Art Portfolio: DOGS AND THEIR PEOPLE
TABLE OF CONTENTS

FEATURE
Dogs and Their People
Masterpieces of portraiture vividly depict the human-canine bond.

SLIDESHOW
On Point: AKC pointing breeds

TIMES PAST
Gene Blake: Young and Gifted

VIDEOs

AKC PARENT CLUBS

BREED COLUMNS SCHEDULE

Sporting
Brittanys
Lagotti Romagnoli
Pointers
German Shorthaired Pointers
Chesapeake Bay Retrievers
Curly-Coated Retrievers
Golden Retrievers
Labrador Retrievers
English Setters
Gordon Setters
Irish Setters
Irish Red and White Setters
Clumber Spaniels
Cocker Spaniels
English Springer Spaniels
Field Spaniels
Irish Water Spaniels
Sussex Spaniels
Welsh Springer Spaniels
Spinoni Italiani
Vizslas
Weimaraners

Working
Akitas
Alaskan Malamutes
Anatolian Shepherd Dogs
Bernese Mountain Dogs
Black Russian Terriers
Boerboels
Boxers
Bullmastiffs
Chinooks
Doberman Pinschers
German Pinschers
Giant Schnauzers
Great Pyrenees
Komondorok
Kuvaszok
Leonbergers
Neapolitan Mastiffs
Newfoundlands
Portuguese Water Dogs
Rottweilers
Samoyeds
Siberian Huskies
Standard Schnauzers

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

SECRETARY’S PAGES

MASTHEAD
Big League Agility

UPDATES
World Team members in Czech Republic;
Johnson Receives CHF’s Mays Award;
Fashionable Dogs at AKC Museum of the Dog

FEATURE
Dogs and Their People
Masterpieces of portraiture vividly depict the human-canine bond.

SLIDESHOW
On Point: AKC pointing breeds

TIMES PAST
Gene Blake: Young and Gifted

VIDEOs

AKC PARENT CLUBS

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

OCTOBER 2023
Volume 140, Number 10

AKC GAZETTE 2 OCTOBER 2023
HE’S SUCH AN INCREDIBLE PARTNER.
HE DESERVES INCREDIBLE NUTRITION.

MARIA BADAMO

As a champion agility trainer and a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine, Maria Badamo, DVM knows a thing or two about high-performance canine nutrition. And whether she’s preparing her dog, Kenobi, to bring home another title on the agility course or fueling his best in-between events, there’s only one food she trusts — Purina® Pro Plan® Sport Performance 30/20.

KENOBI
2020 Agility National Champion (IDC) | 2019 European Open Finalist (Netherlands) | 2-Time Team USA Member

SEE WHY CHAMPIONS TRUST PRO PLAN AT PURINAPROCLUB.COM/EXPERTS
FUEL THE CHAMPION
IN YOUR DOG

OPTIMIZES OXYGEN METABOLISM (VO₂ MAX) FOR INCREASED ENDURANCE

30% PROTEIN AND 20% FAT TO FUEL METABOLIC NEEDS AND MAINTAIN LEAN MUSCLE

OMEGA-6 FATTY ACIDS AND VITAMIN A TO NOURISH SKIN & COAT

ProPlanSport.com

EXCLUSIVELY AT PET SPECIALTY AND ONLINE RETAILERS

Purina trademarks are owned by Société des Produits Nestlé S.A. Any other marks are property of their respective owners.
Autumn is a celebratory time at the AKC. This year marks the 139th anniversary of the American Kennel Club, founded September 17, 1884. We are stronger than ever in upholding the integrity of our Registry, promoting the sport of purebred dogs and breeding for type and function. We are proud of the work we continue to do to preserve our breeds, educate the public, grow dog sports, and protect the rights of dog owners.

In the spirit of celebration, congratulations to the winners of the first in-person AKC Agility League National Championships held September 2 to 4 at Purina Farms. Thirty teams from around the country descended on St. Louis, to compete for bragging rights and honors. The top three teams were honored in each division: Ph.D. (International-style courses), Senior (Masters courses), Sophomore (Open courses), and Freshman (Novice courses). The top dogs in each jump height class were also honored in each division.

Agility League teams compete on their home turf during regular season play. The Championship was the first opportunity for teams to meet in person and compete on the same playing field. There were more than 550 runs over the weekend that featured classes for all levels of dogs from Novice through International. Congratulations to each of the teams and we cannot wait to see how the league grows in the coming seasons.

October means AKC Meet
PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE

AKC Meet the Breeds: Next stop, Columbus!

the Breeds is back on the road. Our family-friendly event is headed back to the Greater Columbus Convention Center in Columbus, Ohio, October 14. We are thrilled to return to Columbus to engage with dog lovers to educate them about the AKC, our wonderful breeds and responsible dog ownership. This canine extravaganza will feature exciting demos, a kid’s zone and art contest and much more. Almost 80 breeds have signed up to make sure their breed is represented.

There is still time to make sure your breed/club participates. Please contact us at meetthebreeds@akc.org to sign up. If you are in the Columbus area and want to experience AKC Meet the Breeds, tickets are $20 for adults and $10 for children. You can get tickets here.

Speaking of Columbus, the AKC Breeder Symposium is also coming to Columbus’s Greater Columbus Convention Center on October 13. Held in conjunction with AKC Meet the Breeds, the AKC Breeder Symposium provides educational opportunities for every breeder to learn new skills and be a part of a supportive culture. Attendees have a wide variety of courses to choose from and can get up close and personal with some of the most successful breeders and veterinarians in the world. Expert speakers will cover topics ranging from Breeding 101 and Pedigree Theories to DNA, Anatomy and much more. The AKC Breeder Symposium is sponsored by Purina Pro Plan. To learn more about the symposium and sign up, visit akc.org.

As we enter the 4th quarter of the year, we are in heavy preparation for our 23rd AKC National Championship in Orlando. It is our favorite time of year and we cannot wait to gather with you. Until then, have a wonderful fall and we will see you in Orlando!

Dennis B. Sprung
President and CEO
When it comes to nighttime safety, we believe to be safe you have to be seen.

Same material used by safety professionals

Visible up to 600 feet

Bright colors stand out day or night

SHOP COLLARS & LEASHES

©2023 Coastal Pet Products Inc., All rights reserved.
GRAY SUMMIT, MISSOURI—The AKC Agility League hosted its first-ever championship event on September 2 to 4 at Purina Farms. The idea of team competition in companion events took hold among dog people not long after obedience became an AKC sport in the 1930s. The Army and Coast Guard K-9 obedience teams squared off in a team-obedience demo at Westminster 1943. Ten years later, AKC training clubs gathered at Yankee Stadium to demonstrate team-obedience designated by breed. (The Poodles won.)

It was not until recently, however, that league competition became an official part of the AKC events family, thanks to the AKC Agility League. Congratulations to the teams and our AKC colleagues who have made the program a rousing success. The fall season is already underway. Follow the action on Facebook.
The AKC Canine Health Foundation has announced that Gary Johnson, DVM, Ph.D., is the recipient of the 2023 Asa Mays, DVM, Excellence in Canine Health Research Award.

Named for a member of CHF’s first board of directors, the award is a biennial honor presented to a research investigator who demonstrates meritorious achievements in furthering the mission of identifying, characterizing, and treating canine disease and ailments. The award was presented by CHF Scientific Review Committee chair Dr. Laura Liscum and Dr. Carolyn Henry, from the University of Missouri College of Veterinary Medicine, in August during the 2023 CHF National Parent Club Canine Health Conference.

Johnson is an assistant professor in the Department of Veterinary Pathobiology at the University of Missouri. Since the early 1990s, Johnson has been searching for genetic mutations responsible for a wide variety of heritable diseases in domestic animals. He and his colleagues were among the first to use whole-genome sequencing to identify mutations responsible for heritable canine diseases. They have used this technology to identify the genetic causes for numerous heritable canine diseases such as degenerative myelopathy, neuronal storage diseases, glaucoma, and more.

“Dr. Johnson’s pioneering research in canine genetics brought a new era to canine health,” CHF Chief Executive Officer Dr. Stephanie Montgomery says. “His groundbreaking career not only decoded genetics, it also deepened the connections we have with our canine companions.”

World Agility

AKC/USA Agility World Team members and alternates are preparing for a trip to the Czech Republic to compete in the FCI Agility World Championship on October 4 to 8.

“We are thrilled to have these excellent canine athletes and their handlers represent the United States at the FCI Agility World Championship,” AKC Agility Director Carrie DeYoung says. “This year’s team is top-notch, and we can’t wait to see what they accomplish.”

The team, sponsored by YuMOVE supplements, is coached by Nancy Gyes and assistant John Nys.

Full World Team roster
**UPDATES**

What the Well-Dressed Museum Is Wearing
This Season

The AKC Museum of the Dog’s new exhibition *Fashionable Dogs* will run through December 31. The show is made possible in part by the New York State Council on the Arts, with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.

Through paintings, fashion photography, and accessories this exhibition chronicles the rise and fall of dogs in fashion. *Fashionable Dogs* tracks the arc of popularity of several breeds through recent history, diving deep into breeds such as the Borzoi, Greyhound, Poodle, Pekingese, Japanese Chin, French Bulldog, and Great Dane.

“Since the museum returned to New York, I have always wanted to do something around Fashion Week,” curator Alan Fausel says. “It was great fun to explore the many points of interaction between the dog and fashion world, and we found a few delightful surprises along the way.”

---

**THE ONE BOOK EVERY DOG LOVER NEEDS**

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

This volume offers readers:

- Official standard for every AKC-recognized breed
- Over 800 exceptional color photographs of adults and puppies
- Spotlight on finding well-bred puppies, sports, and activities for dogs and owners

This 22nd edition of The American Kennel Club’s *New Complete Dog Book* belongs in every dog lover’s home, the library of every town and institution, and dog club reference section in America.

Available at Amazon or in the AKC Shop at shop.akc.org
This month’s slideshow features the breeds eligible for AKC pointing breed field trials.

Pointing dogs are unique individuals who by nature are both independent thinkers and team players. They hunt with courage and high spirit, searching for upland gamebirds in all types of cover and in all kinds of weather. They often range well out from their handlers in their quest, yet they keep in tune and respond to commands.

A pointing dog must have a good nose to find scent, and the intelligence to use the wind; it must also have the fortitude to search the terrain and cover that birds prefer. Once game is located, they point with great intensity, focused on the bird with muscles taut. It is an awe-inspiring sight! The well-trained bird dog stands steady, waiting for its handler to arrive. When the handler flushes the bird and fires a gun: the dog holds point until the handler signals that it is time for the team to resume the hunt.

There are many pointing breeds, with varied hunting styles, which means that for every type of upland-bird hunter there is a suitable breed.
Breeding dogs can be tough...
...but protecting them through AKC Pet Insurance is easy.

PRESERVE YOUR BREEDING LEGACY WITH OUR BREEDER SUPPORT PROGRAM.

- Prepare for complications of breeding, pregnancy, whelping, or nursing, like mastitis, unplanned or emergency C-section births, and more.
- Submit claims without the hassle: visit your vet, submit, and get reimbursed for eligible expenses!

COVERED CONDITIONS INCLUDE:*  
- Emergency C-section
- Mastitis
- Pyometra
- Eclampsia
- Dystocia
- Gestational Diabetes
- Liver Failure
- Metritis

GET YOUR FREE QUOTE TODAY!  
Visit us online at www.AKCPetInsurance.com or give us a call.

CALL 866-725-2747

AKC Pet Insurance

PET INSURANCE POLICIES ARE UNDERWRITTEN BY INDEPENDENCE AMERICAN INSURANCE COMPANY  
*Benefits subject to policy terms, conditions, exclusions, and waiting periods. See link below for complete details. Insurance is underwritten and issued by Independence American Insurance Company (rated A- “Excellent” by A.M. Best) with offices at 11333 N. Scottsdale Rd, Suite 160, Scottsdale, AZ 85254. Insurance plans are administered by PetPartners, Inc. (PPI), a licensed agency [CA agency #0F12261]. “AKC Pet Insurance” is a marketing name used by PPI and is not an AKC business nor an insurer. AKC does not offer or sell insurance plans “AKC” and its related trademarks are used by PPI under license; AKC may receive compensation from PPI. For complete details, refer to www.akcpetinsurance.com/sample-policies.
Since ancient times, portrait artists have executed commissions that have immortalized their subject along with a much-loved pet. It’s one of life’s sweet ironies that people appear most fully human when pictured with their favorite animal companion.
day shooting. He has kenned his hunting dogs and returns to his family circle with a bounty of game birds, proudly arranged on the carpet to the delight of his wife and daughter. Completing this picture of domestic bliss are the housedogs who greet the master: Victoria’s terriers and Albert’s beloved Greyhound, Eos.

The picture is encoded with “family values” of a distinctly 19th-century English type, assuring commoners that their new queen and her consort were just like them. “The sharply drawn distinctions between manly sports and womanly delicacy (signified by the posy held in the Queen’s hand) and the hunting and housedogs are those of the Victorian marriage, not the Victorian crown,” historian Simon Schama has noted. “For in Landseer’s view, it is the standing wife-queen who attends on the seated husband-prince.”

The profusion of dogs, too, is meant to connect the royals to their subjects. A unifying thread running through all strata of British society has always been an unabashed dogginess. This was never more so than in Victoria’s time. It’s as though the royal couple are using Landseer’s painting to say, “Love us, love our dogs.”

**DOGDOM’S MONA LISA**

Among the AKC Museum of the Dog’s
most admired pictures is “Maud, Daughter of Colonel Temple with Her Two Schipperkes” (1899), a cozy domestic scene painted in the heyday of the British Empire by John Henry Frederick Bacon.

Maud’s celebrated father was Colonel Richard Carnac Temple, a Chief Commissioner of India and one of the empire’s foremost India experts. We don’t know much about his daughter—but judging from the circumference of her dogs, she was a soft touch for table scraps.

By the time Bacon came to this commission he stood among England’s supreme portraitists. He had already executed works for the royal family and would later be decorated for service to the king.

In “Maud,” the superb draftsmanship and delicate coloring typical of Bacon are amply apparent throughout.

But what catches the imagination is Maud’s handsome middle-aged face, the expression in her clear hazel eyes, and the ever-so-slight smile that might convey contentment, melancholy, or even mischief, depending on the eye of the beholder. Bacon’s enigmatic portrait invites us to solve its mysteries.

**THE REVOLUTIONARY NOBLEMAN**

Degas, Manet, Monet, Renoir. These names attract multitudes to art museums around the world. Long after the French Impressionists redefined painting in the late 1800s, they are still the art world’s bad-boy rock stars who took on the fuddy-duddy establishment.

But the movement was more than a handful of brand-name artists; it was a large and loose confederacy of painters, patrons, critics, and dealers.

They varied in temperament and philosophy, but they all worked to promote a new way of seeing the world that came to be known as Impressionism. Count Ludovic Lepic was among the early supporters of the movement. The count, from a distinguished military family, helped organize the first Impressionist exhibitions and was himself an accomplished painter of maritime scenes.

He later broke with the movement but maintained his lifelong friendship with Impressionist master Edgar Degas (1837–1917).

It is through his association with Degas, not his paintings of boats and seacoasts, that most art lovers have come to know Lepic. He is the subject of no fewer than 11 Degas works, including “Ludovic Lepic Holding His Dog,” housed today at the Cleveland Museum of Art.

“With rapid and expressive strokes of powdery pastel,” the museum’s catalogue says, “Lepic is seen with his pet, a Belgian Griffon, suggesting a
fondness for dogs for which he was well-known in late-19th century Paris.” (The smiling dog with erect ears looks nothing like the Brussels Griffon we know today.)

In another Lepic sighting, the count is the central figure in Degas’ much-admired “Place de la Concorde,” in which he is pictured with his two daughters and their Greyhound.

“Ludovic Lepic Holding His Dog” would be Degas’ final portrait of his friend of 30 years. A month after the picture was completed, Lepic, the dog-loving nobleman who helped launch an art revolution, died at 50.

**OUR BEA**

The life-size canvas “Portrait of Bea Godsol, 1930,” by John Dwight Bridge, is one of the few major works in the AKC collection to depict a member of the dog fancy. Godsol is pictured
with her Sealyham Terriers, but it was with Newfoundlands that she and her husband, Major Godsol, made their considerable reputations as exhibitors.

The Godsols are best remembered today as judges. Walter Fletcher, who covered dog shows for The New York Times for more than 60 years, wrote:

“[They were] two of the most sought-after arbiters in the country. Both were all-rounders and were active judges for 25 years. Bea was only the second woman ever to name Best in Show at Westminster. It was in 1957, and I remember her doing the unexpected: she put up an Afghan, Ch. Shirkhan of Grandeur, the first time an Afghan had taken that exalted show.”

In describing her approach to judging, Bea Godsol said, “All dogs have faults. The great ones carry them well.”
Our Kind of Town

CHICAGO—AKC Chief Veterinary Officer Jerry Klein appears on Daytime Chicago to promote the Great American Dog Show. 5:34

Great State Fair

MINNEAPOLIS-ST. PAUL–Local clubs introduce their breeds to visitors at the Minnesota State Fair. 3:33
VIDEOS

Mrs. Gasow’s Boy

NEW YORK—Newly posted: Go back 30 years to watch Ch. Salilyn’s Condor take BIS at Westminster 1993. 18:04

A Gazette Gallery: The Big Guys

From the pages of the GAZETTE, breeds of the AKC Working Group. 1:25
Gene Blake: Young and Gifted

Beaumont, Texas, 1963: Eugene Blake handles Afghan Hound Am./Mex. Ch. El Mari Meshack to Best of Breed under judge Vince Perry. This photo (by Alexander of Dallas) has not been published in 60 years. We present it here with an excerpt of a 2021 profile of Blake published in TulsaPeople magazine:

“At 18, Blake got his start bathing dogs at a Houston grooming shop and became enthralled with the world of purebreds. In 1957, he began showing dogs although he was not allowed, as a person of color, to stay in hotels or eat in restaurants with the other handlers. He also started a late-night dog training class in a Sears parking lot and quickly garnered a reputation as a top trainer. ‘People saw a gift I didn’t know I had, and it just came out,’ he says.

“As a professional handler, Blake piloted multiple breeds to No. 1 rankings. He handled a Saluki named Karim into the top 10 rankings of all breeds and won the Hound Group at Westminster in 1973 with an Afghan Hound named Apollo.

“He began judging in 1990 and still judges 100–120 dog shows per year. … “Judging is more objective than the public realizes, Blake says. ‘The American Kennel Club breed standard is written, and you follow the standard to come up with your winner,’ he explains.”
The Name's the Same

Clockwise from top: St. Bernard of Menthon, Alexander 4th Duke of Gordon, Louis Dobermann, Parson Jack Russell, and King Charles II: five historical figures with AKC breeds named for them. There are a few others. How many can you name?
In her Doberman Pinscher Club of America column, Leslie Hall celebrates the owners, handlers, judges, and other dog people affectionately known as “The Tribe.”
(photo courtesy Lynda Beam)
BREED COLUMNS

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

THIS MONTH

Sporting
25  Brittans
28  Lagotti Romagnoli
29  Pointers
31  German Shorthaired Pointers
33  Chesapeake Bay Retrievers
35  Curly-Coated Retrievers
37  Golden Retrievers
38  Labrador Retrievers
40  English Setters
42  Gordon Setters
44  Irish Setters
47  Irish Red and White Setters
49  Clumber Spaniels
52  Cocker Spaniels
54  English Springer Spaniels
57  Field Spaniels
59  Irish Water Spaniels
61  Sussex Spaniels
62  Welsh Springer Spaniels
63  Spinoni Italiani
65  Vizslas
67  Weimaraners

Working
69  Akitas
71  Alaskan Malamutes
73  Anatolian Shepherd Dogs
75  Bernese Mountain Dogs
77  Black Russian Terriers
82  Boerboels
84  Boxers
86  Bullmastiffs
88  Chinooks
90  Doberman Pinschers
92  German Pinschers
93  Giant Schnauzers
94  Great Pyrenees
96  Komondorok
99  Kuvaszok
100  Leonbergers
102  Neapolitan Mastiffs
104  Newfoundlands
106  Portuguese Water Dogs
108  Rottweilers
109  Samoyeds
111  Siberian Huskies
113  Standard Schnauzers
Brittanys  
GHOST

This piece is being written possibly too early, one could say. I question myself, but I do believe the story is interesting and should be told. Maybe the piece is too early because it focuses on an unusual pup: He is mostly all white, thus the name Ghost.

That’s it, he is just a pup. When the pups were 5 weeks of age, my son and I traveled to the Cleveland, Ohio, area to pick up the litter of nine Brittany pups. They had been whelped on October 30. The first stop was the home of a special lady who has previously whelped pups for me. She performs this service for several other clients, especially and often when the birth of the pups will be via a C-section. Our pups had been with her since being whelped.

The pups, 5 weeks old, would now return to the clinic where they were whelped. They will receive their second series of vaccinations, then travel with us to our home.

The pups have had quite an adventure. After six days of nursing, Cloud, the pups’ mom, developed mastitis. That morning when the mastitis was discovered, Cloud had a fever. She was taken to the clinic to receive an oral dose of antibiotics. The following morning her temperature was back to normal, and she resumed nursing her pups. Two days later, however, her temperature was significantly higher, with major swelling circling the nipple.

It was a major mastitis infection. The health of Cloud was now of significant concern, and she was not going to be able to nurse her pups. To control and hopefully return her to normal health would require a heavy dose of antibiotics via intravenous application.

The pups stayed longer than usual with the woman mentioned previously who whelpes the pups. Normally after dewclaws are removed and the tail docked—usually within two to three days—the pups return home with their mom to continue nursing. Again normally, depending on the puppies’ size and independence, will be the time for weaning at 5 to 6 weeks.

Breeding our Brittanys is done with a focus to improve temperament, independence, trainability, and uniformity within the litter, and maintaining all the other great characteristics of the breed. To us it’s a new Brittany we want.

Enough about the puppy stuff and breeding. Time to talk about why Ghost was designated the one to be kept. It was definitely not because of his unique lack of color—he had orange only at the base of both ears. It was because of his performance early on compared to the littermates, then his natural ability as a pointing-dog pup:

• First pup to walk with a steady balance;
• First to attempt to climb...
Over 100 breeds of dogs. One place. BEST. WEEKEND. EVER.

Meet, play and fall in love with over 100 breeds of dogs • See fun demonstrations (agility, disc dog, scentwork and more) • Fun for the whole family with a Kid’s Zone (face painting, puppies, crafts and more)

GREATER COLUMBUS CONVENTION CENTER
Columbus, OH
October 14th, 2023

Use code PAW for $5 off GA tickets

GET YOUR TIX NOW AT akc.org/meetthebreeds
and get out of whelping box;

• First to lap and then
drink water, then eat moist-
ened and solid food;
• During play, he would
stop and watch his litter-
mates, then jump in.

At 10 weeks of age Ghost
was placed with longtime
pointing-bird-dog trainer
Andy Zoll, and within a
week he was pointing, hold-
ing point, then chasing the
bird. Four weeks later he
was “backing,” also known
as “honoring,” another
pup’s point.
As this piece is being written, Ghost is 8 months of age. He continues to have an independent run/cast in pursuit of birds. He is also willing to be handled and styled while on point and will “back” a dog silhouette.

However, there is also another important part of the story. For Ghost, at an early age there were some health concerns, which can sometimes occur with a puppy. At 6 weeks during his second visit to a veterinary clinic for a second series vaccination, the diagnosis determined that the pup had a slight heart murmur and one undescended testicle. Several weeks later, one more issue developed; the term is “pigeon-chest.” The medical term and description for dogs, *Pectus carinatum*, is a chest bone and rib disfigurement causing the chest to bow outward into a point instead of a curve. The result would be reduced chest capacity for the lungs, heart, and stomach.

Time marches on; as indicated previously, Ghost was receiving early bird work with Andy Zoll. Due to the health concerns for Ghost and his potential future as a bird dog, at 5 months of age a visit was made to the clinic in North Ridgeville, Ohio, a suburb of Cleveland.

Results of the X-ray and medical examination were all positive for Ghost: He no longer had a heart murmur, the testicle had moved down, and the X-ray showed that his chest was somewhat larger but considered normal. Needless to say, the future for the pup had taken a positive turnaround.

This is chapter number one. As this first story is concluded, Ghost will be 8 months of age. He will continue to train in preparation to compete in pointing-dog field trial events. The adventure continues.

—David Webb, davidawebb@aol.com
American Brittany Club

---

**Lagotti Romagnoli ORCA**

The Lagotto Romagnolo Club of America (LRCA) recently learned that an article appeared in the July issue of the *AKC Gazette* that included comments about Orca, Best in Show winner of the 2023 Crufts dog show.

That article was not reviewed or approved by the LRCA Board prior to release, and we were dismayed to learn of its contents. [The article was soon revised, and the comments removed.] LRCA apologizes for this situation.

Kan Trace Kennels and Orca have been unbelievable ambassadors for Lagotti, and we celebrate their win at Crufts this year! Orca’s career and presence in the show ring have garnered the respect of hundreds of judges, spectators, and fanciers, and we as a club salute Kan Trace Kennels, Ms. Sinkovic, Mr. Booth, and Mr. Malzoni for their...
accomplishments with Orca stateside and abroad.

Lagotto Romagnolo Club of America

Pointers

Ria Nelis, of Freebreeze Pointers in England, contributed the following in 2019.

