



John J. Laguard

gazette

APRIL 2024

Board *Election Results*



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

Suzanne Knox and her champion agility dog Ricky Bobby have a lot in common. They’re both hard workers, spending countless hours cross-training and conditioning. They both recharge by getting active at the beach. They both love to compete in agility. And they both count on nutrition to fuel it all. That’s probably why Suzanne only trusts the high-performance nutrition of Purina Pro Plan Sport to fuel Ricky Bobby’s best on and off the course.

RICKY BOBBY
2023 Western Regional Agility Champion (IDC)

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A Busy Time of Year

Spring is a busy time at AKC and we have an abundance of news to share with you.

Congratulations are in order for the winners of the [2024 AKC National Agility Championship](#) (NAC) presented by YuMove. The event was held at the Georgia National Fairgrounds and Agricenter in Perry, Georgia. Over 1,300 dogs competed for the title of National Champion at six different jump heights ranging from 4 to 24 inches.

Agility is a wonderful display of canine athleticism and the human-canine bond. Congratulations again to the handlers and their dogs. If you missed any of the thrilling action, videos from the weekend's events are available on [AKC.tv](#) for you to enjoy.

I am excited to share with you that we will soon launch the AKC DNA +



Health test kit that combines genetic health and traits testing with AKC DNA identification to create a powerful tool for breeders.

The test kit offers AKC DNA profile and over 328 markers for health and traits and provides verifiable results using world-class technology to validate results and match to each specific dog. Results are delivered by

Neogen, a reliable service provider with the highest industry standards. This test meets AKC registration, and Breeder of Merit and Bred with H.E.A.R.T requirements.

Additionally, breeders using the kit will have lifetime access to canine genetic counselors (veterinary professionals) to assist them in making smart breeding decisions. An abundance of hard

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

work and countless hours went into this product, and we are proud to provide responsible breeders with this important tool.

Lastly, we want to congratulate the winners of the [2023 AKC Lifetime Achievement Awards](#): Michael Canalizo (Conformation), Curt Curtis (Companion Events), and Laurie Soutar (Performance).

The awards, created in 1999, are presented in recognition of outstanding participation and achieve-



2024 AKC National Agility Champions

ment within the dog sport. The finalists and winners are nominated by AKC member clubs and have

impacted the sport on a national level through club involvement, judging, exhibiting, breeding, and teaching.

We are deeply honored to acknowledge these individuals who continue to contribute so much to our beloved sport. Click [here](#) for more information on the recipients and all of the nominees.

Dennis

Dennis B. Sprung
President and CEO



2024 AKC National Agility Preferred Champions

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On Our Cover

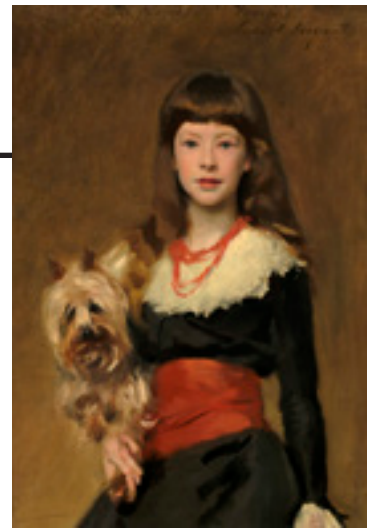
Miss Beatrice Townsend

John Singer Sargent (1856–1925) was an American artist who became high society’s go-to portrait painter on both sides of the Atlantic. His portrait of 12-year-old Miss Townsend today hangs in the [National Gallery of Art](#), a gift of the Mellon family, alongside these notes:

Eleanor Beatrice Townsend (born 1870) was the sixth of seven children of John Joseph Townsend, a New York attorney and politician, and his wife, Catherine Rebecca Bronson Townsend, a friend of Sargent’s and the subject of her own portrait by the artist.

Portraits of children are among Sargent’s earliest works and remain some of his most captivating paintings. Rather than idealized images of childhood, the artist’s lively likenesses serve as character studies of his young sitters.

The presence of a favorite toy or pet, such as the small terrier Beatrice clutches to her side, serves to emphasize the sitter’s individual personality. As one art historian noted, “Sargent’s



sensitivity to the complexities, intensities, and uncertainties of adolescence, especially of females, is a marked feature of his portraiture.” Here, Sargent captures the confidence and self-possession of his young subject as she meets the viewer’s gaze head-on.

Equally compelling is Sargent’s depiction of the dog. When seen from a distance, it seems the little terrier, perhaps a Yorkie, has been painstakingly rendered, one silky hair at a time. Upon closer inspection, one can see that the coat is, in fact, a series of broad brushstrokes applied quickly, even hastily—in some spots not even covering the canvas—that somehow, as if by magic, add up to a soulful companion dog.

This famous picture acquired an aura of eternal sadness early in its history. Only two years after her portrait was completed, Beatrice died of peritonitis at age 14.

Delegates Elect Board Class of 2028

At the annual meeting of the American Kennel Club on March 12, the Delegates elected members to the AKC Board of Directors.

BOARD CLASS OF 2028

Dr. Carmen L. Battaglia, Ph.D. (German Shepherd Dog Club of America); **Sally Fineburg** (Hatboro Dog

Club, Inc.); **Dr. Michael Knight, Ph.D.** (Texas Kennel Club)

At a meeting of the AKC Board of Directors convened after the

Delegate Meeting, **Dr. Thomas M. Davies** (Springfield Kennel Club, Inc.) was reelected as Chairman of the Board, and **Dominic Palleschi Carota** (Pharaoh Hound Club of America) was reelected as Vice Chairman of the Board.



Carmen Battaglia



Sally Fineburg



Michael Knight

Family Dog Rolls a 7!

The Dog Writers Association of America has honored *AKC Family Dog* magazine with seven of its Maxwell Medallions for excellence in dog-related publishing. Nine *Family Dog* articles or photos were chosen as finalists in several categories.

“I am so proud of the work that we in the AKC Publications Department have done to produce this outstanding magazine,” said Russell Bianca, Publications Director. “I’m very happy and honored to have our work recognized in receiving these awards from the DWAA!”

[Full Rundown of DWAA Awards](#)



PORTRAITS: AKC GAZETTE COLLECTION

UPDATES

Stacy, Sweigart to Top Judges Panel at Orlando

ORLANDO, FLORIDA— Terry Stacy of Durham, North Carolina, will judge Best in Show, and Beth Sweigart of Bowmansville, Pennsylvania, will judge Best Bred-by-Exhibitor in Show, at the 2024 AKC National Championship presented by Royal Canin on December 14 and 15 at the Orange County Convention Center.

GROUP JUDGES

Sporting Clay Coady, **Hound** Pamela Lambie, **Working** Rita J. Biddle, Esq., **Terrier** Pamela Bruce, **Toy** Robin Stansell, **Non-Sporting** Charles



Terry Stacy judged Best Bred-by-Exhibitor at last year's ANC



Beth Sweigart

Olvis, **Herding** Thomas Coen

MISCELLANEOUS CLASSES

Clay Coady

BEST JUNIOR HANDLER

Patricia Proctor

BRED-BY-EXHIBITOR GROUP JUDGES

Sporting Bonnie Threlfall, **Hound** Dennis Sprung, **Working** Sheila DiNardo, **Terrier** Elliott Weiss, **Toy** Dana Cline, **Non-Sporting** Pamela Bruce, **Herding** Frank Kane

BREED JUDGES



What's New on **AKC.tv**

Watch full coverage of these recent events on demand and free of charge on AKC.tv.

[Hoosier KC](#)

[Wisconsin KC](#)

[AKC National Agility Championship](#)

[Kentuckiana Cluster](#)

[New Brunswick KC](#)

UPDATES

Museum Westminster Fundraiser

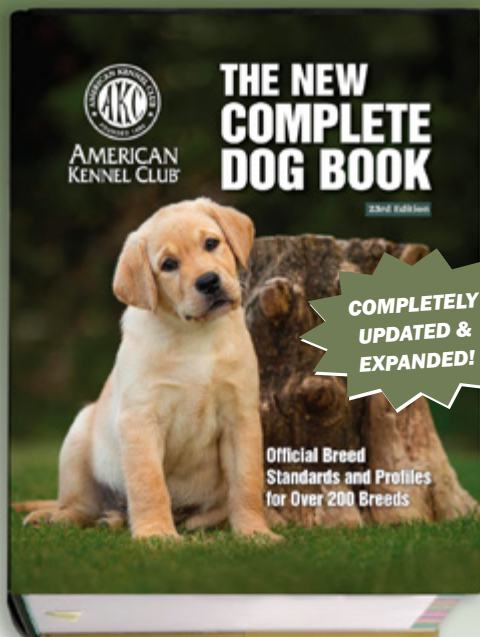
NEW YORK—The AKC Museum of the Dog will hold its “[Barks & Bubbles: A Garden Soirée](#)” fundraiser on Monday, May 13, between Westminster’s daytime and evening sessions at the Billie Jean King National Tennis Center. Cocktails and “very heavy hors-d’œuvres” will be served as guests enjoy the view from the covered rooftop of the Cadillac Building.

“Barks & Bubbles” is a ticketed fundraiser, with all proceeds supporting the museum.



AKC COLLECTION

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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.

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

UPDATES



AKC launches AKCRx

Convenient online pharmacy offers affordable pet meds

AKC is working with Allivet, an award-winning pet pharmacy, to bring you AKCRx—your new go-to source for all your pet-med needs. AKCRx will offer a full complement of FDA and EPA prescription and over-the-counter selections for animals, including dogs, cats, horses, livestock, and birds. Orders placed on *AKCRx.com* are processed and filled by Allivet.

AKC President/CEO Dennis B. Sprung says, “The health and wellness of our pets and responsible pet ownership go hand-in-hand. We are thrilled about our new relationship with

Allivet, a leader in the pet pharmacy industry. We are happy to be able to provide this service to our community of dog owners and breed enthusiasts across the country for many years to come.”

Allivet, a pioneer in the pet pharmacy field since 1990, is a fully licensed pharmacy authorized to dispense prescription pet medications in all 50 states.

“Our decades of experience as a leading pet pharmacy and our innovative platform will allow the AKC to offer responsible dog breeders and owners access to affordable pet

medications with the convenience of an effortless subscription offering,” Ujjwal Dhoot, CEO of Allivet, says. “Expanding our reach into communities already devoted to providing their pets with quality care aligns with and helps advance our mission of improving long-term pet health outcomes.”

New AKC registrants will receive an *AKCRx.com* promotional code to claim an exclusive offer of a one-month supply of Simparica Trio, valued at up to \$32 (terms and conditions apply).

Learn more at www.akcrx.com.



From Bo Bengtson's 1994 GAZETTE profile of Joan Ludwig, who at the time copped to being born "about 3,462 years ago":

If it's true that a picture is worth more than a thousand words, then Joan Ludwig has spoken more to the dog fancy than almost anyone else. For decades her portraits have adorned dog magazines in every corner of the world, and for thousands of aspiring exhibitors a photograph of their dog bearing her characteristic handwritten signature remains the ultimate seal of approval; proof that you have really arrived. ...

The prolific output and sustained length of Ludwig's career is an achievement in itself, but it is the quality of her work and the effect her photographs have had on budding exhibitors, breeders, and judges over the years that most clearly demonstrate her unique place in the sport of dogs. ...

The trim figure, the mop of gray hair, the dangling brown cigarette, the Hasselblad camera in one hand and the well-worn catalog in the other (used for a hundred tosses to attract the dogs' attention), her crooked smile and salty good humor, her total lack of ego and pretense—everything conspires to help her stand out even in the turbulent hothouse atmosphere of California dog shows.

RINGSIDE



Photos courtesy *Lynda Beam*

Rapid City KC, Rapid City, South Dakota

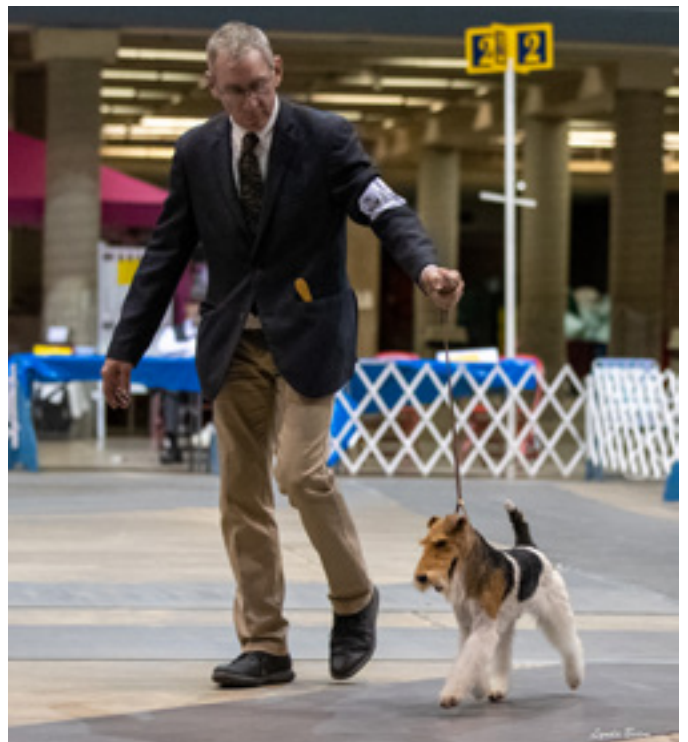


COURTESY LYNDA BEAM

RINGSIDE

Rapid City KC, Rapid City, South Dakota

Photos courtesy Lynda Beam



COURTESY LYNDA BEAM

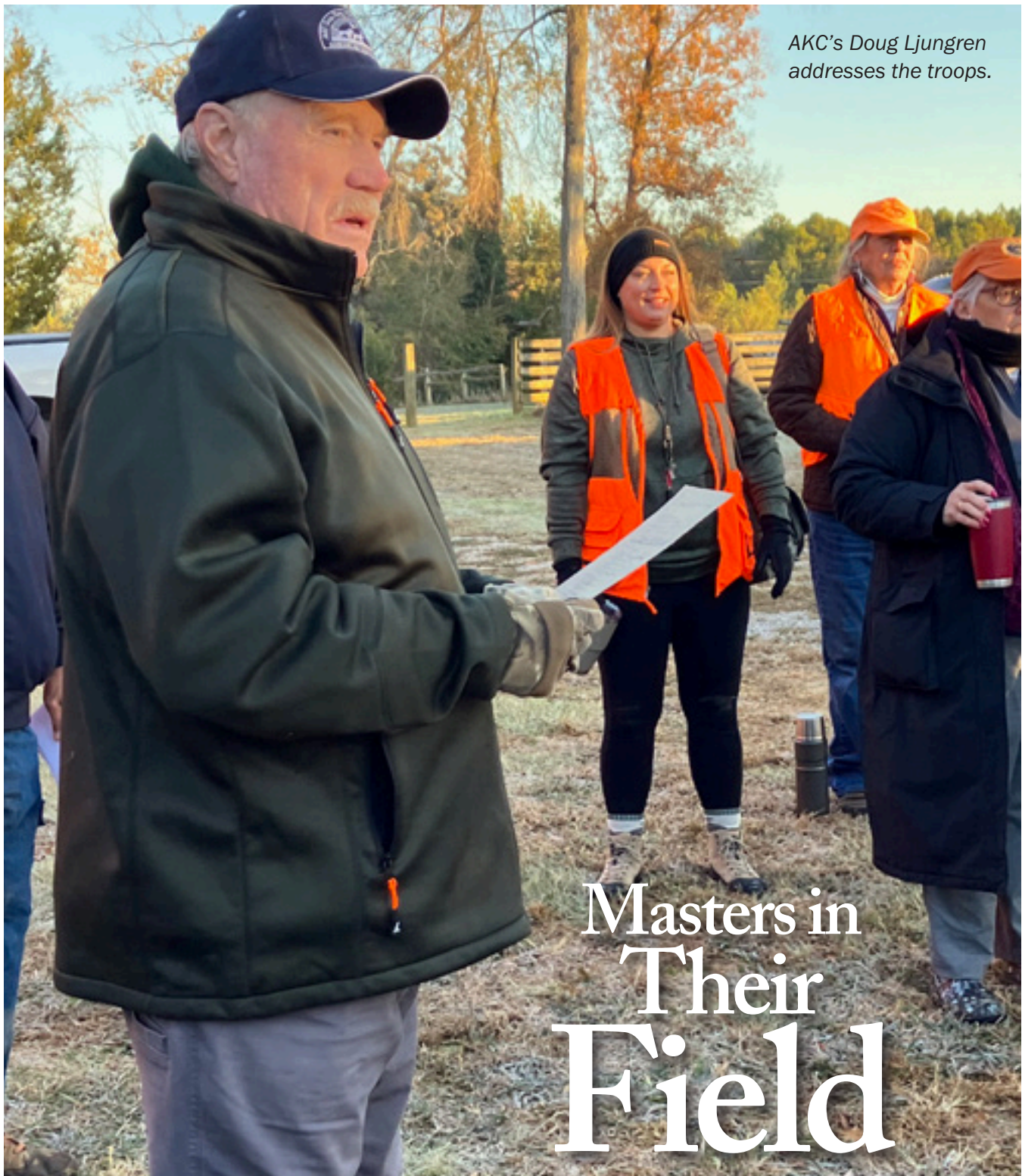
RINGSIDE

Rapid City KC, Rapid City, South Dakota

Photos courtesy Lynda Beam



COURTESY LYNDA BEAM



AKC's Doug Ljungren addresses the troops.

Masters in Their Field

AKC Delegate says, "Wow! What a Master Hunter Excellent weekend for me!"

By Florence Duggan, Sussex Hills KC

PHOTOS COURTESY AUTHOR

FEATURE



Tucker the German Shorthaired Pointer with gunner Bob Rynkiewicz, judge Florence Duggan, and AKC field representative Tom Maneely

OXFORD, NORTH CAROLINA— In November 2023, the AKC held its first Master Hunter Excellent event. There are three basic levels of performance for the pointing breeds in

the venue of Hunt Tests: Junior, Senior, and Master. All levels involve dogs running in braces (two at a time) to search for, find, and point quail, chukar, or pheasant. The most dif-

ficult level is the Master Hunter test, which a dog must pass five times. The test requires almost complete silence on the part of the handler and a dog must pass five categories with

FEATURE



Event participants gather at Oxford for a historic event.

an average score of 7, with no scores less than 5. The categories include pointing, hunting, trainability, honoring, and retrieving.

The AKC Performance Events department, led by Doug Ljungren, configured a new level for dogs that had already earned the coveted Master Hunter (MH) title. The inaugural event was held at a lovely venue, Oak Hill Farm. Steve Kreuser and I were asked to judge this premier event,

and what an honor it was! [Westminster KC](#) and the AKC Performance Events were the sponsors.

The event began on a crisp Saturday morning with an introduction by Ljungren and a historical background about Westminster KC's involvement in hunting events given by Harvey Wooding.

Before the event, there was some discussion on social media that this would just be another Master

test—how wrong those folks were! The rules were much more stringent. The purpose of the test was to honor the most accomplished dogs that already had Master Hunter titles. To that end a finished performance was necessary over two days on different courses. This provided for the evaluation of the consistency of the dogs. A dog had to pass both days with an average score of 8 and no score below 5.

FEATURE

THE JUDGING

Steve Kreuser and I focused on a dog's natural ability, which included desire, initiative, intelligence, and the ability to be a true hunter with a minimum of guidance from the handler. We started out with an entry of 13 dogs.

With those guidelines in mind, we began the process of judging the dogs. We observed each dog from the breakaway, through the back course, and in the bird field. We looked at the stamina and enthusiasm of each dog and for a useful pattern of hunting, along with a dog's knowledge of wind and terrain to determine the intelligent hunting ability of each dog. Quail had been placed along the back course and the dogs had to find the birds, point them, remain staunch until the handler fired a blank gun, and then move on without chasing the bird.

We were also evaluating the connection between the handler and the dog

to see if they worked well together. Dogs were expected to range out front and put down a "polished gun dog" performance.

Good manners were of the essence, as was the ability to pinpoint birds. The dogs spent 22 minutes searching for birds in the back course and then entered the bird field where chukars were hidden.

Dogs entered and when they established point, the handlers notified the gunners that it was time to dispatch the birds. The dogs had to remain staunch through the flush, shot, flight, and downing of the bird. The handler then opted to send the dog for the retrieve. The dogs were sent to retrieve the bird and had to return promptly with no side tracking, and hand the bird to the handler in a condition fit for consumption. This was the quietest part and one of the hardest parts of the test because the handler had to remain silent for the most part.

Of the 13 dogs who started we qualified seven. Those seven were in contention for the next day's evaluation, but the other dogs who didn't qualify were also invited back with the understanding that they could not qualify for an MHX pass but could run the course.

On Sunday we had 10 entries as some of the dogs who did not qualify on Saturday chose not to return. At day's end, three dogs—one Vizsla and two German Shorthaired Pointers—had passed the first MHX test (two passing scores) and would be so noted in the books of AKC.

THE SOCIAL SIDE

Now on to the social side of the event. A large group of people came out to watch the event and an equally large number came out to help. An event of this size requires that everyone help, and people did just that. Members of Westminster KC, the AKC staff, AKC Field Director

FEATURE

of Pointing Breeds Tom Maneely, the bird planter, the gunners, the line marshals, and the photographers made it easy for Steve Kreuser and me to judge the dogs that came out to show their hunting ability.

There was always a bonfire in the morning to warm us, and at lunch we had some wonderful sandwiches, salads, and, of course,

Southern hospitality was served all the way around.

Westminster KC treated the staff, workers, and judges to a wonderful dinner in downtown Oxford. Once again, our love for dogs was evident at the event and the dinner. It was good to see so many people support what we were trying to accomplish in raising the performance

level of pointing dogs.

Many thanks to Doug Ljungren and his staff for the opportunity to be part of this inaugural event.—**F.D.**

Florence Duggan, of Westfield, New Jersey, is the AKC Delegate from the Sussex Hills KC. She is the Breeder Referral contact for the Vizsla Club of America.

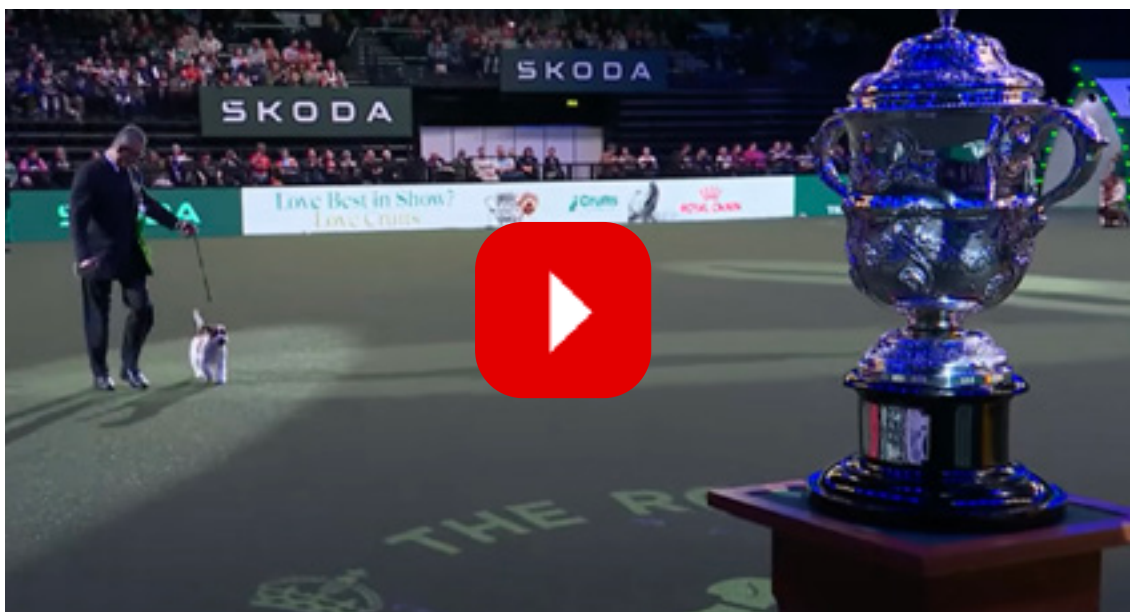
AKC Pointing Breeds

Brittany, Pointer, German Shorthaired Pointer, German Wirehaired Pointer, Vizsla, Wirehaired Vizsla, Weimaraner, English Setter, Irish Setter, Gordon Setter, Irish Red and White Setter, Wirehaired Pointing Griffon, Bracco Italiano, and Spinone Italiano

[Pointing Breed Hunt Tests](#)

[Pointing Breed Field Trials](#)





Jolly Good Show!

Ann Ingram judges Best in Show at Crufts 2024. 22:10



Rare Gems

A unique feature of Crufts is “Vulnerable Breeds” showing. 20:17

VIDEOS



GSD All-Time Greats

The German Shepherd Dog National Specialty winners, 1918 to 2023. 14:13



Field Masters: Gustav Muss-Arnolt

A Gazette Gallery slideshow celebrates a painting master who specialized in sporting dogs at work. 1:06

Braxton, a K-9 for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Office of Law Enforcement



“Second Chance” Braxton

A former stray gives other species a second chance By John Heil

Whether it is at sea-ports, the border, airports, or warehouses, Ray Hernandez and his K-9 dog Braxton are protecting human health and safety, and against the exploitation of illegal wildlife and endangered species daily. “We’re often the last line of defense for endangered

species,” said Hernandez, a wildlife inspector and K-9 handler with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Office of Law Enforcement in Southern California. “It would take me a year by myself to go through a warehouse (to find illegal endangered species being smuggled), but with Braxton

we can complete the process in 15 to 30 minutes.

“With one sniff, he can tell me if there is something of interest in a parcel. He simplifies everything—makes my job so much easier.”

Coming from an animal shelter program through the Department of Agriculture,

REBECCA FABRI/USFWS

FEATURE



Wildlife Inspector Canine Handler Ray Hernandez with Braxton at a warehouse in Southern California in November 2023

Braxton's "second chance" involves using his trained scent to find illegal wildlife including endangered species (using the Convention of International Trade in Endangered Species as

a guide) being imported or exported in and out of the country in Southern California. Dogs that are rescued are put through a series of tests to ensure they are fit mentally and physi-

cally to be selected as K-9s.

Once selected, they are trained at the [USDA National Detector Dog Training Center](#) in Newnan, Georgia, to find five items: seahorse, sea turtle, python skin, rhino horn, and elephant ivory ("high-ticket items that are critical to protect"). They are then more regionally trained from there, with Braxton specializing in sea cucumber, totoaba fish bladder, taxidermy trophies, and more.

"He's probably the most athletic of the dogs I've had," says Hernandez, who had two other K-9s previous to Braxton. "He's relentless in trying to show me he's found something, even willing to go to the second level of shelves on top of a crate to pinpoint an item and pick it up in his mouth."

ONE OF THE FAMILY

Hernandez is fond of all three of his K-9s. Lockett was his first, a Labrador

REBECCA FABBRI/USFWS

FEATURE

Retriever who is short and stubby, but with an “amazing nose,” who has since retired. His second K-9 was Colt, who has also retired, and now Braxton. All three dogs live with Hernandez and his family and “get along perfectly.”

“I think the bond between the dog and their handler is so important,” Hernandez says. “Having the dog live with you makes the working relationship that much stronger. They have a routine—know when to play at home and relax with the family and when to be serious at work. Some think Braxton is intimidating, but he’s just the sweetest—wouldn’t hurt a fly. Will curl up with you like a cat.”

At work it is all business as Braxton and Hernandez play a key role in ensuring illegal wildlife including endangered species and even invasive species are not imported or exported into the country. Additionally, health and safety are paramount.

When Braxton finds parts of animal such as a “hacked off leg or the charcoaled rodent” as are typical of the job, per Hernandez they are able to ensure they turned over for testing for disease.

It isn’t always the endangered species either, as Hernandez has found mitten crabs in shipments which is an invasive species that could wreak havoc in waterways within the United States.

One particular success story Hernandez is most proud of is when he and Braxton intercepted a total of 100-plus native box turtles in multiple mail shipments over the course of a year, destined for Hong Kong. They were able to successfully transfer the turtles to a conservancy which through genetic research by multiple partner universities were able to repatriate them back in their original environment in the Midwest.

“That’s over 100 turtles being taken out of the gene

pool,” Hernandez says. “They were nursed back to health and given a second chance.”

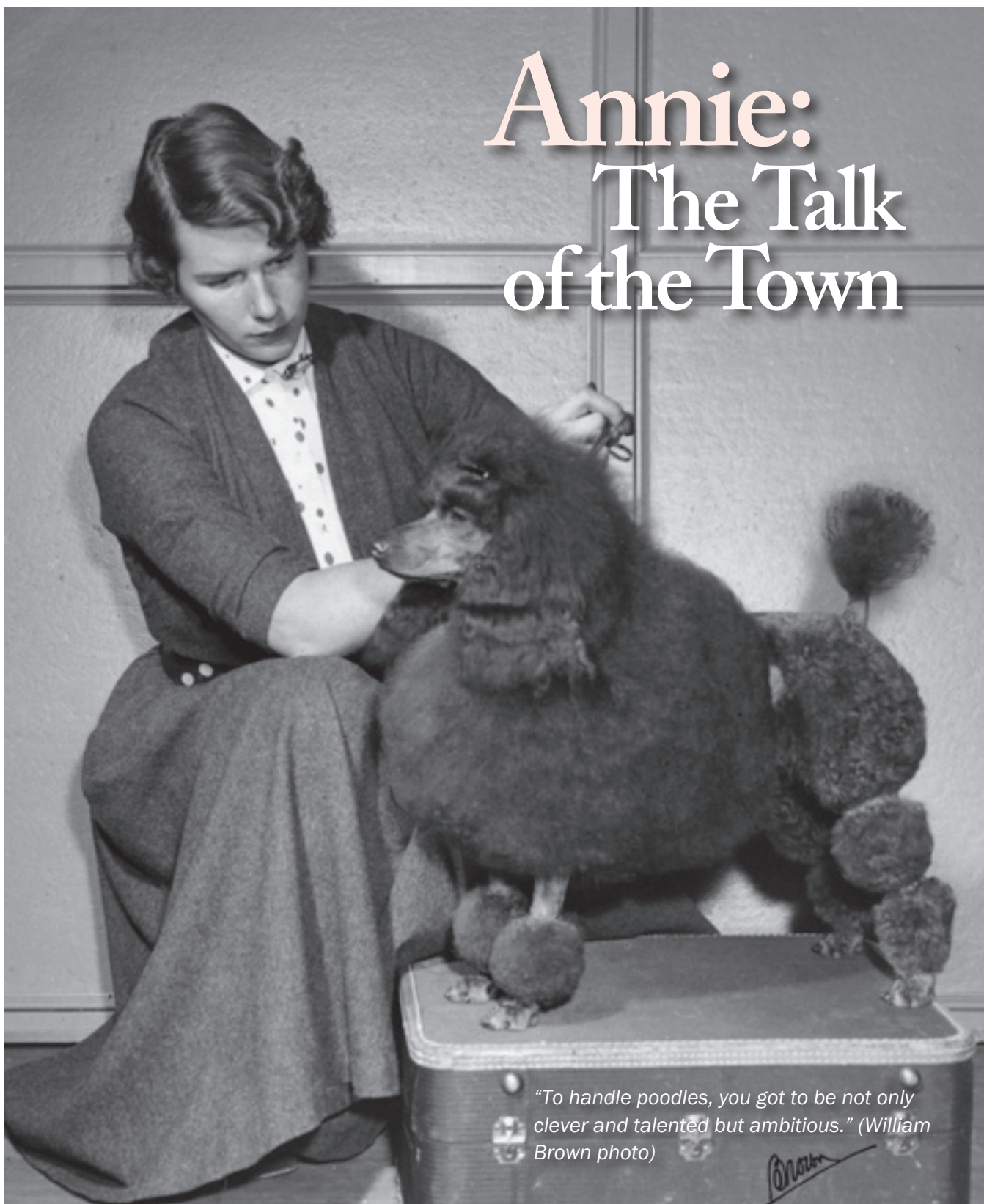
That second chance is what Hernandez takes the most pride in. That Braxton, once a stray dog who was given a “second chance” can then in turn give other species a “second chance.”—**J.H.**

John Heil serves as the deputy assistant regional director for external affairs in the USFWS Pacific Southwest Region headquarters in Sacramento, California. He is a U.S. Air Force veteran and spent part of his career overseas as a television and radio.



COURTESY AUTHOR

Annie: The Talk of the Town



"To handle poodles, you got to be not only clever and talented but ambitious." (William Brown photo)

AKC GAZETTE COLLECTION

TIMES PAST

For nearly a century, lengthy celebrity profiles have been a signature feature of The New Yorker magazine. What sets these articles apart from the usual celebrity blather is the depth and quality of the writing. Truman Capote's take on Marlon Brando, and Lillian Ross's word portrait of Ernest Hemingway, to name but two, are among New Yorker profiles fondly recalled decades after their publication as prime samples of the writer's craft. To be profiled in the New Yorker is to be immortalized.

And so, it caused quite a buzz among the fancy when Anne Hone Rogers, at the height of her fame as a handler, got the New Yorker treatment by Robert Rice in the April 1960 issue. What follows is a brief excerpt.

Since Miss Rogers is generally showing, or about to show, something like fifty dogs, forty-odd of them poodles of one size or another, and since a poodle's coat requires roughly six hours of preparation on the eve of each show, she spends a major part of her seventy-hour work week, clad in her blue

Eastern Dog Club, 1954:
Anne Rogers handled the immaculately groomed Bermyth White Swan's Replica to a Toy Group win for a 5-point major. The judge is Mrs. C.F. Dowe. (Evelyn Shafer photo)



TIMES PAST



BONUS VIDEO: *Annie Trims a Poodle*

sneakers, a pair of khaki Bermuda shorts, a man's shirt, wielding a pair of scissors, inhaling snippets of poodle hair, and complaining because she isn't ambidextrous. In the words of a handler who manages to maintain conventional business hours by confining his professional attentions to short-haired dogs, "To handle poodles, you got to be not only clever and talented but ambitious."

Miss Rogers is not only ambitious but clever and talented. One awe-struck connoisseur refers to what she does to poodles as "sculpture," and even fellow workers who feel that professionally she is closer kin to Charles of the Ritz than to [ancient Greek sculptor] Praxiteles concede that she is the definitive poodle trimmer of her day. "I'm sure some of the old-timers in poodles won't admit it, but

Annie's worked out a whole new technique for trimming those dogs," an old-timer in springer spaniels said at the Garden show last year. "She was the first one to fit the pattern to the poodle. Of course, everybody does that now, or tries to. Why, if you brought a poodle into the ring today looking the way poodles looked twenty years ago, no judge who liked his job would even give you a polite good morning."



Beth Sweigart

In 2011, Beth Sweigart made AKC National Championship history by becoming the show's first Best in Show handler (in 2003, with CoCo, the famous Norfolk Terrier) to return as a judge. This year, Sweigart will be back at Orlando to judge Best Bred-by-Exhibitor. See the complete panel on page 10.

BREED COLUMNS



Edited by [Arliss Paddock](#)



Question: Why attend a national specialty? This month our new English Cocker Spaniel columnist Beth Hendrick answers: “Well, to watch all the beautiful dogs, of course!” But, she reminds us, a breed’s national has so much more to offer newbies and veteran fanciers alike. Welcome to the GAZETTE, Beth!

