Kingsport, Tennessee.

Annual AKC registrations for Whippets have never placed the breed higher than in the top 50 breeds. In 2022, the latest published statistics, the breed was 54th in registrations out of 199 registrable breeds, and yet, the Whippet national conformation entry was third out of *all* specialties, with only the [Labrador Retriever Club of the Potomac](#) and the [Golden Retriever Club of America](#) having a higher entries. Those breeds rank

second and third in annual registrations! Whippeteers support their national like no other breed.

What is truly different about our specialty and our breed is that many of the Whippets entered compete in multiple events. The events start on April 20, with both an ASFA lure coursing field trial and an agility trial. The next day is the AKC field trial, which is the trial whose scores count for our Triathlon. The week ends on April 28 with the Whippet Racing Association Race Meet—and all of these activities will be held in close proximity to each other in and around Kingsport.

In between, there is obedience and rally, a Triathlon, and Versatility competition, where Whippets compete in three or four respective events and are cumulatively scored. There also will be a futurity, CGC and Trick



Dog testing, health clinics, a veterans' sweepstakes, a breeders' sweepstakes, Top Twenty competition, the annual meeting, a rescue meeting and parade, Junior Showmanship, and a judges' education seminar. Who needs sleep?

Regular breed classes will be judged April 24–27. The judges' education program will be the 26th and 27th—but there will be ringside mentoring on the other days as well. If possible I highly recommend that aspiring judges try to observe the breed in the field as well, since running is their *raison d'être*.—**P.B.**

COURTESY AMERICAN WHIPPET CLUB



NEW YORK—Rainy weather didn't dampen the spirits of thousands of visitors who converged on the Jacob K. Javits Convention Center for [AKC Meet the Breeds](#), presented by Purina Pro Plan, on January 27 and 28.

Thank-you to the AKC club members who manned the booths with their fabulous purebreds, along with all those who provided a weekend's worth of entertainment and education in the demo rings. A wonderful time was had by all.

(Photos by John Ricard)

JOHN RICARD ©AKC



From CHF: A Brighter Future

New Researchers Tackle New Strategies for Canine Bone Cancer

By Sharon M. Albright, DVM, CCRT

We need new strategies to treat and even prevent bone cancer in dogs! Osteosarcoma, the most common form of bone cancer in dogs, is a tumor that usually affects the limbs of middle-aged to older,

PHOTOS COURTESY OF SUBJECTS EXCEPT WHERE NOTED. THIS PAGE: ©CAPTURE+SHARE. REPEAT. LLC/GETTY IMAGES

FEATURE

large-breed dogs and carries a dire prognosis. As cancerous cells replace the normal bone, causing swelling, pain, and increased risk of fracture, the need for innovative treatment strategies intensifies.

Standard treatment involves removing the primary tumor through amputation of the affected limb or various salvage techniques, plus chemotherapy to address cancer cells that have spread to other parts of the body. Unfortunately, less than half of dogs receiving standard treatment survive more than a year after diagnosis. Osteosarcoma in dogs shares many characteristics with the human form of this disease, typically diagnosed in adolescents. Given the striking parallels, our insights into canine bone cancer may have the potential to significantly advance our understanding and treatment approaches for both

dogs and children.

Not only new ideas but also new researchers who can build on our current understanding of canine bone cancer and use evolving technologies to fight this devastating disease are needed to improve outcomes for affected dogs. Thankfully, [AKC Canine Health Foundation](#) (CHF)—funded investigators at the University of Minnesota are doing just that—testing bold new strategies to address bone cancer while training the next generation of canine health researchers!

HELPING DOGS AND PEOPLE

One CHF-funded study is examining why dogs and children with immune cells inside their bone tumors survive longer than those whose immune cells remain outside of the tumors (CHF



Julia Medland, DVM, MS, DACVIM

Grant 03015: The Immune and Molecular Landscape of Canine Osteosarcoma at the Single-Cell Level). This cutting-edge research is using DNA technology to pinpoint the specific types of immune cells and their precise location within the tumor. Understanding the immune landscape that leads to improved clinical responses is a deliberate step toward a brighter future for dogs facing this devastating disease.

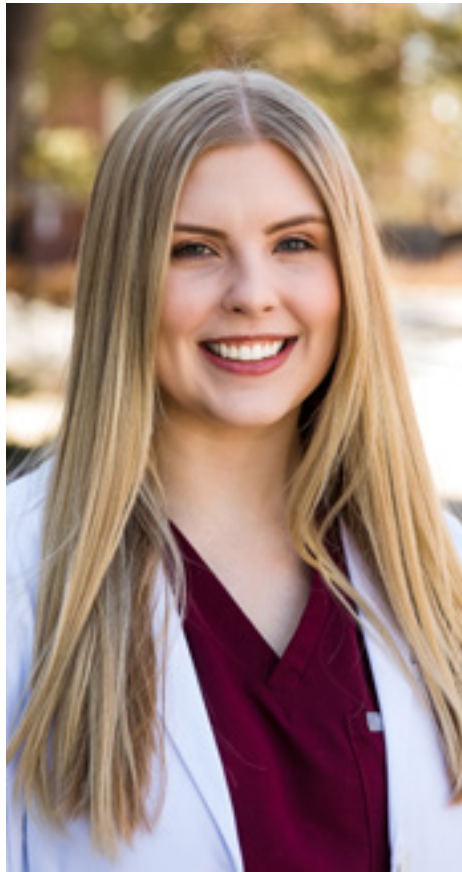
Dr. Julia Medland is a newly appointed Assistant

FEATURE

Professor of Oncology at the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine contributing to this research. Originally from Australia, Medland was mentored by the study's Principal Investigator, Dr. Jaime Modiano, during her residency and invited to join the project team.

“Osteosarcoma is a frustrating cancer with a lot still unknown about it,” says Medland. “The more we learn, the more complex and challenging the disease appears. We really need to reframe how we approach and treat the disease to benefit both dogs and people.”

Medland plans to stay in a university setting where she can be active in clinical practice plus have ample opportunities to collaborate on more extensive research projects. “I like to stay busy in the clinic, but still contribute to research,” she says. “I love to teach students both in the classroom and the clinic. Oncology is



Caitlyn Callaghan

poorly understood in veterinary medicine. I want to show students what is available for cancer treatment in companion animals, so they can take that with them no matter what they do in their career.”

YOUNG BLOOD

Those are important lessons that have been passed along to veterinary student Caitlyn Callaghan. Callaghan knew she wanted to specialize in oncology as soon as she entered veterinary school at the

University of Minnesota. She secured a Veterinary Summer Scholars position in Modiano's lab during her summers, where she learned sample processing techniques for this bone cancer study and shadowed Medland in the clinic. “It was a great experience and solidified my interest in oncology,” Callaghan says.

Since her father is a human oncologist, Callaghan grew up with exposure to the science of cancer. “Cancer treatment options for dogs are definitely increasing,” she notes. “I want to make sure dog owners know that they have access to these many options.”

Callaghan also attended the 2023 AKC Canine Health Foundation National Parent Club Canine Health Conference, where she learned about breed clubs and their dedication to supporting canine health research through CHF. “It was a positive introduction to working

FEATURE

with purebred dog club members and their unique breed health needs.”

Callaghan will present about the conference experience to her peers in Minnesota so others can learn what organizations like CHF, the American Kennel Club, and the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals provide to the veterinary profession.

LIFELONG LEARNING

Another Veterinary Student Scholar, Courtney Labé, has contributed to the bone cancer immunology study as well as a CHF-funded study seeking to develop a blood test for early detection of bone cancer (CHF Grant 03032-MOU: Early Detection of Canine Osteosarcoma). Given the challenges of effectively treating canine bone cancer, this study focuses on detection of the earliest cancer cell changes and will help scientists develop strategies to prevent the abnormal cells



Courtney Labé

from developing into a full-fledged tumor.

“Prior to veterinary school, I worked as an assistant to the internal medicine and oncology department at a referral hospital and fell in love with clinical oncology,” Labé says. “I entered veterinary school with a desire to contribute to the small animal medical oncology community. It has its challenges, but I don’t think there’s a more rewarding or exciting field out there.”

Labé plans to pursue specialty training in med-

ical oncology following graduation. “I’m grateful for CHF’s support of ongoing projects such as the Canine Osteosarcoma Early Detection study,” she continues. “I think it’s important for veterinary students to view continual engagement with research as part of the lifelong learning involved in veterinary medicine. I am thankful to be surrounded by classmates and instructors who value continued improvement in patient outcomes and critical analysis of new research.”

FEATURE

INNOVATION AND ACCELERATION

Exciting developments mark this ongoing bone cancer research. The bone cancer immunology study has wrapped up its DNA sequencing phase, while the early detection study is actively collecting samples. Thanks to Modiano's entire laboratory team—including students, residents, professors, technicians, and more—progress is being made against this devastating cancer. CHF and its donors know that bold new strategies and attracting bright minds into canine health research are needed to continue the fight against cancer and many other diseases affecting our beloved dogs.

“I am fortunate that these projects merge two of the best parts of my job: working with and for dogs and working with brilliant and motivated people,” Modiano says. “Bone cancer is a dreadful disease,



Jaime Modiano, VMD, Ph.D.

and far too common in large and giant dogs. Our projects are addressing the impact of this disease by developing strategies for prevention, with the intent of reducing its overall incidence, and by improving our understanding for how we can use the immune system to improve treatment outcomes.

“One way in which we find strength and creativity to innovate and accelerate progress is through diversity and inclusion. Our team members come from many walks of life, and their individual life experiences and motivation are a constant source of new ideas. Fostering their relationship with CHF and the

community of dog lovers who support us reinforces their enthusiasm and brings even greater hope for the health and wellbeing of future generations of dogs.”—**S.M.A.**

To learn more about CHF-funded cancer research and educational grants, visit akc-chf.org/research.

Sharon M. Albright, DVM, CCRT, is the AKC Canine Health Foundation manager of Communications & Veterinary Outreach.



Support CHF

Your donation helps to support canine health research and provide educational resources to dog lovers.

Learn more about the [Top 5 Reasons](#) why your support matters.

There Is No “o” in Dalmatian

This recently restored Ashbey photo, taken at the 1973 [Dalmatian Club of America](#) national specialty, shows judge Esmeralda “Esme” Treen with Veteran Class winner Am./Can./Bda. Ch. Spatterdash Coal Tar Tobyson. The breeder-owner-handler is Jay Sheaffer.

Later in the decade Sheaffer became a judge of working and non-sporting dogs, and he is remembered by Canaan Dog fanciers as being instrumental in achieving AKC recognition for the breed.

Esme Treen was a leading authority on the Dalmatian. Her books on the breed, written with her husband, Alfred E. Treen, have long



been considered definitive works.

Esme helped found the [Waukesha KC](#) and served as show chair for 28 years. Over five decades as a judge, she filled assignments in 50 states and a dozen countries, among them Russia, South Africa, India, Australia, Japan, and Colombia.

From Esme’s 2009 *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel* obituary:

Kate Romanski, a charter member of the Waukesha

KC, remembers the story of the day that the Treen family went to a movie theater where 101 Dalmatians was playing. The only problem was that the name of the movie was misspelled on the marquee.

Her friend did not mince words with management: “There is no ‘o’ in Dalmatian,” Treen declared.

“Outside it was a snow-storm but, when they came out, the letter had been changed,” Romanski said. “That, to me, is Esme.”

National Shiba Club of America | Rapid City, South Dakota

Photos by *Lynda Beam*



COURTESY LYNDA BEAM



RINGSIDE

National Shiba Club of America | Rapid City, South Dakota

Photos by *Lynda Beam*



COURTESY
LYNDA BEAM

RINGSIDE

National Shiba Club of America | Rapid City, South Dakota

Photos by *Lynda Beam*



COURTESY LYNDA BEAM



Meet the Breeds Walk-Through

New York's Channel 5 schmoozes with fans and fanciers at the Javits Center. 2:15



Crank It Up!

Jen Crank is a featured agility handler in the ESPN/AKC collaboration NFL Dog Plays of the Year. 2:57

VIDEOS



Around the Rings

ERIE, PENNSYLVANIA— show chair Jeanne Stiner and breeder-handler Terry Farley are interviewed at the [Erie KC](#) show. 1:47

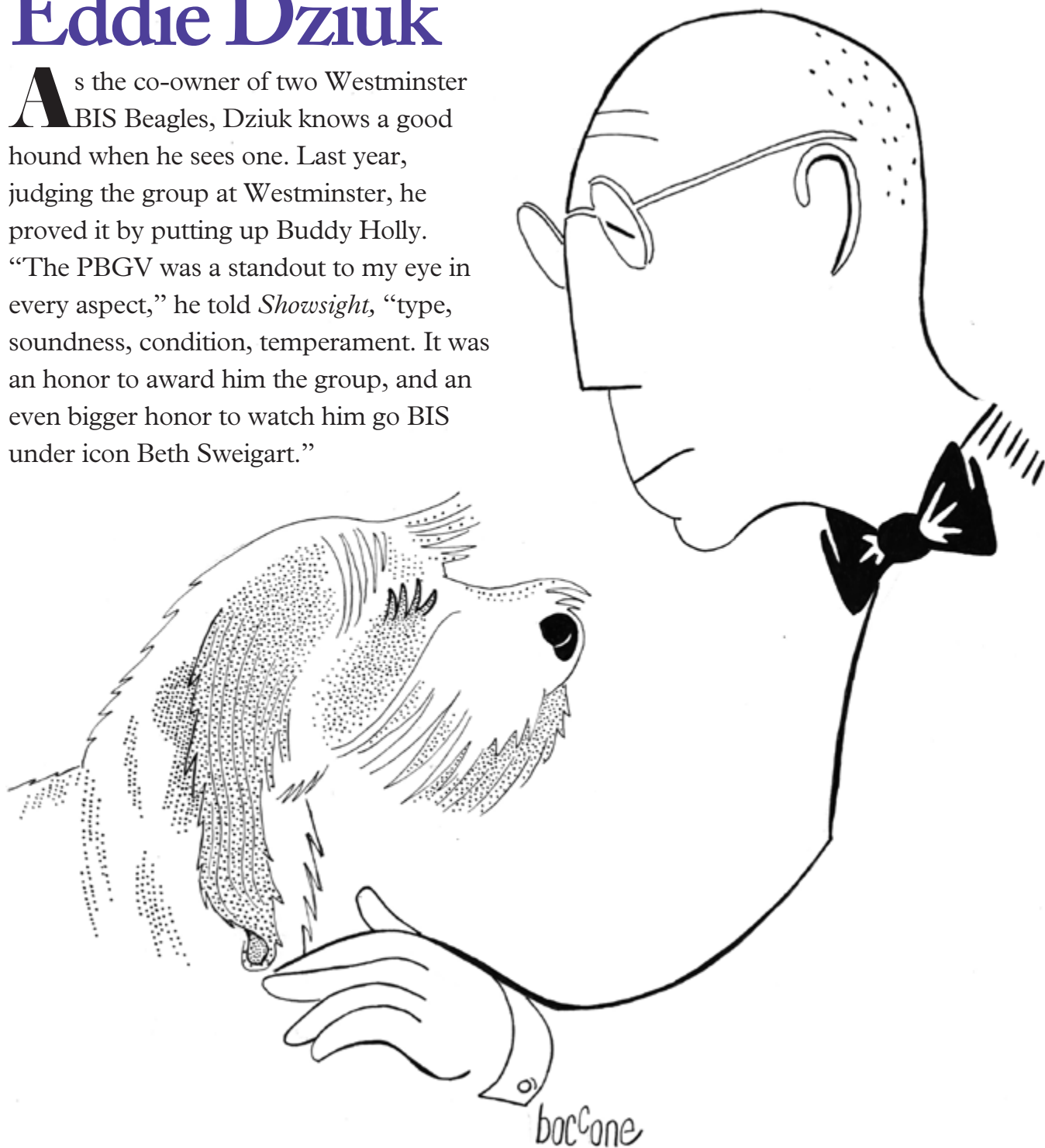


The Toy Department

A *GAZETTE* Gallery slideshow: Breeds of the AKC Toy Group. 1:12

Eddie Dziuk

As the co-owner of two Westminster BIS Beagles, Dziuk knows a good hound when he sees one. Last year, judging the group at Westminster, he proved it by putting up Buddy Holly. “The PBGV was a standout to my eye in every aspect,” he told *Showsight*, “type, soundness, condition, temperament. It was an honor to award him the group, and an even bigger honor to watch him go BIS under icon Beth Sweigart.”



BREED COLUMNS



Edited by **Arliss Paddock**

This month, Alice Bixler (Bearded Collie Club of America) asks, "Is it possible to move conformation judging into today's high-tech atmosphere? Maybe. Where do we start?"

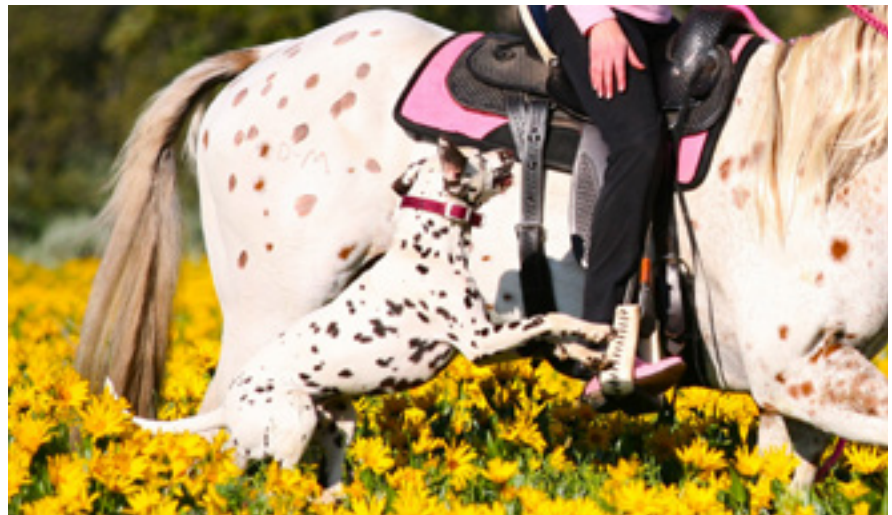


COURTESY LYNDIA BEAM

BREED COLUMNS

ABOUT THE BREED COLUMNS

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



THIS MONTH

Toy

- 27 Brussels Griffons
- 29 Cavalier King Charles Spaniels
- 32 Chihuahuas
- 34 Havanese
- 36 Italian Greyhounds
- 37 Japanese Chin
- 39 Maltese
- 40 Papillons
- 42 Pekingese
- 44 Pomeranians
- 46 Shih Tzu
- 47 Toy Fox Terriers

Non-Sporting

- 49 American Eskimo Dogs
- 51 Bichons Frises
- 53 Boston Terriers
- 55 Bulldogs
- 57 Chinese Shar-Pei
- 59 Chow Chows
- 60 Dalmatians
- 63 French Bulldogs

- 65 Keeshonden
- 68 Lhasa Apsos
- 69 Poodles
- 72 Schipperkes
- 74 Shiba Inu
- 77 Tibetan Spaniels
- 78 Tibetan Terriers

Herding

- 81 Bearded Collies
- 83 Belgian Malinois
- 85 Belgian Sheepdogs
- 87 Canaan Dogs
- 90 Cardigan Welsh Corgis
- 92 Collies
- 94 German Shepherd Dogs
- 95 Icelandic Sheepdogs
- 98 Norwegian Buhunds
- 100 Old English Sheepdogs
- 102 Pembroke Welsh Corgis
- 104 Pulik
- 107 Shetland Sheepdogs
- 108 Swedish Vallhunds

TOY GROUP

Brussels Griffons

“JUST GIVE HIM A MINUTE”

My assistant, Baily, and I were attempting to groom a 12-week-old puppy, and he kept balking when I tried to scissor the scraggly hair that had grown up in front of his eyes.

Baily has been with me for six years—first as a high school student in the Veterinary Assistant program, and now as a 22-year-old young woman, engaged to be married.

High school students are always in a hurry, so I’ve had to remind them time and time again, “Just give him a minute.”

When working with Griffons, that extra minute makes all the difference in the world. When the puppy is on a lead and won’t move, even when they wave a treat at him, students get frustrated and want to give the lead a jerk. “Just give him a minute” is my soothing advice, and almost always, given that extra minute, the puppy decides to cooperate.

Giving the puppy “a min-

ute” also gives the student an extra minute, in which their frustration breaks, they take a breath, they relax their muscles, and the puppy feels the difference and moves forward.

“Give him a minute” is accompanied by my other motto, “Take baby steps.” Owners often put the dog on a table and pounce on him with a brush and find the dog cowering and afraid.

That action should be broken down into many baby steps. First of all, if a dog is not familiar with being put on a table, it’s frightening to him to be up high. He wants to jump down and escape. So, standing on the table is the first thing to teach. It’s preferable to take several days, putting the puppy on the table while you praise him and pet him. Add a high-value treat, like a piece of hot dog. Standing on the table for the first time demands something special.

Next, introduce him to the bristle brush, or the stripping knife, comb, scissors, or clippers, whichever you



Brussels Griffon, November 2020
photo Lynda Beam

are planning to use. Let him see it and sniff it. Give the good treat while you praise him for his bravery.

After that, I instruct the students *not* to dive in and start grooming, but to gently stroke him on the shoulder with the grooming tool. Stroke him across his back, all the while praising him.

This is the point we had reached when Baily told me, “Just give him a minute.” The puppy was objecting to having scissors used on his head. I needed to take a breath and back up to using the scissors to softly stroke



familydog™



TREAT YOUR PET-LOVING FRIENDS

with a

gift subscription to

AKC Family Dog Magazine

AKC Family Dog is a magazine unlike any other—written for dog people, by dog people. With stunning photography and compelling narratives, our multiple award-winning articles capture the infinite ways dogs enrich our lives—and what we can do to enrich theirs.

Give six digital, bimonthly issues for just \$12.95!

Your gift will be announced via email with a handsome AKC greeting card.

**CLICK
HERE**

TO SUBSCRIBE!



TOY GROUP

his neck, and then his chin, and then his head, and then his ears. When he objected to having his ear stroked, I backed up and said, “OK, we won’t touch your ear. How about your neck? That’s good. How about your head? See, that doesn’t hurt. Now I’m going to groom your ears.”

A happy, relaxed puppy will cooperate with a groomer if you take him to one. He won’t freak out when you put him on the exam table for the veterinarian. He’ll be comfortable with those things, because you told him it’s OK.

This method takes longer. You can’t be in a hurry. You must be fully present with the puppy, not thinking ahead about meeting your friends or going out to dinner. You are trying to bond with him, to have him trust you no matter what you do. And if he doesn’t, “*Just give him a minute.*”

—Sharon Sakson,
sharonsakson@mac.com
American Brussels Griffon Association

Cavalier King Charles Spaniels

For our Cavalier community: The AKC GAZETTE deadline is three months before publication. This was written last December, immediately following the passing of our good friend Mrs. Carol Rose. Along with being a breeder of wonderful Cavaliers, Carol was a dental hygienist and was scrupulous in the care of not only her patients’ teeth but her own and her dogs’. I thought of Carol before writing this.

DENTAL CARE AND THE CAVALIER KING CHARLES SPANIEL

Dental and periodontal disease is one of the most common conditions occurring in dogs and is entirely preventable. In one study, over 80 percent of dogs over the age of 3 have active dental disease.

Dogs can get many of the same or similar oral diseases as are seen in people. However, where the most common human dental

problem is tooth decay or cavities, in dogs it is periodontal disease. In dogs, tooth decay represents less than 10 percent of all dental problems. The most common dental problems seen in dogs are periodontal disease and fractured teeth.

Other than bad breath, plaque buildup, and tooth discoloration, there are few signs of disease. Professional cleaning and periodontal therapy often come too late to prevent more extensive disease.

Periodontal disease in dogs is generally under-treated and may cause other health problems. Bacteria buildup can progress to bacteremia—bacteria in the bloodstream—and may cause damage to organs including the heart. This is particularly important to Cavaliers.

Bacterial infection of the tissue surrounding the teeth cause inflammation of the gums, the ligaments that anchor the teeth, and the surrounding bone. If gum disease goes untreated, teeth

TOY GROUP

will be lost due to the loss of their supporting tissues. This is the major reason for tooth loss in dogs.

Gum disease is caused by accumulation of bacteria (plaque) at the gum line. As the number of bacteria below the gumline increases, bacterial waste products such as hydrogen sulfide, ammonia, acids, and other compounds accumulate and damage tissues. The dog's own response to this infection (inflammation) also causes tissue breakdown and loss of the tooth's supporting tissues.

There are two forms of gum disease: gingivitis and periodontitis.

Gingivitis

In gingivitis, the gums become inflamed because of bacterial plaque, but the ligaments and bone are not yet affected. The gums change in color from coral-pink to red or purple, and the edge of the gum swells. The gums tend to bleed on contact. Bad breath is common. Gingivitis can be reversed with proper tooth cleaning,



but if untreated it may lead to periodontitis.

Gingivitis can be treated by thorough professional cleaning of the teeth while the dog is under anesthesia. This should include cleaning below the gum line.

If gingivitis does not improve, the dog should be examined again, and more extensive cleaning may be required. When cleanings are completed, your veteri-

narian may apply a sealant to the teeth to prevent bacterial buildup and improve healing.

Dogs who do not respond to treatment should be evaluated for other disease, such as immune system problems and diabetes. Gingivitis will reoccur if the teeth are not kept clean and free of plaque. Therefore, at-home oral hygiene methods such as brushing are important.

COURTESY LYNDA BEAM



TOY GROUP

Periodontitis

In periodontitis, the tissue damage is more severe and includes the gums, ligaments, and bone. It is usually seen after years of development of plaque, tartar, and gingivitis. It is irreversible and results in permanent loss of tooth support. Small-breed dogs like Cavaliers usually have more problems than large-breed dogs. Dogs that have a regular diet of hard kibble develop fewer problems due to the mechanical cleaning effect on the teeth as the food is chewed.

Back teeth are affected more often than front teeth, the upper teeth are affected more than the lower teeth, and the cheek surfaces of the teeth have more disease than the surfaces near the tongue.

Gingivitis is often first noticed at about 2 years of age but improves if treated. Periodontitis usually begins at 4 to 6 years of age and, if untreated, progresses to tooth loss.

Periodontitis is treated

with thorough professional cleaning above and below the gum line. In some cases, surgery will be needed to gain access to the root surface for cleaning.

Your veterinarian can determine the extent of bone loss by taking X-rays of the jaws. These are often recommended as a part of periodontal disease diagnosis and treatment planning. Extractions may be necessary for dogs with periodontitis. Extractions allow the tissue to heal, and dogs do surprisingly well without the teeth.

Brushing your dogs' teeth

Brushing your dogs' teeth is the single most effective means to maintain oral health. This makes sense because the bacteria film known as plaque is the cause of periodontal disease. This film is easily disrupted by the simple effect of brushing the teeth. Frequent brushing—daily—is recommended to maintain dental health. Almost all dogs will accept brushing.

The key to success is a patient and gradual approach. Brushing the outside of the posterior (back) teeth by lifting the side lip at the start and then move to the front and then inside. Toothpastes made for people should never be used, as it contains detergents and fluoride. We spit all that out. Your dog swallows it. Many veterinary pastes contain enzymes that break down plaque. The paste is meant to be brushed on and left there to continue its work.

The best products are those that have received the Veterinary Oral Health Council (VOHC) seal of approval. The VOHC was founded by a group of veterinary dental specialists who set rigid standards and only accept products with valid research to support their claims.

Nonprofessional dental scaling is gaining in popularity for people fearful of anesthesia and because some are not able to afford professional veterinary



TOY GROUP

dental care. A major problem with scraping teeth is the mouth's blood vessels, which can send bacteria into the bloodstream. Once bacteria enter the bloodstream, they can infect the valves of the heart resulting in vegetative valvular endocarditis. Hearts with underlying valvular issues are most susceptible. Turbulent blood flow at the valve surfaces creates a greater likelihood of endocarditis. As with humans with mitral valve prolapse (MVP), even a small change in flow can produce big problems.

While plaque should be removed to care for your dog's teeth properly, removal should be performed by a dental professional. Plaque-scrapers are sharp, and improper use can damage the delicate gum tissue. Dental chews, dog food, and chew toys designed to address dental disease and reduce tartar development do help, but don't try to replace brushing with these—think of them as

add-ons to regular oral care. If you notice inflamed or swollen gums, missing teeth, or even appetite changes, see your veterinarian.

There is one more bit of concern. Before having a cleaning procedure performed on your dog, particularly if he or she has a heart murmur, ask your veterinarian about antibiotic premedication prior to the procedure. In humans, amoxicillin would be the choice, followed by doxycycline or clindamycin for those who are allergic to penicillin.

There are other dental and oral issues, such as bite or malocclusion and oral tumors, but we will discuss these at another time.

I hope that some of this knowledge will benefit the Cavalier owner. Mouth care is another daily job that is required of us as Cavalier lovers.

—Dr. John V. Ioia, MD,
Ph.D.,

bonefixr@gmail.com
[American Cavalier King
Charles Spaniel Club](#)

Chihuahuas

THE SPIRIT OF THE CHIHUAHUA

As someone who has dedicated the last 30 years of my life to the Chihuahua, I am constantly amazed at the breed's ability to delight and enrich my life. The spirit of these little dogs is never-ending, even after they leave our lives. They are the most humanlike dog I have ever owned. Once I got my first Chihuahua showgirl, I was totally hooked, and I cannot imagine my life without this smallest breed.

These dogs are highly intelligent and possess enormous character. They are extremely sensitive, and you will find yourself treating a Chihuahua like a baby—but that is just their ploy to get you to do anything they want. And trust me, you are happy to meet their every desire.

Because Chihuahuas develop such a strong attachment to their family, leaving them alone for long periods of time can cause them extreme sadness, and



TOY GROUP



Chihuahua

you might find yourself getting some “payback.” Really! That’s how smart they are. They use those big heads to think.

The Chihuahua has been loved since the time of the Toltec civilization, where it was believed that these little dogs acted as vessels to carry the spirit of the

deceased to the other side. Many of these dogs were buried with their owners.

The AKC first recognized the Chihuahua in 1904, and the Chihuahua Club of America is getting ready to celebrate 100 years since its formation in 1923.

The Chihuahua spirit is loyal and eager to please,

and they are always ready to sit on your lap and listen to whatever you have to tell them. Their sensitivity and empathy with their humans makes for an unimaginable bond. Yes, really! They possess a sense of humor that cannot be denied, and they will keep you laughing even on your most vulnerable day. They feel it is their job to console you when you are sad or cheer you up when they think you need that. Whatever you need, they will uncannily provide it to you. They will be sweet or macho, energetic or lazy, protector or comforter—you name it, they will try to provide.

Just know that these little dogs do not realize how small they are. They will need to be protected from themselves due to that air of superiority they possess. They think they are as big as the biggest dogs, and they are just as brave. They will protect you with their life. Loyalty is their middle name.

These “appleheads” are full of brains. The owner

DAVID WOO ©AKC



TOY GROUP

must be smarter than their Chihuahua because they know how to manipulate you, *and* they actually plan how to do it. You will find yourself happy to oblige their every whim. Be prepared, because once you get one of these spirited little dogs, you will never be without one.

The spirit of the Chihuahua will touch your soul, and when it does, it's humbling.

—Virginia (Jenny)

Hauber,

wynjynchis@yahoo.com

[Chihuahua Club of America](#)

Havanese

BEST IN SHOW, THE MOVIE— DÉJÀ VU

It's been 23 years since the mockumentary *Best in Show* first hit the big screen, but it seems as if I am still watching it in real time today.

People went crazy over the film. My non-dog show friends would ask, “Did you see it?” “Is it really like



that?” Gift copies of the VHS filled my mailbox.

Frankly, I didn't think it was funny—because the movie was not nearly as humorous as real-life dog shows. Great satire needs to push the limits and be a caricature. In my opinion, the film was understated, at best. I personally know all those characters, for better or worse.

Fast-forward 23 years to 2023, and if the film were made today, a lengthy section of the movie could be devoted to prepping a Havanese for the show ring.

It would be hysterical. What used to be an owner-handled breed, shown naturally, has turned into anything but that. Those of us who have been around for more than two decades in the breed can tell you that back then dogs were groomed at home and brought to a show almost ring-ready. The dogs and their owners arrived at the show, got settled in at the grooming area, and did a few last-minute preps in order to look spiffy in the ring. You got to the show 30 minutes (at most) before scheduled ring time, and

COURTESY LYNDA BEAM

TOY GROUP

you had more than sufficient time to be ready.

Now I watch with great bewilderment owner-exhibitors and handlers alike grooming for hours before showing the dog. Often that includes washing the dog completely (who ever did that at the show?) and brushing and blowing it dry, sometimes with ice-cold water in freezing temperatures. In over 50 years of showing long-coated dogs, I never once washed a dog at a show. My dogs are washed the day before the show and touched up at night after the show, at home or in a hotel room—*not* dripping wet on a grooming table at a show.

More and more frequently, I am seeing Havanese about to walk in the ring being prepped with a rechargeable flat iron! It is important to note that flat-ironing a Havanese coat is antithetical to how our standard discusses the coat. Some of the words used to describe the coat include *wavy*, *double coat*, and *stands off the body*. Flat-ironing a Havanese coat

will straighten the coat (no wave) and cause it to lie flat (not stand off the body). We deliberately used these specific words in the standard to avoid being just another drop-coated breed in the Toy Group. Seeing a proliferation of portable flat irons being used ringside is rather comical in its absurdity.

