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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

AKC UPDATES

BREED COLUMNS

Toy Group

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

Non-Sporting Group

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

Herding Group

Australian Cattle Dogs
Bearded Collies
Belgian Malinois
Belgian Tervuren
Border Collies
Briards
Canaan Dogs
Cardigan Welsh Corgis
Collies
Entlebucher Mountain Dogs
Finnish Lapphunds
Icelandic Sheepdogs
Norwegian Buhunds
Old English Sheepdogs
Pembroke Welsh Corgis
Polish Lowland Sheepdogs
Pulik
Spanish Water Dogs
Swedish Vallhunds

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
FEBRUARY 2018



CHIHUAHUA/COURTESY DIANA HAN, NOR CAL BULLDOGGER

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Toy Story

NEW YORK CITY—On Friday, February 9, the Progressive Dog Club held its annual all-toy show in the Hotel Pennsylvania's Penn Top Ballroom. The always delightful event, this year drawing nearly 400 of the show circuit's biggest little dogs, is the traditional kickoff of Westminster weekend. Congratulations to breeder-owner-handler David Fitzpatrick, whose Pekingese Ch. Pequest Feel the Burn took top honors under judge Fred Bassett.
Slideshow by Diana Han



On Our Cover: *A long-coat Chihuahua at Progressive flashes the saucy expression called for in the breed's standard. Nice shot, Diana!*

AKC.org Relaunch: Thanks for Your Help

Change is a great thing! Our staff has been hard at work for several months to bring you the improved, newly redesigned website that has launched this month. This project has taken a lot of insight, research, and commitment to make sure that the new *AKC.org* is the best representation of our organization possible.

We wanted to give you a tool that could enhance the AKC experience. The staff and a digital agency, Expand The Room, focused on creating easier functionality and giving dog owners and dog lovers an experience that keeps them coming back to the AKC for information and content, and that demonstrates our expertise. The result is a colorful and visually engaging website that can meet your dog's needs from registration to events to expert advice. The updates include:

- **New and improved search**
- **More access to Sports and Events**
- **Improved Breed pages**
- **More inviting visuals and content**

This website redesign could not be possible with the valued input from Delegates, club members, breeders, and exhibitors who worked with staff over the past few months. The feedback that was provided to the staff was an important part of the changes and improvements that were made to the site. We are grateful and humbled for your participation in helping us create a new and improved *AKC.org* that is as dynamic as our wonderful organization.



There are also a series of recorded webinars to facilitate using the site with step-by-step walkthroughs. These are narrated introductions to breed pages, sports pages, search, and more, highlighting major features by explaining what they are and how they work.

You can read more about the site in great detail in this issue of the GAZETTE (see page 5) and we truly hope that you enjoy this new *AKC.org*. We look forward to any comments or suggestions you have after navigating the site.

Thank you once again.

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

Board Election Results

Delegates choose Sweetwood, Tatro, Wallin as Class of 2022

NEW YORK— At the Annual Meeting of the American Kennel Club on March 13, the Delegates elected Christopher L. Sweetwood, Harold "Red" Tatro III, and Ann Wallin as the AKC Board of Directors Class of 2022. The Delegates also elected Ronald H. Menaker to the Class of 2019.

The Board of Directors re-elected Menaker (Delegate from the Memphis Kennel Club) as the Chairman of the Board and Dr. Thomas Davies (Delegate from the Springfield Kennel Club) as Vice Chairman.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
For a special message from AKC Chairman Ron Menaker, click *here*.

MEET THE CLASS OF 2022



Christopher L. Sweetwood, Delegate from the Trap Falls Kennel Club, served on the Delegate Field Trial/Hunting Test advisory committee. He has been involved with purebred dogs since the age of 8 with his father, who bred German Shorthair Pointers. After completing careers in the military and law enforcement, he discovered the Spinone Italiano in the 1990s. As an avid hunter, AKC pointing-breed hunting test judge, and CGC evaluator, he participates in conformation, obedience, rally, hunting tests (Pointing and Retriever), and field trials. Sweetwood is a former board member of the Spinone Club of America.



Harold "Red" Tatro III, Delegate from the Fort Worth Kennel Club, began in obedience training 35 years ago and is still active in the obedience ring. He is an active breeder-owner-handler who shows and judges in conformation, competes in rally, and runs his hounds in lure coursing. Tatro is fancier of Whippets and Lakeland Terriers and has served on the board of directors for his breeds' parent clubs. "Being a part of a high-entry breed in Whippets and an 'endangered' breed in Lakelands has provided a point of view from both ends of the spectrum," he says.



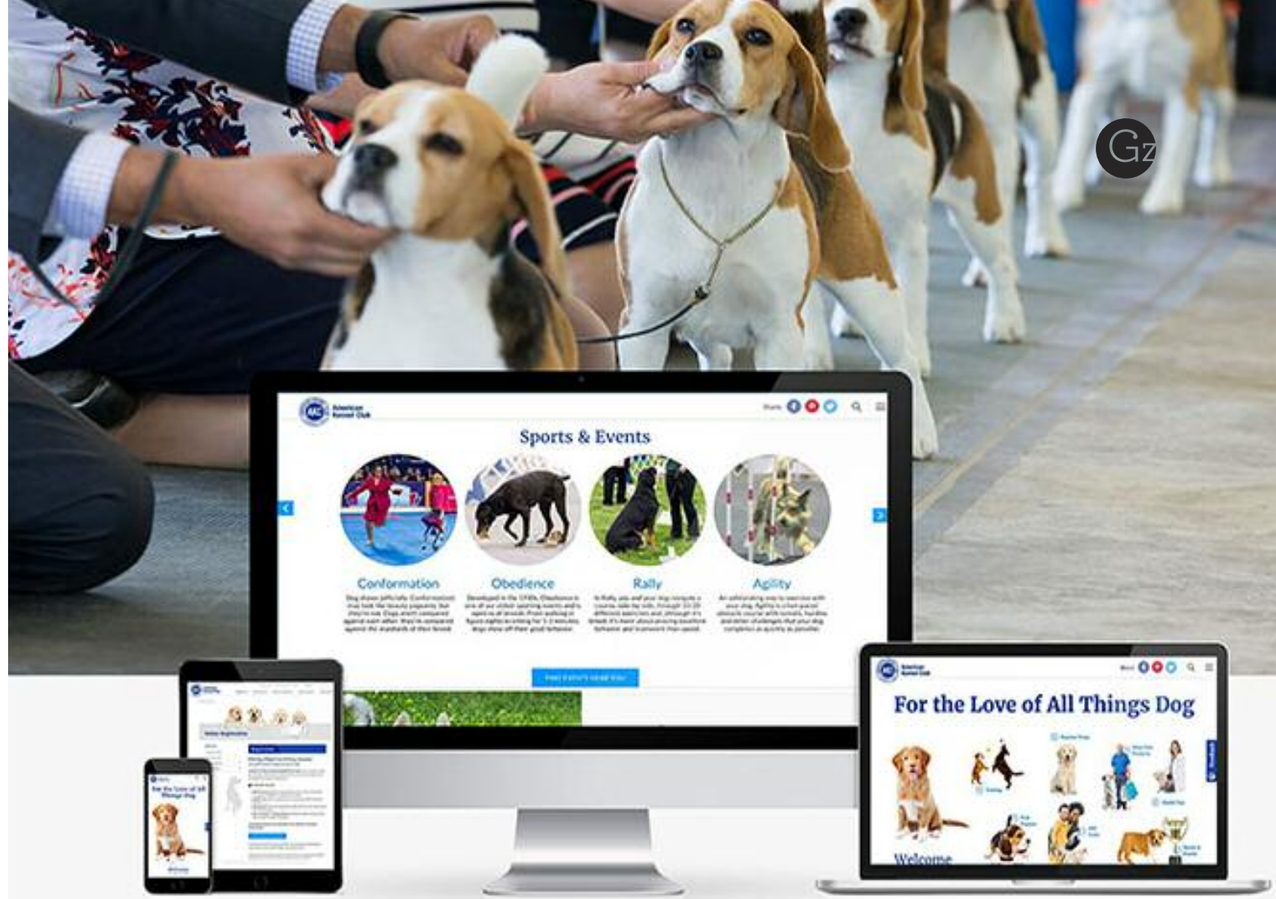
Ann Wallin, Delegate from the Atlanta Kennel Club, was first elected to the Board in 2017 in a special election to fill the seat left vacant by the late Steven Gladstone, Esq. Wallin is a breeder-owner of Rottweilers and Boxers who has exhibited in conformation and obedience for over 25 years. She is a 28-year member of the Atlanta KC, and has served her club on numerous show committees, as Delegate for 17 years, and as a board member for 25 years. Wallin is a longtime member of the Delegate All-Breed Clubs Committee and the Coordinating Committee.



RENO, NEVADA—The AKC National Agility Championship returns to Reno–Sparks Livestock Event Center for three days of high-flying competition beginning Friday, March 23. Follow the event in real time at NAC Facebook.

LEFT: COURTESY SUBJECTS; RIGHT: DAVID WOO ©AKC

Introducing the New *AKC.org*



We are excited to announce that the new *AKC.org* is here! The website has been completely redesigned based on important feedback from the fancy, club members, Delegates, breeders, dog lovers everywhere, and others. Here's what's new on the site:

- **New and improved search.** Searching for information on our site has never been easier! Not only are results more relevant, but you can also see the most popular or your own most recent searches. Plus, there's a new "auto complete" function so that you don't have to type out every letter in your query, and a new advanced search so you can dive in even deeper.
- **New top navigation.** You'll find an expansive menu on the top of every page to make it easier to find resources for *Registration, Judging, Sports,* and key events like the AKC National Championship Presented by Royal Canin, Obedience Classic, Agility Invitational, and AKC National Owner-Handled Series Finals. You will also find breed standards elevated to the top of each breed page.
- **New left navigation bar.** The new navigation bar on the left-hand side acts as a shortcut to specific content categories. We're confident you'll love these navigational improvements: In fact, we tested extensively with many different groups of real *AKC.org* visitors with different needs to better understand how you want to find the information you desire.
- **More access to Sports and Events.** You can now get to each Sport and Event you're interested in through multiple entry points in multiple locations… because not everybody's path is going to be the same.
- **Improved Breed pages.** Each breed's standard has been given a place of prominence and is now positioned at the top of the breed page. There is also more information about the breed to help educate dog owners.
- **More inviting visuals and content.** Our site has had a total makeover! All pages have been redesigned, with better images, graphics, layout and writing.

Need Help?

We've created a New Website Help Guide with specific FAQ sections:

- Dog Owners
- Dog Breeders
- Dog Sport Participants
- Dog Sport Judges
- AKC Club Delegates

Each includes step-by-step instructions, video tutorials, and quick links.

We've also developed a series of recorded webinars to facilitate using the site with step-by-step walkthroughs. These are narrated introductions to breed pages, sports pages, search, and more, highlighting major features by explaining what they are and how they work.

We hope you enjoy the new *AKC.org*

Cannabis:
An Effective Epilepsy Treatment?

Epilepsy is the most common canine neurological disorder and affects both purebreds and mixed-breeds. The AKC Canine Health Foundation, with the support of its donors, has funded more than $2 million for epilepsy research. In 2017, CHF launched an epilepsy initiative to further advance this area of research for canine health. Improved treatments are desperately needed, especially for dogs with drug-resistant epilepsy or where side effects of currently available drugs are not tolerated. Additional understanding of genetics and the influence of diet are also current targets of CHF-funded research.

Since September 2017, the CHF has been funding a major clinical trial to study the use of cannabidiol to treat drug-resistant epilepsy in dogs. Dr. Stephanie McGrath, a board-certified veterinary neurologist at Colorado State University's College of Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences, leads the CHF-funded study "Efficacy of Cannabidiol (CBD) for the Treatment of Canine Epilepsy."

McGrath says that up to 30 percent of dogs receiving standard antiepileptic therapy remain uncontrolled for their seizures, and the side effects of the antiepileptic drugs are often unacceptable. CBD is a nonpsychotropic component of the *Cannabis sativa* plant, which has been shown to have anticonvulsant properties. This randomized, double-blinded, placebo-controlled, crossover clinical-trial study will be utilized to prove its effectiveness.

"We need to know if this drug is safe and if it works."

"The timeliness and importance of research into the role of cannabis in veterinary medicine cannot be emphasized enough," McGrath says. "With the changing public perception of cannabis, it is time that we put science behind the stories and claims. We need to know if this drug is safe and if it works. If CBD is effective for treating epilepsy, it has the potential to save the lives of dogs around the world."

To read more about CHF-funded epilepsy research, visit the foundation's Epilepsy Initiative page.

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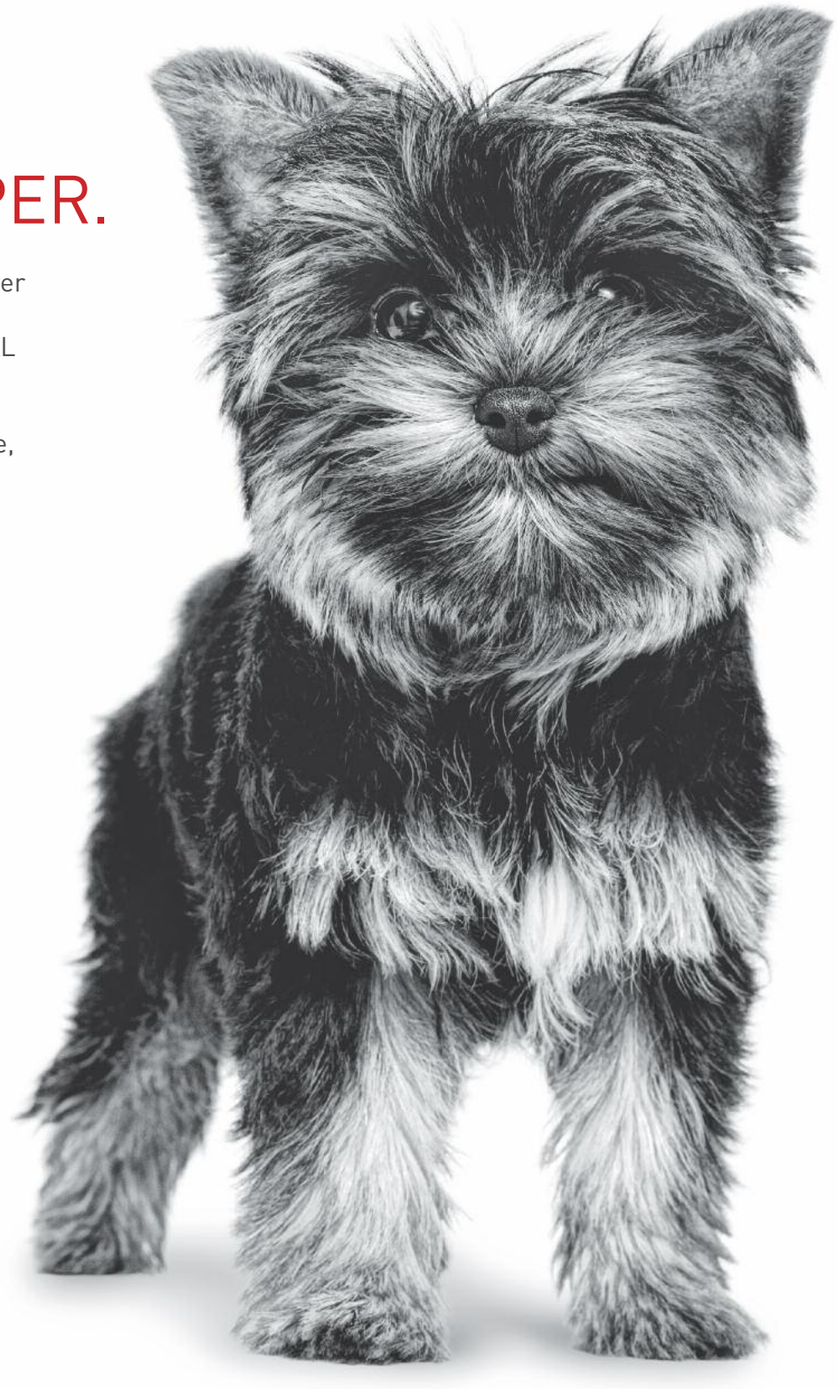
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New from DWAA: "Young Writers on the Web"

The Dog Writers Association of America, the nation's leading organization for canine-media professionals since 1935, will encourage the next generation of writers with a new program called "Young Writers on the Web." Writers under 18 years old are encouraged to submit stories about dogs for possible publication on a special section of the DWAA website, and potentially in the DWAA newsletter, "Ruff Drafts," as space allows.

AKC Publications has gotten behind this worthy project. Our distinguished colleague Mara Bovsun, AKC FAMILY DOG features editor, will edit submissions and work with young writers to help polish their work. DWAA president Jen Reeder says, "The chance to work with a professional of Mara's caliber is a fantastic opportunity for budding writers!"

Also, "Young Writers on the Web" submissions that center on AKC sports and events will be considered for publication here in the GAZETTE.

Articles published by the program will be eligible for the DWAA's annual writing competition. "This is great news since Karen Petit, a prolific author of children's books, sponsors a special award just for writers under 18 years old," Reeder says. "It's a wonderful chance to receive recognition and win $400!" Please pass along this "Young Writers on the Web" link to teachers, parents, young pet owners, and junior handlers who might be interested.



Mara Bovsun, with her Leonberger Emi, models the Maxwell Medallions she won in the 2017 DWAA writing competition. In all, AKC Publications won nine Maxwells.

PHOTO MARY BLOOM, COURTESY DWAA



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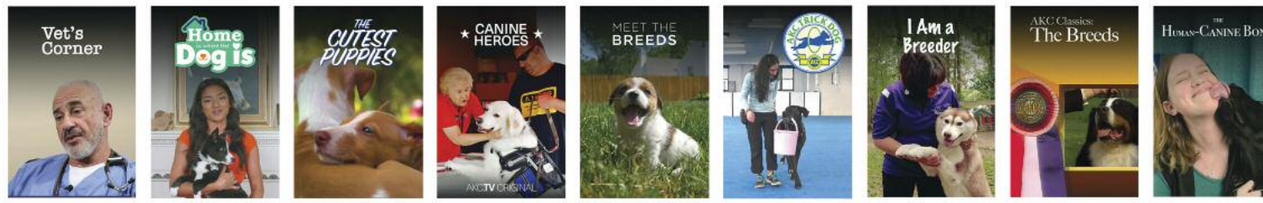
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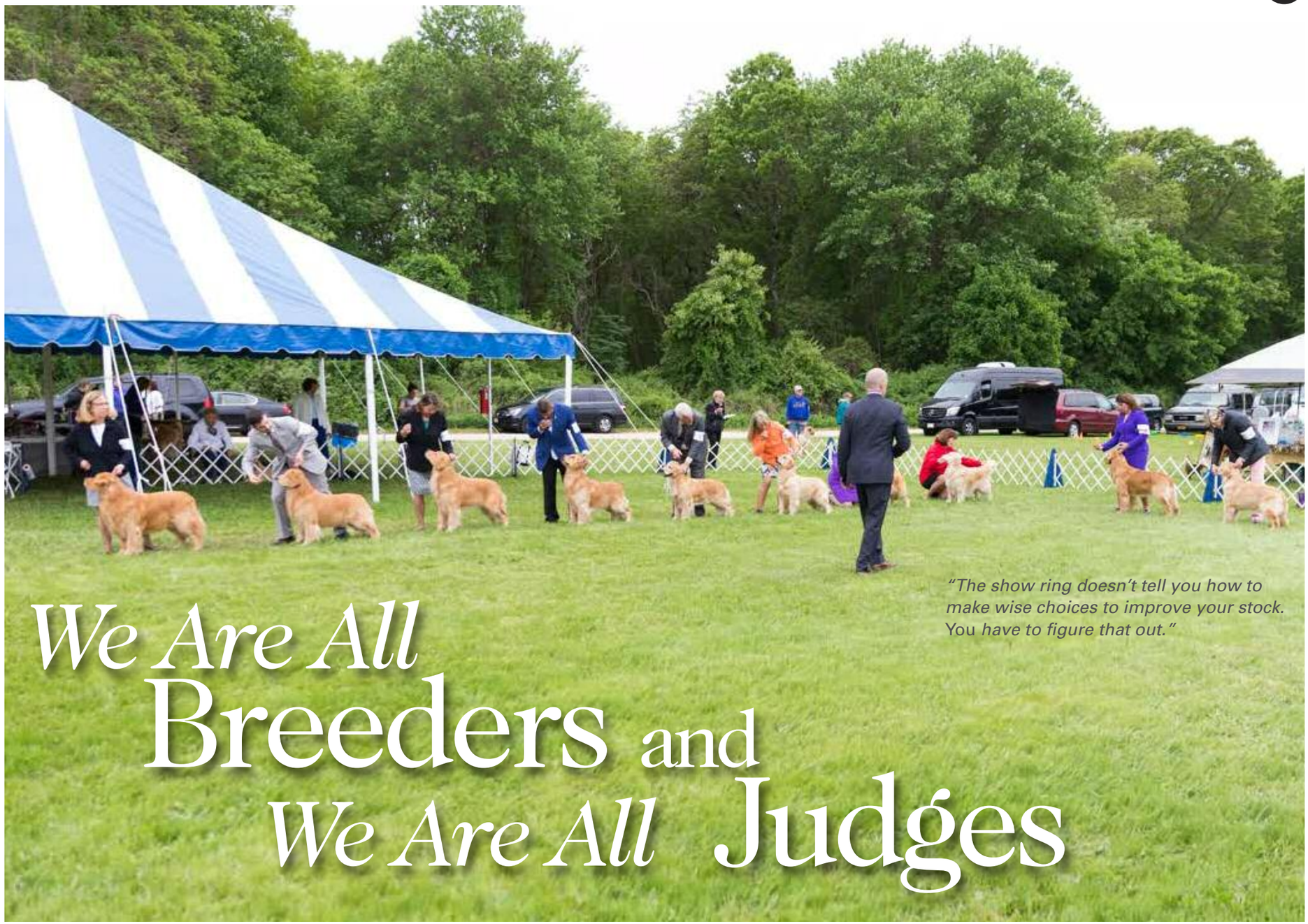
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We Are All Breeders and We Are All Judges

Master breeder and all-rounder judge Pat Trotter explores the show ring's essential yin and yang.



"The show ring doesn't tell you how to make wise choices to improve your stock. You have to figure that out."

DAVID WOO ©AKC

The speakers panel at the 2013 AKC Breeder to Breeder Symposium was a once-in-a-lifetime assembly of master dog breeders. The transcripts of the day's presentations reside in the GAZETTE text archive. These documents have never been published, but we do utilize them frequently as an internal reference when preparing stories on the art and science of breeding.

It occurred to us that you might find these transcripts as useful as we do. We will publish lengthy excerpts in an informal "Breeder to Breeder" series of articles. First up is the "Breeders and Judges" lecture given by ***Patricia Craige Trotter,*** *the revered breeder-judge-exhibitor who has made Vin-Melca Norwegian Elkhounds a household name among dog fanciers.*

What follows are excerpts from Mrs. Trotter's 40-minute presentation to an audience of fellow breeders on December 13, 2013, at Orlando, Florida.—the Editors

JUDGES WITH BADGES

In talking of the breeder-judge relationship, we are all breeders and we are all judges. And if you think that everybody isn't a judge, just wander around a dog show and listen.

But let's talk about the real judge, the one who wears a badge, the person appointed—some say anointed—to pick the winners. Whether or not they realize it, every person who wears a judge's badge in the ring is participating in the breeding process, because the messages a judge sends through his choices influence the breeders of the future. It's an awesome responsibility.

Judging is realizing how all the parts are put together, how they work together to make the individual a living and breathing creature able to do a job well. And then, we need to select those individuals that continue to signal competence to the evaluators. Sometimes, the longer you work a big class, some dogs you liked in the beginning start showing fatigue and lack of fitness, and collapse across the top. And other dogs that you weren't at first impressed by, keep coming on in that class—the longer they're out there, the better they look. Those might be dogs you want to consider.



"Every person who wears a judge's badge in the ring is participating in the breeding process."

Great judges, such as Mrs. Billings and Mrs. Clark and others we have lost, unhappily, are able to keep our breeds on target. Those judges, when they see that a problem is becoming widespread in a breed, they appreciate and appropriately reward a dog who is strong where the breed is getting weak. And those particular strengths and weaknesses might have changed since they started judging, maybe 40 years earlier. You do have to judge, and select sires, at any given time in your life in dogs that reflect the needs of your breed at the time.

For those of us who judge—we all judge, of course—but those of us with badges, we're trying to evaluate the phenotype. That's the look of the dog seen in the ring, with its functional ability. Does the animal we're judging relate to its working performance? Such biomechanics are why breed standards call for such things as sloping shoulders, powerful hindquarters, and an athletic physique. And we want to seek those individuals that signal to us that their system is working in harmony.

I believe great judges and master breeders select dogs that have breed virtues. They don't become comfortable with mediocre dogs who lack obvious faults. They understand that a virtuous, correct dog with a fault can still contribute a lot to its breed. When these mediocre dogs continue to be rewarded by judges who are just looking for faults—or, for that matter, breeders who are just looking for faults—and they pick mediocrity, which might be called a "fault-free look" of some sort, in time the really correct type for the breed becomes the odd man out. It seems out of place. Then, mediocre dogs become the new accepted norm for the breed. That's dangerous to the breed's gene pool. Great judges and master breeders are those who protect against that problem. They understand that absence of faults is no guarantee of presence of virtues. And they understand that a case could be made that in judging the dog, what contributes to the dog doing its job is a virtue; what interferes with the dog doing its job is a fault.

BREEDERS AND THE BETTER MOUSETRAP

The breeder is the person who controls which dogs appear in the ring

BUD BOCCONE ©AKC



Anne Rogers Clark was among the great judges who would reward a dog who was strong where the breed was getting weak.

before the judges. The breeders are judging dogs every time they say, "This is a bitch who belongs in the gene pool." They study and select the right sire for her. They grade the litter to see which ones are the best to keep, if any. They're judging dogs. But, keep in mind, when a judge makes a decision—good, bad, or indifferent—it's temporary. When a breeder makes a decision, it's in the gene pool forever. Therefore, there is a lot less room for mistakes in breeding than in judging.

To become an informed breeder or judge you must have general knowledge of dogs—basic anatomy, the moving parts, the things that contribute to correct movement. But you also must be an in-depth expert on your own breed. Then comes the tough one: the objectivity to make difficult decisions.

It is amazing how breeders can have all the knowledge in the world, and they can know dogs in general and know their breed standard, but they have a hard time making tough calls. The great breeders are those who can take that favorite dog they truly love and pull it out of the gene pool and keep it as a pet, even though it was a tough call to make.

I guess you can say we're trying to build a better mousetrap when we do our breedings and our matings. We are trying to imitate—yes, improve—and, yes, even perfect the work of Mother Nature.

Over the years, I've talked to master breeders. They've helped me so much. And what I've learned from them is, it isn't really an exact science—and never will be. Breeding isn't the random mating of a purebred bitch to a convenient male. It isn't even necessarily the mating of one great winner to another. When you bring together a dog and a bitch, you're not just trying for what they have, you're trying to figure out what the two of them together can produce in the next generation.

And certainly, those decisions shouldn't be sudden last-minute ones.

When a breed's most prolific breeders concentrate more on what is right for the breed than what seems right for the current show-ring fad, the breed is better for it. Now, here's the hurdle: We're trying to breed perfect dogs from imperfect parents. Ours is a tough job, and nobody said it would be easy. You've heard people speak of the highs and lows of breeding. You lose your best bitch in whelp, or some other terrible thing happens.

I remember we had one of the first bouts of parvo back some umpteen years ago, and one of the best litters I ever had was wiped out. Terrible times. To this day, I start crying just thinking about those puppies I lost. The breeder's job is not an easy one—you have to be dedicated to it forever. And it is something you can carry from your childhood to the nursing home.

THE SHOULDERS OF GIANTS

We hear a lot about the "great kennels of the past." There aren't any "great kennels" of this era, that I know of, except for Skansen [Schnauzers]. And you might want to know that with her hundred dogs, Sylvia [Hammerstrom] has a staff of 12 people and those dogs are reared properly. When I was a kid, I got to visit I don't know how many kennels that were almost that large or as large. John Cook, in New Jersey, had the Kleetal dogs, and at one time he had 100 Dachshunds. Lina Basquette, in Pennsylvania, at one time had a hundred Great Danes. One of her many husbands bought her a big spread that had horse barns on it, and each Great Dane had its own stall. It was fabulous!

Those great kennels provided us with guidance on animal husbandry, things we don't know today. Many things they did, veterinarians can only begin to attempt to do today. They provided quality gene pools for the future. One kennel in England sent a standard Poodle to the United States in the 1930s that went Best in Show at Westminster, and then because such people as Wendell Sammet and others were wise breeders, that gene pool still trickles down to the great standard Poodles we see in the ring today. And that's what we should want to achieve. We want to do the work that the dog people of the future will build on. All of us who would breed and show dogs are standing on the shoulders of giants

MARY BLOOM ©AKC



Madelaine "Wissie" West, of Wissaboo Kennels. The sprawling Wissaboo facility at Westbury, New York, epitomized what Mrs. Trotter calls the "great kennels of the past."

AKC GAZETTE COLLECTION

who came before us.

We depend on the show ring to guide us, but it can only tell you so much. It can tell you how good an individual is, based on the collective opinion of many judges. When judges are sorting out all the virtues and forgiving faults on the quality dogs, they are still judging for a package—the sum of the parts.

But breeders have to go beyond the sum of the parts. Breeders have to pick for those traits in their lines where their dogs are weak. If you're in a square breed and the loins have gotten long, you've got to seek dogs with long, deep rib cages and short loins. If you're in a breed where you have perfected running gear but the bone and the head are too light, you've got to seek dogs that can help you there. Unfortunately, you don't have as many opportunities as the breeders of yesteryear because there aren't as many kennels with lines of dogs. More's the pity. Look at what Skansen has done for Giant Schnauzers in the last 35, 40 years.

YOUR DOG'S WORST CRITIC

The show ring doesn't tell you how to make wise choices to improve your



Mrs. Trotter at February's Sun Maid KC show. "You're never going to live long enough to get it all," she says.

stock. *You* have to figure that out. *You* have to be the best judge of your own dogs. You have to become the worst critic of your own dogs, while at the same time you need to appreciate the qualities in the dogs of others. Once you become your own worst critic, you see all the things that need improvement in your breed and in your line. Then, you're more likely to go find those people who have dogs that are strong where yours are weak. I am always disappointed when I run into people who can never see any good in other people's good dogs.

The show ring doesn't tell you how to focus on corrective breeding, which is what I'm talking about, or how to analyze each individual for its particular role in a breeding program, or what weakness diminishes performance and the fact that such a weakness is a lot different from a weakness that detracts from prettiness and attractiveness.

Our fancy sometimes tends to look at every animal as though they have the same exact skeleton—and yes, they do all have the same number of bones (except for some breeds born with short tails and so on). But the bones don't always correlate from one breed to another. We need to understand that the correct correlation of body parts is not easily obtained. So, if you're going to breed, you need to be the best judge of your own stock.

TYPE OR HYPE?

What are we seeking? We are seeking dogs with correct functional ability, athletic and competent dogs for their breed, the right physique, running gear, coats, and character that enable them to do their job, and virtues that serve the breed and the breed standard.

What should we avoid? Fancy, pretty show dogs that *lack correctness.* I call them "foolers" because I think they can trick both breeders *and* judges. One year I was giving a lecture to a large group of Elkhound fanciers on picking for functional characteristics, going on about my "plain Janes" and, you know, "The moose doesn't care if the dog is pretty." And someone in the back of the room said, "Yeah, you can lecture on that, but that gorgeous bitch of yours, Gilda, is very pretty." And I said, "Yes, but I don't hold it against her." I love pretty if it's on correctness. But it's not what we breed for. Pretty is the icing on the cake, and you don't put a good icing on a bad cake.

How about these, shall we say, well-known, famous dogs? Everyone's running to breed to them. I call them overachievers with big records who run from good dogs in their own breed. We see dogs who run up large records who always avoid good dogs in their own breed. Dogs ought to be the most vulnerable in their own breed. And, the better the dog, if the breed's on target, the more vulnerable all of them should be.

Sometimes we hear of these famous dogs, only to find out that they are more hype than type. Now, this doesn't mean there wasn't a great dog at that national, where everyone is jumping on the bandwagon to breed to him. But, hey, wait a minute. Is that dog right for your bitch? Maybe the dog's mother is a lesser dog and he's actually the product of a really good sire. Maybe you should breed to the sire instead of the famous dog himself.

Always keep asking yourself questions. You're never going to live long enough to get it all. You just keep learning and hope that the last thing you do in life is learn one more thing you can take with you to the big dog show in the sky.—**P.T.**

COURTESY DIANA HAN

VIDEOS



DATELINE: BIRMINGHAM, ENGLAND—
We devote this month's "Videos" page to Crufts, the world's largest dog show, held earlier this month. First up, enjoy the display performed by the 2108 Obedience Champion and Reserve dogs. 12:43



Day 4 Highlights
A fast-paced video roundup of sights and sounds from the final day's competition, including Best in Show. 1:07



Breeders Competition
Ronnie Irving judges the "Breeders Competition," where teams of kennelmates compete to demonstrate the consistent excellence of their breeders' lines. 21:30



A Show Fit for a Queen
This vintage British Pathé newsreel documents Queen Elizabeth's historic 1969 visit to Crufts. It marked the first time a reigning British monarch attended the big event. 1:51

Writing History
(With a Lot of Help from Our Friends)



AKC GAZETTE COLLECTION

"Ultra-rare photo making its online debut!" That's how we described this 1956 shot of English Setter judging at Westminster when it was posted last month on AKC GAZETTE Facebook.

Recently rediscovered in our archives, this is the earliest color photo in our Westminster file. The original, digitized and restored by GAZETTE staff, exists as a scratched and faded Kodachrome slide. A note scribbled in the slide's tiny margins indicates that one of the dogs is Ch. Chatterwood on the Rocks (Dusty). As winner of the 1957 and '58 English Setter Association of America national specialties, Dusty is a top dog in his breed's U.S. history. But the note does not specify which dog is Dusty.

To make a positive ID, we asked for the help of our Facebook friends. The case was cracked wide open by the ESAA's club historian, Carl Sillman. He posted the following:

"I believe the first dog in line is indeed Chatterwood on the Rocks with his owner, Dr. Ray Chase. This photo shows the Open Dog class. Two of the entrants are missing from this photo, one of which was Jane Kamp with Ulysses of Blue Bar. Ulysses was one of a handful of Blue Bar champions finished by Jane (Kamp) Forsyth for Robert Myers, who ran the kennel at reduced scale after his father C.N. Myers' death. (I had the privilege of talking with Mrs. Forsyth a few years ago about her experiences working for Blue Bar. She remembered Ulysses. She called him 'Useless' because he refused to come out of his crate.)

"I can't make out all of the numbers, but the second handler in line looks to be Art Baines handling Rock Falls King Whit (#41). This dog was listed as being owned by Prune's Own K's. ES fanciers will know that Prune's Own was run by Priscilla Duke Ryan, who was the first woman ES breeder of note. However, she sold her kennel name well before the 1956 Westminster show.