COURTESY BECKY PARCHMAN

BREED COLUMNS

ABOUT THE BREED COLUMNS

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

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Brittanys

“BLIND EYE”: ROAN BRITTANYS

A recent breed column focused on one of our first Brittanys, FC Just Dew It (Dewey), who had the trait of seldom looking me in the eye. It was an amazing 13-year adventure on which Dewey took our family.

With three boys in the family, we bird-hunted our Brittanys. As a pup Dewey also was given that opportunity. Two of the boys took their first bird over Dewey’s points. To extend the contact with birds afield, he was one of our first Brittanys to be trained for field trials. He also was the first one to compete in show events.

Several of the 32 Brittanys that have been a part of our family have been registered to our sons, and some have spent a lot of time with professional handlers—both field and show. Always at least one Brittany has been in our home for the past 40-some years, as family members and bird hunting companions. Currently it is FC Glade Run Nutmeg,



Shadow on a bench and pointing a quail in the brush

CGC (Meg).

In the area where we live, western Pennsylvania,

there are few native birds. Although birds to hunt are stocked by the state game

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commission, my preference is not to hunt our Brittansys with pheasants, as they tend to run. It is tough to keep a pointing dog steady when pheasants run. Grouse have been hunted on occasion, but this can be frustrating, because of a cyclic population in this area of Pennsylvania.

Thus most all of our hunting has been at a family-owned game bird preserve. Excellent cover is always maintained for the flight-conditioned birds. Often, with limited time to hunt and to be sure the Brittansys will have “bird work,” the game preserve is the best option.

Some 10 years ago our grandson, Ben, just a few months past his 12th birthday, took his first quail over Meg’s point when she was a young dog pushing 1 year of age. This past year, as Meg reached year 13, she has been continuing to point, hold, and retrieve quail and/or chukars for Ben and his hunting buddies. It’s often all about memories.

As time marches on, it’s important to plan ahead. About four years ago a breeding of two Brittansys occurred with the male being a Glade Run dog (the same breeding as Meg) and a female with very good field trial and show background. Instead of a stud fee, the agreement was to take a female pup.

About eight weeks after the pups were whelped in July, a road trip was made to West Virginia to take delivery of a liver roan female pup. Glade Run Shadow (Shad) from the beginning was a bird dog! After several extended training sessions during her first three years, lifelong competitor and pointing dog trainer Andy Zoll said Shad’s “got all the right stuff ... it’s all so natural for her.”

At the same time it was understood her appearance as a liver roan would make it very difficult to compete and finish her as a show champion. If one attends a dog show, it will be observed that the majority of Brittany

competitors are orange/white or white/orange, with occasional livers, but never roans. (Possibly “never” is a little harsh; the color is seldom seen.)

In discussions with knowledgeable Brittany show people, they indicate prejudice is there against all roans. It’s been speculated that this prejudice, according to Maxwell Riddle, author of *The New Complete Brittany*, came from Alan Stuyvesant, an early importer (in the late 1930s) of the Brittany from France. One should ask, why does it still persist?

This prejudice factor has been observed firsthand. While attending the National All-Age Championships in Booneville, Arkansas, last year, an individual who is not only active in field trials but also competes on a regular basis in the Brittany show ring made an observation about Shadow: “Her conformation is outstanding, and she should do well in show competition.” It was asked, “What about the rumor that

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judges will not even look at roan Brittanys?” The comment back was “Guess you will just have to find out!”

So we did! Shadow trained and competed with a professional handler over a four-month period this past summer. The handler was pleased with how quickly she learned the proper techniques to compete in the show ring. The next step was the actual competition in the ring with other Brittanys, who at each event were either orange/white or white/orange. However, when Shadow entered the ring the handler was amazed to observe the judge’s “blind eye” reaction toward the roan Brittany. During several following show events there were judges who seemed to purposely avoid doing the examination procedure, essentially ignoring the roan Brittany.

However, it has been recently learned Brittany judges are now being taught during training classes to respect the dog’s conformation along with the dog’s

coat color, including the roan. The question is, how soon will the roan Brittanys be “given their due”?

—David Webb,
davidawebb@aol.com
 American Brittany Club

German Shorthaired Pointers

PRESERVATION BREEDING FOR THE FUTURE

Preservation breeding for the future is a daunting task if one thinks about all the variables not associated with phenotype—that is, health, temperament, bidability, and athleticism, to name a few. The German Shorthaired Pointer was developed to be a multipurpose breed with a specific phenotype and coat to set it apart from the other German hunting breeds at the time. In spite of strong opinions and varied breeding strategies to accomplish the task, early breeders managed to get not only the desired attributes but also the desired breed type and coat for their national dog.

Initially they bred for specific functions using other breeds. Once established, they began to work on type. Their philosophy was based on very tight line-breeding on the *mutter* (dam) lines. On occasion, a stud dog from another bloodline might be brought into the breeding program. This was only done if they were prepotent for a desired attribute like scenting, backing, or courage in the face of a predator.

Has the breed and breeding philosophy changed since the first import in 1924? Most likely not, at least for the early ones imported to America. Unless one had family connections in Germany, the availability of breeding pairs and specific lines were not easily acquired, due to the disastrous effect of WWII to kennels and breeding stock. The Germans were assessing their remaining breeding stock and in the process of rebuilding their kennels. As a result, they were reticent to let any breeding stock



German Shorthaired Pointer FC Kaposia's Chief of Oak-Crest, CD, age 13, 1965

out of the country. As more Germans began to immigrate to America, some brought their Shorthairs with them, while others connected to family back home in Germany to import breeding stock.

Initially, the individuals importing breeding pairs to America relied on the

breeding practices of the German kennels. Their lines and kennels were established on the accomplishments of their imports, as noted in early ads. The following was found in George Ruediger's 1953 book, *German Shorthaired Pointer Activities* (paraphrased for brevity):

“Here is *line breeding of fine dogs* ... Puppies available ... dual, International Champion lines ... Outstanding German Stud recently imported. ... Shorthairs since 1937 in this country previously connected with the ‘Laberthal’ Kennels in Germany.”

Preeminent Shorthairs of the 1960s, '70s, and '80s may have been a result of the early line-bred German dogs, or American breeders may have outcrossed to known established lines in the U.S. and developed their own lines by the 1940s and '50s.

Determining a Shorthair's lineage based on a printed pedigree is often difficult. Some may only provide three generations but have multiple kennel names to sort through, especially if some were imported from Germany, Czechoslovakia, Poland, Romania, or Australia. The imported dogs may be an outcross, unless they are being bred to previous imports from the same kennels. It is also



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possible that dogs from some of the established kennels in the 1980s are outcrosses as well. Does that prevent breeding to preserve the Shorthair breed as we know it? Only if the dogs used in a breeding program no longer exhibit the specific phenotype, and no longer exhibit the qualities for which they were bred to be an all-purpose gundog for fur, feather, on land or in water in addition.

Preservation of a breed is multifaceted. It is not uncommon for breeders to collect and store semen from their prepotent male dogs, but semen in and of itself will produce nothing until it is paired with an ovum. Therein lies the conundrum: Can you really “preserve” a breed when you can only store semen and must rely on ovum from current dams?

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

Pointers

The following was written for this column by Debra Pereira in 2016.

THE VERSATILITY OF THE POINTER: FACT OR FICTION?

Pointers are not often seen in performance events such as agility or obedience, but this is not because they do not have the desire or the ability to excel. They are willing and able competitors, and their athleticism enables them to perform at the top levels.

Their exuberant and even mischievous nature can be misleading, as they can be very sensitive when they think they have made a mistake. Because of this sensitivity, you should always reward the positive.

In general, I’ve found the breed to hit their stride in performance events around age 4 to 5 years old. This requires patience on their human teammate’s part to not put too much pressure on the dog in their younger years.

The Pointer is a relatively long-lived breed, with an average life span of 13 to 15 years, so there will be plenty of time for active competition after your Pointer matures.

When evaluating potential puppies in a litter, is important to consider the ultimate goals for your canine teammate. While important in all venues for pups to be brave and bold, for sports like agility I also like to see a very strong play and toy drive. If your inclination is geared more toward obedience or rally, you may still be looking for strong play drive but a slightly less adventurous pup.

Pups can also be assessed by experienced persons even at a very young age for hunting, tracking, or retrieving instincts.

While many Pointers love the water, this activity is not their primary purpose, as they are bred for upland bird hunting. If your plans include water sports such as dock diving or versatile hunting dog tests, your

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"Two Pointers on Point in a Field," 1905, Maud Earl

Pointer should be exposed to the water in a positive manner while still young.

It is important to understand each breed's natural inclinations when considering training approaches to other venues such as agility or obedience. The Pointer is described in the field as "very biddable, personable dogs ... they tend to run hard, fast, and cover as much ground as possible to accomplish their aim. As the Pointer may be a

considerable distance from the handler at the time of the bird-find, he must also be trainable, so that he will 'stand' his bird until the handler arrives." This inclination to work away from the handler while still taking directions can be an asset in many canine sports.

Pointers have achieved success at the top levels in the traditional performance events such as obedience and agility, with many Obedience Trial Champion

(OTCH), Master Agility Champion (MACH), and Preferred Agility Champion (PACH) titleholders representing the breed. Many Pointers have also earned advanced titles in tracking and rally.

In recent years owners have ventured into other events not considered typical for an upland bird hunting dog with great success, with Pointers earning titles in barn hunt, coursing ability, and nose work.

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To highlight the versatility of the Pointer, the American Pointer Club offers awards at the national specialty for Pointers competing in field, obedience, rally, agility, and conformation venues. Depending on the number of different venues each dog participates in, they are eligible to receive the coveted “MVP” award. This program was established to encourage Pointer owners to venture out and try new types of events with their dogs, and it has been a great success.

There are so many different venues available to participate in with your Pointer, it's important to find the ones that make you and your dog the happiest. Our canine partners' lives are much too short. Find what they love and help them do it!

Is the Pointer a versatile breed? Definitely! —D.P.

Debra Pereira has competed with Pointers in conformation, obedience, rally, agility, hunt tests, and field trials.

[American Pointer Club](#)

Chesapeake Bay Retrievers

TOP TWENTY SHOWCASE: OWNER-HANDLER AND BREED/ALL-BREED

The American Chesapeake Club national specialty was held outside of Salt Lake City, Utah, in September 2023. It was the first time the breed's national was held in Utah, and also the first time a Top Twenty Showcase was offered. We do not have a huge specialty show as some of the more popular breeds do. Our registration numbers dropped from 48 to 52 last year. The show chair initiated this new event and did a lot of research gathering information from other parent clubs, which resulted in the inaugural showcase taking place.

Dogs ranked in conformation from official 2022 rankings were invited to participate. An entry fee was required, and that resulted in each team receiving the appropriate personalized rosette, a newly created

2023 Top Twenty Challenge Coin, and a beautiful, colorful catalog. Pictures of all the eligible dogs were included. Participants had two pages, which included a pedigree, bio with all titles and major wins, plus a full-color photo of each dog.

The showcase took place in the late afternoon, after sweepstakes and class dogs judging was completed. There was a timely break so exhibitors could prepare. A Top Twenty that I had previously attended as a judge for another retriever breed was held in the banquet room of a hotel and included three judges, and dinner with everyone in semiformal dress. Our event took place in a fairgrounds building on a dirt floor. There was no judging—the fledgling event did not require judging. It was offered to see how many eligible participants would choose to participate and be listed in the catalog, but also for exhibitors to see dogs who had come from all over the country.

A total of 10 dogs partic-

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Catalog for the Top Twenty Showcase; Top Twenty rosettes and Challenge coin

ipated in Breed/All-Breed, and seven in the Owner-Handled group. Two handlers were there without their dogs to accept the rosette and coins. Twelve different dogs participated, some in both divisions.

There was excellent audience participation. Everyone

applauded as each entrant came into the ring to music of their choice. They gaited around the ring and did a traditional “down-and-back,” ending with a free-stack in the center of the ring. A ringmaster read the achievements of each dog as they entered. Upon

exiting, the team was presented with a rosette and challenge coin. It was a pleasure to have a relaxing event where one could actually see these dogs that had accomplished so much without the pressure of competing.

In the past there has been an occasional Parade of Champions and Titleholders, but it was very infrequent. Will our next national specialty offer anything similar, or will

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a different “version” be offered?

The premier event was chaired and orchestrated by Sonia Cunningham, NSS Chair 2023, with an outstanding committee who worked with her. Congratulations on a successful event!

The next national is August 28–31, in Wilmington, Ohio, at the Roberts Center.

Comments are always welcome.

—Betsy Horn Humer,
tiderumr2@verizon.net
 American Chesapeake Club

Curly Coated Retrievers

THOSE SLOPING REARS

I have been giving quite a bit of thought lately to the appearance of the rear end of Curly Coated Retrievers. A friend of mine who has attended quite a few dog shows recently mentioned to me that she has noticed some rears that, conformation-wise, are not of good quality.



Curly Coated
Retriever

Some of the rears displayed tails that were curved up. Some tails came off the rear with a distinct dip, rather than coming off the rear end in almost a straight line, as they should. Our standard states that tails should be carried straight

or fairly straight, and never curled over the back, kinked, or crooked.

At some of the shows I attended a few years ago, I observed Curlies with tails that were curled, and other tails that were coming off the rear with a distinct dip.

COURTESY LYNDR A BEAM

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I have also observed a few tails that definitely curled up almost over the back as dogs trotted around the ring. When we hard-stack the dogs we can hold the tail out, but in movement the flaw is obvious.

A curled tail is not pleasant to see! I hope that in the near future, our breeders will pay closer attention to the rear and tail-set of both sire and dam as they select pairings for future litters.

Ours is a silhouette breed. We don't have elements in appearance that could distract the eye from the outline. From our beautiful heads in profile, we need to be conscious of the silhouette all the way to the tip of the tail!

—Ann Shinkle, 649

Amelia Island Parkway, Apt. 1123, Fernandina Beach, Florida, 32034

[Curly-Coated Retriever Club of America](#)

Golden Retrievers

GOLDEN RETRIEVER LIFE SPAN

You bring home your Golden Retriever

puppy, an adorable, wiggly ball of yellow fluff. You are determined to give your puppy the best life possible, although you understand that his life, though sweet, will be relatively short—10 to 12 years, which is the average lifespan of today's Golden Retriever.

Many veterinarians today posit that was not always the case, that Goldens of past generations lived longer than those of today. They also agree that Goldens today have some of the highest rates of cancer of any dog breed—possibly *the* highest. Several large-scale studies currently underway are examining both of those issues. Could they possibly be connected?

Stepping back in time, those issues were nonexistent when Golden Retrievers first graced this planet. History recounts how, in 1868, Scottish nobleman Sir Dudley Marjoriebanks bred his yellow retriever, a dog named Nous, to a Tweed Water Spaniel named Belle. He gave the resulting

four yellow pups to friends, with the intent of developing a superior line of yellow dogs. Success followed, with the results recorded in our Golden Retriever history books (as well as in past AKC columns on the breed).

Marjoriebanks was a vanguard of his time, a pioneer of what today is called line-breeding. Line-breeding is a common practice in the dog world, and while such breedings may produce the desired features—such as a perfectly square head or long, silky coat—it also carries risks. All dogs carry good genes as well as not-so-good genes that carry harmful mutations, which they pass along to their offspring. When two closely related dogs are bred together, their offspring are more likely to inherit any harmful mutation(s) carried by both parents.

That scenario is further complicated by what's known as the “popular sire effect.” Statistically, the average breeding purebred male

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Golden Retriever

may father more than 100 puppies; many more if he has titles and/or show wins. If he has a faulty gene or two, the breeding results will spread both the good and harmful genes exponentially.

Golden Retrievers have the highest proportion of

popular sires of any dog breed. Let that sink in.

Adam Boyko, a canine population geneticist at Cornell University, shares the belief that, despite improvements in veterinary care and the plush lifestyle provided by doting Golden

owners, Golden Retrievers are living shorter lives. While he acknowledges that the best breeders do test for known genetic problems, those unknown harmful genes often sneak in on the coat-tails of the “good guys.”

Two of the large-scale studies mentioned earlier and described below may eventually provide answers or solutions.

The Morris Animal Foundation’s Golden Retriever Lifetime Study, launched in 2012, follows 3,000 dogs from an early age, to identify risk factors for the four most common cancers. One fun fact revealed thus far in the study found that only 26 percent of the dogs slept in the bed during year 1 of the study. (My own dog is first in line for the bed at night!)

The Dog Aging Project, supported by the National Institute on Aging, is a nationwide, long-term (and ambitious!) study of aging in tens of thousands of companion dogs.

You can follow both stud-

COURTESY REE SMYTH

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ies and learn more about Golden health issues (which could inform your next puppy search) by visiting their websites: www.morrisanimalfoundation.org and <https://dogagingproject.org>.

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

English Setters

THE PRICE OF PUPPIES

There's a topic that I don't really want to discuss, but it's been weighing on my mind for some time, so it's probably a good idea to put it out here for others to examine. It's the price of English Setter puppies.

According to the information I have found, show-bred English Setter puppies are currently selling for \$1,800–2,500. A source says the cost from one particular breeder is \$3,000–7,000.

I have been a breeder. I know that in my experience I never made any kind of profit from breeding a

litter. When you add up health testing for the bitch, progesterone testing, possible artificial insemination, X-rays, whelping and care of a litter for 8–12 weeks, not to mention showing your girl to any titles, breeding your dog is an incredibly expensive undertaking. That's assuming that you don't have any unexpected problems that might call for a C-section or other costly expenses with the puppies. I didn't even mention the stud fee.

Stud dog owners have their own issues with semen collection and examinations, along with trying to accommodate the owners of lady dogs. Breeding isn't easy—or inexpensive—for anyone.

I realize that some other breeds may command even higher prices. Even “doodles” often cost thousands of dollars. Some rescues and shelters, especially those with dogs who are imported from outside the country or who have particularly sad stories, sometimes sell dogs for incredible prices. There are dogs being sold today,

without the pedigrees and health testing of good-quality English Setter puppies, for ridiculous amounts of money. That's all true.

It's also true that the costs of dog food and veterinary care have risen astronomically in the last several years. People who think serious dog breeders are rolling in money have no idea what goes into breeding a litter.

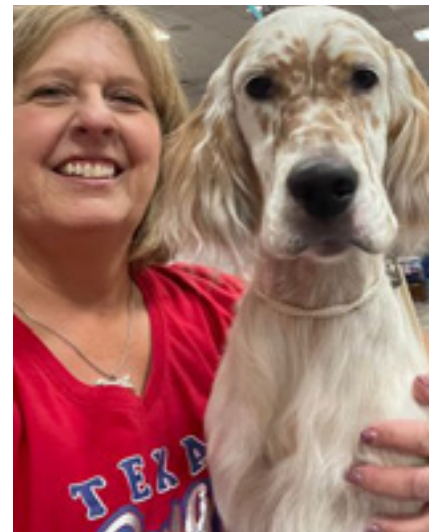
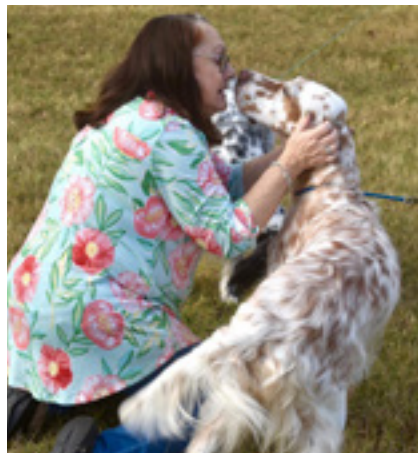
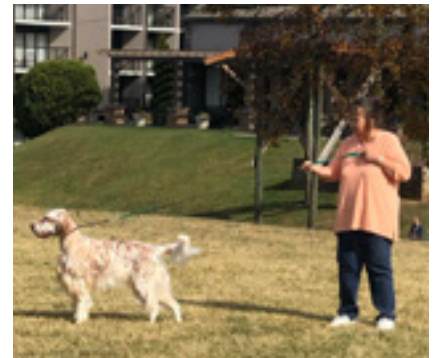
With all that said, I do worry that the price of good purebred dogs in general, including English Setters, is becoming out of reach for many average Americans. This is especially true for some of our own older ESAA members who now live on a fixed income. These members may be people who have been active in the sport of purebred dogs in past years but who no longer breed or show their dogs. It's painful to see Facebook messages from longtime English Setter people saying that they won't be able to afford to buy another dog in the future.

Before you say that such a

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Candid photos from the ESSA national specialty: Sheradin's Star Prosecco of Aysgarth (blue belton, Vini) and Odyssey'N Sweetbriar Moonglow of Aysgarth (orange belton, Pinky); Ch. Lentigo's Just like Dad (Gulliver), with co-owner Kamerin Hermenau; Pinky's reunion with her breeder, Lori Whorf with her English Setter

person can adopt an English Setter, ask yourself if you would prefer that option compared to being able to buy a nice, well-bred pet puppy from a good breeder.

Before you say that such a person wouldn't be able to afford good dog food or good veterinary care for an expen-

sive dog, remember that these are people who have devoted their lives to our breed. Their dogs have never gone without good nutrition or proper veterinary care.

In short, before adopting an elitist attitude about your puppies and prices, consider who you may be turning

away from being able to buy one of your pups.

There is often a reason why the American public turns to shelters and rescues to get dogs instead of buying from good AKC breeders. Please don't price our English Setters out of the market when it comes to good homes.

I have nothing against shelters and rescues, especially

COURTESY LESLIE CRAWFORD, SHANNON VAN METER / ERIC RADCLIFFE / LORI WHORF



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the breed rescues that help our English Setters. However, I would like to ask our breeders to remember that you probably have some puppies that are not show quality. Some of you may work out deals with handlers or friends to co-own your show puppies. You may work with junior handlers—a great way to bring young people into our sport. Please consider taking the same approach with some of our longtime English Setter fanciers when it comes to pet puppies. Be open to placing pups at a reduced price when it comes to some of our older ESAA members. Someday you may find yourself in the same situation, wishing you could have a nice English Setter puppy in your home once again.

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

Gordon Setters

A DIAMOND JUBILEE

Seventy years is a remarkable lifespan—just ask

an elephant, a parrot, a giant tortoise, or even a red sea urchin if you run across any of them. All of those creatures live at least 70 years. Now that we're in the year 2024, something else can be added to that list come early May. That would be the Gordon Setter Club of America's oldest ongoing specialty show: the Midwest Specialty. And taking a hint from the late Queen Elizabeth II and her Diamond Jubilee celebration, a number of Gordons will be gathering in Lima, Ohio, on May 11 to celebrate the Midwest Specialty and the breed.

Before 1954, the GSCA held one specialty each year. It was in May and was in Trenton, New Jersey. There were more and more Gordons in the Midwest each year, so a second specialty was added, this one in conjunction with an all-breed show in St. Louis in March of 1954. Eleven Gordons showed up, and Best of Breed was awarded to Windy Hills Doreen B,

with Best of Opposite going to Ch. Windy Hills Ablaze of Gunbar.

In 1955, the show moved to Indianapolis, and in the following years it also spent time in Detroit, then St. Louis again, until finally settling down in northeast Ohio in 1963.

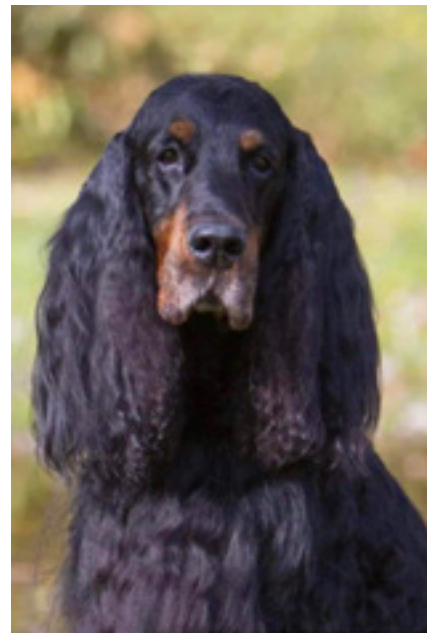
The Trenton specialty ceased operation after its 1962 show, so the Midwest picked up the Memorial Day weekend dates in 1963. Since then it has been in May, with three exceptions: It moved to an August date in 1974 for one year, and in 1997 and 2017 it moved to a November date in Columbus due to conflicts with the national specialty.

In 1975 the show moved from northeast Ohio to the Clark County Fairgrounds in Springfield, Ohio, and also moved to the second weekend in May. That has been the near-permanent date for the show since that time, with the two exceptions noted above.

That was also the first year that it was held as a

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Top left: Ch. Afternod Yank of Rockaplenty, shown winning the 1974 specialty with handler George Alston. Our Diamond Jubilee is also the 50th anniversary of Yank's win. Yank was owned by Mrs. W.W. Clark of Virginia. Bottom left: Ch. Buteo's Great Miami, who won the specialty more times than any other dog. Duncan was owned by Gerald and Helena Curtis of Ohio. Top right: head shot of the most recent multi-year winner, GCh.P Sastya's Eleven Eleven, owned by Mary Anne Leanard, Mary Grill, and Linda Brandyberry of Michigan

standalone show, and that continues to this date. "Standalone" in this case means not connected to

a cluster or an all-breed show. It is currently the only Gordon specialty of this nature other than

the national specialty. It spent a number of years in Springfield, Ohio, before moving to Middletown, West

COURTESY OWNERS / GSCA

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Carrollton, then Lebanon (all also in Ohio), and now has been in Lima since 2013.

The standalone status for the show proved to be a popular idea, as entries began to grow in Springfield. In 1983 the Midwest also served as the first-ever national specialty for Gordons, with Jeanette Allen coming from Scotland to judge the breed, and Dawn Ferguson coming from Australia to judge the sweepstakes. There were 256 Gordons entered, with a total entry of 353.

The largest Midwest specialty other than that show was in 1989, when Gordon Setter breeder judge Jack Jones of Alabama drew an entry of 226 dogs, with a total entry of 315, necessitating the hiring of a second judge. Most of the classes would have been 5-point major shows on their own. The sweepstakes entry was 89. Best of Breed at that show was Ch. Bromwich's Full Stride, with Best of Opposite Sex going to

Ch. Woodsmoke's After Hours. Best in the large sweeps went to Savoyard Comic Operetta, with Best of Opposite to Dunbar's Dangerous Dan McGrew.

Mr. Jones, in his remarks to the crowd after that show, called the assignment the highlight of his career in dogs.

There is no way to list all the Gordons who have won this specialty, but the pedigrees of today's Gordons are full of those dogs and bitches. A few of the dogs who won the show in multiple years are Ch. Afternod Yank of Rockalenty, Ch. Rockaplenty's Real McCoy, Ch. Ben Wen's Benji McDee, Ch. Buteo's Great Miami, Ch. Sastya's Eleven Eleven, and Ch. Bit O'Gold Titan Treasure.

Due to dwindling entries in 2015, the show moved to a format of a morning show followed by an afternoon show. Several dogs have won both shows on the same day in that format, including GCh.B Birch Run N' Sastya's Fire Engine Eleven

and Ch. Shaker Tree's Santana, who won both shows in 2023.

The list of judges who have officiated at the show is long. Since 1979 it has been the committees' policy to hire "all-rounder" judges, setter breeder judges, and people new to judging. The list includes Jane Forsyth (twice), Donald Sandberg, Donald Booxbaum, Michele Billings, Robert Forsyth, Anne Rogers Clark, Maxine Beam, and Dr. Alvin Krause. Setter-specific judges have included Nancy Frey (twice), and both E. Erving and Anne Eldredge, and recently Dr. B.J. Parsons. Gordon Setter breeder-judges have included, Jack Jones, Bill Dwelly, William Stauder, Tom Olson, Barbara Burns, and Richard Quaco.

Miscellany

The Midwest Specialty for years was synonymous with rain—sometimes lots of rain. That seemed to ease a bit when the show moved to Lebanon and was under



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a hard roof, though still outdoors. The Lima KC showgrounds that is home to the show now also provides a hard roof while being outdoors.

For a number of years the specialty included an obedience trial with the show, but that was discontinued in 2000 due to a lack of entries. Junior Showmanship became part of the specialty when it moved to Ohio in 1963, and it continues to be a part of each show.

Only two dogs have won Best of Breed from the classes: Rockaplenty's Real McCoy, in 1977, and Buteo's Great Miami (Duncan), who was Winners Dog in 1985 and came back as a special in 1986 to win as a champion. Duncan is the only Gordon to win the show four times. Real McCoy also won as a special in 1979. Both dogs were owned or co-owned by the late Gerald and Helena Curtis.

As mentioned at the beginning, Windy Hills

Doreen B won the first specialty. The first dog to win the show was in year two in Indianapolis, and it was Ch. Blarneystone's Lancelot, who was primarily from Windy Hills stock.

That brings us to today, and in honor of 70 years there is a special weekend planned. Plans are for a Friday, May 10, afternoon show, followed by a morning show on Saturday, May 11, as the official celebration—our very own Diamond Jubilee. Both shows will feature puppy and veterans' sweepstakes. GSCA members and recent exhibitors will receive either a printed or digital premium list with all the details, and details will also be in the *GSCA News* that is sent to all members. Anyone else may request one by contacting me at dunbar.gordons@gmail.com.

A final note: I first joined the show committee for The Midwest in 1979 and have been either chairman, secretary, grounds, ring steward or trophy chair every year

since then, often multiple jobs. This will be my retirement specialty, though I intend to start bringing a folding chaise lounge and parking it at ringside (with suitable snacks and beverages of course) for however long the future determines.

Come and join us. Spectators are always welcome, and there are no parking or spectator admission fees.

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

Irish Red and White Setters

PUPPIES, TRAINING, AND MORE

Duchess and I walk two or three times a day. Our street runs along Oyster Creek and is lined with centuries-old oaks and manicured lawns, with friendly neighbors who comment on how well-behaved my dog is.

Just last week someone mentioned that their dog looked like Duchess, just

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Irish Red and White Setter sisters Lady and Bristol training with a bird; pups learning manding and at just a few days old

with a shorter coat. Ah, yes, the German Shorthaired Pointer (GSP), Patsy. I knew both dogs had been trained by the same Puppy Kindergarten instructor.

The difference in their training was time. Three months for the GSP; for Duchess, seven years obedience and rally training, private lessons, classes, and lifetime daily practice.

As a puppy, Duchess was full of energy. An excellent example of the breed standard—“tireless in the field.” She is always ready to *go!* Even at 10 years old. We can go on a two-mile walk. Come home, and she is ready to go again.

We trained with a noted obedience/rally judge. Her interest lay in setting up courses for upcoming trials to refine design, and to find any flaws. Rally course design is a true art form.

There are so many intricate details to consider in sign placement to make a challenging course that works on all levels—from meeting the required elements, the movement of dog and handler through the course, start/finish direction, and entry/exit to the next sign, to the angles from sign to sign, and so on. What looks good on paper might not work as set out. They are valuable lessons for a beginner.

COURTESY CHRISTINA PHILLIPS



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At trials I was her ring steward—setting up, then changing for next level, setting jump heights, checking ring for debris, and keeping it clean.

One year, at the Houston World Series of Dog Shows, dogs kept getting distracted on the left side of the ring. Then it stopped. No one could figure out why. From my vantage point I noticed a spectator eating a sandwich, then leave—a very tempting distraction, which proves the admonition to train for every possibility.

Ever hear the story about popcorn raining down onto the course? What could the handler do? My imagination runs wild in delight at the dogs’ possible reactions. Or the well-proofed dog who effortlessly continues without incident.

So, yes, Duchess is well trained. Her even, Irish Red and White Setter temperament is a plus. On our walks she sits when we stop at curbs. As cyclists, joggers, or walkers get close, we step off the sidewalk.

She sits and waits for them to pass by. Sometimes we visit our neighbors. She must sit to get petted. No need for the “off” command, as she does not jump up on anyone.

The visits are an opportunity to educate the public about AKC, purebred dogs, training, and how to approach and pet a dog. She loves attention from children. We ask parents’ permission first. We demonstrate how uncomfortable it is to have a hand come from overhead or a hand quickly coming at you then pulled away—motions children and adults tend to use when unfamiliar with dogs. We show how to pet softly on the dog’s back. We keep it short, then thank them for petting Duchess and continue our walk. I praise Duchess for being such a sweet girl.

These interactions are good for Duchess and the neighbors, especially children who do not have a dog or are fearful. We stress the importance of a

parent being present and asking permission before approaching. You never know how a dog will react. Safety first!

Please enjoy the puppy photos provided by Christina Phillips.

—Cynthia Lancaster, Lake Jackson, Texas

clclancaster@gmail.com

[Irish Red and White Setter Association of America](#)

Clumber Spaniels

We are sad to report the passing in February of longtime columnist Dr. Bryant Freeman. (For a tribute, see p. 8 of the March issue <https://s3.amazonaws.com/cdn-origin-etr.akc.org/wp-content/uploads/2024/03/19150957/AKC-Gazette-March-rev-2024.pdf>.) In line with Dr. Freeman’s many notable qualities as a GAZETTE contributor, he consistently provided multiple articles for upcoming issues well ahead of deadline—each contribution always interesting, well written, and full of valuable

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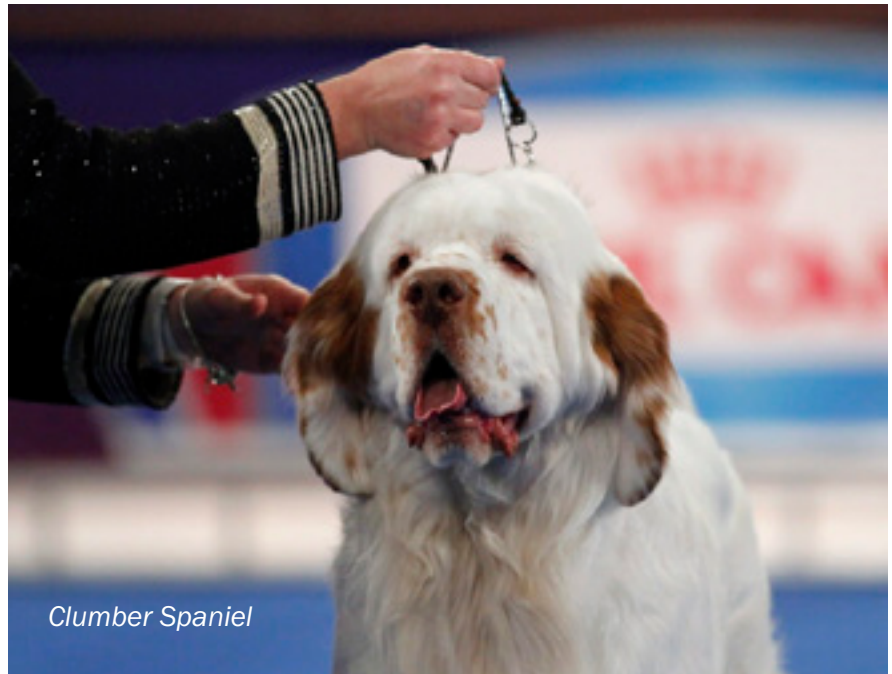
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insights about the breed. Thus we have a number of his unpublished Clumber Spaniel columns in the lineup for upcoming issues, and we are glad to continue sharing these remaining pieces in his honor and for the benefit of the breed. —The Editors

[Dr. Freeman:] The column that follows is one I would be most proud to have written. It is by Corgi breeder Doug Bundock, deceased in 1988. It has appeared in the *Western Animal News* (July 1979), the *CSCA Bulletin* (Jan.-Feb. 1980), and the AKC GAZETTE Clumber column of April 2013.