RETENTION OF WORKING ABILITY IN SHOW DOGS

How important is the retention of working ability in a show dog? The breed standard for the Pointer says that he is “bred for sport afield.” He should look up to doing a day’s work, both in his muscle tone and in his conformation. In the U.S., there is a wider divergence between the appearance of field dogs and conformation show dogs. This is less so in the U.K., and yet in both countries it is relatively rare for a show-bred dog to gain his field trial title, and the reverse is virtually unknown. There are several kennels worldwide who have in relatively recent times achieved dual champions—Sáregresi, in Hungary; Montenero, in Australia; Fowington, in the U.K. (Dual Ch. Fowington Slezak being only the second Dual Champion Pointer in the breed in the U.K. since the 1920s); and in the U.S., the Bandes’ Kinnike Kennels, Freidus’ Blackthorne kennel, and others—so it is possible to attain excellence in both. The U.S. has the Junior and Senior Hunter field qualification, and many owners enjoy training their Pointers for these awards, thus demonstrating the working ability of their dog. This can only be a good thing, and even better if dogs who demonstrate scenting ability are used in

David Woo ©AKC
a breeding program. In the U.K., all conformation-titled gundogs are “Show Champion” until they have proven their working ability, at which point they can drop the “Show” part of their title. In some other countries it is a requirement that a working assessment be passed before a dog may be bred from.

I believe those who have Pointers purely as working dogs are usually less impressed with good looks and more with the attributes of scenting ability, speed, and stamina. So how important is it to transfer those virtues to a show dog, and is there a happy medium?

I believe that retention of working ability is vitally important for the future of the breed, as it could be lost by breeders seeking to breed something to please judges who are perhaps not breed specialists. When the majority of judges are not breed specialists, then dogs which are correct and have many breed-specific virtues and who lack exaggeration may look different to many of the others. Bigger is not necessarily better, nor is an excess of rear angulation a breed requirement. Ground-covering side gait can look impressive, but if it is achieved by a longer dog on a shorter leg with exaggerated bend of stifle, then he starts to look less of a Pointer.

The tail should reach no greater than to the hock, but that does not mean that it should reach the hock. Far from it! Tails have become longer as bodies have become longer. This is natural, as the tail is a continuation of the spine, but the Pointer should be short-coupled, and therefore his tail should not be long and heavy.

Some breeds have been changed dramatically over the years. Fortunately the Pointer has not changed to the same extent, but some changes can be seen, not always for the better.

If you own a Pointer with a good nose, he will let you know when you are out on a walk that there is game nearby. It is enjoyable to watch your dog work. This is a breed which has style. Some of the breed requirements of a Pointer are tied in with those needed for the work they are bred to do.

For example, the ability to scent game is hereditary. He should have a large, “spongey” nose with wide, flaring nostrils to enable him to scent his game. He carries his head high, so that he may pick up the scent. A Pointer bred without those wonderful nostrils will not be able to pick up the scent so well. So judges need to reward beautiful carriage rather than dogs who carry their heads lower.

Action should be light, not pounding the ground. Think about a dog who quarters the moor; who is nimble, able to stop in a second when he finds game and comes on point. This is a dog who has those beautiful body lines, is stylish when working, and has a lissome appearance.
He has a decent size of eye, set correctly. He should have long, arched toes, with feet that are deep and well-padded. These are all requirements for the job he does, since he needs to be able to turn quickly when quartering, his feet and patterns taking the impact.

These are just examples, but it is the emphasis which one puts on different things when judging which could change the appearance of the breed and affect the ability of a Pointer to do his job.

Is there a danger perhaps that if judges are not looking for these finer details which help the breed to do its job, then less importance may be put on those virtues and instead, judges put up dogs which show other attributes, such as flashiness of side gait?

I am a great believer in rewarding breed-specific virtues when judging, whether it be long, sloping pasterns or style and carriage on the move, otherwise they may be lost forever.

—R.N.

Thanks to Ria for these valuable insights.
—Hayley Thompson, windlight1@aol.com
American Pointer Club

German Shorthaired Pointers

SHORTHAIR TEMPERAMENT

In 1953, Minnesota breeder Gerald T. Baskfield commented about the Shorthair’s temperament by saying, “He tends to gaiety rather than unpredictable moodiness. It is very uncommon to find one that is cross or treacherous.”

The standard says: The Shorthair is friendly, intelligent, and willing to please. The first impression is that of a keen enthusiasm for work without indication of nervous or flighty character.

Incorrect temperament would include shy, cringing dogs with tails tucked while trying to avoid an exam in the breed ring, or those who spook at the least amount of noise or disturbance. Some behavior may be attributed to a lack of socialization, but

the heritability factor should not be ignored, especially if the same excuse is used repeatedly and with regard to dogs over several generations.

Gundogs need to be cool under pressure and able to deal with a lot of different situations. The gundog functions not only as a tool and companion while hunting but in a lot of circumstance also lives in the home and interacts with the family. Since the GSP was developed to also stand his ground in face of a predator or poacher, as well as to hunt, his additional role with the family was as a protector—though not in the same sense as for breeds developed to be guard dogs. Baskfield says, “But when the family sleeps, the dog is sensitive and alert in his detection of prowlers. His proprietary sense makes him an invaluable guardian of the home or car.”

The breed should accept children who are well behaved, but GSPs do need the hand of an attentive owner who understands pack.
mentality. To paraphrase Baskfield, the Shorthair worships the head of the household where the head is definitely known, but is diplomat enough to lavish affections on both husband and wife. He loves to romp with the children and does so with abandon that only children can equal but is gentle and even protective. Even the rare dog that might be considered cross has been known to tolerate the indignities of the children it knows.

As one longtime breeder and AKC judge summed up, “Not every boy needs a Shorthair, but every Shorthair needs a boy.”

Shorthairs should be able to go from home, to the field, to the conformation ring, and they should mingle in public with confidence. They should not appear to be looking for the nearest escape route when approached by another person or dog. Their demeanor should be calm and confident. Under normal circumstances they should never exhibit aggression, extreme shyness, or avoidance. They can be expected to protect their owner’s possessions yet accept being called off by the owner. Once recognized, visitors to the home should be accepted without further reaction by the dog.

Shorthairs should take to the field with enthusiasm and the businesslike demeanor of a professional athlete. They should not challenge or “bump and run” with a hunting partner or brace-mate; rather, they should set about the task at hand—finding birds.

Correct temperament is as much a part of breed type as the dog’s physical attributes.

—Patte Titus,
chexsix@mac.com
German Shorthaired Pointer Club of America
**Chesapeake Bay Retrievers**

**AGILITY: VOLUNTEER AND LEARN A NEW SPORT**

When the AKC was established in 1884, conformation and field trials were the only events held for purebred dogs. Since then, many of forms of “dog sport” have been added. In August 1994—nearly 30 years ago—agility had been accepted by the AKC, and the first agility trials were held in Houston, Texas. Several other organizations already existed at that time which had been holding agility trials. Since then, AKC Agility has mushroomed and bloomed and now holds several national events every year.

Agility requires a huge workforce. Entailed are ring crew, a timer, scribe, course builders, score- and leash-runners, a gate person, and the chief steward. The chief steward has the job of filling every working spot for each class. The judge may judge a maximum of 350 dogs per day.

Over the years, electronics have helped trials run more efficiently and accurately with the use of a timer that starts when the dog jumps the first jump instead of a manual, handheld timer.

Many trials have a program that lets the exhibitor know what dogs have already run in their class and provides a “guesstimated” time of their own run. The program is up to date and lets the exhibitor know when their team will be “on the line.” The information is available for those with smartphones.

The American Chesapeake Club held its first agility trial with the national specialty show in Michigan in 2003. It was “Chesapeakes only,” with 51 entries. An agility trial was again held with the nationals in Maryland in 2005, Ohio in 2006, and in Colorado in 2007—all for Chesapeakes only. By the time the 2008 national rolled around, held in Massachusetts, the agility trial was opened to all breeds, with Chesapeakes having an early opening date.

Since then all our agility trials in conjunction with the national specialty show have been also offered as an all-breed trial. The only years when a trial was not held were in 2004, 2010, and 2012. Chesapeakes are demonstrating their versatility.

If you are new to agility, you can learn more by joining the ranks of ring crew who sit in the ring. The crew replaces dropped bars, changes jump heights, and adjusts the A-frame, tire jump, and pause table for each height class. The crew have an excellent seat in the arena and the opportunity to watch some of the best agility dogs run. They also observe various ways a course can be run.

The score-runner and the leash-runner do exactly what the job description is: The score-runner takes the score sheet from the scribe to the trial secretary to be officially recorded, and the leash-runner moves the exhibitor’s leash from the entrance gate to the exit.
Chesapeakes in agility:
Keagan (GCh. Eastern Waters’ Wind on the Weskeag, CD, NA, NAJ, OF, RI, JH, BN, TKI, WD);
Makai (UCD Eastern Waters’ Makai Wind, VCD2 (CDX, TD, OAJ, OA), TDX, MJB, MXB, RAE, BN, XF, TKA, WDX); Ch. Eastern Waters’ Summer Breeze, CDX, JH, RE, NAP, NJP, WD

gate. No prior training is necessary.

All these jobs are quickly learned, and you get a front-row seat!

The next time you attend our national specialty show, come a day or two early and volunteer to help. Usually there are worker raffles, and sometimes a ticket worth money at the snack bar. You will see the wonderful attitude that most agility handlers display. Most will say that any error, such as a missed weave pole or a dropped bar, was their fault and not the dog’s.

—Betsy Horn Humer, tiderunn2@verizon.net
American Chesapeake Club
**SEARCH-AND-RESCUE WITH CURLIES**

SAR work can involve various disciplines to find lost and missing people, alive or deceased. Between Delta, Diamond (still working at age 8), and Sapphire (Rest in Peace), these disciplines have included area searches in wilderness settings, human remains detection, water search work for drowning victims, and trailing.

Delta showed a natural preference for trailing, so this will be our first attempt at certifying in this discipline. We have been training in Connecticut and Maine, and we hope to be ready...
to test this year. Like all members of CCSAR, I do this work as a volunteer in my “spare” time, outside of work and family obligations, and of course other dog activities. Delta and Diamond are also family dogs, along with Dewey, our Flat-Coated Retriever. So training happens near home during the week, and with the team throughout the state every other weekend.

It takes many hours and diverse training environments to achieve certification. I am often asked how long it takes to bring a dog to certification level. Of course there are many variables, but it is usually about two years. In Connecticut, while some searches involve woods or forests, requests are often urban, or involve the numerous bodies of water that exist in the state.

Law enforcement or family members have asked us to work cold cases that have been given up on over the years. It takes a lot of confidence in your training to read a dog working ground that may contain just fragments of bone or tissue that has been buried for years.

All dogs have good noses, but some are genetically more sophisticated than others. What matters most is strong physical capability and strong drive for a job that relates to search work. The more naturally responsive the dog is to humans, the easier training will be. Tolerance for heat, cold, and various weather conditions is helpful, as is comfort around water. Noisy, scary things like fire trucks and crowds, sometimes in the dark, are conditions the dog might encounter in the course of a search. His temperament must be sound enough to stay on task.

Breeds represented on the Connecticut team include German Shepherds, Labrador Retrievers, Springer Spaniels, Golden Retrievers, Portuguese Water Dogs, and others. Handlers must enjoy working in the outdoors, investing in their own necessary equipment, and becoming part of a team that can fully support searches.

For all team members, being a part of CCSAR includes training in search management, radio communications, and boating, as well as human and canine first aid. A handler and her partner never search alone. There is always at least one other human backup, and full communication and navigation techniques are always in place.

CCSAR never charges for its services, but we welcome donations via mail or at ccsar.org. We are not law enforcement, so we do not search for dangerous criminals. Safety for humans and dogs comes first in any scenario the team accepts.

When a find is made, credit goes to the entire team. The team supports and enables every canine team working their individual sector to do their job. The missing person is only in one place, but it’s just as important to eliminate areas, locate clues, and cover as
much ground as possible.

Some searches go on for numerous days. Some do not have the desired result, and a person might remain unfound for decades. Team members study searches from around the country, learning more about lost person behavior and successful techniques, such as the relatively new use of drones. Success depends on many elements working together. —B.B.

Many thanks to Bree for her information and her dedication to this wonderful work.

—Ann Shinkle (with Jenny Dickinson)  
annshinkle@aol.com  
Curly-Coated Retriever Club of America

Golden Retrievers
JUST A LITTLE MORE TIME

Of all the conversations we have with our dogs, the hardest is the last one, when we must say goodbye. Whether our Golden friend is 6 or 16, it’s always too soon. There is no fountain of youth or magic pill, for our dogs … or their human partners.

Thankfully, veterinary science is always moving forward and hopes to help dogs and people increase their healthspan (a new word for me!) which is that period of middle life (usually) spent free of disease.

Currently, a nationwide, long-term study known as the Dog Aging Project (DAP) is recruiting dogs from all over the country to participate in this study of canine longevity. To date, more than 32,000 dogs of all sizes, breeds, and backgrounds have joined what the researchers call their “DAP Pack.” The study is expected to run for 10 years.

One group of DAP researchers and their “citizen scientists” (the dog owners) are conducting a
clinical trial evaluating the drug rapamycin, which is FDA approved for use in humans as an immunosuppressive to prevent organ rejection in transplant recipients, for patients with cardiac stents, and for treating certain forms of cancer. It’s also now being investigated for its ability to extend an animal’s lifespan.

In one of these studies, low-dose rapamycin therapy improved the state of several age-related conditions in mice and extended their lifespan by 25 percent. (And who doesn’t love a healthy, long-lived mouse!) It is hoped that the drug works as an anti-aging agent in dogs as well it does in mice.

This clinical trial is just a small part of DAP, as a first-of-its-kind joint venture by the University of Washington School of Medicine and the Texas A&M University College of Veterinary Medicine (TAMU). The researchers will publish regular updates on DAP in the Journal of Veterinary Medicine.

Lead author Kate Creevy, DVM, MS, DACVIM, Professor of Small Animal Medicine at TAMU, and Chief Veterinary Officer for the Dog Aging Project, told NEWStat (a health-oriented news website), “There is no specialty of geriatrics in veterinary medicine. Practitioners don’t have access to a large body of information about the aging experience of dogs.”

Until now. The DAP’s open-source dataset will give veterinarians and scientists the tools to identify environmental factors and genetic mutations associated with healthy aging, and information on disease outcomes that are shared by dogs and their human partners.

Now you, too, can be part of the solution by enrolling in DAP to become a “citizen scientist.” By doing so, your dog may be eligible to participate in the trial of rapamycin.

For complete information on the trial and requirements, visit the Dog Aging Project. Who knows, you may be able to enjoy some additional time with your precious Golden!

—Nona Kilgore Bauer, nona@nonabauer.com
Golden Retriever Club of America

Labrador Retrievers

WHY DOES MY DOG NEED A YEARLY PHYSICAL EXAM?

In a recent conversation with an owner of multiple dogs, I was asked about an annual physical examination for his dogs. The person gives their own “shots” and didn’t see the need for an annual exam.

My first thoughts about the question were really multifold. First and really foremost in my mind is the establishment of a working relationship with a veterinarian. That personal involvement allows the veterinarian to understand that client and their motivation in having one or multiple dogs. Also, in the future, that veterinarian is going to be more motivated to consult with or meet that
client after hours if there is a medical emergency, such as a reproductive concern like a frozen-semen breeding or Caesarean section. Also, during that physical examination there can be a discussion about what vaccinations are best for the veterinary client in that particular region.

What entails a good physical examination? Seeing if the dog can wag his tail and walk in a straight line is not a sufficient physical. In past years, with all my physical examinations I always started with the head and worked my way back to the dog’s tail.

Years ago, I happened to see a client’s dog who presented with a broken leg. Again, I started at the head, checking pupil responses and membrane color while also auscultating the chest. The client interrupted me and said, “Why are you looking at the head and chest? He has a broken leg.” My reply was, “Yes, I know his leg is broken—but what else might be involved?”

So on with the annual examination. In checking over the head, there are the ears, eyes, and teeth to assess. Are there any chipped or cracked teeth, or teeth with calculi? What do the retina, cornea, and other structures of the eye look like—are there cataracts, or is there perhaps a detached retina? Is the cornea clear and vessel free? Are the ear canals normal, or are they swollen and full of wax?

Now on to the chest, with palpation and auscultation. Are there normal heart and lung sounds? Are there any enlarged lymph nodes? While checking the chest, at this time I try to get an idea of quality of the hair coat. What is the structure of the front legs? Do the elbow and shoulders flex normally?

As I head toward the tail, the abdomen is the next structure. A brief palpation of the abdomen to check for an enlarged spleen, liver, kidney, or bladder is in order. Obviously, any pain or enlargements might be an indication for an ultrasound to follow. This a good time to palpate the mammary chain and the inguinal or popliteal lymph nodes.

Finally, I have made it to the tail. Gently elevating the tail gives one the ability to check for any enlargements around the rectum. Raising
the tail may also give some indication to any arthritic pain. I have not ignored the back but have incorporated it into my regional examination.

Having completed this examination, which might take a few minutes to a much longer commitment in time, I can now address the concerns expressed by the client in our general discussion before I began the examination. I now have a good basis from which to recommend further diagnostics, or with an annual physical examination, to vaccinate the dog. To me, skipping any of the steps just means I would not have a total picture of the dog presented to me.

I know every veterinarian has their own way of doing an examination. I once was told that if you put 10 veterinarians into a room, you’ll get 10 ways to approach a problem. I just like my systematic approach, so I don’t forget a part of the dog.

Getting back to the original question about an examination, I truly believe that examination gives me an extremely good idea of the overall health of the dog. Now I can chart my finding and results so I have vital information for comparison next year, and years to follow. Not knowing what was normal in the past makes knowing what is abnormal with future examinations difficult or next to impossible. That annual examination is preventative just as are the vaccinations.

—John Lawrence, DVM
yelodoglabs@gmail.com
The Labrador Retriever Club

English Setters
THOUGHTS ON SIZE

A recent survey in a popular show dog magazine asked readers if their breed’s standard needed to be changed (and how). As you might imagine, there were all kinds of answers. My favorite answer was “[It] does not need to be changed—it needs to be followed.” Discussions about English Setters and how our current dogs fit the standard could be described in the same way. For example, there’s a lot of conversation about the height of English Setters today. Are they too small? Too big? Not enough leg? Does it depend on where you live and the dogs you see most often? Does it depend on how big your own dogs are? And how much does it matter in terms of breed type?

I’ve had English Setters for a little over 30 years. There are certainly people that have been breeding and showing longer than I have. I can recall beautiful top-winning and top-producing small bitches who were definitely under the “about 24 inches” called for in our standard. And we’ve all seen terrific male dogs who were well over the “about 25 inches” suggested in the standard. You’ve probably even seen large bitches of excellent quality, and superior males who were on the small side.
These dogs and bitches of varying heights might not be acceptable if our standard said dogs had to be 25 inches and bitches had to be 24 inches. That’s not what it says, however. It wisely provides some leeway for the size of our English Setters.

Why is it wise for the standard to be open to allowing some deviation in size (usually considered about an inch up or down—though that is not written anywhere in the standard)? Because we should not dismiss or disqualify dogs without a good reason. The overall quality of a dog and all of his parts considered together should always be more important than whether he is a little taller or smaller than the standard suggests.

That said, I doubt that most people who love English Setters wish to see them become a giant breed. Or a smaller breed. They are not meant to be “comfort setters.” If all dogs, male or female, begin trending toward 30 inches, there is a problem. Likewise, if English Setters were headed toward 20 inches, the breed would be in trouble. But neither seems to be the case. We need to keep a variety of dogs and bitches of these varying sizes in our gene pool. Many of them may have something positive to offer for the future.

As for whether English Setters are too short on leg now, that’s harder to determine, especially when adult dogs have such long coats. Shown indoors in small rings, where it’s hard for dogs to stride out, it can be difficult to tell how a dog really moves or how long their legs really are. In order to really see the length of leg, you might have to see the dog move in the open or put your hands on him to feel the underline and the legs. In some cases it can be
easier to see length of leg in younger dogs, before they have a full coat.

Once you see a dog who is low on leg, the picture really sticks with you. It’s not a matter of the dog being small. A dog can be small yet still be perfectly proportioned. A dog (or bitch) who is low on leg is proportioned differently than an English Setter who is normally proportioned. However, with certain grooming and handling, a dog who is low on leg can look nice to a judge and do a lot of winning. It’s up to breeders to look at dogs carefully and decide whether they want to use this kind of dog for breeding. If you do breed to a dog who is short on leg, you will probably get at least some offspring who have a similar look.

It should also be noted that there are dogs who are well-proportioned who can be made to look short on leg quite inadvertently through less-than-careful grooming. Sometimes a very long coat can make a dog’s legs look rather short. When you’re finished grooming your dog it’s always a good idea to stand back and take a good look at the overall picture he presents.

If you’ll forgive the pun, the long and the short of it is that our breed standard serves us well regarding the height of our dogs. We should have no reason to change it.

—Carlotta Cooper, eshever@embarqmail.com
English Setter Association of America

Gordon Setters
WHAT IS A GORDON SETTER?
— ACCORDING TO AI

The Gordon Setter is a large, powerful breed of gundog. They are known for their gentle and affectionate nature, as well as their intelligence and trainability. Gordon Setters are excellent family pets and make great companions for active people.

History
The Gordon Setter is one of the oldest breeds of gun-dog, with its origins dating back to the 16th century. They were originally bred in Scotland by the Duke of Gordon, who wanted to create a dog that was both beautiful and capable of hunting. The Gordon Setter was first shown at Crufts in 1873 and quickly became a popular breed.

Appearance
Gordon Setters are large, muscular dogs with a long, silky coat. They are typically black with a few tan markings on the chest and feet. Gordon Setters have a gentle expression and a kind, intelligent look in their eyes.

Temperament
Gordon Setters are gentle, affectionate dogs who make great family pets. They are intelligent and trainable, and they love to be around people. Gordon Setters are also very active dogs and need plenty of exercise. They are not suited for apartment living, but they would thrive in a home with a large yard.
Grooming
Gordon Setters have a long, silky coat that requires regular grooming. They should be brushed at least once a week, and they may need to be bathed more often if they get dirty. Gordon Setters also need to have their nails trimmed regularly.

Health
Gordon Setters are generally healthy dogs, but they are prone to certain health conditions, such as hip dysplasia, elbow dysplasia, and cancer. It is important to have your Gordon Setter checked by a veterinarian on a regular basis to catch any health problems early on.

Training
Gordon Setters are intelligent and trainable dogs. They are eager to please their owners and learn new things. Gordon Setters should be started on basic obedience training as puppies. They can also be trained for more advanced activities, such as agility, hunting, and tracking.

Activity level
Gordon Setters are very active dogs and need plenty of exercise. They are ideal for people who enjoy outdoor activities, such as hiking, camping, and swimming. Gordon Setters also need plenty of mental stimulation, so they should

From the breed’s AKC standard: “The Gordon Setter is a good-sized, sturdily built, black and tan dog, well muscled, with plenty of bone and substance, but active, upstanding and stylish, appearing capable of doing a full day’s work in the field. ... His bearing is intelligent, noble, and dignified. ... A smooth, free movement, with high head carriage, is typical.”
be given plenty of toys and activities to keep them occupied.

Diet
Gordon Setters are large dogs and need a high-quality diet that is appropriate for their size. They should be fed a diet that is high in protein and fat, and low in carbohydrates. Gordon Setters are also prone to bloat, so it is important to feed them several small meals throughout the day rather than one large meal.

Overall
The Gordon Setter is a gentle, affectionate, and intelligent breed of dog. They make great family pets and are suitable for active people who enjoy outdoor activities. Gordon Setters are relatively easy to train and require regular grooming. They are prone to certain health conditions, but they are generally healthy dogs. If you are looking for a loyal and loving companion, the Gordon Setter is a great choice.

Everything you just read above was written by Google’s Bard—the company’s entry into the world of artificial intelligence, or AI. I wrote none of it. Bard learns by scanning and reading books and storing the information in its megadatabases. When posed a question or task, it scans its own memory rather than going out to the internet and compiling the info—the way that Microsoft’s Bing does.

Having had contact with some folks at Google, I was asked early on to try a version of Bard. The task I gave it was to write an article on the Gordon Setter. I had three articles within 15 seconds. I was then asked to correct any mistakes or errors and anything else I felt needed changing in each article. The primary thing that needed correcting is that Bard tried to make the “tan” spots “liver” spots—and in one article, it made the entire dog liver.

I submitted the corrections and suggestions and then asked Bard to send me the article again. The above is verbatim what I received back.

As Bard improves the results will only get better, but I was impressed (and a little terrified) by what it accomplished. To quote a song from 1967 by Four Jacks and a Jill, “It’s a strange, strange world we live in, Master Jack.”

—James Thacker,
dunbargs@sbcglobal.net
Gordon Setter Club of America

----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Irish Setters
THE PURPOSE-BRED DOG: EXCEILING BEYOND THE SHOW RING

People often consider purpose-bred breeding and health clearances to be solely the province of the breeder. Certainly, it is the breeder’s primary responsibility to attend to both the hallmarks of the breed and to be as conscientious as possible in making wise health choices. The conformation ring was designed to validate these choices, but in
modern times there are other opportunities as well where we can showcase the breed and our breeding programs. In a minefield of anti-pure-bred propaganda, we should welcome and embrace the opportunity to show that a purpose-bred dog can adapt seamlessly to venues outside the show ring.

The Irish Setter in the field is a beautiful animal, hard-charging while quartering the field, focused and intent on the task at hand. It is these very purpose-bred traits that lead to success in performance areas. The speed and maneuvering seen in the field lend themselves easily to agility work. There is much similarity in the field movements to those seen in an agility trial. Replace the jumps, weave poles, and tunnels in your mind with the rough terrain surrounding a bird field, and you will immediately see the corollary with the original purpose of a gundog. The high-biddability factor also contributes to the symbiotic working relationship, as does the breeder’s attention to soundness in the parents to allow for training and exhibition to continue for several years without fear of breaking down from repeated physical exercise.

