akcgazette

OCTOBER 2017

VOLUME 134, NUMBER 10



PRESIDENT'S LETTER

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BREED COLUMNS SCHEDULE

Sporting and Working Groups
January, April, July, and October issues

Hound and Terrier Groups
February, May, August, and November issues

Toy, Non-Sporting, and Herding Groups
March, June, September, and December issues



SECRETARY'S PAGES

Links to AKC Parent Clubs appear following Secretary's Pages

DOG PEOPLE

AKC WEEKLY WINNERS GALLERY
SEPTEMBER 2017

"RINGSIDE"
TERRIER HEAVEN: MONTGOMERY COUNTY



AMERICAN STAFFORDSHIRE TERRIER/COURTESY LYNDA BEAM

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Popular on Facebook: A Boy and His Dog







Photographer Rhonda Cassidy shot this heartwarming sequence at the Oklahoma City Summer Classic. When a junior handler got love-tackled by his exuberant Icelandic Sheepdog puppy, he did what any good handler would do: He hugged his dog, got up, and kept on showing. The boy's mother, Alysha Anne Towell, commented on GAZETTE Facebook, "I just can't stop smiling every time I see it." Neither can we, Alysha, neither can we. Join the conversation at AKC GAZETTE Facebook.

Photos ©Rhonda Cassidy, all rights reserved



On Our Cover: *Chow Chow photo by David Woo ©AKC; "Is Your Breed the Victim of Fake News?" by Maria Arechaederra, of the Kuvasz Club of America, begins on page 57.*

WHERE CHAMPIONS BECOME ROYALTY

THE 17TH ANNUAL AKC NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

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Orlando, Florida | December 12-17, 2017

A Celebration of Breeders, Breeding & Breeds.

ACTIVITIES

AKC National Championship
Best Bred-By-Exhibitor Competition
AKC/Royal Canin National All-Breed Puppy and Junior Stakes
AKC NOHS Finals
AKC Junior Showmanship Competition
AKC Obedience Classic
AKC Juniors Classic
AKC Agility Invitational
AKC Junior Agility Competition
AKC Breeder of the Year Awards
AKC Humane Fund ACE Awards
AKC Meet the Breeds®
NADD Diving Dogs Competition
Specialized Vendors for the Fancy
Judge and Breeder Seminars

GENERAL INFORMATION

Reduced entry fee for Puppy, Bred-By-Exhibitor and Veteran classes in all breeds
Special "New Champion" rosettes for dogs completing their Championship or Grand Championship at ANC
Complimentary unloading and show assistance is available at the Royal Canin Breeder Concierge Center
December 15th offers a full day of specialties and National All-Breed Puppy & Junior Stakes
Hotel room blocks are open—see official hotels at akc.org/events/national-championship

ENTRY INFORMATION

Official entry form and a complete premium list will be online on or about 9/20/17 at: www.akc.org
The ANC closes on: **November 15th, 2017** at Onofrio Dog Shows,either online at www.onofrio.com or PO Box 25764 Oklahoma City, OK 73125. The Orlando Cluster Shows close on: **November 22, 2017** at MBF Dog Shows either online at www.infodog.com or PO Box 22107, Greensboro, NC 27420. Specialties close on: **November 22, 2017**. Check the AKC event calendar for entry information.

For more information, please contact: Michael Canalizo at MLC@akc.org

AKC™ NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

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SCHEDULE OF EVENTS
DECEMBER 12 – 17, 2017

Visit **akc.org/events/national-championship** for updates.

If you attend only one event this year, *this* is the one!

TUESDAY, DEC. 12TH

Space Coast KC of Palm Bay Dog Show
NADD/AKC Diving Dogs
AKC/DJAA Advanced Judges Institute for Working and Herding Groups

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 13TH

Brevard Kennel Club Dog Show
Orlando Dog Training Club Obedience and Rally Trial
NADD/AKC Diving Dogs
AKC/DJAA Advanced Judges Institute for Working and Herding Groups
FSS/Miscellaneous Breeds Open Show

THURSDAY, DEC. 14TH

Central Florida Kennel Club Dog Show
Orlando Dog Training Club Obedience and Rally Trial
NADD/AKC Diving Dogs
AKC/DJAA Advanced Judges Institute for Working and Herding Groups
AKC Canine Health Foundation Canines and Cocktails Reception
FSS/Miscellaneous Breeds Open Show

FRIDAY, DEC. 15TH

National All-Breed Puppy & Junior Stakes
Specialty Shows / Group Shows
FSS/Miscellaneous Breeds Open Show
Orlando Dog Training Club Obedience and Rally Trial
AKC Junior Agility Competition
AKC National Owner-Handled Series Finals – Breeds and Groups
NADD/AKC Diving Dogs
AKC/DJAA Advanced Judges Institute for Working and Herding Groups

SATURDAY, DEC. 16TH

AKC National Championship Dog Show (Daytime and Evening Events)
AKC Agility Invitational
AKC Obedience Classic
AKC Juniors Classic – Obedience
AKC National Owner-Handled Series Finals – Best NOHS In Show (Evening Event)
NADD/AKC Diving Dogs
AKC Meet the Breeds

SUNDAY, DEC. 17TH

AKC National Championship Dog Show (Daytime and Evening Events)
AKC Agility Invitational
AKC Obedience Classic
AKC Juniors Classic – Rally
NADD/AKC Diving Dogs
AKC Meet the Breeds

ROYAL CANIN®
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the events during National Championship week.

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PRESIDENT'S LETTER



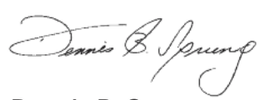
Last month, the American Kennel Club held its 15th annual Responsible Dog Ownership Day at the North Carolina State Fairgrounds in Raleigh, on September 9.

Our family-friendly event celebrates the human-canine bond and helps educate first-time and potential dog owners about the responsibilities of dog ownership through a Meet The Breeds educational experience, dog sports, demonstrations, AKC title testing (such as CGC and Trick Dog), games, raffles, and more.

AKC RDO Day hosted approximately 5,000 people and hundreds of dogs throughout the day. The 2017 RDO had the highest number of AKC Canine Good Citizen® tests ever given, and AKC My Dog Can Do That! runs. A raffle was held, raising over $1,000 to support AKC Pet Disaster Relief. There was also a record number of children who participated in the scavenger hunt (Y-Guides). A fun and educational time was had by all. Thank you to the North Carolina Fairgrounds, AKC staff, and all of the participants that came out to learn about how to be responsible dog owners.

October is Domestic Violence Awareness Month, and the AKC Humane Fund has launched a crowdfunding campaign to raise funds for its domestic violence shelter grant program.

Nationwide, studies have shown that over 70 percent of battered women reported that their abusers had harmed, killed, or threatened their animals. Pets are often the silent victims in these situations. The AKC and The AKC Humane Fund believe in the power of the animal-human bond and that a victim should never have to choose between their safety and their pet. The AKC Humane Fund is proud to be the leading organization that provides financial assistance to domestic abuse shelters that accept pets. These grants make it easier for women's shelters to welcome pets and help break the cycle of domestic abuse. For several years, this fund has helped shelters nationwide and we want that work to continue and grow. Now is the perfect time to join us in this effort of keeping pets and their owners safe. Learn more about The AKC Humane Fund or donate to the effort by going to *www.akchumanefund.org*.



Dennis B. Sprung
President and CEO

We'd love to hear from you about what you think about our organization and our staff. Please write to us at feedback@akc.org.

RUSSELL BIANCA ©AKC

Love Dog Shows? You Must See This.

Dog-show photographers didn't make the switch to color film until the 1970s. We therefore always assumed that the AKC Archives contained no color photos of pre-'70s shows. Imagine our delight, then, when a packet arrived at the GAZETTE desk along with this note from AKC Archivist-Librarian Brynn White:

"This is the latest donation from Gail Waller. As a child, she received these 35 mm slides from her neighbor, Mr. and Mrs. Cook, novice dog show enthusiasts who lived in Michigan. The donated slides are primarily from the 1942 Toledo and Detroit dog shows."

These ultra-rare slides were digitized, color-corrected, and restored by Publications Director Russell Bianca. Here, for the first time anywhere, are scenes from a World War II–era benching area in glorious Kodachrome color. (Click on any image to pause it for a longer look.)

COURTEST DIANA HAN, NORCAL BULLDOGGER

These Are Our Best

AKC Honors 7 Top Breeders

NEW YORK—The AKC has announced its 2017 Breeder of the Year honorees representing the seven breed groups. One honoree will be named overall AKC Breeder of the Year at the AKC National Championship, presented by Royal Canin, on December 16.

"The breeders honored are truly committed to excellence, consistency, breed standard, and type," AKC President Dennis Sprung says. "They have made important contributions to the sport of purebred dogs, and dogs bearing the honorees' kennel names are a testament to their fine breeding programs."

2017 BREEDERS OF THE YEAR

Sporting Helyne Medeiros (Seasyde Pointers)

Hound Marie Cotton (Spring Valley Rhodesian Ridgebacks)

Working Dr. William and Tina Truesdale (Hi-Tech Boxers)

Terrier Karen Fitzpatrick (Meadowlake Border Terriers)



Meadowlake's Karen Fitzpatrick

Toy Lou Ann King (Loteki Papillons)

Non-Sporting James Dalton (Fabelhaft French Bulldogs)

Herding Steve Leyerly and Bill Shelton (Coventry Pembroke Welsh Corgis)

Link
Honoree Bios

$2,500 Offered in Pet-Law Writing Contest

RALEIGH—The AKC Companion Animal Law Writing Contest is open to all students enrolled at law schools accredited by the American Bar Association. The contest offers prizes of $2,500 and of $500. Students are asked to write about either companion-animal law or pet-custody law.

"These students represent the future of animal law," AKC Vice President, Government Relations, Sheila Goffe says. "We look forward to reading their responses on these hot-button issues."

Entries will be judged by legal and public-policy professionals with experience in laws affecting companion animals. Entries must be received by no later than March 30, 2018. The AKC is collaborating on the contest with the American Veterinary Medical Association, Cat Fanciers Association, and the Animal Health Institute.

Link
Contest Rules

Premium Lists Are Up

ORLANDO, FLORIDA—Premium lists for the National All-Breed Puppy and Junior Stakes, and the National Owner-Handled Series Finals, are now online. Both of these events will be held at December's AKC National Championship presented by Royal Canin.

Links
Puppy Stakes
NOHS Finals

COURTESY OWNER

This Just In: Rabies Vac's Unexpected Benefits

PR NEWSWIRE—We already know that the vaccine for rabies is extremely effective at preventing this fatal disease in dogs. But new research shows the vaccine might also have a positive impact on overall canine health, and is associated with a decrease in death from all causes.

The unexpected finding could have implications for future design of rabies-control programs and might provide a model to study this same effect in humans. Dr. Darryn Knobel, Ross University School of Veterinary Medicine, has published his research results in the journal *Vaccine*.

The study showed that rabies vaccination reduced the risk of death from any cause by 56 percent in dogs 0 to 3 months of age. All dogs had decreased mortality, but the percentage decrease was highest in young dogs, with the effect diminishing over time. Knobel's study area included an impoverished region of South Africa, where infectious diseases, including rabies, are an ever-present threat to both humans and dogs. The researchers concluded that the decrease in mortality could not be explained by a reduction in deaths due to rabies alone.

"This led us to propose that rabies vaccine may have a nonspecific protective effect in dogs, perhaps through boosting the immune system to provide enhanced defense against other, unrelated diseases," Knobel says. "A similar phenomenon has been observed in children, although it remains to be substantiated through more definitive trials."



Dr. Darryn Knobel

COURTESY ROSS UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF VETERINARY MEDICINE

Understanding the mechanisms responsible for the enhanced immunity could have broad implications not only for veterinary medicine but also for human medicine.

Link

Read the Full Study

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2017 Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show
2015 AKC™ National Championship Dog Show

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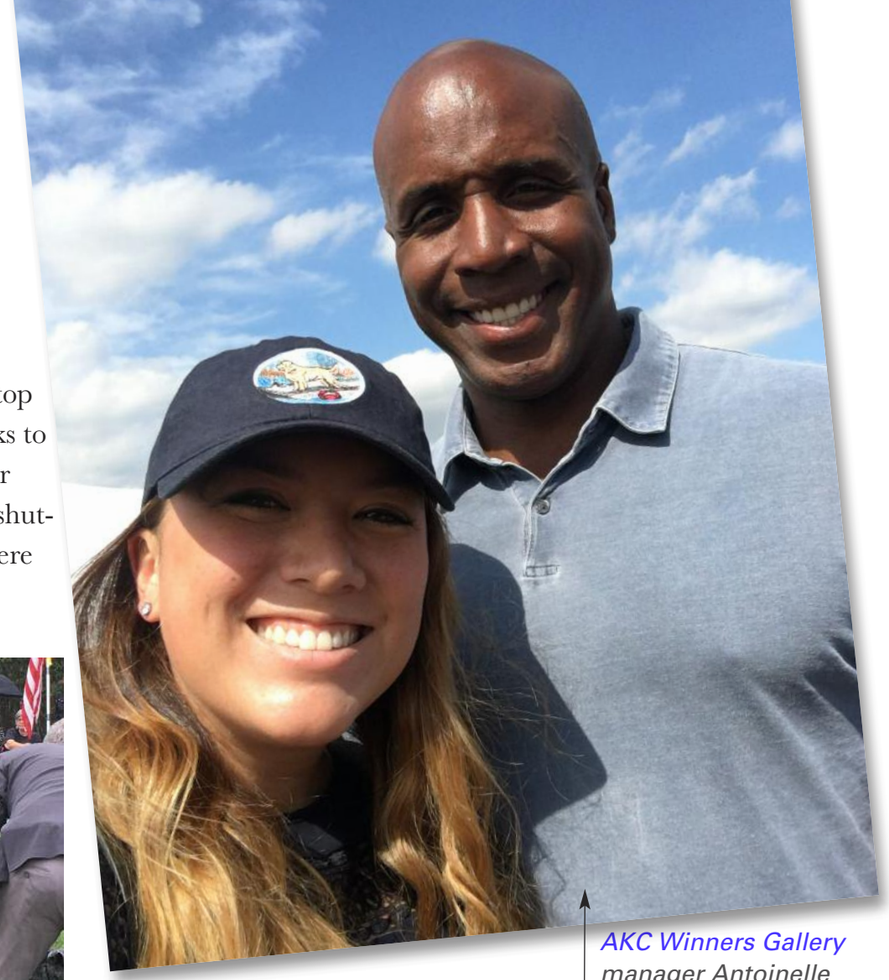


In-Box Out

We take pride in bringing you images from some of the top professional ring photographers in the business. But, thanks to that handy little device tucked into the back pocket of your jeans, these days everybody is a photographer. Cellphone shutterbugs from all walks of life are sending us their snaps. Here are a few that turned up recently in our in-box.



The United States Kerry Blue Terrier Club's Jean Waters was around the rings at Montgomery County and got these shots of the Kerry BOB ring and Best Brace in Show. (Jean is one of our cellphone stars—she sent us the photos for our June issue's KerryFest coverage.) Ch. Gellent Hof Lord of the Rings at Rubicon and Ch. Cross the Rubicon Hummingbird comprised the winning brace, owner-handled by Dr. Natalia Samaj Kunze, DVM, DACT. [Editor's aside: Wouldn't it be fun to see more brace and team showing? What a picturesque way of demonstrating the consistent excellence of a breeder's line!]





AKC Winners Gallery manager Antoinelle Szwed got this selfie with baseball's all-time homerun king, Barry Bonds, at the Hatboro Dog Club show. The former Giants slugger was following the Miniature Schnauzer he co-owns with his sister, breeder-exhibitor Cheryl Dugan.

Send your cellphone snaps to the editors at **bjb@akc.org.**



We recently met private investigator Mark Fishstein while he was taking a guided tour of the AKC art collection in New York. Mark has an interesting backstory: He is a retired NYPD detective who specialized in cases involving art theft and fraud. As we told him about our collection, he told us about his—and he followed up with this snap of one of his prized possessions. It is a 1920s Scottish Terrier "car mascot" made by Asprey, London's famous purveyor of luxury goods. The 4-inch figure was cast in bronze and silver plated. "It sits on a marble base that my father had made for it," Mark says, "and was originally meant to mount atop a car's radiator cap."

5 Top Dogs Win ACEs

The AKC Humane Fund has announced the winners of its annual Awards for Canine Excellence (ACE). GAZETTE readers will be proud to hear that the ACE class of 2017 contains two show champions: Dennis the Skye Terrier and Amber the Cardigan Welsh Corgi.

Bonus Link: Meet the 2017 ACE Winners



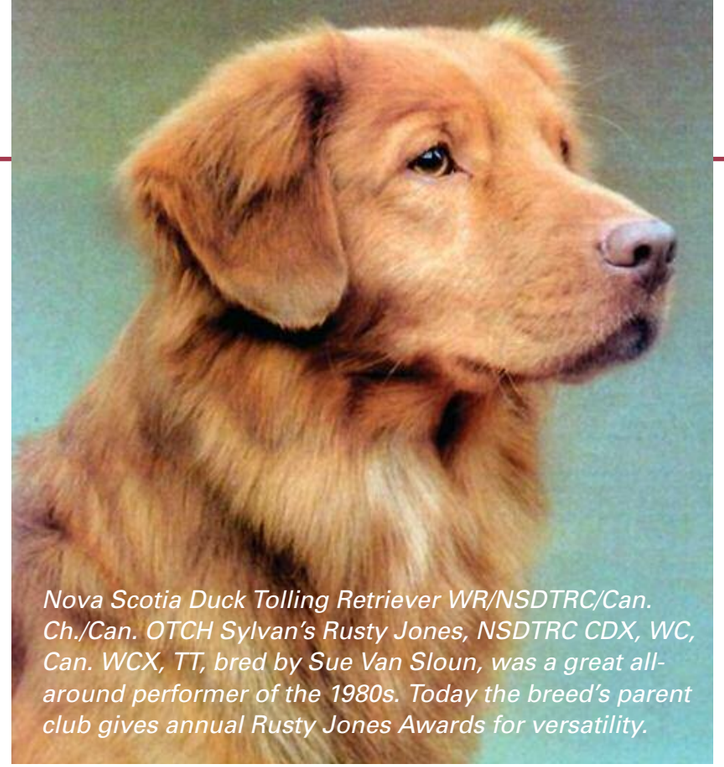
CORGI COURTESY OWNER

Form-and-Function Junction

With the fall hunting season upon us, we salute top sporting dogs and breeders of the past who distinguished themselves in the ring and field.



The AKC's first quintuple champion, Vizsla Ch./FC/AFC/OTCH/MACH Legacy's DeChartay, UDX (5), MH, HOF. Chartay was bred in 1991 by Dianne Shearer and Gregory Gollick, and owner-handled by Jack Sharkey.



Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever WR/NSDTRC/Can. Ch./Can. OTCH Sylvan's Rusty Jones, NSDTRC CDX, WC, Can. WCX, TT, bred by Sue Van Sloun, was a great all-around performer of the 1980s. Today the breed's parent club gives annual Rusty Jones Awards for versatility.

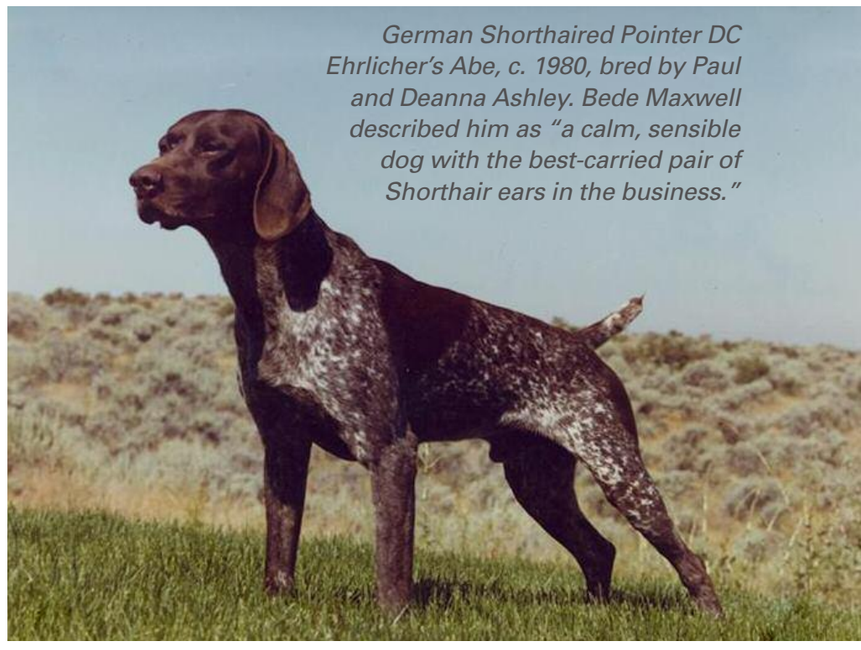


Brittany DC Tigar's Jocko, owned by John Munson, was a top Brittany of the mid-1960s. He sired six field champions and three show champions.



Breeder-owner Nathan Putchat with Gordon Setter DC Windy Hill's Lucky Chance (Cloud), whelped in 1954. Cloud, a ring champion who won 60 field trials, sired 10 champions and was grandsire to Gordon great Ch. Legend of Gael, CD. Cloud sired two Dual Champions, grandsired another, and was great-grandsire of a fourth.

AKC GAZETTE COLLECTION



German Shorthaired Pointer DC Ehrlicher's Abe, c. 1980, bred by Paul and Deanna Ashley. Bede Maxwell described him as "a calm, sensible dog with the best-carried pair of Shorthair ears in the business."

Talking Pictures

Three famous paintings tell us much about dogs, their times, and art itself.

By Bud Boccone

Once upon a time, before movies, TV, and Pinterest, a painting was expected to be more than just a lovely object. Painting masters of pre-electronic times were commissioned to immortalize greatness, or tell a story, or even satirize current events. Their work was expected to be rich enough in fine detail and narrative to reward a long, close look by viewers who had little other means of visual stimulation.

In this month's feature, we analyze three famous dog paintings from a time when a picture really was worth a thousand words.



"The Totteridge XI" by Arthur Wardle

"THE TOTTERIDGE XI"/AKC COLLECTION

"THE TOTTERIDGE XI"
Of Triangles and Terriers

Francis Redmond's "Totteridge" Smooth Fox Terriers were a famous British line of the late 19th century. Redmond was a master dog man who did much to standardize his breed, and the Totteridge kennel was pivotal in the creation of the modern Smooth.

It was the custom to immortalize dogs of such renown on canvas. These paintings were then used as templates for mass-produced prints that would hang in homes, taverns, and clubrooms. The plum job of painting the Totteridge terriers fell to Arthur Wardle (1864–1949), a self-taught animal portraitist who learned his trade during long hours of sketching at the London Zoo and at dog shows. By the time Wardle received Redmond's commission in 1897 he was an established master, adept at portraits of both wild and domestic animals.

In an account given years later, Wardle said his work on "The Totteridge XI" was made miserable by Redmond's meddling. The cantankerous sportsman looked over Wardle's shoulder as he painted, insisting the artist improve the weak points of his prize terriers—a shorter muzzle here, a straighter topline there—to ensure their perfection in the eyes of posterity. But as the old proverb goes, smooth seas yield few pearls. The friction between Wardle and his patron produced a gem.



Detail from a copy of Leonardo's "The Last Supper" by Giacomo Raffaell

"The Totteridge XI" is a masterly example of perspective painting. Wardle creates the illusion of depth by leaving plenty of bright ground beneath the dogs and darkening his palette as he moves from foreground to background, with the sponge and basin in the near foreground completing the three-dimensional effect.

Wardle's great challenge was how to group the 11 terriers, an unusually large number of subjects for a commission of this kind. He arranged the dogs on two levels, six on the ground and five in the hay crib above. One dog stands a head taller than the others, serving as the apex of the triangular arrangement.

Within the larger triangle, the dogs' heads are arranged to form smaller triangular patterns. These are set off by the rectangular planes of the background and floor, with one perfectly placed vertical beam breaking up the composition's horizontal drift.

When reduced to its abstract essence "The Totteridge XI" is a vague echo of that greatest of all group portraits, Leonardo da Vinci's "The Last Supper," an unsurpassed example of triangulation.

Leonardo's mandate was the same as Wardle's: to find a dynamic way to arrange a large number of subjects within a horizontal plane. Using the perfectly triangular figure of Christ as the focal point, Leonardo divided the 12 disciples into four subgroups of three figures each. The heads and hands of the disciples form triangular patterns set against the rectangular tablecloth, windows, and tapestries. (The Renaissance master and the Victorian animal painter shared another challenge: a pesky patron. The prior of Santa Maria delle Grazie, the church that houses "The Last Supper," made such a pest of himself while Leonardo worked that the artist was sorely tempted to use the meddlesome priest as his model for Judas Iscariot.)

"LAST SUPPER" DETAIL/WIKIMEDIA COMMONS





"Portrait of an Extraordinary Musical Dog" by Phillip Reinagle Right: "Mozart at the Spinet," attributed to Thaddeus Helbing

Wardle, like Leonardo, understood the visual power contained in the unreleased tension of triangles, especially when framed by static rectangles. The anonymous geniuses who built the Egyptian pyramids—huge triangles set against a rectangular horizon where sand meets sky—knew this principle and deployed it in its purest form. The art of ancient cultures the world over (the Hindus, Greeks, and Mayans, to name just a few) is rife with a similar fascination with triangles.

True, Wardle's subject and scope were humbler than that of Leonardo or the pharaoh's master builder, but it's also true that his painting of the Totteridge terriers is more than just documentation of a celebrated kennel. It serves as a visual encyclopedia of art theory and history, from which any young artist can learn.

Not bad for a guy who never took a lesson.

"PORTRAIT OF AN EXTRAORDINARY MUSICAL DOG"

Dog Save the King

In Phillip Reinagle's enigmatic 1805 painting "Portrait of an Extraordinary Musical Dog," the solemn spaniel at the keyboard anticipated by almost a century the vogue for an odd subspecies of art: realistically rendered animals engaged in human behavior, popularized in the early 1900s by Cassius Coolidge's "Dogs Playing Poker" paintings.

But where the Coolidge cardsharps are simply kitschy fun, Reinagle's bit of anthropomorphic nonsense might have been making a serious point.

The Scottish-born Reinagle came to London as an artist's apprentice in 1763. He lived in the time of the Enlightenment, or the Age of

"MOZART AT THE SPINET": PUBLIC DOMAIN; "EXTRAORDINARY MUSICAL DOG"/COURTESY MUSEUM OF FINE ARTS, HOUSTON

Reason, when Europe's great thinkers and artists strove to ennoble the "common man" through universal education and social equality. This had a democratizing effect on music, long the province of the nobility and the clergy.

Good music suddenly belonged to all. Sprawling "pleasure gardens" were built to accommodate public concerts, and impresarios vied for paying customers by engaging star performers. Especially popular were child prodigies. Then, as now, children who could inexplicably write and play music like adults fascinated audiences. Wolfgang Mozart—with his father, Leopold Mozart, spurring him on and managing his career—was the most famous of these prodigies, but there were several other wunderkinds attracting curiosity seekers throughout 18th-century Europe.

One such child was William Crotch, son of an English carpenter. In 1777, the 2-year-old stunned his parents by playing an original arrangement of "God Save the King" on the family organ. The boy's fame spread, and by age 4 he was giving recitals of his own compositions. Reinagle, by this time an



"Alexander and Diogenes" by Sir Edwin Landseer

"ALEXANDER AND DIOGENES" (LANDSEER)/AKC COLLECTION

established portraitist, undoubtedly knew of Crotch and perhaps even heard him play.

The painter came from a musical family. His father was a master trumpeter who for many years was employed by none other than King George III. Reinagle's three brothers were also professional musicians. The most famous of them, Alexander Reinagle, emigrated to Philadelphia and became one of America's first composers of note. There's no doubt, then, that Phillip Reinagle was keenly aware of the musical currents of his time. And contemporary accounts indicate he was a bit of a snob, with strong ideas about the place of art and music in society.

Was his "Portrait of an Extraordinary Musical Dog" a satiric broadside aimed at parents like Leopold Mozart and the elder Crotch, who were criticized for exhibiting their children as though they were circus dogs?

The smoking gun might be in the painting itself. The sheet music on the piano is "God Save the King," the tune that made William Crotch famous.

"ALEXANDER AND DIOGENES"
Landseer's Little Joke on Us

Sir Edwin Landseer (1802–73) was Victorian England's leading painter of canine subjects. He was said to be the Queen's favorite artist, and to this day museums and private collectors treasure his works.

But the amusing little dogatelle related here begins not in Victoria's British Empire but in the Macedonian empire built in the fourth century B.C. by Alexander the Great. Plutarch, the foremost biographer of antiquity, provides the background:

"The Greeks assembled at the Isthmus and voted to send an expedition under Alexander against Persia, and proclaimed him their leader. Many officials and philosophers came to greet him, and he expected that Diogenes would do the same. But Diogenes paid not the least attention to Alexander and went on enjoying his leisure."

"So Alexander went to him and found him lying stretched out on the ground, sunning himself. At the approach of so many people, he sat up a little and turned his gaze on Alexander. Alexander greeted him and asked him if he wanted anything. Diogenes replied, 'Yes, Move over a little—you're blocking my sun.' "

"At this answer, they say, Alexander was so surprised and admired so much the arrogant greatness of the man who had scorned him, that as they went away, he said to his companions who were laughing at him, 'Nevertheless, if I were not Alexander I would be Diogenes.' "



"Alexander and Diogenes" by Casper de Crayer

This encounter between the world's most powerful man and an eccentric but fearless philosopher has inspired artists for centuries. Many painters have immortalized it on canvas, but none so whimsically as Landseer. Landseer's take on "Alexander and Diogenes" echoes Old Master depictions of the famous meeting down to such fine detail as the overturned wine barrel in which the unworldly Diogenes lived. Among many traditional renderings of the theme that could have inspired Landseer is the one seen here, by the 15th-century Flemish master Caspar de Crayer.

"Probably Landseer meant his picture to call attention to the vanities of human nature, and to make us smile at them," wrote an art critic a generation after Landseer's death. "The expressions on the faces of these dogs are almost human, so well do they tell their story."

There's more to Landseer's visual joke. Diogenes was described by contemporaries as "doggish" because of his honesty and a complete indifference to worldly possessions and pretense—to say nothing of his habit of casually urinating in public. His goal was to live a fully unencumbered life, like a dog. He would own no more than he could beg from passersby. (An ancient tale has it that upon seeing a little boy drinking water from his hands, Diogenes threw away his cup and said ruefully, "A child has bested me at plain living.")

Because of this, Diogenes was nicknamed "Kynos," Greek for *dog*. The English translation of Kynos is *cynic,* and the philosophy preached by Diogenes became known as Cynicism and its adherents Cynics. From the name Cynic we get the word *cynical* ("always questioning"), and it is also the Greek root for such words as *cynology,* meaning the scientific study of dogs, and *cynophilist,* a fancy word for "dog lover."

