



AMERICAN
KENNEL CLUB

AKC Breeder

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THE AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB'S QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER FOR BREEDERS



Diane Lewis ©AKC

The Whelping Box

An excerpt from "The Search for the Perfect Stud Dog," the July 2012 AKC GAZETTE breed column by Marianne Sullivan, Collie Club of America:

It should be easier now than ever to pick a stud dog. The Internet, kennel websites, and advancements in genetic screening put abundant information at our fingertips.

The truth is, however, despite all the advice and resources available, we approach the search from our unique experience, focus, bias, and emotions.

From planning our first litter to 20 years later, the process will evolve based on our experience. For example, when I started out I knew the first-generation parents behind my bitch; every other ancestor on the pedigree was just a name. Now, I can easily know five or six generations personally, and each of the names on the pedigree elicits a mental picture for me.

This kind of knowledge about the dogs in one's pedigrees is valuable, and the best way to get it is by attending specialties, especially the national, and by "kennel-hopping." The benefit is awareness of the virtues and faults of the individuals who preceded the

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Courtesy Havanese Rescue, Inc.

Rescue Rosie bonds with her new owner on the day she was adopted.

Helping Hands

Breeders Supporting Breed Rescue
PART ONE

By Arliss Paddock

In Orlando, Florida, last December, the huge crowd at the LAKC/Eukanuba National Championship roared its approval as Plus 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.

Plus 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,

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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.

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“HELPING HANDS” *continued from previous page*

temperament, and ability are true to their breed.

Most of the dogs who end up in rescue are not from responsible breeders, it's true. Responsible breeders screen prospective homes carefully to ensure the right “fit,” and they educate prospective owners about training, grooming, care, and what to expect of the breed. They are “there” for each owner throughout the dog’s lifetime and are willing to take back at any time a dog they have bred, should a home not work out or unforeseen circumstances arise.

Dogs who end up in rescue are most often from situations where an owner was not sufficiently screened and educated beforehand to ensure that having the dog would fit their lifestyle, or where an owner had nowhere to turn when a problem arose.

Dogs from responsible breeders can occasionally end up needing rescue or rehoming too, however. For example, an owner might be embarrassed to contact the breeder about a change in circumstances and take the dog to a shelter instead. Or an owner can die, leaving family members with no idea of whom to contact about the dog.

Whatever the origin of a dog who winds up in a difficult situation, dedicated breeders step up as needed to help out the breed they love.

In this and the next issue of *AKC Breeder*, several dedicated breeders and fanciers with extensive experience in breed rescue share their thoughts about what they do and how the fancy supports their efforts.

(For an alphabetical list of breed-rescue groups, visit akc.org/breeds/rescue.cfm.)

Dorothy Christiansen, ASSA Rescue Network

Dorothy and Ray Christiansen have bred and shown Shetland Sheepdogs since 1970 under the Lynnlea kennel name, with more than 30 AKC champions and numerous obedience-titled dogs.

Dorothy is an AKC judge of the entire Herding Group and a very active member of the American Shetland Sheepdog Association, for which she is a breed

mentor and head of the ASSA Sheltie Rescue Network (assa.org/rescue.html).

How did you first become involved in breed rescue?

I had read about Golden Retriever rescue in our area and decided there must be a need for our breed, with Shelties being very popular at that time. My club, the Interlocking Shetland Sheepdog Club of Monee, decided to start a small rescue in the summer of 1991. And that was the very small beginning of the ASSA Sheltie Rescue Network. Talk about a little acorn becoming a mighty oak! None of us ever thought Sheltie Rescue would become as large and involved as it has.

Can you describe a rescue situation that was particularly memorable?

One case has become legend in Sheltie rescue circles. It was a Saturday in the fall of the early 1990s. I received a call from Joliet Animal Control saying that a man had picked up an old Sheltie he thought had been thrown from a car. They wondered, would we be able to take the dog? Ray and I went immediately to see the dog.

In the corner of the finder’s kitchen lay the old Sheltie. Because she looked a bit familiar, I gently rolled her over to check for a tattoo—and found that she was tattooed with our number. She was Ginger, Lynnlea’s Sweeter Than Wine, CD. We had placed her at least eight years before. We don’t know how she ended up at the side of that road.