The breeder’s attention to a sound mind in a sound body combined with biddability makes the Irish Setter
an outstanding competitor in rally and obedience venues as well. The purpose-bred dog was for many generations expected to maintain a symbiotic relationship with the hunter that resulted in food on the table for both. This one-to-one working relationship is different than that of the pack relationship of the hunting hound, and its deep roots in our breed can guarantee a stylish and accurate working dog for the trainer with the skills to access viable training. The rollicking personality, also a central feature of the purpose-bred trainability, ensures a bright and vibrant partner who will work with enthusiasm and keep the trainer engaged in presenting new challenges.

Performance animals are not just the pets in the litter. They share the same genetic background and health-tested origins as their conformation siblings. While small differences may have kept them from being the breeder’s choice for showing and going forward with in their own breeding program, they are still purpose bred just as much as their siblings in the conformation ring. The dogs showcased in agility, obedience, and rally serve as ambassadors for the breed even more so than the marquee individuals, as crowds flock around the rings where these events take place. These events are the entry-level competition for many exhibitors, and any conscientious breeder is just as proud of the accomplishments in these rings.

Field trialing requires a sustained dedication, as does campaigning a special. Neither will appeal to many in terms of money and time. However, nearly every dog and owner can demonstrate the innate ability required to obtain a Junior Hunter title. This venue speaks directly to the preservationist in the purpose-bred breeder. The dogs clearly find joy in this event, and the fresh air, walking, and shared purpose bring joy to the owner also. Some will find the desire and ambition to move on to the Senior and Master level. Again, the breeder’s attention to health clearances, temperament, and trainability will serve the dog, the owner, and the breed well, as the physical and mental attributes of a breeding program are demonstrated. Every Irish Setter who attends an obedience class or joins in any of the many new titling events like Barn Hunt or Trick Dog is a testament to the purpose-bred breeding program of his breeder and the breeders who came before.

Encourage your owners to train. You have invested knowledge, time, and expense in showing and health clearances that apply to every individual dog of your breeding. Training contributes to a sustainable place for our dogs in their individual homes, and visibility contributes to a sustainable place for our purpose-bred dogs in our modern society.

—Mary Lamphier, 
erinfyr@gmail.com
Irish Setter Club of America
Irish Red White Setters

ENCOURAGING NEW VOLUNTEERS IN THE SPORT

All smiles and grins. New faces standing out among the old guard. They are eager. Innocent. Proud of their new puppy and their breeder. They are ready to engage, learn, and participate. … but then they are blocked, frustrated, and gone.

Is it just me, or have you encountered this too? Trying to fit in, to find your place in a tight-knit group of close club members? Don’t you wish you knew the secret handshake or the unwritten rules?

We should recognize the courage it takes to go to an event when not knowing anyone or even understanding how it works. How do we reward this bravery? Do we forgive the nerves and overlook any faux pas or breaches of longstanding club routines? Why not?

Clubs have fewer members and less participation. The same group always does the work, and others complain.

But many clubs have discovered ways to attract and retain new members. Those enthusiastic new puppy owners are key to growth in our clubs and the AKC.

There is information available if one scours the internet. Remember to use the researcher’s best practices, visiting only reliable sources—that is, “providing thorough, well-reasoned theory, argument, discussion, etc. based on strong evidence,” as described by the University of Georgia library guides on reliability.

A December 12, 2020, article in Forbes magazine titled “15 ways to Boost Participation and Engagement in Remote Events” made these suggestions: Be thoughtful, have a clear plan, keep meetings short, add an element of surprise, and integrate office experience. Specifically, I think these transfer to conducting club business. We can run our clubs like a business, to be effective, efficient, and professional.

More advice is offered in an article from DonorBox.org, “8 Ways to Motivate and Engage Volunteers”:

Check your assumptions about volunteers. Do you value what volunteers do? Comparing them to money in the bank, a large monetary donation is considered a major contribution. How about the volunteer who gives hundreds or thousands of hours—how do you value this donation?

Does your club have a volunteer engagement or mentor policy in use?

Why do people donate money or time? Motivations include desire for change or to contribute to a cause, learn new skills, have fun, do something worthwhile, or meet new people.

Why do volunteers leave? According to the article, reasons include a feeling of being underutilized, no sense of support of one’s efforts, and an impersonal or tense atmosphere. Suggestions result in no response or actions or even are treated as an
interruption, and reality did not meet expectations.

How can a club keep volunteers? Advice includes:

- Value their time.
- Play to their strengths.
- (Look at me, I like to write; that is my contribution.)
- Communicate. Volunteers need to know who, what, when, and where. Also

Irish Red and White Setter Finn is a happy sporting dog in the field. Early field work includes water retrieves and bringing birds to hand.
understanding “why” is a bonus.

• Listen to their feedback. A fresh perspective might solve a challenge. Give training and resources volunteers need to do their job.

• If someone new expresses interest, let them shadow a current officer or committee chair. Include them in all club-related decisions, activities, and responsibilities. And consider making a new friend of this person who supports your shared passion.

A win-win is engaged members with shared workload. When the membership renewals come in, consider taking a closer look. Evaluate what members offer to share, then ask them. Cultivating volunteers for other, bigger roles creates opportunities for continuity and club growth—avoiding the January-March mad scramble to fill the ballot.

The more the merrier!

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

**Clumber Spaniels**

**LORD AND MASTER OF CLUMBER PARK**

Henry Pelham-Clinton, 9th Earl of Lincoln, 2nd Duke of Newcastle (April 20, 1720–February 22, 1794), is the single person most responsible for the very existence today of the Clumber Spaniel. Without the breeding stock he fortuitously obtained while visiting France, this breed of spaniels would have forever disappeared some quarter of a century later during the slaughter and chaos of the French Revolution. One of the Duke’s many workers, William Mansell, oversaw the actual breeding and whelping, but Pelham-Clinton alone had both the ways and means to perpetuate our breed. We owe him an immense debt of gratitude.

We possess details of his life mainly thanks to a 603-page, two-volume

“The Return From Shooting” (1788) by Sir Francis Wheatley, depicting Henry Pelham-Clinton, the 2nd Duke of Newcastle—“the single person most responsible for the existence today of the Clumber Spaniel.” He is shown with his friend Colonel Litchfield and his gamekeeper, Mansell, along with four Clumbers. (In possession of the Sheffield Gallery, Sheffield, England)
unpublished 1958 M.A. thesis by Clive Priestley, and a brief anonymous 1807 magazine article.

The story of the future duke’s life really begins with his father, who unexpectedly inherited a sizable fortune from an unknown relative which included the impressive estate of Oatlands, south of London. His father was then able to increase his standing even more by marrying a sister of two of the wealthiest men in England—each at times Prime Minister of Great Britain. With two such powerful brothers-in-law, he occupied the highly lucrative post of paymaster-general of the realm’s armed forces.

Henry Clinton was only 8 years old when his father died suddenly, leaving his widow with four sickly children—plus an unexplained £473,000 missing from the armed forces finances. When the Court of Exchequer enquired concerning “moneys received,” his mother with her four children found it expedient to move to a tiny village in southern France far from the public eye, where they lived quietly for the next five years.

When Henry was 13, it was considered safe to send him back to England to study at Eton, as befits young English gentlemen. Following his mother’s death when he was 16, he was in effect adopted by one of his two powerful maternal uncles who never had any children of his own. At age 17 he entered Cambridge University, then from age 19 to 21 he made the traditional “Grand Tour” of France and Italy of young English gentry. He especially admired the great landscaped gardens which were to become a lifelong passion, and fell in love with one damsels while obliged to pay off a paternity suit concerning another.

Upon his return to London, he led for almost three years a life of wine and women until it was ordained by his two powerful uncles, now without other male heir, that to preserve the family fortune at age 24 he was to marry his 17-year-old first cousin. As in the case of his father, marriage led to lucrative appointments requiring little or no work, and incredibly—given his father’s still standing charge concerning “moneys received”—the lifetime position of Auditor of the Exchequer, along with an ornate London mansion as official residence.

This arranged marriage happily culminated in deep love, and he spent the next 16 years, by far the happiest of his life, rebuilding at huge expense the house and elaborate grounds of the Oatlands estate inherited from his father, and witnessed the birth of four sons.

In 1760 came the death in childbirth of his beloved 33-year-old wife. Totally inconsolable, he was never to remarry. To help alleviate his prolonged, morbid depression, his uncle suggested a visit to one of his holdings some 19 hours’ ride north of London, a 3,800-acre estate with a small hunting lodge. Thus at age 40 the widowed
future duke set eyes for the first time on an unimposing “boggy waste” called Clumber Park.

At times he enjoyed getting away from his Oatlands estate—too near London and the political life he always avoided—to build and hunt at Clumber. At his own expense he began to gradually transform its little hunting lodge into Clumber House, which eventually became one of England’s most splendid country houses. The “boggy waste” was turned into landscaped gardens and well-tended forest land.

Finally, in 1764, thanks to his all-powerful uncle, it was officially concluded that after 50 years his father’s “debt to the Crown” (i.e., embezzlement) was “unchargeable and unclaimed.” That same year his uncle decided that Clumber Park should be signed over to his nephew. The two events called for a celebratory buying trip to Paris for ever more elegant objets d’art.

No doubt at some Parisian social function the French-speaking future 2nd Duke of Newcastle met the future 4th Duke of Noailles, who invited him to go hunting on his nearby estate.

Greatly impressed by his French host’s white flushing spaniels, following the custom of wealthy European aristocracy he was gifted with breeding stock, which accompanied him back to his Oatlands estate.

In 1768, following the death of his uncle, he acceded to the title of 2nd Duke of Newcastle while continuing to eschew as much as possible any active role in politics—long to the acute disappointment of both his Prime Minister uncles.

As he gradually began spending more and more time hunting in the tranquility of Clumber Park, the Duke had the white flushing spaniels transferred there in 1775 from the Oatlands estate. Finally at age 68 the expense of maintaining two large estates (think two Downton Abbeys) was too great, and the Duke was obliged to sell Oatlands.

Thus only in 1788 did Clumber Park become his principal residence, which he celebrated by commissioning a seven-foot by five-foot oil painting by Francis Wheatley in which appear four of his white flushing spaniels, descendants of those obtained 24 years previously while in France. He resided at Clumber Park for only about the last six years of his life, though it was in London in early 1794 that he died.

The original breeding stock had been “bred unmixed,” first on the Oatlands estate and then the Clumber estate, for nearly 30 years under the direction of William Mansell, and gradually shared with neighboring aristocrats. The French duke, his family, and the livestock were wiped out a quarter of a century later in the French Revolution. Only in the first decades of the 19th century, well after the Duke’s death, did these white spaniels come to be
Cocker Spaniels

COCKER SPANIEL HISTORY, CONSERVATION, AND OPTIONS

Just as one way of measuring time in “Cocker Spaniel World,” we note that the 147th prestigious Westminster show was held in May 2023. Looking back over the years at Westminster, we also find that a Cocker Spaniel from each of the three standard varieties has won Best in Show at Westminster: a particolor (black and white) female, Ch. Midkiff Seductive, won Best in 1921; a black male, Ch. My Own Brucie, won Best in Show twice, in the years 1940 and 1941; and an ASCOB (buff) male, Ch. Carmor’s Rise and Shine, won Best in Show in 1954. These wins inspired public notice and interest in the breed.

The 1940s and ‘50s saw huge popularity for the Cocker, an appealing and versatile breed. It has been true that during these times of popularity there have been those who “commercially” produced specimens of the breed, and then there have been sincere enthusiasts who strived to improve the breed and cherish the specimens in their care.

Breeding programs and plans of the latter category resulted in distinctive “lines” which were capable of consistently producing worthwhile Cockers for multiple purposes, such as companions, show dogs, and those with field instinct and performance ability.

The breed evolved, becoming noticeably taller on leg and sporting a dense, fuller coat. All breeds over
the course of history contend with certain obstacles, fads and health problems among them. The Cocker Spaniel was no exception to encounters with these obstacles as breeders steered their programs and outcomes.

It was soon learned that the increasing Cocker coats required new grooming methods and tools, as well as more maintenance. Not only that, but it became evident that there could be a range of possible coat textures in the breed. Good coat texture could make all the difference in the amount of care required to keep up coats. “Cottony” coats made maintenance a horrible chore for show dog and pet owner alike.

The Cocker Spaniel breed standard now addresses this characteristic and should serve to encourage proper selection in breeding for correct coat texture. The standard says, “The texture is most important.”

As Cockers became taller, more “up on leg,” a corresponding problem was creation of specimens who were too tall. Eventually the height disqualification in the standard went a long way toward keeping the Cocker at ideal size.

More became known over time about the possible inheritance of undesirable characteristics and health problems in the breed. There was the goal of selection to avoid reproducing various problems in the Cocker population. Studies, when completed and results available, were valuable to concerned breeders as they tried to produce healthy Cockers.

Some made the “fad” choice of using a top winner in their choice of breeding stock, without a good-faith attempt to study the pedigree of the individual and check health-testing and credentials of all dogs considered for a breeding program. Needless to say, this method could be detrimental to the Cocker population in general.

Now perhaps the ultimate question arises: What does a sincere Cocker breeder do when they believe (and have proven to the best of their ability and the testing means available) they have developed a current breed specimen who is truly able to produce consistently worthwhile and healthy specimens? How to conserve this resource for the future? I have heard a couple views on this question (and of course science has provided breeders with options).

One view is that individual dogs are fixed in their place in time and history. Whatever “use” is to be made of them takes place at that point in history, and you move on through the next generations without them. Their contributions are limited to their reproductive lifetime.

Another view is that in some point in the future, long after a dog has passed, that particular dog’s characteristics or health value may be very much needed! This can be especially true if the breed runs into difficulty
as to certain characteristics, fads, or health problems.

Enter the frozen semen option. Having this option available, perhaps reaching back even 30 years to a prior specimen, may be of extraordinary value to the breed as it moves into new generations. It at least presents the opportunity to conserve and then bring back and forward some genetic characteristics and options which may not be widely available in the then-current general Cocker population.

There are a number of variables involved with this conservation option, such as the skill in collection and preservation/storage of semen, as well as the veterinary methods to successfully use the frozen semen. You can read the AKC’s “Registering Litters from Frozen Semen” to learn what is required for AKC registration for individuals produced from frozen semen breedings.

Personally, this author feels it is excellent to have conservation options (such as the above-described procedures) that allow the choice to preserve a Cocker resource. You may well want to conserve a resource that was the result of much time, testing, and attention. Those efforts were directed successfully toward producing Cocker individuals who are themselves capable of producing consistent quality and, to the extent possible, avoiding the reproducing of inherited health difficulties. This viable frozen semen scientific option gives the breeder even more choices as a breeding program moves on in time.

—Kristi L. Tukua
American Spaniel Club

English Springer Spaniels

**VISUALIZATION: IF YOU CAN SEE IT, YOU CAN WIN IT**

Are professional handlers more talented than owner-handlers? One huge difference between non-professional conformation exhibitors and professional handlers is that professionals practice their skills day in and day out, in any ring situation that arises. They have a deep well of visual memories of what winning and the prep that goes into winning looks and feels like.

Let’s estimate that a pro goes in the ring three times in a day, three days a week, for 30 weeks a year. That gives the pro almost 300 practices stacking, interacting with the judge, and gaiting a dog.

What can we do to enhance our learning, experience, and competitive edge? We can teach ourselves to clearly and deeply visualize our precise actions and the dog’s responses to increase our ring experience.

The magic ingredient to level the playing field to achieve success is practice. Studies of professional musicians—pianists especially—have shown that actual, measured time spent in practice leads to more complete mastery than does innate talent. One study found that the most
exceptional pianists practice a minimum of two hours every day, while mediocre students reported daily practice time to be 15 minutes. Explore the “talent versus practice/work” concept in the book Talent Is Over-Rated, by Geoff Colvin.

Practice that is frequent and that slowly breaks down every tiny action—correctly and step-by-step—escalates the likelihood to perform more perfectly and to win. In The Talent Code: Greatness Isn’t Born, It’s Grown, Daniel Coyle proposes:

“Deep practice is built on a paradox: struggling in certain targeted ways—operation at the edges of your ability, where you make mistakes—makes you smarter. Experiences where

English Springers enjoying the show ring: Jordanne Smith with “Genna,” Ivy Hill Nostalgic; Susan Schneider with “Duck,” Peridot Wil-Orion Darkwing Drake, CGC, TKN.
you’re forced to slow down, make errors, and correct then—end up making you swift and graceful without your realizing it.”

Teaching yourself to visualize your practice and your performance increases your mastery in the ring or in performance venues. Matt Neason’s *Sports Psychology Today* teaches, “your performance is often the result of … the movies and soundtracks playing inside your head” ([http://www.sportpsychologytoday.com/sport-psychology-for-coaches/the-power-of-visualization/](http://www.sportpsychologytoday.com/sport-psychology-for-coaches/the-power-of-visualization/)).

English Springer Spaniel exhibitor Jordanne Smith (Ivy Hill) shares: “The hardest part of prepping for a show is to remember all the things I need in my grooming/prep setup. To have everything I need for the weekend, I visualize the pre-show grooming routine, step by step, while I pack my tack and supplies.”

Interviewing Smith, her sharp wit comes though when she confides, “One time I ended up bringing a left shoe and a right shoe from two similar pairs of show shoes—a downfall of packing in the dark hours. I still wore them. Maybe they were my lucky shoes.”

Have you noticed that you are not drawn to go and talk with folks who are always criticizing, complaining, and blaming negative outcome on others? Negative mental rehearsals of losing contribute to getting more unsatisfactory results. We intuitively shy away from the “downers” at dog shows because subconsciously we may know they negatively affect our day, too.

Sarah Regan, editor at *MBG Mindfulness*, explains, “The idea that we attract what we put out has clearly been around since ancient times. Like attracts like—even if we’re not conscious of it. We’re always ‘attracting’ positivity or negativity based on the energy we’re putting out ourselves.”


Consummate dog trainer and mentor to many obedience competitors Julie Hogan (Pride ’n Joy) gave me this advice:

“Read the obedience rules into a tape recorder, and then listen to that tape—over and over—while you drive to dog shows. Hearing the rules taught me to visualize the tiniest details in the ring and to have a movie running in my head showing me exactly what to do. Decades later, when my students ask me a ring performance question, I still hear the rules in my head.” Studying the conformation standard sets the foundation for mental rehearsal before you show your dog.

Breeder-handler Susan Schneider (Peridot) spoke with me recently after a win with her young dog Duck at the Minnesota Twin Cities ESSA specialty, explaining that visualization is an underpinning of her ring prep. She said:

“Picturing the end result
in your mind, with a mental rehearsal of how you’re going to get there, gives you a performance edge in the ring. Learning to see your moves and the dog’s responses is a process. I like to watch the judge’s ring instructions and carefully study how she goes over a few breeds before my class, so I know what to expect. Repetition of watching the ring procedure and making a mental film of it in my mind before stepping into the ring helps me perform almost out of reflex. Preparation mentally goes down into your hands as you stack and present your dog to each individual judge based on your preparatory observation."

The YouTube channel of professional handler Allison Alexander, of Leading Edge Dog Show Training Academy, offers lots of video tips on building your visualization skills for more success in the ring. See her video with ideas for creating a “vision board.”

Prep your performance by mentally rehearsing what you and your dog are doing before you set paw into the ring. Alexander’s video “Top-Dogs are Made of Moments” will raise your consciousness to demonstrate top performance outside the ring.

While you are imprinting your visual movie of perfection into your subconscious, it is most important to make sure the steps that you’ve made second nature are correct. Denise Flaim’s article “Built to Last: The Basics of Canine Conformation and Anatomy” offers great guidance.

Sports psychologist coaches ask their athletes to envision an actual perfect performance before they go to sleep at night, and again before their feet hit the floor at the beginning of each new day. Give it a try.

Sweet dreams, seeing your gorgeous dog sail around the ring to win!

—Sarah A. Ferrell, Locust Grove, Virginia

Field Spaniels

ON INTERSPECIES FRIENDSHIP

I recently reflected on the marvelous wonder of dogs befriending other animals and how their bonds develop and endure. Some zoos have utilized companion dogs successfully as companions for various animals. It’s no surprise that the myriad purposes behind various breeds can pair well beyond that of the human-canine bond.

Field Spaniel puppies need early socialization. I’ll repeat that, as it is so important: Field Spaniels require positive exposure to a wide variety of experiences and stimuli from an early age!

Whether a puppy is bold as brass or more soft in temperament, they deserve a healthy social and mental foundation that begins with selective breeding and goes from the whelping box to their new homes and
BREED COLUMNS

SPORTING GROUP

beyond. It is vital to educate owners and encourage proper training and experience for a healthy, sane, and sound dog for life.

Our breed is a valued gentleman’s hunting companion and family friend who loves their people. As such, they should be able to integrate into home and field experiences and are likely to “size people up” and make friends with humans given the patience and space to do so. Some prefer to approach a new person, while others are more “in your face,” but please be sure your puppies are supported in meeting people of all ages, sizes, shapes, colors, disabilities, and in different situations. Well-socialized dogs are great to live and travel with and remain in their forever homes as biddable companions.

Now we turn to the “other” animals our dogs encounter and possibly work with and even befriend. Other pets in a household are the clear front-runner when considering safety and balance. I have seen much play and cuddling amongst the dogs and cats who live peaceably and appreciate their relationships. We’ve all known dogs who do not get on well with other pets and possibly even had to mitigate disaster.

Careful introduction of unexposed dogs to cats can yield nice friendships, and puppies “raised by the claw” of a diplomatic cat can be fabulous. Smaller “pocket pets” and birds must be supervised carefully, and any introductions should be safely handled. Visits to others’ animals with respect can yield healthy exposure and teach self-control.

I was always amazed at how Cola sought out and adored other animals, from the suburban neighbor’s potbellied pig to the stallion she played with. She gently brought me birds, bunnies, and even a snake without ever leaving a mark, despite her incredible prey drive.

Being able to visit farms, hike woods, and otherwise explore the world peacefully amidst livestock and wildlife is a lovely part of dog ownership. I love seeing dogs who cuddle with
the family cat, and blissful unions among domesticated animals.

Science has already proven that neonates exposed to early stimuli are more resilient, biddable, and healthy animals as adults. (See: ENS, ESI, BioSensor, “Rule of 12,” and so on.) Responsible breeders work hard to give their puppies novel experiences and safe handling; they should then educate new puppy buyers to continue that socialization and training. Owners can continue that with cautious introductions and exposure throughout a puppy’s development and younger years.

What animal buddies have you witnessed? Were they young animals that grew up together, or introduced later? Some unions develop slowly over time. Animals who may not get along at first can become lifelong friends as they mature, given the right environment and guidance. Watching animals develop camaraderie is a beautiful journey.

The “unlikely friendships” between omnivorous, carnivorous, herbivore, or other creatures are a harmonious part of nature that seem to transcend the normal expectations. Enjoy and celebrate these relationships—they are a rare treat!

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

Irish Water Spaniels

WHY SHOULD I HEALTH-TEST MY PET IRISH WATER SPANIEL?

A dozen years ago, before Irish Water Spaniel elbows were regularly screened for degenerative joint disease, my nice pup finished his championship quickly. Several IWS breeders contacted me about using him at stud, subject to the results of his health tests at 24 months. One breeder suggested I have his elbows screened when his hips were done. Radiographs revealed some degenerative joint disease, and that was effectively the end of his career at stud.

And while breeders may disagree about how to interpret and use the results of health testing, that is why we screen our breeding stock for inheritable conditions. But what about our pets? Health testing can be expensive, time consuming, and inconvenient. Why should we test our pets whom we do not intend to breed?

The Canine Health Information Center (CHIC) is a centralized canine health database that is jointly sponsored by the AKC Canine Health Foundation (CHF) and the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA). Each breed’s AKC parent club determines which conditions should be screened for in order to obtain CHIC certification, and typically breeds are screened for inherited conditions of the greatest concern and for which screening exists. Each parent club also determines its own specific screening protocols. CHIC certification and attaining a CHIC number means a dog has
been screened for those conditions according to those protocols; it does not mean that they achieved normal results.

To receive a CHIC number, an Irish Water Spaniel must be screened for conditions affecting hips, elbows and eyes. A cardiac exam with echo are also recommended.

What is the value of a CHIC number for a pet? It can be useful to identify health issues in an individual before the disease or condition manifests in symptomology affecting quality of life. For example, a dog with joint disease might be put on supplements or have certain impact activities curtailed.

For puppy buyers, the CHIC program provides accessible and accurate information about a breeder’s health testing and the results. Because it is an “open” database, anyone can look up the test results for every CHIC dog and, significantly, its ancestors and progeny.

There is also tremendous value to breeders of broad screening of our rare breed and inclusion of test results for screened animals in the open CHIC database. If we test only our breeding stock, we have only a small view of a much larger picture. If we test one dog in a litter of eight, and that dog has normal results, it says little about how his littermates would test. But if all eight dogs in the litter tested normal, it would say much more. There are no “genetic tests” available for the Irish Water Spaniel because the prevalent conditions known in the IWS have polygenetic and/or complex genetic inheritance. Therefore, the probability that an animal will develop an inherited disease is reduced when its ancestry has tested normal. Further, as more DNA tests become available for the IWS and the results are entered, the OFA database will be able to establish whether progeny will be clear, carriers, or affected.

—Dana Louttit, louttit.dana@gmail.com Irish Water Spaniel Club of America
**Sussex Spaniels**

**PUPPIES!**

This has definitely been a rebound year! Last year’s very small number of Sussex Spaniel puppies born was disturbing. This year we are about back to normal, with puppies born in the first six months!