Diogenes was something of a pest and an eyesore in Athens, and being called a dog by his fellow citizens was not meant as a compliment. But he was proud to be known as "The Dog." He considered dogs superior to the vain, acquisitive human race. Like a dog, Diogenes said, "I fawn on those who give me anything, I bark at those who refuse, and I set my teeth in rascals."

"ALEXANDER AND DIOGENES" (DE CRAYER)/ WIKIMEDIA COMMONS

RINGSIDE

LAKE-DRAKE CLUSTER, SEPTEMBER 14–17

VALLEJO, CALIFORNIA—

The Lake County KC of Northern California and Sir Francis Drake KC teamed up to offer a four-day event that featured conformation, obedience, and rally competition at the Solano County Fairgrounds. The combined four-day entry of 3,950 also enjoyed 4-to-6-Month Puppy competition and AKC National Owner-Handled Series. Photos by Diana Han









COURTESY DIANA HAN, NOR CAL BULLDOGGER













RINGSIDE

MONTGOMERY COUNTY KC, OCTOBER 8

BLUE BELL, PENNSYLVANIA—A veritable who's who of terrierdom and an entry of 1,605 converged on Montgomery County Community College in unseasonably warm, sticky weather for the Montgomery County KC show. The venerable all-terrier affair has been run every year since 1929, interrupted only by a hiatus during World War II.

2017 will be remembered by Montgomery County regulars as the year of the AmStaff. Judge Robert Paust put up American Staffordshire Terrier Ch. Alpine's LBK Living on the Road, DS, as Best Bred-by-Exhibitor in Show. In the finale, Dr. John Reeve-Newson selected another AmStaff, GCh. Roadhouses Life of the Party, CA, CGC, as his Best in Show. Photos by Diana Han













COURTESY DIANA HAN, NOR CAL BULLDOGGER

RINGSIDE

MONTGOMERY COUNTY KC, OCTOBER 8





COURTESY DIANA HAN, NOR CAL BULLDOGGER













VIDEOS



Owner-Handler Seminar
The dynamic Diego Garcia presents his owner-handler seminar at an American Boxer Club regional specialty. Worth watching for any owner-handler looking to polish their ring work. Part one of a four-part video series, all available on YouTube. 1:04



Newfie to the Rescue!
"Dogs doing what they were bred to do" is a running theme on our "Videos" page. This month, a Newfoundland works at water rescue. Highlight: excellent underwater footage of the big guy swimming like a sea lion. 3:07



A Raleigh Good Time
Our own David Woo was in Raleigh, North Carolina, for last month's AKC Responsible Dog Ownership Day flagship event and filed this video report. 1:54



Planet of the Dachshunds
It's Wienerworld! It's Dachsopolis! It's the Big Dapple! A place where even cats must bend to the Dachshund's iron will! Impossible, you say? Check out this delightful 1957 clip from British Pathé. 1:08



Paula Hartinger

Paula and Roger Hartinger, of Cincinnati, are one of the few husband-and-wife teams approved to judge all breeds. In December, they will write another memorable chapter in their love story of 61 years when they top the judges panel at the AKC National Championship. Mr. Hartinger will select Best in Show, and Mrs. Hartinger, who has judged in all 50 states and more than 20 countries, will do the honors in the Best Bred-by-Exhibitor in Show ring.

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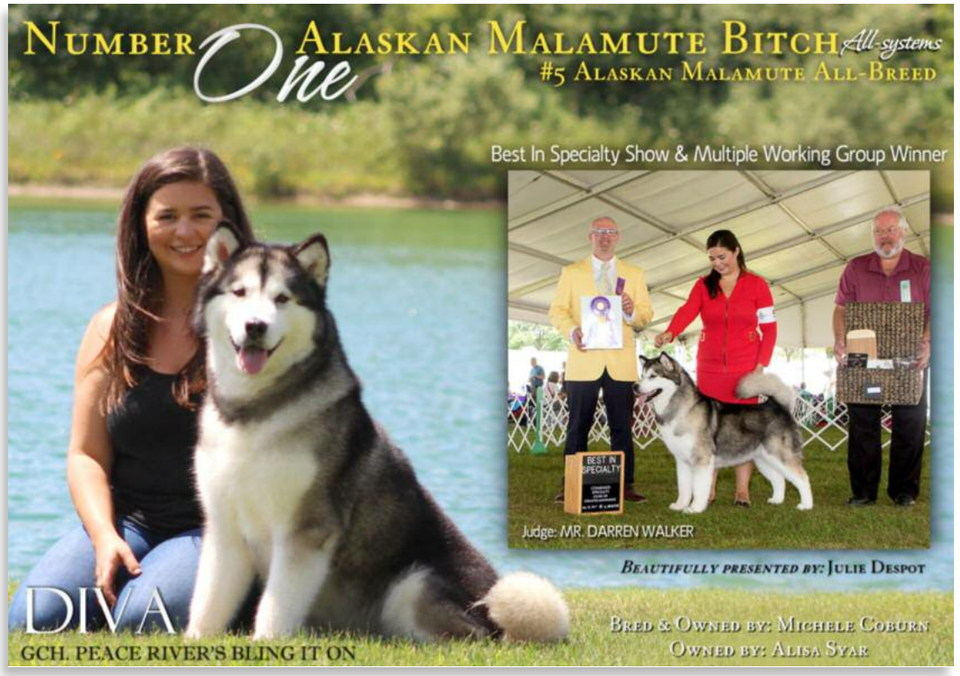
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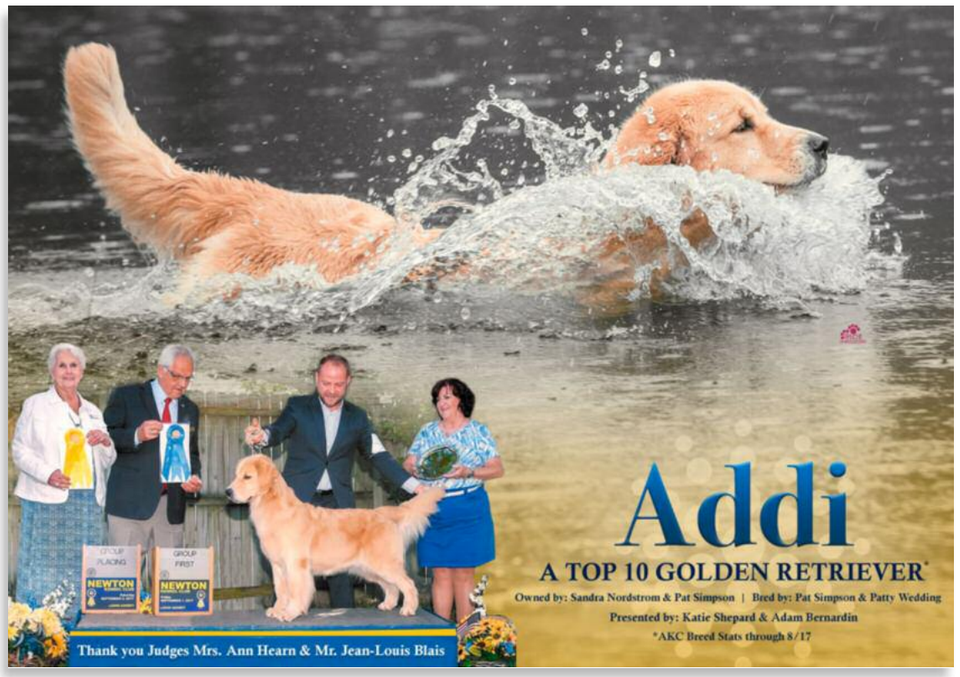




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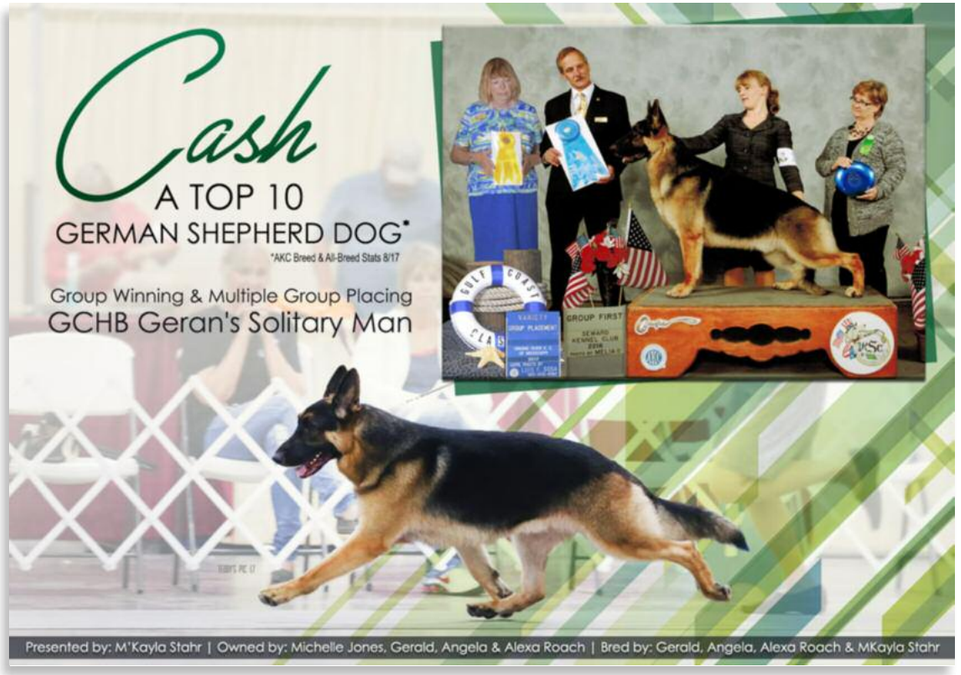
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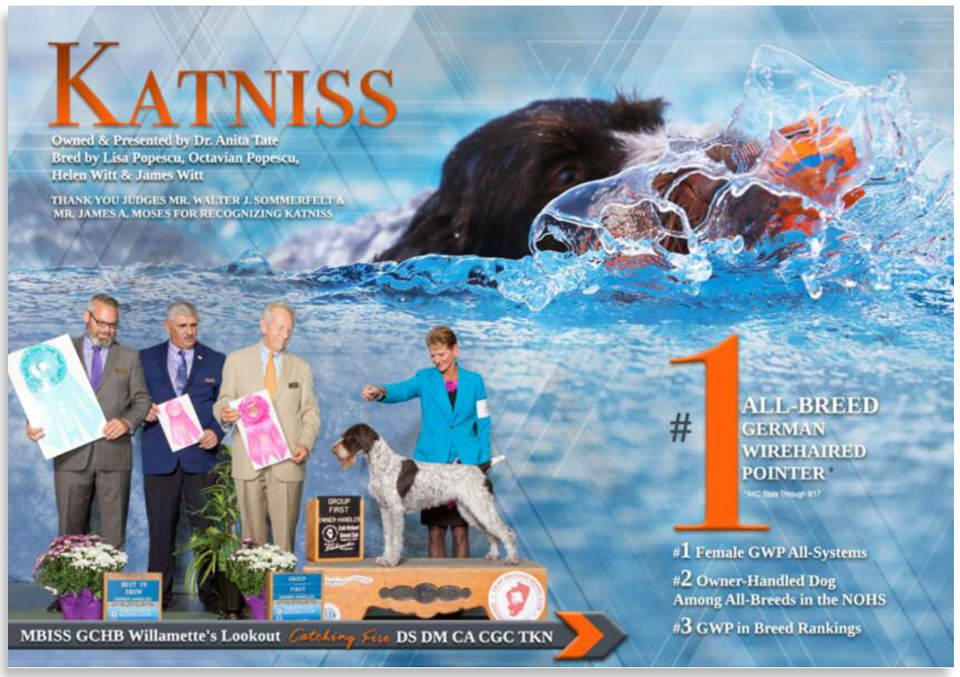




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BREED COLUMNS

edited by Arliss Paddock *avp@akc.org*



This month, the Weimaraner Club of America's Carole Lee Richards discusses the importance of positive reinforcement in the show ring.

DAVID WOO ©AKC

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.

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SPORTING GROUP

Brittany

NOSE PRINTS

"How can you possibly see out of these windows?" enquired my better half. She had just slid into the front seat of the vehicle that my three Brittanys regard as their exclusive domain.

The reader needs to know that before my wife entered the car, I had quickly brushed all the loose, feathery, white dog hair from the seat with my orange ball-cap. I just knew Emma would not want it clinging to her coat and dress slacks.

I hoped she wouldn't notice the muddy paw prints on the seat, and as I brushed away the hair, I found myself wishing that I had a wet rag. No matter—she didn't mention them. But with her next statement I regretted that I hadn't used Windex to get rid of the smudges on the glass.

"I can't believe it!" she exclaimed. "This car has gone to the dogs, and I mean it literally. What filthy windows!"

With a bit of dry humor, I responded, "But dear, you know these are nose prints. See? This one in the top right-hand corner is Dewey's. And the one over there on the bottom, next to the side window, is Bear's. Oh, here's one of Herb's in the middle of the windshield."

My wife was unimpressed. "What the devil are you talking about? Those are nothing but dirty smudges from your dogs. You can't tell me you know which of those marks were made by which dog."



Brittany

"Now wait a minute," I persisted. "A dog's nose—and especially a Brittany's nose—is just like a person's fingerprint. Each is different and has its own distinguishing characteristics. My Brittanys all have different nose prints."

"Rubbish!" said Emma. "You even have a smirk at the corner of your mouth. These are just filthy windows, and you're just making excuses for your dogs. You should have cleaned the glass before this."

Then we both laughed.

But that was the first and last time my wife rode in the "dog car." It was a good thing, because several weeks later, while I was discussing some business affairs in a local restaurant with my son, my Brittany Herb chewed the leather covering from part of the steering wheel. There was no sense in scolding him, the damage was already done. I had simply spent too much time talking to Dan, and Herb had become bored. Black electrician's tape did a repair job that was just fine for the dog car.

This past year, in November, we donated this marvelous automobile to the National Kidney Foundation. The transmission was making funny noises, as were the brakes. As the tow truck rumbled down our driveway. I am absolutely sure I saw Dewey's nose print illuminated by the sunlight on the front windshield. I allowed myself a moment of regret that the new Brittany pup, Addy, wouldn't have the chance to put her signature on the windows of the dog car.

—David A. Webb,
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American Brittany Club

Lagotti Romagnoli

HISTORY

In order to feel comfortable judging this unique sporting breed, it will help getting to know its origin and its history.

The Lagotto Romagnolo originates from Romagna, a sub-region of Italy. It is the only breed in the world specifically bred to find truffles in all kinds of terrain. The name means "lake dog from Romagna" originating from the Italian word *lago,* which means "lake." It is an ancient breed of water retriever from the lowlands of Commachio and the marshlands of Ravenna. Modern water-retrieving dog breeds are believed to be descended in part from the Lagotto Romagnolo. Andrea Mantegna in the 1474 work titled *The Meeting* depicts a medium brown and white dog with a

TY FOSTER FOR AKC

SPORTING GROUP

curly coat in the lower left corner that is the perfect image of today's Lagotto.

The Lagotto Romagnolo has the restrained character of the true country dog. At first glance it gives an impression of something historic and archaic that has survived to the present day. Many archeological sites, especially in northwest Italy, have revealed the presence of various canine breeds, especially a small water dog with a bristly crimped coat. There are several paintings dating way back that show an amazing likeness to the Lagotto Romagnolo.

In the 19th century the marshlands in the Lagotto community of Romagna were drained. Water fowling slowly ceased, and the Lagotto nearly went extinct. Truffle hunters realized that the dogs possessed a remarkable sense of smell, and they brought them back from the brink of extinction. With its tightly-knit coat, the Lagotto turned out to be the perfect choice for searching in hilly woodland and thorny scrub for hard to find truffles during the autumn and winter months.

It was toward the mid-1970s that a group of Romagna-based dog lovers decided to save this breed. Supported by dog expert, judge and world-famous breeder, Dr. Antonio Morsiani, a Romagna-born dog lover with extensive experience, along with Lodovico Babini, a genetic reconstruction program was set in motion that not only, rescued this breed from extinction, but it is responsible for its very existence in the U.S. today.

In order to maintain the original working ability of the Lagotto Romagnolo, the "Quintino Toshi" Italian Lagotto club has organized truffle-finding (working) aptitude tests and trials throughout Italy. They are very successful, and more are attending every year from both Italy and from abroad.

It is important to remember the coat type of this breed. The coat should be shown in a rustic style, with no fluffing or blowing-out. The waterproof coat of the Lagotto appears rough and forms thick, tight curls that cover the entire body, except for the head, which has longer locks. They come in any color other than black. The coat length should be kept at about one to one-and-a-half inches. Judges should make sure they run their hands through the coat to make sure of its length and rough curls.

The Lagotto has a square body with a rather stocky trunk. Its general appearance is rustic, strong, and well-proportioned. As a utility dog, its working ability should be immediately obvious.

Judging the Lagotto Romagnolo in the U.S. will be a constant learning process for many years to come. Remembering the breed's history will help judges chose their winners wisely.

Hugs to yours!

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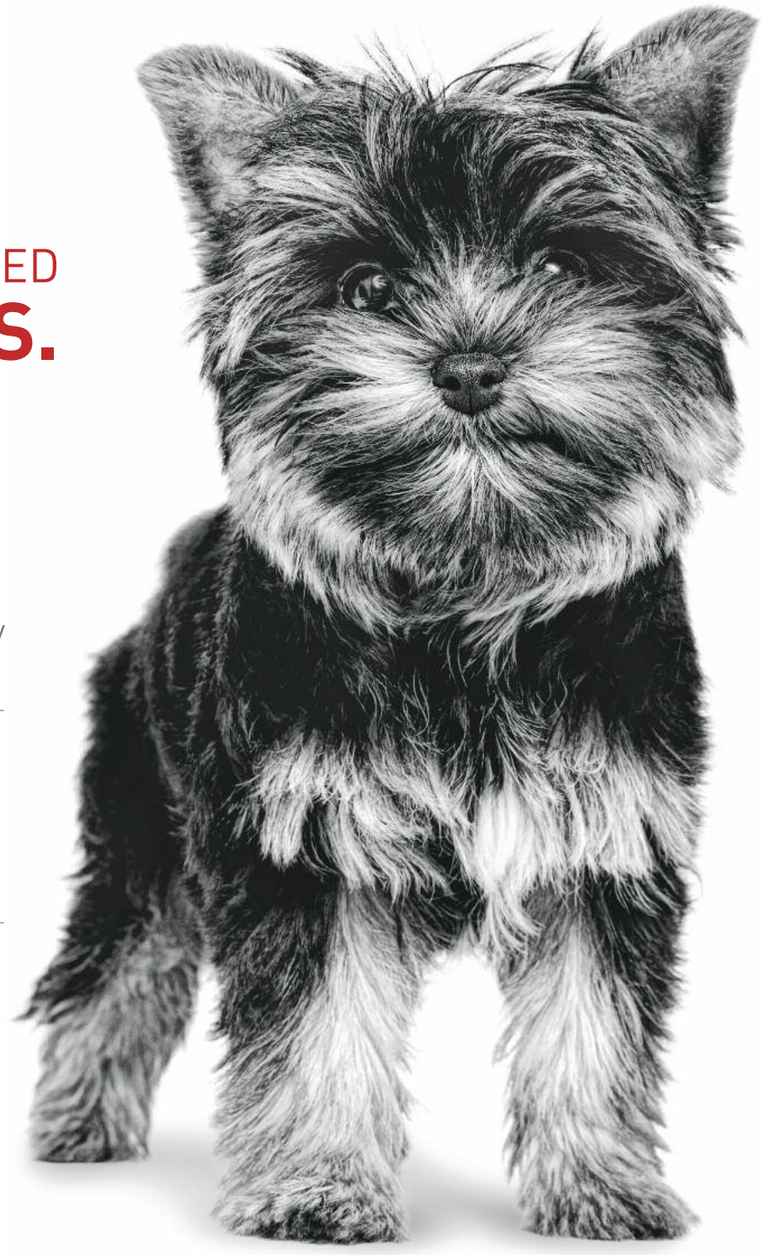
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December 15, 2017
(During the 2017 AKC National Championship)
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We'll see you at The Stakes
As the event approaches, look for updates including entry details, information about judges and more in the premium list coming this September.

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SPORTING GROUP

—Lynn Looper,
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Lagotto Romagnolo Club of America

Pointers

For this issue we revisit the following wonderful insights on the breed from breeder-judge Mr. Thomas Bradley, III.

ON POINTERS: THOMAS BRADLEY, III

A good Pointer when he enters your ring has a bit of an attitude—a little bit of arrogance—with his head held high and his nostrils large and flared. A good Pointer is moderate in size, not too big and overdone, not too refined. From the tip of his somewhat upturned nose to the tip of his shortish tail, he fits. He has good balance. He is in proportion.

I judge good Pointers on the premise that shorter is always preferable to longer—*everywhere.* Shorter in muzzle is better than longer. Shorter-backed is better than too long. Shorter loin is much better than too long. Shorter ears are way better than too long, and they should be somewhat pointed—never round—with thin, almost see-through soft leather. Not Foxhoundlike—not ever!

Our standard says that the tail is "Heavier at the base, tapering to a fine point. Length no greater than to the hock." I find this to be fairly self-explanatory. You would be amazed at those who miss this point. It does not mean that the tail must come to the hock. It means what it says: "no *greater* than to the hock." Again, a shorter, or "bee-sting," tail is better than a long tail, and it will likely be straighter. Long gives a multitude of problems. They hang, as in an unhappy Bloodhound or, as they are often set on too high or level, they curl—or worse, stick straight up at 12 o'clock. All are equally offensive.

The standard says, "Croup falling only slightly to the base of the tail." This clearly means that the croup falls off "only slightly to the base of the tail." The tail therefore should not come off level with the back.

As he stands there, the picture of what you believe to be a good Pointer, you become concerned about his topline—it isn't level. Well, good! It isn't supposed to be. If it were, he couldn't do the job he was bred to do. The standard says, "slight rise from croup to the top of the shoulders. Loin of moderate length, powerful and slightly arched." This "slightly arched" gives him his powerful drive and the ability to do his work effortlessly for hours on end.

So, now we have a moderate-sized dog who is compact—all over—and has an attitude! Now we pray that when he moves, he is basically sound coming, going, and on the go-around and doesn't pick his front feet up too high—that is, hackney.

The standard says, "A good Pointer cannot be a bad color." This does not mean that he can be purple! He can be liver and white, black and white, orange and white or lemon and white, with associated points to match—black noses and eye-rims on the blacks and oranges, self-colored on the livers and lemons. He can even be solid colored of any of the four colors listed previously. I will say, however, that I have never seen a solid-colored Pointer that I feel would fit into my above description of a good Pointer.

In my opinion, they may never be tricolored. Most of the oldest books now available warn frequently about tricolored Pointers carrying "too much of the Foxhound blood."

Again, muzzle too long, ears too long, tails too long. Now, look at his feet. This is a working dog. Oval feet, not round, with well-arched toes, allowing him to work all kinds of ground effortlessly.

So, now what do we have? We have a moderately sized dog who comes into your ring with his head held rather arrogantly. Your first impression is head, tail, and attitude. Next, he appears to balance, and he is in fit condition. We know now that the standard says he can't be a bad color, and he is one that is acceptable.

Always look at a Pointer from all sides—coloring or patching can easily deceive, and for some reason his "off-side" is often more pleasing to the eye. He moves around your ring with power and grace. His tail, we hope, will lash somewhat from side to side as he moves soundly on four good legs. When he stops, he looks at you with a soft, trusting expression. Lucky you … you've just judged a good Pointer. The others just won't measure up. Enjoy. —T.B.

Thank you, Tom, for this informative column. Please visit the APC website (link below) for information on our wonderful breed. Your suggestions and comments are welcome.

—Helyne E. Medeiros,
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American Pointer Club

German Shorthaired Pointers

THE FUTURE OF OUR SPORT

While watching a young man handle his Shorthair for a judges' seminar, a friend who is a Shorthair breeder-judge commented, "Every Shorthair needs a boy, but not every boy needs a Shorthair." Her comment was meant as a compliment to the young man and his dog.

Junior handlers can be found competing in conformation, but not as much in field trials and hunt tests. In 2015, a couple of older members of the San Antonio GSP club came

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2012 GSPCA National Field Trial Amateur judge Jim Wortman, with one of the most junior handlers (Can you tell he's a grandfather?)



AKC Judge Alex Garza with some of his placements



Mom with her two boys and their Shorthair—and quail in the bush

up with an idea to introduce youngsters to the sport of field trialing. The idea was formulated to have a non-regular stake "Novice Handler Hunting Dog" held during the club's walking field trial. Thanks to Doug Lundgren of AKC Performance Events, the concept would become a reality in 2015.

The stake would be open to all pointing breeds handled by youngsters under the age of 18; it would run for 15 minutes and be limited to 20 entrants. If the individual didn't own an AKC sporting-breed dog, one would be provided by a knowledgeable volunteer who would walk the stake with them, providing encouragement and tips but not handling the dog. Field trial rules would apply in a very relaxed sense to provide a positive experience. The event would be listed in the premium and judged by AKC-approved field trial judges, with non-regular ribbons awarded for placements. Per AKC rules, only tracking collars would be allowed.

There was a brief instruction session with explanation, and a small carrier had a couple of quail for those who were unfamiliar with gamebirds. Several entrants came from families that were or had been active in AKC hunt tests or field trials.

That first year, 12 competitors participated, ranging in age from 4 to 14. The sporting breeds represented were the Brittany, Gordon, Shorthair, and Vizsla.

It was difficult to determine who was having more fun—the youngsters and their dogs, or the adults helping.

In 2016, the GSPCA's 2012 NFT Amateur judge was there to help and to impart a bit of wisdom to the youngsters. As the San Antonio GSP club plans for 2018, there is no doubt past participants will be there and continue into the future to help infuse new blood into our performance sports.

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

Chesapeake Bay Retrievers

CHESSIES LOVE TRICKS

Wake up your Chessie's sense of humor! Even the toughest hunting Chessie has a lighter side. The AKC has now offered new titles for tricks to encourage owners to have more fun with their dogs. (Information on the Trick Dog program here)

Paired with the Canine Good Citizen test, any CGC evaluator can test your dog for the trick program. If the dog has a CGC, he needs only five tricks from the Novice list for the Novice Trick Dog title (TKN), or 10 tricks if he does not have the CGC. The Intermediate Trick Dog (TKI) title requires the Novice title, plus 10 Intermediate tricks, while the Advanced Trick Dog title (TKA) requires the Intermediate title, plus five Advanced tricks. For the Trick Dog Performer title (TKP) handlers perform a short routine on video of at least 10 tricks previously learned. At the Novice level, handlers may use a food or toy lure as needed and may use food or clicker reinforcers. For Intermediate and Advanced titles, the handlers may not use food or toy lures, but they may use food rewards/clickers. There are suggested ideas for handler's choices. All upper levels require a title in the level below.

What kind of tricks earn titles? The AKC provides a list of 20 tricks for each level, with

COURTESY PATTE TITUS

SPORTING GROUP

several "handler's choice" options. The Novice level includes tricks such as fetch it, hold it, get it, and find it—custom-made for retrievers. If you do agility, the balance beam, jump, tunnel, and "get on" tricks are easy. Obedience dogs will do well with push-ups and hand signals. Fun tricks like kiss, high five, shake hands, spin in circle, and touch it are fun and easy to teach. In fact, all the tricks are easy to teach and will bring a smile to both handler and dog.

The Intermediate level includes more complicated tricks. Fetch it at 20 feet, catch I, hand signals (three in a row), and carry (a basket) are fun for the field dogs. Wobble board, weave poles, and leg weaves are great agility tricks. Chessies will love to wave goodbye, pull a toy, or go find a hiding handler. Any dog can play the shell game, finding a treat under one of three cups, and then there are go to your place (to a bed mat or crate) from 10 feet, and crawl for five feet. Teaching an interactive canine game to get a treat and push a button on a sound toy is simple. Can your dog jump through your arms in a circle, or paws up on your arm? Check out the list for more entertainment.

Advanced Tricks get trickier but are not more of a challenge. Roll over, play dead, and bow—any smart Chessie can learn these tricks quickly. It might be harder for the handler when a Chessie jumps into his arms or jumps over his back. The agility dogs can weave six poles without a lure. Obedience dogs can find a scent article from five articles. So it is simple to find five tricks through the list.

To be a Trick Dog Performer you must use 10 tricks from any list, including two Intermediate tricks and two Advanced tricks, and the dog must have all three titles on record. Your routine may have a story. If you have a story, you should tell the basic idea yourself, or have a narrator read it and give you cues. No food lures are permitted, but treats may be used as reinforcers. Trick Dog Performers requires you to provide a video for the AKC to view via submission to YouTube, Facebook, or another service.

What are you waiting for? Get out there and enjoy your dog. He will love you for it.

—Audrey Austin,
audreyaustin@cox.net
American Chesapeake Club

Curly-Coated Retrievers

THE UPLAND GAME PART ONE

Over the years, owners of Curly-Coated Retrievers have praised the breed's ability to perform well in upland hunting. The dictionary describes upland hunting as "an American term for a form of hunting in which the hunter pursues upland birds." These birds include quail, pheasant, grouse, woodcock, and others. Upland birds tend to be found on the ground in heavy cover, so hunters tend to use gundogs to locate and retrieve game.

Our Curly-Coated Retriever Club of America is fortunate to have an Upland Working Certificate (UWC) now offered. The Field Committee of our club is now considering two more advanced levels of upland tests for our Curlies.

Quite a few years ago there was an interesting discussion regarding the ability of Curlies to perform well in upland work. The consensus of opinion was the innate ability of Curlies to do this well. The discussion was among some members of our club as to just which activities should be canceled if there was a lack of time to include all the different events that we now may include in our once a year national specialty.

Kathy Phillips, a longtime owner of Curly-Coated Retrievers who have performed well in upland work, will now share with us some very worthwhile information about this activity. In that discussion those many years ago, she said that hunt tests are about control, during which almost every move that the dog makes is directed by the handler. Upland work, however, is all about the dog's innate ability, which requires specific attributes in temperament. She went on to say that you trust your dog's natural quartering style to find birds and his drive and desire to flush, mark, and retrieve them with as little interference as possible and, with a good dog, that does not equate to chaos. He trusts *you* to drive the truck to a feathery field, to remember to bring the shotgun shells, and to use them well (or bring along someone who can) to knock down the birds for him. And *you* (eventually) learn to trust his instincts over your assumptions, because he is much better equipped to find birds than you are.

Thank you, Kathy, for sharing your knowledge of upland work with us. Part two will continue with more from Kathy in which she discusses training for upland fieldwork.

—Ann Shinkle,
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Curly-Coated Retriever Club of America

Golden Retrievers

A HEALTHIER GOLDEN FUTURE

On September 30, 75 Golden Retrievers will be on display in the annual Golden Retriever Lifetime Study Parade of Heroes, held during the Golden Retriever Club of America (GRCA) national specialty in Salisbury, Maryland.