QUALITY OF LIFE

“I had just refused to sell the lady a dog, and she was downright indignant. It was for the ‘typical’ American family: medium-sized house and yard, one wife, one husband, one child; two cars, two TVs. But now they wanted a family dog to complete the picture. And I had not only refused to sell her a dog but would not even



Clumber Spaniel

refer her to another breeder.

“In discussing what kind of home the dog might have, it soon became apparent that their new addition to the family would be an ‘outdoor’ dog—a label indicating a lot of unsaid things.

“The so-called outdoor dog lives outside, as opposed to the picture most of us have of the canine family member as an active part of the household, sharing in the daily routine, greeting Dad when he comes home from work, settling down with the rest of the family as they watch TV.

That’s a dog’s life as most of us would like to imagine it.

“But the outdoor dog faces a completely different life. If lucky, he has a fenced backyard as his world. He can sit there and listen as his humans come and go and try to play within the limited boundaries of his existence. Lacking any close contact with humans, his manners leave much to be desired. When one of the family does happen into his domain, it is a moment of high excitement. Human contact is so limited that he behaves like an idiot,

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jumping and leaping with unbounded joy at this rare sight—further proving there is no place inside for this wild, uncontrolled creature. After all, he is dirty, sheds, and (in his battle against loneliness) barks too much.

“As he gets older, the constant exposure to the extremes of weather becomes only too evident. Cold wet nights make him stiff and sore. He grows fatter, less active, less interested in the limited, isolated world of his backyard. At this point his humans take him to be ‘put out of his misery.’ Thus is the short and not too happy life of the backyard dog.

“But it could be worse. No fenced yard means running loose or being chained for life. Running loose leads to killing chickens, chasing livestock, and being teased by children until he becomes a biter. This career ends when the dog is shot, poisoned, or taken to the shelter to be destroyed.

“Long ago the dog gave up his life in the wild to

become both partner and companion to man. And millions of dogs and humans have lived together ever since, each sharing and profiting from a special relationship. While many dogs still work with and for man, today most exist primarily for one role: sharing in the companionship of man.

“Anything less can lead to a life of suffering from loneliness, taking away his very purpose for existing.”
—Bryant Freeman, Ph.D.,
Founding/Life Member,
Clumber Spaniel Club of
America

[Clumber Spaniel Club of America](#)

Cocker Spaniels

FRONT-PAGE NEWS: THE IMPORTANCE OF THE CORRECT FRONT

What is old is “new” again with the ongoing challenge of producing and keeping correct Cocker front construction.

The Cocker Spaniel standard as usual provides an excellent guide to the chal-

lenge. It calls for a sturdy, compact body and further says, “He is a dog capable of considerable speed, combined with great endurance.”

The Body section says: “The chest is deep, its lowest point no higher than the elbows, its front sufficiently wide for adequate heart and lung space, yet not so wide as to interfere with the straightforward movement of the forelegs. Ribs are deep and well sprung.”

The standard’s Forequarters section says, “Shoulders are clean-cut and sloping without protrusions and so set that the upper points of the withers are at an angle which permits a wide spring of rib.”

Lung capacity is a factor in how long the dog can perform and its stamina as a small sporting dog.

See the challenge in breeding Cockers with this front construction? You need to create a ribcage with the needed lung capacity and yet have proper shoulder construction and correct,

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easy, straight foreleg movement.

This is not an easy challenge. One of my mentors in Cockers always said (correctly, in my opinion) that it was relatively easy to improve and get beautiful heads in one generation, but difficult to obtain correct front construction and keep it generation after generation. My mentor decried the kind of front where you would be going over a Cocker and your hand would fall into a cavity as you went over the front. This mentor always advised to think “Thanksgiving turkey” for imagining a front with sufficient lung capacity and where the chest comes down to the elbows. Yet you must be mindful of “smooth shoulders with proper lay-back” and ensure that the front construction does not interfere with the free and straight forward, effective movement of the forelegs.

Years after this mentor retired, people asked her to evaluate their Cockers. She was troubled by the incor-



Cocker Spaniel

rect front construction she would sometimes find. She was consistent in asking me over the years, “You haven’t lost your fronts, have you?” referring to my ongoing Cocker breeding program, up to and including my last, lengthy conversation with her before she passed.

Naturally, there are all sorts of challenges you might encounter in a breeding program of many years duration. You may encounter undesirable genetic factors that affect health, issues involving unsuitable temperaments, and diffi-

culties improving different features of the Cocker.

My mentor’s advice was always along the lines of “If you hit a brick wall, back up and find a way to go around.” No one promised this is an easy “hobby” or breed preservation and improvement effort. Still, the front “leads the way” in the manner of challenges in the Cocker breed and deserves its due attention.

Evaluate your own dogs with honesty. It will help you in the long haul. The “front challenge” implores you to keep in mind the function of

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the Cocker Spaniel and how the shoulder construction, rib cage, and foreleg movement must interact correctly to create effective sporting dog movement.

When making decisions in selection of breeding stock, consider the long-term ramifications, since this can be a difficult area of Cocker construction to correct. Do not accept for your breeding program a “front fault” that compromises this essential function.

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

English Cocker Spaniels

WHY ATTEND DOG EVENTS IN PERSON?

My name is Beth Hendrick, and I am the new breed columnist for English Cocker Spaniels. A little bit about me: I have bred and shown English Cockers for 35 years, and I am currently serving as the AKC Delegate for the English Cocker Spaniel Club of America (ECSCA.) I am also a past president

and board member of the ECSCA, and I was president and show chairman for the Mason Dixon English Cocker Spaniel Club for many years. I have also served as a marshal for English Cocker Hunt Tests. I look forward to sharing my love for this versatile and fun breed with you in this column.

The next big event coming up for the English Cocker Spaniel is our national specialty, which will start on April 25, with three days of hunting events at the Lime Rock Cocker Preserve in East Bend, North Carolina.

Also, on April 25 through May 1 the National Performance Challenge will take place, and three days of agility competition beginning on April 28 will be held at the Rising Star Canine Ranch in Oak Ridge, North Carolina.

The ECSCA Regional will be held on April 30th, kicking off the conformation part of the national, with obedience, rally, Canine Good Citizen, and Trick



English Cocker Spaniel, January 1981

Dog testing also happening this day—all at the host hotel, the Crowne Plaza Tennis and Golf Resort in Asheville, North Carolina.

Conformation judging at the national begins on May 1 and ends with judging of Best of Breed on May 3.

For more information on these events (and many more,) please visit the English Cocker Spaniel Club of America website at englishcocker.org and look under “Events.”

And while you’re on the ECSCA website, be sure to check out our “Legends of



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the Breed” feature! These are dogs born before the year 2000 who proved influential in the breed. More dogs will be featured in the future, along with “Legends of the Field.” It’s a wonderful look at the history of our breed! Just navigate to “About English Cocker,” then “History.”

Why attend a national specialty? Well, to watch all the beautiful dogs, of course! But it is also a tremendous opportunity to learn more about the breed, and to talk to breeders and exhibitors and learn all kinds of things, from grooming to best feeding practices to training tips. If you are a breeder from a different part of the country, it gives you the chance to see what the breed looks like outside of your area.

In a world where it seems that everyone gets their information from Google or from memes on social media, the experience of seeing dogs in person and hopefully being able to put your hands on some dogs is infinitely better!

In fact, I would encourage you to attend national specialties for breeds other than your own. Seeing other breeds presented will open you up to understanding your own breed even more.

Another event I encourage you to attend, if possible, is the “Meet the Breeds” event put on by the American Kennel Club. The most recent event was held at the Javits Center in New York City on January 27 and 28 and attracted over 15,000 attendees on the first day. Poor weather cut down on attendance the next day, but this gave the breed-booth volunteers more time to answer questions. There were more than 130 breeds represented, giving spectators a chance to see and interact with these breeds in person.

The chair for the English Cocker exhibit was once again the very capable Sharon Spellman, assisted by her team of 11 volunteers, including junior handler Gideon Towell. Sharon reports that inter-

est in purebred dogs is still strong, and it is events like these that help all of us in the fancy. Many thanks to Sharon and her team for the hours that they put in for this event!

—Beth Hendrick,
bhendrick@verizon.net
[English Cocker Spaniel Club of America](#)

English Springer Spaniels

WANT MORE WINS? ASK BETTER QUESTIONS

How many times have you seen a dog in the ring—working, leaping, shining eyes saying to the judge, “Watch me, I am special”? How often does a dog catch your eye and you see something that makes you want to ask that exhibitor for their secrets? It never hurts to ask.

Five gracious, wise women recently confided their best advice for preparation to enjoy more great days in the show ring. Their comments and recommendations follow.

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Susan Schneider, Peridot

“Another day, another dog show.” This was told to me by the great handler and beloved all-rounder judge, Anne Rogers Clark. She was the first woman to go Best in Show at Westminster. I took this to mean each day is an opportunity to learn and do something great.

“Great things are accomplished only by the perfection of minor details” is the motto of my former boss, and master dog man, George Alston. I took this to mean the difference between ‘good’ and ‘great’ is hard work and dedication.

Plan to stay the day at the dog show. Watch judging of other breeds. Observe grooming. Go over dogs after ring time, when everyone is more relaxed. Watch the groups where you can learn a lot about stacking, gaiting, grooming, conditioning, and what to wear. Find a mentor in your breed.

Favorite websites: Janice Gunn’s YouTube channel ([www.youtube.com/@](https://www.youtube.com/@JaniceGunn)



English Springer Spaniel

JaniceGunn) and Leading Edge Dog Show Academy (www.leadingedgedogs-howacademy.com)

Favorite book: *The Winning Edge: Show Ring Secrets* (<https://www.amazon.com/s?k=winning+edge>)

—S.S.

Kim Bolster

When you are standing at the first obstacle (or the start of the obedience exercises), look at your dog and say to yourself, “I really love this dog! What a great dog you are!” Then, smile

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at your dog. It brings home the joy of your dog and the partnership you share. To me, this helps keep it all in perspective. At performance events, you can often find owners/exhibitors who show their frustration (usually from their mistake) and take it out on the dog. Ignoring the dog, pulling it into a crate—crushing acts that are so hard to watch.

A good motto to remember is “Dogs are with us for such a short time—make it count.” That quote reminds me that agility should be fun. An NQ is not the end of the world!

If asked by any dog owner starting agility, I would tell them, “Treasure your time with your dog: practice and competition.” I would convert them to smiling often at their dog. I would also tell them to be prepared to laugh: Your dog will surprise you and keep you very humble.

Worst approach: Being offered “cookie-cutter” advice—the same advice for every dog to handle every dog’s specific problem. I did

not follow this sort of advice because I knew my dog. All advice must be filtered through your knowledge of your specific dog’s personality. —K.B.

Zippy Cooper, LenLear Springers

Keep your dog activity in perspective. Too many people live and breathe dogs and dog shows to the exclusion of all other things. Then when their dog doesn’t do well, it is devastating. If you also grow nice roses, sing in the choir, and volunteer at the soup kitchen, you have a better perspective of dog shows. Show your dog, but do other things, too. People, family, and friendships are more important than dogs and dog shows.

The common thinking back when I started was that if your male was a champion and had good hips, temperament, and eyes, he would improve any bitch that came along. Looking back, I would be a lot more selective with the

bitches I bred to.

Favorite website: <http://www.offa.org/>. OFFA has a search engine that allows you to look up dogs by part of their name. It will tell you their hip status, eye status, and that of their sire, dam, and offspring. You can even print a pedigree. There are databases for PRA, temperament, and other issues. Very useful tools.

Favorite book: *Raising a Champion: A Beginners’ Guide to Showing Dogs*, by Meredith John and Carole Richards (<https://www.amazon.com/Raising-Champion-Beginners-Guide-Showing/dp/0971072205/ref>). —Z.C.

Judy Manley, Vistah

One of the most important things I was told when I first got into Springers was “The perfect dog does not exist.” I thought they were crazy. It didn’t take very long to learn how right they were. Bear in mind, you are going to lose a lot before you win. Learn how to lose graciously! —J.M.

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Laureen Camisi, Sapphire

(<http://sapphirespringers.com>)

To be successful and enjoy this sport, you have to enjoy the process of showing your dog! The care and attention given at home, the frequent grooming and show-prep grooming, trekking to the shows, loading and unloading your car, showing off your dog, and spending time with other Springer people are all a part of this sport.

You have to be willing to do all of this and then be prepared to lose most of the time. Wins happen less often but are so appreciated. Whether you show your own dog or have a handler do it for you, the wins are sweet! For those who just don't enjoy the process and don't like spending countless hours at dog shows with all of their peers, they don't stay in the sport very long.
—L.C.

Thank you all for sharing your thoughts!

—Sarah A. Ferrell, Locust Grove, Virginia
[facebook.com/](https://www.facebook.com/)

Valentine-Vishnu-Ferrell-1053487794678146/
[English Springer Spaniel Field Trial Association](#)

Field Spaniels

THOSE WHO CAME BEFORE US

As Newton and Bernard of Chartres noted, we have seen farther by standing on the shoulders of giants. Those who have come before us as breeders, fanciers, and stewards of the breed are the ones we owe a debt of gratitude to as we aspire to new heights and goals.

Do you remember the first person to teach you in dogs? Hopefully we are still learning as techniques change and develop over the years. Will you “pay it forward” as new folks come in? How can we honor the ones who helped us?

I have been fortunate to have some great dog people help me learn the ropes, and sadly, some have passed. What is their legacy, if not in their dogs? Passing the torch of knowledge helps one to

burn more brightly.

Even though times have changed from the days of large kennels and snail-mail to cooperative hobby breeders communicating via the internet, the focus of sharing bloodlines and information has not faltered. I do believe the spirit of sharing knowledge remains the same, and yet something is missing.

For some, the conscious decision to accept and respect what has come before can be difficult at best. I choose to embrace it, whether it be an old training technique that has since been replaced, a breeding decision that happened long ago, or a judgment that I had no control over. Any of these things can teach me if I let it and has shaped the reality that is today.

These dogs we love, every Field Spaniel sitting at our feet, is a result of multiple breeding decisions—some may be yours, while others belong to the breeders of the past. It is selfish to deny the value of what went into our “foundations.”

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Field Spaniel

Mentors and friends aid our growth in dogs, and ultimately we find ourselves facing difficult questions and situations. The better armed we are with knowledge, the better breeding and placement decisions we can make. That knowledge may take on various forms: health testing and sharing, pedigree analysis, or a comparison of the virtues and weaknesses of dogs past and present.

Are you prepared not only

to take on that knowledge, to seek it out and cultivate it, but also to share it for the future?

We must really consider where we have been in order to see where we are and where we are going. Trends in dogs are apparent across the rings, but remember to give credit where credit is due—your dogs came from others, and it is part of the journey. We owe it to many who have helped shape our breed as

we know and love it, and join those ranks ourselves.

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

Sussex Spaniels

SUSSEX CAN DO IT ALL

More than 50 years ago when there were only four to six Sussex in the U.S., we were more concerned with getting puppies on the ground and getting to an occasional show than looking around for extra things for our dogs to do.

Of course, back then AKC only offered a few options for spaniels (and not all spaniels), events such as hunting tests for some breeds, obedience classes, and an occasional foray into tracking tests.

Now there are so many things on offer that most breeds, including Sussex, are eligible for—things we never would have thought of like dock diving, Fast CAT, scent work, Barn Hunt, therapy work, and

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Sussex Spaniel

so much more! Who would have thought that Sussex would excel at so many of these? And the fact that AKC sponsors and rewards these activities certainly encourages both old and new people to get involved!

However, “fame” can also bring problems—for instance people stealing photos of your dogs and posting them or selling them as their own. It is so hard to track down the villain, much less get photos taken down from the

internet. And it was not too long ago when a person was ecstatic to be able to buy a Sussex of either sex or any age. Now, even if an occasional one becomes available as a rescue, people want a “perfect” Sussex—one who not only looks like the ones in pictures but also is guaranteed to not bark or dig or be unhappy at being left alone.

In my opinion these people do not need a dog at all—let alone a Sussex, a dog bred from the begin-

ning to give tongue on scent, plow through heavy underbrush, and be a close-working field and companion animal.

If you want a Sussex, you need to accept the whole package. This isn’t a breed that you ignore all week so you can take him out on the weekend and show him off. This is a breed that is a part of your family.

It is like adopting a child. You don’t give him back if he has a problem (such as barking); you work with him to hopefully adjust the “problem” and to help the dog reach his full potential.

Sussex are a special breed, and each one deserves to be loved and appreciated. They have special talents and traits that were bred into them that can’t be “corrected out.” Think carefully before you get a Sussex, and be honest with yourself: If you can’t devote a good portion of your life to this wonderful breed, forget it.

By reading this article you have made a good start to

DAVID WOO ©AKC



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deciding if a Sussex is right for you. If you would be happy to have a dog who is aware of where you are (you would never go to the bathroom alone) at all times and will let you know if a strange car hits your driveway, then consider a Sussex.

AKC Invitational in Orlando Florida Judges Seminar

Marcia Deugan, Dee Duffy, and Brenda Griffin conducted the Sussex Spaniel Judges' Education seminar on December 14, 2023, at the AKC Invitational in Orlando Florida. Upon our arrival the education staff greeted us with a warm welcome, and they were knowledgeable and friendly.

The turnout was great, with 28 judges and prospective judges who were engaged and enthusiastic. After two hours of classroom education we had nine wonderful Sussex Spaniels arrive for the hands-on portion of the judges education. Our Sussex models were from ages 1.5 to 8

years, Grand Champions to a Sussex rescue, a Master in agility and performance, a hunting dog, to a Junior Handler with her 2-year-old bitch. The Sussex Spaniels enjoyed the hands-on as much as the participants!

Throughout the day we received many thank-yous and saw many smiles. It was a great day for all our participants, both two- and four-legged.

The facility was clean and easy to navigate. Booths were filled with great stuff for our four-legged friends. There was something for everyone. The AKC rings were rich in red carpet and filled with beautiful dogs—truly thrilling.

Parking was easy to maneuver, and crossing guards gave peace of mind when unloading and loading and ensuring safety when crossing the car path. It was one of the nicest venues in some time.

It is so lovely to have so many judges actually interested in judging the Sussex Spaniel properly. We even

did a special segment on the change in the breed standard that allows for both docked and undocked tails.

Hoping that 2024 is wonderful for all of us. —*Marcia Deugan and Eileen Tarrago*

The Sussex Spaniel Club of America will hold its 2024 national specialty in October in Doswell, Virginia.

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

Welsh Springer Spaniels

INTERVIEW WITH BETTY CUMMINGS: FINAL INSTALLMENT

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

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the AKC Gazette. In this portion, Betty remembers shows and handlers from the 1950s.

Betty Cummings (BC): \$75 was the going price for dogs those days. If you got \$150 for a good dog, you were doing well.

Anne Legare (AL): What year was that?

BC: Well, let's see. In the early '50s. Yes, because I can remember getting \$300, and they all thought I was crazy asking \$300 for a Keeshond puppy. They said, "You'll never get it. You'll be stuck with those bloody puppies." And I said, "No, we won't be stuck with these bloody puppies. Shut up. I'll drive the deal." And I wasn't stuck with the puppies. I kept the best one out of the litter for myself. And everybody was told, "The kennel reserves the right to keep the best puppy," and I don't mention whether it's a dog or bitch. "You will not be getting the best puppy because the kennel maintains the best puppy."

Margaret Hilliard (MH): Were there more



owner-handlers back when you started, or were there more professionals?

BC: More owner-handlers. Well, maybe about the same balance now. I think you have—you know, let me think. Let me think. I'm trying to look at a ring in my mind. I think there were more professionals in some breeds. In other breeds, no. Like Kees, we had myself and Roy Holloway were probably the two handlers in the ring with Keeshonds on the East Coast. On the West Coast there was Porter Washington and Harry

Sangster, both of whom are dead now, but I could join them anytime.

AH: Betty, no!

BC: Well, you know, they were my age! So that's about the only true professionals we had. And then of course you had Janie Forsyth and Annie Rogers Clark. You had Bob Forsyth. You had Bill Prentiss, who was in terriers. Tom and Kay Gately, who were strictly good terrier handlers. The Brumby brothers, Frank and Len.

MH: When did Bill Singer get into it?

BC: Bill was about the same time I was, maybe a

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couple of years later. But there was a gentleman! He was an utter gentleman from the word “go.” If I had to send my dogs out with anybody, I would have sent them out with Bill.

MH: He was a good handler. Were the shows bigger? I mean, I feel like in the 1980s, which was when I started, the shows got huge, when there were 4,000 dogs at Old Dominion.

BC: When I first started out, if we went to a dog show that was 750—rule out the Garden and Beverly Hills—if we went to a 750–800 dog show, that was a big dog show. That was a huge dog show.

—Wendy Jordan,
wendy.jordan@capstrategiesgroup.com

Welsh Springer Spaniel Club of America

Spinoni Italiani

SPINONE ITALIANO VS

SPINONE AMERICANO PART 1

Lately I have been hearing the words “Spinone Americano” to describe my

breed. Apparently, Spinone from Italy are more Spinone than Spinone bred and born in America ... hmmm?

A Spinone Italiano is a Spinone Italiano, whether in Italy or America.

I am writing a multi-part article about the AKC Spinone breed standard vs. the Italian (ENCI) Spinone breed standard. I will use each breed standard as my guide as I compare both breed standards, body part by body part.

PART 1: GENERAL APPEARANCE, PROPORTIONS, AND HEAD

General Appearance

Italian: Solid construction, robust and vigorous with powerful bone, well-developed muscle and with a rough coat.

American: Muscular, vigorous and with powerful bone, the Spinone has a robust build that makes him resistant to fatigue and able to work on almost any terrain.

Summary: General appearance is the same.

Important Proportions

Italian: Build tends to fit into a square. Length of body is equal to height at the withers with a tolerance of 1 to 2 cm longer. Length of head is equal to 4/10s of height at withers; its width, measured at the level of the zygomatic arches, is inferior to half its length. The loin measures in length a little less than a fifth of the height at the withers.

American: Height at withers is 23½ to 27½ for males and 22½ to 25½ for females. Weight is in direct proportion to size and structure of a dog in working condition. His build tends to fit into a square. The length of body, measured from point of the shoulder to the point of the buttocks, is equal to or slightly greater than the height at the withers. The Spinone is a solidly built dog with powerful bone.

Summary: The Italian standard includes loin measurement and allows for an “almost square” body, allowing ¼ to ⅞ inches

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Spinone Italiano

more in length, and the American standard states “tends to fit into a square.” Same thing. The Italian standard also includes head measurements/description, which the American standard addresses in the paragraph about the head. The American standard has

specific height requirements and emphasizes body substance. Otherwise, it is the same.

Head

Italian: The direction of the upper longitudinal axes of the skull and muzzle is divergent. Skull is of oval

shape, lateral walls gently sloping like a roof with the occipital protuberance very well developed and the parietal crest well marked. The bulge of the forehead is not much developed, neither toward the front nor in height. The superciliary arches are not too prominent. Stop is barely marked, whereas the medio-frontal furrow is well-pronounced.

American: Head is long with muzzle length equal to that of backskull. Length of head is equal to 4/10 of height at withers; its width measured at the zygomatic arch is less than half of its total length. The occipital protuberance is well-developed, and the upper longitudinal profiles of the skull and muzzle are divergent, downfaced, i.e., if extended the top line of the muzzle emerges in front of or tangential to the occipital protuberance. The skull is oval, with sides gently sloping from the sagittal suture in a curve to the zygomatic arch. Cheeks are lean. The medial frontal furrow is very



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pronounced.

Summary: The American standard is more specific with its measurements. The Italian standard includes the head measurements in the “Important Proportions” paragraph rather than the “Head” paragraph. Both standards say the same thing about the head.

Next time we’ll go over nose, muzzle, jaws, teeth, and eyes.

—Daina B. Hodges
(Breeding, exhibiting, and hunting Spinoni since 2002)
[Spinone Club of America](#)

Vizslas

UNLOCKING PEACE OF MIND: THE POWER OF THE STAY COMMAND

To *stay* is one of the most valuable lifesaving skills you can teach your puppy. It lays the foundation for communication, trust, and obedience through positive reinforcement.

When my puppies turn 8 weeks old, my porch becomes a training ground. It’s a raised platform with steps that act as a clear

boundary, perfect for laying the foundation of *sit-stay*. When my dogs gleefully head out the front door, they must stop and wait on the end of the porch until I call them. They can be standing or sitting, but it’s always reinforced with praise. We practice this lesson every day—*wait, repeat, wait, repeat*. Although food is a powerful motivator, an enthusiastic release is often the only reward needed.

In addition to the *stay* command on the porch, we work on impulse control with a *sit* in front of a full bowl of food. Breakfast, porch, dinner—we repeat the exercise three times a day at a minimum, making sure to vary the length of time they wait. With repetition, *sit-stay* becomes second nature to my dogs.

Occasionally, there’s an unexpected glitch. Recently, I attended an obedience trial where one of my progeny puppies was entered in his first Novice obedience trial. He was sitting on a

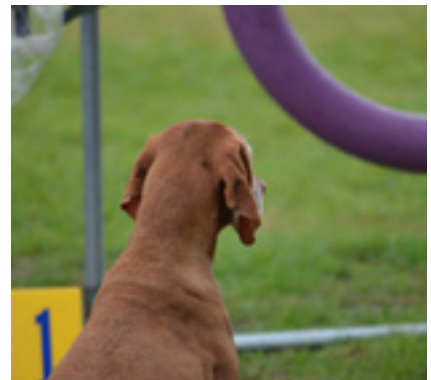
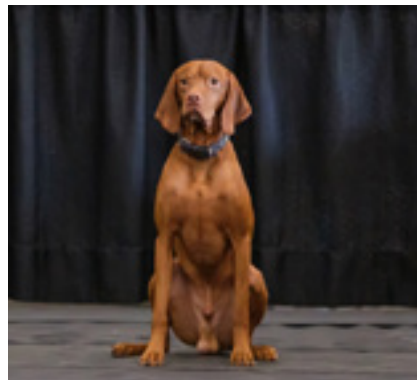
decent score going into the long sits and downs. Then disaster struck: He laid down during the long sit. The next day, he stood up during the same exercise. After all the training, how could a simple task be so unpredictable? The truth is, dog training is a journey filled with twists and turns.

But here’s the good news: A dog who’s comfortable waiting can relax in many situations. Heading out to our first classes, my puppies already know the importance of the *wait* command and anticipate the reward. When chaos ensues, a simple *stay* command has a calming effect. It’s something they know and repeat daily.

When our 6-month-old puppies first head to the field, a good stay offers true advantages. In pointing-dog hunt tests, the dog must stop and point a bird. At the junior level, they’re not required to wait through the flushing of the bird, but it’s a trusted team effort when your puppy will wait for

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2023 VCA national specialty group photo; Red Wagon Day; Sirke pointing in Cal City; Sloan in a sit-stay; Tokaji at the start line

you to flush the bird before the chase.

Once your puppy has mastered restraint in the field, you can introduce testing in other situations. Obedience and rally provide a whole new level of pressure, sights, and sounds. With the confidence they've gained through repetition and reward, your dog will likely be settled in a *wait* that gives you the confi-

dence to walk across the ring before your call.

The real test of your daily reinforcement work occurs when you line up on an agility course and your dog waits to be released to run, jump, bark, and chase. A good agility start-line is worth its weight in gold. It gives you an ever-so-slight advantage being ahead of the dog before the release onto the course.

The *pièce de résistance* will be the test of a group photo. You've seen them at countless events, where the outtakes are often quite funny. Don't be that person. Be the one whose dog is still sitting there on the wall when the entire pack breaks ranks.

Investing time in teaching a stay reaps a lifetime of rewards. A well-trained stay isn't only good manners,

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it's a foundation for safety, a stepping-stone to further training, and ultimately a key to unlocking a world of positive experiences for you and your dog.

“It’s not that I’m so smart, it’s just that I stay with problems longer.” —*Albert Einstein*

—Jamie Walton,
jamie@professionaldesign.org

Weimaraners

IS YOUR WEIMARANER'S NAME TRENDY?

Being a self-confessed sucker for clickbait, I didn't even try to resist an article that promised a listing of most popular baby names by decade. (Who wouldn't check to see if their name made the list?) That listing of human names got me wondering about names that people give their dogs. I'm not talking about registered names, but rather the call names that people use day in and day out for thousands of times in the life of their dog.



It seems that just as there are trends in people names, so too dog names have changed over the years. If what I'm reading on the internet is correct, the names we would likely use for our dogs go in and out of fashion.

Flash back to the 19th century, and you'd be surprised by the most popular names. Would you believe Rover, Fido, and Spot were among the top choices?

There were also some frequently used names that have slipped off the naming radar, like Jip, Nellie, Juno, and Ponto. Naming trends have certainly morphed over the years.

What about current trends? Where better to find data on names than an organization that registers dogs like the American Kennel Club? If you do a search on the most popular names in 2023, there's a listing of



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the most-used names. For the boys the top five names were Max, Charlie, Cooper, Teddie, and Milo; for the ladies, they were Luna, Bella, Daisy, Maggie, and Willow. Of course, this listing excludes all the kennel or breeder-based registered names that we use for our show dogs and other canine competitors.

What is also missing are the longer or more unique names that people dream up for their new puppy. Unfortunately, the listing of popular names was not done by breed, so the question remains open about trends in Weimaraner names.

Not to be deterred in the quest for trends in naming Weimaraners, I took the totally unscientific method of surfing the web and poring over old Weimaraner books and magazines. If you read till your eyes are burning and you could get a tan from the glow of your computer screen, there you can spot some naming trends for Weimaraners.

Since Weimaraners did not

exist in the U.S. until the first half of the 20th century, our naming trends started with the German names of the first imports. The first Weimaraners to come to this country came with their German call names firmly affixed. The first two Weimaraners to come to these shores had the names of Cosack and Lotte. These two dogs were imported in 1929. It was not until nine years later in 1938 that additional dogs were permitted out of their native Germany. Their names were Mars, Dorle, Adda, Tasso, and Aura. In my experience, I've never run into Weimaraners who carried these exact names into more modern times.

However, although these historically based German names did not seem to catch on, other German names were widely used as the North American Weimaraner population increased. Names like Max, Grethen, Jaeger, Madchen, and Blitz show up repeatedly. In fact, in the 1950s

President Eisenhower had a Weimaraner named Heidi.

Another naming trend was to use words that tried to capture the unique color of our breed, like Smoke, Misty, Blue, and Silver. I even knew one dog who was named Taupe, although she was the only one of that name whom I've ever encountered.

Naming Weimaraners also showed a trend toward terms used to denote nobility. Who hasn't encountered a Duke, Princess, Baron, or Dutchess? In registered Weimaraner names, the German surname term of *von* or *von der* appeared. *Von* was originally used to delineate names with noble lineage but later was used by common folk to simply mean "of" or "from." So if you lived in St. Louis and you had a Weimaraner named Max, you might register him as Maximilian von der St. Louis. (Sounds pretty spiffy, doesn't it?)

Whether you name your dog after a trendy pop-culture figure or go back to

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a more traditional name, the great fun is coming up with a name that captures the personality and spirit of your dog. Is your dog's name trendy? It doesn't really matter, as long as you like the name, because you will be saying it thousands and thousands of times.

—Carole Lee Richards,
zarasweimaraners@yahoo.com

[Weimaraner Club of America](#)

Wirehaired Pointing Griffons

WHY A WORKING STANDARD FOR THE WIREHAISED POINTING GRIFFON?

Back in January 2018, the American Wirehaired Pointing Griffon Association (AWPGA) adopted a working standard for the Wirehaired Pointing Griffon. The standard, proposed by the Field Committee, was long in the making. What is a working standard, and why did the club adopt one?

The Wirehaired Pointing

Griffon's breed standard explains the breed's structure, physical characteristics, and temperament. It is the standard against which our dogs are measured in the conformation ring. But the Griffon was bred for a working purpose, and it fulfills that purpose in its unique way. How it does its work in the field is defined by the working standard.

Sir Robert Martineau of France wrote, "Breed style in the field, like the conformation breed standard, is an indisputable and inherent characteristic of the breed that the Clubs and the breeders have the duty to maintain." Similarly, in 1978, J.M. Pilard, a French field trial judge, explained that the Wirehaired Pointing Griffon has a distinct way of hunting, with a style differing from those of other sporting dogs. He noted that field competitions allow the work of a breed to be evaluated and maintained, just as conformation shows permit the evaluation of the dogs against the con-

formation standard and the maintenance of the standard.

In 1984, the Korthals Griffon (the European breed name) club in France appointed Jacques Kerspern to write the working standard for the Wirehaired Pointing Griffon. About his efforts, he wrote:

"It is essential to maintain and to guarantee what makes a breed unique, not only in its conformation but also in its hunting aptitudes. It is crucial to remind one of the importance of field events in this endeavor. The study of the working style or the pace is not done by starting with a preconceived model that may exist or be idealized but rather according to observations of numerous Griffons at work. Objectively, this observation leads to the discovery of certain elements that we can find among most Griffons and that constitute the true constants of the breed and its style. In addition, it is important to try

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Hunter and trainer Ruth Weiss with GCh. Thrill of the Hunt Taylor Burton, JH, after completing the AKC Junior Hunt Test at the 2023 AWPGA national specialty held in Montana; GCh. Thrill of the Hunt Taylor Burton, JH, searches the field for birds during the AKC Junior Hunt Test at the 2023 AWPGA national.

to find an explanation for these constants, which find their origins in the dog’s conformation. For this reason, we can conclude the absolute necessity to never dissociate the conformation

standard from the working standard.”

The working standard adopted in 2018 by the AWPGA is largely based on the French club’s working standard for the Korthals

Griffon. The AWPGA believes that to preserve the Wirehaired Pointing Griffon, the working standard is as important as the conformation standard. The working standard sets out the ideal characteristics of the working traits the breed is to exhibit in the field. It serves to describe the long-established acceptable characteristics of the model Griffon. The particulars of the conformation breed standard are intertwined with the characteristics found in the working standard.

Proper structure, as well as mental stability and temperament, are essential to exhibit the ideal traits and behaviors in the working standard. Together, the breed’s conformation standard and the working standard describe the Wirehaired Pointing Griffon.

—Melanie Tuttle,
mstuttle54@gmail.com
 American Wirehaired
 Pointing Griffon Association

CAROL ERDIE

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Alaskan Malamutes

FOR THE LONG HAUL: A BREED AND ITS PEOPLE

History and heritage. The origin and evolution of our breed, of course, begins with the Inuit native peoples. Essential to their survival, capable of hauling the hunter's kill over long distances under punishing weather conditions, and deep-down toughness and endurance created a breed of deep instincts and complexity.

It is not simply folklore or fantasy to characterize the Malamute as an independent thinker. Today's gorgeous show champion still balances the heritage and independent outlook of a working pack member with the expectations and needs of today's dedicated breeders and owners.