There is probably no sweeter experience for a breeder than to see their puppies thrive and to get photos of how well the ones they have sold are growing, thriving, and enjoying their new homes and families.

Puppy classes of babies should be full this autumn, including at our national specialty in Tennessee in October. Such fun for owners, and hopefully for judges with a sense of humor!

It is amazing for people with no history of raising Sussex puppies to see how they change from cute little teddy-bear puppies to little monsters with really sharp teeth that poke holes in arms and ankles as well as pant legs and other non-toy items. About the same time, they start growing in unexpected ways—front legs and hind legs often not in synch. Heads and muzzles change, and soon after, top and bottom jaws are seen to grow at different rates, causing the bite to change and change again. (A hint: The bottom jaw seems to always grow last.)

Patience is needed here. At about a year, growth will generally have leveled out, and then it is a process of “filling out”—gaining weight and muscle—which may last a few more years (yes, years). Slow-growing Sussex need to not have stress on bones at this time, as growth plates don’t close until a couple of years of age.

**Keeping an eye on tails**

Looking at many photos lately of both adults and puppies, we are seeing a
problem with some tail-sets. The standard calls for a “tail set low,” and many tails seem to be set either level with the back or even set high—tending upward. Both of these are incorrect. This just proves that when we concentrate on one thing, like getting puppies, something else can slip by. Handlers aren’t helping with showing dogs with the tail cranked upward, which can hide a poor tail-set. Judges should be aware.

—Marcia Deugan, ZiyadahReg@aol.com

Sussex Spaniel Club of America

---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------

Welsh Springer Spaniels

Several years ago, storied Welsh Springer breeder and all-breed handler Betty Cummings (Wynfomeer) was interviewed by Anne Legare (Holly House), Margaret Hilliard (Farhill), and Judy Hogentogler (Cornerstone) about her life in dogs, which began in the 1930s. This lightly edited excerpt from that interview is the fifth portion presented in the AKC GAZETTE—and relates an extraordinary incident that happened in a show ring many, many years ago.

WHY BETTY STOPPED SHOWING GERMAN SHEPHERDS

Betty Cummings (BC): We had a few Shepherds, not massive numbers. Well, I can remember a specialty with 140 of them, when I swore I would never show a Shepherd again. The judge sent us around and around this ring, and I mean big ring, must have been 10 times. And this is one class. And on about the eighth time around the ring—no, about the seventh—a guy two people in front of me drops dead.

Anne Legare (AL): Oh.

BC: We both jump. The guy in front of me jumps over him. I jump over him. Everybody comes to a stop, finally.

Margaret Hilliard (MH): Jumped the dead guy?
Breed Columns

Sporting Group

BC: Well, what are you going to do? You either fall over him or you jump him.
AL: How horrible!
BC: That really boiled us all. He was a nice young handler, and he—
MH: “Young,” and he dropped dead?
BC: Well, when I say “young,” 35, 40. That’s young.
MH: But he dropped dead in the ring.
BC: He dropped dead in the ring. And they covered him—well, maybe they didn’t cover him up at first.
MH: What did they do?
BC: The judge signaled us, “Go around again.”
AL: Oh, no.
BC: Right around the poor guy. He’s lying there, and you would come up to—
MH: What happened to his dog?
BC: Somebody grabbed it, and we got another handler in to show the rest of—
MH: What show was this?
BC: German Shepherd specialty.
MH: And they just left him lying there?
BC: They left him because the coroner hadn’t come. They were waiting for the coroner.
WJ: Well, that would never happen today, obviously.
MH: Did they know he was dead?
BC: Oh, there was no mistaking the man was dead. He was gone. There was no question about it. I mean, I don’t really go jumping over live people.
MH: Oh, that’s so horrible. I don’t think I would ever show a German Shepherd after that, either.
BC: That wasn’t what killed me on the Shepherds. It was this judge who kept sending us around. If you don’t know after three times around the ring that a Shepherd can’t move, you better go out and get your license somewhere else. But then she sent us around, and I just said to myself … I came out of the ring, and I had done well in the class. I didn’t win it, thank God, or I would have had to have done that again. And I said to the owner, I said, “This is the last time I show the dogs.” And she said, “Why?” I said, “The next time I show a Shepherd, I said, “I will be on a horse, and the dog will be on a lead beside me,” I said, “because I’m not doing that to myself again.” That was a killer!

This is the fifth in a series of excerpts from this interview appearing in the GAZETTE.
—Wendy Jordan, wendy.jordan@capstrategiesgroup.com
Welsh Springer Spaniel Club of America

Spinoni Italiani

No Butts About It: The Spinone’s Unique Croup, Tail-Set, and Tail Carriage

The Spinone Italiano is unique—or, shall I say, just plain different from other breeds in so many ways. One of those ways, a very important way, is in the breed’s croup, tail-set, and tail carriage.
From the breed’s AKC
BREED COLUMNS

SPORTING GROUP

standard:

“Croup—Wide, well-muscled, long. The hipbones fall away from the spinal column at an angle of about 30 to 35 degrees, producing a lightly rounded, well filled-out croup. Tail—Follows the line of the croup, thick, with no fringes. The tail is carried horizontally or down.”

That’s worth repeating. The croup is “lightly rounded, well filled-out,” and “long.” “The tail is carried horizontally or down.”

Interestingly enough, the Spinone, the Golden Retriever, and the Doberman are alike in their breed standard croup description, describing the hip bone falling away at an angle of 30 degrees. However, for the Spinone there are two additional words describing its croup that are key and exceptional to the breed—wide and long.

AKC Doberman Pinscher breed standard:

“Croup: Hip bone falls away from spinal column at an angle of about 30 degrees, producing a slightly rounded, well filled-out croup.”

AKC Golden Retriever breed standard:

“Profile of croup slopes slightly; the pelvic bone slopes at a slightly greater angle (approximately 30 degrees from horizontal).”

AKC Spinone Italiano breed standard:

“Croup: Wide, well-muscled, long. The hip bones fall away from the spinal column at an angle of about 30 to 35 degrees, producing a lightly rounded, well filled-out croup.”

The word long is important. A lightly rounded, well-filled out, and long croup gives the Spinone its particular tail-set: low. A low tail-set as well as a thick, heavy tail creates the tail carriage of horizontal or down.

The Spinone tail at its base is to be thick and heavy. The Spinone tail is low set and follows the line of the croup, creating a tail carriage that is horizontal or down.

The word wide is also very important and distinct in the Spinone croup. Well-muscled and wide.

A Spinone with a croup
that is not lightly rounded and filled out and, most importantly, not long, has a high-set tail, a tail that comes straight off the back and, as a result, is carried high—carried up, a “happy tail”—and that is absolutely not correct.

The Spinone is a stoic breed, and its tail-set and tail carriage are symbolic of its stoicism. When the Spinone tail is carried correctly, horizontally or down, it does not mean it is an unhappy dog; it is merely carrying its tail as it should, based on correct conformation.

You will notice that the well-experienced and knowledgeable Spinone handler will not hold the tail up while on the line or in show photos. Ever.

I hope this helps when interpreting our breed standard and understanding and seeing the special traits that make the Spinone what it is.

—Daina B. Hodges, writer for the SCA; Spinone breeder and exhibitor, Missoula, Montana

Spinone Club of America

Vizslas

COLD TAIL SYNDROME

With fall upon us, it’s time to get our dogs ready to play all the cold-weather games we had tucked away during the warm season. But first, be sure to do a bit of prep work to get your companion back in shape before romping in the snowflakes or the cold California ocean.

Recently I received a text message from one of my puppy owners concerned about their dog’s tail. She said his wag was broken. Her naturally exuberant boy looked depressed, and his tail was drooping. “It sounds like a case of ‘cold tail,’” I told her.

Cold tail goes by a number of monikers. “Limber tail,” “cold-water tail,” “swimmer’s tail,” and “frozen tail” all refer to the same condition. The technical term for this is acute caudal myopathy.

Although this can happen in any breed, it’s most common in working and hunting dogs. In the Vizsla breed, nearly everyone will encounter this at some point. Although it’s a relatively common, temporary condition, it can be very concerning when a normally ecstatic tail becomes limp, flaccid, and lifeless. Typically, the root cause is swimming; however, it can rear its ugly head after a fun day of bird hunting as well. Everything seems normal until the next day when your dog wakes up with a limp tail that can be quite sore to the touch.

The most common causes of limp tail are overexertion, a change in the weather, exposure to cold weather, warm or cold baths, swimming, overuse of the tail, prolonged crate confinement, and excessive exercise without proper conditioning.

Sporting dogs are particularly vulnerable to cold tail syndrome, so it’s important to take special care when getting ready for hunting season or taking trips to the lake or elsewhere for running and swimming. If you have not put in the time to precondition, take it easy the first time out.

What should you do if your
“Cold tail” or “limber tail” is a temporary and often painful condition where the dog’s tail is limp and unable to wag. It can occur with exposure to cold or after vigorous activity such as swimming or hunting. How should you handle a dog is struck by this condition? The most important thing is rest. You can apply warm packs to the base of the tail for some comfort; or if your dog is extremely uncomfortable, you can ask your vet for an anti-inflammatory. At that time, the vet can also rule out any other potential injuries or conditions. If blood work is completed, you may see elevated levels of creatine kinase—a muscle enzyme often abbreviated as CK. This is an indicator of muscle damage. If it’s just a case of cold tail, recovery should take only a few days.

Keep that wrench from spoiling all the fall activities you enjoy with your Vizsla. Aim for moderation with a gradual fitness regime that keeps your companion happy and healthy all season.

“To appreciate the beauty of a snowflake, it is necessary to stand out in the cold.”—Aristotle

—Jamie Walton, jamie@professional design.org
Vizsla Club of America
Weimaraners

THINGS TO LOVE/HATE ABOUT WEIMARANERS

Life with a Weimaraner is a “double-edged sword” coexistence. Some inherent Weimaraner traits are also ones we’d like to delete—or at least modify.

Take for example the activity level of a big, healthy, raring-to-go Weimaraner. Want a dog who can go all day with your recreational activities, and never seems to tire out? Yes, that’s our Weimaraner. Need a long stretch of quiet, contemplative time for buckling down to some complicated, cerebral task? Your Weimaraner just doesn’t comprehend that kind of inactivity. “Doesn’t this dog have an off switch?” The answer to that question is yes, he does have an off switch—but it’s his, not yours. (How many times can he bring you his ball to entice you into a game of catch, when all you want to do is finish that email for work?)

The loyalty and companionship are endearing and legendary traits of a Weimaraner. They want to be with you and are endlessly curious about whatever it is that you’re doing. To live with a Weimaraner is like having a second shadow. Most of the time that’s great, but they have a tendency to take it to the extreme. (It would be wonderful to take a shower without a big, gray nose plastered to the outside of the shower’s glass door.)

Go hunting with a Weimaraner, and they are persistence personified. They will endlessly search and try to ferret out the birds’ best hiding places. They will carry on when others give up and head for home. Weimaraners are goal driven, and nothing will deter them from their quarry. (Why does this hunting persistence have to extend to my neighbor’s cat?)

If you do tracking or scent work with a Weimaraner, it’s almost like cheating. Their scenting ability is so exceptional that I’ve heard them described as “a nose with a dog attached.” It is uncanny how they can find and follow a scent that to us is nonexistent. They use their noses as a primary investigative tool. (Why do they have to apply this skill diligently and stubbornly to every new guest who comes into my house?)

The companionship that a Weimaraner offers borders on the obsessive. The positive aspects of this partnership are a boon to training and can be channeled into dazzling performances in many dog sports. They see their role in life as being your constant sidekick, sharing in your activities from morning till night. (Why doesn’t this dog understand that I have to go to work? Separation anxiety is taking its toll on both of us.)

The intelligence of a Weimaraner continues to amaze me. From the time they are little guys, they learn routines of what and when things happen at their house: When to go out, when breakfast is served …
and don’t try to inordinately delay the time for their dinner. They quickly learn how we conduct our lives and the timing of our repetitive activities that affect them. Their remarkable internal clocks give them the ability to know when to expect something to happen. (How does he know the postman’s schedule so he can shred the mail as it is pushed through the slot?)

Yes, living with a Weimaraner can be challenging, but it is also an enriching privilege to share the human-canine bond with such a wonderful breed.

—Carole Lee Richards, zarasweimaraners@yahoo.com

Weimaraner Club of America
Akitas

2023 AKITA NATIONAL

Are you ready for the national? This year’s show will be held October 30–November 3 in Mesa, Arizona. Five fun-filled days are planned. Everyone has been hard at work to make this national a success—including the show chair and assistant show chair, ACA President and Board members, and all the numerous volunteers.

If this is your first national, you are in for a treat! Whether entering a young puppy, a seasoned special, or a beloved veteran, there are plenty of opportunities to show off your best Akita. If you are traveling without a dog, you can also have a full schedule by attending all of the judging and many other events to keep you very busy.

The Akita Club of America website has all of the information you need to reserve things ahead of time. October 11 is the deadline for most of the reservations. If you can’t find what you are looking for, reach out to a committee member. (First on your list should be reserved seating—there is no better way to watch the shows!)

On Monday, October 30, there will be two regional specialty shows hosted by the Akita Club of Puget Sound—a morning and afternoon show, complete with a small break for lunch. That evening, there is a welcome party to provide you time to mingle with friends you see once a year and spend the evening talking Akitas. The welcome party requires reservations, so don’t delay.

Tuesday, October 31, starts off with obedience and rally very early in the morning. Try your best to attend and support the exhibitors who have worked hard with their Akitas. Some of the dogs will provide entertainment to the crowd as only an Akita can, while others will dazzle you with their brilliance.
The afternoon on Tuesday is scheduled for the “pre-national”—another chance to use reserved seating to sit and enjoy the show. This day will also be your best opportunity to spend an evening socializing or relaxing, as the next three days are chock-full of activities you won’t want to miss.

Wednesday, November 1, starts off again very early in the morning, with obedience and rally. Also, this year for the first time there will be two Scent Work trials, morning and afternoon. I am so looking forward to attending both. Barbara Sikkink has worked long and hard to bring Scent Work to our national. Thanks, Barbara!

Wednesday also has Sweeps, the Breeders Cup, and Breeders Group. You will see many promising youngsters, as well as beautiful veterans and stud dogs and brood bitches with their kids. Futurity and Maturity is also scheduled for this day. This is a showcase of ACA breeders’ young hopefuls—not a class to miss, as the future of our breed is in the hands of these dedicated individuals.

Breeder Education is hosting an event called “Coffee Talk With the Old Guard.” Reservations are required. Special guests to share their knowledge are Dr. Sophia Kaluzniacki, Carol Foti, Priscilla McCune, Ingrid Linderud Strom, and Dr. Rebecca Kestle. Wow! These are breeders who have set the bar for so many of us over the years. Their knowledge, experience, and success are unmatched.

Just when you thought Wednesday couldn’t provide enough viewing pleasure … the Top Twenty event in the evening will bring out the best of the best. Dinner reservations are required (again, with the deadline of October 11). You can attend without a dinner, but why miss out on the whole experience? Reserved seating does not apply for this event, so book dinner to give you a great view of the show.

As an added bonus is the beloved Rescue Parade. Be prepared to shed a few tears at the heartwarming stories of these precious dogs whose lives were saved by an ACA Rescue group and the people who love these special dogs.

After a long, long Wednesday, and not much sleep Thursday, on November 2 will start judging, hopefully at a reasonable hour. Class dogs and bitches are up next. After the show, the ACA holds its Annual Meeting.

The ACA Auction on Thursday evening will add to your fun-filled day. Reservations are required, so don’t miss out. Bring your checkbook, cash, or credit cards. Many unique items will be available for bidding. You could walk away with a treasure!

Friday, November 3, is the final day of the national, starting off with Junior Showmanship.
Juniors are the future handlers and possibly future breeders of our breed. Show up to support them.

Next up are the specials. You are in for quite a show. Reserved seating will be the best seat in the house, as the room will be packed with spectators. Watching the specials perform in the ring is the “big show.” Enjoy every minute of it.

Friday evening’s ACA Awards Banquet is the final event of the week, with reservations required, again by October 11. Enjoy a nice meal, and catch up with friends old and new.

Be sure to thank all the numerous volunteers who have worked so hard to make your week in Mesa as enjoyable as possible. There is always someone available to answer any questions you may have. You may even have a bit of time to volunteer for a small job that needs to be done.

—Linda Wolf,
Okamiakitas@aol.com
The Akita Club of America

**Alaskan Malamutes**

**THE AMCA NATIONAL: OUR HOMECOMING**

_Homecoming._ The word, and all it conveys, is rich in meaning; a journey of coming together in love and celebration. For us in the Malamute world, homecoming means the celebration of our AMCA national specialty plus the associated regional specialty each autumn—the annual gathering of our members and friends from all over the U.S. and around the world.

Rotating among 10 geographic regions, each national reflects the flavor and traditions of each region as we compress the hard work of dozens of devoted members into a week that is so exciting and packed with classes and events that it’s a wonderful challenge to choose among them all.

It is, of course, a competition, but it’s so much more: It’s a vital forum for education, for sharing news of genetic discoveries and clinical research. As the breed’s AKC parent club, the Alaskan Malamute Club of America plays a vital role in judges’ education, providing a hands-on judges’ workshop, special reserved seating at ringside, and many opportunities during the week where judges and prospective judges can personally go over the dogs and increase their knowledge of the fine points of our standard, while also enjoying valuable networking and fellowship.

A year in the making creates a packed week, with each day and evening full of classes and special events. Highlights include our auction, full of bidding excitement on gorgeous items. There is the practical side, too, with our annual membership meeting, and news and education on important subjects that impact our breed are presented and discussed, as we seek to keep our breed’s future and its presence secure.

Most of all, it is a renewal of friendship, of bonds and relationships that have joined so many of us for
years—sharing, planning breedings that have come to fruition in the puppies, the youngsters, the brilliant specials, and the magnificent veterans we celebrate as they stride before us. And we thrill to see our exciting agility and obedience dogs, showing the world they are as brilliant as they are beautiful.

Of course, the working ability of our breed defines its heritage and identity. The regional and national weight-pulls are a highlight of the week, full of enthusiastic owners and eager dogs. You’ll love the drama of the weight-pulls, where you’ll get a close-up look at the focus and intensity of dogs full of instinct and drive, cheered on by their owners, doing what they were bred to do.

If you are drawn to the beauty and presence of the Alaskan Malamute, you will thrill to the excitement of agility, watching our athletes conquer the courses, full of energy and teamed with their equally athletic owners.

And in the whole spectrum of our conformation classes, you’ll be captivated by the sight of over 200 Malamutes, from puppies to veterans, athletic and looking their best, competing in the conformation classes. There are also special events such as the Top Twenty, showcasing the year’s top-winning champions, and the Working Dog Showcase, where you’ll see working-titled Malamutes demonstrating their soundness and show-ring manners for the judges and spectators alike.

You’ll find a sincere welcome from our breeder-exhibitors after placements are given and there’s time for a break back in the grooming area where you can meet the dogs and experience the solid, sweet temperaments we work hard to ensure in our breeding programs. It’s the best opportunity to build your network with dedicated breeder-members of AMCA, because we have truly devoted our lives to the quality of our dogs, and also serve in so many ways in our parent club and in our sport, both here and around the world.

We are the guardians of
the breed and its heritage, and we stand ready to guide you as you learn more about Malamutes and decide if they are right for you. And when you find a mentor among us and enjoy a wonderful Malamute of your own, you can count on a friendship with that breeder for the rest of your life.

Each year I am astonished and humbled to see our members arriving from hundreds and even thousands of miles away, from the U.S. and around the world, with their dogs poised to compete as more than ever we are honored to welcome them. Our national is enriched by their presence and by the quality and strength of their breeding programs.

The national creates the memories of a lifetime—in so many ways it is our family reunion, and sharing these precious days with close friends we’ve known in many cases for many decades is more important with each passing year. It is, for so many of us, the focus of our lives each year. It is our homecoming.

**Upcoming Alaskan Malamute national**

This year’s AMCA national specialty will take place at the Willamette Exhibit Hall at the Linn County Expo Center in Albany, Oregon, from Sunday, October 22 through Saturday, October 28.

—Phyllis I. Hamilton, Benchmark1946@gmail.com

Alaskan Malamute Club of America

---

**Anatolian Shepherd Dogs**

**SOCIALIZATION AND THE ANATOLIAN SHEPHERD DOG**

When Anatolian Shepherd Dogs were first brought to the United States in significant numbers, as part of a project investigating the usefulness of livestock guarding dog (LGD) breeds, there was a notion that the dogs didn’t need to be socialized. It was thought that you could just out them out with their livestock and ignore them, and you would have a better LGD. People actually believed that socializing the dogs would somehow make them less effective at guarding stock. This is patently false reasoning.

When you look at how LGD are used in their countries of origin, there is almost always a shepherd present to oversee the dogs and the stock, so the notion of dogs working without any human direction is not entirely correct. Yes, the dogs do work independently of immediate human direction, but they are rarely completely alone.

All dogs require handling by people, even working livestock guarding dogs, whether the dog and his stock are being moved from one pasture to another or the dog is being handled by the stock keeper in routine maintenance—or, in a worst-case scenario, the dog has been injured in the course of his duties and requires a trip to the
veterinarian. A well-socialized dog will handle all of these situations far better, and with less stress for all involved, than a dog who has not been socialized. I have been told wild-sounding tales of dogs who had to be lured into chutes or shot with tranquilizer darts so that their owners could bring strangers into a pasture to purchase livestock. If true, these tales only serve to tell of the sad failure of the dogs’ owners to do right by their dogs and give them the socialization required to achieve the most basic of handling. A well-socialized dog will guard his livestock just as well as a feral dog who has not been allowed to develop a normal bond with his caretakers. He will likely end up living a better life overall than his unsocialized counterpart, because he will be able to be safely handled and likely will receive better care as a result.

If you are going to show your Anatolian, then socialization is also very important. This is a breed that is suspicious by nature, and he only becomes more so with age. Your Anatolian needs to be taken as many places as possible as a pup and young dog so that he learns that the breadth and depth of “normal” is vast. Being shown runs counter to almost everything that an Anatolian was selected for as a breed. He is being taken out of his home territory and paraded in front of strange humans, who will proceed to put their hands on him and examine him at both ends, and he is at the same time confronted with many strange dogs whom at home he would be expected to run off, but at a show he is expected to tolerate. Pity the poor dog who is plucked from the comfort of his pasture and, with no socialization at all, is thrust into the noise and confusion of a dog show.

Even the Anatolian who will never be shown but will be a companion his entire life deserves the same socialization that one would give a show dog. His duties in life will be to guard his human family with the same devotion and fervor that he would do his livestock, and for this reason socialization is of the utmost importance, as he will be expected to
integrate into his human family and entertain all of their human foibles.

Anatolians can take a while to mature physically, but generally they do not show the extended puppyhood of breeds in some other groups, such as the sporting breeds. This will vary by line, but in general, most Anatolians are mentally mature by the age of two. The ones I have lived with have shown a spike in testing their boundaries between the ages of 2 and 3, and then they settle into the dogs that they will be the rest of their lives.

All of the Anatolians I have known have shown the breed traits of pronounced suspicion of new situations and new people, and pronounced guarding behavior. These traits become even more strong with age. The cute, bumbling Anatolian puppy you bring home will change immensely in a short time, and part of that change will be a decrease in his willingness to meet new people and make friends with them. While he is still young and open to novelty and training, it is your job as his owner to teach him about the world. Give him a wide range of “normal” to integrate into his mental map of the world. Expose him to different people and situations in the safest possible ways.

Do your job well, and your Anatolian will reward your efforts with a lifetime of loyalty and a sense of safety and security that you will find with few other breeds.

—Jo Lynne York, 2017
Anatolian Shepherd Dog Club of America

Bernese Mountain Dogs
DESIRE, DOPAMINE, AND DEEPER BONDS

We each spend time with our dogs. Feeding, grooming, vet trips, toys, and training. How we meet a dog’s basic physical needs is the beginning of a relationship. But just as we have a hierarchy of needs, so do dogs. Linda Michaels describes the “Hierarchy of Dog Needs” (HDN) as a fresh adaptation of renowned psychologist Abraham Maslow’s “Hierarchy of Needs” (human) that emphasizes strengths, positivity, free will/choice, and a belief in the wholeness of animal nature. Dogs thrive with choice and joy, just as we do.

There are many ways to look at increasing joy. Trainer Susan Garret, of SayYes Dog Training, uses the acronym DASH (Desire, Accuracy, Speed, and Habitat) to describe the goals in the training process. The “D” is for desire—both your desire to train, and your dog’s desire to work with you.

Think of yourself sitting in class. If the teacher is clever and cheerful, you are engaged, and learning is faster and more fun. Likewise, if your dog is engaged by both you and the work (games), he will have more focus for your training, and you will be able to accomplish more in every session.
One of the resources we can use to increase desire and joy is food. There are many strategies to keep food a useful reward. These include changing the food value, as well as changing the way and where the food is presented. Zazzie Todd, Ph.D, spoke at Berner University (a two-day training event at each Bernese national specialty) a couple years ago. One study she quoted from 2018 showed that dogs will run faster for sausage than they will for a piece of dry toast. A higher-value reward does matter to them. In addition, consumption of protein has been linked to higher levels of dopamine and norepinephrine, which are brain chemicals that play a role in mood, motivation, and concentration.

What are ways to increase dopamine, therefore the dog’s desire to train with you? Think of how your dog responds when you get out a leash: Does he dance with joy and bark with excitement? Hopefully. Think about how you can get your dog to respond with that same kind of joy to other events. As Janice Gunn, a notable trainer from Canada, says, “Get them excited about being with you, then you can have them excited to work with you. Dogs are excited to chase squirrels. Be a squirrel.” It has been shown repeatedly that dogs trained with play and rewards are more playful and explore more than those trained with other methods.

