



gazette

JULY 2024



AKC Fetch

A Junior's Journey

Down and Back
Podcast

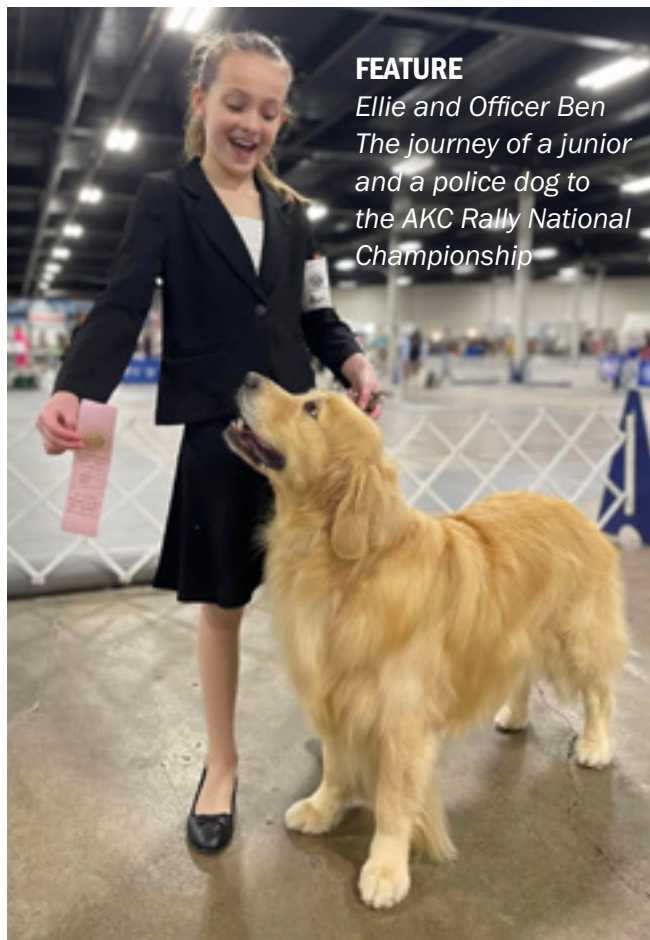


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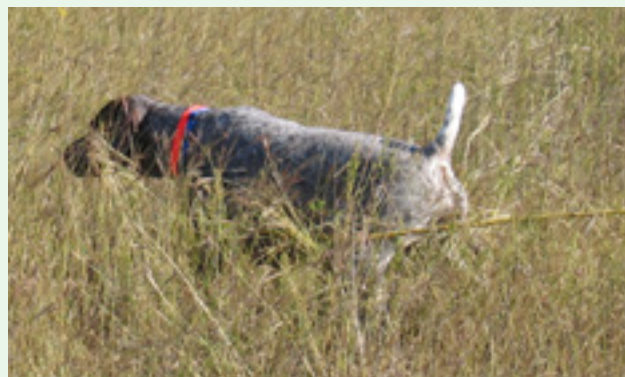
Volume 140, Number 7



FEATURE

*Ellie and Officer Ben
The journey of a junior
and a police dog to
the AKC Rally National
Championship*

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January, April, July, and October issues	February, May, August, and November issues	March, June, September, and December issues



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Conformation Champion (CH)

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Highflyers *and* High Achievers

Summer is full of excitement at AKC. From competitions to scholarships, I am happy to share some of the news with you.

We start with the [AKC summer programming on ESPN](#). The canine competitions kicked off on Saturday, June 15, with the action-packed AKC Disc Dog Challenge, presented by The Farmer's Dog, and will be followed by the wet and wild AKC Diving Dogs Challenge, presented by The Farmer's Dog, on Wednesday, July 3, culminating with the elite, ultra-competitive AKC Agility Premier Cup, presented by Tractor Supply Co., on Sunday, July 28 (check your local listings for each).

The [AKC Disc Dog Challenge](#), held at UNC Asheville in Asheville, North Carolina, in early June, saw highflying canines and their



humans demonstrate new heights of canine athleticism in four unique games: Freestyle, Time Warp, Frizgility, and Far Out, while taking fetch to new heights.

The AKC Diving Dogs took over the State Farm Stadium in Glendale, Arizona. Record-holding canine athletes competed in two divisions (Open and Lap) and two games (Air Retrieve and Distance) for bragging rights.

One hundred of the top agility dogs and handlers from around the country navigated challenging courses as they competed in the AKC Agility Premier Cup at National Sports Center in Blaine, Minnesota. Agility teams competed in two early rounds, with the top 50 advancing to the finals. Competitors included past AKC National Agility Champions, AKC Agility Invitational winners, and

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



Congratulations to AKC Veterinary Outreach Scholarship recipients.

AKC Premier Cup winners.

You do not want to miss any of this fabulous programming, so mark your calendars!

I congratulate the 25 very deserving 2024–2025 [AKC Veterinary Outreach Scholarship recipients](#). The scholarships aim to support those with backgrounds in AKC events and programs seeking to promote animal health and medicine. A total of \$122,000 in scholarship money was awarded, with awards ranging from \$2,000–\$10,000.

The AKC would espe-

cially like to thank the KC of Philadelphia for their generous support of students at the University of Pennsylvania, and the Windham County KC for their ongoing support of veterinary students at Tufts University.

Lastly, a very important reminder for our clubs, the [AKC Eddy Award is accepting applications](#) until September 1. Breeder education is important to helping create responsible breeders and preserving our breeds, and we want to recognize you for the dedication and

effort your club puts forth.

The AKC Eddy Award is designed to encourage and reward parent clubs that demonstrate a breeder education effort (website, workshop, mentoring, or the like) that provides information beyond the expected in an interesting and unique manner.

Parent clubs will be divided into four tiers, based on the size of their membership program. Eight recipients will be selected by a committee consisting of Ashley Jacot (AKC Director of Education), Mari-Beth O'Neill (VP, AKC Sports Services), and Anne H. Bowes (Pembroke Welsh Corgi Club of America, Inc., and 2007 AKC Herding Group Breeder of the Year). We look forward to celebrating your work.

Until next time,
Dennis

Dennis B. Sprung
President and CEO

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AKC GAZETTE (ISSN 1086-0940),
July 2024, Volume 141, No. 7,
published monthly at 101 Park
Ave., New York, NY 10178, USA,
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AKC Podcast Takes You “Down and Back”

Season four of the **AKC Down and Back** podcast has landed. Hosted by the GAZETTE’s Bud Boccone, the podcast explores the colorful history of the canine race. Here are a few new episodes:

Fetching Phrases Curious Origins of Dog-Inspired Expressions

Northern Stars Arctic Breeds and the Story of Human-Canine Cooperation

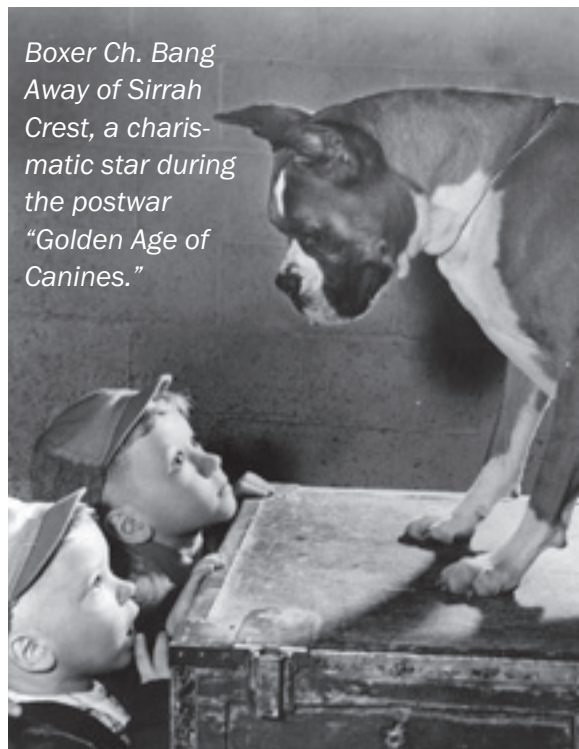
The Golden Age of Canines The Fabulous Purebreds of the Post-WWII Years

Dogs and Divinity The Canine Presence in Myth and Worship

On Our Cover:

We celebrate Independence Day with an all-American favorite, the Bluetick Coonhound (photo courtesy [Lynda Beam](#))

Boxer Ch. Bang Away of Sirrah Crest, a charismatic star during the postwar “Golden Age of Canines.”



There are more new episodes on the way. Find *AKC Down and Back* at akc.org, Apple, Spotify, and YouTube.



BOXER/AKC GAZETTE COLLECTION

2024 Scholarships Announced

The AKC has announced the recipients of AKC [Junior Scholarships](#), [Companion Event Scholarships](#), and [Performance Event Scholarships](#).

“AKC encourages juniors to try different events and expand their involvement,” AKC Vice President Mari-Beth O’Neill says. “The commitment and dedication these juniors have shown to their education and participating in dog events is impressive.” The scholarships totaled \$43,000.

2024 AKC SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| Logann Beaulieu (Belcher- | (Ponchatoula, Louisiana), |
| town, Massachusetts), | |
| Jessica Braatz (Gaines- | Kaitlynn Myers (Leslie, |
| ville, Florida), Grace Brown | Missouri), Annaliese North |
| (Kensington, Maryland), | (Stillwater, Minnesota), |
| Kathryn Doane (Lake Ge- | Octavia Stenson (Everson, |
| neva, Wisconsin), Carie | Washington), Karamia |
| Dumont (Chandler, Arizona), | Quiriconi (Collierville, Ten- |
| Ava Hada (Menifee, Califor- | nessee), Trenton Stevens |
| nia), Caroline Hall (Granby, | (Ridgefield, Washington), |
| Connecticut), Michelle | Fenric Towell (Norfolk, |
| Hartman (Walnut Grove, | Virginia), Olivia Uyeno (La |
| North Carolina), Kathryn | Habra Heights, California), |
| Markey (Berlin, Connecti- | Danielle Wagner (Savage, |
| cut), Ryan Markey (Berlin, | Michigan), Allison YoHo (Still- |
| Connecticut), O’Malley | water, Minnesota), Ashley |
| McGee (Simpsonville, South | YoHo (Stillwater, Minnesota), |
| Carolina), Julia McKnight | Allyson Zapadinsky (Cary, |
| | North Carolina) |

Farewell, Kaz



We join the international dog fancy in mourning the passing of Kaz Hosaka, a much loved and highly respected gentleman of our sport who died suddenly in June.

AKC GAZETTE COLLECTION

UPDATES

New Miscellaneous Breeds

The Bolognese, Czechoslovakian Vlcia, German Spitz, Pyrenean Mastiff, and Yakutian Laika are eligible to compete in the Miscellaneous Class at AKC conformation events. These additions were approved by the Board of Directors at its August 2023 meeting, excluding the German Spitz, which was approved at the Board's October 2023 meeting.



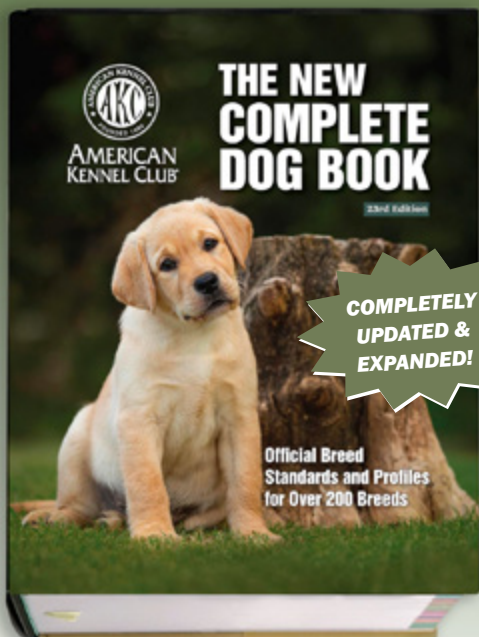
Pyrenean Mastiff

The Bolognese is to be judged on the table; the Czechoslovakian Vlcia, Pyrenean Mastiff, and Yakutian Laika are to be judged on the ground.

The German Spitz has three sizes, with the small and medium Spitz judged on the table and the large Spitz judged on the ground.

COURTESY PERREN PHOTO

THE ONE BOOK EVERY DOG LOVER NEEDS



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

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

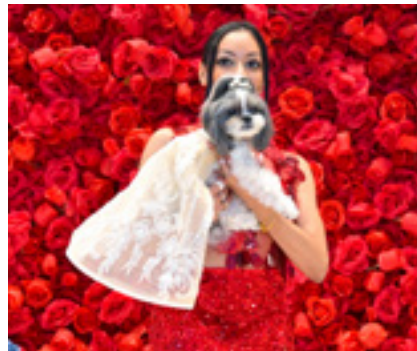
UPDATES



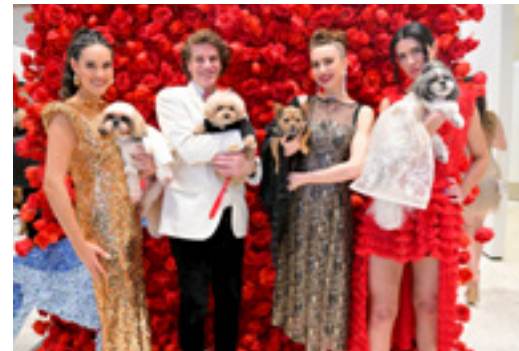
On May 20, two weeks after the Metropolitan Museum of Art's Institute of Fashion's Met Gala, the [AKC Museum of the Dog](#) hosted the Pet Gala.

The \$300-dollar-a-ticket museum fundraiser featured dogs wearing designs based on those worn by human celebrities at the Met Gala, among the most eagerly awaited annual events on New York's social calendar.

The Pet Gala is the brain-



child of designer Anthony Rubio (photo top right). "Every photographer tells you it's the hardest job to work with ... kids and animals. Not in my world," Rubio told the Associated



Press. "I think the people are a lot harder to work with because the dogs do not complain. In my world, the dogs don't get forced to wear what they don't want to wear."

AKC.tv Viewer's Guide

Don't miss these upcoming events on AKC.tv. For further details about these free livestreams, [click here](#).

July 5 and 6

Lone Star State
Classic

July 18 and 19

Rally National
Championship

July 20 and 21

National Obedience
Championship

PHOTOS BY JOHN RICARD ©AKC

“I Am Not a Camera!”

a Gazette Gallery



Edwin Megargee was an AKC delegate, board member, and judge—but he is best remembered as a painting master who immortalized dozens of the 20th century’s top show dogs in painstaking detail. In the article “A Dog Artist at Work,”

from the May 1926 GAZETTE, Megargee described his technique for rendering portraits that are both accurate and artistic.

“How do I produce portraits of dogs? Well, I suppose you are thinking that I am more or less a human camera, that I set the dogs up in braces like the old tin-type man, and put an exact likeness on canvas, paper or copper plate. If you are thinking that, you are wrong.

“As a matter of fact, I

seldom employ the same methods to get what I want. Once in a while, a dog will act natural and easy while I am doing his portrait, but more often I must catch fleeting glimpses of good poses.

“Sometimes I start with a dog by making five or six rough sketches of poses that he assumes while moving around. Eventually the pose I consider the most attractive is evolved. Then the polishing begins.

“Ordinarily I prefer to do dogs in their natural surrounding rather than in my studio. When at home they retain a certain amount of aplomb, no matter what takes place.

“Personality is the hardest thing to put on canvas, and unless the portrait shows the character of the subject, the artist has missed his biggest bet.”

(Subjects are identified on the slideshow’s YouTube page.)



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Ellie

and Officer Ben

The Journey of a junior and a police outreach dog to the AKC Rally National Championship

By Karen B. Westerfield Tucker

Our story begins in 2019 with a puppy. The police department in Franklin, Massachusetts, was interested in getting a community outreach dog to visit area schools, the senior center, and community

PHOTOS COURTESY NICOLE DALTON

FEATURE



2022: Ellie and Ben prepare to show at the 4-H fair.

events to assist in times of crisis, and to be a public and friendly face for the agency.

The expense of training was a roadblock to the project, until Fran Masters of Masterpeace Dog Training in Franklin offered to provide instruction at her facility at no cost to the department. Fran suggested

a Golden Retriever puppy from Mardovar Kennel, and shortly thereafter Officer Jamie Mucciarone took on the roles of owner, trainer, and handler for “Ben Franklin”—a name for the pup chosen by the children in the Franklin public schools.

Despite his tendency to

steal toys from the Toys for Tots box in the police station, Ben would go on to earn his certification as a therapy dog. “Officer Ben” became a town celebrity, especially among the children.

Knowing that almost 3-year-old Ben needed ongoing contact with

FEATURE



Officer Jamie Mucciarone—co-owner and trainer-handler for “Ben Franklin,” a name chosen by Franklin public-school kids.

children as his training continued in 2021, Fran invited 9-year-old Gabrielle (“Ellie”) Dalton, daughter of a staff member, to play with Ben and watch his training. During these visits, Fran noticed that Ellie seemed to be a “natural” with the dog and invited her to come each week to inter-

act with Ben. With Officer Mucciarone’s permission, Ellie began learning basic obedience skills with Ben as her partner, thereby advancing Ben’s own training.

CANINE CAPER

Ellie soon wanted to join the “Canine Capers” 4-H Club sponsored

by Masterpeace Dog Training. The problem: The family dog was not suited to attend club meetings and group training sessions. The solution: Borrow Ben! With support from the Mucciarones, Ellie joined Canine Capers in January 2022, and she and Ben became a team.

FEATURE



2023: Ellie celebrates a Juniors win at Springfield. "Her outward upbeat and can-do attitude covers up the pain and discomfort she may be feeling."

Ellie set a goal to show Ben at the Marshfield, Massachusetts, 4-H Fair in

August, and several times a week they practiced their obedience and showman-

ship skills with instructors at Masterpeace and elsewhere. Their hard work paid off as they earned first places in Obedience and Knowledge, and a second place in Showmanship.

As Ellie and Ben trained together, their partnership strengthened and Ellie's interest in various aspects of dog training and showing increased. She practiced showmanship, obedience, rally, scentwork, and agility skills as part of the training offered at Canine Capers meetings and events. Along with other members of the club, she often volunteered as a steward for dog events and watched the handlers (and the judges) closely. When her school was on holiday, she dropped in at regularly offered daytime classes for obedience and rally at Masterpeace—by far the youngest student. She always asked questions, wanting to learn more, and was open to being challenged to improve her handling skills.

FEATURE



Rally judge Robin Botelho congratulates Ellie at the Show & Go fundraiser that raised \$3,000

SHOWTIME

In June 2023, at age 10, Ellie enrolled as a junior handler with the AKC, and the Mucciarone family generously made Ellie a co-owner for Ben. In July, she began competing in Junior Showmanship, and after earning all first places as a Novice Junior, she is now competing as an Open Junior. Also in July 2023, they entered their first rally trial as part of a junior showcase, earning a score of 97 out of the Novice A class and first place. In her next two rally trials, she competed in Novice A with adults, earning two second places with scores of 96 and 94.

Little did Ellie (and her family) realize that these scores would result in an invitation to the 2024 AKC Rally National Championship in Wilmington, Ohio.

With this Rally invitation, the Masterpeace community rallied around Ellie to support a trip for

FEATURE

See You There!

For those attending the [AKC Rally National Championship](#) at Wilmington, Ohio, on July 18 and 19, get to know the juniors who are competing, and learn the stories that got them to Ohio. And keep an eye out for Ellie and Ben!

[Follow on Facebook.](#)

her and her family. Those who work and train at Masterpeace recognize the special relationship between Ben and Ellie, and the gifts that Ellie has as a budding dog trainer. An obedience and rally “Show & Go” event was organized, with AKC judges Esther Zimmerman and Robin Botelho donating their time and all proceeds going to the “Ellie Fund.”

The limited entries to the “Show & Go” event quickly filled. Many of the persons unable to participate still gave a donation. Ellie made fleece tugs and snuffle mats to sell, and friends (both children and adults) helped her market

T-shirts emblazoned with a rally “word cloud.” In the end, close to \$3,000 was raised to help send Ellie and Ben to the National Championship.

But more should be said about this junior’s journey. Not only has Ellie needed to overcome the challenges of not living with and having ready access to her canine partner. Ellie also has medical issues that interrupt training and competition schedules and make her feel less than her best when showing Ben. Most observers are unaware that Ellie suffers from celiac disease, hip dysplasia, asthma, and severe allergies. Yet

her outward upbeat and “can-do” attitude covers up the pain and discomfort she may be feeling on the day. Her love for Ben and their partnership is obvious and keeps her going.

Ben is now almost 6, and Ellie will turn 12 after the trip to Ohio. In the just over two years that Ellie and Ben have been partners, Ellie has helped to develop Ben into a better community outreach dog, thereby making a valuable contribution to the Franklin Police Department and to the citizens in her hometown. Work with Ben has made Ellie into a serious and competitive dog handler and given definition to her young life. **GZ**

Karen B. Westerfield Tucker is an AKC rally and obedience judge and rally instructor with Masterpeace Dog Training in Franklin, Massachusetts. She is the AKC GAZETTE columnist for the Icelandic Sheepdog Association of America.



'A Sparkling Affair'

Sponsored by The Arapahoe Kennel Club

September 21, 2024

With two additional days of NOHS! September 20 & 22, 2024

NOHS Regional Points are DOUBLED

Each NOHS Regional Judge is licensed for the AKC group they are judging and their initial breed was from that group.

HERDING - Mrs. DANELLE M BROWN

HOUND - Mrs. PAMELA S LAMBIE

NON-SPORTING - Mr. RICHARD TODD JACKSON

SPORTING - Mrs. HONEY ANNE GLENDINNING

TERRIER - Mrs. CONNIE H CLARK

TOY - Mr. JEFFERY M BAZELL

WORKING - Dr. JOHAN BECERRA-HERNANDEZ

BEST IN SHOW - Mr. JOHN P WADE



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Superintendent: Jack Onofrio Dog Shows LLC

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Arapahoe Kennel Club is a Licensed club of the AKC



AKC Fetch is a pass-fail noncompetitive test in the AKC Family Dog program.

The test's four levels (Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, and Retriever) assess retrieving ability. In the Advanced and Retriever levels, the dog must respond correctly to

signals. Also, Advanced and Retriever have a memory component: A retrieving bumper or ball is dropped (or thrown) behind a blind where it cannot be seen.

For each of the four titles, the dog must pass the test twice under two different approved AKC Fetch judges. All AKC-registered

or -enrolled dogs at least 6 months old are eligible.

[AKC Fetch](#) titles can be used as a required AKC title for earning the Gold level of AKC Fit Dog.

Kathleen Riley visited this spring's Novice Dog events of the [Ball Bluff Pointing Dog Club of MN](#) and filed this photo coverage.

COURTESY KATHLEEN RILEY

RINGSIDE

AKC FETCH EVENT | Jacobson, Minnesota

Photos by *Kathleen Riley*



COURTESY KATHLEEN RILEY

RINGSIDE

AKC FETCH EVENT | Jacobson, Minnesota

Photos by Kathleen Riley



COURTESY KATHLEEN RILEY



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Kaz: On the Record

Will Alexander's in-depth interview with Kaz Hosaka, posted just days before Kaz's death.

1:06:16



Pet Gala

Lots of video from the AKC Museum of the Dog's Pet Gala fundraiser. 27:51

VIDEOS



Go Fetch!

As a companion to this month's story "Ellie and Officer Ben," Here's a brief introduction to AKC Fetch Novice. 7:00



The Big Guys

This AKC Gazette Gallery is a photo montage of breeds from the Working Group. 1:25

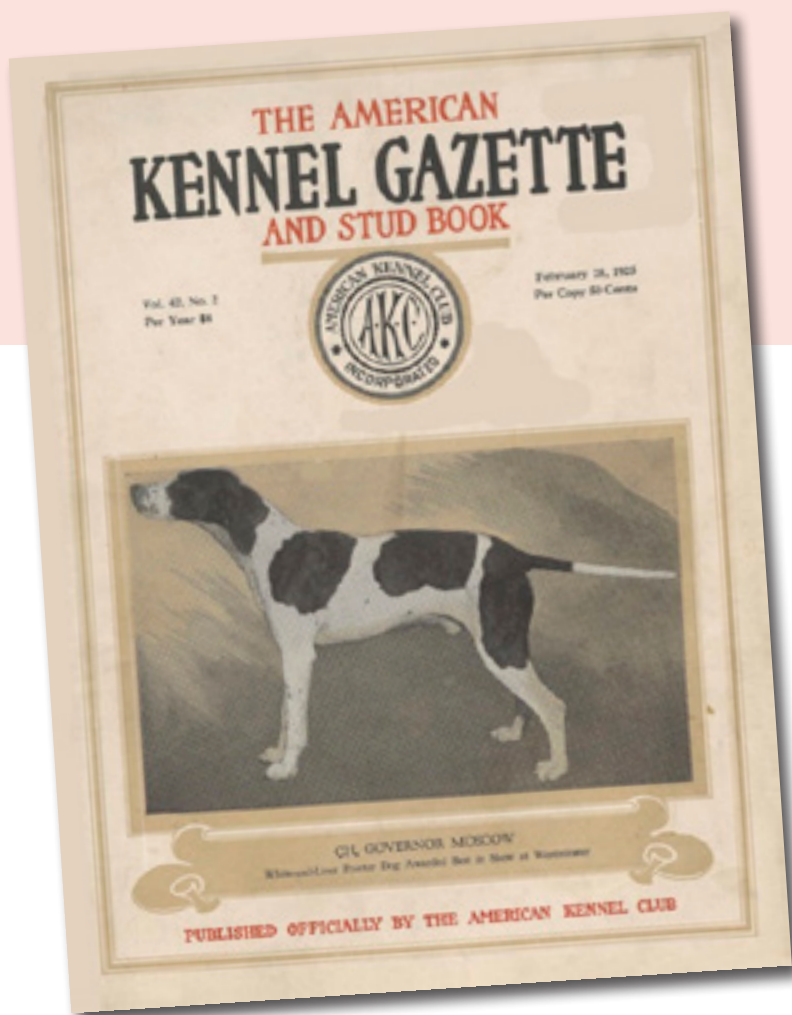
The Cover Story

The 1920s was a transitional decade for the GAZETTE. By 1923, The

magazine was no longer a dry rundown of AKC news in austere columns of black

type. The GAZETTE of a century ago was relaunched as a glossy magazine with illustrated features, art plates, and eye-catching covers.

We have recently scanned and restored several of the GAZETTE covers from this era. Here are a few favorites.



February 1925: Ch. Governor Moscow was the first Pointer to go BIS at Westminster. During the 1920s, Westminster was still tinkering with its judging format; this handsome liver-and-white, owned by Robert F. Maloney, was judged Best by a four-man panel: Walter S. Glynn, Theodore Offerman, Robert A. Ross, and Ralph C. English. Not until 1929 would Westminster settle on having a single judge in the BIS ring.



October 1925: Old English Sheepdog Ch. Kinnelon Tower was a top sire in Morris Kinney's Kinnelon line, among the era's most successful OES breeding programs. Kinnelon Kennels was disbanded by the early '30s, but not before exhibits like Kinnelon Tower and Kinnelon Scallywag had contributed their DNA to future generations.

AKC GAZETTE COLLECTION

TIMES PAST



March 1926: The cover art depicts a 18th-century aristocrat after a successful day's hunting with his coursing hounds. At his feet is a bounty of game birds and a rabbit. The etching was from the collection of Freeman Lloyd, a frequent GAZETTE contributor recalled as the most knowledgeable dog writer of his time.



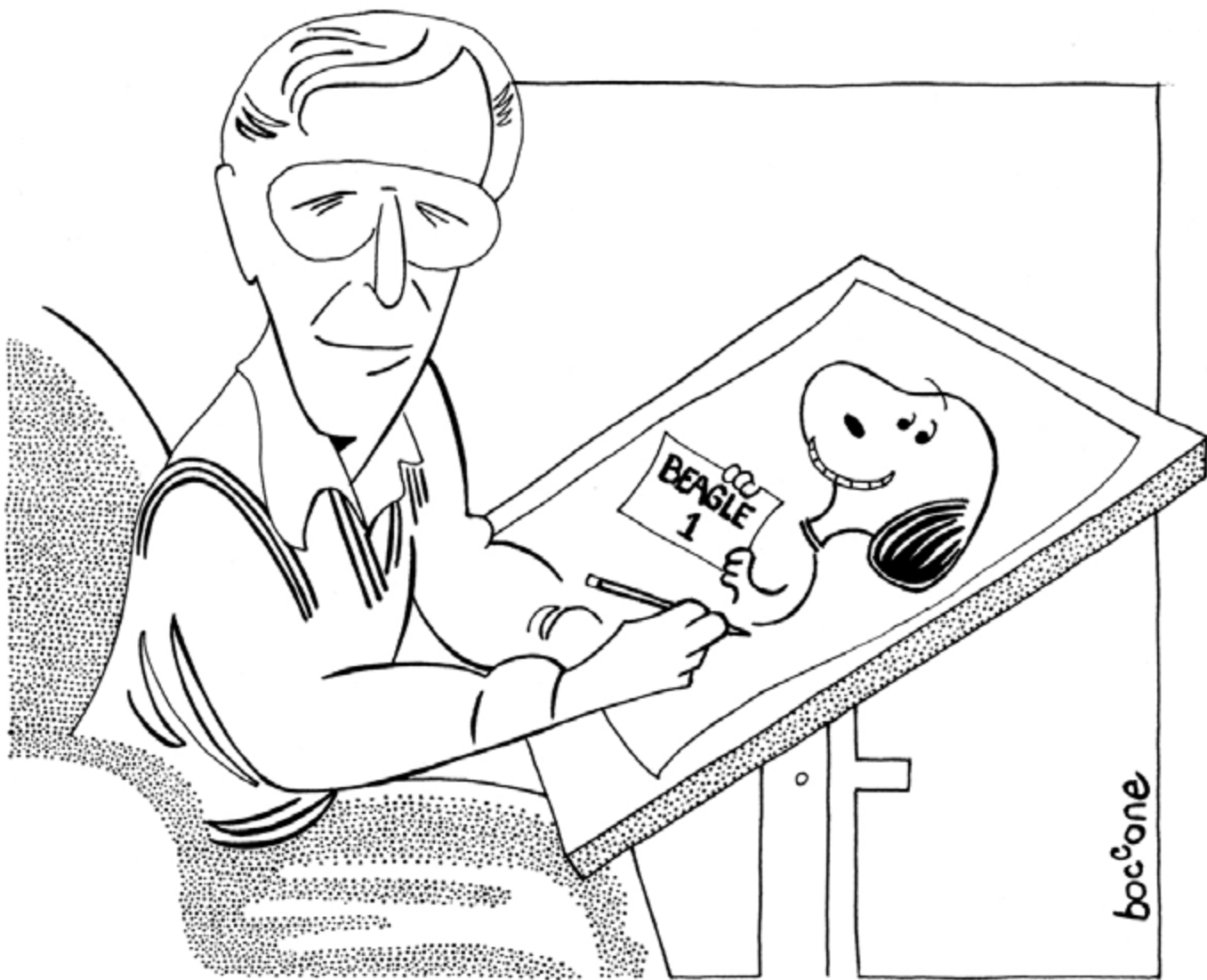
October 1926: The Tauskey cover photo commemorates Sealyham Terrier Ch. Pinegrade Perfection's win at the American Kennel Club Sesqui Exhibition in Philadelphia. The show was part of the city's celebration of America's 150th birthday. Its entry of 2,899 made it the biggest show to date.



December 1926: This lovely Wire Fox Terrier illustration is from an etching by master artist Bert Cobb. A frequent contributor to the GAZETTE of the 1920s and '30s, Cobb was an all-around graphic artist for hire. He created political cartoons, comic strips, sheet music covers, and caricatures for newspapers and periodicals. In the 1920s, Cobb focused on etchings of dog-show champions. His books Portraits of Dogs and Hunting Dogs were published in 1931, and his dog art was exhibited nationwide. Cobb died in 1936 at age 66.



February 1929: Cover dog Ch. Sunnybank Thane was out of author and Collie breeder Albert Payson Terhune's fabled Sunnybank Kennel. We believe the uncredited photo to be the work of Rudolph Tauskey, who in the 1920s was the GAZETTE's staff photographer.



Charles Schulz

In the “[The Golden Age of Canines](#)” episode of the AKC *Down and Back* podcast, we hear of how Charles Schulz created Snoopy.

At the peak of his popularity, Snoopy was awarded an honorary AKC registration number: BEAGLE 1. When Charlie Brown asked his newly registered Beagle if he’d like to enter a dog show, Snoopy responded, “How could I? I don’t even *own* a dog!”

BUD BOCCONE ©2024

BREED COLUMNS



Edited by **Arliss Paddock**



This month in “Welcome to the Bottom 20,” the Komondor Club of America’s Eric Liebes discusses the challenges and pitfalls of showing and judging his low-population breed.

DAVID WOO ©AKC

BREED COLUMNS



ABOUT THE BREED COLUMNS

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



THIS MONTH

Sporting

- 32 Brittanys
- 34 Pointers
- 38 German Shorthaired Pointers
- 40 Chesapeake Bay Retrievers
- 43 Curly-Coated Retrievers
- 44 Golden Retrievers
- 45 English Setters
- 47 Gordon Setters
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Brittanys

MORE BRITTANY MEMORIES

Memories started in the early 1970s—fifty-plus years from this writing—when my family brought into our home the first of 32 Brittanys. Then new and different memories began on November 10, 1991, at the field trial competition when Magic Magnum Coco, in her first trial, placed first in a puppy stake during the Anthracite club event.

The Brittanys during the first twenty-some years were family hunting companions and “best of friends” for our three boys as they grew and became young men. Fantastic relationships developed between the dogs and the family. To this day Joe, our youngest, recalls his first pheasant taken over Spike’s point.

As I collect my thoughts to write this piece about those times with all those Brittanys, I realize how significant the Brittany has been, a most positive influence on our family.

So, if you as the reader will indulge this author, I will tell you about a few of those recollections.

As mentioned previously, Coco’s win in the puppy stake was the first of many memorable field trial experiences; the “hook was set” for field competition with the Brittanys.

Many years ago, as a young pup, Spike, was taken to a fun trial event at the local Brittany club. Fifteen minutes or so into his run, Spike pointed a bird, jumped in, caught the quail, and then returned the bird back to me. A gallery member said, “Not what a ‘broke dog’ is supposed to do, but I guess it’s OK for a pup.” I guess that comment stiches in my mind, because it was the first of many negative statements made by a person about a dog rather than being positive.

On a crisp fall late afternoon many years ago, Dewey hunted the field border of a woods line. He pointed, and Geoff, our oldest son, was able to put

the shot pattern in the right place for Dewey to retrieve his first woodcock.

Our youngest son, after completing the college’s Officers Candidates Program, spent seven years in the Navy. While Joe was deployed overseas, his Brittany, Sam, remained with our family to be trained. No doubt, reports of Sam’s accomplishments were an inspiration for Joe during his several six-month deployment tours. During Joe’s last two years, he was the Navigation Instructor at Iowa State’s Navy ROTC Program in Ames. Uncle Sam’s Sumpter competed in several field events and finished his Field Championship.

Our grandson Ben was on his first bird hunt at a local game preserve. We were hunting over Meg, who developed into an outstanding field trial dog. Meg was at the time only 10 months and not steady to wing, thus the reason to keep her on a lead to hold her once on point. She pointed the quail,

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Snap



Brittanys who have been part of the author's family; the author's son Joe with Brittanys Sam and Dewey



and Ben took his first bird with a clean shot. It was an event never to be forgotten—further because 12 years later, after Meg was retired from field trials, Ben took several chukars over her

points and then retrieves.