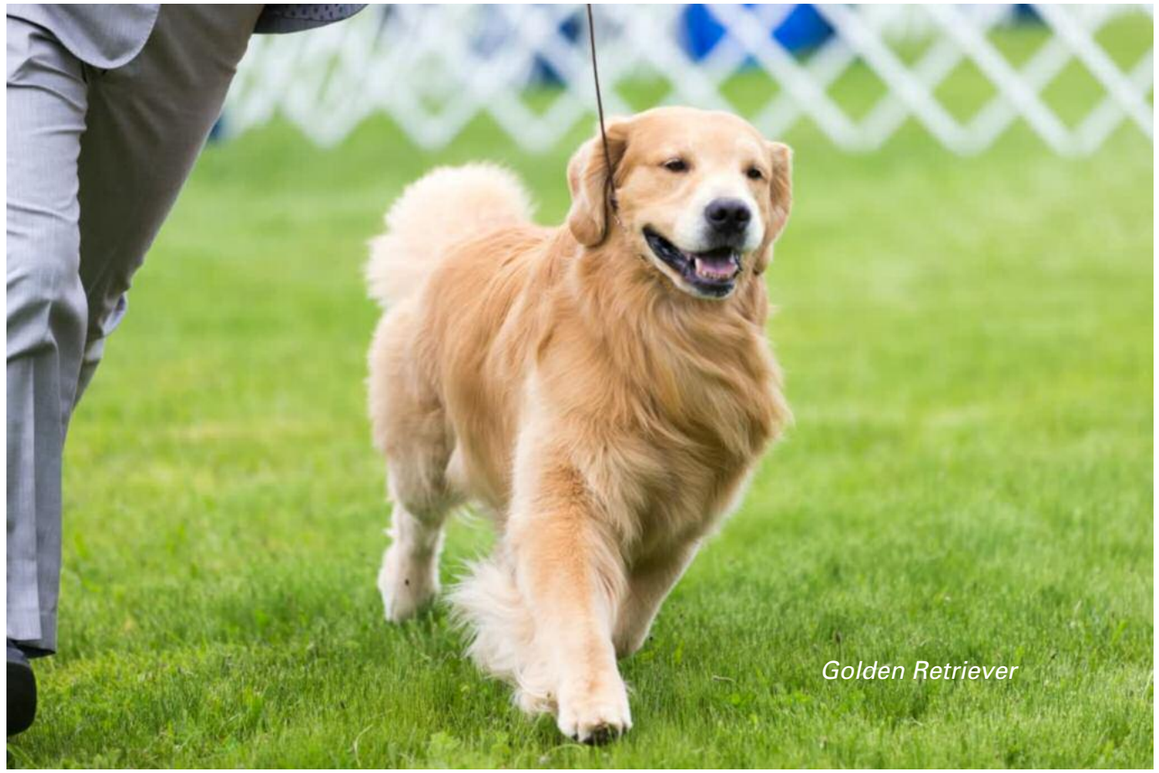
The 75 parade honorees are among the

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3,000-plus Golden participants in the Morris Animal Foundation's (MAF) Canine Lifetime Health Project. This groundbreaking research is the "largest and most comprehensive observational study ever attempted in veterinary medicine in the United States." The goal is to identify the risk factors associated with the development of cancer and other major diseases in dogs.

The study participants and their owners are truly Golden heroes, as they must commit to participate for the entire life of the dog. Owners must take their dogs to its veterinarian for annual examinations. The veterinarians will take sample collections of blood, urine, feces, hair, and toenail clippings to submit to MAF. Owners complete online questionnaires regarding the dog's diet and environment, and allow collection of tumor samples for evaluation, when such conditions arise. The enrollees must be purebred, healthy and under two years of age at the time of application, and have a three-generation pedigree. The dog's owner must assume the full veterinary costs associated with these annual examinations; MAF will reimburse them 75 dollars per year to help offset that expense.

Using this collection of information, the MAF researchers hope to identify the genetic, environmental and nutritional risk factors associated with cancer and other major health canine health problems. Results of their research could hopefully lead to better diagnosis, prevention, and treatment of cancer and other canine disease.


Golden Retriever

More than half of Golden Retrievers develop cancer, many at a very young age, and cancer is the leading cause of death in all purebred and mixed-breed dogs. The study participants can raise a paw to salute their contribution to help create a healthier Golden future for the canine world. And we in turn salute both owners and dogs for their commitment.

Information for this article was taken from the Golden Retriever Foundation (GAF) website. For more detailed information, or to donate to canine cancer research, you can visit them at *GoldenRetrieverFoundation.org*, with links to MAF and other health research projects.

—Nona Kilgore Bauer,
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Labrador Retrievers

Labrador Retriever Club columnist Lee Foote wrote the following for the GAZETTE in 2012.

LABS AND KIDS: IT'S GREAT TO BE EIGHT

Children are generally recognized to be capable of a more mature relationship once they reach the age of about 8 years. Eight-year-olds are allowed to participate with their dogs in 4-H events. At 9 years, children are eligible for the AKC's Junior Showmanship program. The ASPCA recognizes that kids from the age of 9 and up are good candidates for attending obedience classes with their dog, as well as potentially being ready for competition in different venues.

This age milestone is generally the result of emotional and physical growth that make children in this age group more effective as trainers and more reliable as caretakers than younger children. The ASPCA proposes specifically that children around 8 years old are more capable of understanding thoughts and feelings from the dog's perspective. This age group also behaves in a more predictable way that is not as likely to make dogs uneasy. They are also generally large enough to have an "adult like" presence, if not the physical strength to control a large animal.

While many training organizations are reluctant to include children in their classes, it has

DAVID WOO ©AKC

been my experience that children at this age are often better students than adults. They are used to learning in school and aren't as likely as adults to have to "unlearn" old habits. When young people are motivated, they are capable of applying themselves and improving their training techniques. Adults who can't focus on their dogs long enough to be effective trainers rarely improve.

Family dogs who might have been accustomed to tolerating the child as a peer may need to undergo a reset of their perspective as the child asserts leadership through training. In our household it has been interesting to watch the "old salts" tutor my daughter (age 9) in her role as handler in classic obedience, agility, and fieldwork. They clearly find her much more interesting now that she has a more active place in their lives. The young dogs, which have never known her as anything but a leader, are even more receptive and are keenly interested in what she wants to teach them. These observations have reinforced for me the motivation so many families have to start with a puppy, especially once the children in the family reach the magical age of 8.

The recognized benefits of raising children with pets continue to grow. Pet ownership is attributed to enhancing everything from allergen tolerance to making kids smarter. In my opinion, the largest benefit comes from the opportunity to practice nurturing skills. Social individuals naturally want to reciprocate when they are nurtured. A child might not be able to care the adults in their lives much, but the family Labrador will always soak up any kindness it is offered.

With their high desire to please, low aggression, and tolerant attitude, Labrador Retrievers continue to be the favored dog for families with children. A survey conducted by *Petplace.com* asked 450 owners of Labrador Retrievers if they felt the Labrador was a good breed for families with children. Ninety-nine percent of the respondents agreed—the highest percentage of endorsement of any of the other breeds surveyed.

While Labrador Retrievers might be good for kids, it is important to remember that children are good for Labradors, too. Clubs should make support for junior participation a priority. The most progressive clubs will seek to recruit the next generation of fanciers from beyond those affiliated through their parents. Fresh hobbyists could be nurtured through support of 4-H or scout programs, local trainers, or obedience clubs. Outreach and making experts available for demonstrations, consultation, or judging are ways to encourage new members and build long-term support for the breed we love. —L.F.

Labrador Retriever Club

Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers

THE BACKYARD CLASSIC—A SYMBOL OF UNITY IN OUR BREED

"The Backyard Classic," or BYC, is the informal name for the Region 2–sponsored supported entry of the Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever Club (USA). Long before our breed became part of the AKC, the U.S. national club worked hard to bring together Tollers and their owners to promote the breed in various areas of the country. In Region 2 in particular, these gatherings originated as serious but relatively informal events, consisting of conformation and field at a minimum. This was because prior to AKC recognition the U.S. Toller club awarded conformation championships with similar requirements to the AKC: 15 points and two majors were needed. However, at least one of the majors had to be obtained after 18 months of age, and passing a BRT (basic retrieving and tolling test) or an equivalent field event was, and still is, required for a club championship. Consequently, field events have always been integral to the BYC.

Pre-BYC days, the Region 2–supported conformation events were organized around sanctioned AKC matches. Supported event organizers were challenged in securing judges qualified to award U.S. club championship points. At many early events, the club had little say in which judge would be judging Tollers. Also, on occasion, a judge who did not meet the U.S. club's requirements would be substituted at the last minute. It was thought that, by holding our own separate event, we would have more control over our choice in judges. Our efforts to secure qualified judges on our own were aided because many judges were excited to get a head start putting their hands on a large number of Tollers prior to their recognition by AKC.

Long time Region 2 members Evelyn Williams, Patty Beran, and Sue Dorscheid (all active club members and strong supporters of Tollers) came up with a plan for hosting these events. According to what was relayed to me by Sue, the BYC was their collective brainchild. They wanted to hold a regional event where Toller owners could earn club conformation points and their BRT field title all in the same weekend. In regard to the name, as legend has it, Evelyn asked, "What should we call it?" and Patty said, "How about the Backyard Classic?" Thus was born a tradition now over 20 years old.

The first BYC was held in 1995, the same year I got my first Toller. I did not attend that year, although in retrospect I wish I had. The inaugural event was held in Ann Arbor, Michigan, at the home of Evelyn and Nelson

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Williams. I showed up the second year, when it was held in Rosendale, Wisconsin, at the home of Sue Dorscheid and Mike Elmergreen. I was forever hooked!

Originally BYCs consisted of conformation and field events, and have since regularly included obedience and the occasional agility, rally, dock diving, and even barn hunting competitions. In most cases (for conformation, at least), early BYCs literally took place in a willing club member's back, side, or front yard. Attendees were recruited to sell t-shirts to raise money for the event, run the grill, or work the conformation and field events. The necessity of many hands pitching in to contribute to the event's success helped build strong ties over the years.

Since AKC recognition in 2003, the BYC has been held as a supported entry in conjunction with an existing AKC show. In more recent years, the number of sponsored trophies rivals those of some breeds' specialties, and Toller fanciers from other U.S. regions and Canada travel days to attend the Region 2 event. These days, we are more likely to congregate in a restaurant vs. having an informal cookout in someone's backyard, but at its heart the intent of the BYC remains the same. Fortunately, I have been able to make it to almost every BYC since my first, and I have relished the friendships and camaraderie I have developed with other Toller owners over the years.

The traditions established over the 20-plus years of BYC events hold us, and therefore our breed, together.

—Heather Green,
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Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever Club



English Setters

COURTESY DIANA HAN, NOR CAL BULLDOGGER

English Setters

RETURNING TO OUR ROOTS

Most of us with English Setters know that once upon a time, when our great-grandparents were young, English Setters were a popular breed. They were one of the first nine breeds accepted into the AKC in 1884. Chances are, when you've had your dog at a dog show or been out for a walk, you've encountered seniors who say something like, "I had one of those dogs when I was a boy (or girl). We used to hunt all day …"

Sadly, public tastes change. More people live in cities today, and fewer people hunt. Sometimes we're lucky if people don't mistake our dogs for "longhaired Dalmatians." For years now AKC has been registering fewer than 1,000 English Setters per year—a lot fewer. The situation is even worse in the U.K., where our breed originated. The English Setter has been hovering there with about 300 registrations per year, barely managing to stay off the Most Vulnerable Native Breeds list most years.

If this was the entire story for English Setters today, it would indeed be a dismal picture. However, it's not the whole story, and I think there are some things we can do to make things better for the breed we love.

According to figures from 37 FCI countries, the English Setter was ranked 19th in popularity among all breeds worldwide in 2013. Seriously. I'm not kidding. Some 29,771 English Setters were registered in these countries, according to research. This does not include the Kennel Club in the U.K., or AKC numbers. It does include Italy, which registered 14,510 English Setters in 2011, and France, which registered 5,390 in 2015. (These are the most recent numbers I could find for each country.) In fact, the English Setter has been the most popular breed in Italy and one of the most popular breeds in France. Most of us here in the United States have no idea of the popularity of our breed in Europe. We're used to feeling isolated with a breed that few people recognize, but that's not the case everywhere.

I'm told that many of the English Setters

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registered in France, Italy, and other European countries are hunting dogs. They're not the bench dogs or "Laveracks" that we're used to. However, there are plenty of show breeders in these countries with beautiful dogs. Some American breeders have already had wonderful results working with European breeders such as Fairray Kennels, Blue Baltic, Setter Della Cruismany, Los Vitorones, Fanchon, and others.

Why do I mention the worldwide population of English Setters? Because we need to be mindful of our breed's genetic health, and numbers are important. These numbers don't tell the entire story, because a breed's total population is not the same as its effective population—the number of dogs contributing genetically to the breed—but having more dogs is certainly better than being on the verge of extinction. For example, the worldwide population of Labrador Retrievers is vast. They are the number-one breed in many countries, along with the United States. However, their effective population size is estimated to be 114, at least in Great Britain (*https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2390636/*). A number lower than 100 is considered to be critical by conservation biologists. Less than 50, and a breed is considered to be at serious risk for the future. So, just because a breed has large numbers does not guarantee their genetic health. The effective population size for English Setters (in the U.K.) is about 29, and the number is probably similar for American English Setters. The breed COI for 22 generations for U.K. and American English Setters is about the same.

If we do have such a low effective population size, it would be wise to think about where we could find other English Setters to increase it. European English Setters are one source. From a genetic/health point of view, even if most of the English Setters registered in Europe are hunting dogs, that's fine. We should also reconsider the English Setter field dogs, handsome Rymans, and Llewellins here in the U.S. which most show breeders have shied away from for decades. I'm not suggesting that we should all start including these dogs in our breeding plans right away, but when people start worrying about genetic diversity in English Setters, I think they need to keep in mind that there is far more diversity in the breed than they may realize. Some of these populations of ES have been separated from each other since the days when Purcell Llewellin* was still breeding dogs. These English Setters may go by different names or be different "strains," but if we reach the point where we start to think our breed has lost too much diversity, we have places to turn within the breed. Some other countries and their kennel clubs are already considering this option for certain breeds with low genetic diversity.

The same is true for many sporting breeds that had a show/field split in the 20th century. Breed genetic health for the future could be improved by returning to the breed's roots and having a rapprochement with its field family. Not that this would be easy. Many field breeders are dead-set against show dogs and show breeders. But if the health of our breeds is at stake, we may need to work together.

I know this view will be cursed by people who detest upright tails and who hate the thought of ever breeding to field dogs, but if it means keeping our English Setters healthy and viable for the future, I think this is something we need to consider, at least as a contingency plan.

Of course, the main problem for English Setters in the United States—and for many other breeds—is that we are losing breeders. When you lose breeders, you also lose dogs, litters, and puppies. That's a big problem—and a subject for another day.

**If you have read much about Mr. Llewellin's breeding, you probably know that he did not hesitate to cross his Laveracks with other hunting dogs in his efforts to produce the kind of dogs he wanted. His most successful dogs were the result of breeding from a dog that was half-Gordon. Other sources reveal that he bred to Irish Setters and produced some beautiful dogs. Many of his dogs can be found in our late 19th century/early 20th century pedigrees. Llewellins that are 100-percent pure have been registered by the Field Dog Stud Book (FDSB) for decades, making this a very interesting source of genetic material for English Setter fanciers. They are registered as a separate breed from the English Setter in that registry. The fact that Mr. Llewellin was sometimes working with outcrossed dogs should be taken into account by people trying to figure genetic diversity in the English Setter.*

—Carlotta Cooper,
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Gordon Setters

CANINE INFLUENZA: A PET OWNERS' GUIDE

Portions of this article are adapted with permission from the AVMA.

A group of exhibitors at a recent hunt test in Northern California were discussing a "mystery illness" one of the exhibitor's dogs was stumping his vet in diagnosing. I thought the illness might be canine influenza ("CI," or dog flu).

I read recently that more cases were being seen in the U.S.—most particularly, in the East and Midwest, though spreading westward.

CI is caused by the canine influenza A virus

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(CIV). The disease is highly contagious—easily spread from infected dogs to other dogs via direct contact, nasal secretions (sneezing, barking, coughing), contaminated items in a kennel (bowls, leashes) and by people carrying the virus (on clothing, feet) between infected and healthy dogs. CI does not discriminate as to age, breed, or sex for dogs to become infected. There is no indication that it is zoogenic (passed by dogs to people). However, in 2016, cats are known to have been infected with the H3N2 CIV, having been exposed to infected dogs.

Two strains are known in the US: H3N8 (first seen in 2004 in Florida), and H3N2 (seen in Chicago in 2015). This was the first report of H3N2 affecting dogs outside Asia, where the virus was known to already exist.

Symptoms most resemble "kennel cough" (canine infectious tracheobronchitis). A thick nasal discharge and a high temperature (104–105 degrees F) may occur, along with lethargy and weight loss. Infected dogs can seem well but still be contagious, infecting other dogs, being most contagious during the two- to four-day incubation period when they shed the virus via nasal secretions. Eighty percent of dogs exposed become ill; the mortality rate for CIV is less than 10 percent.

Isolating dogs who are suspected of having CIV or having been exposed to a sick/infected dog helps to reduce the spread of the virus. Dogs infected with H3N2 CIV should be isolated for at least 21 days. Dogs infected with H3N8 CIV should be isolated for at least seven days. Watchful and careful hygiene (to include hand-washing, and thorough cleaning of kennel bowls, shared kennel items, and kennel-cleaning items, as well as the kennels themselves) helps reduce the spread of CIV. Influenza viruses normally do not survive on surfaces and clothing longer than 48 hours and are killed by using common disinfectants.

A two- to three-week recovery period is most common, although some dogs can develop more serious/severe secondary bacterial infections capable of leading to severe illness (pneumonia).

Lab testing is available for diagnosing both H3N8 and H3N2 CVI. Please consult your veterinarian for more information.

We are very fortunate that vaccines are available for both the H3N8 and H3N2 strains of the canine influenza virus.

The decision to vaccinate for CIV is called a "lifestyle" decision, meaning it is recommended for dogs who can be at risk of exposure because of the "lifestyle" their owners lead with their dogs. This might include taking your dog to shows, hunt tests, field trials, obedience/rally/tracking events, and so on. Also included in this list should be dogs who are boarded at kennels, who travel extensively with their owners (out of state) and who visit dog parks. The best source of guidance about whether to vaccinate is your veterinarian.

For more information and resource material, please visit the "Canine Influenza" page at the AVMA website.

—Carolyn R. Gold,
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Gordon Setter Club of America

Boykin Spaniels

WATCH ME

Boykin Spaniels are often seen with their nose to the ground. In the field, sniffing is essential for the Boykin to flush game. However, in the performance ring, sniffing the ground is problematic. In agility, I have seen dogs go around obstacles, walk into jumps, and duck underneath jump bars because they were sniffing the ground.

While in the ring, dogs sniff the ground for several reasons. Sometimes they do it because they are nervous. Other times, they find the scent on the ground more attractive than the task at hand.

The key to reducing ground-sniffing is to make other behaviors more attractive than sniffing. An effective way to do this is to get the dog's attention with something more captivating than what he smells on the ground. Bait, such as a treat or favorite toy, is often used to capture a dog's attention in the conformation ring. Treats, toys, and other training aids are not permitted in the performance ring, however, thus a different strategy is in order. This is where the "watch me" command becomes useful.

The goal of "watch me" is to have your dog to focus on you, momentarily diverting his attention from the ground so that you can quickly get him back on track in the ring. Teaching your dog to "watch me" is usually an easy process. Find something that motivates your dog, such as a small piece of food. Hold the food in your mouth (or next to your mouth with your hand). When your dog looks at your face, give him the treat. It is important to only reinforce *looking* at your face—not lunging at your face, nor jumping up on you, both of which are undesirable side effects.

Repeat this step until he reliably follows the treat to your face with his eyes. Next, point to your face, give the verbal cue by saying "watch me," and bring the food to your face as you had before. When he looks at you, give him the treat. Soon he will begin looking at you upon hearing the command "watch me." When this happens, stop bringing the treat to your face. Instead, keep the treat hidden, tell the dog "watch me," and give him the treat when he looks.

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Once your dog reliably looks at you upon hearing "watch me," you should begin to increase the delay in time and space between when the dog looks at you and when he receives the treat. (For example, leave the treat on a table across the room, and give it to him after he has watched you for several seconds.) This is necessary because treats are not allowed in the ring, necessitating a delay between your dog performing "watch me" and your giving him a treat once you exit the ring.

When your dog reliably "watches" you on command, you can try using this in the ring to get him back on track. For example, if you are running an agility course and your dog begins to sniff, do the following: Pause, give the "watch me" command, and when you have successfully captured his attention, redirect him to the next obstacle on the course. I have found this methodology effective with my Boykin spaniel.

For a breed who enjoys sniffing, such as the Boykin, it is important to have several tools available to divert his attention from sniffing. The "watch me" command is one such tool that comes in handy in a variety of situations.

—Jeff Engelmann,
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Boykin Spaniel Club and Breeders Association of America

Clumber Spaniels

The two most contentious issues in contemporary Clumber discourse are probably tail-docking and agility. There are two sides to every story. In recent columns have been presented historical and practical reasons for and against docking. Here, we are happy to have Cindy Brizes, former Agility chair of the CSCA, explain why she gave up entering her Clumbers in agility. Affirmative arguments will be presented in a subsequent column.

CLUMBER SPANIEL RISK MANAGEMENT: DECIDING WHETHER TO WORK YOUR DOGS IN AGILITY

In project management, decisions are often guided by taking risk into consideration. Risk is the probability of an event occurring times the consequence of the event. We make decisions daily in our lives by calculating risk and deciding whether we are risk-averse or not. I don't fly in small, single-engine airplanes. While the probability of the single engine malfunctioning is low, the consequence of smashing into the ground in that event would be high.

So, what does this have to do with our beloved Clumber Spaniels. Well, what we do with our Clumbers often includes a risk determination. Do we take them to dog parks, let them run off-lead, or let them swim in overly warm fresh water in the summertime? All three of these activities include potential risk: fights with other dogs, car injury, or contracting a brain-eating amoeba, respectively. To train and show in conformation or performance events also includes an evaluation of risk.

Conformation risky? Of course, there is risk to everything. Dog contracts the latest flu at a show: Probability is low, but the consequence is potentially high. Dog feels stressed and suffers from diarrhea: Depending on the dog, probability could be high, but the consequence is relatively low.

And what about performance events such as obedience, tracking, hunting, and agility? I have put 20 performance titles on seven dogs, most of whom were Clumbers. Six of these titles were in agility, with two different Clumbers.

Agility, as with most performance events, takes hours and hours of training before ever entering a trial or test. With agility, I trained several times a week for over a year before being ready to enter the first trial. The training sessions for agility weren't always very long, but even the simplest session included jumping.

While I only trained and showed two Clumbers in agility, both of them ended up with severe arthritis. Merlin had terrible arthritis in his feet, and Scarlett has severe arthritis in her elbow. Of the other five dogs who did performance events but didn't do agility, none of them have suffered from arthritis, including my 8½-year-old Clumber who still trains and runs in hunt tests with no evidence of arthritis. So for me, I have decided that the risk of debilitating arthritis from training and showing in agility is too high for my Clumbers.

Is the sample size large? No, but 100-percent affected is enough for me. And, with so many other venues to train and compete with Clumbers where they keep their feet on the ground (including hunting, tracking, and obedience), I have decided to minimize risk by opting out of a higher-impact sport.

As I said earlier, life is all about day-to-day, minute-to-minute risk evaluation. And we all rate the risks differently. Many people are into rock climbing, parachuting, and other extreme sports and find them to be acceptable risks. My hobbies include dog showing, walking/hiking with my dogs, and golf—all relatively low-impact, low-risk activities.

What about you and your Clumbers? Extreme sports, or low-impact? Either way, enjoy every minute with them, and do what is best for them. —C.B.

Thanks, Cindy!

Reminder: Don't drink and drive—or text and drive. Your dog will never understand why you didn't come home.

—Bryant Freeman, Ph.D.,
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Delegate, Clumber Spaniel Club of America, Inc.,

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Cocker Spaniels

SHOULDERS "AS SMOOTH AS SILK"

The Cocker Spaniel standard spends a good deal of time on shoulders, more than implying that shoulder construction is very important.

The General Appearance section of the standard says in part, "He stands well up at the shoulder …"

The Forequarters section says in part, "The shoulders are well laid back forming an angle with the upper arm of approximately 90 degrees which permits the dog to move his forelegs in an easy manner with forward reach. Shoulders are clean-cut and sloping without protrusion and so set that the upper points of the withers are at an angle which permits a wide spring of rib." When viewed from the side with the forelegs vertical, the elbow is directly below the highest point of the shoulder blade. Forelegs are parallel, straight, strongly boned and muscular and set close to the body well under the scapulae."

Cocker shoulders, when so constructed, constitute a most beautiful part of the dog, smooth as silk to the touch, allowing the hand to glide down the neck without obstruction into the widening intersection, allowing for proper spring of rib. Correct shoulder construction is so valued and admired by the fancy not only because of its crucial place in the overall, correct dog, but also because of the sheer beauty and feel to the area. The opposite feeling exists when one goes over a Cocker with faulty shoulders. For example, when you run your hand down the neck and you hit the obstruction of forward shoulder placement (*not* shoulders well laid back) you will notice that this results in a short neck, "stuffed" into the shoulders, far from the desirable picture of a long neck and smooth and flowing shoulders.

Keep in mind, with your mind's eye, the prescribed 90-degree angle and what happens if that angle changes; note the deleterious effect on the ability of the forelegs to move correctly, easily, and with forward reach, not with "baby steps" nor in a stilted manner.

The unfortunately common and troublesome fault is the upright, straight shoulder blade. Keep in mind what we want in the gait of the sporting dog. Note this excerpt from the standard's General Appearance section: "He is a dog capable of considerable speed, combined with great endurance." Note well the standard's Gait section: "The Cocker Spaniel, though the smallest of the sporting dogs, possesses a typical sporting dog gait. 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 construction in a full 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."

Incorrect shoulder placement most certainly affects balance between front and rear assemblies. A straight shoulder placement does not allow a dog to place his rear legs properly under him to allow for correct rear drive. As we note from the description and requirements in the Cocker standard, we want a sporting dog to cover more ground, with less effort and expending less energy. The word "endurance" is used. If the dog is "steep shouldered," having an upright shoulder blade, his movement will not be efficient. The dog will tend to put his head down to be able to use his muscles. The front of the dog bears much of his weight. Look for the Cocker who is comfortable in his gait, balanced and able to move effortlessly with reach in the front and corresponding drive from the rear; he should be able to move with head up and on a loose lead.

We have all heard breeders say that shoulder placement can change from that of a puppy (a straight shoulder placement can lay back with more age and development). There is a factual basis for that idea. The shoulder placement of a young puppy may start out more upright to accommodate for maximum weight-bearing in the front. As the puppy grows, exercises, and develops his muscles, his more mature muscles may give him a more well laid back shoulder placement as an adult. There is at least that hope and possibility!

Take note, on examination, of the dog's elbow placement, which should be directly below the highest point of the shoulder blade. Your hand and eyes must confirm how each Cocker is constructed. When you do find one with correctly constructed shoulders, please do enjoy and appreciate your hand running along the neck and the shoulders "as smooth as silk."

—Kristi L. Tukua
American Spaniel Club

English Cocker Spaniels

In 1980, English Cocker breeder Dr. Arthur Ferguson, of the influential Dunelm line, presented a talk on the breed to the Dog Judges Association of America symposium in New York City. This month we continue a look at selected excerpts from that talk, begun in the July issue. Many of the insights from the talk still clearly resonate today, while others provide illuminating historical perspective. The transcript of the talk first appeared in the Spring 1980 edition of the *ECSCA Review*.

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"THE ENGLISH COCKER IN PERSPECTIVE"—EXCERPTS PART TWO

"Most of you, I am sure, know something of the history of the English Cocker in America, so I shan't go into details. I might, however, refresh your mind on a few essential facts. Prior to 1935, all Cockers were shown as of the same breed. By that time the fallacy in this designation had become increasingly apparent. Only the fact that there were relatively few English Cockers in the country had kept it from becoming officially recognized earlier. Then, owing to the initiative of Mrs. Geraldine Rockefeller Dodge and the fledgling English Cocker Spaniel Club of America, the AKC granted the English Cocker separate status, but only as a variety. Separate breed status did not come until 1946. Meanwhile there were a few chaotic years while pedigrees were sorted out and judges got used to the situation.

"It was not too unusual for size alone to be considered the principal difference between the two varieties. I remember one person who had a handsome black of straight American breeding, but a bit too big, so he just entered him as an English Cocker and finished him without a defeat, and I am sure this was not an isolated instance.

"This matter of size, by the way, is one example of how circumstances tended to shape the attitudes of both breeders and judges to the English Cocker in this country. With the American Cocker already present as the majority variety, and later the majority breed, and in the days before the American Cocker had achieved quite the distinctive type and furnishings it now has, English Cocker breeders naturally tended to cultivate—or, if you will, tolerate—a slightly larger, slightly taller, dog than was being bred in England. English dogs, of course, also varied in size, and some imports came to this country because they were oversize for English taste. But this matter of size is nevertheless a legacy with which we have had to live ever since. Continued contact with breeders in the United Kingdom has moderated this tendency, and I don't think the variation in size is quite so marked as it used to be, but it is still there.

"The existence of the American Cocker as the vastly more numerous breed in this country no doubt influenced the course of English Cocker breeding in other and subtler ways—for example, a willingness to tolerate a horsier head type. But the circumstances that in my opinion did most to shape English Cocker type in this country were much the same as those that also conditioned the evolution of the American breed. I refer to the circumstances in which dogs, especially Cockers, have customarily been put down and shown here, circumstances very different from those pertaining in the English show ring.

"At first glance this might not seem like a matter of much concern to American judges. After all, it is the American show scene they are primarily concerned with. The trouble is that breeders of English Cockers in this country have not been able to ignore the English dogs—nor have they, for the most part, wanted to. In fact, they have found themselves going back to imported stock whether they liked it or not, whether these dogs suited their taste (as they often have), or whether they won (which they often have not). The relation between stock produced under English show conditions and American, respectively, constitutes a fact that has had to be reckoned with, and one that both helps explain divergence in type in this country and, in a measure, justifies it.

"Anyone who has watched Cockers being judged at shows in the old country will know part, at least, of what I mean. The English ring, especially the Cocker ring, has been traditionally the preserve of the breeder-exhibitor—not a professional handler in sight, nor crates or elaborate grooming devices. English exhibitors, it is true, have of recent years been picking up some of our tricks of showmanship, but they have traditionally shown their dogs with a minimum of trimming and handling. Although they have not always practiced what they preached, they have scorned any trimming that could not be done with the thumb and forefinger—none of the clipping and sculpting that we have developed to a high art. And in the ring they have, until recently, paid very little attention to posing their dogs. Indeed, breeders of the old school resented even getting down with their dogs at all, preferring to show them entirely on lead. The late H.L. Lloyd, of 'Of Ware' fame, used to say that, with everybody down on their knees with their dogs, it looked like a prayer meeting. When they did set their dogs up, the result would usually not have passed muster in an American ring, especially in an American group ring.