Except for neatening feet and tidying up the anal area, the coat should be untrimmed. Scissoring and sculpting the dog outside the ring brings me to laughter with tears in my eyes. Hairspraying and teasing back the head furnishings are also not offered as a presentation option in the standard, which says, “Head furnishings may fall forward over the eyes or to both sides of the head ...” The standard does not say anything about the current rage of a pompadour look. So why is the entrance to the ring littered with cans of hairspray and mousse? Judges now are expecting to see expression on a breed that can have hair covering its eyes.

But wait, there’s more! The movie is just starting to get funny. Havanese are coming to the ring with their ear and tail furnishings wrapped. The wrap is quickly pulled off and discarded on the ground for the clean-up crew to pick up later. The camera will scan to the litter on the floor with exhibitors stepping on top of what they just discarded. And why must the wraps have to stay on the dog to the last second before entering the ring?

The movie will pick up on the hysterical mannerism of exhibitors taking an endless amount of time brushing a dog every time the dog moves before and after it is examined. *Brush, brush, move the dog, brush, brush. Stand the dog. Brush, brush, brush.*

As funny as this may be on film, the audience will go wacky when they see a dog brought to ringside with an appliance taped around its tail to correct tail carriage. *If I hadn’t witnessed this myself, I would say it was too over-the-top even for a*

BREED COLUMNS

TOY GROUP

satirical movie.

You don't have to go too far to see the movie *Best in Show—Déjà Vu*.

Opinions expressed here are those of the author, not of the Havanese Club of America.

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

Italian Greyhounds

“IS SHE NERVOUS?”

I can't count the number of times that I have been asked this while holding an Italian Greyhound in my arms and the person observes that the dog is shaking.

Interestingly enough, I am not put out by the automatic assumption that the Italian Greyhound is female. In toy breeds in general, and especially this breed, there is no differentiation of sex. Dogs and bitches are judged against one standard.

However, I am always surprised that the inquiry always takes a psychological direction instead of what should be the very evident



Italian Greyhound

physical reason: *It's cold.*

The Italian Greyhound is slenderly built and has proportionately low body fat. This may change as the dog gets older and the dog may become more sedentary, but certainly during the time of being shown, this dog is svelte.

When we show our dogs, we are subject to inclement weather and even when we count on human intervention, we face climate

-controlled buildings that are kept at a temperature that is maintained for the comfort of the average person, not Italian Greyhounds. During the ring time, this has bearing especially when our dogs are made to stand still, whether stacked on the table or posed on the ground or floor.

Know that Italian Greyhounds are “Super Dogs” in so many respects, and *cold* is their kryptonite.



TOY GROUP

They don't acclimate. They can't. We hope that any judge is aware of the temperature outside and how that affects the dogs. We hope that any judge pays attention to where the sun is and where the shade is, and utilizes this to the benefit of the dogs. We know how our dogs draw themselves up when they're cold—we do too—and we hope any judge takes that into consideration, knowing where the dog's loin is and where the thorax is. We hope any judge won't prolong the "still shot" they want to see when the temperature is not suitable for our dogs to endure.

Italian Greyhounds are not necessarily nervous dogs, but with their small size and the fact that *they are creatures of comfort*, and being easily intimidated by the largeness and loudness of things around them, they do tend to dwell on what isn't right for them. I am taken aback any time a judge chooses to move our little dogs alongside the ring stanchion of an adjoining

active large-breed ring. We hope that any judge would be aware of this and choose to utilize the diagonal way so our dogs don't feel threatened and may show themselves better.

—Harry Bennett,
[Italian Greyhound Club of America](#)

Japanese Chin

The following is the second excerpt from a December 1998 AKC GAZETTE article by Sari Brewster Tietjen. (The first installment appeared in the December 2023 issue.) Sari was a highly respected multigroup AKC judge and bred, owned, handled, and lived with Japanese Chin for more than 40 years. She passed away in 2019.

CHIN UP: SARI TIETJEN ON THE JAPANESE CHIN PART TWO

In 1949, [Mary Sandford] Brewster began a correspondence with many English breeders seeking compatible dogs to breed to her stock, which was com-

prised of the old pre-war lines. One of these breeders was Constance Jameson of Redcedars Kennels. Jameson was a longtime breeder, quite elderly and in ill health at the time. In 1950 she agreed to sell a dog and a bitch to Brewster.

The journey from England to the United States was fraught with difficulties. The two were never shown but became foundation stock and were the first of many English imports to make the difficult trip across the Atlantic to Brewster's Robwood Kennels.

It was not until 1953 that Brewster was able to convince Jameson to let her two most important males go to America. They were the Eng. Ch. Puffin of Redcedars, and his sire, Eng. Ch. Dream of Redcedars.

Puffin acquired his American championship later that year and became the breed's first English and American champion. Dream became an American champion a month later.

Meanwhile, in 1952 Cross

BREED COLUMNS

TOY GROUP

imported her first important postwar Chin from England. The dog, bred by Tovey, was Kitsu of Yevot. Kitsu, who became a major factor in the Cross line, quickly gained his U.S. championship.

Many wonderful English imports followed in the footsteps of Puffin, Dream, and Kitsu— for what the English dogs gave American lines was style, grace, and beauty.

American dogs had become coarse after the war, with more leg and less coat than English dogs. The English had established beautiful heads, stylish bodies, and lovely, flowing coats. It was natural for American breeders to look to England to establish lines, just as it was for English breeders to subsequently look to America for an infusion of stock.

Another influential import was the young dog Ch. Silvius of Riu Gu of Robwood. Silvius was purchased by a young Sari Brewster in 1956 and was not only a beloved pet and a successful show dog but also



a prepotent sire. He started a line of five generations of group-placing and multiple national-specialty winners, at a time when the breed was rarely given the nod in the Toy Group. Direct descendants of Silvius exist today and are stamped with his distinctive head and style.

With Japanese Chins flourishing in the mid-1960s on both the East and West Coasts and a few states in between, it was easy to understand that this long-neglected breed would once again take center stage. During the



Japanese Chin are “playful, mischievous, and good-natured.”

past four decades, interest in the breed has increased dramatically. There is no longer just a small, closely held gene pool with a few dedicated breeders. Instead, there has been a crossing of many lines, and in almost all cases the old lines have been diluted as breeders try to establish new ones.

A Storied Evolution

Today Chins are taking major group wins and winning Bests in Show. The breed has gained in registration numbers, going from being nearly taken

COURTESY OWNERS

BREED COLUMNS

TOY GROUP

out of the AKC Stud Book as a separate breed listing in the 1930s to ranking at almost the halfway mark of all breeds registered by the AKC in 1997.

Hundreds of letters and materials from now-deceased prominent breeders of Japanese Chins exist today, telling a story of the breed's evolution. The thread that these individuals had in common is an eagerness and willingness to share their knowledge and experience. These breeders endured hardships and heartaches in their quest to have this breed, yet they persevered. Why?

This is a unique breed: loving, but independent; eager, but stubborn: snooty, but demure. Chins are naturally clean. They require no special grooming. They are fastidious and easy to housetrain. They are playful, mischievous, and good-natured. They are perfect companions. And they travel well, whether by car, boat, plane, or bike basket.

If the breed has a draw-

back, it is that it is too smart—you cannot own a Chin, for it owns you. You cannot train a Chin, for it trains you. And, in the words of many breeders—once you have lived with one, you will never want to be without one. But trust me, one is never enough. —S.B.T.

—Jennifer Baumer,
jenbaumer@gmail.com
 Japanese Chin Club of America

Maltese

ADVICE FOR THOSE CONSIDERING THE MALTESE

Anyone who is considering the Maltese or looking for a new puppy is recommended to visit the American Maltese Association [website](#). The site is there to help educate people about our breed.

So many people feel sorry for dogs in rescues and shelters, but if the public would truly make a concerted effort to find out what will be the best type of dog for their family and do their homework so as to know all

the responsibilities involved, dogs would not end up in these places.

Good breeders will quiz prospective owners, as they want their puppies to be in the best families possible. These days, good breeders want to meet prospective owners. A truly dedicated breeder of Maltese rarely wants to ship a dog and prefers an in-person pick-up. This allows the breeder to meet the prospective owner, thoroughly assess the situation, and help ensure that the person or family will be a good match. Prospective owners should research carefully in deciding whether the Maltese is the right choice for their family and their lifestyle.

Breeders, don't be afraid to ask a million questions of prospective homes. Remind them that their Maltese baby will be a part of the family for 10 to 16 years.

While the breed is great for families with children, I strongly urge prospective buyers to realize that these little dogs can easily get



TOY GROUP



1967: Maltese Aennchen's Poo-na Dancer, photo William E. Kelly

hurt if they are dropped or stepped on. Remember, the Maltese is from 4 to 6 pounds, and even a bigger one at maybe 8 pounds is still a small dog.

If a home has kids who are very active, a bigger breed would be better for them to play with. Maltese love to play, but they also are great companions who will relax on your lap during downtime.

People often like to have a pair of Maltese. Two Maltese are just as easy to

take care of as one. This can work out well if the doggie parents work or aren't home during the day, as the two can keep each other company without having to go to doggie daycare. (I personally do not like doggie day care; in my opinion, too many accidents can happen.)

If a Maltese has proper coat, daily brushing will keep him in lovely shape and condition. To keep them clean, a bath every week or two is very healthy for the dog and good for the coat.

However, some pet owners prefer to keep Maltese in puppy cuts and have them bathed once a month or so. That is fine.

Encourage prospective owners to research breeders and to steer away from online puppy sales. Have them go to the AKC or American Maltese Association websites for contacts and information, and recommend that they ask questions and get referrals. Explain to them why a healthy dog who looks like what the standard calls for is very important.

—Daryl Martin

[American Maltese Association](#)

Papillons

WILDLIFE CAN ATTACK DOGS: BE EVER VIGILANT

If this column can save even one life, then it certainly is worth reading and repeating this message to all dog owners, and not just the members of the Papillon fancy.

In today's world, shopping

TOY GROUP



centers, condos, and residential developments have been booming, and natural habitats and sanctuaries for wildlife have been disappearing. Our backyards and open spaces have become the hunting grounds for wildlife, and their next meal unfortunately may be our pets if we don't take precautions. We must always be extremely aware of the safety of our dogs. No little toy dog (or small puppy of any breed) is safe in their own fenced-in yard, especially unattended.

Many dogs who had been left unattended outside and thought to have been lost or stolen may have been

the victims of birds of prey, never to be seen again.

There have been more reported incidents of small dogs being attacked by birds of prey, particularly hawks, owls, and eagles. The lucky survivors lived only due to the vigilance and quick actions of their owners who scared off these large birds using any and all means possible, from screaming to waving their arms and even grabbing the nearest stick.

Living near a wildlife preserve, I occasionally see large birds of prey flying around my home. However, it has become more noticeable after this summer, when I had a large tree cut down

in the dogs' yard when it grew too close to my home. I always go out with my dogs for many reasons, but the first and most important one is to be observant for their safety. Recently I had noticed a large hawk circling when we were only in the narrow concrete run and not in the larger, grassy area where they would have room to swoop. It alarmed me because the bird kept circling. I then quickly let the dogs inside and watched until I saw the bird finally fly away. However, this left me feeling very uneasy, seeing that it was looking for an opportunity to come down and attack.

Many years ago, a breeder friend of mine had an incident with one of her Papillons who was attacked by a hawk. Luckily the Papillon survived because she was overweight and too heavy for the hawk to lift off the ground. However, the poor girl needed many stitches due to the injury caused by the hawk's talons.

Speaking with another



TOY GROUP

Papillon breeder and friend, I learned that she had experienced several scary episodes with birds of prey. She witnessed several hawks perched on her six-foot fence just waiting to prey on her dogs. She then researched and found a solution that has stopped more threats and created a safe environment for the last three years. She attached rows of plastic fringing to her fencing and spaced them about eight feet apart. The rows have stood up to the winter snow and winds, but are now sagging a bit with age, which she will redo again in the spring. Perhaps placing the fringing on a diagonal from corner to corner and using a tall pole in the center to raise up the fringing might be another solution, instead of parallel rows. You can search sites that offer auto-dealership supplies to find the fringes.

Also, I have read that crows, who are territorial, will harass any larger birds who “invade their home” and actually chase away

eagles and hawks. They will dive-bomb them in groups until the culprit leaves the area and flies away. However, we should not put our faith in thinking that the crows will always be there to watch over our dogs in the yard!

We certainly can never let down our guard with our little ones, as there are wild animals on the prowl, depending on where you live. Right here in my suburb of northern New Jersey, there are coyotes, racoons, foxes, fisher cats, and even bears. These animals can be very dangerous in certain situations, and some can even be rabid, so be aware.

—Roseann Fucillo

[Papillon Club of America](#)

Pekingese

2023 PEKINGESE CLUB OF AMERICA NATIONAL SPECIALTY

The Pekingese Club of America held the breed’s 2023 national specialty and sweepstakes on Friday, December 15,

at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, in conjunction with the week of shows culminating in the AKC National Championship on Dec. 16 and 17. Three designated specialties preceded the national on Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday.

Judging the 2023 PCA National Specialty regular and non-regular classes was Mrs. Susan Shephard. Mrs. Lori Stephen judged the sweepstakes, and Mr. David Fitzpatrick judged Junior Showmanship.

Major awards at the specialty included Best of Breed GCh. Taeplace Pekingarden Experance (Espí). Espí’s breeder-owner-handlers are Beth Ferrier and Gladys Knox.

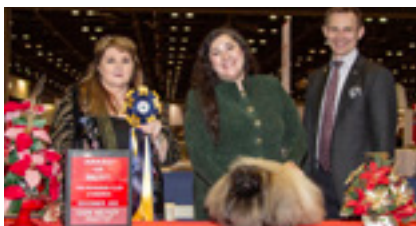
Winners Bitch/Best of Opposite Sex/Best Bred-by-Exhibitor was Xela’s Fame and Fortune (Coco), with breeder-owner-handler Stephanie Hill. (Not in photo: co-breeder Cynthia Dyson and co-owners Alex Gerber and Sandy Hill.)

Select Dog was GCh.

BREED COLUMNS



TOY GROUP



The Pekingese Club of America held its 2023 national specialty on December 15 in Orlando. Winners pictured (clockwise from left) include Winners Dog, Award of Merit, Best of Breed, and Best of Winners/Best of Opposite Sex/Best Bred-by-Exhibitor.



SW's Mafios, bred by Suwan Ngamsiriwong and owned by Rick Ly and Melanie Barnes, handled by Hiram Stewart, and Select

Bitch was Pequest Bella Rose, bred and owned by Susan Greene.

Award of Merit went to GCh.B MonTai Sleight of

Hand (Rio), pictured, with breeder-owner-handler Heather Ginochio.

Award of Merit also went to GCh. Pequest Who Tells

COURTESY OWNERS/DON MEYER/PCA / (RINGSIDE) STR GREER



TOY GROUP

Your Story, bred by David Fitzpatrick and owned by Jodie and Steve Strait.

Winners Dog was Sunquest Enchanted (Chance), with breeder-owner-handler Kay Canaan.

Best in Puppy Sweepstakes was Taeplace Tesoro of Pekinggarden, bred and owned by Beth Ferrier and Gladys Knox. Best Junior was Ms. Emily Landers.

This show was executed under the expertise of Show Chair Jason Hoke, Assistant Show Chair Elizabeth Tilley-Poole, and Show Secretary Susan Gordon.

—[Pekingese Club of America](#)

Pomeranians

JUDGING POMERANIAN PUPPY COATS

One of the Pomeranian's most distinguishing features is its beautiful coat. A correct double coat consists of a short, dense undercoat and longer, textured guard hair. Combined, this forms a ruff around the



AKC/EJIKANUBA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP
January 15 and 16, 2005 Tampa, Florida

Pomeranian

neck, over the shoulders, and on the chest. The thighs and hind legs are heavily coated, and the length is maintained to form a skirt. The tail is profusely covered with the same long, harsh hair to form a heavy plume.

The first few sentences of the Pomeranian breed standard include description of the correct coat in detail and should help clarify the strong emphasis on a correctly coated dog:

“The double coat consists of a short dense undercoat

with a profuse harsh-textured longer outer coat. The heavily plumed tail is one of the characteristics of the breed. ...”

While overall breed type, structure, and movement are essential to the breed, the coat is an important element and should be given the proper weight when judging.

It is no secret that Alopecia X (also referred to by vets as hair cycle arrest) is a problem that plagues several Spitz breeds, especially the Pomeranian. The American Pomeranian Club, its members, and breeders recognize this to be a serious problem and have contributed countless time and funding to research and education. While the exact cause of Alopecia X remains unknown, it is essential that dogs with improper coats are not used in breeding programs and that dogs showing indications of this disease are not awarded in the show ring.

While you can only judge the dog on the day, you must consider the impact

AKC COLLECTION

TOY GROUP

of today's judging on the future. Every pedigree and line matures differently, and even breeders cannot predict how a dog will fully mature. However, there are indicators that can help determine if the coat is properly transitioning to the ideal double coat that is outlined in the standard.

Puppies, especially in the 6–9 Months class, may mostly have a softer, dense, shorter coat all over their body. As puppies mature, they will often have a “stripe” of hair up their back that is more brilliant in color and is harsher in texture. This is the adult coat that is beginning to grow. This stripe will eventually expand and the rest of the body, the tail, and pants will also begin to grow guard hair.

Often one of the first indicators of Alopecia X is a profuse, abundant puppy coat that lacks guard hairs. As the dog ages, the cottony coat does not properly shed out or transition, and the hair eventually becomes dry

and brittle.

The timeline for each dog's coat transition varies, but judges should be able to see guard hairs by the time the dog is being shown at 6 months of age. When the dog is 12 months of age, you should be able to appropriately judge the double coat described in the standard.

It is also important to note, dogs who have a correct double coat often have a “one-year shed,” meaning dogs in the 12–18 class may appear more open-coated than dogs who are younger or older.

While a flat or open coat is also undesirable, the proper shedding of the puppy coat and regrowing of the undercoat as the dog matures is encouraging. Breeders see it as a sign that the proper double coat will be present throughout the remainder of the dog's life.

To properly judge the Pomeranian, it is important to make good use of your examination on the table. Not only are you feeling for the structure of the dog, you

should also be feeling the quality, density, and texture of the coat. For puppies, as you examine the tail set and topline, it is also the correct time to check for that stripe of hair up the back and for the guard hairs that make up the plume of the tail. While guard hairs may not be fully developed as a young puppy, you should see evidence of that hair beginning to grow. You can also feel the texture of the hair around the base of the tail and on the pants. A cotton coat is undesirable! At any age, you should not see any thinning of the hair or patches of missing hair.

In addition, it may be hard to determine the quality of coat on dogs that are over-trimmed. Over-trimming is most often seen around the base of the tail, the pants, and the tail itself. Exhibitors often believe that trimming these areas tightly will make a dog look shorter backed and give the appearance of a better tail-set—reinforcing again that the table exam is essential, to feel past the

BREED COLUMNS

TOY GROUP

shape of the over-grooming. When the guard hairs are trimmed too short, only the dense undercoat remains. It is then impossible to determine the presence, texture, and quality of the guard hair.

The Pomeranian breed standard is very clear: Trimming for neatness and a clean outline is permissible. The coat should be in good and healthy condition, especially the skirt, tail, and undercarriage. Dogs that are over-trimmed should be awarded accordingly.

Knowing some of the signs of improper coat and indicators of Alopecia-X can have a huge impact on the preservation of the Pomeranian breed and its distinguishing characteristics. Awarding dogs that are sound in structure and movement and have the proper double coat described in the standard is paramount for being a steward for excellence in this breed.

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

Shih Tzu

WHY BUY A PUREBRED FROM A RESPONSIBLE BREEDER?

There are many good reasons to buy a well-bred purebred Shih Tzu from a responsible breeder. The first, of course, is predictability. You will know whether you are getting a breed that exemplifies what *you* want from a dog, rather than an albeit cute puppy that could grow up to be something other than what you expected in terms of size, temperament, appearance, and many other factors. Unpredictability also

applies to those “designer dogs” that are part Shih Tzu. They may well combine the worst, rather than the best, qualities of the two breeds involved.

The word “breeder” alone will not suffice when you choose where you will buy your puppy. The word “breeder” simply means the owner of the mother of a litter of puppies. If this person doesn’t know your breed standard and isn’t trying to breed Shih Tzu who look like the standard, and who are physically and temperamentally sound,



Shih Tzu

COURTESY MELISSA HAMPTON



TOY GROUP

the results, again, could be unpredictable. Puppy mills and backyard breeders are concerned only with profit, not quality, and will accept any buyer with a credit card or check. Ethical breeders screen new homes (be prepared for lots of questions), will serve as knowledgeable mentors after you take your puppy home, and will take back or rehome any dog they produced at any time. In other words, they care.

Because ethical breeders spend lots of time socializing, caring for, and observing their puppies, they will be able to recommend the puppy most likely to fit best into your life. In most cases, they will *not* let you take your Shih Tzu puppy home before it is 12 weeks old, so that it is old enough to adjust well. They will tell you what you need to buy before you bring your puppy home, have started your puppy's paper training, had his health checked, and begun to accustom him to having his nails cut, his feet trimmed, and his coat

brushed. All of this gets your puppy off to the best possible start.

Some people truly enjoy raising puppies, while others would prefer not to deal with housebreaking, crate-training, chewing, teething, and all of the other things that go along with raising a youngster. If you would prefer an older dog, a breeder may have a retired show dog who would love to spend the rest of his life as a pampered only pet, or be able to refer you to a reputable Shih Tzu rescue organization that knows the breed well, has screened its dogs, and can, once again, find the Shih Tzu best suited to *you*.

Remember that responsible breeders do not contribute to pet overpopulation. They find homes for every animal they breed and keep track of them once they leave. They take great care in producing dogs that are calm, friendly, playful, and inquisitive—healthy, well-adjusted animals that look like Shih Tzu and

respond quickly and easily to basic training. They also support breed rescue. The dogs who wind up in shelters do not come from responsible breeders but from poorly bred, randomly raised, or “damaged” dogs who spent their early lives in one or more unsuitable homes.

For more information about the topics covered in this column, go to the American Shih Tzu Club website.

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

Toy Fox Terriers

SENIOR TOY FOX TERRIERS

One of the blessings of owning a Toy Fox Terrier is that generally they are a healthy, long lived breed. Many owners post on social media that they are celebrating the birthday of their beloved Toy Fox in their teens. Longtime Toy Fox Terrier breeders and owners report having dogs who live to 16 and 17



TOY GROUP



The Toy Fox Terrier is generally a healthy, long-lived breed, with some living on as happy, beloved companions to age 16 or 17.

years old. They report that their senior Toy Foxes were healthy until almost the end of their lives and remained playful well into their senior years.

In response, these owners were asked their advice for promoting a senior dog's wellbeing. The first answer from each is a healthy diet and to avoid the dog becom-

ing overweight at any stage of its life, but particularly during the senior years. One long-term Toy Fox breeder says she feeds the same food for the dogs' lifetimes and ensures they are in proper weight and good condition at all life stages. Several advise treats are for training and as rewards and should be tiny and not make up a

significant part of the Toy Fox's daily calories.

Besides a good diet and watching calories, an important aspect of maintaining your Toy Fox Terrier's healthy weight, muscle tone, and flexibility in their senior years is exercise. Regular physical activity such as playing games, going on walks, and encouraging them to play with their toys not only keeps their muscles toned and burns calories, but also plays a crucial role in healthy joints. In addition to maintaining a lean and conditioned Toy Fox, many recommend putting senior dogs on joint supplements beginning at around age 7.

It's not a secret that toy dogs tend to have teeth that can be problematic. Just as in people, good oral health is associated with better overall health in their senior years. According to veterinarians, the biggest dental problem for toy dogs is periodontal disease. Food gathers and plaque and tartar form around their teeth,

COURTESY JEN CANFIELD



TOY GROUP

causing dental issues.

Many Toy Fox Terriers lose teeth by the time they are seniors. Routine dental care guards against periodontal disease, tooth loss, and infection.

In addition to avoiding soft foods and providing suitable items for chewing, many people brush their dogs' teeth. I brush my Toy Fox Terriers' teeth every night with a sonic-type toothbrush and poultry-flavored enzymatic toothpaste made specifically for dogs.

In addition to brushing, have the veterinarian inspect the dog's teeth annually. They may recommend descaling for any plaque and tartar that has built up where the toothbrush couldn't reach.

Another way to help your senior Toy Fox Terriers have healthy senior years is to keep their nails short. If you hear clicking on the floor as they walk, their nails are too long. Older dogs seem to have toenails that grow fast, and if their toenails are too long, they will exercise less. Long nails change the angles

of their foot joints and are uncomfortable. Many Toy Fox Terrier owners learn to use a nail-grinder weekly as a less stressful way to do the nails.

As changes in older dogs can happen seemingly overnight, senior Toy Fox Terriers should be examined by their vet annually. Many veterinarians recommend an annual "senior blood panel." This can help in detecting infections, illnesses, and chronic conditions before your dog even shows symptoms. Catching developing issues early may add years to your dog's life.

Hopefully your Toy Fox Terrier will enjoy a long, healthy life into their teen years. You can tip the odds in your favor by keeping your dog at a healthy weight, encouraging exercise, practicing good dental health, keeping their nails short, and partnering with your veterinarian.

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

NON-SPORTING GROUP

American Eskimo Dogs

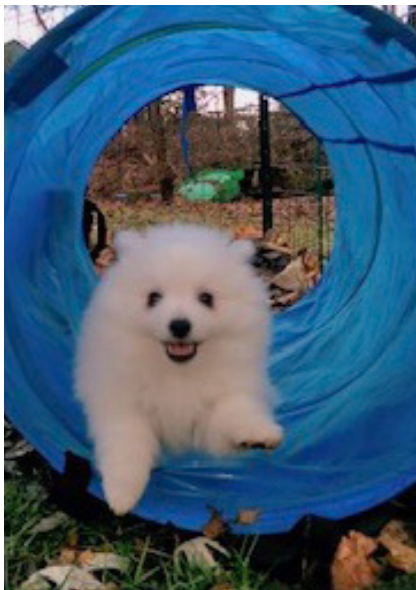
ESKIES JUST WANT TO HAVE FUN

American Eskimo Dogs are beautiful. But they are also smart and versatile. These dogs were originally used as all-around farm dogs. Their intelligence and trainability made them ideal for circus entertainers to use them in their acts. Their sensitivity and loyalty have made them wonderful companions and treasured members of many families. This means that they are also able to participate and compete in many of the exciting activities and events that are sponsored by the AKC.

Versatility is not only possible for these dogs, it is very important for them to have a full, well-adjusted life. While each individual dog may have their own preferences and different levels of talent, these dogs truly enjoy having fun with their humans. It seems like the more different and positive experiences they have, the happier they are. The real

BREED COLUMNS

NON-SPORTING GROUP



American Eskimo Dogs enjoy and excel in a variety of activities. Ivy as a pup, practicing the tunnel; Miki's first agility trial; Stormy's first rally ribbons; Stormy at the AKC National Championship; Stormy tracking.

challenge is to find out what your Eskie friend likes to do most.

My first Eskie's name was Miki. After Miki earned her Grand Champion title in conformation, she went on to earn titles in obedience, rally, and agility. She would do all of those things

because she liked being with me. But she didn't really love any of them. We went to a herding clinic. She turned up her nose at the sheep but loved herding the ducks. Unfortunately, we do not have ducks at home. We tried the Coursing Ability Test (CAT), but she

just didn't see the point of chasing a plastic bag with no food in it. Then we went to a therapy dog class. As it turned out, what she really loved was meeting people at Meet the Breeds events and being a "bed dog" and doing tricks for elderly nursing home residents.

COURTESY KATHERINE SMITH



NON-SPORTING GROUP

Miki's son, Stormy, didn't like agility at all and wasn't interested in being a therapy dog. After he finished his Grand Championship in conformation, we tried agility, obedience and rally. He was OK with rally. But he mainly just loved being with me when he was doing it.

We tried the CAT, but when he got about 150 yards away from me, he bolted right back into my arms. Everyone got a good laugh out of his look of alarm when he realized how far away he was.

Then we went to a tracking seminar. He loved it. But an Eskie in full coat gets overly warm in the New England summer, and there isn't much tracking in wintertime in New England. We started what AKC now calls scent work classes. We can do this inside in the summer. We can practice at home. That is what he loves. And he is really good at it.

After Stormy's daughter Merry finished her Grand in conformation, we started agility. She loved it. Her

daughter, Ivy, has loved agility since she was too young to train on a full agility course, but she has had a good start. She has now "finished" in conformation and is training to compete in agility.

We haven't explored any of the other possibilities yet. There are so many things to try! Each dog is an individual. They are all different. I look forward to the challenge.

—Katherine Smith,
Snowfoxeskies@gmail.com
[American Eskimo Dog Club of America](#)

Bichons Frises

BREEDING TO THE STANDARD: SIZE, PROPORTION, AND TOPLINE

The Bichon Frise standard is a guideline that every breeder should study carefully. Even better, study *The Illustrated Discussion of the Bichon Frise Standard* (<https://bichon.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/BFCA-Illustrated-Standard-061021.pdf>).

Our breed has no disqualifications, so judges cannot measure height. That means it is up to us to breed to the standard: "Dogs and bitches 9½ to 11½ inches are to be given primary preference. Only where the comparative superiority of a specimen outside this range clearly justifies it should greater latitude be taken"—however, this latitude should never extend over 12 inches or under 9 inches.

The *Illustrated Standard* adds that equal consideration must be given to all Bichons within the preferred size range, all other things being equal. It must be remembered that this could well include a top-of-the-scale bitch and/or a bottom-of-the-scale dog.

Nowadays, it seems that the larger dogs do better in the group, but do not let that lead you down a path you may regret. Over the years, I have seen these trends come and go. Breed to the middle—not the top—of the standard.

Our standard is unusual

BREED COLUMNS

NON-SPORTING GROUP

because it is so specific about proportion, the dog's length being one-quarter longer than its height at the withers.

I purchased calipers to help me measure the length of my dogs, and I made wickets for measuring their height. It's not a bad idea for all breeders to do the same, because many of us do not recognize the proper proportions—even when we think we do.

Judges, likewise, often do not recognize a correctly proportioned Bichon. This is an off-square breed, not a rectangular one, and it tends to go long in the body, so the proper proportions can seem too square.

You can develop a more discerning eye by accurately measuring as many dogs as possible. Grooming can completely change the look of a Bichon, so always take that into account.

Getting the proper length is difficult, and not just because the breed tends to go long. Getting the correct 45-degree angle at the



Bichon Frise

shoulder is often lost when the back is shortened. It can take many generations to get it all in one package, but it is worth it to keep trying.

The Bichon topline is level except for a slight muscular arch over the loin created

by muscles and underlying bone structure. This provides strength, agility, and maneuverability in the rear quarters.

Another breed that calls for the same rise over the loin is the Dalmatian, so

DAVID WOO ©AKC



NON-SPORTING GROUP

look at the good ones in the Non-Sporting Group and see what they look like (ignore the tail).

Which brings me to the tail set. Our breed's tails should look neither like a Pomeranian's (a "snap" tail) nor a Löwchen's ("teacup"). The Bichon's well-plumed tails are set level with the topline and curve gracefully over the back so that the hair of the tail rests on the back. You should be able to fit your hand between the dog's tail and back where it is set on, unless you have a very large hand.

It is tempting to breed for a tail-set that is too tight, but that messes up the topline called for. Remember that when the tail is extended toward the head, the tip of the bone should reach at least halfway to the withers.

Refer to the *Illustrated Standard* for more details.

Best of luck to you in your breeding program!

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

Boston Terriers

WORK THAT GOES INTO FINDING THE RIGHT DOG

Many facets are involved in preparing a puppy to sell. Looking at Facebook, I came across one exceptional breeder who knows what the love of puppies is all about. She knows the time and patience it takes to teach babies not to be afraid of noise, other dogs, and people. There's teaching them to like car rides without getting sick. Sleeping in a cage at night can be scary, but she makes it the puppies' happy place. She teaches them to share toys with siblings—which is hard for "diva" dogs.

This breeder put different-color ribbons on the pups, not naming them until later. She taught them to go in a litter box and then outside. She taught them to walk on a lead and enjoy it, plus worked on getting them used to all types of loud noise. She showed how to help them get over separation anxiety from their mother and littermates.

There are many other things she is doing, as they get older. Seeing the video of this person working with their puppies took me down memory lane from my own past, and I felt this person was an inspiration. She was having fun training babies to cope in the real world.

As puppies get older, other things need to be done before they go to a new home. Coming into a large building such as the type where dog shows are held, where there are shadows on the floor, many dogs, and lots of noise, can overwhelm a puppy.

Health testing is also so important. You need to make sure you buy one who can hear, has no eye problems, whose heart is not enlarged, and whose hips and legs are good. The pup should have all first shots and a few check-ups by a good veterinarian. Many things can't be found until puppies are at least 3 months of age. Whether buying a pet or show dog, don't you want a well-adjusted and sound puppy?

NON-SPORTING GROUP

In North Carolina and many other states, it's illegal to sell puppies before 8 weeks. Wait to see if the animal is healthy and mentally and emotionally ready to go into a new family environment.

If puppy won't be a show dog, that doesn't mean it won't make a wonderful family member. There are many things that might keep a Boston from showing, such as too much white or black in the markings, ears not standing well, size too large or small, incorrect topline, or a little bit of blue in one eye. These are just a few of the reasons a Boston might not be shown but is still a wonderful, healthy dog.