We gathered her up and went right to our vet. Ginger was infected with every possible parasite, and her mouth was so bad that every tooth had to be pulled. Cleaned up, she came back home to us. Ginger stayed another year before bone cancer took her at age 14. *This* case, more than any other, galvanized our rescue work. (I say “we” because I could not do any rescue work without the support of my husband, Ray.)

Farokh Irani, of New York, soon helped me set up an e-mail list, and slowly communication knitted rescues together. We now have at least 80 rescues that annually save and rehome about 2,600 Shelties.



What are some of the rewards of working in breed rescue, and some of the more difficult aspects?

The rewards are obvious. Rescues regularly exchange stories and before-and-after photos showing happy endings—in sharing these, more than a few tears are shed.

There are a number of difficulties: transport, reaching dogs in time, finding just the right home, and mediating disputes between rescues with different philosophies. The special challenge, however, is raising the money to pay vet bills. All rescues raise their own funds to cover basic vet care; I also provide funds for major expenses like surgeries to fix broken limbs, to remove tumors, or for special tests.

Our parent club, the American Shetland Sheepdog Association, has been very receptive and supportive of rescue. I maintain a rescue page on the ASSA website (assa.org/rescue.html). They provide free a booth at each national from which other breed rescues can sell items. Diane Troese designs a special T-shirt every other year, and Incolay produces a limited-edition resin ornament, with the proceeds going to rescue. Donations are our life blood and are regularly sent to the ASSA Foundation, a 501(c)3 organization. Major donors receive a special pin designed by Virginia Perry Gardiner.

Sometimes it seems like I spend my time trying to find new ways to raise money!

What are some ways that breeders and fanciers can help out breed rescue?

That's a loaded question ... send money, and lots of it! Seriously, truly dedicated breeders take back a dog they bred and rehome him if necessary. If for any reason a breeder cannot do that—because of zoning laws, for example—rescue will help place a dog, but a monetary gift is expected, especially if vet bills will be excessive. Most dogs in rescue come from shelters or are owner give-ups. Our policy is to never turn



Rosie is checked out by the vet on the second day after coming into Havanese Rescue.

Courtesy Havanese Rescue, Inc.

away a dog due to age or health.

Though we do not provide papers when we place purebred Shelties, the dog can receive a PAL number from the AKC that allows the dog and owner to compete in companion and performance events. Many rescued Shelties have earned MACH titles in agility, and one currently scores very high in herding at each national. All adopters are encouraged to get involved in agility or obedience, as these activities really meld the dog-human bond.

Lu Wyland, Havanese Rescue

Lu Wyland is a longtime member of the Havanese Club of America, a member of the parent club's health committee, and a founder of Havanese Rescue, Inc. (havanerescue.com), an independent 501(c)3 organization rescuing and rehoming Havanese.

How did you first become involved in breed rescue?

Having fallen in love with my first Havanese, I decided I wanted to add another to my home and planned on showing this time around. The dog of my heart joined my family, but it turned out that she had a hereditary condition, and I couldn't show her and obviously couldn't breed her. So I looked for another way to give back to the breed I'd come to love. Rescue caught my attention, and it's where I've put my energy for well over a decade now. I'm grateful for the opportunity to have been a part of

Havanese rescue and to have been touched by so many dogs.

Can you describe a rescue situation that's been particularly memorable for you?

I feel like I learn something from each of the dogs that are in my home, even if they're here only briefly on their way to a more long-term foster home. One of the most memorable dogs for me was Rosie, an 8-year-old Havanese-Maltese mix who came to us from a bad irresponsible-breeder situation along with several other Havanese and Havanese mixes, where the owner was terminally ill.

Like the other dogs in that group who we received into rescue, Rosie was infested with whipworms. She also had badly infected teeth and ears and was seriously underweight. I was amazed, though, because this seven-pound dog never had an accident in my house. I couldn't believe that a dog who'd lived outside could be so clean in her house training. She also sat for a treat after simply looking around at my own crew when they did, and she even walked well on a leash the first time I tried it with her. I thought she must be just incredibly smart.

Rosie was adopted by the mom of one of the staff at my vet clinic. A few months after Rosie was home, I was told one day that when her new mom was playfully shaking her finger at Rosie and the other little dogs in the house while saying, "You guys are so spoiled," Rosie fell on her side and let her tongue fall out of her mouth—she did the "Bang! You're dead!" trick, which I'd never taught her. She certainly hadn't learned it in the outdoor pen she lived in before she came to rescue. I realized then that Rosie must have been someone's housedog before she ended up in a bad environment.