Nuf Ced Herb Score was an unusual name. The entire litter of seven pups were named by the boys and me after baseball players. Our family kept two of them.

Both Herbie and Bear were excellent hunters, who when “steady to wing and-shot” they never chased a bird while hunting or in field trial competition. Herbie performed 23 years ago with a

COURTESY DAVID A. WEBB



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professional handler in the show ring and achieved a championship title in less than seven weeks. He had seven points toward a field championship, thus did not become a Dual. When not participating in the show ring and field trial events, it was estimated that in hunting maybe 80 birds were taken, on a limited number of hunts.

Two other events of note have occurred, when Tommy Thomas handled Irish to the National Amateur Field Trial Championship nine years ago, and a year later Tom Tracy handled Irish to the National All-Age Championship, both events at Booneville, Arkansas.

As this piece is being written, it's only several days ago, a promising field competitive white-liver female, just 2 years of age, Snap, contracted what would be a life-ending disease, spinal melanoma. The supervising veterinary doctor indicated that it was possibly the result of a tick bite. At the vet hos-

pital the "time occurred," Snap jumped in my lap, licked my face, and peacefully settled as the drug was administered. This was a tough loss, because Snap had a loving personality and also had excellent potential in field trial competition—having a Derby placement while also being "steady to wing and shot," was ready to start the field trial run forward this coming year. Her ashes are in a leather box placed on a bookshelf over my desk.

These are eight brief glimpses of many events well remembered for each of the Brittanys. For me, this is very important, both ups and downs, so to speak. Many of these Brittanys have passed, but memories of each prevail. All 32 have a place in my memory bank. As you read this article, I am sure you recall a special place in your heart for your own Brittanys.

In addition of equal importance is the fact that each of those Brittanys performed afield. Some were,

and are, super hunting and field trial dogs. Others had or have varying degrees of scenting and ability to find birds. Regarding appearance they all were varying in color: orange/white, white/orange, liver/white, white/liver, even three tricolor, and one liver roan. Several of those Brittanys performed in the show ring, but their first desire was to be in the field in pursuit of birds. It's all about performance and not about appearance.

The Brittany has a temperament that is unique to the breed. It is up to us who own Brittanys to keep that trait strong, including performance in the show ring and their desire to scent gamebirds while hunting and when in field competition events.

—David Webb,
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[American Brittany Club](#)

Pointers

THE POINTER IN MOTION

A trotting Pointer presents a series of graceful

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“The Pointer’s extension in the trot comes from a dog well-built to gallop, scent the wind, and cover many terrains for hours on end. It is not high-lifting but fully out, even-stepping, effortless, and efficient, a series of graceful curves.”

curves and a fully extended, balanced, sound trot with no high-lifting or small-stepping wasted effort.

Pointers in the trot have an outline that is unique to the breed. Just as with the head and while standing, a Pointer’s movement in silhouette should be unmistakable; the outline should never be interchangeable for any other type of pointer, Weimaraner, scent hound, or shaved setter or spaniel.

If you think a good Pointer outline in movement would be the same as any other breed, your understanding of the Pointer is wrong.

The Pointer at the trot should reflect a body that is ideal for a Pointer on the hunt: the Pointer gallops at high speeds across the field with the head held high to scent the wind, a body of curves with muscles rippling across back and all over, and the dog must also be able

to maintain this effort for potentially hours at a time throughout the week.

This ideally means a front and rear both fully extending out in perfect rhythm, where the legs should meet in an even pattern, with each matching its counterpart in an even swing parallel to the other so as to not cause

COURTESY HAYLEY THOMPSON

SPORTING GROUP

injury or damage from an uneven hit on the ground. The Pointer's working gait, the gallop, requires a sound, ground-covering dog; this is then reflected in a dog who is sound and ground-covering in the showring gait, the trot.

Soundness is supported by a balanced dog. A Pointer's ideal ground-covering gallop is supported by a shoulder long and well-laid-back that allows the front to extend fully forward; and a proper-built pelvis into stifle, where there is a slightly arched, moderate-length loin that exudes power and provides capacity for sharp turns; and a cushion of muscle to extend and contract the body as well as absorb the shock of hard running; leading into a slight drop of croup to tail to well-defined shelf, pulling into the stifle to form an angle matching the front, enabling the rear to extend fully back and swing back under with ease.

In movement, as in standing, balance and overall symmetry are more import-

ant in the Pointer than size; as Pointers are not measured or weighed in the AKC conformation ring, a judge at an AKC show cannot accurately ascertain a dog's height, length, or weight anyway (only in comparison to other dogs in the ring, which may all be near, below, or above the limits of the standard), so the height, length, and weight of Pointers should be measured (the eye alone cannot be trusted) by owners and breeders (judges are without the tools to do so) and not taken as obvious in the ring. The build, i.e., the structure which can be evaluated in the ring, is central to the dog's movement.

The build needed to complete the gallop with head held high creates a build that results in a specific type of outline in trot. The head is held high, not like that of a hackney horse but like that of a thoroughbred horse trotting full out; the head is up, but the neck is not pulled back into the shoulders, as this reflects a dog

without the proper front assembly needed for the fully extended, lasting hunting gallop.

A Pointer with hackney gait will suffer tremendously in the field, as it is reflection of a body not only unable to maintain a trot but also unable to last in a gallop; very often it is a shoulder that is not well laid back. In the trot, the front and rear should evenly and fully extend out and back under, without energy-wasting and body-straining that comes from repetitive high lifting; the balanced and well-angled front and rear needed for a fully extended, balanced, and sound gallop in hunt results in a fully extended, balanced, and sound trot in the ring.

The Pointer should extend out evenly in movement and with a wide-open gait, not move the legs more often in small steps (regardless of whether even), as this is wasted effort and energy; this higher number of steps causes the muscles and joints to work harder, but

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also the breathing relates to the inward and outward extensions of the dog's legs. A dog's diaphragm is attached to the spine, and thus a dog's breathing pattern is connected to their stretching in gait. Fewer, larger extensions (whether in gallop or trot) not only is faster (with fewer extensions and contractions to cover the same ground) but also has less negative effect on a dog's respiration effort, which is particularly important in a hard-running, lasting working Pointer.

The chest should have depth (for sprinting power) and breadth (for lasting power), with ribs well sprung, providing breathing room to support the lungs on long and hard galloping in a field. The Pointer is a powerful working dog, galloping, turning sharply, and "slamming on the brakes" into a point; Pointers should not be fragile, and they should not have the heavy, round bone of a trotting hound. They should combine the aerodynamic

features of the sighthound with the endurance features of a scent hound.

The rear thigh should be strong and the hocks short, to allow a launch and spring into gallop in the hunt, while the shoulders flowing into the chest of depth and breadth should be muscled, allowing the powerful reach-out and pull-back in full gallop. These features also support soundness, extension, and power in the trot.

One should first imagine the ideal Pointer in gallop (the dog's primary method of movement in the field) to then consider the appropriateness of the ideal Pointer in the trot.

Though the Pointer in gallop is powerful, the dog is light on his feet, carried swiftly but lightly as in the direction of a hare, with aerodynamic oval bone. This is also the case for a Pointer in trot, as the dog should not clod around the ring but be light on the feet, covering ground evenly, fully extended on front and rear, and soundly, bespeaking

power and grace.

The arch over the loin that is needed for the Pointer to powerfully launch and continuously rapidly extend and contract in gallop in the field should not be suddenly lost into a generic show dog outline in the conformation ring in trot or stack. In the ring, as in the field, the Pointer should not have a flat topline (not as in sloping or level, but the line from shoulder to tail-root) with no arch over the loin and no drop of croup, as this outline does not support the strength of the gallop of a working Pointer.

The tail on the gallop is a balance—its "bee sting" shape supports this function, and it is not ropelike or a whip. When it is moved from side to side, it is used to balance the body making turns at high speeds in gallop. The tail will move side to side rhythmically with the pace, though the show ring is not typically a high-speed, energetic environment, so many Pointers will not reach the intensity or sharp turn-



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ing that demands the action level the tail reaches in the hunting environment.

The length of the tail should be short, above the hock, and as a natural extension of the spine, it should not be carried over the back.

The Pointer in movement is unique. The ideal Pointer gives the immediate impression of compact power and agile grace: the head noble, proudly carried; slight arch over neck and loin; the muscular body bespeaking both staying power and dash.

The Pointer's extension in the trot comes from a dog well-built to gallop, scent the wind, and cover many terrains for hours on end. It is not high-lifting but fully out, even-stepping, effortless, and efficient, a series of graceful curves.

The Pointer in motion is distinct from any other breed, for the Pointer was made for a purpose distinct from any other.

—Hayley Thompson,
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American Pointer Club

German Shorthaired Pointers

MEAN SEEDS: HEADS UP TO ALL

Sadly, a friend in Pennsylvania lost his Shorthair when she inhaled the seed awn of a particular type of grass while hunting. A couple of days later, he noticed she had a slight cough as if to clear her throat, but nothing alarming. Later, when she began to exhibit signs of lethargy, he became concerned and took her to his veterinarian, who did a chest X-ray. It indicated her lungs were infected, to the point where nothing could be done other than keep her comfortable.

Devastated, he took her home, so she could spend her final days in familiar surroundings. He then called me to ask if I would do an article to help others potentially avoid the same thing happening to their dogs.

These types of grass-seed awns are not just dangerous to hunting dogs in large fields, they can also

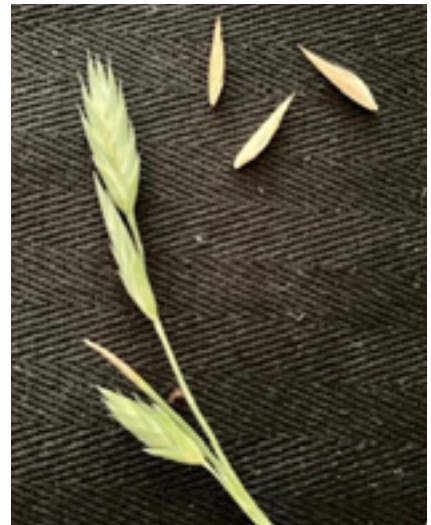
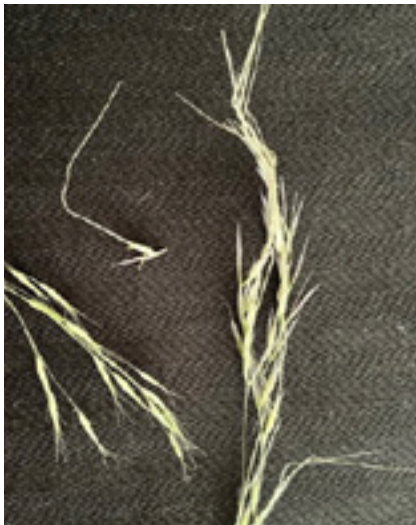
be found in lawns, parks, greenbelt areas, and grounds used for hunt test, field trials, tracking or scent work.

What makes the seed awn particularly dangerous is how it gains entry into the dog and continues to migrate. Unlike a traditional burr or sticker that tends to stay in one place until removed by hand, brush, or curry comb or knocked off, it pierces the skin or is inhaled, as happened with my friend's dog. It has a barb that keeps it in place as it continues to penetrate deeper. With a ratchetlike motion, the awn continues to progress forward through the skin, muscle, and tissue causing a bacterial infection, usually anaerobic with the potential for an abscess at some point in its progression.

Problematic grasses (foxtail, perennial rye, foxtail barley, and thread-and-needle) that produce these type of seed awns are commonly found and easily identified. Perennial rye is often used in lawns, and when mowed it can produce

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The sharp, flesh-penetrating seeds from the “foxtail” seed-heads of certain grasses pose serious risks to dogs engaging in outdoor activities. Pictured: foxtail barley; foxtail; perennial rye; rye growing horizontally; Shorthair working in thick grass.

seed awns horizontally two feet from the root.

If you are exercising your dog in a large field or plan to enter an event or hunt locally or out of state, it

would be prudent to know what type of grasses are prevalent in the area. A dog scenting or searching for game may be potentially at risk of coming in contact

with and/or inhaling a dried seed awn if the grass is thick and tall.

Considering the circumstances, one should be prepared to carefully go

COURTESY PATTIE TITUS



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over their dog’s head, body, legs, and feet. Carefully check the nose, mouth, ears, neck behind the ears, cheeks, and eyelids. The armpits, lower edge of the rib cage, and undersides should be checked for small lumps. Go over the legs and feet, especially between the toes or the soft area behind the large pad. Notice if the dog paws at its eye or ear, continuously licks or chews a foot, or develops a slight dry cough, or if a lump appears.

The Germans wanted a dog that was resistant to many hazards found in the field. They developed the Shorthair to have a short, tight coat that was harsh to the touch, would shed ice and mud, and allowed the dog to slip through heavy underbrush. The dog’s feet were to be compact and tight without feathering for a reason: to keep the dogs safe and healthy. While largely successful in this regard, there are still hazards to be aware of and try to avoid. Something as simple as a grass-seed awn

is one of them.

—Patte Titus,
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 German Shorthaired
 Pointer Club of America

Chesapeake Bay Retrievers

SOME THINGS DO NOT CHANGE

Nowadays it seems that almost every week I read something different about Chesapeake coat, and hardly any of it is right. Most attempts by present-day writers to supply printed information on this breed reveal a shocking lack of knowledge concerning this important aspect of breed type. A serious breeder who has devoted a great part of a lifetime to attempting to understand and encourage the best type of Chesapeake could be moved to utter despair at the prevalence of misinformation and misleading statements which can only lead to the compounding of error and the perpetuation of an erroneous concept of type and coat.

The Chesapeake is in demand as “an icy-water retriever.” Therefore, there is no room for argument that any change in working conditions has occurred, and there are no sound reasons for recommending any modifications in the best type of coat, the functions of which were better understood, it would seem, a hundred years ago than they are now.

Members of the Hurst family of Baltimore bred these dogs for 50 years at their ducking shore at Legos Point, located on the neck formed by the Bush and Gunpowder Rivers and the Chesapeake Bay. When this place was taken over by the government during World War I, the Hursts moved their dogs to kennels at Lutherville and continued to breed their old and excellent line, under the definite kennel name of Chesacraft. A quotation from their booklet on the breed follows:

“To criticize destructively without offering some criticism constructively is to

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Examples of different types of outstanding coats. “They fit like jackets!” one owner says. “It can be difficult to part the coat and find the skin.”

arrive nowhere. The first thing to consider is the coat of the dog. This, of course after disregarding physical faults, is the premiere characteristic of the dog whose working time is spent 50% in the water and 50% in the cold air after immersion. The very nature of his work places this foremost after physical soundness. The straight, long-haired Chesapeake and the tightly

curled haired Chesapeake should rightly have no place in the regard of fancier or judge. Neither of them possess the water-shedding coat, which should characterize the dog. The long-haired dog possesses a coat which, in place of shedding water, absorbs it—as the lack of curl indicates the absence of the oily secretion which, while very obnoxious about a hot stove,

is nevertheless absolutely necessary to these dogs in their working hours. Again, invariably the close-curl type is devoid of the inner fur or ‘Otter Coat’ about which hangs so much mystery and so many false impressions as to its origin. The real Chesapeake lies between these two extremes, the hair wavy over the flanks and shoulders but becoming straight on the lower parts of the animal. The inner coat of fur-like texture is practically impervious to moisture, and is essential. So much for the coat about which there has been, and can be,

COURTESY BETSY HORN HUMER

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little argument.”

Obviously, the Hursts felt about coat as I have always done; it is obviously—what is there to argue about? Repeat: “*The inner coat of fur-like texture is practically impervious to moisture, and is essential.*” The Chesapeake who is “wavy on top, and straight on the sides,” may seem acceptable to the casual eye, but he cannot have the proper coat unless it has the necessary undercoat. To support this view, the Hursts quote further:

“... the specifications of those of the well-known sportsmen and lovers of the breed. Messrs. James F. Pearson, Issac T. Norris, and H. Malcolm, made in 1890:

“Coat and Texture: Short and thick, somewhat coarse, with tendency to wave over shoulders, back and loins, where it is longest; nowhere over one and a quarter to one and one-half inches long. That on flanks, legs and belly shorter, tapering to quite short near the feet. Under all this a short,

wooly fur, which should well cover the skin and can be observed by pressing aside the outer coat. This coat preserves the dog from the effect of wet and cold and enables him to stand severe exposure, a shake or two throwing off all the water, and is conducive to speed in swimming.”

Also quoted is “James Watson, the noted authority” who said, “With regard to the coat, our belief is in the kind that has a crisp wave in it, as it is almost sure to be dense and close, and that is what is wanted. But whether with this kind or not, the coat must be so dense that, owing to the undercoat, it cannot be parted down to the skin.” “The correct coat is short and dense, with a harsh, somewhat wavy outercoat and a soft, thick undercoat, which protects the dog on the flanks, belly, and legs as well as down the middle of his back. As one veteran exhibitor reported to me, expressing approval of a certain judge: “He looked

for coat—all over—not just down the back, but all over.” The Chesapeake that does not have coat *all over* is not in good coat, no matter how prettily wavy it may be down the back. After all, what are the parts of the dog that spend the most time in the water?

To maintain a correct concept of type in this breed, of which coat is the most important single type characteristic, it is essential to keep in mind the purpose for which the Chesapeake was originally bred, and to rejoice in the unchanging circumstances that it is still being bred today for the same purpose. Therefore no change is indicated for the best and truest type of Chesapeake Bay Retriever. —*Written by Mrs. Daniel Horn, Vice-President, American Chesapeake Club, March 1968*

Fifty-six years later, these statements still apply to our beloved American breed.

—Submitted by Betsy Horn Humer, [American Chesapeake Club](#)

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Curly-Coated Retrievers

A NEW LIFESTYLE

Many dog owners think that once we reach retirement age, or feel less independent, we may have to give up our dogs. This is not always true. I researched multiple retirement situations in Florida and found a very nice apartment in a retirement community near Jacksonville.

Some retirement communities restrict dog ownership to small dogs or disallow dogs altogether. But my community allows me to have my Curly-Coated Retriever Fame here with me, and we are adjusting to a completely different way of life than we had before.

Obedience training has been easy to accomplish, because my three rooms connect to one another. Fame is able to trot quickly through all the rooms when we train, and she seems to really enjoy it!

As well as concentrating on “take it,” running to retrieve the item I’ve thrown,



Curly-Coated Retriever

Fame is getting some exercise. Sit- and down-stays are easy to accomplish, as we have two large outdoor areas and four small areas I can use for out-of-sight stays.

For a bit of additional training, when we are outside the apartment in the corridors, I will have Fame perform her exercises in a relaxed manner. We do this during quieter times in the building. Fame is always on lead.

Since Fame is the largest dog in our community, I am

aware that she needs to be an especially well-behaved citizen. Most of the other dogs are small, and some of their owners might have difficulty managing if the dogs took exception to one another. Obedience training keeps us ready to respond politely to surprises in the halls or outdoors.

I plan to continue obedience and other activities with Fame as our future progresses. Moving into a new lifestyle has not interrupted our relationship and

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our joy in working together!

—Ann Shinkle, 649

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

Golden Retrievers

VETERINARY BLOOD BANKS

Six years ago, my senior Golden, Geronimo, had a fierce reaction to a particular vaccine. In less than two weeks, he lost his appetite and became weak and lethargic.

The University of Missouri Veterinary Hospital Internal Medicine Service diagnosed his condition as immune mediated thrombocytopenia (ITP, a real mouthful!), resulting in the destruction of his red blood cells as well as a decrease in platelet count. He received a blood transfusion at that time.

As his condition deteriorated, he required more blood transfusions. (As a side note, he was an exceptionally happy patient, and



Golden Retrievers

the hospital staff really enjoyed him.)

Which, in a roundabout way, brings us to the topic of this column: Where did Geronimo's lifesaving blood come from?

Few people know about veterinary blood banks, the vital lifeline that helps ensure the survival of countless pets like Geronimo. Most of the blood supply comes from commercial blood banks, like Hemopet, and universities involved in some type of canine research. All such facilities are closely monitored by the U.S.

Department of Agriculture and their state counterparts to ensure they are in compliance with the Animal Welfare Act and any local requirements.

Just as in our human world, these blood banks are supplied by donors, with the majority from institutions described above, and a smaller number from dogs who have been volunteered by their owners to donate blood.

All donor dogs are carefully screened to ensure they are in good health.

Dogs have a surprising 13 different blood types, with



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the most common being DEA 1 (Dog Erythrocyte Antigen) Negative, from larger-breed dogs. While this is considered a “universal” blood type, only about 45 percent of dogs have it.

Donor dogs can donate blood every two to four months; their body begins replenishing that blood as soon as it is drawn. Donors must be at least 1 year old, healthy of course, and protected from all infectious diseases.

If you would like your dog to be a donor, all the above information may seem complicated or overwhelming. The donating process is much easier. Just take your dog to your regular vet (or to a commercial blood bank if one is available near you) and ask about what protocols and testing are in place.

I was immensely grateful for donor blood when my Geronimo needed it to survive.

—Nona Kilgore Bauer
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Golden Retriever Club of America

English Setters

SOUR GRAPES ALWAYS SOUND LIKE SOUR GRAPES

I’m generally an optimist. I’m aware that bad things happen in the world, including our dog world, but I was raised to try to forgive and forget. As I’ve gotten older, I tend to rationalize things by appealing to karma. The way I look at it, when bad people do bad things, it will eventually come back to haunt them without a need for tar and feathers.

Along with that philosophy, I have to remind myself that a lot of times I don’t know the full story. Most of the time when someone spews their anger to the whole world on Facebook, we’re only hearing one side of things. Not everyone is comfortable airing all of their business on social media so we may never hear all of the ins and outs of a story.

This doesn’t just apply to the English Setter world. There’s not a single breed, rescue, or animal group where this doesn’t happen.

Just about every day I see someone upset about something, ready to hurl lightning bolts at “friends.” They may cut ties with an organization they have supported for years over a misunderstanding. Sometimes a person feels unappreciated. Maybe a new breeder thinks they know more than they do and resents input from more experienced people. Maybe an old-timer is too harsh.

In some cases, an angry person can start to sling mud that isn’t justified. Most people will ignore these insults but as the saying goes, if you throw enough mud, some of it can stick. That’s too bad because the person may have a case of sour grapes. Not everyone is a good loser, though if you are involved in dogs long enough you will probably lose a lot. Even if you have a fantastic dog, your dog can still lose on any given day or on some weekends. That’s true whether you are a newbie or an experienced pro. The best dogs in the world lose.

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*English Setter
(Tauskey photo)*

If you're in a breed for the long run, what matters as much as the dogs is your relationships with the other people in the breed. You cannot keep and maintain

an entire breed on your own. No one has that much room and you won't live forever. You need good relationships so you can have access to other good dogs, if nothing

else. You need other people on that terrible night when your bitch is having trouble and you are about to lose an entire litter. You need other people who can take a good puppy because you cannot keep anymore dogs, even though the puppy is show quality and you want him/her to be shown and possibly bred someday.

In short, if you're in dogs for more than your own ego and you care about the breed, you need friends to help you along the way. You won't have friends if you alienate everyone by always thinking you know more than everyone else and throwing insults at people. It doesn't matter how nice your dogs are. People won't hang around you to be insulted and belittled. No one appreciates temper tantrums.

Aside from these obvious points, the American Kennel Club's Code of Sportsmanship applies not just when you are at a dog show or other dog event. It also applies when you're sitting at your computer. If

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you can't be a good sport about doing things with your dog and interacting with other people and their dogs, maybe you need a time-out to consider whether you should be competing.

Here are some suggestions:

- Learn to be gracious whether you win or lose.
- Learn to appreciate the good points in dogs that belong to other people.
- Don't air your grievances on social media and think that people won't know who you're discussing. Most breeds have a relatively small world of dog show friends so everyone will know.
- Try to remember that you actually don't know everything no matter how long you've been in a breed. Other people may have different ideas that can also be right.
- Sour grapes always sound like sour grapes.
- *Never* say bad things about someone else's dog. That's just common sense. Nothing will lose you friends faster. You probably don't

know everyone who likes that dog, who has bred to him, or who has one of his puppies. Besides, do you really want to be the person attacking a dog? He's someone's beloved pet. I guarantee you that he sleeps on someone's bed at night.

It would be nice if we all try to play nicely together. I know that none of us is perfect, but we can all try to get along and be as nice as our dogs. With English Setters that's a high bar, because our dogs are so good. But we can do it.

—Carlotta Cooper,
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 English Setter Association
 of America

Gordon Setters

OUT IN THE FIELD

Before there was ever a dog show there were Gordon Setters working in the field—or more precisely, on the moors in Scotland, and when there are two or more people with dogs what is sure to follow is best described by the refrain

from the old Ken-L Ration dog food TV jingle from years ago, “My dog's better than your dog...” Welcome to field trials.

The first recorded field trial was held at Southill, England, north of London near Cambridge in April 1863 and was limited to setters only. First prize was awarded to Dandy, a setter from Gordon Castle breeding owned by Mr. J.N. Fleming. Second prize was awarded to another Gordon Setter, Old Moll, owned by J.A. Handy. And the third prize went to Rowland, owned by Major Elwond—still another Gordon.

Thanks to the Civil War and its aftermath it took the idea of field trials a bit of time to work its way across the Atlantic. The first record of trials in the U.S. comes from the National American Kennel Club stud book Vol.1, published in St, Louis in 1879. It covers the period from 1870 through 1879. This group is not to be confused with the current AKC. This group was folded into



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Two-time NWGDC/FC Prairie Star Outwit Outplay Outlast, owned by Marianne Gassaway of Iowa.

the Chicago Field, which eventually became The American Field and is now a part of the UKC. The following description is from the 1939 GSCA yearbook citing the report:

“Among the trials reported in this volume was that of the first field trial in

America, held in Memphis TN by the Tennessee Sportsman’s Association on October 8, 1874. The dogs were run on a point system for merit and demerit. A black setter, Knight, owned by Mr. H.C. Pritchitt (or Prichard), was the winner with 88 points.”

The first dog listed as a Gordon Setter to win a field trial came in December 1879 at the inaugural trial hosted by the Eastern Field Trial Club at Robins Island, New York. It was a brace of Gordons, Ned and Glen, owned by Dr. H.F. Aten, who were first of five braces entered. The following year, at the same trial Glen is listed as tying for a divided third in an all-age stake with a Pointer named Sensation, the same Pointer who today serves as the logo of the Westminster Kennel Club.

The forerunner of the GSCA, The American Gordon Setter Club, ran two trials, one in 1893 and another in 1894. Per *The Complete Gordon Setter*, by Jean Look, and a follow-up letter from Ms. Look after its publication, low entries and poor performance meant that they were the only two trials held by that club. Personal notes from the late George Pugh confirmed the quality of the performances. Also from George Pugh, the first-ever

COURTESY OWNER/ JAMES THACKER

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stake limited to Gordon Setters was in December 1890, hosted by the Central Field Trial Club of Lexington, North Carolina. The four placements went to Bendigo, Beaumont, Gordo, and Mont. There was not a second one, and Gordons faded into the background in trials. With any of these dogs mentioned, an argument can be made that they were not true Gordon Setters by today's definitions. Most had "native" setters close up in their pedigrees. And to be fair, at that point in time it was performance and not pedigree that mattered. That said, they are listed in the "official" records as Gordons.

In 1921 Dr. A.P. Evans began his kennel of Gordons, Svane Gordon Setters, mostly with imports from Norway and Denmark. In 1922 Svane June was whelped, and five years later she began a remarkable career in trials. The first trial held by the GSCA was in 1928, and Svane June

finished 3rd in the all-age stake, but she came back at the second GSCA trial in 1929 to claim first in the all-age stake. Those trials were not AKC trials. Over the next several years she ran in numerous shooting club trials and completed her career in 1929 and 1930, with three wins in all-age stakes of over 20 entries each. Her daughter, Svane June's Baby, picked up where her mother left off and won a number of trials before her career was ended by the start of World War II. If one is looking for the first Gordon Setter as we know them today to win a field trial, then Svane June probably holds that distinction from her win in 1929.

When the GSCA was formed in 1924, most trials were at local shooting clubs along the East Coast, and Gordons were active in those trials. AKC field trials began in 1924, with the first one hosted by the English Setter Association of America. It took seven years for the second AKC trial, and the GSCA and the

Irish Setter Club of America co-hosted it in New Jersey in 1931.

After the War

Following World War II, Gordon field trials began again in 1949. Anyone with any experience was out of the picture after a 10-year gap, so there was a learning curve. The first one, now run under AKC rules, was in New Jersey in the spring and open only to Gordons. From Jean Look's book:

"Goodness knows there was nothing professional about the first trial. No one was quite sure what to do or where to go. The young dogs chased each other madly; the birds they found just as madly. Several dignified, well trained gun dogs with their dignified and kindly owners proceeded to show us how it should be done."

Things improved quickly, and within three years there were 12 trials, all in the New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania area. The Gordons only limit was replaced by setters only in

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1952, and by 1955 the trials were open to all pointing breeds. One dog, Page's Shuriridge Liz, owned by Jack Page of Connecticut, dominated the scene in the 1950s, with over 100 placements, more than 75 of them in American Field competition.

By the end of the 1950s trialing eased a bit, but in 1966 a major change occurred when AKC rules were altered to allow for horseback handling. All trials to that point in time had been foot handled only. With that change, professional trainers and handlers became much more common, and performances improved.

Within two years of allowing horseback handling, the number of AKC pointing-breed trials more than doubled, to 450.

Gordon Setter trials began in 1968 in California and grew quickly in numbers and quality, thanks in large part to Alec Laurence and Norm Sorby with his Springset Gordon Setters.

In the 1970s the quality and number of Gordons running in California was unequaled elsewhere. With that success, the offspring from those dogs worked their way East, and when bred to the eastern lines of Gordons, things improved from coast to coast. Even if not breeding to the California dogs, their performances encouraged others to put more emphasis into their own breeding programs and into training. It was a win for everyone.

Trials resumed in the Midwest in 1976 under the Mid America Gordon Setter Field Trial Club, first in Illinois, then Winimac, Indiana, and then to Killdeer Plains in Ohio. That club ran American Field Trials, then AKC trials under the GSCA banner and finally merged into the Miami Valley Gordon Setter Club of Ohio.

The Mid America group hosted the first-ever classic stake for Gordon Setters under American Field rules in Winimac in the spring

of 1980, a precursor to a championship stake. It was won by DC and AFC Shadowmere Scylla Savoy, owned by Barbara Burgess, Bruce Elliott, and Jim Thacker of Ohio, and handled by Jim Basham. The winner was a clear example of the bi-coastal breeding mentioned above. Her sire was a top show dog from old Eastern gundogs lines, Ch. MacNeal of Ellicott. Her mother was a top-winning field trial dog from California, Fld and AFC Springset Ladybug, CD. Norm Sorby and a crew from California made the trip east for that trial, bringing dogs with them.

This group also hosted the first-ever championship stake for Gordons under American Field rules at Killdeer Plains in 1981, with no title awarded. The following year at Killdeer Plains, Field Ch/AFC Belmor's Pretty Belle owned by Dr. Joel and Barbara Morris of Maryland put on a masterful performance to become the first Gordon to win an



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American Field championship stake, one of many wins for Belle in this period.

Later the Miami Valley group hosted the first GSCA National Championship and Amateur Championship at Killdeer Plains in Ohio in April 1993. Field Ch Belmor's Knight Train owned by the Morrisises and handled by Jim Basham won the championship stake, while Field Ch/AFC Shadowfax Blade Runner, owned by Cliff Schnepf of Florida and Jim D'Amico of New Jersey, won the amateur championship, handled by Jim D'Amico.

After two years of running under the GSCA banner, the first-ever AKC National Championship and Amateur Championship for Gordons was held in Wye Island, Maryland, in 1995. Shadowfax Blade Runner won the championship stake, while Field Ch/AFC Pal Joey, owned by Marianne Goodwin of Pennsylvania and Jim D'Amico of New Jersey, won

the amateur championship.

The championship stakes traveled around a bit, stopping in Michigan, Ohio, Connecticut, California, and Washington before settling down to its current home of more than a few years at the Bechtel Ranch in Kansas.

As is often the case, old things have a way of coming back into style, and that holds true for foot-handled field trials as well. They have seen a resurgence in the last 15 years as the expenses of horse-handled trials have risen. The first Walking National Shooting Dog championship for Gordons was held in 2018 in Viola, Delaware, at the Norman G. Wilder Wildlife Area. FC Prairie Star Outwit Outlast Outplay won the inaugural championship. The Gordon was owned by Marianne Gasaway of Iowa. For the last few years the championship has been held at the Ionia Wildlife Area in western Michigan. There are now several walking trials hosted by the GSCA on an annual basis.

—James Thacker,
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Gordon Setter Club of America

Irish Red and White Setters

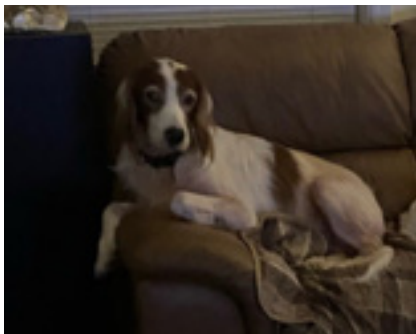
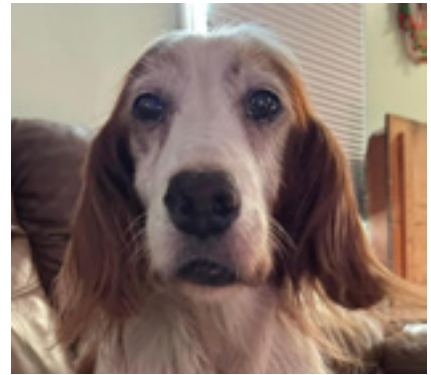
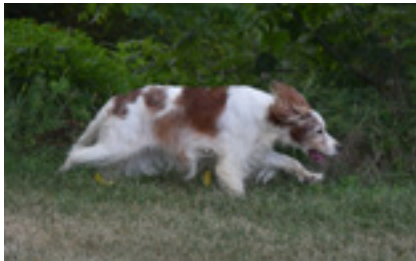
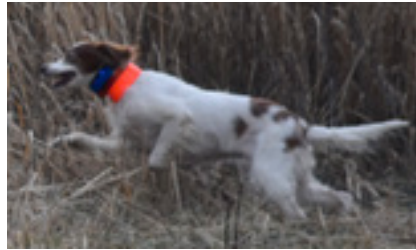
THE JOY OF SENIOR DOGS

Just look at their sweet faces. Their loving eyes gazing deeply into yours. Do you see your puppy in those eyes? Do you wonder where the years went? Then think back on all you have accomplished together. The adventures you shared. The trust you built. Noticed more white around their face. Coat a bit shaggy.

It happens so gradually the changes go unseen. Then ... someone will ask, "How old is your dog?" You reply that she will be 11 in June. It hits hard. Your puppy is now a senior. Where did the time go? Your bouncy bundle progressed through all the stages. Exploring puppy. Silly adolescent. Mature adult. Now a dignified senior. She may act the same, yet the changes

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From top, left to right: Beauty in old age: senior Irish Red and White Setters Emma (13 years, 8 mos.), in the field with a bird; Fallon (10 years, 5 months), on the hunt; Garnet (9 years), leaping for a toy; Pollyanna (age 13), still poetry in motion; Rylee (14 years), gazing with intent; Bella (14 years), ready for an adventure; Cece (11 years), in the snow; Orville (11 years), backing CeCe; Wilbur (11 years, bottom right), a portrait in patience; Tommie (11 years, bottom left), relaxing; Emma (bottom center) typifies the sweet expression of senior IRWS.