"Fourth in line is Candlewood's Jeanne Millett with her Candlewood Destiny. Dr. Chase's 'Dusty' would win this class and go BOW. Dusty and many of the other dogs seen here are 3 years old or less. That is why you see so little coat. Plus, ES were just emerging from the era where many dogs carries very little coat."—**C.S.**

RINGSIDE

ROSE CITY CLASSIC SERIES OF DOG SHOWS, JANUARY 17–21

PORTLAND, OREGON—the annual Rose City extravaganza, hosted by the Dog Fanciers Association of Oregon, has stood among dogdom's best of the West since 1948. Thousands of entries converged on the Portland Exposition Center for five days of action that included four all-breed shows, 31 specialties and group shows, plus obedience, rally, and agility competition, CGC testing, a 4–6-month puppy class, and a fabulous student-art contest.







Photos by Diana Han











COURTESY DIANA HAN, NOR CAL BULLDOGGER

RINGSIDE

KENNEL CLUB OF BEVERLY HILLS, MARCH 3 AND 4

POMONA, CALIFORNIA—The KC of Beverly Hills provided its usual glamor and pageantry when a combined entry of 2,503 descended on the Los Angeles County Fairplex for a weekend of deluxe all-breed competition. Congratulations to the team behind Wire Fox Terrier Ch. Kingarthur Von Forliny Home, who went Best in Show both days, under judges Jim Reynolds and Fred Bassett. NBC's David Frei and John O'Hurley were on hand to call the action for a taped broadcast scheduled for Easter Sunday, April 1.

Results: *Saturday and Sunday*



















Photos by Diana Han

COURTESY DIANA HAN, NOR CAL BULLDOGGER

Alan Fausel

We are happy to announce that Alan Fausel has joined us as director of AKC Cultural Resources. Alan is an old friend of the AKC and comes to us with impeccable credentials from the Fine Arts Museums in San Francisco, the Frick Art Museum in Pittsburgh, and the Bonhams NY gallery. If his face looks familiar, you might be a fan of *Antiques Roadshow:* Alan is an on-air appraiser for the long-running PBS series.

Alan will work on all aspects of the AKC Museum of the Dog's move from St. Louis to New York, leading the transport of the collection, hiring museum personnel, curating exhibitions, and overseeing all operational functions. "It is a pleasure and an honor to join the AKC," he says. "The museum has a uniquely beautiful collection of art. I am excited to help bring these pieces to the thriving art culture of New York and share them with new audiences from around the world."

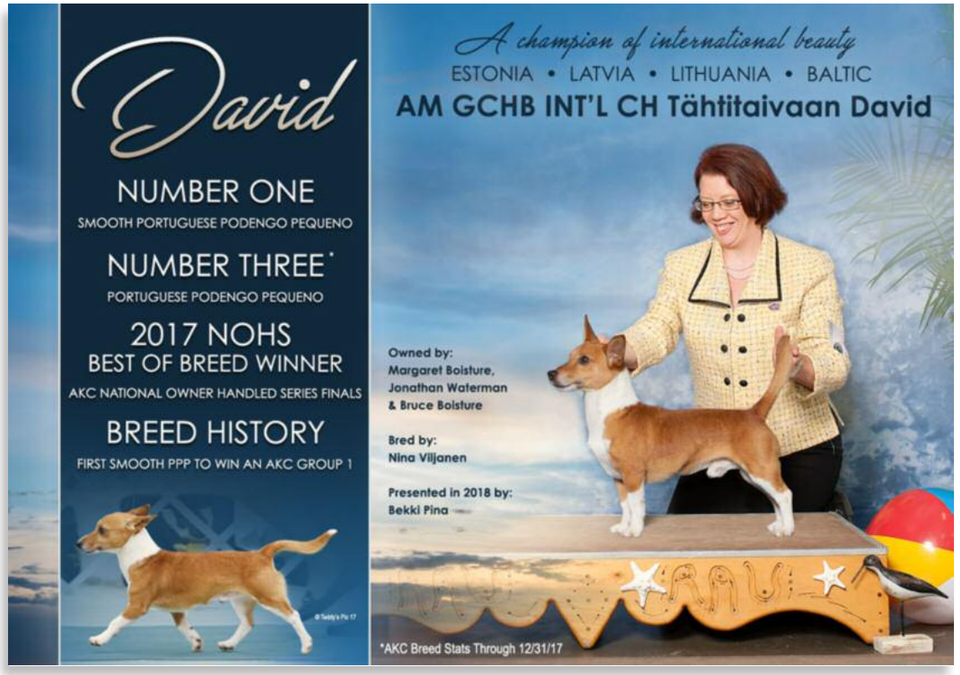


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AKC Winners

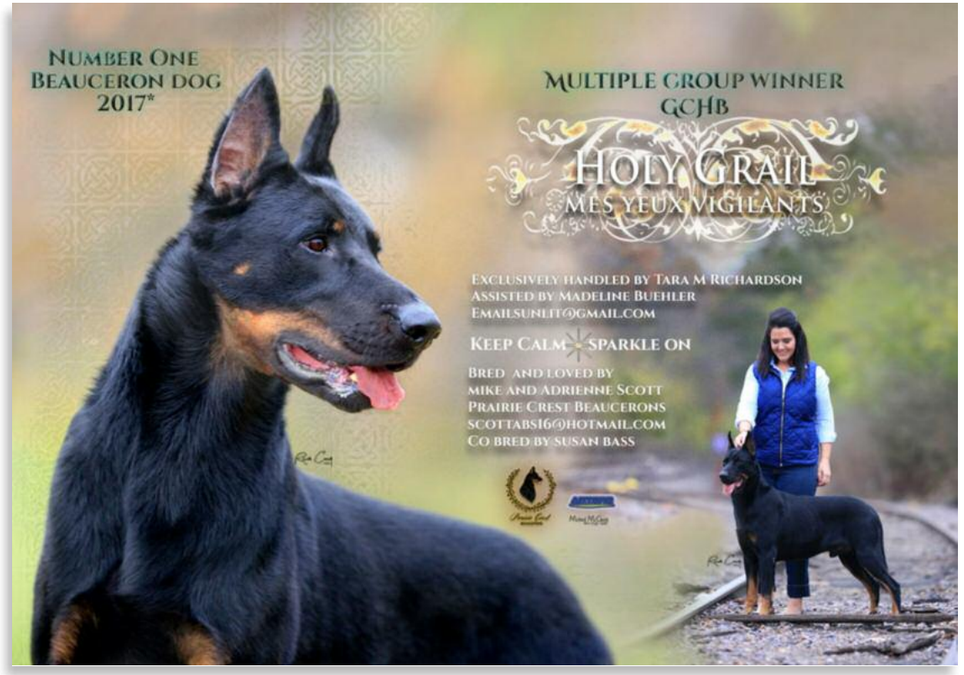
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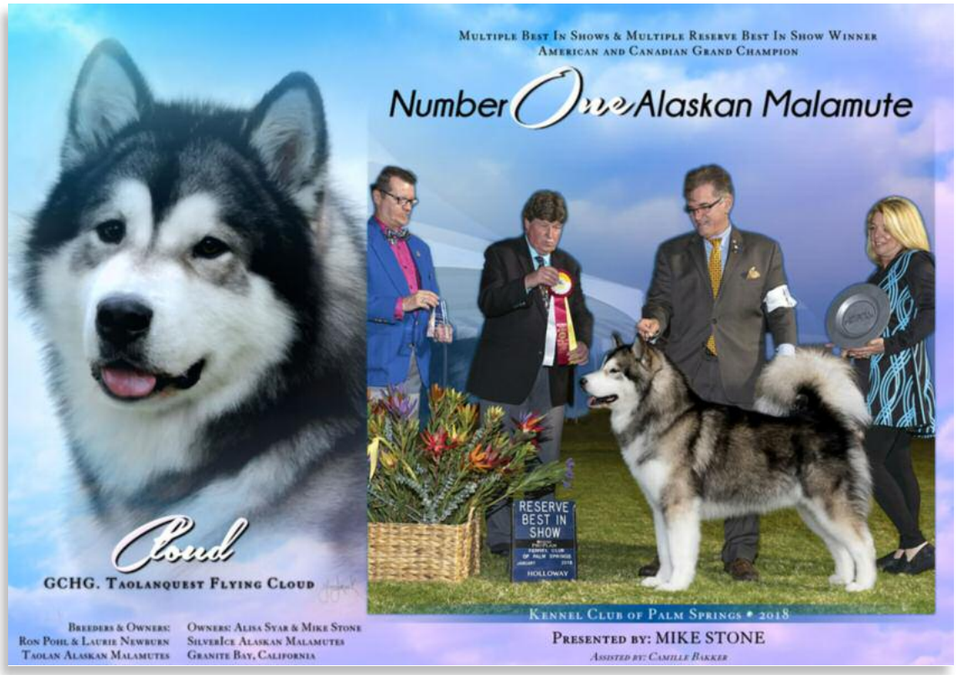




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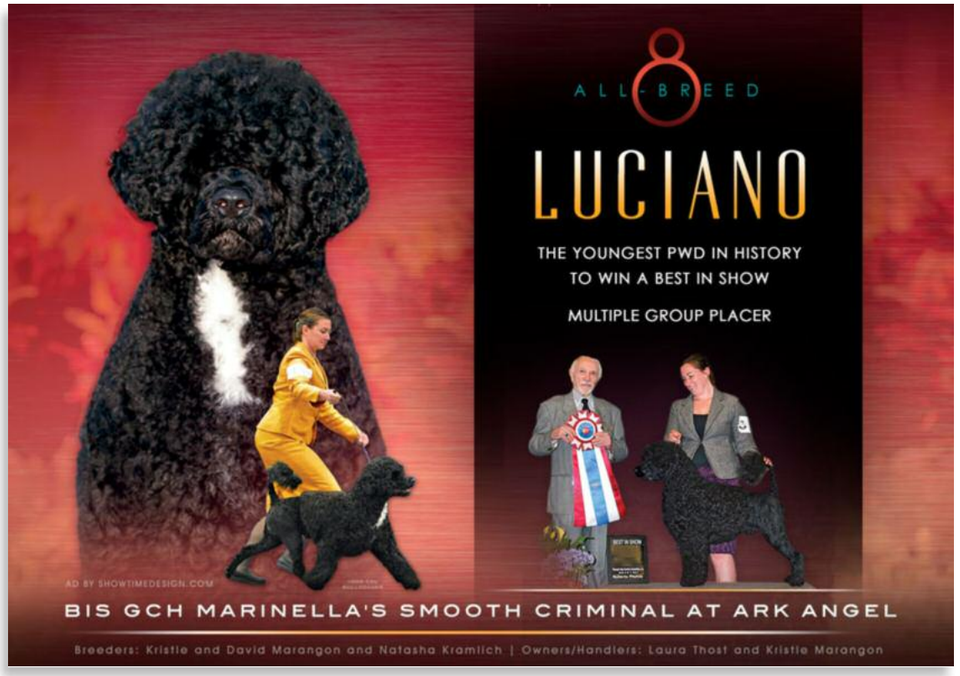
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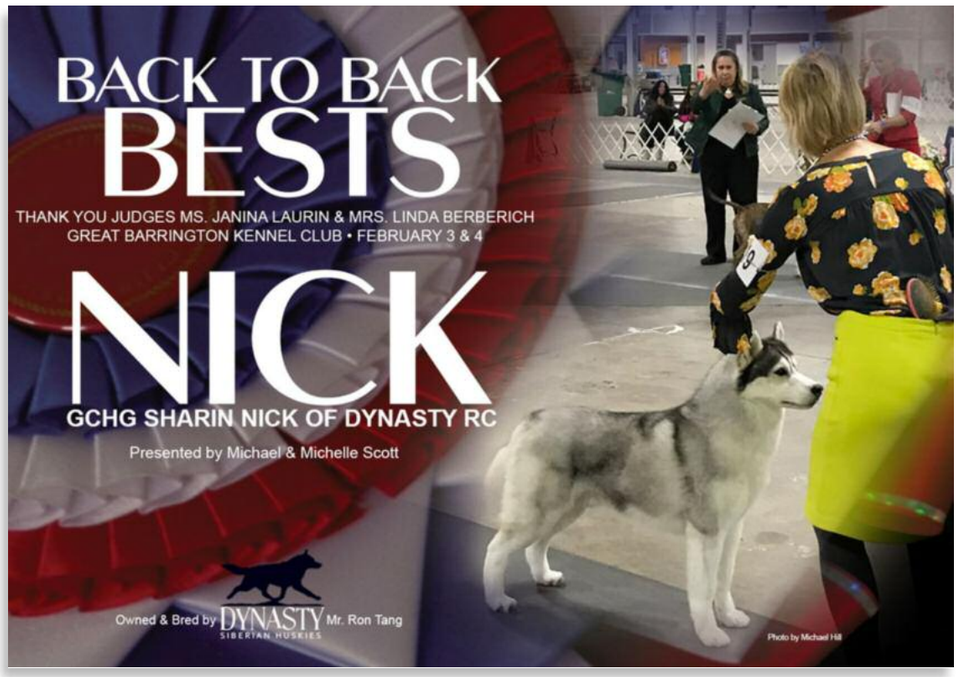




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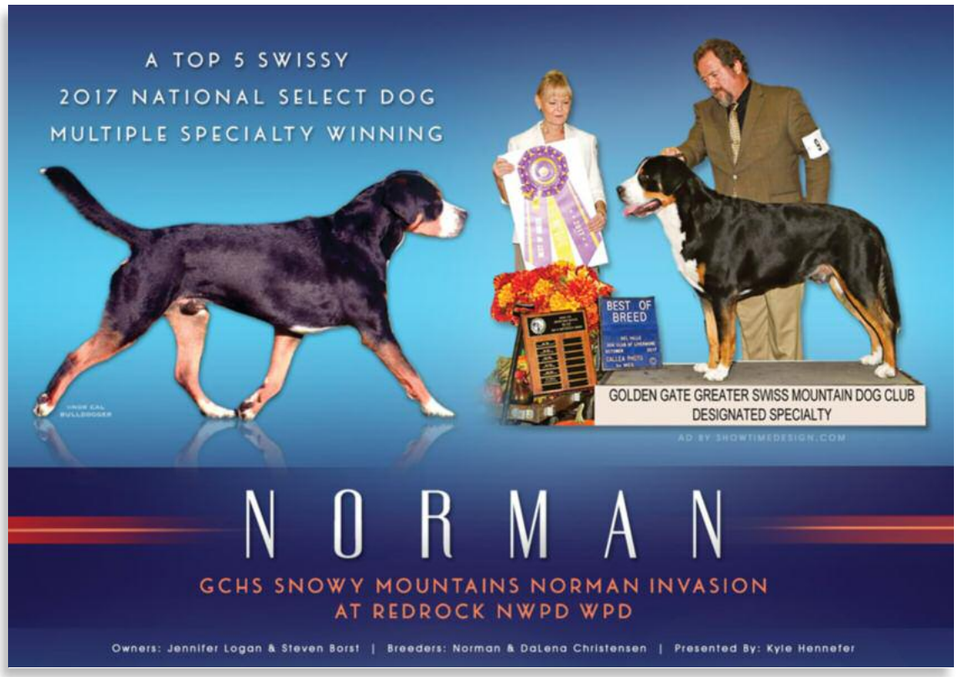
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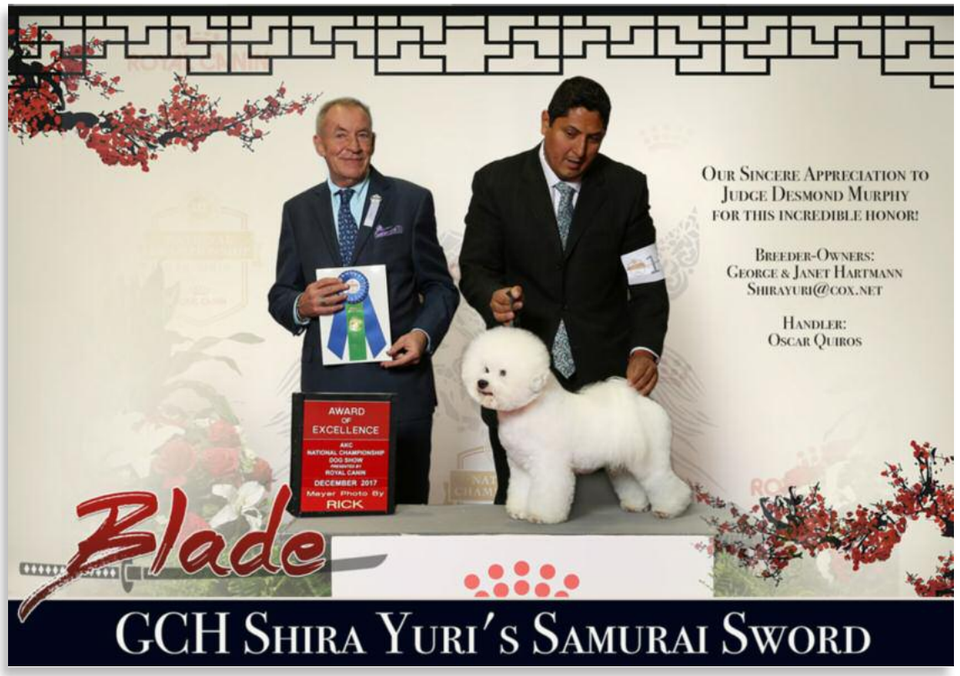
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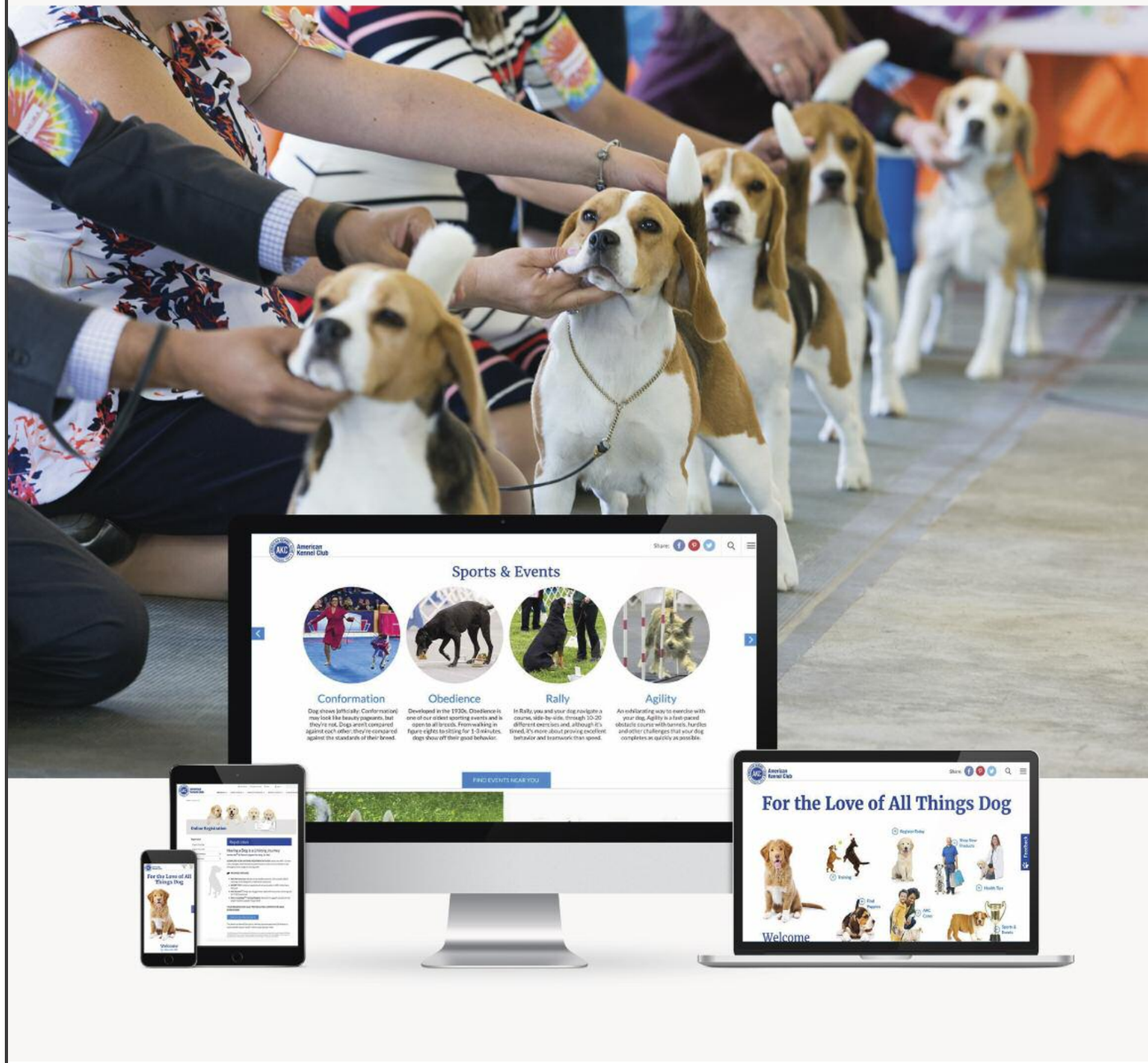


A NEW AKC.ORG FOR FANCIERS

Here's what's great about the new website:

- Clean and intuitive web design
- User-friendly navigation
- Improved search
- Easy access to events and judging information

and much more...



BREED COLUMNS

edited by Arliss Paddock *avp@akc.org*



In this month's "Breed Columns" we showcase one of our go-to photographers, Lynda Beam. Her photos from the Park Shore and Chain O'Lakes KC shows are featured throughout the section. For more great ring shots, visit Lynda's online portfolio.

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.

THIS MONTH

TOY GROUP

27 Brussels Griffons
28 Cavalier King Charles Spaniels
29 Chihuahuas
30 English Toy Spaniels
30 Havanese
31 Italian Greyhounds
32 Japanese Chin
33 Maltese
34 Miniature Pinschers
34 Papillons
35 Pekingese
36 Pomeranians
37 Shih Tzu
38 Silky Terriers
38 Toy Fox Terriers
39 Yorkshire Terriers

NON-SPORTING GROUP

41 American Eskimo Dogs
41 Bichons Frises
42 Boston Terriers
44 Bulldogs
44 Chinese Shar-Pei
45 Chow Chows
46 Dalmatians
47 Finnish Spitz
47 French Bulldogs
48 Keeshonden
49 Lhasa Apsos
50 Shiba Inu
51 Tibetan Spaniels
52 Tibetan Terriers

HERDING GROUP

54 Australian Cattle Dogs
54 Bearded Collies
56 Belgian Malinois
56 Belgian Tervuren
57 Border Collies
58 Briards
60 Canaan Dogs
61 Cardigan Welsh Corgis
61 Collies
63 Entlebucher Mountain Dogs
63 Finnish Lapphunds
64 Icelandic Sheepdogs
65 Norwegian Buhunds
65 Old English Sheepdogs
66 Pembroke Welsh Corgis
67 Polish Lowland Sheepdogs
67 Pulik
69 Spanish Water Dogs
70 Swedish Vallhunds

PEMBROKE WELSH CORGI/COURTESY LYNDA BEAM

TOY GROUP

Brussels Griffons

RETRACTABLE LEADS

Retractable leads have been around for over 20 years. At their inception, many thought they were the best thing since sliced bread. However, while a retractable lead may look like a great way to give your Griff a bit more freedom on a walk, allowing them to explore a greater area without excessive pulling, this is not a good idea. That freedom is a danger. I know of *two* different occasions where Brussels Griffons were killed when, while out on a walk, they darted between parked cars into oncoming traffic. It is just not possible to pull a dog back quickly enough in that situation. You can put on the brake, but the dog is still out there, and you cannot pull him back with the string. On the other side of the story, my own Griff was attacked by a Mastiff in the potty area of a dog show. The Mastiff was on a flexi, and too fast for the owner. That Griff was never the same at a dog show after that. She lost her showiness when all she needed was two points. It wasn't until she was returned to the ring after a litter that she got those two points—and that was by the skin of our teeth, as her tail went down the minute we arrived at a show site.

The AKC does not allow retractable leads at their sanctioned events. This may not always be listed in the premium list, but it is true.



Brussels Griffon

COURTESY LYNDA BEAM

The button on the lead's handle that is supposed to act as a brake is not always enough, or it may malfunction. It is impossible to pull a dog back by the "string" without injuring one's hand.

Most of us were born with leashes in our hand and are extremely adept at sending signals down that lead, both encouragement and correction. This is nearly impossible on a flexi.

Here are a few scenarios that can occur when your Griff is on a retractable lead:

Out on a walk, he finds a delectable piece of dog poop—or even better, cat poop. You haven't even seen it yet. Eaten!

Hiking, Griffy winds himself around a tree or shrub.

Hiking, Griffy goes ahead and scares a skunk—not going to be a good night.

Hiking, Griffy goes ahead and meets something bigger and more dangerous.

Being walked by a child (children and flexis are not a good combo), the dog sees something he has to go after. He gets up a good head of steam, and the handle of the lead is yanked out of the child's hand, or the child falls face-first.

In the vet's office, Griffy goes through the door ahead of you and into the space of a none-too-friendly other dog. A fight ensues before you're even in the room. For this reason, many veterinarians, grooming shops, and

TOY GROUP

pet supply stores forbid dogs on retractable leads.

Get rid of your retractable leads, or confine their use to your own backyard. Find a cotton or nylon web lead—or my favorite, a leather, four- to six-foot lead in a width suitable for your dog. A six-foot leather lead can give your dog a little more room to explore without being out of control.

Keep your companions safe!

—Anne K. Catterson,
annecatt@gmail.com
American Brussels Griffon Association

Cavalier King Charles Spaniels

JUNIORS IN OUR MIDST

Recently I had the pleasure of watching a large class of junior showmen. I enjoyed the poise and talent of the young exhibitors as they went about their work. I also enjoyed watching the judge go about her job. It was obvious that she enjoyed the assignment and appreciated the efforts of the exhibitors. As I watched all go though the process, I thought of our parent club's involvement in Junior Showmanship.

From the earliest days of the American Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club (ACKCSC), the club has realized the value of a juniors program. The club has always recognized that juniors are critical to the future of our breed, the sport of purebred dogs, and responsible dog ownership in general. We have been fortunate in having a number of talented young people who have not only been successful junior showmen but have also gone on to be successful in the dog world, as well as in careers outside of dogs. I believe that some of the skills learned in competition were helpful in life. The ACKCSC supports our juniors and applauds their hard work, dedication, and successes.

The ACKCSC is a very young organization by AKC standards, having only recently celebrated its 20th anniversary, but at our events we have never charged an entry fee for Junior Showmanship. Since 2000, we have offered a free junior handling seminar at our national, with topics including handling and grooming tips from expert handlers, introduction to rally, and preventing medical problems in the Cavalier. Juniors enjoy a pizza party following the seminar each year. They also help out at the national with our Charitable Trust and have assisted with articles for our newsletter and the *Dispatch*.



Cavalier King Charles Spaniel

COURTESY LYNDA BEAM

Beginning in 2006, juniors receive special welcome bags, which are donated by members and vendors and are filled with items to share with or use on their Cavaliers. Beginning in 2010, as the program increased in number, the ACKCSC began tracking and recognizing the Top Ten Cavalier Junior Handlers at our national with a special ceremony and special rosettes. The parent club began sending letters in 2010 to all judges approved to judge juniors with Cavaliers, educating the judges on proper show handling of the breed.

The American Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club maintains a lovely and informative website. If you haven't done so already, check it out. In 2014 we added a special tab just for Juniors. A Scholarship and Stipend program was also added in 2014. In recognition of our 20th anniversary, the ACKCSC created four new scholarships/stipends for our Cavalier junior handlers, to reward their academic achievements and maintain their enthusiastic interest in the sport. The club provides

TOY GROUP

$1,000 college scholarships to help our junior handlers outside of the dog show world. In addition to this, there is an ACKCSC $250 stipend available to any junior who successfully gains an invitation to and competes in the Junior Showmanship competition at the Westminster Kennel Club show or the AKC National Championship with a Cavalier. We also provide a $500 stipend for any junior to attend and compete as a junior in the ACKCSC national specialty.

In my opinion, our program has been very successful, and it is self-perpetuating. The club's first junior handler has gone on to very successful careers in and out of the show ring, is a breeder of champion Cavaliers, an expert groomer and handler, a AKC-approved Junior Showmanship judge, and has a very successful science career. In addition, she was instrumental in helping formulate much of the program. What is also important is that another wonderful young woman has stepped up to provide leadership in running the program following her.

I suggest that other parent clubs might benefit from looking at the ACKCSC Junior Showmanship program. I feel fortunate to have worked with these wonderful people and to have judged juniors at an ACKCSC national.

I would like to thank Ms. Lu Dunham for assistance in the preparation of this article.

—John V. Ioia, MD, Ph.D.,
bonefixr@gmail.com
American Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club

Chihuahuas

GOLDEN OLDIES—OLD DOGS RULE!

What defines a senior pet? Chihuahuas are among the longest-lived breeds, and many are still bouncing around at 15, with others living to 20 or more years of age. The important thing to remember is that every dog is an individual, so the age at which they begin to show physical or mental decline can vary.

Most of us have some retired show dogs whom we would like to place in loving homes. We know some lucky new owner can discover these wonderful gifts of the dog world. So the next time you are contacted for a puppy, why not suggest Old Faithful, and tell the perspective new owner all the wonderful things an older dog can bring to their life?

Here are some points you might mention to help these "golden oldies" find a forever home.

They are a known quantity. You know their personality and that they are not going to get any bigger. What you see is what you get.

They are restful. If you want a pet to hang out with you while you watch TV or read a book, a senior is the way to go.

They aren't necessarily inactive. They love to go for walks, bring back a ball, or follow you around the yard as you plant your flowers—and they won't dig them up.

They are usually housetrained. They've lived in a home and know the drill, whether it's going outside to potty or using a puppy pad. Every once in awhile you may meet one who isn't housetrained, but older dogs can learn just as quickly as youngsters if you take them out consistently and on a schedule.



Chihuahua

COURTESY LYNDA BEAM

They are wise in the way of the world. Older animals are observant, and they known how to learn, either by watching other animals in the family or from picking up on your cues. Watching them and seeing what they know and how they apply it to their new life is fascinating.

They come with a senior discount. An older dog may be as young as 3 years old, but they will come with a reduced price and be just as loving to their new family as a puppy.

They bring the gift of love and joy. The older dog usually fits easily into a home because they are already experienced at living with other animals and people. They may have many good years ahead to bring happiness to a loving family.

Some people say that older dogs are grateful because they know you have given them a second chance at being that "special" dog. True or not, they will bring happiness and joy to any home.

Adopting an older dog can bring more benefits than one may realize. So next time you are contacted for a puppy, don't forget about your "golden oldie."

You *can* teach an old dog new tricks! —*Virginia (Jenny) Hauber, 2015*
Chihuahua Club of America

TOY GROUP

English Toy Spaniels

WHEN TO RETIRE A DOG?

After a particularly difficult weekend in the agility ring, I am faced with the decision of retiring my dog or proceeding in trying to reach our goals. As any Wisconsin football fan can tell you, retirement can be a very difficult decision that can fail to stick.

Whether it be in conformation or performance, there are two types of dogs whom people consider retiring. First is the dog who has reached all of your goals and may be getting older or a little worn out. Second is the dog who has not reached your goals and who you feel perhaps may never do so.

If the dog seems to be physically struggling, the decision should be an easy one; our dogs' health and welfare should always come first. When it is more of an issue of his training or mental health, however, the decision can become quite complicated. This is especially true when there is no other dog to step into his place. I feel this is too much pressure to put on any dog. If it is the case, I would suggest the owner take this out of the equation by considering a new dog sport or adding a second dog. This way the decision can become more about the dog and less about the owner's desires.



English Toy Spaniel

When you reach the goals you have set for your dog, it must be clear what the value of continuing may be for both of you. If your dog is healthy and both of you are truly enjoying yourselves, then by all means continue. There is always another Best in Show or another title to be achieved. Be aware, however, that they become harder to obtain as the dog ages. I personally think that going out "on top," especially in conformation, is something to be proud of.

The really difficult decision is regarding the dog who is healthy and young but struggling to reach the goals you have set. This might be a time to ask for input from friends, trainers, and fellow exhibitors. Is it a training problem that you could work on? How much time should you give it? How much money do you want to spend? It would be easy to say that if the dog is not enjoying himself, you should call it quits. However, you must decide whether this is due to your inadequacies as a trainer or an inherent issue with the dog's personality.

There is no shame in changing your goals. Maybe your conformation dog is more suited for performance. Maybe your performance dog has reached his potential, and that MACH is just not in the cards. Be proud of what the two of you have accomplished, and celebrate the bond you have developed trying to get there.

For my own dog, I have decided to be content with what we have accomplished. He has surpassed my expectations in the agility ring, and we have plans to pursue further obedience goals. Then again, maybe we will only show in certain conditions and see if we cannot get those last two legs.

What can I say? … I live in Wisconsin! — *Janelle Smedley, 2010*

English Toy Spaniel Club of America

Havanese

Our guest columnists for this issue are Rafe H. Schindler (*rafe@slac.stanford.edu*) and Sara Dellorto (*sardione@aol.com*).

HOW LONG DO HAVANESE REALLY LIVE?

We set out to find the answer to this question last year, and what we found took us all by surprise.

In part the result of their perceived healthiness and longevity, the popularity of this happy and playful breed has risen steadily, with registrations now around 5,000 each year. As a "young" breed (recognized in 1996), the Havanese Club of America (HCA) has diligently monitored its health by conducting a health survey every eight years. Neither the 2004 nor 2012 surveys indicated a prevalence

COURTESY LYNDA BEAM

TOY GROUP

or predisposition toward any life-threatening disease(s), making the identification and tracking of developing health issues more difficult. The HCA Health Committee felt that to learn more we would need to "enrich" a sample of dogs and follow it with health testing over many years. However, to design and propose such a study, we would need to understand the longevity of Havanese—something no one had ever measured.

With HCA board approval, we launched a longevity survey at our 2017 national specialty held in Asheville, North Carolina. We collected data confidentially, and we specifically avoided asking about health issues or causes of death, as these would be addressed in follow-up surveys. The survey specified Havanese that were AKC registered and asked two simple questions: (1) the age and sex of Havanese who were 7 years or older (still living); and (2) the age and sex of Havanese who had passed away from natural causes. After the national specialty the survey was sent to all HCA members, the HCA Breeder list, and then to regional Havanese clubs, AKC all-breed clubs, and finally Havanese Yahoo groups. To make it easier for people to respond, the survey could be mailed in, e-mailed, or submitted directly from our HCA website.

After three months we closed the survey and tabulated the data. We had a total of 146 responses (88 percent were HCA members), documenting 512 dogs (356 living and 156 deceased).

The results proved quite unexpected.

