



AMERICAN  
KENNEL CLUB

# AKC Breeder

SPRING 2012

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THE AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB'S QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FOR BREEDERS

## The Whelping Box

*An excerpt from "Breeding: Art and Science?" the March 2012 AKC Gazette breed column by Marjorie Wikerd, Tibetan Terrier Club of America:*

If breeding dogs were a purely scientific endeavor, it would seem that almost anyone could learn the methodology and get it right most of the time. Why, then do we hear of the breeding that failed to produce in spite of its beautiful pedigree? ...

For starters, it isn't pieces of paper or pedigrees being bred—it's dogs. Every litter includes a range of quality. The poorest specimen in the litter shares an identical pedigree with its potential Best in Show littermate.

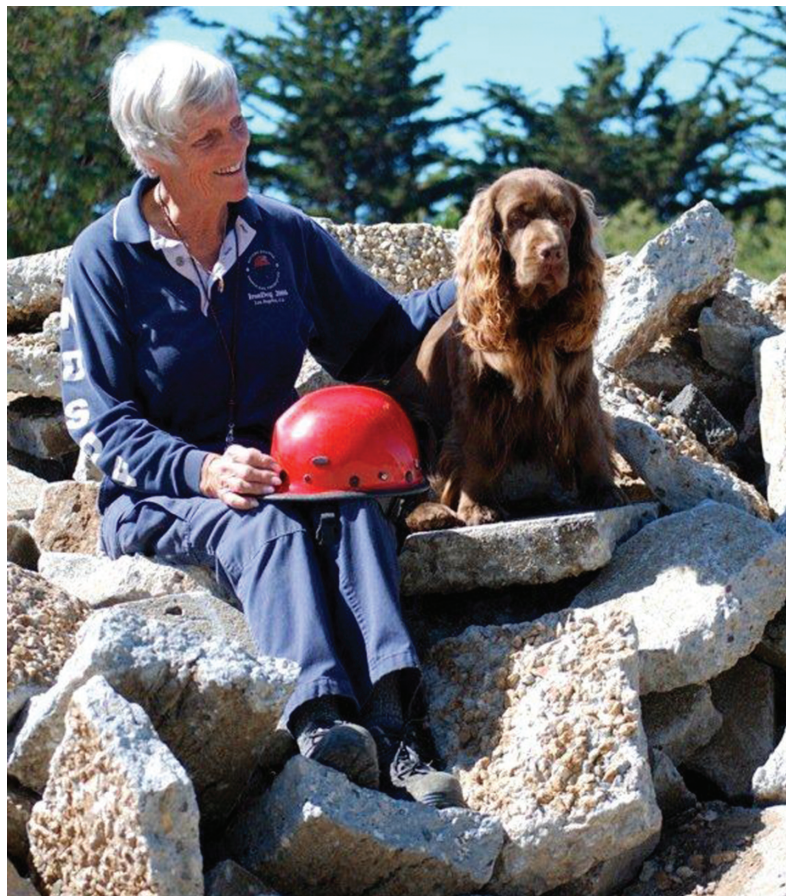
While keeping pedigrees in mind, it is also necessary to know the individual dogs phenotypically. Being aware of both the strengths and faults of as many ancestors as possible increases the odds for success.

So what is the art of breeding? It's that special ability to consider a potential mating and accurately visualize the potential results of that combination. There exists a sixth sense that seems to come more naturally to some breeders than to others.

The art of breeding also comes into play when evaluating a litter. The breeder who can look at an 8- to 10-week-old puppy and see that same puppy as an adult in his mind's eye has a much better chance of selecting the best pup than the breeder who sees the pup only as it is right then.

Science or art? Each has a significant role in dog breeding.

*To read the full version of this and all Gazette breed columns, visit [akc.org](http://akc.org) and click on "AKC Magazines."*



Courtesy subject

## Helping Dogs, Helping People

*A Conversation with Breeder of the Year and AKC Breeder of Merit Pluis Davern*

By Arliss Paddock

In Orlando last December, the huge crowd at the AKC/Eukanuba National Championship roared its approval as Pluis Davern, of Sundowners Sussex Spaniels in Royal Oaks, California, was named 2011 AKC Breeder of the Year. The annual award honors breeders who have dedicated their lives to improving the health, temperament, and quality of purebred dogs. Pluis also holds the distinction of being an AKC Breeder of Merit participant. This program recognizes those experienced, responsible breeders who are dedicated to breeding beautiful purebred dogs whose appearance, temperament, and ability are true to their breed.