In the 1930s, as historic breeders like Eva "Short" Seeley founded her Chinook bloodline, headquartered in Wonalancet, New Hampshire, and worked to gain AKC recognition for the breed in 1935, New England became a piv-

otal region for the breed's early development and public presence. Soon, the founding members of the Alaskan Malamute Club of America—Dorothy Dillingham (Tigara), Martha Gormley (Barb Far), Art and Natalie Hodgen (Sno-Pak), Jean Bryar (Malpus Brooks), Natalie Norris (Kuvak), Dorothy Pearson (Redhorse), Delta Wilson-Smith, Robert and Alice Spawn, and Robert Zoller (Husky Pak)—took our breed forward.

By 1953, our parent club boasted 76 members across 19 states, from Maine to Alaska.

It's far beyond the scope of this column to trace the development of leading bloodlines and breeders nationwide, so today's focus will be on a key breeder I have been honored to know for over 30 years, Patty Bryce (Lakopac), whose bloodline spans more than 43 years.

As Patty recounts the development of her blood-

line:

"Ed Finnegan, Ann Hardy, Ruth and Bill Boenitz and I were a small breeding group. We occasionally 'went out' but stayed mainly within our own circle of dogs. Hardly anyone else knows our history, or [that of] some of our great dogs. My Ch. Hillfrost's Kahlua of Lakopac had a lot of Storm Kloud behind her, but also Voyageur's Cougar. I bred Ruth Boenitz's top-ranked Am./Can. Ch. Teufel of Kahlua, whose granddam on both sides was my Kahlua. Ruth also had Gabby, Ch. Yukon's Arctic Angel-o-Eleanor, a lovely bitch who did a lot of winning and went back to my Kahlua and Paca, Ch. Silverhawk Yukon of Lakopac.

"Unfortunately, some of these dogs aren't in anyone else's pedigrees but ours. I'm so glad I saved semen on four of them. I've owned Mals for 55 years now, and it's the only breed for me!"

The Lakopac Malamutes display trainability and resilience, soundness, and

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Top left: AMCA Members gather in Orlando for the Fast CAT Invitational and Top 20 competition, December 11-14, 2023. From left: Beverly Vics, Paul Wilhauck, John Vics, Wendy Willhauck, Patty Bryce, and (seated) Ed Finnegan. Top right: Patty Bryce and Shiloh with their Top 20 rosette; Bottom left: Patty and Koda-Bear, Top 20 qualifiers; Bottom right: Ed Finnegan, Yukon—mentor and outstanding breeder, going strong into his 90s!

longevity over intensive performance careers, earning a wealth of titles, both in the breed ring and especially in performance events, under the purview of both AMCA and AKC.

I've chosen to feature two of Patty's most successful

dogs, Ch. Lakopac's Shiloh of the Yukon, "Shiloh," and littermate Ch. Lakopac's Koda-Bear of the Yukon, "Koda-Bear," whom I know personally and have enjoyed watching on many occasions.

Shiloh and Koda-Bear's

titles in agility, Fast CAT, Barn Hunt, and rally would take many pages to describe, and I hope Patty will be patient with me as I focus on the most important breed traits which have enabled them, at age 10, to compete at top levels of the sport,

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and to stay sound, focused, and thrilled to perform, despite the stresses and rigors of competition.

So many of our most important breed traits reflect the Malamute's history and heritage. They are truly an origin story come to life. Physical and mental strength, ancient legacies and modern challenges all combine to create a dog with enormous presence—and often a glint of humor and play, usually bubbling up just at a critical moment in competition!

I have come to think, with humor, that Mals regard their people as co-conspirators in life: dispensers of unconditional love, timely treats, delicious meals, careful structure, and the subtle knowledge that the human really is alpha, and must remain so for all to go well!

As dedicated breeders, we have worked hard to create solid, correct temperaments, strong immune systems, and decades of health clearances in our bloodlines. Indeed, we share our own best qual-

ities with our Malamutes: strength, resilience, determination, and achievement. Patty and her dogs are living examples of these traits, and are passing on this heritage to future generations of their descendants and the people blessed to own and love them.

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

Bernese Mountain Dogs BMDCA IS A SPECIAL CLUB

As an educator, I have always been pleased with the resources available to Berner people. And now AKC recognizes our special support and education system. The BMDCA is honored to announce the reception of an Eddy Award for 2023. There were only eight parent clubs that received the honor.

What is the Eddy? To quote the AKC website: “Good dogs come from good breeders. Good breeders strive to improve their

breeds while considering canine health, temperament, training and promoting responsible dog ownership. Part art, part science, and total devotion, breeding is exciting and challenging. Breeder education is key. The American Kennel Club will be honoring Parent Clubs which provide outstanding breeder education materials to its members and to new breeders of its breed with the AKC Eddy Award.”

The award was presented at the AKC National Championship in Orlando, Florida. The following is a truncated version of the application we submitted.

Describe in detail how your club provided significant help for current and/or prospective breeders.

The Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America (BMDCA) provides well rounded, multipronged educational opportunities for both current and prospective breeders. The education provided spans the spectrum from topics about

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getting started in breeding to considering become a breeder judge. The information available also supports the breeders in the education of their puppy owners.

The club's Breeder Education encompasses the following:

1. **Breeder Mentor Program**

- Designed to expand the network of mutual support and learning to ensure the preservation of our breed.
- Program matches newer breeders with experienced breeders to share experiences, insight, and expertise.
- Mentor relationships formally last one year, but often extend into ongoing working relationships or friendships.
- Both mentors and mentees find the program very enriching and rewarding.

2. **Berner University (Berner U)**

- Educational component of the annual national specialty.
- Two-day multi-session offerings of various breed-related topics.
- Classes average two



hours each.

From 2005 to 2023, 374 classes on Better Breeding have been presented.

3. **Annual Breeder Symposium**

- Nationally recognized speakers present a two-hour session, open to Bernese breeders and owners.
- Held in conjunction with the annual national specialty since 2007.

4. **BMDCA Publications**

- *The Alpenhorn* magazine, quarterly publication:
 - Contains informative articles authored by BMDCA Health Committee members, geneticists, veterinarians, medical professionals, canine health researchers, and Bernese breeders and owners.
 - Recipient of Dog

Writers Association of America Club Publication Award.

- Breed Information Files:
 - BMDs and Responsible Breeding Info File #20
- BMDCA Code of Conduct:
 - Specifically states that breeders are charged with promoting the standard of the breed.
 - Breeders are recommended to use the breed standard created by the BMDCA and adopted by the AKC for the Bernese Mountain Dog to assess the suitability of dogs' temperament and type for breeding and exhibition in AKC and parent club events.
 - Promoting quality and integrity in breeding programs.

5. **BMDCA Health Committee**

The BMDCA Health Committee is committed to education. We work with Berner clubs around the world to share this information. And while breeders are certainly a part of that, we believe all Berner owners



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and potential owners need to understand about the efforts to achieve and maintain health.

We send representatives to health symposia to learn and share information about cutting-edge treatment and research, and we provide information to allow owners to participate in research to help the future of the breed.

We educate buyers and breeders about health-testing options that can help lessen the risk of puppies with health issues.

We support, share, and educate breeders on current research.

One way we support our mission is through various types of fundraising, with focus on the AKC Canine Health Foundation, the Morris Animal Foundation, and to researchers at universities in the U.S. and abroad. In addition, we educate about and support the outstanding Berner-Garde database to document health issues in order to allow breeders to make more informed breeding choices.

6. Collaborative partnership with Berner-Garde Foundation

- Our goal is to have the most comprehensive and accurate collection of information on Bernese Mountain Dogs available anywhere. The Foundation is responsible for oversight of the Repository, Database, and research opportunities.

- The Bernese Mountain Dog DNA and Tumor Tissue Repository housed at Michigan State University.

- The Berner-Garde Database is an extensive collection of health and pedigree information on Bernese Mountain Dogs that has been compiled for over 40 years by breeders and owners across the world.

Thank you to dedicated Berner lovers who donate gazillion hours each year to make all of these programs function. If you are interested in more information or joining the volunteer ranks, please see the club website, BMDCA.org.

—Marjorie Geiger,

marggeiger@yahoo.com
Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America

Black Russian Terriers

YOU GOT THE MOVES?

Learning about the purebred dog fancy can often be daunting. Where do I go to find good resources? Nowadays there are plenty of good educational videos on movement and structure and on methods for training and handling your dog. Even if it's not your specific breed, you can still take a lot away from them.

Some of my favorite resources are *Canine Chronicle*; "An Eye for a Dog" written by Robert Cole, and the book *Dog Steps*, by Rachel Page Elliott. Rachel Page Elliott also made a video based on her book. The video does an excellent job explaining how and why a dog moves the way it moves, breaking down structure to show the action of the movement and function of the joints, helping you to understand the

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Black Russian Terrier, 2004 (Isabelle Francais photo)

causes of incorrect movement.

To understand the structure and function of your breed, your study does not have to be limited to your breed. In fact, you should never limit yourself to just “your breed.” Although different movement is expected for different breeds, after watching the video I sat ringside and watched a variety of breeds gaiting down and back.

I tried to look for the good and the bad in the movement of the different dogs to try and visualize what I’d learned. For me, reading,

seeing, and applying the information is the best way to fully comprehend what I’ve learned. I then watched my own breed and had a new appreciation for what judges might be looking for.

Deborah Andoetoe wrote a fantastic multipart series for *Canine Chronicle* examining and explaining different parts of the dog and how it affects the dog’s movement, and one I highly recommend reading.

The PureDogTalk podcast also has a wonderful series on structure broken down by host Laura Reeves and Stephanie Seabrook Hedgepath. It is a three-part series podcast that dives deep into structure as a whole, breaking down the various parts and how we as breeders can use this information to improve our breeding programs.

No matter where you choose to look, there is a lot of valuable information out there that we can use to learn and apply in the betterment of our breeds.

—Emily Fagan,

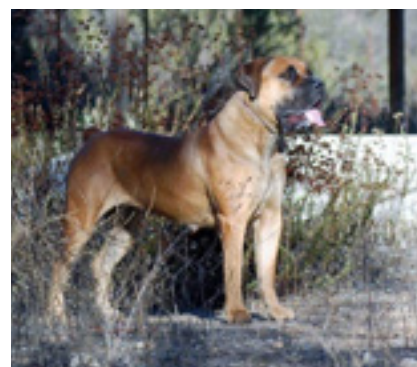
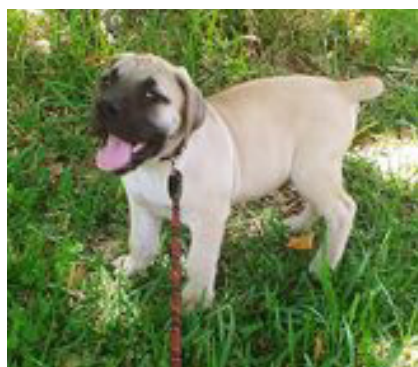
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Black Russian Terrier Club
of America

Boerboels

THE BOERBOEL: COATS OF MANY COLORS—BUT NOT BLACK!

In August of last year, there was an incident at an AKC show in which a black dog referenced as a “black-coated Boerboel” was awarded Best of Breed. This unleashed a furor that has been well documented, as the coat color “black” is a disqualification in the American Boerboel Club’s (ABC’s) AKC standard for the breed. Eventually the award was rescinded. The dog in question was disqualified. He was found not to be registered with the AKC. He was not, and could not be registered with the AKC, for the simple reason his coat color was black! In fact, what are referred to as “Black Boerboel” are of mixed breed, hence are not Boerboels at all. Such a dog cannot be registered with

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Approved colors of the Boerboel: fawn, cream, brown, red, brindle, Irish-marked, and piebald.

the ABC and AKC if it has the color black anywhere in its pedigree!

This oversight—the judge’s failing to “DQ” (disqualify) the dog—may be partially attributable to the fact that the Boerboel is a “young” breed in terms

of having achieved full AKC recognition in the U.S. only nine years ago, in 2015. Even in its native South Africa, it was only in 1983 that a studbook with 72 (some sources say 73) dogs, carefully appraised and selected as foundation stock, was established. This followed a long search throughout South Africa for candidates with the correct conformation, attributes, and temperament. Not one

of these foundation dogs was black.

The showing of and failure to disqualify this black dog in an AKC show created consternation within the ABC, as this color has gained acceptance (and popularity) in several South African and U.S. Boerboel breed clubs, despite evidence that traces the color back to three black dogs in the 1980s: Spitsvuur (AKA Petshop) Jim, Muller Lady,

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and Muller Poppy. These three dogs, alleged to be Labradors or Lab mixes, were ultimately accepted into the SAABS “developmental registry,” which unfortunately lent them some legitimacy. Several South African breeders have recently commented that the commercial demand for these black dogs abroad has far exceeded the interest in correct Boerboels. Hence there is, unfortunately, economic incentive for continued (or accelerated) breeding and importing of black dogs.

Indeed, the showing of the black dog, Boobie, in an AKC ring was not an accident. It appears to have been part of an ongoing strategy to create “visibility” for and to “educate people” about the alleged “Black Boerboel” (Dogman216, August 28, 2023). The AKC and our AKC-approved U.S. Boerboel parent club, the ABC, stand opposed to these efforts and will protect and safeguard the Boerboel breed and our standard.

To reiterate for emphasis, our position is that a proper, purebred Boerboel *cannot* be black, as (1.) black was not included in the coat colors of the foundation Boerboels, and (2.) genetically, the color black—which is on the K locus—is dominant. Hence, it is virtually impossible for two parents of the approved colors of red, brown, reddish brown, fawn, cream, brindle (black color/ pattern over an approved base coat), Irish-marked (pattern), and pied (pattern) to produce black puppies. (3.) As previously noted, these dogs are mixed with other breeds (thought to be Labs and Lab crosses) to achieve the black coat.

In determining what should be included in our breed standard, the ABC decided it essential to incorporate these factors and drew from some current breed clubs that excluded black. Our ABC president at the time, Kerri Dale, offered her recollections of the crafting of our ABC Boerboel breed standard—which was

ultimately approved (with a few tweaks) by the AKC:

“There were multiple standards at the time, but not as many as there are now. We utilized the current standards of SABB, EBASSA and KUSA. They were all pretty similar ... SABB had not yet accepted the black dogs at the time. It was very controversial and definitely not a resolved issue. We combined what we thought were the best aspects of each. As I recall, where we differed from KUSA was that we opted not to exclude ‘piebald’ as we felt there was historical evidence that it was originally included. What I recall specific to EBASSA were their descriptive depictions of the Boerboel were very well done and most accurately described what a Boerboel should look like as a whole.”

The approved coat colors of the Boerboel include richness and variety in both pigment and patterns that cover a surprisingly broad spectrum—including brin-

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dle, which on a brown base coat may resemble black.

Surely, lovers of a unique and beautiful breed can live without the color black!

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

Boxers

THE BEGINNING OF THE BOXER: MY LIFE WITH BOXERS, FRIEDERUN STOCKMANN

“The Boxer, however, is a gentleman amongst dogs with short coats. He not only wants the best food, he wants to be handled in a civilized manner too. He can easily be upset by his master and this is called being leader-sensitive. He cannot stand a hard hand or injustice. It is true that he is pig-headed, and every one has a personality of its own. His real job is to be a house and family dog and to be a friend to the children.” (Stockmann, *My Life With Boxers*, p. 116)

This quote is as true today as it was when Frau

Stockmann first began her life and influence on the development of the Boxer breed. It is a must-read for any Boxer owner or lover of the breed. The book is a journey of love and commitment to the development of today’s Boxers.

Following is the book’s foreword:

“For over sixty years, Friederun von Miram-Stockmann bred Boxers. No other breeder has had such a great influence on the Boxer breed as she did in her long life. Her Boxers are the foundation of the gene pool in every country of the world. *My Life With Boxers* tells the story of her determination to produce Boxers that at first could only be imagined. Working with the ideal Boxer only in her mind, Frau Stockmann eventually made that ideal into a reality and firmly established those characteristics in the breed. But her story is also one of great hardships and sacrifices. Through two world wars, she struggled to keep her



Boxer Ch. Barrage of Quality Hill, February 1957

family together and her Boxer breeding program alive. Yet her sense of balance and fairness in life never weakened. Even in the most difficult of times she was able to see humor and pleasure in her life with Boxers. Some of her most memorable stories come out of the hardest times of her life. Every Boxer lover will want to read this great story. In this newly-translated edition, there are over seventy additional pages of essays about Boxers written by



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Frau Stockmann that have never before appeared in English.”

Beginning with her first contact with the antics of “Pluto”—which led to her enjoyment and respect of the breed, and her eventual devotion to establishing a utilitarian, correct and companion and protector—Frau Stockmann’s perseverance set the standard for the Boxers of today.

From safeguarding her established breeding stock thru World War 1, to exporting her top stud dogs to America to become the top three foundation sires of the American Boxers, this story of a talented and knowledgeable breeder shows the dedication and love of the Boxer breed.

Frau Stockmann’s creativity and eye for beauty was visible in not only her development of today’s Boxer, but also in her sculptures of beautiful Boxers she created.

It is a story well worth reading for any Boxer enthusiast—without Frau Stockmann, we might not

have the beautiful, funny, loving companions we share our lives with today.

And ... speaking of beautiful Boxers, the American Boxer Club’s national specialty and sweepstakes will be held at the Marriott Indianapolis East on May 4–10. Activities to include agility, scent work, obedience, rally, the ABC National Futurity, the ABC National Specialty, and two ABC specialties hosted by the Greater Cincinnati and Blue Grass Boxer clubs.

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

Bullmastiffs

CHEERS TO THE NEXT 100 YEARS

In February, I had an experience that truly was once in a lifetime. I was fortunate enough to attend the Centenary Celebration of the Bullmastiff in England, the country where the breed originated. The Bullmastiff was bred there to fulfill an important role as the

“gamekeeper’s night dog” and was first recognized by the Kennel Club in 1924.

It has been almost a month since I returned home, but those few days have been so constantly on my mind. I was lucky enough to travel to Liverpool with Mrs. Mary Barbara Walsh of Blackslate Bullmastiffs, who was awarded the unique opportunity to judge the Specialty Centenary Championship Show on February 11th. I got a ringside seat at this event celebrating 100 years of the Bullmastiff and attended a show I will never forget.

It has been nearly 20 years since Vince and I made a trip to England together, with one of our destinations a dog show where we first watched Bullmastiffs being shown in the country where they originated, where they were first recognized as a purebred guardian dog breed. My journals of that first international dog show adventure make note of the impressive headpieces and the exceptional breed type

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Best in Show at the Bullmastiff Centenary Championship Show, held in February in England, country of the breed's origin; Billy Brittle, Chair of the Bullmastiff Breed Council, presenting the breed seminar at the Centenary

exemplified by the dogs in the ring at that time.

This trip did not disappoint in terms of those important attributes, but what struck me most strongly was the overall soundness of the dogs I saw. They certainly possessed the wonderful breed type we remarked on our first visit, but what stayed with me all day, and still makes me smile, was the soundness of the animals being exhibited. A majority of the entries were well balanced and covered ground with excellent reach and drive, from the precious puppies

to the venerable veterans.

Before I continue, I must congratulate breeders and owners on the excellent mental and physical health of their dogs and especially that of those veterans. I met a number of Bullmastiffs living healthy lives well into double digits, and that says so much about the way the British Bullmastiff fanciers breed, raise, live with, and love their dogs.

It was that mindset, that strong sense of possession and pride, that infused the entire celebratory weekend. These people coming together to celebrate 100

years showed with words and deeds how very aware they are of the serious responsibilities that come along with their proud rights to claim that their breed started there, and in many cases with people who share their heritages and their names. I had the chance to get my hands on dogs and to talk with their breeders and owners and to listen to so many conversations outside the ring and within the hotel. I can say with absolute certainty that those people accept and even relish their roles as stewards of their breed—of our breed.

COURTESY BULLMASTIFF BREED COUNCIL / LINDY WHYTE

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We have all seen the pictures and videos of that weekend's winners by now, have admired beautiful expressions, strong headpieces, hard backs, dark eyes, great bites, correct movement, confident attitudes, and all the conformation, health, and temperament attributes that make sound and strong Bullmastiffs.

When we attend a show my husband and I always ask each other which dogs we would have taken home, if given the chance. Sometimes there are many, and sometimes few, if any. On this day in Liverpool, the handsome veteran dog who won the Dog Challenge Certificate was among my favorites, as was the lovely bitch who won the Bitch Challenge certificate and was ultimately Best in Show. There was a brindle puppy boy who stole my heart, and a young fawn male I hope to see again at maturity. I loved a handful of bitches, all of whom I would be proud to have bred or owned.

The quality was deep in most of the classes, and Judge Walsh, who judged with the full focus of her experience and expertise and with her characteristic care and consideration for dogs and handlers, noted afterward that she had the best sort of challenge, with so many quality Bullmastiffs to evaluate and reward.

Everyone with a dog in the ring at the Specialty Centenary Championship Show won that day and keeps on winning, in my estimation. Those exhibitors won the right to have pride in the dogs on their leads, pride in their parts as Bullmastiff fanciers in the birthplace of the breed, and earned the responsibility to preserve form and function along with mental and physical health in future breedings. I believe they will.

Perhaps it is time for those of us around the world who consider ourselves responsible Bullmastiff breeders to look to the breed standard as it exists in the country of origin, as we consider

our own standards and any future changes. It might even behoove us to adopt the British Bullmastiff standard and to remember the work for which our dogs were bred. We can then stand with those fanciers I met in Liverpool as we celebrate the future of our breed.

Thanks to the Bullmastiff Breed Council for all they do for the Bullmastiff, and for the Bullmastiff clubs in the country of origin; to the Southern Bullmastiff Society, for hosting the Specialty Centenary Championship Show; and to all of the fanciers we met, who showed their dogs, who showed such ownership not only of their dogs, but of the breed, and make me believe that the next 100 years will also be cause for celebration.

Thank you to my remarkable husband, Vince Grlovich, who always wants me to have an adventure.

I will always be grateful to friends Billy Brittle, Chair of the Bullmastiff Breed Council, and Grant Slater,

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Chair of the Southern Bullmastiff Society, for encouraging me to make the trip, and to Judge Mary Barbara Walsh for being a great friend and a wonderful traveling companion, and for sharing so many good times and so much laughter.

Thank you to everyone who made us so welcome. We will never forget it, and we will be back!

—Lindy Whyte,
Tryumphe@comcast.net
 American Bullmastiff Association

Chinooks

CHINOOK DOGS AS STEIFF PLUSH TOYS

The Steiff company, based in Germany, has been a maker of stuffed plush toys since the late 1890s. Steiff was one of the first producers of stuffed-toy bears. From 1930–32, following Chinook’s participation in Byrd’s Antarctic Expedition and subsequent fame, Steiff made several plush-toy models of Chinook. Following is information on these.

“Chinook-dog plush pieces by Steiff are rare. Occasionally, the Steiff pieces do come up for auction. Still, you’re likelier to see a unicorn than stumble across one of these historical toys.

“Steiff called these dogs ‘Chinook, Byrd’s Antarctic Expedition Dog.’ When they were brand new, the sitting Chinook was made from cream-colored wool plush that was airbrushed with light-brown and black detailing. The sitting models have an open, pink-lined felt mouth, brown glass pupil eyes, black stitched nose, and claws; they also sport a leather collar. He features a tail-turns-head mechanism. Steiff only manufactured this particular Chinook model in 23, 29, and 35 cm sizes, in 1931 and 1932.

“In addition to this sitting tail-turns-head Chinook, Steiff made three additional Chinook models in the 1930 through 1932 timeframe. These included standing (17, 28, and 43 cm), lying down (22, 32, 35, and 50

cm), and just sitting (22, 28, and 35 cm) versions. All have the same general look and sport elaborate leather collars studded with Steiff ‘ff’-style buttons. Only the two sitting-up models have open mouths.

“So what’s a Chinook, and what does it have to do with Byrd’s Antarctic Expedition? Chinook dogs were created by Arthur Treadwell Walden of Wonalancet, New Hampshire, in 1917 as working dogs.

“Walden was an experienced dog driver with years of experience in the Yukon. For that reason, he was selected as the lead driver and trainer on the 1929 Byrd expedition. Walden brought the 12-year-old Chinook and fifteen sons to provide surface transportation on the Antarctic ice for this critical exploratory mission.

“Of Chinook, Byrd wrote: ‘... there was no doubting the fact that he was a great dog. ...Walden used him as kind of a ‘shock troop,’ throwing him into the har-

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Following Chinook's fame due to his key role in Byrd's Antarctic Expedition, the Steiff company produced several models of plush-toy Chinooks in the 1930s. Bottom: Boston Globe coverage of the real Chinook meeting one of the plush toys.



ness when the going turned very hard. Then the gallant heart of the old dog would rise above the years and pull with the glorious strength of a three-year-old.

“On the night of January 17, 1929, Chinook's birthday, and after a tough day of work, Chinook wandered

away from the base camp and was never seen again. Walden and the entire team were devastated. A highway in New Hampshire is named the Chinook Trail to commemorate this dog and his heroic contributions to exploration.

“What does this mean

in terms of Steiff? Since the turn of the last century, Steiff has often used ‘celebrities’ to inspire new products. Steiff Teddies can partially credit Clifford Berryman's 1902 cartoon of Teddy Roosevelt's ‘Not Hunting’ for their appearance and popularity a century later! The world loved Chinook; why not make him a lovable toy?”

(Paul Steiff's U.S. patent

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for the stuffed toy can be found at [https://patents.google.com/patent/USD78988S/en?q=\(paul+steiff\)&o-q=paul+steiff.](https://patents.google.com/patent/USD78988S/en?q=(paul+steiff)&o-q=paul+steiff.))

Appreciation to Rebekah Kaufman for locating photos and Steiff's Chinook product details.

—Kathleen Riley,
kathleenrileyphotography@gmail.com

[Chinook Club of America](#)

Doberman Pinschers

THE FUTURE OF THE SPORT: WHERE TO NOW?

With another year upon us, it's a logical time to ponder the state of purebred dogs and the future of our sport. A while ago the DPCA was asked to provide the names of suggested AKC breeder-judges to be interviewed for a Doberman Pinscher feature in an all-breed publication. The board members came up with more names than needed, in case someone did not want to, or could not participate.

When the list was com-

plied, something jumped out at me: Most of the people on the list were in their early to-mid 60s. Chock full of boomers. This revelation led to contemplation about the “graying” of our mentors and breeders. Of the DPCA's members, only a small percentage are juniors. Youngsters in their teens or people in their 20s or 30s are a rare sighting at our national specialties—though AARP is well represented!

Some AKC events, such as dock diving, lure coursing, and agility, are filled with younger participants. The conformation rings, however, are not overflowing with new entrants.

What can we do to generate interest in the sport with the “instant” crowd—the Twitter, Instagram, Snapchat, Facebook and selfie set? How can we get the next generation of breeders, exhibitors, and mentors to be excited and interested in participating in a sport that requires years of experience to obtain excellence?

Our sport is also one with

high expenses. When a child becomes interested in handling, whether by watching Westminster or going to a local show, it's a long road ahead. It takes the support of a junior's family, both financially and emotionally, to enable the junior to follow their dream. Our breed does not have the additional cost in time and equipment of daily grooming, bathing, and more, like a Poodle or terrier. Hand-stripping a Norwich or Cairn takes much time to perfect, and one must have access to others who can teach.

A show-prospect Doberman puppy can be thousands—a high cost for a young teen. Then the cost of finishing a conformation championship is high, including entries, clothing, transportation, and lodging.

Breeding a litter of Dobermans can be very costly. Our last large litter of nine, whelped in 2006, with no stud fee or stud puppy in the mix, cost more than \$12,000 to the age of 10 weeks. This total does

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*Doberman
Pinscher*

not include crates for nine puppies, the whelping box, ex-pens, bowls, and other necessary equipment we already had from years of breeding. We kept two pups and did not make a dime.

Breeding is not about making a profit. Breeding is about a passion for the

breed, for the sport. The goal should be preserving the breed's foundation and purpose, and with each successive generation, improving health and soundness.

Without "raising" new breeders, mentoring them, and fostering a new gen-

eration that will become handlers and judges, the sport will wane. Decades ago there were many people willing to take a newbie under their wing and share the knowledge of the breed that got them hooked "in dogs."

Our lives are so busy today, many people do not seem to be taking the time to talk to the owner-handler showing their dog for the first time. To be available to answer a question or offer advice when approached by someone we do not know. We need to remember what it was like when we first ventured into this world and were welcomed by that person, or persons, willing to talk, educate, and console. We need to figure out how to recruit, engage, and enrich a new crop to go forward: To sustain and grow the sport of dogs.

The answer to "Where to now?" must come from those experienced in all phases of the sport. It is our responsibility to look ahead and help provide a map for

COURTESY LYNDA BEAM

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the future. —*Leslie Hall, 2017*

Doberman Pinscher Club of America

Dogues de Bordeaux

THE BREED WITH CONCAVE FEATURES

The Dogue de Bordeaux is a breed with a “concave outline” and has the most “bulldog features” of any of the mastiff breeds. French Professor Raymond Triquet, who resurrected the Dogue de Bordeaux from near-extinction and is responsible for developing and writing the FCI breed standard, refers to the breed as having a “concave-lined” profile.

In his *Saga of the Dogue de Bordeaux*, Triquet says, “The concave characteristics of the breed include having extremities (tail and feet) that are thick, heavy bone, slight upward tilt of the muzzle, slightly toes out in the front, skin is thick and there is a slight dip in the topline.” Triquet further says, “It is the nature



of the Dogue de Bordeaux to be concave, it cannot be otherwise.” Stated another way, the breed’s phenotype demands that the breed have concave features.

The AKC breed standard covers these concave features throughout the document, as the following examples show: “When viewed in profile, the foreface is very slightly concave”; “nose slightly upturned is permissible”;

“the lower jaw curves upward”; “the tail is very thick at the base”; “the forearms when viewed from the front are straight or inclining slightly inward”; and “the pasterns when viewed from the front may bend slightly outward.”

The AKC breed standard further states, “Hindquarters—powerful legs with strong bone structure; well angulated” and “skin—thick and sufficiently

DAVID WOO ©AKC

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loose fitting.” Referencing the Dogue de Bordeaux’s topline, the standard says, “solid, with a broad and muscular back.”

Note that the AKC breed standard does not state that the topline is level. As Triquet emphasizes, “It is against the Dogue de Bordeaux’s nature to have a level topline.”

Professor Triquet provides additional views on what a correct topline should be for the breed by saying, “Let’s be clear that we don’t say ‘straight,’ and even less, ‘rectilinear.’ No molossus has a rectilinear topline. In the Dogue de Bordeaux, we aim for it as straight as possible in a concave-lined dog. The topline always has a slight, or very slight dip.”

When describing the ribcage of the breed, Triquet makes additional reference to the topline’s structure as contributing to the breed’s function and flexibility in the following statement, “In the Dogue de Bordeaux, the rib cage is high (deep) and hangs relatively low (but not

as low as in the Bulldog). That permits him to lower the whole body when anticipating an attack or when he is running at an active and prolonged trot: the chest drops slightly and the back has a tendency to dip.”

Among the questions asked of our mentors at ringside mentoring sessions or at our judges’ education seminars is: Why does the Dogue de Bordeaux have these concave features in the first place? The answer is that these characteristics are due to the Bulldog influence in the Dogue de Bordeaux’s ancestral history, along with the fact that form followed the breed’s function as a guardian, gladiator, and hunter.

As far as which bulldogs contributed to the Dogue de Bordeaux’s evolution, there are varying theories on that subject. Some hypothesize that it was “large-framed” Spanish Bulldogs from the Iberian Peninsula that contributed the “bulldog influence” to the breed, while others theorize that it

was the Bulldogs brought to France by the British during England’s presence in that country. It may have been a combination of one or several scenarios, but in any case, the bulldog contribution to the Dogue de Bordeaux is readily apparent.

Catherine Marien-de Luca of The Bulldog Information Library provides insight as to the features of the Spanish Bulldog that may have contributed to the makeup of the Dogue de Bordeaux. In her description of the Spanish Bulldog, Marien-de Luca says, “This dog was taller than the present-day Bulldog (60–65 cm), with a weight of around 50 kg. He had a massive, rounded head with a short muzzle and was flat faced.”

In summary, the phenotype of the Dogue de Bordeaux is to be a concave-lined breed whose very existence is a direct result of the evolution and utilitarian role that the breed has represented throughout its history. The breed’s athlet-

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icism, movement, function, and status as a working breed is facilitated in no small part by the various concave-features that form the makeup of the breed. As Triquet points out, “It is against his nature to be otherwise.”

—Victor C. Smith, AKC Delegate, Judges Education Chair, DdBSA

V102071@inreach.com

[Dogue de Bordeaux Society of America](#)

German Pinschers

THE PERFECT DOG WHO NEVER COMES

Recently I read an interview with a young baseball player who said, in response to a question about coaching and learning to play at the Major League level, something like, “sometimes you’re working really hard on something and it feels like you’re a mile away when really you’re only an inch away.”

I’m writing this article at the beginning of 2024, and I’ve spent some time over



the last couple of weeks, as a lot of us do, reviewing my year with dogs and what we have or haven’t accomplished.

I have an older dog who’s semi-retired and a young dog who is still mostly potential, and if I only look at this year in terms of outcomes, it’s been pretty disappointing. The sports I expected to do well in, we didn’t. And the ones I thought we might be ready to compete in, we weren’t.

Some of this is the result of the time I did or didn’t spend training, some of it the number of competitions we entered, and some of it

is my skills or lack of skills. And some of it is the breed of dog I choose to spend my life with.

German Pinschers are, as the standard says, “Energetic, watchful, alert, agile, fearless, determined, intelligent and loyal.” It continues to say the German Pinscher “has the prerequisites to be an excellent watchdog and companion.”

German Pinschers are smart dogs. They’re watchful, and they pay attention to everything happening around them. They’re independent thinkers and problem solvers, as many working breeds are. Some

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breeds of dog were bred to perform tasks with their owners. German Pinschers were bred for tasks performed independently, to be alert dogs and vermin-catchers. This means that sometimes your agenda may be training for an obedience title, and their agenda may be, well, something else.

And yet German Pinschers excel in all kinds of performance and obedience venues. They participate and earn titles in agility, obedience, rally, Barn Hunt, Fast CAT, and many other sports. They're fun dogs to train and fun dogs to live with. They're generally healthy, often living well into their teens.

In my experience, they don't mature quickly, and sometimes it feels like you're not making progress, that they're not "getting" what you're trying so hard to help them learn. Then, suddenly, sometimes when you were thinking of trying something else, they get it, and it turns out you were so much closer than you

thought.

If you're interested in performance and obedience sports and you have or are considering a German Pinscher, the good news is that German Pinschers have been successful in many venues. If you're training and you're frustrated, or your dog is frustrated because one or both of you is just not getting it, then that's a great time to step back, to ask for someone else's opinion, to watch videos of what you're doing. Maybe you need to change everything and start again, but maybe—and this happens more often than you think—maybe you're just an inch away.

The only way to find out is to keep going. And if you and your dog are having fun, then why not? The outcomes are often out of our control. But going out and having fun with our dogs is not.