"And there is another difference, and one of far-reaching significance. Emphasis among English exhibitors has been primarily on breed competition, and relatively less (relative, that is, to our habits) on group competition. Though a group or Best in Show win confers unquestionably coveted laurels there, as here, a top English dog's show record tends to be measured not so much in the number of group wins to his credit as in the number of Challenge Certificates won in the breed.

"Circumstances such as these have tended to foster a special kind of Cocker—one of moderate proportions, as benefits the relative intimacy of the ring, moderate size, moderate angulation, moderate coat, moderate length of

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body and reach of neck, even moderate stride, a dog bred with more attention to the general balance and quality than to the showier effects to be had from more pronounced angulation, greater reach of neck, a relatively high tail carriage, a fast-moving gait, and, of course, more profuse coat. The rear-end furnishings that have set off so many American winners are thought so little of that they are removed entirely from the hock down. The English taste has been for a compact, merry little dog that can, in theory at any rate, hunt the hedgerows without getting all tangled up." —A.F.

(To be continued.)

—Robin Tingley,
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English Springer Spaniels

FINDING THE THRESHOLD: DESENSITIZING CANINE ANXIETY

Have you trained a dog who sometimes showed the whites of his eyes and wore an expression saying, "Something bad could happen"? Well-meaning but misguided dog lovers may offer the training advice to put the dog in the scary situation and "let her see that everything is safe." This advice is as ineffective as telling a person who is crying and shaking in fear or anger, "Don't be upset!" Depending on the fear level, the kind of scary experiences the dog or pup has already had, and the dog's intrinsic temperament, this simplistic advice may not help to allay the fears of a worried dog.

Each dog arrives with different responses to the world around him. Each dog requires that the trainer investigate triggers, settings, and reactions that stimulate their dog to react with anxiety. Training a dog to feel safe in the world requires keen observation, analysis, and research to make a step-by-step training plan.

When did the worried behavior begin? We can miss early warning signals given by the dog's behavior, such as turning away, freezing, lip-licking, backing up, eye-widening, faint growling, and so on, resulting in an escalation of the fear behavior. *The Body Language of Stress and Fear in Dogs*, by Adrienne Farricelli, offers helpful explanations and great photographs.

If scary events happen repeatedly, and stress escalates, a dog may show bigger, often louder, and more obvious reactions to elicit owner attention to his discomfort. When this happens, make a plan to recapture your dog's peace of mind by carefully analyzing exactly when the dog began to show tiny, less-than-calm reactions. Once the "when" is understood, the "what" will probably also be obvious.

Chase (Ch. Northgate's Tag You're It, CGC) is a finished champion who passed his Canine Good Citizen test with calm Springer boy aplomb. To the total surprise and dismay of his owners, JoEllen and Susan Schneider, Chase came back home from a beach vacation suddenly paralyzed with fear to walk near or walk on the street where they live. They realized he was very afraid when vehicles drove past his house. While they had been away on vacation, their street had been repaved, and cars driving on the new pavement made a very noticeable, loud noise.

Being experienced dog trainers, they did not drag Chase out onto the street and force him to walk. Rather than a forcing a tough-love "Get over it!" immersion method, they drove Chase to a nearby street that had not been repaved and walked him on a surface that did not cause him worry. For a few weeks they walked nearer and nearer to the new street surface, and Chase gradually became desensitized to hearing cars from a short distance away. Soon he could happily walk without worry about sounds from the new asphalt.

Dogs and humans have very different noise, smell, and sight acuities. Have a look at this



Chase, Ch. Northgate's Tag You're It, CGC

COURTESY MARY SUSAN BILLINGSLEY

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article that compares differences in sensory perception: *https://timehuman.blogspot.com/2012/08/sight-hearing-smell-differences-between.html*.

The threshold anxiety moment is the "aha!" moment of a dog's fear reaction. Consider the example of the dog who is afraid of stooped men carrying clipboards. The anxiety threshold is not when the bent man is within a foot of the dog, triggering barking, backing up, or even lunging. The threshold was the moment that *the dog* sensed a change in his field of vision. The dog probably widened his eyes and focused intently on the man long before his owner.

The starting point for retraining less reactivity to the trigger (the approaching man) is for the owner to react to the trigger before the dog reacts to the trigger. Before arousal of reaction in the anxious dog, the trainer should engage the dog's attention and offer a positive stimulus like a toy or treat. Give the dog a substitute and preemptive behavior before the unwanted reactive response (barking, eyes rolling in alarm, and so on) occurs. With repetition, the dog can learn a new non-anxiety reaction behavior. Delicious treats and small, happy tasks like sitting or performing a move or trick that always makes the dog's tail wag teach the dog to feel confident rather than fearful.

To gradually build our dogs' confidence, trust, and sense of well being is time consuming, with few shortcuts. Since dogs are the creatures we have chosen as our best companions, to be a part of their learning process is time well spent.

—Sarah A. Ferrell,
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English Springer Field Trial Association

Field Spaniels

GROOMING THE FIELD

Our standard paints a picture of proper coat texture: a silky, glossy, single coat befitting a dog who works in the field. It is not to be overabundant, cottony, or crazy-curly, and most of us have seen everything from short and slick to long and wavy, as well as our share of fuzzies and lack of haircoat!

In studying the canine hair follicle, we see that there can be guard hair surrounded with multiple other hairs—hence a constant growth and shed pattern affected by light, nutrition, hormones, and environmental factors. That being said, it is no wonder we have constant shedding cycles and change in coat over time.

Show grooming varies greatly from dog to dog, but in keeping with our standard, texture and purpose should be considered—that of a dog who hunts in dense cover—hence not high-maintenance or overly coiffed.

The quality of the coat should be more important than abundance, enhancing the natural lines of the individual. Many a judge and exhibitor have noted the use of grooming for the ring to accentuate the positive, but a "curtain of hair" should not hide proper angulation and lines. Techniques that blend and trim to minimize faults are one thing, but the trend of carrying too much coat on various purebred dogs is a shame.

What I call "maintenance grooming" is still proper, adhering to breed standard, and appropriate for pets and working dogs. There may of course at times be need for specialty grooming to help an older or recuperating animal.

I personally don't feel Field Spaniels are suited nor acclimated to kennel-run life away from their people. This is not to say that outdoor natural light and exercise won't benefit the coat and overall dog—it is just typical to see our breed in more of a home environment. It should go without saying that regular fresh air and exercise is a must for mentally and physically balanced dogs.

Nutritionally, use of a healthy, balanced diet along with proper supplementation will produce a healthy bloom to the coat. Quality shampoos will not only enhance but also maintain a healthy haircoat.

Medications, health issues, and hormonal state also play a role in he Field's coat. Spaying and neutering affect quantity and texture of hair as does whelping a litter. My old boy had not reached a thyroid stage in which we typically see thin hair about the hips and torso, but unusually thin or thick coats can often be a telltale signs that it is time to monitor hormone levels (which can often be easily treated and maintained).

Grooming toolkits may vary from fancier to fancier, but for the very basics, the Field requires good brushing and combing as well as routine ear and nail care. Thinning may be done by using clippers or thinning shears, and any close work is limited to the head, tops of ears, and blending down the neck.

Neatening of toes and pasterns gives a round Sporting foot, and a flat, clean footpad gives proper traction and cleanliness. Proper nail care is always a must, and the trimming and grinding can be easy to maintain when kept up. Sanitary trim should maintain the sheath or vulvar area, as well as the anal region below the tail.

Performance animals also need close attention to grooming to avoid injury and damage, be it from slipping in the ring or getting hung up in brush and brambles.

Grooming can also be a bonding experience and enjoyable "examination" time for us with

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our dogs, observing any issues that need to be addressed. This is recommended as a regular home process for each Field, as it helps us to stay on top of health issues as well as "quality time" together.

Packing the coat is a useful process that maintains the natural oils of the Field's skin and hair coat. Distilled water is worked in, and the dog is "brushed dry," alternating strokes using a boar-bristle brush and dry, light, rolled hand-towels. Worked from head to tail, this process removes dirt and conditions.

Several of our breeders and fanciers have assembled tutorials and helpful hints that will guide both the pet owner and show exhibitor. Happy grooming!

—Shannon Rodgers
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Field Spaniel Society of America

Sussex Spaniels

SUSSEX SPANIELS ARE …

Sussex are, to say the least, real characters. They aren't the smartest of breeds—in my humble opinion—but they are funny and fun.

For instance, Sussex love water. Some (one of mine currently) like to pick up a water bowl and carry it around. Unfortunately they aren't very good at it, and water spills everywhere. Fasten that dish down, and they will paddle their feet in it instead.

Garden hoses are fun—many, many Sussex enjoy being sprayed, but they enjoy even more attacking and chewing up a hose. Looking for a Christmas gift for your favorite Sussex owner? You can't go wrong with a brand-new hose! Downspouts—you know, the ones that run from the gutters to the ground—are like mini-rapids and endlessly enchanting, especially for puppies. Then there are wading pools, swimming pools, lakes, and so on. There are some Sussex who even do dock diving!

Then there is the whole watching-TV thing. Many Sussex enjoy TV, but my complaint about mine doing so involves doorbells ringing and knocking at the door on television—the dog jumps off the couch and runs to the door barking *every single time!* Sussex, even non-field dogs, still hunt on their own—birds, rabbits squirrels, frogs, toads, lizards—none are safe from an average yard-exploring Sussex. (A note here: Of course, watch out for dangerous hunted creatures like Bufo toads, poisonous snakes, and skinks.)

Sussex are highly entertaining, with their nose-wrinkling, woo-woo-wooing, and kippering—sometimes all at the same time! It is sometimes hard to explain to new Sussex owners that the reputation for "slow and sedate" certainly does not pertain to Sussex puppies. As adults they do slow down, but I have had many older dogs who remain quite active even at 12 and 13. If you have a Sussex, you will never be bored.

It is with sorrow that I report the loss of Lynn Peterson, judge and breeder for many years. The breed and the club will miss her.

—Marcia Deugan,
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Sussex Spaniel Club of America

Welsh Springer Spaniels

THE GREENWOOD CUP

The Welsh Springer Spaniel Club of America (WSSCA), like many other breed clubs, offers several annual club trophies for dogs who are at the top of the statistics in breed or performance.

But what about the people behind the dogs? As this column has discussed in the past, the success of dog clubs rests firmly on the shoulders of our volunteers. Volunteering means putting yourself out there—for praise, sometimes; often for criticism. No one who has chaired a national specialty or served as an officer or board member of a breed club has been the subject of universal praise and gratitude. There's always someone who disagrees with a choice. And it's pretty easy to sit back in your armchair and make comments. The speed and ease of electronic communications makes it that much more possible to spread your views far and wide.

So it's fair to say that no one volunteers their time to a dog club expecting a lot of praise. Yet people still volunteer. And in 2012 the WSSCA Board voted to establish a new club trophy to recognize that spirit of volunteerism.

The Greenwood Cup was established in memory of Elizabeth Lee Wasserman (1940–2012), to recognize exceptional service to the club. As the board noted, "The qualities Beth Wasserman exemplified should be encouraged and recognized by the WSSCA. Beth's accomplishments and qualities included: (1) service as an officer in her regional club; (2) service to the national club in support of several national specialties; (3) a willingness to go out of her way to share her knowledge of Welsh Springer Spaniels, field work, conformation, and grooming; and, most importantly, (4) a deeply held sense of fairness and good sportsmanship."

The WSSCA Board has only made this award twice, the first time to Colleen O'Keefe, DVM, in 2012.

It was my honor at the WSSCA annual meeting and banquet this past May to announce the board's unanimous decision to award the Greenwood Cup to Susan M. Riese, of Statesman Welsh Springer Spaniels.

Susan has spent decades serving the club as an officer, board member, judges' education mentor, fieldwork aficionado, and national specialty



Sussex Spaniel Ch. Sundowners Heat Wave, MH, RA, MH, NAP, NJP, CGC, WDX

chairperson. Her devotion to the Welsh Springer Spaniel breed is unquestioned. Her deep desire to mentor others in all aspects of Welsh Springer ownership is well known.

She has crisscrossed the United States over the years, spreading her knowledge and love for the breed. There are few people who have spent as many years promoting Welsh Springers to the uninitiated as Susan. And many people can trace their love of the breed back to meeting Susan and being on the receiving end of her enthusiasm.

Thank you, Susan Riese, for your many years of service … may there be many more.

—Wendy J. Jordan,
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Welsh Springer Spaniel Club of America

Spinoni Italiani

This month's guest columnist is Sue Acquistapace, who writes about the Italian Spinone Club of Italy's specialty this past April, an event held once every three years.

ITALIAN SPINONE *RADUNO* (SPECIALTY)

Rome was beyond amazing. Through the ancient architecture, we could hear echoes of gladiators and their bloody demise, cheered on by crowds of uncivilized civility. Next, Florence appeared with all its artful splendor, opening its doors to the ancient world of men with chisels and hammers forging the world around them in stone. On to Pisa and the leaning tower, with more than 300 worn marble steps, curving in an unnatural lean to the very top of the world. But these grand and soul-changing splendors were not the reason for our trek to Italy. We came for a different kind of architecture, another version of history.

We were there to learn more about the ancient dog developed by the peasants of the region of Piemonte to search out, point, and retrieve food for their tables. In an unforgiving landscape of rocks and thorny brush, these dogs climbed like mountain goats through the hilly terrain. They crashed through the formidable brush tearing at their dense wire coats and thick, hardy skin, searching with nostrils large and open wide for the scent of nourishment for both man and dog.

The Italian Spinone is one of the oldest gundogs in existence, and perhaps one of the few sporting breeds developed by peasants for putting food on the table. It was meeting the descendants of these people and the progeny of their dogs that was the purpose of our pilgrimage. The Triennale, a specialty held only once every three years and hosted by the Italian Spinone Club of Italy, was situated on the historical Camugliano agricultural property in the Tuscany region of Italy.

The atmosphere was one of great cama-

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raderie mixed precariously with the competitive nature of men, breeders, and hunters. The night before the conformation show, seated along two long tables reminiscent of scenes from ancient Rome, over 50 people gathered to share sustenance, freely flowing wine, and animated conversation. As platters piled high with food of all colors, textures, and flavors were passed among the hungry travelers, the sounds of conversation in Italian, English, and Russian filtered through the din of silverware on plates and the clinking of raised glasses. Friendships old and new were being forged through the universal language of fabulous food, beautiful landscape, and most of all, the love of the Spinone.

The following day was the conformation show. Imagine being dropped by a futuristic jet into an ancient land and walking among the greats of the breed. It was a "who's who" of Spinone breeders, as familiar faces came to life from the pages of history. Breeders from across the continent joined in to make this an international event. Three rings were delineated with wide vinyl tape strung between staked poles on the lengthy and uneven lawn. That is where similarities between this show and those in the U.S. began to depart. One ring was for young dogs, juniors, and "baby" dogs; the other rings were divided by gender and held all other competitive classes. Dogs in all three rings were being judged simultaneously. A catalog held the names of the dogs in competition, but dogs could be entered on the day, so not everyone was identified. Armbands were difficult to read and sometimes not worn. Handlers occasionally left the ring to smoke a cigarette, show in another ring, or chat with friends. The informality added to the charm of the event. Most dogs were handled by their hunter-owners, who wore thick leather workboots and sometimes used only a rope as a leash. Occasionally a comb was drawn through an unruly beard, and some dogs had been brushed, but it was generally a come-as-you-are affair, and the focus was on the dogs, *au natural.* Among cheering and back-slaps and smiles as wide as the landscape, the ultimate winners were chosen, and the day's competition ended.

A meeting was held following the event, which represented every country in attendance. The consistent theme among the speakers was one of concern for the health and future of the breed. Open cooperation regarding health issues was emphasized, and a caution was given to maintain the heavy, full-bodied Spinone in his original form, and to beware the temptations of competitions that tend to favor the lighter, faster dogs and breeds. A feast followed this event, although the night ended early because the next day would bring the hunt tests.

Gathering in the early-morning hours, hunters were divided into groups and drove to private farms to test their dogs' ability to locate birds. Onlookers watched as the dogs traversed the fields where birds were not planted, but occurred naturally in their habitat. Appearing as small dots against the landscape, dogs located and pointed their prey. Pheasants could occasionally be seen flying or running, as none are killed in these tests. Judges reviewed each performance, giving advice to the handler and praising the dog.

At the end of the day, the group gathered for the crowning moment when they received their results. For in Italy these dogs are still primarily used for hunting, although it is clear from watching them with their owners that they are definitely a part of the family.

Until April 2020, *ciao.* —S.A.

Thank you, Sue.

—Daina Hodges,
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Spinone Club of America

Vizslas

WHEN YOUR DOG IS WAY TOO COOL

The July Vizsla column discussed heat exhaustion and heatstroke, and October seems like a good time to look at the other side of the body-temperature issue. Hypothermia is the term for abnormally low body temperature, and it can take you by surprise if you aren't watching for it.

When people ask us if Vizslas can hunt in the winter, we tell them that our dogs enjoy cold-weather hunts, but it is important to keep them dry and keep them moving so they are generating warmth. If they get wet, or if they can't keep moving, their short coat will not protect them from cold temperatures, and it is up to the owner to make sure they can dry off and warm up before they get too chilled. Dogs with short coats and low body fat—and many Vizslas have burned off most of their fat by the middle of hunting season—are at greater risk. Very young or old dogs also are at increased risk.

Hypothermia is a progressive condition, and it can be classified as mild (body temperature of 90 to 99 F), moderate (82 to 90 F), or severe (below 82 F). Even mild hypothermia is serious, because if it continues, the body loses its ability to bring itself back to normal temperature.

When a dog's temperature drops below the normal range, various body functions are affected. In mild hypothermia, the dog may exhibit shivering, weakness and mental depression. As it progresses to a moderate level, symptoms may include shallow breathing, stiff movement, lethargy and low blood pressure. In severe hypothermia, there may be labored breathing, a

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slow/weak or irregular heartbeat, and unconsciousness or coma.

The first signs an owner will see will likely be shivering and paleness. If the dog is not warmed up right away, he may become listless or lethargic. *This is an emergency,* and the dog should be taken to the vet. Recovery can be complete if a chilled dog is treated quickly. If not treated, various physiologic and metabolic functions are depressed, and long-term organ damage or even death may result.

Immediate care should be focused on slowly warming the dog:

• Wrap the dog in warm blankets. If you're out in the field without blankets, use your coat, which should be warm on the inside from your body heat.

• If available, fill bottles with warm water, wrap them in towels and place next to the dog's body. (An unwrapped heat source could burn the dog's skin.). Once the dog's temperature is back to 100 degrees F or above, you can remove the heat source.

• If the dog is fully conscious, encourage him to drink some warmed fluids.

• Check the dog's temperature every 10 minutes. If it is below 98 F, the dog needs immediate veterinary attention.

• If the dog is wet, get him as dry as you can. A hair-dryer may be helpful if used carefully to avoid burns.

• Watch for signs of frostbite, which may accompany hypothermia.

Warming must be done carefully to avoid complications. Rewarming shock can result from rapid warming, causing a sudden drop in blood pressure.

While warming up the dog, contact a veterinarian who can assess what other care may be needed. Depending on the degree of hypothermia, the vet may consider intravenous fluids, oxygen, or warm fluids administered internally.

As with heat exhaustion or heatstroke, you *will* know that something is wrong if your dog is suffering from hypothermia. Our Ginny's experience was fairly typical. Mike and his nephew were hunting in northwest Iowa with wet snow falling. Hunters and dogs were all getting tired, and as Ginny got wetter and colder, she uncharacteristically stopped hunting and started following Mike. As they drove back to the motel with the heater blasting warm air, they assumed Ginny was getting dry and warm—but when they arrived, she couldn't get out of her crate. After calling the local vet clinic, Mike hurried to get there while his nephew held Ginny inside his coat. When the vet took her temperature, it was 92 degrees (in the "mild hypothermia" range, but still a serious situation). The vet placed her in a warm whirlpool bath, then dried her thoroughly with a hair-dryer and gave her intravenous fluids. Once she was warm and dry, some glucose helped perk her up.

Dealing with hypothermia is a scary experience. Fortunately, you can usually prevent it if you are aware of the risks. Be especially attentive when you and your dogs are outdoors in cold weather—especially in cold, wet weather. It's a good idea to be prepared with towels and blankets, and every canine first aid kit should include a thermometer. If you are outdoors a lot with your dog, a wool or fleece dog coat may be a good investment. (I prefer wool, which retains some insulating quality even when damp.) When you're enjoying hunting or other outdoor activities away from home, it's good to know in advance where to find a vet clinic, just in case.

—Beth Nash,
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Vizsla Club of America

Weimaraners

POSITIVELY STUNNING

Remember your first dog training class? You had the concept of positive reinforcement drummed into your head as the quintessential way to successfully train your dog. You learned the power of positive rewards to get a desired behavior.

It sounds so basic, you're wondering why I'm even bothering to talk about positive reinforcement. We all know it works well, and we use it to shape the actions of our dogs. We reward dogs with food and praise when they do what we want them to do. Gone is training by yanking on choke-collars and yelling "no" at the slightest infraction.

That's the theory, but it's amazing how we frail humans have lapses and forget this most basic tenet of dog training in times of self-absorption.

Let me tell you a little story.

I was judging a breed other than Weimaraners and was having a photo taken with one of the successful exhibitors. In the course of having the photo taken, I got into a short conversation with the handler. She is a stalwart of her breed, shows regularly, and is regarded by her peers as a successful, dedicated member of the fancy. Making small talk, I remarked how happy her dogs always seem when I see them in the ring.

Little did I know that I had just touched her "hot button."

She emphatically told me that she makes sure that whether her dog wins or loses in the ring, she immediately fusses over them like they have just won Best in Show. The judge makes the placement, and she immediately makes the experience of showing a happy one for her dog. First in line or last, she stressed that the dog needs to know that you are not disappointed with them if they do not win.

Sensing that the exhibitor felt very strongly

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about this, I was curious to see if she always practiced what she was preaching, and if her behavior was different from that of other exhibitors.

The next day, when I was not judging, I went ringside and watched. Sure enough, she got the points on her class dog and made sure the dog knew he had just done something wonderful. It was a joyful little celebration as the judge handed her the ribbon. It was not disruptive or "over the top," but there was good communication with her dog. In the bitch classes, things did not go as well. As she came up to the fourth place in line, the dog was praised and patted. There was no difference in how the handler interacted with her dog if she was standing in first or fourth.

What did the other handlers do as they waited for their ribbon? It was all over the map. A few gave good positive reinforcement, while most were blasé and just stood at the placement markers ignoring their dogs.

Imagine this same scenario from the dogs' point of view. They perform as they were trained, they sense the excited adrenaline flow of their handler, they give their best, and then … no feedback. Their human ignores them and doesn't let them know that they've just performed wonderfully. Sad.

This story started because I observed dogs who are always happy in the ring, and they were a joy to see. Let's remember to give positive reinforcement to our canine partners when we're showing. If you do it's a "win-win" situation—the dogs deserve it, and you'll have a better show dog.

—Carole Lee Richards,
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Weimaraner Club of America

Wirehaired Pointing Griffons

Ann Allen wrote the following for this column in 2012.

THE IMPORTANCE OF BREED HISTORY

It is no secret that I am a Griffon history buff. I believe it's important to know the history of our breed and breed standard to understand and guide the breeding of Griffons today.

Unfortunately there are not many resources in the English language, and I've had to rely on using sources in French, with the help of a few bilingual Griffonniers. From these sources one can learn of the breeding strides and dilemmas that our breed's founder, Eduard Korthals, faced in his endeavor to create the ideal versatile hunting dog.

It would be very difficult, if not impossible, to recreate Korthals's breeding program today, given the limitations and restrictions in many areas on the number of dogs one can keep. Korthals produced hundreds of dogs using inbreeding and linebreeding, keeping for breeding only the very few that met his stringent expectations in type and performance. These relatively few dogs that possessed and reproduced the qualities he sought and that consistently reproduced themselves were the foundation of the Wirehaired Pointing Griffon breed.

Within just over a decade or so of establishing his breeding program, in 1887 Korthals wrote the breed standard that was subsequently adopted by 16 Griffon breeders who shared his vision—and is, in effect, our AKC standard today.

So what are we to learn from Korthals' experience some 125 years later? Today's breeding dilemma for Griffon enthusiasts is how to manage those dogs that are either carriers of or exhibit tan-point genetics. According to coat-color geneticist Dr. Sheila Schmutz, of the University of Saskatchewan, tan-point coloration is a breed trait of certain sporting dogs in England, commonly found in English Setters and English Pointers, but not found in purebred Griffons.

While still scientifically inconclusive, the emergence of tan-pointed Griffons s*uggests* a cross-breeding of some sort. When Korthals' Griffons of the late 1800s showed great field success in various European contests and exhibitions, there were those who believed this success was only possible with an infusion of English blood, namely from the wider-ranging, faster setters and pointers.

To his detractors Korthals responded emphatically, "I declare herewith that my main concern was always to keep the breed pure, and in breeding only griffons I never added any blood of another breed. The improvement of the breed was achieved only and exclusively by selection, training, and methodical breeding."

In his historical account of the breed, *Le Griffon d'arret a poil dur Korthals*, Jean Castaing says, "Furthermore, as for the fiery tint, in spots or traces, it is also to be forbidden, for it also indicates a misalliance."

Korthals denied the use of English blood in his breeding program—blood that would have produced tan points and also black, a disqualifying trait in the standard. Korthals would have culled from his breeding program any dog that either possessed or produced these faulty traits.

We have the only Griffon gene pool left in the world that is not pervasively tainted by the tan-point gene. Tan points are not in the breed standard. Why breed a dog or bitch that produces a substandard trait of uncertain origin or impact as of yet? Let past history be our guide to the future. Korthals wouldn't have selected for tan points. We shouldn't either. —A.A.

American Wirehaired Pointing Griffon Association

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Alaskan Malamutes

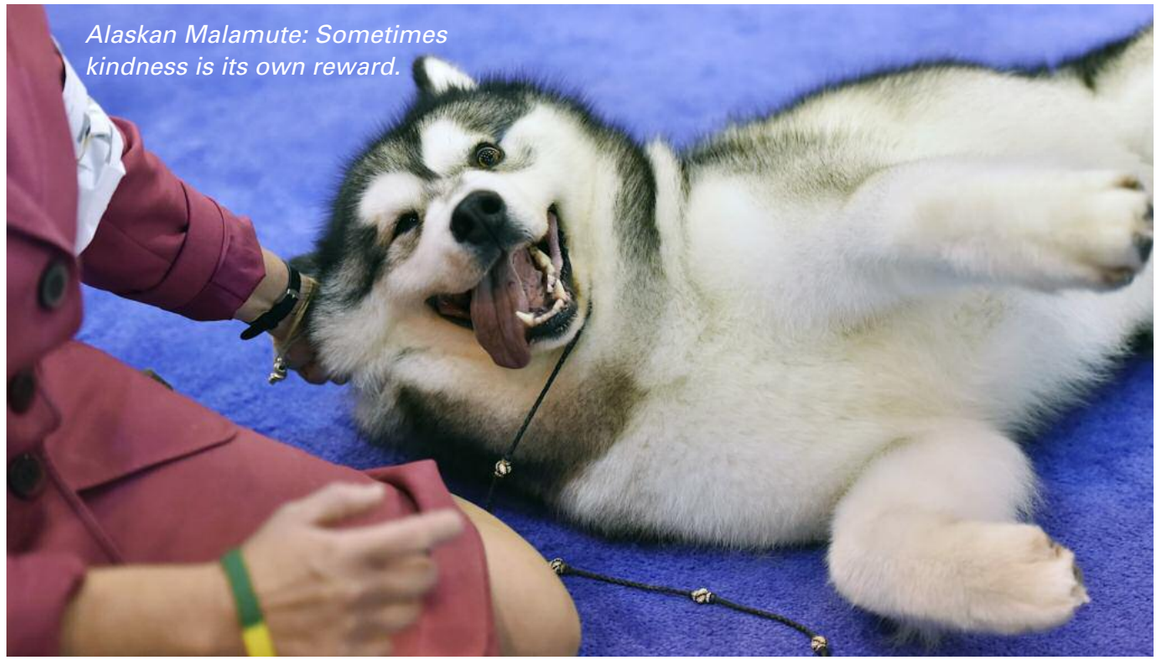
FOXY'S TALE: WHEN DEATH DOES US PART

"I don't want her." The "her" was Foxy, a molting, overweight, spayed red Malamute bitch, sitting in the Kastaic animal shelter with a flopped left ear and draining eye from a dogfight. And she was 8 years old. An owner turn-in, Foxy wore a bewildered expression that said, *why am I here, and what did I do wrong?*

She had done nothing wrong. Foxy's owner had been killed in a car crash, and when he was no longer there to care for her, his family took her to the shelter. No one wanted to talk about the shredded ear and eye wound, which probably happened when Foxy was put into a shelter run with other dogs. Foxy, a 23-inch bitch carrying 90 pounds on a 70-pound frame, was lucky to have escaped with just that.

In the beginning, her owner had probably spotted an ad for "rare reds" in a dog magazine and ordered one. Foxy was flown in from a Texas puppy mill at 6 weeks. Her owner did all the right things for Foxy, including microchipping and spaying her. Housebroken, she was used to being inside and being the family pet. But that didn't help her once her owner was gone.

It was pretty obvious she wasn't going to be adopted. I knew of a possible home for Foxy, where an older red bitch was wanted. However, once I pulled Foxy out of the shelter, I found that the person wanted an older bitch, but one not as old as Foxy.



Alaskan Malamute: Sometimes kindness is its own reward.

A visit to the vet fixed the draining eye, a thyroid test showed Foxy was just plain fat, and nothing could be done for the flopped ear. The last thing a very senior citizen such as myself needs is another dog. We make arrangements for their care, co-owning them with friends in case they outlive us, leaving funds for their care in our wills. And in one case, even refurbishing a rental home on our property so that a caretaker could live there and take care of both the dogs and us.

I had done some research on why Malamutes are abandoned. I was personally convinced that the reasons were divorce, financial ruin, or moving to the moon. Staffers at the AMAL booths at both the San Diego and Colorado Springs nationals told me the same thing. They just weren't wanted anymore.

Sometimes kindness is its own reward. Terminally ill Mal breeder Lisa Ryer asked her good friend and fellow Mal breeder Donelle Roberts to take her young male Malamute, Chaps. Donelle owner-handled him to be nationally ranked, and last year in Colorado, he was Select at the Regional, and Best of Breed at the national the following day.

Foxy has now settled in at my kennel. I put her with the grand old man of my kennel, Tango, whose credo is "If you can't breed it or eat it, ignore it." He's come around enough so that he allows her to accompany him on his morning patrols of my property.

If the Texas puppy mill sold Foxy as show quality, it was the greatest robbery since Bonnie and Clyde started shooting up the South Texas hills. Foxy's barrel-shaped body is set on four Whippet-sized legs. The front legs cross over, and the rear sway from side to side when she moves. It's topped by a head that would do well on a Cocker Spaniel. Her family said they would send me her AKC papers, but I have yet to see them.