With a gift for working with dogs and a conviction that it is vital for breeds to retain ability to perform their original function, Davern has been deeply involved in breeding, showing, training, and hunting with dogs for more than 40 years. She has owned and bred many dual-titled sporting dogs and has had a distinguished

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### AKC 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.

AKC Breeder articles are selected for their general interest and entertainment values. Authors' views do not necessarily represent the policies of The American Kennel Club, nor does their publication constitute an endorsement by the AKC.

### “HELPING DOGS, HELPING PEOPLE”

*continued from previous page*

career as a dog trainer and professional handler, and she is an AKC judge of both conformation and field events.

Following years of involvement with several large sporting breeds, she sought a somewhat smaller breed and fell in love with the Sussex Spaniel. In the early 1980s she acquired her first Sussex, Ch. The Vicar of Lexxfield, CD, who would become the first of his breed to go Best in Show in the U.S. and to place in the group at the Garden. Her next, Ch. Sand Creeks' Up to Snuff, CDX, SH, had two Bests in Show and more than 40 group placements, and was the first Sussex with advanced field and obedience titles. As a breeder of this wonderful rare breed, she is committed to helping to ensure its future.

In addition to her success as a breeder, Davern has become one of the most highly respected dog trainers in the country, and she was named 2011 Trainer of the Year by *Dog Fancy*. She is the founder and owner of Sundowners Kennels in Gilroy, California, where all dogs for the National Disaster Search Dog Foundation are trained. Once trained, these dogs—all of whom were rescued from shelters or breed-rescue groups—are donated to selected firefighters and law-enforcement personnel in the U.S. and Mexico.

Recently we were fortunate to have Davern share with us a bit about her history in dogs and some insights on the sport.

#### *What was your first dog?*

Growing up in New Zealand, I was given my first dog that was truly my own when I was a 12-year-old, in 1955. He was a Boxer–German Shepherd cross, called Buster. With the athleticism of a Boxer and the biddability of a German Shepherd, Buster was the perfect dog for me to learn how to train. I had read *Man Meets Dog*, by Konrad Lorenz, and became instantly fascinated with behavioral things and the questions of nature versus nurture.

#### *How did you first become seriously involved in dogs?*

Later while attending the Australian National University in Canberra I became

acquainted with a dog-training club and was soon immersed, training my GSD for potential competition.

#### *What were your early experiences in dog events like?*

I did not start to compete until years later, when my husband, children, and I settled in California and we purchased our first family dog—Shandy, a Golden Retriever. I attended obedience and conformation classes and was instantly hooked. Shandy typified the Golden temperament and joyfully led me on the path of obedience and field events, at which she excelled.

#### *Who were a few of your particularly memorable dogs from the early years?*

A grandson of this foundation bitch, Almaden Sundowners Sequoia, became a Ch., UD, WCX dog, and with him I became interested in the field of disaster search-and-rescue. He certified in this venue, as did his daughter Gaylans Sundowners Aurora, UD, JH, WCX.

#### *What were some of the important things that you learned as a breeder early on?*

The first thing I learned as a breeder right from the get-go was *patience*. You can't improve on everything in one generation.

I was fortunate to have a husband who was a geneticist, and he talked me through those early breedings with some very sound advice, not the least of which was to have a vision for at least the next five generations, not just the litter of the moment.

#### *How has your involvement in performance influenced your perspective as a breeder?*

I count myself very lucky to have started out in dogs from the performance perspective. Knowing what the dogs required structurally and psychologically to engage successfully in their various activities made me very aware of the need for soundness, athleticism, and drive. All of those things being a part of breed type. However, a dog that has these attributes but must overcome its conformation to do its job is compromised on many levels.

#### *How has your involvement in performance influenced you as a conformation judge?*

Now when I judge, as I watch exhibitors take their dogs around the ring I am constantly reminded of the original function for which these breeds were developed, and the need to maintain their ability to do so.

*continued on page 5*





I therefore have a pet peeve: fat dogs. Judging breeds in the Sporting and Hound groups, I expect at the very least to see athletes in good working condition.

*How did you become involved in search-and-rescue work? Can you describe some of its highlights, challenges, and rewards?*

I became acquainted with search-and-rescue back in the 1970s, when I was looking for a community-oriented activity to do with my young champion Golden. I opted for disaster work as opposed to wilderness searching, since the former demanded a host of skills that as a trainer I found both intriguing and challenging.