Some people would think it would be too hard to rehabilitate a dog of her age who'd lived outdoors and been neglected for so many years. So often I think about how without rescue, Rosie would have died without being back in a house, snuggling on a lap, and hanging out with her new dad at poker games. She would have died without someone delighting in her personality, marveling at her intelligence, and cherishing her loving nature. We never know who we're

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Inside AKC

AKC Enhances Care and Conditions of Dogs Policy

Enhanced Guidelines, New Format Provide Best Practices for Breeders



Robert Young ©AKC

An AKC kennel inspector and a breeder go over the kennel's paperwork.

The American Kennel Club is the only purebred registry in the United States with an ongoing kennel-inspection program.

As a part of the AKC's breeder-education mission, a dedicated team of field inspectors works closely with breeders to ensure the proper care and conditions of dogs, and confirm accurate recordkeeping.

In many cases, AKC breeders not only welcome inspections but promote them as an assurance for puppy buyers. For these breeders,

inspections provide evidence of the high operational standards of their kennels.

The policy has been reformatted into an easy-to-understand framework for responsible dog ownership, including Care of Dogs, Kennels and Housing, and Operations.

Enhanced guidelines include:

- The importance of daily positive human interaction and socialization for dogs;

- Sufficient number of staff must be provided to carry out appropriate levels of care and conditions for the number of dogs kept;
- Each kennel should maintain an emergency preparedness plan adequate for the type of facility owned and breed(s); of dogs maintained there;
- When euthanasia is necessary, it should always be performed humanely.

"In our leadership role as experts on maintaining and keeping of dogs since 1884, we are uniquely placed to provide American dog and kennel owners with guidelines detailing best practices that embody responsible dog ownership regardless of the number of dogs owned," AKC Director of Compliance Support Jack Norton says.

"We are committed to protecting the integrity of our registry and ensuring that all AKC dogs are cared for in a humane way. Our policies embody the AKC's mission to promote responsible dog ownership."

Information

For the complete guidelines, visit akc.org/rules/policymanual.cfm?page=7#CareConditions.

For registration assistance, contact AKC Breeder Relations 800-252-5545 PIN 74777; fax 919-816-4232; dogbreeders@akc.org.

"THE WHELPING BOX" continued from page 1



Diane Lewis ©AKC

parents—without such awareness, we might find ourselves saying, "Where did that come from?"

Everyone has a focus, regardless of how long they've been breeding. That focus may change completely over time or become

more nuanced. The more focused you are on one thing, the more likely you are to succeed at that. Add two or three more goals, and it all becomes much more challenging.

The type of competition you're interested in can influence the prioritization of characteristics you look for. If you are breeding for performance, structure and movement are imperative—so a high priority.

It should be emphasized that we are selecting individuals according to the standard, and ideally all in the same dog. Our emphasis, however, will naturally be influenced by our goals.

Biases—we all have them, right or wrong, and they affect our decisions. This is where the interpretation of the standard comes in. What is "big coat" to some is "extreme" to others; some have a very particular size eye they will tolerate, while others have a health concern they won't compromise on. We strive to "have it all," but nature rarely puts the perfect dog in one package. —M.S.

To read the full version of this and all GAZETTE breed columns, visit akc.org and click on "AKC Magazines."





Meet the Magnificent Seven

AKC Breeder of the Year group honorees are dedicated to health, temperament, quality.

The AKC has announced the names of seven group recipients of its 2012 Breeder of the Year Award. The award honors breeders who have dedicated their lives to improving the health, temperament and quality of purebred dogs.

At a special presentation held during December's AKC/Eukanuba National Championship, these eminent breeders will receive a medallions in recognition of their achievements. At the presentation's conclusion, one of the seven group recipients will be named as the AKC's overall Breeder of the Year.

A canine portraitist will be commissioned to commemorate a prominent dog from the recipient's kennel, and their name will be inscribed on a perpetual trophy and plaque on permanent display at the AKC headquarters in New York City.