Another way to increase joy is to give them a choice. Most dogs love to make decisions. If your dog can safely be off leash, take advantage of letting your dog be a dog. Some of the
choices your dog can make are where to run, what to smell, and for how long.

Choice is still available while the dog is walking on leash. It may be as simple as letting the dog choose the route. Extensive sniffing can be a wonderful release for dogs. Have you sniffed what they sniffed? Let them teach you. Mimic their behavior. Playing with your dog develops social cohesion and confidence in you. It can also be a tremendous outlet for release of built-up tension or frustration.

You can create good feelings by having your Berner sit in front of you. Ask them to “watch,” and look into their eyes. Do you feel your heart melt? That is the oxytocin response. In a recent study, scientists found that after 30 minutes of time playing and looking into each other’s eyes, both male and female dogs experienced a 130-percent rise in oxytocin levels, and both male and female owners a 300-percent increase. Oxytocin has been called the “cuddle chemical” or the “trust hormone.” It is a bonding hormone. Scientists theorize that oxytocin interacts with dopamine to create “good feelings.” The good news is that deepening the bond with your dog can be as easy as staring into each other’s eyes.

Happy training.
—Marjorie Geiger, margsgeiger@yahoo.com
Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America

They must also have a keen eye for detail and be able to assess each dog objectively and fairly.

We have asked two BRTCA-approved judge mentors, Christine Robinson and Olga Kornienko, to give us what they feel to be the top three most important features of the breed’s AKC standard for judges to take away from their education.

Christine Robinson
When given the opportunity, I enjoy mentoring either through ringside observations, hands-on evaluations, presenting the parent club judges’ education seminar, or presenting puppies for evaluation at a kennel visit. The official AKC standard of the Black Russian Terrier is short compared to many standards and has a short list of faults, serious faults, and disqualifications. We are fortunate to also have the Illustrated Study of the Standard as a complimentary resource. The value
of the Illustrated Study comes in the introduction of breed history, illustrations, and comments to the AKC standard, all of which help to articulate the reasoning for specifications in the written standard. I’ll focus on a few areas of the standard that may deserve closer scrutiny.

The Black Russian Terrier is a large-breed dog. Overall size and substance are equally important. Think large bones, well-muscled, robust, and powerful. Still, it is balanced and agile. The profile of a properly groomed Black Russian Terrier is an image that is difficult to dismiss. It is impressive! ... A well-muscled body, a strong topline, substantial bone, well-sprung ribs, laid-back shoulders, a correctly proportioned back, a slightly sloped croup, moderately high-set tail, large, compact feet, short and thick pasterns, moderately short and vertical hocks, dark eyes, a wide muzzle.

“Think large bones, well-muscled, robust, and powerful. Still, it is a balanced and agile dog.” “The profile of a properly groomed Black Russian Terrier is an image that is difficult to dismiss. It is impressive! ... A well-muscled body, a strong topline, substantial bone, well-sprung ribs, laid-back shoulders, a correctly proportioned back, a slightly sloped croup, moderately high-set tail, large, compact feet, short and thick pasterns, moderately short and vertical hocks, dark eyes, a wide muzzle.”

“The Black Russian Terrier should present a fluid, smooth motion and level, firm topline while gaiting. The dog should effortlessly cover ground with a strong reach of the forelegs and drive by the hindquarters.” “The BRT’s movement is a fluid, powerful, and ground-covering gait.”
Its appearance in the ring is impressive, even imposing. Nowhere in the standard will you see the words *giant* or *massive*. The dog should not present exaggerated features. The height-to-length ratio is approximately 9½ to 10; the dog is slightly longer than tall. Females may be slightly longer than the males, with the additional length in the overall appearance, not an exaggerated length of loin.

Maturity in this breed is assumed at 18 months of age, so dogs in Open class should have reached their mature height, even though many continue to fill out for the next few years. Height is measured at the withers, which are higher-set in males. Males should be between 27 and 30 inches at the withers, with the preferred height being 27 to 29 inches. Females are a little smaller and may appear feminine, although not lacking in substance, bone, or musculature. Expect a female to be between 26 and 29 inches tall, with the preferred height range being 26 to 28 inches.

Many times, the “biggest” dog in the ring is rewarded. While the breed is large and robust, it is not giant or coarse. Any deviation from the height is a serious fault. Overall size, balance, and proportion are more important than height. *Balance* is an important word, as the dog should exhibit strength and endurance.

If size, balance, and proportions are correct, the Black Russian Terrier should present a fluid, smooth motion and level, firm topline while gaiting. The dog should effortlessly cover ground with a strong reach of the forelegs and drive by the hindquarters. Movement is a critical aspect of any working dog’s performance. Their ability to move can directly affect their ability to perform tasks effectively. This breed can cover ground quickly while maintaining balance and control.

The head is extended forward during movement, while the backline remains level. High head carriage or low head carriage indicates improper angles. As speed increases, the feet will converge toward a centerline. You should not see wasted movement or energy when the dog moves. During the down and back, the speed is slower; there should be no crossing over in the front, no elbows pointing outward, and no hackney movement. In the rear, there should be no scissoring, no kicking back, and no bicycling.

On the go-around, when speed may increase, you should see an open, balanced, effortless gait that exemplifies reach and drive. A dog that lacks angulation in both the front and the rear may appear balanced but will not demonstrate reach and drive. When the proportions are correct, this dog covers a lot of ground, using very little energy to do so. It is impressive to see this large dog appear agile. The Illustrated Study does a great job of showing the correct and incorrect dog in movement. Remember
that while hair hides a lot of faults, grooming cannot hide incorrect movement.

Speaking of grooming … I have a favorite phrase that I use when discussing the breed: “If you didn’t feel it, you didn’t see it.” The breed has a heavy, double coat that when properly presented can hide a multitude of flaws that would be otherwise visible in a smooth-coated breed. While the show groom is designed to clearly show a dog’s outline, coat-trimming is also used to give the appearance of a correct dog. That beautiful stack! The profile of a properly groomed Black Russian Terrier is an image that is difficult to dismiss. It is impressive! The show groom helps present a distinguished image, complete with leg furnishings and headpiece. I often classify the show trim as “creative grooming” or “camouflage grooming.”

What is under all of that hair? A well-muscled body, a strong topline, substantial bone, well-sprung ribs, laid-back shoulders, a correctly proportioned back, a slightly sloped croup, moderately high-set tail, large, compact feet, short and thick patterns, moderately short and vertical hocks, dark eyes, a wide muzzle … but what could be hiding there? It’s not unusual to feel a lack of bone or poor muscle tone. You may find a lack of forechest or depth of chest, or a lack of rib spring. That beautiful coat may hide a dog that has weak patterns, open hocks, or sickle hocks. It may hide feet that are either turned in or out, turned-out elbows, a narrow muzzle or skull, or incorrect proportions of the neck, shoulder, or back. It may hide straight stifles or an over-angulated rear.

When the dog moves, some of the faults may be immediately visible, but many will not be until you examine the dog with your hands. In movement, the hair may impair your ability to assess the topline; let your hands tell you on the exam if the topline is level and firm. Sometimes hair will give the appearance of “throwing an elbow,” so let your hands tell you what’s what on the exam. Let your hands tell your eyes what they really see.

The breed’s two-page AKC standard covers a lot more information that is worth reading. The Illustrated Study (30-plus pages) goes a long way to putting a visual to the written word. Let your hands tell you the rest.

Let’s keep the integrity of this breed intact by judging it according to the standard. Dogs who are “tall as a Dane and long as a train” are not correct. Dogs who are small and couldn’t take down a grown man are not correct. Dogs with incorrect proportions will not have good reach and drive. This is not a “terrier” in either structure or movement and should not look like one. As a “multi-purpose working dog, it must have correct and balanced structure, musculature, strength, ability, and temperament.”

—C.R.
**BREED COLUMNS**

**WORKING GROUP**

**Olga Kornienko**

The past 34 years, I have been devoted to the Black Russian Terrier, beginning when I lived in Siberia. I have been a BRTCA Breed Mentor for the past 14 years. It is an honor to share my breed knowledge and experience with judges, and to assist them in their education of the Black Russian Terrier, which hopefully helps them make informed decisions in the ring that will result in maintaining the unique qualities of this breed.

While there are many specifics normally covered through our judges’ education seminars, I was asked to name the three most important points for a judge to consider in his/her evaluation. My bullet points follow.

- **Hands-on examination**
  It is not possible to over-emphasize the importance of the hands-on examination of the Black Russian, especially on a well-coated dog. Good grooming can enhance a dog’s strong points and mask flaws. A judge must feel the dog’s structure, musculature, and angles under the coat. Without a very detailed hands-on examination, accurate judgement is simply not possible.

- **Physical qualities and substance**
  BRTs are a “head breed.” The size and quality of the *head* is essential. While in most working breeds the length of the head equals 40 percent of the height in withers, for BRTs this number is a bare minimum. A good BRT head (approximately equal to the length of the neck) is at least 42 percent.

- **Movement**
  The BRT’s movement is a fluid, powerful, and ground-covering gait. Please allow enough ring space so that dogs can show a solid movement. Simply trotting two sides of the rings is not enough distance to produce a proper gait. Also note that as speed increases, the head will lower. The lowering of the head unlocks the shoulders, which allows for powerful reach of the front legs and shows correct anatomy of the shoulder. A lack of substance is not necessary to “fly around the ring” and should not be rewarded. A substantial, properly built BRT is a solid and fluent mover.
In conclusion, I’d like to repeat what I say to judges from a BRT breeder’s point of view:

The Black Russian Terrier is an incredibly young breed. The official FCI recognition of the breed happened in 1984, which is only 39 years ago. Compared to many working breeds which have existed for centuries, BRTs are still in a very active phase of development. Yes, we still have some differences in type, and you will see it in the rings; but we need all good and balanced dogs to keep working on the breed integration. And a lot of merit which goes to the gene pool is defined by the judges’ choices!

Please, make smart decisions to help us to continue to shape the future of these incredible dogs! Please join our BRTCA educational seminars for an inner understanding of our developing breed, and thank you for your work! —O.K.

Thank you, Christine and Olga.

—Emily Fagan,
leighfost@gmail.com
Black Russian Terrier Club of America

Boerboels
SO YOU WANT TO SHOW YOUR BOERBOEL!

In past articles, I have written about AKC sports events and competitions, such as Nose Work and Dock-Diving, at which our athletic and versatile Boerboel can excel. For this column, I want to cover a very different kind of competition: dog shows!

A word about dog shows

Dog shows are sometimes maligned by people with working dogs as rather silly “beauty pageants” in which dogs just go round and round in a circle. However, dog shows are, in fact, quite important to the continuation and improvement of a breed. In showing classes, as opposed to other kinds of competitions, dogs are not judged against one another, but rather against their breed standard, which is owned by the breed’s parent club—in our case, the American Boerboel Club (ABC)—and approved by the AKC.

The standard is a “blueprint” for a breed: a carefully written description—often including measurements and ratios—of the ideal type, physical appearance, structure, and characteristics, as well as temperament, and gait (movement), that differentiates the breed from all other breeds. If you are considering showing, it is important to read the breed standard, which can be found on the AKC website at https://images.akc.org/pdf/breeds/standards/Boerboel.pdf.

If you are planning to become a breeder, achieving show championships is an important step in establishing your kennel.

Why should you begin showing with a puppy?

The Boerboel is not the easiest breed to show! They are a breed with particularly strong protective instincts,
and prey drive. The breed standard also states that “An aggressive or belligerent attitude towards other dogs should not be faulted. Boerboels that are shown in competition should be trained to allow (the judge’s) examination.”

For this column, I interviewed several owners who were experienced in showing Boerboels. As one interviewee described the challenge: “Put them in a world of strangers, odd sounds, thousands of dogs of all shapes and sizes, and you have a ‘perfect storm’ for a Boerboel who (if never exposed) may have a big challenge adjusting ... Many females in heat, mini yapping ‘sharks’ or fluff-balls that our prey-driven dogs want to chase; giant and rude dogs barking and growling, carts banging, little children running all around … yes, it takes a lot of time and training. It is definitely not easy!”

One of the best places to start is showing your puppy in an AKC Beginner Puppy Class (BPUP) for 4- to 6-month-old puppies. Requirements are simply that the puppy be registered with the AKC and entered in a puppy class at a showing event. You can find information on locating and entering specific shows at https://webapps.akc.org/event-search/#/search.

Preparing your puppy to show

In preparation for showing at AKC level, it is helpful to attend, or even try showing in, some small local shows, and/or watch videos of shows and tutorials on the AKC site (or the many available on YouTube.) These can be invaluable in helping you understand the showing process, what judges expect from compet-
itors, and what your puppy needs to learn.

Here are some additional tips interviewees strongly recommended for preparing you and your Boerboel puppy:

• **Work on engagement with your puppy.** Play, play, play … have fun! There is nothing worse than boring training, then going into a boring conformation ring!

• **Socialize!** As soon as it is safe to do so (having necessary vaccinations), take him or her to as many public places and different environments as possible: Malls (many have “dog friendly” stores), parks, watching trains, planes, big trucks, and construction equipment; attending local shows, and so on. Please note: Do so gradually and incrementally so you don’t frighten your puppy to death! Enroll in a puppy obedience class, to help your puppy become accustomed to working in close proximity to other dogs. Big bonus: If you can find a professional or a dog club that offers conformation classes, it will be very beneficial to both you and the puppy!

• **Teach and focus on “stand” and “hold”**—a prerequisite for “stacking” in front of the judge. Note: Use positive training methods, with lots of praise, and kibble or other treats as rewards. As one experienced person put it, “You are a human PEZ dispenser … every time the puppy does what you ask it, treat!”

• **“Stacking”** is positioning your puppy to best display his conformation (as described in the breed standard) to the judge.

• **Handle your puppy all over his or her body and feet—daily.** When your puppy is comfortable with this, ask other people to quietly run their hands over the puppy to prepare for the judge’s doing so. Accustom the puppy to having nails trimmed.

• **Practice showing the bite.** You are not looking at the bite—the judge is—so stand up out of the way so the judge can see it. (More on the “bite” in the next column.)

• **Teach your puppy to walk and trot and to stand on your left.** When you enter the show ring, you will move to the right. Hence, the puppy must be on your left for the judge to properly view him and his movement!

• **Most judges will be extremely patient and kind, as well as encouraging.**

If you practice these tips from our experienced Boerboel showing people, you and your puppy will be well on the way to entering your first AKC Beginner Puppy Class!

Next column: How to enter an AKC Beginner Puppy Class, the AKC point system, and more specific showing tips—“stacking,” showing the bite, using bait, and the Boerboel tail.

—Karen Cornelius, klc@klcassociates.com
American Boerboel Club

**Boxers**

**WHY A BOXER?**

The decision has been made to add a canine to the family. After due
diligence and discussions, the family has researched breeds—and decided that a Boxer might be the breed of choice.

Why a Boxer?
Boxers are medium-sized dogs, ranging from 40 to 75 pounds as adults. That being said—after 50 years living with and breeding Boxers—I’m convinced that most Boxers have a very different interpretation of “medium-sized dog.” At times they can contort themselves to fit into a toy dog’s tiny bed, or they can completely encompass a queen-size human bed—all in the same day!

Boxers are termed “working and companion” dogs. They are happy with a chore. They are very intelligent, and, like a human child, a Boxer needs the stimulation of activities and challenges. An idle Boxer puppy left unattended will end up in results such as a chewed shoe.

As dog activities have increased in popularity, the breed has definitely made its imprimatur with many skill sets. Boxers are making their mark on many competitive dog sports—lure coursing, herding, Barn Hunts, and dock diving are a few of the many activities available. Check your local kennel club and pet stores for upcoming classes.

For an active owner, their Boxer is a willing companion in outdoor activities such as camping, hiking, and jogging. For the less active owner, long walks together in the evening and a good TV show (yes, some Boxers do watch TV) can lead to a good night’s sleep for both owner and dog.

As to the “companion” verbiage—loyalty of the breed is an integral charm of ownership. Boxers don’t consider themselves to be “pets”… they are family.

Because of the intelligence and flexibility of the breed, they can easily adapt to most lifestyles and levels of activities. The main passion for the Boxer is the love and companionship of their owner.

Over my years as a breeder, I’ve always had one major criteria in placing a puppy. The prospective new owners have to be smarter than the puppy! Boxers are...
not only intelligent, but also clever.

**Things to consider**

Health issues: A healthy, long-lived Boxer is the goal of all responsible Boxer breeders.

Many Boxer health problems have been addressed by the American Boxer Club since I bought my first Boxer in 1970. Through the diligence, determination, and donations of the American Boxer Club and the American Boxer Charitable Trust, not only have major medical conditions been discovered, but also genetic markers have been determined and, through medical research and breeders’ due diligence, are now being not only diagnosed but also slowly eradicated from the breed.

Modern medical research has often partnered with veterinary medical research to find similarities between human and canine genetic medical problems, and thus ways of controlling and/or alleviating numerous health issues have been discovered.

Where should you start your search for your new canine partner? One of the functions of the American Kennel Club is to serve as a registry for purebred dogs. The AKC website offers a myriad of information about the Boxer breed, as well as resources to help prospective owners pursue a search for a new family member.

The American Boxer Club website is a fantastic source for all things Boxer—including information on the history of the breed, breed education, and more. Learn more about the breed through videos and online classes, the listing of events throughout the U.S., the latest in health research, and other general information.

On the website can also be found a list of local Boxer “member clubs” in the U.S.—these are excellent resources for local breeders, referrals, and puppies.

When considering a puppy, don’t hesitate to question the breeder—make sure both buyer and seller have the same expectations for the future of the new arrival.

Another source is the many Boxer rescues throughout the U.S. Sometimes, through no fault of their own (death of owner, relocation, and so on), Boxers have to be rehoused. Many generous Boxer lovers step in to locate new homes and devote their care, time, and resources help to ensure every Boxer has a home.

—Virginia Shames, arribatali@aol.com
American Boxer Club

.................................................................

**Bullmastiffs**

Thanks to ABA member and AKC Breeder of Merit Tina Thompson of Folly’s Bullmastiffs for this timely column, one that is very relevant to fanciers as it reflects so many recent conversations ringside.

Tina currently serves as a Junior Educator on the ABA Breeder Education Committee and as president of the Delaware Valley Bullmastiff Club.
BREED COLUMNS
WORKING GROUP

BIGGER IS NOT BETTER—
BETTER IS BETTER

“Other things being equal, the more substantial dog within these limits is favored.”

This line in the AKC Bullmastiff standard under “Size, Proportion, Substance” can be misleading for many who judge and/or propagate the breed. It gives the impression that bigger is better. Unfortunately, all too often the reader misses the first and last parts of the sentence.

The size of the Bullmastiff is set for dogs at 25 to 27 inches at the withers and 110 to 130 pounds weight. Bitches, 24 to 26 inches at the withers and 100 to 120 pounds weight. These are not arbitrary numbers.

The Bullmastiff was developed around the year 1860, in England, for the purpose of assisting the gamekeeper of large estates in deterring or apprehending poachers. The dog worked in the evening, at the side of the nightwatchman, listening and waiting for disturbances on the estate. As the dog senses the poacher, the ears come erect, the forehead wrinkles, and the nightwatchman receives a silent communication, a literal “heads up.”

According to Tim Hatton of Oxford University, the average height of an Englishman from 1871–1875 was 5 feet 5 inches. At that height, the head of a Bullmastiff, at just under 27 inches, will fit quite nicely under the outstretched palm of the nightwatchman’s relaxed hand. This proportionality allows the nightwatchman and his dog to remain relaxed and comfortable during their entire vigil.
watch. The subtle shift of the ears, and consequently the wrinkle, brings the nightwatchman’s attention to a quick, alert status.

Once the nightwatchman dispatches the dog to find and subdue the poacher, the dog will travel through woods, streams, mud, fallen trees, shrubs, and inclement weather, downhill and up. It is a marathon, not a sprint. The necessary dexterity and stamina can be substantially hindered for a dog who is over the standard in size and weight. The numbers are not arbitrary.

For judges, it is the first part of the quote that needs to remain foremost in their minds: “Other things being equal …” This means should the dogs in the ring be equal in their type, structure, proportionality, substance, expression, topline, movement, and temperament, then the judge may resort to the more substantial dog, “within these limits…” This is not permission to reward a dog who is over standard in height or weight, merely because it is larger than the rest of the entry.

Care needs to be given by judges to review standards—not just from the AKC book of standards, but from breed club Judges’ Education, glance cards, illustrated standards, and Canine College. For as the finger points, so goes the whelping box.

Bullmastiff breeders struggle to adhere to the standards when time after time dogs are rewarded on the basis of size. The correct dog of 25 inches will appear not only small, but under the standard, compared to several 28-inch dogs.

In their paper “Visual Attention and Eye Movements,” Kang-Chen Chen and Hey Jung Choi of University of California, Irvine show that the human eye’s pattern of fixation is affected by the task or goal. Therefore, if a judge is thinking “larger,” their eye will naturally find the larger subject. Additionally, an object with a distinctive feature is easier to find than one that lacks a distinctive feature. Judges need to make conscious decisions to find the correct size of dog.

As the fancy laments the number and quality of entries, judging, costs, and the overall future, it becomes paramount that judges return to the standard and revisit the purpose and reasoning behind the standard and reward the dogs, breeders, and exhibitors appropriately.—T.T.

Thank you, Tina.
—Lindy Whyte,
Tryumphe@comcast.net
The American Bullmastiff Association

Chinooks
ORIGIN OF THE CHINOOK

Chinook history is a little like grandma’s secret recipes. Bits are shared on written scraps of paper and in oral traditions, letters, interviews, and old publications. Wanderlust, adventure, and exploration are part of the magical mixture that helped create the Chinook breed.
The breed’s founder, Arthur Treadwell Walden, was a Klondike Gold Rush adventurer, dog driver, and participant in the first Byrd Antarctic Expedition. He is also known as an author and developer of the Chinook sled dog breed.

Interestingly, there would be no Arthur Walden legend without Chinook—and without Arthur Walden, there would be no Chinook. Walden’s dog wasn’t just a Chinook, a breed of sled dog that is now the New Hampshire state dog; he was the first Chinook.

Arthur Walden was born in 1871, the son of Episcopal minister Rev. Treadwell Walden and Elizabeth Leighton. Walden attended Shattuck Military School in Faribault, Minnesota, and then lived in Boston. He was not a fan of city living. After completing his education, he moved to his family’s country home in Tamworth, New Hampshire. Once in New Hampshire, he became the farm manager of Wonalancet, Kate Sleeper’s 1,300-acre farm and inn. Sleeper was the daughter of prominent Bostonians Charles F. Sleeper and Zilpha Thomas.

At 24, true to form, a restless Walden wanted more adventure, and he debated whether South America or Alaska would offer more. He flipped a coin; Alaska won. He headed north to Alaska in 1896—traveling up the Inside Passage, over the Chilkoot Pass, down the Yukon River through the Whitehorse Rapids, and downriver to Circle City.

Walden tried his hand at many jobs: prospector,
BREED COLUMNS

WORKING GROUP

logger, stevedore, river pilot, and his favorite job, “dog punching” (hauling freight by dogsled). He wrote a book about his adventures in Alaska, calling it Dog Puncher in the Yukon. The text is full of colorful descriptions of Walden’s adventures and is still considered a classic tale of the northland frontier.

During this time, Walden’s favorite lead dog was a large Husky cross that he named Chinook, after the warm winter winds. When Walden returned to New England, he brought his love of dog sledding with him. He settled in Wonalancet, New Hampshire, a part of Tamworth, and in December 1902, he and Kate Sleeper married. Walden brought various dogs to Wonalancet Farm and began breeding dogs that possessed his ideal combination of strength, speed, endurance, and good-natured temperaments.

Chinook’s ancestry was connected to exploration too. His dam, Ningo, was a Greenland Husky who was granddaughter of Polaris, Admiral Peary’s lead sled dog on his 1909 expedition to the North Pole. Kim, Chinook’s sire, was a large Mastiff mix that Walden picked up as a stray.

Kim and Ningo produced three puppies born on January 17, 1917. Walden called them Rikki, Tikki, and Tavi after the characters in Rudyard Kipling’s famous The Jungle Book. Walden soon recognized these pups’ intelligence and ditched Rikki and Tikki’s names, renaming them Chinook and Hootchinoo, after two outstanding lead dogs he had owned in Alaska.

Walden first used Hootchinoo as his lead dog. A whole year later, Walden tried Chinook in the lead position. The unassuming Chinook astounded everyone with his intelligence, understanding, and trail sense. Chinook was friendly, gentle, fast, and with great endurance. He became Walden’s most trusted leader, the foundation sire of his kennel lines, and his constant companion.

—Kathleen Riley, kathleenrileyphotography@gmail.com

Chinook Club of America

Doberman Pinschers

THE TRIBE

Dog people,” as we are often called, include owners, handlers, in conformation, performance and obedience venues. The judges are also amongst the travelers, with their year planned well in advance. I think we are better described as a “tribe.” We have plans, we look at show schedules to determine where we are going in the coming months; we know who will be there. We save spots for friends’ RVs. We are like a national traveling carnival, moving from one show site to the next. We know the best dog-friendly motel, hotel, and restaurant in the places we are going. We scream and yell when our friends win, even as they beat our own dog.