—Deb Coates,
charmingbillie@gmail.com
 German Pinscher Club of America

Giant Schnauzers

GSCA ONLINE ZOOM FORUMS

In 2023, Giant Schnauzer Club of America President Chris Reed and the GSCA Board began hosting online Zoom forums every quarter to share brief updates on various GSCA topics, club projects, and committee activities. This also gives members the opportunity to ask questions, raise issues, and have their voices heard. Participation is limited to GSCA members only.

These forums are intended to provide information and facilitate conversations. No official club business (e.g., voting, etc.) will be conducted. Nonetheless, all attendees are expected to abide by all AKC rules and policies regarding conduct and sportsmanship.

The fourth-quarter forum held on November 28, 2023, reviewed:

- 2024 national specialty news
- AKC Purebred Preservation Bank

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Giant Schnauzer

[Giant Schnauzer Club of America](#)

Great Danes

GREAT DANE LIFE EXPECTANCY

Before deciding on what breed is a good fit for a given family, there are a number of questions and considerations that must be made. I would encourage those families that simply can't decide to try to find their way to an AKC Meet the Breeds event, which are now held in several areas of the country. The dates and locations are available on the AKC website (akc.org). At these events you can get up close and personal with dogs and the breeders. Believe me, breeders do not want a “bad fit” for one of their puppies any more than the new family does.

For many years, the relatively shorter life expectancy of a giant breed such as the Great Danes was sometimes a hindrance in getting people to get their first Dane. When I started in Danes, the

- Revisions to standing rules
- Plans for 2024
- Volunteer opportunities
- Q&A

A copy of Enid Lagree's book *Just Giants* was given to one lucky attendee selected at random.

Congratulations to Donna

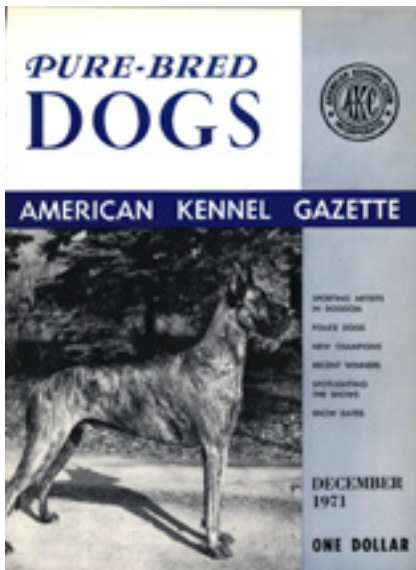
LaChance for being the lucky winner of the book!

These forums are a great way to connect, volunteer, and stay informed with GSCA members on a regular basis.

—Mary E. Falls,

Classicgiantschnauzers@gmail.com

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Great Dane, December 1971
(Gilbert photo)

breed’s average life expectancy was around 6 years. Today, with the tremendous advancement in the quality of dog food, and other factors, it is not uncommon for us to see Danes live to age 12 or longer.

When a person with their first Dane meets a longtime Dane owner, the longtime Dane person will often ask them, “How many do you have?” When I was first asked this question, I thought to myself, “Who in the world would ever have more than one of these huge dogs?” That was, of course,

until I had spent time with my first one. It is very common for Dane owners to have more than one. This is a mellow breed and one that is quite willing to be trained and simply a great family dog. Now that they live around twice as long as they once did, getting your first Dane is a win-win decision.

If anyone reading this article is in need of assistance in finding a breeder, I can probably help. Please let me know.

—Bill Stebbins,
cherdane2comcast.net
Great Dane Club of
America

Great Pyrenees

A POEM: GREAT PYRENEES IN SPRINGTIME

Upon the mountain’s
cradle, where echoes
dance,

The Great Pyrenees stand,
a vigilant stance.

In the realm of spring,
where emerald meadows
unfold,

They guard their flocks
with hearts untold.

Majestic sentinels, amidst
peaks and streams,

In the alpine splendor,
where daylight gleams.

Coats like driven snow, a
celestial attire,

Great Pyrenees, protectors
of the mountain’s choir.

In the grandeur of morn-
ing, where the sun ascends,

They tread softly where
the mountain bends.

A symphony of nature, a
pastoral blend,

As the shepherd’s com-
panions to their duties
attend.

Beneath the canvas of the
azure sky,

Great Pyrenees stand tall,
a pledge to defy.

Eyes that mirror the
ancient mountain lore,

Protectors of flocks forev-
ermore.

Through the meandering
trails, where rivulets run,

Great Pyrenees traverse,
their work begun.

Their presence a blessing
on this mountainous stage,

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“Great Pyrenees Ch. Basquaerie Marsous,” by Edwin Megargee, c.1937

Guiding the flock through
each verdant page.

In the morning’s tender
glow, where dreams conspire,
Great Pyrenees lead, their
fur like spun fire.

Silent sentinels, in the sun-
lit morn,
Guardians of the flock,
from dusk till dawn.

Underneath the alpen-
glow’s ethereal light,
Great Pyrenees guide,

their presence bright.

A fusion of strength and
gentle grace,
In the symphony of spring,
they find their place.

In the tapestry of nature,
their tales unfold,
A shepherd’s companions,
steadfast and bold.

Beside babbling brooks
and crags so steep,
Great Pyrenees guard,
their watch never asleep.

With each season, a chap-
ter unfurls,

In the shepherd’s story, a
song of the hills.

Great Pyrenees, where the
wild spirits sing,
In the heart of spring, their
echoes ring.

As petals fall like blessings
from above,

They embody the shep-
herd’s enduring love.

In their gaze the moun-
tains find reflection,

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Great Pyrenees, keepers of nature's perfection.

In the silence of the mountains, where stories unfold,

Great Pyrenees stand, protectors bold.

Their presence a beacon on peaks so high,

In the springtime symphony beneath the sky.

Amidst the peaks, where the wind whispers tales,

They stand steadfast as the shepherd hails.

In the cradle of mountains, their loyalty sworn,

Great Pyrenees, in this season reborn.

Beneath the canopy of the azure dome

They lead the flock to find their home.

Eyes that reflect the ancient mountain lore,

Great Pyrenees, defenders forevermore.

In the embrace of spring, where life unfurls,

They walk the trails of the mountain world.

Silent guardians, with

hearts sincere,

Great Pyrenees, the mountain's revered.

Paws etch patterns on the meadow's floor,

A dance with nature forevermore.

Their spirit a ballad in the mountain breeze,

Great Pyrenees, beneath the ancient trees.

Along the ridges, where the eagles soar,

They watch over valleys, forevermore.

With fur that sparkles in the moonlit snow,

In the heart of spring they gracefully go.

In the tapestry of nature, their tales unfold,

A shepherd's companions, steadfast and bold.

Beside babbling brooks and rocky steep,

Great Pyrenees guard, their watch never asleep.

Upon the lofty peaks, where shadows dance,

They stand as guardians, a fortress in chance.

Eyes that gleam with a shepherd's might,

In the quiet twilight, they stand upright.

With each season, a chapter is unfurled,

In the shepherd's tale, a song of the world.

Great Pyrenees, where the wild spirits sing,

In the heart of spring their echoes ring.

As petals fall like blessings from above,

They embody the shepherd's enduring love.

In their gaze, the mountains find reflection,

Great Pyrenees, keepers of nature's perfection.

So, let this ode be a hymn to the free,

To the great white guardians beneath the tree.

In the sanctuary of spring, where dreams take flight,

Great Pyrenees, bathed in nature's eternal light.

—By Karen Reiter, GPCA Gazette Columnist

[Great Pyrenees Club of America](#)

BREED COLUMNS

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Komondorok

THIRTY YEARS AFTER A STANDARD REVISION: WAS IT A GOOD ONE?

The current AKC Komondor standard is the result of an update in 1994. The previous update had been in 1973, so about 20 years before (it was reformatted but with no changes in 1989). Now 30 years have passed; how did the dedicated committee and the membership do?

First, I'll point out something important that was retained in the update. In the "Size" section, both standards say:

"While size is important, type, character, symmetry, movement and ruggedness are of the greatest importance, and are on no account to be sacrificed for size alone."

I think this is one of the most important parts of our standard. The (old) previous AKC Komondor

standard (1937) said, "the bigger the Komondor the better..." This improved message (1973 and 1994) acknowledges size but clearly says something more like "the better the better!" If you imagine the task the Komondor performs, defending its flock against predators, the dog's quality, described as type, good movement, and ruggedness, is far more important than just who is the biggest.

In that same section on



An impressive Komondor entry at Ladies KC, 1979

COURTESY ERIC LIEBES

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“Size,” one change in 1994 was to raise the minimum heights for dogs and bitches by two inches each. Dogs went from 25½ inches and up to 27½ inches and up; bitches, from 23½ inches and up to 25½ inches and up. This always seemed like a big jump to me. It resulted in some breeders selecting just for height, and winding up with straighter angles.

I will note that in these past 30 years we have had several exceptional dogs in the breed who had soundness, good angles, and were as tall as 29+ inches, so there was some good height in the gene pool to build on.

Going along with the need for good movement, our gait section was improved. In 1973 the standard asked for: “Movement—Light, leisurely and balanced. Takes long strides.” In 1994 those words were kept, and “... is very agile and light on his feet” was added. A good clarification.

Oddly, the 1973 standard stated that the coat “require(d) no care other

than washing” and also listed short coat as a fault. The 1994 improved understanding of our unusual corded coat by saying:

“It must be remembered that the length of the Komondor’s coat is a function of age, and a younger dog must never be penalized for having a shorter coat.”

It also removes the short coat fault and the fiction that coat does not need care. We maintain the mature coat by keeping the cords split down to the skin, along with washing.

In 1994 the head description was improved by specifying: “The head is large. The length of the head from occiput to tip of nose is approximately two-fifths the height of the dog at the withers.” And that “the muzzle is two-fifths of the total length of the head.” These were big improvements compared to the 1973 standard, where the head was described as looking short as compared to its width.

Three changes were made

to our list of DQs. The DQ for a bobtail (presumably to distinguish the Komondor from the Old English Sheepdog) was properly removed. A color allowance was made for “small amounts of cream or buff in puppies”—something we see commonly on the ears of baby puppies. This was a response to a judge who DQ’d a puppy for a little cream on her ears but did not look down at the skin, where it was already white. Sad but needed. A tooth DQ (three or more missing) was added. While everyone likes full dentition, this seemed very extreme for our small gene pool. We already had (and have) a serious fault for any missing teeth. Yet we are stuck with this DQ, and an attempt to remove it a few years ago failed to get the necessary two-thirds vote by just a ballot or two.

Did the club do a good job with the 1994 Komondor breed standard update? I think (overall) they did. Better coat, head, and movement descriptions provide

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an improved guide for breeders and judges. The size increase, which I did not agree with at the time, has not had long-lasting bad effects. Maybe someday we'll soften that tooth DQ!

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

Kuvaszok

LETTER TO AKC JUDGES: THE KUVASZ IS NOT A TOPIARY

Dear AKC Judges:

In its mother country, the Kuvasz is considered a national treasure—a heritage breed—and it is protected by the Hungarian government. The Kuvasz is not afforded such status in the United States, but the Kuvasz Club of America is concerned about the breed's future, and our need to protect the heritage of this noble breed is paramount. It is our duty. The KCA will implement several things to raise awareness of the breed in an educated manner.



A properly groomed Kuvasz. The breed should be shown as naturally as possible.

Protection of the breed also includes its heritage; what makes a Kuvasz a Kuvasz. The dogs should be shown as naturally as possible, as only a wash and dry would allow.

Our AKC breed standard states:

“Coat: The Kuvasz has a double coat, formed by guard hair and fine undercoat. The texture of the coat is medium coarse. The coat ranges from quite wavy to straight. Distribution follows a definite pattern over the



A Kuvasz must not be trimmed like a topiary bush.

body regardless of coat type. The head, muzzle, ears and paws are covered with short, smooth hair. The neck has a mane that extends to and covers the chest.

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“Coat on the front of the forelegs up to the elbows and the hind legs below the thighs is short and smooth. The backs of the forelegs are feathered to the pastern with hair 2 to 3 inches long. The body and sides of the thighs are covered with a medium length coat. The back of the thighs and the entire tail are covered with hair 4 to 6 inches long. It is natural for the Kuvasz to lose most of the long coat during hot weather. Full luxuriant coat comes in seasonally, depending on climate. Summer coat should not be penalized. Color: White.”

Today we are asking judges to stop putting up topiary-groomed Kuvasz.

The Cambridge Dictionary definition of *topiary* is “The art of cutting bushes into attractive shapes, especially of animals and birds, or bushes shaped in this way.”

The beautiful coat of the Kuvasz is lost for the sake of conformation wins. Exhibitors lament that they

have to scissor or they cannot win. Instead, it should be that they have to show a natural coat or they cannot win. That puts the ball in the judges’ court.

Mature males and females should have a mane, more pronounced in the male. Is what you see forechest? Do you see a nice neck going into the shoulders? Or is it hair? All shades of white are allowed; the shade of white should not be a determining factor in judging.

Rewarding full-body scissored Kuvasz is totally contradictory to the breed’s heritage and its value in general. If judges stop rewarding it, it will quickly become obsolete. We want to hear exhibitors say they cannot win if they scissor their dog. Please make it happen.

Respectfully,

Kuvasz Club of America
Board of Directors and
Judges Education Council
(fec@kuvaszclubofamerica.org,
kcadirectors@kuvaszclubofamerica.org)

[Kuvasz Club of America](http://kuvaszclubofamerica.org)

Leonbergers

LEONBERGERS IN SEARCH & RESCUE/RECOVERY WORK

The lack of a specialized purpose in the Leonberger’s history makes for a versatility that lends itself to a wide variety of tasks and jobs. Among these is search-and-rescue (S&R) and recovery work, which draws both on the Leonberger’s excellent sense of smell and their strong bond to humans.

It is an unfortunate reality that sometimes missing persons require search teams to try to find them and occasionally are not found until after they are deceased. The canines and humans who get involved in the search for missing persons also must be prepared for the possibility that they might not find the missing person at all. It can still be very rewarding work.

I recently had the opportunity to discuss the role of the Leonberger in S&R and recovery work with two Leonberger owners who

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Leonberger Riddick training in search-and-rescue/recovery work: a missing person drill, canister training, CERT drill, and county garage search

K9 Search & Rescue (<https://www.northcentralohiok9sar.org/>) and then through the Community Emergency Response Team program (CERT) (<https://www.fema.gov/emergency-managers/individuals-communities/preparedness-activities-webinars/community-emergency-response-team>). Cheryl and Riddick trained and served both in missing persons and human cadaver recovery, though Riddick excelled at

have been involved in the rescue/recovery field, Cheryl Heinly and TyraValenzuela-Ray. Though not at liberty to discuss specific details about the individual cases they worked on, both Heinly and Valenzuela-Ray talked

about the variations in their individual dogs and how they responded to different types of situations.

Cheryl Heinly first got involved in this work with her Leonberger, Riddick, through North Central Ohio

COURTESY CHERYL HEINLY

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recovery. Cheryl went on to train and work with two other Leonbergers, Beaker (who did both missing persons and recovery) and Argos (who specialized in missing persons). Their individual personalities required some variation in the way they were trained and in the way Heinly needed to reward them, as well as how they needed to be helped to let go of a search or recenter afterward. She mentioned that it can be difficult for some dogs to “shut off” when a search is called off before the person is found.

“Dogs are not robots,” Heinly stressed. There is a certain clown component in some dogs in training, and certainly Leonbergers have their clown side. Games are helpful in the training phase, as are treats and situational scenario drills. Heinly mentioned that the dogs can usually tell when a situation is “real” and no longer a drill. Still, the individual dog’s personality must be taken into account.

Training preparation starts early, with puppy kindergarten, obedience, and some basic agility. Earning AKC CGC (Canine Good Citizen) certification also helps to expose the dog to a wide variety of situations that might be encountered. There can be some chaos and intense emotions at search or recovery sites, along with emergency vehicles, first responders, news crews, etc. The more familiar the dog and handler are with a variety of sights, sounds, and energies, the better equipped they are to do this kind of work.

Tyra Valenzuela-Ray got involved in S&R and recovery through FEMA (<https://femacanine.org/>) and the North American Police Work Dog Association (<https://www.napwda.com/>). Valenzuela-Ray, an RN and BSN, got into S&R and recovery work through her contacts in the local EMS squads and medical professionals. When her Leonberger Bella was 2 years old, old enough to

start agility training, they started work on navigating a rubble pile, and Valenzuela-Ray ended up creating her own rubble pile to continue that training. They have also been involved in searches where the missing person was in water, where the dog not only used their sense of smell but also hearing to help locate the person. She stressed that it is important to keep the dog in good physical shape and to reinforce basic obedience training. For keeping in shape, Valenzuela-Ray recommends swimming, which is very good for total body conditioning.

“Practice, practice, practice,” she says. Introduce distractions (baseball games, dog shows, water work). Valenzuela-Ray started training Bella by using games, doing search games first in one room in the house, then expanding to two rooms, then three, and so on. Then she took the games outdoors. She also enlisted the neighborhood children, giving them

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T-shirts to wear and sleep in and then bring back unwashed. She would cut the shirts into pieces and store the pieces in bags, and use them for search training. Valenquela-Ray also used a paintball course her kids set up, with children hiding throughout the course, and had the dog find the children.

Both Heinly and Valenzuela-Ray talked about the reality where a search for a missing person may turn into a cadaver-recovery effort, or when a missing person is found but cannot be revived, stressing that the emotions and energy of the scene can change quite a bit. It is important to realize that the dog will also feel that shift. Knowing your individual dog's personality can help find ways to redirect them when the goal of the search was not attained. It is also important for the handler to find ways to disengage from the search that might not end with a find.

The Leonberger's size and coat are factors that must be considered in certain geo-

graphic areas or seasonal conditions. Leonbergers can withstand cold temperatures and snowy/rainy conditions fairly well, including water-rescue situations, but they will not handle hot/humid environments for long without risk to their own health and safety. Owners/handlers need to be aware of the environmental risks and be educated on how to monitor their dog for signs of physical stress and know when to intervene.

For more information on S&R/recovery, please visit the links provided above.

—Shannon White,
oceanleonbergers@gmail.com

[Leonberger Club of America](#)

Neapolitan Mastiffs

THE NEAPOLITAN MASTIFF IS A FAMILY COMPANION FIRST

The Neapolitan Mastiff is believed to have been developed by the Romans from the giant war dogs of Egypt, Persia, Mesopotamia, and Asia.

They brought these war dogs to England, where they were then crossed with the even-larger Mastiff already there. Over time, these dogs found themselves in the Neapolitan region of southern Italy, where they were bred for over 2,000 years to guard homes and estates, while serving as companions to their owners. The modern Neapolitan Mastiff is a loyal friend to its family who is capable of stopping any intruder with its intimidating looks, but who also possesses the power and willfulness to back up that challenge if needed.

Sadly, this dog, with his astonishing looks and muscle and the implied power, is attractive to too many who want a visibly “tough dog.”

Dr. Dieter Fleig is the German author of a wonderful book providing profiles of the many ancient breeds developed for similar purposes. The book's title is *Kampfhund* (translated as *Fighting Dog Breeds*), and it is available from T.F.H. Publications, New Jersey (1996).

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Dr. Fleig concludes an absolutely charming section about the Neapolitan Mastiff with a sort of sigh of worry about the future:

“It is hard enough to breed a good Mastino, but the task of finding the right home for the puppies seems much harder to me! To put it rather bluntly, dogs of this kind attract many idiots who dream precisely of owning such a dog. The reasons why they believe this dog would be exactly the right one for them is more of a question for the psychiatrist than for the cynologist.”

He goes on to say, “From the bottom of my heart, I hope that every little Mastino will find a good home with understanding people, people who themselves have discipline and are equipped with the inner and outer strength necessary to control such a strong and independent dog.”

Recognizing these same feelings, in 2007 our club developed a statement about the use of the Neapolitan Mastiff in bite-work sports.



Neapolitan Mastiff

This was approved by a membership vote that same year as an official club policy.

As a parent club, we enthusiastically encourage any activity for owner and dog that will enhance the enjoyment of the owner in their dog while developing physically and temperamentally sound dogs and will also present the breed to the public in a manner correct and safe for the breed, owner, and the public.

The Mastino becomes intensely focused when it is alerted to real danger. We

believe that coupling the immense strength of the dog with this innate temperament creates a unique combination among the guardian breeds.

Therefore, we do not support involving the Neapolitan Mastiff in any activity that results in an exaggeration of the naturally protective temperament of this breed, even if this is done for fun, is done in play, or is part of an organized sport.

Of course, we know that properly done, Schutzhund

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is a noble sport, whose essential purpose is to show absolute teamwork between dog and handler as well as total control of the dog by the handler. With many others we do admire the individual dogs and applaud persons who excel in this sport.

So do have fun working with your Mastino in obedience, rally, agility (OK, slowly), carting, tracking, Canine Good Citizen, trick dog, therapy dog, emotional support dog, and any other activity that enhances and develops the essential bond between the owner and his or her very strong companion.

—Margaret R. (Peggy)

Wolfe

Margaret.peggy.wolfe@gmail.com

United States Neapolitan Mastiff Club

Newfoundlands

Mary Lou Cuddy wrote the following in 2018.

THE BOTTOM LINE ON TOPLINES



Newfoundland

The Newfoundland breed standard says, “The back is strong, broad and muscular and is level from just behind the withers to the croup.” The Newfoundland Illustrated Guide says, “A Newfoundland should not be sway-backed, hollow-backed or soft in the back. He should be neither roached nor camel-backed. The natural coat, or grooming, may make a soft or hollow back appear level, or it can make a level back

appear roached or high in rear, so the back must be felt to determine its true conformation and musculature.” The Illustrated Guide also says, “The correct level topline must not be lost in motion.”

It is generally accepted that power from the rear assembly is transmitted forward through the spinal column. A level back that is parallel to the ground in the most efficient. Multiple respected authors Curtis

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and Thelma Brown (*The Art and Science of Judging Dogs*), Curtis Brown (*Dog Locomotion and Gait Analysis*), Rachel Paige Elliot (*Dogsteps*), and MacDowell Lyon (*The Dog in Action*), to name a few, have all shared their expertise and research via their books and writings. It would behoove the smart breeder and judge to study and frequently review these works.

Unfortunately, there are quite a few Newfs in the show ring who may appear to have a strong, level back, whether through expert handling and/or grooming, but as soon as they begin to move around the ring, the topline softens. This is often accompanied by incorrect angulation in the front and/or the rear assemblies. Careful observation will show that these dogs are working much harder and not covering the same amount of ground than their more correctly made brethren. They simply cannot move efficiently and with power. This will also trans-

late to dogs who can't swim easily and powerfully as well as the inability to pull heavy loads. These dogs are being rewarded in the ring, which leads to these faults being passed on from generation to generation. Soon this will be the "norm," with the more correctly made individual then looking out of place in the ring.

Judges and breeders, please consider the structure of the dogs you are evaluating and reward the most correct individual, not the prettiest or cutest, nor the one with the most coat or the big-name handler. This is a working breed, and the bottom line is that a level back is the piece which holds everything together! —*M.L.C.*

[Newfoundland Club of America](#)

Portuguese Water Dogs

This month's column is authored by Kari L. Lavalli.

PORTUGUESE WATER DOGS AS

AGENTS OF CONSERVATION?

The Portuguese Water Dog has served to herd fish into nets, retrieve lost tackle or nets or any object that fell overboard, deliver communications from boat to boat or boat to shore, swim tirelessly, and guard boats and homes against intruders. But this breed also excels at scent work. AKC Scent Work statistics from 2017 through 2022 show that PWDs have earned 153 SWN, 83 SWA, 36 SWE, 13 SWM—these are the combined titles at the Novice, Advanced, Excellent, and Masters levels—as well as 30 SHDN, 14 SHDA, and two SHDM (handler discrimination) titles. And now, this breed is being deployed to find invasive species that can cause serious ecological and agricultural harm.

While dogs have been used for centuries to hunt down vermin, find humans (live or remains), and more recently detect drugs and bomb and ammunition materials as well as cancers and other diseases, only

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Portuguese Water Dog Xena is training to detect the eggs of the invasive and destructive Spotted Lanternfly.

within the last 20-some years have dogs been trained to aid in surveys of elusive endangered species, invasive animal and plant species, and detection of poached materials.

One of the oldest organizations, Working Dogs for Conservation, started training medium-sized dogs taken from shelters in 1998 to detect the endangered California kit fox and now has a worldwide network of dogs on five continents

that work in a variety of conservation efforts. The organization primarily uses high-energy, ball-crazy dogs who without mental and physical exercise are likely to be destructive and unsuitable as pets; breeds such as Labrador Retrievers, Border Collies, Boykin Spaniels, Shiba Inu, Belgian Malinois, and German Shepherds.

Enter Xena (Ch. Miraval The Warrior Princess, BCAT, SWE, SCM, SEM, SHDA, TKN,

RATO, NW2, WWD), a ball-crazy, high-energy Portuguese Water dog who is training to become a Spotted Lanternfly egg detector working in the New England region (primarily Rhode Island and Massachusetts). Xena fits the requirements of a great detection dog and has quickly transitioned from finding the essential oils used in scent work trials to locating deactivated lanternfly egg masses that are

COURTESY KARIL L. LAVALLI



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frozen to -80 degrees F and then thawed.

To become approved as a detection dog, Xena had to pass 10 double-blind odor-detection trials with 30 to 120 seconds between trials, each with six boxes in a horseshoe-shaped configuration. Each trial had a clump of deactivated eggs wrapped in metal mesh in one of the boxes (except for two trials that were totally blank) and distractors (local grass, a piece of metal mesh, tree bark native to testing site, pine cones, or a nitrile glove) in one to six boxes.

She had 90 seconds per trial to find the “hot” box with the eggs (or to clear the blanks) and had to obtain an 80% success rate. Xena then had to pass a field evaluation test that consisted of a 25m × 25m area with shipping materials (pallets, raw lumber, or bundles of wood products). The reasoning for using shipped material is because lanternfly eggs are moving around the country via trucks passing through an infested area,

with eggs being laid on those materials when the trucks are stopped at rest sites.

The dog had to find three to five “hides” of deactivated eggs (all between the ground and a height of three feet) on these materials; dogs were allowed one false call and could miss one hide in order to pass.

The site itself was a distractor, and there could be a distractor of the mesh material used to wrap the egg masses.

The final tests (upcoming) to become a citizen-scientist detector dog require going to an infested area that is already quarantined, and alerting on live eggs in three to six boxes with no distractors in five separate trials with an 80% success rate. And then the dog has to search a half-acre area of vineyards, parks, forests, trials, or lumber yards in various weather conditions within a 10-minute period to find a mass of frozen eggs.

Xena is well on her way to becoming the first lan-

ternfly-detecting PWD in the U.S. and has clearly shown that this breed is well positioned for this kind of conservation work. —K.L.L.

Further information:

1. <https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/news/spotted-lanternfly-detection-dogs/>
2. <https://news.vt.edu/articles/2023/04/cals-spotted-lanternfly-dogdetection.html>
3. <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0168159122002763?via%3Dihub>

Portuguese Water Dog Club of America

Rottweilers

TIPS ON KEEPING DOGS YOU'VE BRED OUT OF RESCUE

First, I am happy to say that Rottweiler Rescue of Los Angeles (for whom I can speak, but not other rescues) rarely gets a dog from a Code of Ethics breeder. Most of the dogs that come in are from either what are often called “puppy providers” (“volume breeders”) or “pet-to-pet breeders,” as opposed to ethical breeders

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Rottweiler

who do quality, infrequent breedings.

However, it can happen. Life happens to those with even the best intentions. People lose jobs, lose their homes, can be reduced to a speck of what they used to have. So, what can you do to tilt the odds in your favor?

Have your puppies microchipped before they go to their new homes. Don't buy into the conspiracy theories that microchips can cause cancer, or you're being tracked by Bill Gates. When the pup is sold, register the pup your name as the primary contact and the buyer

as secondary. If a dog from your breeding lands in a shelter and is scanned, you will be notified immediately. Fold the price of the chip and registration into the selling cost. Make it non-negotiable.

Impress upon the buyer over and over again that you are always available to take back a dog from your breeding. State that the dog may not be sold, bartered, given away, nor in any way transferred to another person or entity without notification to you. State it in your contract, and have them initial the clause. Consider putting a "remedy" in your contract that if you are not advised or offered the dog, there is a monetary fine, and state the amount.

Check in on the buyer occasionally. Create a "tickle" file and send out emails once a year on their birthday. Make one call a day to a puppy buyer. Let them know you care.

Always take a dog back, even if you have to put it down due to illness or tem-

DAVID WOO ©AKC

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perament issues. If it's a nice dog, many people are looking to adopt. Spay and neuter first. That is the right thing to do.

Speaking of spay and neuter, I can't tell you how many dogs I've seen that are one or two generations away from outstanding dogs. People don't know what they're doing; all they know is they bought a nice dog, and so they think they should breed it! Enforce spay and neuter contracts.

If you do get a call from a shelter or rescue group, be nice. It is not their fault the dog is in protective hands. Do not scream, yell, or blame the rescuer! My suggestion is to merely ask, "What can I do to help?" They may allow you to have the dog (after spay or neuter). They may choose not to release the dog to you, and that is their right. The contract you have is between you and the buyer, not the rescue. They are not legally or ethically beholden to you.

Be nice. Show your concern. Offer assistance.

Remember it is not "your" dog and being unpleasant with get you nothing.

If they do allow you to have the dog back, remember the dog is under stress and in crisis as well. The dog will need time, and perhaps medical attention that has been denied for issues such as blown cruciate ligaments, a dental, or ear infections. Do not be in a rush to "get rid of" the dog. Spay and neuter before placement.

If the rescue organization would prefer to keep and place the dog themselves, say you understand and offer financial assistance. A couple hundred dollars or more is a lot of money to rescues who are responsible for copious veterinary bills, not to mention food, toys, or beds.

I truly hope no dog you're bred ever ends up needing help. But if it happens, be ready to either take the dog back into your home or assist the rescue that has the dog. The dog needs you as a backup until the day they are put to rest.—Jill Kessler

Miller (2021)

jilymillygsr@gmail.com

[American Rottweiler Club](#)

Siberian Huskies

THE INTERNET IS NOT YOUR MENTOR

There is no question that the internet is an integral part of most people's daily lives, and that social media has become indispensable to all but a resilient few. I can't tell you how many times I've searched YouTube videos for a DIY repair tutorial or asked for hair salon recommendations in a local Facebook group (it's been hard to find a stylist I like since moving to Alaska!).

But as much as we rely on search engines or online crowdsourcing to learn everything we need to know, there are times when the old-school, face-to-face approach is still the best way to gain understanding of a complex subject—such as understanding structure and finding soundness in a dog.

Like many dog people these days, I am a member

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of a number of dog-related Facebook groups. One of the most active groups I belong to is focused on canine structure. Recently, someone posted an artist's drawing of "incorrect" side gait taken from the *Siberian Husky Club of America Illustrated Standard* and asked what might cause a dog to move this way (see

this drawing for yourself at <https://www.shca.org/gait>, "incorrect").

As I scrolled through the comments, I was bewildered. Many responded that the dog was "strung up," moving too fast, or otherwise being handled incorrectly ... implying that the dog was otherwise structurally sound. That the

image was posted in a group focused on structure rather than showmanship was apparently beside the point.

Others zeroed in on one of the drawing's most blatant problems, a high-flying rear leg, and pronounced the dog over-angulated in the rear.

While the drawing in question combined several structural faults to create an overall composite of incorrect movement for the breed, very few of the hundred or so answers I saw at the time correctly identified what aspects of the dog's structure contributed to the problems they were seeing.

It wasn't really possible, for example, to see the dog's rear angulation in the image, but it was possible to see the angle of the dog's pelvis was relatively flat, producing an eye-catching high kick rather than effortless drive.

It was also possible to see the dog's short neck and incorrectly-high head carriage was caused by a steep shoulder blade rather than by an invisible handler with a tight lead.

WORKING GROUP

The bulk of the answers, coming from people with many different breeds in many different parts of the world, left me discouraged. I began to question how many of these breeders, exhibitors, and—though the thought disturbs me—possibly even judges actually understood canine structure.

Structure is the cornerstone of any breed: It dictates how the dog accomplishes its function, whether that function is pulling a sled, swimming to a downed bird, or patrolling the farm for vermin. It is a key part of breed type, and something any purebred dog fancier should seek to master—particularly if they intend to breed. But the nuances of structure aren't always easy to grasp, and gaining understanding of these often takes years of practical study. This means putting hands on many dogs and comparing angles, learning how to feel and then see where the joints come together and then understand the geometry they create. It

means reading books like the classic *Dogsteps* by Rachel Page Elliott, Curtis Brown's *Canine Structure and Movement*, or Gilbert and Brown's *K-9 Structure and Terminology*.

Most importantly, it means hours of watching dogs in the ring, on the trail, or in the yard with a mentor, discussing the why and how of movement.

I'm not sure this is happening as much as it should anymore. We are becoming a world of "connected isolation," where much learning on a topic is done by reading some random person's blog or asking questions in an online forum where anyone, regardless of their experience with a subject, can answer confidently enough to be believed. If it can't be done via computer, tablet, or phone screen, people don't seem to want to do it. This does not bode well for our breed, or for any breed.

I try to avoid "pining for the good old days," which many people in dogs for a long time seem to want to

do. So rather than wallow in bittersweet nostalgia, I will ask Siberian fanciers—particularly those relatively new to the breed—for action: The next time you have a question about our breed, whether it has to do with movement, type, or original function, resist the urge to Google it. Resist the urge to ask an online forum. Instead, look for someone in the breed awhile—someone you know and admire, ideally someone local that you can meet with face to face—and ask them to meet and discuss it (maybe over coffee, at a training class, or even at a show!). You will find you learn more by sitting with someone and looking at dogs than you've ever learned from disembodied strangers of questionable experience in a social media group.

If you want to preserve the athletic, functional Siberian we largely still have, you owe it to yourself and your dogs to step out from behind the computer screen, go out into the world, and get your

BREED COLUMNS

WORKING GROUP

hands dirty.

—Jessica Breinholt,

jbshca@gmail.com

Siberian Husky Club of America

Standard Schnauzers

ADOLESCENT STANDARD SCHNAUZERS CAN BE FUN ... OR NOT! PART ONE

One fine day you notice your Standard Schnauzer puppy—that adorable little ball of fur who joined your family only moments ago—has turned into a gangly teenager! What are you in for when your furball is no longer a cuddly infant? The adolescent, comical antics can be fun, or you can have a young monster on your hands. It all depends on you and how you react during this all-important phase in your little guy's life.

Training is crucial for the adolescent Standard Schnauzer. SUZANNE'S FIRST LAW OF LIVING WITH YOUR STANDARD SCHNAUZER: No matter how lovable he is, never let

him get away with ignoring a command you issue—correct him at once, or be prepared to live with an uncontrollable demon for the rest of his life. When he obeys your commands, immediately give him a high-value reward such as a treat, a prized toy, playtime with you, or lots of affection and praise.

Standard Schnauzers rank high among dogdom's comedians, partly for their sense of humor and partly for their laughable actions. You might find their adolescent antics amusing or comical, but don't laugh. SUZANNE'S FIRST LAW'S COROLLARY: Never laugh or even smile the first time at something that will be a pain in the patoot the hundred-and-first time—you'll only encourage his bad behavior.