2012 AKC BREEDER OF THE YEAR GROUP WINNERS

SPORTING GROUP

Dr. Dana Massey, Win'Veim Weimaraners

Massey has lived with Weimaraners since 1950 and is grateful for the mentoring she has received from Chris Grisell (Nani's) and Judy Colan (Colsidex). She has owned and/or bred Weimaraners consistently in the Top 10, plus BIS, WCA Hall of Fame, and Pedigree Top Producers. Additionally, Win'Veim dogs have won more than 20 Bests in Futurity/Maturity awards. A firm believer in the versatility of sporting dogs, Massey is proud that her dogs have AKC VCD1, TDX, SH with MH legs, and over 85 AKC performance titles plus several WCA Versatile Excellent designations.

Massey was committee chairperson for the WCA Hall of Fame and was Judges' Education chair. She is a longtime member and officer and current president of the Lone Star Weimaraner Club of Dallas, and a member of the Trinity Valley Weimaraner Club in Fort Worth. As vice president of the

Stephenville Kennel Club of Texas, Massey served as show chair for several years. An AKC judge, she judges BIS, the Sporting Group, Junior Showmanship, eight working breeds, Rhodesian Ridgebacks, and Australian Shepherds.

Massey has taught at the University of Nebraska, Bellevue University, and is currently employed at McLennan College in the Business department.

HOUND GROUP

Alicia Hanna, Kimani Rhodesian Ridgebacks

Hanna acquired her first dog in 1963 establishing her small kennel in Chester, New Jersey, where she still resides. She won her first national specialty in 1968 with a dog from her first litter; her name was Kimani, since then Kimani-registered dogs have produced over 700 AKC champions.

Hanna has bred, owned, and/or handled the RRCUS national-specialty BIS-winning dogs an unprecedented 12 times, and has retired every national specialty conformation challenge trophy, including the Best in National Specialty Trophy twice.

Hanna's 2007 national BISS, Ch. Kimani's Aires Above the Ground, JC, ROM (Mafu), was also 2006 BOS to his full sister national BISS Ch. Kimani's Lasting Impression JC, ROM, a first for siblings. Mafu has twice won BOB at Westminster, is the first American-bred Ridgeback to win a CC for Best Dog at Crufts, is a multiple Hound Group winner, and received Top Stud Dog honors for the past three years.

Hanna bred multiple all-breed BIS/BISS Ch. Kimani's Blue Chip Image, JC, ROM, who also won the national three times, twice from the Veterans class. She is also the breeder of Ch. Kimani's World Class, winner of the Scottish nationals.

Hanna has been instrumental in conquering hip dysplasia by utilizing OFA since its inception in the early 1960s. For her dedication to testing her breeding stock,

and her exemplary record, the OFA honored Hanna by naming her bitch Ch. Kimani's Motion Picture II as the one-millionth dog screened.

As an AKC judge and a breed educator, Hanna has adjudicated at national specialties and also presented her seminar, "The Standard's Image," in the United States and around the world, including two RR World Congresses.

WORKING GROUP

Lynn Brady and Connie Townsend, Szumeria Kuvasz

Brady and Townsend's journey began with their first Kuvasz in 1990 and expanded in 1991 when they joined the Kuvasz Club of America. They have remained active in the KCA, serving in many leadership roles.

The lessons of talented mentors helped shape their breeding principles, which focus on temperament and quality. Health considerations are always in the forefront, reflected in multiple OFA Champions of Health awards.

Szumeria has achieved an impressive record, including over 45 BIS, 36 earned by GCh. Szumeria's Wildwood Silver SixPence, and over 125 AKC champions and multiple Hall of Fame sires and dams. Three times they have owned and/or bred the top-winning Kuvasz in breed history.

Szumeria has won the KCA national specialty 13 times out of 20 nationals, with multiple BOS, BOW, WD, WB, AOM and HIT wins. They also have multiple BOBs at AKC/Eukanuba National Championships and multiple BOBs and group placements at Westminster. Their dogs have advanced titles in rally, obedience, and agility, competing in conformation, obedience, agility, rally, and tracking, and have won top Kuvasz of the Year in Versatility, seven times.

Brady and Townsend thank the wonderful people who have shared their wisdom, helping them become students of dogs. They

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The most important meals

of a puppy's life are the ones his mother eats.



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Neonates: Disease & Prevention

Excerpt from *The Canine Reproduction Guide: A Breeder's Handbook*
 Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, P. Pierson

The pathology of puppies that are less than two weeks old makes it difficult to make an accurate diagnosis of symptoms, which are often very similar, regardless of the cause.