Each year our breed’s
national specialty is a primary destination. We make reservations for the following year immediately after the current national. Many set goals for being among the Top 20—the DPCA holds three Top 20 events, in conformation, agility, and obedience—during our national. Vacation time is set aside for travel, and arrangements are made for dogs left at home, for family meals, and so on while we journey across a few states or across the country. We’ve come to know our Canadian peers, who routinely cross the border to compete in AKC events, and many Americans go to Canada to compete, including their breed’s Canadian national.

Then the pandemic came. COVID-19 changed the world. It stopped the tribe in our tracks. Dog shows came to a grinding halt. It impacted thousands of lives, and the financial consequences hit handlers, show superintendents, photographers, vendors, dog publications, graphic designers, and many more. “We” were shocked that this could happen to what we believed was an invincible and solid web surrounding our world.

Then the country shut down.

In addition to the loss of income, we lost our connection to our “tribe.” We were required to stay home. There were no face-to-face encounters, across town or beyond. Training went online. No in-person obedience, agility, or handling classes. The AKC made it possible for people to earn some performance titles with their dogs virtually. Many parent clubs, including the DPCA, cancelled their national specialties. For the DPCA, this was only the second cancellation since 1924; the first was during World War II. We had Facetime and other ways to keep in touch, but—and it is a big but—that did not suffice. It did not meet our emotional needs, did not replace the hours of chatting, going over dogs, and arguing about whatever while sitting at dinner or ringside during the groups. We did not have the celebratory parties when the newest...
MACH bar was awarded to one of our tribe.

The DPCA Top 20 committees determined that there were not enough shows or trials during the pandemic to warrant holding the events at our 2021 national. We were thrown into a world unfamiliar to us. Some people became depressed; being home for months was not the norm. Many pandemic litters were planned, whelped, and raised. The tribe had to recreate lives.

When the country began reopening, my home state was the destination for those from all over the country. They came for the Florida circuit, stayed for Ocala, then stayed for other Sunshine State shows. Then moved into Georgia, and northward into the Carolinas as those states opened up again. The world was looking more familiar. Arms were outstretched into hugs, as mask mandates were also lifted. Smiles were ear-to-ear as we regained the physical connection with other humans—as important to “dog people” as their connections with their dogs.

When something we take for granted is gone, we realize how much more important the sidelines are. In the world of show dogs, we’ve come to understand the rings are, perhaps, the least important part of why we are there.

— Leslie Hall, pajant@aol.com
Doberman Pinscher Club of America

What about those other trials? What about those times you thought you were ready or hoped you were ready, only to find that, well, you weren’t? That the environment was more challenging than you expected? That your nerves got the better of you? That your dog wasn’t feeling it that day? Maybe it was just bad luck—weather or noise or barking dogs or a backfiring car. Maybe it was a momentary mistake that you wish you could take back.

German Pinschers excel at many sports. There are German Pinschers with advanced titles in agility, obedience, rally, tracking, Barn Hunt, nose work, and many other performance and skilled events. They are also independent thinkers, and traditionally they were bred to be aware of their surroundings and alert to movement and the unexpected. Having minds of their own make them fun dogs to own and to live with. It can also make them challenging when participating
in sports where there are lots of distractions.

Not every day is a win, though sometimes social media can make us think that everyone else is doing fantastically. I’ve had Sundays where my Facebook feed was filled with dozens of reports of wonderful ribbon-filled weekends that weren’t mine or my dogs’.

And no matter how well we train, there may be things, especially when we’re new to a sport, that we just don’t know yet. There may be things we haven’t worked through. There are as many reasons to have a bad day at a test or trial as there are to have a good day. Sometimes it’s just not happening.

What do you do?

You can always quit. If you don’t love the sport. If you think your dog isn’t having any fun. There are lots of sports out there to choose from.

But if it’s something you love, then it’s important to remember that ribbons are just one way to decide if your weekend was a success. Did you have fun? Did your dog have fun? Did you learn something? Did your dog learn to enjoy quiet time in their crate? Did they enjoy watching the other dogs and people? Did they get enrichment and exercise? Did you and your dog enjoy the teamwork and partnership? Did you improve in some unexpected but exciting way? Do you know now what to work on next?

Maybe you like the support and friendship you find training and competing with like-minded people. Maybe you figured out some of your training holes. I have a philosophy for tracking tests: If we pass, it’s a test, and if we don’t, it’s a seminar. Passing is awesome (because ribbons are awesome). Learning is great too.

Ribbons are awesome! With our independent-minded German Pinschers, it’s one of the great things about dog sports, that so many other parts of competing are awesome too.

—Deb Coates, charmingbillie@gmail.com
German Pinscher Club of America

Giant Schnauzers
BUSY SUMMER!

Two Giant Schnauzer Club of America members and their dogs participated in the 2023 AKC Rally National Championship and showed very well! The event was held in Wilmington, Ohio, on June 16 and 17.

Turning in an excellent performance was Noche, otherwise known as GCh.
Elegy’s You Live in the Dark, RE, CA, DJ, DN, PSD, CGCA, CGCU, TKE, VHMA, VHMP, FITB. With a score of 294/300, Noche placed 39th out of 143 entries. Noche is owned by Melissa Weldishofer, Annika Charo, and Dr. Dorothy Izmirlian.

Also with an excellent performance was Chill, otherwise known as Riesenrad’s Changes in Attitudes, VCD1, RN, MX, MXB, MXJ, NF, BCAT. Owned by Teresa Higgins and Tarja Ahlgren, Chill scored 293/300 and placed 46th out of 143 entries.

Congratulations to Noche and Chill and their people! Well done all around.
—Mary E. Falls,
Classicgiantschnauzers@gmail.com
Giant Schnauzer Club of America

Giant Schnauzers Noche (left) and Chill each turned in excellent performances at the AKC Rally National Championships in June.

Great Pyrenees

THE GREAT PYRENEES BREED

The Great Pyrenees, also called the Pyrenean Mountain Dog, is an imposing and majestic breed known for its strength, loyalty, and gentle and protective nature.

The Great Pyrenees originated in the Pyrenees Mountains, which span the border between France and Spain. They were initially bred to guard livestock, mainly sheep, in the harsh mountain terrain. They worked together in a pack to protect their flocks from predators like wolves and bears.

Great Pyrenees are a large breed. Adult males typically stand between 27 and 32 inches (68 and 81 cm) tall at the shoulder and weigh between 100 and 160 pounds (45 and 73 kg). Females are slightly smaller, typically standing between 25 and 29 inches (63 and 74 cm) tall and weighing between 85 and 115 pounds (39 and 52 kg).

They are large, solid, muscular dogs with a striking and majestic appearance. They are known for their thick, double coat—a dense, weather-resistant outer coat and a soft, insulating undercoat. This coat helps them blend in with the sheep they were bred to protect. They are usually white, with markings that can be tan, gray, reddish-brown, or badger-colored. Their tails are plume-like, and they have a noble and expressive face.

The Great Pyrenees are known for their calm, gentle, and patient temperament. They are often described as gentle giants. They are incredibly loyal and protective, especially regarding their families and owners, forming deep bonds with them. This protective nature
can make them excellent guard dogs. Their guarding instincts are strong, and they will defend their family and property if they sense a threat. They can and will be reserved and protective around strangers.

Great Pyrenees are intelligent dogs but also independent thinkers who can be somewhat stubborn. While still used in some regions as working dogs for guarding livestock, Great Pyrenees are also popular family pets. They are known for being gentle with children and can make excellent companions when properly trained and socialized. Early socialization is crucial for ensuring they become well-adjusted and confident adults and prevent aggressiveness and shyness. They should be exposed to various people, animals, and situations from a young age.

When properly socialized, they are generally good with children and other pets. Training requires patience and consistency to ensure they understand and follow commands.

Despite their size, the Great Pyrenees do not
BREED COLUMNS

WORKING GROUP

Great Pyrenees do well in larger living spaces with access to a yard. They are well-suited to both rural and suburban living. They are adaptable to various climates but are most comfortable in cooler weather due to their thick coat. They are often used as livestock guardian dogs on farms but can also adapt to a family home with a spacious yard. They require space to move around comfortably.

If you’re considering adopting a Great Pyrenees, many rescue organizations can help you find a dog that needs a home.

In summary, the Great Pyrenees is a beautiful and noble breed known for their protective nature, loyalty, gentle nature, and calm temperament. They can be excellent family pets and guardians for those with the space and time to meet their exercise and grooming needs. However, they require proper training, socialization, and grooming to thrive. Potential owners should be prepared for their protective instincts and be willing to invest in training and socialization to ensure a well-adjusted dog. The Great Pyrenees are loving and devoted companions and excel as guardians and loyal friends. Their majestic appearance is sure to turn heads wherever they go.

I encourage you to contact reputable breeders and do your research. Make sure this is the right breed for you and your situation.

—Karen Reiter, AKC GAZETTE columnist

Great Pyrenees Club of America

Komondorok

OBEDIENCE TRAINING YOUR KOMONDOR

Komondors need training to be show dogs, good pets, visit the veterinarian, or even just to live in modern society. Recently, I heard of a Komondor who was ready for his final rest but bringing the dog to a vet or a vet to the house was impossible. How do we avoid this sort of thing and
ask our Komondors to be social enough? In a word: *training*. For Komondors, training as early as possible (well before 6 months) is the most effective.

What do the dogs need to know? Staying and heeling, allowing a stranger to touch them, tolerating other dogs, coming when called, and dependability off-leash would be a good set of skills. All of these are part of the AKC Novice obedience exercises. Training for and getting a CD prepares a Komondor for a better life.

Here are the Novice Class exercises:

*Heel on Leash and Figure Eight.* The handler and on-leash dog enter the ring under control, they act as a team through a series of orders: forward, halt (with a sit), right and left turns, about turn, slow, normal, and fast. These test the connection and attention of the dog and the handler. For the figure eight there is a heeling pattern between and around two cones spaced eight feet apart, which further tests the dog’s ability to follow commands and cooperate with its handler, hopefully on a loose lead. For a Komondor, one implied part of this exercise is the presence of the judge, observing and following at a discreet distance. The dog is under command and should be able to toler-
ate the judge’s presence.

_Stand for Examination._
The leash leaves the ring with a steward, and the dog is put on a stand-stay. The very same person (the judge!) who the dog has had to tolerate being in the ring during the heeling now does a gentle and simple examination. The judge pats the dog on the head, withers, and croup.

Of all exercises, this is the one where a few of my Komondors have non-qualified. Their temptation to take a step toward me was very strong. On the other hand, this is the skill which would help best at the vet’s office. An important skill.

_Heel Free._ The dog and handler repeat the heeling (without the Figure Eight), but without a leash. Komondors often lose points on this exercise, as lagging seems to be a breed trait.

_Recall._ The dog is left at a sit-stay as the handler walks across the ring, turns around, and is then instructed to call the dog, who should trot to the handler and sit in front of them. Then they are asked to “finish,” which means get up and go to the heel position.

Komondors are usually good at the recall, though they may be slow, because they like to get back to their owners.

_Sit-Stay—Get Your Leash._ This is a recent addition to Novice, since I’ve competed. It makes perfect sense, asking the dog to stay at a sit-stay while the handler goes and gets the leash. Komondors are good at this kind of stay patience; staying is a breed strength. Also, since the Group Exercise stays are on lead, this exercise shows off-leash stay ability.

_Group Exercise—Sit-Stay and Down-Stay._ Dogs are lined up, well-spaced, and put on a sit-stay, then the handlers go to the end of the six-foot leash. They do this first at a sit, and then at a down, each for one minute.

Getting them settled in each position should be done easily. They need to tolerate or even ignore the other dogs and people in the ring. Again, Komondors are good at this, being “natural stayers.” Years ago (when the stay was off-leash), a loud noise caused all of the other dogs in the ring to jump up and non-qualify. My Komondor, with no startle response, just looked at the source of the noise, without breaking. This stay skill is really a good thing to know in real life. Staying at the vet’s office, in an elevator, or anywhere can be a big help.

I recommend going to a good obedience school to learn these exercises. Training has gotten more cheerful over the years. I especially discourage using pinch collars in training a Komondor. With their tolerance for pain, the collar can be ineffective.

A vintage book led the path to cheerful training. It is _Playtraining Your Dog_, written by Patricia Gail Burnham in 1985. I recently found it available online. Komondor owners will get the additional treat of wonderful pictures of
Art Sorkin’s dog Jago being trained over jumps in this book.

Thanks to obedience judge Ron Horn for reviewing this column for me. My obedience experiences are from years ago.
—Eric Liebes, ericliebes@earthlink.net
Komondor Club or America

Kuvaszok

HOW TO MAKE A LOW-ENTRY BREED SMALLER

I have never missed attending a national specialty, from the first one in Reno, Nevada, to our most current in Gray Summit, Missouri, at the world-class facility Purina Farms, and I can assure you that there was never any thought of winning them all. Instead, I attend all national specialties because it’s my responsibility to support our breed club by attending. That support comes through many different avenues: volunteering to work on a committee, financial support and being able to show support of those with whom I have placed our puppies who are attending their first national, and to be able to meet up with old friends whom we haven’t seen for a year or more. But nothing is more thrilling to me than to see my old dogs come alive again with another trip around the ring, and remembering the joy of watching them take their first breath as they were born so many years before.

The national specialty is a time of excitement and such a wonderful opportunity to see young dogs that represent the future of our breed. It’s a time for education through seminars and judges’ education that help us to become better breeders, mentors, and ambassadors of our noble breed. It’s also a time for members to learn firsthand what their board is doing, how their club is being managed, and the board’s vision for the future of our club.

Our general meeting should be an effort to express views with civility and a willingness to listen to all sides and to attempt to find common ground that make us a cohesive group dedicated to the preservation of the Kuvasz.

In a time when registrations are falling, breeders are aging out, and our members are declining, doesn’t it make sense to become a collective force to do everything we can to strengthen our breed club, and to work together to bring back the numbers of dogs that keep our breed relevant for the future?

In order to benefit from these programs, one must do something more than just attend “another dog show.” One needs to step up, lean forward, and give of your time, suggestions, and yes, even financial support. When a call goes out for volunteers to set up the banquet, man a trophy table or sell catalogs, don’t just disappear to go to dinner. Get outside of your chosen group, and do something for your club.

As the AKC-recognized parent breed club, the
Kuvasz Club of America must operate and conduct our business in a manner that is governed by our constitution and by-laws. As some individuals would like to have the members and non-members vote on certain issues at any given time, we simply cannot conduct our business outside of the rules set forth in our constitution and by-laws. It would be beneficial if those wishing to be heard at a general meeting would read the constitution and by-laws to understand that we cannot simply deviate from what is in our governing documents to accept votes from the floor on membership, and especially recognizing the votes of non-members.

Having just returned from the Kuvasz national specialty, I was struck with the thought that it really is possible to make a low-entry breed even smaller through the actions of a small group of individuals. I’m certain that this condition exits in almost all-breed clubs, but as a low-entry breed we are on a slippery slope when we divide our efforts, commitments, and loyalties to support individuals rather than our breed club.

What will become of the KCA in the future will depend entirely on what we as individuals do now. Instead of saying that our entry will be really small next year because we don’t like the judge, try to come and participate in all that the national specialty has to offer, and spend some time getting to know someone new. You and the club just might benefit from getting outside your comfort zone.

It’s your club, and you get to choose what it will become in the future.

—Lynn Brady
Kuvasz Club of America

Leonbergers
AN OWNER-HANDLER’S JOURNEY

“T won!” Susan Townsend exclaimed when asked by her husband how the Leonberger show had gone that day. It had been Susan’s first dog show ever, with her first dog in her life, and involved a road trip from North Carolina to northern Virginia to get to the Mid-Atlantic Leonberger Club’s regional specialty in the fall of 1999. Having decided to enter Osa, still a puppy, in the show, and knowing nothing about how to show a dog, Susan did some reading in the form of a little booklet entitled “Show Me.” She practiced with Osa in the yard a few times, memorized the basic patterns she might need to know, and set off on the long drive to the show.

The Leonberger was not yet recognized by the AKC back then, and the club shows were held following the format of the German parent club, which involved having puppy/youth classes compete in their age groups, and then the winner of each of those classes competing for Best Youth. The winner of Best Youth would then go on to compete against
While still a puppy, Leonberger Basie was #6 working dog in the country. Susan with young Basie, having won the owner-handled Working Group, then OH BIS!

the adult class winners for Winners.

When Susan and puppy Osa won the youth classes, Susan was unaware she had to stick around and compete in Winners, and no one told her she had to do so, and so she happily loaded her puppy back into the car with her rosette and headed home. She never got to compete in Winners or to have a shot at the Best of Breed ring at that show, but she was hooked. Susan and Matt both laugh as they tell that story.

Flash-forward about 24 years, and Susan Townsend is a well-respected owner-handler and breeder-owner-handler in Leonbergers. There was a learning curve along the way, of course, during which she and Matt also helped run the
LCA Mid-Atlantic club, and helped form the LCA Southeast club, and then went on to be instrumental in the formation of the first official AKC regional club after the breed’s recognition in 2010. The Townsends have also been chairing, planning, managing, and running Leonberger shows at the local, regional, and even national levels. They also breed their own Leonbergers, under the musical kennel name Sforzando. In addition to all this, the Townsends are both teachers in the public school system, and volunteer their time with a number of kennel clubs in their area.

The Townsends have traveled all over the U.S. to be involved in Leonberger shows, and with very few exceptions, Susan has always handled her own dogs. She has done very well over the years, winning specialties, placing and winning in the AKC’s National Owner-Handled Series, and even going to Westminster. She has put in countless hours studying canine structure and movement, and learning how to present her dogs in the best possible light to showcase their structure. She learned how to groom them so that always look their best. She did have to take a brief break in December 2021 to have a knee replacement, but she was back in the ring as soon as possible.

When asked what advice she might have for anyone interested in learning to show their own dog, even if it is their first dog, Susan quickly responds, “Handlers can be your best friends! Learn from them!” Though it can be intimidating to step into the ring for the first time, it helps a great deal to spend a bit of time ringside, watching your breed, watching what the judge does, how the people handling the dogs respond. It also helps to remember that every one of those judges and handlers were once beginners themselves.

Susan has taken the time to listen to handlers and has made an impression on them as a dedicated breeder-owner-handler. Susan adds that because of the handlers she has met and learned from over the years, even when she has to go to a show by herself, she still has a “family” there who will help her out as needed.

And to think it all started with her very first puppy and that solo road trip to her very first dog show all those years ago!

—Shannon White, oceanleonbergers@gmail.com
Leonberger Club of America

Neapolitan Mastiffs
MORE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE NEAPOLITAN MASTIFF

This month we share more of the questions that are commonly asked about the Neapolitan Mastiff.

With regard to the eyes, why do you want the haw to show?
It’s not the case that we want the haw to show;
rather, we want loose skin, and because of that, the eyelid ends up a little loose, and the haw is typically exposed. We will tolerate that, as long as it’s not too much, because of the importance to us of the loose skin, one of the keys to Neapolitan Mastiff breed type.

*With regard to the front, why do you want a slight turnout of the front feet?*

Again, it’s not that we want the front feet turned out; it’s that we must have heavy bone and an appearance of massiveness. It is quite natural for a big, heavy dog to stand with his front feet turned out. We’re not talking piano-legs, and we’re not talking crooked legs or deformed ankles. We’re talking a slight turnout of the feet when the dog is casually standing. Most good handlers will be able to stack the dog to correct this slight turnout, and a well-trained dog, accustomed to what is needed in the ring, will tolerate this. But we have many inexperienced owner-handlers with untrained dogs who are all just doing their best. Do not penalize a slightly turned-out foot in a dog who is heavy-boned and heavily built. You may want to ask the handler to re-stack the dog, or you may, in looking at the dog, realize that the dog is standing casually, and, for balance, has slightly turned his front feet out.

Note that a more lightly built dog should not have this slight turnout. So if you see it, and it is a heavily built dog, you can certainly ask the owner to re-stack the dog, but if it is a heavily-built dog, with heavy bone and a wide, thick body, and so forth, don’t penalize.

*With regard to the breed’s movement, why do you want the dog to pace?*

And again, it’s not that we want the dog to pace, it’s that they often will pace. Sometimes it’s because the inexperienced handler is moving the dog at the wrong speed for that dog. Sometimes it’s because the dog doesn’t know what is wanted and is moving at a pace because it’s easiest for it to do at the moment.

Judges are often told that
pacing is a sign of unsoundness because it’s an “easy gait” and a dog who paces is, for some reason, not feeling well enough to want to go to the energy of trotting. So judges often automatically think something’s wrong with a dog that paces, so it’s an automatic reason to move the dog to the back of the line. In the Neapolitan Mastiff, however, the pacing may just as easily be because the dog doesn’t feel like trotting that day, not that something is wrong structurally or physically.

By all means, ask the exhibitor to see if he or she can get the dog to trot, not pace. However, if the dog continues to pace, you must not penalize him for pacing. Remember, judges ask exhibitors to “move the dog around the ring” (not “trot around the ring”) because we want to see movement typical of the breed. Well, the pace is a typical movement for the Neapolitan Mastiff and must not be penalized.

—Margaret R. (Peggy) Wolfe,

Margaret.peggy.wolfe@gmail.com
United States Neapolitan Mastiff Club

Newfoundlands

A NEWFOUNDLAND ACTRESS

Although the noble Newfoundland dog has appeared in writings by Emily Dickinson, Mark Twain, Robert Burns, and Charles Dickens, it is not every day that a Newf is cast in a play. David L. Caruso’s play Sävë thë Whälës, etc., describes the adventures of a tourist group traveling to Newfoundland to see the last glacier on Earth. Discovering that the glacier has already melted, they are full of despair—until a Newfoundland dog offers a ray of hope and happiness.

Since he was a child growing up in the Twin Cities, playwright David L. Caruso has been obsessed with Newfoundlands. He wrote the play as his thesis for the MFA playwriting program at Boston University. Boston’s Playwrights’ Theatre is the professional producing arm of Boston University’s three-year MFA Playwriting Program that produces plays by graduate students and alumni of the program.

Caruso and the Playwright Theatre staff debated whether they could have a real live dog in the performance, and then they contacted the Newfoundland Club of New England in search of a Newf.

They received a quick response and a very well-trained dog. “Making a new play is always a passion project, with the entire company dedicated to telling one specific story,” says Caruso. So, it was inspiring to work with an organization so dedicated to a specific dog breed, which is to say people equally dedicated to their passion as we are about theater.”

Kikuko Chang (a longstanding NCNE board member and water-rescue expert) and her Newfoundland Lucy answered the casting call.
They attended several rehearsals before taking the stage for all eight performances.

Kikuko notes, “Lucy did not really understand the stage star part of her role, but she loved getting all the attention and hugs after the show.” Lucy, who recently became a therapy dog, is also trained in water rescue and draft work. When she appeared on stage, the audience simultaneously sighed, “Ahhh …” They loved the cuteness of the big, black dog running toward the actress playing Lyra, the young girl who’d been infatuated by the breed.

According to Caruso, “The air in the room changed when Lucy came on stage.”

In the play, Lyra, with her mother, describes how the Lewis and Clark expedition introduced her to Newfoundlands:

“Seaman the dog was a Newfoundland, and ever since that picture book I’ve been obsessed. I’ve never seen one in real life. My mom hates dogs. She has this thing about things being so clean, like so spotless that the life is sort of sucked out of them? We never had a dog, because, hair. Still, I was so obsessed with dogs and obsessed with this dog Seaman, and so then I became obsessed with this place Newfoundland, too. So, when they made the announcement, when we were finally able to travel again for one last trip, my mom let me decide where we’d go, and I picked Newfoundland. I still haven’t seen one, and this is probably my last chance. ...”

The tour boat searches for...
the glacier, but it has melted away. The glacier “speaks” to them, with the voice of all glaciers:

We were never happier than when you skied down our slopes
When you crawled in our crevices
When you climbed up our sides.
We were never happier than when you drank our water
When you took our photo
We were happy then because you were with us. All of you.

The animal kingdom
The world
Its residue and ours
Together creating this planet.

The group is saddened by all that has disappeared from their lives: the glacier, a collective sense of community, and the joys of everyday experiences.

All seems lost until:

A Newfoundland runs on stage.

He is giant.
He is black.

He is beautiful.
He loves to swim.
He is calm and he is docile.
He is responsive.
He is affectionate.
He is loyal.
He is sweet.
He has a high tendency to drool. He is a rescuer.
He has webbed feet.

Lyra’s heart overflows.
—Katie Dolan, katielangedolan@gmail.com
Newfoundland Club of America

Portuguese Water Dogs
Our guest author this month is Kari Lavalli, Ph.D.

ADVENTURES IN TRACKING WITH A PORTUGUESE WATER DOG!
Tracking is a great sport that uses the natural scenting abilities of a dog and channels those abilities into tracking human scent. I first started tracking with my second PWD named Darwin in a northeast tracking club. We religiously went out to practices and soon had others laying track for us, until Darwin started lying on his corners.

Lying? No way! I was told time and time again, “Dogs don’t lie”—you must be doing something wrong. Highly experienced trackers, some of whom were judges, would watch us tackle a corner, and see him check the right direction and turn 180 degrees and pull me off the track. They’d tell me to stand my ground until he chose the correct direction—and that might work if I knew the correct direction, but too often I was running blind tracks and did not know. The solution was to always know exactly where the track went, so the dog couldn’t fool me, and to put a drop before and after the corners that helped pull the dog in the right direction.

When we finally certified, I got into my first trial as an alternate. I watched all the other dogs, most of which passed, tracking on lovely fields. The alternate track
was a soggy area near a beaver pond that went up into a cut cornfield. Darwin had a lovely start, hit his first corner, and pulled me right up the hill to the cut-corn area, and then said, “Nope, I don’t do this kind of terrain”—whereupon he pushed me back to the corner and back to the start line and sat down.