We learned that the average lifespan of Havanese is 13 +/- 0.3 years, regardless of sex, but that about a third of all Havanese live past 15 years, with some living as long as 19 years. Curiously, we learned that if a Havanese lived beyond their ninth or 10th birthday, they were likely to live a lot longer—with an average lifespan closer to 15 years. Several HCA members (after seeing the latter result) commented this was an observation—albeit subjective—that many of the club's early breeders had made.

How could all this fit together?

When we looked closer at the survey data, we found two independent pieces of evidence that corroborated each other. We had noticed early on (as data began coming in) that there was a small dip in the number of living Havanese between 8 and 9 years of age. As more and more data came in, this dip did not go away. So, if there are fewer living Havanese who are 8 to 9 years old, we thought we would see a corresponding increase in deaths around that age. We looked closer into the age distribution of males and females at death, and surprisingly (as more and more data came in) we started to see two distinct peaks: one around 9.6 years of age, and one closer to 14.5 years of age. The lower peak (9.6 years of age) contained only about 20 percent of the population.

While the study would have benefited from more data, the evidence paints a picture of a generally long-lived breed, with some unknown factor(s) contributing to the earlier deaths around 9 years of age of a small portion of the population. —R.H.S. & S.D.

You can find the full analysis and graphs from the 2017 Havanese Longevity Survey on the Health Committee page of the HCA website.

Thank you, Rafe and Sara.

—Diane Nachman, HCA President,
ridina2@aol.com
Havanese Club of America

Italian Greyhounds

ANOTHER CARA STORY

Does anyone out there believe in miracles? Well, I never did until the past week. Now I do. This involves my little imp Cara about whom I wrote the December 2017 column.

In November of last year I finally had knee replacement surgery on my left knee, which meant that I would definitely be out of the show ring for at least a few months—considering my age, possibly even longer. Cara was a year and a half old, and so far she had barely gotten started on her show career. She had matured very nicely and really needed to get out. So I hired a professional handler, something I had not done since my early show days, when I worked in retail and usually had to be in the shop on Saturdays. I chose Curtiss Smith, a very successful toy-breed handler who had actually shown several IGs.

I had great visions of Curtiss and Cara in the ring, but I was also aware that Cara was thoroughly bonded with me, and no amount of understanding between a dog and her person could get the point across to her that she would only be living with Curtiss for a few weeks, at least for starters. I warned Curtiss that Cara might try to escape to go looking for me, and he used due caution with her.

For the first few days of her stay at Curtiss's Arizona home, Cara seemed satisfied, but when he and his crew were preparing and loading up for the weekend trip to California for the show weekend, somehow Cara disappeared. Curtiss immediately got a crew together to scour the neighborhood, but the little red IG was nowhere to be found. He canceled his trip to California and continued for the weekend and the following week to search. He posted the message of her loss on social media and other websites, and he had hundreds of flyers printed with her picture and posted them throughout the area.

TOY GROUP


Italian Greyhound

Needless to say, I was devastated. I wanted to get in my car and drive to the area where Cara had turned up missing, but I had not been given the OK to drive after the knee surgery, and even sitting for the six-hour or so trip to the Phoenix suburb where she had disappeared was out of the question. I could hardly walk.

Curtiss continued to search and fielded dozens of calls and emails with offers to help. A sizeable reward was offered for Cara's safe return, and Curtiss began to receive emails with preposterous pictures asking if that could be Cara. The photos ranged from a black and white Chihuahua to a huge red mutt. As for Cara—she seemed to have completely disappeared. There was only one sighting about a week later, the only one that might have been the missing IG.

Since no body was found anywhere, I began to hope that someone had taken her in and intended to keep her as a pet. That was a happier thought than Cara being hit by a car or killed by a coyote or other desert creature.

The big call from Curtiss came two days before the Friday that would have marked three weeks since Cara's disappearance. Someone nine miles away from where Curtiss lives had contacted him. They had seen a little red dog actually sleeping on their patio couch. They had tried to grab her, and she had taken off. Evidently she had been spotted in that upscale neighborhood before, and people had put food out for her. Curtiss said he was going to get a trap and try to lure her into it with some chicken. Too late in the day to borrow one from the local humane society, he purchased one and set it up near where Cara had last been seen.

Half an hour later Curtiss called again. Cara had gone after the chicken, and the trap had closed. *He had her!* She was very thin but didn't have a scratch on her, he said.

She is smart and tougher than one would believe an IG could be. In any case, she is now safely at home, and it will be a while before she goes anywhere again.

—Lilian S. Barber,
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Italian Greyhound Club of America

Japanese Chin

TRAVELING WITH YOUR CHIN? BE PREPARED!

Whether it's a trip to another dog show or simply a visit to family and friends, traveling with your favorite companions presents its own set of unique challenges. And anyone who travels with their canines by car knows that this particular form of transportation for long distances can be quite a task. So here are a few tips from a traveler who has learned through experience, both good and bad.

First and foremost, it should be pointed out that if your dog is truly sick, seek out help from a veterinarian as soon as you can.

Being prepared is the best way to fight traveling mishaps. Do you bring along a first-aid kit when you travel? During my early years of dog shows, my vet instructed me to have the following at the ready: vet wrap, bandages, scissors, gauze pads, clippers, antimicrobial ointment, hydrogen peroxide (to induce vomiting), thermometer, eye wash, and Benadryl (for allergic reaction). This might seem a little overboard, but over the years, I actually have used many of the contents of my first-aid bag.

Depending on how far you are going by car, do your dogs a favor and make several potty stops. It is infinitely better than dealing with the dreaded odor from an accident in the back of your vehicle.

One of the most common problems encountered on the road can be carsickness. I have mercifully been blessed with fairly unruffled travelers. I have been informed by other seasoned travelers that, for dogs who are prone to car sickness, a bite of a gingerbread cookie may help settle the stomach if given before the journey. I have not had the opportunity to test


Japanese Chin

COURTESY LYNDA BEAM

TOY GROUP

that theory myself, but am told it could be helpful. Some veterinarians advise that traveling on an empty stomach may also be effective. Some vets also advise to cover the kennel. Finally, there are also medications such as Dramamine, meclizine, and Cerenia. It's a good idea to talk to your vet in advance regarding the best medication and dosage for your individual dog.

When dogs have loose stools in the car it can (and rather will) make for a very unhappy day. Gastrointestinal issues don't seem to have an upside, but the pain can be minimized by being prepared. I travel with a roll of paper towels, antibacterial wipes, extra bedding, and a garbage bag. In the event I am on the road and an event occurs, Kaopectate can often help control the symptoms until you can talk to your vet. Again, should the problem present itself as more than a onetime occurrence or be more severe than normal, get on the phone and talk to your vet about a preferred treatment. In some cases, the vet may prescribe metronidazole, an antibiotic preferred to fight bacteria in the body. I have had very good results with this medication.

Of course, specific to traveling with our Chins are problems associated with temperature control. With their small, brachiocephalic faces and profuse coats, our breed can be prone to overheating. We need to be mindful of that scenario. Packing extra water, a crate fan, and/or ice packs in the summer can relieve a hot Chin in a hurry.

Adding up all the first-aid equipment, potty emergency gear, and temperature-control paraphernalia sometimes makes me feel like a nomad roaming the dog show circuit, but better to be safe than sorry. Happy and safe roving!

—Cecilia Resnick, Fiore Italian Greyhounds and Japanese Chin

Japanese Chin Club of America

Maltese

ON JUDGING THE MALTESE

What constitutes a Maltese and makes it unique from any other breed? Most importantly, it is a toy breed with a white, silky coat, and with black eyes and nose, that flows around the ring. With this in mind our standard describes our dogs, and basically this will be the end result.

The word *medium* is used many times in our standard, which should be kept in mind in judging the breed. Nowhere does it say anything about exaggerated necks, legs, or heads. Our standard calls for a dog ideally from four to six pounds, but overall quality is to be considered before size.

Sometimes pounds do not properly describe a dog, as you can have a large, rangy Maltese who weighs only five pounds, and you can just as easily have a very well-bodied, smaller dog who also weighs five pounds.

Our breed's coat texture is unique as it is silky, but not at all the same as that of Yorkshire Terriers or Silky Terriers. You can have a Maltese who has silky hair and has 100 hairs per square inch, which will make the coat look fuller, but still silky, or you can have a dog who has silky hair and has only 50 hairs per square inch. Beware, as sometimes Maltese who have less hair may not necessarily have silky hair, but very fine hair that easily breaks, and this does not mean it is silky.



Columnist Daryl Martin in 1965, in a candid photo with one of her Maltese at Westminster.

COURTESY DARYL MARTIN

TOY GROUP

Those types of dog tend to have a very fine undercoat that mats, therefore easily damaging the long hair that grows.

Our dog's expression is unique to the breed as well. Their heads are not rounded, as what would be referred to as a Chihuahua head, nor are they totally flat terrier heads. Our standard says "moderate," from the rounding of the skull to the moderate stop. Of course we do not want upturned Shih Tzu faces, nor down-nosed "pencil faces" either. The Maltese expression is enhanced by black rims around the eyes and a black nose.

As fashion has set in other breeds, the "halo," or the skin around the eyes, does make a more piercing expression; however, nowhere in our standard is that called for. Dogs who are from regions where the sun is stronger or the sun stays out longer often have better halos. However, if a dog is a very good specimen of the breed, it should not be penalized for lack of halos, providing the total eye pigment is around the eye.

If the Maltese flows around the ring, generally the build of the dog is correct. Just imagine in your mind putting a plate on the back of the dog, and if the plate doesn't go up and down but stays level, all the legs are working correctly. Also, the tail-set should be coming straight off the backline, up and over the back, with the tip touching the hindquarters. If you see a twitch to the tail, it is working like a rudder, and there is something wrong with the rear assembly.

I have just touched on a few things regarding the breed. Please feel free to contact me for more information, or visit the American Maltese Association website (link below).

—Daryl Martin,
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American Maltese Association

Miniature Pinschers

2018 NATIONAL SPECIALTY INFORMATION

The Miniature Pinscher Club of America, Inc., holds their national specialty once a year at different locations across the country. With the theme "Pins N Roses," this year's national will be held May 10–12 in Kelso, Washington—which is near Portland, Oregon. The host hotel is the Red Lion Hotel and Conference Center. For reservations, call (360) 636-4400, or visit *www.redlion.com*. The show superintendent is BaRayEvents.com.

Judging the regular breed competition and Junior Showmanship will be Mrs. Ann D. Hearn, with sweepstakes to be judged by Mrs. Shawn Brown, Futurity/Maturity by Cindy Kowalchuk-Corrigal, and obedience and rally judged by Susan Cox.

Min Pin fans can stay for the Pacific Northwest Miniature Pinscher Club specialty to be held Sunday, May 13, with Mr. Lewis Bayne judging conformation and Junior Showmanship.

We hope to see you there! For more information, visit the MPCA website (link below). —Ann Stout, MPCA columnist
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Miniature Pinscher Club of America

Papillons

THE DANGERS OF EXAGGERATION

According to the late and well-respected breeder-judge Nigel Aubrey Jones, "Exaggeration has always been responsible for destroying type in almost every breed."

We can easily postulate the proof of Jones's statement, particularly as we peruse early photos in historic illustrated breed standards and compare them to the purebred dogs of today. Some breeds have changed so much that many are nearly unrecognizable today from the "type" they once were.

Breeders will agree that as a whole, our Papillons certainly have changed in appearance for the better. Early Papillons lacked coat, fringing, and ear size compared to those of the present day, who, as a general rule, carry thicker, longer ear fringes, longer coats, and larger, more rounded ears. These traits were definitely improvements due primarily to Belgian, Swedish, and U.K. imports who were cleverly bred to American and Canadian bloodlines.

That being said, the danger lies when breeders impose "their own look" and start "trends" by changing key points within the breed standard. It has been proven over time that any significant change to parts of the standard, such as proportion, refinement, elegance, and movement, could significantly alter the look of


Papillon

COURTESY LYNDA BEAM

TOY GROUP

the breed and will change breed type and other details, like breed characteristics.

Breed characteristics define the breed. They are the details that are important because they make up the whole dog. Without the breed characteristics we lose type, and the breed that we know and love will no longer be recognizable. One example is the beauty of the Papillon head, which is so difficult to breed because of its many details. The proportions all have to be just right in order for it to have a sweet expression and look pleasing to the eye.

There are many dangers of exaggeration. It starts out in the whelping box of breeding programs, then is showcased and rewarded in the ring, and unfortunately spreads all over the country like a virus. It's those breeders who are not adhering to the standard but focus on traits they prefer. Some of these exaggerations include the following: overly long necks (necks should be medium length); long bodies (the body should be slightly longer than high); big heads (the head is small); thick, blunt muzzles (the muzzle should be tapered); and, finally, the overly exaggerated ears that look disproportionate and cartoonlike (ears are large), all of which are changing the balance, proportion, and details of the breed, and therefore are changing type.

Also, there is a trend to reward those dogs who keep their head high up when gaiting, causing them to high-step with choppy movement, while penalizing those who move smoothly and more soundly but slightly drop their head to help their line of vision and align their body to propel their movement.

It is not only the breeders' responsibility but also the judges' to not allow these extreme types to win. Judges have to be astute and well versed on Papillons, otherwise they will mistakenly be rewarding these "breeding trends" instead of the correct Papillons who exemplify the details specified in our breed standard. Also, Papillons who are not fine boned and dainty should not be rewarded, as the breed's mantra is "fine boned and dainty!" If heavy-boned dogs are all that is present in the ring, then they should be left out of the ribbons.

—Roseann Fucillo,
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Papillon Club of America

Pekingese

PEKINGESE IN AMERICA

The history of Pekingese coming to America has been well documented, and given the popularity of the breed as show dogs as well as family pets, it continues to be interesting to read about and review.

A Pekingese was first exhibited here in the Miscellaneous Class in 1901, in Philadelphia. He belonged to Mrs. George Thomas, and his name was Pekin.

Pekingese eventually became more popular, and in 1906 the breed was recognized by the American Kennel Club. In 1907 the first male won a championship—he was T sang of Downshire, owned by Mrs. Morris Mandy. Mrs. Mandy began breeding Pekingese in England and later moved to America. In 1908 the first female became a champion, and she was bred by the Dowager Empress of China, imported directly from China and owned by Dr. Mary Cotton. She was black, and her name was Chaou Ching Ur.

In April 1909, The Pekingese Club of America was founded, with Mrs. Morris Mandy as president. J. Pierpont Morgan, Sr., was honorary president, with Mrs. Benjamin Guinness, Mrs. R.P. McGraun, and Dr. Mary Cotton serving as vice presidents, and Mrs. M.E. Harby as secretary-treasurer. Mr. J. Pierpont Morgan had two parti-colors that were bred by her Imperial Majesty, the Dowager Empress of China. Mrs. Alice Roosevelt Longworth received a Pekingese from Her Majesty as well.

The Pekingese Club of America held its first specialty show in 1911 at the Plaza Hotel in New York City. The show was a great success as a social event, as well as a dog show. The judge was Mrs. Benjamin Guinness, who was president of the club at the time. Her Winners Dog was T sang of Downshire, and Winners Bitch was Broadoak Fatima, owned by Mrs. Paul Sorg.

The Pekingese Club's shows were definitely unique social affairs, with most of the exhibitors part of New York society, and they attracted coverage on the society page of the New York newspapers. Pekingese were also expensive at that time; puppies were advertised for sale in the 1910 catalogs for $500. Entries at these shows were also large—289 Pekingese were entered at the 1914 show!

In 1918, the Westminster show in New York was the first time a Pekingese was in competition for Best in Show (that's 100 years ago!). The competition was between a Pekingese and a Bull Terrier, and two judges were in charge to decide. They each favored a different dog, and they argued and argued for several hours and nearly reached physical violence over the decision. Finally a referee judge was called, and the final decision went to the Bull Terrier, and all the judges were suspended!

Entries in Pekingese today aren't nearly as high as in the early years, but the quality and personality of the dogs remains high. Once one is "owned" by a Pekingese, you will always love the breed.—Carol Kniebusch Noe,
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The Pekingese Club of America

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Pomeranians

THE EYES HAVE IT

Fanciers of the Pomeranian are drawn to many things, including the breed's buoyant, larger-than-life attitude and look of inquisitiveness and intelligence. A pivotal part of this alert expression depends on the correct balance and build of the headpiece, including the proper shape and set of the eyes.

Over the course of canine domestication, as dog breeds were developed to perform specific jobs, their conformation, including the skull shape and eye shape and placement, developed in turn. As the saying goes, "form follows function." For example, compare the rounded skulls of some toy breeds to those more elongated skulls of sighthounds. The Chihuahua, with an "apple dome" skull has shallow eye sockets, leading to full, large, round eyes, while sighthounds with long and narrow skulls have almond-shaped or oval eyes that are set laterally on the head for a wide field of vision needed for hunting.

The eyes of the Pomeranian—and the other spitz breeds—also follow their original function. Even though the specific beginnings of the spitz dogs are not well known, they can be traced back to Siberia and the Arctic as dogs used for herding, pulling a sled, and other jobs. With snowy, bright conditions for most of the year, the spitz dogs were bred with an almond-shaped eye. This shape works in conjunction with a long and narrow pupil to protect their eyesight and reduce glare off the ice and snow while maximizing the field of vision.

Two thousand years ago, humans discovered the importance of the almond shaped eye and re-created the functionality for themselves. The Inuit, original inhabitants of the Arctic, developed snow goggles to prevent snow blindness. The goggles covered the whole eye, with a narrow slit in front. This allowed for a wide range of sight while also reducing the glare off the snow and ice. This example of form following function is an important reminder of why dogs and breeds were developed as they were.

The Pomeranian's eyes must be "dark, bright, medium sized, and almond shaped; set well into the skull with the width between the eyes balancing the other facial features." The head should be "in balance with the body, when viewed from above, broad at the back tapering to the nose to form a wedge," the muzzle is "rather short, straight, free of lippiness, neither coarse nor snipey. Ratio of length of muzzle to skull is ⅓ to ⅔." All of these features combine to create a foxlike expression.





According to the breed standard, the Pomeranian's eyes must be "dark, bright, medium sized, and almond shaped; set well into the skull with the width between the eyes balancing the other facial features."

COURTESY STEPHANIE HENTSCHEL

Over the years, Pomeranians have started to lose the correct proportions of the muzzle to skull. Muzzles have become shorter, skulls have become more rounded, and the amount of stop has significantly decreased. This relates directly to the shape and depth of the eye socket, and leads to many of today's Pomeranians having round, protruding eyes that resemble those of a Chihuahua. While some may consider this "cute," a round, domed skull—and subsequently a round eye—is a major fault and should not be rewarded.

Eye color has recently become a hot topic of discussion. As merles become more popular, more attention has been drawn to the Pomeranian's one and only disqualification. Any amount of blue in the eye—whether the eye is light blue, blue marbled, or blue flecked—is not allowed. Eyes must be dark and one solid color.

When judging the Pomeranian, it is important to observe the facial features and expression while the dog is on the ground. Much of a dog's expression is hidden once they are placed on the table. Even the most trained dogs often can be uncomfortable with heights and will lay their ears back and look "worried" as a judge approaches. This will drastically change the

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expression, and even correctly shaped eyes can appear "bulged." The table should be used to feel under the coat and to check the shape of the skull and muzzle, size of ears, color of eyes, alignment of teeth, etc. When you walk down the line to examine the class as a whole, or as the dog freebaits at the end of the down and back, this is the perfect time to examine expression. Using a squeaker, a container of Tic Tacs, or another intriguing noise can attract the dog's attention to best judge the facial features.

As you can see from the photos, a correct expression is as beautiful and attractive as it is functional, but head, eyes, and expression do not make the whole dog. The Pomeranian must continue to be a sound dog and a proper-moving dog. However, it is important to remember why our standard articulates the head features as it does. Form follows function, and breeders and judges should strive to uphold the correct balance and build of the headpiece in the whelping box and in the ring.

—Stephanie Hentschel,
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American Pomeranian Club

Shih Tzu

BRINGING UP PUPPY

There is a lot involved in properly raising a litter of puppies. Creating a "dream doggie" who looks like and acts like a Shih Tzu should involves both genetics and nurture. Breeder Pat Hastings recommends that puppies receive brief daily neurological stimulation during the first three to 16 days of life. To provide this, pick each puppy up gently, and then hold him perpendicular to the ground and upside down. Place him on his back in the palms of your hands. Tickle the puppy between his toes with a Q-tip.

While you don't want to overstress your puppies, you want them to become comfortable with being handled and learn to cope with new situations. Unless there is a health issue or a physical danger, try to let even a young puppy find his own way to the milk bar or around obstacles to foster confidence. Once the puppies can hear, expose them to a variety of sounds, from rattling dishes to the vacuum cleaner. You can use CDs to desensitize them to thunderstorms, dog show noises, and so on. As they grow, puppies should meet a variety of people. They should play with many kinds of toys in different parts of the house, eat out of a variety of dishes in various locations, and learn to navigate steps, tunnels, and platforms.

Grooming will be an important part of your Shih Tzu's life. At about 3 weeks, begin to accustom a puppy to having his nails cut, the hair between the pads of his feet and around the anus trimmed, his body brushed, and his



Shih Tzu

COURTESY LYNDA BEAM

TOY GROUP

facial hair cleaned. Encourage him to lie on each side for a few seconds, using a soothing voice, soft hands, and even some belly-tickling to get him used to being in what is a very vulnerable position for a dog. Stack him briefly on the floor and on the table several times a day, and get him used to having full baths and to the sound and feel of the blow-dryer. Don't make grooming a "battle of the wills." If the experience is a happy one, it becomes therapeutic for you both—and for the puppy's new owners, and any veterinarian who might have to examine him down the road.

It helps to let new owners visit and interact with their puppy so that they will be "known quantities" when he goes to his new home. Observing the interaction assures you that there is a "good fit" between owner and puppy. It also gives new owners an opportunity to ask questions and gain experience.

Be sure buyers know what they will need to have on hand before bringing their Shih Tzu home, usually at 12 weeks. By that time, the puppy should be well started on housebreaking and lead training and have learned to view a crate (complete with a bed and some toys and goodies) as a secure and safe extension of his territory.

If you do everything right, your puppies will adjust instantly to their new homes—and give their owners a lifetime of pleasure. They will also serve as walking advertisements for the benefits of buying a purebred dog from a responsible breeder!

—Jo Ann White,
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American Shih Tzu Club

Silky Terriers

Vicki Bratton wrote the following excellent Q&A for this column in 2010.

QUESTIONS ABOUT BREEDING

Breeding topics are popular subjects for discussion, and I am going to attempt to answer some of the questions I have been asked on the subject.

When a dog is said to have a "great pedigree," what does that mean—a dog with lots of champions in his background, or one linebred on a specific dog or dogs who is considered to be a good specimen?

The "champion question" is always of some disagreement, both pro and con. It is nice if a breeder feels a dog's quality warrants finishing his championship, but many dogs are finished who are not worthy of breeding. A champion in the pedigree could be a wonderful specimen, or it could be one who finished against dogs of not-great quality. Also, there are great dogs who were never shown or finished. Rather than counting champions, it is much more important to know the strong and weak traits of every dog in the pedigree, at least the first few generations. Even "famous" dogs have faults as well as strong points. Do you know if any genetic problems have shown up in any of the dogs in the pedigree? Some problems can skip a generation or two, and we have been hearing about more and more genetic issues in the breed.

Should only dogs who obtain their championship be bred? Should every champion be used for breeding?

Over the years I have heard many opinions on this subject. Again, it should come down to research and seeking the advice of a mentor in the breed who has been breeding for a long while and knows pedigrees. I believe that few dogs deserve to be bred—only the best, who possess traits that would benefit the breed, should be used for breeding.

I have seen some very nice champions spayed or neutered because of seemingly minor faults, such as being too large, too small, too dark, or too light, or having insufficiently defined three-color, not enough contrast, or too-large ears. I believe that neutering is warranted if a dog does not have something the breed truly needs. There are also more serious faults that support the decision not to breed a dog, such as toeing-out, toeing-in, wide rear, narrow rear, unlevel topline, stifle or hip problems, bite problems, and some of the genetic disorders.

Each of us must weigh these things very carefully and try to do the best we can for our breed. Breeders should be the "champions" of the breed and seek to produce better dogs each generation. When I first started, an experienced breeder told me, "If each generation you produce is not better than the generation before, then you need to reevaluate your breeding program." I try to live by that. —V.B.
Silky Terrier Club of America

Toy Fox Terriers

Dorothy Kendall wrote the following for this column in 2011.

YOU LOST? THAT'S GREAT!

Going in the ring the first few times can be kind of scary. However, if you go with the expectation of learning, not winning, it's amazing what you can pick up in just a few shows. Then, perhaps you'll be interested in attending one of the many show-handling classes offered by most all-breed dog clubs, which provide excellent socialization for your dog as well as allowing you to learn the ropes yourself. These help you to learn what to look for from the judge, other exhibitors, and little "Poopsie" himself.

When you lose (notice I didn't say *if*), begin to find out why. Don't blame politics, the judge, another exhibitor, or the condition of your

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dog. These are all non-excuses. If the dog is out of condition, that's your fault for showing him like that. If you tripped over him in the ring, that's your fault! If the judge didn't like your dog, hey—you paid for his opinion, remember? He might like your dog better on another day, in the company of a different group of exhibitors. If another exhibitor dropped his brush on your dog, or stomped around the ring too aggressively, that person may be nervous, too—and next time try not to get next to him in the lineup. See, you're learning already.

If your dog lost because he wasn't as good as the winner, *admit it*, if only to yourself. Not only does being oblivious to the faults of the dog you're showing prove you're kennel-blind, but how can you present a dog properly if you don't know what faults to minimize?

If you win … bad! Now you have nothing to learn. You have a great dog, you're a great handler, the judge is excellent, and all you have to do is keep up the good work—right? Wrong! Because the next time you just might lose, and then what? Are you going to start looking for excuses, or will you accept responsibility and find out why? It's tough to win one day and lose the next in the same competition. Judging is very subjective, however, and judges are human. Every time you win, your self esteem is bolstered, and it gets harder and harder to lose—and when you lose, it becomes a serious blow to your pride.

Losers must take a serious look at their dog. No matter who you ask, people are very leery of critiquing other people's dogs; that can get them in trouble. (Ask me, I know!) Competitors won't be generous in their praise, trust me, unless they're looking for fillers for points they hope to win themselves. So educate yourself about what a good dog is—and remember, just because a dog is a big winner doesn't necessarily mean he's a good dog. Just because your dog wins doesn't mean he's a great dog! Maybe he won against poor competition, showed under a careless judge, or walked in the rain when the other dogs wouldn't. Maybe he's highly advertised and promoted and shown 45 weekends in the year—if so, he's bound to amass clout and a big win record.

All I'm saying is if your dog is in top condition, perfectly groomed, well trained, and handling well, and you continue to lose regularly, there's a reason. Sniff it out. Listen to friends, talk to judges, and above all don't be kennel blind to the faults that may be there.

Maybe I'm a hardhead, but when I started, I remember showing dogs for over a year before I ever took a point! When I lost, I found out the reason was usually something under my control, and I took the responsibility for making it work. Sometimes I had to go with another dog. It's hard to admit your pride and joy just doesn't have it, but that's easier than the alternative—finishing a bad dog!

So join the ranks of "learners," of which I'm one. There has never been a show where I didn't learn something new—about handling, about judges, about competitors. When you stop learning, you might as well get out of the dog game completely, because when you already know everything, what's the point? —D.K.

American Toy Fox Terrier Club

Yorkshire Terriers

GROOMING AND MAINTAINING THE YORKSHIRE TERRIER FOR SHOW

In this article I will attempt to give an insight to one of the many ways to maintain and grow a coat on a Yorkshire Terrier. This is what works for me. Remember, if you are growing coat on your Yorkie, you must be doing something right!

The most important thing in maintaining and growing coat on a Yorkie is proper nutrition. This is extremely important in maintaining both healthy skin and healthy coat. I do not use any supplements. I feel that if their food is of a good quality, supplements are not necessary.

The second most important thing in maintaining and growing coat on a Yorkie is to maintain healthy skin. You can achieve this by bathing your Yorkie regularly with a high-quality shampoo and conditioner. One night of scratching can ruin a coat.

There are two types of "bathing" for a show Yorkie: the maintenance bath, and the show bath. When you are bathing for maintenance, your shampoo and conditioners should be high-quality products that moisturize and condition the coat. Product quality does matter. A properly conditioned coat grows fast!

A maintenance bath should be given as needed. Basically, when a brush will not easily run through the coat, they need to be bathed.

Before bathing the dog, brush the coat out completely. Gently and slowly work out any tangles that you may find being careful not to break the coat.

Wet your Yorkie's coat thoroughly with warm, not hot water. Be cautious not to get water into the ear canal as this can cause ear infections. Start at the top of the head and work down to the muzzle, facial furnishings, then the side of the head. Pay close attention not to get product in the eyes, which can cause corneal irritation. Move to the body, and work the shampoo in to the coat gently. Try not to tangle the coat with your movement.

Once the coat is saturated with shampoo, massage the skin. Move on to the legs and feet. Rinse the coat and repeat. Apply the conditioner and work it through the coat.

On a maintenance bath, I condition the head

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Yorkshire Terrier

COURTESY LYNDA BEAM

furnishings also. Be sure to always rinse the coat thoroughly with water. Even a slight amount of shampoo/conditioner left on the coat can cause itching.

It's time to blow-dry. Gently brush and/or comb your Yorkie out thoroughly prior to blow-drying. I swab out the ears to remove any water that may have gotten in there accidentally. I then start blow-drying on a low warm setting starting at the head. I brush the hair straight as I'm blow-drying. Make sure you dry the coat completely.

It's time to wrap. When wrapping, you should first put your dog in light oil. I try to keep from putting too much oil directly on to the skin. I find you get less flaking and skin issues by doing so. I oil each section prior to wrapping. When wrapping, be sure that your wraps are not too tight or too loose. Wraps should be just snug to the body.

This completes your maintenance bath.

When bathing for a show, I go through the same process; however, instead of a heavy moisturizing shampoo/conditioner, I use a high-quality, light moisturizing shampoo/conditioner. I do not condition the topknot, only the sides of the head and the moustache. A squeaky-clean coat will have a beautiful shine!

—Jamie Bennett,
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Yorkshire Terrier Club of America

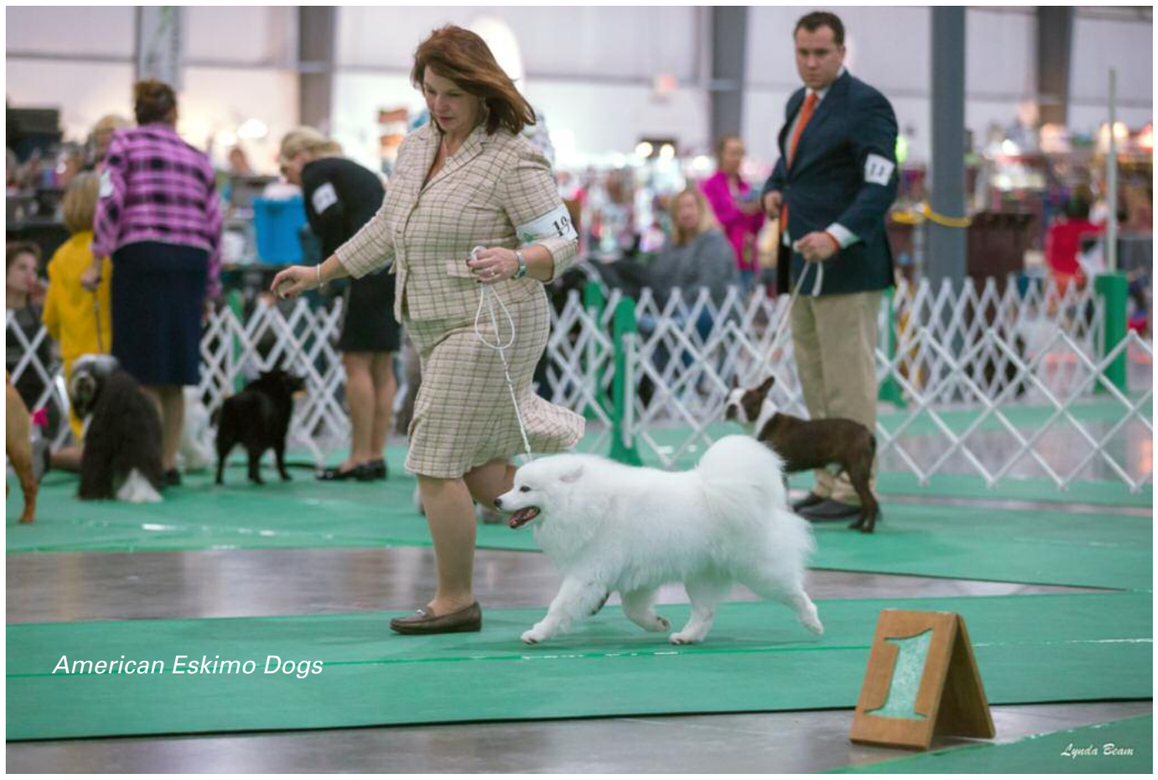
NON-SPORTING GROUP

American Eskimo Dogs

American Eskimo Dog breeder-exhibitor Diana Allen provided the excellent information below as a guest writer for this column in 2008, and it is worth sharing again for newer fanciers of the breed.

COAT CHARACTERISTICS

The American Eskimo Dog was originally bred as a multipurpose working dog of the farm. A Nordic breed, it carries the characteristic double coat. It has a short, dense, soft, wooly undercoat with longer guard hair growing through. The coat must have enough texture to stand off from the body and to protect the dog from cold, rain, and the sun's rays. The coat-tips should glisten in the sun. The coat should not feel dry or brittle. The coat is not silky, nor should it lie flat. Females may have a slightly softer coat. The coat has bounce and is thick and protective. In warmer weather the undercoat will shed, more so for some dogs than others.



American Eskimo Dogs

The Eskie may be pure white or biscuit cream in color. Dogs with biscuit cream in their coat will have more skin pigmentation and darker points. Too much white will result in less skin pigmentation. Skin pigmentation protects the skin from becoming sunburned when the coat is shed.

The Eskie's coat grows in a specific pattern. There is a longer, pronounced ruff around the neck and shoulders. This ruff is more noticeable on dogs than bitches. It extends from just behind the ears to the shoulders and down the front of the chest. The length of the guard hairs will differ from dog to dog. A somewhat short coat grows on the back and on the sides of the rib cage. The coat on the front legs is short but will still be a double coat. The backs of the forelegs are well feathered. Thick leg coat can give the impression that the dog has more bone than is the case. A longer growth of hair on the croup blends with the profusely coated tail that is carried over the back.

The breeches begin at the pelvic bone and extend to the hock. The hocks and feet will grow good length of hair; for the sake of tidiness, these are usually trimmed. *Never, ever* is the body coat sculpted or trimmed. The natural pattern of the coat will be lost if this is done. The standard says that trimming of the body coat *is to be severely penalized.*

The hair on the head and covering the ears is short and thick. The longer tuft of hair that grows in front of the ears should never be trimmed; it stops debris from entering the ear and protects it from the wind.