In deciding "who's a good boy" or qualified for adoption, shelters nationally have been using methods to test for aggression that have found to be of little merit. The New York *Times* points out that 670,000 dogs are put down yearly, even though rescue groups shuttle them out from high-kill shelters—usually in the South and here in Southern California. Tests range from observing how the dog would react to a large doll (a child substitute), someone wearing a hood, a shaken cane, a plastic hand thrust into a food bowl, an unfamiliar dog, or a plush toy. They ignore that

COURTESY DIANA HAN, NOR CAL BULLDOGGER

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transition to a shelter can be traumatizing and a dog's behavior can quickly deteriorate.

Although Foxy's behavior is totally submissive—she still cowers if I suddenly raise my hand—she would have flunked the aggression test due to her damaged ear and eye. Fighting back didn't help her.

Foxy's situation could be summed in a notation posted on two puppies hugging each other in a Southern kill shelter. It read, "If no one saves us, some one will take her from me. I'll see her as she goes down the hallway. She won't come back, and I'll cry. They'll come for me next, and I won't be as brave."

Please make it sure that no one cries for your dogs when you're not here. And, yes, both puppies were adopted—together.

—Dian McComb,
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Alaskan Malamute Club of America

Anatolian Shepherds

FIRST IMPRESSIONS: JUDGING THE ANATOLIAN SHEPHERD DOG'S HEAD AND NECK

Understanding the Anatolian Shepherd Dog head is important to judging the breed, because this is where all the disqualifying faults (DQs) particular to the breed are found. (The only DQs not associated with the head are the two that are universal to all breeds—those of stable-enough temperament that the dog does not menace the judge, and the requirement for two testicles, normally descended, in male dogs.)

Always remember when judging the Anatolian that while this breed hails from a country of climate extremes, the dog itself is a moderate animal, and the standard says, when discussing the body, that the dog is "well proportioned, functional, *without exaggeration.*"

From the AKC standard for the Anatolian Shepherd Dog:

"Head: Expression should be intelligent. Eyes are medium size, set apart, almond shaped and dark brown to light amber in color. Blue eyes or eyes of two different colors are a disqualification. Eye rims will be black or brown and without sag or looseness of haw. Incomplete pigment is a serious fault. Ears should be set on no higher than the plane of the head. V-shaped, rounded apex, measuring about four inches at the base to six inches in length. The tip should be just long enough to reach the outside corner of the eyelid. Ears dropped to sides. Erect ears are a disqualification. Skull is large but in proportion to the body. There is a slight centerline furrow, fore and aft, from apparent stop to moderate occiput. Broader in dogs than in bitches. Muzzle is blockier and stronger for the dog, but neither dog nor bitch would have a snipey head or muzzle. Nose and flews must be solid black or brown. Seasonal fading is not to be penalized. Incomplete pigment is a serious fault. Flews are normally dry but pronounced enough to contribute to 'squaring' the overall muzzle appearance. Teeth and gums strong and healthy. Scissors bite preferred, level bite acceptable. Broken teeth are not to be faulted. Overshot, undershot, or wry bite are disqualifications. Neck: slightly arched, powerful, and muscular, moderate in length with more skin and fur than anywhere on the body, forming a protective ruff. The dewlap *should not* be pendulous and excessive."

Worldwide, all standards for the Anatolian call for a variation on the theme of a large head, proportionate to size, blockier in males than females, without pendulous flews, and with tight lips at the corners of the mouth. Sloppy, pendulous flews get in the way during a fight. While the standard also calls for a dewlap, which serves to protect the throat area of the dog, it specifically states that it should not be pendulous or excessive. This is not a wet-faced, wet-mouthed breed. You should never see an Anatolian sitting ringside wearing a bib, as you do in some other breeds.

There will be a slight centerline furrow to the head. The backskull will not be flat between the ears. Eyes will range from golden amber to dark brown. The AKC standard does not link eye color to coat color—only requiring that both eyes be of the same color, and stating that blue eyes are one of the DQs.

The stop should not be sharply, deeply pronounced as in the Rottweiler, Mastiff, or Boxer. Nor should it be nonexistent, as in the Bull Terrier or Borzoi. The Anatolian Shepherd Dog is not a breed of extremes of physical type. He is neither sighthound nor Mastiff in type—although you will encounter dogs who lie in different places along the spectrum. He lies in the middle of the physical extremes of type.

All standards call for complete pigmentation of eye-rims, lips, and nose, either black or brown, depending upon coat color. Please remember that all coat colors are equally acceptable in this breed, and dilute pigment should not be penalized so long as it is complete. Some dogs will exhibit "snow nose," and this should not be faulted.

The AKC standard allows for scissors and level bites. There is no requirement for complete dentition in the breed, so no need to count teeth.

All standards worldwide call for a pendant ear, triangular in shape and held higher when alert. The AKC standard has a DQ for erect ears and also states that the ears should not be set higher than the plane of the head. High set, terrier-like ears are not desirable. The United Kennel Club standard is the only one

to mention that dogs coming in from Turkey may have ears completely removed. Until 2012, dogs imported from Turkey could not go directly into the AKC Studbook without having three generations of dogs behind them bred here in the U.S., and to date no Turkish import with cropped ears has been shown in AKC, so the issue is a moot point.

Perhaps the greatest frustration for judges unfamiliar with the Anatolian Shepherd is that the standard does not give any direction for muzzle to backskull proportions when judging the head. The Anatolian is a moderate breed, so extremes of head type should be avoided. In the absence of instruction from the standard, it is acceptable to fall back on generic, mesocephalic proportions of muzzle equal to or slightly shorter than backskull. In fact, the standard in the U.K. and Europe both state that the muzzle is slightly shorter than the length of the backskull. Again, moderation is key.

It should be understood that the Anatolian is not a "head breed" like some other breeds have become. He is, overall, a robust working livestock guardian dog. Extremes of type and physical exaggeration are anathema to the breed.

—Jo Lynne York,
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Anatolian Shepherd Dog Club of America

Bernese Mountain Dogs

BOOKMARKS

Not long ago I heard a breeder-exhibitor of another breed voice complaints about ribbons she described as "bookmarks" being given rather than rosettes at her club's obedience trials when the club could readily afford rosettes. This brought to mind how much ribbons mean to exhibitors, whether a strip or rosette. Both are wonderful to receive, but the strip of ribbon has the added value of being easily stored or mounted in a scrapbook.

Recently, I had the task of going through a box of old manila envelopes categorized as to content that contained items from my grandparents. One was carefully stuffed with family photographs that included a professionally mounted photo of their dog Sam, a purebred Dalmatian. Pressed against the picture were his 1936 pedigree and a dark blue "bookmark" ribbon from an AKC dog show. Readily saved and easy to mount in scrapbooks, the flat ribbon lends itself to being kept for years to come. For many owner-exhibitors, ribbons, like titles on our dogs are not the end goal of training or showing—they are keepsakes of the things we have done together, and a reminder of the bond we have built along the way. Those poignant words are paraphrased from a sentiment expressed a few years ago by the late Joanne Ronning, a respected Whippet breeder and exhibitor.

Berner owners, as you save the pictures, ribbons, and memorabilia for each of your dogs, be sure to label them with a few details. Years later, you'll be glad you did.

A treasure trove for Berner fanciers is the BMDCA's yearbook, a collection of BMD photos with records, pedigrees, breed data, and statistics, including Top Winners and Top Producers, Versatility and Working Dog Awards, New Titleholders and Advanced Titles, Top Junior Handlers, as well as Canadian Records and Titleholders. *The 2016 Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America Yearbook* is available for $55, shipping included. To order, visit *http://www.bmdca-store.com/Yearbooks*. For anyone seeking to learn more about the breed's appearance and what bloodlines have produced the look you like, it is a valuable tool.

Outstanding Service

At the 2017 Bernese Mountain Dog national specialty held in Portland, Oregon, this past April with the theme of "Summit to Sea," the BMDCA presented two Outstanding Service awards. The recipients were Valerie Horney and Sara Karl. These deserving ladies, both hailing from Colorado and each having served as president of the BMDCA, are well known for having contributed countless hours in serving the best interests of the breed, both locally and nationally.

BMDCA Golden Jubilee, 2018

From April 30 through May 5, 2018, the Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America (BMDCA) will celebrate its Golden Anniversary in historic Sturbridge, Massachusetts. Plan now to attend. Dubbed the BMDCA Golden Jubilee, the handsome circular logo for the gala celebration is a front view of a Berner pulling a cart circled with the words "50 And Pulling For More" and "National Specialty 2018." The host hotel is the lakefront Sturbridge Host Hotel and Conference Center, with Old Sturbridge Village being a five-minute drive from the site. The Bernese Mountain Dog Club of Nashoba Valley is the hosting club. With a membership of over 600 members and self-described as "The club for New England Berners and their families," the Golden Jubilee is certain to be spectacular. Plan now to attend.

—Julia Crawford,
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Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America

Boxers

This month's column is a look back. The memories listed are now even farther away than when the piece first appeared, in

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the January 2009 issue.

DO YOU REMEMBER …

Do you remember … when the arrival of the Bluebird did not mean an early spring? … when Boston and Beverly Hills were benched? … when John Connolly was a very busy professional handler? … that Cherokee Oaks "wrote the book" on stag red?

Do you remember … ABC at the Statler (with makeshift ex-pens upstairs)? … Rudolph Tauskey, Evelyn Schaefer, Martin Booth, and Bill Gilbert? … Alice Rosenthal's *Dog News*? … when a dog show "weekend" actually meant two days? … when 24½-inch males were commonplace in the ring? … when DM and ARVC were unrecognized and nearly nameless? … when Alva Rosenberg and Percy Roberts were the deans of American dog show judges?

Do you remember … the night Suzie won Best in Show at Westminster?—and when Westminster competition was open to class dogs? … when mentors at ringside were most likely educating new breeders and exhibitors, rather than judge-applicants? … when all your dog show photos were in black and white? … when the dog show vehicle of choice was the station wagon, and the minivan had not yet come off the production line?

Do you remember … driving two or more hours to Boxer club meetings that you could not imagine missing? … devouring every old *Boxer Review* that you could beg or borrow from your mentors? … anticipating puppy photos or pedigrees or stud cards sent via "regular" mail? … calling home from the dog show using a pay phone?

Do you remember … when bitches needed to be shipped for breeding, and waiting at the airline cargo office in the wee hours was routine? … when exhibitors disliked too much flash, rather than too little? … when owner-handlers outnumbered professional handlers in the Boxer ring?

Do you remember … Morris & Essex, when Geraldine Dodge presided? … Mrs. Jouett Shouse, Wolf Trap Farm, and the chauffered limousine that delivered Barrage to be shown by Jane? … Phil Marsh, Larry Downey, and the great dogs they handled?

Do you remember … when *lists* and *posts* referred to groceries and fencing? … when the phrase *fresh-chilled* referred to a cool drink? … when handlers traveled with two sets of crates and brought every dog inside the motel-room at night? … when Lyme was just a town in Connecticut, not a tick-borne disease?

Now, I would not admit to being old enough to remember *all* of the above. But it does put our sport into perspective when we realize how times have changed in a little more than a lifetime, and not always for the best.

—Stephanie Abraham,
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American Boxer Club

Bullmastiffs

Thanks to Virginia Rowland, our guest columnist for this issue. In our breed and in the sport, she needs no introduction. Her accomplishments as a breeder, judge, and rescuer and as a true steward of the breed speak to her passion better than any words I could write.

WHAT YOU MIGHT NOT KNOW ABOUT AMERICAN BULLMASTIFF ASSOCIATION RESCUE SERVICE (ABARS)

In 2014, the American Bullmastiff Association Rescue Service (ABARS) celebrated its 40th anniversary. Created by the ABA board in 1974 with Mary Barbara Walsh and myself as co-chairs, it has since been dedicated to helping Bullmastiffs in need.

"Fake news" about ABARS:

• "Breeders are the problem; they are not active in rescue." *Wrong.* ABARS has always been a group that has many volunteers who are breeders, people active in conformation and performance events, and pet owners who are committed to the concept of dog adoptions.

• "Rescue dogs are typically sick and mentally or physically abused." *Wrong.* Most dogs surrendered to ABARS are in overall good health and of sound temperament. We cannot accept dogs with a history of aggression to people, or dogs who are dangerously dog aggressive. Most dogs surrendered have suffered neglect because owners do not have time for them, cannot afford veterinary care, or have used them strictly for breeding. They come to us with ailments that proper care and time heal.

• "People who dump their dogs are jerks." *Not always wrong.* Many people who surrender their dogs do so only because they cannot afford the dogs or are going through unavoidable changes in circumstances. Certainly, there are some individuals who do not provide full information on dogs, have used the dogs to breed over and over, and then discard the dogs.

• "All dogs can be rehomed." *Wrong.* There are a few Bullmastiffs whose temperaments make them unsuitable for re-homing. If we are informed of any history of aggression to people, we cannot help. It is not unusual for Bullmastiffs to be dog aggressive, and we accept that. But if dogs are dangerously dog aggressive, with histories of attacking/killing other dogs, ABARS cannot help.

• "A dog who has been found in horrible

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condition with no history will never be a 'normal' dog." *Wrong.* One of the best dogs ABARS has ever helped is Colonel. He was hairless, due to demodex, had severe eye infections, was thyroid positive, and severely underweight. There was no history. He went to a wonderful foster family who adopted him. He is perhaps our most successful dog in terms of titles. He does pet therapy at Nemours Children's Hospital, pet therapy at Orlando Health R.E.A.D. (Reading Education Assistance Dog), and volunteers at the Orange County public schools in Orlando, Florida. He is loved by everyone who meets him.

• "ABARS will not help old dogs." *Wrong.* ABARS will take dogs of any age, as long as their temperament concerns do not disqualify them. Lately we have been helping many old dogs, which takes more time, since adopters often want younger animals. In many cases they end up spending the rest of their lives with their foster families.

• "Having breed rescue as part of the parent club does not work." *Wrong.* ABARS has always been part of ABA, and speaking for myself and most volunteers, we would not want to do anything different. The negative is the lack of 501(c)3 status. Luckily, those who donate or mention ABARS in their wills rarely complain about the lack of tax deductions. Some shelters cannot work with us, because they require 501(c)3 status, but most accept the 501(c)7 status. The huge plus is that ABARS works closely with the parent club. Some of our volunteers, including myself, are also ABA Board members. We publicize our efforts in the club newsletter and participate in rescue parades at the national specialty. The ABA Treasurer is the ABARS treasurer and solves issues, such as states that have complicated rescue rules.

• ABARS could help more dogs if we had more volunteers. *True.*

—Virginia Rowland, National Rescue Coordinator, American Bullmastiff Association (*Blackslate@aol.com*)

Thank you, Virginia.

—Lindy Whyte,
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American Bullmastiff Association

Doberman Pinschers

The following was written by Faye Strauss for this column in 2014.

THE DOBERMAN HEAD

People are saying that we are losing the beautiful, unique head that defines the Doberman.

We say the Doberman is not a head breed. However, as Richard Beauchamp said in *Solving the Mysteries of Breed Type,* "Breed silhouette defines the breed physically. Head and expression constitute a major part of what give us a breed." The head is important in identifying breed type.

The Doberman head is "long and dry." By that definition, we could think Borzoi, Sheltie, or Collie. However, this would not be the correct picture.

The purpose of the Doberman is the driving factor in its design. As a companion guard dog, the head must be strong enough to bite and hold a man. This calls for a blunt wedge that geometrically achieves this goal.

The eyes are moderately deep set, almond, and dark. A large eye is easily injured, and a light eye would be easy to spot in the dark. The cropped ear has a purpose to ensure easy hearing and not allow any extra skin to deter the dog on his mission. It also adds to the alert expression so vital in this breed.

The planes of muzzle and skull are parallel. To maintain the "long and dry" look, most breeders agree they are equal in length (though the standard does not mention this). The stop is slight but is not a rolling stop as in the Collie; rather, it is a short step-down between the eyes to the straight parallel muzzle. The straight line of the muzzle has more strength than the Roman nose, which is better for ground scenting. There is a smooth transition from skull to muzzle as it tapers to the blunted tip of the muzzle. There should be no gaps from the cheeks. If you put your hands on the sides of the head, you can feel the clean transition. This creates a strong, blunt wedge.

The jaws are powerful to house the 42 correctly placed, large teeth. The standard states "well filled under the eyes" as a strong foundation for the molars. The Doberman needs a strong underjaw to support the incisors. The muzzle is not truncated or pointed; it is strong, full, and blunt.

The Doberman is an agile, muscular, and powerful dog. His skin is tight so there is nothing to grab. Therefore, his lips are dry and fit closely to the jaws.

His dramatic markings enhance his alert expression. Along with his erect ears, they intensify the "look of eagles." Fearless, noble, alert with a stoic, powerful, determined demeanor, he is very commanding.

The Doberman is all about balance, so the head is in balance with the neck and body. Everything fits together. Our standard states that the chest is broad. Therefore, the head should not appear narrow. The Collie and Borzoi are narrower in appearance, unlike the Doberman, who is powerful and imposing while maintaining his medium size. He is never so broad as to hinder his agility.

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Please remember to appreciate the entire Doberman. As Peggy Adamson said, "Breed type emerges from the whole standard."

Please don't ignore the head. It is a unique, breed-defining characteristic. —F.S.

—Leslie Hall, DPCA Corresponding Secretary, *pajant@aol.com*

Doberman Pinscher Club of America

Dogues de Bordeaux

EXPRESSION

In previous Dogue de Bordeaux breed columns, we covered the DDBSA-developed acronym HEARTS that defines the major points of our breed—that is, *Head, Expression, Athletic, wRinkle, Trots like a Lion, and Substance.* We also covered the first part of the acronym, Head. Our focus today is the second part of the acronym, Expression.

Expression gives the Dogue de Bordeaux his distinctive "look," which is described as a "dissuasive" and/or "sourmug" appearance. Expression in the Dogue de Bordeaux is the totality of all of the facial attributes, in conformance with the breed standard, that come together to create the proper and correct appearance. When one or more of the facial attributes are incorrect, it will detract from, and "throw off" the expression to the point that such incorrect attributes will significantly change it.



Examples of correct expression and head type in the Dogue de Bordeaux. The eyes are correctly shaped and colored, and have proper distance between them. The ears are relatively small as compared to the size of the head, the tip is slightly rounded, and they are set rather high at the level of the upper line of the skull. These photos typify what is meant in describing the Dogue de Bordeaux's "dissuasive" and "sour mug" appearance.

A brief review of the attributes that contribute to expression is in order. The ears are small in proportion to the skull, and the front edge of the ear is close to the cheek when the dog is attentive, the tip is slightly rounded and should not reach beyond the eye. Ears are set rather high at the level of the upper line of the skull, serving to emphasize the width of the skull even more. The eyes should be oval-shaped, and the space between the eyes should be roughly equal to twice the length of the eye opening. Eye color should be hazel to dark brown in dogs with black masks; lighter-colored eyes in dogs with brown or no masks are tolerated but not sought after. Haws should not be visible, and protruding eyes are a breed-standard fault.

Muzzle length measured from the occipital bone to the tip of the nose should be between one third and one quarter of the total length of the head. Too short of a muzzle is called "hypertypical," while a muzzle that is too long would substantially detract from the Dogue de Bordeaux's distinctive appearance. The muzzle is powerful, broad and thick … when viewed from above; it should generally be square-shaped. When viewed from the side, the top lines of the skull and muzzle form an angle that converges at, or near the end of the muzzle. The lower jaw curves upwards and is sufficiently undershot so that there is no contact between the lower and upper incisors. The chin, also called the "chin mark," is very pronounced, giving the Dogue de Bordeaux his distinctive "sourmug" appearance.

Expression as it pertains to the Dogue de Bordeaux is explicitly defined by the saying, "The whole is greater than the sum of its parts."

At our judges' education seminars, our "hands-on" exercise portion after the classroom part is completed covers proper evaluation of conformation characteristics as contained in the AKC Dogue de Bordeaux breed standard. Judges are advised that when evaluating a dog in the ring, it is important to look at the dog's expression—as we know that if attributes contained in the breed standard are in conformance, it will result in correct expression. Conversely, if one or more attributes do not conform to the breed standard, expression will not look correct and appear to be "off."

COURTESY DDBSA

BREED COLUMNS

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We advise judges when evaluating a dog in the ring that they must look at the dog's expression from the front in an unobstructed manner, so if the person handling the dog in the ring is baiting the dog or otherwise handling it in a manner that obstructs the judge's view of the dog's expression, don't be shy about asking the dog handler to remove their hand and/or display the dog so that the judge can make a proper assessment of the dog's expression, head, and frontal profile.

—Victor C. Smith,
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Dogue de Bordeaux Society of America

German Pinschers

OH, THE THINGS YOU'LL LEARN ONLINE

The internet has given us a number of great dog-related resources, including communities of like-minded dog owners, and the ability to watch dogs in conformation, obedience, or agility even when we're not at the show or trial. In addition, it offers learning opportunities that many of us have never had before.

I don't personally think of German Pinschers as a rare breed, but the truth is that there aren't a lot of them in the U.S. When I tell people—even, sometimes, at dog events—that I have German Pinschers, they're apt to think I'm talking about a Doberman Pinscher imported from Germany.

To learn more about German Pinschers, the go-to place is really the Internet. I can come to the AKC GAZETTE site and read the breed columns. I can go the German Pinscher Club of America website and learn about the breed standard, the breed's history, what German Pinschers in the U.S. do and have done, names of German Pinscher breeders, and more. German Pinscher breeders have their own websites that also talk about the breed, their breeding philosophy, their dogs' pedigrees and how to contact them. I can find my local shows through the AKC Events link, and for some of the largest shows, I can even find video online of German Pinschers in the show ring.

Though our numbers in the U.S. aren't large, if you're looking to find out more about German Pinschers, there's a wealth of information online.

What about once you own your dog, however? What if you live in a relatively isolated area? What if there aren't any classes, or the classes are limited? What if you want to show in conformation or obedience or agility, but you have no idea where to start?

The Internet has answers to those questions too.

It turns out that training dogs—or perhaps more accurately, training us to train our own dogs—works surprisingly well online. I've taken online classes on theriogenology, dog cognition, conformation, rally, tricks, heeling, stays, and personal accountability. Some of these courses are theory, some are about the trainer, and some are about the team. There are courses to help you learn to track, to help with your dog's behavior issues, and to learn more about structure and movement.

Some of the places I've taken classes include Coursera, Fenzi Dog Sports Academy, and Agility University. And, though I personally haven't taken classes from all of them, a number of world-class obedience, rally, and agility trainers also have their own online schools.

In-person classes have a value that can never be replaced. They give you and your dog environmental skills as well as training. You get immediate feedback. You get to see other people make the same mistakes or different mistakes. You learn that not all dogs are the same. If you're wise—I am not always wise—you learn to train the dog who is in front of you, rather than the dog you wish you had.

Online classes give you new perspectives, access to trainers from all over the world, and in some cases, the equivalent of private video lessons.

German Pinschers may not be a breed that one sees very often on the streets or even at shows but that doesn't mean there's not a wealth of information out there if you know where to look.

—Deb Coates,
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German Pinscher Club of America

Great Pyrenees

GREAT PYRENEES IN OBEDIENCE

It's always a good idea to put your Pyrenees pet through some type of obedience training. Notice how I phrased that—put your pet through. Not "have your puppy learn obedience." Pyrenees are notorious for their indifference to obedience. Oh, sure, they'll learn the commands. *Sit. Stay. Down. Come.* The application of those commands, however, is quite another thing. *Come,* for example, is a situational command, subject to intermediate hearing loss and/or that riveting kitty nearby. *Sit* requires a slow easing of their rear to the ground. *Heel* is at a leisurely pace.

There are exceptions, of course. One glance at the performance winners on the GPCA website proves that some Pyrs like, even relish obedience.

So why is it so hard to have your Pyr respond to obedience training? It has to do with the purpose of why they were bred—as livestock guardian dogs. As such, they are

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Great Pyrenees puppy, painted by Carrie Stuart Parks

independent thinkers. They figure out who needs protection, how to protect, and who is assigned the job. For example, when we had working dogs here on the ranch, with several dogs loose at any given time, the dogs didn't bunch up and hang out together. One might watch the road, another the front of the house, and a third would keep an eye on the calves. They backed each other up, and a bark would send everyone flying in that direction, but they seemed to work assigned areas.

You may want your Pyr to snap to attention and eagerly go through the drill of performance, but you dog simply doesn't see the point. An obedience ring has no danger, critters to guard, or people to greet. It's boring, and they will let you know just what they think of it.

Pyrs are usually not a breed you can physically punish, so training them to perform to avoid correction is a very bad idea. They remember. They *will* respond to praise. Ignoring them can get under their skin. They do not like being ignored.

Most Pyrs are not particularly interested in fetching. They figure *you threw the ball, you can go and get it.* If you do have a retrieving Pyr, fantastic!

If you have any questions on obedience and performance, please contact the chair of that committee, Erina Fitzgerald, at *fitzerin@wi.rr.com*.

Happy heeling.

—Carrie Stuart Parks,
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Great Pyrenees Club of America

Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs

Guest columnist Dr. Jennifer Logan is a scientific writer with 25 years experience in human genetic and biomedical research.

CANINE EPILEPSY RESEARCH UPDATE

Epileptic seizures occur in 0.5 to 5.7 percent of all dogs, translating to about two million affected dogs in the United States. In the most recent OFA Greater Swiss Mountain Dog (GSMD) Health Survey (2013), which summarizes owner-supplied data for more than 1200 Swissies, epilepsy/seizures were reported in 6.1 percent of dogs overall (8.1 percent of males, 4.3 percent of females).

Since 2000, the GSMDCA has donated $31,063 to support canine epilepsy research through AKC Canine Health Foundation (CHF)–sponsored projects. Most of this funding has gone to molecular research projects backed by multiple breed parent clubs, in hopes of finding the genes responsible for seizures in dogs.

While no clear answers have been found, valuable lessons have been learned. For instance, based on canine genome research into disease-causing genes, including epilepsy genes, researchers found that any single gene's contribution to disease is small. In an individual dog, the disease likely results from small effects of many contributing genes. These combinations vary among individuals across populations, particularly if the dogs aren't closely related.

Researchers concluded that most diseases, including canine epilepsy, are far more complex—with more causative genes, as well as environmental factors—than anyone predicted.

Next steps include:

1. Define the disease more precisely. "Epilepsy" tends to be a catchall term for any number of health issues that produce recurrent, unprovoked seizures—regardless of the underlying cause. Studying groups of dogs with exactly the same seizure characteristics will produce higher quality research and more clear

COURTESY CARRIE STUART PARKS

answers, the same way that knowing your own dog's seizure patterns helps you and your veterinarian decide on the best treatments.

2. Look in families. In canine epilepsy, this means tracking seizure activity within/across pedigrees, and sharing accurate and detailed information about affected and healthy dogs with fellow breeders and researchers. A study in the current AKC CHF Epilepsy Program Area research portfolio has done this. It combined Lessons 1 and 2 to identify a gene responsible for Juvenile Myoclonic Epilepsy in a carefully defined Rhodesian Ridgeback pedigree (more information on AKC CHF epilepsy studies).

3. Pay attention to environmental influences. Stress, seasonal changes, certain medications and light sensitivity are thought to be among many possible seizure triggers. Common patterns that emerge among related dogs with similar seizure symptoms are immensely valuable in characterizing the disease more precisely.

4. We don't know what we don't know. In addition to looking more closely at genes and DNA through whole genome sequencing, new CHF Epilepsy Program Area studies are branching out into emerging areas of research. One looks at the role of gastrointestinal bacteria in the development and progression of canine epilepsy and the response to anti-seizure medication.

The GSMDCA's support of epilepsy research through AKC CHF has helped illuminate both the challenges and the path forward. The lessons learned from this research apply equally to the study of any health issue that affects our breed and all dogs, particularly if a genetic component is suspected.

The assignment for the GSMD fancy is continued support and participation in valuable research efforts. (Note: Learn about the 2017 AKC match for the CHF Epilepsy Initiative for any donation up to $250,000.)

In addition, we can: Watch pedigrees carefully, keep detailed records on both healthy and affected dogs in pedigrees, share accurate information about events when they occur, and maintain open, collaborative communication among breeders, owners and researchers.

—Jennifer Logan, Ph.D. *(jen@redrockgsmd.com)*

Thank you, Jennifer.

—Sue M. Copeland,
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Greater Swiss Mountain Dog Club of America

Komondorok

THE KOMONDOR JUDGING EXPERIENCE

Komondors are a very rare breed in the AKC show ring these days. With so few points and majors available, if you find yourself judging a significant entry it is even more important that you prioritize your judging criteria well. Exhibitors should know what is important so that they can be sure to breed and show the judges the important positive features of their dog.

The Komondor is a working dog designed to excel in the task of being a flock guardian. His mental and physical attributes are ideally focused on this important job. To serve that purpose the Komondor is a rugged, muscular, slightly rectangular dog who can move with soundness and agility. His physical attributes are cloaked in his heavy coat, but it is the dog under the coat who must be primarily judged, not the coat.

Let's put the coat aside by describing it:

1. It is white, with maybe some cream on puppy ears.

2. It starts off crimped or curly and tends to fall into cords.

3. The length of coat is purely a function of age. It grows 2–3 inches per year. Longer coat is not more typical, is not better, and should not win on that criteria.

4. Judges who arrange classes primarily in coat length order do our breed a terrible disservice.

5. We have three coat-related disqualifications: Failure to cord by the age of 2 (usually not a problem); not white (really not a problem); and not short and smooth coat on head and legs (this is not a grooming or coat damage issue). (This is the "not a Kuvasz" DQ.)

6. All Komondors have a coat.

To repeat the most important judging issue about coat: Coat length is a function of age, and that is not a rational judging criterion.

The Komondor's important judging criteria are listed in this key phrase from our standard: "type, character, symmetry, movement and ruggedness are of the greatest importance." This means more important than coat length, and more important than size. This is because along with our gait description—"Light, leisurely and balanced. The Komondor takes long strides, is very agile and light on his feet"—these features provide the Komondor with the traits which make him a great livestock guardian.

To analyze these words: *Type* in Komondors is our outline, solid and smooth coming off the large head, down the moderately arched neck, smoothly across withers above well laid back shoulders, along the *level and strong* back and down the wide, muscular, slightly sloping croup to the tail, which is a continuation of the rump line. *Character* is the dense white coat, fluffy at first and later corded, which covers the dog, along with good head carriage on the move carried s*lightly forward. Symmetry* is the powerful, deep chest, which is part of the

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Komondor puppies

slightly longer than tall body shape. "Slightly rectangular" means 105 percent to 110 percent longer than tall, not the much longer shape sometimes seen. *Movement and ruggedness* include the Komondor's strong, muscular frame, with plenty of bone but not so heavy as to prevent the essential *light, leisurely and balanced movement* and the dog's *agile* stride.

If a Komondor is not agile, he cannot do his athletic guarding job. If he does not have a good level and strong topline; good bone; nice size; good, sound legs; nice, dark eyes and pigment; a large head; and a good temperament, he is not just a poor Komondor, he is a poorly built dog and should not be rewarded.