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become evident every day. Walks are shorter at a slower pace. Naps are longer. You both enjoy sleeping in, not just on rainy days.

The time you have together is precious. In my home it is just Duchess and me. We depend on each other. She is good company. Always ready to assist in any project. Laundry, gardening, taking out the trash, or watching for the pizza guy, she enthusiastically performs her duties.

As a puppy she never stopped going. There are so many interesting things in the backyard. Birds. Squirrels. Bugs. Shadows. Of course, she insists on my company. She loves helping water the plants. Or picking up sticks. Whatever I do is of interest to her. Sometimes we just sit and enjoy the day. I know she is keeping watch. Keeping track of all the wildlife in case intervention is necessary.

As your dog enters this

stage defined as the last twenty-five percent of lifespan what concerns do you have? Medical issues, diet changes, or activities. What can you do to help? Like people, our dogs need exercise, good nutrition, sleep, and mental stimulation to stay healthy. Follow their lead in defining the limits. From previous articles you are aware of senior IRWSs participation in all things AKC.

Many still hunt in competition or accompany their owner in the field. Some take up different sports, continuing to earn new titles. AKC statistics account for titles earned, not individually by dog. In 2022, 34 conformation championship, 13 Field Trials, 11 Canine Good Citizens, 10 Trick Dog, 17 obedience and rally, 18 agility, 14 scent work, 11 Fast CAT, and nine miscellaneous titles were earned.

Serious medical and genetic issues are rare — as rare as the breed. The Kennel Club [U.K.] with-

drew the DNA test for Von Willebrand's disease for the IRWS. Breed data records review show the condition is no longer a concern. "Early selection against the causative mutation was successful." The IRWSAA Board approved the official statement concurring with their findings. That test is now optional.

Check <https://irishred-whitesetterassociation.com/health-issues.htm>

for information and a fuller explanation.

AKC 2023 popularity rankings based on registrations placed IRWS 165 of 200 breeds, up from 168/201 in 2022. The breed standard states an 11- to 15-year average.

You still have time together. How do you choose to make the most of your pup's remaining years? What ways will you discover to engage, harness energy, or fill their ever-ready wiliness to go?

People used to tease me about finding an "off switch" on Duchess. In her

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gracious, elegant majority, her newfound calm demeanor reigns. She is a joy. My joy.

As one owner commented “They are Forever pups ... body maybe slower, but they will not admit and keep going.” May our IRWS seniors keep going for many years to come.

—Cynthia Lancaster,
clclancaster@gmail.com
 Irish Red and White Setter
 Association of America

Clumber Spaniels

The Gazette’s longtime columnist for Clumber Spaniels, Dr. Bryant Freeman, passed away in February. Over the previous year he had provided several informative articles for upcoming issues well ahead of deadline, thus we have a number of his unpublished Clumber Spaniel columns in the lineup for upcoming issues. We are glad to continue sharing these remaining pieces in his honor and for the benefit of the breed.



Clumber Spaniel

THE FIRST AKC CLUMBER SPANIEL STANDARD

Amazingly, it was not an American but a wealthy German-born Canadian, Francis Hubert Frederick Mercer (1867-1900), who wrote the American Kennel Club’s first Clumber Spaniel standard. Amazingly, he wrote it single-handedly, and at the ripe old age of 23. And most amazing of all, it stood unchallenged and unchanged for 70 years, from 1890 to 1960.

It could be argued, however, that the first Clumber Spaniel standard used in the U.S. dates from April 1878—six years before AKC’s founding—when the Westminster Kennel Club stipulated: “Dogs to be judged according to Stonehenge’s *Dogs of the British Islands*, 3rd ed.” But this ruling was obviously in effect only for this one kennel club.

Thus it was an Englishman, Stonehenge

COURTESY LYNDA BEAM

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(pseudonym for Dr. John Henry Walsh, 1810-1888), who originally defined the first published breed standards used anywhere in the U.S. But as for our breed, numerous writers flatly state that Stonehenge did not like Clumbers, and that Bruce, his illustration for the breed, did great harm.

Features in the Stonehenge standard which could well be considered most objectionable today are “nose very long,” “eye large,” “neck free from dewlap,” “loin free from arch,” “coat slightly wavy,” only color “more or less lemon,” and, worst by far, “length two and a half times height.”

At the May 19, 1885, meeting of the AKC Executive Committee, the secretary was instructed “to enlist prominent breeders and exhibitors to write Standards for their respective breeds.”

Mercer was the obvious choice. His outstanding Clumber kennel near Ottawa, Canada, which included lodging for

staff, was featured in dog magazines of the times. He imported a number of England’s winning Clumbers and was one of this continent’s two main Clumber breeders (both in Canada), and a frequent Clumber exhibitor both in the U.S. and Canada. He published in 1890 *The Spaniel and its Training* (149 pp., still in print), and in 1891 contributed the 16-page Clumber chapter (now available presented as a book) in the 734-page *American Book of the Dog* (George Oliver Shields, ed.),

Most of what we know of Clumbers on this continent from 1849 to 1900 is thanks to Mercer. Never married, his life centered around Clumbers and his yacht, in which he was nearly drowned. He died of a sudden heart attack at age 32.

An obvious question often asked is why was a U.S. standard commissioned for a very English breed at a time (1890) when only 37 Clumbers had ever been registered in the U.S., con-

trasting with 685 in Great Britain?

But Mercer’s standard is a far more detailed updating of Stonehenge, starting with a useful “General Appearance” section totally absent in Stonehenge. Unfortunately Mercer does repeat some of Stonehenge’s points objectionable to us today. Instead of “nose very long” there is still “jaw long”; eyes are “large,” neck “free from dewlap,” though “loin not too much arched.”

To Mercer’s credit, coat is “straight” rather than “slightly wavy,” and “orange” is not only admitted as existing but apparently as acceptable as “lemon” (unlike in the U.K. standard even today!). Strangely for this particular spaniel, Mercer adds “ears long.” And he only somewhat attenuates Stonehenge’s most grievous error, stating “the nearer the dog is in length to being two and one-half times his height at shoulder the better.”

The present AKC standard, far more detailed

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than Mercer's, differs from Mercer notably in weight. Mercer: "dogs 55–65 lbs., bitches 35–50 lbs."; today: "dogs 70–85 lbs., bitches 55–70 lbs." Mercer: "heavy-looking dog"; today: "substantial dog." Mercer: "eyes large"; today: "prominent eyes penalized." Today's standard states muzzle "broad and deep," "presence of dew-lap not to be faulted," "loin arches slightly," "coat dense, straight and flat," and "ideal length to height 11 to 9."

And unlike today's standard, neither Stonehenge nor Mercer mention tail length, perhaps because the near universal practice was to dock this low-set breed meant to work in heavy underbrush. And most surprising of all for us today, neither makes any mention whatsoever of bite, gait, or temperament.

Reminder: "The tall, square Clumber is the drag of our breed." (Douglas A. Johnson)

—Bryant Freeman, Ph.D.,
Founding/Life Member,

Clumber Spaniel Club of America

[Clumber Spaniel Club of America](#)

Cocker Spaniels

BACKDROP: WATCHING THE COCKER SPANIEL TOPLINE

The Cocker Spaniel standard advises us: "Above all, he must be free and merry, sound, well balanced throughout and in action show a keen inclination to work. A dog well balanced in all parts is more desirable than a dog with strongly contrasting good points and faults."

There is no better way to observe this complete assembly of a Cocker Spaniel than to watch the Cocker and its topline in motion. This columnist strongly recommends watching dogs, including Cockers, from around the country in motion on the AKC.tv app (also at <https://akc.tv/>). This viewing will quickly reveal whether a Cocker is correctly put together and carries himself



Cocker Spaniel puppies, January 2005 (Dogphoto.com photo)

with a correct topline.

The standard further specifies:

"Topline—Sloping slightly towards muscular quarters" and "Back is strong and sloping evenly and slightly downward from the shoulders to the set-on of the docked tail." Also: "Prerequisite to good movement is balance between the front and rear assemblies. He drives with strong, powerful rear quarters and is properly constructed in the shoulders and forelegs so that he can reach forward without constriction in a full



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stride to counterbalance the driving force from the rear. Above all, his gait is coordinated, smooth and effortless. The dog must cover ground with his action: excessive animation should not be mistaken for proper gait.”

It is truly amazing what the viewer can learn in the short time a dog is moving around the ring. Sometimes dogs that look beautiful in still photos just do not pass muster in their trips around the ring. Instead of a beautifully arched neck with well-laid-back shoulders flowing into a hard, sloping back and correct tailset, you may find in motion a “stuffy,” short neck and a topline that does not show a firm back and has a “rumpy” approach to the tailset.

Fortunately, it does not take that much time for the topline in motion to reveal the Cocker’s assembly to the judge and to the ring-side or other viewer. The well-built Cocker, topline correctly trimmed, will soon be evident, even in those

brief down-and-back and around-the-ring trips! A heavy coat cannot obscure the way the way the front and rear assemblies function together in motion to create a Cocker with movement that extends and reaches forward and drives strongly from the rear.

The sincere, knowledgeable Cocker breeder should want to add to their knowledge base, and not rely on photos and publicity to choose animals to incorporate into a breeding program designed to improve the future. Hands-on examination and the opportunity to observe the Cocker in motion have so much value and tell so many tales. Further, if you happen to be involved with the Parti-color variety, you need to understand what part certain markings play in possibly altering the way the neck, topline, and tailset appear. For example: A spot in the middle of the neck can make the neck look shorter than it really is, while a marking at the shoulder and behind

the shoulders at an angle can make the neck look longer and better set than it is. A “saddle” marking can have various implications. The judge, and the Cocker viewer, has a better chance to figure out the role markings play by watching the Cocker topline in motion.

Keenly observant Cocker breeders soon learn that watching the Cocker topline in motion is key to understanding how the total dog is “assembled” and whether it “holds together” in motion as a correct sum of its parts.

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

English Cocker Spaniels

THE ENGLISH COCKER SPANIEL CLUB OF AMERICA HEALTH AND RESCUE ORGANIZATION

Many people are unaware that the English Cocker Spaniel Club of America Health and Rescue Organization is a separate entity from the parent club organization, the English Cocker Spaniel Club of America (ECSCA).

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English Cocker Spaniel Ch. Buff Tip of Broomleaf awarded Best of Breed by judge Anne Rogers Clark, 1978

The Health and Rescue Organization (HRO) was established on October 12, 2012, as a 501(c)3 organization. What this means is if one wants to donate to the HRO, it may be considered as a charitable donation for tax purposes. (Please check with a tax professional to be sure.)

The mission statement of the HRO is as follows:

“The ECSCA Health & Rescue Organization is

dedicated to advancing the health and welfare of the English Cocker Spaniel. Our mission is to focus on all aspects of their physical, mental, and social well-being. We provide educational material through multiple venues to promote public knowledge and appreciation of dogs in general, but English Cocker Spaniels in particular. We foster and promote public knowledge and appreciation of dogs,

the need for proper care, training, and prevention of cruelty. The Organization will fund sound medical research projects that will benefit purebred dogs in general, but primarily benefit the English Cocker Spaniel. The Organization will provide funding for the rescue and the rehabilitation of displaced English Cocker Spaniels for the prevention of cruelty.”

The HRO website address is ecschealthandrescue.org and is an excellent resource to find information on any English Cocker Spaniel health issues, to fill an application to adopt or foster an English Cocker in need, or to make a donation to help with research into English Cocker health concerns or to assist in rescue efforts for our beloved breed.

Speaking of rescue, the HRO has sponsored four AKC Pet Disaster Relief Trailers. These trailers are used before, during, and after any disasters, such as hurricanes, tornadoes, floods, and fires, to create



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safe spaces for displaced animals in the community. Once deployed, these trailers become the property of the affected community to help animals in need.

On the health side, well before the HRO existed as a separate organization, the ECSCA health committee was instrumental in providing funding for and driving the research into developing the genetic testing for progressive retinal atrophy (PRA) and adult-onset neuropathy (AON). It was only due to the tireless efforts of our health committee that tests were developed to help breeders prevent these conditions from being passed on to future generations.

Currently, efforts into health research are focused on immune mediated hemolytic anemia (IMHA), Addison’s disease, and anal sac carcinoma. For more information on these and other health concerns, please refer to the HRO website under Health Home.

On the rescue front, we are very fortunate that our

breed does not often end up in a rescue situation, but at times when there has been a need for a large or small rescue effort, our group of rescue and foster volunteers step up to ensure that English Cockers receive the care and attention that they need! The adoption application can be found on the HRO website under Rescue Home.

There is a lot of demand for adoptable English Cockers, so please be patient—there will probably be a wait. In the meantime, one can apply to be a foster home.

Finally, please consider a donation to the HRO so that this important work can continue. There are many ways to give, such as through the United Way, the Purina Parent Cub Partnership Program, or through direct donation on the website, where Health or Rescue can be specified. The HRO can also be included in estate planning. Please refer to Legacy Donation on the HRO web-

site for more information on how to do this.

—Beth Hendrick,
bhendrick@verizon.net
English Cocker Spaniel
Club of America

English Springer Spaniels

JUST ONE BITE, PLEASE: TEMPTING FINICKY, ELDERLY, AND SICK EATERS

Let’s explore ways to tempt the less-than-enthusiastic eater. Before we drag out all the smelly fish, delectable soups, and stinky sauces, it is important to try and determine *why* our dog has lost interest in food. A search on “Caring For Your Senior Dog” yields results citing many possible reasons, including:

You changed their food and they don’t like it; dental problems causing pain; diabetes; cancer; kidney disease; Cushing’s disease; liver disease; heart failure; pancreatitis; recovering from surgery; dementia; UTI; nausea; pain; you’ve moved recently, and the dog isn’t

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used to a new environment; another dog in your home has become aggressive or is bothering them, (or) changes within the home are causing them anxiety. The Farmer's Dog website shares:

“Rarely will a pet refuse to eat just to refuse,” says Mason Romero, DVM. “Generally, there is something they will eat.” The mystery for the worried Springer mom or dad is to solve is why are they off their feed and what might tempt them to eat?

When you need dog-savvy advice, ask a Springer fancier. Dog people can hold forth for hours about feeding the dogs we love. Ruth Dehmel (Rendition) has had many years of tempting dogs to eat and stay healthy and happy. Dehmel finds, “When I have an older dog who is not eating well, I offer them pureed Gerber baby food meats. The little glass jars are just big enough for a tempting topper of human-grade meat. I also give them a high-quality probiotic with



English Springer Spaniel

all meals.”

To explore taste-tempting hints, check the online article “Tips to Encourage Your Elderly Dog to Eat” at <https://howpetcare.com/dog-behavior/elderly-dog-wont-eat-30704/>.

Jackie Denison Emery has

tempted elderly dogs with carefully considered healthy food toppers. She shared, “Our vet advised we mix kibble with really smelly canned dog food; liver being very tempting. Our reluctant eater scarfed it down. Cheap canned tuna mixed in her

DAVID WOO ©AKC

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kibble also worked. We kept rotating different meats to keep the smells/flavor interesting.”

Peggy Price put her Springer Stella’s magnificent and very discerning dog nose to use, offering her less than excited eater “canned mackerel” as “a good temptation—very smelly.”

Kelley Kiernan suggests, “Cook up ground chicken. Then, create little bags of kibble topper using snack size plastic bags. A tablespoon of chopped or ground chicken is an irresistible topper. Toward the end of his life, my Springer, JetStar, would wait and stare at me if I forgot to put the topper on his kibble.”

Another fabulous “gravy” topper is Clear Conscience Pet SuperGravy topper, Bon a’ La Goat, Beef Bone Broth (<https://clearconsciencepet.com/products/supergravy-bon-a-la-goat-dog-food-topper-gravy-broth-mix>).

Several owners of reluctant eaters sparked eating enthusiasm with shaving pieces of freeze-dried organ

meats to the top of meals. A favorite at my house is PET TAO Freeze-Dried Beef Spleen (<https://www.chewy.com/pet-tao-beef-spleen-freeze-dried-dog/dp/233538>). A thin spread of anchovy paste or a drizzle of manuka honey has tempted my elderly girl Zeela.

Julie Twiss cautions, “Be careful using fatty meat, especially in an older dog. Too much fat could possibly trigger pancreatitis!” A frequent symptom of pancreatitis is refusal to eat. Be sure to have your veterinarian examine your dog for reasons for low appetite before you begin attempts at food temptation.

Wendy Turnbull Everett suggests, “Buy or make bone broth. It’s super easy to make in a crock pot or Instant Pot. Put veggies or spices your dog loves in the broth, too. It’s extremely nutritious for dogs and people. Strain, pour in ice-cube trays, freeze, and store cubes in freezer bags. Heat them up or let them melt to pour over dog food.” Find a great

recipe at bigdogmom.com/bone-broth/.

Laura Gardner discovered a quick taste temptation by adding “aroma-pungent cat food on top of our fussy girl’s kibble.” Cat food generally has very high protein, so a mere sprinkle of high-quality cat food will be plenty to make the food in the bowl more alluring.

Susan Schneider (Peridot) shared her sure-to-tempt-a-reluctant-eater “satin balls” recipe from “Spoiled Hound” blogger Renee Dobbs. If your dog needs to gain weight, “satin balls” are nutritious and delicious. One caution: if your dog has kidney disease or any need to limit protein, these may add too much protein to the diet. But for finicky eaters and dogs convalescing from having lost weight due to illness, “satin balls” may coax your dog to eat. Schneider baked her batch of these high-calorie treats with lean ground beef, oatmeal, molasses, coconut oil, unflavored gelatin, Total brand cereal, egg, and wheat germ.

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Others make the yummy balls with ground chicken, turkey, or lamb. Visit <https://spoiledhounds.com/satin-balls-for-dogs/> for the recipe.

May our dogs be eager eaters, and may we always hear the reassuring sounds of bowls licked clean.

—Sarah A. Ferrell, Locust Grove, Virginia

facebook.com/Valentine-Vishnu-Ferrell-1053487794678146/
English Springer Spaniel
Field Trial Association

brushing and combing, the trimming and blending of head, ears, neck, tail, and feet, and attention to their nails and any problem areas.

Essential tools of slicker brush and comb allow you to stay ahead of any debris or ticks. Rakes and other tools can help you strip off fuzzy coat, and thinning shears are great for trimming up necessary areas to get a natural look. Clipper use makes short work of bulk trimming and maintaining open ears with good

airflow. Small straight or curved shears help you to carefully maintain foot fuzz and keep them looking their best.

Clippers and nail-grinders help to keep nails short and healthy—and don't forget to watch your Field's oral health as well!

Summer is often a time for travel, relaxation, and new projects. Your dog can be an active part of your life and enjoy their family time very much. It is always important to consider their safety and

Field Spaniels

SUMMER LOVIN'

Ready to have a blast with your Field Spaniel? Our friends are so excited to enjoy spring and summer weather and try some new experiences!

Grooming-wise, it's a beautiful thing to be able to groom outdoors and enjoy less cleanup. Try setting up a grooming space in your garage, yard, driveway, or even on a sturdy picnic table.

Maintenance grooming for Fields entails regular



Field Spaniel

DAVID WOO ©AKC

BREED COLUMNS

SPORTING GROUP

comfort given the warmer temperatures and different activities.

Be sure to keep your dog hydrated, and offer shade and cool rest amidst the excitement so they don't overheat. Hot surfaces should also be avoided, and we must protect them from the dangers of hot cars and environmental parasites.

Some great new toys and supplies for summer can be fun to try—splash pads and cooling mats are among our summer unpacking. You can DIY frozen treats that are healthy and enjoyable for your dog.

Enrichment can be beneficial both indoors and outdoors; even simple scent activities really tire out a Field. Learn what works for your dogs in terms of summer refreshment and entertainment—they will love to enjoy time and treats with you!

Getting out and about in nicer weather is a boon for dog owners. Whether you walk the city streets and pause for refreshment, or hike the parks and for-

ests and indulge in natural beauty, be sure to carry cleanup supplies and means to hydrate and cool your pooch when necessary.

Celebrations and holidays are upon us, and this means graduations, family gatherings, and Independence Day. These busy times can mean a lot of change for your friend and can offer great socialization and exercise opportunities. They can also be stressful times that create chaos and confusion, so be sure to plan ahead for canine comfort and control.

Your top priority should be safety for both dogs and people—this means a secure environment, possibly appointing someone to watch over and maintain schedule for your animals during festivities. Exposure to the outdoors, traffic, and people should be watched just as much as possible dangers from food and décor. This is all individual, as one growing pup might benefit from a short visit to a farmer's market or parade, while an older dog might be hap-

pier indoors if the fireworks or running children could pose an issue for them.

Please consider your dog's particular temptations and comfort when planning. A summer picnic could be delightful and enjoyed with family and friends in the company of well-behaved pets, or it could end tragically with ingested cooked chicken bones or a dog slipping out of the yard or house in the crowd and going missing.

Crates, secure yards, and leashes as well as behavioral life skills are everyday necessities for our beloved companions, and a bit of planning and prevention can go a long way to ensure our guests and home remain compatible with canines.

Rest and relaxation are huge themes for the season, and vacations offer respite from the routine and busyness of the school year and work schedule. This can be a fantastic opportunity to travel or work on projects. Be sure your dogs are included in the planning and process

BREED COLUMNS

SPORTING GROUP

by creating healthy solutions for them as well. One dog might get their bags packed and visit a dog-sitting situation or boarding kennel with ease and excitement, while another does better on the homestead with a different setup.

Be sure to assess and plan for your dog during this unique time for them, as change can be difficult for them to understand and cope with. If your dog is prepared and eased into new situations, they too will benefit from the new deck or fencing project, a travel opportunity, or a family visit.

Happy summer, and stay safe!

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

Sussex Spaniels

EXPLAINING TO BUYERS THEIR “STRANGE” NEW SUSSEX PUPPY

Probably the first “strange” thing new Sussex buyers encounter is



Sussex Spaniel Ch. Vicar of Lexxfield, c. 1989

seeing their puppy walking along on its front legs with its back legs dragging along behind. Those in the know refer to this as “kippering.” I can’t tell you how many new owners have been told (especially by their vet) to return that crippled dog because of a perfectly normal behavior! (Breeders must encourage their puppy buyers to call *the breeder* if they think they have a problem.)

Sussex puppies grow slowly, and not all of a piece. Often a new owner will notice a puppy limping and

rush to their vet, who “was great with my Golden” (or Lab, or German Shepherd). Well, the vet demands that they do immediate surgery—not only on the front leg that is limping but the other front leg as well so they will “match up.” *What?* Your Sussex puppy will grow out of this! Give him time. Time to develop, time for bones and ligaments and muscle to grow and strengthen. The puppy may stop limping in the front tomorrow, or in a month. He may also limp in the

COURTESY PLUS DAVERN



SPORTING GROUP

rear. He may have a perfect topline today and be high in the rear next week, or have a roached back. This will all be fine as he grows into himself. Just give him time!

Puppy is sometimes showing his teeth. Ten to one he is also wrinkling his nose at the same time. This is another Sussex trait. And it is cute! We call it a Sussex smile. Even a few judges are taken aback at this and think they are showing aggression.

What a lot of this boils down to is that we breeder often write pages and pages of info for a new puppy owner, never even realizing that most buyers *do not read these!*

This is why it is so important to go over all these things and others in person—eye-to-eye—even though people are generally eager to go home with their new puppy. Make them stay. I find putting the puppy back in a puppy pen so they aren't so distracted to work well. Use your voice and your hands. Encourage them to ask questions. Be patient.

We breeders do all we can to hand over a beautiful, healthy, well-socialized puppy. But to be honest, the major pitfall is them not calling us instead of running to the vet (most times considered to be God in regard to canines) at the first sign of what they think is trouble. From long experience I have deduced that most veterinarians either see Sussex puppies as defective because they aren't just like the other breeds they see, or they see a rare breed come in the door and immediately see a “cash cow,” for a rare breed must certainly have a rich owner ready to spend big money.

We must be sure that our puppy buyers are prepared to advocate on behalf of their dog or puppy and if a situation arises that calling their breeder is their first option and responsibility.

Kudos to the AKC for finally coming out on behalf of later or never spaying and neutering. I have been saying this for over 50 years.

The 2024 national specialty will be held

in Doswell, Virginia, in November. For information contact our show chair, Michelle Wolcott, at (570) 656-2218.

—Marcia Deugan,
ZiyadahReg@aol.com
Sussex Spaniel Club of America

Welsh Springer Spaniels

WELSH SPRINGERS LIVING THEIR BEST LIVES

One of the most common questions a breeder hears from prospective puppy people is “How much exercise do Welshies need?” The most popular question is, obviously, “How much do they shed?”

The least satisfactory answer is actually the honest one: “It depends.” Certainly I have owned and bred Welshies who want to “go, go, go” all day, only relaxing at night. One of my first Welsh would have happily spent all day, every day, in my heavily shaded backyard, hoping for a bird to fall out of one of our many

SPORTING GROUP



Welsh Springer
Spaniel

trees. He was happiest lying on a small rise, surveying his kingdom with regular rounds of the fenceline for situational awareness.

Unlike most Welshies, he was content to be alone; he wanted to be aware of everything going on and able to respond to any potential dangers. I would have to go out with a slip lead to get him back in the house for meals.

He could also go all day in

the hunting field. Stamina was Chester's greatest gift; but that's a tough dog to live with, in part because he kept the rest of the dogs riled up. Like the porridge in *The Three Bears*, a Welsh Springer like Chester might be considered "too hot."

At the other end of the spectrum are the couch potatoes, who prefer to be within eyesight of their family and are happiest when curled up next to their

favorite person. These dogs are easy to live with but can often be at risk for weight gain and lack of muscle tone. I've never owned such a Welsh Springer, but I understand they exist! The Three Bears would call these Welshies "too cold."

Most Welsh Springers are a happy mix of these two extremes. The goal is to breed dogs who can work all day in the field and be an easygoing family member in the evening. In the parlance of *The Three Bears*, these dogs are "just right."

Most litters have a mix of personality types and activity levels. Certainly, there are breeding programs, and sometimes individual sires and dams, who "throw" a particular activity level.

When I am speaking with prospective puppy people, I always flag the level of activity I am expecting from the litter, given the parents. I talk through the pros and cons of personality types and ask them to think seriously about what kind of dog will fit best with

ISABELLE FRANCOIS FOR AKC

BREED COLUMNS

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their own family life.

Finally, having met all my puppy families and brought them to interact with the puppies at 6-8 weeks, I use that information to select the right puppy for each family, considering what I have observed to be each puppy's activity level and personality.

Our responsibility as breeders is to set up each puppy and their new family for success. Activity level is just one aspect of that process.

—Wendy Jordan,
wendy.jordan@capstrategiesgroup.com

Welsh Springer Spaniel
 Club of America

Spinoni Italiani

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

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, using each as my guide as I compare the standards, body part by body part.

SPINONE ITALIANO VS SPINONE AMERICANO, PART TWO: NOSE, MUZZLE, JAWS, TEETH, AND EYES

Nose

Italian standard: Set in the prolongation of the nasal bridge, voluminous, spongy in appearance with a very thick and distinctly rounded upper edge. Pink flesh coloured in white subjects, a bit darker in the white and orange subjects and brown in the liver roan subjects. In profile, the nose protrudes over the forward vertical line of the lips. Nostrils are large and protruding.

American standard: Large, bulbous and spongy in appearance with rounded upper edge. Nostrils are large and well opened. In profile, the nose protrudes past the forward line of the lips. Pigment is a rosy flesh color in white and orange dogs, brown in brown and

white or brown roan dogs; in solid white dogs it can range from flesh colored to brown.

Summary: Noses are the same.

Muzzle

Italian standard: Length is equal to length of skull; the depth, measured at mid length, reaches a third of the muzzle's length. Profile is straight or slightly convex (Roman nose). The lateral faces are parallel so that, seen from the front, the muzzle appears square shaped. The lower profile is defined by the upper lip; the lowest point is the labial commissure. Lips —The upper lips are rather fine and form an open angle below the nose; in the forepart they are rounded, then, covering the lower lips, they reach the labial commissure where they form a visible fold.

American standard: Stop is barely perceptible. Bridge of the muzzle is straight or slightly Roman. Square when viewed from the front.

SPORTING GROUP

The width of the nasal bridge measured at its midpoint is a third of its length. The upper lips are rather soft and are rounded in front. The lower profile of the muzzle is created by the lower line of the upper lip.

Summary: The American standard addresses the length of the muzzle in the first sentence of the head description. Otherwise, muzzle descriptions are the same.

Jaws/Teeth

Italian standard: Powerful and normally developed, at mid length the branches of the lower jaw are very lightly curved. Dental arches well adapted and complete; scissor or pincer bite.

American standard: Jaw is powerful; at mid-length, the sides of the mandible are very lightly curved. Teeth are positioned in a scissors or level bite. Disqualification—overshot or undershot bite.

Summary: Both standards are the same, with the American standard including a disqualification.

Spinone Italiano



Eyes

Italian standard: Large and set well apart. The eye is almost round; the lids closely fitting the eye that is neither protruding nor deep set; eyes are on an almost frontal plane. Iris is of an ochre colour, more or less dark according to the colour of the coat.

American standard: A soft, sweet expression is of paramount importance to the breed. It shall denote intelligence and gentleness. Ochre (a soft golden brown) in color, darker eyes with darker colored dogs, lighter

eyes with lighter colored dogs. The eyes are large, almost round, well-opened and set well apart on the frontal plane. The lid fits the eye closely. The eye is neither protruding nor deep set. Eye rim is clearly visible and will vary in color from flesh colored to brown depending on the color of the dog. Loose eyelids must be faulted.

Summary: The American standard is more wordy, but both standards describe the eyes in the same way.

Part Three of this comparison will appear in the October



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2024 issue.

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

Vizslas

BEYOND DEFEAT: MASTERING THE ART OF LOSING GRACEFULLY

Years of competing in equestrian sports, mainly three-day eventing, instilled in me a hunger for victory. Early wins during those formative years fueled my competitive spirit, but a single moment outside of Las Vegas became a turning point.

It was show jumping on the final day. A clean round meant the win was mine. As I cleared the last jump, exhilaration surged through me. However, the joy was short-lived. Back at the trailer, my parents delivered a surprising blow: I hadn't gone through the finish flags. In my eagerness, I'd turned the wrong way, disqualifying myself.

The tantrum that followed

is a memory etched in my mind. The worst part? My outburst wasn't just witnessed by my parents but potentially by competitors as well.

That day was a harsh lesson in sportsmanship and composure, and I had no one to blame but myself. I knew I needed to be better.

Fast-forward to the world of dog shows. Here, competition is fierce enough to feed my competitive spirit (with fewer opportunities to break a bone). For 25 years, I've honed my skills in the dog fancy, striving to win and lose with grace and humility.

One disappointing show in Ventura comes to mind. A group of us were feeling the sting of defeat. But instead of wallowing in self-pity, we invited the winner to join us in our RV, turning our "Losers Lounge" into a celebratory "Winner's Circle."

I believe Sara finished her bitch that day. It's a fond memory and a good lesson in finding the silver lining,

adding a bit of humor, and flipping the script.

According to Ron Gutman, author of *Smile: The Astonishing Powers of a Simple Act*, "British researchers found that one smile can generate the same level of brain stimulation as up to 2,000 bars of chocolate." Yum ... chocolate.

The truth is, even the best of us get outperformed sometimes. That's where grace comes in. Take responsibility for your performance, but see the experience as a learning opportunity. Remember, success often rests on a foundation of failures. Each defeat is a stepping-stone on the path to improvement.

It all boils down to maturity. How you handle yourself throughout the entire competition, win or lose, reflects your character. As Michael Bassey Johnson writes in *Night of a Thousand Thoughts*, "Show gratitude when you win. Be hopeful when you lose. In everything, give thanks."

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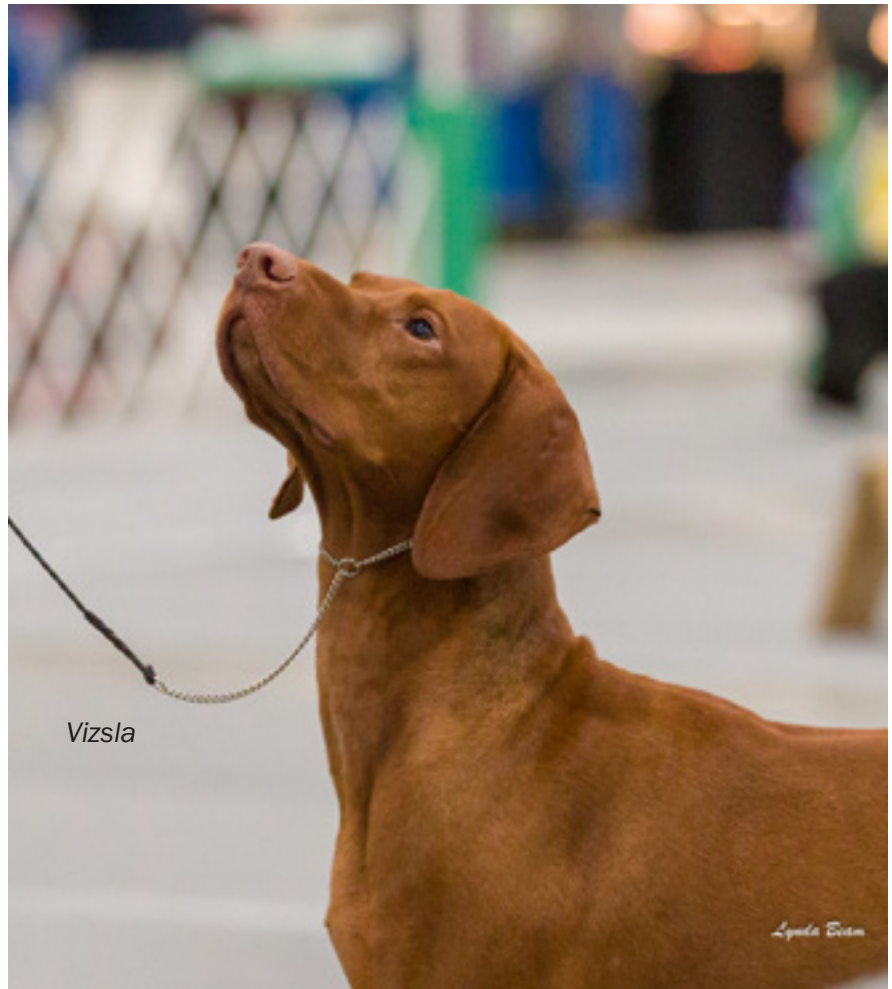
So keep striving, keep learning, and always carry yourself with pride on your journey to become a better competitor.

A case in point is a recent Scent Work trial with my young dog and detective-in-training, Sisu. We'd aced a previous trial, and I envisioned replicating that success under a new judge. Two minutes into the competition, a false alert led to a disappointing "No, sorry."

This setback forced some introspection. I hadn't adequately prepared Sisu for a specific scent (cypress). The same thing happened again under a different judge the following Sunday, proving I left a hole in Sisu's training.

Misery loves company. Several friends and training partners faced similar fates that day, and together, we tackled the challenge with renewed focus and yes, even some humor. There's that smile again, reminding me of chocolate.