The Eskie's coat pattern is functional. The longer ruff around the torso protects the heart and lungs, and the profusely coated tail curls over the dog's nose as he sleeps, helping to prevent cold air from entering the nasal cavity. The longer growth of hair on the croup provides extra protection of the hip area in wet or cold weather. The longer breeches protect the dog's rear quarters.

An American Eskimo Dog in full coat and in top condition is truly one of the most stunning of dogs. —D.A.

American Eskimo Dog Club of America

Bichons Frises

TIPS FOR EXHIBITORS

This month I thought we'd share a number of tips for dog show exhibitors, in the hopes that some may be useful.

- Know your breed standard.
- Teach your dog to be happy in a crate. She will live in her crate most of the time at shows.
- Before you enter your dog in an event, take her to shows as often as possible.
- Proactively protect your dog. Even tiny

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Bichon Frise

dogs can bite.

• Never force your dog to do anything unless she is ready for it. Puppies go through lots of funny phases before they are mature enough to handle all the dogs, people, and noise of a dog show without fear.

• Train your dog to gait on a show lead before you ever take her into the ring.

• Train her to stand in a stack both on the ground and on the table.

• Teach her to stand still for the judge's exam, and to allow you to show the teeth. In Bichons we are supposed to lift the upper lip on each side to show the premolars because missing teeth are faulted; however, if the judge says, "show the bite," you may show only the front teeth.

• Make sure the boys are used to having their testicles checked.

• It is best to attend handling classes.

• Learn how a dog show works. Ask questions, watch breed judging, and watch group judging. Study the professionals.

• Watch what people wear, and remember that you are part of the whole picture. Ladies, if wearing a short skirt, think about how you will look from the back when you are bending over! And if wearing a long skirt, think about whether it will flap in the dog's face or be distracting when gaiting. Men should pay attention, too. Blue jeans and T-shirts are out; business attire is in. Comfortable, nice-looking shoes suitable for gaiting are best.

• Do not wear anything with your name or your club's name on it, but pins like "Breeder of Merit" or "Take the Lead" are allowed.

• Always prepare your dog to look her best. Learn how to take care of her on a daily basis so she will be clean and beautiful. Learn how to groom, or find a professional groomer or experienced friend to groom for you.

• Check your entry carefully before submission and also when the confirmation arrives from the superintendent. If you discover a mistake, tell the superintendent at least 30 minutes before judging begins on the day. Some mistakes (such as wrong sex) can be rectified before your dog's sex is judged, but it's best to play it safe.

• When checking in at ringside before judging to pick up your armband, tell the steward your dog's class and armband number. (For example, say, "Novice Bitches, number 10, please.") Do not mention the dog or kennel's name.

• Pay attention to the judge's ring procedure so you will be ready to follow directions.

• Know when your class is coming up, and be prepared to enter the ring when called.

• You *must* go to the proper place to receive your ribbon. Smile and thank the judge—even for fourth place.

• If you have a dog entered in the next class, tell the steward and the judge, have a helper holding your next dog just outside the ring, and have the next armband underneath the current armband. Give the current dog's armband to your helper to be ready to take the dog back in if needed.

• Congratulate the winner, no matter how disappointed you are. Grumble at home.

Read and follow the AKC Code of Sportsmanship printed on the premium list and judging program.

Have fun! It's only a dog show!

—Mayno Blanding,
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Bichon Frise Club of America

Boston Terriers

SOLVING PROBLEMS AND HAVING PEOPLE UNDERSTAND US

One of the hardest things for us to do as breeders is making things clear to people. Many times we assume everyone knows about dogs. Important things might be left out of contracts, thinking it is just common sense. Mistakes made by assuming people understand what is being said cause a lot of problems for all involved. Friendships can be lost and new ones never realized because of things not handled well. I have a dear friend who always believes everyone understands what she has agreed on—she doesn't put things in writing, which keeps life in a complete turmoil. Life is hard enough, so let me give you some ideas on how to prevent problems.

When planning to sell a puppy or dog, prepare the contract ahead of time, allowing time for it to be reviewed by someone who has been in dogs a long time. That person can help you make corrections and add important details as needed.

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Boston Terrier

Also be sure to take the puppy or dog to your veterinarian for a complete exam. Have them check the dog's eyes, heart, ears, skin, weight, and anything else you can think of.

The weight is very important to put in the contract. Ask your vet to write a health certification stating the animal has been examined and found to be healthy. Don't assume the new owner will take the pet to their veterinarian as stated in the contract. If the dog becomes underweight later, there is no way to prove he was in good health when sold. Have a check for heartworms and other parasites done also.

You are probably asking the same question my veterinarian asked me: "Why do you need this test done if the dog is on heartworm prevention?" This true story shared by a breeder will help to make the answer clear. A healthy Boston Terrier, on heartworm preventive when sold, was sold to a new home out of state. A year later, the new owner informed her the dog had heartworms and expected payment for treatments. The breeder called the new owner's veterinarian to find out that the puppy had never been given any heartworm pills.

There is enough agitation in life, so try to prevent problems by making sure you cover everything that can come back and cause pain. Boston Terrier breeders are having to charge more money for their dogs because of health testing, veterinarians are charging a lot more, and dogs are having smaller litters and C-sections, which sometimes produce weak babies who entail expensive intervention to save their lives.

When you receive payment for a dog, keep the money for six months before spending it, to make sure it won't have to be returned. Look up the laws in not just your state but also of the buyer regarding dogs being returned if there are health problems. Put into writing in the contract all information confirming that the puppy or dog is healthy at the time of sale. Provide the new owner with detailed records and information on caring for puppy. I never sell a dog to an owner who doesn't have the time to take a two-hour class from me on how to bathe and grind nails, covering all information on care and feeding, and to answer all other questions. Give the new owner a folder with everything needed, and have them sign a statement that they understand what's been said.

It's very important to not make the new dog owner feel stupid. It's good to remember that when talking about their own profession, business, or area of expertise, that person could make us feel dumb. One lady who came to buy a Boston brought with her a wonderful, homemade dog treat. Who would think this lady would have created a cookie recipe that even written down for me, I'm still trying understand? Life is wonderful if we can learn from each other, and most of all be patient, with a lot of kindness.

—Patricia S. Johnson, member of DWAA and BTCA

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Boston Terrier Club of America

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BREED COLUMNS

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Bulldogs

EDUCATING THE NOVICE—WHAT DO YOU SAY?

We hear much talk and read a lot about educating the novice. But do we offer to educate the novice—or do we assume that the novice will learn on his own? Do you encourage the novice, or do you avoid him? Do you feel uncomfortable giving advice?

Think about what your experience has been. I was fortunate to have come from the era of benched shows, where we spent the time around the benches talking about Bulldogs with the old-timers who had a wealth of knowledge to share with the serious-minded novice.

Let us talk about education for a moment. Do we offer advice and maybe a small amount of criticism, always being careful not to offend? If you offer too much, you can easily offend We help the novice by giving handling and grooming advice. Is telling the novice how to handle, groom, and read the standard enough? Reading the standard without understanding and learning to handle and groom are not really education, are they?

We often offer superficial advice. Sometimes the "education" offers to "educate" the novice that our dogs, our studs, and our ideas are the only right things in the breed. How many times have we advised the novice to go look at many dogs and talk to other people? In this way the novice can gain insight and knowledge.

Real knowledge is knowing the dogs and lines in a pedigree and what those lines can produce both good and bad. Do we tell the novice what we know about the background of some of the dogs in his dog's pedigree? We tend to tread carefully.

To those who wish to tread carefully, here are examples of a few questions and answers you can give.

Q: "Why have you not bred to Champion Butch?"

A: "Oh, I have not had any bitch that would go with him."

Real answer: "I would not send that dog anything. You can fly a flag on his tail."

Q: "We have noticed that have avoided breeder X's dogs in your pedigrees. Do you have a reason for that?"

A: "Not really. I have not needed to bring another line at this time. I have too many dogs."

Real answer: "I wouldn't give that stuff kennel room."

Q: "I have not seen your friend's winning bitch. What do you think of her?"

A: "She has produced well."

Real answer: "That bitch has fallen apart. She knits in the front and she is cow hocked."

This has been a lesson on being pleasant and not committing yourself, and everyone will get along famously.

To be knowledgeable one has to work on it. Trial and error and mostly error are great learning tools. We all know of the novice with very limited experience who knows everything and has all the answers. It takes a little time to realize that seeking knowledge lasts a lifetime. The longer you are in the breed, the more you realize there is much more the learn. Perhaps we can gingerly offer good advice to the novice who is sincere in his quest to learn.

—Amelia Averill,
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Bulldog Club of America

Chinese Shar-Pei

The piece below, written by Grace Fritz in 2014, is interesting to revisit as a follow-up to our column on coat that appeared in the December 2017 issue.

HORSE COAT OR BRUSH COAT?

Chinese Shar-Pei are easily recognized by their unique characteristics. Distinguishing features of this breed include solid blue-black tongue pigmentation, a large head and muzzle (described in the standard as "hippopotamus-like"), and abundant wrinkling that may be limited to the head, neck, and shoulder areas.

One additional breed characteristic is the extremely harsh coat. The harsh coat is arguably the most important and defining breed characteristic, as this is where the Shar-Pei gets his name. The word *shar-pei* loosely translates to the sandpaper-like texture unique to the breed's coat.

As a judge familiar with many breeds and standards, I am often amused when I read a standard that refers to a harshly textured coat. In my experience, the "harsh" coats described for other breeds are not even close to the texture found in a good-quality Chinese Shar-Pei coat. Shar-Pei owners have experienced the abrasive quality of some coats and the resulting irritation to skin caused by bathing or working with Shar-Pei. Personally, I have had numerous (temporary) rashes on my forearms after bathing a dog with a harsh horse coat.

When being judged, a Chinese Shar-Pei should be evaluated for a coat that is absolutely straight and offstanding. It should appear healthy but does not need to appear shiny or lustrous. It is important the coat not be over one inch in length, and it should never be trimmed. Every examination of the Shar-Pei should include an evaluation of the coat's texture. This is usually done by running the hand from the rear toward the shoulder area. An ideal coat has a bristly texture that leaves no doubt as to its harshness.

According to the standard, acceptable coat

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lengths may range from the extremely short horse coat to the longer brush coat (still only up to one inch at the withers.) Both coats should be judged on an equal basis. While most of the original imports were the shorter horse coat, we now mainly see the slightly longer brush coat at dog shows. Longtime breeders know that it is possible to have outstanding coarse and bristly texture in either the brush coat or horse coat. —G.F.

—Karen Kleinhans DeSilva,
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Chinese Shar-Pei Club of America







Cream-colored Chow Chow Millie, shown in a lion clip in one photo, is a wonderful companion for her owners.

Chow Chows

THE CHOW CHOW—A FAMILY'S BEST FRIEND

Most people who have been lucky enough to live with a Chow Chow are grateful for the incredible devotion and dedication the dog has for their family. This dedication has been appreciated for centuries, as the Chow is an ancient breed of northern Chinese origin. As an all-purpose dog of China, they were used for hunting, herding, pulling, and protection of the home. The Chow Chow is defined as a masterpiece of beauty, dignity, and naturalness.

Their temperament is described as having keen intelligence, an independent spirit, and innate dignity, which gives the Chow an aura of aloofness. It is a Chow's nature to be reserved and discerning with strangers.

We all recognize that every dog is not a show dog, exhibiting every required virtue of the breed, but each Chow Chow has wonderful characteristics that make them beautiful in a special way.

As an example of a very special Chow Chow, I introduce you to Millie. She is a cream-colored Chow Chow who is active and alert, beautifully balanced, healthy, and devoted to her family. Many cream-colored Chows develop a self-colored nose as they mature, making them ineligible for conformation competition in the United States. This does not prevent them from doing many fun projects with their family, such as competing in obedience and performance events and attaining titles such as the Canine Good Citizen and agility, obedience, and rally titles.

Millie was one of a litter of seven lovely cream-colored Chows and immediately chose her owners when they came to visit the litter. We frequently tell prospective owners to allow a puppy to choose them rather than them choosing the puppy. Millie quickly became the queen of her new household and demonstrated her intelligence and hunting ability, as there were many squirrels and rabbits to hunt. She is a housedog and enjoys the other Chow Chows in her home but remains the grand dame. Through the years, Millie has made friends with the bankers, hotel staff, merchants, landscape teams, and yes, even the delivery folks.

She loves going to the performance events and also loves long hikes in the parks and woods, often jumping into a lake or stream to demonstrate her aquatic skills. She beautifully exhibits the qualities of a well-bred, well-trained, and healthy Chow Chow, even though her nose color is a disqualification at the conformation shows. She exemplifies a great companion Chow.

Millie travels to many places throughout the country with her family, always making new friends for the Chow Chow, as she is a great ambassador for the breed. She is quiet, clean, and well mannered, and everyone will tell you that she is a show dog in her own special way. But most important of all, she is devoted to her family and is a Grand Champion in their hearts!

—Love Banghart,
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Chow Chow Club Inc.

COURTESY OWNERS

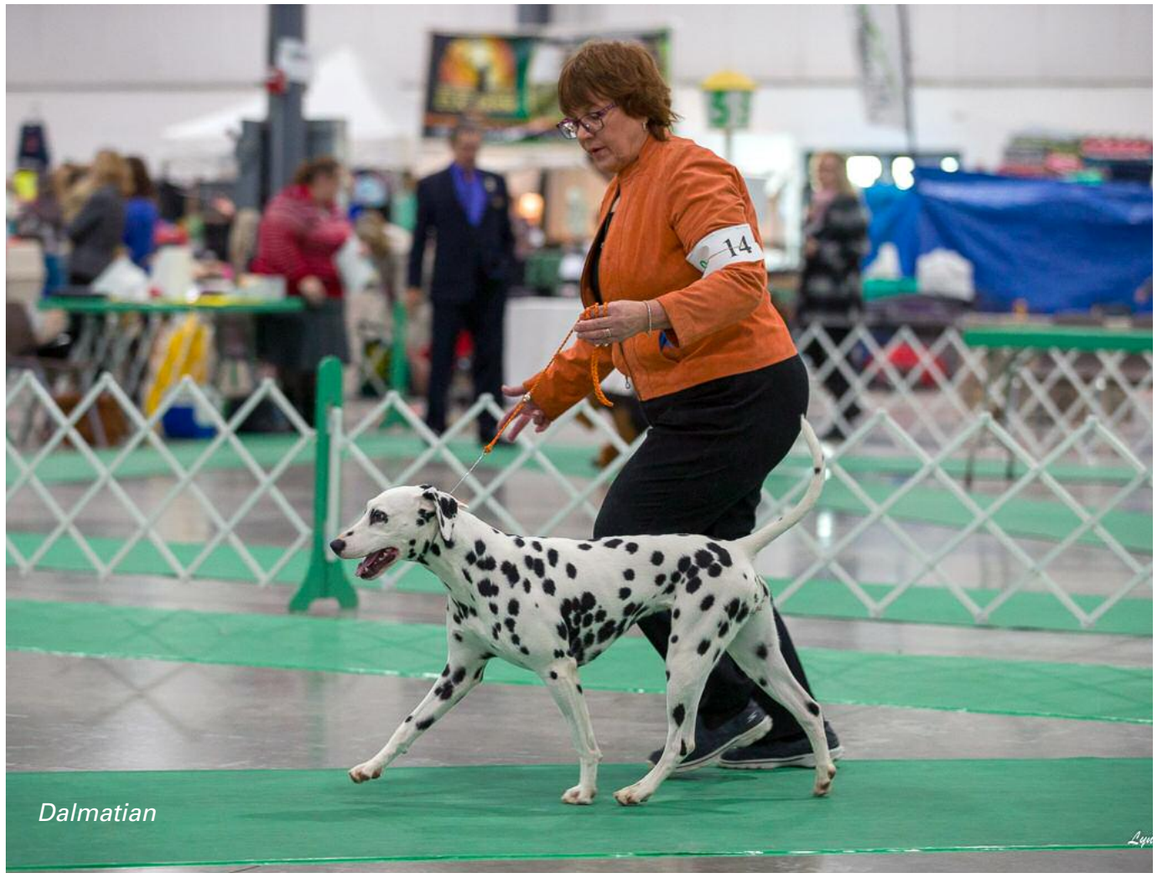
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Dalmatians

WHO'S A DUMB DOG?

While scanning Facebook or other social media sites, I've come across lots of articles and/or lists numbering the Top Ten of Whatever … however, the one that invariably "gets" me is the list of the "Top Ten Smartest Breeds of Dog." It may vary a bit, but it usually consists of the same old breeds: Border Collie, Golden Retriever, Lab, Poodle, German Shepherd, Sheltie, and so on. And let me hurry to say I am *not* saying those breeds aren't smart. What I am saying is you need to define the term *intelligence* before compiling a list.

These breeds of dogs have obviously got something going for them to continually make these lists. They're great dogs and dependable at what they do, working successfully alongside humans for years and generations. But is dependability really the sole definition of intelligence?



Dalmatian

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You might think I'm crying sour grapes because Dalmatians typically don't make these Smart Breed lists, but in reality, I've watched my dogs do a lot of really amazing and seemingly self-taught things. I had one who taught herself to open the refrigerator. It started as a game, grabbing the towel hanging over the door handle to play tug and—*voila*—the fridge door pops open. Talk about your positive reinforcement. She eventually learned to swipe it open with her paw and I was forced to bungee my refrigerator shut. In my books, that qualifies as *smart.*

So I did a bit of online research and discovered the experts identify three types of canine intelligence: *instinctive intelligence, obedience and working intelligence,* and *adaptive intelligence.* None of them are better or superior to the other—they're just different.

Instinctive intelligence is just what it says: gene smarts. Border Collies are bred to herd, so they are already hardwired for this behavior, which is basically magnified hunting techniques—stalking, circling, and moving their prey. These herding breeds can be amazing at what they do, but much of this talent is literally part of their DNA—they are compelled to do it. I've watched my sister's Sheltie herd her coffee table for hours.

Obedience and working intelligence springs from this instinctive intelligence. Humans have learned to channel this genetic intelligence to work for us in a win/win situation—it satisfies the dog's instincts while completing a task they may be better suited to do than humans. I know I could never find a bird in the bush.

And then there's Adaptive Intelligence. Dogs learn to problem-solve and manipulate their environment in order to obtain what they want, a la my fridge-opening pooch. Unfortunately, there's no way to quantify that type of intelligence like can you can with a dog who instinctively or repeatedly successfully performs a behavior.

My Dalmatian, while not to be trusted to round up cattle or collar a criminal like police dogs, has the amazing ability to work on her own and plan ahead with little to no guidance from me. Dalmatians stood sole guard of carriages at stops at the inn and ran ahead of horse-drawn fire carriages to clear the way. This ability to analyze their surroundings is *their* Instinctive Intelligence and has been reinforced in generations of Dals. The downside to this is the very scary ability they have to teach themselves things we'd rather they not know.

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So before a breed is relegated to the Dunce Class, we need another scale for measuring intelligence. Independence and unreliability are not necessarily markers of stupidity. After all, Albert Einstein couldn't be forced into a box and was expelled from school at age 16, and he was no dummy.

—Jan Warren Linné,
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Dalmatian Club of America

Finnish Spitz

Our column this month is contributed by Michelle Leathers, a dedicated owner and breeder of Finnish Spitz for 17 years..

FINNISH SPITZ AND THE JUNIORS WHO CHOOSE THEM

First of all, I started out by chasing my daughter around from one dog show to the next so she could show in Junior Showmanship. We started with different breeds, then, when another junior told her if you want to win, get a Whippet. So she got a Whippet and started winning, even a Best Junior. However, for my daughter it wasn't good enough to just win, she wanted to win with a challenging dog.

After some research, she came up with the Finnish Spitz. She loved the breed's foxlike appearance and their lively spirit. She had also met one at a 4-H dog fair that year. The one point that attracted her was the fact that they are highly intelligent and need to have a fair, but firm handler.

She started showing her pup from 6 months of age in juniors and, of course, in breed as well. For two full years, she showed her Finnish Spitz, a female. Her best win was a fifth out of 25—the judge went through and placed each kid in her class. For my daughter, you'd think she'd gotten another Best Junior. Because for her, she beat all those others with pushbutton dogs that never gave their handlers an ounce of trouble. Finnish Spitz are challenging because they are always thinking, which makes for a challenging presentation each and every time you show. I have since helped seven other juniors to show a Finnish Spitz.

Here's my rendition of what happens in a Finnish Spitz's mind while showing:

Look at me … bark bark bark
I'm so pretty … bark bark bark
Oh, is that a bird? … bark bark bark
I'm supposed to stand pretty—OK, where's the food? … bark bark bark
Who's that?… oh, stand pretty … food … bark bark bark
Standing … wait, do I know you? … wiggle wiggle… oh, OK, stand … treat, please
Oh, I get to run… bolt bolt … oh, just a trot … I guess
Done already … bark bark … oh, pretty … food … bark bark
Is that a bird? … oh, stand pretty … food … bark bark
All done … already …

Here's that exact same conversation, but from the junior's perspective:

Yes, stand pretty … no, no barking … thank you
Good standing … no, no barking … thank you
Here's a treat … good job, no, right here … no, no barking … thank you, here's a treat
Wait for the judge to … hold, hold … yes, stand, goood dog treat
Time to move … no, trot, good job … easy, easy, OK, stack … perfect … no, no bark …
STOP … good job … no, no bark … cookie … good dog
Over here just a little while longer … hold, hold … no, no bark … stand, good dog … Guess the judge didn't see us working hard to make you look good …
Oh, well, maybe our next judge will see us.—M.L.

Thank you, Michelle!

—Sue Marshall, Finnish Spitz GAZETTE Breed Column Coordinator,
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Finnish Spitz Club of America

French Bulldogs

TOP TWENTY REVISED

The French bulldog Top Twenty event has been in existence for 14 years. Although the event has been honed over the years, the committee could not reduce the time the event commanded. Of course, the major criticism of the event was that it took three-hours-plus to judge and award 20 or more dogs.

The revision committee assessed every aspect of the guidelines and made decisions to delete, revise, or accept as written. We were mainly concerned with areas that took a lot of time, which led us to evaluate the judging method. We had the same scoring protocol for 13 years, and it involved judging each area of the dog and awarding a score for the head, and another for the topline and every other area of the dog. The score sheet was new to the judges, even though we mailed it out ahead of time so they could be familiar with it; they still took time to read each section and then score. This was very time consuming. The teller committee also took more time to calculate the scores. The audience became restless and impatient.

The committee spent hours developing a simpler scoring sheet. The judges would assess the dogs as they normally do in the ring, a procedure they are familiar with and execute with greater speed. Yes, it resulted in a time

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reduction of an hour. This was in spite of an unexpected glitch.

We were 15 to 20 minutes into the event when someone came running down the aisle frantically announcing there was a fire at the host hotel eight miles away, and that dogs were in danger. A portion of the audience left immediately to go to the hotel. The Top Twenty committee called the hotel to find out that it was a false alarm, and the fire marshal was satisfied that there was no danger and the responders were leaving. The show did not go on until we knew the dogs were safe at the hotel, and this cost us at least 15 minutes. The good news is that the event came in under two hours, with 18 dogs showing that evening.

However, the new scoring method is susceptible to ties. The revision committee was aware of this potential, and the guidelines provided an initial impression score that would be used to break a tie. After reviewing the score sheets, it will be necessary to provide another method of breaking a tie. There will be one more meeting of the revision committee to further streamline the process.



French Bulldog

Other significant changes that were made deleted the Best of Opposite Sex and the People's Choice Award. Often there was only one or occasionally two bitches entered in the event, so the BOS award was more of a token, and not based on a score. The People's Choice was the one that provoked the most complaints from the participants and the audience. These two awards were removed, and the Award of Excellence was added. One AOE would be awarded for every five dogs entered, with a maximum of five rosettes awarded.

The revision committee thought the AOE was a fairer assessment of the entrants, since it was based on the scores of the dogs.

The Top Twenty Event committee has had a follow-up meeting to discuss improvements and ways to tighten up the timing of the event. The goal is to keep improving and polishing. It takes the better part of the year to plan this event.

The membership enjoys the exhibition of the top-ranked dogs. It is not often you can see them all in the same ring, and it is important for breeders to assess these dogs for use in their future breeding programs.

Fortunately the club has members who are dedicated to the breed and really love planning a big party.

—Sande Abernathy,
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French Bull Dog Club of America

Keeshonden

MAKING THE BEST OF THE SHOW EXPERIENCE

That the world of dog shows attracts people who are competitive is a given. However, if we look at typical dog show with an entry of about 1,000 dogs, at the end of the day there will only be one dog, the dog who wins Best in Show, who will remain undefeated. Think about it. That means that 999 people that day will have the opportunity to lose with grace. They will congratulate the winner and then go on and enter the next show. Dog shows are a great place to work on being humble. There is so much opportunity!

Most entrants at a dog show do not aspire to the top prize of Best in Show. Their goals will be more modest. If you are showing your 6-month-old Keeshond puppy bitch for the first time, it is not likely that you will win Best of Breed over mature dogs—and it is even less likely that you would go on to place in the group, much less win it. Perhaps your goal for

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the day would be to win your puppy class, with perhaps a look from the judge for the points. If your puppy is exceptionally poised and well trained, you might think about Winners Bitch or Reserve. But with such a young dog that is not likely. You will have the opportunity to congratulate the Winners Bitch.

Every show can also be a learning experience. Observe the judging carefully, and see if you can find a pattern in the judge's decision making. Does she favor larger or smaller dogs or bitches? Does he appreciate a beautiful expression, good color, or exceptional movement? In order to make these observations the entry must be good sized, and you will have to watch the judging all the way through to Best of Breed.

Perhaps instead of entering the 6-month-old puppy, you have entered a champion. You are winning consistently, placing in the group, and hoping for a high placement in the end-of-the-year awards. Now you have an opportunity to be an outstanding winner. When you win, do you take that as a signal to talk to the judge about your dog's many accomplishments and make negative remarks about the competition, then run home and do some more bragging on the Internet? Or do you accept your congratulations humbly and volunteer to help beginners with grooming and training tips? As a winner you can set the tone for competition in your breed. It can be an example for others to emulate that will make the show experience pleasant and encouraging for everyone.



Keeshond

Then there is your dog. He knows how you feel. Keeshonden are exceptionally attuned to our feelings. If you are disappointed in your placing, you must be extra careful in attending to your dog. Win or lose, give your dog a hug, and let him know you had fun. It can be just a few shows where you take your unwelcome third- or fourth-place ribbon, walk dejectedly back to your setup, and without a word put your dog in the crate and walk away, and he'll begin to think that dog shows are not that much fun after all. We have all seen the dogs with national campaigns who end up the year without any spark or light in their eyes. Don't let that be your dog.

Whether you win or lose, sportsmanship is the order of the day, and the way that shows are constructed, they offer many opportunities for us to practice with our dogs, our competition, and ourselves.

—Deborah Lynch,
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Keeshond Club of America

Lhasa Apsos

LOW-ENTRY STATUS—WHAT NOW?

In March 2018, the AKC is listing the Lhasa Apso as a low-entry breed. This should be no surprise given the declining numbers of litters, registrations, and exhibitors. My March 2014 GAZETTE column titled "Where Have All the Lhasas Gone?" generated concerned responses. But 48 years from my first litter, I sit wondering what has happened to my breed. In 1988, the national specialty numbered roughly 275 dogs; in 2017, there were 61.

I contacted AKC to determine the ramifications of a low-entry listing. This is what I learned:

"The Low Entry Breed list was originally created for the purpose of conformation judging applicants. Specifically, considerations would be made for those breeds appearing on the list in regard to a judge's requirements to advance from permit (provisional) to regular status in a breed. The basis was that breeds

COURTESY LYNDA BEAM

NON-SPORTING GROUP

with lower numbers created greater challenges when it came to assignments with multiple entries present and judged."

Low-entry status makes it easier for judges to get approval to judge the breed because there are too few entries at the provisional level to properly evaluate a judge's qualifications under the normal process. Likewise, small entries yield fewer ringside-mentoring opportunities for prospective judges. Ringside mentoring is valuable for learning breed-specific characteristics as well as acceptable diversity within the breed, but there must be enough dogs present to have educational value. Individual mentoring sessions are valuable but frequently are limited to the viewpoint of the mentor. How can one become proficient in recognizing breed-specific characteristics if there are few or no dogs to examine?

I am not a judge, but as a show chair, I understand the need for judges to be approved for as many breeds as possible. Having one breed lacking an approved judge on the panel is a chair's nightmare. It means someone must be found to fill the slot and possibly an additional expense. It might mean a judge can adjudicate most breeds in the group but not the group itself. Controlling costs for both clubs and exhibitors requires avoiding logistical bottlenecks when putting together a judging panel. But cost isn't always monetary.

As a show chair, I hear exhibitors' feedback when their experience is less than desirable. I am most concerned when comments focus less on whether they won and more on inconsistent or illogical class placements that signal a lack of breed-specific knowledge. Every judge needs time to learn and perfect his or her vision of a breed, but there must be a valid foundation for learning. Otherwise, the trend toward generic judging will increase.

Judges who have mastered normal canine structure and movement should be able to add a layer of unique breed characteristics and, in time and with personal effort, become versed in the nuances of our breed. There are books that can be read, old photos examined and a wealth of oral tradition to draw upon. Personal effort is what will distinguish the better among these new judges. Breeders and exhibitors, few though we may be, must exert extra effort to provide learning opportunities for judges, helping them to recognize not just the nuances but also the accepted diversity woven into the fabric of this ancient breed. This means putting personal gripes on hold and educating judges on what is ideal versus acceptable despite varying opinions.

The best judges I know consciously seek excellence and reward it. They have no qualms about forgiving small faults that are eclipsed by the merits of the dog, but they know where to draw the line. They do not nitpick to justify decisions nor overlook serious shortcomings because of a bias toward the handler or breeder. Judges are human. Most of them want to do a good job; it is up to us to help them achieve that goal for the survival of our breed.

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American Lhasa Apso Club

Shiba Inu

IS FACEBOOK KILLING THE PRINTED MAGAZINE?

"It's been over a decade since the Internet transformed print media," said Adam Hartung in *Forbes* magazine. "Very quickly the web's ability to rapidly disseminate news and articles made newspapers and magazines obsolete." Websites revolutionized the marketing of everything from groceries to homes. Soon dog breeders, good and bad, put up websites advertising their dogs, puppies, and show wins with attractive designs and, most of all, appealing pictures. These websites were primarily maintained by professionals, as the average person did not have the expertise to navigate the complexities of web design or the desire to learn. As a result, many websites, especially those owned by responsible breeders who primarily wanted to showcase their good dogs, became partially obsolete as updates lagged far behind what was current in their kennels. The elaborate websites advertising individual puppies for sale along with photos were kept up to date as puppy brokers and puppy mills used them to mass-market their puppies to ignorant and impulsive buyers.

Enter Facebook.

Facebook, in concert with super phones that can access the Internet, take pictures and videos, and post them in an instant, supplemented or supplanted websites as the communication and advertising media of choice for good breeders. Dogs were barely out of the ring before their wins were posted along with photos. Pictures of every litter were displayed at every stage of growth and immediately accessible to the public without the inconvenience of having to upload them and then direct people to a website. Instant gratification was received as their "friends" sent congratulations and positive feedback. Egos were stroked, and some people became addicted, posting daily the interesting things their dogs did.

With the demand for puppies from good breeders far, far exceeding the supply, it was not necessary for them to advertise their litters for sale. In fact, websites that advertised individual puppies for sale were usually sending

NON-SPORTING GROUP



up a red flag as a warning regarding the breeder's ethics. Breeders and exhibitors of quality dogs liked their peers to see their dogs and acknowledge their wins. Facebook was perfect for that. For years advertising was done through breed magazines, a complex combination of photos, ad design and expense. By the time the ad reached the subscribers, the event was long forgotten. People waited until a dog finished a title or had a specialty win before advertising. Now, with Facebook, the progression to a title can be instantly chronicled and feedback forthcoming. No magazine can compete with that.

Yet, with all that instant gratification, print has survived. Impermanence and saturation are the enemies of Facebook, Instagram, Snapchat, and similar media. Even when the post remains on Facebook, it is difficult to retrieve among the plethora of reposts, commentary, and pictures of someone's breakfast. Except for those people with Facebook Addiction Disorder (FAD), this excess of information is off-putting.

On the other hand, a magazine is a comfortable medium, an item of diversion usually consumed at the table or in a comfortable chair with a cup of coffee and a relaxed attitude. It requires no interaction, can be transported anywhere, can be saved for years, and is never deleted. If a person thinks print magazines are a thing of the past, consider how many issues of the AKC GAZETTE were read and hoarded when it was a print magazine, and just how many people read the digital version now.

Even though it is gratifying to post pictures on a digital device, the memories seen there will not be as lasting as those seen in a magazine. Think of the slick magazines where top-winning dogs are still advertised at serious expense. Advertisers must feel that the power of the printed magazine and advertisement still carry a lot of weight as judges and exhibitors can linger over a beautiful ad while turning pages without the necessity of a digital device.

Due to cost and ease of construction, many magazines will continue to go digital or just fade away. The ability to insert links to increase the material present is unsurpassed, cost is minimal in comparison to print, and the ability to be timely is unsurpassed, but as Craig Mod, a special correspondent to CNN, says, "There's a satisfaction in reading a magazine from start to finish that can't be replicated digitally."

—Jacey Holden,
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National Shiba Club of America

Tibetan Spaniels

JUDGING THE TIBETAN SPANIEL

For this column I interviewed two breeder-judges of Tibetan Spaniels, Linda Foiles and David Kirkland. Linda recently moved from Virginia to North Carolina, and David resides in North Carolina.

Linda Foiles discovered Tibetan Spaniels in the late 1970s, when a good friend and mentor, the late Phyllis Kohler, introduced her to the breed. Linda was not a newcomer to the sport of showing dogs. Her family began showing dogs in 1959, and Linda purchased her first dog, a Sheltie, in 1963 for the unheard-of sum of $50. He was Linda's constant companion, sharing her heart and bonding her to the world of showing dogs. He finished his championship when Linda was 13 years old and he was 13 months old, taking Winners Dog at three specialties! Linda is currently the chair of judges' education for the Tibetan Spaniel Club of America. She is an active exhibitor and judge of Tibetan Spaniels and a breeder-exhibitors of Papillons. She judges four other breeds and Junior Showmanship.

David Kirkland is a multiple group, Best in Show, and Junior Showmanship judge. David began in dogs with Miniature Schnauzers in 1973. He made his name as a breeder-owner-handler under the Daland banner. David has been involved with Cavalier King Charles Spaniels, Japanese Chin, and Tibetan Spaniels under the Rokirk banner. David and Mallory Cosby Driskill cobred and own G. Ch. Ambrier's Rokirk Whatever Lola Wants, who won the national specialty as a very young girl.

I asked Linda and David the question, "What do you look for when judging Tibbies?"

Linda said that when she steps into the ring with Tibetan Spaniels, she feels she looks for a clean, well presented, and conditioned animal, one of proper balance, type, and quality.

Once they take off around the ring, Linda prays to the Tibbie gods that they can move well, coming and going, as well as side gait.