Some people prefer older or retired champions who are already trained. Instead of putting all the show prizes away to draw dust, you can give them to the new owners for bragging rights and display. When you can no longer have time to give that special dog the attention it has gotten all its life, will it



Boston Terrier

understand taking second place to a new, up-and-coming show puppy? A Boston Terrier is a “diva dog” and goes for whoever gives them the best deal. When they find their new forever home, they take one look back at you to say, “Goodbye—I’ll take the better deal of being top dog and spoiled again!”

The breeder should ask the potential new owners a lot of questions, the responses to which should

hopefully prove why they deserve this wonderful dog whom you’ve spent hours raising and training. There will be no problem turning away a person who won’t spend enough time with the dog, or whose husband is not sure he wants a family pet.

Remember, it’s not about the money; it’s about if the family will give the dog the best forever home. Animals don’t ask to be brought into



NON-SPORTING GROUP

this world, and breeders realize a special responsibility to find the right home. You must prove being worthy of the hard work they put into the task. It costs a lot for this hobby, and you don't want someone who can't afford to pay their bills, show a good dog, or take care of a nice pet.

Go to an AKC breeder who puts their heart and soul into making sure you and the Boston Terrier have that special bond. Check the AKC website for Boston Terrier breeders in different states, and look for that dedicated person who sacrifices everything to breed a better Boston Terrier.

I would like to thank one person who gave me great joy watching her on Facebook, training her babies for their new adventures in life. The Boston people know and love her: Pamela Preston.

—Patricia S. Johnson,
BTCA and DWAA,
patsgrooming@gmail.com

[Boston Terrier Club of America](#)

Bulldogs

BCA NATIONAL SPECIALTY WEEK

We were excited to be back in Division 5 for the 2023 BCA National Week, held September 10–16, 2023, in Olympia, Washington. The show site was the familiar Olympia Hotel at Capitol Lake.

Many thanks to BCA President Jeff Ryman, Winn Ryman, Show Chair Joan Johnson, Mia Carper, Michelle Hawk, and members of Division 5.

Monday started with a variety of activities. The 4–6 Month Beginner Puppy classes (the first time the BCA national held these classes) were held outside while obedience and rally classes were going on inside. Ms. Betsy Love of Shawnee, Oklahoma, was the judge for the 4–6 Puppy competition. She found her winner in Sourmug Kramer & Columbine Jerseyboy. Best of Opposite Sex was Raker's Mind 'N Manners.

The judge for obedience and rally was Mr.

Donald Rennick of Lake Stevens, Washington. High in Trial was awarded to Sittingbullies Signed Sealed & Delivered, CD, RM, RATS, CGC, TKE, from the Open A class. Rally High Combined and Rally High Triple Q went to Sittingbullies XO XO XO, CD, RE, BCAT, RATN, CGC, TKE. She was also awarded Most Versatile Bulldog for the week.

Judges for Sweepstakes were Ms. Connie Chambers of Indianapolis, Indiana, judging dogs and intersex, and Ms. Donna Rudyk of South Surrey, British Columbia (Canada), judging bitches. Ms. Chambers awarded the 6–9 Puppy dog, Alecia Gibson and Chuck Spears' Agape's The Chosen One Spears, as Best in Sweepstakes, with Erica Peter's Bomber's Flying With the Major League winning Best of Opposite Sex.

Regular class judging for the national began on Tuesday. Class dogs were judged by Michael Rathje of Cedar Rapids, Iowa.

NON-SPORTING GROUP



The Bulldog Club of America's 2023 national specialty was held September 10–16 in Olympia, Washington. Pictured are Best of Breed, GCh. The King Arthur; Best of Opposite Sex, GCh. B Bish She's a Brick House; and High in Trial, Sittingbullies Signed Sealed & Delivered, CD, RM, RATS, CGC, TKE.



Winners Dog went to Carranza's Hercules. Reserve (and a three-point major) was Agape's The Chosen One Spears. Class bitches followed. Our judge was Teresa McDermott of Norman, Oklahoma.



Her winner from 6–9 Puppy was Kristie Randall's Symarun's Snow Fairy. Reserve (and a three-point major) was Betsy Love's B-Loved Glam Girl. Judging intersex this year was Mr. Cody T. Sickle from Long Island, New York.

Best of Breed, from Mexico, was GCh. The King Arthur (Arango/Vanegas), bred by Jessie De Jesus Arango and Mario Vanegas and owned by Mario Vanegas. Best of Opposite Sex and NOHS went to GCh. B Bish She's a Brick House, bred

COURTESY BTCA AND OWNERS



BREED COLUMNS

NON-SPORTING GROUP

by Anna Dolegiewicz and Kathy McCullough and owned by Anna Dolegiewicz and Telanna Stewart.

Best of Winners and Best Puppy went to the Winners Bitch, Symarun’s Snow Fairy.

Congratulations also goes to the following winners:

Select Dog: GCh.S Agape’s Dead Ringer (for Love) Spears

Select Bitch: GCh.G Karma’s Simply Irresistible Awards of Merit:

GCh. Little Ponds Armed and Dangerous

GCh. Fast and Furious Pisko Bull’s

GCh. Frontiers Frontrunners Pink Pokadot

GCh.B Ashton (Castaneda)

GCh.S Vista and Wade Manor Hazel Says Hello

The Veteran Dog winner was GCh.B. Font a Noses Tatanka of Sittingbullies, CGC, TKN.

The Veteran Bitch class winner was GCh. Majestic Purple Reign Desiree.

Best Stud Dog was won by the Award of Merit winner

GCh. Little Ponds Armed and Dangerous.

Best Junior Handler under Michael Rathje was Brielle Villarreal. Brielle won juniors every day, and was the 2023 AKC Top Bulldog Junior Handler.

We look forward to heading East to Division 1 next year at our more traditional Thanksgiving time. The Eisenhower Hotel and Conference Center in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, will be the place to be. We look forward to what is sure to be a great show!

—Elizabeth Milam, celticdogges@me.com
Bulldog Club of America

Chinese Shar-Pei

Following are excerpts from a “Tales From the Ringside” column I wrote in summer 1997 for *The Barker* (the CSPCA breed magazine). I was struck by how things still apply some 25 years later.

THOUGHTS FROM RINGSIDE

I’ve given much thought

the last few months to the ills of the dog show world, the whys and wherefores of the anguish and frustration many exhibitors feel. I think that, like the world at large, we suffer in the dog world from disrespect. Too many of us respect the opinions of judges *only* if we win, never looking past that to *why* they placed the dogs they did. Some of us can only respect a breeder who has an annual advertising budget of 100K and disrespect the small breeder trying vigilantly to produce top show animals with restrictive budgets and space. Some are disrespectful in accepting a second-place ribbon, in setting up crates in limited crating space, in taking care not to startle other exhibitor’s dogs, in our conversations about other exhibitors, in our conversations about judges—and in general, disrespect is running rampant (as it is in the outside world).

When was the last time you held a door for someone, or said “Thank you”

BREED COLUMNS

NON-SPORTING GROUP

when a door was held for you?

Rev. Billy Graham’s wife said, “If two people think exactly alike, one of them is unnecessary.” We need difference, but we must *respect* other people’s choices when they don’t hurt others.

It’s not bad when someone chooses a show dog with pink on its tongue. Yes, we wish all Shar-Pei had solid dark pigment, but hey—they didn’t put braces on the dog and claim it had always had a perfect bite! Instead of badmouthing them and their dog, look for the reasons why they would show a dog with a flowered tongue. Maybe he’s the sole survivor in a tragic litter, or maybe his movement is flawless, and the only flaw he has is the tongue, or maybe it’s the best thing the breeder has ever produced, or maybe he’s young, and slow to fill to black, or maybe even your information is wrong, and he has *no* pink on the tongue—the variables are infinite!

And if that person chooses



Chinese Shar-Pei

to show a dog with a flowered tongue, how can that possibly hurt *you*?

Judges are expected to know the breed and to know that the tongue should be solid. You can simply choose never to breed to the male.

But beyond that, respect

that the other exhibitor has reasons that you cannot know and may never understand. *Respect* that! They are not hurting anyone. The dog is happy and healthy, the owners are paying their entries the same as you, and just as you cannot

COURTESY LYNDA BEAM



NON-SPORTING GROUP

win every show, neither will this dog, so be respectful of their right to show and their love of showing, and remember that your dogs are not perfect either!

Because the dog world is just a smaller version of the world outside, it is made up of all kinds of people with a number of game plans, of hopes and dreams, schemes and goals. Some people are childish and rude, throwing tantrums, and never happy. Some try to find power, play politics, and impress. Others happily mix and mingle, show dogs they love, and learn about their breed. Some travel to great lengths for a win and spend thousands of dollars promoting, while others quietly go about their business, carefully budgeting to get the most shows out of the little leftover monies from their paychecks.

If we could walk a mile in another's shoes, we would understand—and I think be grateful to have our own shoes back!

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

Chow Chows

TRANSITION COAT OF THE CHOW CHOW

The Chow Chow standard, like many of the AKC standards, describes the characteristics of the ideal adult specimen of the breed. During a recent discussion of the breed, the question was presented regarding our Chow Chows puppies' lack of conformance to the standard's definition of "color."

The AKC Chow Chow standard defines coat and color as:

Coat: There are two types of coat; rough and smooth. Both are double coated.

Rough—In the rough coat, the outer coat is abundant, dense, straight and offstanding, rather coarse in texture; the undercoat soft, thick and wooly. Puppy coat soft, thick and wooly overall. The coat

forms a profuse ruff around the head and neck, framing the head. The coat and ruff generally longer in dogs than in bitches. Tail well feathered. The coat length varies markedly on different Chows and thickness, texture and condition should be given greater emphasis than length. Obvious trimming or shaping is undesirable. Trimming of the whiskers, feet and metatarsals optional. Smooth—The smooth coated Chow is judged by the same standard as the rough coated Chow, except that references to the quantity and distribution of the outer coat are not applicable to the smooth coated Chow, which has a hard, dense, smooth outer coat with a definite undercoat. There should be no obvious ruff or feathering on the legs or tail.

Color: Clear colored, solid or solid with lighter shadings in the ruff, tail and featherings. There are five colors in the Chow: red (light golden to deep mahogany), black, blue, cinnamon (light fawn

BREED COLUMNS

NON-SPORTING GROUP



Chow Chow puppies; in most cases, color deviation will be totally corrected by 2 years of age when the transition to adult coat is complete.

to deep cinnamon) and cream. Acceptable colors to be judged on an equal basis.

It is quite common to see puppies (6–18 months) being exhibited while changing from the soft wooly puppy coat to their adult coat. Color variation is most noticeable in the darker red puppies (which may have dark red, gray or black hairs interspersed or in patches throughout the much lighter colored red puppy coat)

and in shaded red (light reddish blonde with cream or white shadings) puppies, which may have a notable amount of gray undercoat. Both of these are examples of what the breeder refers to as “transition coat.” In most cases, the color deviation (including the black mask) will be totally corrected by 2 years of age when the transition to adult coat is complete.

As adults, all Chow Chows

should be in conformance with the standard requirement for a clear color.

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

Dalmatians

ON THE ROAD AGAIN

We know (and love) that our Dals can do many of the things other breeds can do. Obedience, dock diving, agility, rally,

COURTESY LOVE BANGHART

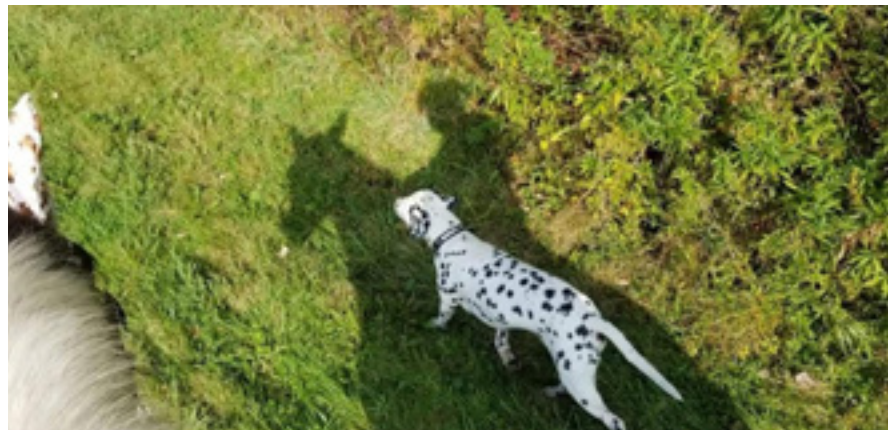
BREED COLUMNS

NON-SPORTING GROUP

tracking ... you name it, and Dals are up for it. But they also have a unique ability, and this is tested by a performance event only they, and they alone, are qualified for: Dalmatian Club of America (DCA) Road Trials. As the only coaching dog in history, this event is solely for Dalmatians and is hosted by the DCA and/or its members.

So, what exactly is a road trial? At the turn of the 20th century, automobiles were slowly but surely eliminating the need for horse-drawn carriages, and thus the need for brave (and ornamental) coach dogs. Just what is a retired coach dog to do to prove his innate proficiency to cooperate with horses? Well, you come up with an event that lets them utilize and demonstrate this uncommon ability.

In Dalmatian road trials, which demonstrate the breed's heritage as a coaching dog, the dog must keep up with the horse's pace.



COURTESY JAN WARREN LINNÉ

NON-SPORTING GROUP

In the early 20th century, there was ongoing discussion regarding the need for such a trial. Mr. J. Sargeant Price, Jr., a passionate admirer of working coach dogs as well as the secretary of the Wissahickon Kennel Club, opened a class at their show in 1906 for just such a purpose, thus having the honor of holding the first Dalmatian Road Trial in America. This class drew seven entries, and the successful dogs were named Ponto, Kiefer, and Pottiger's Bell.

The event was so well-received that a second trial was held, drawing six entries. And then they were literally off and running with this new event.

At the time there were no official rules for the competition, and most dogs were judged on how closely they stayed with the horse or carriage.

Unfortunately, the times and people became busier, and road trials gradually faded away. However, in the late 1980s and early

1990s DCA members were working to revive this competition and eventually, with the blessing of the DCA, reinstated them for the breed's national specialty. Now, many clubs and members are also holding them independently from the national. Since then, rules have been established, and the revived road trials were welcomed with open arms.

So, what *is* a DCA Road Trial, and what is its purpose? A road trial displays the history and heritage of the Dalmatian Dog. It pretty much boils down to obedience on horseback and the dog's ability to stay with the horses while avoiding distractions.

There are several different titles that can be earned—Road Dog (RD), Road Dog Excellent (RDX), and Road Dog Excellent Champion (RDCH), to list just a few.

The dogs are tested on their endurance and abilities. Road Dog titles are 12.5 miles, while Road Dog Excellent titles are judged at 25 miles. The dog must

maintain the appropriate position to the horse/carriage while listening to the rider's commands. There are periods of time when the dog moves at a moderate pace, and others when they must gallop to stay with the horse.

And let's not forget the distractions, as dogs must hold their position when tempted with something they think is much more interesting—a working dog must be able to perform his job at all times and under all conditions.

There are some excellent videos on YouTube where you can see the dogs in action.

It's a wonderful experience seeing our dogs do what they were bred to do, and doing it so successfully. If you've not seen one in person, put this on your agenda. There is nothing more thrilling to seeing a Dal fulfilling its purpose in life.

You can find more information on the Dalmatian Club of America website noted below.

BREED COLUMNS

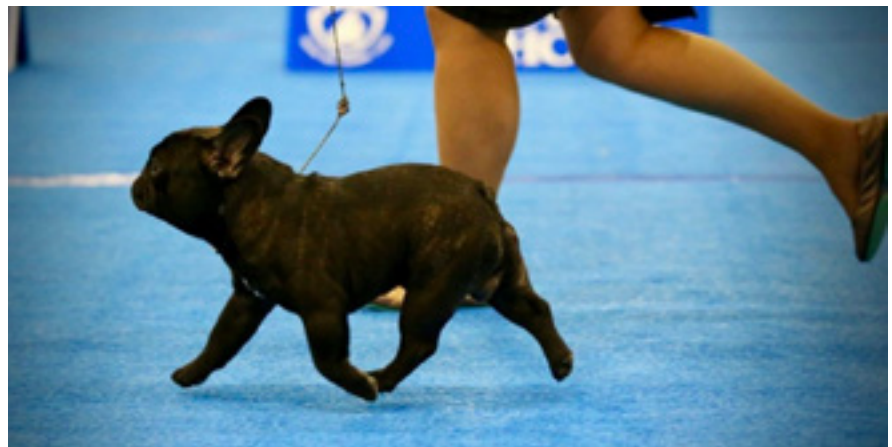
NON-SPORTING GROUP

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

French Bulldogs CHAGAS DISEASE CAN DEVASTATE A BREEDING PROGRAM

In May 2023 Blake Hamman and Peter Photos posted an announcement on Facebook that has haunted me. It is being included as a warning to all of us to be on the alert for this dangerous insect. Chagas disease took the life of their beloved and beautiful Princeton, along with the lives of most of the dogs in their kennel. The announcement follows:

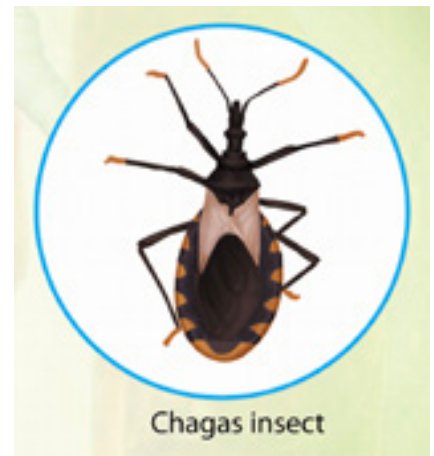
“After 15 years of breeding and showing Frenchies, Pete and I have decided to go on sabbatical from dogs. Chagas disease has devastated our kennel, leaving many of our dogs either dead or with hearts too damaged to breed. The bug that causes it was found all over our neighborhood,



Above: French Bulldog Princeton; right: Triatomine bug (“kissing bug”), host of the parasite that causes Chagas disease

and we have found multiple Chagas-positive kissing bugs in our yard, despite extensive fumigation. All the Chagas-positive dogs underwent 12–18 months of treatment, and while some survived with heart damage, some did not make it.

“Princeton himself contracted Chagas and suffered a stroke, which destroyed part of his brain. Despite being ‘cured’ after treatment, he died a few weeks ago from complications from the brain damage. The emotional and financial cost of fighting this disease



was unbelievable, and after much discussion, we’ve decided it isn’t ethical in our opinion to bring more dogs into our area, at least not until a treatment can be found and we can stop this disease.

“We have been fortunate to find homes for the Chagas-positive dogs where they can be taken care of

COURTESY OWNERS

NON-SPORTING GROUP

for whatever is left of their lives, and the Chagas-negative dogs have been placed elsewhere to ensure they stay healthy. As tough as this is, it is the best thing for the dogs, which is our utmost priority, even above our own success.

“Please, please, get your dogs tested, and if you find one of those bugs, send them off for analysis.”

Chagas disease, also known as American trypanosomiasis, is a parasitic illness caused by the protozoan parasite *Trypanosoma cruzi*. While primarily prevalent in South America, Central America, and Mexico, cases have been reported in the U.S. as well. The disease is transmitted by blood-sucking insects called triatomines, or “kissing bugs.” Dogs, including French Bulldogs, can become infected with this parasite. However, there are other, less common routes of transmission, including congenital transmission (from mother to puppy) or via blood transfusion.

Symptoms of Chagas disease in French Bulldogs can vary in severity depending on the extent of the infection. Some dogs may carry the parasite without displaying obvious symptoms, while others may develop severe clinical signs.

Common symptoms in dogs with Chagas disease include:

1. lethargy and weakness
2. weight loss
3. irregular heartbeats leading to cardiac arrhythmias
4. gastrointestinal issues: vomiting, diarrhea and difficulty swallowing
5. abdominal swelling due to fluid accumulation in the abdominal cavity

Preventing Chagas disease in French Bulldogs involves several measures:

1. Insect control: Prevent triatomine infestations by maintaining a clean home, sealing cracks, and using appropriate insect repellents.
2. Avoiding contacts with wildlife that might carry the parasite.
3. Have your French

Bulldog regularly screened for Chagas, especially if you live in an area where the disease is endemic.

4. If your dog requires a blood transfusion, ensure that it comes from an uninfected donor.

The treatment of Chagas disease in dogs can be challenging and depends on the severity of the infection. It is crucial to consult a veterinarian promptly upon noticing any suspicious symptoms to establish an appropriate treatment plan.

In conclusion, Chagas disease is an emerging concern among all dog owners. Prevention, including insect control and regular monitoring, is critical to safeguard the health of our beloved four-legged companions. In the event of suspicious symptoms, seeking prompt veterinary attention is imperative for a proper diagnosis and treatment. The health and well-being of our French Bulldogs depend on our vigilance in prevention and care. It is rare in humans

BREED COLUMNS

NON-SPORTING GROUP

but a possibility.

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

Keeshonden

PUPPY DEVELOPMENT AND SOCIALIZATION: 3 TO 6 WEEKS

The study of puppy development and socialization began as a serious research field with the work of Clarence Pfaffenberger. He published the first widely read book on the subject, *The New Knowledge of Dog Behavior*, in 1971. Since then, the field of puppy development and socialization has become increasingly important to breeders, owners, and trainers. It is a field that is constantly evolving, becoming an area that needs to be monitored to keep up with new information. We can only touch the surface in this column but hope to provide an overview and references for exploration. We include an area that is often overlooked: coverage of



Ample socialization in puppyhood is vital to the Keeshond's development into a well-adjusted family companion.

the 3-week-old time period, when puppies seek a targeted area for elimination.

That puppy socialization is critical to development of any canine into a fit companion is not in question. In dogs, as in humans, neonates pass through stages of development that require contact with their own species, the mother and siblings. In the case of

dogs, they also need socialization with a variety of humans and external stimulation to develop their sensory system. Puppies need to experience some of the sounds, textures, and surroundings they will encounter as adults. It is important to note that the stages are outlined as opportunities when the puppy is most receptive to

COURTESY DEBORAH LYNCH

NON-SPORTING GROUP

this learning.

At 3 weeks, our puppies have already passed Stage 1: the Neonatal Period (0–2 weeks). During this time they only have a sense of touch and taste and rely totally on their mother.

Stage 2: Socialization Period (3–12 weeks)

Now at 3 weeks, many things have changed. Puppies have a sense of smell, their hearing is acute, and their eyes are open. Wow! They can see their mom coming and get excited! They can see their littermates and begin to play. A swipe of the paw may topple them over on their unsteady legs, but they are determined.

At 3 weeks, when breeders can begin to feed them, they will also be most receptive to finding a specific place to potty. You can encourage this behavior and send your puppies home paper trained, simply by making it easy for them to find an area to potty. By doing this, *you can send your puppies*

home paper trained and well on their way to being housebroken! By providing a specific area for elimination you will make cleanup easier, puppies will be cleaner, and their housetraining will be nearly complete by the time they leave for their new homes.

At 3 weeks we set up two exercise pens in the shape of a horizontal figure 8. The area on the right is the play and food area, it is a bit larger than the elimination area. The play/food area has a box they can sleep in, which can be the bottom of an airline crate or sturdy cardboard box. A variety of toys—soft, a few harder toys, and a large ball—can also be included at first. As time goes on we add a crinkle cat tunnel, a small balance board, and other interesting and stimulating toys. If your area is large enough you can also add a few small steps, and a crate for them to sleep in.

The left side of the figure eight is the potty area. This part of the pen is lined

with heavy-duty plastic and covered with newspaper. A plastic trash bag is clipped to the side for cleanup, and fresh papers are outside the pen.

The middle of the pen is separated with a 10-inch long and three-inch diameter plastic plumbing pipe, fastened at the top. Changing paper is very exciting. The puppies will want to rush in while you roll up the papers, mop, and especially when you drop the fresh papers down! When you change papers, you may want to clip this area closed, as they will run in excitedly and interrupt the process.

We have this new set-up ready on the first day they start eating puppy food. They quickly learn to use the new area and will rarely have any accidents in the play area after a few days. You will occasionally find a few toys dragged into the potty area. These must be rescued and thrown in with the other puppy laundry.

NON-SPORTING GROUP

Additions to the puppy area

When first feeding the puppies, we say “Puppy, come!” before putting their dish down. They begin to make a positive association with the word “Come” and food. Cameras are also mounted in the puppy area so we can monitor their play and sleep. This is useful if you identify a puppy that seems softer and more reticent. You can provide more individual time and attention for this puppy. We noticed this with one puppy during the day. When watching the playback at night, we discovered that while the others were sleeping, he was awake and was playing with *all* the toys by himself!

Puppies also have music in their room during the day. We play a variety of music for them, including talk radio. They get to learn a lot about football if Ryan is around! At night we turn off the radio and I turn out the light, saying, “Goodnight, puppies.” They learn that when it is dark and quiet, they are supposed to be

sleeping, and they know that no one is coming until morning.

Of course, we know from the puppy cam that they sometimes get up at night and play. That’s OK, then we can sleep longer. When they go to their new homes, we share this routine with the new owners. We tell them if they think the puppy can’t sleep and needs to go potty not to talk with them or play with them. Simply take the puppy out and bring puppy back to sleep in the crate.

As long as the puppies are with you, you can bring new people and experiences into their life. Always be upbeat and move forward with bringing new experiences and people into their world. When visitors come to the house, invite them in to see the puppies. Set up a pen for them outside so they can enjoy the yard and everything there is to explore. Plan for friends and children to visit the puppies.

When having children over to visit, make sure they are

familiar with dogs, are constantly supervised, and only interact with the puppies while sitting on the floor. I would suggest only one two children at a time. Children and puppies go together, but everyone needs to be safe.

When puppies are ready go to their new homes, add to your puppy instructions that they should put newspaper by the door where the puppy is to go outside. The puppies will run to the paper and then can be picked up and taken out to potty. When puppies are target-trained to go on paper when they are first weaned, they will be readily house-trained. This method also works for directing puppies where eliminate in the yard by placing paper in the desired area.

Socialization is a continuing process, but you can provide your puppies with an excellent start and make bringing their puppy into their home a positive experience their new owners.

Enjoy your puppies and have a wonderful 2024!

NON-SPORTING GROUP

References

Breeding Better Dogs, Carmen Battaglia, 1990, Susan Hunter Publishing, January 1990.

The New Knowledge of Dog Behavior, Clarence Pfaffenberger, Howell Books, 1971 (the foundation text on canine socialization).

—Debbie Lynch, Parrish, Florida

dlnpoconsult@gmail.com
Keeshond Club of America



Lhasa Apsos

FUELED BY PASSION

Leonardo da Vinci painted the *Mona Lisa* in 1503–1506 and perhaps never considered it finished. Despite fame as an artist, his chosen profession was that of a water engineer, at which he was mildly successful. Art was his passion. Webster-Merriman says passion is a “strong feeling of enthusiasm or excitement for something or about doing something,” significantly understating the impact passion has on human psyche

and behavior. Where ordinary excitement is gasoline, passion is rocket fuel.

Adrenaline is the most powerful drug on the planet, fueling the fight-or-flight instinct and the endorphin surge—the “rush”—that energizes us to overcome obstacles; competition dispenses this legal drug. Equally impelling is creativity, which drives an individual to project their thoughts and ideas into the third dimension in the medium of their choosing.

Showing dogs has the potential to combine passion and adrenaline—a potent cocktail.

Most people turn to dog shows because they think it will be fun. And it is, most of the time. There is excitement, camaraderie, and the joy of becoming a team with your dog in the ring. Some folks are content to attend a limited number of shows as a pastime, enjoying the social contact and occasional wins. Some give up and leave the sport or

HOTDOG PHOTOGRAPHY



NON-SPORTING GROUP

turn to performance events, where there is less emphasis on winning and more on mastering skills.

But the core of the fancy—those who devote decades and lifetimes—are those who make it their passion and their canvas. Passion captures us in different ways. To paraphrase Shakespeare: Some are born to it, some achieve it, and others have it thrust upon them.

The fact is, at some point, usually long past the point of no return, we suddenly realize that this has become more a lifestyle than a pastime. Outsiders might call it an affliction. What once was simply a desire to have fun is now a compulsion to do better, be better. The drive for betterment means breeding better dogs shaped in our mental image of the perfect specimen, honing presentation skills that highlight their best qualities, and exposing them through competition. Specialties and other major show events become routine destinations,

and major family events are planned around dog show schedules. Equipment, facilities, vehicles, grooming essentials and things not-so-essential all become accoutrements for our passion for breeding and showing dogs.

Passion seeds itself to survive. Part of our role is to nurture and mentor new talent. Like master artists who had apprentices, we need to cultivate and grow new talent, not squelch it.

There is always a risk of apprentice/mentor tension, with attendant rifts and hard feelings on both sides. Rivalries develop between and among competing groups based on differing visions of what is correct or who is winning the most. This is timeless: Da Vinci considered his contemporary, Michelangelo, unworthy of being called an artist.

Passion can fuel bad decision-making, and lead to unwise financial decisions, destroyed relationships and loss of perspective on truly

important matters. None of this is new or limited to dogs. It is our responsibility to understand, prevent, or mitigate it, both for the future health of the sport and our own well-being.

Da Vinci was chronically in debt. Despite having been paid in full for the *Mona Lisa*, he never relinquished the piece to the buyer. He carried it with him for years as he moved from place to place until his death in 1519. Scholars disagree whether he treasured it as a work of perfection or considered it unfinished.

Those of us who are fueled by passion should avoid being consumed by its flame.

—Cassandra de la Rosa,
dlrcas@msn.com

[The American Lhasa Apso Club](#)

Poodles

This is the first of a multi-part series on whelping by guest author Madeline Patterson, who has granted permission to publish.

NON-SPORTING GROUP



WHELPING

Your breeding was successful, and the litter is due within the next week or so. All that research has paid off, and you're very excited—or, if this is your first litter, excited plus a little scared. How many will there be? How many males and females? What color

will they be? If you have had X-rays or an ultrasound, then you have a pretty good idea of the number of puppies. Those procedures are not infallible, however, so be prepared for one puppy more or less than what you've been told.

By now you should have chosen a place for the

whelping. This may or may not be the same place where the puppies will be raised. The whelping area should be free of carpeting or furniture that cannot easily be cleaned as the whelping process can get messy, especially with larger dogs and more puppies.

I find that a low-sided box works best for the actual delivery of Toys or Minis so I can sit beside it and comfortably reach inside to assist in the delivery. For Standards, I just put several old blankets directly on the floor and sit right there with her. I have a separate, smaller box with a heating pad set on medium underneath, and a towel inside. I also have a thin blanket to cover the top of the box, so the puppies stay warm. This is where I will put them so they don't get stepped on if the bitch gets anxious when another puppy is coming.

Have plenty of towels of various sizes, but only use ones you don't care about, as they will often be permanently stained.

COURTESY LYNDA BEAM

NON-SPORTING GROUP

The puppies can be born anytime between 59 days from the first breeding to 63 days from the last breeding. If you have had one of the diagnostic procedures done, they might have been able to pinpoint the timing better for you.

You should begin taking your bitch's temperature morning and night about two days before the earliest possible date. As mentioned before, 101 to 102 degrees is normal, and in most cases, but not all, the temperature will drop to 98.6 degrees (human normal) or below, 12 to 24 hours before delivery. Often their temperature will hover around 99 for several days, but 98.6 is the magic number telling you that labor is imminent.

Some "nesting" signs of early labor can begin several days ahead, such as digging, scratching, and tearing up paper or other bedding. When she begins to tremble or shiver and starts nesting seriously, puppies are coming. She may not want you out of her sight but may

keep returning to her whelping box. Grab a book, or the remote, or your iPad, and a pillow to sit on, and cancel your dinner plans. It could be a long night (or day, for that matter).

The shivering can continue for several hours. At some point she will begin panting. Labor should begin fairly soon. I don't consider it true labor until I see an actual labor pain. That is where the bitch stands up, arches her back, and lifts her tail and her whole body stiffens. This usually lasts a few seconds, then she will often go back to scratching and tearing bedding with renewed vigor. Note the time, so you can know how long she has been in true labor until the first puppy is born.

If this is her first litter, she may not know what is happening and think she needs to go out to relieve herself. This is often where you will see hard straining. If it's night, be sure you have plenty of light or a flashlight, and don't let her out where

she can get under the bushes and drop her first puppy. If you have no safe, enclosed place, put her on a lead or a flexi so you don't lose control of her. Be sure to bring a small towel with you in the event that a puppy arrives.

Some people believe the bitch should be left alone to whelp by herself as they do in nature. As it's been a few years since Poodles were roaming the wild, I am a completely hands-on puppy whelper and do everything I can to help. Domesticated animals, particularly our Poodles, count on us to help them through the whelping process, and the purpose of this article is to explain how to do that most effectively. So with that in mind, this will be what I have experienced and how I handle delivery.

If she has been shivering and panting, check her vulva frequently, and eventually you should see the start of a "bubble." It could be the first puppy or just a fluid sac. I have had litters where there were several fluid-filled



BREED COLUMNS

NON-SPORTING GROUP

sacs before the first puppy—and also, less often, between puppies.

The bitch will be doing a lot of licking and cleaning and usually rupture the fluid sac. All normal. Here’s how you can tell if the sac is a puppy, or just fluid: When a puppy is coming head-first, the head can be felt coming through the pelvis. If you feel her from the outside, just beside the rectum (close to where the anal glands are, only wider), you can actually get your fingers behind the head and ease the puppy out. Keep a gentle, steady pull downward between her back legs as she strains, and you will save her some work. Remember, this is being done from outside, and you should never force anything.