The other DQ's in our standard are "Blue eyes" (one blue eye is enough to disqualify), and "three or more missing teeth." These are easy features, along with the coat DQs, for a judge to evaluate.

An excellent Illustrated Standard is available on our club website. It emphasizes and illustrates the messages outlined above.

Correction: In my past several columns I've made a mistake in my name for the Hungarian Shepherds who used Komondors. The Hungarian Shepherd is the *Pasztor.* The sheepskin cloak they wear is the *Suba* (and I've been misspelling that besides!). Thanks to Vizsla expert and former Komondor owner Dr. Sylvia Kerr for setting me straight.

—Eric Liebes,
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Komondor Club of America

Kuvasz

IS YOUR BREED A VICTIM OF FAKE NEWS?

Much has been said lately about "Fake News." Today the term seems limited to politics, but we know the Internet is replete with misinformation on every topic known to man. It is also filled with misinformation about specific dog breeds. Sometimes this is intentionally promulgated by animal-rights activists. Unfortunately, unintentional misinformation is equally damaging to your breed. Ideally, a person would go to *akc.org* and be directed to the breed parent club. Most people use a search engine and are directed to commercial sites related to the sale and/or referral of dogs.

The Kuvasz is a low-numbers breed with minimal public interest. We've done a good job of protecting the Kuvasz, but perhaps the downside of such vigilance is that we've failed to promote the breed's versatility and appeal to the general public. Kuvasz registration numbers continue to decline, and our rank in popularity continues to crawl downward. In 2000, there were 45 litters and 189 dogs regis-

COURTESY ERIC LIEBES

WORKING GROUP



Kuvasz

tered. In 2016 there were 19 litters and 72 dogs registered.

There is often a contrast between online breed information and reality. Almost every dog-related website said the Kuvasz was best suited as a farm dog and livestock guard. This was historically true, but the modern Kuvasz owner is likely a suburbanite, a single person or a couple, with a full-time job and may possibly have some children and other pets as well.

Another website said the Kuvasz was not suitable for a person who did not have prior experience owning the breed. Following that logic, no person could ever own a Kuvasz, because at one point we all had our "first" Kuvasz. Another site said the Kuvasz could not tolerate warm weather. The summers in the Hungarian countryside are often quite warm and dry. It is safe to say that no breed of dog likes excessive heat, but managed correctly (available fresh cool water and shade), they endure it like the rest of us.

Another indicated the Kuvasz did not get along well with other dogs. Being a predator-control specialist, a Kuvasz will not welcome a strange dog who wanders on his property, but Kuvasz will get along just fine with canine members of his family. A good Kuvasz is not quarrelsome or aggressive with dogs.

Another indicated the Kuvasz was not good with children. Having raised two children to adulthood among several generations of Kuvasz I can attest this is incorrect. If you raise children properly to understand that a dog is a sentient being and not a toy, the Kuvasz is perfectly fine around them. Many junior handlers have accomplished amazing feats with their Kuvasz.

"Not easy to train" is another oft-mentioned characteristic. The Kuvasz is not wired to operate on repetitive commands, but it is one of the smartest, quickest-learning breeds you will encounter. Having owned six different breeds, the Kuvasz is the easiest to housebreak by far. Kuvasz have also obtained many titles in obedience and agility.

Another site said the breed has extensive grooming needs. A Kuvasz sheds and requires regular brushing but does not require frequent bathing. Some working livestock dogs have few baths their entire life. Like any breed, nail and ear care are required. Perhaps the most surprising was one site that ranked the Kuvasz a moderate "drooling" breed. The lips of a Kuvasz tightly cover the upper and lower jaw without excess flews. A Kuvasz does not drool.

If you are interested in the preservation and future of your breed, please consider taking a moment to sit at the computer of "John Q. Public" to see what educational information is being offered about your breed. It is not often an accurate picture.

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Kuvasz Club of America

Leonbergers

DISCOVER PODCASTS

Heinrich Essig, hands in vest pockets, gazing with pride at fat Leonberger puppies clumsily tumbling in his farmyard, could never have imagined that the dogs he loved would one day be accessible to the world not just through advertisements in farm journals and notices pasted in shop windows, but as close as the nearest mobile device. In the Leonberg of Essig's time, dog folks gathered fireside at the Hotel Hirsch to debate training methods and compare pedigrees over beer and cigars. Today, the Hirsch's cozy interior is still a wonderful atmosphere for discussing all things dog, chiefly our beloved Leonberger, but there's a more modern, and decidedly more portable option: podcasts.

COURTESY DIANA HAN, NOR CAL BULLDOGGER

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While the "dogs and drinks" experience still occurs every September at the annual Leonberg Club Schau and Union Meeting, Leonberger fanciers can now learn all manner of dog information on their daily commute, at the gym, or wherever they have a smartphone and ear-buds. I often listen to podcasts while grooming my dogs. Podcasts are short, informative, and a great way to learn something new in manageable bites. You can rewind to listen again, and most feature online show notes where all the topics and related resources that were featured in each episode are linked. Best of all, they're free! I'd like to share with you a few of my favorites.

Pure Dog Talk Hosted by longtime handler and professional journalist Laura Reeves, this weekly podcast covers a large variety of topics related to purebred dogs, from grooming to puppy foundations to therapy work. Often, Reeves interviews prominent breeders, judges, and handlers both professional and non, in every dog sport from therapy to flyball. I never fail to learn something new, and the archived show notes are a great reference.

Canine Nation This podcast is all about the science of training. The podcasts are the multimedia offering of the Canine Nation website, which seeks to dispel the many myths of about canine behavior and lore that have circulated for hundreds of years through research grounded in the scientific method. Informative yet approachable, this podcast is loaded with great food for thought in our own interactions with our Leonbergers.

DogCast Radio Essentially a radio talk show about dogs, DogCast covers a wide array of topics from obscure dog sports to tips for traveling with your dog. A regular segment "Puppy Play Time" even caters to kids with information about fun activities they can do with their dogs. (available on iTunes)

It's a Doggy Dog World This is one of PetLife Radio's many animal podcasts. Episodes range from interviews with celebrity dog owners and favorite canine actors to tough issues like breed-specific legislation and impersonating service dogs. This podcast is a nice balance between tackling the difficult issues and lighthearted takes on all aspects of living with dogs. And hey, who doesn't love Betty White?

Can I Pet Your Dog? Our Leonbergers make us laugh every day, and this podcast underscores that fact. From the catchy old-time radio jingle to the fun dog news tidbits, hosts Allegra (dog owner) and Renee (dog wanter) recap the dogs they met (and pet!) each week on the street. The "Dogsaster" segment is particularly hilarious, when listeners write in to share the embarrassing exploits of their dogs. Each episode profiles a breed, and often famous comedians join the hosts. If you're looking for some lighter listening, these 30-minute podcasts find the humor in life with dogs of all shapes and sizes.

If you're new to podcasts, I encourage you to give them a try. If he were here today, I'm sure Herr Essig would make a fascinating guest. I can just hear his booming voice (pure speculation on my part, but I imagine it as "booming" anyway!) telling us exactly how he went about creating the breed we all adore.

—Astrid Robitaille,
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Leonberger Club of America

Mastiffs

EARLY SPAYING AND NEUTERING: MORE BAD NEWS ?

Most Mastiff owners are aware of the deadly cancers—as well as the significantly increased risks of growth and developmental disorders, dysplasias, obesity and ACL tears—associated with early spaying and neutering that affect our breed. As if these weren't bad enough, recent research is uncovering increasingly compelling evidence that early spaying and neutering can also create havoc within the canine endocrine system. Consequences may include Cushing's disease, atypical Cushing's disease, diabetes, shortened lifespan, hypothyroidism, hypothyroid-related seizures, and serious behavioral issues such as aggression or fearfulness related to spay/neuter-induced hypothyroidism.

As these disorders are in some cases quite complex, with multiple interdependencies, my focus in this article is hypothyroidism, although it should be noted that hypothyroidism is often a signal that other endocrine issues exist. It has been shown to have a high correlation with serious behavioral as well as medical issues and is easiest to diagnose. Most importantly, it has been the most extensively studied of the endocrine disorders. Research linking hypothyroidism with spay/neuter dates back to the late 1980s. In his five-year study, "Hypothyroidism in dogs: 66 cases (1987-1992)" (J Am Vet Med Assoc. 1994 Mar 1; 204(5): 761–7), DL Panciera concluded that spay/neuter was the most significant gender-associated risk factor for development of hypothyroidism. In Laura J Sanborn's veterinary literature review "Long Term Health Risks and Benefits of Spay/Neuter (2007)," neutered and spayed male and female dogs had a three-fold increased risk of hypothyroidism compared with intact dogs.

Dr. Karen Becker, who for years has been an ardent proponent of early spaying and neutering, describes in excerpts from her article "Why I've Had a Change of Heart About Neutering Pets" (September 30, 2013) her

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growing realization of serious problems:

"By 2006, the number of dogs I was diagnosing with hypothyroidism was at an all-time high. Diagnosing low thyroid levels is very easy, compared to the complex adrenal testing required to show that a dog has adrenal disease. I started to wonder if hypothyroidism was just a symptom of a deeper hormonal imbalance in many of my patients.

"I contacted Dr. Jack Oliver, (a renowned endocrinologist) who ran the University of Tennessee's adrenal lab, and posed my theory to him. I was stunned when he told me that indeed adrenal disease was occurring at epidemic proportions in dogs in the U.S. and was certainly tied to sex hormone imbalance."

To understand *why* spaying and neutering can have such a profound impact on the endocrine system, it is helpful to look at what it is and what it does. Put very simply, the endocrine system consists of several glands that secrete hormones that both uniquely and interactively regulate, coordinate, and balance many vital bodily functions. Glands include the thyroid, hypothalamus, pituitary, pancreas, parathyroid, ovaries/testicles, and two small adrenal glands. The failure or under- or over-performing of any of these may produce serious disorders.

For the purposes of this article, it is important to note that, aside from testes and ovaries (whose primary job is to produce sex hormones), the adrenal glands are the only other tissue in the body capable of producing small amounts of sex hormones—progesterone, androgen, and estrogen. Unfortunately, sex hormones remain important for the correct balance and functioning of many hormonal processes. Hence, when the sex organs (testes and ovaries) are completely removed in traditional spay/neuter surgery, the adrenal glands are forced to juggle their normal role with squeezing out what small amounts of sex hormones they are capable of producing. Particularly if they are overtaxed by physical or emotional stressors, or aging, the adrenals cannot maintain juggling their roles indefinitely. A malfunction or unbalancing of hormones in one set of glands can cause a chain reaction in the rest. For many dogs, this leads to the one or more of the epidemic of endocrine issues Drs. Becker and Oliver referenced. In such a complex and interdependent system, it is difficult to predict what specific issues may emerge.

Hypothyroidism—our main focus—produces symptoms including lethargy, weight gain, hair loss, lusterless coat, intolerance to cold, and skin infections. However, it is now correlated to serious behavioral problems that can lead to dogs being surrendered to a shelter or euthanized due to their aggressive tendencies. Sometimes the first and most serious symptom is sudden, seemingly unprovoked aggressiveness or extreme fearfulness. On the Mastiff forums for which I am an admin, our immediate advice for problems involving sudden-onset aggression is to take the dog to the vet for a thyroid check! It is ironic that spaying and neutering—procedures billed as necessary for avoiding or reducing aggression—in fact can cause it!

In broaching some of these findings in discussions with other Mastiff owners and breeders, I generally find myself under attack, predominantly by rescue and shelter people (for whom I have the greatest empathy and respect) who envision the alternative as a return to millions upon millions of unwanted pets overwhelming the resources of currently overstretched facilities and volunteers. However, one solution that is slowly gaining a foothold (for people who are not certain they can be responsible owners of intact dogs) is vasectomies for males and ovary-sparing hysterectomies for bitches. Here is a link to veterinarians in each state who are willing and trained to perform these procedures: *https://www.parsemus.org/projects/veterinarian-list/.*

Other resources and reading:

Happy and Healthy Dog

Are There Behavior Changes When Dogs Are Spayed or Neutered?

—Karen Cornelius,
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Mastiff Club of America

Neapolitan Mastiffs

TWO NEW BUT NOW-COMMON MISCONCEPTIONS IN JUDGING THE NEAPOLITAN MASTIFF

The first and best way to learn about a breed is, of course, to see and study many dogs of the breed with a mentor. The next-best strategy is to attend good seminars. And another time-honored, excellent way is what I call "grass-roots" learning, which is simply having in-depth conversations with others.

These off-the-cuff exchanges are fun and fruitful. We all trade not just facts, but tricks and clues we've discovered that help judge a particular breed. People will provide interesting and seemingly sensible justifications to explain a breed or standard.

I think we all like these casual facts even better than the formal explanations, as this sort of learning provides a wonderfully rich "flavor" and depth to a breed.

The problem is some of these things morph into misleading misconceptions. Here are two that are currently extant in the Neapolitan Mastiff community.

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Misconception number one: There should be three wrinkles on the muzzle.

It has become common to talk about the "typical three wrinkles on the muzzle." And wouldn't it be nice if you could easily put a dog at the front or to the back of the line based on such a simple, measurable trait? Well, you can't! This is wrong. The standard says, "The top plane of the muzzle from stop to tip of nose is straight, but is ridged due to heavy folds of skin covering it." But do not count either the indentations or the ridges. We don't care how many there are on the muzzle.

In general, yes, the standard says that the dog "… is characterized by loose skin, over his entire body, abundant, hanging wrinkles and folds on the head and a voluminous dewlap." But the standard does not require anyone to count wrinkles or folds anywhere except for the single required wrinkle being the one "… those extending from the outside margin of the eyelids to the dewlap, and from under the lower lids to the outer edges of the lips."

Misconception number two: The tail should touch the point of hock.

This misconception might have developed because in Italy it is now against the law to dock or crop at all, and the Italians were forced to change their standard. The Italian standard now says with regard to the undocked tail that "in length it reaches the articulation of the hock." But that makes sense because the Italian standard is describing the undocked tail.

We still allow docking in this country. And over time, the trend here has been that the tail is docked a bit longer than it used to be. This is simply a fashion trend, however. As long as the tail is not too short, it's OK. A too-short tail is a DQ and clearly defined in the standard as "Disqualification: Lack of tail or short tail, which is less than 1/3 the length from point of insertion of the tail to the hock-joint."

So when you're looking at your lineup of Neapolitan Mastiffs, if one has a tail distinctly shorter than the others, do not automatically assume the tail is too short and a reason to not consider that dog. Bottom line is we care about tail carriage more than length, and we don't care about the length as long as it's not too short (and remember: less than one-third from rump to hock joint would be a very short tail indeed.)

—Margaret R. (Peggy) Wolfe,
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United States Neapolitan Mastiff Club

Newfoundlands

Dr. Clyde Dunphy, DVM, was one of the founding fathers of the Newfoundland Club of America Charitable Trust. Through Dr. Dunphy's hard work and perseverance, along with others, the NCA Charitable Trust is highly respected and sets the standard for health research and support of the purebred dog. On the 20th anniversary of the NCA Charitable Trust, Dr. Dunphy gives us a brief review of its history.

THE NCA CHARITABLE TRUST: WORKING TOWARD A SAFE AND HEALTHY FUTURE FOR EVERY NEWFOUNDLAND SINCE 1997

The Newfoundland Club of America Charitable Trust is celebrating 20 years since its inception. From the humble beginnings of the Health and Longevity Committee in 1981, the Newfoundland Rescue Committee in 1983 and NCA Donations Committee in 1984 with a member's bequeath of $1,800, the NCA Charitable Trust was created in 1997 with total donations of over $25,000. Since then, the NCA Trust has raised and invested over 2 million dollars in the health and well being of Newfoundland dogs.

The motto of the NCA Trust is simply "Your Gift, Their Future"!

The mission of the NCA Trust is to secure donations, to manage and distribute funding to support research grants that study health issues affecting Newfoundlands, to fund Newfoundland rescue assistance, and to award educational scholarships to junior Newfoundland fanciers. In 2017 the NCA Trust was amended to add education to our mission to award grants that will advance the educational efforts for the care, raising, nutrition, training, disease research, breeding, judging, and exhibiting of Newfoundland dogs.

The NCA Trust also created an Endowment Fund to receive monies to permanently sustain the NCA Trust's mission and responsibilities well into the future. The Charitable Trust Management Board, created in 2002, manages the day-to-day affairs of the Trust—the NCA Rescue service; the Newfoundland Health Challenge, responsible for raising funds for Newfoundland and canine health research; raising funds and awarding junior scholarship; and distributing grants for education programs for the Newfoundland fancy.

Starting with a small donation in 1993 to the Morris Animal Foundation and joining with the AKC Canine Health Foundation in 1995 as a Charter member, the NCA Trust has grown to be a major contributor and supporter of canine and Newfoundland health research. The NCA Trust was recognized in 2015 by the AKC/CHF as a Distinguished Research Partner. The NCA Trust was one of six organizations, including the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals, the Irish Setter Club of America, the Collie Health Foundation, the Golden Retriever Foundation and the American Boxer

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Foundation, to support over $3 million in canine health research. Sheila Nardone, MS, Ph.D., chief scientific officer of the CHF in 2015 said, "These clubs and organizations are making a lasting impact on canine health. Their donations are supporting research that addresses some of the most prominent health concerns for our dogs."

The mission and work of the Newfoundland Club of America Charitable Trust is possible only with the support and donations from NCA members and Newfoundland owners in the United States and around the world. Your generosity of time and resources to support the health of future generations of Newfoundland dogs is an inspiration to us all.

To learn more about the NCA Charitable Trust or to make a donation visit *NCACharities.org* or follow us on Facebook. —C.D.

Thank you, Dr. Dunphy!

—Mary Lou Cuddy,
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Newfoundland Club of America

Portuguese Water Dogs

PWD HEALTH NEWS

In wishing to keep all owners well informed, this column will include an update on PES and HAS, two very important health issues that have been noted in the PWD.

PES: Puppy eye syndrome. I am happy to share the news that the PWDCA and the PWD Foundation are joining with AKC-CHF in funding research on PES at the University of Pennsylvania. Research goals will include (1) improved characterization of the disorder, (2) confirming the suspected mode of inheritance, (3) continuing to obtain research samples, and (4) investigating the genetic cause for this disorder in the PWD. Further information will become available as research progresses, but hope is on the horizon. My thanks to The PWD Foundation for sharing this info.

HSA: Hemangioscarcoma. With thanks to the College of Veterinary Medicine at the University of Minnesota in announcing a breakthrough trial there testing a new UMN-developed drug that has resulted in improved survival rates for dogs diagnosed with HSA. The tested drug, "eBAT," specifically targets tumor and the vascular system (as HSA forms in the blood vessels), while causing minimal damage to the immune system.

Common cancer treatment may have strong side effects on the animal whereas "eBAT" was effective in treating the cancer but causing no appreciable harm to the patient. This method has provided a safe, effective treatment, an improved quality of life and increased survival rate for the animal. The drug was given after surgery to remove the tumor and before adjunct chemotherapy was initiated. Thanks to this drug being invented at the University of Minnesota, and developed, manufactured, and tested there, positive results have been shown in the treatment of HSA.

The following studies are a part of the research on HSA being done at the University of Minnesota.

• The Shine On Project, initiated in March 2016 to research effective methods for early detection and prevention of HSA. This is a three-phase study including (1) blood tests on dogs diagnosed with HSA, (2) an attempt to predict a relapse if the dog is currently in remission and treatment/therapy to extend remission, and (3) starting in the fall of 2017, HSA prevention therapy by eradicating tumor infiltrating cells with a targeted dog. The last phase will include young, healthy dogs at risk for HSA but with no current active disease.

• Currently a "pilot safety study of an experimental treatment to develop an autologous tumor lysate vaccine for immunotherapy of HSA" is underway. Dogs with primary brain tumors have been successfully treated using vaccines made from their own tumor cells. The goal is to have vaccines that act in a similar manner in treatment of HSA.

The University of Minnesota vet school is now accepting eligible dogs for this study. A dog with a splenic mass will have the mass surgically removed there and if HSA is the diagnosis the dog will be considered for the study. Study criteria will include CT scan, ultrasound, blood work, and urine studies to determine three important factors:

"(1) If the dog has an adequate supply of blood cells, (2) that the dog has no other kidney, liver, heart disease or clotting problems, and (3) the dog has no heart based tumors." Care will include a regulated and scheduled vaccine routine, oral (low dose) chemotherapy and follow-up CT scans at two and six months post surgery. Owners interested in participating in either study may obtain more detailed information, as well as specific contact personnel names and numbers at UMinn, from *http://www.vetmed.umn.edu*.

Hopefully all of the above will just be of educational value to you, and you will not be faced with caring for a dog with an HSA disorder.

Again my sincere thanks to the staff at University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine for sharing their research information with us.

Hoping for happy, healthy days ahead!

—Carole Prangley-McIvor,
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Portuguese Water Dog Club of America

WORKING GROUP

Rottweilers

Our contributor for this issue is Jane Justice, longtime Rottweiler owner, breeder, exhibitor, and supporter.



Rottweiler

DAVID WOO ©AKC

IMPRINTING PUPPIES FOR TRACKING

Pups are born with their sense of smell; our goal is to teach/train them how to follow the scent/track we want them to follow. The best tracking imprinting time is when the pups are 6–8 weeks of age. When I am choosing a tracking/working puppy, I like to take the hungry litter outside, in the yard. I put the puppies in a kennel or an ex-pen, where they can watch me lay about a one-foot square pad by scuffing my feet to lay "scent pad"; I then set a flag on the Scent-Start Pad; and I drop soft, chewable food on the pad while the pups watch. I want the pups to be excited about my actions because my goal is that AKC tracking title.

I continue to scuff my feet in a fairly straight line, through the grass, and I drop treats about every foot or so. I lay that straight track, sliding/scuffing my feet as I walk, for about 20 to 30 paces. At the end of the track I lay a "jackpot" of treats (a handful), and I also lay a glove under the jackpot.

When I complete the track, I walk a few more straight steps after the glove, and I do not walk back on the scuffed track. I circle around and avoid the laid track. Then I go to the pups, with food, to ensure their excitement with the Game. Now I let the pups out, and I walk towards the start pad flag. I drop some food as I approach the start pad flag. I want to keep the litter with me until I reach the start flag. I am repeating the words *find it, find it.* Then I step back and watch to see how the pups work the pad and if they continue on the track. Are they interested? Is their head down? … and then, I pick the "prettiest pup" (tracking pup) for myself.

I watch to see which pups are most excited and interested about the Game, but all the pups are being imprinted for tracking. You may want to repeat the Game on another day, but don't play the Game more than once daily. The pups should be fresh and *hungry,* and it should be comfortable for them to be outside.

I continue this Game for a couple more times to ensure the litter learns the Game. I do

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this during the pups 8–10 week age, for imprinting. Once the pup is imprinted, you may wish to continue with tracking; you extend the track length up to 60–70 paces, and this is still done as a Game, and you may even be able to add one slight curve to the Game. As I progress, I always incorporate treats/food with the glove/article when training the chosen puppy. The main thing is to remember that these are youngsters, and we don't want to overdo which may cause them to turn off to tracking.

My experience has been that once I have imprinted a puppy, an older dog can begin formal tracking training at any age, and I have even taken an 8-year-old dog who has been imprinted as a puppy out five or six formal times before he earned his TD title. One of my dogs was certified at age 6 months. Be sure to use the words *find it* or *search* a lot when you hide anything and let the dog learn to "search for the prize." The Game may be played by hiding the prize and letting the dog search for the child, the treat or the toy in any location, indoors or out.

For those of you who have never tracked with your dog, I can tell you there is no other dog sport where the dog is able to use its own natural ability to guide you to the prize. No other dog sport which gives me the joy and thrill as when my dog finds that glove. Our job is simply to follow the dog. —J.J.

Thank you, Jane.

—Gwen Chaney,
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American Rottweiler Club

Saint Bernards

Pam Leighton wrote the following for this column in 2012.

REMEMBER WHEN

A few months back, I was sitting ringside with some friends waiting to go into the ring. In the puppy class was a man trying to show his puppy. He had a flat collar on the pup, with a six-foot lead. The pup was clean and groomed well, except that the hair between the toes had been combed so that it was sticking straight up. The gentleman was no trying to stack his pup but was just standing there, obviously very proud of his dog.

When the judge tried to go over his dog, the puppy squirmed and wiggled all over the place. Then it was time to move around the ring. Off they went—the man between the judge and the dog.

I have to admit here and now that my friends and I were laughing. How could someone come to show their dog and not have any idea of what to do?

Then it flashed in my head: Remember when you were new and didn't know what to do, and how nervous you were?

As soon as the man came out of the ring, I went over and asked if I could give him a little help. I asked if he had another collar and lead, and he said no, so I got an extra set from my show bag and shoed him how to put it on. I told him he always needed to keep his dog on his left so that the dog would be between the judge and himself. Right then he was called back into the ring. He had a friend sitting with him, and I explained to his friend that they needed to trim all of the hair that was sticking up between the puppy's toes because it gave the appearance that the front legs were down in the pasterns, when they really were not. I stood with the friend for a few minutes to explain to him what was going on.

His friend said that the breeder had asked the man to enter the puppy but had not given any advice on what to do, even though the breeder was there.

It was time for me to go in the ring so I had to leave, but I was happy to see another breeder go over to offer more help.

The following day the man came back, and the hair was trimmed and a new collar and lead were on the pup. I made a point of going over and talking to the gentleman to see if he had any questions. I suggested that he find some handling classes to give the puppy and himself some practice. He said he'd think about it but wasn't sure if he would, because although he was grateful to the people who helped him, he felt that his breeder just wanted him to enter so that there would be competition for the dog the breeder was showing.

I hope the man does come back and show. If not, how sad that an exhibitor was lost. We need new blood in our sport.

Please, remember when you were new, and be helpful and kind to others, especially the newbies. —P.L.

Saint Bernard Club of America

Samoyeds

Fjällräven Polar is a unique winter adventure that takes place far above the Arctic Circle between Norway and Sweden. For four days, participants drive dog sleds through the wilderness—a distance totaling about 300 kilometers. Fjällräven is one of Sweden's largest outdoor companies and also one of the leading suppliers of outdoor clothing and equipment. The idea behind the event is to demonstrate that anyone can take part in an amazing adventure if they have the right knowledge and equipment. The selection process for Fjällräven Polar takes place in November/December, and applications are

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made via Fjällräven's website. The first half of the participants, from different countries around the world, are selected by votes, while the other half are selected by jury.

Writing about the event for this issue is guest contributor Walter Herrmann III, from Louisiana, who has raised Samoyeds for over 30 years and is a Fjällräven Polar 2017 participant. He has participated in conformation, obedience, herding, weight pull, and dog sledding and is a current member and former board member of the Samoyed Club of America, Inc. He is also a member and former president of the Riverside West Kennel Club of Greater New Orleans and a former member and show chair of the Northlake Kennel Club of Greater Covington.

FJALLRAVEN POLAR—"THE GREAT UNKNOWNS"

As I return back to civilization slowly, I realize the Fjällräven Polar was not the adventure I thought it was going to be. It was so, so much more. I was very excited by the electrifying concept of mushing dogs 300 kilometers above the Arctic Circle. Soon an underlying meaning started to develop. First it was building relationships between different world cultures, building communication and understanding the nuances of each other's language, building trusts between all the participants, building trust



"I was in awe of my surroundings. How beautiful and peaceful it is."

COURTESY WALTER HERRMANN III

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between myself and the amazing sled dogs. *Trust.*

Then there was the concept of learning to work together as a team. When one member was not up to the task another member stepped up to fill the gap. Without the thought of laziness or ridicule, but the need to have it done. One person's weakness was another person's strength. *Teamwork.*

As the days went on, the learning to survive in the winter elements continued. How to dress for the winter weather, how to set up shelter to protect ourselves from the elements, how to be comfortable when sleeping in the cold weather, how to use survival skills like light a fire in the snow, how to walk through the deep snow in snowshoes, how to care for ourselves both physically and mentally, how to be more efficient in packing all of the items in a sled bag, and how to care for the most precious lifesaving partner the sled dog. *Tools.*

At the changing of the landscape and the weather, we saw how little we are as humans in the scheme of things and how precious this world. How we need to protect our impact for everyone's future. Climbing up and up through the forest with moving streams off to my right while helping the dog team by peddling and running I was in awe of my surroundings. How beautiful and peaceful it is. With a blink we were above the tree line and could see the breathtaking snow covered mountains to our right, left, behind, and ahead of me. Winds howling with the sled moving sideways as the dog team worked very hard to pull forward. Near white-out conditions made following the trail more difficult. Mother Nature can be very unforgiving. Then Continuing down, running over rocks and frozen tussocks, bouncing up and down as the trail moved on. Gliding over frozen lakes then back to the tree line, we went through switchback in the trail requiring full concentration so as to not fall off the sled or hit a tree. *Toughness.*

Then there was the every lasting bond—not only between myself and the dogs, but between all of my new close friends. We all experienced an event that will probably change the way we look at things for the rest of our life. Having experienced this firsthand, it is very hard to describe being part of the Fjallraven Polar. The feelings and emotions now that it is over are overcoming me as I write this testament. What an outstanding group of people I had the privilege of being with on this journey. Many of us will never see each other again, but if called upon for help, we would move mountains to achieve whatever is needed. *Togetherness.*

This is my description of the true meaning of the Fjällräven Polar. It is an actual case where different people from different parts of the world working together proved we can achieve anything if we set our minds to it. To the Fjällräven company, Johan, Carl, Andreas, Sofia, Nora, Tom, all the mushers, all of the behind-the-scenes people who made this happen, all my fellow participants (new lifelong friends), and the most underrated part of the trek—the hardest workers—the *sled dogs,* I will be forever grateful for this experience. The words thank you do not seem enough. *Truth.*

This great journey has ended for me. Many will say we reached a great goal. There are people my age who are satisfied with spending all of their time with their grandchildren, relaxing and watching time go by. *That is not me.* Although I cannot imagine an adventure as great as this, I will seek my next great adventure. *Time.* —Walter Herrmann III

Thank you, Mr. Herrmann.

—Heather LoProto, SCA Public Education Chair

hloproto@comcast.net

Samoyed Club of America

Siberian Huskies

THE FUTURE OF MULTIPLE DOG OWNERSHIP

No breeder, no matter the breed, geographic location, or the person's economic status, is immune from accusations of animal cruelty, and the interpretation of its definition can vary from the annual sale of a predetermined number puppies to serious concerns about dangerous and unhealthy conditions that threaten both dogs and people. It's a topic almost guaranteed to elicit a response from just about everyone, making it a surefire attention-grabber for news reports.

Recently, in the neighboring state there was a local large-scale confiscation of about 100 large-breed dogs. Authorities claimed they were totally unaware of the unsafe and unhealthy conditions, and everyone from the general public to state legislators were quick to place blame before all the evidence was gathered and the accusations investigated. The objective appeared to be a rush to release the story and quickly grab the public's attention and sympathy. Press conferences were scheduled, and those invited to speak included local and national animal-rights advocates, legislators, law enforcement, and political candidates were ready to declare war on just about anyone who owns multiple dogs, breeds a litter, sells a puppy, or has a valid kennel license. There were pledges of forthcoming legislation to prevent any further cases of animal cruelty no matter what it takes, from placing stricter guidelines and restrictions on hobby and commercial breeders to limiting puppy sales and a thorough review of general licensing requirements for

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individuals and kennels. It will be a long process before the case is resolved.