COURTESY JACEY HOLDEN

NON-SPORTING GROUP



Tibetan Spaniel

She has never felt this breed was a "head" breed, but a lovely cushioned muzzle, flat skull, and beautiful medium size, dark brown eye, and a slight lift to the ears complete a well-moving package. Coat does complete the presentation, for without adequate coat, the animal lacks presence in her mind. The coat is the icing on the cake, provided it is double coated and silky in texture, and there is a rectangle of daylight under the dog.

David said that he looks for Tibbie who is balanced and moderate overall, with a proper outline, not long or low. He looks for oval, well-set eyes, not large and round, and a blunt, cushioned muzzle that is deep and wide between the canines, not snipey or undershot bite (particularly do not like teeth that show), nor too high-set ears. He looks for a slight bow to the front legs, placed under the body, with hare feet, and front and rear angulation to match. The should be a level topline both standing and moving, with sound free and easy movement. He looks for a Tibbie who is pleasingly coated, but not so much that it hides the natural outline, and an unsculpted double coat. Unfortunately, one rarely finds all of these characteristics in one Tibbie!

Thank you to Linda Foiles and David Kirkland for taking the time to give exhibitors some insights as to what a judge would look for when judging a Tibetan Spaniel.

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Tibetan Terriers

ALL COLORS ALLOWED!

At least once a year the topic of colors in TTs rises up like annual spring bulbs, ready to be explored and admired. There are few subjects that can inspire such passion as discriminatory color bias experienced by breeders. Whether from an inquiring puppy buyer, but more importantly, experiences in the show ring with AKC judging, every breeder has a story to tell.

Spoiler alert for the uninitiated: There are no color preferences in TTs and one of the strengths and charms of the breed is that all colors are allowed. Chocolate is the exception, in that it does not confer black pigment which is indicated in the breed standard.Tibet is a high-altitude country with strong UV rays. Black pigment is not just a cosmetic trait, but protective of eyes and nose.

I'm going to come clean here and admit I was one of *those* puppy inquiry callers. Research for my first TT began in 1995. I was smitten by a pic of a sable TT with a white chest I had seen on the internet. I called the breeder, who would unknowingly become my future mentor, as well as a few others from whom I later would learn much about the breed. Thankfully, they all were very diplomatic, explaining that the fit between the temperament, the compatibility of energy levels, and one's experience with dogs were of much greater consideration than a particular color desire. And besides, I learned in TTs, color often morphs over the years so that what you begin with may not be what you see later. Color was viewed as something beautiful and visually unique, but only skin deep in terms of choosing a lifelong companion.

A common theme for many longtime breeders is that they started with black or tricolor TTs. If there is any bias in color for breeders, it would likely be for the color black. Breeding a black TT with any other color often results in a rainbow of colors in a litter, and it is in preserving this diversity of color that breeders are passionate. If one were to continually select for

COURTESY LYNDA BEAM



The standard for the Tibetan Terrier notes, "Any color or combination of colors including white are acceptable to the breed. There are no preferred colors or combinations of colors."

COURTESY ERICA LISDONK VAN

flashier color combinations that seem to attract more reinforcement in the show ring, the eventual result is a genetic roadblock within a breeding program that becomes limited to piebald or an Irish spotting pattern (white shawl, white on chest, legs, muzzle, tip of tail). Experienced breeders have shared on more than one occasion that a true-black TT (a deep black will have impression of light blue skin) also preserves many other genetically linked traits. Indeed, we do know that congenital unilateral or bilateral deafness is associated with lack of pigment in the inner ear.

So why have our show rings increasingly become so homogenous? Where are the sables, the tricolors, the blacks, reds, and golds? Why is it not uncommon to see a ring full of TTs similarly marked black with a white shawl? Judges do see a lot of them, and some may be under the false impression this is the preferred marking for a TT. Likely, there is an advantage in easier assessing the outline and movement of the dog with this marking, and often a white shawl can create an illusion of greater angulation than the solid black or sable TT standing in front or behind. And admittedly, a flashy-colored TT moving out in the ring can be a stunningly persuasive vision!

So just as one admires a colorful bouquet of tulips, it is dreadful to imagine if they only came in red. More apt might be the example of carrots, wherein orange carrots were determined to be the most marketable, so became the dominant variety. Thankfully, there is a resurgence now of purple, yellow, and white carrots in our grocery stores as dedicated growers preserved these varieties. May there be a resurgence of all colors of TTs in the show ring this year, for the delight of the judges and onlookers, as well as for the preservation and health of the breed!

—Andrea Reiman,
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Tibetan Terrier Club of America

HERDING GROUP

Australian Cattle Dogs

PROVIDING EXPOSURE TO HERDING

Herding is the controlled movement of stock, regardless of the breed of dog or the type of stock. Exposure to herding in some form, and the training of a few basic commands with regard to it, is important for all herding breeds.

Dogs that have been genetically programmed to gather, drive, control, and/or protect livestock will usually have some type of reaction the first time they are exposed to stock. Often herding instinct will be evident in the dog's interaction with non–farm animals—and, in some cases, with things other than animals. Even young puppies of herding breeds can be seen trying to herd cats, birds, leaves blowing in the wind, children running, bicycles, other dogs, and just about anything that moves.

This behavior is considered cute in puppies, but the cuteness disappears as the dog grows and becomes faster and stronger when in pursuit. The results can be less than desirable when instinct meets world without proper guidance. The public often pounces on a specific breed as being dangerous and undesirable when the only problem is the dog's

lack of training in basic social skills and in helping him develop control over his enhanced genetic talents.

When a herding-breed puppy is sold, the breeder must caution its new owners of the potential for problems to develop should the owners shirk their

responsibilities to nurture, guide, and control the dog's deep-seated need and drive to herd. If a prospective buyer is lacking in time or ability to train and control a dog with strong herding drive, then they should perhaps be advised to look at other, less demanding breeds.

It is not necessary to train the dog to competition level, but a basic introduction to stock under a knowledgeable instructor that allows the dog to develop self-control around stock and learn a positive "turn off" command is extremely helpful for the future. Controlled working of stock is fun for the dog and can be very rewarding for the owner, but is not absolutely necessary.

The "on" and "off" commands are not considered optional with any of the herding breeds. Once the dog understands the conditions under which you will allow him to engage in herding activities and accepts the command that tells him he is to stop working and leave the stock alone, he will be much easier to control when his herding instincts are aroused by moving targets.

There are a number of clubs and training facilities offering basic herding-instinct testing and introductory skill development. Check the AKC website for information on clubs offering herding activities in your area. Many of these are open to any breed with a background in herding. Encourage your puppy buyers to take advantage of these activities. Even though the people may initially have no interest in showing, you never know what the experience will do for them. At the very least, this basic training will help owners to develop a great companion with sufficient control to stay out of trouble, which sometimes is a really neat trick for an ACD.

Please feel free to contact me with comments or if you would like more information. —Dr. Mary Belle Adelman,

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Australian Cattle Dog Club of America

Bearded Collies

YOUR BEARDIE IS SMARTER THAN YOU THINK

"Well, aren't you the pretty, young lady," said the judge, stooping down in front of Bounce. With regal dignity, Bounce stepped forward to put one pristine paw on the judge's knee and leaned in to give him a quick, dainty kiss on the cheek before stepping back into The Pose. Guess who went WB that day?

She knew what she was doing. Like most Beardies I've known, she had the ability to figure things out, reason, and perceive cause and effect.

Bounce was the spoiled Boss Bitch of the household and was in a snit when she got relegated to an outdoor run one day. It wasn't long before a mournful sound emanated from the run and there was Bounce, holding up a bloody paw, having ripped a nail on the chain link of the run. Of course, she was quickly brought back into the house to have her paw bathed and bandaged. Her limp was positively pitiful, designed to wring every drop of sympathy from onlookers. In time, the paw healed nicely, but still she limped. And limped. And then one day, I opened the back door and let her out to run with the rest of the crew. As I happened to glance out the window, I saw her tearing around the yard in flat-out pursuit of one of her buddies. No trace of a limp. As I opened the door, she stopped in her tracks, lifted a paw, and limped slowly toward me. "You fraud," I told her, "you're limping on the wrong paw." At least she had the decency to look embarrassed as she switched paws to limp on the previously injured appendage.

In a book on canine lore, the author opined that show dogs didn't know whether they won or lost and didn't care in either case. Brit not only knew when he lost but he also made it quite clear how he felt about defeat. It was

HERDING GROUP



Bearded Collie

downright humiliating. We'd barely exit the ring when Brit would throw himself down in the aisle and cringe. He'd hunch himself into a mahogany mass of misery. His sad eyes begged me not to beat him. Like I ever lifted a hand to him. No way! People would stare at me as though I took the disappointment of loss out on my poor dog. Trying to drag him away from the scene of disgrace looked even worse. It took some pleading not to mention several chunks of garlic-tinged liver to get him back on his feet and on his way.

Are you beginning to get the picture? Beardies not only know how to outthink us and play to our emotions, they also can display some rather amazing talents. I never figured out how Brit knew when we were a mile from home. But when we returned from a trip—no matter how short or how long—he'd wake up, stretch, and wag his tail when we were a mile from home. It didn't matter that he was in a crate in the back of my van, with no way to see out and the windows closed to local aromas, he still knew the journey was just about over.

Cocoa, my parents' Beardie, would park herself by the front door about 10 minutes before my Dad came home. He thought perhaps she knew the sound of his car and tried to trick her by shutting off the engine and coasting silently down the block. He tried coming in from a different direction. And he didn't always come home at the same time. But she was always there. He even rode home with a friend. It didn't matter. Mom noted that Cocoa would be in place 10 minutes prior to Dad's arrival, regardless of how or when he arrived. When my father died, I'm sure Cocoa was waiting by Heaven's Gate 10 minutes before he arrived.

Then there's the canine's incredible sense of smell. The increased interest in scent work has introduced more owners to the wonders of this ability. Many years ago, I got a phone call from a young lady in Buffalo, New York, who had bought a Beardie pup from me. Her mail was delivered through a slot in the front door, and her dog had picked out a letter I had written her (obviously before the days of email) and was stretched out on the sofa with the letter tucked under his paw. She thought it was quite a coincidence. It wasn't. He did it again the next time I wrote. And the time after that. Despite its travels through the Canadian and U.S. postal services, the letters apparently retained enough of my scent for her Beardie to detect it.

I never cease to find it amazing that pups I've sent off to their new homes at 8 weeks of age will remember me months or even years later. The record belongs to a Beardie an OES breeder bought for his parents who liked the shaggy looks but didn't feel up to contending with the OES coat. I'd see the gentleman at shows, and he'd keep me up to date on how Skipper, the Beardie, was doing. Eventually, he moved closer to where I lived, and one day he called to tell me his folks were visiting and wondered if I'd like to see Skipper, now 12 years old. Sure! I drove over and when I arrived, Skipper came ambling over to say hi. Then he sniffed. And sniffed again. And suddenly he was all over me, jumping into my arms, licking my face and making happy noises all the while. It was humbling to think a Beardie who only knew me for a few weeks

COURTESY LYNDA BEAM

HERDING GROUP

as a pup would remember me with such affection a dozen years later, with only scant sniffs to remind him.

Whether it's the ability to reason, to deduce, to work out solutions, to employ some sixth sense, or use the astonishing sense of smell, you can bet your Beardie knows more than you think.

—Alice Bixler,
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Bearded Collie Club of America

Belgian Malinois

IT'S NOT YOU, IT'S ME

What if your dog wants to hang out at the nursing home, but you want to do competitive dog sports? What if he is not the conformation prospect you had hoped for? What if there is conflict with another pet in the home that you cannot resolve?

Well. It all depends on whether you think of your dog as a child or a pair of vice-grips.

We are all probably acquainted with one or two hyper-competitive people whose only real interest in their dogs seems to be related to competition. These dogs receive good care but are often moved out when their competition days are finished, and if they won't work, one doesn't see them twice.

At the other end of the spectrum, there has arisen a certain subculture that does not accept the possibility of placing a dog who is not working out. Members of this subculture are expected to adapt their dog sport interests to what the dog is willing to do, and, if there is an aggression or separation anxiety problem, to implement complicated management strategies whose success and safety depends on the humans involved playing their roles perfectly 100 percent of the time. This subculture speaks with scorn of anyone who would place a dog for any reason. One wonders if even dying would be considered a good enough reason for placing a dog.

Whenever we find ourselves talking about the two ends of a spectrum, it can sharpen our sense that the best answer probably lies somewhere in the middle. More precisely, the answer lies with the mutual best interests of both you AND your dog. Life is too short to spend it with a dog that does not meet your needs—especially for the dog. If you stack dogs to the rafters in the mistaken belief that no one else could take care of them as well as you do, you may be doing your entire pack (including the human members) a disservice. If you are, indeed, truly comfortable and happy bending your needs to those of your dog, then there is no problem. But if the unsatisfactory dog is crated a lot or never gets to go on the fun outings, maybe it's time for a good, hard think.

Placing a dog is not a win-lose proposition. Having placed a number of adult dogs—those not interested in doing my sports, or for not candidates for breeding—I realize that it is possible to create a huge win for you, the dog, *and* the new owner. I remember the woman who cried when I told her that I thought she would be a good match for a certain dog I was placing. She sent me happy, appreciative letters regularly for the rest of that dog's life.

Of course, sometimes it is more difficult. I can also remember crying for days after deciding to give up a bitch who was initiating ever-escalating fights with another bitch. But that dog spent the rest of her life being the apple of an older couple's eye. Who lost? No one.

It's OK to place a dog who isn't working out, as long as you do it responsibly. That usually means getting your breeder's help and advice. These days, all reputable breeders will take back dogs who aren't thriving in their new homes. That doesn't mean that a dog who doesn't match your new carpet color is disposable. It means that help is available. Don't be afraid to make a dog-centered decision about what is right for you and your dog. Your decision will last a lifetime.

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American Belgian Malinois Club

Belgian Tervuren

DOGS AND BIOETHICS

What is meant by the term *bioethics*? I scratched my head at this word when first stumbling upon its use with regard to dog ownership on NPR and in the *New York Times.* A fairly new "human" discipline (the term *bioethics* was coined in 1971), it relates to *life, death, cures, and comforts.* Ethics is "a philosophical discipline pertaining to notions of good and bad, right and wrong—our moral life in community." Bioethics is the application of ethics to the field of medicine and healthcare.

During the previous decade, narcotic analgesics were starting to be used regularly for pain-control in animals. See where this is heading?

We are seeing pets live extraordinarily long lives. It is not unusual to hear of dogs living into their 20s and cats into their 30s. Reflections on life, death, comfort, care, pain, and cures certainly present themselves to pet owners.

Of course, I relate these thoughts to my own life and my own dogs. For me, the discussion of *when* is a familiar topic. In the 40 years that I have owned Tervuren, I have never had one single dog die on its own. I have had to make the decision for each and every one. The oldest was 14-plus; the youngest was 9. Not a one was easy, and none were easier than the one

HERDING GROUP

before.

Bioethics encompasses the difficult decisions we often must make for our dogs. *When is the right time to let them go? What is our responsibility? Does it lie with the veterinarians and scientists, or does it stop at our doorstep? Does "life and death" correlate with "care and pain"?*

With the forward roads of veterinary medicine, it is not out of the realm of possibility to spend $15,000–25,000 on medical procedures for our dogs. These types of costs alone beg an entirely different set of questions. *Can you handle the cost and care-giving burdens that often accompany these procedures? Will the procedure improve your dog's quality of life, or just extend his pain? Are your good intentions creating an avoidable trauma to your dog? Are you doing these procedures because you can't face the inevitable?*



Belgian Tervuren

We owe our dogs basic veterinary care and love. There is no shame in euthanizing a dog you love if you are trying to prevent suffering. These are intensely personal, ethical decisions.

Common sense tells us we can't lever the pains of animals and people equally. Stakes are high. These are our dogs. Belgian Tervuren are a long-lived breed.

Pain treatment and palliative care have altered my outlook on senior dogs, but not my mindset—for me, the quality of life will always be the decision maker.

But friends, realize there is no right or wrong answer here, only the decision you make for your own beloved dog.

—Dana B. Mackonis,
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Border Collies

THE IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATING THE PUBLIC ABOUT THE BREED

As guardians of our highly intelligent Border Collies, we need to ensure that we provide proper education for prospective owners in addition to providing mentoring for breeders, judges, and owners new to the breed. Because our breed is undeniably smart, they can learn both good and bad behaviors relatively quickly, and in a home without understanding of the breed's traits, they could become somewhat problematic, taking on tasks such as chasing bikes or cars, rounding up children, and so on.

This is where public education opportunities such as the beneficial Meet The Breeds (MTB) event are such great tools in steering potential owners in the right direction to ensure that our breed is the right one for them and that they are right for our breed.

There are many other opportunities for the public to meet with and learn about our breed. These include, for example, visiting any of our AKC events such as conformation shows or herding, agility, obedience, or rally trials, or any performance activity.

The Border Collie's versatility and resolve see him or her excel at all these events, revealing the breed's instinctive high drive. I always say, "Give a Border Collie a job to do, or it will go self-employed." The mindset is very important, and MTB provides the ideal situation for the public to learn about our breed; their planned visit is to meet with purebred dogs and to learn about the suitability of various breeds. Having the prospect of conversing with experienced and knowledgeable breeders

COURTESY LYNDA BEAM

HERDING GROUP



and owners helps them to figure out if they have researched enough about the breed they have in mind to ensure that the breed is what they think it is, and if it is the right fit with their lifestyle. The manner in which MTB is organized and publicized allows the public to meet actual dogs in a safe environment, and the event gives the potential owner a true idea of the breed's size, temperament, and other important information, such as the breed's health status.

In addition to talking to many different people at these events and sharing with them your breed experience, you can learn a lot about the mindset of the average potential dog owner just by listening. There is the occasional situation where you may need to politely guide a person toward a breed more suitable for them, one that is more geared to their lifestyle.

Prospective dog owners do much of their research online these days, so it is important to ensure that accurate information is disseminated. Again MTB is advantageous with its large media presence, thanks to the AKC's press office. Numerous breeder-owner interviews are broadcast on TV (both satellite and cable), digital media stories help spread the word on purebred dogs, and favorable column inches are covered. Some media coverage is more in-depth than others, which again has an outreach to many more people who may not have attended the event. One interviewer was steadfast in asking me the question, "Why does the Border Collie make the best agility dog?" With more than 25 years in our superlative breed, you can imagine what my answer was!

—Lorna Menaker,
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Border Collie Society of America



Border Collies and their people at Meet The Breeds

COURTESY LORNA MENAKER

Briards

Our column this month is by Denise Simenauer, AKC judge and longtime breeder of Briards and Cotons de Tulear.

IS GENERIC BECOMING THE NORM?

As a judge and student of canine conformation for over 50 years, there is not a day that goes by that I don't look at a dog, any dog, and evaluate the structure and movement. It is not even done consciously. I see a dog and quickly go over it mentally, just as I would see an interesting car on the street or person, to give it a visual look and quick evaluation. It is not even a purposeful evaluation, just something my mind does.

Most of the time, the dogs I see when I am out and about are mixed-breeds. They are either rescues or a "designer" dog—which is also a mutt. Usually they have some glaring faults: cow hocks, a roached back, an East-West or straight front, and so on. To my surprise, however, a few times I have been taken aback by the beautiful structure, movement, and presence of a few of these dogs. I have thought to myself, "Wow, if this dog were allowed in a dog show, it would do really well!"

So what is my point? No, I am not advocating for a dog show for mixed breeds! I am wanting you to think about the rewarding of dogs for their beautiful structure, movement,

HERDING GROUP



Briard

and presence without regard for the breed's hallmarks, which are what make the breed different from all other breeds. A hallmark, by definition is a distinguishing characteristic, trait, or feature. Shouldn't the dogs who get rewarded in the show ring have the structure and movement called for in the standard as well as be beautiful examples of the breed's hallmarks? Sadly, the hallmarks are being ignored by some judges and some breeders. What is many times being rewarded is the generic dog.

With the Briard, there are hallmarks that are truly distinguishing traits but seem to be being largely ignored in the show ring. There are two, in particular that are such a trademark of the breed and are pitifully being lost: the "J" tail, and the dewclaws that ideally form additional, functioning toes.

The Briard standard calls for a tail to be "uncut, well feathered, forming a crook at the extremity." The standard goes on to say that "in repose, the bone of the tail descends to the point of the hock, terminating in the crook, similar in shape to the printed letter "J" when viewed from the dog's right side." Unfortunately, way too many Briards in the ring today do not possess a "J" tail but rather a tail resembling a saber. If you look in the ring today, perhaps only 30 percent of the dogs have the hallmark "J" tail. What a shame! This is a trait that so much distinguishes the Briard that looking at a dog's silhouette from a distance, you should be able to definitively tell it is a Briard because of the "J" tail. The loss of this distinguishing feature is a travesty for the breed.

In the 1982 book *The Briard,* by Diane McLeroth, the author writes: "The tail is sometimes neglected by breeders in order to favor other traits more important to them. What a pity, for the tail of the Briard is a distinctive breed characteristic. (What is more appropriate than a shepherd's crook in the tail of a shepherd's dog?) It is just as charming as it is useful." Next time you see a Briard, please look for this distinguishing trait, and hopefully if you get a chance to judge a Briard, reward the dog who displays this distinguishing characteristic!

The Briard standard says, "Two dewclaws are required on each rear leg, placed low on the leg, giving a wide base to the foot. It goes on to say, "Ideally the dewclaws form additional functioning toes." That means that the dewclaws are *not* some dangling appendages on the side of the back legs. They are placed low enough to give "a wide base to the foot," and the ideal is that they form a back foot with six toes on the ground, with the dewclaws being "additional functioning toes." Unfortunately, this is another hallmark that is being ignored by judges as well as breeders.

In the show ring, most judges do a cursory touch to the back leg to determine if there are two additional digits on the back leg. This is sufficient to check for the disqualification. But judges and breeders should not be content with just having the two digits there. The dewclaws should be examined to determine if they are low set, making a wide base to the foot. Dogs with the ideal dewclaws that form additional functioning toes need to be rewarded.

With regard to the rear feet, the Briard standard says, "If the rear toes turn out very slightly when the hocks and metatarsus are parallel, then the position of the feet is correct." It does not describe the reason for this. The reason is that for dogs with a four-toed back foot, the foot is straight forward, parallel with the metatarsus. However, the Briard *does not* have a four-toed back foot. Rather, it has a

COURTESY LYNDA BEAM

HERDING GROUP

five-toed back foot, with the sixth toe placed backwards of the fifth toe, and the center of gravity therefore is the center of the five toes. Hence, the rear toes turn out very slightly. In the book *The Briard,* the author writes: "There is no question that the dewclawed foot of the Briard is different from the feet of other breeds. With close examination, you will note that even the major pad of the foot is an unusual shape, asymmetrical with the inner side of the pad extending back to the dewclaws."

Do the dewclaws have any function? Yes, of course they do. They assist with braking, better balance, better ability to do quick turns, and a more stable foot in uneven terrain and in mud, snow or ice. In *The Shepherd Dog of Brie,* written in 1925, author M. Sedir says: "Now, who can believe that the shepherd, the peasant, so great an observer and always careful of his interests, would have thus devoted himself to searching for and possessing dogs with a double dew claw if there had not been an advantage?" He goes on to explain that if the shepherds thought the double dewclaw was not important, the shepherd most certainly would have replaced the dog with one without double dewclaws. However, Sedir goes on to say, "In keeping the dewclaw in their dogs, these utilizers furnish us with the most outstanding proof of the utility of this characteristic." Dewclaws as one of the hallmarks of the Briard *do* have a function and *must* be placed low on the leg, giving a wide base to the foot. Reward and breed for the ideal with the dewclaws forming two additional functioning toes!

So do we continue to breed for and reward in shows the generic dog? Or should the hallmarks of the breed be valued? There are a lot of pretty Briards, but the mark of a great judge and the mark of a great breeder is one who can sort through the generic qualities and find and reward the dog displaying not only the structure and movement called for in the standard, but the true hallmarks of the breed. —D.S.

Thank you, Denise.

—Alice Bixler,
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Briard Club of America

Canaan Dogs

A CANAAN'S HERDING "BAD HAIR DAY" CAN END UP JUST DUCKY

As mentioned in previous breed columns, the Canaan Dog has a high prey drive. A very, very high prey drive. This trait works well for herding, particularly sheep. However, most Canaans are more willing to chase birds of any type, both wild and domestic, including ducks used for herding tests and trials. My first Canaan, who was the top herding dog in the breed during his lifetime, would watch ducks being worked at herding trials while waiting for the sheep runs to start, but not in a performance frame of mind. More of a snack frame of mind.

At the Canaan Dog Club of America's (CDCA) herding instinct tests, for those dogs who fail to pass the test, we console the owners and tell them that it's a "bad hair day" and to try again another time with sheep or even cattle. Ducks were never mentioned as an alternate livestock. In fact, I was told "It's a bad hair day" quite a few times with one of my bitches at these tests. Prior to obtaining this girl as a youngster, I found out that she had been corrected frequently for "chasing" the family's herd of horses when they were brought in the barn at night. When her actions were described to me, however, it sounded more like her gathering the herd rather than actually chasing them. In the end, we eventually worked through her problem with sheep, and she finally qualified for the club's herding titles. Because this girl was an avid backyard bird hunter, I never even considered training her on ducks.

Yet in some cases, training and trialing with ducks could be an alternative to sheep. The major advantage is the smaller size of ducks for a Canaan who is intimidated by sheep, and the fact that ducks are less likely to run over dog and/or handler. Ducks are more easily driven than fetched by a dog and can teach both handler and dog the subtleties of driving pace and skill.

My youngest Canaan was a bit intimidated by sheep at her first instinct test, and at the evaluator's invitation, we tried her on ducks later that same day. Even though this youngster had not shown much interest in birds, I was still tentative about her introduction to the quackers. She handled the flock with no problem and easily drove them around the pen with more enthusiasm than she had shown with the sheep.

A major disadvantage would be for a duck to be energetically flapping its wings while moving quickly, which could easily change a Canaan's mind from herding to hunting during the lesson. Herding instructor and owner should take the Canaan's personality and drive tendencies into account and pair the dog with ducks that will not cause unwanted excitability; like dogs and sheep, different ducks have different reactive natures.

A Canaan owner who had her young male puppy tested with ducks remarked that she felt like a better handler with ducks than sheep. Ducks, more than sheep or cattle, can help a handler develop stock sense—with again the caveat that instructors and owners must take

HERDING GROUP

the natural reactiveness of Canaans and ducks into account, or there may be duck on the dinner menu more often than not.

So, as the CDCA's herding chair, if a Canaan has a "bad hair day" at a test, I will be more inclined to mention ducks to the owner as a possible alternative to sheep for a future chance of success. After all, one does want to make sure they have all of their ducks in a row in any endeavor!

Thanks to Eva Raczka, Debbie Eldredge, DVM, and Amanda Pough (and Cole) for their input!—Denise A. Gordon,
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Canaan Dog Club of America

Cardigan Welsh Corgis

WEST COAST SPECIALTY: "OH, I CAN'T GO THERE!"

Like many of the national breed clubs, the Cardigan Welsh Corgi Club of America puts on a roving national specialty each year. In 2018, the show will be in Portland, Oregon.

The theory in having roving specialties obviously is to provide access to this prestigious venue to all who wish to attend—and hopefully to periodically have an event in your own region in which you can participate. Now, we all know plenty of folks who will travel to the end of the earth to attend one of these major functions. This perfunctory action is something that provides them a lot of insight into the development of the breed and perhaps some breed trends, and also allows them the benefit of networking with others devoted to the breed beyond who you will meet in attending the local all-breed shows. Not all of us have that luxury, unfortunately, as responsibilities like jobs and life itself tend to sometimes get in the way of those things that we would truly like to participate in.

In 2018, this Cardigan Welsh Corgi extravaganza extraordinaire will be on the West Coast. The host has a very special experience planned and knows that attracting the Easterners to the other side of the country will be a challenge. It would be appropriate at this time to remind some of our fellow Cardigan aficionados about those who travel regularly from the West Coast to the East. A number of Californians attended the 2017 national in Ohio. In fact Alaska was represented as well, with fanciers who made a very long trip indeed, never blinking an eye and taking in the whole week. These dedicated folks come to watch, learn, compete, and have fun, all while returning home with a better plan for the future. In case you have noticed, those types of participants usually fare well at these events too. Contemplate that a little.

Traveling to the other side of the country actually gives you a wonderful opportunity to see top dogs from that region and perhaps consider adding some of their virtues to your own breeding program. Now, we are not even going to go down the path of popularity breeding to whoever is on top. Gosh, if you have not learned that lesson yet, you have more problems than just attending the national. Getting to see a well-rounded group of Cardigans in a relaxing atmosphere may open your eyes to just what your future breeding program needs. It is all about improving your line's lesser qualities and maintaining those good ones that you already appreciate in your dogs.

Nope, traveling is not cheap these days. However, planning to attend this type of function is a unique opportunity one really should not pass up. Making the most of your traveling dollars makes complete sense. Sure, you can take in some of the local cuisine, visit some other sites, and make the trip more of a vacation of sorts—but most importantly, sit ringside and judicially study the exhibits. Take notes of things you see, those features you admire, and the ones you do not like. Look up the parents of dogs in the ring, and see how adroit you are at seeing if a pattern exists in terms of features either good or bad.

While you are there, visit with your Cardigan friends, and be sure to make some new ones. One famous Cardigan breeder once said: *Do not harbor any ill will towards any other exhibitors. No, you may not like them personally, but they very well may have just the dog you are looking for to produce that memorable litter we all dream of.*

—David L. Anthony,
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Cardigan Welsh Corgi Club of America

Collies

THE COMPLEXITY OF FAMILY

Family of dogs. We say it all the time, but does anyone ever give much consideration as to what the phrase means? A recent tribute to Trudy Mangels and Brandwyne Collies in *Collie Expressions* magazine sparked some thoughts along these lines. They bred Collies for little more than a decade yet continue to influence even to this day.

Many people breed dogs, but only a small percentage have lasting influence. In Gayle Kaye's book, *The Collie in America,* she says, "Something made certain breeders and/or dogs successful in establishing family lines, while others failed." Defining that "something" can be tricky! These family influences often come after the fact. For example, a stud dog or a bitch is recognized as important only generations later.

Before dog shows, in dog breeding there was

HERDING GROUP



Collie

not as much emphasis on "family." The dog was selected for working ability, for duties around the farm, and breeding pairs were chosen for hunting ability or herding skills. Written pedigrees, families, and lineage came later with the desire for show type.

What do you think of when you think of a "family of dogs?" Do you recall the kennels of old—with 75 to 100 dogs, numerous generations together, and easily identifiable characteristics within the family? Do you think of decades of breeding, and generations of champions? What makes a family—three generations of champions, four, five? Or is it strong family characteristics, bred for generations for certain attributes that become "fixed" and predominant? Do you think of "families" as being one or two famous stud dogs coming from a kennel? Or dogs who leave their mark on a large number of other kennels and families?

Without large kennel populations being the case anymore, breeders have had to develop family in different ways. Some co-own, some nurture a satellite group of breeders, and some use their stud dogs to get puppies back and widen their options. Establishing a family must be time tested; breeding one champion under mentorship from another breeder doesn't constitute a family. Someone searching for a "show dog" with a generic request that goes something like "I'm looking for a rough female, show quality" is missing the idea of searching for certain lines or families—in other words, attributes within that line that the buyer feels are important.

Defining family can be elusive when trying to say precisely what makes a family, and especially *how* to make a family. There are examples of breeders who produce numerous champions and yet are still not considered having a family of dogs. It behooves a prospective buyer/breeder to become familiar with individuals, know something beyond names in a pedigree, and understand the differences and where the emphasis is with that particular breeder. It can be a frustrating situation when small kennels don't continue on, or when choices are limited within the family to breed back into.

Families are more than just a general look; a certain expression, body outline, or the picture as a whole define a family. Also to be considered are temperament, health, attitude, structure, coat, and even faults. Siblings and offspring who are never shown or bred are important too for telling us the direction of that line.

Families are complex, interesting, and important to our breeding plans.

—Marianne Sullivan,
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Collie Club of America

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HERDING GROUP

Entlebucher Mountain Dog

Our guest columnist for this issue is Anna Wallace.

A SHOW BREEDER'S PERSPECTIVE OF THE ENTLEBUCHER MOUNTAIN DOG

Quite different from their larger cousins the Bernese and the Greater Swiss, the Entlebucher is an energetic, tireless athlete with the ability to do essentially any activity or sport they are taught. They are not a breed who does well without solid direction from their owner. They bond deeply with their family and focus strongly on their chosen person. They are typically extremely reliable off lead and are a dog who is essentially impossible to lose, as they simply do not wander. Whether at home or on an adventure, they keep an eye on their owner at all times.

The Entlebucher is a very physical breed. They are physical in their activities, putting their all into everything they do, and they are physical with their owners, very demanding when it comes to physical touch. Hugs and cuddles quickly become "smooshings" if allowed, and the Entle strongly believes the firmer the contact, the more the love. One sure sign of affection is the body-slam, where the dog bounces off their owner with the slightest provocation, as if just to say, "Hey, you are mine, and I am yours, and we are together."

They are typically quite good with other dogs but are known to play rough, hard, and fast, with vocalization and a playful growl and grumble. Many people who do not know or understand the breed may mistake this for aggression, but most of the time it is simply rough and vocal play.

When alone with their family, Entlebuchers have a keen sense of humor and enjoy making their owners laugh. They are happy when they can make you happy, and they will often develop multiple antics to make you smile. Around strangers and in strange environments, the serious Entlebucher emerges as the Entle studies the crowd and constantly evaluates his surroundings. The Entlebucher tends to develop an attitude of "stranger danger" as he matures, and with that typically does not approach people he does not know. He sees no reason to meet and greet everyone he sees and prefers that strangers simply leave him alone. Some are more social with strangers, especially when conditioned to be such.

The Entlebucher typically notices everything in their environment and can be quite in tune with any changes from normal. Keen sight-awareness and noise-awareness make this breed a phenomenal watchdog. Nothing and no one will sneak by an Entlebucher, and the stranger will likely not be welcome into the home without the owner's permission. The breed is considered to be an incorruptible watchdog.

Noticing and evaluating everything in their environment can become quite overwhelming to a young Entlebucher in a show environment. They tend to be stoic in the ring, and it's unusual to see a young Entlebucher truly comfortable. Rarely will you see their personality in the ring. Conditioning teaches the tolerance for the stand for exam. They do not appreciate being hovered over, and they have no desire to become your friend. Aggression should never be tolerated. Having shown lots of Entles over the last eight years, this is absolutely the hardest breed I have ever shown, and my handlers will agree with that as well. Calm patience with both the Entlebucher and the typical novice handler is always greatly appreciated.

Consistency in type is not something typically seen in the conformation ring. This is a breed that has held a farm and family focus, with very few breeders having an eye for or interest in the show ring. Consistency in type has not been a focus, and due to working with such a limited gene pool, there truly is value in the various styles of Entlebuchers seen across the world. —A.W.

Thank you, Anna.