Over the years, working with not only dogs but handlers as well has given me a greater appreciation of the relationship between our two species. Knowing that those teams can make the ultimate difference between life and death offsets all the mental and physical challenges these high-drive dogs can pose for a trainer.

One of the most rewarding moments that comes to mind was the satellite phone-call we received at the kennel from Haiti,

following the January 2012 earthquake, to apprise us of the news that one of our search dogs had found three little girls buried under 15 feet of concrete rubble. It doesn't get much better than that! The fact that most of the dogs we train are themselves rescued from shelters is icing on the cake.

*What advice would you particularly like to share with new or prospective judges?*

The best advice I can give them is to educate themselves about the original purpose and history of the breeds. Learning that, it becomes much easier to pair form with function and to prioritize virtues and faults based on that specific breed knowledge, and thereby judge accordingly.

*What have you found most rewarding about your involvement with dogs?*

My daily involvement with dogs is in and of itself incredibly exciting and rewarding, but it is the addition of the people who own, breed, and train them that makes the experience complete. My students and fellow judges, breeders, and trainers have all enriched my life and continue to do so.

*What do you consider to be the most*

*important aspects of the role of the breeder?*

I think the best breeders are educators—sharing their passion and knowledge and supporting the neophyte in their venture into the sport of dogs. It doesn't matter if prospective puppy-buyers want a show dog or a pet, a breeder has the responsibility of making the transition as easy as possible for the puppy and the people. Lifetime friendships can be forged from those early interchanges, and it is always a pleasure to see a new generation of breeders and competitors come from those beginnings.

*A final thought you'd like to share?*

I feel that as a species, humans have not come close to truly understanding the canine and what dogs are capable of doing. I wish I could be around a hundred years from now and see what strides will be made in that direction. In the meantime, I will just go on appreciating those dogs in my own life.

*Thank you, Pluis.*

*Arliss Paddock breeds and shows English Cocker Spaniels and is former managing editor of the AKC Gazette.*



Courtesy subject

*Pluis Davern received her 2011 Breeder of the Year Award at the AKC/Eukanuba National Championship in Orlando, Florida. She was selected from award finalists representing the seven AKC breed groups (see sidebar at right).*

## Breeder of the Year Group Winners

- Breeder of the Year (from the Sporting Group): Pluis Davern, Sundowners Sussex Spaniels
- Hound Group: Gretchen Bernardi, Berwyck Irish Wolfhounds
- Working Group: Thomas Oelschlager and Marlene DePalma, Kontoki Siberian Huskies
- Terrier Group: Elena Landa, Doubloon Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers
- Toy Group: Sharon and Raymond Stevens, Sharbelle Toy Poodles
- Non-Sporting Group: Barbara Wood, Anbara Lhasa Apsos
- Herding Group: Steve and Alice Lawrence, Fuzzy Farm Pulik





## Inside AKC

# Gov. Relations Delivers for Responsible Breeders

Last year was another good news–bad news story. The good news is the AKC Government Relations team had another record-breaking year working on your behalf to counter responsible breeder threats.

The bad news is adverse breeder legislation continues to surge at all government levels, both in the number of laws and their intensity. In 2011, we tracked approximately 1,300 bills and regulations, taking action on any issues that threaten the rights of responsible breeders and dog owners at the federal, state, and local levels.

Dealing effectively as we do with such a volume of threats requires strategically allocating our people and financial resources for the greatest benefit, that is, focusing on the issues that could impact the most breeders.

### AKC Legislative Strategy

Two things that separate our legislative approach from all others, also make it more effective day in and day out—where we fight, and how we act.

**Where we fight.** While many organizations, including the AKC, have a presence on the legislative steps and in hearings, the AKC also has professional, expert representation that provides a face-to-face presence with lawmakers. It is here, where laws are made, that we exert our greatest influence, defusing the most adverse laws before they ever emerge for a hearing or vote. Working upstream enables us to shape regulations in favor of breeders. This invisible hand does not get headlines, but it does enable us to short-circuit national threats.

**How we act.** Despite what many may say, no organization has the resources to provide a personal presence to combat the vast sea of federal, state, and local legislation cropping up on a daily basis nationwide. Our approach is strategic. We work at both the policy development level and at the grassroots level with our state federations, local legislative liaisons, and members of over 5,000 AKC

clubs. One result of this approach is the precise timing of mobilizing breeders in contacting their lawmakers. We time our alerts for the specific point in the process that breeder engagement can have the greatest positive impact.