When my tracklayer came to help me finish the track, Darwin again started, did the first corner, got to the cut cornfield, and looked at me as if to say, “What did you not understand earlier? I don’t do this.”

We came back a year later and this time got one of the beautiful fields—but tracks had been laid in 60-mph winds the day before, and were relaid the day of in 40-mph winds. Darwin started and hit his first turn, kept going, and hit the second turn, and then went straight down the hill and

Kari and Darwin persevere on the track in pouring rain—and Darwin finds the glove.
got flustered. I heard the whistle and had to bring him back up to the third turn, which was right into the 40-mph headwinds. He was not happy as we slowly got him to move down that leg to the final turn and glove.

So I went home and trained him in headwinds.

Our third attempt was in Maine in May, at an arbo-return. Darwin again had a lovely start, then got a bit annoyed at humans who dared to cross his track but kept working, got his corner, and started down a long leg in the sun. To his left was a line of trees with a submerged area of grass from some heavy rains. Halfway down the leg, he pulled to the left, went to the tree line, and wallowed like a pig in the water. We got the whistle.

Our final attempt was back in the fields my tracking club used, and I pulled the track laid in the field that I truly hated, as I had failed my certification twice there. As if to add insult to injury, the moment we got to the start flag, the heavens opened up and it began to pour.

Darwin looked at me as if to say, “Really?” In our silent conversation staring at each other, I replied, “My entire body is wet, my underwear is wet, we are doing this.”

So off he went. He nailed his first corner, hit the second, hit the third, the fourth, and the fifth … all the while I’m waiting for the whistle when he pulled me down to an area and found the glove. And then it stopped raining.

From 1985 to 2023, 143 PWDs have earned TDs, 33 have earned TDXs, one has earned a TDU, six have earned VSTs, and six are Champion Trackers. The day Darwin earned his TD, he also earned a VCD1 and VCD2—and was 10 years old! It took three years of trialing, a five-corner track, and water from the heavens to get the water dog to find the glove.—K.L.

Portuguese Water Dog Club of America

---

**Rottweilers**

**GET BUSY!**

People often say, “I want a smart dog.” In return, I say, “Be careful for what you wish.” A wise saying, and particularly true with Rottweilers. The real retort is “What are you going to do with that very intelligent and physically active dog?” Then you’ll see a blank look on their faces, as the reality of the actual care of such a dog hadn’t occurred to them.

Ours is a rough-and-ready working farm dog. Bred to be highly intelligent, with the ability to discern, use logic and make deductions. To do their jobs, they had to be able to move all day, and have the desire to do so. That is drive—the internal motivation to go actively engage.

Two words I find myself repeating over and over when talking to people about their dogs are “boredom” and “frustration.” Dogs with nothing to do tend to hyper-focus on whatever they can see and react to, and this generally
leads to problems ranging from destruction to aggression. Examples include fence-fighting, inappropriate guarding, nuisance barking, destroying landscaping, walls, and furniture, pacing/circling/jumping to see over fences, and people-directed aggression. These are behaviors that are born from boredom and the frustration of no appropriate outlet for intelligence, the need to work, limitation of only a yard for physical and mental stimulation, and lack of human direction.

If you’ve chosen an intelligent, active breed, then you need a plan to provide mental/emotional fulfillment for your dog. A 15- or 20-minute walk a day, or even twice a day, is just not enough. Dogs need to think, work, and be satisfied with their day’s chores. There are so many activities to choose from, so no excuses! You can view many at https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/sports/get-started-in-dog-sports-and-events/, and then there are other activities such as Nosework (www.nacsw.net), Barn Hunt (www.barnhunt.com), Dock diving (www.northamericadivingdogs.com), and Treibball (https://www.akc.org/expert-advice/sports/treibball-this-sport-isn’t-just-for-herding-breeds).

The American Rottweiler Club national specialty provides the perfect example of all our breed can do. There’s a week’s worth of performance events: tracking, herding, agility, rally, obedience, carting, Barn Hunt, scentwork, dock diving, and, of course, conformation. The only things that keep our dogs down are scheduling conflicts! Our breed does them all, and with enthusiasm. Make the time, invest in your dog’s well-being, and reap the rewards of a happy dog with whom you have a deep connection. Now get busy!

—Jill Kessler Miller, jillymillygsrc@gmail.com

American Rottweiler Club

Samoyeds

Guest columnist Lisa Peterson is a Texas elected prosecutor, a dog project leader, and a 30-year member of the Samoyed
Club of America and the Abilene Kennel Club.

“AND A LITTLE CHILD SHALL LEAD THEM …”

I was gathering my “stuff” to leave the building and start the drive home. It had been a long weekend, joints were whining, and outside temperatures were well over 100. As I made my weary way toward the door, I looked over and couldn’t help smiling. On the floor, sound asleep on her side, was a Bloodhound. Pillowed on her side was a towheaded boy of about 11. Nose-to-nose with her was a Mastiff cross—same position, with an auburn-haired boy sound asleep on her. My joints no longer hurt, my mind was no longer weary, and my heart was singing, “This is why I do it!”

Do what? A 4-H dog project. Growing up in southern Ohio, 4-H wasn’t a “thing”; out here in Texas it is. Since most of my community knows my passion for dogs and dog events, it should not have been unexpected that I would be asked to teach the kids who were interested in a “dog project.” That was four years ago. I have served as a judge for state competition (conformation, showmanship, obedience, and rally) as well as helping in my own little rural area. (4-H is an outreach of the land-grant universities around the country.)

The stated purpose of the “dog project” is to help children from third to 12th grade learn about raising, caring for, and training dogs, as well as about careers working with dogs. The competitions loosely follow AKC rules, allowing for mixed-breeds in all venues as well as dogs with disqualifying faults. Since the children supposed to be caring for and grooming the animal themselves, show clips and stripping are not required. The rules are a little looser, but the emphasis is always on the child learning—about animals, about life, and about communication.

Dog projects around the country are suffering from a lack of input from us, the purebred dog fancy. When a little girl looks up at me before starting what used to be called “subnovice” obedience and asks, “Does halt mean sit?” and children stand looking at basic rally signs, unable to figure them out—I know that their well-intended leaders don’t have the background you and I have! When I stand in a juniors ring and ask about basic dog care (you are allowed to ask questions!) and receive blank looks—not from a few, but from many—I know that those of...
us who have knowledge are deeply needed.

We can fight for our sport and our dogs through the legislatures of our communities and states; we can talk on Facebook and social media, but we have an opportunity to make a real difference in the future. Teaching children to love, appreciate, and make good neighbors of dogs, with a side dish of the place of the purebred dog in the world, will pay off when these children are adults. Ignoring the need now is likely to result in less-than-good memories—of not having someone to teach.

Every person reading this has taught a dog to walk on a leash, knows how to brush a dog, and can teach the parts of a dog. You don’t have to have a GCh., a MACH, an OTCH, or any other advanced title on your dogs to be able to teach a child the basics. If you already volunteer to help youth groups with dog badges or projects, thank you—you are making a bigger difference than you know. If you are not, go sign up! If you do, I can about promise that there is a shining child’s face ready to come running to you with the smile of success, and their “who knows what” racing beside them! —L.P. Samoyed Club of America

Siberian Huskies
FORM, FUNCTION, AND THE BREED STANDARD

To many of his casual admirers, the Siberian Husky is an exotic-looking show dog with a variety of eye and coat colors. They may be completely unaware, however, of the breed’s rich heritage as a working dog. While the story of Balto is familiar to generations of youngsters, the connection between the dogs who gained worldwide acclaim following the 1925 Serum Run and today’s Siberian Huskies is not widely known outside of the dog world.

The breed’s AKC standard describes the Siberian Husky as performing “his original function in harness most capably, carrying a light load at a moderate speed over great distances. His body proportions and form reflect this basic balance of power, speed, and endurance.” The standard provides a blueprint for the ideal Siberian Husky in terms of type, soundness, and temperament—a dog who can both successfully work in harness and win in the show ring. It defines the breed’s desired characteristics, guides conformation judges in their selections, and emphasizes the importance of the Siberian’s ability to perform his original function.

The Siberian Husky is neither a draft animal nor, based on his structure, a sprinter; he is a distance runner, capable of reaching a high-end speed of 20 miles per hour for short distances and, on a good trail, 10–12 miles per hour for as much as 100 miles a day.

Old-time dog drivers preferred to run their Siberian teams in races of at least 15
miles, regarding the first 10 miles as a warm-up for the dogs. Today, race conditions, especially in sprints, tend to encourage the breeding of nonstandard dogs, where a focus is on breeding for a particular race category rather than the breed standard. Those of us who work our Siberians in harness and exhibit in conformation feel a special sense of achievement in breeding Siberians who fit the standard and perform their original function.

Since the arrival of Siberian Huskies in Alaska in the early 1900s, their athletic versatility has remained one of the breed’s most outstanding virtues. After the Siberian Husky received AKC recognition in 1930, the breed extended its versatility into the conformation ring. To ensure that owners of Siberians would continue to work their dogs in the breed’s original function and retain the necessary breed traits, Lorna Demidoff (of Monadnock Kennels), the first world-famous breeder of show Siberians, and a dog driver herself, proposed the Siberian Husky Club of America Racing Trophy in 1959 to acknowledge the accomplishments of Siberians that worked in harness. In 1973, the trophy was renamed the SHCA Working-Showing Trophy and the requirements
revised to better reflect the Siberian’s versatility and accomplishments on the trail and in the show ring and other events. Today, the Working-Showing Trophy remains one of the SHCA’s most honored awards and provides a strong incentive for owners to work their dogs, keeping the tradition of the working Siberian alive and well.—Jane Steffen, 2013

Siberian Husky Club of America

October is neither too late nor too soon for us dog folks to prepare for the assorted man-made and natural disasters and emergencies that might befall us and our dogs at any time—tornados, hurricanes, wildfires, mudslides, flooding, earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, tsunamis, burst dams, chemical spills, rail disasters, and whatever else could affect a wide swath of populated areas requiring unexpected travel or evacuation.

The impetus for emergency travel may even be benign, hence not falling under any rules requiring federal assistance. For example, some years ago, we had a litter of eight 3-day-old Standard Schnauzer puppies with newly docked tails. Early in the morning after the docking, we received a phone call that Ron’s father had just passed away. What to do?

We had a set of crates for our adult dogs already in our SUV, and luckily in the garage, we had a super-large vinyl crate (think Great Dane or Scottish Deerhound size) which came apart horizontally, so that we could use half to transport the puppies and their mama. We put a layer of newspapers and soft towels in the bottom half of this crate for the puppies, and Ron leveled up the space between the SUV’s front and back seats to place the crate on, so mama dog

The part of the U.S. the author resides in is prone to forest fires and earthquakes—among the many emergency situations that can require evacuation.
and I could tend to the puppies on the road.

We grabbed dog food and bowls, jugs of water, go-bags for us and our dogs, tossed some clothing and whatever fresh food was in the fridge into the trailer, loaded the dogs, and set off from the Northern New Mexico mountains to the plains of Eastern South Dakota.

By the time we returned home five weeks later, the well-traveled puppies had visited six states. Later, their future owners all reported that they were good travelers. We accomplished all this smoothly because we were prepared.

If you must evacuate in a major disaster or emergency, plan to take your pets with you. Despite microchips, tattoos, and collar tags, fewer than 20 percent of pets left behind in a disaster are ever reunited with their owners. But there’s good news: The horrid aftermath of Hurricane Katrina and the devastation to New Orleans and surrounding parishes triggered serious thinking in the federal government. In the fall of 2006, Congress passed H.R. 3858, the Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act of 2006 (PETS Act). On Friday, October 6, 2006, President George W. Bush signed the PETS Act into law; it was a catalyst for implementation of preparedness plans at state and local levels of government. Specifically, the assessment stated that “state and local evacuation plans should specify procedures to address the pre-positioning of food, medical and fuel supplies. These plans should address establishing first-aid stations, tracking and coordinating movements of evacuees, evacuating pets, unaccompanied minors, the elderly, and evacuating people who lack the means to leave voluntarily.”

Stephanie Gibeault, MSc, CPDT, writes “You have a legal right to include your pets in an evacuation thanks to the Pets Evacuation and Transportation Standards Act (also known as the Pets Act), a bipartisan initiative that resulted in significant changes to federal and state emergency planning laws after Hurricane Katrina in 2005. The Pets Act requires states seeking assistance from the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to accommodate service animals and pets in their evacuation plans in the case of a disaster.”

We averted what could have been a personal disaster (a death in the immediate family) by being prepared well in advance. Granted, we live in an area prone to forest fires...
and earthquakes (the Rio Grande rift), in a town that has been totally evacuated twice so far in this century because of wildfires, so go-bags for us and our dogs are packed and ready to be grabbed on our way out the door. Evacuation is a bit easier now since we traded in the trailer for a larger RV, in which we keep copies of important documents, including lists of dog-friendly places to await word that it’s safe to return home.

When it comes to the pranks Mother Nature can perpetrate, such as fire, flood, famine, and pestilence, the AKC website has useful resources to check out. My October 2011 column “Apocalypse Now!” is a place to start. Look at the following additional AKC resources:

“For Kennel Emergency and Disaster Planning for Breeders” (substitute “home” for “kennel”)

Various federal agencies also have articles on emergency preparedness and dealing with in-progress emergency situations. Your state’s agriculture department and your local emergency responders may be good information sources, too. It’s best to contact them when no emergency is going on.

Two more good sources are the American Veterinary Medical Association (AVMA) and its Canadian counterpart (CVMA).

Consider taking a course in how to give CPR to both dogs and humans. Another tool is a bloat kit (available at https://www.BreedingBetterDogs.com)—have your veterinarian show you how to use it.

For some perverse reason known only to the Universe, emergency situations for your dogs usually happen on Saturday night or Sunday when your vet’s office is closed—then you have to drive a kazillion miles to get your dog to an emergency vet whom neither you nor your dog have met, much less trust. Read a couple of basic veterinary books to learn about symptoms, emergencies, and what to do in such situations. Sometimes it’s better to do it yourself than wait until someone else is available.

**Sympathies for fire victims**

Our hearts go out to the families of the Boxers who died tragically in the RV fire in Florida; the dogs were alone in crates. I know AKC dog show rules state that unentered dogs can’t be present at shows. I’d rather be chastised by the AKC for unentered dogs than to lose them in a fire, so we always take all the dogs traveling with us into the show’s grooming area where we know they’re OK.

—Suzanne T. Smith, Los Alamos, New Mexico, WustefuchsSS@aol.com

Standard Schnauzer Club of America
ATTENTION DELEGATES

NOTICE OF MEETING

The next meeting of the Delegates will be held at the Rosen Centre Hotel, Orlando, FL on Friday, December 15, 2023, beginning no earlier than 10:00 a.m. It will follow the Delegate Forum which will begin at 9:00 a.m.

DELEGATE CREDENTIALS

Angela Boeske, Plainwell, MI, Kalamazoo Kennel Club
Wayne Bond, Silverdale, WA, Peninsula Dog Fanciers Club
Alfred Ferruggiaro, Burtonsville, MD, National Capital Kennel Club
Claire Parker, Nashville, TN, American Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club
Joan Payton, Bakersfield, CA, German Wirehaired Pointer Club of America
Julie Poulin Siefert, Neenah, WI, Newfoundland Club of America
Susan Sorbo, Bradenton, FL, Old Dominion Kennel Club of Northern Virginia
NOTICE
As a result of an Event Committee determination the following individual stands suspended of AKC privileges. It should be noted that this determination may still be appealed and may be reversed. Upon expiration of the appeal process, an appropriate notice describing the status of the individual’s suspension, if any, will appear in this column:

- Mr. Jeff Cox (Reno, NV)
- Mr. Jeff Creasey (Bedford, VA)
- Mr. Jon Hopkins (Mesa, AZ)
- Mr. Kueper Kuhni (American Ford, UT)
- Ms. Tana Rugg (Monument, CO)

NOTICE
Ms. Cristine Cameron (Sedro Woolley, WA). Action was taken by the Olympic Kennel Club for conduct at its August 16, 2023 event. Ms. Cameron was charged with inappropriate, abusive or foul language. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the Event Committee’s report and set the penalty as a one-month event suspension and a $500 fine, effective August 19, 2023. (Multiple Breeds)

NOTICE
Ms. Margaret Lundy (Montrose, CO). Action was taken by the Olympic Kennel Club of Denver for conduct at its May 27, 2023 event. Ms. Lundy was charged with disregard of published club regulations. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the Event Committee’s report and set the penalty as a reprimand and a $100 fine. (Belgian Tervuren)

NOTICE
Mr. Matthew Perry (Berkeley, IL). Action was taken by the Olympic Kennel Club for conduct at its June 1, 2023 event. Mr. Perry was charged with inappropriate, abusive, or foul language. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the committee’s report and set the penalty at a one-month event suspension and a $500 fine, effective August 26, 2023. Mr. Perry appealed the decision to an AKC Trial Board. The AKC Trial Board denied the appeal and affirmed the penalty. (Multiple Breeds)

NOTICE
Mr. Elpidio “Pete” Reyes (Ft. Lauderdale, FL). Action was taken by
the Ochlockonee River Kennel Club of Florida for conduct at its February 25, 2023 event. Mr. Reyes was charged with inappropriate, abusive, or foul language. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the committee’s report and set the penalty at a reprimand and a $100 fine. Mr. Reyes appealed the decision to an AKC Trial Board. The AKC Trial Board denied the appeal and affirmed the penalty.

NOTICE

Ms. Jacqueline Rickards-Pomper (Silverdale, PA). Action was taken by the Kenilworth Kennel Club of Connecticut for conduct at its July 7, 2023 event. Ms. Rickards-Pomper was charged with inappropriate, abusive or foul languages. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the Event Committee’s report and set the penalty as one-month event suspension and a $500 fine, effective August 30, 2023. (Doberman Pinschers, Chihuahuas)

NOTICE

Mr. Steven Weisse (Leesburg, FL). Action was taken by the St. Petersburg Dog Fanciers Association for conduct at its June 18, 2023 event. Mr. Weisse was charged with inappropriate, abusive, or foul language. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the Event Committee’s report and set the penalty as a reprimand and a $100 fine.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CHARTER AND BYLAWS OF THE AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB, INC. – ARTICLE XIII, SECTION 2

The AKC Board has endorsed the following amendment to Article XIII, Section 2, of the Charter and Bylaws of the American Kennel Club, Inc., proposed by the Delegate Bylaws Committee. This will be voted on at the December 15, 2023 Delegate Meeting.

ARTICLE XIII

SECTION 2. When charges have been filed and referred to a Trial Board, a notice which shall state that such charges have been filed and a copy of the charges shall be sent to the club or association, or person or persons against which or whom said charges have been preferred which club or association, or person or persons herein shall be known as and called the defendant. The club or association or person or persons which or who shall have filed the complaint leading to the charges shall be known and called the complainant.

Such notice shall state that the defendant may attend the hearing and present a defense or written answer and may be represented by counsel and that the time and place of a hearing shall be determined by the Trial Board Chair in consultation with the parties. If the complainant shall
fail or refuse to cooperate with the AKC in the prosecution of said charges, without giving reasonable excuse for such failure or refusal, the AKC or the Trial Board presiding may suspend said complainant for a period of six months or until such time as the party is prepared to cooperate with the AKC. Appeals to such suspensions shall be to the Appeals Trial Board.

If the complainant shall fail or refuse to cooperate with the AKC, the defendant may submit a written request to the Trial Board to dismiss the charges. The Trial Board shall permit the AKC to submit a written response to the defendant’s request to dismiss the charges or the AKC may proceed to a hearing without the complainant’s testimony. The Trial Board shall issue a determination based on the defendant’s written request to dismiss and the AKC’s response.

If the defendant shall fail to appear at the hearing, without giving reasonable excuse for such failure or refusal, the complainant’s evidence may be heard and the defendant’s written answer, if any, will be considered. The record of the hearing shall also include a statement by the Trial Board Chair of any conversations with the defendant concerning the failure or refusal to appear. In such cases, the Trial Board may make a finding. The Trial Board may also suspend the defendant for six months or until the party is prepared to present a defense.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CHARTER AND BYLAWS OF THE AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB, INC. – ARTICLE XIII, SECTION 7

The AKC Board has endorsed the following amendment to Article XIII, Section 7, of the Charter and Bylaws of the American Kennel Club, Inc., proposed by the Delegate Bylaws Committee. This will be voted on at the December 15, 2023 Delegate Meeting.

ARTICLE XIII

SECTION 7. An appeal may be taken from any decision of a Trial Board, except where it is acting as the appellate body for an Event Committee appeal, where its decision is final. Notice in writing claiming such appeal together with a deposit, the amount of which is determined annually by the AKC Board of Directors, must be sent to the AKC (ATTENTION: Executive Secretary) within thirty days after the receipt of the notice of the decision of the Trial Board. A three-member Appeals Trial Board shall hear said appeal on the record.

The deposit shall become the property of the AKC if the decision of the Trial Board
shall be confirmed in whole or in part, or shall be returned to the appellant if it shall not be confirmed. If the aggrieved party shall fail to take such appeal, there shall be no further right of appeal of any kind.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CHARTER AND BYLAWS OF THE AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB, INC. – ARTICLE XIV, SECTION 1

The AKC Board has endorsed the following amendment to Article XIV, Section 1 of the Charter and Bylaws of the American Kennel Club, Inc., proposed by the Delegate Bylaws Committee. This will be voted on at the December 15, 2023 Delegate Meeting.

ARTICLE XIV
SECTION 1.

The Event Committee of a club or association shall have the right and responsibility to suspend any person from AKC privileges for conduct prejudicial to the best interest of purebred dogs, purebred dog events, or the AKC, alleged to have occurred in connection with or during the progress of its event, after the alleged offender has been given the opportunity to be heard. When the penalty for the offense as set forth in the guidelines authorized by the Board of Directors provides for a reprimand in certain instances, the Event Committee shall have the authority to stay the suspension of the penalty for the offense as set forth in the guidelines authorized by the Board of Directors pending a final determination by the AKC.

Notice in writing must be sent within five (5) business days by the Event Committee by certified mail to the person suspended and a duplicate notice giving the name and address of the person suspended and full details as to the reasons for the suspension and if applicable, the reasons for the stay of suspension must be forwarded to the AKC (ATTENTION: Executive Secretary) within five days.

An appeal may be taken from a decision of an Event Committee and any subsequent disciplinary action applied by the AKC. Notice in writing claiming such appeal together with a deposit, at an amount established by the AKC Board of Directors, must be sent to the AKC (ATTENTION: Executive Secretary) within thirty days after the date of the suspension. At the time the appeal is filed, the appellant may request the Trial Board to stay any disciplinary action, including but not limited to suspension, until such time as the appeal is heard and decided by the Trial Board. The decision by a Trial Board is final. The deposit shall become the property of the AKC if the decision is upheld in whole or in part or returned if not upheld.
PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE RULES APPLYING TO DOG SHOWS – CHAPTER 11, SECTION 13 – DOG SHOW ENTRIES, CONDITIONS OF DOGS AFFECTING ELIGIBILITY

The AKC Board has endorsed the following amendment to Chapter 11, Section 13, of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows, proposed by Staff and approved by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee. This will be voted on at the December 15, 2023 Delegate Meeting.

CHAPTER 11
SECTION 13.

Previous portions of this section are unchanged.

No entry shall be made at any show under a judge of any dog which said judge or any member of his/her immediate household or immediate family has been known to have owned, handled in the ring more than twice, sold, held under lease or boarded within one year prior to the date of the show.

For the purposes of this section, the members of an immediate family are one’s spouse, domestic partner, parents, grandparents, children, grandchildren, siblings, mother-in-law, father-in-law, brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, daughters-in-law, and sons-in-law; adopted, half, and step members are also included in immediate family.

Judges of sweepstakes and futurities, and all other special attractions held with a conformation show should refer to the Rules, Policies and Guidelines for Conformation judges for any applicable exhibiting restrictions as they are defined by Board policy.

This provision prohibiting judges or those residing in the same household from exhibiting on the same day does not apply to the judge of the Four-to-Six Month Competition or to Junior Showmanship only judges. Such judges may also exhibit on the day(s) they judge.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE RULES APPLYING TO DOG SHOWS – CHAPTER 16, SECTION 1 – CHAMPIONSHIPS

The AKC Board has endorsed the following amendment to Chapter 16, Section 1, of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows, proposed by the AKC Board and approved by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee. This will be voted on at the December 15, 2023 Delegate Meeting.

CHAPTER 16
SECTION 1.

Previous portions of this section are unchanged.

Unless a Breed Club, in its Application to the AKC to hold a specialty show, chooses to exclude, the following award shall be
offered: At a specialty show the dog designated Reserve Winners Dog and the bitch designated Reserve Winners Bitch will be awarded a three-point major, provided that the number of dogs competing in the regular classes of the Reserve Winner’s sex totals at least twice the number required for a five point major, in the region in which the event is held. No major for Reserve Winners shall be given based upon an award of Best of Winners.

In counting the number of eligible dogs in competition, a dog that is disqualified, or that is dismissed, excused or ordered from the ring by the judge, or from which all awards are withheld, shall not be included.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE FIELD TRIAL RULES AND STANDARD PROCEDURE FOR POINTING BREEDS – CHAPTER 14, SECTION 29
The AKC Board has endorsed the following amendment to Chapter 14, Section 29, of the Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedure for Pointing Breeds, proposed by the Gordon Setter Club of America. This will be voted on at the December 15, 2023 Delegate Meeting.