Losing gracefully is an art form. Every loss, every



misstep, is a chance to learn and improve. The next time you're faced with a loss, acknowledge your emotions, stay composed, congratulate the winner, learn from the experience, focus on your effort, and most importantly, smile. At the end of the day, you're going home with your best

friend by your side.

"Champions realize that defeat—and learning from it even more than from winning—is part of the path to mastery." (Rasheed Ogunlaru)

—Jamie Walton,
jamie@professionaldesign.org

[Vizsla Club of America](#)

COURTESY LYNDA BEAM

BREED COLUMNS

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Weimaraners

IT'S SHOWTIME! (OR IS IT?)

If you are reading this column, there's a huge probability that you have experienced what I'm about to describe ...

You are head over heels about your new puppy. You can't wait to get your new show prospect into the ring. Starting a show career is an exciting part in your puppy's young life and you are

ready to get going. But wait a minute: Consider a few things before "the launch."

Is your puppy physically ready to be shown? Here's where you need to separate your hopes from reality. Objectively evaluate where your puppy is in his or her development. Some puppies grow up like perfectly proportioned little adults, and they are cuter than a button. On the other hand, there are

puppies who start out gangly, with chaotic growth patterns that look like they were determined by a disorganized committee. Can you be objective and separate your aspirations from what your puppy actually looks like? It's hard to do, and it might be a good idea to get a educated second opinion if you doubt your own objectivity.

Is your puppy mentally ready to be shown? The



Weimaraner

Melissa Hampton
PHOTOGRAPHY

COURTESY MELISSA HAMPTON

SPORTING GROUP

world with all its unique sights and sounds is a brand-new experience for your puppy. It's hard to remember, especially for a large breed like ours, that even though they are physically big, they are still inexperienced babies. Has your puppy been exposed to a wide enough variety of situations, people, and other dogs to be able to handle the hustle and bustle of a show? Going under a big show tent is no big thing to you, but the puppy probably has not experienced anything like it.

Individual personalities also play a part in launching a new puppy. If the dog show gods have smiled upon you, your puppy is a behavioral "old soul" who seems to know exactly what you want and is more than willing to conform to your wishes. (Notice that I started the last sentence with *if*.) In my experience, puppies are more likely to be uncoordinated little dervishes who strive to do only what they want.

Yet another personality type is the fearful puppy who can be easily overwhelmed by new situations. For those, it is our responsibility to recognize and avoid circumstances that are just too taxing for a young animal.

What can you do to make the start of a show career the best that it can be? It's a combination of objectivity and logistics.

First, be honest with yourself about your puppy's physical and mental development. Know the pluses and minuses of your puppy, and then make sure you get your puppy into appropriate situations. Know when your puppy needs more practice or time to mature to be prepared for the rigors of the ring.

Second, there's a whole raft of logistical and equipment decisions you can make for a puppy's debut. What kind of collar does your puppy accept when gaiting—metal? Cloth? Choker? Martingale? How much time does your puppy need to settle into the ring

environment? If you are using bait, what works best for your puppy? If doing an outdoor show, are the weather conditions good for your puppy? If your puppy detests rain and it's pouring, will this situation sour your dog on the show ring?

You are the one who makes the decisions on when and where to start a show career.

While it is unlikely that the "perfect" show will exactly coincide with when you want to start your puppy's show career, try to maximize the opportunity for a good experience. If you must, consider waiting a little longer for a show that is ideal for a beginner. A short delay can really pay off. A careful choice of your first show will make the adventure far more pleasant and will leave you looking forward to the next show weekend.

—Carole Lee Richards,
zarasweimaraners@yahoo.com

[Weimaraner Club of America](#)

WORKING GROUP

Alaskan Malamutes

THE CRATE-TOP SNEAK: ADVENTURES WITH HAIDA

When a show breeder's life winds down to one adorable housedog, it's sometimes hard to understand how over 50 years in the sport I love, and the breed that is the center of my life, flash by in a blur. Suddenly, in ways I never expected, the outcome of what should have been a simple elective surgery last spring led to a series of medical crises that nearly took my life and led to almost a year of recovery.

But never fear, this column is not about me. It's about deeply appreciating my lovely Haida, Owyhee Fireworks at Benchmark, bred by fellow AMCA member Gay Kuehnel-Hisatake. And it's about changing my highly structured life with several Malamutes, full of schedules and priorities, to a relaxed life with one dog, and a housedog at that!

When you have one dog, as many of you do, you



Haida approves of "her" new couch; the Crate-Top Sneak in action, browsing for toys and treats.

focus on that one dog and enriching that one dog's life in as many ways as you can. For Haida, almost 8 years old, this has meant tons of

new toys, lounging on my bed and on the sofa, playing silly games together, and discovering her unique and slightly quirky personality.

COURTESY PHYLIS HAMILTON



BREED COLUMNS

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She invents new diversions and athletic feats, like the Crate-Top Sneak: getting up on top of her crate and browsing through the toys and treats I keep there, grabbing her favorites and stretching out on my bed to enjoy them.

It also means that she’s discovered her second puppyhood. No water bottle is safe from her stealthy grasp. And since her truly outstanding sense of smell can detect anything edible, I dare not turn my back for a moment when I’m working in the kitchen, and say good-bye to any snack left on the coffee-table! She silently tiptoes around my home—yes, an 80-pound Malamute can tiptoe—and snags the most amusing things, like a throw pillow with a lifelike 3-D Malamute puppy image. (I finally hid that one!)

Haida inspires me to chronicle her adventures with poetry and has been building her own fan club on my Facebook page, as so many wonderful friends have responded with enjoy-

ment and laughter. And most of all, she has brought me full circle to deeply appreciate the closeness and presence of one lovely housedog.

I vow that I will make every day of the rest of her life perfect.

—Phyllis I. Hamilton,
benchmark1946@gmail.com
[Alaskan Malamute Club of America](#)

Bernese Mountain Dogs DOGS IN ART AND LITERATURE

Throughout history dogs have been part of our lives. According to archeologists, many cultures have related to dogs in much the same way as we do today. Dogs have had many roles. Some of them were companions, hunters, guardians, and a treasured part of the family. From the earliest cave paintings to today’s movies, there has been a lot recorded about dogs and their part in our lives. In *The Odyssey*, by Homer, Odysseus’s dog, Argos, recognizes Odysseus after a

20-year absence. He has just enough strength to greet his master with a tail-wag. The account of Argos is the first of centuries of dog stories. As a voracious reader, I have read and reread the stories of loyalty and valor that molded my love and faith in dogs. Some of my childhood favorites were:

Beautiful Joe (Marshall Saunders, 1894)

Lad, a Dog (Albert Payson Terhune, 1919)

Silversheen, King of the Sled Dogs (Clarence Hawkes, 1924)

Sigmund Freud, the father of psychology, loved dogs. A delightful detail about Freud was his obsession with his Chow Chow, Jofi. He believed that dogs were able to read humans. He had Jofi present during some patient sessions. A current trainer, Kevin Behan, agrees. In *Your Dog Is Your Mirror: The Emotional Capacity of Our Dogs*, he writes that canine behavior is driven by our emotions that dogs read better than we read ourselves. Freud would agree.

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Bernese Mountain Dog among beloved dog books

Some of the more recognizable canine characters:

Toto (Cairn Terrier), from *The Wizard of Oz*

Lassie (rough Collie), with Timmy

Rin Tin Tin (German Shepherd), with Rusty

Balto (Alaskan Husky sled dog)

Buck, in Jack London's *The Call of the Wild*

Bull's-eye, Bill Sikes's dog in *Oliver Twist*, by Charles Dickens

Ripper, Marjorie Dursley's pet dog in J.K. Rowling's

Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban

Jip, resident dog in the household of Hugh Lofting's *Doctor Doolittle*

Where the Red Fern Grows, Old Dan and Little Ann from by Wilson Rawls

White Fang, by Jack London

Follow My Leader, by James Garfield

Some featuring Bernese are:

The Little Poetry Book About Loving Bernese Mountain Dogs, by Walter

the Educator

Before Santa Was Santa, by Gareth Lee and Susan Ellenbee

The Unwanted Puppy, Holly Webb and Sophy Williams (Sept. 3, 2019)

Bad Dog: A Love Story, Martin Kihn (April 5, 2011)

Mountain Dog Rescue: A Story of a Bernese Mountain Dog Dog Tales, No. 3 (Paperback: January 1, 2000)

The Boy Who Got a Bernese Mountain Dog, by Brook Ardon (Jan. 10, 2014)

A Snow Day for Hannah (Mountain Dog Books, three books), by Linda Petrie Bunch BS (Oct. 1, 2011)

A Gift to Share (Oct. 20, 2005), Barry J. Schieber (author), Mary Garbe (illustrator)

Some of the top dog movies ever made:

Old Yeller (1957)

101 Dalmatians (1961)

Lady and the Tramp (1955)

Hachi: A Dog's Tale (2009)

Marley and Me (2008)



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All Dogs Go to Heaven (1989)
Best in Show (2000)
Beethoven (1992)
Benji (1974)
The Fox and the Hound (1981)
Homeward Bound (1993)
My Dog Skip (2000)
Turner and Hooch (1989)
Because of Winn-Dixie (2005).
Air Bud (1997)
Bolt (2008)
Hotel for Dogs (2009)
A Dog's Way Home (2019)
The Art of Racing in the Rain (2019)
Instant Family (2018), with Meatball the Bernese Mountain Dog

Our Berners don't have to be movie stars to know they are extraordinarily special. As Freud said, "Dogs understand us." And Bernese Mountain Dogs seem to have a knack for looking into our eyes and seeing our heart. We just need to watch and listen. The more observant we are, the easier it is to understand what they are telling us through body language.

At the very simplest, their facial expressions can be quite clear in asking for a treat that is on the counter or permission to go outside. A raised eyebrow, a tip of the head, a motion with their nose, or standing looking toward an object makes their desire clear. Dr. Doolittle wasn't the only one who could talk to the animals.

I hope you enjoy watching a dog movie with your favorite Berner today.

—Marjorie Geiger,
marggeiger@yahoo.com
Bernese Mountain Dog
Club of America

Black Russian Terriers PERSPECTIVE FROM A FIRST-TIME BRT OWNER

Choosing a new furry family member is more than finding a cute picture of a puppy on Facebook. Diligent research and thorough study of the breeds you are interested in are paramount. Each breed has different temperament, activity level, drive, and grooming and training needs.

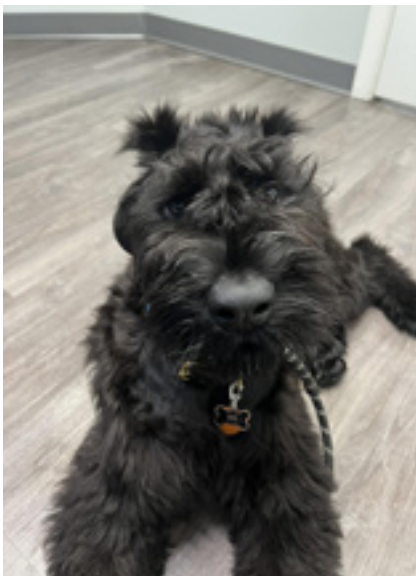
Fast-forward. You did the research, found the perfect breed and breeder, and went through all the steps to get your puppy, and you are finally taking him home! So, what comes next?

We had the pleasure of interviewing a first-time Black Russian Terrier puppy owner to gain insights into their unique experience and their journey into the world of AKC purebred dogs.

What drew you to the Black Russian Terrier?

When I was 20 I had adopted a scruffy little terrier mix puppy I named Liberty, or Berty for short. While researching what her breed mix could be, I came across the Black Russian Terrier. The first thing that caught my eye was that the BRT looked so similar to my puppy—with the exception of size: full grown, Berty was only 30 pounds. What was more intriguing, though, was the temperament described in the BRT standard. It states: "The character and temperament

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Ru the Black Russian Terrier—with family members, running Fast CAT, hanging out at home, and winning the Owner-Handled group.

of the Black Russian Terrier is of utmost importance. The Black Russian Terrier is a calm, confident, cou-

rageous and self-assured dog. He is highly intelligent and adapts well to training. ... He is alert and respon-

sive, instinctively protective, determined, fearless, deeply loyal to family, is aloof and therefore does not relish

COURTESY OWNER

WORKING GROUP

intrusion by strangers into his personal space.” It was like someone had spent a week with my dog and then documented her personality. Right then and there I knew at some point I would have a BRT in my life. Without my little “BeRTy,” I may never have found the BRT.

As a new puppy buyer, was it difficult finding the right breeder?

Yes and no. What was difficult was getting a clear understanding of what to look for, what made an ethical and responsible breeder vs. not, and how to tell the difference/see through misrepresentations some people make. I had to make sure I didn’t unknowingly support someone contributing to the shelter dog population. I had never shopped for a dog before, only rescued, so I wasn’t sure where to start.

The first thing I did was learn about what differentiates ethical, responsible, preservation breeders from the rest. Luckily, I have a few family friends who have

been in the purebred dog world and were able to give me some pointers of what to look for. I decided that my must-have list for a breeder included someone who does all appropriate health testing, offers ongoing support for the life of the dog, is a member of the BRTCA/involved with the breed outside of their own breeding program, and someone I felt I connected with.

Once I had my list, I started the search for BRT breeders in New England. Guess what—there aren’t any! Using AKC Marketplace I expanded my search to all breeders in the U.S., prioritizing those who had the Breeder of Merit and Bred with Heart badges who were planning a litter within the next 12-18 months. I was able to find several excellent breeding programs I would have been happy to get a puppy from.

After much deliberation, I decided to put my name on the waiting list for a puppy, and six months later my boy Rurik/”Ru” was born.

Once you got your puppy and brought him home, what differences did you notice raising him as compared to other breeds you had in the past?

It was 2004 when I decided I would get a BRT one day, and 2022 when I finally did, so I had time to do my research on what to expect with my BRT puppy. I was still surprised how easily he adjusted and how chill of a puppy he was, which I attribute to the ENS experience that my breeder provided from day 1. Using the lessons I learned from my “mini-BRT,” Berty, I knew that consistent and ongoing training and socialization was going to be paramount to our success. Berty was not a dog you could force into submission to behave how you want, and Ru is the same. I feel that Ru responds to training coming from a place of trust, respect, and love. He listens to me because he trusts that what I am asking him to do is worth doing, and he doesn’t want to let

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me down. If you subscribe to the old-school theory of the “alpha dog” training methods, this is probably not the breed for you. Along with finding and adjusting a training approach that works for Ru, I have also learned that short sessions are key—and I don’t mean 10-15 minute short, I mean 3-5 minutes, or he gets bored and it stops being fun for him and frustrating for me. He is incredibly smart—sometimes smarter than you want! And that must be accounted for in his training plan as well.

How are you handling the grooming needs of your Black Russian Terrier?

With a sense of humor! I am not a groomer, and the BRT takes a lot of work to keep in proper show coat. Initially I had planned to find a groomer to groom him for me. However, after not being able to find anyone experienced in the show cut for the BRT, I ended up deciding to do it myself. I have obviously made some

mistakes—for example, I dropped my clippers and took a chunk of fur off his side! Over the past 18 months I can confidently say I have significantly improved thanks to countless hours of YouTube videos and long-distance guidance from my breeders and some show dog groomer friends.

What challenges did you face as a first-time Black Russian Terrier owner?

There are a lot of misconceptions about the breed from those who know of them. Many people have a perspective of them being unstable, dangerous, and aggressive. Because of this I have had many people tell me Ru can’t do XYZ, or even more frustratingly, have warned me about my dog and letting him around my son. Of course, a well-bred BRT with proper training and socialization should never be unstable or have unprovoked aggression. I take these opportunities to try and

educate people and allow Ru to be an example of what a BRT’s temperament should be.

Did you find it overwhelming entering your first AKC conformation show?

Well, I had no idea what I was doing, as I had never shown a dog before and had only ever even been to a couple shows as a spectator. I guess I didn’t know to be overwhelmed until I was waiting ringside to show—then my nerves kicked in. Of course, I didn’t do myself any favors with entering the Philadelphia Kennel Club show, AKA the National Dog Show, for our first show. We ended up making it around the ring in one piece and took Reserve Winners Dog. I was beside myself with excitement, and it was clear from the first step in that Ru loved it too. So, a month later we took a road trip down to Orlando to show in the Puppy and Junior stakes and the AKC National Championship show, where Ru won the 6-9



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Months puppy dog class. So yes, it was overwhelming, but amazing. We were hooked—and I am proud to say that after our first year of showing, Ru was in the breed’s top 10 NOHS for 2023 and is currently sitting in fourth for this year.

What other activities are you involved in with your Black Russian Terrier?

In addition to conformation, we have tried out several different dog sports. The first thing we did was to complete the AKC Good Citizen program, and Ru earned his CGC, CGCA, and CGCU all before he turned 1. Once Ru turned 2, he ran his first Fast CAT, and he *loved* it. Ru earned his BCAT in only two weekends and is currently the fastest BRT in 2024. We also have dabbled in rally, Happy Ratters, and agility, and he has started learning to swim, so we can hopefully try out dock diving this summer. Basically, I want to try all the things and see what he likes.

What advice would you have for someone looking to get their first Black Russian Terrier?

Make sure you find a truly responsible, ethical, breeder who only breeds dogs that exemplify the standard. There are a lot of folks out there saying all the right things, but not actually doing them.

Don’t rush your timeline. After waiting 18-plus years, I can attest that it is worth the wait!

Get ready for everyone wanting to pet your dog as a puppy and being scared of him as an adult.

Don’t stop training and socializing.

Last but certainly not least, be sure the sound of constant panting doesn’t bother you ... or your partner!

Raising a Black Russian Terrier as a first-time puppy owner is both a rewarding and challenging experience. From the moment you bring your puppy home, you’ll be enchanted by the breed’s playful energy and comedic nature. However, the BRT’s

strong will and intelligence require consistent training and socialization. As a new owner, you’ll quickly learn the importance of establishing routines and setting boundaries. Despite the occasional frustration, the bond you form and the joy of watching your puppy grow and learn make the journey incredibly fulfilling.

—Emily Fagan,

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[Black Russian Terrier Club of America](#)

Boerboels

WHY SHOWING YOUR BOERBOEL IS IMPORTANT

In my last article, I discussed key aspects of socializing (absolutely vital) and preparing a Boerboel puppy for conformation showing. Since that article appeared, several Boerboel owners have commented to me that they love competing with their Boerboels in AKC sports and activities such as Barn Hunt, weight pulling, dock-diving, Nose Work, and agility, and a number

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“It is in the show ring that our Boerboel can gain badly needed public visibility showcasing our breed.”

are working farm dogs, but they felt showing was really boring and wondered why was I “pushing” it. Hence, in this article, I want to elaborate on *why* I think showing is important for the Boerboel breed.

Dog shows are sometimes maligned by people with working dogs as rather silly “beauty pageants” in which dogs just go round and round in a circle. However, dog shows are, in fact, quite important to the continuation and improvement of a breed. As the AKC comments (<https://www.akc.org/sports/conformation/>), “The



official term for dog shows is ‘conformation’—as in, the *act of conforming or produc-*

ing conformity. While a dog show may look like a beauty pageant, it’s not. [The dogs]

COURTESY OWNERS / KAREN CORNELIUS

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are being measured by how closely they *conform* to the standard of their particular breed. Why? Because the closer a dog's appearance is to the breed's standard, the better that dog's ability will be to produce puppies that meet the standard."

A breed standard is owned by the parent club—in our case, the American Boerboel Club (ABC)—and approved by the AKC. To elaborate, a breed standard can be thought of as a "blueprint" or "template" for a breed. +It describes, in detail, the ideal "type," physical appearance, structure, characteristics, and temperament of the breed, as well as gait (movement) that differentiates one breed (in our case, the Boerboel) from all others.

The standard is based on the history and purpose of the breed and—if adhered to by breeders—helps ensure that a representative will not have exaggerated traits that would be detrimental to the health and wellbeing of the dog. Our standard provides

a helpful "snapshot" of the Boerboel's purpose by noting that, for the pioneer farmers who homesteaded in South Africa, "These dogs were often the first line of defense against predators ... old farmers told many a tale of the strength, agility, and courage of the Boerboel." In keeping with its original purpose, today's Boerboel is one of the most athletic, agile, versatile, and formidable of the *molosser* breeds.

One important fact about dog shows (conformation events) is that they are not, as some think, a modern "invention" to make money for dog clubs and the AKC. They began over 150 years ago when serious breeders, who were passionate about and dedicated to a breed and its welfare, banded together to form the earliest breed clubs. Prior to the advent of these clubs, dogs were bred simply for "function"—whether it was hunting, retrieving, herding, catching vermin, general help around the farm,

protection of owners and livestock, or catching poachers. If two dogs were good at a particular "job" they were bred together, regardless of what they looked like.

These early breed clubs, passionate about and committed to the protection, preservation, and further development of their breeds, wrote the first breed standards. Most breed standards have evolved somewhat over the ensuing years but have remained true to the purpose, basic conformation, and valued characteristics of the breed.

The original purpose of dog shows was to evaluate breeding stock. The first U.S. dog show was held in 1877, sponsored by the Westminster Kennel Club. Today, if you are planning to become a breeder, achieving championships is an important step in establishing a successful bloodline. Winning championships reward their vision and hard work in shaping their breeding programs to consistently produce "typey"

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Boerboels with the desired temperament that meet our breed standard. For potential buyers, buying puppies from champion parents who have been health tested can help ensure sound, healthy puppies who will be good representatives of our breed.

Challenges

From my perspective, the most compelling reason for getting in the show ring is that the Boerboel—which is a relative newcomer as an AKC-recognized breed in the U.S.—is confronting serious challenges. One is an unfortunate but seemingly growing preference amongst some breeders and buyers for larger, Mastiff-size Boerboels. Often this excessive size is accompanied by drooping jowls and excessive skin around the head and neck, which, as the Boerboel is a “head breed,” are entirely undesirable characteristics. Conversely, there are currently alleged “Boerboels” being produced that are undersized, weedy, “ridgeback-type” dogs pro-

moted as correct types. In my view, both are equally damaging to our breed!

Another challenge is the burgeoning popularity of off-standard coat colors in many established breeds. In our case, it is currently the color black, a product of crossing with breeds carrying the K locus gene, such as Labs. Even a cursory internet search will reveal a depressingly substantial number of sites advertising black Boerboels. Last August, a black Boerboel was mistakenly awarded a Best of Breed at an AKC show. Unfortunately, contributing to this growing issue, SABBS (the South African Boerboel Breeders Society, authorized by the SA Animal Improvement Act, No. 62 of 1998 (AIA) to register Boerboels) recently again recognized black as an approved coat color after a great deal of internal strife. To be emphatically clear, the American Boerboel Club—the parent club

for the Boerboel in the U.S.—and the AKC do *not* recognize black!

These are the compelling reasons why it is more important than ever for owners, and particularly breeders of Boerboels to show their dogs. It is in the show ring that our Boerboel can gain badly needed public visibility showcasing our breed.

Getting started in showing certainly can be stressful, and there is a great deal that needs to be learned about how shows operate and ringcraft: how to locate and apply to an AKC show; what you do when you arrive—how to find your ring and get your number; how the system of progression works if you actually win your classes; how to best show your puppy or dog; how to hold the lead; how to stack, show the bite, use bait and how to take your dog through the expected patterns. (I plan to cover many of these in my next article.) It can be nerve-wracking and potentially embarrass-



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ing at first. However, it can also be extremely rewarding, and yes—fun! Finally, I will also note that our Boerboel ABC community are tremendously supportive of newcomers stepping into the show ring.

—Karen L. Cornelius,
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American Boerboel Club

Boxers

IT'S ALL OVER BUT THE SHOUTING!

Such fun! The American Boxer Club has closed the books on another national specialty for the year. How things have grown over the years—from a one-day specialty in New York City in February (the day before “the Garden”), to a seven-day extravaganza in May in Indianapolis.

The Boxer profile has changed drastically as the Boxer breeders have recognized that Boxers are more than a “pretty face.” In addition to the conformation competition—both the annual Futurity and the

national breed competition—three ABC member clubs were awarded the opportunity to host specialties prior to the national. The ABC also offered obedience, rally, and scent work trials, with overall entries slightly over 100 entrants, and offered two agility trials off site.

Saturday events began the week with an ABC specialty club (Central Indiana Boxer Club) hosting the first breed competition as well as ABC obedience trials.

Sunday events included more obedience and the ABC national Futurity and Maturity competitions.

And if you think you would be tired from these activities, the evenings were filled with entertainment. Starting out, on the first evening a 1970s-themed buffet dinner and singalong allowed for a relaxing and fun time.

Monday morning started *very* early, with ABC member club the Central Indiana Boxer Club hosting the specialty.

On Monday evening, formal attire was the style as the ABC Annual Top Twenty competition began. The lights were dimmed, and one by one (accompanied to their choice of music) the Top Twenty breed winners were presented to a panel of three judges and a full house of spectators.

After the individual presentations, all handlers and entrants returned to the ring. The lights were dimmed and the Top Twenty winner and runner-up were introduced to the roaring crowd.

On Tuesday morning (very early) the ABC specialty was hosted by the Greater Cincinnati Boxer Club, beginning with a crowd favorite—4–6 Months puppy competition—followed by a long day of breed judging.

Following the end of judging the American Boxer Club Charitable Trust hosted a dinner and raffle. The proceeds made are part of the resources that allow this Trust to be one of the

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junior exhibitors began the day's competitions, and shortly thereafter a ring full of champions entered the ring to compete for the American Boxer Club Best of Breed 2024.

Exuberant and exhausted—another ABC national left more memories of a lifetime for any Boxer lover.

—Virginia Shames,
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American Boxer Club



A few shots from the American Boxer Club's national-specialty week, held in Indianapolis in May.

top AKC donors.

On Wednesday and Thursday, all regular classes (including the 4–6 Months class) and Veterans were judged. Afternoon events included Board meetings and the Boxer U

education seminar. The evenings included the annual American Boxer Club membership meeting and the American Boxer Club annual dinner and awards banquet.

On Friday morning the

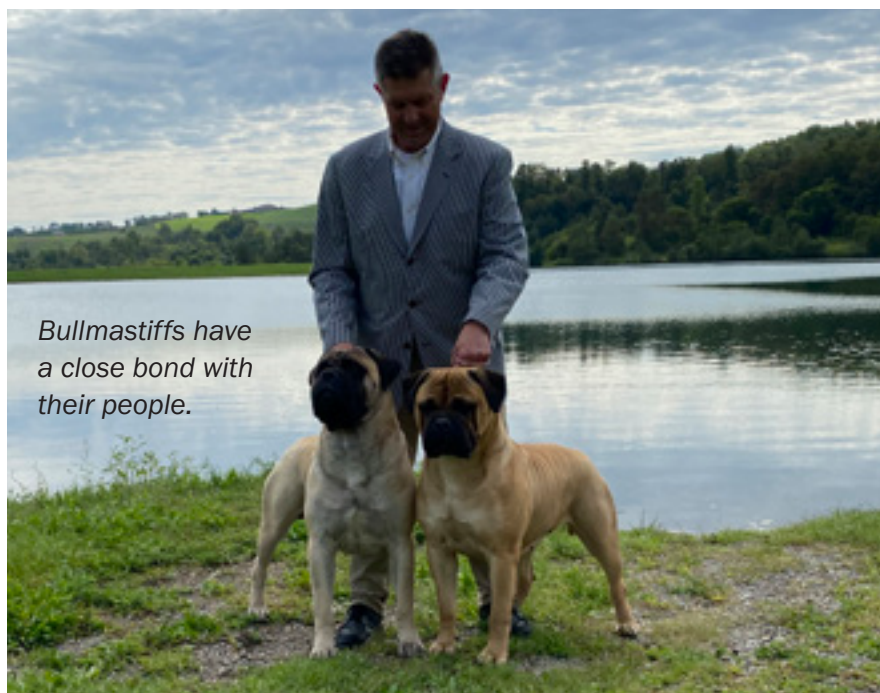
Bullmastiffs

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Over the years, hundreds of Bullmastiff people from around the world have been part of this ongoing conversation. So long as we keep learning and teaching, we have the opportunity to educate potential fanciers, support new owners, and remind veteran Bullmastiff lovers of the breadth and value of our shared knowledge, so that we don't forget why we own Bullmastiffs. We're all in this together.

COURTESY ABC / VIRGINIA SHAMES

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Bullmastiffs have a close bond with their people.



Where and when did you see your first Bullmastiffs?

Most people met their first Bullmastiffs at the homes of family members or at friends' houses, with some saying their first encounters were at veterinary offices and a few people noting that they were doing breed research at dog shows or were showing other breeds when they first saw Bullmastiffs. Some folks noted that they visited breeders before first meeting any Bullmastiffs face-to-muzzle.

What were your first impressions?

Almost everyone used the word *head* in relating their first impressions. The sizes of the headpieces were what most found surprising or, if not surprising, at least noteworthy. Bullmastiffs are considered a head breed, after all. Some people noted the overall size and muscle tone of the breed and others did notice drool.

COURTESY LINDY WHYTE

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What made you decide to own a Bullmastiff?

The majority of veteran Bullmastiff owners explained that they first obtained their Bullmastiffs in order to guard their homes and families and to provide protection. Some people described themselves as dog lovers who appreciate big dogs and favor the more mellow temperaments as opposed to the busier breeds. Many individuals liked the look of the breed and appreciated the relative rarity of Bullmastiffs. (Disclaimer: Most Bullmastiff fanciers do not consider them “mellow.”)

Were you an experienced dog owner when you brought home your first Bullmastiff?

Most Bullmastiff owners seem to have been lifelong dog owners, with many growing up in the breed and some descended from generations of Bullmastiff owners. Those who answered this question felt it important to note that Bullmastiffs might not be

the best choice for first-time dog owners or those without experience with large dogs or in the working breeds.

Were you initially planning to show your Bullmastiff?

Most Bullmastiff exhibitors, both those who are owner-handlers and those who hire professionals, were brought to showing and trialing by their mentors or by family and friends in the breed, with many agreeing to have their dogs shown when purchasing their first puppies from breeders. A few people decided that showing was not for them but remain involved in the sport as spectators or by taking part in performance trials, and because friends show dogs and they enjoy the events. Others are content to live with their Bullmastiffs as companions.

Do you breed Bullmastiffs, and did you plan to become a breeder?

This question resulted in a wide variety of answers, with some people wishing

to leave breeding in the hands of those with the time, money, and vision to do so responsibly. A few newcomers did believe that there had to be money to be made but were corrected when veterans heard their suppositions. A majority of people stressed the scientific side of breeding and the need for more and better testing, from the health tests recommended for the individual breed to DNA testing. Some individuals advised those considering puppies to do their homework on bloodlines and pedigrees.

The consensus was that breeding is an avocation for dedicated and responsible Bullmastiff people and should be done cooperatively and transparently. Several veteran breeders stressed the need to use science in the endeavor, while also understanding the art of choosing dogs and bitches for a breeding program.

What trait do you most appreciate about Bullmastiffs?

Most Bullmastiff owners

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consider their dogs intelligent and dependable. It was interesting that so many fanciers felt the need to defend their breed's brainpower. People did not want the breed's innate stubbornness to be perceived as a lack of mental acuity. The word "discerning" was used several times by Bullmastiff owners, especially in instances when those talking about their dogs related incidents when Bullmastiffs stepped up and protected their owners and their families. The overall sense on the part of Bullmastiff people is that the breed is brave and loyal, always aware of surroundings, and ready to protect. Bullmastiffs are considered by their owners to be natural guardians.

What is the biggest challenge that presents in living with and working with Bullmastiffs?

Without exception, respondents used the term "stubborn" to describe their Bullmastiffs. Other

descriptors such as "bull headed" and "selectively deaf" were used to explain the ways in which Bullmastiffs assert themselves. Bullmastiffs are large dogs, and they can be the proverbial bulls in the china shop when they are excited, especially indoors. Owners stressed that consistent exercise is a must, as is continual training.

What activities do you enjoy with your Bullmastiffs?

Most fanciers talked about showing in conformation, but many spoke passionately about performance events such as agility, obedience, rally, and tracking. It was interesting to talk with people trying activities like Fast CAT, lure coursing, and scent work, even Barn Hunt with their Bullmastiffs. It was heartening that most fanciers think their Bullmastiffs can do it all. Bullmastiffs, to hear their owners tell it, enjoy boating, camping, hiking, and trail riding with their people, so long as climate

and weather conditions are considered. Bullmastiffs are not generally tolerant of extreme temperatures.

If you have more than one Bullmastiff, do you recommend having multiple Bullmastiffs?

Many people related the ways in which older dogs help to train puppies and the manners in which two or more dogs work and play together. This question also occasioned a number of discussions regarding the territorial instincts of the breed and the potential for dog aggression, especially with two Bullmastiffs of the same gender. Some Bullmastiffs are more tolerant of other dogs, even those of the same sex, than others. This can vary dog to dog, even among those in the same litter. Some owners felt that early introductions and careful training led to better odds for harmony in a group of Bullmastiffs. Some breeders recommend against two males or two

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females together, while others are less stringent in their rules about placing dogs and puppies. While most people appreciate the protective behavior of the breed, a few expressed worries about taking Bullmastiffs to parks and in neighborhoods where there are sometimes loose dogs that might invade the Bullmastiff's space and lead to problems.

What advice would you offer to anyone considering a Bullmastiff?

Almost everyone responded in proprietary and protective ways, cautioning that Bullmastiffs require extensive socialization and serious training because of their independent nature and strong physique. It was stressed again and again that the breed is not for everyone, not for those who just want a couch potato or a daunting presence for protection. While there are exceptions, most Bullmastiff lovers felt that the majority of

Bullmastiffs need dedicated owners who understand the breed as working dogs with prodigious strength and the need for a job and will undertake the required training and socialization, starting in puppyhood.

What is your opinion on the future of the Bullmastiff?

Most people are hopeful, believing that the breed is in good hands moving forward. Many people expressed concern about breed bans, specifically as they concern and are applied to "bull" breeds, and about licensing rules and limiting numbers. Some fanciers noted issues with physical and mental health, especially cancers and cardiac issues and including temperament issues with dogs too aggressive around strange animals and people.

Thanks to all who have talked Bullmastiffs with us.

—Lindy Whyte,
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American Bullmastiff
Association

Chinooks

CHINOOKS SHINE AT WESTMINSTER: RARER THAN UNICORNS

The Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show is renowned for showcasing the finest breeds and the most exceptional canines. Amidst the pomp and pedigree, an extraordinary occurrence unfolded: five Chinooks, one of the rarest dog breeds in the world, made their grand appearance. These magnificent dogs, often said to be "rarer than unicorns," added a unique charm to this year's event.

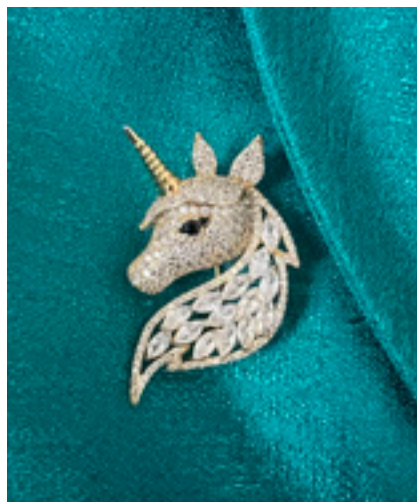
A Brief History of the Chinook

Chinooks are known for their strength, endurance, and gentle disposition, making them exceptional working dogs and loyal companions. The Chinook breed, derived from a single ancestor, originated in the early 20th century in New Hampshire. Chinook was born on Arthur Treadwell Walden's Wonalancet, New Hampshire, farm in

BREED COLUMNS



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Chinooks at Westminster: Best of Breed winner Coulee, Ch. Desert Sol Cole Illahee, CGC, with owner-handler Ashlee Bryan—sign-in at the group, gaiting in group, BB win shot; the five Chinooks at WKC and their people in front of the venue (Pam Loeb photo); Nahla, Select Bitch; Perry, Select Dog; all the Chinook exhibitors proudly wore the same unicorn pin representing the breed's rarity.