Bacterial Diseases

Most bacterial diseases in newborn puppies are due to germs from their surrounding environment. The priority for the prevention of all these diseases is to maintain strict hygiene in the whelping box. Statistics show that nearly 15% of newborn puppies die before they are 15 days old – one half after difficult whelping and poor resuscitation, and the other half from infectious diseases.

Neonatal septicemia may affect entire litters, where there is bacteria present in the maternity area or, most often, where the mother is harboring microbes in her vagina, which means that puppies are infected at birth. Certain bacteria present in the mother's genital tract (such as mycoplasmas) may be devastating. Within a matter of days, newborn puppies may become ill and often start to cry incessantly refusing to suckle. Treatment with antibiotics must be started as soon as possible, although this does not necessarily prevent a fatal outcome.

There may also be more localized bacterial infections. A poorly disinfected umbilical cord may become infected and then hyperemic during the days that follow birth – this is known as omphalitis.



One reason for death of a newborn puppy is often malnutrition when the fetus is developing while still in the uterus. Ensuring the Mother dog's nutritional needs are met is critical to proper fetal development & growth.

This condition can degenerate into peritonitis (abdominal infection) and should never be taken lightly. The veterinarian will need to administer antibiotics inside the peritoneum. Proper care and attention paid to umbilical cords – such as thorough disinfection and regular monitoring – are very effective in preventing this condition.

When the mother has a mouth infection (stomatitis) or tartar on her teeth, or when puppies are coated with small pieces of dried and cross-infected placenta, varying levels of purulent scabs may appear on their



bodies (neonatal pyoderma). Puppies must then be washed with an antiseptic shampoo, and sometimes kept apart from their mother.

Before the eyes open at 15 days old, neonatal ophthalmia can cause the eyeball to swell and pus to appear when pressure is applied. The veterinarian should act quickly in opening the palpebral aperture and cleaning the eye with an ophthalmic solution, otherwise puppies may become blind.



Neonatal ophthalmia, often associated with inadequate hygiene when handling puppies, takes the form of swollen eye-lids and a discharge of pus.

Viral Diseases

The best-known neonatal viral disease is canine herpes virus. This disease is virtually symptomless in adults, which may sometimes show signs in the genital system (infertility, warts on genital mucous membranes) or the respiratory tract (coughing, catarrh). Puppies are infected in the uterus, at birth or immediately after, and the incubation period is from 4 to 6 days.

Symptoms are not easily attributable – digestive disorders (bloat, diarrhea), nervous disorders (convulsions), strident crying. Sometimes, to the contrary, puppies will fade away without manifesting any other symptoms. Autopsy is then the only way of confirming the suspicion of this disease.

Herpes virus causes kidney lesions that are recognizable on autopsy.



Congenital Malformations

Depending on the breed, between 1 and 15% of newborn puppies have potentially fatal disorders. If such problems are internal (heart defect, for instance), they can only be detected after death, under autopsy. Others are more readily visible, such as hydrocephalus, cleft palate, and imperforate anus (preventing the puppy from excreting its stools). The last two can sometimes be corrected with surgery.

Digestive Disorders

In practice, the diseases seen most frequently in puppies in the critical phase are coronavirus, parvovirus and leptospirosis. One of the many things these viral diseases have in common is the property of causing acute or chronic digestive disorders and diarrhea. Since the puppy is, at the same time, in a phase of dietary transition, breeders are often inclined to suspect the food. However, it is essential here to explore all hypotheses in order to avoid the same phenomenon repeating itself in future litters. Conversely, for acute diarrhea, often accompanied by damage to cells in the digestive tract, it is advisable not to give puppies anything orally until a medical opinion can be given, to prevent any risk of permanent sensitization to food.