If this is her first litter, especially a Toy, she may experience considerable pain. Be cautious so you don’t get bitten, and also so she doesn’t reach back and bite or injure the emerging puppy.

One of three things will happen. In the first scenario,

the puppy will come out with the umbilical cord going back inside the bitch. This is pretty typical, especially in the Toys.

The second possibility is that the puppy comes with a broken cord and no placenta, which means you will need to get that placenta out later. This seems to happen in Standards more often.

Always keep track of the number of placentas to make sure there is one for each puppy at the end.

The third way is that the puppy and placenta come out together, which is ideal.

Once the puppy is on its way out, immediately tear the sac from the puppy’s face. Now you can clamp the cord with the hemostat, cut it, and begin stimulating the puppy immediately. In the case of the cord going back into the bitch, it’s great if you have help. Someone can restrain the bitch while you tear the sac from the puppy’s face so it can start breathing, and you can put the hemostats on the cord and cut it, leaving the

hemostats on the part going back into the bitch. This will help you get the placenta out later after the puppy is breathing.—M.P.

Thank you, Madeline.

(To continue in the June 2024 issue.)

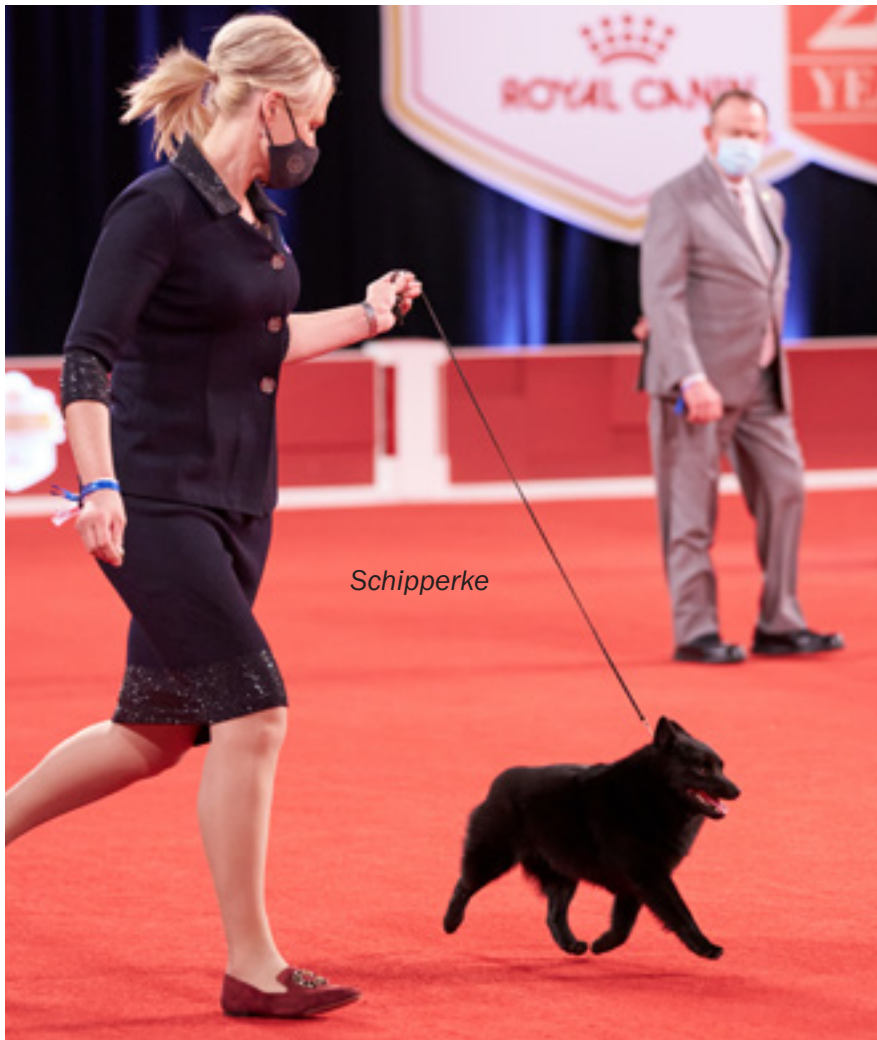
[Poodle Club of America](#)

Schipperkes

WE ARE THE ONES

We are the ones who ensure the breed’s future. As owners and (occasionally) breeders of Schipperkes, we are concerned that every puppy we produce be as healthy as possible. We avail ourselves of tests so that, as much as scientifically possible, we will produce puppies who will not develop debilitating conditions. We raise each litter to ensure that each puppy is comfortable with the sounds of the house, of different people, inquisitive of new situations. We then have given each puppy the best-possible start to become a healthy, adaptable dog—whether as

NON-SPORTING GROUP



Schipperke

a performance companion, a service dog, a show dog, or as a family pet.

You see, they are *all* pets. Some happen to go to shows. Some become service dogs, alerting parents that their child is going to experience a seizure. Some can tell you that you have a monster migraine imminent.

And some tell their hearing-impaired person that there is something in the kitchen needing attention. Yes, our Schipperkes do all that, and more.

Do you want a mischievous small- to medium-sized dog, just independent enough to ask when you want him to do some-

thing, “Why? What’s in it for me?” (And then, if you have trained with positive reinforcement, rewarding little achievements that then become bigger and more complex, your Schipperke will look at you with absolute devotion and do what you told him to, and then look at you as though saying, “OK, now what do we get to do?”)

Do you want a dog who is an excellent judge of character? (If your Schipperke doesn’t like someone, chances are pretty good that it won’t take long for you to decide that you don’t like that person either.)

We may be the first contact with a family who has heard of “the little black dogs” but who have never seen one up close and personal. Welcome their questions, and listen to what they tell you. Perhaps you will gain a wonderful home for a puppy or a retired dog or bitch whom you do not plan to breed again. And if you are truly blessed, some of these people become

HOTDOG PHOTOGRAPHY



BREED COLUMNS

NON-SPORTING GROUP

lifelong friends. I met such a couple many years ago at the Heart of America Kennel Club dog show. I had my dog on the table in the grooming area, and this couple stopped, stood a ways back, and looked at him. I noticed them and said hello. They told me they had two Schipperkes and loved the breed. We chatted a while, and they asked for my phone number.

A rather long time passed, and one day the phone rang. The caller said they had met me at a dog show, that one of their two Schipperkes had died, and they were hoping I might have one—"not a puppy, but a young one, preferably female."

Hmmm. No, the name did not ring a bell, but I gave them directions, and they came out. And I remembered them. I did not have any dogs available, but I knew another club member who had one who was a littermate of my Imp and would place her in a good home. The people went to Ohio and got Meghan.

When they traveled, Molly and Meghan came and stayed with me. When Molly died, they got Gnatalie from a friend and fellow club member. And now those two girls stay with me from time to time. This couple love their Schipperkes. They are exactly the kind of people we all hope to meet: the perfect home. What if I had been rude, or "too busy" to chat a bit with them? What if?

We are the ones.—Bonnie Lou Baker, 2014

[Schipperke Club of America](#)

Shiba Inu

Our column for this issue is written by Anna-Lee Forsberg of Yukan Shibas, owner-breeder-handler since 1996 of Multiple Best in Show and specialty-winning Shibas.

A LOOK AT THE SHIBA INU THROUGH A JAPANESE LENS—ITS COUNTRY OF PRESERVATION

Undoubtedly, the best thing about this hobby of

ours, other than spending time with our dogs, is the wonderful people we get to meet and the places we get to visit, all in the name of growing our understanding of our chosen breeds.

I am fortunate enough to have traveled to three different continents to watch, listen, and learn from Shiba breeders. Four if you include my home, Australia! I am a regular visitor to "national" events in Japan and the U.S.

While I have experienced four different breed standards from four different continents, it's clear there are commonalities; obviously, they look like Shibas, but there are striking differences which can separate the styles.

To piece together my observations, I'd like to paint a picture that may assist in understanding the subtle and intricate nature of the Shiba. There are three words which are used to encapsulate the Shiba nature and need to be a part of the breed everywhere in the World. Let's call this the "vibe."

BREED COLUMNS

NON-SPORTING GROUP



The Nippo Grand National, held annually in November, is the apex event for Japanese Shiba breeders.

Kani-I means bravery, boldness, composure, and mental strength. *Ryosei* means good nature and gentle disposition. It is said that *ryosei* cannot exist without *Kani-I*. They are considered different sides of the same coin. The last is *Soboku*,

artlessness with a refined and open spirit.

To me, the real beauty in a Shiba is the sum of its parts *plus* the “vibe,” which is a much harder quality to breed and judge.

Nihonken Hozonkai,
The Association for the

Preservation of the Japanese Dog, or Nippo Kennel Club, was formed in Tokyo in 1934 for the sole purpose of preserving all six of the Japanese native breeds: the Akita Inu, Hokkaido, Kai Ken, Kishu, Shikoku, and Shiba Inu. Once the

COURTESY ANNA-LEE FORSBERG

NON-SPORTING GROUP

Shiba standard was unified, it informed the Japanese Kennel Club (JKC) standard, which in turn was adopted by the FCI as the breed's country of origin. However, it can also be considered country of preservation.

The “Nippo Grand National,” held annually in November, is the apex event for Japanese Shiba breeders, and in my opinion, the world. Shiba entries will be in a range of 500–800, and serious fanciers will travel from around the globe to attend. It is a great way to reset and refresh the breeder's eye.

The Grand National is not so much of a dog show as it is a breed evaluation we are honoured and encouraged to experience. No pizzazz, no sparkly suits, no exaggerated handling, just the dog and only the dog are evaluated. There are no tables for examination, and each handler stands behind the dog during presentation. Bait is not present in any form. This would be unimaginable for some.

My most notable observation of the Grand National was the consistency in the entire entry. Yes, there are slight variations in the breed, but with such a large entry there will be. The most consistent features in a Japanese Shiba are their temperament, expression, and overall body proportions.

The Shiba is a native breed, so visualising them in harsh elements with their hunter is a much more correct version of the breed. A generic show dog might be pretty on the move, but do they possess the essence? Remember, the Shiba was designated as a natural monument by the Japanese government in 1937, so a cute, doe-eyed dog on a cookie tin they are not. They should almost appear to be looking for trouble!

Expression is an enormous part of a Shiba. Given the head and expression are worth 40 percent of the total overall evaluation of each dog, careful attention should be given to it. A Shiba should look straight

through you, and a correct head should set the style for the rest of dog. The temperament or “the vibe” also shapes their expression.

It's very important that body proportions are 10:11. While long and low will give an extended gait, it's not correct for the Shiba. The Shiba is a “dry-bodied” breed and should not carry extra weight. They should be able to “turn on a yen,” which means elasticity above length of stride every time. Coat texture is harsh, and colour is never washed out, especially in the face.

There is so much to compare within the different Shibas styles from around the world, further research will enlighten and enliven your appreciation. When we are making our breeding decisions or judging a Shiba exhibit, we must *always* look through a Japanese lens and relate our choices back to the country of not only origin, but also *preservation*.

A visit to the Grand National should be every breeder's rite of passage.

BREED COLUMNS

NON-SPORTING GROUP

—Anna-Lee Forsberg,
Yukan Shibas, reg. ANKC/
Yuukanshiba, reg. Nihonken
Hozonkai.

Thank you, Anna-Lee.

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

Tibetan Spaniels

THE VALUE OF THE NATIONAL SPECIALTY

The national specialty is undoubtedly the most important date on the Tibetan Spaniel Club of America calendar. Whether or not you have a dog to show, attending the event is enormously rewarding for a host of educational and social reasons.

Many all-breed shows around the country may have a Tibbie entry in the single digits, or perhaps no entry at all. We have pockets of Tibbie owners, breeders, and exhibitors scattered here and there, but lots of places where there simply aren't any, much to the disappointment of prospective



owners who read about the breed and then hope to see some at their local dog show. We also have relatively few regional Tibetan Spaniel clubs that hold annual specialties in their locales. To see 75 or 100 examples of the breed gathered together in one place—all ages, all colors—attending the national specialty is a must.

Not all Tibbie breeder-exhibitors are active on

social media, but most endeavor to attend the national specialty. If you are looking for your first companion puppy, meeting breeders and their dogs in person provides an unparalleled opportunity to learn the breed and find compatible people who are devoted to Tibbies and will work with you to find a suitable dog—either a puppy or perhaps a retired champion—and

COURTESY TSCA



NON-SPORTING GROUP

mentor you in those early years.

If you aspire to become a breeder and exhibitor yourself, the national specialty is where you will see different looks and styles of Tibetan Spaniels. Breeders adhere to the standard but may have slightly different visions of the ideal breed representative. By watching the judging, from puppies and adolescents through to adults and veterans, you can pick out the dogs that catch your eye, then chat with their breeders and owners.

Experienced breeders looking for a stud dog to incorporate into their pedigrees can evaluate their offspring, out of different bitches, and make more informed decisions. You can put your hands on the dogs, feel their bone, and see them move. This is a huge, once-a-year learning opportunity, when the alternative is often photos and short video clips on Facebook.

There is no better way to meet others in the breed than to volunteer for a

national-specialty committee. Whether it's collecting ads for the show catalog, setting up the trophy table, or helping with the club auctions, your time will be appreciated by the show committee, and you will forge wonderful friendships with fellow Tibbie enthusiasts.

For longtime Tibbie breeder-exhibitors who are thinking about applying to judge our breed, as well as judges from outside the breed who need instruction, our Judges Education Chair, Linda Foiles, gives a wonderful presentation on our breed, complete with a hands-on session. Not to be missed.

Tibetan Spaniel artwork and handicrafts are a huge attraction for all of us who can seldom find Tibbie "stuff" at all-breed shows. Jewelry, fabric art, figurines, paintings, and prints will delight your eye, with goodies to suit every budget. A lovely plus is that many of the artists come from our own Tibbie community.

We're a talented bunch!

Our next Tibetan Spaniel national specialty will be held on Wednesday, June 5, at the Augusta Expo in Fishersville, Virginia, with judges Jeffery Bazell and, for Sweepstakes, longtime Tibbie breeder-exhibitor Kitty Burke. The host hotel is the Best Western Plus Inn and Suites in Waynesboro, Virginia. The festivities begin on June 4, with our Top Twenty and Top Ten Owner-Handled competitions, and the national is followed by the Designated, Finger Lakes, and Potomac Valley specialties, June 6–8.

Details will be updated regularly on the parent club website. Hope you can make it!

—Allan Reznik,
reznikallan@gmail.com
Tibetan Spaniel Club of
America

Tibetan Terriers

WE ARE FROM TIBET, BUT . . .

So, what's in a name anyway? To all Tibetan Terrier owners, the answer

BREED COLUMNS

NON-SPORTING GROUP

is “a lot!” The banner on the Tibetan Terrier Club of America website spells it out: *We are not terriers, but we are from Tibet!* I cannot imagine there is a TT owner in the world who has not had to explain at least once to a curious passerby that their adorable, hairy canine is not a terrier after all.

So why all the confusion? The Tibetan name for the breed is *Tsang* (one of three Tibetan regions) *Apsö* (meaning “shaggy or bearded dog”), or *Dokhi* (meaning “an outdoor or tied dog; watchdog”) *Apsö*—and they *do* originate from Tibet. But somewhere between Tibet and now, things got reinterpreted.

According to an article in the *Genetic Selection Evolution* journal published in December 2019 titled “Population structure and genetic history of the Tibetan Terrier,” their research results show that “the relationship between western and native populations of Tibetan Terriers supports the hypothesis that



Artwork by Sheryl Getman

the Tibetan Terrier belongs to the group of ancient dog breeds of Asian origin, which are close to the ancestors of the modern dog that were involved in

the early domestication process. Thus, [we] were able to reject the initial hypothesis that Tibetan Terriers belong to the group of terrier breeds.”

COURTESY SHERYL GETMAN



NON-SPORTING GROUP

So, if we know that Tibetan Terriers are not terriers at all, then how did the name come about?

In 1922, Dr. Agnes R.H. Greig, an English surgeon practicing medicine in India, was gifted a female Tibetan Terrier puppy (named Bunti) after saving the life of a Tibetan woman. For centuries, these dogs, fondly called “The Little People,” remained within the boundaries of the Tibet regions and were never sold, but instead only offered as a token of gratitude. It is believed that Dr. Greig was the first European to ever receive one of these dogs.

While still practicing medicine in India, Dr. Greig’s keen interest in dogs, especially this puppy, led her to the decision to register Bunti with the Kennel Club of India. The club suggested that Bunti be registered as a “Lhasa Terrier” (which was a similar but much smaller dog we now know as the Lhasa Apso); however, because of that discrepancy in size, it was decided

that before the kennel club would accept Bunti as a legitimate breed, Dr. Greig should produce three generations to prove consistency in conformation.

And so Dr. Greig’s breeding program began. In 1930, Dr. Greig presented three consistent generations of her beloved dogs, and the breed was officially accepted and registered with the Kennel Club of India as a separate, unique breed to be known as Tibetan Terriers, as they were considered to be closely related to the already-established Lhasa Terriers.

But the Asiatic breeds didn’t really fit into the European dog categories, such as terrier, herding, sporting, etc. The placement of Tibetan Terriers into the terrier group of dogs was apparently based on the physical structure and size of the dogs, which was thought to closely resemble terriers. Historical information and genetic data don’t support this decision. But here we are.

Dr. Greig returned to England with her now-registered Tibetan Terriers and continued her breeding program, and in 1937 the Kennel Club of England recognized the breed and kept the name from the original registration in India.

In 1956, the first Tibetan Terrier made its way to America, and in 1957, the Tibetan Terrier Club of America was founded.

The American Kennel Club accepted the Tibetan Terrier in 1973 and placed it into the Non-Sporting Group.

Regardless of their name—Tibetan Terrier, Dokhi Apso, Tsang Apso, or the affectionate nickname TT—these “little people” will always be loved by “their people”!

We’ll just have to be ready with that history lesson when someone looks at our dogs and says, “Oh, I love terriers!”

—Janet Krynzal,

tibterrsrule@aol.com

[Tibetan Terrier Club of America](#)

BREED COLUMNS

HERDING GROUP

Bearded Collies

SPACE AGE CONFORMATION

A lot has changed since the long-ago days when I first became involved in the dog world. New sports, such as rally, agility, scent work, Fast CAT, and dock diving have been introduced and happily accepted. A multitude of breeds have achieved AKC recognition, swelling the ranks to over 200 breeds on the roster—with even more waiting to get in the game. So many titles are now up for grabs, affording ambitious dogs and owners the opportunity to accumulate a trail of letters which resembles an alphabet in a blender. Less welcome than all the fun and games, but always necessary, are all the rules to define the latest events and titles. Yes, things have definitely changed in the dog world.

But have you noticed that conformation hasn't really changed over the years? Additional titles and awards are on offer, but the picture is much the same: a judge,



Bearded Collie

a steward, and a group of entrants piloting their dogs around a ring. OK, clothing is different from earlier days. Lady exhibitors no longer are adorned with hats and long, white gloves, but most still wear clothes popularly dubbed “business casual.” Today’s judges must undergo training and tests

to prove they’re competent. Earlier judges weren’t subjected to the reams of paperwork and observations of this current era. The object is more knowledgeable judges. And that’s admirable, but a lot more work and expense than in bygone days. Becoming a judge can put a real dent in

COURTESY LYNDIA BEAM

HERDING GROUP

your bank account.

Is it possible to move conformation judging into today's high-tech atmosphere? Maybe. Where do we start?

Try to picture how things would progress at a space-age conformation show. As the dog and exhibitor check in at ringside, a scanner reads the dog's microchip and checks it against the registration number. Perhaps the computer printer could issue the armband at that time.

Next, a clever machine produces an X-ray of the dog's skeleton. Then, an overlay geared to the breed's standard shows the correct structure and angulation for comparison purposes when placed over the X-ray.

From there, the dog proceeds to a smart-aleck treadmill which reports on both paw-placement when the dog is gaited and the length of stride at a trot (again, as appropriate for each breed).

Now, suppose the collected info on each dog

is assembled and put into an assigned class. A computer rates each dog's plus and minus scores to arrive at a rating and places the entrants from first to last.

Next, the statistics on each dog in the class as well as the dogs themselves go before the judge.

A judge? Did you really think we would get rid of the judges? Well, the computer may have taken all the guesswork out of structure and gait, but you need a human to judge temperament and other such things such as expression, tail carriage, or bite. So the judge has the final say, and if he or she feels the attitude of the second-place dog outshines the machine-picked winner, then that one gets the nod.

There would be benefits to high-tech judging. If exhibitors may pick up the graded readouts on their dogs as they leave the ring, they can learn their dogs' virtues and faults, uncolored by the judge's outlook or accompanying comments.

There are bound to be

other advantages and disadvantages to computerized judging. One major point would be cost. How would the price of setting up and running the equipment compare to the cost of hiring judges and paying their fees, plus travel expenses? Would the equipment be more dependable than human judges who can get sick or injured, miss flights, or be prevented from traveling due to weather conditions? Would exhibitors like the idea of their dogs being graded by a machine, rather than by a human with likes and dislikes?

Would the system result in the same dogs always taking home the ribbons?

It would be easier on judges who could be supplied with information about each competitor that they would not have ordinarily.

How would the system impact professional handlers with the talent to turn an average canine into a showing fool?

And finally, such a system

BREED COLUMNS

HERDING GROUP

could discourage disgruntled exhibitors from placing their dog's loss on politics, judges' preferences, prejudices, or lack of breed knowledge.

Chances are someone will still be heard to mutter, "I think that machine needs to be recalibrated."

—Alice Bixler,
alice@bedlamkennels.com
 Bearded Collie Club of America

Belgian Malinois

HOW BIG WAS IT?

A friend recently told me that a judge had characterized certain of their Malinois as having "too much substance." That got my attention! When I think of "too much substance," I don't think of the typical conformation dog. I think of gigantic working dogs, well outside the breed height standard, proudly advertised with weights that would do a German Shepherd proud.

I started thinking about ways to characterize "substance." It should somehow begin with height and

weight. Could the breed standard help me? I was certain that the AKC Malinois standard contained height and weight ranges, but I was wrong about that. It specifies height ranges, but it is silent about the expected weights.

As far as I can tell, the only Belgian standard that said anything about weight was the one in force prior to mid-1959. Until June 30, 1959, all of the Belgians were registered as varieties of one breed, covered by the same standard. That standard contained the following rather limited guidance (1):

- Height at least 60 cm (23.5 inches) for dogs and 58 cm (22.5 inches) for bitches
- Weight should be at least 24 kg (53 lbs)

The standards adopted in mid-1959, after the Belgian varieties were split into separate breeds, took a big step forward by including height ranges and disqualification limits. Currently, all the Belgian breeds list the desired height for males as 25+1 inch and for females

as 23+1". This translates to a tolerance of about +4% from the ideal height.

The disqualification limits, however, are a dog's breakfast of different numbers, as shown in Table I. Let's translate those disqualification heights into percentages of the ideal height and take a look at Table II. The Malinois disqualification heights make sense. The disqualification band (about +8%) is about twice the ideal size band (+4%). That's a good, solid basis for a height standard.

Now let's turn to the question of weight. Eliminating the pre-1959 suggestion that all Belgians should weigh at least 53 pounds seems wise. If you want dogs throughout a height range to have about the same amount of structural timber, you must allow a range of weights. However, replacing a questionable value with only descriptive words is not much help. The current standard says:

"Bone structure is moderate in proportion to height so that the dog is well balanced throughout and

BREED COLUMNS

HERDING GROUP

Table I: Current disqualification heights for the Belgian breeds

Belgian breed disqualification heights (inches)	Males	Females	Males	Females
	Under:	Under:	Over:	Over:
Malinois	23	21	27	25
Laekenois	23	20.5	27	24.5
Tervuren	23	21	26.5	24.5
Sheepdog	22.5	20.5	27.5	25
Source: Current AKC standards for each breed				

Corrected

Table II: Current disqualification heights for the Belgian breeds as a percentage of ideal height

Belgian breed disqualification tolerance ($\Delta\%$ from ideal)	Males	Females	Males	Females
	Under:	Under:	Over:	Over:
Malinois	-8%	-9%	+8%	+9%
Laekenois	-8%	-11%	+8%	+7%
Tervuren	-8%	-9%	+6%	+11%
Sheepdog	-10%	-11%	+10%	+9%
Source: Current AKC standards for each breed Calculated from $100 \pm 100 \times (\text{DQ height} / \text{ideal height})$				

neither spindly or leggy, nor cumbersome and bulky. “

The problem is that one man’s “cumbersome” is

another man’s “spindly.” This seems like something the breed club might take another look at in the future.



Belgian Malinois puppy

The only official document with recommended weight ranges is that from the FCI (Fédération Cynologique Internationale) standard No. 15 for the Belgians, published in 2001. This standard, used in most of the world, calls for males to weigh about 25-30 kg (55-66 lbs), and for females to be about 20-25 kg (44-55 lbs). Now that, we can work with. Using those numbers, the ideal male would weigh 60.5 lbs, with a tolerance of 5.5 lbs, or +9%. The ideal female would weigh 49.5 lbs, with a tolerance of 5.5 lbs, or +11%. These numbers seem reasonable, and

COURTESY CARILEE MORAN



HERDING GROUP

they would sure be a good place to start for the Belgian Malinois standard.

So where does this leave us with respect to my friend’s judge’s comment on Malinois with “too much substance?”

We now have some justification for an opinion about how tall and how hefty a Malinois should be.

The next step is to try to examine what the range of actual Malinois height and weight values are these days.

To that end, I put together a document asking for the help of Malinois (and other Belgian variety) owners. I asked them to report certain measurements of their dogs.

To date, 49 people have reported values for 100 dogs. I will start reviewing the results in my next column. That means that there is still time for you to participate!

If you would like your dog’s measurements included in this effort, [click here](#) and follow the directions—and thank you in advance!

Reference:

(1) *Vol I of The Belgian Sheepdog Handbook Thru 1976*, edited by Mary Courter and Marcy Spalding.

—Carilee (Cole) Moran,
colemich@sbcglobal.net
[American Belgian Malinois Club](#)

Belgian Sheepdogs

ENRICHMENT—IT’S ALL THE CRAZE!

When we, as working humans with full time jobs, chores, and non-dog social lives stop and think about it, how much quality time do we really give our dogs?

No matter how you look at it, the Belgian Sheepdog is an above-average active dog. They love to do things, and especially thrive when doing things with their people. In fact, we as owners need to always remember this line from the AKC breed standard: “always in motion when not under command.” They truly need to spend active time with their people,

be it playing, training, preparing for the various sports they excel in, or in some sort of farm or service dog type activity. To me, they shine their brightest when involved in partnership activities.

But, what about those times when we aren’t around? Or, more importantly, when you *are* around but have other things to do that doesn’t involve a dog’s assistance. I’m sure, like most people, my dogs aren’t the only ones who feel the need to help me cook dinner! Exercise, both mental and physical, are crucial for a dog to feel rested, relaxed, and able to just chill out when we as their owners are occupied. Safe, free, off-leash running in a natural setting is a fantastic way to achieve this. Even if it’s a new fenced place to explore away from home.

I’m not talking about dog parks. I do not visit dog parks with my own dogs. Recently, Sniff Spots have given many opportunities to allow owners to rent a

BREED COLUMNS

HERDING GROUP

secure, safe space for their dogs to run and explore for an hour for a small fee. Even though I have acreage for my dogs to run off-leash, we occasionally visit a few local Sniff Spots.

My dogs love to swim, and since I don't have, nor want the upkeep of a pool year-round in the Pacific Northwest, we go places where there is river, pond, or lake access. I allow them free running, little interruption from any commands. They are allowed to sniff, play, and adventure as they like for that time frame. They always come home relaxed and ready to just chill out while I do housework.

Enrichment comes in many forms, but another popular one around here has to deal with mealtime. There are so many new and different ways to feed dogs these days. Around here, popular methods are feeding meals in Toppls, Kongs, snuffle mats, and various

Exercise in a natural setting provides Belgian Sheepdogs with enjoyment and relaxation.



COURTESY SHELLY BROSNAN



HERDING GROUP

homemade puzzle games. A favorite in our house is a 12-cup muffin tin with a small treat in some of the cups, and a ball placed on top of it. One of my dogs in particular loves to “hunt,” so I will hide her meal around the room for her to find, or do kibble scatters in the yard.

Sure, there are days when I am super busy, and they get their meals from a simple bowl in the kitchen as I scarf down a cup of coffee and bagel before I run out the door to work. But don’t despair, dogs are adaptable. They seem to understand their time alone is starting. The nanny-cam I check randomly throughout the week shows me that they are perfectly happy sleeping away the morning and early afternoon before I am back home! Then, they greet me with stretches as they wake up and are again ready to play and train.

Every day I make a conscious effort to connect with them, together and individually. That, in and of itself, is

the real reward for a Belgian Sheepdog.

—Shelly Brosnan,
3busydogs@gmail.com
Belgian Sheepdog Club of America

Canaan Dogs

Our guest writer for this issue is Dick McKenney. An attendee of a handling seminar given by Dick and Marcella McKenney in 2005 commented: “When it comes to dogs, there is very little, if anything, the McKenneys have not seen or done. During the course of 48 hours, Dick instilled us with some of the knowledge he has garnered during some 50 years of handling and training dogs, and we barely scratched the surface. Mixed among the volumes of handling tips and techniques was Marcella’s ever-gracious hospitality. We learned so much that it is difficult to summarize.” Another said, “Four things that Dick really emphasized about handling are: 1–3—Read the stan-

dard; and 4—*Always* protect your dog!”

Dick says: “If anything in this article doesn’t make sense, ignore it. Any part that does make sense, use it. It worked for me.”

YOUR NEW PUPPY

Before buying your puppy, try to find out if your breeder knows anything about what he is doing. The idea that the breeder is knowledgeable about the breed remains to be seen. For example, I buy the first dog I have ever owned in my life (a bitch). I breed my bitch to my friend’s male, the first dog my friend ever owned in his life. My bitch has puppies. Now I am a “breeder.” I sell a puppy to someone who expects that I have some knowledge of what I am doing and expects that I will give him good advice about what to do to start their puppy off right. Now, I am not only a “breeder”; I am also an “expert.”

Be careful of co-ownership. Make sure you will still

HERDING GROUP

feel good about a co-ownership five years from now. My idea of a co-ownership is: You sell me a dog on a co-ownership; you pay half the expenses including board, training, show entries, handling fees, travel expenses, stud fees, whelping expenses (time and money), and we will split all the profits. Also, we will mutually agree on all decisions. Do you still want to sell me a dog on a co-ownership?

When you are picking up your new puppy, make sure your house is clean and sterile. If you happened to have a sick dog in the house recently, or if a friend might have had a sick dog in your house recently, hold off before bringing the puppy home until after you have assured yourself that everything is clean, safe, and sanitary.

Have a small crate ready for the puppy when he gets home. This is going to be his bed, not a bedroom. This will also be used to house-break the puppy. A dog crate is used mainly for transport-



Canaan Dog

ing your dog.

The size is important, and the correct size will save your dog's life. It should be large enough for your dog to stand up, turn around and lay down comfortably. If your crate is larger than that, the dog will be injured in the event of an accident because of being thrown around.

Never take a new puppy home till after it is at least 8 weeks old. The seventh to

eighth weeks with the litter-mates is a very important time in their training. This is when they learn not to bite and just how to play. Puppies taken away from a litter before eight weeks generally will use you as a chew-toy.

Ask the owner of the litter to take the food and water away from the puppy before you pick it up. When you bring the puppy

HERDING GROUP

home, bring him home in a covered box or crate (something that keeps the light out but lets the air in). It is the moving light and shadows that make a dog carsick.

I'm sure the puppy will have a name before you get him—you know, Blue Boy, Pink Girl, Yellow Boy, and so on. Give the puppy a good name before you register him.

Once you are home with your new puppy, just slow down. The work you do in the next 24 hours will be worth every minute for years to come. Take the pup out of his crate or whatever you bring him home in and carry him to a place in the yard where you will want him to relieve himself. Make this place close enough to the house so you can take him in and out in bad weather comfortably.

Let the puppy relax in this area for a while. Hopefully he will relieve himself. If so, give him a lot of praise (a lot, as in "good, good boy," and pet him three times). Don't over-praise him. The

first two seconds of praise is for doing something good. Anything after that, he is thinking of chasing the cat.

If the puppy does not relieve himself, don't worry about it. Just bring him into the house and put him into his crate.

Have the crate where you plan to keep it all the time. Just sit down on a chair and relax. Have your other family members join you so you don't get frightened being alone, and the puppy can get accustomed to everyone.

After about 15 minutes take the puppy back outside to the area where he is to relieve himself and wait. When he is finished, praise him. Now, don't go nuts, just praise him, pat, pat, good boy, good boy. Don't wear it out. He might do something good someday that will take a little more praise than that.

Take him back in the house and into the kitchen or a room with a cleanable floor, and just relax.

Invite the rest of the family into the room with you

so you won't be frightened being alone. Put some water down and just a little food. Don't play with the puppy yet; just let him get familiar with the surroundings. If the puppy comes to you for attention pet him while all four feet are on the floor, not when he jumps up on you. If you pet him when he jumps up on you, you'll have something else to teach him not to do later on.

Only allow him one room at a time: he is going to earn his rooms. When he can be clean in the kitchen for about four weeks, introduce him to a second room and so on.