COURTESY OWNERS / PAM LOEB

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1917. He was one of three pups born to a “Northern Husky” female, sired by one of Robert Edwin Peary, Sr.’s North Pole team dogs. Chinook’s sire was a large, mixed-breed dog. Chinook was a “sport”—a phenomenon of nature, not resembling either of his parents. Chinook was an outstanding sled dog and accompanied Admiral Byrd’s Antarctic expedition in 1927.

Chinook’s offspring inherited his coloring, size, and general characteristics and were bred to combine the strength of large freighting dogs with the speed of the smaller racing sled dogs. In the early 1900s, Chinooks set records for distance covered, loads carried, and running time. Walden developed the breed to be the ultimate sled dog. His vision for Chinooks was to pull heavy loads quickly over long distances.

This breed has been preserved through the years by a small number of dedicated fanciers. However, their

numbers have dwindled drastically over the decades. In 1965, the Guinness Book of World Records recorded the Chinook for the first time as the “Rarest Dog in the World,” with only 125 living and the number dropping rapidly. The breed was on the brink of extinction at one point, with only 11 breeding individuals left in the 1980s. Thanks to dedicated breed enthusiasts and conservation efforts, the Chinook population has slowly increased but remains exceedingly rare.

2024 Westminster

This year’s Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show marked a significant milestone for the Chinook breed. Seeing five Chinooks at such a prestigious event was nothing short of extraordinary. Each dog exemplified the breed’s distinctive characteristics: a robust build, a tawny coat, and an expressive face exuding intelligence and warmth.

The five Chinooks at Westminster were:

Ch. Desert Sol Cole Illahee, CGC—Best of Breed

Ch. Forever Greene Fly Me to the Moon—Best of Opposite

GCh. Forever Greene Iглаak Perry, RI, FDC, CAA, BCAT, RATM, CZ8B, DN, CGCA, TKE, ATT—Select Dog

GCh. Forever Greene Nahla, VCD1, CDX, BN, RE, CGC, TKN—Select Bitch

Ch. Forever Greene Ilamaaq, CGC, TKN—Award of Merit

Why Chinooks Matter

Chinooks are often said to be “rarer than unicorns.” While the phrase is metaphorical, it underscores the breed’s scarcity. Unlike unicorns, which are mythical creatures, Chinooks are very real but exceptionally rare. There are only about 1,000 Chinooks worldwide, making every sighting a significant event for dog enthusiasts and breeders alike.

The appearance of

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Chinooks at Westminster is more than just a celebration of their rarity; it is a testament to the resilience of the breed and the dedication of those who strive to preserve it. Each Chinook carries the legacy of Arthur Treadwell Walden's vision and the collective efforts of breed enthusiasts who have worked tirelessly to save them from extinction.

Chinooks are not only treasured for their rarity but also for their outstanding qualities. They are intelligent, affectionate, and versatile, making them excellent family pets and working dogs. Their participation in Westminster highlights the importance of preserving rare breeds and the diverse heritage of the canine world. The sight of five Chinooks at the Westminster dog show was a rare and delightful spectacle, reminding us of the beauty and diversity within the dog kingdom. As these "unicorns" paraded with grace and poise, they represented their breed, the success of

conservation efforts, and the enduring bond between humans and their four-legged friends. In a world where unicorns remain a fantasy, the Chinook is a natural and remarkable testament to nature's wonders.

The following is contributed by Ashlee Bryan:

Our Journey to Westminster

Our journey to Westminster started with a simple desire to connect with other Chinook owners and quickly became a dream come true. I reached out to a fellow Chinook owner on a Facebook group because I noticed that she lived locally in Washington. I reached out to her because Chinooks are so rare, and I wanted to connect sometime and have some Chinook camaraderie. Her response was, "Please tell me you show your dog!" Anastasia Logan with Platform Chinooks was the one who got me hooked on showing.

We have always watched the dog shows on national television, particularly the

one shown on Thanksgiving, and always wondered why there was never a Chinook represented. My response would always be jokingly saying, "Guess I will have to do it one day." That little dream lay dormant until 2022 when Logan offered to show me my Chinook, Coulee, if I didn't. Honestly, I thought she was crazy to believe Coulee could mind his manners in a setting such as a dog show, but her tenacity rubbed off on me and gave me the courage to start learning. We are so thankful for her and the community she introduced us to. They welcomed us into the ring with sincere encouragement and shared their tips and tricks, making all the difference.

When first starting, we began attending obedience training and conformation classes once a week. The first conformation class we attended, I left with leash burns on my hands and tears in my eyes. In another class, I started gaiting, and my hot dog bait flew out of

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my treat pouch and all over the training center. Coulee, the other dogs, and their handlers went crazy, and I left with my tail between my legs.

As overwhelmed and embarrassed as I was at times, Coulee was always happy to train, so we kept at it. That time I spent with my dog, where we were both learning together, created an incredible bond I will forever cherish. It has allowed us to see his working dog demeanor and has given him a chance to shine.

Attending the Westminster dog show was a grand experience I couldn't have imagined. Shelly Londer reached out and offered personal training videos and advice. She has always made us feel that a win for any Chinook is a win for *all* Chinooks. She guided booking hotels early in New York, filling out the entry forms, and checking statistics. Patti Richards was another wonderful help, offering her advice on wardrobe and the crate spaces where she wel-

comed us with open arms. We were kindly gifted a unicorn brooch by Kirsten Ludwig, which we all proudly wore, representing our rare breed. We felt incredibly supported by the Chinook community from all over the country!

We chose to fly into Philadelphia and make the two-hour drive up to Flushing, New York. We stayed at the Four Points by Sheraton, and Coulee learned how to go to the bathroom on turf. It felt so special to enter the show grounds at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center, yet it was so familiar because it was still just a dog show. The nerves about flying and just making it to the show subsided, and all that was left was excitement about being there with my dog and partner, Steve. Our family from Pennsylvania also joined us, as did our breeder Kristy Jolly, which was so comforting and memorable. When the time came, we just went out there and had fun with our new Chinook friends.

Every Chinook in that ring

was stunning, and the owner-handlers showed the world our breed. We are thankful that everyone invited made the journey to be a part of this show. Being told we were “Best of Breed” was just the cherry on top. Coulee was able to obtain his Grand Championship at the Westminster Dog Show. Shelley offered to assist me in the staging area, for which we are eternally grateful. She hyped Coulee and me up while also keeping me calm and collected. Once we got to “Groups,” seeing that yellow box that said “Chinook” fulfilled my wildest dream of representing Chinooks at a National Show. We couldn't be more proud of him, and we hope that others can take our story and feel welcomed, inspired, and confident that they can do it, too! — Ashlee Bryan

Thank you, Ashlee, for sharing your story.

—Kathleen Riley,
kathleenrileyphotography@gmail.com

[Chinook Club of America](#)

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Doberman Pinschers

WHERE TO NOW?

I have been pondering the state of purebred dogs and the future of our sport. A while ago, I and several other fanciers were asked to provide a list of AKC breeder-judges to be interviewed for a Doberman Pinscher feature in an all-breed publication. We came up with more names than needed in case someone did not want to or could not participate.

When the list was compiled, something jumped out at me: Most 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. The DPCA has more than 1,600 members; fewer than one percent are juniors.

This age-related plight was starkly evident at our recent national specialty. I looked around at the exhibitors and spectators attending our show. “Youngsters”—people in their teens, 20s, 30s,

or even 40s—were a rare sighting. AARP was well represented!

While some AKC events such as dock diving, lure coursing, and agility are filled with younger participants, the conformation rings are not overflowing with new entrants. What can we do to generate interest in the sport with the “instant” crowd, the Snapchat, Instagram, TikTok, 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?

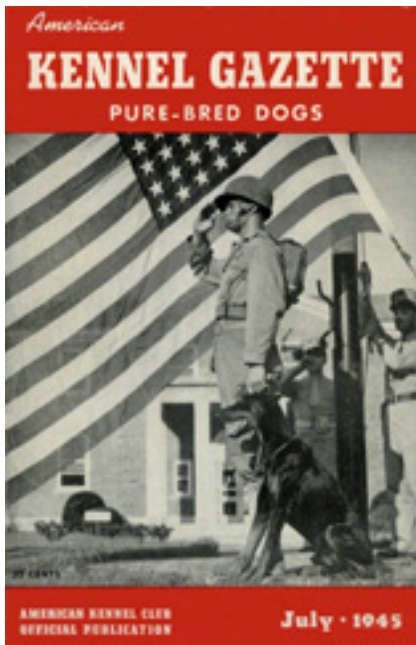
Our sport is also one with high expenses. When a child becomes interested in handling by watching Westminster or going to a local show, it’s a long road ahead. It takes the support of a junior’s family, financially and emotionally, to follow their dream in our breed—which does not entail the additional cost in time and equipment of reg-

ular grooming, bathing, and conditioning that for example a Poodle or terrier would involve. Hand-stripping a Norwich or Cairn Terrier takes much time to perfect, and one must be accessible to others who can teach the necessary skills.

I would say the average cost of a Doberman puppy companion, probably on limited registration, bought from a show-bred litter, from a well-known kennel, is in the thousands. A show prospect can be more. That’s a high cost for a young person. Then the expense of finishing a conformation championship is high, including entries, clothing, transportation, and lodging.

Breeding a litter of Dobermans can be very costly, perhaps \$10–12,000 by the age of 10 weeks. This total does not include crates for a large litter, and the whelping box, expenses, bowls, and other necessary equipment that an experienced breeder already has on hand from years of

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Doberman Pinscher, July 1945

breeding.

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 generation 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 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 the future.

—Leslie Hall,
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Dogues de Bordeaux

KEY ASPECTS OF THE DOGUE DE BORDEAUX'S HEAD

The Dogue de Bordeaux is often called a "head breed" by people in the dog fancy. When adequately proportioned and conformed to the AKC breed standard, the head features, and attributes leave a lasting impression of the prominence of the Dogue de Bordeaux's head as part of its phenotype. The proverb "the whole is greater than the sum of its parts" aptly describes a correctly conforming headpiece.

However, when the words "head breed" reference the Dogue de Bordeaux, it must be emphasized that it is not just the size of the skull that is important but also many other features readily apparent and others quite intricate that constitute a correctly proportioned head.

For example, the Dogue de Bordeaux's head is trapezoid-shaped. In geometrical terms, a trapezoid is a quadrilateral with four sides, two being in parallel planes, as

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The standard for the Dogue de Bordeaux calls for a trapezoid-shaped head. A trapezoid (right) is a quadrilateral with four sides, two being in parallel planes—in the Dogue de Bordeaux’s case, the parallel planes represent the rear of the skull and the front of the muzzle.

shown in the image accompanying this column. The two parallel planes represent the back of the skull and the front of the muzzle.

In the Dogue de Bordeaux’s case, the parallel planes represent the rear of the skull and the front of the muzzle. These parallel planes should be readily apparent when looking down from the top and the front. Evidence of the uniqueness of the shape of the Dogue de Bordeaux’s head is that there is no other molosser breed whose standard calls for a trapezoid-shaped head, giving the breed one of its distinctive features.

In addition to size and

head shape, many more head characteristics come into play. The shape of the eyes, the distance between the eyes, ear set, ear length, muzzle length, muzzle shape (square), wrinkle, expression, prominence of the chin, undershot (mandated), the shape of the upper lip (thick, pendulous, inverted wide “V”), stop almost at a right angle, well-developed brow, prominent cheeks, deep frontal groove, etc. All these features are vitally important and contribute to the conformance of the Dogue de Bordeaux head to the AKC breed standard. When all the attributes of the head are correct, includ-

ing size, shape, features, and characteristics, there is no doubt that it is a Dogue de Bordeaux one happens to be looking at, even to a novice first setting eyes on the breed. The appearance of a correct Dogue de Bordeaux is unmistakable and leaves no doubt as to breed identification.

In our judges’ education seminars, many of the questions that are fielded by our judges’ education staff relate to head size and how to properly judge whether a given Dogue’s head size is in conformance with the AKC breed standard, given the fact that measuring the head size with a measuring

COURTESY DBBSA

WORKING GROUP

instrument, such as a tape measure, is not allowed in AKC conformation events for judging the Dogue de Bordeaux. The answer is that the AKC breed standard explicitly tells us what the skull size should be. Specifically, the standard states in part that *the perimeter of the skull measured at the point of its greatest width corresponds roughly to the height at the withers. In bitches, it may be slightly less.*

The skull's shape results from the spacing of the lower jawbones and the well-developed temporal and upper-orbital areas and zygomatic arches. To elaborate on the AKC breed standard's guidance about proper head and skull size, I always make the point that a Dogue standing 24 inches at the withers with a skull that measures 27 inches at its widest perimeter may appear to be out of proportion, and the opposite would be true of a Dogue standing 27 inches at the withers with a skull that measures 24 inches at its widest perimeter.

The AKC breed standard for the Dogue de Bordeaux stresses proportions, harmony, moderation, and symmetry. This standard applies to all the features of the Dogue de Bordeaux, including head size, shape, and phenotype. Understanding the breed standards for the head features of the Dogue de Bordeaux is critical for judges, breeders, and enthusiasts alike. The head is a cornerstone of the breed's identity, encapsulating aesthetic appeal, distinctive attributes, and functional characteristics.

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

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German Pinschers

PEACE IN THE PROCESS

At the moment I'm writing this, Caitlin Clark is electrifying women's college basketball and the entire state of Iowa with

her spectacular play. She's broken every record, played in front of sold-out crowds and won all the awards. She's worked extremely hard for her success, and she's been very successful from a young age. She's also human, sometimes fails, and has had to find a way to play at an extraordinarily high level while not losing her head at all the accolades and awards and attention. Her mantra, according to a recent article, is to find "peace in the process."

Most of us are not Caitlin Clark, but those of us involved in conformation and dog sports still care about doing our best and about success. Sometimes we win. Sometimes we don't.

One of the great things about owning and showing dogs in the 21st century and participating in dog shows and performance competitions is the incredibly rich array of events to choose from. We have conformation, obedience, rally, agility,

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German Pinscher

scent work, Barn Hunt, dock diving, herding, FIT dog and CGC, shed dog competitions, and many, many others. There are titles you can earn at home, or by video, if you're not interested in shows or trials. You can hike with your dog and be recognized for the cumulative distances you travel. If you think that someday you might be interested in contributing to the future of your chosen breed by becoming a breeder, there's a wealth of resources and mentors available.

Sometimes progress,

placings, and awards come easily. Sometimes they don't. Sometimes a planned-for breeding is everything you hoped for, and sometimes there's nothing to show for it but expenses and heartache. We expect there to be disappointment and we hope and work for success. But if we only work for the highs, we often can't appreciate the quiet moments, the learning moments, the unexpected pleasures in between.

Some breeds are particularly suited to particular sports. And some people

choose their companion dogs for that reason. Some choose a breed because it has specific traits we want to live with or work with, and we take their sporting abilities as they come.

I choose German Pinschers because I want a shorthaired, independent-thinking dog who I can pick up if I have to. I want a dog who's generally healthy. I hope for a dog who can do tracking and agility and obedience, and certainly there are German Pinschers who have performed well in all those sports. Excellence in the obedience ring is not why I choose the German Pinscher—but it doesn't mean that a German Pinscher can't excel.

Maybe together we'll be brilliant. More than likely we'll work really hard and discover that some things we'll love and some things we'll do for fun, and some things, just maybe, aren't for us. Sometimes I'll be thrilled, and sometimes I'll be frustrated, and every time I'll try to remember,

DAVID WOO ©AKC

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like Caitlin Clark, to find peace in the process.

—Deb Coates,
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Great Danes

WHERE DO I FIND A PUPPY?

Many families have some difficulty in deciding on what breed of puppy would be best for them. This article offers appropriate suggestions as to how to go about that process for any breed, including the Great Dane.

The AKC offers a few events known as Meet the Breeds. These are held in different areas of the country, and a schedule can be found on the AKC website (akc.org). At these events prospective puppy owners can actually interact with breeds which are on their short list. Of equal importance is that they can speak to breeders who are there with their dogs. Neither a family nor a breeder wants to have a “bad fit.” Nobody

wants to see a family purchase a puppy and later decide it’s not the right breed for them. I have seen many families come to these events with very small children and they seem to be interested in a toy breed. The toy breeds are primarily companion dogs and make great pets. A household with small children may not be a great environment for a small breed, however. There is a strong possibility that a child could do something to harm a small dog, such as hitting the puppy over the head with some object. With a larger breed one might hear a yelp, while with a toy breed the puppy could easily be seriously hurt or even killed. If you can get to a Meet the Breeds event, you owe it to yourself and your family to do so.

I would strongly urge anyone to find a qualified breeder from which to purchase their puppy. If you see an advertisement of puppies for sale for what seems a very inexpensive price, please ignore it. You know



Great Dane Ch. Duchess of Zel-Thor, September 1948

what they say about things that sound too good to be true.

Let’s say that you are interested in a Great Dane. Go to the website of the breed’s parent club, the Great Dane Club of America (<http://www.gdca.org>), and you will find breeder-referral information. The same is true for almost any breed. If you get to go see a litter of puppies you will probably find out that it is you who will have to sell yourself to the breeder, rather than the other way

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around. True breeders are usually selective about who purchases their puppies; irresponsible breeders couldn't care less. A good breeder will also want to hear from you as to how your puppy is progressing.

To encapsulate: Find the breed you wish to purchase by doing your homework, find a qualified breeder—and, oh, yes, enjoy the new member of your family.

—Bill Stebbins,

cherdane2comcast.net

[Great Dane Club of America](#)

Great Pyrenees

Our guest author is Lana Kaiser, MD, DVM, Professor Emeritus, Michigan State University.

THE GREAT PRETENDER: ADDISON'S DISEASE IN GREAT PYRENEES PART ONE

My first Great Pyrenees came from Mary Crane of Basquaerie Kennels. He arrived by train from Massachusetts to Buffalo, New York. Since that time I

have always had Pyrenees. I am a veterinarian, raise registered cattle, and consider myself a lifelong student of cattle and canine behavior and welfare.

In November of 2018 my female Pyrenees (1½ years old at the time) had a “weird episode” that included neurological signs. As a veterinarian I knew that Pyrenees are overrepresented in breeds with Addison's disease, and that presenting signs can be neurological. I diagnosed her with Addison's using the ACTH (adrenocorticotropic hormone) stimulation test. This test measures hormones (cortisol and aldosterone) from the adrenal gland before and after the gland is stimulated with ACTH.

For my dog both cortisol and aldosterone were unmeasurable, and neither responded to ACTH. My dog had absolutely no reserve, no ability to respond to stress, and no ability to regulate her electrolytes. In many other

hands she would have died. She and I were lucky—I had the knowledge and skill to diagnose and treat her, and she responded beautifully to treatment. She was 7 at the end of March.

Because I am who I am, I tested my other Pyrenees, a sibling who was totally asymptomatic, had normal electrolytes, and had no clinical indication of Addison's disease. Both cortisol and aldosterone were unmeasurable and did not change with ACTH. Again, this dog could have died of an Addisonian crisis had I not diagnosed him. My third Pyrenees was normal to the ACTH stimulation test and did not have Addison's.

To understand Addison's disease, you need to understand the hypothalamic-pituitary-adrenal axis (HPA axis). The HPA axis is the main stress system in mammals—it is the neuroendocrine system that connects perception of stress with the animal's response to stress. In response to a stress, the

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*Dr. Lana Kaiser
with her Great Pyrenees backpacking
in Alberta, Canada.*

hypothalamus releases a hormone (corticotropin releasing factor, CRF) that travels to the pituitary gland, resulting in the release of ACTH. ACTH travels to the adrenal glands and cortisol is released. In addition, the adrenal glands release aldosterone in response to ACTH. Aldosterone is responsible for maintaining normal serum electrolyte concentrations.

So, what happens with Addison's disease? The adrenal glands don't just

turn off one day but rather gradually decrease their ability to manufacture and release cortisol and aldosterone. So, in response to a stress the dog might not "bounce back" as expected, or might go into a "full blown crisis"—an acute collapse, where the life of the dog is at risk. An Addisonian crisis is a medical emergency, and treatment will involve steroids, intravenous fluids, and a variety of medications to increase blood pressure, normalize heart rate and

rhythm, and return serum electrolytes to normal.

But what of dogs with Addison's disease who are not in a crisis—what do they look like? Addison's disease is called the "great pretender" because it literally can look like almost any other disease; they can actually look like anything, including "normal." Signs commonly associated with Addison's disease include lethargy, weight loss, nausea, anorexia, vomiting, diarrhea, bloody diarrhea, collapse, and low blood sugar. Some dogs have neurological signs.

Addison's is an uncommon disease in dogs, with a prevalence of between 0.06% and 0.28%. However, in a study from Montreal, the prevalence of Addison's disease in Pyrenees was the highest of all dog breeds studied (9.73%). Pyrenees are now listed—along with standard Poodles, West Highland White Terriers, Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers, Portuguese Water Dogs, and Bearded

COURTESY LANA KAISER, MD, DVM



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Collies—as a breed with a higher prevalence of Addison’s disease. Golden Retrievers, Great Danes, and Rottweilers are also overrepresented.

In addition to vague signs, Addison’s disease in Pyrenees is not on the radar of many veterinarians, often resulting in incorrect or delayed diagnosis. To increase veterinary awareness, Dr. Karen Park, a veterinary surgeon and fellow Pyrenees owner, and I have provided information to multiple veterinary social groups. We have also queried social media veterinary, Pyrenees, and Addison’s groups about their experiences with Addison’s in Great Pyrenees.

Including our own clinical experiences, it is fair to say we have identified at least several hundred Pyrenees with Addison’s disease. They come from all walks of life and areas of the United States, GPCA breeders, rescues, LGD breeders, and backyard breeders.

Addison’s is genetic in

other breeds (Poodles, West Highland White Terriers, Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers, Portuguese Water Dogs, Bearded Collies), and various scientists are looking at the mutations that cause Addison’s in various breeds. Addison’s is a problem in Pyrenees, and it is genetic. We don’t know the genes because we haven’t looked.

In the next article we will talk about how to diagnose Addison’s disease, what treatment entails, and what we might do to identify the mutations responsible for the disease in Great Pyrenees.

Dr. Kaiser can be reached at kaiser@msu.edu, and Dr. Park at kmpark15@gmail.com.

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Thank you, Dr. Kaiser.

—Karen Reiter, GPCA

Gazette columnist

[Great Pyrenees Club of America](#)

Komondorok

WELCOME TO THE BOTTOM 20

Yet again we find the Komondor in the bottom 20 breeds in popularity for 2023. First (and in the spirit of good sportsmanship), congratulations to the top 10—your notoriety brings you a different set of challenges, which you already know about!

Most of the bottom 20 breeds are new to the AKC; we are not. Komondors were accepted by the AKC in 1934. I don’t know how

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A 3-year-old Komondor gets a major with a Group 4 under the new AKC rule.

that happened, or if there were any here then. The breed grew to its most popular here in the 1970s and '80s. It is very rare now.

What are our special challenges due to this ranking? Most evident for those of us who show our Koms is the lack of championship points and majors. In the past few years we have barely had a major at our national specialty (in 2024, only one day

of the weekend; in 2023, three of four days; and in 2022, not at all). Luckily the new AKC rule granting championship points for all levels of group placements helps, but it is hard to get a group placement, especially on a young Komondor without a mature coat. Our standard clearly states 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”—but to date I only know of one class Komondor who has benefited from the new rule.

When we have a Komondor in coat we are very conspicuous. Hurrying to an appointment and tired of the same questions, a prominent Komondor exhibitor answered the “What is that?” question with a curt reply. The questioner replied, “You know you can’t go out in public with a dog looking like that and not expect to answer questions!” She was correct.

We hope our dog show experiences are more informed, but the burden for that rests on our national club to make information available. Our participation by club members in meet-the-breed events has been great, and that is a great outreach. The Komondor Club of America is available for conformation judges’ ed events and personal mentoring. Sometimes we can’t produce enough dogs for

COURTESY ERIC LIEBES



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a hands-on, but that is the nature of being very rare. The Komondor Illustrated Standard is available for download on our club's website. Good information is available.

Even so, many judges can't resist placing classes by coat length or height order. Good judging cannot be done with a ruler. Under their unusual coat, the best Komondor is the best one, not the biggest or oldest.

The most important phrase in our standard is: "While large size is important, type, character, symmetry, movement and ruggedness are of the greatest importance and are on no account to be sacrificed for size alone."

Still, rarity gives judges little practice on our breed, so judging quality varies.

One day in Novice obedience, my well-behaved girl lost a bunch of single points on the heeling because her foot-long coat was brushing my leg on the turns. I asked the judge about it and suggested that if she had

been far enough away to not touch my leg with her coat, she would have lost points for distance from me. The judge told me that if I wanted a high score, I should "get a Golden." I made a mental note of her name.

As Komondor owners we have a duty to breed, to educate about our breed, and to expose the dogs to the public in a positive way. Having good national-specialty events really helps. Meet the Breeds, judges' education, and answering public questions are also good ways to do this.

—Eric Liebes,
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Komondor Club of
America

Leonbergers

THE ILLUSTRATED TROT, PART 1: THE SIDE VIEW

Have you ever wondered what is being evaluated when a Leonberger is gaited in the ring? Especially in a coated breed such as the Leonberger, the trot (or

gait) will help reveal the way the bones and musculature all work together to propel the dog forward, in a way that is not readily visible when the dog is standing still. This article is simply a brief field guide for understanding what the ideal Leonberger trot looks like from the side.

Understanding that no one dog is "perfect," movement is key in evaluating the functional structure of the Leonberger. In the ring the judge must evaluate the dog's gait while it is in motion and does not have the benefit of still-frame photography included in this article. The photos in this article may show a slight variation from dog to dog, but all are examples of correct Leonberger gait when viewed from the side.

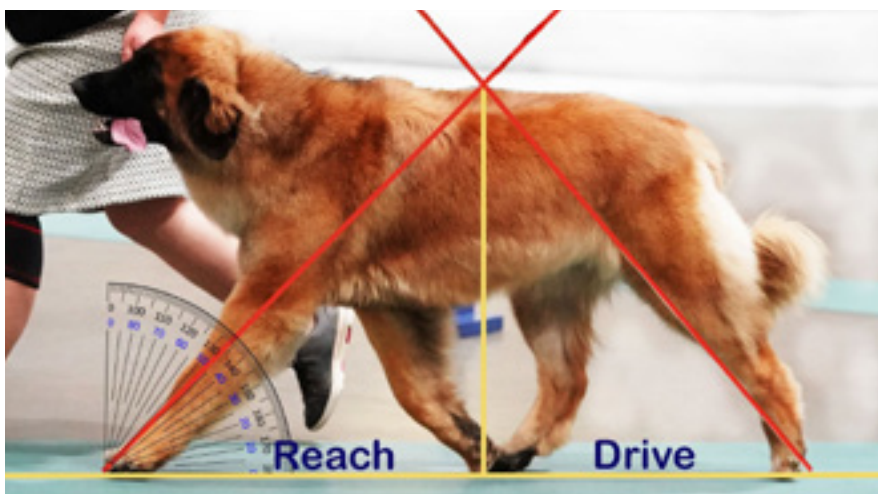
The Leonberger may be a large breed, but the gait when viewed from the side should not be exaggerated. It should be efficient without being extreme.

The AKC standard for the

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Examples of correct Leonberger gait as viewed from the side: Even though coat and secondary sex characteristics vary, the basic mechanics of the trot are consistent.

COURTESY SHANNON WHITE / OWNERS

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Leonberger reads:

“The Leonberger has a ground-covering, even and balanced gait. The stride is powerful, free and fluid, with good reach and strong drive, giving the impression of effortless power. In motion, the Leonberger maintains a level topline. Viewed from the front and from behind, forelegs and hind legs travel straight. As the dog’s speed increases, the legs tend to converge toward the centerline.”

Mechanically speaking, the trot is a suspension gait with two suspensions in each complete stride. There are two paws that touch the ground at a time, with a momentary suspension in between the landing of the next two paws. The front and rear paws that touch the ground at the same time are on opposite sides of the body.

Great! But what does all of that mean, and how does it look? There are literally volumes written on the sub-

ject of canine motion—but in general, it refers to the forward extension of the dog’s legs, and the rearward thrust of those limbs as they propel the dog forward.

Because the Leonberger does not have an exaggerated gait, when viewed from the side the trot of a structurally sound Leonberger will typically exhibit a few basic characteristics. First, the forward front foot where it touches the ground will be roughly in a straight (or plumb) line straight down from the tip of the dog’s muzzle to the ground. The rear leg that extends out behind the dog should mirror the angle of the front leg in reverse. The front and rear feet at full extension will be at or very close to the ground. The two feet that meet underneath the center of the dog at full extension should be close but not overlapping, and not interfering with each other. The head will be slightly elevated (not exaggerated or cranked) from the

topline. This remains true whether evaluating males or females.

There may be some variation from dog to dog, based in part on the speed of the trot, but the variations will be slight, and the overall picture at the moment of full extension will be very similar.

In the accompanying photos are a few examples of correct gait on several different Leonbergers. Note that even though the coat and secondary sex characteristics may vary, the basic mechanics of the trot are all consistent. The trot is a very efficient gait for the Leonberger, without exaggeration, propelling the dog forward without extreme effort.

The details of the trot when viewed from the front and rear (aka coming and going) will be addressed in a future article.

—Shannon White,
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[Leonberger Club of America](#)

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Mastiffs

THE REWARDS OF BEING INVOLVED

Being a relatively new member of my breed club (10 years), I was so excited to volunteer and really make a difference! I was also woefully ignorant of the effort and experience required to make all the moving parts of breed clubs run smoothly. Here are a few things I've learned as I navigate the process of being a contributing member of Mastiff society.

It's easy to complain about a club from the sidelines. My personal rule about not complaining unless I was also doing the work has been a good one. Usually when I'm the one doing the work, I'm too involved to complain, or I will gain a better understanding of the reasons for why it was being done that way in the first place. If I still see room for positive change and I'm both willing and able to implement the change, it's usually more well received. There is always more than



Mastiff

one way to accomplish a goal. Most people are more amenable to a new method when they won't have to be the one implementing it.

As a breed club, we also need to engage with new members and communicate what the committees are doing and what they need. People are listening, and they do want to help.

Those new to the sport may wonder what skills they could bring as they survey the experienced volunteers in their club. While breed clubs need day-to-day officers and board members,

they also need a host of volunteers for committees and specialty events. It's not only show secretaries and stewards—roles that can be quite daunting to a neophyte.

Everyone has skills. What makes someone effective in the workplace? Gregarious with a sales background? Perhaps soliciting trophy donations is a place to start. A confident public speaker? Consider addressing proposed regulatory updates that could affect club members.

Even if you just have volunteers tackling small tasks,

COURTESY LYNDA BEAM



WORKING GROUP

they're meeting new people and getting used to being useful. It's a short step from there to jumping in with both feet. It's our job to help them get comfortable.

Volunteering isn't only for the benefit of the club. By assisting other people in your breed, you can gain valuable insight into both the people who are also participating, as well as the dogs themselves. People love their dogs. They love to talk about their dogs. If you are active in accomplishing a common goal, many times you can get to know people that you might not have had the opportunity to, otherwise. It's how we build a sense of community.

Dog hobbies are competitive by nature. When you add in competition, fair play and sportsmanship become critical. No matter how nice your dogs are, they need competitors to amass those points they're chasing. If other competitors don't enjoy the experience, they won't keep paying to play. It's really

that simple, and I'm always a little shocked that fact is so frequently forgotten.

If you genuinely love your breed and want to make a difference, you don't necessarily need to volunteer for the breed club specifically. The AKC has some amazing tutorials for becoming a ring steward, as well as programs for both training and exercise courses you can do online. Every dog sport that your breed can participate in desperately needs help with putting on competitions. Sweat equity can purchase a pretty large amount of goodwill.

Mastiffs can be a challenging breed to begin with, both due to size and breed specifics, but they are so rewarding to own. I remind myself that all these people at breed functions are in love with dogs just as challenging and rewarding as my own. Then I invite them all to come out for tacos and margaritas and talk about their dogs. It works most of the time. As long as you remember that everyone

there takes home the very best dog every night, dog sports can be such a rewarding way to spend time with your lifetime companions.

—Barbie Fiorentino,
MCOA Treasurer

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Mastiff Club of America

Neapolitan Mastiffs

TWENTY YEARS

The Neapolitan Mastiff was moved to the Working Group on July 1, 2004—making this month the 20th anniversary of the breed's full AKC recognition.

I can remember those days and the heady experience of leaving the "rare breed" world and officially entering the intimidating universe of internationally recognized purebred.

Twenty years ago we left the world of few conformation shows (in most parts of the country perhaps one or two shows a year) and joined the AKC world, where there is a show nearly every weekend within 200 miles.

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Neapolitan
Mastiff

We joined the AKC world where registration papers mean your dog and its pedigree are validated and recorded according to defined rules. Consistent central information is available, a single standard exists, there is a parent club, there are shows, resources, and networks, and on and on.

We left the world of multiple competing “registries,” where more often than not the dog might have “papers” from an organization using “individualized” procedures, or which doesn’t offer infor-

mation or any support for the breed. Too bad if the buyer doesn’t realize that until after they’ve bought the dog, or even after they’ve bred the dog.

We joined the internationally acknowledged AKC purebred dog world, with all the honor and the respect it brings, as clearly seen in the glory surrounding the wins and successes at the National Championship, Westminster, and other well-respected shows and events.

The non-AKC world has

no such glory. All non-AKC breeds are automatically placed in the same category as the one created by the “entrepreneur” who crosses a whoozy with a whatsis, gives it an exotic haircut, and then generates the story that the whoozy-whatsis was the dog of royalty in the ancient land of kingdom-come and the first few were just recently smuggled into this country by a sailor interested in perpetuating the nearly-lost breed. Or that the whoozy-whatsis is a “new breed”—and weren’t all purebred breeds created by crossing dogs, so isn’t this wonderful? (And gosh, isn’t the buyer ever so lucky to get a breeding pair and get in on the ground floor!)

We entered a world where conformation judges are actually trained, and further... are trained by the parent club. It is impossible to have consistency in the wild and wacky non-AKC rare-breed world.

We entered a world where there is one parent club, having left the world where

WORKING GROUP

anyone can declare themselves to be a parent club, with each one having its own standard, its own information, its own “slant.” People with any gripe simply declare that they are “a new club to protect the breed,” and *bingo, bango, bongo* ... instantly you’re a parent club, because *you say so!*

Imagine to yourself, how can a breed succeed, how unified can breeders be, how consistent to type would dogs across the country be; how can you ensure new buyers get appropriate information if your breed had to exist under the following conditions:

- No central registry*
- No single standard*
- Infrequent shows*
- Many competing parent clubs instead of one acknowledged parent club*
- Grossly disparate information produced by competing clubs*
- No central source to start an information search*

I think we could define the survival of a breed as being able to consistently produce

dogs which are true to standard; that is, clearly sound and correct physically and temperamentally. AKC recognition is a *requirement for breed survival!*

The AKC is not just the largest kennel club in the world, it is the only kennel club in the U.S. to have international recognition of its paperwork and to have FCI reciprocity of judging approval for its judges. The AKC is recognizably the most powerful and influential kennel club in the world.