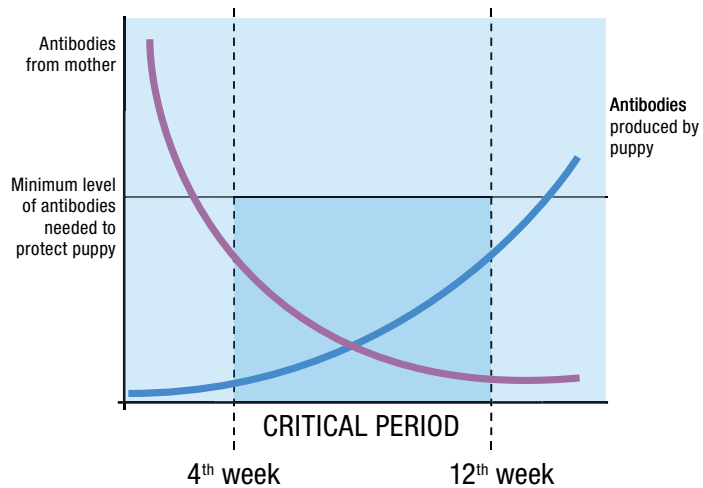
Diarrhea may cause the puppy's general condition to deteriorate very quickly.

Prevention

First and foremost is the prevention of disease, but there is no specific treatment for viral diseases associated with weaning. The best that can be done is to resort to symptomatic treatment to support the puppy, such as dressings, antidiarrheal, and maybe perfusions.



In the case of parvovirus, it is the vaccination protocol that needs to be adapted to the kennel's situation. There is no ideal solution, since it depends on each group's specific situation as to whether it is best to apply so-called 'conventional' protocols in a healthy environment, or protocols for infected sites.



During the critical period, puppies are no longer protected by antibodies from the mother and many develop diseases against which the mother has been vaccinated.

No matter what the scenario vigilance in hygiene measures is critical. Placing pregnant females in the maternity area must be done at least 15 days prior to whelping, and they must also be cleaned and groomed before being put into the dedicated area. Parasites, can exist in their hair for relatively long periods, so there is a risk of contaminating puppies several weeks later. There are many ways of disinfecting the surroundings. It should be noted that parvovirus is often resistant to acid disinfectants. Chlorine bleach is effective, but only when used on clean surfaces, since it is inactivated in the presence of organic matter. ■



The Dr. Is In

There is no universal solution for diseases associated with weaning. In order to protect puppies adequately, the first imperative is to maintain a clean and suitable environment – first by cleaning, then regularly disinfecting the premises. Vaccination protocols need to be adapted to the kennel, in line with its case history. In the case of diarrhea or puppy mortality, it will always be necessary to identify the cause, and in particular to take samples for diagnostic purposes (viral swabs, autopsy in case of death), without jumping to conclusions. Finally, the affected litter must be kept away from other puppies, so as to limit the spread of the disease in the kennel before identification of the true cause.

Alain Fontbonne, DVM, MSc, dipl. ECAR,
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P. Credit: Y. Lanceau, F. Duhayer, Breeding and Sport Medicine Unit, National Veterinary School, Alfort, France



“HELPING HANDS” *continued from page 3*

getting in rescue, and you can miss out on incredible gifts of love and bravery if you make a judgment before you live with the dog.

What are some ways that breeders and fanciers can help out breed rescue?

Breeders have so many skills. When they share those skills with dogs who need rescue’s help, the dogs thrive.

I’ve been fortunate to work with fantastic breeders who are volunteers with Havanese rescue. They know our breed and are very dog savvy. They are some of our busiest and most willing foster homes and are good at helping a family determine the right dog for them.

Breeders also tend to have great dog networks. Whether we’re fund-raising, in

need of transport help, or looking for more volunteers or adopters, Havanese breeders have stepped in and helped make our rescue net stronger.

In starting out, one of the things I really wanted to see was the idea that our rescue Havanese are dogs who belong to *all* of us who love this breed. They aren’t separate; they’re not “other.” They’re ours.

Happily, I feel like the majority of the Havanese fancy who are involved with the breed in their daily lives feel this way. We have a lot of support, which is critical to our ability to be effective.

Do you have any comments on how the proposed rule changes to the Animal Welfare Act might affect breed rescue?

I’m very concerned about the impact of

this on rescue, if it passes. It could very well prevent breeders from providing foster care, and that would have a devastating effect on our rescue and other groups as well.

That’s just one of the issues, but it’s a huge one for a group such as HRI, which has very involved volunteers who are breeders. [For more on the possible effects of the Animal Welfare Act on dog breeders and rescue, visit the Government Relations pages at akc.org/petition

To be continued in the fall issue of AKC Breeder.

Arliss Paddock breeds and shows English Cocker Spaniels and is former managing editor of the AKC GAZETTE and current editor of the breed columns.