After he has been in the kitchen for a while and has settled down, or if you notice him getting restless, take him back outside to his exercise area. If he relieves himself, praise him, and he can come back into the kitchen. If not, take him back to his crate for a while and so on. You want to teach the puppy that his free pass to the kitchen is to relieve himself outside first.

BREED COLUMNS

HERDING GROUP

Keep your puppy's food to a minimum for the first two days so his system can adjust to the food and the new surroundings of everyone being excited about having a new puppy in the house. After the thrill wears off, it will be, "Why don't you take the dog for a walk? I'm tired."

Don't do any rough-housing (pushing and shoving), don't play tug o' war, don't get down on the dog's level, don't scream and yell, and *don't try to be your dog's friend; let your dog try to be your friend.*

Do play with the puppy's mouth and teeth, so when you need to take something out of his mouth, you won't have trouble. Do play with the puppy's feet so you won't have trouble cutting nails. Do feed your puppy out of his food bowl with your hand so he doesn't get protective of his food. While he is still small, carry him around so he gets used to being handled.

And last: *If you don't have 10 minutes a day to spend*

with your dog, don't have the dog.

As I said, if any of this makes sense to you, use it.

—D.M.

Thank you, Dick.

—Bryna Comsky,

BComsky@aol.com

[Canaan Dog Club of America](#)

Cardigan Welsh Corgis

BREEDING TO POPULAR SIRES

Widespread use of a popular sire can have a range of consequences. It can introduce a leap forward in breed quality, yield decent puppies, or introduce defects in health, mutations, and temperament that are carried through resulting generations. People in every breed can name a specific stud dog or brood bitch who has significantly altered the breed—possibly even in a bad way.

Males can sire many more litters than several outstanding brood bitches can produce. Therefore the onus is always on breeders to weigh multiple potentials

when selecting a dog.

Unfortunately, it requires many generations to see exactly what a specific dog is regularly producing. In that time, certain elements can become fixed in lines whose bitches were bred to this dog.

In Cardigans, the gene pool is much smaller than that of many other breeds. The breed was first recognized by the AKC in the 1930s, but there were few examples in this country, particularly as Cardigans were already nearly extinct in the British Isles. When working with such a significantly small gene pool, it is to be expected that breeders will flock to a dog who is believed to be genetically robust enough to keep the breed alive.

Nowadays, the gene pool is larger and considerably healthier. However, show breeders are always looking for the multiple group winners and Best in Show prospects, so breeding often comes to revolve around one specific sire. He may

HERDING GROUP



Cardigan Welsh Corgi

be a major winner on the show scene, or he may just be very typey and of a color suitable for a greater number of bitches.

If it's the former, an unfortunate thing occurs: Newer breeders who have not yet learned enough about a difficult breed flock to that top winner. They can't evaluate what their bitch needs, and they don't understand pedigrees, phenotype, or

genotype, but if a dog is winning big in the show ring, they presume, he ought to produce outstanding puppies—right?

Then there is the dog who may not be particularly active in the show ring, but is extremely typey and sound, and experienced breeders who know pedigrees, genotype, phenotype, and *what their particular bitch needs* discover him. This is

certainly healthier than running to Mr. Top Winner with every bitch. Subsequently, however, inexperienced breeders tend to flock to *that* dog because so many of the “big names” are breeding to him—regardless of what *their* bitches might need.

Unfortunately, some people new to Cardigans are breeding as soon as their bitch turns two. *No one* can learn—and *no one* has learned—the Cardigan Welsh Corgi in two years.

Of the two possibilities—breeding to the number-one dog because he's number one, or breeding to the dog knowledgeable breeders are sending bitches to—the latter likely bears more promise. But again, it depends on pedigree, phenotype, genotype, and the luck of the draw.

Some stud dogs may prove to be prepotent with some bitches for elements of good breed type, but they will not necessarily be so with every bitch. Overuse of a particular sire can create genetic bottlenecks.

BREED COLUMNS

HERDING GROUP

Slow down. Learn the breed. If *you* don't understand it, judges won't.

—Jennifer Roberson,
Cardigan Welsh Corgi
Club of America

Collies

A JUDGE'S WISH LIST

Judging is a straightforward task: You travel to the show, you judge the dogs, you go home. Yet many things make judging more difficult these days. There are fewer flights to choose from, higher airfares, increasing weather events, smaller clubs, older members, and tighter budgets. It takes manpower and creativity to pull it all off! Who doesn't have stories to tell about traveling or their time judging? Here are a few suggestions on how to make the judge's experience a pleasant one.

At the top of the judge's wish list is travel arrangements. If flying, how will the judge get from airport to hotel, and back to the airport, and from the hotel to



Collie

the show site and back?

Communication is key; let them know when they will be picked up, who is driving, and any contact information. In case of flight delays or cancellations, there should be a contact number that can be used 24/7.

Give the judge a complete itinerary that includes who is

picking them up, meal plans, and a hotel confirmation number. The hotel payment by the club should be made prior to checking in.

On the last show of the weekend, everyone is eager to get on the road, but check on your judge to make sure he or she got out OK. It's just a courtesy to touch

DAVID WOO ©AKC

HERDING GROUP

base.

Second on the wish list is ensuring the judge is well fed. We all gotta eat! If the judge doesn't have transportation, is there easy access to a decent restaurant, preferably within walking distance? Some enjoy dinner with fellow judges or non-exhibitors, but not all judges want to be that sociable, so ask them their preference.

A welcome bag is a bonus—with some healthy goodies in it, not just junk food, and water. A hotel with a nice breakfast also puts the judge in a good mood.

Clubs are small, and money is tight, so most specialty judges get expenses only. Reducing the stress of travel by meeting transportation and mealtime needs can really make a difference. So can a small but thoughtful gift, some give gift cards, like a Walmart gift card, or something personalized or useful.

Give something appropriate to someone who is flying

with one carry-on bag! If it's a gift card, make sure it is to a store that is either online or local to the judge.

In our breed most of the specialties are clustered in the winter months, when the dogs are in their best coats. So, there are often judging conflicts when judges are asked to judge within such a small time frame.

Clubs would benefit from lining up their judges further out; some invite a year or even less out from their shows. If they want knowledgeable, entry-drawing judges, those are the popular ones and need to be scheduled well in advance.

If the judge also judges other breeds, clubs might have to invite a couple of years out, or even more.

Before asking, look up a judge's schedule on *akc.org*, check where they live, and through Kayak or Google see what the airfares and flight schedules are. That way there will be no surprises. Direct flights between cities are dwin-

dling, enough connection time is important, and airfares have all gone up.

Another good idea is to swap services with another breed club. For example, a designated club member might do hospitality for your club, and then you do something for them. Many do already, but share a show weekend with another club so that the tasks can be distributed among members from both clubs.

Several little details also make things nicer. Be sure to provide a marked catalog with the judge's sheets. Let the judge set the time breaks between classes and varieties.

If there is no cell service at the show site, arrange a way for waiting judges to know what is going on.

And an experienced ring steward keeps the judge on schedule and able to concentrate on that fabulous entry you got!

—Marianne Sullivan,
Charlottesville, Virginia,
millknock1@gmail.com
Collie Club of America

HERDING GROUP

German Shepherd Dogs

SELECTION OF A WORKING GERMAN SHEPHERD DOG

Over the last 50 years of involvement with German Shepherd Dogs, I am often asked about the temperament of the breed. This breed excels in many different venues. These activities are extremely varied, and the qualities required to excel in each task can be quite different. However, some traits are constant and necessary for success in *all* areas.

The German Shepherd Dog was originally developed as a utilitarian herding dog. The architect of the breed was Captain Max von Stephanitz—a military man with a rigid point of view. His purpose was to develop the ultimate working machine.

The breed quickly morphed from a farm and herding dog to doing a wide range of vital jobs. Herding, police and military work, narcotics detection, search-and-rescue, guiding the blind, and therapy work are



German Shepherd Dog Ch. Lakeside's Gilligan's Island, 1971

just a few of the areas in which this breed excels. The dog's superiority in his work for law enforcement has earned the public moniker of "police dog." However, all of these tasks require much the same emotional stability, character, and biddability.

In the words of Max von Stephanitz, "The most striking features of the correctly bred German Shepherd are firmness of nerves, attentiveness, unshockability,

tractability, watchfulness, reliability together with courage, fighting tenacity, and hardness."

These words from the founder of the breed succinctly sum up the temperament of the proper German Shepherd Dog. Dogs with these qualities can perform any task we may ask of them.

Having constitutional hardiness is also very important. Dogs prone to



BREED COLUMNS

HERDING GROUP

chronic, idiopathic irregularities with their digestion, dogs prone to injury, or those who do not have the adaptability to change environments are much more difficult to manage in the context of work.

Certainly selecting dogs from lines of long-lived dogs is also critical. Training a dog for any kind of serious work takes a tremendous amount of time, commitment, and dedication; it goes without saying that we would want to enjoy many years of companionship and service.

I urge breeders to consider all these qualities as seriously as they consider various structural factors when selecting breeding pairs. Proper temperament, good constitution, and sound structure are all components of the working dog. Certainly breeders, but also handlers and judges have an obligation to penalize poor character and temperament, as well as structural unsoundnesses.

All of us—fanciers,

breeders, handlers, and judges—are the guardians of the breed. It is a serious responsibility.

When making breeding decisions, remember the final words of the breed’s founder: “Take this trouble from me. Make sure my shepherd dog remains a working dog for I have worked my life long for that aim.”—Vick Bemont

Vick Bemont has been an AKC Judge of German Shepherds for 40 years, a breeder, exhibitor, and CGC evaluator. She had many years of work as a SAR handler and has titled dogs in obedience, agility, herding, and rally.

[The German Shepherd Dog Club of America](#)

Icelandic Sheepdogs

TRAINING FOR TOP PERFORMANCE: THE VIRTUES OF “SPLITTING”

A well-practiced performance is something all can admire. The handler who shows off her Icelandic Sheepdog’s best in the con-

formation ring—the dog impeccably groomed; the handler setting the proper pace so that the gait shows off the reach and drive; and fluid work on the ramp by both dog and handler. Or, the handler in Utility whose dog is in perfect heel position, takes the signals without hesitation, and whose go-out for the directed jumping is precisely between the jumps and is the appropriate distance from the back. Or, the tracking dog, nose-down from start to final article, the handler reading the dog accurately.

To get those perfect, inspiring performances requires hard work and a choice: to “lump” or to “split.” To “split” means to train components or single behaviors to the best-possible performance before joining them to other behaviors. To “lump” refers to the joining-together of trained behaviors, or the training of a string of behaviors, from the outset.

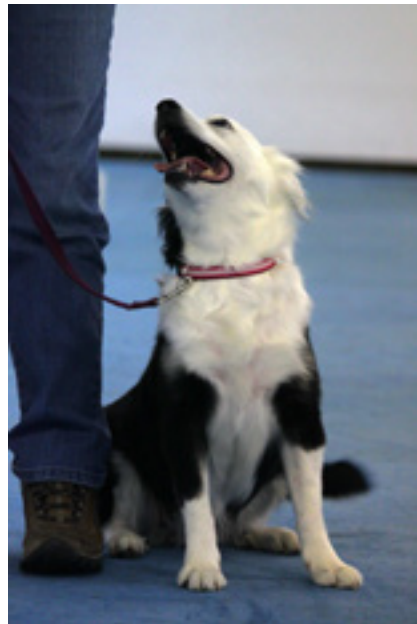
Although it may take

HERDING GROUP



longer to get the training to a level for competition, and it may seem like little progress is being made, splitting behaviors often yields better learning for the dog (and the handler) and ultimately a better performance.

Even an exercise as simple as the sit for Novice obedience can be taught separately, splitting it from heeling, and the front, and



Icelandic Sheepdogs Aldebaran Tisla, Katina, Katur, and Luke competing in canine events. In training, “lumping” and “splitting” of behaviors helps to build a solid foundation upon which other skills can be taught.

the long stay.

One helpful method is to use a sit box. The first step is to teach the dog to sit on the box. The box should be small enough so that the dog sits up tight, with the front toenails at the front edge of the box and the dog’s hind end right up to the back edge. This ensures that the dog will sit correctly.

There are two easy ways (by splitting!) to teach the dog to sit on the unfamiliar box:

- The first is to lure the dog there. For those who clicker-train, the click comes when the dog is correctly positioned.

- Another method is to allow the dog to approach the box on his own. A paw or other body part on the box (even an accidental touch) merits a reward (a click, a treat, verbal praise). Gradually, the criterion for the click gets higher as the dog progresses toward a full sit on the box.

COURTESY OWNERS / DR. KAREN B. WESTERFIELD TUCKER

HERDING GROUP

Once the dog is comfortable on the box, then other training can begin. The box can be put in heel position in relation to the handler. When the dog sits correctly on the box, he is rewarded. As the dog progresses in his training, he can be invited to the heel position on the box by a command (for example, “Where’s heel?” or “Set up” or “Place”).

When working on fronts, the box is positioned to be just in front of the handler’s toes. The dog can be called to the front position from anywhere and should sit comfortably on the box.

When doing the sit-stay, the dog sits on the box instead of directly on the floor. As the dog becomes more familiar with the sit in heel position, and in front, and with the sit-stay, the box can be slowly faded away. The box is always available should remedial work need to be done.

Splitting is often used when training for the conformation ring. A stand box or objects to elevate each

of the dog’s paws (e.g., the commercially produced “Happy Legs” or FitPaws “Paw Pods”) may be used to “split” the stack so that the dog learns body position through body memory. Of course, this is split further when teaching the dog to place his feet willingly on the raised objects.

Another example of splitting is for the handler to learn to gather or extend the show lead, but without it being attached to the dog. One method is to attach keys or lightly weighted objects to the lead and for the handler to draw up the lead into the hand only by using that same hand.

Footwork can also be practiced without the dog—especially U-turns. Similarly, obedience handlers can practice footwork without a dog, working especially on the placement of their feet and their timing on the about-turn. For both conformation and obedience handlers, the use of a metronome can help to ensure a steady pace.

Splitting or component work is also very useful in tracking. For example, since the dog will need to indicate a glove or other articles, this behavior can be trained separately. The handler will need to determine how she wants the dog to indicate the glove—a sit, a down, a stand over the article, a bark, a nose touch on the article, and so on. The particular behavior can be marked and/or rewarded at the glove. Later, when the dog finds the article and gives the proper indication, he is rewarded.

A fun game is to place several gloves (or other articles) relatively near each other so that there is lots of finding and rewarding. One can do this on a very short, straight-line track or by scattering the objects within a small area.

At more advanced levels of tracking, component work is helpful when teaching the dog transitions. This includes very short tracks at a road crossing (with asphalt, concrete, dirt, sand,



HERDING GROUP

and gravel roads each constituting a distinct type), a change of vegetation (high to low grass, lush vegetation to sparse vegetation, one type of vegetation to another), the entrance to a woods, and at stream or water crossings. As the dog becomes comfortable with more than one type of transition, one type can be combined (lumped) with another, such as a road crossing followed soon by a change of vegetation.

In thinking about how to split a behavior, a good exercise for the handler is to think how a single exercise or aspect can be broken into different parts. Table work in agility, for example, consists of a sit, down, or stand; a sustained sit, down, or stand; and getting the dog on the table. When these skills are mastered, they are lumped—the dog jumping on the table followed by an immediate sit, down, or stand.

These pieces put together may seem simple, but as agility handlers know well,

having the dog come to a complete stop on an agility course is often not easy.

Training always has its challenges. Splitting a behavior enables the building of a solid foundation upon which other skills can be taught.

Above all, have fun working with your Icelandic Sheepdog!

—Dr. Karen B. Westerfield Tucker,

kbethwt@yahoo.com
Icelandic Sheepdog Association of America

Norwegian Buhunds

THErapy DOGS

In the past couple of decades, Animal Assisted Therapy (AAT) has become increasingly popular. AAT uses animals such as dogs as adjuncts to human therapy, with the goal of positively affecting human health or enhancing the quality of life through the use of therapy dogs.

For example, a 2011 report, “Complementary and Alternative Therapies in

Hospice,” (<https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/data/nhsr/nhsr033.pdf>) published by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and the National Health Center for Health Statistics, showed that nearly 60 percent of hospice care providers that provide alternative therapies offer pet therapy to patients.

The growing number of therapy dogs resulted in the AKC initiating a therapy dog titling program on June 27, 2011, “to recognize AKC dogs and their owners who have given their time and helped people by volunteering as a therapy dog and owner team.”

The titling program has grown, with the AKC now offering six levels of therapy dog titles: Therapy Dog Novice (THDN), for dogs who have completed 10 therapy visits; the Therapy Dog (THD) title, for dogs that have completed 50 therapy visits; the Therapy Dog Advanced (THDA) title, for dogs who have



HERDING GROUP



Norwegian Buhund

completed 100 therapy visits; the Therapy Dog Excellent (THDX) title, for dogs who have completed 200 therapy visits; Therapy Dog Distinguished (THDD) title, for dogs who have completed 400 therapy visits; and the Therapy Dog Supreme (THDS) title, for dogs who have completed 600 therapy visits.

Today, several Buhunds act as therapy dogs and have attained AKC therapy dog titles.

Animal-assisted therapy is not a new idea. The history of using animals to help human health goes back to the Middle Ages,

with pets providing therapy for humans in Belgium. Florence Nightingale recognized the value of using animals in therapeutic settings, in her famous 1859 quote, “A small pet animal is often an excellent companion for the sick.”

Psychologist Boris Levinson is credited with being the first to study dog therapy when he noticed a child patient who was typically nonverbal begin talking to Levinson’s dog, Jingles. In his 1969 book, *Pet-Oriented Child Psychotherapy*, he wrote about the impact of a dog on therapy progress. Around the same time, in

the 1970s, the Corsons studied dog therapy at The Ohio State University and found that patients with psychiatric disorders were able to more easily communicate with staff through interactions with dogs.

Dogs are the most frequently used animals in AAT, partly because of their availability and trainability. In 2021, Santaniello and colleagues observed that dogs are used in AAT because of their ability to understand human communication and social signals, especially their ability to read nonverbal human behavior and differentiate among various human emotions. AAT research has found that dogs can help reduce subjective pain, decrease anxiety and stress, and increase social functioning.

Dog therapy has been used in various educational and educational settings with some level of success. Numerous studies (reviewed by Bert et al., 2016) found that AAT improved school attendance, reduction in

COURTESY LYNDA BEAM



HERDING GROUP

withdrawal behaviors, and improvements in self-esteem. AAT has been found to help students with psychosocial and physical challenges and those in special education. In addition, dog therapy was found to improve sociability toward peers and decrease feelings of isolation.

Read to Dog programs are another aspect of AAT that is becoming increasingly popular. These programs are being held not only in schools but also in libraries and various other settings because of the “dog effect.” In 2016, Hall and her colleagues published an examination of 27 studies on this topic and found several benefits of reading to dogs. Children reading to dogs showed greater improvement in reading than those reading to peers, especially when the Read to Dog programs were carried out in structured school settings. It is suggested that the “dog effect” occurs because reading to a non-judgmental dog decreases the stress and anxiety associated with

reading aloud to another person, elevates the mood, and increases motivation to engage in reading.

Reading to a dog is often considered a fun activity. When my Buhund and I visit a classroom for the Read to Dog program, children from other classrooms also want to read to her, emphasizing the fun and motivational aspects of this program.

Dog therapy and Read to Dog programs are only likely to grow in the near future as schools and organizations recognize the benefits of such programs.

—Jasmine Tata, Antioch, Illinois, jtata2@yahoo.com
[Norwegian Buhund Club of America](#)

Old English Sheepdogs

HOW DID I GET HERE?

Some of you older OES fanciers may remember the 1970s NYC-based rock group Talking Heads. There is a line from one of their songs that goes, “You may ask yourself, well, how did I

get here?”

For me, the “here” is a more than 55-year involvement with Old English Sheepdogs. I am sure each of you readers has your own story, but mine has enough twists and turns that you may find it entertaining.

It all started when I was 6 or 7 years and still living in Columbus, Ohio. My father was an alumnus of Ohio State University. He was also an ardent golfer and enjoyed playing privileges at the university golf course. When he just wanted to use the driving range or practice green, he would take me along.

As luck would have it, these facilities were adjacent to the greenskeeper’s house and yard. And yes, the greenskeeper actually had an OES. As a boy I was fascinated by this big, shaggy animal running around and barking.

Fast-forward to 1967. Amy Howard and I had just gotten married and were living in State College, Pennsylvania, where I was completing work on my

HERDING GROUP



Old English Sheepdog Ch. Sir Lancelot of Barvan; judge Harry T. Peters, junior handler Malcom Fellows, Westminster 1975

Ph.D. at The Pennsylvania State University. Amy asked what I might want as a graduation present. My response caught her completely off guard: I told her I would love to have an Old English Sheepdog. She had never been involved with purebred dogs and was unfamiliar with the breed. I found out later that Amy had been thinking in terms of a trip for two to Bermuda.

Obviously, in 1967 the internet was still far off in the future, and we could

not simply do a Google search on “Old English Sheepdogs” to find a breeder. Fortunately Lady Luck smiled again. It so happened that one of my professors was involved with German Shorthaired Pointers. He had numerous all-breed dog publications and helped us identify potential breeders.

In the end we got in touch with Barry Goodman and his legendary Rivermist Kennel. He did not have any puppies available. However,

looking back on it, he may have been concerned about sending a pup to a graduate student and wife living in a second-floor walk-up. Nonetheless he put us in touch with someone with his bloodlines who’d just had a litter. Thus we got Winnie, our first OES.

He arrived on the commuter flight to State College. The plane was so small that there was no cargo hold. His crate and other luggage went behind the last row of seats in the cabin.

When we got the dog home, we were worried that he seemed so tired and listless. Later we learned that the passengers thought he was so cute that they took him out of his crate and played with him during the flight.

In the beginning we had to carry the pup up and down the stairs of our place. It was a red-letter day when Winnie was able to negotiate the stairs himself.

In 1968 the three of us moved to Salt Lake City, where I started my career



HERDING GROUP

in the mineral industry. We got involved with the local kennel club and started showing, using a handler to finish the dog. We had a number of people come and stay with us to attend the local shows. One of these was Anne Marie Ritchie.

Amy and I eventually went our separate ways, splitting up the dogs. She returned to State College and remained deeply involved with OES and the OESCA. I took a new job in Houston, joined a local kennel club, and continued showing.

I kept seeing Anne Marie at dog shows, and we struck up a long-distance relationship. In 1994 we got married and I moved to Northern California, where we integrated “her” dogs and “his” dogs. We are still breeding and showing. Anne Marie is an AKC Breeder of Merit, and I have been active in OESCA. The OES road goes on.

—Joe Schlitt,

wylecotejs@earthlink.net

Old English Sheepdog
Club of America

Pembroke Welsh Corgis

ROCKIN' THE DOCK!

Pembroke Welsh Corgis thrive on activities, lots of them! With the AKC adding more and more events to their offerings, Pembroke owners are venturing out to try these new events.

One would not think that Pembrokes would enjoy dock diving, but surprisingly, a number do! I chatted with a couple of Pembroke friends about their dock diving experiences.

The AKC recognizes titles awarded by North America Diving Dogs (NADD). The titles are based on length or height of the distance the dogs jump off a dock after a favorite toy. Pembrokes compete in the Lap Dog category, the class that is for all dogs under 16 inches at the withers. This category keeps Pembrokes from competing head-to-head with much taller dogs. They compete and achieve the same recognition as the dogs in the Open class.

Right now, terriers and spaniels seem to dominate

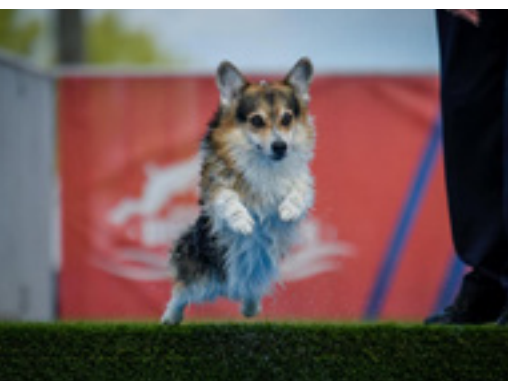
in the Lap class, probably due to having longer legs. Pembrokes, with their short legs, do not get the same amount of “push” when they leap off the dock and with their heavy body mass, are at a disadvantage—especially in the Air Retrieve, since the key aspect there is the height the dog achieves rather than the distance from the dock.

My friends’ Pembrokes enjoy the water, either jumping in a pond or going boating. It was a natural for them to try the NADD program. Some do it just for fun. Others have become quite accomplished in the Lap Dog division.

There are facilities that offer classes for dock diving, and class attendance proved to be helpful. Some dogs need to be coaxed to jump off the dock. The water is clear, unlike a pond, and so it can be intimidating to the dog. The handler, however, has much to learn with regard to throwing the toy as well as when to throw it for the best results.



HERDING GROUP



After the dog has learned to jump off the dock, there really is not any true training other than trying to get the dog to jump farther (or higher) at competitions.

It is helpful to have two people: one to hold the dog at the far end of the dock, and the other to entice and “rev up” the dog, as well as toss the object for the dog to retrieve.

Top: Focus on the toy results in a beautiful jump from Pembroke Welsh Corgi Chance. Below: Good focus and a good throw of the toy result in a long jump from Ryder—for a Pembroke!

One friend leaves her highly accomplished Pembroke on a sit/wait at the far end of the dock while she entices and then releases him. Another has her husband hold the dog. She said that doing so allows both to participate in the event, something that is not always possible in other events. It is an activity that they do for

the dog and is one that is open to all people and dogs.

A proper warm-up and cool down are important, as is having a set routine.

Lap Dogs earn Distance Jumping titles by recording jumps in a specific division. Once the dog has five jumps recorded in one of the distance categories, a title is earned.

Novice is for dogs jumping 1” to 4’11”, Junior is 5’ to 8’11”, Senior is 9’ to 12’11”, Master is 13’ to 17’11”, and Elite is for those jumping 18 feet or farther. After that, 25 jumps into a specific division earns Advanced titles, and 25 more jumps earns an Excellent title in that division.

Dogs can title in multiple divisions, especially those that tend to jump around the cut-off distances. NADD also offers Hyrdro Dash and Air Retrieve titles.

For more information, see <https://northamericadivingdogs.com>. To learn how to have NADD titles recognized by AKC, see Diving Dogs under the Title Recognition program.

COURTESY SHERIE MCCORMACK / CINDI STANESIC / CONNIE FORE

BREED COLUMNS

HERDING GROUP

—Lynda McKee,
TifflynLDM@aol.com
 Pembroke Welsh Corgi
 Club of America

Pulik

PULIK: NOW A RAMP OPTIONAL BREED

Effective January 31, 2024, by request of the Puli Club of America (PCA), AKC lists the Puli as a Ramp Optional Breed (https://images.akc.org/pdf/judges/table_breeds.pdf).

Rumblings from some of the PCA membership to consider use of the ramp harken back at least a decade. This latest effort gained traction and was formally brought forth to the PCA membership via the October 27, 2022, Board meeting held in association with PCA’s national specialty. Discussions were held, including a Zoom call where membership had a chance to voice their opinions and concerns and to openly talk with members who were on either side of this topic, including use of



The judge examines Archie the Puli on the ramp.

an independent moderator.

During late 2023, PCA membership voted on providing the option to judges to also use a ramp to judge our breed. The motion passed by less than a handful of votes.

Those in favor of the ramp:

(1) Wanted the Puli to be easier (i.e., more user

friendly) for judges to examine. For some judges of shorter stature or with health-related issues it would be easier and more comfortable to physically examine the Puli while exhibited on a ramp. Per AKC rules, a judge’s personal fitness necessitates that they have flexibility to examine all parts of a dog’s anatomy

COURTESY CATHY PRONZINI

HERDING GROUP

where each breed is typically presented. A judge's safety also may be an issue if the person is short relative to the height of the dog being examined.

(2) Argued that it would be easier for some exhibitors to show the Puli on a ramp as compared to the table, whether it be physically or to possibly be more competitive in the Group/BIS ring. The PCA recognizes that the current demographic of the club is biased towards older members who might have physical challenges, making it difficult to lift a Puli (especially a large or heavily corded one—remember that a Puli coat that has grown to the floor is about three to five pounds of extra weight) off the ground and onto the table more challenging. Some members with Group-winning and BIS-winning Pulik remarked that it takes them longer to properly present their Puli when they must lift a fully corded Puli onto the table and then quickly put any tousled

CORDS back into an orderly fashion while the judge waits for the dog to be presented for examination. [Making things easier for yourself personally to show a dog is not appropriate reasoning, since the AKC has set forth policy in their rules to accommodate disabled handlers (i.e., allowing another person to come into the ring to lift the dog).]

Those opposed:

(1) Commented that the table is the best location (i.e., proper height for angle of view) for the judge to evaluate the proportions of a Puli. Visual assessment of proportions of a Puli is most likely only possible on a very young Puli, before coat goes through the clumping stage or the dog has cords. Judges are reminded that the only way to truly assess Puli proportions is to *dig through the coat* and get your hands on the actual structure (and that is particularly important for Pulik in a clumpy coat stage). Nothing is more annoying to an exhib-

itor than a judge who “air touches” a Puli and does not actually assess structure with their hands.

(2) Questioned whether the ramp would show both younger and older Pulik in an equitable way.

(3) Expressed concern that since the ramp is lower than a table, a judge might be leaning over the dog and unintentionally startle/scare/intimidate the Puli.

As per AKC regulations, *the judge* makes the decision regarding use of the table or the ramp at each show, *not the exhibitor*. We need to remember that what is *best for a judge* to be able to evaluate the proportions of the breed is what dictates the choice. A shorter-stature judge might be more likely to choose the ramp, while a taller-stature judge would be expected to prefer to use the table.

The decision of table vs ramp is not a reflection of what an exhibitor would personally like, but for the judge to determine what is the best method for them-

HERDING GROUP

self. Exhibitors should not be directing this decision, even so much as informing the ring steward that a ramp needs to be put out in the ring; an exhibitor should only ask if the judge will be using the table or the ramp. This also means judges should not be asking the exhibitor(s) what they would like to do.

That said, when a judge on a particular day needs to evaluate a large number of dogs in a certain period of time, they do not think ahead of time about a ramp or table, and that it becomes likely that if an exhibitor requests a certain means from the steward, then that is the way it goes, which is also not correct.

No matter if a judge chooses to examine the Puli on the table or the ramp, judges are reminded that if they wish to go over a dog again, the handler should be asked to put the Puli back on the table/ramp and *not examine the dog while it is on the ground*.

In Hungary, the country

of origin for the Puli, judges examine the breed while the dogs are on the ground, while everywhere else in the world, Pulik are on the table. (In Australia, effective January 1, 2024, the Puli is also Ramp Optional. There is no Puli organization in Australia, and the decision was made by Dogs Australia, the new face of the Australian National Kennel Council.)

In the U.S., the Puli was examined while on the ground until the 1990s. Longtime Puli breeder-owner-handler Ann Bowley shared that beginning in the 1970s, an exhibitor might occasionally be asked by a judge (for example, where the judge had a bad back) to place the dog on the table for examination. I had a few Puli people tell me that their Pulik had been examined on the table in the 1980s, and they had show photographs confirming this. Many Puli handlers found the table preferable to the ground for a variety of reasons, including that for a

shy Puli, it was less stressful and less intimidating for the dog to be higher off the ground and not with the judge bending over them in what would be construed as a domineering position. At the PCA's annual meeting at the national specialty held in September 1990, members voted to request that AKC send a letter to all licensed judges "requesting tabling of all Pulik" (*Puli News*, December 1990, p. 31).

A special thanks to the Puli people who helped me track down obscure bits of information for inclusion in this article.

To practice use of the ramp, you could find a handling class that has one or even build your own. AKC judging ramp specifications may be found on the AKC website (https://images.akc.org/pdf/judges/judging_ramp_specifications.pdf). For those wanting to build a practice ramp, the following page has good information to build your own (<https://www.norwegianbuhundpuppies.com/blog/building-an-akc-spec>

BREED COLUMNS

HERDING GROUP

folding-practice-ramp). And incidentally, you don't have to necessarily walk your dog up the ramp; you can lift your Puli onto the ramp.

—Dagmar Fertl,
dfertl@gmail.com
 Puli Club of America

Shetland Sheepdogs

DO NO HARM!

There have recently been questions proposed as to whether AKC and breed disqualifications are important and should be retained in the breed standards. I personally was surprised that it was even a topic of discussion. Fortunately, the resounding response was a positive *yes*. The comments supported the need to allow the parent clubs to establish the areas in their standard where breeders must draw the line in breeding practices.

There are two types of DQs, (disqualifications). The DQs that the AKC requires are:

1. Two normal testicles in the scrotum



Shetland Sheepdog

2. No change in appearance by artificial means except as specified in the breed standard

3. Blind

4. Deaf

5. castrated or spayed, except in single-entry non-regular class like Veterans.

The DQs in our breed standard are:

1. Over 16 inches

2. Under 13 inches

3. Brindle

This looks very straight-

forward when you first look at these DQs. The brindle color and the two normal testicles should be fairly easy to discern. However, over the years I have seen all the other DQs apparent in the ring and/or the whelping box. Are we doing what's best for our breed?