Standard Schnauzer puppies can bamboozle you with their cuteness—but don't let that bamboozlement carry over to your pup's adolescence. Take careful note of the intelligence and mischief gleaming from those dark,

roguish eyes hidden beneath their breed-characteristic eyebrows—you'll know you're in for quite a ride.

Standard Schnauzers Are Highly Intelligent

Remember one reason you chose a Standard Schnauzer was the breed's outstanding intelligence, or "the dog with the human brain."

The late SS breeder Sam Lothrop once told me that the most important criterion in selecting homes for SS puppies is to be sure there will be at least one member of the family smarter than the dog. We've been lucky with all our bright puppy parents, but I've found over the years that this is easier said than done.

Don't fall into the trap of thinking your adolescent SS is just a small human in a fur coat who can be dealt with like a human child. First, accept that a Standard Schnauzer can learn a vocabulary to rival a smart 6-year-old human and can understand the concepts behind the words.

WORKING GROUP

Second, dogs and humans are two different species with different mentalities and characteristics. Dogs are descended from wolves, and like humans are accustomed to being the top of their food chain. Accept that a streak of the dominant wild predator still exists in your dogs even after 10,000 years of domestication.

Because of that intelligence and their innate craftiness, if SS get away with something even once, they think they can get away with it again, and again ... ad infinitum. Stay on top of their lapsing into undesirable behavior as soon as it occurs, especially on the first occurrence. Some of these lapses might amuse you, but don't laugh. Always remember SUZANNE'S FIRST LAW and its COROLLARY.

An Adolescent Canine Is Still a Baby

Your adolescent SS is still a baby learning about his world by sight, smell, touch, and taste. The canine nose is 10,000 to 100,000 times



Charley (Ch. Wustefuchs Karl) at 10 months on frozen Lake Erie breakwall, January 1968

more sensitive than the human nose. They are capable of detecting odors as far away as a mile. Is it any wonder that your adolescent dog overturns wastebaskets and garbage pails while searching out some exotic scent or delectable tidbit?

Your home is a playground of novelties and tantalizing

textures to the youngster. Each new thing in an adolescent's life merits his attention. (He really didn't mean to demolish your new straw hat—he was just trying to understand what this strange material could be.)

When you have a puppy or adolescent dog in your house, put all things you

COURTESY SUZANNE T. SMITH

WORKING GROUP

value out of his reach—but sometimes your idea of “out of reach” is merely a challenge for the oh-so-intelligent Standard Schnauzers.

We once were among Thanksgiving dinner guests at another SS breeder’s home. Because of their four resident SS, our hostess pushed the resting, roasted turkey as far back on the kitchen counter as it would go—out of reach, right? Think again!

While enjoying savory appetizers and conversation in the living room, we heard a clunk, followed by the unmistakable sound of smashing pottery. Our hostess rushed into the kitchen with dinner guests close behind. We beheld three of the wily SS atop the counter devouring meat off the turkey carcass, while the fourth SS stood on the floor, licking turkey juices off pieces of shattered platter.

We had ham for dinner that Thanksgiving.

Training Is a Must

Because of their intelli-

gence and top-predator attitude, adolescent SS require training and a firm hand *now*, or you are likely to end up with an uncivilized and uncontrollable adult dog.

Stay ahead of the wildness by enrolling your SS puppy in as many training classes as you can (and that you can keep up with). Take him to puppy matches offered by dog clubs in your area. Enter him at AKC shows in the 4–6 Months Puppy class—he won’t win championship points if he takes a blue ribbon, but he (and you) will gain valuable socialization and skills that will benefit you both later, especially if you plan to continue with him in “real” dog shows and trials.

Most dog clubs that offer training will offer Basic Manners classes. Our local dog club has four seasonal class sessions each year; we scramble for instructors each session because of the overwhelming demand for Basic Manners classes—we’ve had as many as five Basic Manners classes in

a single session. If he gets no other formal training, your adolescent SS should go through a formal Basic Manners class at least once. You can teach him the basic and advanced commands and hand signals at home, but the structure of a formal class will do wonders with your stubborn, hard-headed adolescent SS. In addition, this is a perfect chance for vital socialization with strangers and for interacting with other dogs.

Part Two will continue in this column in the July 2024 issue. If you missed the first of the 2024 Standard Schnauzer columns (“So You Have a New Puppy,” in the January 2024 issue), you can find it at <https://www.akc.org/products-services/magazines/akc-gazette/>; scroll down, click on January 2024, and go to page 117.

—Suzanne T. Smith (Los Alamos, New Mexico), WustefuchsSS@aol.com; <https://GoodFoodGreatDogs.com>

[Standard Schnauzer Club of America](#)

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

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

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ATTENTION DELEGATES

NOTICE OF MEETING

The next meeting of the Delegates will be held at the Doubletree Newark Airport Hotel on **Tuesday, June 11, 2024**, beginning no earlier than 10:00 a.m. It will follow the Delegate Forum which will begin at 9:00 a.m.

DELEGATE CREDENTIALS

Dr. Yves Belmont, Oxford, GA,
Conyers Kennel Club of Georgia
Michelle Brislin, Scranton, PA,
Chihuahua Club of America
Brenda Dorman, Norfolk, VA,
Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever Club USA
Sue Goldberg, Warren, NJ,
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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
Sandra McCue, Antelope, CA
Del Valle Dog Club of Livermore
D. Scott Pfeil, Ingleside, IL,
International Kennel Club of Chicago



gazette

Click here to read the
April 2024 issue!

Sue Ratz, Pennsburg, PA,

Huntingdon Valley Kennel Club

Marty Smith, Bordentown, NJ,

Trenton Kennel Club

Robin Stansell, Clayton, NC

French Bulldog Club of America

Cledith Wakefield, Leadington, MO,

Jefferson County Kennel Club of Missouri

Dorinne Waterman, Perris, CA,

San Gabriel Valley Kennel Club

NOTICE

At its February 2024 meeting, the American Kennel Club Board of Directors suspended the judging privileges of Iva Kimmelman for a period three (3) months effective March 14, 2024, and imposed a fine of \$100.00 for Inappropriate comments on social media/public forums promoting or criticizing dogs or individuals, or that bring embarrassment to the AKC.

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. Hunter Crawford (Spring Lake, NC)

NOTICE

Mr. Michael Mayhew (Orlando, FL). Action was taken by the Space Coast Kennel Club of Palm Bay for conduct at its November 5, 2023 event. Mr. Mayhew 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. (Multiple Breeds)

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CHARTER AND BYLAWS OF THE AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB, INC. – ARTICLE VII, SECTION 1

The AKC Board has endorsed the following amendment to **Article VII, Section 1**, of the *Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club, Inc.*, proposed by the Greater Clark County Kennel Club. This will be voted on at the June 11, 2024 Delegate Meeting.

ARTICLE VII

SECTION 1. The AKC shall be governed by a Board of Directors consisting of thirteen (13) voting members, all of whom must be Delegates, except as provided for in Section 3 of this Article. The Board shall be elected as follows:

At each annual meeting the Delegates shall elect Directors from the list of candidates nominated as provided in Article

VIII of these Bylaws. The thirteen voting Directors shall be divided into four classes of three (3), three (3), three (3), and four (4) members. Such Directors to hold office for four (4) years or until their successors are elected. At each annual meeting the Delegates shall elect such other Director or Directors as shall be required to fill the place of any Director who has died or resigned before the expiration of the term for which he or she was elected.

Excluding the President, who serves as a non-voting member, no members of the Board of Directors may be employed by the AKC nor may they receive remuneration from the AKC on a consulting or contract basis.

Excluding the President, no members of the Board of Directors are eligible for employment by the AKC or any AKC division or subsidiary for a period of twelve months from the date when they last served on the Board, nor may they receive remuneration from the AKC on a contract or consulting basis for a period of twelve months from the date when they last served on the Board. The President shall serve on the Board as an ex officio non-voting member during his/her tenure as President.

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE
FIELD TRIAL RULES AND STANDARD
PROCEDURE FOR POINTING BREEDS –
CHAPTER 14, NEW SECTION 36**

The AKC Board has endorsed the following amendment to **Chapter 14, New Section 36**, of the *Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedure for Pointing Breeds*, proposed by the English Setter Association of America. This will be voted on at the June 11, 2024 Delegate Meeting.

Chapter 14. National Championship Events

Section 36. (New Section) A National Walking Gun Dog Championship for English Setters may be held not more than once in any calendar year. The stake must be held or sponsored by the Parent Club and must be designated a walking stake. The event shall be for dogs over six (6) months of age. The ESAA may develop entry qualifications that exceed the AKC minimum standard for a National Championship. Dogs placing in this stake shall be credited with championship points in accord with the schedule for Field Championships and the winner shall be entitled to the designation “National Walking Gun Dog Champion of 20 .” (NWGDC)

This addition will be retroactive back to November 2023 in order to acknowledge a Walking Championship stake held by the Parent Club.

CONFORMATION JUDGES

Letters concerning judges and provi-

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

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

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

APPLICANTS

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

NEW BREED JUDGING APPLICANTS

Mrs. Erica Cross (111383) DE

(817) 914-4452

ilvolarespinoni@yahoo.com

Clumber Spaniels, Spinoni Italiani, Basset Hounds, Chihuahuas, Dalmatians

Mrs. Marie Glodowski (114409) MI

(734) 626-3131

ishowdogs@hotmail.com

Rhodesian Ridgebacks

Marta E. Housley (114853) CO

(303) 522-5732

housley.me@aol.com

Chihuahuas, Tibetan Spaniels

Ms. Dawn Marie Nacey (98878) IL

(815) 218-8765

dawnnacey@gmail.com

Labrador Retrievers

Mr. David Roberts (110787) NC

(919) 637-1003

droberts6559@yahoo.com

Cocker Spaniels, Bichons Frises, JS-Limited

ADDITIONAL BREED JUDGING APPLICANTS

Mr. James S. Albrecht (100017) MA

(603) 770-6933

nhbriard@aol.com

Bulldogs, Chow Chows, Finnish Spitz,

Lowchen, Norwegian Lundehunds,

Tibetan Terriers

Ms. Anne Barlow (18397) TX

(512) 423-4500

anne78736@yahoo.com

Chesapeake Bay Retrievers, Flat Coated

Retrievers, Irish Setters, Wirehaired Point-

ing Griffons

Mrs. Shilon L. Bedford (15789) MN

(952) 215-2286

shilonbedford@gmail.com

American Eskimo Dogs, Finnish Spitz,
Keeshonden, Shiba Inu

Mrs. Jennifer U. Bell (109179) LA

(225) 933-6132

mystang50@yahoo.com

Black Russian Terriers, Cane Corsos,
Dogo Argentinos, Siberian Huskies, Stan-
dard Schnauzers

Ms. Janet Bodin (101381) WI

(414) 614-7822

jbodin@wi.rr.com

Great Pyrenees, Old English Sheepdogs

Mr. Philip R. Briasco (66406) FL

(352) 427-6992

aranisle@cfl.rr.com

Labrador Retrievers, Rottweilers

**Mrs. Anna May Fleischli Brown
(6300) IL**

(217) 415-2176

stedelweis@aol.com

Brussels Griffons, Cavalier King Charles
Spaniels, Japanese Chins, Pomeranians,
Pugs

Kathy Bube (37916) IN

(812) 736-0563

kbbube@gmail.com

Chow Chows

Mrs. Christine E. Calcinari (7041) NH

(603) 205-7909

belhaven.nh@icloud.com

Biewer Terriers, Brussels Griffons, Chi-
nese Cresteds, English Toy Spaniels, Pugs

**Mr. Lloyd Constantine-Amodei
(95053) FL**

(215) 570-6674

ljamodei@gmail.com

American Hairless Terriers, Dandie Din-
mont Terriers, Lakeland Terriers

Dr. Lisa M. Costello (101255) CO

(630) 625-2019

mtncow100@gmail.com

American Hairless Terriers, Australian
Terriers, Bedlington Terriers, Glen of
Imaal Terriers, Irish Terriers, Scottish Ter-
riers, Skye Terriers

Mr. Justin Dannenbring (46593) MT

(951) 733-1618

orionkennelsofca@aol.com

Dachshunds

Ms. Denise Dean (7044) AZ

(626) 241-6733

dean7044@gmail.com

Balance of Toy Group (Manchester Terri-
ers, Shih Tzu, Silky Terriers, Toy Fox Ter-
riers, Yorkshire Terriers)

Debra Ferguson-Jones (95483) WA

(425) 228-9750

debrafergusonjones@gmail.com

German Shorthaired Pointers, Ger-
man Wirehaired Pointers, Curly-Coated
Retrievers, Golden Retrievers, Nova Scotia
Duck Tolling Retrievers, English Setters,
Gordon Setters, American Water Spaniels,
Boykin Spaniels, English Cocker Spaniels,
Irish Water Spaniels, Spinoni Italiani

Mr. Nicholas Frost (6726) NC

(828) 691-3175

dehra@aol.com

Airedale Terriers, American Hairless
Terriers, Border Terriers, Smooth Fox

Terriers, Miniature Schnauzers, Norwich
Terriers, Rat Terriers, Staffordshire Bull
Terriers

Ms. Linda George (100634) WI

(414) 530-4783
ouachitah@aol.com

Brussels Griffons, Cavalier King Charles
Spaniels, Pugs

Mr. Neal Goodwin (45218) CT

(626) 327-2311
doggone1@mindspring.com

Pointers, German Wirehaired Pointers,
Cocker Spaniels

Marlene Groves (108243) CO

(303) 621-1111
marlene@buffalogroves.com

Black and Tan Coonhounds, Irish Wolf-
hounds, Rhodesian Ridgebacks, Whippets

Ms. Dawn Hitchcock (100299) SC

(864) 238-2742
bubblezsc@hotmail.com

Airedale Terriers, American Hairless
Terriers, Australian Terriers, Dandie
Dinmont Terriers, Lakeland Terriers,
Miniature Schnauzers, Rat Terriers, Scot-
tish Terriers, Welsh Terriers

Mr. Fred Hyer (94219) MI

(616) 874-3647
fred@hyerluv.com

Afghan Hounds, Basset Hounds, Beagles,
Greyhounds, Harriers, Pharaoh Hounds,
Scottish Deerhounds

Mr. Mark Francis Jaeger (6583) MI

(517) 351-0412
mark@markfrancisjaeger.com
Maltese

Mrs. Elaine J. Lessig (7626) NJ

(908) 568-5155
melessig@att.net

Tibetan Mastiffs

Mr. Neil McDevitt (91600) OH

(937) 371-8249
nmcdevitt1@woh.rr.com

Barbets, Bracci Italiani, Lagotti Romag-
noli, Nederlandse Kooikerhondjes,
Curly-Coated Retrievers, Wirehaired
Pointing Griffons, Wirehaired Vizslas

Ms. Sandra Moore (40375) TN

(931) 867-8102
avalonborzoi@benlomand.net

Anatolian Shepherd Dogs

Laura Munro (101581) CA

(916) 768-5175
laura@daneaffaire.com

Anatolian Shepherd Dogs

Mrs. Linda Riedel (2775) WA

(509) 547-4823
ramblewood.ess@gmail.com

Balance of Non-Sporting Group
(Bichons Frises, Cotons du Tulear)

Mr. Jeffrey Paul Ryman (93219) WA

(425) 876-2213
jeff_ryman@hotmail.com

Belgian Malinois, Belgian Sheepdogs, Cardi-
gan Welsh Corgis, Mudik, Old English Sheep-
dogs, Pembroke Welsh Corgis, Pulik, Pumik

Mr. Thomas Schonberger (107485) AK

(907) 529-6693
yogi@mtaonline.net

Cane Corsos, German Pinschers, Mas-
tiffs, Portuguese Water Dogs, Standard
Schnauzers

Dr. Jerry Sulewski (93475) WI

(920) 833-2242
collieknutt@yahoo.com
Samoyeds

Mrs. Cathine E. Urner (107392) PA

(484) 252-9263
cat@voncharmdanes.com
French Bulldogs

Dr. Jill Warren (94859) NM

(505) 670-5590
esthete.es@comcast.net
Affenpinschers, Brussels Griffons, Cavalier King Charles Spaniels, Chihuahuas

Claire Wisch Abraham (100709) VA

(571) 318-2768
outlawgwp@aol.com
Affenpinschers, Biewer Terriers, Cavalier King Charles Spaniels, Chihuahuas, English Toy Spaniels, Poodles

JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP JUDGING

APPLICANTS

Mr. Abimael Arroyo (114893) AZ

(520) 339-3398
blancax6@icloud.com

Mrs. Shawna Darlene Arroyo (114879) AZ

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sublimebulldogs@msn.com

Miss Camila Granata Rosental (114881) Argentina

camilagranata@gmail.com

Mrs. Beverly Hofschulte (114897) MN

(507) 272-4162
madeecavaliers@gmail.com

Ms. Kristen (Kris) Hurley (115021) OK

(405) 245-2107
dancingbeagle@gmail.com

Mr. Celso Schneider (114851) IL

(312) 843-3321
celsoschneider@mac.com

PERMIT JUDGES

The following persons have been approved on a **Permit** basis for the designated breeds in accordance with the current judging approval process. *They may now accept assignments* and the fancy may still offer comments to Judging Operations.

NEW BREED PERMIT JUDGES

Dr. Yves Belmont (112207) GA

(678) 521-5601
akc.yvesbelmont@gmail.com
Neapolitan Mastiffs

Dr. Jennie Chen (114233) MN

(512) 659-9190
jennie@romanreign.com
Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs, Lowchen, JS

Mr. Joshua Faulkner (113973) NY

(631) 680-7347
lahistoriadogo@aol.com
Dogo Argentinos, JS-Limited

Mrs. Christine Goodin (113467) VA

(804) 310-5203
deelittlepoms@aol.com
Pomeranians

Mrs. Brandy Greenhagen (113965) CO

(970) 371-4261

brandygreenhagen@comcast.net

Australian Shepherds, JS

Deb Lesslie (111453) WI

(651) 271-5438

dl920@millerbull.com

Bulldogs

Ms. Cynthia Neet (114109) CA

(760) 702-2440

cynthia@neetdanes.com

Great Danes, JS-Limited

ADDITIONAL BREED PERMIT JUDGES

Mr. James R. Davis (111469) MA

(774) 219-1530

epiccockerspaniels@gmail.com

German Shorthaired Pointers, Boykin

Spaniels, English Cocker Spaniels, English

Springer Spaniels, Sussex Spaniels

Ms. Karen Dumke (7168) WI

(920) 279-4519

karenadumke@gmail.com

Manchester Terriers, Norwich Terriers,

Welsh Terriers

Ms. Mary Lynne Elliott (100062) CO

(720) 289-2517

ml@vedauwoorr.com

American English Coonhounds, Bluetick

Coonhounds, English Foxhounds, Harri-

ers, Redbone Coonhounds, Treeing Walk-

er Coonhounds

Ms. Marie Ann Falconer (51642) TN

(413) 433-6474

mylaone10@aol.com

Afghan Hounds, Basset Hounds, West

Highland White Terriers

Ms. Grace Fritz (21887) KS

(913) 706-5365

fritzgm77@gmail.com

Bloodhounds, English Foxhounds, Salukis,

Cavalier King Charles Spaniels, Papillons

Mrs. Junko Guichon (111435) VA

(540) 247-1121

junko@guichonchi.com

Affenpinschers, Chinese Cresteds, Papil-

lons

Krista Hansen (95865) NY

(585) 457-7106

camlochcollies@aol.com

Basset Hounds, Bloodhounds, Boxers

Cynthia Hutt (95461) CO

(720) 933-8328

lapiicfern@gmail.com

Balance of Working Group (Boxers, Cane

Corsos, Chinooks, Great Danes, New-

foundlands)

Mrs. Pat M. Jenkins (99451) UT

(435) 770-0334

pmj16@msn.com

Boston Terriers, Chinese Shar-Pei, French

Bulldogs, Keeshonden, Lhasa Apsos, Poo-

dles, Shiba Inu, Tibetan Spaniels

Mr. David L. Kittredge (7016) NY

(585) 279-9718

orangie@rochester.rr.com

Scottish Terriers

Pamela S. Lambie (96227) AZ

(760) 272-0625

pam@pamlambie.com

Anatolian Shepherd Dogs, German Pin-

schers, Great Pyrenees, Kuvaszok, New-

foundlands, Portuguese Water Dogs

Mr. John S. Lucas (7444) TX

(512) 422-2625

john.lucas@zambar.net

Barbets, Pointers, Nova Scotia Duck Tolling

Retrievers, Wirehaired Pointing Griffons

Mr. Joao Machado (110191) TX

(832) 339-6926

joao.machadotx@gmail.com

Bedlington Terriers, Wire Fox Terriers,

Norfolk Terriers, Rat Terriers, Lhasa

Apsos

Mr. John Mayhall (101705) OR

(928) 970-0969

mtndogsrule@live.com

Afghan Hounds, Greyhounds, Harriers,

Pharaoh Hounds, Cardigan Welsh Corgis

Mrs. Debbie L. Melgreen (98655) IL

(309) 358-1233

melridge@mymctc.net

Balance of Hound Group (Afghan

Hounds, American Foxhounds, Basenjis,

Basset Hounds, Borzois, Cirnechi dell'E-

tna, English Foxhounds, Grand Bassets

Griffons Vendeens, Greyhounds, Harriers,

Petits Bassets Griffons Vendeens, Plott

Hounds, Redbone Coonhounds, Saluki,

Sloughi, Treeing Walker Coonhounds,

Whippets)

Mr. Brian Meyer (15140) IL

(815) 985-0912

bckennel@aol.com

Balance of Terrier Group (American

Staffordshire Terriers, Australian Terriers,

Border Terriers, Bull Terriers, Kerry Blue

Terriers, Norwich Terriers, Parson Russell
Terriers, Skye Terriers)

Mr. Gary L. Myers (96615) CA

(619) 992-4393

webe_gm@yahoo.com

Bedlington Terriers, Sealyham Terriers

Ms. Lew Olson (24173) AR

(713) 303-5639

lewolson@earthlink.net

Australian Terriers, Irish Terriers, Kerry

Blue Terriers, Lakeland Terriers, Parson

Russell Terriers, Skye Terriers, West High-

land White Terriers

Mrs. Betsey Orman (99925) WI

(847) 778-7661

brambliepup@gmail.com

Mudik, Spanish Water Dogs, Swedish

Vallhunds

Dr. Valeria Rickard (92450) VA

(703) 919-8753

vrickard@jovalairedales.com

Bracci Italiani, Brittanys, Nederlandse

Kooikerhondjes, Chesapeake Bay Retrievers,

Flat Coated Retrievers, Nova Scotia

Duck Tolling Retrievers, Clumber Span-

niels, Cocker Spaniels, English Cocker

Spaniels, English Springer Spaniels, Welsh

Springer Spaniels, Weimaraners

Ms. Dani Rosenberry (104224) PA

(814) 943-3511

edanhill@aol.com

Manchester Terriers, Shih Tzu, Yorkshire

Terriers

Mrs. Diana L. Skibinski (7258) IN

(219) 776-8746

skibinski1@aol.com

Balance of the Toy Group (Affenpinschers, Chinese Cresteds, Havanese, Italian Greyhounds, Miniature Pinschers, Pekingese, Russian Toys, Yorkshire Terriers)

Mr. Jon Titus Steele (55162) IN

(989) 860-9677

jonauroal@gmail.com

German Shepherd Dogs, Lancashire Heelers, Miniature American Shepherds

Ms. Jan A. Sutherland (97231) CA

(213) 819-6218

moonrysn@hotmail.com

Barbets, Nederlandse Kooikerhondjes, Pointers, Chesapeake Bay Retrievers, Curly-Coated Retrievers, Wirehaired Pointing Griffons

Sherry Webster (6863) TN

(901) 289-6239

swakc3@gmail.com

Affenpinschers, Brussels Griffons, Cavalier King Charles Spaniels, Chihuahuas, Chinese Cresteds, English Toy Spaniels, Japanese Chins, Maltese, Papillons, Pomeranians, Shih Tzu, Yorkshire Terriers

Ms. Erika Wyatt (107433) IL

(708) 612-3647

erika@sloughi.us

Black and Tan Coonhounds, Cirnechi dell'Etna, Grand Bassets Griffons Vendéens, Portuguese Podengo Pequenos, Treeing Walker Coonhounds

BEST IN SHOW

The following persons, having success-

fully **completed** the required Group Assignments in the first Variety Group for which they were **approved**, have been added to the list of judges eligible for approval to judge Best In Show.

Ms. Debra Davis (25320) MI

(248) 515-2290

emislsdavis@gmail.com

Ms. Denise Flaim (100561) NY

(516) 509-5214

denise@revodanapublishing.com

Mr. Glen Lajeski (75929) CA

(707) 318-1038

glen@srsranch.com

REINSTATED JUDGE

The Judging eligibility of the following person has been reinstated.

Ms. Kathryn L. Schwabe (51893) NC

(610) 698-6108

kathryn.schwabe@yahoo.com

Cardigan Welsh Corgis, Pembroke Welsh Corgis, JS

RESIGNED CONFORMATION JUDGES

Mrs. Susan M. Carr

Mr. Larry E. Dewey

Maureen Peteler

EMERITUS CONFORMATION JUDGES

Ms. Barbara Kenealy

Mrs. Judy Mears

DECEASED CONFORMATION JUDGES

Mr. Howard Atlee

Mr. Thomas J. Feneis, Jr.
Jack G. Smith

REGULAR STATUS APPROVED OBEDIENCE/ RALLY/TRACKING

The following persons have completed their Provisional Judging assignments and their names have been added to the list of **regular approved** judges for the class indicated.

Carol Riback (38718) NV

(925) 639-6267
criback@gmail.com

Obedience – Utility

Jill Lowry (107353) KY

(502) 671-9966
judgejilllowry@gmail.com

Rally – All

Kayelene Hawthorne (108326) CA

(949) 246-3114
tutu619@yahoo.com

Tracking – TD/TDU

Reegan Ray (102663) CA

(619) 855-7387
rreegan@aol.com

Tracking – TD/TDU

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.

Dr. Susan Sachiko Yonemura (113357) CO

(970) 988-8197

susan.yonemura@gmail.com

Tracking – TD/TDU

Tricia Boychuk (113295) FL

(561) 246-2452

tbesquire1@gmail.com

Tracking – TD/TDU

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.

COLDWIND-Siberian Huskies- Wendy Heider

CROWN O'CURLS- Tsvetnaya Bolonka- Catherine M. Woods

DACKELBROOK-Dachshunds- Laurie Ermentrout

FIREWATER'S- Labrador Retrievers- LaDanna K. Bostwick

INTUITION-Shih Tzu- Kristie L. Miller & Rocky Miller

HIGHLAND DOWNS- Parson Russell Terriers-Rita C. Ford

KALAHARI-Leonbergers- Julia Brady

MARTONE EDEN- Norfolk Terriers-Mary J. Sweany & Tony R. Sweany

M.N.M. -Bulldogs- Lori A. Mendygral

NORTH FORK-Malissa Mellen
PAGEANTRY-Poodles- Chrystal R. Striegel

SHAKERS-German Shepherd Dogs-Betty J. McDermott

SPIEGELHOF-German Shepherd Dogs & Rottweilers- Sandy Akhtar

SZEGI HAUS-German Shepherd Dogs- Genevieve P. Scegi & Alexandra L. Szegi

TIER 1-Staffordshire Bull Terriers-Dr. Keith Nichols & Angela D. Nichols

VALOR-Bernese Mountain Dogs-Victoria Pinkas

REGISTERED NAME PREFIXES GRANTED

The following applications for a breed-specific Registered Name Prefix have been granted.

BRIARKEEP- Border Terriers- Cynthia Nichols & Laura N. Hooser

D'EL PRADO- Chihuahuas- Aroldo Hernandez Gutierrez

FULL MOON- Schipperkes- Kristin L. Morrison

FIREANDICE- Pomeranians- Karin L. Byrne

GRAND PRIX-Belgian Malinois- Andrea Gumrich

JET STAFF- Staffordshire Bull Terriers- Monique P. Blackston

JOMAR- Labrador Retrievers- Jodi M. Lopesilvero

MAJIME- Italian Greyhounds- Candace Laybourn-Morris

MERAKI-Italian Greyhounds-Cynthianna Cass

MERAKI- Whippets- Cynthianna Cass

MOSAIC-Miniature American Shepherds- Leah A. Scott

SPREZZATURA- Great Danes- Christine L. Spero

UPLAND NORTH- English Springer Spaniels- Karen L. Osnoe & Lee W. Osnoe

VENI.VIDI.VICI- Cane Corso- Elyse I. Struckman

WENRICK-Shih Tzu- Wendy L. Paquette & Jody L. Paquette

WENRICK -Whippets- Wendy L. Paquette & Jody L. Paquette

WOODLYNN- Dachshunds- Carolyn Knox

XCALIBUR-Bernese Mountain Dogs-



**ANNUAL MEETING OF
THE DELEGATES OF
THE AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB
MARCH 12, 2024**

Dennis B. Sprung, President
PRESENT 316

Affenpinscher Club of America—*Letisha De La Torre*

Afghan Hound Club of America, Inc.—*Ms. Constance Butherus*

Alaskan Malamute Club of America, Inc.—*Kate McCallum*

Albany Kennel Club, Inc.—*Corey Heenan*

American Belgian Malinois Club—*Carol J. Shields*

American Belgian Tervuren Club, Inc.—*Teresa Nash*

American Bloodhound Club—*Mary Lou Olszewski*

American Bouvier des Flandres Club, Inc.—*Patte Klecan*

American Boxer Club, Inc.—*Sharon Steckler*

American Brittany Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Terry Hilliard*

American Bullmastiff Association, Inc.—*Howard Gussis*

American Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club, Inc.—*Claire Parker*

American Cesky Terrier Fanciers Association, Inc.—*Mr. Brian P. Meindl*

American Chesapeake Club—*Heidi Henningson*

American Fox Terrier Club—*Connie Clark*

American Foxhound Club, Inc.—*Harry Miller*

American Lhasa Apso Club, Inc.—*Don Hanson*

American Maltese Association, Inc.—*Ms. Sandy Bingham-Porter*

American Manchester Terrier Club—*Roberta Berman*

American Miniature Schnauzer Club, Inc.—*Barbara Donahue*

American Pointer Club, Inc.—*Mr. Danny D. Seymour*

American Rottweiler Club—*Mr. Peter G. Piusz*

American Sealyham Terrier Club—*Barbara Shapiro*

American Shetland Sheepdog Association—*Marjorie Tuff*

American Shih Tzu Club, Inc.—*Mark S. Stempel*

American Whippet Club, Inc.—*Karen B. Lee*

American Wirehaired Pointing Griffon Association—*Cindy Grodkiewicz*

Anatolian Shepherd Dog Club of America—*Edward Collins*

Anderson Kennel Club—*Laura A. Rockwell*

Anderson Obedience Training Club, Inc.—*Ms. Patricia A. Sample*

Ann Arbor Kennel Club, Inc.—*Anne R. Palmer*

Arrowhead Kennel Club—*Deb Phillips*

Asheville Kennel Club, Inc.—*Corie Haylett*

Atlanta Kennel Club, Inc.—*Ann Wallin*

Atlanta Obedience Club, Inc.—*Gail A. LaBerge*

Augusta Kennel Club, Inc.—*Catherine Iacopelli*

Australian Cattle Dog Club of America—*Joyce Rowland*

Australian Terrier Club of America, Inc.—*William I. Christensen*

Baltimore County Kennel Club—*Lucy C. Campbell*

Basenji Club of America, Inc.—*Katie Campbell*

Basset Hound Club of America, Inc.—*Dr. Norine E. Noonan*

Beaumont Kennel Club, Inc.—*Carl Holder*

Beaver County Kennel Club, Inc.—*Phyllis Belcastro*

Bedlington Terrier Club of America—*Howard Solomon*

Belgian Sheepdog Club of America, Inc.—*Mary G. Buckwalter*

Bell Vernon Kennel Association, Inc.—*Mike Kriegel*

Belle-City Kennel Club, Inc.—*Carole A. Wilson*

Berks County Kennel Club, Inc.—*Kathleen Kurtz*

Bichon Frise Club of America, Inc.—*Mayno Blanding*

Birmingham Kennel Club, Inc.—*Martha Griffin*

Black Russian Terrier Club of America—*Susan Sholar*

Borzoi Club of America, Inc.—*Prudence G. Hlatky*

Briard Club of America, Inc.—*Diane Reid*

Bronx County Kennel Club—*Alexa Samarotto*

Brookhaven Kennel Club, Inc.—*Marie A. Fiore*

Bryn Mawr Kennel Club—*Victoria Glickstein*

Bull Terrier Club of America—*Jane Messineo Lindquist*

Burlington County Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mr. Daniel J. Smyth, Esq.*

Butler County Kennel Club, Inc.—*Barbara Ioia*

Cairn Terrier Club of America—*Pam Davis*

Cambridge Minnesota Kennel Club—*Theresa Goiffon*

Canaan Dog Club of America—*Pamela S. Rosman*

Canada Del Oro Kennel Club—*Dr. Sophia Kaluzniacki*

Capital Dog Training Club of Washington, D.C., Inc.—*Dr. Joyce A. Dandridge*

Cardigan Welsh Corgi Club of America, Inc.—*David McDonald*

Carroll Kennel Club—*Mrs. Rachann E. Mayer*

Catoctin Kennel Club—*Joseph Fitzgerald*

Catonsville Kennel Club—*Beverly A. Drake*

Cedar Rapids Kennel Association, Inc.—*Robert E. Tainsh, M.D.*

Chain O'Lakes Kennel Club—*Jason Hoke*
Champlain Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—*John E. Cornell*

Channel City Kennel Club, Inc.—*Anita R. O'Berg*

Charleston Kennel Club—*Terri Hallman*

Chinese Shar-Pei Club of America, Inc.—*Marge B. Calltharp*

Chow Chow Club, Inc.—*Margaret DiCorleto*

Clackamas Kennel Club—*Tami Worley*

Classic Toy Dog Club of Western Massachusetts—*Dr. Stephen Lawrence*

Clearwater Kennel Club—*Daniel T. Stolz*

Clermont County Kennel Club, Inc.—*Marjorie Underwood*

Clumber Spaniel Club of America, Inc.—*Kelly E. Lease*

Colorado Springs Kennel Club—*Douglas Johnson*

Columbia Kennel Club, Inc.—*Nili Young*

Columbia Terrier Association of Maryland—*Leslie A. Jaseph*

Conroe Kennel Club—*Jane Bates*

Cudahy Kennel Club—*Mr. Don H. Adams*

Dachshund Club of America, Inc.—*Larry Sorenson*

Dalmatian Club of America, Inc.—*Dr. Charles Garvin*

Del-Otse-Nango Kennel Club—*Stephanie A. Crawford*

Delaware Water Gap Kennel Club—*Dr. A. D. Butherus*

Doberman Pinscher Club of America—*Glen Lajeski*

Dog Fanciers Association of Oregon, Inc.—*Mrs. Patti L. Strand*

Dog Owners' Training Club of Maryland, Inc.—*Margaret Kudirka*

Dogue de Bordeaux Society of America—*Victor Smith*

Durango Kennel Club—*Donald E. Schwartz, V.M.D*

Durham Kennel Club Inc—*Mr. Jack E. Sappenfield, II*

Eastern Dog Club—*Frederick R. Vogel*

Eastern German Shorthaired Pointer Club, Inc.—*Robert Rynkiewicz*

Elm City Kennel Club—*Dr. Gregory J. Paveza*

English Setter Association of America, Inc.—*Dr. Brenda J. Parsons, D.V.M.*

English Springer Spaniel Field Trial Association, Inc.—*Susanne Burgess*

Evansville Kennel Club, Inc.—*Heidi Kilgore*

Farmington Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—*Terrie Breen*

Field Spaniel Society of America—*Lori Carver*

Finger Lakes Kennel Club, Inc.—*Margaret B. Pough*

Finnish Spitz Club of America—*Kim Raleigh*

First Dog Training Club of Northern New Jersey, Inc.—*Mary D. Curtis*

Flat-Coated Retriever Society of America, Inc.—*Neal Goodwin*

Forsyth Kennel Club, Inc.—*June Guido*

Fort Lauderdale Dog Club—*Stephanie S. Brooks*

Fort Worth Kennel Club—*Harold Tatro III*

Framingham District Kennel Club, Inc.—*Gale Golden*

Garden State All Terrier Club, Inc.—*Mr. Richard L. Reynolds*

Genesee County Kennel Club, Inc.—*Ms. Cynthia (Cindy) Collins*

German Shepherd Dog Club of America—*Dr. Carmen L. Battaglia*

German Wirehaired Pointer Club of America, Inc.—*Joan Payton*

Giant Schnauzer Club of America, Inc.—*Chris Reed*

Gig Harbor Kennel Club—*James R. Dok*

Glen of Imaal Terrier Club of America—*Jo Lynn*

Glens Falls Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Bonnie Lapham*

Gloucester Kennel Club of Virginia—*Debbie Hockaday*

Golden Retriever Club of America—*Mrs. Ellen Hardin*

Gordon Setter Club of America, Inc.—*Nance O. Skoglund*

Grand Rapids Kennel Club—*Mrs. Carol L. Johnson*

Grand River Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Cindy Stansell*

Great Barrington Kennel Club, Inc.—*Dr. Ellen C. Shanahan*

Greater Clark County Kennel Club Inc—*Ms. Karen J. Burgess*

Greater Collin Kennel Club, Inc.—*Barbara Shaw*

Greater Fredericksburg Kennel Club—*Helen Norton*

Greater Ocala Dog Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Penny DiSiena*

Greater Swiss Mountain Dog Club of America, Inc.—*Joanne Schottinger*

Green Mountain Dog Club, Inc.—*Elizabeth Trail*

Greenville Kennel Club—*Gloria Askins*

Greenwich Kennel Club—*Donna Gilbert*

Greyhound Club of America—*Kathleen B. Whitaker*

Harrisburg Kennel Club, Inc.—*Sandie Rolenaitis*

Hatboro Dog Club, Inc.—*Sally L. Fineburg*

Havanese Club of America—*Shirley A. Petko*

Heart of the Plains Kennel Club—*Patricia M. Cruz*

Hendersonville Kennel Club—*Elizabeth Ann Brown*

Hockamock Kennel Club, Inc.—*Nancy Fisk*

Holyoke Kennel Club, Inc.—*Jane Wilkinson*

Houston Kennel Club, Inc.—*Thomas D. Pincus*

Hungarian Pumi Club of America —
Nancy Nelson

Huntington Kennel Club, Inc.—*Ms.
Marile A. Waterstraat*

Ibizan Hound Club of the United States—
Michelle Barlak

Ingham County Kennel Club, Inc.—*Rita
J. Biddle*

Irish Red and White Setter Association of
America—*Christopher M. Orcutt*

Irish Setter Club of America, Inc.—*Ms.
Karolynne M. McAteer*

Irish Terrier Club of America—*Thea F.
Lahti*

Irish Water Spaniel Club of America—*Dan
Sayers*

Irish Wolfhound Club of America—*Euge-
nia Hunter*

Italian Greyhound Club of America,
Inc.—*Ms. Kim Brinker*

Japanese Chin Club of America—*Cecilia
Resnick*

Kalamazoo Kennel Club, Inc.—*Angela
Boeske*

Keeshond Club of America, Inc.—*Richard
Su*

Kenilworth Kennel Club of Connecticut,
Inc.—*Doreen Weintraub*

Kennel Club of Beverly Hills—*Thomas
Powers*

Kennel Club of Buffalo, Inc.—*Margaret
Doster*

Kennel Club of Niagara Falls—*Daniel
Petko*

Kennel Club of Northern New Jersey,
Inc.—*Dr. Suzanne H. Hampton*

Kennel Club of Riverside—*Sylvia A.
Thomas*

Labrador Retriever Club, Inc.—*Tony
Emilio*

Lackawanna Kennel Club, Inc.—*Kimberly
van Hemert*

Ladies' Dog Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Arna B.
Margolies*

Ladies' Kennel Association of America—
Ylisa Kunze

Lake Shore Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mrs.
Diana L. Skibinski*

Lakeland Winter Haven Kennel Club—
Mary McDaniel, D.V.M.