The AKC’s approach of working simultaneously on the legislative front steps and behind the scenes has proven to be a winning strategy we will continue and expand in 2012.

### AKC Credibility With Lawmakers

Credibility with legislators is one of the tangible benefits the AKC enjoys. It is the result of 128 years as a consistent, powerful voice for dogs and responsible breeders. Policy directors and lawmakers often seek our insights first when they have questions about dog breeding and policy. Our legislative credibility is just one area of effectiveness that benefits breeders. We also enjoy stature derived from a total organizational commitment to health issues, research, and education to ensure a bright future for dogs.

### Legislative Highlights

Sometimes it is helpful to examine the types of legislation coming from the three major bodies: federal, state, and local governments. Below is a summary you may find of interest.

#### 2011 Federal Review

In 2011, AKC Government Relations, along with the AKC’s federal representatives, again engaged on many important issues at the federal level, helping to defeat adverse legislation affecting responsible breeders. Special attention is given to federal legislation and regulations because of their national impact on all responsible dog owners and breeders.

As in previous years, federal PUPS legislation (H.R. 835 / S. 707), which was re-introduced in late spring, was a major AKC focus. Throughout the year, we registered

AKC concerns with key legislators to ensure that PUPS legislation would not move forward. Strong organized interests in support of the measure have attracted many co-sponsors for the bill, but no hearings have been scheduled.

The AKC has registered serious concerns with the measure as currently written, including an overly broad definition of “high volume breeder.” The AKC remains engaged with key federal lawmakers to ensure that the concerns of responsible owners and breeders are heard.

#### *Import Regulations*

On the regulatory front, AKC has been strongly supportive of federal import regulations proposed in September 2011 (7 U.S.C. Section 2148) that would prohibit the importation of puppies into the United States for resale, research, or veterinary treatment, unless the dogs are in good health, have received all necessary vaccines, and are at least 6 months of age.

The AKC recognizes that a large number of puppies are being bred overseas and imported into the United States in order to bypass the welfare regulations and standards required of American breeders. In many cases, irresponsibly bred and undocumented foreign puppies end up at shelters, rescues or other informal or unregulated retail venues. Diseases borne by such animals can create public health issues for both animal and human populations.

The AKC supported the development of these requirements as part of the 2008 Farm Bill, and in 2011 we supported the establishment of regulations to enforce this law. We believe these proposed regulations will help prevent the dumping of young puppies from facilities of unknown quality on American markets.

#### *2011 Victories for Responsible Dog Owners*

Thanks to the dedicated efforts of AKC state federations, local clubs, and concerned fanciers, breeders, and dog owners, many of the proposals failed passage. AKC



Government Relations was pleased to support the efforts of local dog owners working to protect their rights.

These successes demonstrate that the voice of dog owners, when united and properly focused, is heard by legislators, and can make a big difference in protecting the rights of responsible dog owners. View a list of 2011 legislative successes at [akc.org/governmentrelations](http://akc.org/governmentrelations).

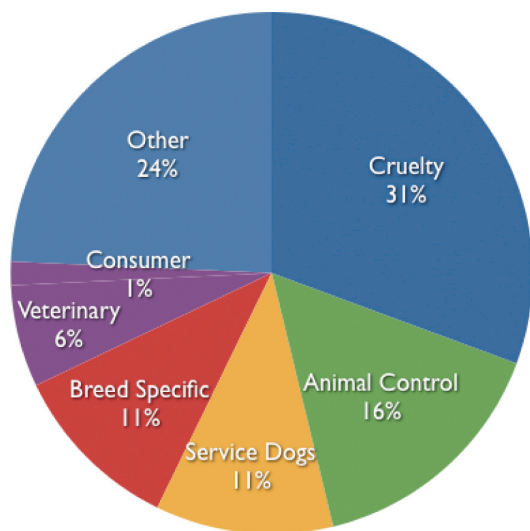
**2011 State Review**

Last year, more than 1,100 measures relating to dogs or animal ownership were introduced in state legislatures and Congress.

Major topics of bills affecting dog breeders included breeding restrictions, licensing, kennel regulations, consumer-protection measures, and spay/neuter requirements. Included among “other bills” were animal issues and provisions not detrimental to dog owners, but which demonstrate the interest that lawmakers are taking in animal legislation.

Following disappointing outcomes on breeder measures in Missouri and Oklahoma in 2010 and Texas in 2011, AKC Government Relations expanded assistance to dog owners and their communities by participating in the state-level regulatory processes. The AKC continues to provide recommendations and comments to states on establishing rules that would respect the needs, concerns, and rights of responsible dog owners while fairly and accurately reflecting the purpose of the new statutes.