And it is most important to realize the result: In the eyes of the American public, the AKC defines “purebred dog.”

Twenty years ago, the American-bred Neapolitan Mastiff officially became a purebred dog.

Twenty years ago, we left the little pond and entered the AKC ocean. And what a wonderful opportunity, wonderful challenge, and interesting spectacle it has been.

Now on to the considerable challenges of the next twenty years!

—Margaret R. (Peggy) Wolfe,

Margaret.peggy.wolfe@gmail.com

United States Neapolitan Mastiff Club

Newfoundlands

LIVING LEGENDS AND BREED LONGEVITY

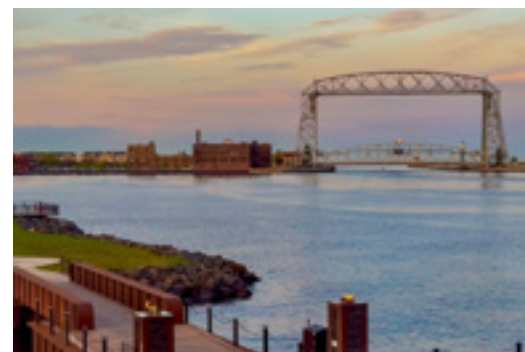
The breed’s recent national specialty in Duluth was truly special: Many travelers saw spectacular Northern Lights enroute to the show; the dogs were stunning and accomplished; the waterfront venue and hotel were great; the banquet at the aquarium was fun and fish-filled; and Suzanne Clothier’s upbeat presentation on puppy socialization was fantastic (see details in a future column).

Another highlight was the Living Legends Parade, honoring Newfoundlands aged 10 years or older. Each dog received a medal, a book with stories and pictures of fellow Legends, and a poster of the 78 dogs who

BREED COLUMNS



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The Living Legends parade at the Newfoundland Club of America's national specialty honors Newfoundlands 10 years of age and older. From left: This year's oldest participant, aged 15.3 years (courtesy Deborah Muska); poster of the 78 dogs who participated in this year's Living Legends. Duluth Harbor; Northern lights were witnessed by many attendees.

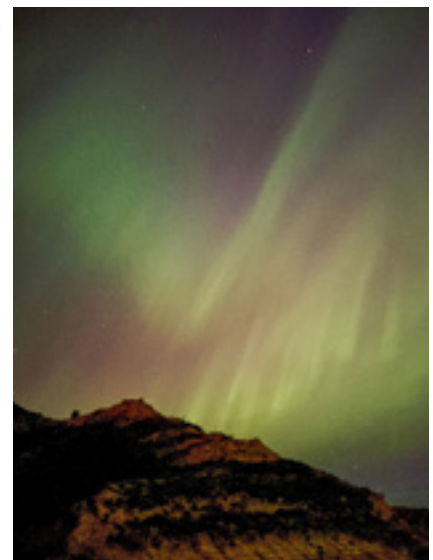
participated.

Living Legends have been celebrated at the specialty for over a dozen years; the parade in Duluth was the largest ever.

Kathi Weaver-Klein, the event's organizer, says, "The Legends are the epitome of what Newfoundlands are supposed to be, whether family pets, working dogs, show dogs, or simply someone's best friend. It was

great seeing them together in the ring."

Watching the other dogs and their proud owners led me to consider the trends in Newfoundland longevity. A recent study published in *Scientific Reports* based on 600,000 dogs and more than 150 breeds in England notes the median life span for all dogs is 12.5 years. Large breeds and breeds with flattened faces have



shorter average life spans than smaller dogs and those with elongated snouts, while female dogs live slightly

COURTESY KATHI WEAVER-KLEIN / DEBORAH MUSKA / KATIE DOLAN

WORKING GROUP

longer than male ones. According to the study, Newfoundlands live an average of 11 years.

Clyde Dunphy, DVM, longtime Chair of the Newfoundland Club of America Charitable Trust, says the Newfoundland Health Survey (conducted every five years, with over 1,200 respondents) suggests significant decreases in bloat, hip dysplasia, subaortic stenosis, and hypothyroid disease. Two decades ago, cystinuria affected 2.6 % of Newfoundlands, but a DNA test was developed, and in the 2022 Health Survey no dogs were reported as having the disease. “However, we are seeing increases in other conditions—including forelimb anomalies, cruciate ligament injuries, and allergies/skin problems. Cancer is on the increase, partly because of improved testing and early detection. Fortunately, with better treatments, dogs diagnosed with cancer can live longer than in the past.”

Dr Dunphy concludes,

“My view, after 25 years looking at the health trends, is that Newfoundlands are indeed living longer. Health conditions are being diagnosed earlier, with treatments more available. Looking at trends in cardiac disease, puppy sub-aortic stenosis decreased about 60 percent, while cardiac diseases of older dogs increased. If you look at the dogs in the Veteran classes at the specialty, you see more 9-year-olds, healthy and in good shape. In addition, the Oldest Living Newfoundland is honored every year: It has become more common to have three to five dogs who are 14 years of age or older.” This year’s winner was 15.3 years old (see photo).

Blue, my 12-year-old dog, participated in the Parade in Duluth and received a marvelous book with stories and pictures of his fellow Legends. The back cover sums up the joys of living with older Newfs:

“My antics and devotion are cherished. I leave an

impression on all I meet. I will be remembered for a long, long time, even after I have left this world. I will leave behind a legacy of love, laughter and joy.”

Thanks to a combination of careful breeding, better socialization of puppies, more diagnostic testing, the Newfoundland Club of America health programs, educated owners, effective research, and improved veterinary treatment options, Newfoundland longevity will hopefully continue to improve.

—Katie Dolan,

katie@katedolan.net

Newfoundland Club of America

Portuguese Water Dogs

WHY A PORTUGUESE WATER DOG?

As early members of APWDCA, my husband and I have had the great opportunity to watch this breed evolve from foundation stock to an AKC major participant for the top awards in each of their

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When you have a close relationship with your Portuguese Water Dog, “you’ll have a friend who will always do anything for you.” (Pictured: Ohana, Ruff-Wave’s Lightning White Hair)

venues. Along with this has come recognition and demand for Portuguese Water Dog puppies by the American public. But the PWD is not a dog for someone who needs a foot warmer. They are a strong working breed that love being challenged, and if you don’t take the time to train them, they will train you.

So... you are lucky enough to have found a PWD breeder via the Portuguese

Water Dog Club of America website (PWDCA.org) and have patiently waited at least eight weeks for a puppy. And now that momentous day is getting closer. You have purchased all the required items for care of that dog, as well as the dog food recommended by your breeder. You are confident in the health of that dog, as your PWDCA breeder has completed all the club recommended health testing,

owns the bitch, and is well versed in the history of her and the stud dog’s pedigrees.

Home comes the 10-pound bundle of joy. Those dark eyes stare into yours, looking into your soul, and out comes that tiny tongue for that first kiss. You are in love.

Days 2, 3 and 4 are still the honeymoon phase; everything is so perfect.

Your guard gets dropped. What can this little angel possibly do wrong? He even knows how to sit for a treat.

On Day 5, the land shark swims ashore. That bundle of joy nips at your ankles, steals the toilet paper and braids it through the house, pees on your brand-new rug, spills the water bucket, and pulls your internet connection out of the wall. You place the puppy in the crate, hoping for a time out to catch your breath, and he starts wailing like a banshee. You start to second-guess your decision.

Stop. PWDs are not programmed toys that work the minute you pull them out

COURTESY ANGELA KALIMANASH

WORKING GROUP

of a box. They are intelligent, challenging, devious, *extremely* clever, and very food motivated. Everything that puppy gets—treats, pets, kisses—must be earned. Meals are earned. You must start imprinting that puppy the minute it comes home. Everything is a teachable moment. The minute you teach them to sit and give them a treat, you have created an imprintable event.

They will challenge you to see how much they can get away with, but you must hold to your criteria. The effort you put into your puppy will pay off in leaps and bounds as they mature into an adult dog. You should be training your dog—and if you need assistance, hire a trainer to train *you*. Socializing them in a dog class environment or bringing them to Lowe's or on a leashed walk in a quiet neighborhood will help bond them to you and create a confident puppy.

As they continue to mature, you can introduce

them to conformation puppy classes and events, and eventually other venues. If you have access to tranquil water or a pool, slowly and calmly introduce them to the water, and make it fun. Having a life vest for them will help with buoyancy and calm any fears they have.

PWDs are very versatile dogs. A PWD was involved in search and rescue at the 9/11 site; others are lifeguards in Italy, even jumping out of helicopters to save people in distress in the water. Not everyone will train for search and rescue or lifeguard work, but for any effort that you put in, you will reap rewards in leaps and bounds.

PWDs will love their family unconditionally. They are clingy dogs, so if you are not ready for a best buddy who will follow you like a shadow, a PWD is not for you.

They persevere. Abbey, one of my dogs, was recently diagnosed with lymphoma. My husband who had

been training in agility with her for two years had just started to compete with her. They had been to five competitions. On a Sunday, she double Q'd in agility and earned her Novice Jumpers title and her second Q toward her Standard title. As she exited the ring from the second Q, she jumped up on him and gave him a big kiss. That Wednesday, Abbey died.

As a PWD owner you should have an intimate relationship with your dog simply because if you do, you will have a friend who will always do anything for you.

—Angela Kalmanash,
ackalmanash@ruffwave.com

[Portuguese Water Dog Club of America](#)

Rottweilers

EVERYONE WANTS A DOG WITH GOOD MANNERS

People often comment on how they would like to have one of my dogs. I used to think it was a compliment

WORKING GROUP



Rottweiler

to the quality of my dogs, their looks and their natural talent, a tribute to the hard work of each dog's breeder.

I'm embarrassed to say that it's only taken me 35 years to realize that what they're really saying is they want a dog with good manners—one who is trained, socialized, and reliable.

I am not trying to downplay the amount of physical

and emotional work that is invested in a well-bred dog. I am often complimented on their beauty and structure—even by people who don't necessarily know what they're seeing. The eye and mind are naturally attracted to symmetry, balance, athleticism, and expression.

Whether we're accosted on the street while out for a walk, stopped along the

beach path by someone who must meet my dog, or just friends and neighbors who happen to be visiting, everyone says "I would take your dog."

As I said, it has finally dawned on me it's the work I've put in, starting at the age of 8 weeks. Loose leash walking with a flat collar. Simple, basic obedience, done happily. A zest to

COURTESY LYNDA BEAM

WORKING GROUP

work together and cheerful compliance. Impulsivity well-checked. A dog who has been taught to think and problem-solve. Doesn't jump on people or react towards other animals. Can be taken out in public without fear of any unruly or dangerous behavior.

People ask, how did I get such a dog? Again, my answer used to be all about the breeder, the wonderful parentage for multiple generations, health and well-being. Now I say, "Oh, we started the first day he came home. He's been out in public pretty much every day of his life. We work on leash skills, manners, and ignoring other dogs. We are a team. We train every day in one way or another. We compete, too."

I tend to get a blank look of unbelievability.

This is how I realized people think I bought him this way—that he somehow came pre-programmed. That he just "knew" how to be.

It reminded me of when I had my first Rottweiler

in 1987. Someone had met Klaus and was very impressed. So, they bought a Rottweiler puppy (with no input from me). They called me about two years later, wondering why their dog wasn't like mine. After all, they were the same breed!

Another time, in the early 1990s, I was at the Cow Palace benched show in San Francisco, with the Associated Rottweiler Fanciers of Northern California Club. At the end of a long day, the husband of a breeder told a young couple, "Oh, the Rottweiler is so smart, you don't have to train them! They train themselves!" I almost keeled over. All I could think of was this young couple getting a breed that is smarter and stronger than most of their friends.

I know I'm "preaching to the choir" here. Keep up the good work, and when bragging about the wonderful dogs you bring into the world, don't forget to load up on the amount of work a dog, any dog, and especially

our breed, really is, day-to-day, year after year. They don't come out of the womb pre-everything but teeth and muscle!

A few thoughts after the 2024 ARC National

For the breed's national specialty the American Rottweiler Club had a lovely show in a new location this year—the beautiful and unique Estes Park, Colorado.

As usual, a broad assortment of activities was offered, plus an ARC regional show as a warm-up to the big event! it was over a week of conformation, agility, herding, tracking, obedience, carting, rally, and scent work. Wrapping up the gala was the annual Sieger show and Barn Hunt. I want to congratulate not only those who took home ribbons, but everyone who showed up to play. It's always a big endeavor to get to our national, and then try to work out all the conflicts of conformation, special events and dog sports!

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I only had a chance to briefly walk through the show building, as I was busy judging Scent Work. But in those moments, I noticed two aspects in the show ring that I want to bring to everyone's attention, because it's yet another slippery slope of diversion from our standard.

An issue we have long struggled with is one that was brought to my attention by Clara Hurley, of Powderhorn Wencrest Rottweilers, about 30 years ago, when I had a Nelson vom Brabantpark daughter. Clara was happy to see she had black down her rear legs to the top of her rear pasterns. Our standard describes rust markings "on inside of rear legs showing the front of the stifle and broadening out to rear legs from *hock to toes* [emphasis mine], but not completely eliminating black from rear of pasterns." Over the years I've noticed that the marking is often starting at the stifle across the wide, flat part of the leg, continuing down to the feet. Sometimes black is

intermixed.

Our base is black, and our markings are just that—markings. We are not pied, and again our standard says, "Quantity and location of rust markings are important and *should not exceed ten percent of the body* [emphasis mine]."

These large marking on the legs combined with overly large chest markings, and I saw some double, are covering too much of the dog.

Next, as we have shortened muzzles over a few generations, it's leaving too much skin at the jowls and along the muzzle itself. I saw many dogs with folds along the muzzle. The working theory on is that while selective breeding can change the bone (skull) structure fairly quickly, the amount of skin overlaying it does not lessen in congruence, hence the extra skin. This is not correct, as our head type is dry and smooth (yes, I know, except for some wrinkling on the forehead when alert).

While not specifically

addressed in our standard, the following is noted: The desired ratio of backskull to muzzle is 3:2. Our breed is now teetering on muzzles that are too short, and this is dangerous—breathing problems and scrambled teeth being the two major consequences. If a dog can't breathe efficiently, he cannot work. He will overheat, wheeze, and tire. Frankly, I prefer to see and own a slightly longer muzzle over a too-short, as long as it's broad and strong, with a big, black nose over a strong underjaw.

Be careful to breed correct type, not extreme or what people think they want. Be a breeder to preserve correct type, not just make sales.

Our judges did a wonderful job finding good dogs, and The American Rottweiler Club thanks them. Our judges in all events put us all through our paces, and we appreciate their time and knowledge. Well done, everybody!

Keep training, and be kind to each other. I am here if

WORKING GROUP

you need me.

—Jill Kessler Miller,
jilymillygsr@gmail.com
American Rottweiler Club

Siberian Huskies

CRITIQUING DOGS UNDER THE AUSTRALIAN SUN

Sometime in 2022, I received an email that would thrill the heart of any breeder-judge: I was invited to judge the November 2023 Siberian Husky Club of Victoria specialty in Melbourne, Australia. I could not say yes fast enough! What could be better than going somewhere I'd wanted to visit since I was a kid, and getting to see some lovely Siberians while I was there?

Months passed, plans were made, and as the summer of 2023 arrived I began studying the Australian National Kennel Club (ANKC) conformation system. Almost immediately I ran into a phrase I knew only in the abstract: *written critique*.

Yes, I had the vague understanding that kennel clubs

in other countries often required judges to write a critique on the dogs they placed, but I had never really looked into it. Now, in a few short months, I would be required to prepare my own critiques for the dogs I judged.

In the Australian system, critiques at the all-breed level aren't really common, but they do occur at specialty club shows. Judges are asked to prepare a brief write-up on the dogs they place, which are ultimately published in a public forum such as a dog magazine or the club's website.

AKC judges who have interviewed with Field Representatives for other breeds may be more accustomed to presenting commentary on their entry, and providing a critique might not seem so daunting; however, as a judge who has not ventured outside her own breed I was intimidated. I started researching examples, talked to others I knew who judged in Australia, joined Facebook

groups discussing critiques, and even bought a book for British judges specifically because of its entire chapter about written critiques.

Also intimidating was the idea of standing in the ring dictating my thoughts to a scribe while they furiously scribbled word-for-word. Trying to come up with something clear enough for a scribe to understand on the fly terrified me. Fortunately I was saved from my anxiety by the news that I could dictate my comments into the memo function of my phone. At least then I would be the only one who had to decipher whatever cryptic comments I made while outlining my placements.

I spent the weeks leading up to my departure poring over critiques, memorizing ANKC award procedures, and trying to pack for springtime weather as late fall Alaskan temperatures took hold. Finally it was time to go.

A few days later, under warm Australian sun, I faced



Siberian Husky

my first critique in a single-entry Puppy Dog class. I had examined the puppy,

gaited him, and placed him first, and now his handler was diligently organizing

him into a loose self-stack while I completed my task. I started my comments with overall proportions and then worked backward from the front of the dog. “Balanced young male with good length of leg ... nice obliquely set eye, good ear set ...” I held my phone close and spoke in barely more than a whisper. “... good layback of shoulder, pasterns, and feet. Level topline, good croup. Could use more loin.”

I added a few words on movement, ended the recording, and thanked the handler. A club member entered the ring while I was recording and took a few candid photos of the puppy. I’d been told ahead of time—much to my additional relief!—that I’d receive photos of all my placements to help jog my memory while writing up the formal critique document.

As I focused on judging dogs, my nervousness about critiques faded. The mantra I’d learned while studying, “*To their virtues ever kind;*

COURTESY LYNDA BEAM

WORKING GROUP

to their faults a little blind,” played in the background on repeat.

I did, however, come upon some problems while moving through the entry. First, I found myself repeating similar phrases in every class. “Balanced” was one. “Quiet topline” was another. Was I just finding the balanced, quiet-moving dogs in my classes, or was I too focused on too few attributes?

This led to another epiphany: When I placed my top three, I was not commenting on why I put the dogs in that order. OK ... so all three dogs had balanced angles and quiet topline. Why did I choose one over the other? The exhibitors would ask the same question, and I had to explain what I saw. I made a mental note to do better.

I moved through the remaining classes and made my final picks. Overall, I was thrilled with my winners, thoroughly enjoyed the entry, and had a fantastic time.

A few weeks later when I

was back home, I tackled the job of formalizing the critiques with the assistance of my voice recordings and the club’s in-ring photos.

Now, I am sure I’m not the first person in an American dog publication—or even the first GAZETTE columnist—to discuss the critique system and question why it isn’t used by our judges. I suspect the first objection would be its incompatibility with the AKC’s “two minutes per dog” imperative. How could judges stick to a schedule and still have time to critique their entry? Even on those rare occasions when a specialty club requests a “critique article” from the judge, the AKC’s *Rules, Policies and Guidelines for Conformation Dog Show Judges* booklet states that any note-taking “must [...] not cause significant delay to the judging.” Strict scheduling is so deeply ingrained in the culture of our shows that I’m not sure we’d ever be able to shift that thinking.

That said, I believe prepar-

ing critiques is an excellent exercise for any AKC judge because it makes you accountable to the exhibitor. In four decades of dog shows, I have found few judges who could effectively verbalize what they saw or did not see in the dogs I brought them. Most latched onto a single fault or spoke so ambiguously I was left with the impression they really had no idea. I think perhaps it’s because this was a skill they simply didn’t learn. Having to write an assessment you know the exhibitor will read and then try to apply to their dog forces you to be precise in your thinking. It also teaches you to be “ever kind” and “a little blind,” lest you fall into the trap of fault judging.

I hope all of our judges one day have the opportunity to write critiques and then allow that experience to inform their process.

—Jessica Breinholt,
jbshca@gmail.com
Siberian Husky Club of
America



WORKING GROUP

Standard Schnauzers

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

This is a continuation of the 2024 series about the phases of a Standard Schnauzer's life.

I've owned, loved, and been owned by this phenomenal, nearly-a-millennium-old dog breed for over half a century. I'm enthralled by their beauty, intelligence, loyalty, mischievousness, *joie de vivre*, sense of humor, loveliness, and just plain cuddliness. I feel blessed for having Standard Schnauzers in my daily life. But this lovable breed requires a firm hand; the SS is not a breed for beginners.

Daily Walks Are Training Opportunities

Daily walks on lead are essential as your Standard Schnauzer puppy enters his adolescent years. First let your dog sniff and check pee-mail. Then begin a period of formal exercise training on lead.

Wait! you say. Your ado-

lescent dog gets plenty of exercise running freely in your yard or dog park or open countryside. Yes, I respond, but formal daily walks constitute disciplined exercise: for training opportunities to achieve specific desired responses, for training and conditioning of different muscle groups, and for civilizing the wildness of the adolescent dog.

Train your youngster to walk *on lead* sedately at your side in heel position, regardless of such distractions as squirrel or other animal sightings, nearby dogs, or approaching people. This is a skill he'll use his entire life, whether at a dog show, performance trial, out in public, or on a ramble in the woods or fields with you.

A useful habit you can train on your daily walks is *stopping at street corners and looking for oncoming traffic before crossing*. You live in a rural area with no street corners? How about when you reach the end of your driveway where it meets the road? Stop, look

both ways, and teach your pup to do the same; then cross the road and continue your walk. If your dog ever escapes out the door or otherwise gets away from you, he'll be safe if he has the ingrained habit not to run heedlessly into traffic.

An extra benefit of daily walks is the chance for one-on-one bonding with your dog. Standard Schnauzers are like the potato-chip ad that says you can't have just one: eventually you'll have two, or three, or ... The daily walk affords your SS some time alone with you without the clamoring of the rest of the tribe.

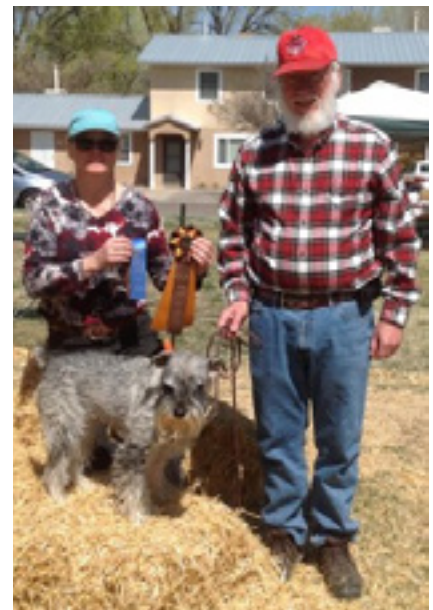
At one time, my SS pack numbered eleven, all of whom lived in the house and needed regular daily walks, training, and affection. The resulting chaos prompted me to formulate Suzanne's Second Law: *Never have more SS than there are hands in the family to hold leashes, one lead per dog per hand*. One-on-one or at most two-on-one time is necessary for training your SS to be a

COURTESY SUZANNE T. SMITH

BREED COLUMNS



WORKING GROUP



Standard Schnauzer Emma (Ch./UCD Asgard Mesa Mist Wustefuchs, CGC, CD, RA, RATI, RATN, and SSCA Leading Producer), introduction to Barn Hunt; Emma qualifies for her RATN title; Ivory (GCh. Wustefuchs Ivory Mesa, CGC, RATI, RATN, RATO) finishing her RATO title—with fastest time in trial.



dog with whom you can live comfortably.

A friend and fellow dog lover lost her job. To stretch her savings while she hunted

for employment in her field, she started a dog-walking enterprise, and soon her outstanding reviews on social media led to business

growth greater than she had anticipated. As Ron and I drove around town, we often would see her out walking her client dog pack, holding leashes of a dozen dogs ranging from Papillons to Labradors. Nobody witnessed what happened on that fateful day, but theory held that she stumbled on a

COURTESY SUZANNE T. SMITH

WORKING GROUP

tree root or uneven chunk of sidewalk, fell and landed on the hand holding the leashes, taking a severe blow to her head from her fall. By the time somebody found her amid a cluster of dogs, she was dead, still holding the leashes underneath her body. The moral of this story is never walk more dogs at one time than you have hands—two per person.

Teething While Training, and Training While Teething

Losing 28 baby teeth and having 42 adult teeth slowly grow into the same space over a period of several months is a traumatic experience as your SS puppy grows into his/her adolescence. It's uncomfortable and painful for the puppy. Those gums just plain *hurt*. Every puppy owner needs a few of Kong's Puppy Teething Sticks (<https://www.chewy.com/kong-puppy-teething-stick-dog-toy/dp/118857>).

Nipping, mouthing, and biting are all normal behavior for teething puppies trying to soothe sore gums, but don't

let it go too far. If nipping and biting become a problem, a loud, high-pitched "Ow-zw-zw-zw!" will reduce the number of biting attempts. Your SS puppy must understand that biting hurts you. (A related issue your puppy must understand is the old cliché about not biting the hand that feeds him.)

Over time, your adolescent SS will shed those razor-sharp milk teeth to make room for permanent adult teeth. A guide to puppy teething along with a good chart of what to expect when is at <https://betterpet.com/teething-puppy/>. Periodically, check your puppy's mouth for retained milk teeth once the adult teeth arrive. See your vet (or dog-friendly dentist) for removal of any retained baby teeth. You risk breaking the tooth below the gumline if you try to pull it yourself, setting up a plethora of future problems.

Cold compresses or cold mashed banana or apple-sauce rubbed on sore gums help to relieve the pain.

Chewing on something both cold and hard, such as a chilled hard rubber bone or toy, can bring relief. Be very leery of homeopathic remedies for teething: Some contain belladonna (deadly nightshade) and have been responsible for many human infant deaths—and an unknown number of puppy deaths. Check ingredients for dog safety.

Some puppy parents use high-value rewards to train puppies that chewing on their chew toys instead of hands, household items, or furniture is good behavior deserving of a reward; see <https://www.petsradar.com/advice/five-top-teething-puppy-tips-how-to-keep-their-canines-healthy>.

Others have had success with soft-ish rubber chew toys (*not* hard chew toys that can damage their teeth) such as the rubber toys made by KONG and West Paw, which can be put in the freezer. The cold helps soothe their gums, as can chewing on the toy.

The best puppy teething

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toys on the market include the West Paw Zogoflex Toppl, a durable food toy that encourages puppies to problem-solve. You place food or treats into an opening in the toy, challenging your dog to figure out how to extract it (<https://www.chewy.com/west-paw-zogoflex-toppl-tough-treat/dp/109833>). The bone-shaped West Paw Zogoflex Hurley is an excellent alternative to teething sticks ([https://www.chewy.com/s?query=West Paw Zogoflex Hurley&nav-submit-button=](https://www.chewy.com/s?query=West+Paw+Zogoflex+Hurley&nav-submit-button=)). This teething toy, ideal for both young puppies and adolescents, can be frozen. You can be sure dog toys sourced and made in America are free of materials that might harm your dog (<https://madeintheusamatters.com/dog-toys-made-in-the-usa-american-made-brand-directory/>).

A friend regularly gave her dogs natural deer antlers to chew on, obtained through the years from hunter friends, with no problem for any of her dogs. Recently she bought a commercial

deer antler that originated in another country. To pass USDA inspection, the antler had been pasteurized, resulting in a “cooked,” cement-like consistency. The poor pup who chewed on this antler broke teeth that required expensive dental surgery to repair. The moral of this story is *Do not give your dogs commercial deer antlers or other hard objects as chew toys!* Stick to Kongs, West Paw toys, or other American-made “hard” rubber toys that yield slightly when squeezed between your fingers.

Don't Overtrain Your Dog

Standard Schnauzer intelligence is amazing. SS are fast learners, requiring less training than most other breeds. In my experience with our dogs who participated in assorted performance sports, it took longer for the human half of the team to learn the requirements of a sport than it did for the canine half. After taking a SS through a new exercise once or twice,

the dog seems to say, “OK. I’ve got that. Now what?” Meanwhile, his human is still pondering how to do the exercise right.

For example, our dogs took to Barn Hunt with little training except encouraging them to climb atop a straw bale; now they regard clambering over the bales at a trial as fun. Searching out vermin is a natural instinct for most SS. In the 1970s, the late breeder-judge Roger Hartinger proposed that rattling trials should be featured in SSCA’s national specialties. His proposal has come to fruition now with Barn Hunt, a regular at our nationals.

When Ron took the lead off Ch./CDX Emma in the ring at her first trial, she sneezed, shook her head, and looked up at him as if to say, “You want me to do *what?*” Even after the judge showed her a rat in a canister at trial’s end, she sniffed the rat once, then looked away, uninterested. At the 2014 Pleasanton national, she was the last run of the

WORKING GROUP

last day of Barn Hunt, sniffing atop a three-bale pile; she lost her footing and fell one level, accidentally dislodging a canister with 0.02 seconds left. Ron uttered a startled “Rat!” and *lo!*—the rat indeed was within, thus earning Emma her third leg and qualifying for her RATN.

On the other hand, GCh. Ivory (Emma’s daughter) loved Barn Hunt. A joyful hunter, she finished each competition with either the fastest time in the entire trial or with the second-fastest time. Of course, she was also fastest in her class, easily completing her RATN and RATO; she was well on her way to her RATS at the time of her untimely death.

The End of Adolescence

So when does a Standard Schnauzer’s adolescence finally end? It depends on your definition of when a dog is an adult. Don’t expect a dog to stop chewing on toys or chew bones; if your adolescent SS enjoyed

such chewing, he’ll chew until his teeth give out—with luck and good genes, far into the future. Don’t expect your SS ever to stop being curious; with curiosity comes its sidekick, mischievousness. Don’t expect your SS to stop hunting vermin; it’s a breed characteristic as natural as breathing. Don’t expect your SS to stop being joyful, intelligent, loyal, or lovable; those characteristics are part of what makes your SS a Standard Schnauzer.

We may have been fortunate with in our bloodlines’ genes. Other folks may disagree with this, but I’ve observed that unless stricken with an unexpected fatal malady, a Standard Schnauzer remains in puppy-adolescent stasis until about three weeks before the Grim Reaper takes them to the Rainbow Bridge (<https://www.rainbowsbridge.com/Poem.htm>—which has inspired National Rainbow Bridge Remembrance Day, held each year on Aug. 28). Put up with his/her adolescence, and be happy with your SS’s ongoing Peter-Pan

syndrome (“I *won’t* grow up...”).

The AKC GAZETTE has been published monthly since 1889. The series Phases of a Standard Schnauzer Life appears in four issues. For “So You Have a New Puppy,” go to <https://www.akc.org/products-services/magazines/akc-gazette/> and scroll down through the archived 2024 issues; click January and go to Page 117. “Adolescent Standard Schnauzers Can Be Fun ... Or Not! Part 1” is in the April 2024 issue at Page 113. “Adolescent Standard Schnauzers Can Be Fun ... Or Not! Part 2” is in the July 2024 issue. The Adult Standard Schnauzer, as yet untitled, will appear in the October 2024 issue.

—Suzanne T. Smith (Los Alamos, New Mexico), Wüstefuchs Standard Schnauzers, AKC Breeder of Merit

WustefuchsSS@aol.com; —
www.GoodFoodGreatDogs.com

[Standard Schnauzer Club of America](http://StandardSchnauzerClubofAmerica.com)



SECRETARY'S PAGES

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

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

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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, September 10, 2024**. For the sole purpose of conducting the vote for the Delegate Standing Committees, the meeting will be called to order at 9:30 a.m. After those present at that time have voted, the Delegate Meeting will recess to begin the Forum (approximately 1 hour in duration). The Delegate Meeting will reconvene following the conclusion of the Forum at which time anyone who had not yet voted will have the opportunity to do so, then the polls will be closed.

DELEGATE CREDENTIALS

Nancy Amburgey, Mason, OH,
Akita Club of America
Robert Lamm, East Windsor, NJ,
Bearded Collie Club of America
Desmond J. Murphy, Monroe, NY,
Los Encinos Kennel Club
Karen L. Smith, Fallbrook, CA,
Great Western Terrier Association of
Southern CA
Jefferson Sossamon, Columbia, MO,
Columbia Missouri Kennel Club

 **gazette** Click here to read the July 2024 issue!

Cynthia J. Weight-Carter, Lakeside, CA,
Miniature American Shepherd Club of
the USA

Brice Wonders, Kirkland, PA,
Skye Terrier Club of America

NOTICE

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

Mr. Todd Bomkamp (Barrington, IL)

Ms. Kelsy Kirkpatrick (Houston, TX)

Ms. Deborah McKenna (Parker, CO)

NOTICE

Ms. Lori Bies (Ypsilanti, MI). Action was taken by the Ann Arbor Dog Training Club for conduct at its April 27, 2024 event. Ms. Bies was charged with improper treatment in connection with an event. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the Event Committee's report and set the penalty as a reprimand and imposed a \$100 fine. (Australian Shepherds)

NOTICE

Mr. Jim Crandell (Dade City, FL). Action was taken by the Fort Lauderdale

Dog Club for conduct at its April 27, 2024 event. Mr. Crandell was charged with inappropriate, abusive, or foul language and physical contact of an insulting or provoking nature. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the Event Committee's report and set the combined penalty as a three-month suspension of event privileges and imposed a \$800 fine, effective May 7, 2024. (Multiple Breeds)

NOTICE

Ms. Angela McCrann Hoover (Odessa, FL). Action was taken by the North Georgia All Breed Herding Dog Association for conduct at its May 19, 2024 event. Ms. McCrann Hoover was charged with inappropriate, abusive, or foul language. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the Event Committee's report and set the penalty as a reprimand and imposed a \$100 fine. (Golden Retriever, Border Collies)

NOTICE

Ms. Lisa Uber (Fort Lauderdale, FL). Action was taken by the Fort Lauderdale Dog Club for conduct at its April 27, 2024 event. Ms. Uber was charged with inappropriate, abusive, or foul language. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the Event Committee's report and set the penalty

as a reprimand and imposed a \$100 fine. (Bulldogs)

NOTICE

The AKC's Management Disciplinary Committee has suspended the following individuals for six-months from all AKC privileges and imposed a \$500 fine, for non-compliance with AKC's Care and Conditions Policy (unacceptable conditions, dogs, and/or facility) as well as AKC's record keeping and dog identification requirements:

Effective June 11, 2024:

Mr. Leland Koenig (New Rockford, ND)
Siberian Huskies, St. Bernards
Mr. Troy Thomas (Wake Forest, NC)
German Shepherd Dogs

NOTICE

The AKC's Management Disciplinary Committee has suspended Ms. Maria Alejandra Lopez Rios (Hawthorne, NJ) for six-months from all AKC privileges and imposed a \$500 fine for refusal to make her dogs and records available for inspection, effective June 11, 2024. (French Bulldogs)

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE RULES APPLYING TO DOG SHOWS – CHAPTER 9, SECTION 11 and CHAPTER 11, SECTION 12

The AKC Board has endorsed the follow-

ing amendment to **Chapter 9, Section 11** and **Chapter 11, Section 12**, of the *Rules Applying to Dogs Shows*, proposed by the Dog Show Rules Committee. This will be voted on at the September 10, 2024 Delegate Meeting.

CHAPTER 9 SUPERINTENDANTS AND SHOW SECRETARIES SECTION 11.

Previous portions of this section are unchanged.

For the purpose of this section, the employees of a Superintendent would include only those individuals who represent the Superintendent or superintending organization at dog shows.

Dogs owned wholly or in part by a Superintendent, an individual licensed to superintend events as an employee of the Superintendent, any other employee of the superintendent, any individual with an ownership interest in a superintending organization, or any person residing in the same household as any of the foregoing, shall be ineligible to be entered at any show held thirty days before or after a show which the Superintendent has been approved to manage by The American Kennel Club.