Lakes Region Kennel Club, Inc.—*Deborah
L. Kreider*

Lancaster Kennel Club, Inc.—*Carolyn M.
Vack*

Land O'Lakes Kennel Club, Inc.—*Jan
Croft*

Langley Kennel Club—*Ms. Dianne E.
Franck*

Lawrenceville Kennel Club, Inc.—*Robert
N. LaBerge*

Lehigh Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—*Cindy
Meyer*

Leonberger Club of America—*Don James*

Long Island Kennel Club—*Mr. William
B. Tabler, Jr.*

Longshore-Southport Kennel Club, Inc.—
Michaelann Mako

Louisiana Kennel Club, Inc.—*Luis F. Sosa*

Louisville Kennel Club, Inc.—*Debra H. Owen*

Lowchen Club of America—*Lisa Brown*

Magic Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—*Ruth Crumb*

Mahoning-Shenango Kennel Club, Inc.—*Jessica Ricker*

Manatee Kennel Club—*Judy Seltrecht*

Marion Ohio Kennel Club, Inc.—*Lynn Garvin*

Maryland Kennel Club—*Gary Sarvinas*

Mid-Continent Kennel Club of Tulsa, Inc.—*Mr. Marc Crews*

Middleburg Kennel Club—*Beth Wilder*

Middlesex County Kennel Club—*John Schneiter*

Miniature Bull Terrier Club of America—*Dr. Marci Cook*

Mississippi State Kennel Club—*Roxanne Hilsman*

Mississippi Valley Kennel Club—*Gretchen Bernardi*

Montgomery County Kennel Club—*Ms. Ida E. Weinstock*

Monticello New York Kennel Club, Inc.—*Barry A. Hoovis*

Morris Hills Dog Training Club, Inc.—*Eleanor Campbell*

Mount Vernon Dog Training Club (MVDTC)—*Christopher Marston*

Mt. Baker Kennel Club, Inc.—*Jane F. Ruthford*

Myrtle Beach Kennel Club—*Sylvia Arrowwood*

Nashville Kennel Club—*Anne Gallant*
National Capital Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mr. Alfred J. Ferruggiaro*

National Shiba Club of America—*Maggi Strouse*

Newfoundland Club of America, Inc.—*Julie Poulin Siefert*

Newton Kennel Club—*Cathy Murch*

Newtown Kennel Club, Inc.—*Susan Marucci*

Norfolk Terrier Club—*Susan Schneider*

Northeastern Maryland Kennel Club—*Ann M. Schultz*

Norwich Terrier Club of America—*Jean Kessler*

Obedience Training Club of Hawaii, Inc.—*Beverly H. Conroy*

Old Dominion Kennel Club of Northern Virginia, Inc.—*Susan D. Sorbo*

Old English Sheepdog Club of America, Inc.—*Wendi Freedman*

Olympic Kennel Club, Inc.—*Tim Ufkes*

Onondaga Kennel Association, Inc.—*Glenn E. Glass*

Orange Empire Dog Club, Inc.—*Bradford Yamada*

Otterhound Club of America—*Joellen Gregory, D.V.M.*

Parson Russell Terrier Association of America—*Gary Koeppel*

Pasanita Obedience Club Inc.—*Mrs. Betty M. Winthers*

Pasco Florida Kennel Club—*Renee L. Popkey*

Pekingese Club of America—*Steven Hamblin*

Penn Ridge Kennel Club, Inc.—*Dennis J. Gallant*

Penn Treaty Kennel Club, Inc.—*Bettina M. Sterling*

Petit Basset Griffon Vendeen Club of America—*Helen Ingher*

Pharaoh Hound Club of America—*Dominic P. Carota*

Philadelphia Dog Training Club, Inc.—*Larry Wilson*

Piedmont Kennel Club, Inc.—*Dean Burwell*

Pioneer Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—*Ms. Linda Gagnon*

Poodle Club of America, Inc.—*Patti Jason*

Port Chester Obedience Training Club, Inc.—*Kathy Gregory*

Portuguese Podengo Pequenos of America—*Diane Conyers*

Puyallup Valley Dog Fanciers, Inc.—*Frances Stephens*

Pyrenean Shepherd Club of America—*Mrs. Jean Pero*

Queensboro Kennel Club, Inc.—*Cameron Capozzi*

Ramapo Kennel Club—*Jeffrey D. Ball*

Rapid City Kennel Club, Inc.—*Ms. Sally J. Nist*

Rhodesian Ridgeback Club of the United States, Inc.—*Mary L. Elliott*

Richmond Dog Fanciers Club, Inc.—*Debra Ferguson-Jones*

Rio Grande Kennel Club—*Mary E. Ferguson*

Rockford-Freeport Illinois Kennel Club—*Barbara L. Burns*

Rubber City Kennel Club—*Cathy Gaidos*

Salisbury Maryland Kennel Club—*Karen Cottingham*

Salisbury North Carolina Kennel Club—*Leslie P. Rogers*

Saluki Club of America—*Monica H. Stoner*

Sammamish Kennel Club—*Roberto A. Zorzi*

Samoyed Club of America, Inc.—*Gary Griffin*

San Mateo Kennel Club, Inc.—*Harvey M. Wooding*

Santa Barbara Kennel Club, Inc.—*Abbe R. Shaw*

Santa Clara Valley Kennel Club, INC.—*Mr. David J. Peat*

Saratoga New York Kennel Club—*Mary Lou Cuddy*

Sawnee Mountain Kennel Club of Georgia—*Karen W. Byrd*

Schipperke Club of America, Inc.—*Lee A. Stusnick*

Scottish Deerhound Club of America, Inc.—*Dr. Robert S. Dove, D.V.M.*

Scottish Terrier Club of America—*Helen A. Prince*

Scottsdale Dog Fanciers Association, Inc.—*Barbara Reisinger*

Seattle Kennel Club, Inc.—*Jeff Ryman*

Shenandoah Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—

Sharyn Y. Hutchens

Siberian Husky Club of America, Inc.—

Ann M. Cook

Silky Terrier Club of America, Inc.—*Lee-*

ann Podruch, D.D.S.

Skyline Kennel Club, Inc.—*Gloria Shaver*

Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of

America—*Sally Sotirovich*

South County Kennel Club, Inc.—*Bob*

Calltharp

South Jersey Kennel Club, Inc.—*Jean*

Edwards

South Shore Kennel Club, Inc.—*Linda C.*

Flynn

South Windsor Kennel Club—*Mrs. Laurie*

Maulucci

Southeast Arkansas Kennel Club—*Ricky*

Adams

Southeastern Iowa Kennel Club—*Marilyn*

R. Vinson

Southern Adirondack Dog Club, Inc.—

John V. Ioia

Space Coast Kennel Club of Palm Bay—

Mrs. Glenda Stephenson

Spinone Club of America—*Karen Luckey*

Springfield Kennel Club, Inc.—*Dr. Thom-*

as M. Davies

St. Bernard Club of America, Inc.—*Susan*

Weigel

St. Croix Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mrs.*

Deborah J. Wilkins

St. Petersburg Dog Fanciers Association—

Jan R. Gladstone

Staffordshire Terrier Club of America—

Jeannette O'Hanlon

Standard Schnauzer Club of America—

Dr. Harvey Mohrenweiser

Staten Island Kennel Club, Inc.—*Marjorie*

Martorella

Suffolk County Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mr.*

Robert Eisele

Sun Maid Kennel Club of Fresno, Inc.—

Marcy L. Zingler

Susque-Nango Kennel Club, Inc.—*Laura*

Trainor

Sussex Hills Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mrs.*

Florence Duggan

Sussex Spaniel Club of America—*John R.*

Lewis, Jr.

Taconic Hills Kennel Club, Inc.—*Marylyn*

DeGregorio

Talbot Kennel Club—*Ann S. Wallace*

Tennessee Valley Kennel Club—*Mrs.*

Richella M. Veatch

Texas Kennel Club, Inc.—*Dr. Michael*

Knight

Tibetan Terrier Club of America, Inc.—

Stacey La Forge

Toy Dog Breeders Association of Southern

California—*Mrs. Marla Meindl-Capozzi*

Trap Falls Kennel Club, Inc.—*Christopher*

L. Sweetwood

Trinity Valley Kennel Club—*Debby Fowler*

Tucson Kennel Club—*Dr. Kenneth H.*

Levison

Twin Brooks Kennel Club, Inc.—*Patricia*

C. Sarles

Two Cities Kennel Club—*Eduardo T. Fugiwara*

Union County Kennel Club, Inc.—*Jennifer V. Modica*

United States Australian Shepherd Association—*Jeff Margeson*

United States Kerry Blue Terrier Club, Inc.—*Mr. Carl C. Ashby, III*

United States Lakeland Terrier Club—*Maria Sacco*

Upper Potomac Valley Kennel Club—*Robert Lachman*

Utah Valley Kennel Club—*Kelly D. Reim-schiissel*

Valley Forge Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Carol Fisher*

Vancouver Kennel Club—*Jolyne Lea*

Virginia Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Sandie Friend*

Wallkill Kennel Club, Inc.—*Elisabeth Szy-manski*

Washington State Obedience Training Club, Inc.—*John J. Cadalso, Jr.*

Waterloo Kennel Club, Inc.—*Cindy Miller*

Weimaraner Club of America—*Jennifer A. Martin*

Welsh Springer Spaniel Club of America, Inc.—*Richard Rohrbacher*

Welsh Terrier Club of America, Inc.—*Bruce R. Schwartz*

West Volusia Kennel Club—*Cathy M. Driggers*

Westbury Kennel Association, Inc.—*Peter J. Festa*

Western Fox Terrier Breeders Association—*Torie Steele*

Western Reserve Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Ann F. Yuhasz*

Westminster Kennel Club—*Sean W. McCarthy*

Whidbey Island Kennel Club Inc—*Laura Myles*

Wilmington Kennel Club, Inc.—*Bonnie Bieber*

Windham County Kennel Club, Inc.—*Nanette Prideaux*

Winston-Salem Dog Training Club, Inc.—*Jane Fitzin*

Woodstock Dog Club, Inc.—*Karen Dewey*

Yorkshire Terrier Club of America, Inc.—*Pamela A. Langstein*



**AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB
DELEGATES MEETING
MARCH 12, 2024**

Dennis B. Sprung, President in the Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. ET.

Mr. Sprung: The meeting will come to order. Please stand for the National Anthem.

(National Anthem played.)

Delegates were reminded to check in at the reception desk for attendance purposes. When Staff prints the yellow-colored badge, the Delegate is automatically marked as present.

The Chair introduced the persons seated on the dais: Chairman, Dr. Thomas Davies; Vice Chairman, Dominic Palleschi Carota; Joan Corbisiero, Professional Registered Parliamentarian; Gina DiNardo, Executive Secretary; Shari Cathey the Court Reporter.

Condolences were offered in the recent passing of Jack G. Smith on January 27, 2024. He was the Delegate for the Great Western Terrier Association of Southern

California from 2007 to 2014, and again, from 2020 until 2024.

The Chair announced that it was the annual election of the Directors.

The Executive Secretary read the report of the Nominating Committee.

Ms. DiNardo: Pursuant to Article VIII, Section 2, of the Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club, the **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

- Patti Strand, Chair – Dog Fanciers Association of Oregon
 - Marilyn DeGregorio – Taconic Hills Kennel Club
 - Florence Duggan – Sussex Hills Kennel Club
 - Don James – Leonberger Club of America
 - Barbara Shaw – Greater Collin Kennel Club
- and Alternates:
- Terrie Breen – Farmington Valley Kennel Club
 - Douglas Johnson – Colorado Springs Kennel Club

appointed by the Board of Directors at its July 2023 meeting have nominated the following Delegates as candidates for such vacancies on the Board of Directors as to be filled at the next annual meeting of the Club on March 12, 2024. There are 3

vacancies for the Class of 2028.

Nominees for the Class of 2028 are:

- Dr. Carmen Battaglia – German Shepherd Dog Club of America
- Sally Fineburg – Hatboro Dog Club, Inc.
- Dr. Michael Knight – Texas Kennel Club, Inc.

Pursuant to Article VIII, Section 4, of the Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club, the following Delegate has been endorsed in writing by the required number of Delegates as a candidate for the vacancies on the Board of Directors for the Class of 2028, to be filled at the next annual meeting of the Club on March 12, 2024:

- Laurie Maulucci – South Windsor Kennel Club

Mr. Sprung reported that the Bylaws state that nominations may not be made from the floor. Nominations, therefore, closed on November 15, 2023. Delegates were reminded that elections, in accordance with Robert's Rules of Order, require a majority vote to elect.

The election procedure was overseen by the accounting firm of KPMG. The ballots were scanned and tabulated electronically. All candidates were offered the opportunity to observe the election procedures.

(Recess for voting.)

The Executive Secretary read the names of Delegates seated since the last meeting:

Robin Barkhaus, Hartford, WI to represent Kettle Moraine Kennel Club
Angela Boeske, Plainwell, MI to represent Kalamazoo Kennel Club
Vincent Chianese, Port Saint Lucie, FL to represent Ashtabula Kennel Club
Wendi Freedman, Milford, NJ to represent Old English Sheepdog Club of America
Cindy Grodkiewicz, Glen Gardner, NJ to represent American Wirehaired Pointing Griffon Association
Jason Hoke, Madison, WI to represent Chain O'Lakes Kennel Club
Laura Johnson, Shelton, CT to represent American Toy Fox Terrier Club
Mike Kriegel, Stanwood, WA to represent Bell Vernon Kennel Association
Margaret "Maggie" Kudirka, Ellicott City, MD to represent Dog Owners' Training Club of Maryland
Kathleen M. Kurtz, Mohrsville, PA to represent Berks County Kennel Club
Jane Messineo Lindquist, Blairstown, NJ to represent Bull Terrier Club of America
Marjorie Martorella, Millstone Township, NJ to represent Staten Island Kennel Club

Karen Park, Layton, UT to represent Mount Ogden Kennel Club

Julie Poulin Siefert, Neenah, WI to represent Newfoundland Club of America

Ann Yuhasz, Chagrin Falls, OH to represent Western Reserve Kennel Club

The following Delegates, who were attending their first meeting since being officially seated, were introduced from the floor:

Robin Barkhaus to represent Kettle Moraine Kennel Club

Angela Boeske to represent Kalamazoo Kennel Club

Wendi Freedman to represent Old English Sheepdog Club of America

Cindy Grodkiewicz to represent American Wirehaired Pointing Griffon Association

Jason Hoke to represent Chain O'Lakes Kennel Club

Laura Johnson to represent American Toy Fox Terrier Club

Mike Kriegel to represent Bell Vernon Kennel Association

Maggie Kudirka to represent Dog Owners' Training Club of Maryland

Kathleen M. Kurtz to represent Berks County Kennel Club

Jane Messineo Lindquist to represent Bull Terrier Club of America

Marjorie Martorella to represent Staten Island Kennel Club

Helen Norton to represent Greater Fredericksburg Kennel Club

John Schneider to represent Middlesex County Kennel Club

Julie Poulin Siefert to represent Newfoundland Club of America

Ann Yuhasz to represent Western Reserve Kennel Club

The minutes of the December 15, 2023 Delegate Meeting were published in the online January 2024 *AKC Gazette* and the complete transcript was posted on the Delegate Portal on AKC's website. There were no corrections, and the minutes were adopted as published.

Dog Obedience Club of Hollywood was duly elected as a member of The American Kennel Club.

Dr. Thomas Davies delivered the Chairman's Report as follows:
Good morning, everyone, and welcome back to Newark. We last saw each other in Orlando, where we gathered for the AKC National Championship presented by Royal Canin.

I'd like to share with you some of the wonderful results from that amazing and fulfilling weekend.

By now we all know, a beautiful Shih Tzu

was awarded the coveted title of National Champion. He defeated nearly 6,000 other exhibits to take home the title. All 200 AKC recognized breeds were present for a total entry of 5,762 dogs.

The class that represents the backbone of our sport, the prestigious Bred-by-Exhibitor competition, hosted 1,272 entries. Thank you to our breeders who joined us to exhibit the very best of your breeding programs.

Our National All-Breed Puppy and Junior Stakes saw 1,717 entries, and our National Owner-Handled Series Finals hosted 875 competitors who represented 209 different breeds and varieties.

I am also delighted to report that the Junior Competitions at the AKC National Championship this year had record entries.

153 Juniors were entered on Saturday of the AKC National Championship. AKC offered \$22,000 in scholarship money to the 12 finalists.

The Junior Agility Competition included 43 Juniors with 77 dogs from 23 states. 24 breeds participated as well as Canine Partners. 27 dogs in 14 breeds were piloted by Junior handlers in Obedience.

There were also 17 Junior Rally Showcase entries.

A reception for our Juniors took place on Saturday afternoon during which we presented the AKC Junior Versatility Scholarships to the Top Ten Juniors competing in a minimum of three different titling events within the year timeframe. \$12,000 in scholarships was awarded for young people who competed in various combinations of Conformation, Obedience, Rally, Agility, Hunt Tests, Field Trials, Fast CAT® and Scent Work. It is wonderful to know that our young people are keen to participate in all aspects of AKC Events.

The AKC Agility Invitational hosted more than 700 entries from 41 states, again proving the overall popularity of the sport. With 170 breeds represented, we are reminded that Agility is a sport that all breeds can enjoy.

The AKC Obedience Classic celebrated its 10th anniversary in our venue. 217 dogs representing 55 breeds with handlers from 35 states came together to showcase the powerful bonds that come with AKC Obedience training.

Marking its 4th year in Orlando, the Fast CAT® Invitational hosted 430 entries with

people hailing from 40 states, including Alaska. Fast CAT® attracts a multitude of breeds, with 186 breeds attending in 2023. But it's not just the "usual suspects." Competing there for the first time were a Russian Tsvetnaya Bolonka, Norwegian Lundehund, French Spaniel and Estrela Mountain Dog.

The AKC National Championship remains fertile ground for continuing education. For the 12th consecutive year, AKC Judging Operations co-hosted the AKC/ Dog Judges Association of America Advanced Judging Institute over four days at the OCCC. More than 250 people attended Judges Education Seminars for 62 breeds from the Sporting and Terrier groups delivered by Parent Club approved presenters.

We want to thank each and every one of the members of our Delegate Body who came to Orlando to attend our most important set of events in AKC's calendar, and to especially thank Royal Canin for their ongoing support. We are very fortunate that we recently renewed our sponsorship agreement so that we can continue to present the highest level of competition in AKC events for devoted dog enthusiasts for several more years to come.

Another very important flagship event

came together in top form just 6 weeks after we returned from Orlando – the incredibly successful 2024 AKC Meet the Breeds® at the Javits Center in New York City.

More than 30,000 people, a new record, purchased tickets to experience this all-breed extravaganza over two days during the last weekend of January. Exhibitors, club members and breeders shared nearly 3000 purebred dogs with their adoring public. In addition to 130 breeds to captivate the public's attention, a demonstration ring at the center of the venue provided continuous entertainment including Agility demonstrations, police K-9 presentations, canine conditioning education and more. It was a special joy to see so many thousands of happy, smiling folks petting dogs and learning all about our breeds, our sports and our organization.

We are so grateful for Purina Pro Plan's generous sponsorship of this event. It is one of the most effective ways in which we advance our message and AKC's mission. In addition to underwriting the event, Purina provided free gifts and dog food for more than 1,000 VIP ticket holders and our breed booth ambassadors.

Let's take just a few moments to watch a video that captured some of the fun at

AKC Meet the Breeds® this year.
(Video played.)

A big thank you to everyone who participated in putting that delightful video together, I suspect it is available on AKC.org if you would like to watch it again.

This year's AKC Meet the Breeds® was our best attended event ever. We achieved record attendance by implementing an advertising campaign that yielded well over half a billion media impressions.

We advertised on Fox 5 TV, on the radio during traffic and weather reports, in New York City taxis and in some of the busiest New York City transportation hubs including Grand Central Terminal and the Times Square and Herald Square subway stations. Several local TV stations and websites covered Meet the Breeds® as well.

Our ad campaign generated nearly 10,000 tickets, and the remainder of the ticket sales came from the promotions we ran on our own platforms, such as our website, our e-newsletters, emails, social media and through word of mouth.

We know that AKC Meet the Breeds® has become one of the most anticipated events at the Javits Center, and we heard many

visitors say they never miss a year with us in New York City.

We thank and congratulate all of the Parent Clubs who sent delegations of owners and dogs to make our weekend at Meet the Breeds® a special experience. You helped AKC educate thousands of dog lovers and prospective dog owners by providing a truly special experience.

Showing the public the love and care that we put into our dogs is the best way we can model the meaning of responsible dog ownership and the advancement of pure-bred dogs.

One example of extra care that we can provide for our dogs is worth noting. You may see on AKC's website or in our newsletters an advertisement for an insurance product called the Loyal Legacy Plan that comes from our sponsor, New York Life. New York Life is offering a policy that comes with a pet trust so that you can leave funds for the care of your dogs should they outlive you. I encourage you to consider getting a quote if you are under age 65. To do so, visit the website loyallegacyplan.com or contact AKC Customer Service for more information.

The Board and Staff are grateful to you for supporting our flagship events with

your presence and participation. All of our clubs, your members and our dogs make AKC the most incredible community in which to connect, grow and thrive.

Lastly, I would like to thank Dennis and the Museum of the Dog Staff for the great evening last night. It's always such a pleasure to enjoy the wonderful history of our sport and our organization. Thank you.

Mr. Sprung delivered the President's Report as follows:

In addition to our dogs and one another, we have a great deal to be thankful for.

2023 was no exception. For the second consecutive year, the Sports & Events department set a record for the number of entries with 3,682,000+ and almost 27,000 events. Amazing department leadership by Doug and Tim. We currently offer 28 sports, literally something for every lifestyle with numerous opportunities to welcome newcomers into our world.

This growth is paralleled by the strength of our clubs, currently at 5,037. A review of the past 5 years demonstrates a net gain of 185 clubs or 3.8%. In fact, we just proudly commemorated 6 clubs who reached their 100-year AKC milestone, bringing the total number of Centennial Clubs to 122.

The wide breadth of our offerings is prospering in the educational department with AKC Canine College having over 68,000 learner accounts, including more than 9,500 new ones that were added in 2023. We offer 445 courses and exams comprising 1,021 different modules accessible to breeders, show chairs, judges, stewards, exhibitors and the public. This array of knowledge includes 70 breed-specific courses developed in collaboration with our Parent Clubs. Thank you, Ashley.

Our media footprint continues to increase with Good Dog TV. Every week we dedicate this 30-minute program featuring "life with your dog." TV viewers experience the full range of the human-canine bond. From AKC events our programming reflects the proud traditions of our unique breeds and responsible dog ownership. On the heels of this country-wide rollout, we launched AKC NFL Dog Plays of the Year. More on this later today. Congratulations Gina, Ron and Bill.

Into the new year we proceed with enhancing our well-respected brand in multiple other manners. For National Purebred Dog Day on May 1, AKC is hosting a reception in Washington, DC with elected officials to meet winners of the AKC National Championship. This will be followed up by our Detection Dog

Conference on July 23-25 in Wilmington, Ohio. This AKC conference brings together experts speaking about the cutting edge of canine detection research, training, breeding and handling as AKC contributes to the protection of our country. Attendees will include members of the armed forces, USPCA, Secret Service, FBI, CIA and local police departments. Both initiatives are brought to us by Sheila and the Government Relations department.

Lastly, in addition to Tom's comments about Meet the Breeds®, thanks once again for the collaboration of hundreds of Parent and local club volunteers plus dedicated Staff led by Gina, Michael, Amy, Brandi, Anita, Joe, Melissa, Wlad and Kerri and our Board of Directors we successfully shared the ability to reach and educate 30,000 people about pure-bred dogs, responsible breeding and pet ownership.

In summary, our AKC Universe is doing well, and I thank each of you and your club members for this passion and participation.

Now if our Vice Chairman would please join me in the presentation of two special awards for exceptional service to the American Kennel Club as 50-year

Delegates. I believe this is the first time these awards have been given in 140 years. Mr. Carota: Good morning, everyone. I am honored to present two individuals with 50-year medallion plaques as a thank you for a lifetime of dedication to pure-bred dogs and passion, knowledge, and leadership of the American Kennel Club.

- Mr. William Tabler, Long Island Kennel Club
- Chairman of the Board, Dr. Tom Davies, Farmington Valley Kennel Club & Springfield Kennel Club

Ted Phillips, CFO, delivered the Financial Report as follows:

Good morning. Thank you, Dennis. To all Delegates, thank you for attending today's meeting. We appreciate your time, your support, and your dedication to the American Kennel Club.

Today I'll present key performance indicators, both nonfinancial and financial results unaudited, and results of operations for the year ending December 31, 2023. This slide sets the annual totals for litter and dog registrations. Litter registrations in blue total 294,932, as compared to 326,945 in 2022. Dog registrations shown in pink totaled 608,990, that's compared to the 715,874 last year in 2022. Online litter and dog registrations exceeded 86 percent of all registrations in

2022. In summary, we thank our breeders, the entire Delegate Body, the Board of Directors, and the AKC Staff for these results.

The next slide shows events and entries as of the end of 2023. Events totaled 26,742, which was 6 percent higher than the prior year and entries totaled \$3.7 million which is 4 percent higher than the prior year. We continue to look forward to success in these areas as we see more events coming online.

Let's look at the overall financial operating results for the year ending December 31, 2023. Net operating income less expenses was \$9.2 million. The key driver of this is shown on this slide, which is operating revenues of \$101 million for the year ending 2023. This is combined with registration and events service fees which total \$69.3 million, or 69 percent of operating revenues. The second line is advertising sponsorship and royalty revenues which total \$19.7 million or 20 percent of operating revenue, and finally, product and service sales round out the mix and total \$12 million for the rest of the revenue lines. Operating expenses total \$95.5 million for 2023. These expenses are primarily comprised of Staff costs, of \$46 million; professional fees of \$18 million, and product fulfillment of \$12 million. AKC continues to support our charitable affiliates for

donations and that totals \$5.5 million or 6 percent of expenses.

As required by the Bylaws Article 7, Section 11, the total cost to the Board of Directors expenses in 2023 is \$427,370.

As of the end of 2023, total assets are \$260 million which increased over the prior period principally due to net operating results and investment values that have increased. The annual investment return on the reserve funds held by the AKC Investment portfolio was 13.5 percent which was 1.7 percent ahead of its benchmark. This portfolio produced interest and dividend income of \$3.7 million. Please remember the liability section of balance sheets is comprised of lease and retirement obligations.

In summary, thank you for your time. I appreciate your dedication. We look forward to serving you, and as always, I'm available to answer any questions at your convenience. Thank you.

The first vote was an amendment to **Article XII, Section 1**, of the Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club, which makes the process of administering oaths easier and uniform for all individuals. It also clarifies the decision to entertain jurisdiction that is under the

authority of the AKC Board of Directors. This amendment was proposed by the Delegate Bylaws Committee endorsed by Staff and brought forward with approval by the AKC's Board of Directors.

There was a two-thirds vote in the affirmative, and the amendment was adopted.

The next vote is an amendment to **Chapter 12, Section 1** and **Section 4**, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* – The Catalog, which deletes the requirement to publish the complete address for judges, replacing with city and state. It also deletes the requirement to publish the address of all exhibitors, replacing with city, state and email if provided. Finally, it replaces the address of the owner with city, state, and if provided, email address, removing the requirement to publish the full address of the owner in the show catalog. This amendment was suggested by Staff, endorsed by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee, and brought forward with approval by the AKC Board of Directors.

The Chair recognized Cindy Miller, Delegate from the Waterloo Kennel Club, who spoke as follows:
Cindy Miller, Waterloo Kennel Club and Chair of the Dog Show Rules Committee. I move that we make a change to Chapter 12, Section 1 and Chapter 12, Section 4,

and that would be to delete the comma, “and if provided e-mail address,” comma, from those sections. I would like to note that we did listen to the people on the Google e-list. There was much concern about the email addresses, and we think that this change will address that.

There was a motion and a second to make the deletion to the amendment.

There was a vote in the majority to amend the amendment.

There was no further discussion.

There was a two-thirds vote in the affirmative and the amendment as amended was adopted.

Mr. Sprung informed the Delegates that the rule changes to **Chapter 3, Section 1** of the *Beagle Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures for Large Pack Field Trials* and to **Chapter 3, Section 3** of the *Beagle Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures for Brace, Small Pack and Small Pack Option Field Trials and Two-Couple Pack Hunting Tests* will be voted as one amendment. Delegates were given the opportunity to discuss each rule change.

The amendment to **Chapter 3, Section 1**, of the *Beagle Field Trial Rules and*

Standard Procedures for Large Pack Field Trials, removes an unnecessary restriction when hosting trials. This amendment was suggested by the Beagle Advisory Committee and brought forward with approval by the AKC Board of Directors.

There were no questions or discussion.

The amendment to **Chapter 3, Section 3**, of the *Beagle Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures for Brace, Small Pack and Small Pack Option Field Trials and Two-Couple Pack Hunting Tests*, removes an unnecessary restriction when hosting trials. This amendment was suggested by the Beagle Advisory Committee and brought forward with approval by the AKC Board of Directors.

There were no questions or discussion.

There was a two-thirds vote in the affirmative and the amendments were adopted.

Mr. Sprung informed the Delegates that the proposed rule changes to **Chapter 4, Sections 1 and 3**, of the *Beagle Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures for Large Pack Field Trials and the Beagle Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures for Brace, Small Pack and Small Pack Option Field Trials and Two-Couple Pack Hunting Tests* will be voted as one amendment.

Delegates were given the opportunity to discuss each rule change.

The amendment to **Chapter 4, Sections 1 and 3**, of the *Beagle Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures for Large Pack Field Trials*, instructs the judge to use the Next Best Qualified (NBQ) designation for brace and gun dog brace trials. It also adjusts the description for placement ribbons and removes the mention of the NBQ designation unless the format is brace or gun dog brace. Finally, it instructs the judge to use the NBQ designation for brace and gun dog brace trials. This amendment was suggested by the Beagle Advisory Committee and brought forward with approval by the AKC Board of Directors.

There were no questions or discussion.