—Joyce McKay, NEMDA vice president, *joycem1@charter.net*

National Entlebucher Mountain Dog Association

Finnish Lapphunds

FINNISH LAPPHUND CLUB OF AMERICA NATIONAL SPECIALTY

The Finnish Lapphund Club of America will be holding the breed's 2018 national specialty on Friday, March 30, at the Purina Farms Event Center, at 200 Checkerboard Drive in Gray Summit, Missouri. The show superintendent and show secretary is Jack Onofrio Dog Shows.

The schedule of conformation events is as follows:

Friday, March 30 (4 P.M.)—National specialty
Saturday, March 31—Supported entry
Saturday, March 31—Concurrent specialty
Sunday, April 1—Supported entry

For both the national specialty and concurrent specialty the AKC National Owner-Handled Series is offered. And on Saturday, the 31st, in the evening will be the annual meeting and awards banquet.

The judge for the national specialty is Karen Hynek, and the judge for the concurrent specialty is James Moses. The Herding Group and regular class judges for the weekend will be announced by the Columbia, MO Kennel Club. Obedience and rally events will be

HERDING GROUP

offered on March 31 and April 1.

Come on out to the "Show Me State" for this gathering of happy Lappies!

—Lorraine Paglini,
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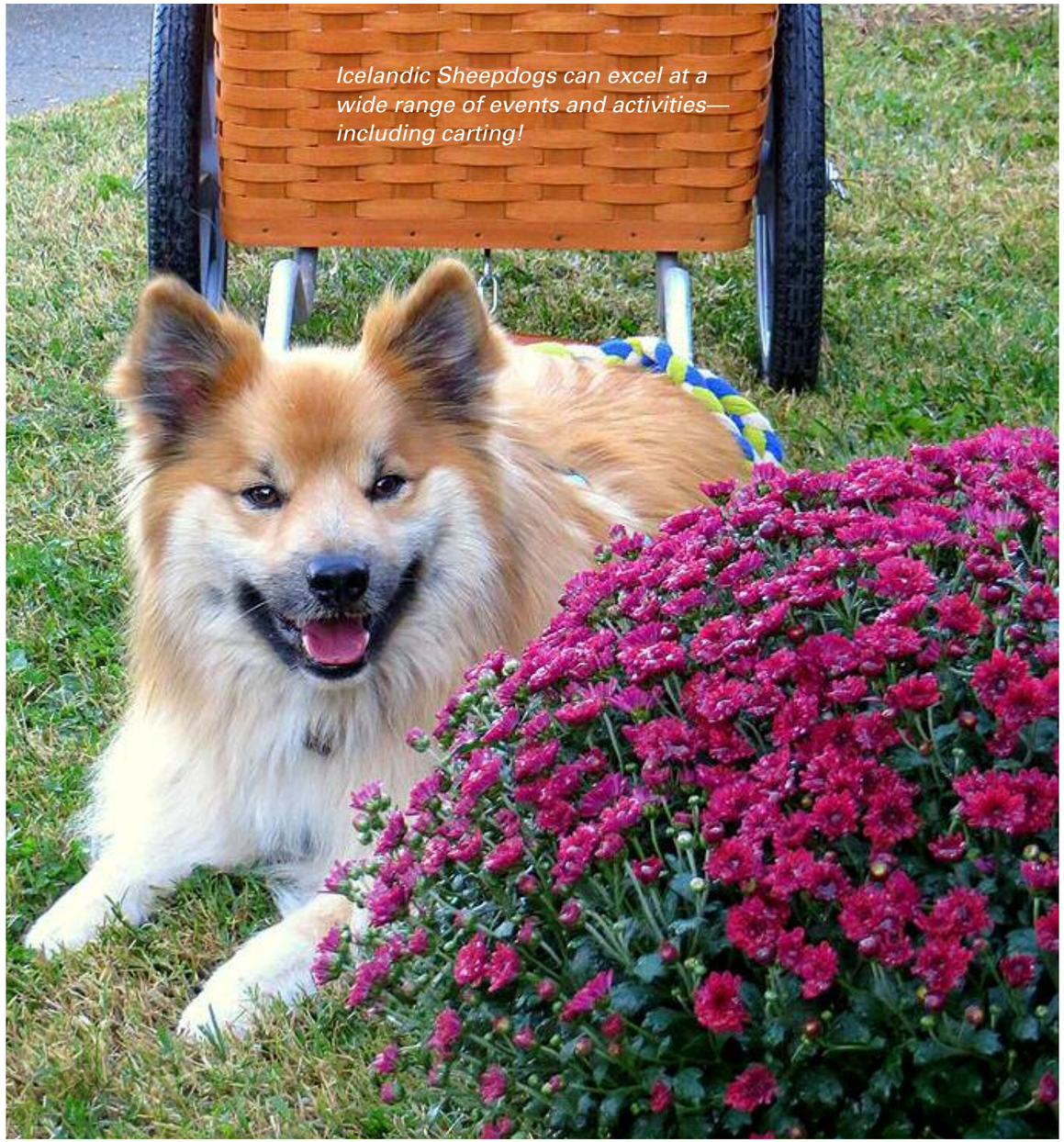
Icelandic Sheepdogs

Our guest columnist this month is Terry Warnock, president of the Icelandic Sheepdog Association of America.

ICELANDIC SHEEPDOGS ARE VERSATILE!

Icelandic Sheepdogs are a hardy and agile herding breed, reflective of Iceland's rugged landscape. Their temperament is described as alert, enthusiastic, and welcoming, as well as cheerful, friendly, inquisitive, playful, and unafraid—with a typically confident and lively bearing.

Given these traits, it is not unexpected that Icelandic Sheepdogs do love to try new things, and our fanciers have had great success and fun in many activities over the decade we've been a part of the AKC world. While Icelandic Sheepdogs started in the agility, conformation, herding, rally, and obedience rings, they have gone on to title in many other activities as well, such as in the Canine Good Citizen program, as therapy dogs, and in newer endeavors such as coursing, barn hunt, flyball, trick dog, dock diving, and temperament testing.



Icelandic Sheepdogs can excel at a wide range of events and activities—including carting!

COURTESY ISAA

Recently an Icelandic Sheepdog fancier with a background in a carting breed broke new ground with her Icelandic Sheepdog by earning a Novice Draft Dog title! Basic requirements for success at this sport are compatible with our breed characteristics, as one needs a confident, distraction-proof type of dog who is well trained in basic obedience with very good loose-lead control.

With a custom-made cart and harness, the team trained and practiced. This included loading and unloading, backing up, opening and shutting a gate, passing distractions and going through a narrow area, and a half-mile freight haul over varied terrain. An important training factor, and new skill, was conditioning the dog to carry weight in addition to being hitched to a cart. The team practiced carrying increasing weight several times a week over several months, working up to 20 pounds. What a wonderful challenge for our beloved farm dog! —T.W.

Thank you, Terry.

For more information on the Icelandic Sheepdog, visit the parent club website (link below).

—Donna R. "Jamie" McDermott,
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Icelandic Sheepdog Association of America

HERDING GROUP

Norwegian Buhunds

THERAPY DOGS

More and more facilities are expressing an interest in therapy-dog visits and are recognizing the value of having these dogs come and interact with their clients. What are some things to keep in mind if you are interested in doing therapy with your dog?

The first thing to remember is that while most trained dogs can do therapy work, the trick is to identify the appropriate type of therapy program for your dog based on his temperament and skills. Different therapy programs require differing levels of therapy skills. Basic skills required for all therapy dogs are acceptance of extended petting and handling, the ability to settle for extended periods of time, and comfort in the presence of various loud noises, odors, crowds, and other animals. Dogs with such skills can go to basic therapy programs in schools, nursing homes, or libraries. More advanced skills might be required for programs with certain clientele, such as children and adults with severe disabilities, or those in psychiatric wards. Such programs are more suited for dogs who are comfortable with highly erratic movements, confined spaces, and bizarre actions and noises and are willing to work readily for others under strenuous conditions.

After identifying the most suitable programs for your dog, you can start planning your therapy visits. I always arrive ahead of time and exercise my dog before the visit. After that, I follow the facility's check-in procedures and strictly adhere to all rules and regulations of each facility. I also try to dress and act professionally during the visit.

One crucial thing to remember is to pay attention to your dog when on a therapy visit. I try never to put myself or my dog in a questionable or threatening situation. After all, it is my responsibility to protect my dog's physical and emotional well-being. I also ask participants' permission before any interaction with my dog. Some people are afraid of dogs, while others might be allergic to them, and I have to respect their wishes. I never place my dog on a bed, chair, or wheelchair unless the participant and/or a facility staff member have given permission.

Therapy work can be both emotionally and physically stressful for our dogs, and it is up to us to minimize this stress. I try to limit the length of therapy sessions as well as the number of therapy sessions per week. Taking breaks during a long therapy session can also be very helpful. And I make sure that my dog has time to rest after a therapy session in a quiet spot, undisturbed by my other dogs.

Ultimately, therapy work can be wonderfully fulfilling for both our dogs and for us.

—Jasmine Tata,
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The Norwegian Buhund Club of America

Old English Sheepdogs

IT'S A PAIN

As I write this at the beginning of 2018, the Old English breed health survey is in full swing. In case you have been off on some other planet for the last year, the survey is being administered by the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA) on behalf of the Old English Sheepdog Club of America (OESCA). The OFA only reports the survey responses in the aggregate, and these responses can be viewed at any time by simply going by visiting the OFA educational resources page and then clicking on our breed.

Looking at the results, nearly 1,100 surveys have been submitted so far, with over 60 percent coming from non-OESCA members. More than 70 percent of the responses are for dogs in North America. These results are quite positive and suggest that the population of dogs in the survey is large enough and broad enough to provide a valid look at the health status of Old English in the U.S. and Canada. The survey will remain open until mid-2018, so it's not too late to participate.

Once the survey closes and OESCA's Health & Research Committee (HRC) evaluates the results, the HRC should be able to identify the breed's major health problems and allocate resources accordingly. This is all well and good, but it does not help the individual OES owner determine if his or her dog is half a bubble off level and may need treatment of some sort. While your dog can't tell you what hurts in so many words, unexpected changes in your dog's normal behavior should signal that the dog is in pain or feeling uncomfortable.

For starters, you need to remember that different dogs will respond to pain in different ways. One dog may be quite tolerant of pain and will not exhibit much change even with a serious problem. On the other hand, your dog may be one who lets the whole world know he has suffered some minor boo-boo. There are also various types of pain, ranging from a sharp, acute pain to a dull, chronic one, and these may be constant or intermittent.

One clear indication of pain or discomfort is avoidance of touch. Maybe you typically scratch one of your dog's ears and then the other. If he pulls away to avoid the one ear scratch, that ear clearly warrants a close look. Other examples might include suddenly ducking out on grooming sessions, or wincing when you help him up onto a grooming table.

Avoiding favorite activities or social interactions can also indicate pain or discomfort. If

HERDING GROUP



Old English Sheepdog

your dog normally romps about with other dogs but now quickly peels off and looks for a quiet spot or comes back to you, you need to check for any injuries or sore areas.

Pain is also exhausting. If your dog normally plays early in the day, but slows down as the day wears on and even becomes cranky or grumpy, he may be in pain. Some diseases such as a thyroid condition can also decrease your dog's energy level.

A more worrisome indication of pain is the onset of aggressive behavior in dogs with no prior history of aggression. Many behaviorists feel that at least 20 percent of behavior problems in dogs are probably caused by health problems. Thus, the better part of valor may be to muzzle an aggressive dog before checking for injuries of some sort.

Changes that are not related to mobility issues can also indicate pain or discomfort. Examples include loss of appetite or increased fluid intake. Another example would be a change in sleeping habits, such as waking up frequently and wanting to go out.

Assuming you know what normal behavior is for your OES, you should be able to spot changes that indicate the dog is in pain or discomfort for some reason. Then you need to work with your veterinarian to identify and correct the problem. Before seeing the vet, you should make notes of anything that might be important—particularly with regard to what is normal and what has changed. If it turns out to be a long-term chronic problem like arthritis, you may be looking at a lifelong pain-management program. A useful resource for this is the Downing Center for Animal Pain Management.

In summary, if you see a behavioral change you can't explain, check it out.

—Joe Schlitt,
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Old English Sheepdog Club of America

Pembroke Welsh Corgis

THAT CHRISTMAS PUPPY

Yes, it's March, and Christmas is probably a distant memory. The Pembroke puppy who arrived mostly likely after Christmas, but possibly before, has become a cherished member of your family. He or she has learned about the cat, the vacuum cleaner, how to negotiate steps, where to potty, when and where to eat, and the family schedule for the day. Weekends probably still confuse the pup, but eventually he or she will learn the various routines of the family.

The teething is probably abating, but be prepared for another round of it when the puppy reaches 8 to 12 months of age. Check the teeth to be sure all the puppy teeth have come out. Sometimes one or two seem to hang on. By wiggling them several times a day, they can be encouraged to let go. Otherwise, a trip to your vet to have them pulled will be needed so that they don't interfere with the adult teeth coming in.

If you have a female pup, she can come into her first heat season as early as 6 months of age, so start watching. And the boys become aware that there is an opposite sex by the time they are about 7 months old.

Remember that the rules you are teaching now will be the ones that should last through adulthood. Remember too that your breeder

COURTESY LYNDA BEAM

HERDING GROUP

can be your best resource. She knows her bloodlines better than anyone else and spent a significant part of her life raising and training the puppy before you took it home. Turn to your breeder and veterinarian to answer questions and for help.

Active puppies are generally tired puppies, and tired puppies are generally well-behaved puppies. You might want to start exploring activities other than walks in the park and playing ball in the yard. A quality puppy obedience class goes a long way to helping civilize the youngster. Obedience is the foundation for other activities. If you enjoy being outdoors, your Corgi puppy will definitely enjoy tracking. Herding sessions will be short, and the point will be to introduce the puppy to livestock and build interest. Serious agility training is for older pups, but most facilities have some sort of an introductory class where the emphasis is more on introducing equipment and safety than on becoming proficient. You can contact your closest Pembroke club, as there will be members who will gladly help you find training classes. If your puppy is a conformation prospect, the members can help you find show handling classes. Other activities include therapy work, barn hunt, lure coursing ability, dock diving, and scent work. There are a plethora of activities in which you and your puppy can participate, limited only by your time and checkbook!

Degenerative Myelopathy Clinical Trials

The University of Missouri Veterinary Health Center is currently seeking dogs with degenerative myelopathy (DM) for enrollment in a clinical trial. The purpose of the study is to evaluate a new drug as a possible treatment for DM, with hopes of slowing the progression of the disease. For more information, see the current clinical trials section of the neurology department, or contact Dr. Joan Coates directly at *coatesj@missouri.edu*. Her phone number is available on the website.

—Lynda McKee,
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Pembroke Welsh Corgi Club of America

Polish Lowland Sheepdogs

Russ Tesarz wrote the following for this column in 2008.

MODERN-DAY MENTORS

Defined as "a wise and trusted counselor or teacher," *mentor* has become a modern-day buzzword. It seems that in this day and age, one cannot become proficient in any endeavor without having a mentor.

The dog fancy, where one is expected to have at least one mentor, is no exception. The sport of dogs is so broad that in fact it would be advantageous to have multiple mentors. Anyone who is new to the fancy, to breeding, or to a certain type of training or competition can benefit greatly from the advice of a mentor.

There are a number of avenues to explore in looking for a mentor. The Internet is an invaluable resource for locating and getting in touch with people. There are a multitude of online communities that offer opportunities to learn from others who have years of experience and knowledge in the sport. Books of course are also an excellent source of help from individuals with great experience in days gone by. Probably the most helpful mentor, however, is one who can be met in person. Membership in a club, where one can meet people having varying degrees of experience and areas of knowledge, is an excellent way to find others with similar interests.

The most important mentor is probably the breed mentor. This is most frequently the breeder from whom one has purchased a dog. A breed mentor is most likely to know the breed's idiosyncracies in areas such as training, presentation, and reproduction.

The relationship with a mentor should be based on knowledge, trust, and friendship. One of the advantages to having a counselor is the avoidance of common pitfalls. However, learning is the accumulation of knowledge and experience, and a wise teacher allows some lessons to be learned through the making of mistakes. A good mentor may not have all the answers, but they should be able to point to a direction where answers may be found. A mentor should not be dictatorial, with a "my way or the highway" attitude. A gifted teacher encourages the student to form opinions of their own and become independent.

Ideally there comes a time when a mentor is not only a counselor but also a friend. Perhaps at that point the student may have the opportunity to become a mentor to someone else. Everyone in the fancy should have the opportunity to "pay it forward."

As always, ideas, comments and suggestions are welcome. — R.T.

American Polish Lowland Sheepdog Club

Pulik

2017 PULI NATIONAL SPECIALTY

The Puli Club of America (PCA) held its national specialty last fall at the Wilson County Exposition Center in Lebanon, Tennessee (approximately 25 miles east of downtown Nashville), on October 12–16. The specialty was affiliated with the Tri-Star Kennel Club of the Williamson County (TN) shows.

Breeder-judge Ms. Sherry L. Gibson judged

HERDING GROUP

the national specialty on October 13. With an entry of 41 Pulik (11 dogs/12 bitches, two veteran dogs, one veteran bitch, and 15 Best of Breed—nine dogs and six bitches), and two Junior Showmanship entries, Ms. Gibson awarded the following:

Best of Breed: Ch. Bubbleton Thunderstruck (D)

Best of Winners: Wyldmor Cast a Spell (B)

Best of Opposite Sex: Ch. Wyldmor Whisper of Moonshadow (B)

Select Dog: GCh. Weatherby's Rough Rider (D)

Select Bitch: GCh. Moonshadow A League of Her Own, CDX, BN, RE (B)

Best Puppy in the Puppy Classes: Moonshadow Wonder Woman (B)

Best BBE: Noe Barkaja Kotel Hegy Kecske (D)

Best Veteran: Bubbleton Feel the Spirit (D)

Awards of Merit:

• Ch. Bubbleton the Beautiful Sinner CGC (B)

• Bubbleton Feel the Spirit (D)

• Ch. Weatherby Jack Flash (D)

• Ch. Moonshadow Mind Games (D)

Best Owner-Handled: GCh. Weatherby's Rough Rider (D)

Best Junior Handler: Christian Denk

Ms. Amanda Mills, from the U.K., judged sweepstakes for the national specialty. Ms.









Puli Club of America 2017 national specialty: Best of Breed under judge Mrs. Sherry Gibson was Ch. Bubbleton Thunderstruck, with Barbe Pessina; High in Trial in Obedience was Ch. Bartok's Harvest Song, UDX3, OM5, PT, MXJ, MX, "Shaker," handled by Nancy Kelly; and High in Trial in Agility was Ch. Loakespark Too Hot to Handle, MX, MXB, MXJ, MJB, T2B, OF, "George," with Alex Davis.

COURTESY PULI CLUB OF AMERICA

HERDING GROUP

Mills awarded Best in Sweepstakes to Moonshadow Vagabond (D), and Best Veteran in Sweepstakes to GCh. Szeder's Little Miss Sunshine (B).

At the regional specialty, on October 14, judge Mr. Merle Taylor awarded Best of Breed to Ch. Weatherby Jack Flash (D), who then went on to win Best in Show (also under Mr. Taylor). At the October 15 PCA-supported entry, Ch. Moonshadow Mind Games (D) was awarded Best of Breed under judge Mr. Charles E. Trotter and then received a Group 2 under judge Mrs. Patricia V. Trotter.

On October 12, the PCA hosted an all-breed agility trial at the Never Go Back Ranch in Watertown, Tennessee—a fabulous facility. The trial was judged by Mr. Dan Faulkner. Twelve Pulik participated that day, for a total of 29 runs (T2B was also offered that day in additional to JWW and Standard). High Scoring Puli was Ch. Loakespark Too Hot to Handle, MX, MXB, MXJ, MJB, T2B, OF. "George" was handled by Alex Davis.

On October 13, obedience and rally trials were held before the conformation judging started at the Exposition Center. Eight Puli entries participated in obedience, and seven entries participated in rally (to note the versatility of the Puli, some individual Puli participated in both obedience and rally). Both venues were judged by William R. Parrill, Jr. High in Trial in Obedience was Ch. Bartok's Harvest Song, UDX3, OM5, PT, MXJ, MX, "Shaker," handled by Nancy Kelly. Highest Combined Scoring Dog in Rally was GCh. Moonshadow A League of Her Own, CDX, BN, RE. "Ivy" was handled by Nancy Guagenti.

Herding was held on October 16 at The Stables at Belle Meadow in Wartrace, Tennessee. This fantastic facility is set in the picturesque hills of middle Tennessee. The PCA was able to offer two different herding tests: a Herding Instinct Test (IT) and Farm Dog Certified (FDC). Judges were Doyle Ivie and Rick Hardin. By having two judges, some Pulik were able to start and complete a title in one day. In fact, six Pulik were able to do just that. There was only a small but very enthusiastic turnout. It would have been hard to determine who had more fun—the Pulik or their owners!

The Puli Club of America wishes to congratulate all the winners and to send a special thank-you to all who participated in the week of Puli events. Specifics on the entries and placements for the various events may be found at the PCA website's national-specialty page.

Other activities associated with the PCA's multi-day event included the annual board meeting on October 12. The annual meeting included having committee chairs submit their annual reports; the viewing of new club challenge and perpetual trophies; recording of ballots; and the introduction of new officers and board members. The social aspect of the specialty weekend began with a welcome pizza party on October 12, and the annual banquet held on October 13 was followed by a very spirited auction.

A very special acknowledgement must be made to specialty chair Glen VanDerhart and to his committee and other volunteers for making the 2017 PCA national specialty the success it was. I appreciate the input of Patty Anspach, Nancy Kelly, and Cathy Pronzini for this column.

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

Spanish Water Dogs

MENTORSHIP IN A "NEW" BREED

"But have you *been* to Spain and *seen* the breed there in the pastures and fields?" asked my very good friend, with some exasperation, during a heated conversation about elements of breed type. Of course she knows that while I have been to Europe to observe the breed, I have not been to Spain (and she has). Ultimately we agreed to disagree on the point of contention; but really, who is correct, and how will we find out?

Despite a slowly increasing breed community in both the United States and Canada, the Spanish Water Dog remains largely a rare and little known breed on this continent. As yet, there are no breeding programs with generations of depth in pedigrees of home-grown champions and/or performance titles or, in many cases, even breeding stock. The names in our pedigrees are often still primarily dogs that were European bred and owned, with the majority unknown to us other than through pictures and pedigree databases.

Those of us with a deep commitment to the breed pursue our passion with the best of intentions and to the best of our abilities, but of course also with our own biases. Not all of our breeders are even willing to get involved in conformation and performance, citing disillusionment, cost, and travel constraints. Other breeders get underway with one or two litters but then decide for various reasons to discontinue breeding. We can count on one hand the number of breeders in the U.S. and Canada involved in the breed for more than 10 years who are still actively breeding and also promote the breed on an ongoing basis through involvement in AKC and/or CKC conformation and/or performance events.

There are breed fanciers in North America

HERDING GROUP

who have and continue to import dogs (and/or semen) that will enhance and expand our genetic base. Imported dogs who are carefully chosen—for temperament, health, and structure—will be of ongoing value in supporting steady improvement in Spanish Water Dogs on this side of the Atlantic in coming years. At the same time, it is also important to recognize that admiration of foreign dogs needs to be balanced with breeders here continuing to develop an "eye" and a vision for their own domestic breeding goals.

So to whom then do we look for true mentorship? Those of us who have gazed across the Atlantic have engaged with breeders in various European countries seeking knowledge and expertise. Some have traveled in Spain and elsewhere attempting to gain an understanding of true type and the subtleties behind an extremely vague FCI standard. The breed's AKC parent club worked hard to offer more detail and clarity in their version of the breed standard. Some of those details continue to be debated with longtime Spanish breed fanciers (who of course do not always agree even among themselves).

A number of AKC and CKC judges have provided warm support and expressed genuine interest in our breed. They have given valuable input in seminars, informal conversations, and through judging our dogs in the years leading up to and following full recognition. Despite all of this however, the most extensive and authentic knowledge base for this breed still lies in Spain. We would do well to remind ourselves that "the work" must be ongoing and consider how best to support ongoing personal growth in breed knowledge.

As fanciers of a young but steadily growing breed in North America, we are at a significant turning point. With newcomers constantly becoming involved in our beloved breed, it is essential that we all, newcomers and experienced breed fanciers alike, have the capacity to access and offer meaningful mentorship.

—Marnie Harrison,
marnieh52@gmail.com
Spanish Water Dog Club of America

Swedish Vallhunds

TAIL TALES

The Swedish Vallhund is to my knowledge the only breed currently recognized by the AKC in which any tail type is acceptable. Vallhunds can have tails ranging from no tail at all (naturally bobtailed or docked) to short natural bobtails; long natural bobtails; long, curling, spitz-type tails; or long sickle or straight tails, carried up or down—and anything in between. This can lead to some confusion among judges (and even breed fanciers!) regarding what is acceptable and what is not. Our standard says unequivocally, *All tail types are equally acceptable.*

Therefore, for this breed "judging should end at the croup." What matters is that the dog's croup is correct—that is, broad and slightly sloping. What kind of tail (if any) the dog has should have no bearing on judging. The way to clear up the confusion is to keep in mind that whatever tail the dog has or doesn't have, it is acceptable.

Breed owners love to explain this unique aspect of the breed to people, especially if one owns dogs with a variety of tails. Naturally bobtailed Vallhunds often have a charming little tassel at the end of the tail-stub. Most naturally bobtailed Vallhunds can wag their tails. The very short-tailed ones sometimes do not, or they wag up and down instead of side to side. Natural bobtails, especially the shorter ones, sometimes have more skin than a longer tail or a docked tail might have. While some tailed dogs competing in sports like agility do seem to use their tails as rudders, tailless dogs don't seem to be handicapped.

The only time tail-type really needs to enter into the assessment of the dog is in the making of breeding decisions. The national breed club in the breed's home country of Sweden, Specialklubben För Västgötaspets, suggests that breeders should try to use one natural bobtail and one tailed dog in each breeding to preserve the natural bobtail gene. But depending on the tail types in the dogs' ancestry, you can still get tailed puppies out of two bobtailed parents, although you generally cannot get bobtails out of true full-tailed parents. At this point, there are not thought to be health problems associated with the natural bobtail gene.

While this breed was historically docked, now that docking is no longer allowed in many countries, it has become usual for many breeders overseas to track their dogs' tail types. Some breeders in North America have adopted this practice, using the Swedish tail-type designations as part of the dog's registered name in order to make tail-type tracking easier. Long-tailed Vallhunds have the letters "LS" after their name, natural bobtailed dogs have "ST," and docked dogs have "KUP."

Of course, judges will have their own preferences and priorities regarding a dog's structure, and breeders and breed fanciers will have their own preferences regarding tail type, but we hope that breed fanciers, breeders, and judges alike make it easier on themselves by simply remembering that, regardless of the type of tail the dog has, it is correct.

—Amanda Lowery,
amanda@alkemi.org
Swedish Vallhund Club of America

SECRETARY'S PAGES

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

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

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ATTENTION DELEGATES
NOTICE OF MEETING

The next meeting of the Delegates will be held at the Doubletree Newark Airport Hotel on **Tuesday, June 12, 2018**, beginning no earlier than 10:00 a.m. It will follow the 9:00 a.m. Delegates Forum.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

American Sloughi Association
United States Neapolitan Mastiff Club

DELEGATES CREDENTIALS

Gloria Askins, Greer, SC, Greenville Kennel Club

Pamela Beale, Peterborough, NH, Westchester Kennel Club

Gale K. Cummings, Norton, MA, Ladies' Dog Club

Jeffrey M. Margeson, Lovettsville, VA, United States Australian Shepherd Association

Cindy Miller, Annville, PA, Waterloo Kennel Club

Sandra Muer, Bloomington, IL, Corn Belt Kennel Club

Kate DeSanto, Voorhees, NJ, American Wirehaired Pointing Griffon Association

Greg Smith, Arnold, MO, Jefferson County Kennel Club of Missouri

Linda C. Foiles, Louisburg, NC, Tibetan Spaniel Club of America

Jacque E. Glenn, Raymore, MO, Cardigan Welsh Corgi Club of America

Linda Pleasant, Sebring, FL, Heartland Dog Club of Florida

Susan Werner, Haymarket, VA, Middleburg Kennel Club

NOTICE

Ms. Shannon Honeycutt (Beech Grove, IN) Action was taken by the LaPorte County Kennel Club for conduct at its November 2, 2017 event. Ms. Honeycutt was charged with unauthorized removal of property at or in connection with an event. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the Event Committee's report and set the penalty at a one year event suspension and a $1000 fine, effective November 2, 2017.

NOTICE

Ms. Dorothy Holmes (Scottsdale, AZ) Action was taken by the Scottsdale Dog Fanciers Association for conduct at its November 24, 2017 event. Ms. Holmes was charged with failure to properly control a dog at an event. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the Event Committee's report and set the penalty at a six month event suspension and a $1000 fine, effective December 19, 2017. (Rottweiler, All American Dog)

NOTICE

Mr. Alan St. Clair (Seabrook Island, SC) Action was taken by the Space Coast Kennel Club of Palm Bay for conduct at its December 11, 2017 event. Mr. St. Clair was charged with inappropriate, abusive or foul language. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the Event Committee's report and set the penalty at a one month event suspension and a $500 fine, effective December 12, 2017. (Keeshond)

NOTICE

The AKC's Management Disciplinary Committee has suspended Mr. Randall Cox (Galax, VA) from all AKC privileges for three years and imposed a $500 fine, effective February 8, 2018, for his submission of false applications to register or transfer which affect the stud book. (German Shepherd Dog)

NOTICE

The AKC's Management Disciplinary Committee has suspended Mr. James Maynard (Williamston, SC) from all AKC privileges for one year and imposed a $1000 fine, effective February 8, 2018, for harassment and inappropriate, abusive or foul language. (Multiple Breeds)

NOTICE

The AKC's Management Disciplinary

Committee has suspended Mr. Randolph Brent (Huttonsville, WV) from all AKC privileges for fifteen years and imposed a $3000 fine, effective February 8, 2018, for conduct prejudicial to purebred dogs, purebred dog events, or to the best interests of The American Kennel Club based on his violation of the AKC's Judicial or Administrative Determination of Inappropriate Treatment Policy. (German Shepherd Dog)

NOTICE

The AKC's Management Disciplinary Committee has suspended the following individuals from all AKC privileges for ten years and imposed a $2000 fine, for conduct prejudicial to purebred dogs, purebred dog events, or to the best interests of The American Kennel Club based on their violation of the AKC's Judicial or Administrative Determination of Inappropriate Treatment Policy:

Effective February 8, 2018

Ms. Deborah Hosler (Petersburg, MI) Siberian Husky, Mastiff

Mr. Thomas Brooks (Chesterfield, VA) Newfoundland

CONFORMATION JUDGES

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

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

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

APPLICANTS

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

NEW BREED JUDGING APPLICANTS

Mr. William Anderson (103943) WI
(224) 603-8317
bomarkboxers@gmail.com
Boxers

Mrs. Dawn L. Gabig (103897) NC
(252) 991-5527
dawngabig@gmail.com
Bernese Mountain Dogs, JS

Ms. Debra Guerrero (103977) WA
(253) 847-7665
cambriambts@comcast.net
Bull Terriers, Miniature Bull Terriers

Ms. Carol Preble (102691) IL
(815) 923-2305
lodgepole@foxvalley.net
Siberian Huskies

Ms. Carlin Rasmussen (103975) WI
(715) 424-5561
carlinrasmussen@yahoo.com
Golden Retrievers, JS

Ms. Karen R. Scheiner, ESQ. (103945) NJ
(856) 428-3745
doxyladynj@gmail.com
Dachshunds

Mrs. Christine M. Walker (100261) NY
(716) 688-7519
walkerworks@roadrunner.com
Brittanys

APPROVED BREED JUDGING APPLICANTS

Ms. Judi Bendt (37568) SD
(605) 390-3575
all4moriah@gmail.com
Balance of Toy Group (Brussels Griffons, Miniature Pinschers)

Mr. J. Calvin Dykes (100595) OR
(541) 562-1447
tresbeaufrenchbulldogs@eoni.com
American Eskimo Dogs, Xoloitzcuintli

Mrs. Sharon Dykes (100581) OR
(541) 562-1447
tresbeaufrenchbulldogs@eoni.com
Pekingese, American Eskimo Dogs, Xoloitzcuintli

Mr. Rick Gschwender (6740) ID
(208) 477-3934
rggschwender@yahoo.com
Bichons Frises, Chinese Shar-Pei, Keeshonden, Poodles

Ms. Kathryn Leonardt (23180) FL
(301) 221-3137
magicdeion@aol.com
Labrador Retrievers

Mr. Gary Stiles (51717) WA
(360) 770-6690
lacasitas@aol.com
Balance of Toy Group (Affenpinschers, Brussels Griffons, Chinese Cresteds, English Toy Spaniels, Italian Greyhounds, Maltese, Pekingese, Pomeranians, Poodles, Shih Tzu, Silky Terriers, Yorkshire Terriers)

Ms. Sandy Weaver (94535) GA
(770) 310-6932
golfndogs@att.net

Black Russian Terriers, Cane Corsos, Doberman Pinschers, German Pinschers, Giant Schnauzers, Standard Schnauzers

JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP JUDGING APPLICANTS

Ms. Cheryl Burns (103979) PA
(610) 223-6849
burns_cc@yahoo.com
Ms. Shea Jonsrud (103980) CO
(303) 483-5848
shea.jonsrud@gmail.com

PERMIT JUDGES

The following persons have been approved on a **Permit** basis for the designated breeds in accordance with the current judging approval process. ***They may now accept assignments*** and the fancy may still offer comments to Judging Operations.