Any person acting in the capacity of Superintendent or Show Secretary must

abide by the eligibility requirements described in Chapter 11, Section 12 of these *Rules*.

CHAPTER 11 DOG SHOW ENTRIES, CONDITIONS OF DOGS AFFECTING ELIGIBILITY SECTION 12.

Any person acting in the capacity of Superintendent or Show Secretary at a show, or any person residing in the same household with the Superintendent or Show Secretary shall not exhibit, act as agent or handler at the show, and dogs owned wholly or in part by him or by any person residing in the same household with him shall be ineligible to be entered at that show. The official veterinarian shall not exhibit, act as agent or handler at the show, and the dogs owned wholly or in part by him shall not be eligible to be entered at that show.

A Superintendent, an individual licensed to superintend events as an employee of the Superintendent, any other employee of the Superintendent, or any person residing in the same household as any of the foregoing, shall not exhibit or act as agent or handler, at any show held thirty days before or after a show which the Superintendent has been approved to service by The American Kennel Club.

Remaining portions of this section are unchanged.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE RULES APPLYING TO DOG SHOWS – CHAPTER 10, SECTION 2 AND CHAPTER 10, SECTION 5

The AKC Board has endorsed the following amendment to **Chapter 10, Section 2** and **Section 5**, of the *Rules Applying to Dogs Shows*, proposed by the Dog Show Rules Committee. This will be voted on at the September 10, 2024 Delegate Meeting.

CHAPTER 10 SHOW VETERINARIANS SECTION 2.

The Show Veterinarian must be available during show hours to examine any dog that becomes ill or injured at the dog show during show hours or referred by the Event Committee for examination. It will be the responsibility of the owner or owner's agent to transport the dog to the veterinarian and for any cost associated with the dog's examination, illness, or injury. "On call" veterinarians are not required to be present at the event.

CHAPTER 10 SHOW VETERINARIANS SECTION 5.

The duties of the Show Veterinarian shall be to:

(a) Render treatment to dogs in the cases of sickness or injury occurring at the event. The associated expense shall be the responsibility of the owner or owner's agent.

(b) Examine dogs at the request of the Event Committee and require removal from competition and the show premises of any dog deemed to endanger the health of said dog or the health of other dogs at the event. If any expenses are incurred in the examination of the dog, it shall be the responsibility of the owner or owner's agent of the dog.

(c) Provide written reports of such decisions to the Event Committee and superintendent.

(d) Provide written advisory opinions to an Event Committee when requested.

Show Veterinarians are not to be called to treat dogs with non-emergency conditions or with no apparent contagious symptoms. Show Veterinarians may request payment from the dog's owner or agent for services rendered.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE RULES APPLYING TO DOG SHOWS – CHAPTER 15, SECTION 1

The AKC Board has endorsed the following amendment to **Chapter 15, Section 1** of the *Rules Applying to Dogs Shows*, proposed by the Dog Show Rules Committee. This will be voted on at the September 10, 2024 Delegate Meeting.

CHAPTER 15 PROTESTS AGAINST DOGS SECTION 1.

Every exhibitor and handler shall have the right to request a veterinary examination of any dog within a show's premises which is considered to endanger the health of the other dogs in a show. This must be in writing and signed by the person making the request to the event chair, whose duty will be to direct the subject dog's owner or agent to take the dog to the Show Veterinarian if deemed appropriate. Any dog referred by the event chair for examination is excused from further competition at that event or any associated event the same day, the weekend, circuit, or the cluster until the Show Veterinarian examination is completed indicating the dog's presence does not endanger other dogs at the event.

Malicious complaints will be considered conduct prejudicial to the sport.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE FIELD TRIAL RULES AND STANDARD PROCEDURE FOR RETRIEVERS – CHAPTER 14, SECTION 4

The AKC Board has endorsed the following amendment to **Chapter 14, Section 4**, of the *Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedure for Retrievers*, proposed by the Retriever Field Trial Advisory Committee. This will be voted on at the September 10, 2024 Delegate Meeting.

CHAPTER 14 RULES FOR RETRIEVER FIELD TRIALS

SECTION 4.

(2nd paragraph)

In all stakes the judges will impose a system of rotation. The objective of the rotation is to spread the burden or benefit of running early equitably among the competing dogs. The Judges shall select the particular system of rotation to be used, and the system selected shall be publicly announced by the Judges and/or Marshal before the commencement of the stake to which the rotation will apply. If any dog, by consequence of the rotation, is designated to run first twice in the same stake, at the same field trial, he should be exempt from that obligation. In such an instance, said dog will be passed over and the next number in the callbacks shall be first. For example, if #22 had started a previous series and by some chance came up again to be first on a subsequent series in the same stake, at the same field trial, he would be passed over and the next dog in the sequence would be first (#23 or the next number in the callbacks).

CONFORMATION JUDGES

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

Rally, Tracking, and VST applicants should be addressed to the Companion Events Department in North Carolina.

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

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

Please notify Judging Operations by email at judgingops@akc.org.

APPLICANTS

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

NEW BREED JUDGING APPLICANTS

Dennis Balanag (115731) CA

(760) 686-6648

dennilane@msn.com

Bulldogs

Ms. Jodie Berry (115757) MA

jodie@willaby.net

Staffordshire Bull Terriers, JS-Limited

Heather Kelly (115693) CA

heather@oakbrooksamoyeds.com

Samoyeds, JS

Melanie Mercer, DVM (114545) MO

(214) 641-6578

vetmel1300@aol.com

Irish Wolfhounds

Dianne Mullikin (115691) CA

rycroft.geo@yahoo.com

Labrador Retrievers

ADDITIONAL BREED JUDGING APPLICANTS

Ms. Nancy S. Amburgey (42492) OH

(614) 264-7524

lopat@aol.com

Balance of Toy Group (Biewer Terriers, Brussels Griffons, Manchester Terriers, Miniature Pinschers, Russian Toys, Toy Fox Terriers)

Candace L. Ardizzone (102229) NY

(315) 481-1200

ardizzonefamily@verizon.net

Shetland Sheepdogs

Dr. Johan Becerra-Hernandez

(111406) FL

(689) 808-0858

johanbeclove@hotmail.com

Basset Hounds, American Eskimo Dogs, Bichons Frises, Chinese Shar-Pei, Cotons du Tulear, Finnish Spitz, Keeshonden, Lowchen, Schipperkes, Shiba Inu, Tibetan Terriers, Xoloitzcuintli

Mrs. Mary Benedict (66054) NY

(585) 747-5380

longacrecollies@yahoo.com

Balance of Herding Group (Lancashire Heelers, Mudik, Pumik), Doberman Pinschers, Siberian Huskies, American Eskimo Dogs

Ms. Sandy Bingham-Porter (94107) IL

(217) 345-7571

sbinghampoter@eiu.edu

Basenjis, Borzois, Cirnechi dell'Etna, Irish Wolfhounds, Petits Bassets Griffons Vendéens, Pharaoh Hounds, Salukis, Scottish Deerhounds, Whippets

Mr. Rick Blanchard (90228) RI

(401) 623-1475

nixbmf@aol.com

Cavalier King Charles Spaniels

Regina Lee Bryant (105299) CA

(209) 327-8778

catoriaussies@gmail.com

Beaucerons, Entlebucher Mountain Dogs

Mr. Stuart Cairns (101695) OH

(717) 659-9308

stgeorgebt@gmail.com

Wire Fox Terriers

Sandra Carter (106237) OR

(407) 509-5109

sandrajeancarter1960@gmail.com

Cairn Terriers, Miniature Bull Terriers, Bulldogs

Mrs. Edy Dykstra-Blum (20342) FL

(352) 208-6502

bizzeebootsoes@gmail.com

Cavalier King Charles Spaniels, Chihuahuas, Havanese

Mrs. Brenda Fontanos (111809) OR

(541) 405-6896
cuddleums@gmail.com

American Eskimo Dogs, Boston Terriers, French Bulldogs, Shiba Inu, Tibetan Terriers, Xoloitzcuintli

Mrs. Junko Guichon (111435) VA

(540) 247-1121
junko@guichonchi.com

Russian Toys, Silky Terriers

Jody (Jo Ann) Hill (112835) FL

(407) 353-6275
findjody2@gmail.com

Whippets, Boxers, Doberman Pinschers

Dr. Laura J. LaBounty (96455) NH

(603) 352-8597
specialcollies@msn.com

Beaucerons, Briards, Mudik, Spanish Water Dogs, Swedish Vallhunds

Mrs. Nancy Lovelady (97313) NV

(510) 502-3708
jwnsl@sbcglobal.net

Black and Tan Coonhounds, Bloodhounds, Bluetick Coonhounds, Harriers, Plott Hounds, Redbone Coonhounds, Treeing Walker Coonhounds

Mr. Joao Machado (110191) TX

(832) 339-6926
joao.machadoTX@gmail.com

Golden Retrievers, Airedale Terriers, American Hairless Terriers, Border Terriers, Smooth Fox Terriers, Irish Terriers, Kerry Blue Terriers, Scottish Terriers,

Skye Terriers, Welsh Terriers, Bichons Frises, French Bulldogs

Ms. Bonnie Money (105681) IN

(317) 452-2204
blmoney@att.net

Australian Shepherds, Border Collies

Mr. Gary Myers (96615) CA

(619) 992-4393
webe_gm@yahoo.com

Balance of Terrier Group (Glen of Imaal Terriers, Lakeland Terriers, Manchester Terriers, Miniature Schnauzers, Norwich Terriers, Welsh Terriers)

Dr. Tracy Powell (101481) CT

(203) 631-7110
dulcedanes@yahoo.com

Vizslas, American English Coonhounds, American Foxhounds, Beagles, Cirnechi dell'Etna, Ibizan Hounds, Petits Bassets Griffons Vendeens, Plott Hounds, Redbone Coonhounds, Sloughi

Mr. John C. Ramirez (1814) CA

(310) 991-0241
jrami68620@aol.com

Whippets, Pembroke Welsh Corgis

Dr. Valeria Rickard (92450) VA

(703) 919-8753
vrickard@jovalairedales.com

Gordon Setters, American Water Spaniels, Boykin Spaniels, Field Spaniels, Irish Water Spaniels, Sussex Spaniels

Dr. Judi Roller (102261) WI

(608) 370-2679
judir7024@gmail.com

Balance of Hound Group (American

English Coonhounds, American Foxhounds, Azawakhs, Beagles, Cirnechi dell'Etna, English Foxhounds, Harriers, Portuguese Podengo Pequenos, Salukis, Scottish Deerhounds)

Ms. Karen R. Scheiner (103945) NJ

(609) 417-0200

doxyladynj@gmail.com

Petits Bassets Griffons Vendeens, Whippets, Poodles, Silky Terriers, Yorkshire Terriers, Pulik, JS

Mr. John Schoeneman (98359) NC

(704) 363-7238

schohaus1@aol.com

Brittanys, Pointers, Flat Coated Retrievers, Labrador Retrievers, Cocker Spaniels, English Cocker Spaniels, English Springer Spaniels, Weimaraners

Rhonda Silveira (100061) OR

(503) 428-2021

rsilveira.akcjudge@outlook.com

American English Coonhounds, Beagles, Irish Wolfhounds, Norwegian Elkhounds, Petits Bassets Griffons Vendeens, Plott Hounds, Redbone Coonhounds

Mrs. Wendy Sorrell (75680) TN

(865) 900-2112

sorrellwendy2@gmail.com

Anatolian Shepherd Dogs, Bernese Mountain Dogs, Leonbergers

Ms. Erika Wyatt (107433) IL

(708) 612-3647

erika@sloughi.us

American English Coonhounds, Bluetick

Coonhounds, Borzois, Harriers, Norwegian Elkhounds, Whippets

Mrs. Lisa Young (43070) AZ

(605) 390-1135

youngsonbeagles@gmail.com

Bloodhounds, Salukis

JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP JUDGING APPLICANTS

Ms. Michelle Denson (114357) FL

(352)615-0560

michelle@mystiquemalinois.com

Ms. Julianna Falk (115685) WA

julianna262@yahoo.com

Ms. Emilie Hooker (115687) CA

(805)231-4828

emilie.hooker27@gmail.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

Ms. Paula L. Ayers (115205) GA

(770) 905-5622

playerscav@aol.com

Cavalier King Charles Spaniels

Ms. Suzanne Burns (115287) SC

(704) 608-9015

prism_weims@outlook.com

Weimaraners

Mrs. Erica Cross (111383) DE

(817) 914-4452

ilvolarespinoni@yahoo.com

Spinoni Italiani, Basset Hounds, Chihuahuas, Dalmatians

Mr. Dominic Koon (115351) GA

(865) 582-1044

dominic.koon@gmail.com

Boston Terriers

Ms. Jodi Koon (115353) GA

(865) 582-1044

jodi.l.koon@gmail.com

Boston Terriers

Ms. Nancy McClure (114631) WA

(360) 789-7393

monarchterv@comcast.net

Belgian Laekenois, Belgian Malinois, Belgian Sheepdogs, Belgian Tervurens

Ms. Dawn Marie Nacey (98878) IL

(815) 218-8765

dawnnacey@gmail.com

Labrador Retrievers

Mr. Brian Palmer (115157) MI

(734) 730-5547

bhpalmer61@gmail.com

Siberian Huskies, JS

Dr. Gayle T. Reardon (114889) SD

(605) 366-2482

gtrdds@aol.com

Cavalier King Charles Spaniels, JS

Mr. Robert J. Urban (91116) OH

(440) 413-1973

foxfirehounds@yahoo.com

Black and Tan Coonhounds

ADDITIONAL BREED PERMIT JUDGES

Dr. Azalea Alvarez (97321) FL

(954) 434-0318

minsmere954@yahoo.com

Balance of Hound Group (American Foxhounds, Azawakhs, Borzois, Cirneci dell'Etna, English Foxhounds, Harriers, Salukis, Sloughi), Kerry Blue Terriers, Miniature Bull Terriers, Scottish Terriers

Mrs. Elizabeth Crisp Blake (109212) CA

(530) 400-9322

ranthorbts1970@gmail.com

American Hairless Terriers, Australian Terriers, Irish Terriers, Scottish Terriers, West Highland White Terriers

Ms. Janet Bodin (101381) WI

(414) 614-7822

jbodin@wi.rr.com

Great Pyrenees, Old English Sheepdogs

Mr. Brian C. Bogart (100059) NY

(716) 984-0012

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Bernese Mountain Dogs, Cane Corsos, Newfoundlands, Samoyeds

Miss Kelly Kathlyn Boyd (101577) OR

(541) 905-3451

kellybob@tovik.com

Alaskan Malamutes, Beaucerons

Mrs. Kathleen J. Brock (47792) WA

(253) 988-1764

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Azawakhs

Ms. Alisa Brotherhood (103359) TX

(281) 989-3130

touchstone0525@att.net

Golden Retrievers, Bernese Mountain Dogs, Cane Corsos, Kuvaszok, Standard Schnauzers

Mr. Richard Brown (108381) MI

(248) 514-9665

ricbulldog@aol.com

Chinese Shar-Pei, Dalmatians, French Bulldogs

Kathy Bube (37916) IN

(812) 736-0563

kbbube@gmail.com

Chow Chows

Mr. Dean Burwell (103997) SC

(803) 628-8323

dean@pawgate.com

Skye Terriers, Welsh Terriers

Mrs. Christine E. Calcinari (7041) NH

(603) 205-7909

belhaven.nh@icloud.com

English Toy Spaniels, Pugs

Mrs. Kathleen V. Carter (6164) CO

(303) 425-6756

ckathy219@gmail.com

Bearded Collies, Miniature American Shepherds, Mudik, Old English Sheepdogs

Col. Jonathan C. Chase (25999) SC

(859) 473-2107

jonathan.c.chase@gmail.com

English Setters

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 Terriers, Skye Terriers

Ms. Mary Faeth (101477) CA

(530) 210-7791

spinfandel@yahoo.com

Balance of Terrier Group (Manchester Terriers, Scottish Terriers, Skye Terriers, West Highland White Terriers), Rhodesian Ridgebacks

Debra Ferguson-Jones (95483) WA

(425) 228-9750

debrafergusonjones@gmail.com

German Shorthaired Pointers, German 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

Ms. Kathleen J. Ferris (47953) PA

(215) 680-1012

kajalene@gmail.com

Brussels Griffons, Papillons, Pekingese

Mrs. Emily Fish (92354) WA

(360) 904-5765

emilypawcific@yahoo.com

Balance of Sporting Group (Bracci Italiani, Pointers, Irish Setters, Boykin Spaniels, Cocker Spaniels, English Springer

Spaniels, Field Spaniels, Irish Water Spaniels, Wirehaired Pointing Griffons)

Mr. David Fitzpatrick (27307) PA

(717) 586-0961
dcfitz7@aol.com

American Eskimo Dogs, Bulldogs, Chinese Shar-Pei, Chow Chows, Dalmatians, Lowchen, Tibetan Spaniels

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

Amy Gau (90627) MN

(507) 843-5312
amy@anstechnicalventures.com
Chihuahuas, Italian Greyhounds, Maltese, Pugs

Ms. Honey Anne Glendinning (6773) AB

(604) 943-4313
honeyanneg@icloud.com
Balance of Non-Sporting Group (Keeshonden), Azawakhs, Beagles, Greyhounds, Ibizan Hounds, Pharaoh Hounds

Mrs. Nancy Griego (90264) NM

(505) 681-8020
nrgakc@spinn.net
Beaucerons, Canaan Dogs, Finnish Lapphunds, Icelandic Sheepdogs, Miniature American Shepherds

Mr. Steve Hayden (6674) IL

(217) 725-3647
hybrk1@comcast.net
Cane Corsos, Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs

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, Scottish Terriers, Welsh Terriers

Ms. Kathryn Madden (92226) NY

(516) 885-4860
madterv@gmail.com
Labrador Retrievers, Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers, Cocker Spaniels, Irish Water Spaniels, Sussex Spaniels

Mrs. Molly Martin (6650) AL

(334) 271-2778
mollydmartin@gmail.com
Alaskan Malamutes, Bernese Mountain Dogs, Bullmastiffs, Great Pyrenees, Portuguese Water Dogs, Saint Bernards

Ms. Shelley Miller (102995) NC

(919) 525-5001
sunmagicclumbers@gmail.com
Barbets, Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers, American Water Spaniels, Cocker Spaniels, English Cocker Spaniels, Spinoni Italiani

Mrs. Chris Ann Moore (108927) AR

(479) 221-0555

bisacd@aol.com

Bernese Mountain Dogs, Boerboels, Neapolitan Mastiffs, Newfoundlands, Pembroke Welsh Corgis

Ms. Mary B. Napper (62737) TX

(817) 458-1442

mbnapper@gmail.com

Bracci Italiani, Nederlandse Kooikerhondjes, Flat Coated Retrievers, Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers

Ms. Laura Reeves (105393) OR

(541) 761-1867

scotiadawgs@gmail.com

Pointers, Curly-Coated Retrievers, Flat Coated Retrievers, American Water Spaniels, Boykin Spaniels, Wirehaired Vizslas

Mr. Andrew Ritter (92968) NJ

(908) 996-7355

cerri.bmd@att.net

Balance of Herding Group (Lancashire Heelers, Mudik)

Mr. Jeffrey Paul Ryman (93219) WA

(425) 876-2213

jeff_ryman@hotmail.com

Belgian Malinois, Belgian Sheepdogs, Cardigan Welsh Corgis, Mudik, Old English Sheepdogs, Pembroke Welsh Corgis, Pulik, Pumik

Mrs. Gina M. Schag (108997) IL

(630) 669-1131

chulachis@yahoo.com

Japanese Chins, Papillons, Poodles

Barbara C. Scherer (58838) IL

(630) 388-8290

hairologybk@gmail.com

Golden Retrievers

Mrs. Janice (Jan) Schreiber (17450) WA

(253) 846-7999

ashenafea@msn.com

Lagotti Romagnoli, Vizslas

Dr. Jerry Sulewski (93475) WI

(920) 833-2242

collieknutt@yahoo.com

Samoyeds

Mr. Scott Toney (110847) NC

(704) 968-4491

midwoodchin@gmail.com

Chinese Cresteds, English Toy Spaniels, Havanese, Miniature Pinschers, Pomeranians

Mrs. Cindy J. Valko (110124) PA

(412) 780-6129

somersetsts@comcast.net

Alaskan Malamutes, Doberman Pinschers, Dogo Argentinos, Mastiffs

Ms. Judy Wade (99715) OK

(214) 693-4447

wademanordogs@gmail.com

Chow Chows, Dalmatians

Dr. Jill Warren (94859) NM

(505) 670-5590

esthete.es@comcast.net

Affenpinschers, Cavalier King Charles Spaniels

Ms. Susan Willumsen (52119) NH

(603) 475-1588

willcare@comcast.net

Lagotti Romagnoli, German Wirehaired Pointers, American Water Spaniels, Boykin Spaniels, Clumber Spaniels, Field Spaniels, Irish Water Spaniels, Welsh Springer Spaniels, Spinoni Italiani, Wire-haired Vizslas

JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP PERMIT JUDGES

Mrs. Katherine Halton Berns (115217) TN

khaltonberns@gmail.com

Regina M. Hess (115215) MI

(269) 591-0487

hiqscot@comcast.net

Mrs. Liane Paulson (114051) AZ

(520) 234-6560

ravenclawterrier@aol.com

Mr. Celso Schneider (114851) IL

(312) 843-3321

celsoschneider@mac.com

CONFORMATION JUDGES: RESIGNED BREED OR JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP

The judges below have notified AKC to resign their privileges for the following:

Ms. Alice J. Bixler

Junior Showmanship

Mr. Michael Buckley

Junior Showmanship

Ms. Betsy Dale

Junior Showmanship

Mr. William Daugherty

Junior Showmanship

Mrs. Terry DePietro

Junior Showmanship

Mr. Tom Hale

Junior Showmanship

Mr. Ken Murray

Junior Showmanship

Mrs. Virginia Murray

Junior Showmanship

Mr. Larry Stein

Junior Showmanship

RESIGNED CONFORMATION JUDGES

Mrs. Karin B. Ashe

Mr. Lewis Bayne

Ms. Mary Childs

Mrs. Brooke Counts

Mrs. Heather Barry Kappes

Ms. Naomi J. Waynee

EMERITUS CONFORMATION JUDGES

Mrs. Ginny (Virginia) Altman

Mrs. Frances H. (Marci) Forrester

Mrs. Dixie J. Howell-Hirsch

Mrs. Janet Hitt

DECEASED CONFORMATION JUDGES

Mrs. Vera Anderson

Mr. Ronald John Lombardi

Robert Olsen

Mr. Richard (Rowdy) A. Yates

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.

Marlene Becker (109605) FL

(352) 397-0018
 shorthorserider@gmail.com
 Rally – All

Jeanette Rogers (110715) FL

(239) 770-0517
 jrusic@icloud.com
 Rally – All

Ruth Vaughan (98461) NY

(585) 944-6981
 ruth.a.vaughan@gmail.com
 Tracking – TDX

**NEW PROVISIONAL OBEDIENCE/RALLY/
TRACKING JUDGES**

The following persons have been approved as a judge on a **Provisional** basis for the class/test indicated in accordance with the Provisional judging system. **They may now accept assignments**

Ira C Kaplan D.V.M. (71504) MA

(781) 275-0513
 amfmick@oakridgeblm.org
 Obedience – Utility

Debra Keith (114919) NY

(607) 423-1010
 crazyboutdogs1@gmail.com
 Rally – All

**APPLICATION FOR BREED-SPECIFIC
REGISTERED NAME PREFIX**

The following applications for a breed-specific Registered Name Prefix

have been submitted to The American Kennel Club.

- ARUBMEC- Basenjis- Patricia E. Cembura
- AZELEE- Cane Corso-Amber D. Wagers
- BACCARET-Boxers-Tiffany Brigante
- CALYPSO-Peruvian Inca Orchids-Barbara A. DuBois
- CUSPEIRE-Irish Wolfhounds-Susan D. Fife
- DARMOOR-Golden Retrievers- Darla A. Morris & Keith A. Morris
- JOVIEL- English Cocker- Kelly J. Butkiewicz
- L'AURORA-Golden Retriever- Debra Lindsay-Hudgins
- MERIDIAN- Labrador Retrievers-Roberta R. Primeau
- RED-DAWN- Golden Retrievers-Alicia Ward
- SHIISAA-Japanese Chins-Tiffany L. Howard
- SOUTHERNSTAR-Alaskan Malamutes-Dayna Padgett
- STAR MOUNTAIN- Estrela Mountain Dogs-Kevin E. Pries
- TRILOGY-French Bulldogs-Susan Cooper
- TRUFFLE WORLD- Lagotto Romagnolo-Olha Ogrady
- WEE LIL'RASCALS-Chihuahuas-Jeanette S. Honzay

REGISTERED NAME PREFIXES GRANTED

The following applications for a breed-specific Registered Name Prefix have been granted.

APEXOK-Cane Corso-Monty Fariss

ARKINLIGHT- Siberian Husky-Binh T. Pham

BELLAMOR-Pomeranians-Yuka Goto

CARROTWOOD- Australian Shepherds-Acacia Schendel

CASTLE CREEK- Mastiffs- Valerie L. Thomas

CEILIMOR-Cavalier King Charles Spaniels-Breda McCarty

CHESWYND- Vizslas- Deborah S. Broussard

EASY STREET- Miniature American Shepherds-Jamie L. Murphy

ELMWOODE- Labrador Retrievers- Chris J. Rowland

JERDAN- Great Danes- Jose E. Ribo

KELLEY'S- Cavalier King Charles Spaniels-Kristen L. Kelley & Jonathan M. Kelley

LEGACY-Cardigan Welsh Corgis-Sharon M. Wilson & Lee Hardigree

LIONPALACE- Pekingese-Kristina Lysanova

MACPAK- Golden Retrievers – MaryJo A. McCormack

MERAMEC-Golden Retrievers-Kaitlynn L. Myers & Pamela L. Sohl-Myers

NORMANDY-Bouviere des Flandres-Laura L. Bowman & John Bowman

OLVERA- Boxers- Al Olvera & Ivonne Olvera

PARADOX-Vizslas-Nancy Boggs Heinold, DVM

STAND FAST-Basenjis-Nancy K. Grant

VIGILANTE -Bulldogs- Charles C. Mason & Charles O. Mason

WETLANDS-Labrador Retrievers-Barbara Jorgensen



**QUARTERLY MEETING OF
THE DELEGATES OF THE
AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB
JUNE 11, 2024**

Dennis B. Sprung, President
PRESENT 261

Affenpinscher Club of America—*Letisha De La Torre*

Afghan Hound Club of America, Inc.—*Ms. Constance Butherus*

Airedale Terrier Club of America—*Aletta L. Moore*

Alaskan Malamute Club of America, Inc.—*Kate McCallum*

Albany Kennel Club, Inc.—*Corey Heenan*

American Bloodhound Club—*Mary Lou Olszewski*

American Brittany Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Terry Hilliard*

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 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 Wirehaired Pointing Griffon Association—*Cindy Grodkiewicz*

Anatolian Shepherd Dog Club of America—*Edward Collins*

Anderson Obedience Training Club, Inc.—*Ms. Patricia A. Sample*

Ashtabula Kennel Club—*Mr. Vincent P. Chianese*

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*

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*

Berger Picard Club of America—*Jacqueline Carswell*

Berks County Kennel Club, Inc.—*Kathleen Kurtz*

Border Terrier Club of America, Inc.—*Mrs. Ruth A. Naun*

Briard Club of America, Inc.—*Diane Reid*

Bronx County Kennel Club—*Alexa Samarotto*

Brookhaven Kennel Club, Inc.—*Marie A. Fiore*

Bucks County Kennel Club, Inc.—*Priscilla Gabosch*

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*

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*

Carolina Kennel Club, Inc.—*Jaimie Ashby*

Carroll Kennel Club—*Mrs. Rachann E. Mayer*

Catoctin Kennel Club—*Joseph Fitzgerald*

Catonsville Kennel Club—*Beverly A. Drake*

Central New York Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Diane D. Almy*

Chain O'Lakes Kennel Club—*Jason Hoke*

Chihuahua Club of America, Inc.—*Michelle Brislin*

Chinese Shar-Pei Club of America, Inc.—*Marge B. Calltharp*

Chow Chow Club, Inc.—*Margaret DiCorleto*

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 Kennel Club—*Mrs. Louise Leone*

Columbia Kennel Club, Inc.—*Nili Young*

Columbia Terrier Association of Maryland—*Leslie A. Jaseph*

Conroe Kennel Club—*Jane Bates*

Conyers Kennel Club of Georgia—*Dr. Yves Belmont*

Cudahy Kennel Club—*Mr. Don H. Adams*

Dalmatian Club of America, Inc.—*Dr. Charles Garvin*

Dandie Dinmont Terrier Club of America, Inc.—*Richard Yoho*

Del Valle Dog Club of Livermore—*Mrs. Sandra McCue*

Del-Otse-Nango Kennel Club—*Stephanie A. Crawford*

Delaware Water Gap Kennel Club—*Dr. A. D. Butherus*

Dog Fanciers Association of Oregon, Inc.—*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.*

Finger Lakes Kennel Club, Inc.—*Margaret B. Pough*

First Dog Training Club of Northern New Jersey, Inc.—*Mary D. Curtis*

Flat-Coated Retriever Society of America, Inc.—*Neal Goodwin*

Fort Worth Kennel Club—*Harold Tatro III*

French Bulldog Club of America—*Robin Stansell*

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*

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 County Kennel Club, Inc.—*Barbara Breidenback*

Gloucester Kennel Club of Virginia—*Debbie Hockaday*

Golden Retriever Club of America—*Mrs. Ellen Hardin*

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 Fredericksburg Kennel Club—*Helen Norton*

Greater Ocala Dog Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Penny DiSiena*

Greater Philadelphia Dog Fanciers Association—*Mr. Jerry A. Berkowitz*

Greater Swiss Mountain Dog Club of America, Inc.—*Joanne Schottinger*

Greenville Kennel Club—*Gloria Askins*

Greenwich Kennel Club—*Donna Gilbert*

Harrisburg Kennel Club, Inc.—*Sandra L. Rolenaitis*

Hatboro Dog Club, Inc.—*Sally L. Fineburg*

Heart of the Plains Kennel Club—*Patricia M. Cruz*

Hockamock Kennel Club, Inc.—*Nancy Fisk*

Holyoke Kennel Club, Inc.—*Jane Wilkinson*

Hungarian Pumi Club of America —*Nancy Nelson*

Huntingdon Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—*Susan Ratz*

Huntington Kennel Club, Inc.—*Ms. Marile A. Waterstraat*

Ibizan Hound Club of the United States—*Michelle Barlak*

Irish Setter Club of America, Inc.—*Ms. Karolynne M. McAteer*

Irish Water Spaniel Club of America—*Dan Sayers*

Irish Wolfhound Club of America—*Eugenia Hunter*

Japanese Chin Club of America—*Cecilia Resnick*

K-9 Obedience Training Club of Essex County, NJ, Inc.—*Dave Morgan*

Kalamazoo Kennel Club, Inc.—*Angela Boeske*

Kanadasaga Kennel Club—*Christine Cone*

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 Riverside—*Sylvia A. Thomas*

Kennesaw Kennel Club—*Bud Hidlay*

Kuvasz Club of America—*Agi Hejja*

Ladies' Kennel Association of America—*Ylisa Kunze*

Lagotto Romagnolo Club of America, Inc.—*James Talbert*

Lake Shore Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Diana L. Skibinski*

Lakeland Winter Haven Kennel Club—*Mary McDaniel, D.V.M.*

Lakes Region Kennel Club, Inc.—*Deborah L. Kreider*

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*

Leonberger Club of America—*Don James*

Longshore-Southport Kennel Club, Inc.—*Michaelann Mako*

Louisville Kennel Club, Inc.—*Debra H. Owen*

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*

Mid-Continent Kennel Club of Tulsa, Inc.—*Mr. Marc Crews*

Middleburg Kennel Club—*Beth Wilder*

Miniature Bull Terrier Club of America—*Dr. Marci Cook*

Mississippi Valley Kennel Club—*Gretchen Bernardi*

Montgomery County Kennel Club—*Ms. Ida E. Weinstock*

Monticello New York Kennel Club, Inc.—*Barry A. Hoovis*

Mount Vernon Dog Training Club (MVDTC)—*Christopher Marston*

Mountaineer Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mary Yoders*

Mt. Baker Kennel Club, Inc.—*Jane F. Ruthford*

Nashville Kennel Club—*Anne Gallant*

National Capital Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mr. Alfred J. Ferruggiaro*

National Shiba Club of America—*Maggi Strouse*

New England Beagle Club, Inc.—*Blaine Grove*

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*

Norwegian Elkhound Association of America, Inc.—*Lori Webster*

Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever Club (USA)—*Brenda W. Dorman*

Oakland Dog Training Club, Inc.—*Joao Machado*

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*

Orange Empire Dog Club, Inc.—*Bradford Yamada*

Otterhound Club of America—*Joellen Gregory, D.V.M.*

Papillon Club of America, Inc.—*Sandra L. Schumacher*

Parson Russell Terrier Association of America—*Gary Koepfel*

Pasanita Obedience Club Inc.—*Mrs. Betty M. Winthers*

Pasco Florida Kennel Club—*Renee L. Popkey*

Pekingese Club of America—*Steven Hamblin*

Peninsula Dog Fanciers Club, Inc.—*Wayne Bond*

Penn Ridge Kennel Club, Inc.—*Dennis J. Gallant*

Penn Treaty Kennel Club, Inc.—*Bettina M. Sterling*

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*
- Plainfield Kennel Club—*Sheila Gallizzo*
- Plum Creek Kennel Club of Colorado—*Marlene Groves*
- Poodle Club of America, Inc.—*Patti Jason*
- Port Chester Obedience Training Club, Inc.—*Kathy Gregory*
- Portuguese Water Dog Club of America, Inc.—*Janet L. Boyd*
- Pug Dog Club of America, Inc.—*Michelle Anderson*
- Ramapo Kennel Club—*Jeffrey D. Ball*
- Rhode Island Kennel Club, Inc.—*Grace Wilkinson*
- Rhodesian Ridgeback Club of the United States, Inc.—*Mary L. Elliott*
- Richmond Dog Fanciers Club, Inc.—*Debra Ferguson-Jones*
- Rockford-Freeport Illinois Kennel Club—*Barbara L. Burns*
- Rubber City Kennel Club—*Cathy Gaidos*
- Salisbury Maryland Kennel Club—*Karen Cottingham*
- Saluki Club of America—*Monica H. Stoner*
- Samoyed Club of America, Inc.—*Gary Griffin*
- San Gabriel Valley Kennel Club—*Dorinne Waterman*
- San Mateo Kennel Club, Inc.—*Harvey M. Wooding*
- Santa Barbara Kennel Club, Inc.—*Abbe R. Shaw*
- Saratoga New York Kennel Club—*MaryLou Cuddy*
- Saw Mill River Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mimi Winkler*
- Sawnee Mountain Kennel Club of Georgia—*Karen W. Byrd*
- Scottish Deerhound Club of America, Inc.—*Dr. Robert S. Dove, D.V.M.*
- Scottish Terrier Club of America—*Helen A. Prince*
- Seattle Kennel Club, Inc.—*Jeff Ryman*
- Shoreline Dog Fanciers Association of Orange County—*Susan L. Hamil*
- Siberian Husky Club of America, Inc.—*Ann M. Cook*
- Silky Terrier Club of America, Inc.—*Leeann Podruch, D.D.S.*
- Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of America—*Sally Sotirovich*
- 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. Thomas M. Davies*
 St. Bernard Club of America, Inc.—*Susan Weigel*
 St. Louis Collie Club, Inc.—*Isabel Ososki*
 Standard Schnauzer Club of America—*Dr. Harvey Mohrenweiser*
 Staten Island Kennel Club, Inc.—*Marjorie Martorella*
 Steel City Kennel Club, Inc.—*Miss Susan M. Napady*
 Suffolk County Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mr. Robert Eisele*
 Susque-Nango Kennel Club, Inc.—*Laura Trainor*
 Sussex Hills Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Florence Duggan*
 Sussex Spaniel Club of America—*John R. Lewis, Jr.*
 Taconic Hills Kennel Club, Inc.—*Marylyn DeGregorio*
 Talbot Kennel Club—*Ann S. Wallace*
 Tampa Bay Kennel Club—*Mr. Eugene R. Biller*
 Texas Kennel Club, Inc.—*Dr. Michael Knight*
 Tibetan Terrier Club of America, Inc.—*Stacey La Forge*
 Trap Falls Kennel Club, Inc.—*Christopher L. Sweetwood*
 Trenton Kennel Club, Inc.—*Marty Smith*
 Troy Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mr. Donald S. Gillett*
 Tualatin Kennel Club, Inc.—*James S. Corbett*
 Tucson Kennel Club—*Dr. Kenneth H. Levison*
 Twin Brooks Kennel Club, Inc.—*Patricia C. Sarles*
 Two Cities Kennel Club—*Eduardo T. Fugizwara*
 United States Kerry Blue Terrier Club, Inc.—*Mr. Carl C. Ashby, III*
 United States Lakeland Terrier Club—*Maria Sacco*
 United States Neapolitan Mastiff Club—*Ms. Margaret R. Wolfe*
 Upper Potomac Valley Kennel Club—*Robert Lachman*
 Valley Forge Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Carol Fisher*
 Vancouver Kennel Club—*Jolyne Lea*
 Virginia Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Sandie Friend*
 Vizsla Club of America, Inc.—*Mrs. Kathy A. Rust*
 Wallkill Kennel Club, Inc.—*Elisabeth Szymanski*
 Wampanoag Kennel Club, Inc.—*Christine Gonsalves*
 Washington State Obedience Training Club, Inc.—*John J. Cadalso, Jr.*
 Waterloo Kennel Club, Inc.—*Cindy Miller*
 Waukesha Kennel Club, Inc.—*Marthina L. Greer*
 Weimaraner Club of America—*Jennifer A. Martin*



SECRETARY'S PAGES

Welsh Terrier Club of America, Inc.—

Bruce R. Schwartz

Westbury Kennel Association, Inc.—*Peter*

J. Festa

Windham County Kennel Club, Inc.—

Nanette Prideaux

Winston-Salem Dog Training Club, Inc.—

Jane Fitzin

Yorkshire Terrier Club of America, Inc.—

Pamela A. Langstein



**AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB
DELEGATES MEETING
JUNE 11, 2024**

Dennis B. Sprung, President in the Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:02 a.m. ET. (National Anthem played.)