I remember going to the shows in the 1960s with a clean dog whose ears, whiskers, and feet were trimmed, and our tack box or bag had

HOTDOG PHOTOGRAPHY



HERDING GROUP

a few brushes and combs, a scissors, and a spray-bottle of water. There was very little scissor work. There were few dogs with so much coat that we would even consider removing some of it. We treasured every hair. Most dogs I saw had correct stand-off harsh guard hair. It was not excessive and soft. It fit the dog and enhanced its shape.

About size, we know that both 13 inches and 16 inches are allowed. However, if you are consistently using dogs at either end of the spectrum, you will lose some beautiful dogs to size. If you fudge and go ahead and use them, you run the risk of setting size problems in your dogs. Judges can award dogs that measure in legally and then just consider their other virtues. Breeders need to seriously consider and reconsider the value of those dogs that are pushing the size and substance parameters in our standard.

I have often wondered why anyone would exhibit a dog that was blind or deaf.

We exhibit breeding stock to establish their quality and reason to produce future generations. Would either of these conditions be considered a virtue? I doubt it, but I know of such dogs being exhibited and bred. One was sired by a dog I owned 50 years ago. We never bred him again. We also replaced the dog that was determined to be deaf. We didn't question why he was deaf. We just knew that the dog was defective and couldn't fulfill the owners' dreams. (However, as an aside, they kept him and trained him to respond to hand signals to keep him as safe as possible.)

The last DQ is a big one in Shelties. It seems everyone is doing grooming techniques to enhance the dog and give themselves the edge in vying for the available points. Breeds have been transformed from their original pictures by handlers and breeders who believe that preparing the coat in a better style will give them the edge. Blow-drying, use of foreign substances, scis-

soring, and so on are the norm now. Many judges may excuse if these types of changes are too apparent, like color coming off on their hands, but the surgical changes can be hard to prove in the show ring in order to warrant disqualification.

The judges shouldn't be our watchmen. We should be so dedicated to the Shetland Sheepdog that we want to guard the breed's heritage and its future. Do no harm.

—Janice M. Leonard,
ASSA Life member
[American Shetland
Sheepdog Association](#)

Swedish Vallhunds

TREAT ME LIKE A DOG

“She’s Daddy’s good little girl!” This was said by a man at a conformation dog show about a toy dog in a frilly dress. Rescue organizations are in search of “pet parents.” Granted, some of our two-legged children may have played dress-up with the family dog, and several



Swedish
Vallhund

online vendors hold annual canine Halloween-costume contests, but these situations all point toward anthropomorphism: the attribution of human characteristics to animals, who may be credited with emotions, rationality and language.

Shows and movies aimed at children attribute human

characteristics to their animal stars to an enormous extent. From typical good-versus-evil scenarios (as in the Looney Tunes cartoons featuring Road Runner and Wile E. Coyote) to depictions of prejudice, racism, and discrimination (as in the feature film *Zootopia*), these media have opened doors to

some of the more difficult conversations parents could have with their kids. But it appears there can be too much of a good thing.

Humans may be lonely, using pets for satisfaction of their own social needs or a need to exert control of another being. There is emotional attachment to the dog, and, with smaller breeds especially, a human impulse to protect beings smaller and less strong than themselves.

The pet supply industry, as well as the pet food industry, are multi-billion-dollar business enterprises. There are no shortages of pet toys, furniture, accessories, training aids, containment systems, hygiene products, grooming tools, and clothing on the market.

Ah, clothing ... Most frequently seen in the form of a coat or sweater of some sort, “dog apparel” can generate problems in several body systems. The ability to self-regulate body temperature is the most obvious difficulty. Though a morning



HERDING GROUP

walk may have started in the cool of the day, if the dog is actively panting to show its discomfort, it may well be overheating. Adding to this, there is the metabolic charge to the system caused by the dog eating before its walk. The digestive process alone generates additional caloric energy, which may be an even greater factor in discomfort than the ambient outdoor temperature. Heatstroke, and death, can occur in an hour or less.

Less obvious problems caused by clothing include increased moisture trapped close to the skin, chafing, and pressure sores.

There are situations where some protective apparel is appropriate for dogs:

- Dogs can feel uncomfortable during the summer months and may be prone to overheating. Besides providing them with enough water and shade, they can wear a cooling jacket or vest that is designed to reflect and/or evaporate heat.

- Arthritic senior dogs can benefit from a coat during

the worst of winter weather.

- Similarly, an urban dog who receives its exercise on salt-treated sidewalks can benefit from boots to protect the feet.

- A flotation device (life vest) for the boating dog is reasonable and warranted.

- Field dogs may wear chest protectors or vests when hunting, as well as boots.

Give your dogs the honor of being dogs, and embrace the fact that we humans have such a wonderful relationship with an entirely different species.

Further reading:

Daston, Lorraine & Mitman, Gregg (Eds.). *Thinking with Animals: New Perspectives on Anthropomorphism*. Columbia University Press, 2005. <http://www.jstor.org/stable/10.7312/dast13038>

Mota-Rojas, D., Mariti, C., Zdeinert, A., Riggio, G., Mora-Medina, P., Del Mar Reyes, A., Gazzano, A., Domínguez-Oliva, A., Lezama-García,

K., José-Pérez, N., & Hernández-Ávalos, I. (2021). “Anthropomorphism and Its Adverse Effects on the Distress and Welfare of Companion Animals.” *Animals: an open access journal from MDPI*, 11(11), 3263. <https://doi.org/10.3390/ani11113263>

Naranjo, Yessica. “Disney Portrays Societal Issues in Zootopia.” https://sc.edu/study/colleges_schools/cic/journalism_and_mass_communications/scholastic_organizations/scspa/pdfs/16fallawards/1areview.pdf

Yeung Kam Yan Maria Grazia (2020). “Anthropomorphic animal characters in Disney animated films: The representations and impositions of human nature” [Unpublished undergraduate thesis]. Education University of Hong Kong. https://www.lib.eduhk.hk/pure-datapub/202001537/202001537_1.pdf

—Laura Kiedaisch
[Swedish Vallhund Club of America](#)



SECRETARY'S PAGES

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

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

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

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

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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

CLASS OF 2024
DR. CARMEN L. BATTAGLIA
DR. MICHAEL KNIGHT
KAROLYNNE M. MCATEER

CLASS OF 2026
CHRISTOPHER L. SWEETWOOD
HAROLD "RED" TATRO III
ANN WALLIN

CLASS OF 2025
RITA J. BIDDLE, ESQ.
DOMINIC P. CAROTA
DR. THOMAS DAVIES
THOMAS POWERS

CLASS OF 2027
DR. J. CHARLES GARVIN
STEVEN HAMLIN
DANIEL J. SMYTH, ESQ.

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

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

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

VICE PRESIDENTS

KIRSTEN BAHLKE, Marketing
MARK DUNN, Executive Vice President
KEITH FRAZIER, Executive Vice President, Business Support Services
RONALD FURMAN, Media, Broadcasting and Sponsorship
SHEILA GOFFE, Government Relations
BRANDI HUNTER MUNDEN, Public Relations & Communications
DOUG LJUNGREN, Executive Vice President, Sports & Events
HEATHER MCMANUS, Vice President & General Counsel
MARI-BETH O'NEILL, Sport Services
PAULA SPECTOR, Corporate Services
DAPHNA STRAUS, Business Development
TIM THOMAS, Judging Operations

TRIAL BOARDS

APPEALS TRIAL BOARD MARTHA FELTENSTEIN, ESQ., CHAIR BARBARA W. MIENER, ESQ. BARBARA PENNY, ESQ.	TRIAL BOARD MEMBERS DR. KLAUS ANSELM KATHI BROWN MEDORA HARPER CARL HOLDER VINCENT INDEGLIA LAURIE MAULUCCI DR. ROBERT MYALL ROBERT NEWMAN HON. JAMES PHINIZY ROBERT STEIN BETTY-ANNE STENMARK SYLVIA THOMAS	PERFORMANCE TRIAL BOARD JOSEPH BENAGE, ESQ. TIM CARWILE, ESQ., CHAIR JOHN RUSSELL ALTERNATES FRANK BARTON ROBERT W. MONTLER
--	---	---

ATTENTION DELEGATES

NOTICE OF MEETING

The next meeting of the Delegates will be held at the Doubletree Newark Airport Hotel on **Tuesday, March 12, 2024**, beginning no earlier than 9:00 a.m. There will not be a Delegate Forum.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Curly-Coated Retriever Club of America

DELEGATE CREDENTIALS

Dr. Yves Belmont, Oxford, GA,
Conyers Kennel Club of Georgia
Eugene R. Biller, Tampa, FL,
Tampa Bay Kennel Club
Michelle Brislin, Scranton, PA,
Chihuahua Club of America
Sheila Gallizzo, Flemington, NJ,
Plainfield Kennel Club
Sue Goldberg, Warren, NJ,
Lewiston-Auburn Kennel Club
Christine M. Gonsalves, Acushnet, MA,
Wampanoag Kennel Club
Marlene Groves, Kiowa, CO,
Plum Creek Kennel Club of Colorado
Joao Machado, Humble, TX,
Oakland Dog Training Club

 **gazette** Click here to read the March 2024 issue!



SECRETARY'S PAGES

- Sandra McCue**, Antelope, CA
Del Valle Dog Club of Livermore
- Sue Meachem**, Indianapolis, IN,
Central Indiana Kennel Club
- D. Scott Pfeil**, Ingleside, IL,
International Kennel Club of Chicago
- Sue Ratz**, Pennsburg, PA,
Huntingdon Valley Kennel Club
- Marty Smith**, Bordentown, NJ,
Trenton Kennel Club
- Cledith Wakefield**, Leadington, MO,
Jefferson County Kennel Club of Missouri
- Dorinne Waterman**, Perris, CA,
San Gabriel Valley Kennel Club
- Richard L. Yoho**, Apopka, FL,
Dandie Dinmont Terrier Club of America

NOTICE

REPRIMANDS AND FINES

- Notification of Fines Imposed on a Club
for Late Submission of Event Records,
*Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures
for Pointing Breeds*, Chapter 13
High Sierra German Shorthaired Pointer
Club..... \$50
- Monterey Bay English Setter Club.....
..... \$50

- Notification of Fines Imposed on a Club
for Late Submission of Event Records,
Beagle Field Trial Rules, Chapter 10
River City Beagle Club..... \$50

NOTICE

There are three vacancies for the Board of Directors Class of 2028.

Pursuant to Article VIII of the Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club, the following Delegates have either been nominated by the Nominating Committee appointed by the Board of Directors or have been endorsed in writing by the required number of Delegates as additional candidates for such vacancies on the Board of Directors as are to be filled at the next Annual Meeting of the Club on March 12, 2024:

Class of 2028

Dr. Carmen Battaglia

German Shepherd Dog Club of America

Sally Fineburg

Hatboro Dog Club, Inc.

Dr. Michael Knight

Texas Kennel Club, Inc.

Laurie Maulucci

South Windsor Kennel Club

NOTICE

The American Kennel Club Board of Directors at its January 2024 meeting imposed an indefinite suspension of Mr. Masaki Shimizu's judging privileges and a fine of \$2,500 effective immediately

for the violation of AKC's Occupational Eligibility Addendum through the trafficking of dogs, the failure to follow *AKC Judging Procedures, Rules, and Guidelines*, exhibiting improprieties by owning dogs for the sole purpose of exhibiting them, and the failure to respond in a timely manner to the Judging Operations Department's correspondence.

NOTICE

The American Kennel Club Board of Directors at its January 2024 meeting imposed an indefinite suspension of Ms. Keiko Shimizu's judging privileges and a fine of \$2,5000 effective immediately for the violation of AKC's Occupational Eligibility Addendum through the trafficking of dogs, the failure to follow *AKC Judging Procedures, Rules, and Guidelines*, exhibiting improprieties by owning dogs for the sole purpose of exhibiting them, and the failure to respond in a timely manner to the Judging Operations Department's correspondence.

NOTICE

As a result of an Event Committee determination the following individual stands suspended of AKC privileges. It should be noted that this determination may still be appealed and may be reversed. Upon expiration of the appeal process, an appropriate notice describing the status of the

individual's suspension, if any, will appear in this column:

Ms. Alexandra Topole (Stuart, FL)

NOTICE

Mr. Guy Brodetzki (Penn Valley, PA). Action was taken by the Flat-Coated Retriever Society of America for conduct at its November 11, 2023 event. Mr. Brodetzki 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 reprimand and a \$200 fine. (Australian Cattle Dogs)

NOTICE

Ms. Merry Foresta (Sperryville, VA). Action was taken by the Catoctin Kennel Club for conduct at its December 3, 2023. Ms. Foresta 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 reprimand, \$200 fine, and required proof of restitution paid. (Multiple Breeds)

NOTICE

Ms. Stefanie Meinhardt (Napa, CA). Action was taken by the Vizsla Club of Northern California for conduct at its December 17, 2023 event. Ms. Meinhardt was charged with inappropriate, abusive, or foul language. The Staff Event Committee

reviewed the Event Committee's report and set the penalty as a one-month event suspension and a \$500 fine, effective December 25, 2023. (Vizslas)

NOTICE

Ms. Nikki Littleton (Tacoma, WA). Action was taken by the Greater Clark County Kennel Club for conduct at its December 1, 2023 event. Ms. Littleton was charged with inappropriate, abusive, or foul language directed personally to a judge. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the Event Committee's report and set the penalty as a thirty-eight day event suspension and a \$100 fine, effective December 3, 2023. (Keeshonden)

NOTICE

Dr. Rebecca McGuire (Santa Ysabell, CA). Action was taken by the Mesa Golden Retriever Club of Southern California for conduct at its September 30, 2023 event. Dr. McGuire was charged with inappropriate, abusive, or foul language. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the Event Committee's report and set the penalty as a reprimand and \$100 fine. (Chesapeake Bay Retrievers)

NOTICE

Ms. Janette Parker (Jackson, MI). Action was taken by the Space Coast Kennel Club of Palm Bay for conduct at its

December 12, 2023 event. Ms. Parker was charged with inappropriate, abusive, or foul language. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the Event Committee's report and set the penalty as a one-month event suspension and a \$500 fine, effective December 12, 2023. (American Hairless Terriers, Chinese Cresteds)

NOTICE

Ms. Nici Parker (Santa Rosa Valley, CA). Action was taken by the Buenaventura Dog Training Club for conduct at its November 26, 2023 event. Ms. Parker was charged with violation of AKC rules/regulations or club regulations. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the Event Committee's report and set the penalty as a one-month event suspension and a \$500 fine, effective January 2, 2024. (Australian Cattle Dogs, Belgian Sheepdogs)

NOTICE

Mr. Robert Stanley (Hayward, CA). Action was taken by the Desert Empire Terrier Club of Southern California for conduct at its January 5, 2024 event. Mr. Stanley 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 reprimand and a \$200 fine. (Kerry Blue Terriers)

NOTICE

The AKC's Management Disciplinary Committee has suspended the following individuals for six-months from all AKC privileges and imposed a \$500 fine, for refusal to make their dogs and records available for inspection:

Effective February 13, 2024:

- Ms. Michelle Parker (Hickory, NC)
Golden Retrievers, Bernese Mountain Dogs
- Ms. Ashley Roberts (Hickory, NC)
Golden Retrievers, Bernese Mountain Dogs
- Ms. Traysa Sauer (De Soto, MO)
Shih Tzus

NOTICE

The AKC's Management Disciplinary Committee has suspended Ms. Donna Patterson (Wiggins, MS) for three-months from all AKC privileges and imposed a \$100 fine, for harassment, written or verbal, effective February 13, 2024. (Black Russian Terriers)

NOTICE

The AKC's Management Disciplinary Committee has suspended Ms. Kristal Stevens (Rose Hill, KS) for one-year from all AKC privileges and imposed a \$1,000 fine, for non-compliance with AKC's Care and Conditions policy (unacceptable conditions, dogs, and/or facility), effective February 13,

2024. (German Shepherd Dogs)

NOTICE

The AKC's Management Disciplinary Committee has suspended the following individuals for three-months from registration privileges and imposed a \$500 fine, for submission of an online application without the written permission from the co-owner or co-litter owner.

Effective February 13, 2024:

- Ms. Alexia Rodriguez (Smartsville, CA & Boonville, CA) Multiple Breeds
- Ms. Hanna Thompson (Smartsville, CA) Multiple Breeds

NOTICE

The AKC's Management Disciplinary Committee has suspended the following individuals for a lifetime of all AKC privileges and imposed a \$10,000 fine, for violating AKC's Judicial or Administrative Determination of Inappropriate Treatment policy:

Effective February 13, 2024

- Mr. Eugene Childers (Columbia City, IN)
- Ms. Loretta Childers (Columbia City, IN)

OFFICIAL STANDARD OF THE WEST HIGHLAND WHITE TERRIER

General Appearance: The West Highland White Terrier, originally bred to hunt in packs for badger and eradicate vermin in the rough terrain of the

Scottish Highlands, is a small, well-boned, hardy-looking terrier, exhibiting confidence and possessed with no small amount of self-esteem. The Westie presents a compact appearance with good balance and substance, and is distinguished by its hard, white, double coat. The breed requires moderation both in structure and presentation, and any exaggerations are discouraged.

Size, Proportion, Substance: The ideal *size* is eleven inches at the withers for dogs and ten inches for bitches. A *slight* deviation is acceptable. The Westie is a compact dog, with good balance and *substance*. The body between the withers and the root of the tail is slightly shorter than the height at the withers. Short-coupled and well boned.

Head: Shaped to present a roundish appearance from the front and in proportion to and balanced with the body. *Expression* - Inquisitive, intense, keen, intelligent and alert. *Eyes* - Widely set apart, medium in size, almond shaped, dark brown in color, and deep set. Looking from under heavy brows, they give a piercing look. Eye rims are black. *Ears* - Small, prick, set wide apart, on the top outer edge of the skull, and carried tightly erect. They terminate in a sharp point; must never be cropped. The hair on the ears is trimmed short and is smooth and velvety, free of fringe at the tips. Black pigmentation is

preferred. *Skull* - Broad, slightly longer than the muzzle, slightly domed between the ears. It gradually tapers to the eyes. There is a defined stop and heavy brows. *Muzzle* - Blunt, slightly shorter than the skull, powerful and gradually tapering to the nose, which is large and black. The muzzle is well filled below the eyes. The jaws are level and powerful. Lip pigment is black. *Bite* - The teeth are large for the size of the dog. There must be six incisor teeth between the canines of both lower and upper jaws. A tight scissors or level bite is equally correct.

Neck, Topline, Body, Tail: *Neck* - Muscular and well set on sloping shoulders. Length in proportion to the rest of the dog. *Topline* - Flat and level, both standing and moving. *Body* - Compact and of good substance with defined forechest and buttocks. Ribs extend at least to elbows. The ribs are well arched in the upper half and taper to present a flattish side appearance. Chest is deep and extends at least to the elbows. Width is in proportion to the size of the dog. Back ribs are of considerable depth, and distance from last rib to upper thigh is as short as compatible with free movement of the body. Loin is short, broad and strong. *Faults* - Barrel ribs, ribs above elbows, lack of definite body overhang. *Tail* - Relatively short, with good substance, and shaped like a carrot.

When erect it is never extended above the top of the skull. It is covered with hard hair without feather, as straight as possible, carried upright or slightly forward but not curled over the back. The tail is set on high enough so that the spine does not slope down to it. The tail is never docked.

Forequarters: Angulation, Shoulders

- Shoulder blades are well laid back and well-knit at the withers. The shoulder blade attaches to an upper arm which is equal or nearly equal to the length of the shoulder blade. Faults - Steep or loaded shoulders. Upper arm too short or upright. Legs - Forelegs are muscular and well boned, relatively short, but with sufficient length to set the dog up so as not to be too close to the ground. The front legs are reasonably straight, and thickly covered with short hard hair. They are set in under the shoulder blades with definite body overhang before them. Height from elbow to withers and elbow to ground is approximately the same. Faults - Out at elbows, light bone, fiddle-front. Feet - Forefeet are larger than the hind ones, round, proportionate in size, strong, thickly padded; they may be turned out slightly. Dewclaws may be removed. Black pigmentation is most desirable on pads of all feet and nails, although nails may lose coloration in older dogs.

Hindquarters: Angulation - Thighs are

very muscular, stifles well bent, and hocks well let down. Not set wide apart and parallel when viewed from the rear. Legs - Rear legs are muscular and relatively short. Faults - Weak hocks, long hocks, over or lack of angulation, cow hocks. Feet - Hind feet are smaller than front feet, and are thickly padded. Dewclaws may be removed.

Coat: The white double coat is hard and weather-resistant, consisting of straight, hard hair and a short, soft undercoat. The longer jacket hair is approximately 1½ to 2 inches of hard hair, plucked and trimmed to blend into the shorter coated side neck, chest, shoulder, and rear. The jacket is smoothly blended into the longer furnishings. Hair is left around the head, plucked and shaped to provide a roundish frame for the face, with the tips of the ears and piercing eyes partially exposed yielding a typical West Highland White Terrier expression. Coat color, texture, and presentation should reflect the breed's purpose and terrain in which they work.

Color: The color is white, as defined by the breed's name. A hard straight coat which has some wheaten tipping is preferable to a soft white coat.

Gait: Movement is free and easy all around; it is a distinctive gait, not stilted.

When viewed from the side, the gait is powerful with equally ample reach and drive. The topline remains level. In the front the leg is freely extended by the shoulder. When viewed from the front, the legs do not move parallel but tend to move toward the center of gravity. The hind movement is free, strong, and fairly close, but does not single track. The hocks are freely flexed and drawn close under the body, so that when moving off on the foot the body is thrown or pushed forward with some force. Faults- Lack of reach in front, and/or drive behind. Stiff, stilted movement.

Temperament: Alert, confident, courageous, self-reliant, and Friendly-Possessing no small amount of self-esteem. Faults - Excess timidity or excess pugnacity

Approved February 13, 2024
Effective May 1, 2024

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, pro-

vide 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

Robin Anderson(112501) MA

(401) 578-3634

grampianlabs@comcast.net

Labrador Retrievers, JS-Limited

Ms. Angela Cox(114557) TN

(901) 485-1475

chesacola@aol.com

Chesapeake Bay Retrievers

Jill C. Hootman(114721) TN

(931) 216-7385

tealcrst@gmail.com

Boxers

Mrs. Kristi Libsack(113333) CO

(970) 302-4143
kriskountrystbernards@aol.com
St. Bernards

Ms. Nancy McClure(114631) WA

(360) 789-7393
monarchterv@comcast.net
Belgian Laekenois, Belgian Malinois, Belgian Sheepdogs, Belgian Tervurens

Ms. Melanie Mercer(114545) MO

(214) 641-6578
vetmel1300@aol.com
Irish Wolfhounds

Ms. Kimberly Moshlak(114681) KY

(301) 802-4145
cubruncwc@gmail.com
Cavalier King Charles Spaniels, Papillons, Chow Chows, Australian Cattle Dogs, Australian Shepherds, Belgian Laekenois, Belgian Malinois, Belgian Sheepdogs, Belgian Tervuren, Cardigan Welsh Corgis, JS

Mrs. Debra S. Smith(114274) WA

(509) 669-0313
monarchcollies@gmail.com
Collies, JS-Limited

ADDITIONAL BREED JUDGING APPLICANTS

Dr. Albert P. Bianchi(5459) VA

(757) 672-4868
k4ux@cox.net
Lagotti Romagnoli, Cirnechi dell'Etna, Ibizan Hounds, Pharaoh Hounds, Australian Terriers

Mrs. Terrie Breen(65930) CT

(860) 285-0499

brenta@aol.com

Affenpinschers, Brussels Griffons, Papillons, Pomeranians, Shih Tzu, Xoloitzcuintli

Ms. Kathi Brown(55262) MA

(987) 897-4717
kmbrownsience@verizon.net
Afghan Hounds, American Foxhounds, Redbone Coonhounds, Salukis

Joseph Buchanan(104137) PA

(610) 931-3670
kennelaleema@gmail.com
Basset Hounds, Beagles, Plott Hounds, Sloughi

Ms. JoAnne M. Buehler(22770) FL

(301) 590-9056
joanneb@his.com
Australian Cattle Dogs, Entlebucher Mountain Dogs, German Shepherd Dogs, Miniature American Shepherds, Spanish Water Dogs, Swedish Vallhunds

Ms. Annelle Cooper(15790) AK

(907) 694-0559
acooper@mtaonline.net
Barbets, Bracci Italiani, Lagotti Romagnoli, Nederlandse Kooikerhondjes, Pointers, Irish Red and White Setters, Vizslas, Weimaraners, Wirehaired Vizslas

Mr. Cesar Cortes(110553) NY

(917) 635-7128
cecordog@hotmail.com
Affenpinschers, Brussels Griffons, Italian Greyhounds, Maltese, Miniature Pinschers, Shih Tzu

Ms. Denise Dean(7044) AZ

(626) 241-6733



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUB

SECRETARY'S PAGES

dean7044@gmail.com

Balance of Toy Group (Manchester Terriers, Shih Tzu, Silky Terriers, Toy Fox Terriers, Yorkshire Terriers)

Ms. Marcie Dobkin(6442) CA

(858) 748-8848

msdobkin@cox.net

Nederlandse Kooikerhondjes, Pointers, German Shorthaired Pointers, German Wirehaired Pointers, Curly-Coated Retrievers, English Setters, American Water Spaniels, Cocker Spaniels, Field Spaniels, Irish Water Spaniels, Sussex Spaniels, Spinoni Italiani

Ms. Helen Dorrance(19022) TX

(512) 964-3294

gdkdogs@gmail.com

Whippets, Anatolian Shepherd Dogs, Dogo Argentinos

Mr. Edmund Dziuk(26469) MO

(573) 424-2809

eddiedziuk@aol.com

Affenpinschers, Cavalier King Charles Spaniels, Chihuahuas, Chinese Cresteds, Havanese, Italian Greyhounds, Maltese, Papillons, Pekingese, Pugs, Shih Tzu, Yorkshire Terriers

Julie Felten(17972) IL

(847) 452-6902

jacfelten@aol.com

Affenpinschers, Russian Toys

Bonita Fichtenbaum(105541) OH

(937) 620-6480

bmfichtenbaum@gmail.com

Brussels Griffons, Italian Greyhounds,

Pomeranians

Mrs. Janet Fink(6374) CA

(909) 307-9778

janetfink@verizon.net

Dalmatians, Lhasa Apsos, Tibetan Terriers, Xoloitcuintli

Mrs. Sioux Forsyth-Green(100789) NC

(910) 603-7655

siouxF93@gmail.com

Balance of Sporting Group (Bracci Italiani, Nederlandse Kooikerhondjes, Curly-Coated Retrievers, American Water Spaniels, Boykin Spaniels, Wirehaired Pointing Griffons)

Amy Gau(90627) MN

(507) 843-5312

amy@anstechnicalventures.com

Chihuahuas, Italian Greyhounds, Maltese, Pugs

Mrs. Jan Ritchie Gladstone(96299) NC

(267) 251-4483

janritchiegladstone@gmail.com

Balance of Toy Group (Biewer Terriers, Maltese, Poodles, Russian Toys, Silky Terriers, Yorkshire Terriers)

Elizabeth F. Greenfield(65122) NY

(315) 363-0012

grnelzb@aol.com

Chesapeake Bay Retrievers

Mrs. Sandra Pretari Hickson(50017) CA

(650) 346-9912

sandra.pretarihickson@gmail.com

Bedlington Terriers, Kerry Blue Terriers, Scottish Terriers, Skye Terriers

Deborah A. Hubbard(102869) RI

(401) 398-8147
deb@fridaygoldens.com
Flat Coated Retrievers, English Springer
Spaniels

Mr. Douglas A. Johnson(17190) IN

(812) 322-0322
clussexx@aol.com
American Hairless Terriers, Australian
Terriers, Border Terriers, Cesky Terriers,
Smooth Fox Terriers, Wire Fox Terriers,
Irish Terriers, Kerry Blue Terriers, Lake-
land Terriers, Parson Russell Terriers,
Sealyham Terriers, Welsh Terriers

Karen Justin(64864) NY

(845) 726-3437
impyrial@aol.com
Bernese Mountain Dogs, Samoyeds

Mrs. Stephanie Kaul(110173) CA

(408) 242-7990
stephanie@kauls.com
Nederlandse Kooikerhondjes, German
Shorthaired Pointers, German Wirehaired
Pointers, English Setters, American Water
Spaniels, Clumber Spaniels, English
Cocker Spaniels, Irish Water Spaniels,
Sussex Spaniels, Welsh Springer Spaniels

Ms. Dianne Kroll(44743) OR

(971) 221-7923
dianne.kroll@frontier.com
Belgian Sheepdogs, Bouviers des Flan-
dres, Finnish Lapphunds, Icelandic
Sheepdogs, Lancashire Heelers, Minia-
ture American Shepherds, Norwegian
Buhunds

Mrs. Molly Martin(6650) AL

(334) 271-2778
mollydmartin@gmail.com
Alaskan Malamutes, Bernese Mountain
Dogs, Bullmastiffs, Great Pyrenees, Por-
tuguese Water Dogs, Saint Bernards

Mr. Dale Meyer(6655) WI

(715) 654-5330
meyerd@tds.net
Balance of Sporting Group(Nederlandse
Kooikerhondjes, Chesapeake Bay Retrie-
vers, Flat Coated Retrievers, Weimaraners,
Wirehaired Vizslas)

Mrs. Cyndi Myhre(107128) MN

(763) 229-2707
shamrockess@msn.com
Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers,
Gordon Setters

Ms. Michelle Quesada(96333) CA

(310) 629-5478
contsec@aol.com
Basset Hounds, Ibizan Hounds, Ameri-
can Eskimo Dogs, Boston Terriers, Chow
Chows, Dalmatians, Xoloitzcuintli

Mr. Stephen Regan(22219) NJ

(732) 814-8741
sregan@lesterglenn.com
Brussels Griffons, Havanese, Maltese,
Silky Terriers

Nancy E. Ridgway(101703) TX

(972) 671-5000
nancyridgway@earthlink.net
Cane Corsos, Rottweilers

Mrs. Janice(Jan) Schreiber(17450) WA

(253) 846-799

ashenafea@msn.com

Lagotti Romagnoli, German Shorthaired Pointers, Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers, English Setters, Field Spaniels, Vizslas, Weimaraners

Ms. Ellen W. Schultz(110815) TX

(713) 899-2418

apollogoldens@att.net

Curly-Coated Retrievers, Flat Coated Retrievers

Mr. Gus Sinibaldi(103241) NC

(954) 614-9308

gus.sinibaldi@yahoo.com

American Hairless Terriers, Australian Terriers, Cesky Terriers, Glen of Imaal Terriers, Russell Terriers, Skye Terriers, Staffordshire Bull Terriers

Mrs. Carol Sommerfelt(7007) TN

(865) 986-1614

carolsommerfelt@gmail.com

Balance of Herding Group(Bergamasco Sheepdogs, Lancashire Heelers, Pyrenean Shepherds), Cavalier King Charles Spaniels, Chihuahuas, Manchester Terriers

Ms. Anna M. Vaughn(102565) OK

(918) 906-3776

anna@cme-usa.com

Bracci Italiani, German Shorthaired Pointers, Golden Retrievers, English Setters, Gordon Setters, Irish Red and White Setters, Spinoni Italiani, Vizslas

Mr. Joseph R. Vernuccio(96251) CT

(203) 829-2428

joevernuccio@gmail.com

Affenpinschers, Brussels Griffons, English

Toy Spaniels, Maltese, Pekingese, Yorkshire Terriers

Mr. Cledith M. Wakefield(80829) MO

(573) 760-3616

n2rotts@yahoo.com

Icelandic Sheepdogs, Pembroke Welsh Corgis, Pulik

Mr. Joe C. Walton(5144) NC

(714) 697-4373

jwalton30@nc.rr.com

Herding Group(Australian Cattle Dogs, Australian Shepherds, Bearded Collies, Beaucerons, Belgian Laekenois, Belgian Malinois, Belgian Sheepdogs, Belgian Tervuren, Bergamasco Sheepdogs, Berger Picards, Border Collies, Bouviers des Flandres, Briards, Canaan Dogs, Cardigan Welsh Corgis, Collies, Entlebucher Mountain Dogs, Finnish Lapphunds, German Shepherd Dogs, Icelandic Sheepdogs, Lancashire Heeler, Miniature American Shepherds, Mudik, Norwegian Buhunds, Old English Sheepdogs, Pembroke Welsh Corgis, Polish Lowland Sheepdogs, Pulik, Pumik, Pyrenean Shepherds, Shetland Sheepdogs, Spanish Water Dogs, Swedish Vallhunds)

Mrs. Janet Warner(103607) NM

(253) 255-6796

janagrm@aol.com

Golden Retrievers, Labrador Retrievers, Irish Setters, Clumber Spaniels, Sussex Spaniels, Weimaraners

JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP JUDGING

APPLICANTS

Mrs. Marie Glodowski(114409) MI

(734) 626-3131

ishowdogs@hotmail.com

Mrs. Tammy Hirstein Stinton

(114719) FL

(352) 461-3528

forhi@mpinet.net

PERMIT JUDGES

The following persons have been approved on a **Permit** basis for the designated breeds in accordance with the current judging approval process. ***They may now accept assignments*** and the fancy may still offer comments to Judging Operations.