NEW BREED JUDGES

Ms. M. E. Robin Barry (103739) FL
(352) 239-3265
mbarry0318@gmail.com
Rhodesian Ridgebacks, Whippets, JS
Ms. Julie A. MacKinnon (103623) MA
nautilusgold@yahoo.com
Golden Retrievers, Labrador Retrievers
Kathryn Sneider, VMD (103627) MA
(508) 830-9943
kathyvmd@yahoo.com
Golden Retrievers, Labrador Retrievers
Ms. Marsha (Michelle) Struble (103633) IA
(515) 371-3103
vpcollie@aol.com
Collies

APPROVED BREED JUDGES

Ms. Christine Erickson (22529) AZ
(480) 262-6630
chris.erickson@cox.net
Cavalier King Charles Spaniels, Japanese Chin, Miniature Pinschers
Mr. Kevin M. Flynn (66204) MA
(617) 698-2542
lcflynn@comcast.net
Labrador Retrievers, Irish Water Spaniels, Welsh Springer Spaniels, Spinoni Italiani
Mrs. Linda C. Flynn (66205) MA
(617) 698-2542
lcflynn@comcast.net
Curly-Coated Retrievers, Spinoni Italiani, Wirehaired Pointing Griffons, Wirehaired Vizslas
Mr. Kirlyn Fouts (91125) CO
(719) 332-3222
kgphotog@aol.com
English Foxhounds, Rhodesian Ridgebacks
Mr. Juan J. Griego (90265) NM
(505) 681-8020
redondorott@spinn.net
Balance of Working Group (Anatolian Shepherds, Portuguese Water Dogs)
Mrs. Nancy R. Griego (90264) NM
(505) 681-8020
nrgakc@spinn.net
Balance of Working Group (Anatolian Shepherds, Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs, Portuguese Water Dogs)
Mr. Bill Lee (18750) CO
(720) 385-5753
plee685891@aol.com
Brussels Griffons, Cavalier King Charles Spaniels, English Toy Spaniels, Havanese, Maltese, Manchester Terriers, Papillons, Pekingese, Pomeranians
Ms. Edweena "Teddy" McDowell (17411) KS
(913) 620-4578
mcmerle@aol.com
Australian Terriers, Glen of Imaal Terriers, Miniature Schnauzers, Parson Russell Terriers, Rat Terriers, Scottish Terriers, Sealyham Terriers, Staffordshire Bull Terriers, Welsh Terriers
Mrs. Anne Marie Taylor (7522) MI
(810) 919-9692
toraakitas@gmail.com
Pointers, Curly-Coated Retrievers, Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers, Irish Water Spaniels, Welsh Springer Spaniels, Wirehaired Vizslas

JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP JUDGES

Miss Grace Freeman (103757) MO
(573) 445-9779
gaf43b@mail.missouri.edu
Mrs. Tiffany Holley (101941) TX
tiffanyeholley@gmail.com
Ms. Laura V. Pearson (103751) WA
(425) 583-8331
horsesnaussies@yahoo.com

RESIGNED JUDGES

Mrs. Marsha Hall Brown
Ms. Kimberle Schiff

EMERITUS JUDGES

Ms. Virginia "Ginny" Boyle
Mr. Kark H. Kreck
Mrs. Jeanne D. Zuver

DECEASED JUDGES

Mr. Linton Moustakis
Mrs. Rondi Ross

PROVISIONAL OBEDIENCE/RALLY/TRACKING JUDGES COMPLETED

The following persons have completed their Provisional Judging assignments and their names have been added to the list of **regular approved** judges.
Mrs. Laura Feldt (100075) KY
(502) 777-8074
dog_trainer411@hotmail.com
Tracking – TD/TDU
Ms. Mary Ginter (96327) KY
(270) 465-6299
backhome@toast.net
Tracking – TD/TDU

Mr. Stuart H Lease (100467) CA
(951) 928-1108
sleaseman@aol.com
Tracking – TD/TDU
Mrs. Sandy Svendsen (99683) CA
(707) 360-5923
starbreeze@suddenlink.net
Rally – All

PROVISIONAL OBEDIENCE/RALLY/TRACKING JUDGES

The following persons have been approved as a judge on a Provisional basis for the class/test indicated in accordance with the Provisional judging system. They may now accept assignments.

Ms. Francis Keays (97639) ID
(208) 922-9982
fbkeays@gmail.com
Tracking – TDX
Dr. Kamrin MacKnight (97565) CA
(650) 823-3235
kamrin01@gmail.com
Tracking – TDX

DECEASED OBEDIENCE JUDGES

Marjorie Robinson (ME)
Bobby Whiteside (VA)

APPLICATION FOR BREED-SPECIFIC REGISTERED NAME PREFIX

The following applications for a breed-specific Registered Name Prefix have been submitted to The American Kennel Club. Letters in regard to these applications should be addressed to Gina DiNardo, Executive Secretary:

4PAWS – Miniature American Shepherds – Debra Shambaugh
AJT – Doberman Pinschers – Jermaine Anderson
A LEGACY – Chihuahuas – Belinda Demaree McCormick
BAUTZEN – Leonbergers – Allyson Pielop Taylor
HONEY HOLLOW – Labrador Retrievers – Lonnie J. Moran
INTRYNZIK – Cavalier King Charles Spaniels – John C. Goodwin & Elise M. Goodwin
KENSINGTON – Tibetan Terriers – Wendyll Behrend
LIGHTSOME – Yorkshire Terriers – Svetlana V. Kienko
OTC – Labrador Retrievers – Elizabeth E. Wise Vaughan
PATTY'S ROYAL – Boxers – Patricia J. Sexton
SETA – Papillons & French Bulldogs – Colleen McKee-Sanchez
STIRLING – Bichon Frise – Paul A. Flores & Kimberly A Furlong
WAGNTAIL – Golden Retrievers – Janis L. Berie
WILDERNESS RUN – Dachshunds – Susan Jill Chidlow
WIND DIAL – Pembroke Welsh Corgis – Candace Longan

REGISTERED NAME PREFIXES GRANTED

The following applications for a breed-specific Registered Name Prefix have been granted:

ABBERANN – Glen of Imaal Terriers – Theresa H. Nesbitt & Ann White
BROOKRIDGE – Australian Shepherds – Susan Moorehead & Reggie Moorehead
BRUSHY HOLLOW – Beagles – Kurt Jeremy Geiger
BLUE CYPRESS – Labrador Retrievers – R. Randall Rollins
CAROUSEL – Great Danes – Amanda Tebault
COOSA CREEK – Cavalier King Charles Spaniels – Julianne Drago
DELMOBULL – French Bulldogs – Alexis J. Del Valle
DOBERHAUS – Doberman Pinschers – Margo L. Richards
DOWDY FARMS – Mastiffs – Stephanie L. Dowdy
RAVENHILL – Russell Terriers – Billie M. Sumrell-Fulton
RIO NOVA – Newfoundlands – Tracy K. Luber
SILVER BIRCH – Samoyeds – Beth A. Ortensi
SUDON – Great Danes – Susan F. Hookom
VON CALVO – German Shepherd Dogs – Lino Calvo
WINDGATE – Cavalier King Charles Spaniels – Jess L. Oakley & Veronica T. Soler

BOARD OF DIRECTORS
FEBRUARY 8-9, 2018

The Board convened on Thursday, February 8, 2018 at 8:04 a.m. All Directors were present. Also present was the Executive Secretary.
The January 2018 Board minutes, copies of which had been provided to all Directors, were discussed. Upon a motion by Dr. Battaglia, seconded by Mr. Dok, the January 2018 minutes were unanimously approved.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Board Action Items

Mr. Sprung reviewed Action Items, and reported on Staff initiatives.
Legal Status Report
Jay Waks, Senior Executive Vice President and General Counsel, and Heather McManus, Vice President and Deputy General Counsel, presented a status report on pending litigation and other Legal activities for the months of November and December 2017. It was reported that the Legal Department worked on 892 agreements in 2017, a 47% increase from 2016 and 224% increase from 2015.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was an EXECUTIVE SESSION to discuss sensitive business matters. There was nothing reported out of this session.

AKC Humane Fund Update

Daphna Straus, Vice President of Business Development and Secretary of the AKC Humane Fund (HF) gave a review of the Funds 2017 activities. Doug Ljungren, AKC Humane Fund President was present for this portion of the meeting. AKC HF Programming consists primarily of grant-making and provides no direct services. Charitable and educational activities include Breed Rescue Grants, Grants to Domestic Violence Shelters, Scholarships, Awards for Canine Excellence (ACE Awards) and funding the AKC Library.
The majority of Grants in 2017 were made in the Domestic Violence program area. 53 Domestic Violence Shelters successfully applied for HF grants to care for and improve infrastructure for pets. Total grant awards were $51,750 plus an additional $39,000 in future grant commitments. Programs have been funded in 37 out of 50 states since the inception of the program.
The AKC Humane Fund through its Sandy Fund donated $10,000 to each of the following Organizations:

- The Houston SPCA
- Napa Humane
- Sonoma Humane Society
- The Sato Project (Puerto Rico)

The John D. Spurling Scholarship supports diverse academic pursuits. Five (5) scholarships are awarded per year totaling $10,000 to full-time students enrolled in courses of study that contribute to the well-being of dogs and responsible pet ownership.
In 2017, AKC HF was accepted to the portfolio of Survey Monkey charities. The public fuels Survey Monkey's donations to charities by taking surveys. Survey Monkey donates $0.50 per survey, donated to the charity of the respondent's choosing. In 2017, HF successfully lobbied to become part of the Survey Monkey Contribute roster. To date, $27,303 has been contributed from 14,772 people.
In 2017, a Juniors Scholarship was endowed in the name of GCHP Hill Country's Let's Get
Ready to Rumble. A $5000 annual scholarship will be awarded to the winners of the Junior Versatility Awards 1st and 2nd place in memory of Rumble. Junior Versatility recognizes Juniors who compete in at least 3 AKC Sports.

AKC Canine Health Foundation Update

Diane Brown, DVM, PhD, DACVP, Chief Executive Officer of the AKC Canine Health Foundation provided on update on the Foundations work in 2017.
Key Foundation activities for 2017 included:

- Achieved GuideStar Platinum rating for the first time
- Key Investments were made in:
  1. Research programs funding growth
  2. First AKC CHF veterinary student intern
  3. Catalogued all CHF-grant scientific publications - >680 publications,

  cited >23,000 times
  4. AKC CHF National Parent Club Canine Health Conference
- New Corporate Support and Partnerships:
  1. Elanco Animal Health
  2. Merck Animal Health
  3. Jimmy V Foundation for Cancer Research
- An updated investment strategy and policy

In 2017 $1.94 million was awarded for 43 grants. The CHF is currently managing $10.79 million in 140 active research grants. For 2017, AKC offered $1,000,000 in matching pledges. CHF match donations raised were $861,742.

Smart Pet Technologies Update

Michael Basone, COO of Smart Pet Technologies, Herberto Calves, VP Marketing Smart Pet Technologies and Anthony Saracco, Vice President, Fredericks Michael & Co. gave an update on the LINK Collar by AKC.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was an EXECUTIVE SESSION to discuss sensitive business matters. There was nothing reported out of this session.

AKC Museum of the Dog Update

James Crowley, AKC Consultant, participated in this portion of the meeting.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

There was an EXECUTIVE SESSION to discuss sensitive personnel matters. It was reported out of this Executive Session that Alan Fausel has been designated as the Director of the AKC Museum of the Dog to take effect when it relocates to New York. Until the relocation takes place, Alan will be an AKC employee in the New York Office, with the title of Director of AKC Cultural Resources. He will work on all aspects of the relocation leading up to the opening of the AKC Museum of the Dog in New York, anticipated to be in January 2019. He will work closely with Steven George, who will remain the Director of the Museum while it continues to operate in St. Louis. This decision and course of action was approved unanimously by both the AKC Museum of the Dog and the AKC Boards.

AKC TV Update

Gina DiNardo, Executive Secretary, Russell Quy, CEO of B Live Productions and Todd Galloway, Chief Digital Officer of BLive gave an update on the status of AKC TV. Doug Ljungren, Executive Vice President Sports & Events and Mari-Beth O'Neill, Vice President Sport Services were present for this portion for the meeting.

On Saturday February 10, 2018 AKC will launch its brand new digital-first cable network called AKC.TV. This new joint venture with B Live productions is an OTT (Over-the-top) digital channel that can be accessed via a new innovative web-based platform www.akc.tv or from akc.org. Dog lovers will be able to connect to AKC.TV from any device including computers, tablets, phones, set-top boxes, and AppleTV with additional platforms to come. Viewers can browse the on-demand content library of dog training videos, puppy and breed videos, original programming, live coverage of AKC events and our brand new weekly TV show, AKC Live! which covers all that is new or noteworthy in the world of AKC and Purebred Dogs. This modern platform allows AKC to broaden its audience, helps to expand the awareness of the AKC mission, and promotes the value of purebred dogs as pets and in society. AKC.TV will bring dog lovers into the world of the AKC through entertaining and educational content that they can access 24/7. New content will be uploaded weekly to keep the network fresh for viewers and give them insight into all aspects of our community including responsible breeders, our Parent Clubs, AKC events, AKC's unique charitable affiliates and anything imaginable to celebrate purebred dogs and their owners.

This digital-first approach is in line with the national trend; approximately 20 million consumers a year have "cut the cord" and are choosing streaming services over traditional cable services. It also allows for us to have complete control over our message while getting maximum visibility. Videos can be easily shared across social media platforms and embedded into your websites.

AKC Pet Care Update

Jim Tysseling, COO of AKC Pet Care gave an update on 2017 and plans for 2018. AKC Pet Care offers a wide range of services delivered with the highest standard of care.

Besides 24 Hour and Day Care offered is dog jogging by high-caliber athletes, dog walking, dog training utilizing programs of behavioral experts and specialized grooming. All locations have completed AKCs Safe Grooming and Safe Salon certification. Five of the six locations are in the process of rebranding – including coordinated interior design, consistent signage and the addition of upgraded floors and kenneling.

2018 goals include the expansion of amenity partnership programs to new and existing residential buildings, increasing brand awareness and optimizing grooming and training opportunities. New client programs within the locations and the addition of a dedicated social media representative will facilitate unique growth platforms.

AKC REUNITE

Tom Sharp, AKC Reunite CEO, gave a presentation on AKC Reunites activities in 2017. Mark Dunn, AKC Reunite Managing Director was present for this portion of the meeting. Reunite has had excellent revenue growth over the past three years, with total revenue of almost $9 million in 2017, which equates to 22% year over year topline growth. In 2017 AKC Reunite enrolled 460,000 pets, bringing total enrollment in the recovery service to 6.6 million pets, representing 35 different species. In addition, 430,000 microchips were sold in 2017.

Since 2002, AKC Reunite has awarded over

$7 Million towards:

- Pet-related disaster preparedness / relief grants
- Matching grants for purchasing police dogs
- Microchip Scanner donations to shelters

The AKC Pet Disaster Relief Trailer project which launched in September 2013 has raised over $1.6 million with 65 trailers donated across the country.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY

Mari-Beth O'Neill, Vice President Sport Services, participated in this portion of the meeting by videoconference.

Azawakh Eligibility to Compete in the Hound Group

The Board reviewed a petition from the American Azawakh Association requesting acceptance for the breed into the AKC Stud Book; and asking that the breed be eligible to compete in the Hound Group. Following a motion by Mr. Menaker, seconded by Dr. Davies, it was VOTED (unanimously) to approve the standard for the breed and to move the Azawakh from the Foundation Stock Service into the Stud Book of the American Kennel Club on January 1, 2019. The Stud Book will remain open until January 1, 2024. The breed will be eligible to compete in the Hound Group on January 1, 2019.

Great Dane Proposed Breed Standard Revision

The Board reviewed the proposed revisions to the Great Dane Breed Standard as submitted by the Great Dane Club of America, Inc. (GDCA). The GDCA made additional revisions to the standard based upon comments received from publication in the Secretary's Page. Following a motion by Dr. Davies, seconded by Dr. Garvin, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to permit the Great Dane Club of America to ballot its membership on the proposed Standard changes, in accordance with the GDCA's Constitution and Bylaws.

Canine Legislation Position Statement on Dog Training

The Board reviewed a newly proposed Canine Legislation Position Statement on Dog Training. The proposed position statement provides a basis for AKC to provide legislative comment on the value of dog training for dogs, their owners, and the communities in which they live. It notes that there are numerous accepted perspectives and approaches to dog training, and no one preferred protocol for training all dogs. Finally, it states that AKC opposes arbitrary government restrictions on accepted standard training practices. AKC is concerned by a disturbing new class of legislative proposals at the state and local level that are aimed at arbitrarily restricting standard accepted training methodologies and approaches, and placing regulatory oversight of trainers and their professional practices in the hands of animal control or non-professional animal protection boards that may have little experience or expertise in dog training. The purpose of the proposed position statement is to encourage dog training for all dog owners and to recognize the value of preserving a range of training options so that the training needs of all dogs, their owners and their particular circumstances can be met.

This will be discussed further at the April meeting.

Canine Legislation Position Statement on Tethering

The Board reviewed recommendations for a new canine legislation position statement regarding the tethering of dogs. This position statement provides a basis for AKC to comment, where appropriate, on proposed bans that have the potential for unintended harmful consequence for responsible dog owners.

In recent years the AKC Government Relations Department (GR) has tracked numerous legislative proposals that arbitrarily equate tethering to animal cruelty and establish bans or severe arbitrary restrictions on tethering. Such measures fail to recognize that responsible tethering may provide an option for restraining a dog in cases where other methods of restraint are inappropriate or ineffective. Arbitrary anti-tethering laws may also undermine positive canine activities such as field trials, conformation dog shows, dog training, grooming and other examinations that are part of responsible dog ownership and AKC events.

This will be discussed further at the April meeting.

Government Relations 4th Quarter 2017 Update

The Board viewed an update on the Government Relations (GR) Department for the fourth quarter of 2017. The memo provided a status update on current department activity, major projects, significant legislative issues and accomplishments in 2017.

Legislative/Regulatory Tracking: At of the end of 2017, the AKC GR team had reviewed, monitored and taken necessary action on approximately 2,000 pieces of legislation that could impact responsible dog ownership, the health and wellbeing of dogs, the rights of dog owners, and/or the interests of the American Kennel Club. AKC GR had also monitored approximately 4000 proposed regulatory changes at the state and federal level.

Detection Dog Project: GR staff and AKC's federal lobbyist have worked with key members of Congress to develop appropri-

ate legislation requiring expanded transparency in how federal agencies make detection/military working dog purchasing decisions, the full cost for producing a deployment-ready dog, and success rates of domestic-bred versus foreign-bred dogs, and other factors that illuminate causes of, and solutions for the shortage of domestically-bred detection and military working dogs. This proposed language and required reporting were incorporated into HR 2810 the 2018 National Defense Authorization Act, passed by Congress and signed into law (PL 115-91) in mid-December.

GR staff and AKC's federal lobbyist also worked with Congressman Mike Rogers and his staff in the development of language for HR 4577, the Domestic Explosives Detection Canine Capacity Building Act. This establishes a public-private working group to assist in the development of a domestic canine breeding network to produce high quality explosives detection canines and modernize canine training and selection standards. HR 4577 has passed the House in December and is currently in the Senate.

Congressional Testimony: In October, Sheila Goffe provided testimony as an invited expert witness before joint subcommittee hearing of the U.S. House Committee on Oversight and Government Reform; and the House Committee on Homeland Security on the importance of making domestically-bred dogs more readily available to serve as explosives detection and working dogs.

FINANCE

Joseph Baffuto, CFO, presented AKC's unaudited year-end financial results for 2017. Total operating revenues of AKC for the 2017 year were $73.5 million which was equal to Budget and 10.5% higher than the 2016 year. Overall operating expenses of $67.5 million were below Budget by 5.4%, approximately $3.9 million, but 9% or $5.7 million above 2016 actuals. Operating income of $6.1 million outperformed the 2017 Budget of $2.1 million in operating income as well as last year's comparison of $4.8 million through December 31, 2016. Additionally, investment performance results in 2017 yielded $11.6 million in unrealized gains versus $6.0 million in unrealized gains during 2016. The quarterly report will be presented at the March Delegates Meeting.

AKC Matching Grants for AKCCHF 2017

In 2017, the AKC Board made three matching pledges. One for $500,000 and two for $250,000, for a total of $1,000,000 in matching fund opportunities for AKC CHF in 2017. The CHF was able to earn pledges towards these three programs in the amount of $861,742. Following a motion by Ms. McAteer, seconded by Dr. Battaglia the Board VOTED (unanimously) to fund the gap in the 2017 matching funds pledged and donate the balance pledged to CHF - $211,092 for 2017.

The Board adjourned at 4:40p.m.

Meeting reconvened on Friday, February 9, 2018 at 8:09 am.

All Directors were present except for Harvey Wooding. Also present was the Executive Secretary.

COMPANION AND PERFORMANCE

Doug Ljungren, Executive Vice President Sport and Events, and Mari-Beth O'Neill Vice President Sport Services participated in this portion of the meeting. Stephanie Kennerley, Sports Development Manager and Caroline Murphy, Director of Performance events participated in this portion of the meeting by videoconference. Dr. Mary Burch, Director of CGC participated in this portion of the meeting via telephone conference.

AKC Trick Dog Elite Performer Title

The Board reviewed a recommendation to add a new more advanced title called Trick Dog Elite Performer (TKE) to the AKC Trick Dog program. The routine will consist of at least 10 tricks, with a minimum of 5 tricks at the Performer level. Novice and Intermediate tricks will not count toward the total of 10 tricks. The distinguishing characteristic of the Trick Dog Elite Performer is that the dog must perform a routine that has a theme or tells a story. Props, music and narration are allowed. Additional information will be posted on the Trick Dog website. Following a motion by Dr. Davies, seconded by Dr. Battaglia, the Board VOTED (unanimously; absent: Mr. Wooding) to approve the new advanced title. The Trick Dog Elite Performer (TKE) title will be launched on June 1, 2018.

American Belgian Malinois Club - Temperament Test Title

The Board reviewed a recommendation from the American Belgian Malinois Club requesting that the AKC acknowledge the Temperament Test title (TT) awarded to the Belgian Malinois by the American Temperament Testing Society. Recognition of this title has already been approved by the AKC Board for two other breeds. The title would be handled through the Parent Club Performance Events Titling Program. Owners must apply to the AKC on a form developed by the Performance Events Department, submit documentation proving the dog has passed the ATTS test and pay a processing

fee. All dogs must be AKC registered or listed in the PAL program.
This will be discussed further at the April meeting.

Addition to Non-AKC Events Policy - New AKC National Championship Events Cannot be Dual-Licensed

The Board reviewed a recommendation from the Performance Events Department to amend the current Non-AKC Events policy by specifying that no AKC National Championship event may be dual-licensed with another organization except those that were dual-licensed as of January 1, 2018.
This will be discussed further at the April meeting.

Fast CAT - Modify Top 20 Dogs by Breed Display

The Board reviewed a recommendation from the Performance Events Department to change the "Fast CAT – Top 20 Dogs by Breed" ranking list to display an average of each dog's top three fastest runs. The ranking lists currently display the single fastest run speed for each dog. There have been concerns from the sport that due to variation in Fast CAT courses, the single fastest run speed may not be representative of which dogs are actually fastest. The surface, materials and grade of the courses can vary. If approved these changes would become effective June 1, 2018.
This will be discussed further at the April meeting.

AKC Family Dog Program

The Board reviewed a recommendation from the Sports & Events Staff to launch a new program entitled AKC Family Dog Program. This name will help bring public recognition and focus to AKC's efforts to develop activities and provide information of interest to family companion dogs. The program will provide activities that encourage training, socialization, and responsible dog ownership and advocate for the benefits that dogs bring to their families and society in general. AKC currently provides Family Dog activities through the CGC/Trick Dog program and include Canine Good Citizen, STAR Puppy, Therapy Dog and Trick Dog programs. The new name reflects AKC's Mission to advocate for dogs "as a family companion" and one of AKC's Core Values – "We cherish dogs as companions" and more clearly conveys to the dog owning public AKC's interest and intent. With the launch of the Family Dog Program, AKC Sports & Events can be thought of in terms of four major types of activities – conformation, companion events, performance events and family dog activities.
Without objection the Sport & Events department will launch the AKC Family Dog Program and Dr. Mary Burch will be the Director of the AKC Family Dog Program. A new Family Dog webpage should be launched around April 1, 2018. There was no objection.

Emotional Support Dogs on Airplanes

Mr. Ljungren advised the Board that Dr. Mary Burch had been contacted by a major airline that is seeking help in defining requirements for emotional support dogs on airplanes. The Board was advised that AKC is planning to work with the airline to help develop a recommendation. Staff will develop a good manner test for emotional support dogs flying in the passenger cabin test.

CONFORMATION

Doug Ljungren, Executive Vice President Sports and Events, Mari-Beth O'Neill, Vice President Sport Services, were present for this portion of the meeting. Glenn Lycan, Director Operation Support, Alan Slay, Director Event Programs, and Bri Tesarz, Manager Dog Show Rules, participated in this portion of the meeting via videoconference.

Two Shows in One Day Policy - Managing Special Attractions

The Board reviewed a Staff recommendation to make approval of future two shows in one-day special attraction events dependent on a club's ability to manage these events with special attractions. Clubs have successfully been hosting two all-breed/limited-breed shows in one day since 2014. Occasionally, the clubs offer special attractions at both events which result in numerous groups being judged in a single day and can significantly extend the day. In order to keep the day to a reasonable length and still allow the clubs flexibility, staff recommends making the approval of future events dependent on a club's demonstrated ability to manage past events. Following a motion by Dr. Battaglia, seconded by Mr. Dok, the Board VOTED (unanimously; absent: Mr. Wooding) to add to the policy (underlined)

Multiple All-Breed or Limited-Breed Shows in One Day Program (January 2017, amended February 2018 Board meeting)

The shows may be held by the same club or multiple clubs. The number of point shows for an individual breed is limited to two per day. Club(s) may hold two all-breed shows in one day, two group shows of the same group in one day, or a combination of all-breed and group shows. Consecutive days of multiple shows in one day are allowed.
The following limitations are placed on this program:

- Clubs that had a show of 500 entries or less the previous year are eligible

for the program. Appeals for exceptions will be reviewed on an individual basis.

- All-breed shows must offer group and best in show competition. Group shows must offer group competition.
- The use of multiple group rings at all-breed shows is encouraged.
- No concurrent or evening specialties may be held in conjunction with the shows.
- Junior Showmanship competition is allowed.
- Obedience and Rally competitions are allowed, and encouraged, but must have their own ring(s) for competition.
- Ownership of the corresponding date must be agreed upon in writing and submitted to AKC prior to event approval if two clubs are holding the same type of events on the same date and site.
- Approval of events that feature special attractions will depend on the club's successful history managing such events. Unsuccessful management of special attractions could include, but is not limited to, such things as conflicts between the special attraction and regular group times and extended delays for the event.

Catalog Sales at Events

The Board reviewed a Staff recommendation to change the Catalog Sales Board policy to allow clubs flexibility in when they may begin selling catalogs. Current Board policy requires that catalogs not go on sale until one hour before the judging of the first event included in the catalog. Many times, exhibitors arrive at the show site and immediately request a catalog. If it is more than one hour prior to the start of judging, the club must refuse the exhibitor's request and ask that they come back later. Staff recommends changing this policy to allow clubs to sell their catalog at any time on the day of the event. This will allow clubs flexibility to run their event in a way that best meets the needs of their exhibitors.
This will be discussed further at the April meeting.

Junior Eligibility to Participate in NOHS

The Board reviewed a Staff recommendation to change the eligibility of Junior Handlers working for professional handlers to allow them to participate in the National Owner-Handled Series (NOHS). Currently, Junior Handlers are not eligible to participate in the NOHS at shows/weekends/clusters where they are assisting professional handlers. This conflicts with the intent of Junior Showmanship and the learning AKC wishes to encourage. Staff is recommending that Junior Handlers be eligible to participate in NOHS so long as they maintain their Amateur Status as outlined in the Junior Showmanship Regulations, Section 2. This will be discussed further at the April meeting.

Summary of All-Breed Events Offering NOHS in 2017

Staff provided an update on the number of all-breed events offering the AKC National Owner-Handled Series (NOHS) in 2017. 66% of all-breed events offered NOHS in 2017. This is an increase of 14% over 2016.

Pee Wee Special Attractions in 2017

Staff provided a status report on Pee Wee special attractions offered in 2017.
The Pee Wee special attraction has continued to grow in popularity. It was offered at 92 events in 2017 versus 57 in 2016. The average number of entries in 2017 was 8 versus 6 in 2016. The clubs have reported very positive experiences for the children and their parents. Upon approval of the special attraction, Event Operations provides the club tips and guidelines to make the experience successful. After the special attraction, we ask the club to provide a summary report and (optional) contact information of the entrants, as well as images. Contact information provided by the clubs is forwarded to the Juniors department and they reach out to the families and provide them additional information about opportunities within the sport. If the clubs provide images from the special attraction, the Juniors department publishes those images on our website, after the receiving the necessary permission/waiver. Overall the special attraction is doing very well and is a good addition to the options available for clubs.

B Match Review

Staff provided an update on the conformation B-Match program match. In 2017, 59% of the clubs reported an increase in entries, 32% reported a decrease and 9% reported no change. In 2017 there were 538 events, a drop from the 631 held in 2016. Since 2016, Sports and Events sends promotional email blasts in support of approved AKC B-matches. In April of 2017, AKC provided flexibility to clubs wishing to hold a match concurrently with a conformation dog show. Based on the need for entry level activities, coupled with the success of the match email promotion in terms of entries, and the new flexibility provided clubs, Club Development plans to actively promote the holding of B-matches by clubs. Club Development will communicate the success of the email program and the importance of providing beginner level competitions such as B-matches to conformation Clubs.

JUDGING OPERATIONS

Tim Thomas, Vice President Dog Show Judges, participated in this portion of the meeting.

Judging Conflict of Interest Policy

A Board member received a request for an exception to the Judges Conflict of Interest Policy. In response to this inquiry, Staff provided information on the policy for discussion.

The current policy, adopted at the May 2006 Board meeting, and amended at the Board's January 2007 meeting is:

No AKC judge may have a significant interest in a dog registry or dog event-governing organization deemed by the AKC Board to be in competition with The American Kennel Club. Significant interest would include, but not be limited to an ownership, an interest in, employment by, a directorship in, and holding office in.

Following discussion, it was the sense of the Board that they did not want to make an exception to the policy nor change the policy at this time.

Canine Breed Courses for Judges

Staff presented a memo concerning AKC's extended learning program for current and prospective judges. There are breed exams for all seven groups and 13 breed courses are available in the course catalogue with many additional breed courses in various stages of development. The breed courses are intended to expand the opportunities available for current and prospective judges to educate themselves, and are developed collaboratively with the parent club for that breed. Cost to enroll in a breed course is $50.

Consistent with the responsibility of judges to know and to judge by the current AKC approved breed standard and to accentuate the importance of ongoing study for judges in breeds approved to judge; Staff recommended that effectively immediately the breed courses will be available upon request for judges currently approved to judge the respective breed for a reduced cost of $20. There was no objection from the Board.

Low Entry Breed List

The Board reviewed the 2018 Low Entry Breed list which will be published on the AKC website by January 30, 2018 and effective March 1, 2018. Judging Operations publishes the Low Entry Breed List annually for reference by current and prospective conformation judges. Under current policy, the Low Entry Breed List impacts educational requirements for those seeking judging approval of the breeds that appear on it, as well as the requirements for permit status judges to advance to regular status in a breed. Breeds whose total numbers of dogs in competition from the previous year were under 3500 are categorized as a Low Entry Breed.

The 2018 Low Entry Breed List displays an increase of six breeds from the previous year. Two breeds, the Nederlandse Kooikerhondje and the Grand Basset Griffon Vendeen, appear as newly recognized breeds. Four breeds – Wirehaired Pointed Griffons, Bull Terriers, Kerry Blue Terriers, and Manchester Terriers return to the Low Entry Breed List in 2018 after a brief hiatus from it in 2017. All breeds on the 2017 Low Entry Breed List remain in 2018.

Mr. Wooding participated for the remainder of the meeting.

COMPLIANCE

Jay Waks, Senior Executive Vice President and General Counsel and Heather McManus, Vice President and Deputy General Counsel, participated in this portion of the meeting. Wanda Forlines, Director of Compliance, and Marcus Bach, Director of Investigations & Inspections, participated by videoconference.

Adding Section on Minors Participation in Dealing with Misconduct at American Kennel Club Events

Following the Compliance Department's presentation at the June 2017 Delegate's Forum, entitled "How to Hold an Event Committee Hearing", a question arose concerning minor's participation in investigations and hearings. The Legal Department and its Compliance group have received requests to provide guidelines to club Event Committees regarding a minor's participation in disciplinary actions.

Minors may become involved in Event Committee disciplinary matters as a witness, complainant or accused, just as an adult may. The proposed section will standardize the requirement of adult participation with minors in these situations.

Legal and Compliance recommend that an additional section be added to Dealing with Misconduct at American Kennel Club Events to guide the clubs in addressing a minor's involvement in disciplinary matters and, if needed, at Event Committee hearings.

Following a motion by Dr. Garvin, seconded by Dr. Davies, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to approve the addition of a new section of Dealing with Misconduct at American Kennel Club Events.

NEW
Section V
MINOR'S PARTICIPATION
IN DISCIPLINARY MATTERS

Investigation

If a person involved in the incident is a minor, a parent or legal guardian of the

minor must be notified prior to interviewing the minor. The interview of the minor may proceed only with the consent, in writing or orally, of a parent, legal guardian or an adult authorized in writing by a parent or legal guardian to accompany the minor ("Authorized Adult"). Any such interview must be conducted in a manner consistent with and sensitive to the circumstances of the situation and the age, understanding and intellectual capacity of the minor, and in the presence of the Authorized Adult.

Hearing

A minor may be called to testify and asked to swear or promise to tell the truth only with the consent of an Authorized Adult noted in the record. If a person participating in the hearing is a minor, the Authorized Adult accompanying the minor is allowed to remain with the minor during the minor's participation in the hearing.

Record

If a person participating in the interview and/or hearing is a minor, it must be noted in the Event Committee's hearing record and report. The record of consent must be submitted to the AKC in the Event Committee Report. Written consent may include an email. Be certain to include the name of the Authorized Adult who accompanied the minor during the hearing and the record of permissions that are required in this Section.

Definition of Minor

State law controls who is a minor.

Compliance Statistics - Fourth Quarter 2017

The Compliance Department and Investigations & Inspections Department reported its statistics for the Fourth Quarter of 2017 and full year 2017.

The following AKC Management actions were reported:

(Final Board Disciplinary actions are reported on the Secretary's Page.)

CLUBS

The Board reviewed a report on the prospective Delegate credentials to be published in two issues of the AKC Gazette, applications for AKC Membership and newly licensed clubs.

Delegates

Delegate For Publication

Jacque E. Glenn, Raymore, MO
To represent Cardigan Welsh Corgi Club of America

Susan Werner, Haymarket, VA
To represent Middleburg Kennel Club

Gale K. Cummings, Norton, MA
To represent Ladies' Dog Club

Linda C. Foiles, Louisburg, NC
To represent Tibetan Spaniel Club of America

Clubs

Report On Newly Licensed Clubs Approved In December And January

Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club of the Susquehanna Valley, greater Carlisle, PA

St. Claire County Coonhunters Association, Ragland, AL

BUSINESS UPDATE

Alexandra Aleskovsky, Executive Vice President & Chief Growth Officer, was present for this portion of the meeting. An overview of 2017 was presented:

- Dog and Litter Registrations ended FY17 ahead of both prior year and Budget.
- Strategic marketing continued to support Sports & Events entries through multiple marketing channels.
- Staff is in the final phases of the new AKC.org website relaunch after executing successful Delegate Orientations and addressing key internal stakeholder feedback.
- There is an opportunity to focus on Casual breeders (They bred 58% of Total Litters registered in 2017 and the only segment to experience registration growth). They also represented the fastest growing segment in Marketplace (represented 70% of listings with 88.5% listings growth). The Board agreed to focus on this initiative.
- Continuing aggressive pace of Technology advancements in Application Modernization, Data Center Migration, Risk Mitigation and Core Web and Application support.
- Grew digital audience 35% YOY to over 7.5MM monthly unique visitors generating over 24 million-page views monthly.