Delegates were reminded to check in at the reception desk for attendance purposes. When Staff prints the purple-colored badge, the Delegate is automatically marked as present.

The Chair introduced the persons seated on the dais: Dr. Thomas Davies, Chairman; Dominic Palleschi Carota, Vice Chairman; David Jackson, Professional Registered Parliamentarian; Gina DiNardo, Executive Secretary; Shari Cathey, Court Reporter.

The Executive Secretary read the names of Delegates seated since the last meeting:

Dr. Yves Belmont, Oxford, GA to represent Conyers Kennel Club of Georgia
Eugene R. Biller, Tampa, FL to represent Tampa Bay Kennel Club

Michelle Brislin, Scranton, PA to represent Chihuahua Club of America

Brenda Dorman, Norfolk, VA to represent Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever Club (USA)

Sheila Gallizzo, Flemington, NJ to represent Plainfield Kennel Club

Sue Goldberg, Warren, NJ to represent Lewiston-Auburn Kennel Club

Christine M. Gonsalves, Acushnet, MA to represent Wampanoag Kennel Club

Marlene Groves, Kiowa, CO to represent Plum Creek Kennel Club of Colorado

Joao Machado, Humble, TX to represent Oakland Dog Training Club

Sandra McCue, Antelope, CA to represent Del Valle Dog Club of Livermore

Sue Meachem, Indianapolis, IN to represent Central Indiana Kennel Club

D. Scott Pfeil, Ingleside, IL to represent International Kennel Club of Chicago

Sue Ratz, Pennsburg, PA to represent Huntingdon Valley Kennel Club

Marty Smith, Bordentown, NJ to represent Trenton Kennel Club

Robin Stansell, Clayton, NC to represent French Bulldog Club of America

Cledith Wakefield, Leadington, MO to represent Jefferson County Kennel Club of Missouri

Dorinne Waterman, Perris, CA to represent San Gabriel Valley Kennel Club

Richard Yoho, Apopka, FL to represent

Dandie Dinmont Terrier Club of America

The following Delegates, who were attending their first meeting since being officially seated, were introduced from the floor:

Dr. Yves Belmont to represent Conyers Kennel Club of Georgia

Eugene R. Biller to represent Tampa Bay Kennel Club

Michelle Brislin to represent Chihuahua Club of America

Vincent P. Chianese to represent Ashtabula Kennel Club

Brenda Dorman to represent Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever Club (USA)

Sheila Gallizzo to represent Plainfield Kennel Club

Christine M. Gonsalves to represent Wampanoag Kennel Club

Marlene Groves to represent Plum Creek Kennel Club of Colorado

Joao Machado to represent Oakland Dog Training Club

Sandra McCue to represent Del Valle Dog Club of Livermore

Sue Ratz to represent Huntingdon Valley Kennel Club

Marty Smith to represent Trenton Kennel Club

Robin Stansell to represent French Bulldog Club of America

Dorinne Waterman to represent San Gabriel Valley Kennel Club

Richard Yoho to represent Dandie Dinmont Terrier Club of America

The minutes of the March 12, 2024 Delegate Meeting were published in the online April 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.

The **Bracco Italiano Club of America** and the **Curly-Coated Retriever Club of America** were duly elected as members of The American Kennel Club.

Dr. Thomas Davies delivered the Chairman's Report as follows:

Good morning and welcome. I would like to begin with a topic that is of the utmost importance to everyone in our community.

In April, the Board of the American Kennel Club voted to approve a staff proposal concerning *educational requirements* as an additional measure toward creating a safe and respectful sports environment for all.

Effective immediately, the AKC Board of Directors, Inspectors, Field Staff across all sports, AKC Registered Handlers, and additional AKC Staff that regularly attend events are required to successfully complete the *Stewards of Children*® training, from

the non-profit organization Darkness to Light, once every three years.

All Junior Showmanship Judges and Club Junior Coordinators are required at this time (and going forward) to successfully complete the same training. AKC will offer the initial course on a complimentary basis, and it must be refreshed every three years.

All current and future judges across all sports are also required to complete the *Stewards of Children*® training. The initial training will be provided on a complimentary basis by AKC. This requirement is being phased in with the help of the AKC Judges Department.

AKC strongly recommends that all Superintendents, AKC-approved Show Secretaries, and AKC-approved Agility Trial Secretaries take the *Stewards of Children*® course.

All club members and fanciers not included in the groups I named are encouraged to complete this training, which is available through the Darkness to Light website at a cost of \$16.

The Board is now discussing a policy concerning professional handlers and agents listed in dog show catalogues with respect to the *Stewards of Children*® training. Look

for updates on this in the near future.

There are three complementary courses offered by the U.S. Center for SafeSport® which AKC recommends for Junior participants and their parents. The core courses are SafeSport® for Youth Athletes ages 13-17, SafeSport® for Kids ages 5-12, and SafeSport® Parent's Guide to Misconduct in Sports.

As of this time, among our community of dog fanciers, 797 individuals have enrolled in the course and 618 have successfully completed it. Among them are Junior Showmanship Judges, AKC Staff, the AKC Board, and Club Junior Coordinators. Junior Showmanship Judges were given three months until August 1, 2024 to complete the training. Staff continues to monitor compliance with these important new requirements, and updates will be provided regularly.

The purpose of these requirements is to ensure that our sports remain safe, healthy, positive and fun for everyone.

Full disclosure, and perhaps not a secret to many, I will admit that my psyche, which contains minor components of several conditions, such as PAPD and OCD, was, at first, concerned with being told that participation was mandatory. Common sense prevailed, and I did so. The program is com-

elling and gives us the tools to recognize, respond and react to child sexual abuse. I encourage everyone in our community to take advantage of this training.

I'll end my comments on this subject by paraphrasing the words of one of the training facilitators.

I'm grateful to be in a community that is guided by the teaching of and the perspective of an organization that believes that every human being has a purpose, and that life is really about finding that purpose and that unique place in life where you can make a difference.

We must be the light in children's darkness.

Speaking of fun, the summer season is upon us, with all of its celebrations, barbecues and socialization that come along with it. Our clubs work so hard throughout the year to host events for our dogs to earn titles, points, placements and rankings. And soon enough, it will all pay off with our incredible events in Orlando Florida just six months away.

Some of us prefer to ease up a bit in summer, to give our dogs a break from the heat, or to allow ourselves some time to relax as well. This is an excellent time of year for clubs to hold informal gather-

ings and events, like Matches and "Fun Days." A few Saturdays ago in New Jersey, a pair of Specialty Clubs for Pembrokes and Cardigans hosted a "Corgi Fun Day Sunday." There were activities like CGC and intro to Agility, as one would expect. But a valuable educational effort took place as well, surrounding the differences between the breeds and their respective talents. These are important stories for our breed clubs to tell. The event was a great success, with the vast majority of attendees being pet owners who found their way there thanks to the clubs' Facebook promotion. AKC clubs *and your members* are the backbone of our organization. Your efforts advance the sport of dogs in so many ways. Even those non-competitive club events are an investment in our future.

Clubs are also an investment in *you*.

We all joined and formed our clubs to improve the lives of our dogs. But being a part of an AKC club helps us, too. Medical and social researchers have documented that building and maintaining social connections become more difficult for many people as we age. They have also shown that group activities can lead to living longer and healthier lives. Joining and participating in clubs, associations and social groups has a positive impact on health and protects against social isolation

and loneliness.

Participating in clubs offers physical and mental health benefits because they help us build important social networks. Spending time with friends who share our passion for dogs can bring far-reaching benefits including lowering the risk of cognitive impairment, depression, anxiety and even disease. Health insurance companies know this, too.

A new AKC sponsor called Grouper rewards people for being active in groups and clubs.

Grouper works with health insurance companies to help eligible members access something called Activity Benefits. Some insurance plans will reimburse members for being part of an official group – like an AKC club. If you are 65 or older and have a Medicare supplement plan like Medicare Advantage or some other types of insurance, Grouper will determine if your club dues can be reimbursed to you. Then, over the year, you can be further reimbursed for being active in your club. Eligible members will receive an initial payment of \$50 and an ongoing activity payment of \$20 for every 3 months of activity. There is no cost to join.

Grouper invites clubs that are interested in attracting members to be listed on their site at no cost, where up to 14 million eligible members can find your events and activities.

Look out for a link with more information about eligibility coming soon in AKC Communicates. The website is www.hellogrouper.com and their tagline is “Benefits with Friends.” We hope it can be a benefit to you and your club members.

May you enjoy a healthy, safe and relaxing summer, and see you in September.

Mr. Sprung delivered the President’s Report as follows:

Sometimes it is good for us to take a step back and look at many of our ongoing and united achievements. Proudly, we remain the world’s largest all-breed registry and dog sport organization. Our strength encompasses 5,037 clubs, holding over 26,000 events annually in 28 sports. Last year’s record-breaking total exceeded 3.6 million entries. Our economic impact study reveals helpful information for clubs securing and maintaining event sites as we inject millions of dollars each weekend nationwide. This means AKC events generate over \$2.7 billion a year in local spending, a tool that clubs should be touting in their communities and with elected officials. Beyond inspecting kennels, our field agents are busy educating breeders to ensure proper care and conditions exist as well as the integrity of recordkeeping. Since the year 2000, we conducted more than 83,000 inspections nationwide. That is an impres-

sive 300 every month.

We created the AKC Canine Good Citizen program to educate the public about responsible dog ownership. Almost 1.3 million dogs have achieved the CGC title certification. AKC S.T.A.R. Puppy has 272,000 puppies that have earned that award.

Our comprehensive Education Department provides teachers with lesson plans and activities for future generations that incorporate core subject areas for grades K-12, educating students about the many attributes of purebred dogs. AKC Canine College offers amongst others, 26 courses on breeding, 74 breed-specific courses in collaboration with our Parent Clubs; Also, Conformation for Beginners, Stewarding at the Dog Show, 10 different courses on Puppy Training, an Obedience Judges Education Program and an AKC Fetch Judge's Education course.

For more than 15 years, the AKC Humane Fund has provided grants to women's shelters that house victims of domestic abuse with their pets. The fund offers financial assistance to your Parent Clubs and those affiliated non-profits as there are more than 450 AKC Rescue groups making us the largest rescue network in America.

AKC Reunite continues to bring together lost pets and their owners and has done so almost 700,000 times. They have donated 111 trailers. They continue to give microchip scanners to shelters. Their Adopt A K-9 Cop Program has donated funding for more than 560 police K-9s throughout our nation.

AKC Canine Health Foundation funds research projects focusing on the physical, mental and social well-being of our dogs. AKC CHF's \$67.5 million in grants has resulted in 1,167 research grants, countless canine health projects and peer-reviewed publications. AKC has contributed \$36 million to AKC CHF.

The AKC Museum of the Dog preserves, interprets and celebrates the role of dogs in society, educating the public about the human canine bond through its 1,700-piece rotating collection and 4,000 volume library.

The Detection Dog Task Force addresses the shortage of high-quality U.S. bred and trained explosive detection dogs to protect public safety and national security. The Patriotic Puppy Program works with breeders and enthusiasts to teach how to raise puppies for a future career as a detection dog. To date, 90 graduates have gone on to working careers.

We created the not-for-profit Purebred Preservation Bank. This endeavor is to assist Parent Clubs and breeders in the preservation of purebred dogs, maintain genetic materials and continue the breeding of healthy dogs. This affiliate was structured to enhance gene pools in multiple ways without financial gain.

Each of these accomplishments are a shared ongoing effort in the AKC universe for the well-being of dogs. This is summarized on a one-page document entitled *AKC is More than Champion Dogs, We're the Dog's Champion*. A copy will be distributed by mail to every Delegate along with the economic impact sheet. I thank you and your clubs for your contribution to these continued successes.

Dominic Palleschi Carota, Vice Chairman, delivered an award presentation as follows: Good morning, everyone. We'll now honor AKC clubs that have 125 years or more of membership with the American Kennel Club. We are grateful for their service, contributions and lasting commitment to the mission of the American Kennel Club:

1884 Westminster Kennel Club

1886 American Fox Terrier Club

1887 Collie Club of America and the National Beagle Club

1889 American Spaniel Club and the Great Dane Club of America

1890 Bulldog Club of America

1893 Boston Terrier Club of America

1895 Dachshund Club of America and the New England Beagle Club

1897 was a big year, we had five clubs that year: Bull Terrier Club of America, French Bulldog Club of America, Irish Terrier Club of America, Irish Setter Club of America, and the Rhode Island Kennel Club.

1898 St. Bernard Club of America and the Texas Kennel Club.

If the Delegates for these clubs are present, would you please line up here – meet me on the floor so I may award you your certificate. For those Delegates that are not here, the certificates will be mailed to your clubs. Thank you and may we have a round of applause for the clubs.
(Delegates in attendance accepted awards.)

Ted Phillips, CFO, delivered the Financial Report as follows:

Thank you, Dennis. Good morning, Delegates. As always, thank you for attending today's meeting. We appreciate your time and your support.

Today I'll be presenting key performance indicators of non-financial results, and the interim financial results of operations for

the fiscal quarter ended March 31, 2024. First quarter results are positive with solid revenue results and expense control by management.

Let's take a look at some of these non-financial key performance indicators. This chart presents the first quarter totals for litter and dog registrations. Litter registrations total 65,000, which is 17 percent lower than the first quarter of 2023. Dog registrations total 154,000 which is 15 percent lower than the first quarter of 2023. Online litter and dog registrations continue to exceed 85 percent of all registrations.

For our sports and events activities, we see solid results. As of March 31, events totaled 5,782 or 14 percent higher than the first quarter of 2023. Entries totaled over 823,000, which is 5 percent higher than the first quarter of 2023 as well. We thank our breeders, the entire Delegate Body, our Board of Directors, our Management and Staff for the continued strength of these programs.

Next, let's take a look at a high-level overview of the first quarter operating results. These results reflect the Board-approved spending plan for 2024. In the first quarter, AKC had a net operating income of \$2.2 million. These positive financial results represent and demonstrate delivery of these

budgeted programs. The Q1 results are driven by operating revenues totaling \$25.5 million; 67 percent of these revenues are from registration and event fees, in total \$17 million. When you break this down, registration revenues total \$12.6 million, and event and entry fees total \$4 million. Advertising, sponsorship and royalty revenues, which revenue represent a solid and growing line of revenue for AKC's business operations, total \$5 million or 20 percent of total revenues. Finally, various e-commerce products and services totaled \$3.3 million or 13 percent of operating revenue.

Now let's take a look at expenses.

Operating expenses are reported to the Board monthly and to you four times a year and represent what's authorized to spend in the operating budget. Total operating expenses for the first fiscal quarter are \$23.3 million. Staff expense totals \$12 million or 53 percent of that total. There are other substantial operating expense lines on this slide, includes professional fees and product fulfillment, which is \$6.8 million or 29 percent of total expenses. These programs support the activities of AKC individual programs. Each of the operating expense areas reflect cost increases over 2023, due to additional business activity and price inflation. We expect that the remaining three quarters of the year we'll see higher but manageable costs, and we

will endeavor to complete all the programs presented in the budget. We continue to support our charitable affiliates with donations equal to 5 percent of operating expenses. Also, please remember non-operating expenses are reported to the Board, and they include the annual cost of retiree benefit expenses and the change in value of investments.

This slide presents the AKC's financial position or our balance sheet as of March 31, 2024. Total assets are \$266 million. This is primarily comprised of investment assets, cash and some fixed assets. Our investment performance for the first quarter was positive, beat our benchmarks and resulted in a 5.4 percent return. Asset manager selection helped us in the first quarter. The liability section is primarily comprised of pension and retirement and lease obligations, which will continue to be a long-term cost for AKC.

As always, thank you for your time. I appreciate your attention. We look forward to serving you and I'm available if you have any questions. Thank you.

The first vote is on the amendment to **Article VII, Section 1** of the *Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club*, which removes two consecutive term limits for AKC Board Members. This amend-

ment was proposed by the Greater Clark County Kennel Club and brought forward with approval by the AKC Board of Directors.

The Chair recognized Dr. Charles Garvin, Delegate from the Dalmatian Club of America, who spoke as follows: Charlie Garvin, Dalmatian Club of America. Just like to make three fairly brief comments. First my disclosures. When I first ran for the Board, there were no term limits. I was not nominated by the nominating committee. I ran by petition. I ran against a full slate of incumbents and was successful in that. That capability is still there. Eliminating term limits will not eliminate the Delegate's ability, responsibility, and authority to eliminate incumbent Board Members if they are underperforming.

Second point, if you look at the AKC, the AKC Canine Health Foundation has no term limits. AKC Reunite has no term limits. AKC Museum of the Dog has no term limits. AKC Humane Fund has no term limits. AKC Purebred Preservation Bank has no term limits. The Delegate Committee members have no term limits. The Delegate Committee Chairs have no term limits. AKC Officers have no term limits. The Board is the only aspect of the AKC that does have term limits.

Finally imagine, if you will, a conversation that I overheard from a couple of Delegates. The first one says at election time, "I've studied this situation carefully. I've done tremendous due diligence. I've decided that Jane Doe is the best possible Delegate to be on the Board." The other Delegate says, "Well, I agree but you're not allowed to vote for her." "Why not?" "Because of term limits." "But she's the best one." "It doesn't matter. You can't vote for her." "What's the reason behind this?" "Well, some people think that this capability adds fresh ideas to the Board." The first one says, "So instead of voting for the best, I have to settle for a less qualified candidate?" "That's right." "But that's illogical, it makes no sense." "That's the way it is." "That rule should be changed. I want to vote for the best candidate."

In order to change that, you need to vote yes for this amendment. Thank you.

The Chair recognized Pat Cruz, Delegate from the Heart of the Plains Kennel Club, who spoke as follows:

Good morning. My name is Pat Cruz. I'm from Heart of the Plains Kennel Club. This year, this June, this meeting is probably one of the most important meetings besides our March elections. For the fifth time, Delegates will be asked to vote to eliminate term limit provisions. Past attempts have

failed to meet the two-thirds required of the seated assembly to pass that vote. It's hard to believe that Belmont, Osgood, Mortimer and others expected that Board members would make a career when they formulated Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club. The argument that the Board will be deficient with term limits and the hiatus it requires doesn't address the fact that whenever there is an election, there are still nine or ten seated Board members to hold office, and an open seat gives the Delegate Body more options. If passed, it's the one-year hiatus that this vote will eliminate, but that hiatus could encourage sitting Board Members to act more with courage on issues, facing issues that affect all of us.

Knowing there is a time limit on their service, a member may prioritize meaningful change over re-election concerns. Nothing is lost during a term a Board Member's hiatus. A displaced member can continue to work as a Delegate and have time to reflect on time served. If the worry that a Board member will fall out during the hiatus, so be it. If that time is a deterrent to prevent anybody from running again, the Board hasn't lost anything. Neither has the AKC. There are no obstacles to running again after the hiatus. It's healthy to step back and see what you've accomplished during your time served. Term limits ensure that every Delegate has a chance to serve and

bring new ideas and perspectives to the Delegate Body and to their clubs. Other clubs may find a seat in the boardroom. Delegates can still vote for whomever they choose, and the status quo would be eliminated. We have an untapped resource here in this room and with all the Delegates that serve their clubs. Who's to say that new eyes on anything wouldn't help any organization including ours. New or returning Board members or face new thinking and bring new thinking to all Board members, and certainly, current seated Board members know the parameters when they ask for your vote. You know you'll either come back a winner, try again or not. Most sitting Board members sitting today are sitting because someone termed out. In closing, this is an important meeting. Remember, the AKC has not suffered any major loss. If a Board Member has termed out, there are still nine or ten experienced Members able to guide the new elected. It is an honor and a privilege to serve, not a lifetime career. True competition stops complacency and entrenchment of sitting members. More clubs will be represented at the Board level and maybe more qualified Delegates will step up willing to serve. With this, Mr. President, I ask for a roll call vote.

There was second from the floor for a roll call vote as a non-debatable motion.

There was a vote requiring a majority in favor to conduct a roll call vote. There was not a majority in the affirmative.

The Chair declared that there would not be a roll call vote.

The Chair recognized Marylyn DeGregorio, Delegate from the Taconic Hills Kennel Club, who spoke as follows: Marilyn DeGregorio, Taconic Hills Kennel Club. In the past couple of days, I've read and heard that we want change. We want a fresh voice on the Board. The thing is, we are the fresh voice. We are the ones who bring ideas to the Board. We are the Delegates. That's our job. We interact between our clubs and the Board and AKC. Stuff that comes out of the Board that's new comes from us. They wouldn't need to be generating new ideas, we do. To call for change, these things come from us. This our power from our clubs, from the fancy. We bring our ideas from our committees to the Board, ultimately to the AKC. I can point to a number of things I went through at the caucus yesterday, things that my club wanted done. The Juniors who don't have to own their own dogs. That came from my club, and I kept on pestering everybody until finally the Board acted on it.

The Crow. The Crow is on his last legs.

Know the Crow? Yeah, we want the Crow to go. I spoke up about it, so did Cathy De La Garza, and Marc Crews did. I'm sure other people did too. We asked for that and the Board acted on it because we needed it. The fancy needed it. The judges needed it. It's our job to guide the AKC. It is also our duty and our power to have the freedom to choose the Delegates to run for the Board to serve on the Board that we want. Every single year we have a term limit. We don't have people sitting in the Board seats to keep that Board seat warm. The ones who have to run again, shouldn't have to sit out a year if they're capable and if they want to serve. But if they want to serve, if they want to give the time – and if a Board Member is doing a good job and is engaged, we know what they're doing because we get reports all the time. We read the Board minutes – I seldom do until somebody sends them to me. There's a lot of work that's being done. Different subcommittees that are working on stuff, and then they address the stuff that we ask for. You want fresh ideas? All we have to do is ask. How many of you guys would ask a Board Member? I would bug Dan and Dominic, sometimes Tom. They would tell me, go to this committee, present it to the committee. See what you can do. Eventually if it has, if enough of the fancy wants it and you really believe in it, you're going to get it done. Those are our ideas. What we need is we need

capable people who are stable on a Board, and we need to keep the power to choose our Board Members. There's no reason we have to have an artificial one year. It doesn't make sense. It doesn't make any sense. Steven Hamblin, when he decided to run for the Board, he ran from the floor, didn't he? Yes. I didn't know who Steve was. He came up to me in Orlando, shook my hand, introduced himself, gave me a sheet of paper about himself, told me about himself and told me why he wanted to serve on the Board, and guess what? He got on the Board, and he's doing a good job. He said he was ready and wanted to serve. Most people on the Board are the people who want to be there and who are capable, it doesn't matter if they've been there for 10 years, I don't care. This is an election which every term every year we have the opportunity to actually choose who serves on our Board. Don't give up the power. Don't give our power away for just an arbitrary one year sit out. Please vote in favor. Use your power as Delegates.

The Chair recognized Kenneth Levison, Delegate from the Tucson Kennel Club, who spoke as follows:

Kenneth Levison, from the Tucson Kennel Club. I'd like to call the question, please.

There was a second from the floor to call the question.

There was a two-thirds vote in the affirmative to call the question.

There was a standing vote that was too close to make a visual decision of two-thirds.

The Chair called for a counted standing vote.

Those in favor of eliminating term limits were counted totaling 137 Delegates.

Those opposed to eliminating term limit were counted totaling 114 Delegates.

The Chair declared there was not two-thirds in the affirmative. The amendment was not adopted.

The next vote was on the amendment 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.

There were no questions or discussion.

There was a two-thirds vote in the affirmative, and the amendment was adopted.

The last vote was on the proposed amendments to the **Standing Rule on Delegate Committees**, which reorganizes, clarifies and makes the standing rule current. These amendments were proposed by the Delegate Coordinating Committee.

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 11** and **Chapter 11, Section 12** of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* would be read/voted as one amendment.

The Chair called on the Executive Secretary to read the proposed amendment to **Chapter 9, Section 11** of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Superintendents and Show Secretaries* and **Chapter 11, Section 12** of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Dog Show Entries, Conditions of Dogs Affecting Eligibility*. Delegates were given the opportunity to discuss each rule change.

Ms. DiNardo: The amendment to **Chapter 9, Section 11** of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Superintendents and Show Secretaries* and **Chapter 11,**

Section 12 of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Dog Show Entries, Conditions of Dogs Affecting Eligibility*, deletes “where there is no Superintendent” for greater clarity that Show Secretaries for any event, including one where the services of a Superintendent are also used by the club, must adhere to the eligibility requirements defined by Chapter 11, Section 12 of the *Rules*. It also deletes “where there is no Superintendent” for greater clarity that the eligibility restrictions for Show Secretaries and members of their household apply to any event they service, including one where the services of a Superintendent are also used by the club.

This amendment was proposed by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee and brought forward with approval by the AKC Board of Directors.

It will be published in two issues of the *AKC Gazette*, and you will be asked to vote on it at the September 2024 meeting. The full text is on the worksheet previously emailed.

There were no questions or discussion.

Mr. Sprung informed the Delegates that the proposed rule changes to **Chapter 10, Section 2** and **Section 5** of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* will be read/voted as

one amendment. Delegates were given the opportunity to discuss each rule change.

The Chair called on the Executive Secretary to read the proposed amendment to **Chapter 10, Section 2** and **Section 5** of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Show Veterinarians*.

Ms. DiNardo: The amendment to **Chapter 10, Section 2** and **Section 5** of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Show Veterinarians*, adds the obligation for the Show Veterinarian to examine a dog referred by the event committee for examination to those who may become ill or injured at a show and adds the obligation that any cost associated with the examination of a dog by the Show Veterinarian is to the owner or owner’s agent of the dog. It replaces veterinarians with Show Veterinarians for consistency. It deletes the requirement for a club to be responsible for any expenses incurred in the examination of a dog it remands to determine if its presence endangers the health of other dogs. It also assigns responsibility for any expenses to the dog’s owner or agent.

This amendment was proposed by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee and brought forward with approval by the AKC Board of Directors.

It will be published in two issues of the *AKC Gazette*, and you will be asked to vote on it at the September 2024 meeting. The full text is on the worksheet previously emailed.

There were no questions or discussion.

The Chair called on the Executive Secretary to please read the proposed amendment to **Chapter 15, Section 1** of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Protests Against Dogs*.

Ms. DiNardo: The amendment to **Chapter 15, Section 1** of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Protests Against Dogs*, inserts that a dog remanded for examination by an event committee may only return to compete that same day, weekend, circuit, or cluster if the Show Veterinarian has examined the dog and determined its presence does not endanger other dogs.

This amendment was proposed by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee and brought forward with approval by the AKC Board of Directors.

It will be published in two issues of the *AKC Gazette*, and you will be asked to vote on it at the September 2024 meeting. The full text is on the worksheet previously emailed.

There were no questions or discussion.

The Chair called on the Executive Secretary to read the proposed amendment to **Chapter 14, Section 4** of the *Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedure for Retrievers*.

Ms. DiNardo: The amendment to **Chapter 14, Section 4** of the *Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedure for Retrievers*, will standardize the rotation and make every stake to be conducted in the same fashion when it comes to the running order.

This amendment was proposed by the Retriever Field Trial Advisory Committee and brought forward with approval by the AKC Board of Directors.

It will be published in two issues of the *AKC Gazette*, and you will be asked to vote on it at the September 2024 meeting. The full text is on the worksheet previously emailed.

There were no questions or discussion.

Mari-Beth O'Neill, Vice President of Support Services, delivered a special announcement:

Good morning. For the first time AKC and the Junior Task Force Committee is presenting certificates to clubs who have

given support and assistance to 4-H Canine Clubs in their communities – providing education, competition opportunities, introducing and encouraging youth to become AKC exhibitors, breeders and club members in the future.

The first group that I'd like to recognize are the clubs that make up the Springfield Thanksgiving Cluster, which is Springfield Kennel Club, Wyndham County Kennel Club, South Windsor Kennel Club, and a special thanks to Jane Wilkinson from Holyoke Kennel Club, who is extensively involved in the New England 4-H. These clubs initiated the concept of offering an AKC event that would be available for 4-H members or Juniors only in Obedience and Rally, which created the Junior Showcase event. Additionally, the cluster offers the AKC RHP Junior Clinic, Seminar and social gatherings and other ongoing support. The youth that started in these events have now earned titles through Intermediate Rally and are competing in Rally Advanced.

(Delegates in attendance accepted awards.)

We'd also like to pay special recognition to Manatee Kennel Club, who's been supporting 4-H by offering scholarships to the youth competing in Hillsborough County, Florida. Scholarships have been awarded annually for the past decade in honor of Phyllis

White, Jerry Manning and Manatee Kennel Club. Manatee Kennel Club stepped up to hold the first official Junior Showcase event in Obedience and Rally in 2018.

(Delegate in attendance accepted award.)

For the rest of you who are doing things for 4-H, I'm anxious to hear what you're doing. Please write to me, share with me your experiences and we'll share with each other. Thank you.

The Chair called on the Executive Secretary to read the list of vacancies for the Delegate Standing Committees that are to be filled in September.

Ms. DiNardo: These are the vacancies on Delegate Standing Committees that are to be filled at the September 2024 Delegate Meeting:

All-Breed Clubs Committee: 4 - three-year terms, 1 - two-year term, 1 - one-year term

Bylaws Committee: 3 - three-year terms and 1 - one-year term

Canine Health Committee: 3 - three-year terms

Companion Events Committee: 4 - three-year terms

Delegate Advocacy and Advancement Committee: 4 - three-year terms and 1 - two-year term

Dog Show Rules Committee: 4 - three-year terms and 1 - one-year term

Field Trial & Hunting Test Events Committee: 3 - three-year terms

Herding, Earthdog, Coursing and Scent Work Events Committee: 4 - three-year terms

Parent Clubs Committee: 4 - three-year terms and 1 - one-year term

Perspectives Editorial Staff: 6 - two-year terms and 2 - one-year terms

Mr. Sprung announced that the Delegates will be emailed self-nomination forms by the end of June. The self-nomination form must be returned to the Executive Secretary by Friday, July 19, 2024.

Questions on the procedures to be followed should also be directed to the Executive Secretary. Delegates may only self-nominate for one committee, except that a member of the *Perspectives* Editorial Staff may also serve on another standing committee.

In August, the Delegates will be emailed the nominees for each committee, and their qualification statements with the September Delegate Meeting notification.

Chris Sweetwood, Delegate from Trap Falls Kennel Club, delivered an update on AKC PAC as follows:

Thank you, ladies and gentlemen. Just a

couple of quick notes. I'll keep it real short. Your donations to the PAC have helped us get the results we need in the House of Representatives. We now take the bill to the Senate, and this is the AG Bill (Farm Bill). We're going to be stuck with it for five years. We spent a lot of time in D.C. Your PAC fund donations give us the access to the legislators. Without them, we cannot get the job done. We need your help. I'm going to beg you to please set up a recurring donation, but to help motivate you this year, we have been very, very fortunate to thank fellow Delegate Gini Denninger who has donated her waterfront property in Costa Rica. It includes your airfare, your accommodations, and your transfers to get you there. So, you have a chance to win a week on the beach. You're going to need a passport. I'll say it upfront, probably not to get there, but coming home could be problematic without it, and you must be six months of age, microchipped and have a rabies vaccination certificate in order to come back into the United States. Here's the deal. We've limited this to only 1000 tickets. You get five tickets for a \$100. We'll be standing in the back. We take Mastercard, Visa, American Express, checks, and of course, cash. Please stop by. Help us out because I think these tickets are going to go fast. Thank you.

The Chair informed the Delegates that the

Tuesday, September 10, 2024, Delegate Meeting will be held at the Doubletree Newark Airport Hotel. More detailed meeting information will be emailed to the Delegates as soon as it becomes available.

Lunch was served following the meeting's conclusion on the Terrace.

Delegates were not required to return the badges; new badges will be printed at the September meeting. Delegates were given an option to recycle the badge holders and lanyards.

There was no New Business heard from the Delegate Body.

The Chair adjourned the meeting.

(One sharp rap of the gavel.)

(Proceedings concluded at 11:30 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



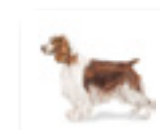
Sussex Spaniel



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



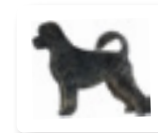
Mastiff



Neapolitan Mastiff



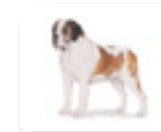
Newfoundland



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



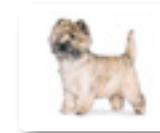
Bedlington Terrier



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/>