The dogs are now in good care, receiving the veterinary attention needed, and in time they will be placed in new homes. Hopefully, some legislation might be proposed that would satisfy those seeking additional regulations and restrictions, yet still preserve the rights of responsible owners of multiple dogs.

Northern New England has a rich history of dog sledding and was home to many of the early Siberian Husky kennels. While today's kennels are smaller, many owners still enjoy working their dogs on the trails as well as in competition events. There continues to be an active race circuit that draws spectators each winter, introducing them to dog sledding and skijoring. Siberian Huskies are very social animals and can provide the perfect opportunity to educate the public and the "powers that be" to the positive side of multiple-dog ownership and the dedication required, plus emphasizing that owners do it for the love of the breed, not the common misconception of being motivated to make a profit from puppy sales. It will always be an uphill battle, but it is one in which those dedicated to the working dog can provide positive input.

Hard work paid great dividends a few years back when Maine reviewed its animal welfare guidelines. Many proposals would not have been realistic in either an urban or rural setting. A favorite of Siberian owners was the suggestion that all tethered and kenneled dogs must be free to run at will for a specific amount time each day. As one well-known dog driver noted, "OK, my dogs will bring home every goose, duck, chicken, and who knows what else in a 10-mile radius or worse if I have to drive around with the dog truck trying to locate each of them!"

It was also hard to believe, but many committee members seemed to have difficulty differentiating licensing requirements between a commercial breeding operation housing 350 small-breed dogs in crates from an individual who keeps multiple dogs to field a sled dog team, breeds an occasional litter, and competes in sanctioned events.

Due to the dedication of area sled dog and breed clubs, sanity prevailed. Members attended hours of hearings, testified on behalf of their dog care, and held informative gatherings to educated the general public, state legislators, and committee field members, resulting in the simple addition of the words "function and purpose" to non-commercial kennel licenses. Of course, this has not eliminated every case of animal cruelty, but it has given working dogs a bit of breathing space—at least for now. The state does require annual kennel inspections for anyone with a kennel license, but no one sees it as an invasion of privacy, and it has helped ensure the health and safety of the dogs.

Owners of Siberian Huskies have a great opportunity to debunk the myths that multiple-dog ownership can only mean problems and can serve as ambassadors for the breed by introducing the sports of dog sledding, ski-joring, hiking, and competitive events to those not familiar with these activities. More importantly, it enables owners to show those in doubt that multiple dogs can indeed live together in healthy, safe conditions, perform their original functions, and enjoy a good life full of love and adventure.

—Jane Steffen,
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Siberian Husky Club of America

Standard Schnauzers

PANCREATITIS—HOW SWEET IT *ISN'T*

Pancreatitis—we know what a deadly disease this is in humans, but what about in our dogs? This potentially fatal disease is more common to Miniature Schnauzers but is relatively uncommon in Standard Schnauzers.

This month, we have a guest columnist, my friend Dianne Ridge of Tucson, Arizona, who sent me a horrifying e-mail to say she and her Standard Schnauzers couldn't meet us at the Albuquerque shows in May or at the SSCA National in July because her MFF Buffalo's Dixie Belle, CGC, RAE, UDX (known as Dixie) had been deathly ill earlier in this year with a bout of pancreatitis and was still somewhat fragile, so Dianne didn't want to stray too far from her regular veterinarian. Dianne graciously gave me permission to share her e-mail about Dixie's illness with you.

"Dixie had pancreatitis in January—it was really bad. I was afraid I was going to lose my dog. It started very suddenly. She was fine on Saturday, then Sunday she wouldn't eat (not a problem for one day, right?) but she didn't drink any water all day Sunday either, plus she had diarrhea. Monday she wouldn't eat either; no [elevated] temperature, but she obviously didn't feel good. She still had diarrhea, and she didn't drink anything again Monday. Tuesday she didn't eat breakfast again, I tried to get her to just eat some ice (she refused) still had diarrhea but no temp. I thought if she hadn't drunk anything by 4pm we were going to the vet. At noon she had another stool but instead of diarrhea it was frank blood—approximately one-quarter to on-half cup (a lot). We went to the vet. She was diagnosed with pancreatitis. They did an X-ray to rule out an obstruction and did

blood tests checking for pancreatic enzymes, plus a fairly new specific test called "cPL1" to diagnose. The vet said that there's an effort to make the cPL1 test a routine blood test, since it shows subclinical pancreatitis. Interesting.

"Anyway, she was given a half-liter of subcutaneous fluid at the vet's and was sent home with special canned food, which she wouldn't touch. I did a frantic Internet study, and from that was feeding her boiled, skinned chicken breast (only) however much I could get her to eat, which wasn't much. She didn't drink anything for about seven days and continued to have horrible diarrhea, so I learned to give the sub-q fluids at home, which I did two times a day for about a week before she started drinking again. The diarrhea started subsiding after a couple of weeks, and her appetite started returning. I slowly over the next month reintroduced her normal kibble, which has seven percent fat content (she can have *nothing* greater than 10 percent fat—*ever*). My study suggested that regular exercise was important to control the condition, so we made a one-half- to three-quarter-mile walk mandatory daily. Anyway, she has returned to her normal self, but I have to treat it as a chronic condition. We were lucky once. So now I travel with a bag of IV fluids, tubing, and needles, and I really don't want to get too far from her normal vet. The vet suggested that the one instance of bleeding may have been from bowel erosion from the pancreatic enzymes and diarrhea.

"Whew! Bad month. Anyway, she got her UDX! So now I think I'll try her on Barn Hunt. I think she'll have fun with that."

Many thanks to Dianne for her vivid description of Dixie's illness. I think it gives us something to watch for just in case—although SS are a healthy breed, even the rarer ailments can strike without warning, so if we are aware of the symptoms of serious diseases, we can be better prepared to take immediate remedial action.

Please note my changed e-mail address if you want to contact me.

—Suzanne T. Smith,
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Standard Schnauzer Club of America

Tibetan Mastiffs

HE IMPORTANCE OF THE TIBETAN MASTIFF COAT

When I entered the breed 20 years ago, I remember hearing that the hallmarks of the breed are the head and the tail. A third characteristic that distinguishes the Tibetan Mastiff is the coat. Their thick, showy coat is what initially draws many people to the breed.

The undercoat is extremely dense, soft, and wooly. In winter, when the TM is considered "in coat," it may be almost impossible to separate the fur to find skin. The overcoat, or guard hair, can vary from medium to long and can be fine or coarser, *"but hard, straight, and stand-off; never silky, curly or wavy,"* according to the standard. The coat tends to be longer and thicker around the neck, forming a manelike appearance, which can be pronounced in males and some females. TMs have a low-maintenance coat with minimal dander and do not have a doggy odor, so frequent baths are not necessary. A good weekly brushing to prevent tangles and to remove surface dirt is all that is required.

A number of factors influence coat, both genetic and environmental. While the amount and length of coat is heavily influenced by genetics, males generally carry more coat than females, both in length and thickness.

Age has to be taken into consideration when talking about the coat. The puppy coat is soft and fluffy. Sometimes TM pups never lose their puppy coat, but rather it becomes the undercoat as the adult coat comes in over it. The adult coat starts to make an appearance around 6 to 8 months in a distinct pattern—down the center of the back, and up the legs—and fills in from there. Coat will continue to grow and develop well into maturity.

Diet can affect both the amount and the condition of the coat, as can temperature and time of year. Diet is one area where you truly reap what you sow. A good-quality diet with adequate protein and oils will result in a shiny, healthy coat. Coats of TMs kept in an air-conditioned environment in the summer will fare much better than those left outside. Altered dogs, both male and female, may develop a different type of coat altogether, commonly called a "spay coat," that is longer, softer, and of a finer texture.

General health of the dog can also affect the quality of the coat. Hair loss or a dry, brittle coat can often be the first signs of hypothyroidism or other health issues. A healthy, well-nourished and well-maintained coat will be sleek and shiny.

The Tibetan Mastiff's winter coat is thick enough to be completely impervious to water in order to endure the harsh weather conditions of the Himalayas. In their native Tibet, where average winter lows range from 10 to 18 Centigrade in the plateaus and drops drastically with increased altitude, the coat of the Tibetan Mastiff is the very essence of its survival. Within the last 10 years, the breed has been infiltrated with foreign dogs interbred with St. Bernards, Chows, Newfoundlands, and other breeds in an effort to produce larger size, more wrinkles, and longer coat. One sure way to distinguish

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The Tibetan Mastiff's coat varies greatly between summer (left) and winter (right).

the descendants of these mixed breeds is to carefully examine the coat—longer and more abundant for sure, but soft, wavy, and unable to repel snow and water. The TM coat should more resemble the coat of a Husky than a Chow. This is why our standard points out, "The quality of the coat is of greater importance than length."

In summer, TMs lose their undercoat in a massive shedding over six to eight weeks that is referred to as blowing the coat. Sometimes the dogs will lose so much fur during this time that bare skin can be seen beneath the guard hair, and even the tail can become sparse. This is especially noticeable during the first two years, as the overcoat is still filling in. Our standard specifically says "dogs are not to be penalized if shown with a summer coat," but many judges, like most individuals unfamiliar with the breed, expect a thick, plush coat year-round. This perception is magnified by the fact that most TM owners will not show their dogs when out of coat, so most judges have no idea what a summer coat looks like. I recently had one knowledgeable judge comment that when they are out of coat, "a TM in the ring is a coyote on a string." An exaggeration, but the winter-to-summer transition is very real. Just as winter coat is essential for winter survival, summer coat ensures the dogs can survive the summer heat outdoors in their homeland.

Coat is not just a window dressing but serves a functional purpose for a working dog such as the Tibetan Mastiff. It is critical that we understand this, and not be thrown by an abundance of coat or the lack thereof.

—Debbie Mayer,
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American Tibetan Mastiff Association

COURTESY CRYSTAL LANGE

SYNOPSIS OF THE SEPTEMBER 12, 2017 DELEGATES FORUM

The Delegates Forum is an informal meeting of Delegates that provides an opportunity for open discussion and the expression of ideas. No official business is transacted, a quorum is not required and no attendance record is kept.

Preview of AKC.org Website Relaunch

At the September Forum, the Growth Group, represented by Executive Vice President and Chief Growth Officer, Alexandra Aleskovsky, presented a Power Point presentation and video on the upcoming AKC.org website relaunch. This will be launching in late Fall 2017. The presentation and video provided an update on the existing website performance, the reasons why a new site launch is necessary and the collaborative process that was undertaken to develop the new site, including input from Delegates. She then outlined the new benefits and features of the new site which include:

- integration of the AKC mission throughout the site and dynamic new Home Page bringing that mission to life;
- expanded content on Sports & Events;
- new and engaging breed content;
- better intuitive navigation;
- improved intelligent search that will keep users from using Google;
- and new expanded Events Search by breed, custom date range, judge, etc.

Alexandra and her team will be conducting Orientation/work sessions on the new site at the Rosen Center in Orlando on December 13th and 14th.

AKC Scent Work – A New Opportunity for All Dogs

At the September 2017 Delegate's Meeting, the Sports and Events Department gave a PowerPoint presentation on the new sport of Scent Work. Doug Ljungren, Vice President of Sports and Events, presented an overview of the sport and its evolution from the task of working detection dogs. Stephanie Kennerley, Sports and Events Project Coordinator, went into detail about the new AKC sport, including organization of the program, information about the specific classes, the status of licensed judges, why Scent Work is an attractive sport for clubs, and how clubs can become licensed to host Scent Work trials. After the PowerPoint presentation, Mr. Ljungren and Ms. Kennerley fielded questions from the delegate body. Those seeking to learn more about AKC Scent Work were encouraged to e-mail ScentWork@akc.org for additional information.

QUARTERLY MEETING OF THE DELEGATES OF THE AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB SEPTEMBER 12, 2017

Dennis B. Sprung, President

PRESENT 320

Abilene Kennel Club—*Melanie Steele*
Affenpinscher Club of America—*Letisha Wubbel*
Afghan Hound Club of America, Inc.—*Ms. Constance Butherus*
Airedale Terrier Club of America—*Aletta L. Moore*
Akita Club of America—*Sherry E. Wallis*
Alaskan Malamute Club of America, Inc.—*Patricia A. Peel*
Albany Kennel Club, Inc.—*Ms. Mary M. MacCollum*
American Belgian Tervuren Club, Inc.—*Ms. Janina K. Laurin*
American Black & Tan Coonhound Club, Inc.—*Robert Urban*
American Bloodhound Club—*Mary L. Olszewski*
American Boxer Club, Inc.—*Sharon Steckler*
American Brittany Club, Inc.—*Jane Bjork*
American Bullmastiff Association, Inc.—*Alan Kalter*
American Chesapeake Club, Inc.—*Timothy Carrion*
American Fox Terrier Club—*Connie Clark*
American Foxhound Club, Inc—*Harold Miller*
American Lhasa Apso Club, Inc.—*Don Hanson*
American Maltese Association, Inc.—*Ms. Sandra Bingham-Porter*
American Manchester Terrier Club—*Roberta Berman*
American Miniature Schnauzer Club, Inc.—*Barbara Donahue*
American Rottweiler Club—*Mr. Peter G. Piusz*
American Shetland Sheepdog Association—*Marjorie Tuff*
American Shih Tzu Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Sally L. Vilas*
American Water Spaniel Club—*Michael Zarlenga*
American Wirehaired Pointing Griffon Association—*Dr. Lisa Boyer*
Anderson Kennel Club—*Laura A. Rockwell*
Atlanta Kennel Club, Inc.—*Ann Wallin*
Atlanta Obedience Club, Inc.—*Gail A. LaBerge*

DELEGATES' QUARTERLY MEETING

Augusta Kennel Club, Inc.—*Catherine Iacopelli*
Australian Cattle Dog Club of America—*Joyce Rowland*
Australian Terrier Club of America, Inc.—*William I. Christensen*
Back Mountain Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Nina Schaefer*
Baltimore County Kennel Club—*Lucy C. Campbell-Gracie*
Basenji Club of America, Inc.—*Katie Campbell*
Bayshore Companion Dog Club, Inc.—*Gloria Marshall*
Beaver County Kennel Club, Inc.—*Phyllis Belcastro*
Bedlington Terrier Club of America—*Diane Pearson*
Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America, Inc.—*Sara Karl*
Bexar County Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mr. Gerald H. Yarbrough*
Bichon Frise Club of America, Inc.—*Mrs. Toby B. Frisch*
Black Russian Terrier Club of America—*Susan Sholar*
Blennerhassett Kennel Club, Inc.—*John McCullagh*
Border Collie Society of America—*Lisa M. Pruka*
Border Terrier Club of America, Inc.—*Mrs. Ruth A. Naun*
Borzoi Club of America, Inc.—*Barbara O'Neill*
Boston Terrier Club of America, Inc.—*Mrs. Kathleen M. Kelly*
Bronx County Kennel Club—*Alexa Samarotto*
Brookhaven Kennel Club, Inc.—*Marie A. Fiore*
Bryn Mawr Kennel Club—*Victoria Glickstein*
Bucks County Kennel Club, Inc.—*Priscilla Gabosch*
Bull Terrier Club of America—*Ms. Jan Dykema*
Bulldog Club of America—*Robert L. Newcomb*
Bulldog Club of Philadelphia—*Elizabeth H. Milam*
Burlington County Kennel Club, Inc.—*Daniel J. Smyth, Esq.*
Butler County Kennel Club, Inc.—*Cathleen Rubens*
Cairn Terrier Club of America—*Pam Davis*
California Airedale Terrier Club—*April Clyde*
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.—*Vivian A. Moran*
Carolina Kennel Club, Inc.—*Jaimie Ashby*
Catoctin Kennel Club—*Whitney Coombs*
Central Florida Kennel Club, Inc.—*Julian Prager*
Central Indiana Kennel Club, Inc.—*Sally Allen*
Central New York Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Diane D. Almy*
Central Ohio Kennel Club—*Jon Green*
Chain O'Lakes Kennel Club—*Mr. Barry D. Rose*
Chaparral Kennel Club, Inc.—*Pam Goldman*
Charleston Kennel Club—*Sylvia Arrowwood*
Chattanooga Kennel Club—*Mr. David Gilstrap*
Chicago Collie Club—*Bryna Comsky*
Chihuahua Club of America, Inc.—*Kenneth Saenz*
Chinese Shar-Pei Club of America, Inc.—*Marge B. Calltharp*
Chow Chow Club, Inc.—*Margaret DiCorleto*
Clackamas Kennel Club—*Tami D. Worley*
Clarksville Kennel Club—*Robert A. Schroll*
Classic Toy Dog Club of Western Massachusetts—*Dr. Stephen Lawrence*
Clermont County Kennel Club, Inc.—*Marjorie Underwood*
Collie Club of America, Inc.—*Mr. John G. Buddie*
Colorado Kennel Club—*Mrs. Louise Leone*
Colorado Springs Kennel Club—*Sidney L. Marx*
Columbia Kennel Club, Inc.—*Crystal Messersmith*
Columbia Terrier Association of Maryland—*Frederic Askin, M.D.*
Connecticut River Working Group Association—*Fred G. Ferris*
Conyers Kennel Club of Georgia—*Michael Houchard*
Cudahy Kennel Club—*Mr. Don H. Adams*
Dachshund Club of America, Inc.—*Larry Sorenson*
Dalmatian Club of America, Inc.—*Dr. Charles Garvin*
Dandie Dinmont Terrier Club of America, Inc.—*Karen Dorn*
Dayton Dog Training Club, Inc.—*Barbara L. Mann*
Dayton Kennel Club, Inc.—*Sandra Groeschel*
Del Monte Kennel Club, Inc.—*Merlyn A. Green, D.C.*
Del Sur Kennel Club, Inc.—*Andrew G. Mills*
Del-Otse-Nango Kennel Club—*Melinda L. Vogt*
Delaware Water Gap Kennel Club—*Dr. A. D. Butherus*
Des Moines Kennel Club, Inc.—*John D. Hughes*
Devon Dog Show Association, Inc.—*Meg Weitz*
Dog Owners Training Club of Maryland—*Kathrynann Sarvinas*

Durham Kennel Club Inc—*Linda C. Wozniak*
Eastern Dog Club—*Mr. Theodore C. Hollander, Jr.*
Eastern German Shorthaired Pointer Club, Inc.—*Jeffrey Drogin*
Empire Beagle Club, Inc.—*Christopher Keenan*
English Cocker Spaniel Club of America, Inc.—*Sharon K. Collins*
English Setter Association of America, Inc.—*Mr. John P. Nielsen*
English Springer Spaniel Club of Michigan, Inc.—*Barbara J. Gates*
English Springer Spaniel Field Trial Association, Inc.—*Susanne Burgess*
English Springer Spaniel Field Trial Club of Illinois—*David H. Hopkins*
Farmington Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—*Terrie Breen*
Fayetteville Kennel Club, Inc.—*Teresa Vila*
Finger Lakes Kennel Club, Inc.—*Margaret B. Pough*
Finnish Spitz Club of America—*Mrs. Cindy Stansell*
First Dog Training Club of Northern New Jersey, Inc.—*Mary D. Curtis*
Fort Lauderdale Dog Club—*Eduardo T. Fugiwara*
Fort Worth Kennel Club—*Harold Tatro III*
Framingham District Kennel Club, Inc.—*Gale Golden*
Garden State All Terrier Club, Inc.—*Barbara S. Dalane*
Genesee County Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Cindy Collins*
Genesee Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—*Virginia Denninger*
German Shorthaired Pointer Club of America—*Mrs. Barbara N. Schwartz*
German Wirehaired Pointer Club of America, Inc.—*Ms. Patricia W. Laurans*
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.—*Ms. Carole L. Richards*
Golden Retriever Club of America—*Ellen Hardin*
Gordon Setter Club of America, Inc.—*Nance O. Skoglund*
Great Dane Club of America, Inc.—*Jean Highlands*
Great Pyrenees Club of America, Inc.—*Dr. Robert M. Brown*
Greater Collin Kennel Club, Inc.—*Barbara Shaw*
Greater Fredericksburg Kennel Club—*Patricia B. Staub*
Greater Philadelphia Dog Fanciers Association—*Marlene Steinberg*
Greater Sierra Vista Kennel Club—*Ms. Charlotte I. Borghardt*
Greater St. Louis Training Club, Inc.—*Mr. Robert Amen*
Greenwich Kennel Club—*Donna Gilbert*
Greyhound Club of America—*Kathleen B. Whitaker*
Harrisburg Kennel Club, Inc.—*Cindy Miller*
Havanese Club of America—*Jane F. Ruthford*
Heart of the Plains Kennel Club—*Patricia M. Cruz*
Hockamock Kennel Club, Inc.—*Nancy Fisk*
Holyoke Kennel Club, Inc.—*Jane Wilkinson*
Hoosier Kennel Club, Inc.—*Karl H. Kreck*
Houston Kennel Club, Inc.—*Thomas D. Pincus*
Huntingdon Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—*Dick Blair*
Hutchinson Kennel Club, Inc.—*Barbara A. Penny*
Ibizan Hound Club of the United States—*Michelle Barlak*
Illinois Capitol Kennel Club, Inc.—*Ann L. Cookson*
Ingham County Kennel Club, Inc.—*Rita J. Biddle*
Irish Setter Club of America, Inc.—*Ms. Karolynne M. McAteer*
Irish Water Spaniel Club of America—*R. J. Rubin*
Irish Wolfhound Club of America—*Eugenia Hunter*
Jacksonville Dog Fanciers' Association—*Victoria A. Marks*
Japanese Chin Club of America—*Victoria Dovellos*
Jefferson County Kennel Club of Missouri—*Cledith Wakefield*
Kanadasaga Kennel Club—*Mrs. Beverly M. Nosiglia*
Keeshond Club of America, Inc.—*Richard Su*
Kennel Club of Beverly Hills—*Thomas Powers*
Kennel Club of Buffalo, Inc.—*Margaret Doster*
Kennel Club of Northern New Jersey, Inc.—*Dr. Suzanne H. Hampton*
Kennel Club of Philadelphia, Inc.—*Harry Booker*
Kennel Club of Riverside—*Sylvia A. Thomas*
Kettle Moraine Kennel Club, Inc.—*Jacquelyn J. Fogel*
Komondor Club of America, Inc.—*Michael Harman*
Kuvasz Club of America—*Maria Arechaederra*
Ladies' Dog Club, Inc.—*Kathi Brown*
Ladies' Kennel Association of America—*Ruth Winston*
Lake Champlain Retriever Club—*Wendy Jones*
Lake Shore Kennel Club, Inc.—*Diana Skibinski*

Lakeland Winter Haven Kennel Club—*Mary McDaniel, D.V.M.*
Lancaster Kennel Club, Inc.—*Carolyn M. Vack*
Land O'Lakes Kennel Club, Inc.—*Jan Croft*
Langley Kennel Club—*Ms. Dianne E. Franck*
Lawrenceville Kennel Club, Inc.—*Robert N. LaBerge*
Lehigh Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—*Dominic P. DiBalsi*
Long Island Kennel Club—*Mr. William B. Tabler, Jr.*
Los Encinos Kennel Club, Inc.—*David M. Powers*
Louisville Kennel Club, Inc.—*Debra H. Owen*
Magic Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—*Ruth Crumb*
Manatee Kennel Club—*Pat Edgington*
Marion Ohio Kennel Club, Inc.—*Lynn Garvin*
Maryland Kennel Club—*Gary Sarvinas*
Merrimack Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—*Jeannette Nieder*
Mid-Hudson Kennel Association, Inc.—*Gayle Bontecou*
Middle Tennessee Amateur Retriever Club—*John Russell*
Middlesex County Kennel Club—*Nicky Patterson*
Miniature Bull Terrier Club of America—*Giselle Simonds*
Miniature Pinscher Club of America, Inc.—*Mrs. Karen Clausing*
Minneapolis Kennel Club, Inc.—*Ralph Hogancamp*
Mississippi Valley Kennel Club—*Gretchen Bernardi*
Mohawk Valley Kennel Club—*Sandra Haber*
Montgomery County Kennel Club—*Ms. Ida E. Weinstock*
Monticello New York Kennel Club, Inc.—*Barry A. Hoovis*
Mount Vernon Dog Training Club (MVDTC)—*Martha L. Beckington*
Mountaineer Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mary Yoders*
National Capital Kennel Club, Inc.—*Norma Ryan*
National Shiba Club of America—*Maggi Strouse*
Naugatuck Valley Kennel Club—*Viola Burgos*
New England Beagle Club, Inc.—*Blaine Grove*
Newnan Kennel Club—*Willie Crawford*
Newton Kennel Club—*Catherine H. Murch*
Newtown Kennel Club, Inc.—*Susan Marucci*
Nisqually Kennel Club—*R. H. Hachtel*
Norfolk Terrier Club—*Thomas Graham*
North Shore Kennel Club—*Richard F. Coletti*
Northeastern Maryland Kennel Club—*Joyce Engle*
Northwestern Connecticut Dog Club, Inc.—*Billie Ponton*
Norwegian Elkhound Association of America, Inc.—*Lori Webster*
Norwich Terrier Club of America—*Jean Kessler*
Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever Club (USA)—*Ms. Marile A. Waterstraat*
Obedience Training Club of Hawaii, Inc.—*Beverly H. Conroy*
Obedience Training Club of Rhode Island—*James M. Ashton*
Old English Sheepdog Club of America, Inc.—*Sheila Kenyon*
Old Pueblo Dog Training Club, Inc.—*Felice Jarrold*
Olympic Kennel Club, Inc.—*Betty M. Winthers*
Onondaga Kennel Association, Inc.—*Daniel R. Cunningham*
Orange Empire Dog Club, Inc.—*Burton J. Yamada*
Otterhound Club of America—*Joellen Gregory, D.V.M.*
Pacific Coast Bulldog Club, Inc.—*Link Newcomb*
Pacific Coast Pekingese Club—*Frank Meister*
Panhandle Kennel Club of Texas, Inc.—*Mrs. Geraldine M. Shastid*
Parson Russell Terrier Association of America—*Gary Koeppel*
Pekingese Club of America—*Steven Hamblin*
Pembroke Welsh Corgi Club of America, Inc.—*Mrs. Anne Bowes*
Penn Ridge Kennel Club, Inc.—*Dennis J. Gallant*
Petit Basset Griffon Vendeen Club of America—*Anne Gallant, Ph.D.*
Pharaoh Hound Club of America—*Dominic P. Carota*
Philadelphia Dog Training Club, Inc.—*Larry Wilson*
Pioneer Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Margaret Vohr*
Plum Creek Kennel Club of Colorado—*William E. Ellis*
Poodle Club of America, Inc.—*Mary Ellen Fishler*
Port Chester Obedience Training Club, Inc.—*Kathleen Gregory*
Progressive Dog Club—*Josephine De Menna*
Providence County Kennel Club, Inc.—*Richard E. Grant*
Puli Club of America, Inc.—*Maggie Witwer*
Putnam Kennel Club, Inc.—*Florence R. Laicher*
Puyallup Valley Dog Fanciers, Inc.—*Frances Stephens*
Pyrenean Shepherd Club of America—*Mrs. Nancy-Lee H. Coombs*
Queen City Dog Training Club, Inc.—*Erica Behnke*

Ramapo Kennel Club—*Jeffrey D. Ball*
Rapid City Kennel Club, Inc.—*Ms. Sally J. Nist*
Redwood Empire Kennel Club—*Johnny Shoemaker*
Rhode Island Kennel Club, Inc.—*Elizabeth Omeara*
Rhodesian Ridgeback Club of the United States, Inc.—*Judith Lichtman*
Richmond Dog Fanciers Club, Inc.—*Jan R. Gladstone*
Rio Grande Kennel Club—*Ross Jones*
Riverhead Kennel Club, Inc.—*Bonnie Lane*
Roanoke Kennel Club, Inc.—*William L. Totten III*
Rubber City Kennel Club—*Cathy Gaidos*
Saluki Club of America—*Monica H. Stoner*
Sammamish Kennel Club—*Dr. Robert C. Gloster, M.D.*
San Antonio Kennel Club, Inc.—*Nancy J. Shaw*
San Gabriel Valley Kennel Club—*Anthony Vasquez*
Santa Barbara Kennel Club, Inc.—*Abbe R. Shaw*
Santa Clara Valley Kennel Club, INC.—*David J. Peat*
Santa Maria Kennel Club, Inc.—*Laurence J. Libeu*
Saratoga New York Kennel Club—*Wanda H. Allen*
Saw Mill River Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mimi Winkler*
Sawnee Mountain Kennel Club of Georgia—*Gregory K. Benkiser*
Schipperke Club of America, Inc.—*Diane Ramsey*
Scottish Terrier Club of America—*Helen A. Prince*
Scottsdale Dog Fanciers Association, Inc.—*Dr. Mary-Helene (Mimi) Brown, M.D.*
Shenandoah Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—*Sharyn Y. Hutchens*
Shoreline Dog Fanciers Association of Orange County—*Susan L. Hamil*
Siberian Husky Club of America, Inc.—*Ann M. Cook*
Sir Francis Drake Kennel Club, Inc—*William J. Feeney*
Skye Terrier Club of America—*Mr. Stephen P. Hersey*
Skyline Kennel Club, Inc.—*Gloria Shaver*
Somerset Hills Kennel Club—*Harvey Goldberg*
South Jersey Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Linda B. Willson*
South Shore Kennel Club, Inc.—*Linda C. Flynn*
South Windsor Kennel Club—*Mr. Edward F. Lyons, Jr.*
Southeast Arkansas Kennel Club—*Ricky Adams*
Southern Adirondack Dog Club, Inc.—*John V. Ioia*
Southern Colorado Kennel Club, Inc.—*Lee Arnold*
Spinone Club of America—*Karen Luckey*
Springfield Kennel Club, Inc.—*Dr. Thomas M. Davies*
St. Bernard Club of America, Inc.—*Richard Nosiglia*
St. Croix Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Deborah J. Wilkins*
Staffordshire Terrier Club of America—*Jeannette O'Hanlon*
Standard Schnauzer Club of America—*Dr. Harvey Mohrenweiser*
Staten Island Kennel Club, Inc.—*Marianne Megna*
Steel City Kennel Club, Inc.—*Miss Susan M. Napady*
Suffolk County Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mr. Robert Eisele*
Sun Maid Kennel Club of Fresno, Inc.—*Marcy L. Zingler*
Superstition Kennel Club, Inc.—*Nancy Perrell*
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*
Tennessee Valley Kennel Club—*Mrs. Richella M. Veatch*
Terry-All Kennel Club, Inc.—*Sonja J. Ostrom*
Texas Kennel Club, Inc.—*Dr. Michael Knight*
Tibetan Spaniel Club of America—*Dianne C. Tyree*
Tibetan Terrier Club of America, Inc.—*Stacey La Forge*
Tonawanda Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mary E. Gauthier-Teeling*
Trap Falls Kennel Club, Inc.—*Christopher L. Sweetwood*
Troy Kennel Club, Inc.—*John J. Cadalso, Jr.*
Tualatin Kennel Club, Inc.—*James S. Corbett*
Tucson Kennel Club—*Dr. Kenneth H. Levison*
Twin Brooks Kennel Club, Inc.—*Patricia C. Sarles*
United States Kerry Blue Terrier Club, Inc.—*Mr. Carl C. Ashby, III*
United States Lakeland Terrier Club—*Maria Sacco*
Upper Potomac Valley Kennel Club—*Robert Lachman*
Vacationland Dog Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Joan Tabor*
Ventura County Dog Fanciers Association—*Mr. William F. Dumas*
Virginia Kennel Club, Inc.—*Edmond Blausten*
Wampanoag Kennel Club, Inc.—*Ms. Naida L. Parker*
Waukesha Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mary A. Eschweiler*

Welsh Springer Spaniel Club of America, Inc.—*Richard Rohrbacher*
Welsh Terrier Club of America, Inc.—*Ereign Seacord*
West Highland White Terrier Club of America—*Thomas H. Barrie*
Westbury Kennel Association, Inc.—*Geraldine Jaitin*
Western Fox Terrier Breeders Association—*Torie Steele*
Western Reserve Kennel Club, Inc.—*Kathleen Bencin*
Whidbey Island Kennel Club Inc—*Dr. Karen M. Ericson*
Windward Hawaiian Dog Fanciers Association—*Mrs. Karen Mays*
Wolverine Beagle Club—*Bob Kimber*
Woodstock Dog Club, Inc.—*Adrienne Soler*
Yakima Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—*Adele Keyfel*
Yorkshire Terrier Club of America, Inc.—*Claudia M. Grunstra-Pierro*

DELEGATES MEETING
SEPTEMBER 12, 2017

Dennis Sprung, President in the Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m.