NEW BREED PERMIT JUDGES

Ms. Sheila Taylor Allen(66830) WA

(425) 334-0681

sheez-beez@comcast.net

Smooth Fox Terriers

Terri Cournoyer(112049) MS

(662) 803-4064

thcournoyer@gmail.com

Bull Terriers, Miniature Bull Terriers,

Staffordshire Bull Terriers, JS-Limited

Mrs. Marissa Hendrix(113279) AR

(479) 263-7199

arkgoldens@gmail.com

Golden Retrievers, JS-Limited

Mrs. Rebecca Myers(113529) FL

rebeccamyersch@aol.com

St. Bernards, Collies, JS

Mrs. Marlys Swanson(36823) WA

(425) 422-4789

marlyss2000@gmail.com

Labrador Retrievers

ADDITIONAL BREED PERMIT JUDGES

Mr. Gary L. Andersen(6176) AZ

(480) 991-7485

glandersen@cox.net

Berger Picards, Border Collies, Bouviers des Flandres, Cardigan Welsh Corgis, Collies, German Shepherd Dogs, Norwegian Buhunds, Pembroke Welsh Corgis, Pumik, Shetland Sheepdogs

Maria Arechaederra(110565) CA

(949) 981-7646

ederrakuv@aol.com

Anatolian Shepherd Dogs, German Pinschers, Great Danes, Saint Bernards, Siberian Huskies

Ronda Bermke(94073) WI

(920) 864-3369

bermke@centurytel.net

Sloughi, Belgian Malinois, Canaan Dogs

Mrs. Marla Capozzi(100459) TN

(931) 710-5770

taylorstrun89@gmail.com

Basenjis, Bloodhounds, Bluetick Coonhounds, Norwegian Elkhounds, Scottish Deerhounds, Treeing Walker Coonhounds

Mrs. Vicky Cook(103755) OR

(541) 601-5355

vickycook@mac.com

Portuguese Podengo Pequenos, JS

Mrs. Terry Dennison(47424) AK

(907) 775-2913

katagnik@yahoo.com

Australian Cattle Dogs, Belgian Tervurens, Border Collies, Finnish Lapphunds, Norwegian Buhunds, Pumik

Mrs. Penny DiSiena(76729) FL

(330) 421-3618

pennyd1954@gmail.com

Afghan Hounds, Azawakhs, Bluetick Coonhounds, Greyhounds, Salukis

Mrs. Beth Downey(102539) MS

(410) 829-2455

bethdowney539@gmail.com

Black and Tan Coonhounds, Dachshunds, Bulldogs, French Bulldogs, Lowchen, Tibetan Terriers, Xoloitzcuintli, JS

Cathy Eke(101345) IN

(317) 695-2829

onlybdogs@aol.com

French Bulldogs

Mr. Edward A. Fojtik(104757) IL

(847) 254-6166

efojtik@aol.com

Barbets, Pointers, Gordon Setters, Irish Red and White Setters, Spinoni Italiani, Wirehaired Pointing Griffons, Poodles

Mr. Larry E. Hansen, Jr.(19512) AZ

(623) 975-0595

ironwoodnewf@cox.net

Boxers

Mrs. Robette Johns(7134) IL

(704) 219-8277

robette1991@gmail.com

Australian Cattle Dogs, Old English

Sheepdogs, Spanish Water Dogs

Ms. Julie Jussaume(78701) CT

(860) 933-3599

juljuss@yahoo.com

Barbets, Lagotti Romagnoli, German Shorthaired Pointers, Curly-Coated Retrievers, Golden Retrievers, English Setters

Mrs. Nancy Lovelady(97313) NV

jwnsl@sbcglobal.net

Basset Hounds, Beagles, Dachshunds, Greyhounds, Ibizan Hounds, Pharaoh Hounds, Portuguese Podengo Pequenos, Rhodesian Ridgebacks

Sharon Masnick(97181) SC

(843) 933-5516

skmasnick@aol.com

Boston Terriers, Bulldogs, Tibetan Spaniels

Ms. Bonnie Money(105681) IN

(317) 452-2204

blmoney@att.net

Bernese Mountain Dogs, Australian Cattle Dogs, Bouviers des Flandres, Mudik, Swedish Vallhunds

Mr. Jerry Parisek(97009) FL

(847) 507-3911

jeromeparisek@gmail.com

Affenpinschers, Brussels Griffons, Chinese Cresteds, Poodles, Collies

Mr. Benson E. Ray(97179) SC

(843) 933-5367

benson592@aol.com

Boston Terriers. Bulldogs, Tibetan Spaniels

Mrs. Sharon Ann Redmer(2711) MI

(734) 449-4995

sredmer@umich.edu

Balance of Non-Sporting Group(Bulldogs, Cotons du Tulear, French Bulldogs, Shibu Inu), Airedale Terriers, Wire Fox Terriers, Welsh Terriers

Mrs. Charlene Rutar(94495) IN

(317) 989-3120

whiteriver.gsp@gmail.com

Finnish Spitz, Lhasa Apsos, Shiba Inu

Mr. John Schoeneman(98359) NC

(704) 363-7238

schohaus1@aol.com

Balance of Herding Group(Beaucerons, Bergamasco Sheepdogs, Briards, Entlebucher Mountain Dogs, Finnish Lapphunds, Lancashire Heelers, Mudik, Norwegian Buhunds, Spanish Water Dogs)

Ms. Pamela Schroeder(108285) WA

(778) 834-0059

pam@schroeder.bc.ca

Boxers, Bullmastiffs, Dogues de Bordeaux, Great Danes, Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs, Samoyeds, Pumik

Marilyn Van Vleit(67040) OR

(503) 510-1332

mvanvleit@gmail.com

American English Coonhounds, Beagles, Borzois

Ms. Judith White(95513) OH

(330) 854-0354

jubilhill@sssnet.com

Bedlington Terriers, Sealyham Terriers

Ms. Kathy L. Wilkins(6799) GA

(770) 315-4452

lochlynfarm@gmail.com

Chihuahuas, Border Collies, German Shepherd Dogs

Ms. Pamela Wilson(64914) TX

(512) 280-3103

wilscot@sbcglobal.net

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

JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP PERMIT JUDGES

Mrs. Erin L. McClurg-McRobb

(29712) TX

(214) 864-6693

erinlynn999@aol.com

Ms. Madeline McCue(113393) CA

(916) 759-1484

maddiemccue@icloud.com

Mr. Alex Wheeler(113371) MA

(508) 287-9115

alexwheeler.dogs@gmail.com

REINSTATED JUDGE

The Judging eligibility of the following person has been reinstated.

Dr. Kevin Cline(100727) LA

(315) 455-1534

kjc10750@bellsouth.net

Cavalier King Charles Spaniels

CONFORMATION JUDGE: RESIGNED

BREED

The judge below has notified AKC to resign her privileges for the following:

Mrs. Wyoma Clouss

Alaskan Malamutes

RESIGNED CONFORMATION JUDGE

Mrs. Susan M. Carr

EMERITUS CONFORMATION JUDGES

Mr. Stephen P. Fisher

Ms. Mary M. MacCollum

Mr. Terry Temple

DECEASED CONFORMATION JUDGES

Dr. David T. Hayhurst

Mrs. Mari J. Hayhurst

Mr. Kenneth L. Rayner, Jr.

Mr. Gene N. Vaccaro

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.

Samantha Williams (102089) CA

(661) 472-2617

mezzowithcorgis@gmail.com

Obedience – Utility

Heather Smith (111020) CA

(714) 925-6116

rvtheather@gmail.com

Tracking – TD/TDU

Dee Dee Anderson (50143) CA

(650) 823-2326

dd@ddsdogtraining.com

Tracking – TD/TDU

DECEASED OBEDIENCE/RALLY/TRACKING JUDGES

Winston Kupau (HI)

Obedience & Rally

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.

BELLACLAN- Border Collies Mrs. Laura K. S. Wright

BIG THOMPSON- Bulldogs- Karla J. Thompson & John F. Thompson

CROWN JEWELL- Vizslas- Jen Jewell

DUTCH HOLLOW- Labrador Retrievers- Sandy S. McMillan

EARTH MOUNTAIN -Yorkshire Terriers- Linda A. Carter

GOLDENRAE- Golden Retrievers- Allyson A. Tinker

JBK- Border Collies- Jodie Keener

KLEOS- Border Collies- Glenda W. Pate

LAKEWAY'S- Toy Manchester Terriers- Richard Roach & Cheryl Roach

LONG MT- Australian Shepherds- Julie L. Van Der Linden

MALACHITE- Basenjis -Adam Kozikowski

O'HAN- Keeshonds- Christine L. Williamson

ORCHARD HILL- Norfolk Terriers- Erica S Venier & Rachel A Venier

PAWCIFIC CREST- Vizslas- Jennifer A. Knoblich & Brian E. Knoblich

REGALIA- Pembroke Welsh Corgis- Jennifer P. Delmer

RZBK- Labrador Retrievers- James E. Ragsdale, Jr

ROYAL OHANA- Mastiffs- Elizabeth Vilchis

STARKHAUS- Rottweilers- Crystal A. McGrath-Minta

SKYFALL- Lagotto Romagnolo- Olga Ledyan

VINEWOOD- English Springer Spaniels- Kathy A. Patregnani

WINCHESTER- Cane Corso- James Watson

ZUKI- Border Collies- Karen K. Essex

REDWOOD- James C. Ehrman & Rachelle Ehrman

R-EVOLUTION- Miniature American Shepherds- Terri H. Meyers

PATITAS GRANDES- Briards- Kyle Nugent & Aurorita E. Nugent

SEIFDUNES- French Bulldogs- Roy L. Symes

TOP GUN- Boykin Spaniels- Jacquelin DeAngelo

WHITE DIAMOND- American Eskimo Dogs- Anthony Verrico & Margaret Verrico

REGISTERED NAME PREFIXES GRANTED

The following applications for a breed-specific Registered Name Prefix have been granted.

AY CARAMBA- Chihuahuas- Alejandra A. Rodriguez-Ruiz

CASANOVA- Cane Corso- Jessica R. Griswold

ESSEX- Pembroke Welsh Corgis- Chun Ta Lee

FAMILIA GUARDIA- Cane Corso- Daisy Arenas

DAL KASTANA- Cane Corso- Anastasiya Kostyeva

OPK'S – Golden Retrievers- Christine A. Harp

QUAIL RUN- Labrador Retrievers- Cynthia Freeman & Linda Coogan



**MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
AKC OFFICES AT 101 PARK AVENUE,
NEW YORK, NY
FEBRUARY 12-13, 2024**

The Board convened on Monday, February 12, 2024, at 8:31 a.m. Eastern Time.

All Directors were present in the New York office. The Executive Secretary was also present.

Copies of the January 8-9, 2024, Board Meeting minutes had been previously provided to all Directors for review. Dr. Garvin moved to amend the Vlack section of the minutes to delete the last sentence and replace it with: "The Board had no objection."

Upon a motion by Dr. Garvin, seconded by Mr. Powers, the Board VOTED to approve the amended January 2024 Board Meeting minutes.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Mr. Sprung updated the Board on action items and several business matters, including Registration and Events.

A report was presented on AKC Meet the

Breeds® along with a video, which will be played at the next Delegate Meeting in March.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was an EXECUTIVE SESSION to discuss business matters. Nothing was reported out of this session.

Legal Update

The Board reviewed the Legal Department update as of January 2024.

CMS Upgrade Project

Doug Ljungren, Executive Vice President of Sports & Events; Keith Frazier, Executive Vice President of Business Support Services; Alan Slay, Director of Event Programs; and Torraine Williams, Director of Engineering, participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

The Competition Management System (CMS) Upgrade Project represents a significant investment in AKC's future. Its goal is to allow participants, clubs, judges, and Staff to manage their involvement more efficiently in AKC sports and events. A status report was presented.

2023 Accomplishments include:

- Upgrade to the PowerBuilder Web-Based Platform
- Automated letters for the Companion

Event Operations Department

- Upgraded Judge Panel Management (JPM) System, V2
- Conformation Judges Reports
- Modifications to the National Specialty Show Locator Tool
- Webpage to Support Downloadable Invitations to the NOHS Finals
- Online CGC Evaluator Application Portal

FINANCE

Ted Phillips, Chief Financial Officer, presented preliminary financial statements (unaudited) as of December 31, 2023.

Unaudited Financial Results for the twelve months ended December 31, 2023.

Net Operating Income is \$9.2 million.

REVENUES:

Total Revenues of \$101.1 million are lower than forecast by 1%, excluding Interest & Dividends.

Registration Fees, excluding Registration-Related revenues, total \$37.8 million and trail forecast by 4%.

Registration-related Revenues trail forecast by 3%.

Recording & Event Service fees, Title Recog-

niton, and Event Application fees total \$18 million, ahead of the forecast by 4%.

Product & Service Sales total \$12 million, trailing forecast by 2%.

Advertising, Sponsorship, and Royalties total \$19.7 million, trailing forecast by 1%.

EXPENSES:

Controllable Expenses total \$85 million, trailing forecast by 1%.

Non-controllable expenses are lower than forecast by 1%.

Non-Financial Statistics for the 12 months ended December 31, 2023 Registrations:

2023 YTD Litter Reg. 3% lower than forecast, 10% lower than 2022 YTD.

2023 YTD Dog Reg. 2% lower than forecast, 15% lower than 2022 YTD.

Events & Entries

Compared to the same period in 2022, Events & Entries were ahead by 6% & 4% respectively.

Entries were 4% better than the 2023 Forecast.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Gina DiNardo, Executive Secretary, and Brandi Hunter Munden, Vice President of Communications and Public Relations, participated in this portion of the meeting. Sheila Goffe, Vice President of Government Rela-

tions, participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Appointment of Trial Boards

There was an EXECUTIVE SESSION to discuss business matters. It was reported out of this session that Vincent A. Indeglia and Robert Newman were appointed as Trial Board members, and Frank Barton was appointed as an alternate to the Performance Trial Board.

Article VII, Section 1 Bylaw Amendment

Greater Clark County Kennel Club (GCCCKC) submitted a Bylaw amendment in accordance with Article XX, Section 1 of the AKC Bylaws. GCCCKC requests a Bylaw amendment to Article VII, Section 1 regarding term limits. The recommendation is to delete the third paragraph of Article VII, Section 1 to remove term limits. GCCCKC believes a change to Article VII, Section 1 is significant to maintain the integrity and consistency of the Board.

Following a motion by Mr. Smyth, seconded by Mr. Powers, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to consider the matter at this meeting, waiving the normal notice procedures.

Following a motion by Mr. Smyth, seconded by Mr. Powers, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to approve the recommendation

from GCCCKC.

This will be read to the Delegates at the March 2024 meeting for a VOTE at the June 2024 meeting.

AKC Communications Q4 and Year-End Report 2023

Total Clips:

Clips Evaluated in Q4: 7,233 (+26% from 5,733 in 2022)

Q4 Clips Comparison

Year	Clips Evaluated
2020	4,534
2021	5,391
2022	5,733
2023	7,233

2023 YEAR-END MEDIA COVERAGE ANALYSIS

Total media placements (print, broadcast and internet) qualitatively evaluated in 2023:

Q1- 9,162

Q2- 5,946

Q3- 5,890

Q4- 7,233

Total number of clips evaluated for 2023 was 28,231 (+12% from 25,188 in 2022).

2023 Highlights

- 16.23% increase in media relations and press coverage in Mandarin language and Spanish language publications (vs. 15% in 2022).

- 21% increase in the media visibility of our Chief Veterinary Officer (vs. 13% in 2022).
- Maintained a 98% positivity rating (vs. 97.4% in 2022).
- Increased McClatchy pick up (up to over 700 newspapers weekly) (on par with 2022).
- There was a 27.1% increase in media coverage of AKC Affiliates (AKC Reunite, AKC MoD, AKC Humane Fund, and AKC CHF) (vs. 19.3% in 2022).

AKC National Championship:

- Executed an aggressive national and local PR campaign for the AKC National Championship.
- Distributed press releases announcing the ABC television network broadcast & record-breaking entry totals.
- Drafted and distributed press releases of the winners of the various competitions in real-time.
- Satellite Media Tour promoting the broadcast.
- Secured a broadcast exclusive with Best in Show winner on Good Morning America.

Government Relations Q4 2023 Update and Year-End Highlights

2023 was a busy year for the GR team: Congress, most local councils and all 50 state

legislatures were in session. The GR team monitored approximately 2,400 federal, state, and local legislative and regulatory proposals. Although the number of bills pertaining to dogs declined slightly over 2022, many were more sophisticated than in the past. The number of administrative regulations and regulatory changes nationwide impacting dogs and dog events significantly increased in 2023.

Issue Engagement/Advocacy: Direct issue engagement and advocacy by the GR team continued to expand. In 2023, AKC GR issued 270 geo-targeted legislative alerts, 73 blogs and op eds and provided comments and/or in-person and written testimony for more than 225 bills. The most common categories of legislation addressed in 2023 related to: Animal cruelty and breeder licensing (17%); Working dogs (14%); Animal control (12%); Veterinary issues (8%) Hunting/land-use/performance events (7%) and other (7%).

Building influence: Ongoing engagement is bringing new levels of influence, recognition, and success for AKC among government and industry leaders. Specific areas of focus include protecting the rights of breeders and owners, fighting breed specific and phenotypic bans, fighting mandatory sterilization bills; and issues associated with working dogs, canine imports and transportation, pet sales, and other areas. The GR team uses multi-

ple approaches to expand AKC's reach and reputation. GR webinars, resources and videos are making AKC policy resources more accessible than ever.

Regional or field-based Staff positions are improving our ability to provide assistance at the state and local levels, increasing positive outcomes. GR Staff also actively work with federal agencies, members of Congress and other stakeholders to educate, advocate and protect the ability of responsible hobby breeders to raise puppies in their homes and allow breed experts to develop novel approaches that achieve best outcomes for their breed.

AKC policy expertise: Specific areas of focus include protecting the rights of breeders and owners, fighting breed-specific and phenotypic bans, fighting mandatory sterilization bills, and issues associated with working dogs, canine imports and transportation, pet sales, and other areas. The GR team uses multiple communication approaches, including GR webinars, fact sheets, policy analyses, and videos, to make AKC policy resources more accessible than ever. More than 20 new resources of this nature were developed.

Successes: AKC GR recorded dozens of legislative successes across the country in 2023. These include proactive policies to advance dogs and the interests of dog owners, and defensive positions to combat ill-conceived

or radical anti-breeder/anti-dog owner policy. A list of 2023 success highlights is available online at www.akc.org/clubs-delegates/government-relations/successes/.

New & expanded economic impact and benefits reports: In 2023, AKC conducted surveys and completed an expanded AKC Economic Benefits Survey with new, one-page report/tear sheets for all 50 states. Surveys were broadened to include participants in companion and performance events and national specialties (in addition to All-Breed Conformation shows). The greater breadth and depth of surveys and analysis better represent the range of AKC sports and events. Our findings demonstrated that individual spending at all breed shows increased more than 40% over the previous survey year (\$982). Surveys of attendees at national specialty shows found that participants spend, on average, more than \$2,500 at their national specialties.

A third study, utilizing this data and economic calculators, estimated the total impact of AKC events annually at approximately \$2.7 billion nationwide. These important reports demonstrate the real value that AKC brings to communities around the country. The reports are sent to lawmakers and made available to constituents and the public at <https://www.akcgr.org>. The reports push back against anti-breeder legislation

and help clubs secure event sites.

Priority Legislation Monthly Update

Sheila Goffe highlighted numerous active priority legislation and administrative regulations in Congress and State Legislation. She noted that additional information is available on the AKC legislative action center microsite:

<https://www.akcgr.org>.

MARKETING

Kirsten Bahlke, Vice President of Marketing; Melissa Olund, Director of Digital Marketing; Jacqueline Taylor, Director of Marketing; Meghan Prince, Brand Marketing Manager; Kerri Schreiber, Social Media Manager; Nikhil Kanoor, Search Engine Optimization and Gabe Fuller, Social Media Coordinator participated in this portion of the meeting.

Quarterly Social Media Update

Highlights of social media objectives in 2023 included expanding content offerings on TikTok to engage younger audiences, prioritizing tentpole sports and event coverage to engage dog sports enthusiasts (both active participants and people who love to watch), and increasing engagement through dedicated community management.

2023 Total followers by platform:

Facebook: 4,417,588 followers

Instagram: 440,451 followers

X (Twitter): 99,491 followers

TikTok: 352,736 followers

Pinterest: 72,545 followers

Total*: 5,382,811 followers (7.2% total follower increase vs. 2022)

Search Engine Optimization Yearly Review

Highlights of our Search Engine Optimization (SEO) work in 2023 included AKC Marketplace geographic page ranking and traffic improvements, AKC.org content and site speed optimization, and developing a SEO strategy for AKC Shop.

Marketing Social Media Activity Highlights for the AKC National Championship

- Highlights of our social media objectives for the 2023 AKC National Championship included pre-promotion of videos, articles, and photos, our team's live coverage on-site at the event, pre-promotion for the ABC broadcast, and live coverage during the ABC broadcast on Facebook, Twitter, Instagram, and TikTok.
- We were up YOY for our key engagement metrics on posts related to the AKC National Championship.
- We continue to publish content all year long related to the National Championship up to the event, which has increased content in December/January surrounding the event to keep our audience engaged.

Impressions: 40,269,671 (up 527%)

Engagements: 2,712,256 (up 537%)

Engagement Rate (per Impression):

6.7% (up 1.6%)

Post Link Clicks: 33,429 (down
5.2%)

Published Posts: 695 (up 94.7%)

AKC Sports & Events 2023: Marketing Overview

In 2023, Marketing executed an omnichannel strategy that has significantly boosted awareness, participation, and revenue for AKC Sports & Events. This comprehensive approach leveraged email campaigns, SMS outreach, social media, content articles, broadcasting coverage, and insightful research. These combined efforts were strategically implemented to accomplish the following goals:

- The creation of more accessible entry points into AKC Sports & Events.
- The encouragement of AKC Sports & Events viewers to become participants.
- The conversion of sports participants into advocates for AKC Sports & Events.

MEDIA AND SPONSORSHIPS

Ron Furman, Vice President of Broadcasting, Sponsorship and Media, and Daphna Straus, Vice President of Business Development, participated in this portion of the meeting.

2023 Yearly Recap Report on Media and Sales Activities

The AKC's over-the-top video network, AKC.tv, experienced growth in 2023 in plays across all platforms, including Web plays on AKC.tv via desktop or mobile (+1.1M), AKC.tv app plays (over +1.3M) and plays on AKC.org via our digital content matching system (over +100M). The channel continues to grow in reach, breadth, and scope of content.

The AKC.tv FAST (free ad-supported television) channel was launched in 2023, bringing AKC.tv content to new audiences. The AKC.tv FAST channel is available on Plex TV and Fubo TV and is scheduled to be launched on Sling TV and Anoki TV in 2024. The AKC Media Team continues to work toward additional distribution opportunities for the AKC.tv FAST Channel.

AKC Good Dog TV premiered as a syndicated show in the New York City market on July 8 and 9, 2023 on channels Fox 5 and My 9, respectively. AKC Good Dog TV's syndication successfully expanded in 2023, and by the end of the year included:

- 93 total markets
- 117 total television stations
- 41MM total TV homes

AKC's dog sports programming on ESPN celebrated its most successful year in 2023,

premiering 16 new, original shows:

1. 2022 AKC National Championship Dog Show presented by Royal Canin
2. 2022 AKC National Championship Dog Show Highlights
3. 2023 AKC Flyball Dog Challenge
4. 2023 AKC Flyball Dog Challenge Highlights
5. 2023 AKC National Agility Championship
6. 2023 AKC National Agility Championship Highlights
7. 2023 AKC Diving Dogs Challenge
8. 2023 AKC Diving Dogs Challenge Highlights
9. 2023 AKC Disc Dog Challenge
10. 2023 AKC Fastest Dogs USA
11. 2023 AKC Fastest Dogs USA Highlights
12. 2023 AKC Agility Premier Cup
13. 2023 Flyball CanAm Classic
14. AKC Heroes: 2023 Awards for Canine Excellence
15. 2023 AKC Agility Invitational
16. 2023 AKC National Championship Dog Show, presented by Royal Canin

In addition to increasing program hours, viewership for AKC broadcasts has also grown.

REGISTRATION DEVELOPMENT

Mark Dunn, Executive Vice President of Registration; Kirsten Bahlke, Vice President of Marketing; Linda Duncklee, Director of

Registration Services; Jill Zapadinsky, Director of Call Center and Registration Support; Jacqueline Taylor, Director of Marketing; and Sierra Ziegler, Brand Marketing Manager participated in this portion of the meeting.

February 2024 Registration Update

- Litter Registration in 2023 was -2.4% from budget and -9.8% from 2022; but +14.2% compared to 2019.
- Dog Registration in 2023 was -11.4% from budget and -14.9% from 2022; but +3.7% compared to 2019.

There was a discussion of the registration return rates in 2023 as well as the changes in Breeder and Litter segmentation from 2019 vs. 2023.

AKC Registration Initiatives Update

In 2023, the Registration and Marketing Staff created an omnichannel plan to boost awareness of key initiatives and positively impact litter and dog registrations and revenue per registration transaction.

- A. Revamped the Abandoner email campaign, targeting individuals who initiate dog registration but leave the process unfinished to improve the registration return rate.
- B. Staff implemented a redesigned Unregistered Dog (URD) email campaign. An “Unregistered Dog” is a dog owner who got their dog from an AKC breeder but hasn’t started AKC dog

registration yet.

- C. Besides the ongoing Breeder Tool Kit feature development led by Registration Staff, the Registration Marketing team led the development and implementation of a comprehensive campaign to drive awareness and use by breeders.
- D. December 6, 2023, AKC launched its AKC's online pet pharmacy, AKCRx, in collaboration with Allivet. A marketing plan supported the launch, strategically showcasing the AKCRx offer (Free One-Month of Simparica Trio, valued up to \$32) as an added value to AKC Dog Registration.
- E. The collaborative efforts of the Marketing, Registration, Breeder Development, and Sport Services teams led to the redevelopment of the Breeder of Merit campaign, aiming to enforce the 100% litter registration requirement for Breeders of Merit.
- F. We conceived and executed a highly successful new omnichannel strategic marketing campaign for the AKC GoodDog Helpline's 10th anniversary. The primary objective was to boost awareness and drive sales for GoodDog Helpline (GDH) services.
- G. We identified the need for on-hold messages in Spanish as an essential service to AKC and its Hispanic consumers. To address this, marketing

created a set of on-hold messages in Spanish to complement our optimized English messages.

- H. Created new explainer videos dedicated to the critical Registration initiatives, Pedigrees, and Why register
- I. The Registration Marketing team collaborated with Breeder Development in 2023 to help promote their In-Person Breeder Symposium Series.

Customer Service Updates

2023 Customer Service Year in Review

- Handled 445,853 calls (+29k from 2022) with a 7% call abandon rate (Industry-standard between 5% -8%).
- Answered 3,300 Facebook Private Messages (+300 from 2022).
- Continuing to leverage technology and successfully implemented after-hours IVR, a self-guided and self-paced online dog registration tutorial, and the ability for our agents to co-browse with a client to assist them better.

COMPLIANCE

Bri Tesarz, Director of Compliance and Jessica Lopez, Compliance Manager, participated in this meeting portion via video conference.

Approval of Annual Fees

The *Charter and Bylaws of the American Kennel Club, Inc.* require that the Board of Directors set deposits annually for the sub-

mission of complaints pursuant to Article XII, Section 1, as well as deposits for appeals to an Appeal Trial Board pursuant to Article XIII, Section 7.

The current deposit to file a complaint pursuant to Article XII, Section 1, is \$625. The current deposit to file an Appeal to an Appeal Trial Board is \$250. Staff recommends that these deposits remain the same for 2024.

This will be discussed further at the April meeting.

Compliance Status Report – Fourth Quarter 2023 & Year-End Review

Staff presented an overview of the 2023 activ-

ities of the Compliance Department.

In 2023, the Management Disciplinary Committee reviewed 66 matters. The Staff Event Committee reviewed 80 actions as well as 171 incident reports.

Hearing After Events - In addition to matters addressed at the event, Compliance also assists clubs that must hold an Event Committee hearing after the event. This could be because of a serious procedural error in the first hearing at the event; the club received the complaint after the event but within five days, or the club could not locate and notify the accused of the hearing at the event. Staff participated in 38 after-hearing events in 2023.

Annual Statistics

	First Quarter	Second Quarter	Third Quarter	Fourth Quarter	Yearly Totals
Article XII Complaints Received	3	0	2	1	5
Event Committee Hearing Reports Received	12	27	20	21	80
Management Disciplinary Committee Charges Preferred	15	18	15	15	63
Code of Sportsmanship Complaints Received	10	13	13	19	55
Other Inquiries Received	8	6	3	5	22

(Final Board Disciplinary actions are reported on the Secretary's Page.)

CLUBS

Doug Ljungren, Executive Vice President, Sports & Events; Glenn Lycan, Director, Event Operations Support; and Lisa Cecin, Director of Club Relations, participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

Centennial Clubs

AKC is pleased to recognize the following Centennial Clubs:

1. Virginia Kennel Club (Virginia)
2. Westbury Kennel Association (New York)
3. Somerset Hills Kennel Club (New Jersey)
4. Cocker Spaniel Breeders of New England (Massachusetts)
5. Kennel Club of Buffalo (New York)
6. San Joaquin Kennel Club (California)

The AKC will add these clubs to the list of Centennial Clubs on our website, and we will provide a Centennial Banner for display at their upcoming club functions. In total, there are 122 AKC Centennial Clubs.

Club Relations 2023 Activity Report

Club Relations is responsible for the accreditation, advancement, and licensing of AKC's 15 types of clubs. Club Relations

processes member club status requests, bylaw reviews, territory designations and expansions, sanctioned matches, and mentored programs, and offers informal guidance to clubs concerning internal club dispute resolution.

Status and Trends

Number of clubs as of January 9, 2024:

Member clubs	650
Licensed clubs	4220
Sanctioned Plan A clubs	84
Sanctioned Plan B clubs	83
Total	5037

The total number of clubs on January 17, 2023 was 5020.

New All-Breed Club in 2023: 1
Lake Norman Kennel Club

New Parent Clubs in 2023: 4
American Shikoku Ken Club
Czechoslovakian Vlcak Club of America
Pyrenean Mastiff Association of America
Yakutian Laika Club of America

New Group Clubs in 2023: 4
Happy Tails Ranch Working Group
Club of Island Lake, IL
Hound Association of Northern California

Iowa Hound Association
Sporting Dog Club of Virginia

New Member Clubs in 2023: 4

American Toy Fox Terrier Club
Barbet Club of America
Chinook Club of America
Gloucester Kennel Club of Virginia

In summary, there were 219 new clubs and 34 dissolved clubs in the past five years, yielding a gain of 185 total clubs over a 5-year period.

The largest club category is local specialty clubs. Over the past five years, there were 80 new clubs and 24 dissolved, yielding a gain of 56 in a 5-year period.

2023 Actions

- Policy implemented for the “Two Path Event Option Towards License Status” for all AKC club types (July 2023 Board Meeting).
- Policy implemented for “Exploring Options for Existing Local Specialty Club Territories” (November 2023 Board Meeting).
- Continued research for 100th-anniversary clubs eligible to receive Centennial Club Banners for events.
- Began developing Club Relations online web portal project for processing status presentations online, includ-

ing collaboration between vendor, Key Mark, and AKC IT Staff.

- Online payments for Member Club Dues have increased to 68%, up from 59% in 2022.

2024 Initiatives

- Continue to prioritize processing presentations efficiently within an annual average of 4 weeks.
- Enhancing Club Resources AKC web page to assist clubs in managing complex issues.
- Completion of Club Relations online web portal project for processing status presentations online for tracking and improved customer service.

REPORT ON MEMBER CLUB BYLAWS APPROVED IN DECEMBER AND JANUARY

Basset Hound Club of America (1937)
Bichon Frise Club of America (1984)
Clarksville Kennel Club, Montgomery County, TN (1999)
Idaho Capital City Kennel Club, Ada County, ID (1981)
St. Bernard Club of America (1898)
Wisconsin Amateur Field Trial Club, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, (1941)

REPORT ON NEWLY LICENSED CLUBS APPROVED IN DECEMBER AND JANUARY

Heart of Illinois Parson Russell Terrier Club, greater Joliet, IL (including com-

munities north to Libertyville, southwest to Astoria and east to Kankakee), 25 total households, 12 local.

Iowa Hound Association, greater Cedar Rapids, IA (including communities northwest to Waverly/Denver, southwest to Oskaloosa/Ottumwa, southeast to Mediapolis, and northeast to Dubuque), 30 total households, 16 local.

Mid-Atlantic Herding Group Club of Maryland, Greater Baltimore, MD (including communities west to Front Royal, VA, south to Etlan, VA, east to Long Beach, MD, and north to the MD/PA border), 27 total households, 14 local.

Mid-Atlantic Working Group Club of Maryland, Greater Baltimore, MD (including communities northwest to Hagerstown, south to Mechanicsville, MD, east to Salisbury, northeast to Cherry Hill), 28 total households, 13 local.

Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever Club of New England, greater Westhampton, MA (including communities northeast to Haverhill, MA, south to Wyoming, RI, west to Goshen, CT and north to Huntington, MA), 21 total households, 14 local.

Pacific Northwest Japanese Chin Club, greater Olympia, WA (including commu-

nities north Arlington, south to Chehalis, in proximity to Interstate 5), 20 total households, 15 local.

Sunshine State Lhasa Apso Club, greater Winter Haven, FL (State of Florida), 31 total households, 12 local.