**AKC Action List: 2011 State Legislation\***



*\*Since this is a pie chart and must equal 100 percent, please note that some bills address multiple topics.*

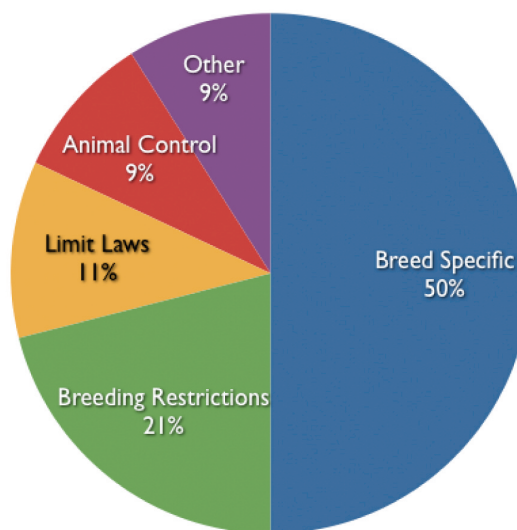
**2011 Local Review**

In 2011, AKC Government Relations observed a continued trend whereby restrictive dog-ownership measures that failed in statehouses reappeared at the local level. AKC Government Relations has also seen instances where municipalities sought to pass legislation more stringent than that passed in state law. Tulsa,

Oklahoma, for example, attempted to define a “commercial breeder” as anyone who possessed an intact female dog, even though state law defines commercial breeders as those who own 11 or more intact females. And although the number of bills dealing with breeding restrictions declined at the state level, they increased by 10 percent at the local level.

AKC Government Relations also relies on you—our federations, breeders, and responsible dog owners—to let us know when you need our assistance with legislation in your city and county.

**AKC Action List: 2011 Local Legislation\***



*\*Since this is a pie chart and must equal 100 percent, please note that some bills address multiple topics.*

**A Shared Interest**

A number of new bills that affect dog owners have already been introduced in 2012. But we must also remain vigilant for numerous bills from the 2011 session. Legislation introduced but not defeated in 2011 has carried over to 2012 in 27 states and the District of Columbia.

AKC Government Relations will continue to work to protect the rights of responsible dog owners and breeders in 2012, but we need your help. Be sure to visit our website to view Legislative Alerts, our state legislation tracking system, and our Government Relations Toolbox filled with resources to help you be effective advocates.

**Help Us Help You**

If you have not already done so, please also consider joining one of our 32 state federations to work with other concerned dog owners and breeders in your state. For more information on AKC federations, or how to form one in your state, visit [akc.org/governmentrelations](http://akc.org/governmentrelations) or call AKC Government Relations at 919-816-3720.



# Professional

## You Breed for Precision. Why Not Feed for Precision?

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Canine Health Nutrition™

For over 40 years, we have partnered with professionals like you to learn more about the specificities of all dogs. We know that with each and every litter your goal is to get closer to the breed standard.

From your passion and our respect, we've developed a nutritional answer to meet the needs of the very small dog. X-Small Professional is the result of a true partnership created for taking care of the animal first through knowledge and science based innovation – a perfect formula to meet the precise needs of the very small dog at every life stage.



# X-SMALL

For very small dogs up to 8 lbs.

### X-Small Adult (for dogs over 10 months) provides

- Targeted energy
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- Special, tiny kibble reduces plaque and tartar
- Antioxidants support urinary health
- Highly palatable formula

### X-Small Puppy (8 weeks to 10 months) provides

- High energy for intense, rapid growth
- Prebiotics for digestive health
- Sodium tri-polyphosphate for dental support
- Antioxidants for developing immune system
- Highly digestible proteins for optimal nutrient absorption



  
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# Your Partner In Reproductive Science



The Royal Canin philosophy, Knowledge is to be Shared, has been made possible in part through our partnership with you – the professional dog breeder. In an effort to return the favor, we'd like to share science-based reproduction and best kennel practices education.

## Skin Health and Allergies In Dogs

While skin may seem like a simple structure, it is actually quite complex and contains eight different layers. The skin is referred to as the integumentary system and is the largest of all the bodily systems. Without healthy skin a beautiful hair coat is not possible; and for those dogs that are hairless, having skin in optimum condition is even more important. Aside from appearance, healthy skin is vital for the overall health of your dog. It is the body's first line of defense against many organisms (bacteria, viruses, fungi, etc.) that could cause harm. The skin also helps to prevent water loss from the body. The integrity of the skin can become compromised for a number of reasons and when that happens, those organisms that are always present on skin begin to multiply which may cause infection, itching, and pain.