“THE MAGNIFICENT SEVEN” *continued from page 5*

continue their remarkable Kuvasz journey, dedicating themselves to learning and sharing.

TERRIER GROUP

James W. Smith, Absolutely Smooth Fox Terriers

Smith attended his first dog show with a Dalmatian in 1956 and has been involved in the sport ever since. He quickly gravitated to the terrier rings and acquired a Wire Fox Terrier in 1957. His first Smooth came in 1962.

A Delegate for the Dalmatian Club of America for 26 years, Smith now represents the Washington State Obedience Training Club. He is in his third separate term as president of the American Fox Terrier Club, having previously served as vice president, delegate, and secretary.

Smith was not active breeding and showing for a large part of the 1990s during his tenure as a member of the AKC board. He has also served on AKC ad hoc committees, most recently the one which revised the judges’ approval process.

In 1999, Smith acquired a Smooth from Eddie Boyes, and his interest and involvement has proceeded full-speed ever since. Absolutely has produced over 50 bred, owned, and campaigned champions, Best in Show

dogs, national and regional specialty winners, and numerous group winners. Preservation and maintenance of the breed are paramount, while adherence to the standard is constantly reviewed.

Smith says his greatest pleasure is sitting and watching puppies play and develop.

TOY GROUP

Tammy and John Simon, Ta-Jon Maltese

The Simons, of Collinsville, Oklahoma, celebrate their 25th wedding anniversary this month.

Tammy has been involved in dogs all of her life, and early on she knew they were her passion. Her main goal has been to produce and develop an outstanding line that would be consistent in the ring and whelping box.

To date, Ta-Jon Maltese has produced over 80 AKC champions and 115 all-breed Bests in Show, including Ch. Ta-Jon’s Tickle Me Silly, Ch. Ta-Jon’s Whose Your Sugar Daddy?, Ch. Ta-Jon’s Just Bee-Ing Silly, and Ch. Ta-Jon’s Pawsitively Pawparazzi. The Simons also have six national-specialty Best of Breed winners with four different Maltese to their credit. The Ta-Jon name is also recognized around the world with several World Winners and multiple BIS winners. Ta-Jon dogs are also seen excelling in the obedience, rally, and agility rings.

The Simons consider one of their greatest

achievements producing and handling the top-winning Maltese in AKC history, Ch. Ta-Jon’s Tickle Me Silly. With the help and guidance of Sam and Marion Lawrence, Silly was campaigned for two and a half years, with Tammy as breeder and handler. During this campaign they amassed 103 all-breed Bests in Show, three national specialty BISS wins, number-one toy 1997 and 1998, and number-4 dog, all-breeds, in 1998. Silly is also the only Maltese honored in the 100 Century Club.

Tammy is also a member of the parent breed club, the American Maltese Association, where she has served in various specialty volunteer positions, including serving as a judge for the 2012 national-specialty sweepstakes competition.

NON-SPORTING GROUP

Krista Nuovo, Delamer Schipperkes

Nuovo’s first Schipperke was purchased in 1984. Piloted by Nuovo as a 16-year-old junior hander, the dog garnered multiple group placements and a specialty Best in Show. Nuovo chose to attend college locally so she could continue to keep her dogs and concentrate on her breeding program. Her three foundation bitches were all BISS winners, one going on to win BOB at the national.

Nuovo has bred five national BOB winners, five National BOS, numerous National WD, WB and BW, and multiple Bests in





Sweepstakes and Bests in Futurities. Accomplishments as a breeder include producing multiple all-breed BIS winners in the United States, Canada, Mexico, Brazil, and Russia. Delamer kennels bred the all-time top Best in Show—winning Schipperke, BIS BISS Ch. Delamer Beach Blanket Baby, with 18 Bests in Show. Another Delamer standout was two-time national-specialty BISS BIS Ch. Delamer Pink Flamingo.

BIS BISS Ch. Delamer Fire Island Fox, the overall most-winning Schip, is a two-time Pedigree Award winner. Among her accomplishments: multiple all-breed BIS, national BOB, only Schipperke in history to place in the group at AKC/Eukanuba, only bitch in history to place in the group at Westminster, and the first Top 20 SCA Invitational winner.

Nuovo is immensely proud to have accomplished all this as a single woman on her own, proving if one is committed,

dedicated, and stays true to one's goal, great things are possible.