CONFORMATION

Doug Ljungren, Executive Vice President, Sports & Events; Tim Thomas, Vice President of Conformation; Glenn Lycan, Director, Event Operations Support; and Alan Slay, Director, Event Programs, participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

Regional NOHS - Only Events

The Board reviewed a recommendation for a pilot program to allow up to eight Regional NOHS -Only Events to be held by All-Breed Clubs. The events would be structured like the NOHS Championship event in Orlando, except it would not be an invitational. All owner-handlers can participate.

All-Breed Clubs will be advised of the opportunity and asked to submit a proposal to hold a Regional NOHS Only Event. The events will be located around the country.

Clubs will be selected based on the quality of the proposal, the club's history of holding NOHS events, and the date they are propos-

ing to hold the event. Regional NOHS events will be staggered throughout the pilot period. No two events will be held on the same weekend or in the same geographic region.

Following a motion by Mrs. Wallin, seconded by Dr. Garvin, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to approve a pilot program that will allow up to eight Regional NOHS Only events to be held by All-Breed Clubs.

The pilot program will run for one year, from September 19, 2024 through September 17, 2025.

Exhibition Only Four-to-Six Month Beginner Puppy Competition

The Board reviewed a proposal to amend the Sanctioned Four-to-Six Month Beginner Puppy Competition Regulations to allow professional handlers, members of their household, and current assistants to personally exhibit dogs they own for exhibition only in the Four-to-Six Month Beginner Puppy Competition.

Following a motion by Mr. Tatro, seconded by Dr. Garvin, the Board VOTED (in favor: Battaglia, Carota, Davies, Garvin, Hamblin, Knight, Powers, Smyth, Sweetwood, Tatro, Wallin. Abstained: Biddle. Opposed: McAteer) to approve the proposed revision to The Sanctioned Four-to-Six Month Beginner Puppy Competition

Regulations to allow professional handlers, members of their household and current assistants to personally exhibit dogs they own for Exhibition Only in the Four-to-Six Month Beginner Puppy Competition. The effective date is July 31, 2024.

Show Secretaries - Rules Applying to Dog Shows, Chapter 9, Section 11 and Chapter 11, Section 12

The Board reviewed a recommendation from the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee (DSRC) to revise **Chapter 9, Section 10** and **Chapter 11, Section 12** of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*, for greater clarity in defining eligibility requirements for one serving as a Show Secretary.

This will be discussed further at the April Board meeting.

Show Veterinarians - Rules Applying to Dog Shows, Chapter 10, Section 5 and Chapter 15, Section 1

The Board reviewed a recommendation from the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee (DSRC) to modify **Chapter 10, Section 5**, and **Chapter 15, Section 1** of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*.

The recommended modifications remove the club's obligation for expenses incurred for a dog it remands for veterinary examination. They also define the circumstances in which

a dog remanded may return to competition. This will be discussed further at the April Board meeting.

Executive Dog Shows Superintendent Application

The Board was advised that Executive Dog Shows applied for superintendent licensing. A three-member Staff committee reviewed the application and determined that a limited superintendent license should be approved for Executive Dog Shows.

JUDGING OPERATIONS

Tim Thomas, Vice President of Conformation, and Doug Ljungren, Executive Vice President of Sports & Events, participated in this portion of the meeting.

Conformation Dog Show Judges Annual Report

The Board reviewed a memorandum that provided data related to Conformation Judges and judging applications as well as an overview of activities of the Judging Operations Department in the 2023 calendar year. Judging Operations continued its efforts to provide resources for judges. The Judges Education Webinar Series first launched in 2020 in a collaborative effort with AKC's Education Department continued. Breed specific presentations continue to be a challenge to arrange, as one breed webinar was offered

in 2023 – Sloughi. Since the first webinar was presented on March 30, 2020, a total of 113 breed webinars have been presented with a total attendance of 4,534.

In addition to the breed webinars, Judging Operations has continued the “Review & FAQs on Conformation Judging Procedures, Polices & Guidelines” webinar series introduced in 2021. Seven (7) presentations of the “Review & FAQs on Conformation Judging Procedures, Polices & Guidelines” webinar series were offered in 2023 with an audience of 1,382 attending the live presentations. Links to access the recordings of the procedural webinars are also posted on the AKC website resulting in a total of 786 additional registrations accessing the recording of any one of the 2023 procedural offerings.

The department also provided in-person judges education in 2022. The Institute for New and Aspiring Judges (Basic) was offered at five locations throughout the year. 118 individuals attended the 2023 Basic Institutes. The department continued its collaboration with the Dog Judges Association of America, co-hosting the AKC/DJAA Advanced Judging Institute December 12-15, 2023, in conjunction with the AKC National Championship for the 12th consecutive year, and the 11th year offering judges education seminars for two complete groups, with

Sporting and Terriers as the groups offered in 2023. Approximately 250 individuals attended breed-specific Judges Education Seminars over the week.

The report also reviewed initiatives implemented by the department in 2023 including its monthly communication to all Conformation clubs informing of new judge approvals; providing judges access via their MyAKC account to reports supplying historical judging assignment and education records; the development of a list of breeder-judges for all recognized breeds; and the naming of Greg McCarthy as Executive Field Representative/Education Liaison.

APPLICATION DATA: The number of New Breed Applications (first-time applicants) increased for the 2nd consecutive year in 2023. The department believes this is directly attributed to the 2022 policy revisions

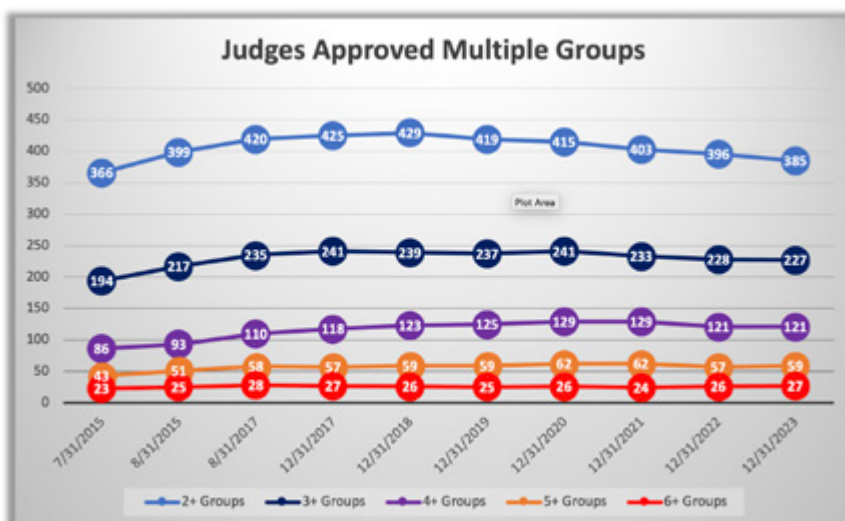
which increased the maximum number of breeds one could request on their initial application and introduced the ability for exemplary individuals to request the ability to apply for a full group. The number of additional breed applications (current judges) increased, while the number of individual breeds requested decreased slightly when compared to the previous year. This is likely a result of reduction in the mandatory period between applications which was decreased from six to three months in November 2022.

Staff also provided data related to Conformation judges, which included charts displaying the total number of judges and the cumulative number of groups eligible to judge by all judges over a span of 10 years; and the number of judges approved for 2+, 3+, 4+, 5+ or 6+ groups over a 10-year span.

	ADDITIONAL BREED		NEW BREED	
	Aps Submitted	Breeds Submitted	Aps Submitted	Breeds Submitted
2023	404	2039	101	251
2022	354	2049	74	148
2021	360	2146	58	91
2020	377	2282	61	72
2019	401	2497	91	125
2018 ¹	351	1808	101	154
2017	933	5537	84	119
2016	843	6009	93	146
2015	246	1938	74	102

	Additional Breed				New Breed			
	# Aps Reviewed	# Breeds Requested	# Breeds Approved	% Approved	#Aps Reviewed	# Breeds Requested	# Breeds Approved	% Approved
2023	393	1968	1917	97.4%	81	192	184	95.8%
2022	298	1771	1721	97.2%	58	118	118	100.0%
2021	276	1637	1515	92.5%	28	56	55	98.2%
2020	323	2032	1914	94.2%	53	66	64	97.0%
2019	366	2099	2039	97.1%	65	107	107	100.0%
2018 ¹	293	1421	1366	96.1%	66	89	86	96.6%
2017	875	4928	4775	96.9%	73	88	86	97.7%
2016	749	5036	5004	99.4%	86	145	144	99.3%
Previous	237	1875	1491	79.5%	80	115	113	98.3%
2011	300	1945	1782	91.6%	99	155	153	98.7%

	NUMBER OF COMPLETE GROUPS APPROVED TO JUDGE								TOTALS	
	< 1	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	Judges	Groups
12/31/2023	1934	257	158	106	62	32	14	13	2576	1474
12/31/2022	2175	278	168	107	64	31	14	12	2849	1514
12/31/2021	2258	292	170	104	67	38	9	15	2953	1561
12/31/2020	2288	296	174	112	67	36	10	16	2999	1600
12/31/2019	2289	303	182	112	66	34	8	17	3011	1604
12/31/2018	2262	309	190	116	64	33	7	19	3000	1633
12/31/2017 ²	2242	324	184	123	61	30	7	20	2991	1637
8/31/2017 ²	2293	321	185	125	52	30	7	21	3034	1613
8/31/2016	2512	334	182	124	42	26	5	20	3245	1538
7/31/2015	2527	351	172	108	43	20	6	17	3244	1446



COMPANION and PERFORMANCE

Doug Ljungren, Executive Vice President, Sports & Events; Caroline Murphy, Director of Performance Events, and Diane Schultz, Director of Obedience, Rally, and Tracking participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

English Setter Association of America National Walking Gun Dog Championship

The Board reviewed a Staff recommendation to grant the English Setter Association of America the right to hold a National Walking Gun Dog Championship. The dog who wins the event will be awarded the title NWGDC. This is consistent with events currently held by six other pointing breeds.

In addition, the recommendation is to make this change retroactive to November 1, 2023, to acknowledge the dog that won the 2023 National Walking Gun Dog Championship held by the Parent Club.

Following a motion by Mr. Sweetwood, seconded by Mr. Powers, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to consider the matter at this meeting, waiving the normal notice procedures.

Following a motion by Mr. Sweetwood, seconded by Mr. Smyth, the Board

VOTED (unanimously) to approve the Staff recommendation.

This will be read to the Delegates at the March 2024 meeting for a VOTE at the June 2024 meeting.

Retriever Field Trials – System of Rotation for All Stakes

The Board reviewed the Retriever Field Trial Advisory Committee (RFTAC) recommendation to allow judges to use a rotation system for all stakes. Rotation refers to a system used to select which dog runs first in a series. Currently, a rotation is required for major stakes and optional for minor stakes.

This would require changing Chapter 14, Section 4 of the *Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedure for Retrievers*. This recommendation would standardize running order methods by allowing judges to impose a system of rotation in all stakes.

This will be discussed further at the April Board meeting.

Scent Work – Allow Fix and Go in Detective Class

The Board reviewed a recommendation to allow a fix and go-on option for teams in the Detective Class that receive an NQ.

There are three main search divisions in Scent Work – Odor Search, Handler Discrimination and Detective Class. Detective Class is the most challenging of the three and most closely simulates real detection work. Detective Class is reserved for the most accomplished Scent Work dog and is where handlers do not know how many hides need to be found. This Class can have - the highest number of hides ranging from 5-10, the most time per entry ranging from 7-15 minutes per dog, the most complex hide placement, and the largest square footage of search area ranging from 2,000-5,000 square feet.

In Detective Class, if a handler gives an incorrect alert or finish call at any time, they receive an NQ. This has proven to be discouraging for handlers who may have traveled far to an event only to receive an NQ within minutes and go home. On several occasions, the Performance Events Department has heard the suggestion to make a fix-and-go-on option available to handlers.

This will be discussed further at the April Board meeting.

Scent Work – Clarification on Scented Article

The Board reviewed a recommendation to clarify that when a cotton ball is

used as the scented article in Handler Discrimination for Advanced, Excellent, and Master levels, it must not exceed 1.5” in diameter.

This will be discussed further at the April Board meeting.

International Sweepstakes Class (ISC) National Championship

The Staff presented a recommendation for AKC to hold an annual Agility International Sweepstakes Class (ISC) National Championship event starting in the fall of 2024. Five jump heights will be offered, and five National Championship titles will be awarded (one per height).

This will be discussed further at the April Board meeting.

RACH Invitational

Staff informed the Board of plans to hold the first Rally Champion (RACH) Invitational event in December 2024 in Orlando, Florida in conjunction with the AKC National Championship.

CONSENT

There was a motion by Mr. Sweetwood, seconded by Mr. Powers, and it was VOTED (unanimously) to approve the following Consent items:

Sweepstakes and Futurity Judges

The Board VOTED to modify the exhibiting restriction for Sweepstake and Futurity Judges to prohibit them from exhibiting the same breed on the day they judge that breed. A multi-day specialty is considered one event, and the restriction will apply for the duration of the event.

This will become effective on March 6, 2024.

Sweepstake/Futurity judges may not exhibit the same breed in conformation at events held on the day(s) they judge within 200 miles of their assignment. Sweepstake/Futurity judges ~~will continue to be allowed to~~ may exhibit in the same breed the day before and the day after the event they judge. A multi-day show is considered one event, and the restriction will apply for the duration of the event.

West Highland White Terrier Proposed Breed Standard Revision

The Board VOTED to approve the revisions to the West Highland White Terrier Standard with an effective date of May 1, 2024. (Appendix A)

Beagle Proposed Breed Standard Revision

The Board VOTED to permit the National Beagle Club of America, Inc. to ballot its membership in accordance with

the club's Constitution and Bylaws on a proposed revision to the Color section of the Beagle breed standard.

Schipperke Proposed Breed Standard Revision

The Board VOTED to permit the Schipperke Club of America, Inc. to ballot its membership in accordance with the club's Constitution and Bylaws on a proposed revision to the General Appearance, Neck, and Coat sections of the Schipperke breed standard.

Parent Club Designation for Presa Canario

The Board VOTED to approve the Presa Canario Club of America's request to be designated as the Parent Club for the Breed. They may now hold FSS Open Shows.

Delegates Approved

Vincent Chianese

To represent Ashtabula Kennel Club
Published January 2024, February 2024

Wendi Freedman

To represent Old English Sheepdog Club of America
Published December 2023, January 2024

Jason Hoke

To represent Chain O'Lakes Kennel Club
Published January 2024, February 2024

Laura Johnson

To represent American Toy Fox Terrier Club

Published December 2023, January 2024

Kathleen M. Kurtz

To represent Berks County Kennel Club

Published January 2024, February 2024

Marjorie Martorella

To represent Staten Island Kennel Club

Published December 2023, January 2024

Jane Messineo Lindquist

To represent Bull Terrier Club of America

Published January 2024, February 2024

Ann Yuhasz

To represent Western Reserve Kennel Club

Published January 2024, February 2024

Member Club Approved

Dog Obedience Club of Hollywood

Households: 51 Total/31 Local

(Hollywood, FL north to Rt 816 (Plantation), south to Rt 824 (Pembroke Pines), and west to Rt 27)

1st Licensed Show: October 26, 1952

Bylaws: Acceptable

Recommendation: Approve – Published in December 2023 & January 2024 *AKC Gazettes*.

Report of the AKC Retirement Plans

Committee

The AKC Retirement Plans Committee met on February 7, 2024. Mrs. Wallin, Chair, asked if there were questions on the written report that the Committee had submitted to the full Board. There were no questions.

Board adjourned at 5:28 p.m.

The Board Meeting reconvened on Tuesday, February 13, 2024, at 8:35 a.m. All Directors were present in the New York office. The Executive Secretary was also present.

LEAP GROUP

There was a presentation by LEAP Group, AKC's new Marketing Agency of Record.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was an EXECUTIVE SESSION to discuss business matters. Nothing was reported out of this session.

It was VOTED to adjourn on Tuesday, February 13, 2024, at 12:23 p.m. Eastern Time.

Adjourned

Attest: _____

Gina M. DiNardo, Executive Secretary

Appendix A

Current West Highland White Terrier Breed Standard	Proposed West Highland Whiter Terrier Breed Standard
<p>General Appearance: The West Highland White Terrier is a small, game, well-balanced hardy-looking terrier, exhibiting good showmanship, possessed with no small amount of self-esteem, strongly built, deep in chest and back ribs with a straight back and powerful hindquarters on muscular legs, and exhibiting in marked degree a great combination of strength and activity. The coat is about two inches long, white in color, hard, with plenty of soft undercoat. The dog should be neatly presented, the longer coat on the back and sides trimmed to blend into the shorter neck and shoulder coat. Considerable hair is left around the head to act as a frame for the face to yield a typical Westie expression.</p> <p>Size, Proportion, Substance: The ideal <i>size</i> is eleven inches at the withers for dogs and ten inches for <u>bitches</u>. A <i>slight</i> deviation is acceptable. The Westie is a compact dog, with good balance and <i>substance</i>. The body between the withers and the root of the tail is slightly shorter than the height at the withers. Short-coupled and well boned. Faults—Over or under height limits. Fine boned.</p> <p>Head: Shaped to present a round appearance from the front. Should be in proportion to the body.</p> <p>Expression. Piercing, inquisitive, pert. <i>Eyes</i> - Widely set apart, medium in size, almond shaped, dark brown in color, deep set, sharp and intelligent. Looking from under heavy eyebrows, they give a piercing look. Eye rims are black. Faults—Small, full or light colored eyes. <i>Ears</i> - Small, carried tightly erect, set wide apart, on the top outer edge of the skull. They terminate in a sharp point; and must never be cropped. The hair on the ears is trimmed short and is smooth and velvety, free of fringe at the tips. Black skin pigmentation is preferred. Faults—Round-pointed, broad, large ears set closely together, not held tightly erect, or placed too low on the side of the head. <i>Skull</i> - Broad, slightly longer than the muzzle, not flat on top but slightly domed between</p>	<p>General Appearance: <u>The West Highland White Terrier, originally bred to hunt in packs for badger and eradicate vermin in the rough terrain of the Scottish Highlands, is a small, well-boned, hardy-looking terrier, exhibiting confidence and possessed with no small amount of self-esteem. The Westie presents a compact appearance with good balance and substance, and is distinguished by its hard, white, double coat. The breed requires moderation both in structure and presentation, and any exaggerations are discouraged.</u></p> <p>Size, Proportion, Substance: The ideal <i>size</i> is eleven inches at the withers for dogs and ten inches for bitches. A <i>slight</i> deviation is acceptable. The Westie is a compact dog, with good balance and <i>substance</i>. The body between the withers and the root of the tail is slightly shorter than the height at the withers. Short-coupled and well boned.</p> <p>Head: Shaped to present a <u>roundish</u> appearance from the front and in proportion to and balanced <u>with the body.</u> Expression - <u>Inquisitive, intense, keen, intelligent, and alert.</u> <i>Eyes</i> - Widely set apart, medium in size, almond shaped, dark brown in color, and deep set. Looking from under heavy brows, they give a piercing look. Eye rims are black. <i>Ears</i> - Small, <u>prick, set wide apart on the top outer edge of the skull, and carried tightly erect.</u> They terminate in a sharp point; must never be cropped. The hair on the ears is trimmed short and is smooth and velvety, free of fringe at the tips. Black pigmentation is preferred.</p> <p>Skull - Broad, slightly longer than the muzzle, and slightly domed between the ears. It gradually tapers to the eyes. There is a defined stop <u>and heavy</u></p>

the ears. It gradually tapers to the eyes. There is a defined stop, eyebrows are heavy. ~~Faults—Long or narrow skull.~~

Muzzle - Blunt, slightly shorter than the skull, powerful and gradually tapering to the nose, which is large and black. The jaws are level and powerful. Lip pigment is black. Faults - Muzzle longer than skull. Nose color other than black. **Bite** - The teeth are large for the size of the dog. There must be six incisor teeth between the canines of both lower and upper jaws. ~~An occasional missing pre-molar is acceptable. A tight scissors bite with upper incisors slightly overlapping the lower incisors or level mouth is equally acceptable.~~ Faults—Teeth defective or misaligned. Any incisors missing or several premolars missing. Teeth overshot or undershot.

Neck, Topline, Body: **Neck** - Muscular and well set on sloping shoulders. ~~The length of neck should be in proportion to the remainder of the dog.~~ Faults—Neck too long or too short. **Topline** - Flat and level, both ~~standing and moving.~~ Faults—High rear, any deviation from above. **Body** - Compact and of good substance. ~~Ribs deep and well arched in the upper half of rib, extending at least to the elbows, and presenting a flattish side appearance.~~ Back ribs of considerable depth, and distance from last rib to upper thigh as short as compatible with free movement of the body. ~~Chest very deep and extending to the elbows, with breadth in proportion to the size of the dog.~~ Loin short, broad and strong. Faults - Back weak, either too long or too short. Barrel ribs, ribs above elbows.

Tail - Relatively short, with good substance and shaped like a carrot. When standing erect it is never extended above the top of the skull. It is covered with hard hair without feather, as straight as possible, carried gaily but not curled over the back. The tail is set on high enough so that the spine does not slope down to it. The tail is never docked. ~~Faults—Set too low, long, thin, carried at half mast, or curled over back.~~

Forequarters: Angulation and Shoulders - Shoulder blades are well laid back and well-knit at the backbone. The shoulder blade should attach to an upper arm of moderate length and sufficient angle to allow for definite body overhang. Faults - Steep or loaded shoulders. Upper arm too short or too straight. **Legs** - Forelegs are muscular and well boned,

brows.

Muzzle - Blunt, slightly shorter than the skull, powerful and gradually tapering to the nose, which is large and black. The muzzle is well filled below the eyes. The jaws are level and powerful. Lip pigment is black.

Bite - The teeth are large for the size of the dog. There must be six incisor teeth between the canines of both lower and upper jaws. A tight scissors or level bite is equally correct.

Neck, Topline, Body, Tail: **Neck** - Muscular and well set on sloping shoulders. Length in proportion to the rest of the dog.

Topline - Flat and level, both standing and moving. **Body** - Compact and of good substance with defined forechest and buttocks. Ribs extend at least to the elbows. The ribs are well arched in the upper half and taper to present a flattish side appearance. Chest is deep and extends at least to the elbows. Width is in proportion to the size of the dog. Back ribs are of considerable depth, and distance from last rib to upper thigh is as short as compatible with free movement of the body. Loin is short, broad, and strong. Faults - Barrel ribs, ribs above elbows, lack of definite body overhang.

Tail - Relatively short, with good substance and shaped like a carrot. When erect is never extended above the top of the skull. It is covered with hard hair without feather, as straight as possible, carried upright or slightly forward but not curled over the back. The tail is set on high enough so that the spine does not slope down to it. The tail is never docked.

Forequarters: Angulation, Shoulders - Shoulder blades are well laid back and well-knit at the withers. The shoulder blade attaches to an upper arm which is equal or nearly equal to the length of the shoulder blade. Faults - Steep or loaded shoulders. Upper arm too short or upright.

Legs - Forelegs are muscular and well boned,

relatively short but with sufficient length to set the dog up so as not to be too close to the ground. ~~The legs are~~ reasonably straight, and thickly covered with short hard hair. They are set in under the shoulder blades with definite body overhang before them. Height from elbow to withers and elbow to ground ~~should be~~ approximately the same. Faults - Out at elbows, light bone, fiddle-front. **Feet** - Forefeet are larger than the hind ones, ~~are~~ round, proportionate in size, strong, thickly padded; they may ~~properly~~ be turned out slightly. Dewclaws may be removed. Black pigmentation is most desirable on pads of all feet and nails although nails may lose coloration in older dogs.

Hindquarters: Angulation - Thighs are very muscular, ~~well angulated, not set wide apart with hocks well bent, short, and parallel when viewed from the rear.~~ **Legs** - Rear legs are muscular and relatively short and ~~sinewy~~. Faults - Weak hocks, long hocks, lack of angulation, cow hocks. **Feet** - Hind feet are smaller than front feet and are thickly padded. Dewclaws may be removed.

Coat: ~~Very important and seldom seen to perfection. Must be double coated. The head is shaped by plucking the hair to present the round appearance. The outer coat consists of straight hard white hair, about two inches long, with shorter coat on neck and shoulders, properly blended and trimmed to blend shorter areas into furnishings, which are longer on stomach and legs. The ideal coat is hard, straight and white, but a hard straight coat which may have some wheaten tipping is preferable to a white fluffy or soft coat. Furnishings may be somewhat softer and longer but should never give the appearance of fluff. Faults - Soft coat. Any silkiness or tendency to curl. Any open or single coat, or one which is too short.~~

Color: The color is white, as defined by the breed's name. ~~Faults - Any coat color other than white. Heavy wheaten color.~~

Gait: ~~Free, straight and easy all around, It is a distinctive gait, not stilted, but powerful with reach and drive. In front the leg is freely extended forward by the shoulder. When seen from the front the legs do not move square, but tend to move toward the~~

relatively short but with sufficient length to set the dog up so as not to be too close to the ground. The front legs are reasonably straight, and thickly covered with short hard hair. They are set in under the shoulder blades with definite body overhang before them. Height from elbow to withers and elbow to ground is approximately the same. Faults - Out at elbows, light bone, fiddle-front. **Feet** - Forefeet are larger than the hind ones, round, proportionate in size, strong, and thickly padded. They may be turned out slightly. Dewclaws may be removed. Black pigmentation is most desirable on pads of all feet and nails, although nails may lose coloration in older dogs.

Hindquarters: Angulation - Thighs are very muscular, stifles well bent, and hocks well let down. Not set wide apart and parallel when viewed from the rear. **Legs** - Rear legs are muscular and relatively short. Faults - Weak hocks, long hocks, over or lack of angulation, cow hocks. **Feet** - Hind feet are smaller than front feet and are thickly padded. Dewclaws may be removed.

Coat: The white double coat is hard and weather-resistant, consisting of straight, hard hair and a short, soft undercoat. The longer jacket hair is approximately 1-1/2 to 2 inches of hard hair, plucked and trimmed to blend into the shorter coated side neck, chest, shoulder, and rear. The jacket is smoothly blended into the longer furnishings. Hair is left around the head, plucked and shaped to provide a roundish frame for the face, with the tips of the ears and piercing eyes partially exposed yielding a typical West Highland White Terrier expression. Coat color, texture, and presentation should reflect the breed's purpose and terrain in which they work.

Color: The color is white, as defined by the breed's name. A hard straight coat which has some wheaten tipping is preferable to a soft white coat.

Gait: Movement is free and easy all around; it is a distinctive gait, not stilted. When viewed from the side, the gait is powerful with equally ample reach and drive. The topline remains level. In the front the leg is freely extended by the shoulder. When viewed



~~center of gravity. The hind movement is free, strong and fairly close. The hocks are freely flexed and drawn close under the body, so that when moving off the foot the body is thrown or pushed forward with some force. Overall ability to move is usually best evaluated from the side, and top line remains level. Faults - Lack of reach in front, and/or drive behind. Stiff, stilted or too wide movement.~~

Temperament: Alert, gay, courageous and self-reliant, ~~but~~ friendly. Faults - Excess timidity or excess pugnacity,

from the front, the legs do not move parallel but tend to move toward the center of gravity. The hind movement is free, strong, and fairly close, but does not single track. The hocks are freely flexed and drawn close under the body, so that when moving off on the foot the body is thrown or pushed forward with some force. Faults - Lack of reach in front, and/or drive behind. Stiff, stilted movement.

Temperament: Alert, confident, courageous, self-reliant, and friendly - Possessing no small amount of self-esteem. Faults - Excess timidity or excess pugnacity.

PARENT CLUB LINKS



SPORTING GROUP



American Water Spaniel



Barbet



Boykin Spaniel



Brittany



Chesapeake Bay Retriever



Clumber Spaniel



Cocker Spaniel



Curly-Coated Retriever



English Cocker Spaniel



English Setter



English Springer Spaniel



Field Spaniel



Flat-Coated Retriever



German Shorthaired Pointer



German Wirehaired Pointer



Golden Retriever



Gordon Setter



Irish Red and White Setter



Irish Setter



Irish Water Spaniel



Labrador Retriever



Lagotto Romagnolo



Nederlandse Kooikerhondje



Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever



Pointer



Spinone Italiano



Sussex Spaniel



Vizsla



Weimaraner



Welsh Springer Spaniel



Wirehaired Pointing Griffon



Wirehaired Vizsla

PARENT CLUB LINKS



HOUND GROUP



Afghan Hound



American English Coonhound



American Foxhound



Azawakh



Basenji



Basset Hound



Beagle



Black and Tan Coonhound



Bloodhound



Bluetick Coonhound



Borzoi



Cirneco dell'Etna



Dachshund



English Foxhound



Grand Basset Griffon Vendéen



Greyhound



Harrier



Ibizan Hound



Irish Wolfhound



Norwegian Elkhound



Otterhound



Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen



Pharaoh Hound



Plott



Portuguese Podengo Pequeno



Redbone Coonhound



Rhodesian Ridgeback



Saluki



Scottish Deerhound



Sloughi



Treeing Walker Coonhound



Whippet

PARENT CLUB LINKS



WORKING GROUP



Akita



Alaskan Malamute



Anatolian Shepherd Dog



Bernese Mountain Dog



Black Russian Terrier



Boerboel



Boxer



Bullmastiff



Cane Corso



Chinook



Doberman Pinscher



Dogo Argentino



Dogue de Bordeaux



German Pinscher



Giant Schnauzer



Great Dane



Great Pyrenees



Greater Swiss Mountain Dog



Komondor



Leonberger



Kuvasz



Mastiff



Neapolitan Mastiff



Newfoundland



Portuguese Water Dog



Rottweiler



Saint Bernard



Samoyed



Siberian Husky



Standard Schnauzer



Tibetan Mastiff

PARENT CLUB LINKS



TERRIER GROUP



Airedale Terrier



American Hairless Terrier



American Staffordshire Terrier



Australian Terrier



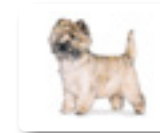
Bedlington Terrier



Border Terrier



Bull Terrier



Cairn Terrier



Cesky Terrier



Dandie Dinmont Terrier



Fox Terrier (Smooth)



Glen of Imaal Terrier



Irish Terrier



Kerry Blue Terrier



Lakeland Terrier



Manchester Terrier



Miniature Bull Terrier



Miniature Schnauzer



Norfolk Terrier



Norwich Terrier



Parson Russell Terrier



Rat Terrier



Russell Terrier



Scottish Terrier



Sealyham Terrier



Skye Terrier



Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier



Staffordshire Bull Terrier



Welsh Terrier



West Highland White Terrier



Wire Fox Terrier

PARENT CLUB LINKS



TOY GROUP



Affenpinscher



Biewer Terrier



Brussels Griffon



Cavalier King
Charles Spaniel



Chihuahua



Chinese Crested



English Toy Spaniel



Havanese



Italian Greyhound



Japanese Chin



Maltese



Manchester
Terrier (Toy)



Miniature
Pinscher



Papillon



Pekingese



Pomeranian



Poodle (Toy)



Pug



Shih Tzu



Silky Terrier



Toy Fox Terrier



Yorkshire Terrier

PARENT CLUB LINKS



NON-SPORTING GROUP



American Eskimo Dog



Bichon Frise



Boston Terrier



Bulldog



Chinese Shar-Pei



Chow Chow



Coton de Tulear



Dalmatian



Finnish Spitz



French Bulldog



Keeshond



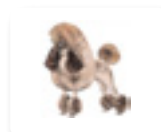
Lhasa Apso



Löwchen



Norwegian Lundehund



Poodle (Miniature)



Schipperke



Poodle (Standard)



Shiba Inu



Tibetan Spaniel



Tibetan Terrier



Xoloitzcuintli

PARENT CLUB LINKS



HERDING GROUP



Australian Cattle Dog



Australian Shepherd



Bearded Collie



Beauceron



Belgian Laekenois



Belgian Malinois



Belgian Sheepdog



Belgian Tervuren



Bergamasco



Berger Picard



Border Collie



Bouvier des Flandres



Briard



Canaan Dog



Cardigan Welsh Corgi



Collie (Rough)



Collie (Smooth)



Entlebucher Mountain Dog



Finnish Lapphund



German Shepherd Dog



Icelandic Sheepdog



Miniature American Shepherd



Mudi



Norwegian Buhund



Old English Sheepdog



Pembroke Welsh Corgi



Polish Lowland Sheepdog



Puli



Pumi



Pyrenean Shepherd



Shetland Sheepdog



Spanish Water Dog



Swedish Vallhund



AKC REGISTERED HANDLERS

The American Kennel Club Registered Handlers Program establishes criteria and standards for responsible, knowledgeable professional handlers. All handlers enrolled in the Program have met these criteria and made the commitment to follow the guidelines and Code of Ethics as set forth by the AKC.

For additional information concerning the Registered Handlers Program, click here:

<http://www.akc.org/events/handlers/>

For information on upcoming RHP Handling Clinics

<http://www.akc.org/events/junior-showmanship/junior-clinics/>

<http://www.akc.org/events/handlers/adult-clinics/>



familydog™



TREAT YOUR PET-LOVING FRIENDS

with a

**gift subscription to
AKC Family Dog Magazine**

AKC Family Dog is a magazine unlike any other—written for dog people, by dog people. With stunning photography and compelling narratives, our multiple award-winning articles capture the infinite ways dogs enrich our lives—and what we can do to enrich theirs.

Give six digital, bimonthly issues for just \$12.95!

Your gift will be announced via email with a handsome AKC greeting card.

**CLICK
HERE**

TO SUBSCRIBE!