The amendment to **Chapter 4, Sections 1 and 3**, of the *Beagle Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures for Brace, Small Pack and Small Pack Option Field Trials and Two-Couple Pack Hunting Tests*, instructs the judge to use the Next Best Qualified (NBQ) designation for brace and gun dog brace trials. It also adjusts the description for placement ribbons and removes the mention of the NBQ designation unless the format is brace or gun dog brace. Finally, it instructs the judge to use the

NBQ designation for brace and gun dog brace trials.

This amendment was suggested by the Beagle Advisory Committee and brought forward with approval by the AKC Board of Directors.

There were no questions or discussion.

There was a two-thirds vote in the affirmative and the amendments were adopted.

Mr. Sprung informed the Delegates that the proposed rule changes to **Chapter 9, Section 5**, of the *Beagle Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures for Large Pack Field Trials* and to **Chapter 9, Section 6**, of the *Beagle Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures for Brace, Small Pack and Small Pack Option Field Trials and Two-Couple Pack Hunting Tests* will be voted as one amendment. Delegates were given the opportunity to discuss each rule change.

The amendment to **Chapter 9, Section 5**, of the *Beagle Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures for Large Pack Field Trials*, allows judges to award a fifth place which would provide 1/5 championship point to the winner for each starter for all hunt formats except the brace and gun dog brace. This amendment was sug-

gested by the Beagle Advisory Committee and brought forward with approval by the AKC Board of Directors.

There were no questions or discussion.

The amendment to **Chapter 9, Section 6**, of the *Beagle Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures for Brace, Small Pack and Small Pack Option Field Trials and Two-Couple Pack Hunting Tests*, which allows judges to award a fifth place which would provide 1/5 championship point to the winner for each starter for all hunt formats except the brace and gun dog brace. This amendment was suggested by the Beagle Advisory Committee and brought forward with approval by the AKC Board of Directors.

There were no questions or discussion.

There was a two-thirds vote in the affirmative and the amendments were adopted.

The Chair called on the Executive Secretary to read the proposed amendment to **Article VII, Section 1**, of the *Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club*.

Ms. DiNardo: This amendment is to **Article VII, Section 1**, of the *Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club*,

removes the two consecutive term limit for AKC Board Members.

This amendment was proposed by Greater Clark County Kennel Club and brought forward with approval by the AKC Board of Directors.

It will be published in two issues of the *AKC Gazette* and you will be asked to vote on it at the June 2024 meeting. The full text is on the worksheet previously emailed.

The Chair recognized Karen Burgess, Delegate from the Greater Clark County Kennel Club, who spoke as follows:

Karen Burgess, Greater Clark County Kennel Club. Greater Clark County Kennel Club has always instructed me to vote against term limits. Our membership felt strongly that we as a club submit the amendment for a vote once again. They also ask that I share the reasons, it is the responsibility of our Delegate to be present. The AKC Board of Directors are elected by the Delegate Body from the Delegate Body. We know or should know who we are electing. It is important to elect people that share our philosophy. We need to know our leadership. As Delegates we have an obligation to represent the best interest of our clubs. Have a voice, have

an opinion – and those of you who know me know I have both. A Delegate must know what is being done, who is doing it or not and how it affects our clubs. Be an active participant in the future of the AKC. When a Board member terms out our short-term loss outweighs long-term gain. Our voice and our vote is our power, not term limits.

The Chair recognized Mary Lou Olszewski, Delegate from the American Bloodhound Club, who spoke as follows: Mary Lou Olszewski, with the American Bloodhound Club. Also Chair of the Delegate Advocacy and Advancement Committee. The committee looked at the term limit situation, there are a few things that came to mind. One was as Delegates who are on committees, there is no gap between terms. Looking at it from a Board perspective, I'm using a baseball analogy, to take someone and have them leave the Board when they're very valuable could be akin to it's the ninth inning, it's tied, your heavy hitter is up, and you make a change. That could be detrimental to the AKC. The other thing would be to not have a vote on the actual candidates for the Board is disenfranchising us as Delegates. Our votes are important to us, we speak for our clubs, we speak for the Delegate Body, we speak for AKC. We encourage you to think more about what

this means to the AKC, to the Board and our future. Thank you.

The Chair called on the Executive Secretary to read the proposed amendment to **Chapter 14, New Section 36**, of the *Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedure for Pointing Breeds*.

Ms. DiNardo: This amendment is to **Chapter 14, New Section 36**, of the *Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedure for Pointing Breeds*, which allows for a National Walking Gun Dog Championship for English Setters.

This amendment was proposed by the English Setter Association of America and brought forward with approval by the AKC Board of Directors.

It will be published in two issues of the *AKC Gazette* and you will be asked to vote on it at the June 2024 meeting. The full text is on the worksheet previously emailed.

The Chair recognized Marcy Zingler, Delegate from the Sun Maid Kennel Club of Fresno, who spoke as follows: I would like to go back to the last question about term limits. Most of us in this Delegate Body now and always in one form or another have been involved in

education. Without changing the Board for any reason, terms go on and on, and none of the rest of the Delegate Body is getting much of an education. All that we are doing is being educated to those who are on the Board for long periods of time. It's just something to think about, and I thank you for letting me go back on this amendment.

The Chair called on Ron Furman and William Ellis to provide an update on AKC Media Productions, who spoke as follows:

Mr. Furman: Hello and good morning. Thank you all. Ron Furman along with Bill Ellis. We're going to give you a brief update on the growth of our AKC content and broadcasting and media. We were here last year and two years ago to share some of the projects that we were working on then. I just want to point out the three logos that are on screen today. AKC.tv is the core of our content. Our initial launch was an opportunity for many club shows around the country to be seen, viewed and enjoyed for the first time ever and it gives us the basis for everything that we do. Second is AKC on ESPN. That's our relationship with the Disney company, an opportunity to expand beyond just conformation, show a number of our dog sports but also it is the home for our National Championship broadcast on ABC televi-

sion network as well as ESPN. AKC Good Dog TV, Bill will talk about that in depth. I just mentioned it, but this is the outset of our programming every week that we can now consume in local television stations and on cable around the country. We are very proud of this content. It's viewed by millions of people every year. It's a profitable business for the American Kennel Club, but it's core to our mission that drives our values. I would like to turn this over to Bill Ellis.

Mr. Ellis: Good morning. I'll start here with some updates about AKC.tv which I'm hoping most of you in this room have enjoyed at one point or another. In 2023, our AKC.tv property exceeded a 100 million video plays which was a big moment for us and that was due in large part an extensive redesign of the web site and app.

As a consumer if you go to the AKC.tv website or app, there are a number of beneficial user experience functions that are available, like being able to mark video as a favorite and continue watching later on. For us, the update allows a lot more flexibility to make changes and make updates in a very timely manner. We also extended and expanded distribution for AKC.tv. in a number of ways in 2023, both as a FAST channel and as a syndicated property.

A FAST channel is a relatively new term that's emerged in the last few years as a response to people who cut the cord, you probably heard of cord cutters, right? Those are people who have moved away from traditional cable subscriptions, and they seek to watch television and videos in other environments, and varying streaming platforms now make FAST channels available, free app-supported television. There are apps and web sites where you can consume television without the traditional subscription that you would experience at a cable company.

At AKC.tv we have the channel that we program 24/7 and that channel is now available on a number of different platforms as a FAST channel. You can see a couple of examples like Plex TV, Hulu TV and Sling TV. This means that we're bringing that channel and that content to an audience that maybe hasn't been to the AKC.tv website previously or to the AKC.tv app. If you're enjoying a live stream dog show over the weekend, know that it's available to this extended audience.

Good Dog TV is our flagship weekly show that we produce and premiere every week on AKC.tv. Dennis mentioned this earlier. Ron mentioned this as well. We have a video here are some of our favorite moments from the show, but before we

show the video to you, I'll just set it up this way. The show underwent some pretty significant formatting upgrades within the last year. We extended it to be a traditional 30-minute show, upgraded the look of the show with various graphics and animations. I'll let you enjoy a few minutes of some of our favorite moments from the show.

(Video played.)

Mr. Ellis: The show premieres every week on AKC.tv and in July of last year, it became available as a syndicated show to local networks. Normally you start on off Broadway, and work your way to New York, but we did the opposite. The show premiered in July on two networks here in New York, on Channel 5 and Channel 9, and it's seen on both of those channels every weekend, and since the July premiere in New York, the show has expanded to over 90 markets across the country which represents over 41 million homes. Think about that, American Kennel Club television in all of those markets and all of those homes, and it's seen on a variety of networks depending on the local market. It could be your local NBC station, local CBS, a variety of networks that carry the show, but as we mentioned, we also have a very specific relationship with networks that Disney owns, the ESPN and ABC networks, and

this is a relationship that started back in 2019. After a very successful few years, we were able to extend that relationship with ESPN, ABC and the Disney Corporation for an additional five years, which will take us through 2028. We have of a lot of support from the ESPN corporation, but specifically Burke Magnus, who is the President of ESPN content, Labrador owner and big supporter of content that they have had a lot of success with. In 2023, we produced 16 brand new shows that premiered across the ESPN networks. On the main ESPN channel, we grew 150 percent over the previous year's broadcasts, we grew 79 percent on ESPN2, and that represents 251 hours of AKC Sports and programming across ESPN networks and ABC. December was the busiest month for us with 52 hours of broadcasts in the month of December, which of course culminated in the AKC National Championship, the fourth year in a row that the show premiered on the ABC network. This past show premiered on New Year's Eve, and the premiere on ABC was seen by well over 1 million people, but one of the great benefits about this past show is that there was an encore broadcast on ESPN2 that same evening after the ABC premiere. You may wonder, okay, great that's on ABC, who's going to watch on ESPN2? Well, we know from the ESPN research department, as well as Nielsen,

there is less than a three-percent overlap between those two audiences. So having the show live in both places plus that New Year's Eve landscape was a huge success, and we reached well over 1 million people. A number of highlights in 2023 on the ESPN networks, including our highest cable rating ever, which was on the 4th of July for the AKC Diving Dogs Challenge. Of course, 4th of July, Diving Dogs. It's not rocket science, right? Lots of viewership. July was also our most viewed month with five broadcasts in July, which averaged 244,000 viewers. Viewership for the entire year increased 21 percent and one of the key things that we look for with every show is how did our show perform versus the lead in and the lead out, the show before and the show after? Did people come and seek out our content? Did they stay and watch until the end? What happened when our show ended? We increased the lead in and the lead out on average two to three times with our shows. We know people are seeking out our content, they're staying to watch until the end.

Dennis mentioned this show earlier, so I'll just tell you, Monday morning after the AKC National Championship, a small group of us got up very early and via planes, trains, automobiles, or all three, we made our way to Miami to film a show with the NFL. A collection of current

players and NFL legends came together in Miami to celebrate their love of dogs, learn a little bit about our dog sports, watch some highlights from shows, and react to them. We convinced Santana Moss to learn a little bit about Agility with one of the Agility National Championship handlers and her dog, who were kind enough to join us. The show was hosted by Carolyn Mano, who does a lot of our work on AKC.tv and AKC on ESPN, and she was joined for the first time by Jesse Palmer who did play in the NFL. Some of you might know him from the Food Network and probably most people know him as the host of *The Bachelor*. It was a great opportunity for us to introduce some new talent and bring in a new audience with Jesse's collaboration. When we think about the NFL, a few weeks ago there was a football game in Las Vegas that 123 million people tuned in for. If we could collaborate and work with the NFL on some programming together and carve out just a little bit of the 123 million people that viewed the Super Bowl, I think it's a big win for the American Kennel Club, our dogs, breeders and the sports that we love. I'll leave you with one last video. This is a highlight video from the AKC on ESPN Dog Sports Series, and I'll set it up for you. Most of our events are attended by Phil Murphy, who is a reporter and a host for ESPN, and the first event that Phil

came to was a Fast CAT® event. For television purposes we call it Fastest Dogs USA, and we asked Phil who was a college athlete, will you run the Fast CAT® track? We want to include it as a feature on the show. He's a great sport, he's very athletic, so of course no hesitation at all. Will you do it against one of the competitors, one of the dogs? He reluctantly agreed. That's the first moment of this and then some great highlights from the show.

(Video played.)

I'll just mention as we wrap up, building these relationships with these networks and athletes takes a lot of time. It took years of brainstorming with ESPN to launch that relationship, and the same is true for the NFL. Keep in mind that was the culmination of over two years of conversations to get to that point with the league, so it doesn't happen overnight. It takes a lot of time and a lot of Zoom meetings and a lot of conversations to get there. We're thrilled to have launched with the NFL and have our first show under our belts and eager to do more. Thanks everyone.

The Chair called on the Chair of the Teller's Committee, Ernest Obubah from KPMG to give the results of the balloting for the Class of 2028.

Mr. Obubah: Good morning, Ernest Obubah, KPMG, with the Teller's report. The number of ballots cast, 309. Invalid ballots, 0. Majority votes necessary for election, 155. Here are the results: Dr. Carmen Battaglia, received 227. Sally Fineburg received 211. Dr. Michael Knight received 234. Laurie Maulucci received 142. Thank you.

The Chair declared that Dr. Michael Knight, Dr. Carmen Battaglia and Sally Fineburg have been duly elected as Members of the Class of 2028. Congratulations.

The Chair called on Mark Dunn to present an overview of the new AKC Rx pharmacy service, who spoke as follows: Good morning everybody hello again to all of you. I'm going to talk a little bit about AKC Rx, which is a topic that we talked about in December. It was introduced at the December Delegate meeting. We soft launched it in December and starting marketing in February.

But I want to go back to the genesis of the project. About a year ago Dennis pulled me into his office and gave me a challenge, with some of my team: we need to find a new business line that will generate significant revenue to support AKC programs but with no investment. I was like, okay,

Boss. At the same time, I was, as always, on the hunt for things that we could bundle with dog registration to make registration more valuable to pet owners. People who are not going to breed, who are not going to show, why register, right? This is why we bundle services or value into registration.

We kicked off the search looking at a few different things and one of the things we started exploring pretty quickly was pet meds. What's interesting about pet medicine is that everybody needs it, right? Every responsible dog owner is going to have a relationship with a vet and almost all of them will have some sort of maintenance drug at some point in the dog's life or other drugs may be required. It's something that we thought would resonate with all of our pet owners, something that could add value for everybody. By doing this we create value for dog owners who register their AKC puppy. Specifically, right now, when you register a dog you get a free month of flea and tick. We have other manufacturers that are very interested in working with our pharmacy partner to do the same sort of introductory offers along with registration. The other part of this is to support breeders and dog owners. One of our real goals was to make sure that we were a good source, a reliable source, at low cost, for the pet meds peo-

ple need and we're really happy with what we have created.

I will go into some more detail later, but if we can save pet owners and breeders money, that's good for our world. That's good for all of the things that we're trying to accomplish.

There is also a piece here about improving the quality of life of dogs by, again, helping connect pet owners and breeders with lower cost meds. By lowering their costs they're more likely to comply with the regimens that they need to have their pets on.

Finally, and back to Dennis' initial challenge, you know, we found a way by working with a very well-established pet pharmacy that already worked at that point with Walmart, Tractor Supply, PetSmart and some other big brands to be our pharmacy. We were able to come up with a cost-effective way to drive some revenue to AKC that we could then apply to all of our programs, to all of the things that we care about, whether it's to a charitable affiliate or an AKC program like Government Relations or Education that are so important to our mission.

I know that you all have a choice. Almost everybody in this room or at least your co-owner or close friends spend money

on pet meds. Some of you spend a lot of money on pet meds, and you have a lots of choices. There are some great choices out there. You may be buying it from your veterinarian, you maybe going to Petco, PetSmart, Chewy. There's alot of great companies that are very reliable that can deliver this for you. But I want to challenge you today, you as a group of influencers, to take a look at what AKC is doing really closely. Because if AKC can deliver the same medicine at the same or better price with the same or better shipping, and the same or better reliability, why would you not want that money that's left over at the end go to the Museum or to CHF or to Government Relations or to all of the good things that AKC does? If you don't, that's okay. If you would rather that it go to private investment, private equity, Wall Street or really big corporations – because even if you're working with your local vet, we all know this, we have lots of vets in the room that will tell you this, 75 percent of specialty veterinary, is now owned by large corporations or private equity. In fact, I think the number is 15 to 20 percent of all vets now work for private equity or big corporations.

What I'm asking you to do today, and I'm going to give you a discount code to do it, is to give this a try, and then get your

friends to give this a try. Because that's our biggest challenge right now: Driving Awareness. We were able to get this out the door really quickly.

We did about three months of work on how and who. We looked at some different providers – which pharmacy we wanted to work with – and then in about 90 days, 90 days of actual project work, we went from contract to launch last December. Now back to the part about saving money. I'm going to read this quote to you that is on the screen right now. This is a quote from one of our AKC employees who started to use the service in December. She wrote: “I currently pay \$69.75 for a two-month supply of Gabapentin, 50-milligram tablets from Wedgewood Pharmacy, my vet's online pharmacy, this amounted to 58 cents per tablet. My cat needs a tablet twice a day costing \$1.16 daily. However, with AKC Rx they offer a one hundred milligram capsule for 9 cents each with autoship. The cost dropped to \$9.65 for a two-month supply, saving over \$60.” Now I don't know if her cat needs to take that for a year, but that's \$360 savings a year! We know AKC Pet Rx is delivering savings. We have lots of similar testimonials from our early adopters.

The next thing we want to talk about though is how we're communicating.

We really just started doing some of the marketing, but we have developed regular everyday discounts for breeders. All breeders get five percent off every day. We just launched, thanks to the great work of the marketing team, organic and paid media campaigns, and we're adding more product.

The best part is you all get a discount. Everybody gets something here. I think somebody asked me for this yesterday when you were talking about DNA, that we need to give all of the Delegates a discount. We did it on Rx. You're not supposed to take any photographs in this room so, I know that discount code slide begs you to take a photo. I wasn't trying to get you in trouble I swear. I have some copies at the back of the room. I'll also give this to a couple of Delegates and make sure it is posted to the Delegate e-list.

Back to my pitch earlier. I think you'll find that if you've ever done any online pet meds, or even if you have always just bought them from your vet, our pet meds website and ordering process are easy. You can give this a try. The process that our pharmacy and that we've developed with them, is very intuitive, very simple. It's very easy, if you have a prescription, even if you don't have a physical prescrip-

tion in your hand. If you go to the AKC website, AKC.org, look at the top of the page for AKC Rx. Or you can go directly to AKCPetRx.com to find the drug you want to buy. If it is a prescription medication, the site will ask you for your vet's information. We have a great lookup service even if you're not exactly sure of your vet's address off the top of your head, you should be able to find your vet on the website and then you'll go in, put your information in. Then our pharmacy does all of the work to get your vet to approve that prescription, if needed. And of course, with over-the-counter drugs, those are all added right in your cart, and you purchase them. Their success rate of getting vets to respond to the request for prescription is about 80 percent. Our pharmacy is very good at this. They have excellent customer service. AKC prides itself in customer service, and one of the big things that we expected from our pharmacy partner was excellent customer service. And I think you'll find that they do a great job. Also, I know a couple of you do everything by phone. You'll need to go to the website or send me an email to get the phone number. You can do all you AKC Rx purchasing right over the phone if you prefer.

I just want to thank a few people. Again, I mentioned how quickly we executed this, going from idea to something that's

out there for people to use very quickly. It takes a huge cross functional team to get something like this done, especially Registration and Marketing. Marketing is now especially crucial to this service just to drive awareness. Also, big thanks go out to IT and Legal. Yes. Legal was crucial. This is a scary thing, you know, we're going to sell drugs, and there were lots the questions...like, can we do this? I have to say Legal was very diligent and also crucial was our Business Intelligence department, led by Seth. But I want to give a special shout out to C.T. Giese and Sierra Ziegler, who were the co-principals on this. Sierra works in Marketing. C.T. works in Registration. They really made this thing happen.

If you have any questions – if you go to the website and we don't have the drug you want, or if you don't like the price, anything: send me an email. Any issues at all. We need your help in making this a success. I appreciate your time today.

The Chair called on Vice Chairman, Dominic Palleschi Carota to present medallions to two additional AKC Delegates who have served 25 years.

Mr. Carota: Good morning again. We will now honor two Delegates who have achieved 25 years of service but were not

previously recognized. The medallion represents these Delegates meritorious and long-term contributions to the Sport:

- Dr. Suzanne H. Hampton, Kennel Club of Northern New Jersey
- Marcy L. Zingler, Sun Maid Kennel Club of Fresno

The Chair called on Gail LaBerge, Delegate from the Atlanta Obedience Club to provide an update on the AKC PAC, who spoke as follows:

First, I want to thank all of those who participated in our sweepstakes, that cumulated in the giving of the sweepstake prizes in Orlando. I have to say that I sold the winning ticket at a Field Trial. The woman forgot she had bought the ticket from me in October, and when she got the phone call, she didn't know what they were talking about. Marietta Singleton. A lot of you already know Marietta. It was kind of humorous when she finally figured out what she won. I'm going to read something that is on a card that's out at Sheila's Legislation table. The American Kennel Club Political Action Committee (PAC) works with AKC Government Relations to protect the rights of all dog owners promote responsible dog ownership and ensure that laws governing dog ownership and breeding are reasonable, enforceable, and nondiscriminatory. If you were in Legislative Caucus this morning, you

heard some horror stories and we're facing that all over the country. Now, you know I'm always going to ask you for money because the PAC can't do what we do to work with GR and support them without your money, but also want your thoughts on some issues. These cards are out front. You can scan it, or you take it with you, we do ask kindly that you answer the survey by April 1st. We really want your opinion and your thoughts. So please go by and get this or go by and scan the QR code so that we know what you think of what we're asking you. Thank everyone.

The Chair called on Mark Dunn for a presentation on AKC Reunite, who spoke as follows:

Dennis said I'm back by popular demand. By next March, I'm going to learn how to juggle. Instead of juggling today I'm going to present something I'm really proud to be a part of and that's AKC Reunite.

AKC Reunite has a great Board and a great Chair in Rita Biddle, and Ann Wallin is our Vice Chair. I'm the Managing Director and Ted Phillips is our Secretary. The rest of the Board is made up of Dr. Carmen Battaglia, Karolynne McAteer and Dan Smyth. It's a great Board and AKC Reunite is a really important part of the AKC and all we do. Especially how we interact with pet owners and also what

I was talking about earlier: driving significant revenue that we then can use to do good things in the world of dogs.

The staff of AKC Reunite, who are not AKC Staff, they work for the affiliate. That's why I'm doing this presentation today. People you may know, Tom Sharp, who is the President and CEO. Tom is doing a fantastic job with Reunite, and his VP of Sales & Marketing is Dallas Harsa; and Carol Gambrell runs the Call Center. It's a great team, and they do some amazing work, by the numbers if you think about what they accomplish. They have over 6 million microchips that are out there in the world and over ten million enrollments now. They've helped reunite over 690,000 pets with their owners, and every month AKC Reunite has about 29,000 contacts with customers. A lot of those are people changing their address. You know, one of the great benefits of AKC Reunite is the lifetime benefit. A lot of their competitors are one-year services, or they're just internet only services. There's really no service. There's no Call Center. When you work with AKC Reunite as a pet owner or breeder, and you're going to be on vacation here for two weeks, you're going down there for a month, and you're a snowbird and you're going to go to Florida for two months, you can call AKC Reunite and change your

address as often as you need to so that you get the best protection if your pet goes missing.

One of the things I know this Delegate Body likes to talk a lot about and where Reunite comes up the most is in giving back. Today, since 2002, Reunite has donated more than \$14 million to the causes that we care most about; \$4.8 million has gone to pet-related disaster preparedness and relief grants; 4,535 microchip scanners have been donated to shelters; and one of my favorite things, over \$4.4 million has gone to 592 Adopt a K-9 Cop grants. I want to give a shout out here to Chris Sweetwood, who is not on the Reunite Board, but he is the ambassador for the Adopt a K-9 Cop program, and has really helped us take this idea of collaborating with police agencies around the country and helping them, connecting them with clubs to get them a dog, and we're really, really happy as to how much we've able to get them. Most of that \$4.4 million has just been in the last two years.

\$4.4 million given to help police get dogs, but over 75 AKC clubs have played a role in this and in those matching grants, which is amazing. Tom Sharp and the Board wanted to give special thanks to these five clubs: the Baytown Kennel Club, Kennel Club of Philadelphia, Lost Coast Kennel Club, Trap

Falls Kennel Club and the United States Police K-9 Association for donating multiple grants over the last couple of years.

Also, as far as trailers, you've all seen the map, and we always talk about this at every Parent Clubs Committee meeting. In fact, there was a question yesterday in one of the committee meetings about this map. It does exist on the AKC Reunite website. You can actually click on the pins, and it will drop you into the county or city where the trailer is stationed and from there you can usually also find out what club was involved.

Finally, I just want to finish up, one of the really great things about Reunite is it's something that resonates across the spectrum of pet ownership. Reunite is a way that AKC has authority outside our base around breeding and exhibiting purebred dogs. If we can get pet people, any kind of pet they have, even it may be an iguana or turtle, there's all sorts of pets that we can put a microchip in, but having relationships with them, and now, thanks to the work of Brandi Hunter Munden and the AKC PR Department, we are getting some really great media opportunities. Tom Sharp has been on quite a few television broadcasts, doing news talking about this issue which isn't always a happy thing, right? Someone's Frenchie has been sto-

len, again. But AKC Reunite is becoming the go-to source regarding how to handle those news stories and to give pet owners good advice about how to get back their pet, and what they need to do upfront to get their pet back. Again, I wish Tom was here to speak to you himself today, because he's done an amazing job, but then again, go to the AKC Reunite website. I think you'll find a clip or two. Thank you.

The Chair informed the Delegates that the Tuesday, June 11, 2024, Delegate Meeting will be held at the Doubletree Newark Airport Hotel. More detailed information will be emailed as soon as it becomes available.

The Chair reminded the Board to convene immediately following the meeting across the hall in the Salem/Warren room. Lunch was served following the meeting's conclusion.

Delegates did not have to return the badges; new badges will be printed at every meeting. Delegates were given an option to recycle the lanyards.

The following Delegates spoke during New Business:

Harvey Wooding, Delegate for the San

Mateo Kennel Club, congratulated the AKC Board, AKC Staff – Government Relations, Public Relations, AKC Media with AKC.tv; the Delegate Body and AKC PAC on the progress made changing the narrative in comparison to the animal rights people. He specifically applauded Gail LaBerge's on the ground legislative accomplishments in Georgia making a day in May purebred dog day.

Jan Ritchie Gladstone, Delegate from the St. Petersburg Dog Fanciers Association, praised the efforts AKC has made with the Meet the Breeds® events, and the alternative vision of having a regional competition for NOHS. She encouraged AKC to continue to explore programs for breeders as they are the backbone of the organization.

Sylvia Arrowwood, Delegate from the Myrtle Beach Kennel Club and Coordinator for the next issue of *Perspectives*, asked the Delegates to submit to the newsletter and offered assistance if needed.

Joyce Rowland, Delegate from the Australian Cattle Dog Club of America, advised the Delegates that Purina Farms is either considering or has decided to eliminate their Herding program activities after 2025. Since many of the Parent Clubs

hold either their annual National Specialty or rotate frequently to Purina Farms, she asked for Herding breed Parent Clubs and AKC support in reviewing this change.

Duane Butherus, Delegate from the Delaware Water Gap Kennel Club, announced that Dr. Charles Garvin stepped down as the Chair of the AKC Canine Health Foundation after eight years. Under Dr. Garvin's competent leadership, the foundation is in an excellent financial position, with an efficient staff, and a stellar scientific reputation.

Marc Crews, Delegate from the Mid-Continent Kennel Club of Tulsa, asked the Board to evaluate approving show sites and locations by using an actual distance measured by a map program rather than the distance of "as the crow flies." His club in Tulsa, Oklahoma experienced a conflict with a show in Southern Illinois and has learned that other clubs have had similar issues.

Larry Sorenson, Delegate from the Dachshund Club of America, gave a farewell and thank you to the Delegate Body and AKC Staff at his last meeting as an AKC Delegate.

Connie Butherus, Delegate from the Afghan Hound Club of America, spoke on behalf of the Parent Clubs Committee

regarding the Pat Laurans Difference Maker Award. This quarter's recipients in recognition of excellence in the Sport were Anne Bowes, David Helming and Claudia Orlandi.

Katie Campbell, Delegate from the Basenji Club of America, relayed a message from her club in response to the Secretary's Pages. They noticed a real shift at dog shows with the attitude and the comfort of the families and guests attending because those people who behave poorly are now getting reprimanded for it. She thanked the Dog Show Rules Committee for bringing the sportsmanship back to the Sport.

Sally Fineburg, Delegate from the Hatboro Dog Club, reported that the AKC and the Juniors Committee are actively seeking Junior breeder mentors in two ways:

1. Juniors who are already active in breeding that will be willing to advise and mentor other Juniors.
2. Breeders of all ages willing to advise and mentor Juniors who are interested in breeding.

Clubs should send volunteer names to juniors@akc.org.

Kelly Lease, Delegate from the Clumber Spaniel Club of America, gave condolences in the passing of Dr. Bryant Freeman, on February 3, 2024, at the age

of 92. He was a founding member of the Clumber Spaniel Club of America, her mentor, a scholar, a wonderful man and dog person.

Hearing no further business, the Chair adjourned the meeting.

(One sharp rap of the gavel.)

(Proceedings concluded at 11:24 a.m. ET.)

The opinions expressed by the speakers may not necessarily reflect those of The American Kennel Club.

PARENT CLUB LINKS



SPORTING GROUP



American Water Spaniel



Barbet



Boykin Spaniel



Brittany



Chesapeake Bay Retriever



Clumber Spaniel



Cocker Spaniel



Curly-Coated Retriever



English Cocker Spaniel



English Setter



English Springer Spaniel



Field Spaniel



Flat-Coated Retriever



German Shorthaired Pointer



German Wirehaired Pointer



Golden Retriever



Gordon Setter



Irish Red and White Setter



Irish Setter



Irish Water Spaniel



Labrador Retriever



Lagotto Romagnolo



Nederlandse Kooikerhondje



Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever



Pointer



Spinone Italiano



Sussex Spaniel



Vizsla



Weimaraner



Welsh Springer Spaniel



Wirehaired Pointing Griffon



Wirehaired Vizsla

PARENT CLUB LINKS



HOUND GROUP



Afghan Hound



American English Coonhound



American Foxhound



Azawakh



Basenji



Basset Hound



Beagle



Black and Tan Coonhound



Bloodhound



Bluetick Coonhound



Borzoi



Cirneco dell'Etna



Dachshund



English Foxhound



Grand Basset Griffon Vendéen



Greyhound



Harrier



Ibizan Hound



Irish Wolfhound



Norwegian Elkhound



Otterhound



Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen



Pharaoh Hound



Plott



Portuguese Podengo Pequeno



Redbone Coonhound



Rhodesian Ridgeback



Saluki



Scottish Deerhound



Sloughi



Treeing Walker Coonhound



Whippet

PARENT CLUB LINKS



WORKING GROUP



Akita



Alaskan Malamute



Anatolian Shepherd Dog



Bernese Mountain Dog



Black Russian Terrier



Boerboel



Boxer



Bullmastiff



Cane Corso



Chinook



Doberman Pinscher



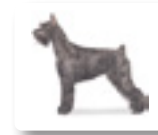
Dogo Argentino



Dogue de Bordeaux



German Pinscher



Giant Schnauzer



Great Dane



Great Pyrenees



Greater Swiss Mountain Dog



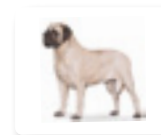
Komondor



Leonberger



Kuvasz



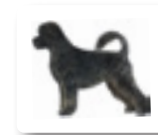
Mastiff



Neapolitan Mastiff



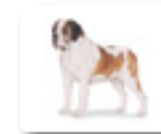
Newfoundland



Portuguese Water Dog



Rottweiler



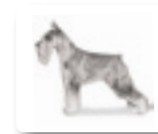
Saint Bernard



Samoyed



Siberian Husky



Standard Schnauzer



Tibetan Mastiff

PARENT CLUB LINKS



TERRIER GROUP



Airedale Terrier



American Hairless Terrier



American Staffordshire Terrier



Australian Terrier



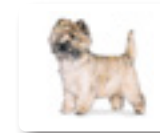
Bedlington Terrier



Border Terrier



Bull Terrier



Cairn Terrier



Cesky Terrier



Dandie Dinmont Terrier



Fox Terrier (Smooth)



Glen of Imaal Terrier



Irish Terrier



Kerry Blue Terrier



Lakeland Terrier



Manchester Terrier



Miniature Bull Terrier



Miniature Schnauzer



Norfolk Terrier



Norwich Terrier



Parson Russell Terrier



Rat Terrier



Russell Terrier



Scottish Terrier



Sealyham Terrier



Skye Terrier



Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier



Staffordshire Bull Terrier



Welsh Terrier



West Highland White Terrier



Wire Fox Terrier

PARENT CLUB LINKS



TOY GROUP



Affenpinscher



Biewer Terrier



Brussels Griffon



Cavalier King Charles Spaniel



Chihuahua



Chinese Crested



English Toy Spaniel



Havanese



Italian Greyhound



Japanese Chin



Maltese



Manchester Terrier (Toy)



Miniature Pinscher



Papillon



Pekingese



Pomeranian



Poodle (Toy)



Pug



Shih Tzu



Silky Terrier



Toy Fox Terrier



Yorkshire Terrier

PARENT CLUB LINKS



NON-SPORTING GROUP



American Eskimo Dog



Bichon Frise



Boston Terrier



Bulldog



Chinese Shar-Pei



Chow Chow



Coton de Tulear



Dalmatian



Finnish Spitz



French Bulldog



Keeshond



Lhasa Apso



Löwchen



Norwegian Lundehund



Poodle (Miniature)



Schipperke



Poodle (Standard)



Shiba Inu



Tibetan Spaniel



Tibetan Terrier



Xoloitzcuintli

PARENT CLUB LINKS



HERDING GROUP



Australian Cattle Dog



Australian Shepherd



Bearded Collie



Beauceron



Belgian Laekenois



Belgian Malinois



Belgian Sheepdog



Belgian Tervuren



Bergamasco



Berger Picard



Border Collie



Bouvier des Flandres



Briard



Canaan Dog



Cardigan Welsh Corgi



Collie (Rough)



Collie (Smooth)



Entlebucher Mountain Dog



Finnish Lapphund



German Shepherd Dog



Icelandic Sheepdog



Miniature American Shepherd



Mudi



Norwegian Buhund



Old English Sheepdog



Pembroke Welsh Corgi



Polish Lowland Sheepdog



Puli



Pumi



Pyrenean Shepherd



Shetland Sheepdog



Spanish Water Dog



Swedish Vallhund



AKC REGISTERED HANDLERS

The American Kennel Club Registered Handlers Program establishes criteria and standards for responsible, knowledgeable professional handlers. All handlers enrolled in the Program have met these criteria and made the commitment to follow the guidelines and Code of Ethics as set forth by the AKC.

For additional information concerning the Registered Handlers Program, click here:

<http://www.akc.org/events/handlers/>

For information on upcoming RHP Handling Clinics

<http://www.akc.org/events/junior-showmanship/junior-clinics/>

<http://www.akc.org/events/handlers/adult-clinics/>