HERDING GROUP

J. Frank Baylis and Chris Oldt, Bayshore Border Collies

Baylis and Oldt, of Toms Brook, Virginia, have been breeding and exhibiting under the Bayshore kennel prefix for many decades. In the late 1960s, Frank imported Border Collies to aid in the handling of his rare and endangered livestock. Thus a love was born. This love evolved by the early '70s to include the Australian Shepherd. Chris became involved with the programs more than 20 years ago. Together, Baylis and Oldt have bred numerous top-winning dogs in their respective breeds. Of the five breeds for which they are actively involved, they've bred and/or owned the all-time top-winning Border Collie, Australian Shepherd, Chinese Crested, and

Xoloitzcuintli. Since 1993 they have bred or owned over 20 number-one ranked dogs and have garnered more than 75 all-breed Best in Show awards.

Baylis and Oldt like to think of specialties as their specialty. In the last 20 years they have accumulated over 20 national specialty Best of Breed wins. When it comes to various wins at regional specialties, they've lost count.

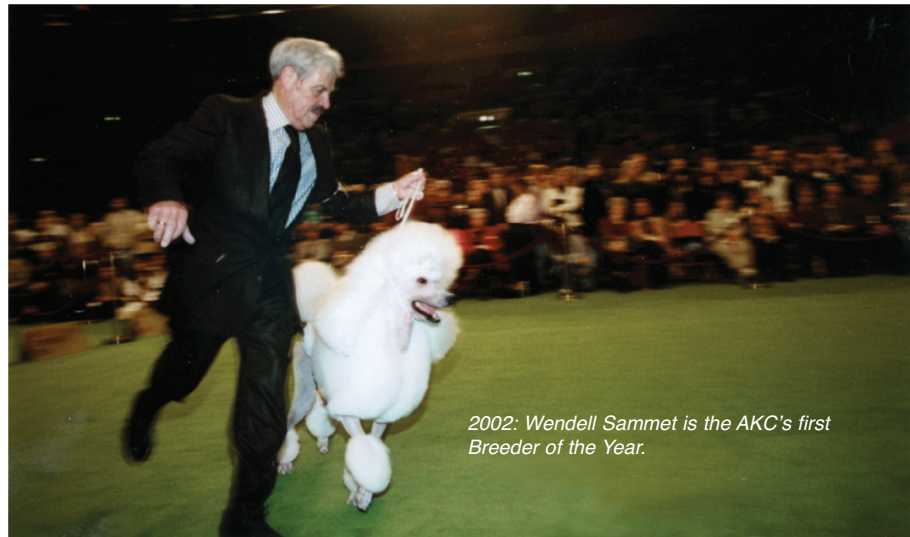
Bayshore-bred dogs have taken hundreds of championships and Herding Group wins. Some of proud moments: obtaining Highs in Trial in the herding arena, and winning the Heinz Pet Product Show Dog of the Year Award (formerly Quaker Oats) with their dog Flapjack, the Herding Group at Westminster with their Border Collie Merlin, and the Pastoral Group at Crufts with their bitch Judy.

At home Baylis and Oldt tend to their beloved rare and endangered livestock as well as the dogs. They do not look upon what they do as a mere hobby, but a way of life. ♦



Robert Young ©AKC

2011: Pluis Davern is honored at the AKC/Eukanuba in Orlando.



Chet Jezterski ©AKC

2002: Wendell Sammet is the AKC's first Breeder of the Year.



Photo: Kate McCroary ©AKC

A lovely Sporting Fields Whippet, captured on canvas, resides in the AKC art collection in New York.

Through the Years: AKC Breeders of the Year

- 2011: Pluis Davern (Sundowners)
- 2010: Debbie Butt (Sporting Fields)
- 2009: Claudia Orlandi (Topsfield)
- 2008: Joan Savage (Stagedoor)
- 2007: Barbara Miller (Max-Well)
- 2006: Douglas & Michaelanne Johnson (Bugaboo)
- 2005: Dave & Peggy Helming (Pouch Cove)
- 2004: Catherine B. Nelson (Pennywise)
- 2003: Mary Rodgers (Marienburg)
- 2002: Wendell J. Sammet (Aleka)





AKC Breeder

American Kennel Club
8051 Arco Corporate Drive
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