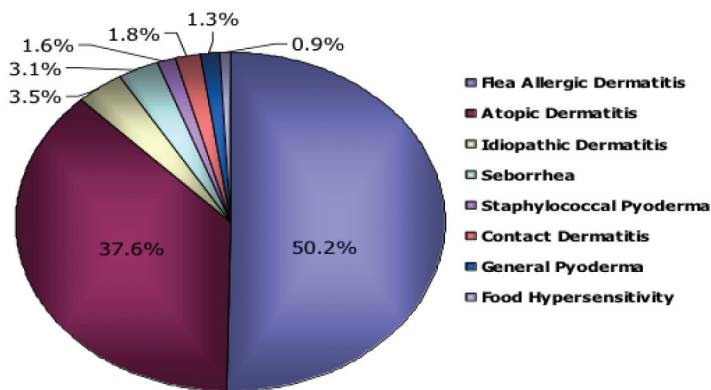
A number of factors can contribute to skin disease, including external parasites (fleas, ticks, mange mites, lice), fungal organisms (ringworm), self-trauma secondary to chewing and scratching, chemicals, genetics, and poor nutrition. Allergies, a particularly extensive cause of skin problems, are the focus of this article. An allergy is the result of the body's immune system reacting to a foreign substance. The most common response is itching, and most of the skin diseases caused by

allergies in dogs can be contributed to one of the following:

1. Flea saliva
2. Atopy
3. Contact
4. Food



## Dermatitis in Canines by Type



Nagata & Sakai, 1999

### Flea Allergy

Fleas are a common external parasite and just one bite can cause a severe reaction in the dog that is allergic. It is actually the flea's saliva that triggers the immune response. The most common symptoms are almost constant chewing and scratching, which results in self-mutilation and bacterial infection of the skin. This results in more itching and pain. Hair loss, scabs, scratches, and irritated skin are the outcome, with the most common area being at the base of the tail. These dogs are truly miserable and may not be able to eat, sleep, or groom themselves. In addition to the effects on the skin, fleas carry tapeworms. When the dog swallows fleas while chewing on the skin, it may become infected with tapeworms. In addition to removing fleas from the dog and the environment, veterinary attention will be necessary to treat skin infections and tapeworms.



Seasonal atopic dermatitis

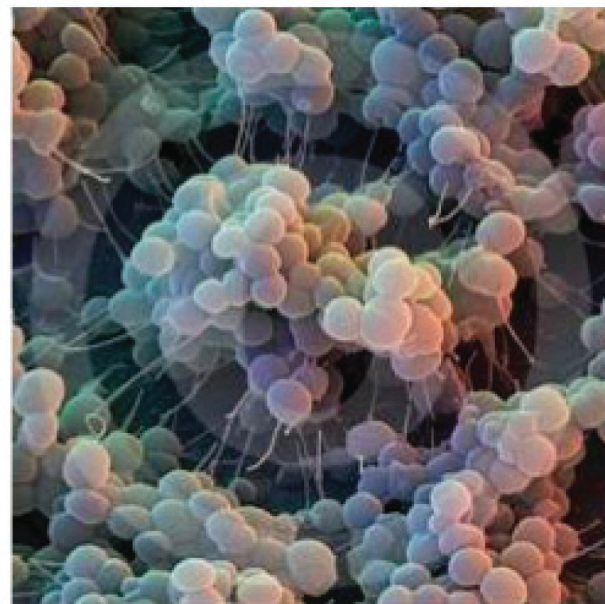
### Atopy

Atopy is defined as allergic reactions to environmental and/or inhaled substances such as pollen, dust, etc. The most typical reaction involves the skin although there may be a respiratory response as well. The dog will show signs of itching, i.e. scratching, licking and chewing at the skin, rubbing on objects, etc. These actions result in hair loss with skin irritation, bumps, crusting, and

scabs developing. These lesions are usually seen on the face, ears, neck, back, abdomen, tail, legs, and feet. Atopy can be seasonal or non-seasonal. Age of onset is between one and five years, but can occur outside this range. Purebred dogs may be more at risk for developing atopy. It is important to rule out other causes of skin disease (external parasites, yeast organisms, food allergy, etc.) in the process of diagnosing atopy. Serologic (blood) tests may be used by a veterinarian as a tool to diagnose atopy. However, if clinical signs persist, a veterinary dermatologist can perform intradermal skin testing and might recommend desensitization therapy, depending on the results of the test. While most cases of atopy may not be cured, a veterinarian can prescribe treatment to help alleviate the symptoms.