The first order of business was the vote for the Delegate Standing Committees.
(There was a recess for Voting)

The Chair introduced the persons seated with him on the dais: Vice Chairman, Dr. Thomas Davies; Joan Corbisiero the Professional Registered Parliamentarian; Gina DiNardo, Executive Secretary, and Todd DeSimone, the Court Reporter.

The Chair informed the Delegates of the passing of Janice Gardner on September 3rd. She was the Delegate for Rockingham County Kennel Club since March 1981.

The Executive Secretary read the names of the Delegates seated since the June meeting:
Connie Brunell, to represent Inland Empire Kennel Association
Richard J. LeBeau, to represent English Toy Spaniel Club of America
Beverly H. Conroy, to represent Obedience Training Club of Hawaii
Sally Koepke, to represent Buckeye Retriever Club
Edward F. Lyons Jr., to represent South Windsor Kennel Club
Frank Meister, to represent Pacific Coast Pekingese Club
Aubrey Nash, to represent Town and Country Kennel Club
Betty Jo Patrick, to represent Kachina Kennel Club
Nancy J. Perrell, to represent Superstition Kennel Club
Diane Ramsey to represent Schipperke Kennel ClubClub of America
Melanie S. Steele, to represent Abilene Kennel Club
Sharon Weston, to represent Rogue Valley Kennel Club

The following Delegates, who were attending their first meeting since approval were introduced from the floor:
Katheen Bencin to represent Western Reserve Kennel Club
Gregory Benkiser to represent Sawnee Mountain Kennel Club of Georgia
Dr. Karen M. Ericson to represent Whidbey Island Kennel Club
Edward Lyons to represent South Windsor Kennel Club
Frank Meister to represent Pacific Coast Pekingese Club
Diane Ramsey to represent Schipperke Kennel Club
Melanie Steel to represent Abilene Kennel Club
Michael Zarlinga to represent American Water Spaniel Club

[The Chairman's Report follows the transcript of this meeting.]

The minutes of the June 2017 Delegates meeting were published in the July 2017 AKC Gazette and the complete transcript was posted on the Delegate Portal. There were no corrections and the minutes were adopted as published.

The President gave his report as follows:
Please rise for a moment of silence in memory of 9/11 and those who lost their lives.
(Moment of silence.)

Mr. Sprung: Thank you. I ask that we each remember our fortune to live in this great country with so many blessings. We remain especially grateful for the gift of the purebred dog in our lives, both at home and at events, as well as the countless moments of happiness and fulfillment they

give us as we strive for the betterment of each breed as responsible breeders and owners. God bless America.
We just experienced several natural disasters: Hurricanes Harvey and Irma, and the fires in Southern California. I ask AKC Reunite Chairman Alan Kalter to update us on the multiple efforts already achieved as well as the future initiatives.

Mr. Kalter spoke as follows:
Thank you, Dennis. Good morning, fellow Delegates. It has been said that the worst of times can bring out the best in people, and certainly given the response that we have had to Hurricanes Harvey and Irma and the wildfires out west, that is certainly true of the AKC family. The AKC community was there before with our donated pet disaster relief trailers. We stepped up with donations during and after and we will continue to be there to help during the recovery. Heartfelt thank yous to all who joined in to contribute to the recovery. Special thanks to Barbara and Bob Amen, the Pembroke Welsh Corgi Club of America Charitable Trust, the Shih Tzu Club Charitable Trust, Assisi Animal Health, and the Retriever Master National Club Foundation. Through their efforts and the open hearts of 120 AKC clubs and 1,250 individuals, we have raised nearly a quarter of a million dollars to date. The AKC Humane Fund in addition donated $10,000 to the Houston Hurricane Relief Fund and donated an AKC pet disaster relief trailer to Houston. Up until that time Houston didn't have one. Speaking of the trailers, so far we have raised, through the good efforts of all those involved, and a tip of the hat to Pat Laurans, $1.6 million for trailers. We actually have 63 trailers currently in the field and there are six more in the pipeline. There were a number of trailers that were deployed during the disasters to Texas and the wildfires. In fact, one trailer actually went from Tennessee all the way to Texas in order to help out. AKC Reunite is putting your donations to good use. So far, $70,000 of your donations have already been given to the shelters that need both to be rebuilt and to house the enormous number of dogs and other animals that are in the shelters currently. We were able to work with shelters to extend the waiting period, it is normally a lot shorter, and they have all agreed to a 30-day waiting period before they move to a next step with adopting out any dogs that were found during the disasters. We will continue to keep you updated on all of the efforts to help in Texas and Florida. Looking forward, President Sprung has established a working task force, including AKC, AKC CHF, the Humane Fund, and AKC Reunite staff in order to develop a cross-functional disaster plan. Given that disasters are now coming in multiples at one time instead of one offs, AKC Reunite has a fund that will help, but is not constrained by a specific disaster. It is called the AKC Reunite Pet Disaster Relief Fund and it is currently live on the akcreunite.org website. If you hit the donate button and scroll down, and you will find that is an option, and of course, like the Hurricane Harvey donations, any donation made to the Reunite Pet Disaster Relief Fund is free of any fees, so 100 percent of your donation goes to help. Finally, I would like to say a big thank you, again, to all of you and your clubs for proving that when you really care, enough you can make a big difference. Thank you.

Joseph Baffuto, AKC Chief Financial Officer, gave his Report as follows:
Good Morning Everyone! Thank you so very much for attending the meeting here today! Please know that although we are here briefly discussing the financial performance of The American Kennel Club through July 31st, the reality is that our hearts, our thoughts and our prayers are with all the families and friends, that have been affected by the recent tragic hurricanes, Harvey and Irma. We will work hard to support all the recovery in those areas. Let's begin by examining our year-to-date summary of results. Total revenue of $41.5 million has been offset by total expenses of $36.8 million, which reflects an operating income of $4.7 million which is reasonably above the comparative operating income of $4.0 million at the same time last year. Let's take a deeper dive into the details. In our comparison of year to date revenue, we are up by $3.8 million dollars! This is an overall 10% increase!! What areas have been our most successful to-date? Let's examine further along in our revenue programs. Our top revenue increases by dollar amounts include Registrations including our Litters, Dogs, and Pedigrees, amounting to $1.2 million, representing a 6% increase over 2016. Next, additional revenues in our Growth Group – which includes Marketplace, Ecommerce, Digital Advertising, and Royalties and Sponsorships – up by $1.9 million or 40% growth year over year. Our Events area, in particular our Recording and Events Fees overall have increased by 3% or $227,000. Lastly, our year to date interest and dividend income has increased by just over $100,000 or approximately, 20%. Taking a year over year comparative analysis of our Core Registration Volumes, we can really see our outstanding successes for 2017.
Our Litter Volume for the year so far is 140,000 an increase of 7%. Our Dog Reg-

istrations are currently at 335,000 which is also 7% above the 7 month period in 2016. Total Pedigrees are 151,000 which represents a 4% year over year increase. On the other side of our income statement, we will begin a brief analysis of year to date costs. We have recorded a grand total of $36.8 million dollars in expenses. This is an overall increase from 2016 of $3.1 million dollars or 9%. Where did the increases specifically arrive from? Payroll and benefits are up by $2.8 million, or 17% as our full time equivalent headcount has increased from 292 to 317.5 over the last 12 months. Our technology and marketing teams have benefitted the most from these human capital resource investments. In addition, we have had an increase in Consulting costs by $300,000, which can be mainly accounted for in our relocation preparations and due diligence. In addition to our results from operations, next we can provide some details on the success of our Investment portfolio through the first seven months of our fiscal year. Our investments have yielded a 7% unrealized gain this year. These gains equate out to a $7.3 million dollar increase to our investment balances. Our relative benchmark for our portfolio during the comparative period was 7.2%, so we are within less than 20 basis points of being right on target with our allocated portfolio. The non-consolidated Balance Sheet of the AKC at July 31, 2017 reflects $155.7 million dollars in Total Assets. Our Cash and Investment balances total more than 87% of these Total Assets. This is the core of the financial strength of the AKC. Our total liabilities recorded are $69.7 million. Almost 90% of our liabilities lie within our long-term pension and post-retirement benefit obligations. Our net Assets of $86.0 million dollars have increased by 14% since July of last year.

We're doing well in our core programs, while we continue to showcase growth in our non-core activities and the financial markets continue to maintain their strength. All of these factors are combining to provide our successful financial performance.

In closing, I ask all of us to Stay Safe and Take Care of the ones we love and always cherish the special bond that we have with our dogs! Please feel free to reach out to me after the meeting concludes, I will be available. Have a wonderful afternoon!

There was a vote on the proposed amendment to Chapter 16, Section 6, of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows - Championships. This amendment would include the dog awarded Select Dog or Bitch in the calculation of Grand Championship points for that award. This proposal was brought forward by the AKC Board of Directors based on a Staff recommendation. There was a two-thirds vote in the affirmative and the amendment was adopted.

There was a vote on the proposed amendment to Chapter 14, Section 22-A, new paragraph, of the Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures for Pointing Breeds. The new paragraph would allow for a National Gun Dog Championship for Gordon Setters. The event is limited to walking handlers. The amendment was proposed by the Gordon Setter Club of America and was brought forward with a positive recommendation from the Board of Directors. There was a two-thirds vote in the affirmative and the amendment was adopted.

The final vote was on the proposed amendment to Chapter 11, Section 8-A, of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows - Dog Show Entries, Conditions of Dogs Affecting Eligibility. This amendment would require permanent identification for a dog that is disqualified if it is ever to be considered for reinstatement. Reinstatement would be conducted by AKC staff. Judges would not participate in the process. No reinstatement procedure would take place on the grounds of, or in any building, hotel or venue connected to a dog show or event. The name, AKC number and owner's contact information would be conveyed to the show superintendent. The amendment was brought forward by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee. The AKC Board of Directors unanimously disapproved the amendment. The Dog Show Rules Committee requested that this amendment go forward to the Delegates for a vote, as per the AKC Bylaws.

The Chair recognized Sue Goldberg, Delegate for the Lewiston-Auburn Kennel Club and Chair of the DQ Reinstatement Committee spoke as follows:

I respectfully move that we withdraw the amendment of Chapter 11, Section 8-A, because after speaking with the Parliamentarian, the enhancements that our committee voted yesterday to add today to benefit dogs, people, and the fancy at large, are not within the scope of what's been noticed to the Delegates. In order to provide a comprehensive amendment, we will resubmit to the Board. We thank you for your understanding and look forward to your approval.

The majority of the Delegates voted to withdraw the amendment to Chapter 11, Section 8-A of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows.

DELEGATES' QUARTERLY MEETING

The Chair called on the Executive Secretary to recognize AKC Delegates who have served for 25 years as well as three member clubs celebrating their centennial. Ms. DiNardo spoke as follows:
We will now honor Delegates who have served for 25 years. This is the 19th time that AKC has had the privilege to present Delegate medallions. The medallion is in recognition of meritorious and long-term contributions to the Sport. This program enables us to recognize our core constituency and allows a grateful American Kennel Club the opportunity to honor our own. The following four Delegates have served in this body for 25 years, and join the 110 previously honored Delegates.
Will the following Delegates please come forward: David Michael Powers, Los Encinos Kennel Club; William A. Russett, Richland County Kennel Club; Alexa Samarotto, Bronx County Kennel Club and Ida Ellen Weinstock, Montgomery Kennel Club.
Please join me in congratulating the honorees.
(Applause)

Ms. DiNardo: I would now like to announce those clubs celebrating 100 years of membership in the American Kennel Club. The following three clubs are celebrating 100 years of membership: Cairn Terrier Club of America, Pam Davis, Delegate; Pacific Coast Pekingese Club, Frank Meister, Delegate and Western Reserve Kennel Club, Kathleen Bencin, Delegate. (Applause)

The Chair called on the Executive Secretary to give a report on the Nominating Committee. Ms. DiNardo spoke as follows:
The next item is a report on the appointments to the Nominating Committee. At the July meeting, the Board of Directors appointed the following Delegates to the Nominating Committee to select three candidates for the Class of 2022 and one for the Class of 2019. John J. Cadalso, Jr., Chair, Delegate for the Troy Kennel Club; Lee Arnold, Delegate for the Southern Colorado Kennel Club; Terrie Breen, Delegate for the Farmington Valley Kennel Club; Katie Campbell, Delegate for the Basenji Club of America; Cindy Stansell, Delegate for the Finnish Spitz Club of America. Alternates: Catherine Murch, Delegate for the Newton Kennel Club and Maggi Strouse, Delegate for the National Shiba Club.
I now call on John Cadalso, Jr. to address the Delegates.

Mr. Cadalso: Good morning. I'm Jack Cadalso of the Troy Kennel Club, Troy, New York. Nominating Committee has been busy for the past month reviewing the questionnaires as submitted by the Delegate candidates. Yesterday we had five face-to-face interviews and we have a number scheduled for today. The deadline for our report is October 15th and we plan on meeting that deadline. We are also aware that Delegates can run from the floor and therefore bypass the interview process, so we trust that people will be mindful of that when they cast their ballots. Thank you.

The Chair called on Jim Dok to give an update on AKC PAC. Mr. Dok spoke as follows:
Thank you very much. Just very briefly, we are going into our fourth quarter when about 90 percent of our donations come in. We appreciate that. I want to make special thanks to the few Delegates who sent me an e-mail after the last Delegate meeting saying they had reached out to their club. Thank you for doing that.
Let's be patrons in this fourth quarter.
Thank you very much.

The Chair informed the Delegates that the next meeting will be held in Orlando, Florida at the Rosen Centre Hotel on Friday, December 15th, 2017. Delegates should use the code that was sent to them when making reservations at the hotel.

The following Delegates spoke during New Business:

Carl Ashby, Delegate for the United States Kerry Blue Terrier Club, wanted to take the opportunity to remind Delegates about the All-Breed Advisory Committee. Mr. Ashby impressed on the Delegates that while there is good expertise available, the Committee is having a very difficult time getting All-Breed Clubs to take advantage of it. In addition to Mr. Ashby, the Committee consists of Tom Davies, Ann Wallin, and Larry LeBeau, with support from AKC staff such as Glenn Lycan and Guy Fisher. He urged the Delegates to have their clubs take advantage of the committee's expertise and years of experience putting on dog shows.

Steven Hamblin, Delegate for the Pekingese Club of America, expressed his club's concern that potential judges can accumulate educational credits that would lead to judging approval without ever having actually physically examined a dog. Mr. Hamblin read the following statement from his club:
The Pekingese Club of America would like to request that the AKC continue and require hands-on education for judge approval in Pekingese. The unique conformation of Pekingese requires a

hands-on education for proper evaluation.

Mr. Sprung noted that the Chairman appointed a committee to address the judging approval process. That committee has already met several times and will continue to do so.

Sylvia Thomas, Delegate for Kennel Club of Riverside, and assistant editor of Perspectives, thanked the many Delegates who contributed to the current issue of Perspectives that features 21 articles ranging in topics from detection dogs, scent dogs, how to build a club archive, breed sustainability, legislative conferences, war dogs, as well as many other subjects. The coordinator for the December issue is Ginny Denninger. Ms. Thomas encouraged Delegates to write an article.

Barbara Shaw, Delegate for Greater Collin Kennel Club, spoke about the generous help provided by Greater Collin Kennel Club, Texas Kennel Club and Trinity Valley Kennel Club, along with the Labrador Retriever Club of America, Fort Worth Kennel Club, and with AKC Reunite trailers in North Texas following the hurricane. She spoke specifically about the trailer from the Dallas/Collin County metroplex area, deployed from the Tri-City Animal Shelter in Cedar Hill. It proved to be a truly mobile pet disaster trailer travelling from Dallas to Irving to Port Arthur. Port Arthur serves the complete western side of coastal Louisiana and the southeastern side of Texas.

Sylvia Arrowwood, Delegate for the Charleston Kennel Club, noted the absence of Chairman of the Board Ron Menaker. She knew he lives in Florida and asked for an update on how he was.
The Chair told her that Mr. Menaker was driving north to the meeting. Got to Georgia but was unable to proceed, but that he was fine.

David Michael Powers, Delegate for Los Encinos Kennel Club, spoke about articles in the dog press about the Link collar and the pet day care. He asked if the Delegates would be provided with further financial information.
(The Chair informed the Delegate Body that an email would be sent out with the Chairman's Report and an update on our affiliates and our LLCs.)
Mr. Powers further added that he had concerns about contributions made by American Kennel Club PAC in the last election. He noticed that of the 59 who ran for office and received money from us, 16 were Democrats, 43 were Republicans and 35 of those 43 were from what he would consider the deep south. He cautioned that we should take a deeper look before we donate money.

Betty Winthers, Delegate for the Olympic Kennel Club, wanted to take the opportunity to thank and congratulate her club and to read the following statement:
Olympic Kennel Club has joined the elite group that has donated more than $100,000 to the Washington State University College of Veterinary Medicine at Washington State University, Pullman, Washington. Thanks to the exceptional generosity of the Olympic Kennel Club, WSU College of Veterinary Medicine can stay committed to delivering world-class education and research, exceptional programs and student scholarships. Olympic Kennel Club thanks all the specialties and exhibitors that make our annual show a success that allow us to share our extra revenues with the academic and research program at WSU College of Veterinary Medicine.
Ms. Winthers expressed her wish for a platform in which clubs could exchange this type of positive information.

Julian Prager, Delegate for Central Florida Kennel Club, spoke as follows:
I would like to bring forward some information that Sheila Goffe [Vice President, Government Relations] shared with us this morning at the Legislative Caucus. The U.S. Department of Agriculture has asked for comments on the Animal Welfare Act to try to reduce burdens on people, and one of the issues that we all have is that the Animal Welfare Act defines a breeding female as any female who is capable of breeding, and we know that that does not make any sense. Sheila will be preparing comments from the AKC. If you want to give her your comments, you can use their form on the website or you can e-mail her at doglaw@akc.org and you can also send in individual comments. You can take a look at what AFIS is looking to do at regulations.gov and it is important that if we can change this to reduce the burden that we have, that we do so. Thank you.

Barbara Mann, Delegate for Dayton Dog Training Club Thanked Mr. Sprung and AKC staff for meeting and deciding that in future, proposed changes to Companion Regulations will be sent to the Companion Events Committee. Secondly, she wanted to know how people could get their own AKC "I'm proud to own a purebred dog" T-Shirts. Mr. Sprung advised that they were available on the AKC website at the AKC store.

Frances Stephens, Delegate for the

Puyallup Valley Dog Fanciers, wanted to share what her club did at the Washington State Fair, which is one of the top-ten state fairs in the country. The Puyallup Valley Dog Fanciers sponsored a meet the breeds type event there and opened it up to other specialty clubs and reliable breeders. The St. Bernard Club of Puget Sound was there for all four days of the event. Approximately 250,000 people attended the club's breed fair. Their target market were families with young children and older adults. Ms. Mann urged Delegates to plan a little breed fair at their local mall, in their towns and in their counties.

Thomas Pincus, Delegate for Houston Kennel Club, wanted to thank all of the members, the clubs, the individuals, and the American Kennel Club Executive Staff for providing disaster trailers, and for the incredible support and money focusing on the recovery in southeast Texas in the wake of Hurricane Harvey. Mr. Pincus also gave a special thank you to Dennis Sprung for following up personally.

Robert Amen, Delegate for the Greater St. Louis Training Club, wanted to bring to the Delegates' attention a development that has taken place in the obedience community that may help to offset the decline in obedience entries. The AKC has received a number of concerned exhibitor letters and complaints about group stays. In novice and open, we have novice stays with a one-minute sit, three-minute down, and handler across the ring. In open, the dog must sit for three minutes in a lineup of up to nine dogs, a sit and a down for five minutes with the handler out of sight. This led to some instances of dog on dog attacks, and occasionally, dog on person attacks.

In January of this year, AKC received a petition allegedly signed by 3,000 individuals stating sits and downs, especially the open sits and downs, should be reevaluated. Part of this stems from safety issues, especially amongst small dog owners who are competing against large dogs in a lineup where there handlers are on the other side of the venue.

Staff assembled a five-person task force to review the situation. The task force was able to come up with exercises that Mr. Amen thought would effectively replace the exercise of the open exercise group stays where the handlers are out of sight. The Companion Events Committee has approved the basic concept and if the AKC Board approves these new exercises, we will be able to attract more exhibitors into novice and who hopefully will move on to open without the worry of safety being an issue.

Jan Ritchie Gladstone, Delegate for Richmond Dog Fanciers, wanted to thank all of the Delegates, Staff, the Board, for the outpouring of support upon the death of her late husband, Steven Gladstone, of Waterloo Kennel Club and the Board of Directors. She also thanked the AKC for reaching out to the people in Texas, and for what would be done in Florida in the wake of hurricane Irma.

Sharon Steckler, Delegate for American Boxer Club, spoke about her pride in being able to participate in the various challenges to support Texans recovering from Hurricane Harvey. She feels that while Texas is tough and Houston is strong, they couldn't begin to recover without the help of AKC and their Executive leadership.

Johnny Shoemaker, Delegate for the Redwood Empire Kennel Club, urged Delegates to help grow the Pee Wee program and spoke about the rewards of mentoring these children as well as how the number of clubs participating continues to increase.

Gail LaBerge, Delegate for Atlanta Obedience Club, spoke as follows:

I'm also a founding member of the AKC PAC Board where I still serve and I would like to address the comment earlier. A PAC is a political action committee. It is formed for one purpose and that is to move forward one particular point of view. In our case it is to move forward the AKC's Government Relations Department and each of us who fight daily for our legislative rights in the legislative body. We do not look at party affiliation. We are strictly focused on their particular position on canine issues. So those who donate to the PAC have the privilege of nominating people in their state who they feel meet the criteria and should receive a donation from the PAC. We certainly take that seriously and I can only think of one instance that we turned down a request and that state's federation came back and said we made a mistake, do not give to this person, who was supported by HSUS. So that is how a PAC works. We are not looking at any other issues but strictly how they can help us either in Congress or in that particular state on a canine legislative issue. Our money usually gets bundled in states where we have serious problems. A lot of money has gone into California over the years. But, again, any questions, any of us on the PAC board, Jim Dok, who is our current chairman, we will be happy to answer them and work with you because, trust me, we need your money.

Harvey Goldberg, Delegate for Somerset County Kennel Club, spoke about his club being an early adopter of the Pee Wee event and that, as Johnny Shoemaker pointed out, has been highly successful. He also spoke about an initiative his wife, Sue came up with to get apprentice stewards in the ring, which their board has adopted. This was a big success at a recent show with a number of juniors participating as apprentice stewards. He encouraged the Delegates to bring this to their clubs because it is another way to bring young people into the sport.

Melinda Vogt, Delegate for Del-Otse-Nango Kennel Club, said that in order to get new members to the sport, her club participated in the AKC Girl Scout Badges Program. They hosted 20 Girl Scouts at a recent show. It was wonderful to have kids at a show again, and she hoped to get some juniors and younger families to help out.

Pat Laurans, Delegate for German Wirehaired Pointer Club of America thanked the AKC Reunite staff for working around the clock, making phone calls from their homes at night, and by writing e-mails, sometimes at 2 or 3 o'clock in the morning. She also wanted to thank whoever came up with the plan to have 100 percent of the money that came in for any item in the AKC store pertaining to Texas or the south, given to help the recovery effort. She thanked the AKC Humane Fund and AKC Reunite for presenting two trailers for Houston, but most of all for the fact that all of the $250,000 raised is going directly to relief services.

Virginia Denninger, Delegate for Genesee Valley Kennel Club, reiterated that she is the coeditor for the next issue of Perspectives and invited all the Delegates to think about contributing an article.

Michael Houchard, Delegate for Conyers Kennel Club of Georgia, reminded the Delegates that on September 24th in Atlanta there would be regional legislative conference and that information was at the Government Relations table outside the meeting room.

Hearing no further business, the Chair adjourned the meeting.
(Meeting adjourned at 11:40 p.m.)

The opinions expressed by the speakers may not necessarily reflect those of The American Kennel Club

SEPTEMBER 2017 CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

At the American Kennel Club, our love of dogs knows no bounds, and our educational mission compels us to share our passion as broadly as possible. Reimagining the AKC Museum of the Dog in its original home in New York City is an exciting opportunity for us to introduce the wonders of the purebred dog to more people than ever before.

In 2018, work will begin on a new headquarters for the American Kennel Club at 101 Park Avenue opposite Grand Central Station, a prime location for tourists, visitors and commuters traveling to and from all parts of New York City and beyond. The AKC Museum of the Dog will occupy the first two levels of this imposing class-A building, including the ground floor, and will be a beacon that welcomes the world to America's greatest resource for and about dogs.

Building upon thirty wonderful years in the beautiful Jarville House in Queeny Park near St. Louis, the Museum's mission will remain a guiding light, even in its future home: the collection, preservation, exhibition and interpretation of the art, artifacts and literature of the dog for purposes of education, historical perspective, aesthetic enjoyment and enhancement of the human-canine relationship.

In this next phase of the Museum's growth, a new vision will shape its objectives and activities. The AKC Museum of the Dog will celebrate dogs and their inspiring bond with mankind through its collections, dynamic exhibits and interactive content. The incredible response to events like AKC Meet the Breeds has shown us the value of and public demand for "edutainment" experiences. The new space aims to meet that need while showcasing the treasures of our fancy's heritage. Certainly the Museum will feature AKC's collections of fine art, artifacts and books – broadly recognized as one of the most important resources of its kind. Dog fanciers and clubs will be pleased to find the AKC Library and Archives situated within the Museum as an important vehicle for research and learning. Displays will strike a balance by including both classic and contemporary works to align with interpretive themes. Our objective is that this new learning center will transcend the typical "time capsule" effect of many museums by featuring a vast range of captivating and interactive topics relating to dogs and AKC.

Our research has also confirmed that the Museum must serve a broad audience well

beyond our core. A central location in one of the world's leading cultural capitals will allow us to do just that. The Museum will follow a mandate to welcome and serve everyone with an interest in dogs, educate as many people as possible about the joys of the human-canine bond and responsible pet ownership, and promote the AKC's history and mission. With this fresh approach, the Museum will become the destination for people from all over the world to appreciate and gain a deeper understanding of purebred dogs. A member of our planning committee summarized the goal: "Everyone should come away fascinated and saying 'I love dogs.'"

With a lease recently signed, initial plans for the build-out of the Museum and AKC's offices are now underway. There will be many opportunities to support the new AKC Museum of the Dog in the months ahead. Look for additional updates throughout the year about ways to get involved as a donor, member, volunteer and more.



PARENT CLUB LINKS

SPORTING GROUP


American Water Spaniel


Boykin Spaniel


Brittany


Chespeake 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


Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever


Pointer


Spinone Italiano


Sussex Spaniel


Vizsla


Weimaraner


Welsh Springer Spaniel


Wirehaired Pointing Griffon


Wirehaired Vizsla

HOUND GROUP


Afghan Hound


American English Coonhound


American Foxhound


Basenji


Basset Hound


Beagle


Black and Tan Coonhound


Bloodhound


Bluetick Coonhound


Borzoi


Cirneco dell'Etna

Dachshund

English Foxhound

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

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


Dogue de Bordeaux


German Pinscher


Giant Schnauzer


Great Dane


Great Pyrenees


Greater Swiss Mountain Dog


Komondor


Leonberger


Kuvasz


Mastiff


Neapolitan Mastiff


Newfoundland


Portuguese Water Dog


Rottweiler


Saint Bernard


Samoyed


Siberian Husky


Standard Schnauzer


Tibetan Mastiff

TERRIER GROUP


Airedale Terrier


American Hairless Terrier


American Staffordshire Terrier


Australian Terrer


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


Brussels Griffon


Cavalier King Charles Spaniel


Chihuahua


Chinese Crested


English Toy Spaniel


Havanese


Italian Greyhound


Japanese Chin


Maltese


Manchester Terrier (Toy)


Miniature Pinscher


Papillon


Pekingese


Pomeranian


Poodle (Toy)


Pug


Shih Tzu


Silky Terrier


Toy Fox Terrier


Yorkshire Terrier

NON-SPORTING GROUP


American Eskimo Dog


Bichon Frise


Boston Terrier


Bulldog


Chinese Shar-Pei


Chow Chow


Coton de Tulear


Dalmatian


Finnish Spitz


French Bulldog


Keeshond


Lhasa Apso


Löwchen


Norwegian Lundehund


Poodle (Miniature)


Schipperke


Poodle (Standard)


Shiba Inu


Tibetan Spaniel

Tibetan Terrier

Xoloitzcuintli

PARENT CLUB LINKS

HERDING GROUP


Australian Cattle Dog


Australian Shepherd


Bearded Collie


Beauceron


Belgian Malinois


Belgian Sheepdog


Belgian Tervuren


Bergamasco


Berger Picard


Border Collie


Bouvier des Flandres


Briard


Canaan Dog


Cardigan Welsh Corgi


Collie (Rough)


Collie (Smooth)


Entlebucher Mountain Dog


Finnish Lapphund


German Shepherd Dog


Icelandic Sheepdog


Miniature American Shepherd


Norwegian Buhund


Old English Sheepdog


Pembroke Welsh Corgi


Polish Lowland Sheepdog


Puli


Pyrenean Shepherd


Pumi


Shetland Sheepdog


Spanish Water Dog


Swedish Vallhund

Registered Handler℠

PURINA PRO PLAN
NUTRITION THAT PERFORMS™

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/