AKC LOGO

In January 2018, the Board voted to revert back to the old AKC logo (pre-2015) as the only official logo of The American Kennel Club. The Marketing, Creative Staff as well as AKC's Digital Agency indicated that

the new logo rendered better on digital platforms and mobile devices. A recommendation was made to utilize the new logo for digital communications and platforms where the old logo cannot be used, and continue to use the old logo for Offline materials and Sports & Events. Following a motion by Mr. Powers, seconded by Ms. McAteer it was VOTED (affirmative: Dr. Battaglia, Ms. Biddle, Mr. Carota, Mr. Dok, Mr. Feeney, Dr. Garvin, Ms. McAteer, Mr. Powers, Ms. Wallin, Mr. Wooding; opposed: Ms. Cruz, Dr. Davies, Mr. Menaker) to adopt the recommended dual logo usage.

AKC Detection Dog Task Force Update

Mark Dunn, Senior Vice President Registration and Customer Development, gave a presentation to the Board. Sheila Goffe, Vice President Government Relations, was present for this portion of the meeting. This presentation was given on the AKC Board-created committee known as the AKC Detection Dog Task Force.

The Committee is involved in determining feasible methods for helping to improve the domestic supply of explosives detection dogs for the U.S. Background information about the state of detection dog demand and supply in the United States was provided to the Board as well as an update on the work of Government Relation s and the task force.

Background: Experts recognize that there is no better or more efficient way to detect explosives than using high quality, specially trained scent detector dogs. Since the terrorist attacks on 9-11, and subsequent attacks worldwide, global demand for high quality explosives detection dogs has skyrocketed," Goffe said. "A shortage of appropriate, domestically-bred dogs available for work as explosive detection dogs presents a significant threat to U.S. security."

The most sought-after breeds for explosives detection work in public areas are Sporting dogs that are developed from field/working lines.

The preferred breeds include:

- Labrador Retriever
- German Shorthaired Pointer
- German Wirehaired Pointer
- Vizsla
- Other retriever breeds including Goldens and Flat-coats

According to various sources within and outside the government, 80% to 90% of the dogs purchased by Homeland Security and DOD are from foreign vendors or domestic vendors who import from foreign sources.

Government Relations

- HR 2810 Update – HR 2810 passed with the language that AKC Government Relations submitted to increase accountability regarding the purchase of European dogs by the US Government. This means the Department of Defense must provide regular reporting on numerous questions related to the sourcing of military working dogs, including the number of dogs purchased from domestic vs. non-domestic breeders, the costs associated with each, information on the difference in accounting for domestic vs. European dog purchases; and how they determine which dogs to get. By March, a report should be made to Congress on all the information that AKC requested.
- Senate Testimony – AKC VP of Government Relations Sheila Goffe testified on Oct. 3 before a joint house/senate oversight committee, along with Dr. Cindy Otto of the Penn Vet Working Center and an Orlando police dog handler. She discussed the AKC committee's research and addressed the concerns about the lack of pedigrees and lack of demonstrable traits with dogs in Europe. Sheila provided follow-up to questions from the chair, regarding the problem with lack of pedigrees and lack of demonstrable traits with dogs from Europe, and the positive aspects of developing a domestic breeding program.

AKC US Detection Dog Conference

The AKC Detection Dog Task Force will hold the second AKC US Detection Dog Conference on Tuesday-Thursday, Aug. 28-30 in Durham, NC. This year will feature an expanded format and an open invitation to breeders and AKC clubs. The goal of this year's event is to bring together not only the key stakeholders leading academics, trainers, AKC breeders together with the key stakeholders for networking and information gathering on what is involved with producing dogs for detection work. Speakers will include Dr. Cindy Otto of Penn Vet Working Dog Center; Scott Thomas, former director of the TSA Canine Performance Breeding Program; Dr. Matthew Breen of NC State University; and Dr. Paul Waggoner and Pam Haney of Auburn University Canine Performance Department.

CONSENT

Following a motion by Dr. Battaglia, seconded by Jim Dok it was VOTED (unanimously) to approve the following Consent Items:

Delegate and Club Approvals
Spinone Italiano Proposed Breed Standard Revisions
Eliminating Requirement for New Clubs to Hold a Fun Match
Clean Up Italicized Sections of Rules Applying to Dog Shows
Adding Collar Policy to Rules Applying to Dog Shows
Moving Chapter 8 in Rules Applying to Dog Shows
Event Committee Authority to Deny Entries
Change NOHS Points Awarded at the National Specialty
Provide Clubs Flexibility when Holding Evening Specialty Shows
Black Russian Terrier Club of America - Temperament Test Title
Making Agility Friendlier
Amendments to Regulations for AKC Scent Work
Sweepstakes Guidelines

Delegate Approvals

Karen Cottingham, Salisbury, MD
To represent Salisbury Maryland Kennel Club

Elizabeth J. Faber, Winchester Center, CT
To represent Northwestern Connecticut Dog Club

Eileen Boyer Narieka, Leesport, PA
To represent Berks County Kennel Club

James "Jim" M. Talbert, Poquoson, VA
To represent Lagotto Romagnolo Club of America

Spinone Italiano Proposed Breed Standard Revisions

The Spinone Club of America, Inc. (SCA), requested that the AKC Board permit the SCA to ballot the membership on its proposed breed standard revisions in accordance with the SCA Constitution and By-Laws. The Board VOTED to approve this request.

Eliminating Requirement for New Clubs to Hold a Fun Match

The Board VOTED to approve a Staff recommendation to eliminate the requirement for New Clubs to hold a Fun Match prior to applying to the AKC to become an accredited club.
This Policy change is effective March 1, 2018 and will remove one step in the process for clubs to be admitted to AKC.
The changes to *"How to Form an AKC-Accredited Dog Club"* appear on page 5 and are as follows:

Part I. AKC's Basic Club Policies. (page 5)
Continuity: ~~We expect~~ Prospective new clubs are expected to demonstrate ongoing viability by establishing a record of meetings, elections and activities before coming to the AKC for accreditation. If clubs have held fun matches or other activities, a brief description should be provided. ~~Clubs should provide a detailed account of fun matches and activities, documented with flyers, catalog covers, newsletters, programs, etc.~~

Part III. AKC Accreditation. (page 7)
After holding an organizational meeting, electing temporary officers, drafting a set of bylaws, scheduling a date for the first annual meeting, and establishing a schedule of meetings/events/activities until the first annual meeting ~~and holding at least one "fun" match~~, your club will be eligible to apply for accreditation at the AKC, and to be approved for the holding of sanctioned match shows, and/or trials and tests.

Clean Up Italicized Sections of Rules Applying to Dog Shows

The Board reviewed many recommended changes to the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* from the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee.
Board VOTED TO APPROVE the recommended changes to *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* Chapter 6, Section 2 and Chapter 7, Sections 2, 12 & 19 for clarity and updated language. These proposed Rule changes will be read at the March Delegate meeting for a Vote at the June Delegate Meeting.

RULES APPLYING TO DOG SHOWS CHAPTER 6

PREMIUM LISTS AND CLOSING OF ENTRIES
SECTION 2. The premium list shall contain the following: a list of the officers of the show-giving club with the address of the secretary, a list of the members of the Event Committee (there must be at least five) together with the designation of "Chairman" and the Chairman's address (and "Obedience Trial Chairman" if an obedience trial is being held by a club in connection with its dog show), the names of the veterinarians (or name of local Veterinary Association) and, for an unbenched show, whether the veterinarian will be in attendance throughout the show hours or "on call," the names and addresses of the judges, together with their assignments, and the name and address of the superintendent or show secretary who has been approved by The American Kennel Club. The premium list shall also specify whether the show is benched or unbenched, and shall give the exact location of the show, the date or dates on which it is to be held, and the times of opening and closing of the show.

Notification must be printed in the Premium List only if the club is not offering the three-point major to the Reserve Winners at the National Specialty.

RULES APPLYING TO DOG SHOWS - CHAPTER 7

JUDGES

SECTION 2. The application for approval to judge must be made on a form which will be supplied by The American Kennel Club upon request and when received by said club will be placed before the Board of Directors of The American Kennel Club who shall determine in each instance whether an approval shall be issued.

SECTION 12. Any club or association that holds a dog show must prepare, after the entries have closed and not before, a judging program showing the time scheduled for the judging of each breed and each variety for which entries have been accepted. If a substitute or additional judge has been approved Chapter 7, Section 8 or Chapter 7, Section 13, as appropriate, will be quoted listing the changes. The judging program shall indicate the number of dogs entered and state the time for the start of group judging, if any. The program shall be based on the judging of about 25 dogs per hour by each judge. Each judge's breed and variety assignments shall be divided into periods of about one hour, except in those cases where the entry in a breed or variety exceeds 30. The total number of dogs assigned each judge will be indicated. Forty-five minutes to one hour must be allowed for rest or meals if a judge's assignment exceeds five hours. A copy of the program and identification slip for each dog entered shall be mailed, published or made available to the owner no later than one week before the date of the event. Two copies of the program shall be sent to the Show Plans Department at the same time they are published or made available to exhibitors. Printed documents may be utilized at the exhibitor's request. The judging program shall be published in the catalog. No judging shall occur at any show prior to the time specified in the judging program.

SECTION 19. Only one judge shall officiate in each Group Class and only one judge shall select the Best in Show and Reserve Best in Show.

~~*The Board of Directors suggests that whenever possible the Best in Show and Reserve Best in Show be determined by one who has not already judged any breed or group class of said show.*~~

Except in hardship cases, ~~when an exception may be approved for a specific show,~~ a judge will not be approved to judge a breed and, at the same show, the Variety Group of which the breed is a part and Best in Show and Reserve Best in Show.

The Board VOTED NOT TO APPROVE the recommended changes submitted by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee to *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*, Chapter 3, Sections 13 & 16.

Adding Collar Policy to Rules Applying to Dog Shows

The Board reviewed a recommendation from the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee to add a new section 16 to Chapter 11 of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* to address the use of inappropriate collars and leads at dog shows. The Board VOTED NOT TO APPROVE the recommended changes.

Moving Chapter 8 in the Rules Applying to Dog Shows

The Board reviewed a recommendation from the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee (DSRC) to move Chapter 8, to become a new Section 17 in Chapter 2, in the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*. The Board VOTED NOT TO APPROVE the recommended changes.

Event Committee Authority to Deny Entries

The Board reviewed a recommendation from the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee to expand the authority of the Event Committee to decline entries for its events in Chapter 11, Section 15 of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*. The proposal from the DSRC would expand the authority given within the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* to the Event Committee to deny entries to include for 'threatening, violent, or disruptive behavior…which is contrary to the American Kennel Club's Code of Sportsmanship." The Board VOTED to deny this proposal as there is currently a means to deny entries and hold persons and dogs accountable for their behavior at AKC events.

Change NOHS Points Awarded at the National Specialty

The Board VOTED to change to the number of National Owner-Handled Series (NOHS) points awarded for a NOHS Best of Breed/Variety win at the National Specialty.

Effective with the start of the 2018-2019 Qualifying period (October 11, 2018), the NOHS Points Scale is:

AWARD	POINTS
NOHS BIS	100
NOHS RBIS	75
NOHS GROUP 1	30
NOHS GROUP 2	20
NOHS GROUP 3	15
NOHS GROUP 4	10
National Specialty BOB	10
NOHS BOB	5

This will recognize the importance and prestige of this win for an Owner-Handler.

Provide Clubs Flexibility when Holding Evening Specialty Shows

The Board VOTED to approve a Staff recommendation to change the Evening Specialty Shows Policy to allow specialty clubs more flexibility for their shows. The new Evening Specialty show policy limits an evening specialty to 50 entries per ring, per judge concurrently.

New Board Policy:

Evening Specialty Shows (December 2005 Board meeting, amended January 2018)

Effective March 1, 2018, evening specialties will be permitted following all-breed shows. Evening specialties are limited to 50 entries per ring, per judge for all AKC approved competitions, provided the rings are run concurrently.

Black Russian Terrier Club of America – Temperament Test Title

The Board VOTED to approve a request from the Black Russian Terrier Club of America for the AKC to acknowledge the Temperament Test title (TT) awarded to Black Russian Terriers by the American Temperament Testing Society (ATTS). ATTS is a national not-for-profit organization founded in 1977. ATTS provides a uniform temperament evaluation open to all dogs over 18 months of age. The test involves ten components which test for behavior toward strangers, reaction to auditory stimulus, reaction to visual stimulus (the umbrella pop), reaction to unusual footing, and reaction to an unusually dressed threatening stranger. A dog fails if it shows panic, strong avoidance without recovery or unprovoked aggression.

The title is handled through the Parent Club Performance Events Titling Program. Owners must apply to the AKC on a form developed by the Performance Events Department, submit documentation proving the dog has passed the ATTS test and pay a processing fee. All dogs must be AKC registered or listed in the PAL program.

Making Agility Friendlier

The Board VOTED to approve four recommended changes to the Agility Regulations that are meant to bring greater consistency to the sport or make it easier for clubs to prepare for events. These recommendations come out of discussions held at the 2017 Agility Field Representatives meeting where four issues were identified that clubs had repeatedly brought to the Field Reps' attention or judging issues the staff had seen out in the field.

The recommended changes are to:

1. Allow Judges to send equipment maps out 48 hours in advance (currently 24 hours).
2. Change the judging of the table from a Failure (a non-qualifying fault) to a Wrong Course if the dog engages another obstacle then comes back to finish the table count.
3. Clarify that handlers will receive a non-qualifying score if they touch any piece of equipment during a run.
4. Remove the "4-Paw Rule."

REGULATIONS FOR AGILITY TRIALS

Chapter 4. General Course and Trial Requirements

Section 6. Preparing a Ring for Agility. The judge is allowed to send a diagram showing the positions of all the obstacles no more than 48 hours prior to the date of the trial to facilitate course building. This diagram may not show obstacle numbers, start and/or finish lines or the Send Line on the course. The judge may send an equipment list more than 48 hours ahead if requested by the club. The Judge may send a diagram more than 48 hours ahead showing position of the contact obstacles and a list of the other obstacles that may be grouped together (bunched) in different areas of the ring. Once the obstacles are set no dogs may train or practice on the obstacles.

Chapter 5. General Scoring Criteria

Section 5. Mandatory Elimination (NQ). The following individual faults call for Mandatory Elimination which shall be marked as an "F" on the scribe sheet resulting in a non-qualifying score (NQ). The dog/handler may continue their run except as may be noted elsewhere in these Regulations:

1. Handler or dog knocking down any obstacle or jump that is either presently being performed or will be performed. Handler jumps over, goes under, or steps on top of any obstacle. (If excessive the judge may excuse the handler for their own safety.)
2. Displaces the top bar(s) or panel of a jump or breaking apart the tire jump.
3. Failure to clear the span of the Broad Jump.
4. Missing a contact zone (except missing the upside of the A-Frame or Dog Walk is not faulted).
5. Seesaw fly-offs.
6. Failure to complete all obstacles that are part of the course as described in Chapter 3.
7. Running the wrong course and not correcting the run before crossing the finish line.
8. Handler touching any obstacle prior to completion of the course.
9. Contact between the handler and the dog that aids the performance of

the dog.

10. Any contact of dog and handler at the Pause Table, Weave Poles, and contact obstacles.
11. Exceeding the refusal maximum for a given class.
12. Exceeding the wrong course maximum for a given class.

Section 6. Mandatory Excusals.

Handlers can be excused by the judge at any time for inappropriate actions including, but not limited to those listed below. The following faults call for mandatory excusal. The scribe sheet shall be marked "E" and the dog and handler are excused from the ring.

1. Handler continuously or conspicuously leads the dog through the course (excessive handling), uses harsh commands, or corrections.
2. Unsportsmanlike conduct.
3. A dog that leaves the course area and/or discontinues working and/or is unresponsive and/or out of control.
4. Exceeding the maximum course time.
5. Dogs fouling (includes vomiting) the ring at any time.
6. Inappropriate collar on dog discovered after the dog has started its run.
7. A handler that runs the course with handling aids.
8. Training in the ring including corrections, purposefully touching the dog in order to get it to perform an obstacle or petting the dog on the Pause Table or contact obstacles to reinforce a behavior.
9. Dogs biting handler, beyond playful nipping.
10. Exceeding the fault limit of the class. Fault limits may be applied only if both the judge and the Trial Chairman agree that it is in the best interest of the trial to do so. If applied the fault limit shall be either three (3) or four (4) separate faults that would normally result in a non-qualifying score. When a dog has reached the established fault limit the dog shall be excused from the ring and the handler should endeavor to exit the ring in the most expedient manner possible. Fault limits are allowed only in the Excellent and Master Agility Standard and Excellent and Master JWW classes.
12. Failure to comply with judge's verbal instructions.
13. Lead out advantage violation. Refer to Chapter 5, Section 4e; Lead Out Advantage.
14. Any dog that does not enter or exit the ring on leash. On leash is defined as having the leash attached to the dog's collar or harness, or in the case of a slip lead, having the noose completely around the dog's neck.
16. If the dog gets tangled up on the Closed Tunnel fabric, gets hung up going through the Tire, or falls off the ascent side of the Dog Walk, A-Frame, or Seesaw, the handler has the choice to immediately reattempt the obstacle once and then leave the course. Alternatively, the handler has the choice not to retry the obstacle the dog had trouble with and continue running the course.

Amendments to Regulations for AKC Scent Work

The Board VOTED to approve the Staff's suggested changes to the current *Regulations for AKC Scent Work*. This changes will become effective March 1, 2018.

See Attachment A.

SWEEPSTAKES GUIDELINES

The Board VOTED to amend a Board Policy regarding Sweepstakes.

The new Policy which is effective immediately will read:

Show Manual: *The club may retain, for expenses, up to 50% of the sweepstakes entry fees collected. The club should only retain enough of the entry fee to cover the expenses of the competition.*

This change will allow clubs the opportunity to hold sweepstakes without exposing themselves to a loss.

NEW BUSINESS

Chairman's Committee

The Chairman reported that he had appointed a committee to review the election process for AKC Board of Directors and to make recommendations to the Board on that process. The Committee members are: Ron Menaker, Dr. Tom Davies, Gretchen Bernardi, Jack Cadalso and Dan Smyth.

It was VOTED to adjourn Friday, February 9, at 12:23 p.m.

Adjourned

Attest:

Gina M. DiNardo, Executive Secretary

Attachment A

REGULATIONS FOR AKC SCENT WORK

Chapter 1, Section 2. Overview….The dog is the star of the Scent Work trial—the handler guides the dog's search only when necessary and lets the judge know when the dog has found the scent…

The remainder of this section is unchanged.

Chapter 2, Section 2. Class Eligibility.

- Novice A Classes are open to dogs who have not completed any title for that particular element, who have not completed a comparable title with another organization, and whose handlers are neither Scent Work judges, nor have ever worked as professional detection dog handlers.

…Dogs are able to enter up to two (2) difficulty levels in each element, in each trial. Dogs may only enter classes for which they are eligible, according to the above guidelines.

The remainder of this section is unchanged.

Chapter 2, Section 11. Sections A and B of Novice Classes. Novice A and Novice B are different sections of the same class. The hide location does not move between Novice A and Novice B. Teams are judged under the exact same criteria in Novice A and Novice B.

The sections in the remainder of this chapter will be renumbered to reflect insertion of this section.

Chapter 2, Section 12. Entering Under a Judge. …Stewards and timers may compete in the trial if it does not conflict with the completion of their assignments. A person may not be the timer for a class in which they are directly competing.
The remainder of this section is unchanged.

Chapter 3, Section 1. Clubs Eligible to Hold AKC Scent Work Trials. Any club or association that meets the requirements of the American Kennel Club may be licensed to hold AKC Scent Work trials. Scent Work trials must be open to all breeds and to mixed breeds registered with Canine Partners, except that Specialty clubs and Group clubs may choose to limit entries to the breed or group applicable to their club, and clubs may exclude up to five (5) specific breeds to alleviate conflicts. Specialty clubs holding a limited Scent Work trial for all AKC recognized breeds may accept entries of dogs of their own breed first, then accept entries from all breeds and dogs listed with AKC Canine Partners until the entry limit specified in the premium list is reached.

Chapter 3, Section 7. Order of Classes. The order in which classes will be run at trial is at the club's discretion. Once an order of classes is published though, the classes may not be rearranged, unless all exhibitors are present and consent to the change.
The remainder of this section is unchanged.

Chapter 3, Section 12. Event Committee. A club that has been granted AKC permission to hold a trial or match must appoint an Event Committee, which will have complete responsibility for planning and conducting the event. The Committee shall be composed of at least five (5) club members (including the Chairperson), and shall ensure the safe, efficient, and orderly conduct of the event. Individuals who are judging at the event may not serve on the Event Committee. The Committee must have on hand, on the day of the trial, sufficient assistance and equipment, and must ensure that the area is free of dangerous materials or conditions.
The remainder of this section is unchanged.

Chapter 3, Section 14. Premium List. …

- Names and cities of residence of judges, including their assignments

… The premium list must be submitted via e-mail to ScentWork@akc.org prior to publication. The premium list must be made available by paper and/or electronically to prospective entrants a minimum of two (2) weeks prior to the opening date for acceptance of entries for the event.
The remainder of this section is unchanged.

Chapter 3, Section 18. Waiting List. … The club must establish a maximum number of entries that may be placed on the wait list. Whether a club is offering a wait list, how many entries are being accepted on the wait list, and the closing date/time of the wait list must be published in the premium list. On the day of the trial, the club may assign entries for absent individuals to those on the wait list who are present at the trial site. If multiple waitlisted individuals are present at the event site, the runs must be assigned in wait-list order. A full refund is to be reimbursed to any entrant whose entry is replaced by a wait-listed entry.
The remainder of this section is unchanged

Chapter 3, Section 20. Judging Limits. At no time may a club exceed the judging limits as specified in Chapter 4, Section 3 of these regulations, except that the club may assign an overage of up to 15 dogs per judge, with the explicit written permission of the affected judges. After the entries have closed, if any judge exceeds the limit established in these regulations, the club will immediately secure the approval of the AKC for an additional judge, or for reassignment of its advertised judges, so that no judge will be required to exceed the limit.

Chapter 3, Section 21. One Judge Per Class. Each class has only one assigned

judge; classes cannot be split between judges, with the exception of the Novice class. Clubs are able to assign one judge to the Novice A section and a judge to the Novice B section if that is required for balancing of judging limits.
The sections in the remainder of this chapter will be renumbered to reflect insertion of this section.

Chapter 3, Section 23. Entry Acceptance Methods. …*Guaranteed Entries for Show Workers*: The club may guarantee entry spots for show workers who have agreed to work at the trial. Alternatively, clubs may choose to grant vouchers to workers for entries into future trials. Entry spots for show workers are part of the total entry limit stated in the premium list.
The remainder of this section is unchanged.

Chapter 3, Section 25. Armband Numbers. An armband number shall be assigned to each dog in a trial and is used to determine the running order of dogs as well as to help judges and trial officials identify dogs in their records. The running order may be modified for the smooth running of the trial. For example, clubs can choose to run volunteers first, regardless of their armband number. The armband number need not be physically displayed on the dog or handler.

Chapter 3, Section 31. Recording of Results. … For each dog entered in the class, the marked catalog must display the 1) Armband number, 2) Dog's AKC number, 3) Registered name of the dog, 4) Call name of the dog, 5) Name of the owner, 6) Address of the owner, 7) Name of the handler (if different from the owner), 8) Official time, 9) Number of faults, 10) Result. At the club's discretion, the address of the owner may be omitted from the class pages and presented in an index at the back of the catalog. Recorded adjacent to each entry of each dog must be one of the following: Qualified (Q), Did not qualify (NQ), Absent (ABS), Excused (EXC), Disqualified for attack (DQ), Withdrawn- in season (AIS), or Withdrawn due to Judge Change (AJC). If marked "EXC" or "DQ," a brief description must also appear in the catalog. If a dog earned a placement (1 through 4) for the class, that must also be denoted adjacent to the dog's entry.
The remainder of this section is unchanged.

Chapter 3, Section 32. Submittal of Results. An official marked catalog bearing the above required information, and with each page initialed by the individual who judged each class, must be sent to the American Kennel Club so as to reach its office within seven (7) days after the event. Included in this packet must be the judge's certification pages and Trial Secretary certification, the Trial Secretary's report, and payment of recording fees. Clubs may incur fines for catalogs received after this deadline.
The remainder of this section is unchanged.

Chapter 4, Section 3. Judging Limits. The limit for each Scent Work judge is 125 entries per day. With the express written consent of the judge, the club may assign an overage of up to 15 entries per day.

Chapter 4, Section 8. Confirmation of the Alert. When the handler calls Alert the judge is responsible for confirming whether the alert is correct or incorrect. If the dog is clearly indicating the source of the scent, the judge should respond in the affirmative when the handler calls Alert.
The remainder of this section is unchanged.

Chapter 4, Section 9. Alert Confirmation for Accessible Hides. If the dog is near the source of the scent, but it is not clear to the judge that the dog has communicated the exact location to the handler, the judge should ask "where?" The handler must then indicate the source of the scent by pointing or gesturing. If the area that the handler indicates includes the hide location or the location where the odor would have settled in the judge's expert opinion, the alert should be considered correct and the judge should respond in the affirmative.

Chapter 4, Section 10. Alert Confirmation for Inaccessible Hides. For inaccessible hides, the dog will not be able to pinpoint the exact location of the hide, so the judge will be looking for the dog to get as close as possible to the inaccessible hide location. If the dog is clearly indicating this area, the judge does not need to ask "where?" If the dog has not indicated clearly or seems to be indicating in multiple differing locations, the judge should ask "where?" If, in the judge's expert opinion, the area that the handler indicates includes one or more of the locations where the dog would have encountered the escaping odor from the inaccessible hide, the alert should be considered correct and the judge should respond in the affirmative.

Chapter 5, Section 3. Placement of Odors. The scent aid must always be placed inside a scent vessel, which is then hidden in the search area. Only one (1) scent aid may be used per scent vessel, and only one (1) scent vessel may be used per hide. The scent vessel may be any small object that prevents the scent aid from coming into direct contact with any object or surface in

the search area, and that allows scent to escape. Some examples of a scent vessel include a plastic straw, empty lip balm tube, or a metal tin with holes. Due to safety concerns, scent vessels may never contain glass. The scent vessel may be affixed to an object or surface with tape, adhesive putty (such as QuakeHold) or by any other method, so long as it does not harm the object or surface.

Chapter 5, Section 4. Hides on Boundary Markers. The hide may never be placed on or inside an object that is put in the search area to denote the boundary (such as a cone or flag). However, the hide may be placed on a wall or structure that is natural to the search area and is used as the outer limit of the search area. For example, the side of a building may be used as the edge of a search area, and the side of the building may be in play.

The sections in the remainder of this chapter will be renumbered to reflect insertion of this section.

Chapter 5, Section 8. Collars, Leashes, and Harnesses. … No special training tools, such as electronic collars, prong collars, head halters, or no-pull harnesses will be permitted during the search. Martingale collars are permitted. No odor-emitting collars (such as no-bark collars that spray citronella, or DAP calming collars) may be worn or present in the search area. A wearable camera such as a Go Pro may be mounted to the dog's harness, if desired.

The remainder of this section is unchanged.

Chapter 5, Section 10. Start Line. For each search area there shall be a start line that the dog and handler must cross. The start line may be a maximum of five (5) feet long. If the dog or handler fail to cross the start line, the judge will record a fault for handler error.

The sections in the remainder of this chapter will be renumbered to reflect insertion of this section.

Chapter 5, Section 12. Incorrect Calls. If the handler makes an incorrect "alert" or "finish" call, the search is over. Teams do not proceed to the remaining search areas after an incorrect call.

The sections in the remainder of this chapter will be renumbered to reflect insertion of this section.

Chapter 5, Section 15. Distraction Items.

- Non-Food Distraction: A non-food distraction may be any item, other than food, that might be enticing to a dog. A used tennis ball is a prime example. The non-food distraction may not contain any artificial scent (such as another essential oil, a perfume, or a scented lotion), but it may contain the scent of another animal (such as a cat toy).

The remainder of this section is unchanged.

Chapter 5, Section 21. The Hide Steward. For each search, one individual, the hide steward, is in charge of placing the scent in the hide location designated by the judge. Having only one individual in contact with the scent will minimize the chance of contamination. The hide steward should wear latex, nitrile, or vinyl gloves when setting the hides, and should not handle or move any other items.

Chapter 5, Section 15. Residual and Lingering Odor. If search areas are reused during the course of the trial, the judge must inform teams during the handler's briefing (and may remind them on the start line) of the prior hide locations, to warn of possible residual or lingering odor. These areas may also be marked with stickers or tape.

The sections in the remainder of this chapter will be renumbered to reflect insertion of this section.

Chapter 5, Section 12. Rewards and Reinforcers. Food or toy rewards may be used by the handler at any time during the search (for example, to calm and focus a nervous dog.) However, these items may not be used to bait the dog toward a specific location to search. When a dog correctly finds the scent, the handler may reward the dog with a food or toy reinforcer, which may be delivered at or away from source. The handler must take care not to contaminate the search area with food particles or saliva. Toys may be thrown, but if the toy or the dog causes disruption to the search area, the team may incur a fault. Toys that make noise are not allowed.

Chapter 6, Section 4. Non-Qualifying Faults. …

(f) The handler allows the dog to disrupt the search area unduly. This includes excessive food residue, or intentional biting, hard scratching, pouncing or other by the dog that causes damage to the container/object/area. Cases in which a dog's nose or feet get caught on containers or other objects shall not be considered a disruption of the area.

The remainder of this section is unchanged.

Chapter 7, Section 3. Container Searches. The Container search element mimics the

work of detection dogs to search packages for contraband. In the Container classes the dog must locate the target odor(s), which is/are hidden in one or more containers within a search area, and communicate the find to their handler. A container can be a cardboard box, a back pack, a briefcase, a storage bin, a piece of luggage, etc., as required by difficulty level. Container searches may be conducted either inside or outside.
The remainder of this section is unchanged.

Chapter 7, Section 6. Buried Searches. The Buried search element simulates the task of Human Remains Dogs to search for scents that have been buried under the ground. The Novice and Advanced classes use containers filled with store-bought soil (see Chapter 5, Section 7 above for size requirements), and may be conducted indoors or outdoors.
The remainder of this section is unchanged.

Chapter 8, Section 11. Handler Discrimination Advanced. … There is one hide at this level, which must be accessible and may not be located higher than 24 inches off the floor.
The remainder of this section is unchanged.

Chapter 8, Section 13. Handler Discrimination Master. Combined search. At this level, the search area presents the team with two or more elements (container, interior, or exterior) within one search. For example, the search area may span indoors and outdoors, may be an indoor search that includes containers, or any other combination. The handler scent may not be buried. Three handler-scented articles are hidden in two or three distinct search areas. The total space of all search areas must be not less than 300 and not more than 800 square feet. Each search area will be worked independently, with a separate time limit. One search area will have 1 hide, the other will have 2 hides; none of these search areas may be blank. None of the hides may be inaccessible, and none may be located higher than 24 inches above the ground. Also hidden on the course are two additional scent-aids, one scented by the judge, and one scented by a steward. There are one or two distractions at this level, which may be non-food, food, visual, auditory, human, or mimic. The dog must find the handler scents and communicate the finds to its handler. The handler must call "Alert" when the dog indicates each find. In each search area, the handler must call "Finish" to indicate that all hides have been found and to stop the time. The time limit is set by the judge and must be between 2 and 3 minutes for each search area. The Handler Discrimination Detective Class is open to dogs who have earned the Handler Discrimination Excellent (SHDE title).
Table following this section will also be modified pursuant to these changes.

MARCH 2018
CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The New AKC Museum Of The Dog

We celebrate our passion for purebred dogs every day of our lives – at dog shows, matches, club meetings, social gatherings, and certainly at home with our beloved canine companions. Because we must be the voice for our dogs, we cannot be an echo chamber. With pet ownership and interest in dogs at an all-time high, the time is right for us to share our passion with audiences beyond our core. Our expanding communication platforms such as AKC.tv are exposing more people to our content and messaging on the digital level. Yet even with all of the technological advancements we enjoy, consumers are craving interpersonal connections and new experiences more than ever before. This year, we are continuing to build the groundwork that will allow us to bring the world of purebred dogs to a broader segment of the public in a brand new way. I am delighted to announce that in less than a year, the AKC Museum of the Dog will return to its original home in New York City.

The vision of the AKC Museum of the Dog is to celebrate dogs and the human-canine bond. We remain true to its mission. Through the Museum's collection of fine art and artifacts, engaging exhibits and evolving programs, visitors will develop a deeper understanding of and appreciation for dogs. We will achieve our educational objectives on a greater scale in New York City, where the region is home to approximately twenty million people. The relocation of AKC's headquarters to a more suitable space at 101 Park Avenue offers the rare opportunity for us to combine our work on behalf of purebred dogs with a dynamic resource for the public.

Queenie Park in St. Louis has been a wonderful host to our Museum, to the extent that what was meant to be a temporary home offered more than thirty-two years of service. We are so grateful to the St. Louis community for their dedicated stewardship of the collection.

In the quest to develop new and expanded audiences, the heart of New York City once again presents itself as the most promising location for the AKC Museum of the Dog. Economic development data

show that New Yorkers love dogs, to the tune of well over a million pets in the City. High levels of education and household income in the region are further indicators of demand for cultural entertainment. With approximately six hundred thousand people living within two miles of the Museum's new site, there is strong potential for a sizeable local membership. Widening that lens, we should also note that New York City welcomes 60 million tourists every year from all over the US and other parts of the world.

Yet, one cannot assume "if we build it they will come." Experts have told us that when choosing cultural activities, people primarily contemplate entertainment value, the ability to experience something with friends or family, and the potential to expand one's knowledge or horizons. It is these considerations that will guide the interpretive strategy for our Museum. Interactive platforms and fun aspects of the visitor experience will be key elements in the plan to attract children and youth, as well as the growing seniors market.

Displays of the Museum's collection and artifacts alongside evolving and interactive content about dog breeds, the AKC and the role of dogs in society will illuminate the human-canine bond and showcase our organization in a completely new and contemporary light. Our aim is to present programming that balances art, education, data and whimsy, so that visitors are inspired to spend time with us and come back repeatedly with their friends and family. We will have more than 17,000 square feet in which to tell the world our story and welcome everyone to the wonderful world of dogs. The statement-making ground floor will host changing exhibits and events and will offer curated retail items in a gift shop. The next floor up will be reachable by an interior staircase and elevator, where the Museum will host the permanent collections and a portion of the AKC Library for public use. Uniquely designed by the award-winning global architecture firm, Gensler, the gallery experience will provide flexibility in a physical sense as well as learning and gathering to maximize interaction with our subjects. Nearby on the fifth floor will be the new home of AKC's corporate offices. Construction is to begin within a month.

Guiding us in this significant outreach effort is our new Director of AKC Cultural Resources, as well as four enthusiastic new members of the Museum's Board of Directors. A smooth transition for the artwork is already underway, and a collection management policy is in development. There will be many updates in the coming months as we work toward our 2019 opening. I invite you all to become part of this exciting project. Together we will build a home that pays homage to our traditions, inspires deeper learning, and invites the world to share our passion for purebred dogs.



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/