### Contact

Signs of contact allergies are scratching, irritated skin with bumps and/or pustules, hair loss, and thickening of the skin. These lesions are usually seen in areas where the dog's hair is thin, and most commonly include the chin, ears, toes, and abdomen. In hairless breeds, signs can be seen anywhere on the body. This type of allergy develops after repeated exposure to the same substance. Examples of these are flea collars, dyes in carpet fibers, some topical medications, and plastic food and water bowls. Certainly, elimination of the offending object(s) is important, but veterinary treatment will most likely be necessary to treat skin lesions and infections.



Electron microphotograph of Staphylococcus sp. bacteria.







## Food

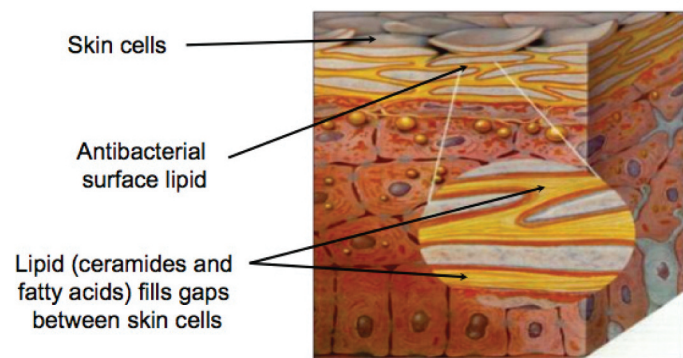
While allergies to food (particularly corn and wheat) are thought to be very common, in actuality they are the least likely to occur. They can be very difficult to diagnose and may be missed altogether, or misdiagnosed. In fact, it is estimated that of all dogs showing signs of an allergy, only one percent of them are actually allergic to a dietary ingredient!

Dermatologic clinical signs include itching which usually involves the whole body, scratching, hair loss, and ear, skin, and anal gland infections. Vomiting and diarrhea are common gastrointestinal signs. These signs develop over time after repeated exposure to the substance the body does not recognize. These allergies are non-seasonal. They also do not respond well to traditional treatments such as antibiotic and corticosteroid therapy. Food allergies occur due to the abnormal response of the immune system to undigested proteins in the food. The determination that the dog's symptoms are food-related is based on a strict elimination trial which can take several months to achieve results. However, this is the "gold standard" for diagnosing or ruling out food allergy. The dog is usually placed

It is estimated that of all dogs showing signs of an allergy, only one percent of them are actually allergic to a dietary ingredient!

on a prescription diet with one novel source each for protein and starch (example: duck and green pea). This diet is fed exclusively, with no other supplements or treats, for a minimum of 8 weeks with an ideal trial lasting 12 weeks (unless the dog's condition seems to be worsening). After the elimination trial, the dog is fed its previous diet. If clinical signs recur, it is concluded that the dog's symptoms are related to a dietary ingredient, most likely a protein source. It is important to stress that serologic testing for food allergy is not reliable. In addition, dogs that are allergic to food tend to have other allergies, as well.

## Example of Canine Skin Barrier Structure



## Nutrition for Healthy Skin

Research has scientifically proven that nutrition plays a tremendous part in skin and coat condition. Pantothenic acid, inositol, niacin, choline, and histidine work together to help the skin maintain its protective barrier. This not only helps with allergic conditions but will aid in preventing other types of skin problems. Anti-inflammatory omega-3 fatty acids such as EPA and DHA, and an antioxidant complex of vitamins E and C, along with lutein and taurine, protect the skin and intestinal tract. Mannan-oligosaccharides (MOS) and fructo-oligosaccharides (FOS) are prebiotics that promote the health of the intestinal tract which might prevent undigested nutrients like protein to cross into the blood stream, thus triggering an immune response. In addition to specific nutrients, the manufacturing process itself is important. Very fine grinding of all ingredients to the consistency of all-purpose flour makes the ingredients more available to the digestive enzymes, thus limiting the possibility that undigested substances which might trigger an allergic response, particularly proteins, will reach the blood stream.

Together, you and your veterinarian can formulate the appropriate plan to diagnose and treat your allergic dog, thus making for a more comfortable quality of life.

*References available upon request.*

Melinda Fleming, DVM  
askthetvet@royalcanin.us

Contact us at 1.800.592.6687  
or visit [www.royalcanin.us](http://www.royalcanin.us)  
for more details

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## AKC BREEDER OF MERIT

### THE HEART OF THE AKC®

#### MISSION

In 2010, the American Kennel Club® established the AKC Breeder of Merit Program. It marked the first time since the AKC was established over 125 years ago that a special designation of breeders was to be recognized. The purpose of the AKC Breeder of Merit Program is to identify and honor those breeders who consistently meet the high standards of the AKC and who actively promote the sport of purebred dogs.

#### QUALIFICATIONS

AKC Breeder of Merit participants demonstrate a commitment to the AKC community, dedication to improving their breed, along with breeding dogs who are title winners.

Specific requirements include:

- Must have history of at least 5 years involvement with AKC events.
- Must have earned at least 4 Conformation, Performance or Companion event titles on dogs they bred/co-bred.
- Must be a member of an AKC licensed club.
- Must certify that applicable health screens are performed on their breeding stock as recommended by the Parent Club.
- Must demonstrate a commitment to ensure 100% of the puppies produced are AKC registered.

#### BENEFITS

Upon acceptance into the AKC Breeder of Merit Program you will receive:

- An AKC Breeder of Merit certificate and silver lapel pin.
- Your title of AKC Breeder of Merit participant proudly showcased on all AKC registration certificates and dog applications, along with a distinctive gold border and AKC Breeder of Merit insignia.
- An announcement of your acceptance into the program on the AKC website.
- Free Online Breeder Classified advertisements.
- Breed specific banners for your personal website.
- A \$20 monthly credit toward AKC online reports.
- The Inner Circle Newsletter with The Breeder's Notebook: Advice from Breeders of the Year, AKC Breeder of Merit puppy photo gallery, and AKC Breeder of Merit profiles.

#### APPLICATION INFORMATION

On-line: [www.akc.org/breederofmerit](http://www.akc.org/breederofmerit)

E-mail: [breederofmerit@akc.org](mailto:breederofmerit@akc.org)

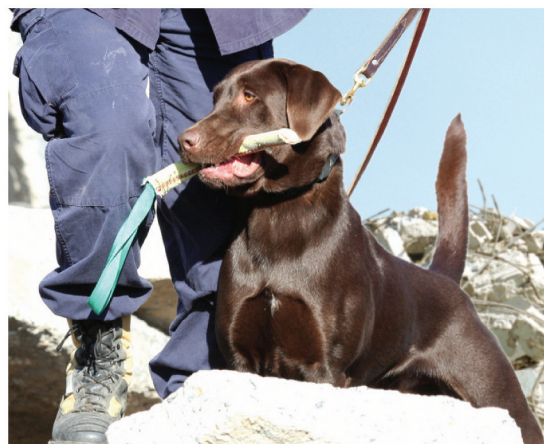
Phone: 919-233-9767





# Your litter registration fee helps the AKC and its affiliates do so many things for dogs everywhere.

## Getting new dog owners to register will do even more.



### KENNEL INSPECTION

We inspect thousands of kennels every year to ensure the safety and welfare of dogs.

### HEALTH RESEARCH

We have donated \$20 million to fund sound scientific research to prevent, treat and cure canine disease.



### LOST DOG RECOVERY

We offer recovery services 24/7, 365 days-a-year, and have reunited over 400,000 lost dogs with their families.



### SEARCH AND RESCUE

We have donated over \$3 million to Canine Search & Rescue and pet-related disaster relief & preparedness efforts.



The American Kennel Club, working with its affiliates, is the only not-for-profit registry devoted to the health and well-being of all dogs. To date, breeder and owner registrations have helped us allocate over \$30 million to fund programs for the betterment of dogs everywhere.



## AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB®

WE'RE MORE THAN CHAMPION DOGS.  
WE'RE THE DOG'S CHAMPION.





# AKC Breeder

American Kennel Club  
8051 Arco Corporate Drive  
Raleigh, NC 27617

*We're more than champion dogs.  
We're the dog's champion.*



Courtesy subject



# PRE

BRED



You aim for excellence in both your breeding program *and* the good health of your puppies. Encourage your clients to build healthy habits as new puppy owners. Recommend monthly use of K9 Advantix® II starting at 7 weeks of age.



Do not use K9 Advantix® II on cats



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