CHAPTER 14 RULES FOR POINTING BREED TRIALS – National Championship Events

SECTION 29. A National Gun Dog Championship for Gordon Setters may be held not more than once in any calendar year. This will be a walking stake. The stake must be held by the Parent Club. If the Club fails to hold its traditional horseback National Championship field trial, the right to hold the walking NGD Championship stake may be rescinded by the Performance Events Department. The event shall be for dogs over six (6) months of age. The GSCA may develop entry qualifications that exceed the AKC minimum standard. Dogs placing in this stake shall be credited with championship points in accord with the schedule for Field Championships and the winner shall be entitled to the designation “National Gun Dog Champion of 20__.” (NWGDC)

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
Mrs. Leonore Abordo (93981) NM
(505) 301-7138
oxota@yahoo.com
Borzois, JS
Meghan Barnes (113020) OH
omegambt@gmail.com
Bull Terriers, Miniature Bull Terriers
Mr. Israel Garcia (111901) TX
(521) 605-7658
izzy-garcia@hotmail.com
Afghan Hounds
Stacey L. Green (112951) TX
greenstonelabradors@gmail.com
Labrador Retrievers

Starkey R. Green (112953) TX
greenstonelabradors@gmail.com
Labrador Retrievers

Mr. Andrew MacArthur (113027) CO
andrewmac1102@gmail.com
Labrador Retrievers

Ms. Dee L. McDuffee (112984) IL
(630) 886-9500
hausfulbmds@comcast.net
Bernese Mountain Dogs

Kimberly (Kim) Rutherford (112975) TX
(903) 388-2505
briobostons@icloud.com
Boxers, Boston Terriers

Mrs. Mary Lee Shingle (113021) PA
dmshingl@verion.net
Collies

Mr. Greg Speeks (113035) VA
(804) 241-9409
gregspeeks@icloud.com
Shetland Sheepdogs

Michelle VeuCasovic (17767) OH
(734) 674-5468
info@infinitylabrador.com
Labrador Retrievers

Mr. Robert W. Von Mayr (113067) AZ
(520) 975-7841
rwvonmayr@gmail.com
Dalmatians

ADDITIONAL BREED JUDGING APPLICANTS
Claire Wisch Abraham (100709) VA
(571) 318-2768
outlawgwp@aol.com
Flat Coated Retrievers, Irish Red and White Setters, American Water Spaniels, English Cocker Spaniels, Biewer Terriers

Mrs. Denise A. Borton (91682) MI
(269) 375-0059
twinpinefarm@gmail.com
American English Coonhounds, Black and Tan Coonhounds, Bluetick Coonhounds, Plott Hounds, Redbone Coonhounds, Treeing Walker Coonhounds

Mr. Phil Briasco (66406) FL
(352) 427-6992
aranisle@cfl.rr.com
American English Coonhounds, Black and Tan Coonhounds, Bluetick Coonhounds, Plott Hounds, Redbone Coonhounds, Treeing Walker Coonhounds

Mrs. Kathleen J. Brock (47792) WA
(253)988-1764
toccatacockers@aol.com
Balance of Toy Group (English Toy Spaniels, Japanese Chins, Miniature Pinschers, Poodles, Toy Fox Terriers, Yorkshire Terriers)

Ms. Kathi Brown (55262) MA
(978) 897-4717
kmbrownsscience@verizon.net
American English Coonhounds, Borzois, English Foxhounds, Harriers, Plott Hounds, Scottish Deerhounds

Mrs. Shawn Brown (106053) CA
(530) 530-1106
alj.ranch@gmail.com
Portuguese Podengo Pequenos, Russian Toys

Mrs. April Clyde (52836) DE
(302) 542-3033
1aprilclyde@gmail.com
Otterhounds, Chihuahuas, Papillons, Pekingese, Russian Toys

Diane Collings (94897) CA
(415) 990-3317
dianecollings@verizon.net
American English Coonhounds, Borzois, English Foxhounds, Harriers, Plott Hounds, Scottish Deerhounds

Mr. Lloyd J. Constantine-Amodei (95053) FL
(215) 570-6674
ljamodei@gmail.com
Dandie Dinmont Terriers, Irish Terriers, Lakeland Terriers, Skye Terriers

Ms. Dawn D. Danner (93357) OR
(503) 626-6124
sunsetdobe@aol.com
Portuguese Water Dogs, Samoyeds

Cassie Frank (108441) NH
(702) 595-7607
tailwindcardis@gmail.com
Beaucerons, Belgian Laekenois, Bergamasco Sheepdogs, Collies, Entlebucher Mountain Dogs, German Shepherd Dogs, Shetland Sheepdogs

Mrs. Honey Anne Glendinning (6773) AB
(604) 943-4313
honeyanneg@icloud.com
Balance of Non-Sporting (American Eskimo Dogs, Bichons Frises, Boston Terriers, Chinese Shar-Pei, French Bulldogs, Keeshonden, Lowchen, Schipperkes, Tibetan Spaniels, Tibetan Terriers), Otterhounds

Elizabeth Greenfield (65122) NY
(315) 363-0012
grenelzb@aol.com
Lagotti Romagnoli, Flat Coated Retrievers

Ms. Dawn Hitchcock (100299) SC
(864) 238-2742
bubblezsc@hotmail.com
Balance of Non-Sporting (Bulldogs, Chow Chows), Golden Retrievers, American Staffordshire Terriers

Mr. Jason M. Hoke (92952) WI
(646) 241-5800
jasonhoke@aol.com
Balance of Non-Sporting Group (Norwegian Lundehunds), Barbets, Bracci Italiani, Brittanys, Chesapeake Bay Retrievers, American Water Spaniels, Boykin Spaniels, Clumber Spaniels

Mr. Fred Hyer (94219) MI
(616) 874-3647
fred@hyerluv.com
Balance of Working Group (Cane Corsos, Dogo Argentinos, Tibetan Mastiffs)

Ms. Collette Jaynes (95369) GA
(864) 684-8484
collette@jazzin.com
Balance of Sporting Group (Bracci Italiani, German Shorthaired Pointers, Chesapeake Bay Retrievers)

Mrs. Pat M. Jenkins (99451) UT
(435) 770-0334
pmj16@msn.com
Boston Terriers, Chinese Shar-Pei, French Bulldogs, Keeshonden, Lhasa Apsos, Poodles, Shiba Inu, Tibetan Spaniels

Mrs. Martha C. Lageschulte (106091) CO
(303) 929-9064
starqst.mcl@gmail.com
Anatolian Shepherd Dogs, Black Russian Terriers, Great Pyrenees, Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs, Mastiffs, Newfoundland

Mr. Dale R. Martenson (111413) OK
(817) 517-3304
castlemar3@hotmail.com
Affenpinschers, Biewer Terriers, Brussels Griffons, Italian Greyhounds, Miniature Pinschers, Poodles, Pugs, Russian Toys, Silky Terriers, Toy Fox Terriers, Yorkshire Terriers

Mr Dale A. Meyer (6655) WI
(715) 654-5330
meyerd@tds.net
Barbets, Bracci Italiani, Gordon Setters, English Springer Spaniels, Wirehaired
Pointing Griffons

**Ms. Susan M. Napady (95639) IN**
(219) 762-5203
susan.napady@frontier.com
Smooth Fox Terriers, Miniature Bull Terriers, Norwich Terriers, Parson Russell Terriers, Rat Terriers, Skye Terriers, Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers, Welsh Terriers, American Eskimo Dogs

**Mrs. Jean Pero (30743) CO**
(303) 475-7302
jmpero3@gmail.com
Affenpinschers, Biewer Terriers, Brussels Griffons, Chinese Cresteds, Papillons, Pugs

**Mrs. Marilyn Y. Pipes (29634) TX**
(214) 208-4898
willmarpp1@gmail.com
Australian Shepherds, Mudik, Pumik, Shetland Sheepdogs

**Mr. Jeffrey P. Ryman (93219) WA**
(425) 876-2213
jeff_ryman@hotmail.com
Bouviers des Flandres, Finnish Lapphunds, German Shepherd Dogs, Spanish Water Dogs

**Mrs. Jean Shepherd (95654) MN**
(507) 482-6611
jfshephe213@gmail.com
Barbets, Bracci Italiani, Boykin Spaniels, Irish Water Spaniels

**Mrs. Carol Sommerfelt (7007) TN**
(865) 986-1614
carolsommerfelt@gmail.com
Beaucerons, Belgian Laekenois, Berger Picards, Entlebucher Mountain Dogs, Finnish Lapphunds, Miniature American Shepherds, Mudik, Norwegian Buhunds, Polish Lowland Sheepdogs, Pumik, Spanish Water Dogs, Swedish Vallhunds

**Mrs. Wendy Sorrell (75680) TN**
(865) 900-2112
sorrellwendy2@gmail.com
Samoyeds

**Mrs. Deborah Y. Verdon (7115) TX**
(985) 788-1940
debverdon33@gmail.com
Belgian Malinois, Belgian Tervurens

**Mr. Cledith M. Wakefield (80829) MO**
(573) 760-3616
n2rotts@yahoo.com
Belgian Laekenois, Belgian Malinois, Belgian Sheepdogs, German Shepherd Dogs, Pumik

**Berna H. Welch (110818) MA**
(508) 364-7343
pebwin@comcast.net
Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers

**ADJUNCT APPLICANTS**
The following persons applications have been accepted for the breed(s) specified under the Adjunct System but they are NOT eligible to accept assignments.

**Mr. Jeffery Bazell (5777) OH**
(614) 570-0404
kestnerj@aol.com
Lancashire Heeler

Mr. Jeffrey Kestner (100655) OH
(614) 571-7524
kestnerj@aol.com
Lancashire Heeler

Mrs. Sheryl Kendrick (112405) TX
(254) 717-7815
serendipitykennel@gmail.com
Shetland Sheepdogs, JS-Limited

Gwen Meyer (112103) IL
(815) 624-6196
gwenmeyer123@me.com
Irish Setters, English Cocker Spaniels, Bernese Mountain Dogs, Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers, French Bulldogs, Bouviers des Flandres, Briards, JS

Mr. Kent W. Meyer (112547) IL
(815) 378-6197
kgmeyer@meyerspetcare.com
Irish Setters, English Cocker Spaniels, Whippets, Bernese Mountain Dogs, Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers, French Bulldogs, Bouviers des Flandres, Briards, JS

Mr. Logan E. Ott (112599) CA
(858) 262-1592
loganeott@gmail.com
Portuguese Water Dogs

Mr. Myles Preston (112621) FL
(954) 204-8292
mylesbydesign@aol.com
French Bulldogs

Ms. Janice Reilly (110415) NC
(919) 649-4898
jrunner5k@aol.com
Portuguese Water Dogs

Mr. George Robert Rohde (108869) IL
(708) 837-2222

---

JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP JUDGING APPLICANTS

Mr. Edward A. Fojtik (104757) IL
(847) 254-6166
efojtik@aol.com
JS

Ms. Isabel N. Ososki (109565) IL
(618) 444-8034
silverthreadcollies@prodigy.net
JS - Limited

Ms. Laura Thomas (113057) CA
(818) 268-6695
grnram415@aol.com
JS

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

NEW BREED PERMIT JUDGES
Karen L. Dewey (112481) NH
(603) 504-2813
pkdewey@comcast.net

Bloodhounds, JS Limited
rohdecollies94@yahoo.com
Collies

Mrs. Jennifer Rutkas (7505) IL
(630) 779-6780
jrutkas@gmail.com
Giant Schnauzers, Collies

**ADDITIONAL BREED PERMIT JUDGES**

Mrs. Jennifer U. Bell (109179) LA
(225) 933-6132
mystang50@yahoo.com
Black and Tan Coonhounds, Harriers, Akitas, Bullmastiffs, Doberman Pinschers, Mastiffs

Dr. Albert P. Bianchi (5459) VA
(757) 672-4868
k4ux@cox.net
Borzoi, Irish Wolfhounds, Scottish Deerhounds, Airedale Terriers

Mr. Brian C. Bogart (100059) NY
(716) 984-0012
sumerwyndb@aol.com
Akitas, Boxers, Great Danes

Mrs. Valerie J. Brown (6082) WA
(509) 554-1669
essentiadogs@gmail.com
Balance of Terrier Group (Australian Terriers, Cesky Terriers, Irish Terriers, Kerry Blue Terriers, Lakeland Terriers, Miniature Schnauzers, Sealyham Terriers, Skye Terriers, Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers, Welsh Terriers, West Highland White Terriers)

Donna L. Danner (106047) OK
(918) 407-0199
4showpaws@gmail.com
Pekingese, Pomeranians, Pugs, American Eskimo Dogs, Chinese Shar-Pei, Tibetan Terriers

Ms. Denise Dean (7044) AZ
(626) 241-6733
dean7044@gmail.com
Affenpinschers, English Toy Spaniels, Havanese, Japanese Chins, Russian Toys

Mrs. Penny DiSiena (76729) FL
(330) 421-3618
pennyd1954@gmail.com
Cirnechi dell’Etna, Norwegian Elkhounds, Plott Hounds, Treeing Walker Coonhounds, Cavalier King Charles Spaniels

Mrs. Beth Downey (102539) MS
(410) 829-2455
bethdowney539@gmail.com
Balance of Herding Group (Bearded Collies, Berger Picards, Briards, Cardigan Welsh Corgis, German Shepherd Dogs, Lancashire Heelers, Mudik, Pembroke Welsh Corgis, Polish Lowland Sheepdogs, Pyrenean Shepherds)

Ms. Mary Lynne Elliott (100062) CO
(720) 289-2517
ml@vedauwooorr.com
American Foxhounds, Azawakhs, Cirnechi dell’Etna
**Mrs. Lisa Farmer (95249) GA**  
(770) 891-8820  
lisafarmer2013@gmail.com  
Affenpinschers, Biewer Terriers, Brussels Griffons, Cavalier King Charles Spaniels, English Toy Spaniels, Miniature Pinschers, Shih Tzu, Silky Terriers, Lowchen

**Mr. Edward A. Fojtik (104757) IL**  
(847) 254-6166  
efojtik@aol.com  
Nederlandse Kooikerhondjes, German Wirehaired Pointers, Irish Setters, Boykin Spaniels, Clumber Spaniels, English Cocker Spaniels, English Springer Spaniels, Sussex Spaniels

**Ms. Amy Gau (90627) MN**  
(507) 254-7839  
amy@anstechnicalventures.com  
Affenpinschers, Brussels Griffons, English Toy Spaniels, Pekingese, Silky Terriers

**Donna Gilbert (58963) CT**  
(203) 253-5422  
corgixoxo@aol.com  
Golden Retrievers, Berger Picards, Finnish Lapphunds, Shetland Sheepdogs

**Cindy Hartwell (104985) FL**  
(207) 751-0047  
cindy@mybeauce.com  
Golden Retrievers, Rottweilers

**Ms. Robin A. Hug (67358) CO**  
(303) 717-1702  
robinahug@gmail.com  
Afghan Hounds, Bloodhounds, Petits Bassets Griffons Vendeens

**Jennie Hynes (105029) CT**  
(203) 858-3394  
jhynes@dbasis.com  
Collies

**Ms. Diane Kepley (90370) SC**  
(301) 305-9986  
westhavencockers@comcast.net  
Border Terriers, Parson Russell Terriers

**Ms. Jennifer Lazowski (105991) VA**  
(717) 823-2501  
whirlaway12@gmail.com  
Borzois, Ibizan Hounds, Pharaoh Hounds, Whippets

**Mr. Richard LeBeau (90760) PA**  
(412) 952-7425  
beauprix@comcast.net  
Bulldogs

**Ms. Nancy Liebes (5170) IN**  
(713) 254-8106  
ragmop@earthlink.net  
Balance of Terrier Group (Norwich Terriers, Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers)

**Ms. Robin MacFarlane (95827) FL**  
(772) 801-5293  
armor16@aol.com  
Black Russian Terriers, Cane Corsos, Chinooks, Komondorok, Samoyeds

**Ms. Laura Reeves (105393) OR**  
(541) 761-1867  
scotiadawgs@gmail.com  
Barbets, Bracci Italiani, Nederlandse Kooikerhondjes, Labrador Retrievers,
English Springer Spaniels, Norwegian Elkhounds

Mr. Andrew Ritter (92968) NJ
(908) 996-7355
cerri.bmd@att.net
Icelandic Sheepdogs, Pulk, Pyreanean Shepherds, Swedish Vallhunds

Ms. Barbara C. Scherer (58838) IL
(630) 388-8290
hairologybk@gmail.com
Balance of Hound Group (Cirnechi dell’Etna, Grand Bassets Griffons Vendeens, Pharaoh Hounds, Plott Hounds, Scottish Deerhounds)

Mr. Robin L. Stansell (5580) NC
(919) 359-1150
rocyn1@embarqmail.com
Dachshunds, Australian Shepherds

Mr. Scott Toney (110847) NC
(704) 968-4491
midwoodchin@gmail.com
Affenpinschers, Brussels Griffons, Chihuahuas, Poodles, Yorkshire Terriers

Ms. Erika N. Wyatt (107433) IL
(708) 612-3647
erika@sloughi.us
Greyhounds, Rhodesian Ridgebacks, Salukis, Scottish Deerhounds

JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP PERMIT JUDGES

Mr. Kevin E. Holmes (112598) MD
(202) 440-2225
kevin.e.holmes@me.com

Ms. Emalia Pedraza (110213) CA
(760) 454-6450
schoolhousebedachs@gmail.com

BEST IN SHOW

The following persons, having successfully completed the required Group Assignments in the first Variety Group for which they were approved, and have been added to the list of judges eligible for approval to judge Best In Show.

Dr. Azalea A. Alvarez (97321) FL
(954) 600-5480
minsmere954@yahoo.com

Mr. David Fitzpatrick (27307) PA
(717) 586-0961
dcfitz7@aol.com

Mr. Richard LeBeau (90760) PA
(412) 952-7425
beauprix@comcast.net

Pamela Wilson (64914) TX
(512) 280-3103
wilsicot@sbcglobal.net

RESIGNED CONFORMATION JUDGES

Mr. Thomas J. Feneis
Grace McGlynn
Mrs. Monika Pinsker
Mrs. Diane L. Schlicht

EMERITUS CONFORMATION JUDGES

Mr. Howard C. Dees
Mrs. Jancie K. Dees
Mr. Neil Feerrar
Miss Norma Hansburg
Ms. Victoria S. Harris
Mr. Chris Kaiser
Mrs. Georgia L. Rush

DECEASED CONFORMATION JUDGES
Shirley A. Cole
Mr. David Helming
Ms. Joann (Corbin) Richards
Mrs. Gale Young

REGULAR STATUS APPROVED
Obedience/Rally/Tracking Judges
Josie McAuliffe (100665) MD
(301) 467-5285
mere4chien@icloud.com
Obedience – Novice

Gina Grissom (43516) CA
(562) 869-5213
weimtrain@verizon.net
Obedience – Utility

Sheila Bennett (102197) MA
(508) 942-0182
sheila.bennett@gmail.com
Obedience – Novice

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

Amy Stephens (22799) MA
(508) 341-4681
dalcollie@comcast.net
Rally – All

Stella Rowlett (109327) NV
(206) 437-5862
stellacello@gmail.com
Obedience – Open

Jenny Cuccinello (104080) CA
(916) 804-4463
VCDK9s@comcast.net
Tracking – TD/TDU

DECEASED Obedience/Rally/Tracking Judges
Herb Morrison (GA) – Tracking
Pam German (IL) – Tracking
Stephanie Gonyeau – (AZ) Tracking

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.

AQUARIUIS- Pomeranians – Elaine S. Griffin
BISOU- Biewer Terriers- Jennie Lucier
CHITAWEE- French Bulldogs- Kathy Clayton
EBULLIENT - French Bulldogs - Claudette A. Parker
HUNTSMAN - Norfolk Terriers - Robyn H. Snyder
HYLAND - Chihuahuas - Joao Machado
LANSER - Doberman Pinschers - Fallon A. Houser
MIAMOR - Havanese - Kathy T. Spruiell
MARCHETA - Cavalier King Charles Spaniels - Alisha M. Harper
MIDNIGHT SUN - Icelandic Sheepdogs - Audra M. Accola & Brian G. Accola
OZARK LEGENDS - Newfoundlands - Kimberly S. Ohse
RADIEUX - French Bulldogs - Debra J. Bruce
SUSQUIDILLA - Chesapeake Bay Retrievers - Robyn Haskin
SUSQUIDILLA - Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers - Robyn Haskin
TANDEM - Miniature American Shepherds - Regina L. Blair & Jaisa R. Blair
TENAJEFF - Biewer Terriers - Janet L. Smith & Jeff Smith

BONITA CREEK - Labrador Retrievers - Jill Van Houten
CASA SUPREMO - Cane Corsos - Stephen Roark
DHARMADACHS - Dachshunds - Leslie E. Savoye & Curtus A. Savoye
DOUBLEM RANCH - Miniature American Shepherds - Patricia L. Pannier Val- lone DVM
ICHBIN GESEGNET - German Shepherds - Carol Santnet
KINGDOM’S - German Shepherd Dogs - Michelle P. Jones
LEWIS LFD - German Shepherd Dogs - Emily Lewis & Bryan Lewis
SUMMER BREEZE - Golden Retrievers - Pamela L. Marcellus
TREYMORE - Cavalier King Charles Spaniels - Marsue L. Williams & Bill Williams

REGISTERED NAME PREFIXES GRANTED
The following applications for a breed-specific Registered Name Prefix have been granted.
AQUAMARINE - Australian Shepherds - Janette O’Shaughnessy
BLUESTARA - Cavalier King Charles Spaniels - Carinne Brezine & Maureen Alvarez
Quarterly Meeting Of The Delegates
of
The American Kennel Club
September 12, 2023

Dennis B. Sprung, President
PRESENT 269

Abilene Kennel Club—Richard Nance
Afghan Hound Club of America, Inc.—Ms. Constance Butherus
Airedale Terrier Club of America—Aletta L. Moore
Akita Club of America—Steven Lisker
Alaskan Malamute Club of America, Inc.—Kate McCallum
Albany Kennel Club, Inc.—Corey Heenan
American Belgian Malinois Club—Carol J. Shields
American Belgian Tervuren Club, Inc.—Ms. Janina K. Laurin
American Bouvier des Flandres Club, Inc.—Patte Klecan
American Boxer Club, Inc.—Sharon Steckler
American Brittany Club, Inc.—Mrs. Terry Hilliard
American Bullmastiff Association, Inc.—Howard Gussis

American Cesky Terrier Fanciers Association, Inc.—Mr. Brian P. Meindl
American Chinese Crested Club, Inc.—Neil Butterklee
American Foxhound Club, Inc—Harold Miller
American Lhasa Apso Club, Inc.—Don Hanson
American Manchester Terrier Club—Robert Berman
American Miniature Schnauzer Club, Inc.—Barbara Donahue
American Pointer Club, Inc.—Mr. Danny D. Seymour
American Pomeranian Club, Inc.—Dr. Geno Sisneros
American Rottweiler Club—Mr. Peter G. Piusz
American Sealyham Terrier Club—Barbara Shapiro
American Shetland Sheepdog Association—Marjorie Tuff
American Shih Tzu Club, Inc.—Mark S. Stempel
American Whippet Club, Inc.—Karen B. Lee
Anderson Kennel Club—Laura A. Rockwell
Anderson Obedience Training Club, Inc.—Ms. Patricia A. Sample
Arrowhead Kennel Club—Deb Phillips
Atlanta Kennel Club, Inc.—Ann Wallin
Atlanta Obedience Club, Inc.—Gail A. LaBerge
Augusta Kennel Club, Inc.—*Catherine Iacopelli*
Australian Cattle Dog Club of America—*Joyce Rowland*
Australian Terrier Club of America, Inc.—*William I. Christensen*
Basset Hound Club of America, Inc.—*Dr. Norine E. Noonan*
Bayshore Companion Dog Club, Inc.—*Susan Soviero*
Beaumont Kennel Club, Inc.—*Carl Holder*
Bedlington Terrier Club of America—*Howard Solomon*
Belgian Sheepdog Club of America, Inc.—*Mary G. Buckwalter*
Belle-City Kennel Club, Inc.—*Carole A. Wilson*
Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America, Inc.—*Sara Karl*
Bichon Frise Club of America, Inc.—*Mayno Blanding*
Black Russian Terrier Club of America—*Susan Sholar*
Border Collie Society of America—*Lisa M. Pruka*
Border Terrier Club of America, Inc.—*Mrs. Ruth A. Naun*
Borzoi Club of America, Inc.—*Prudence G. Hlatky*
Briard Club of America, Inc.—*Diane Reid*
Bronx County Kennel Club—*Alexa Samarotto*
Brookhaven Kennel Club, Inc.—*Marie A. Fiore*
Burlington County Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mr. Daniel J. Smyth, Esq.*
Butler County Kennel Club, Inc.—*Barbara Ioia*
Cairn Terrier Club of America—*Pam Davis*
Canaan Dog Club of America—*Pamela S. Rosman*
Canada Del Oro Kennel Club—*Dr. Sophia Kaluzniacki*
Capital Dog Training Club of Washington, D.C., Inc.—*Dr. Joyce A. Dandridge*
Carolina Kennel Club, Inc.—*Jaimie Ashby*
Carolina Working Group Association—*Matthew Townsend*
Carroll Kennel Club—*Mrs. Rachann E. Mayer*
Catoctin Kennel Club—*Joseph Fitzgerald*
Catonsville Kennel Club—*Beverly A. Drake*
Central Indiana Kennel Club, Inc.—*Sally Allen*
Central New York Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Diane D. Almy*
Central Ohio Kennel Club—*Rebecca Campbell*
Charleston Kennel Club—*Terri Hallman*
Chinese Shar-Pei Club of America, Inc.—*Marge B. Calltharp*
Chow Chow Club, Inc.—*Margaret DiCorleto*
Clermont County Kennel Club, Inc.—*Marjorie Underwood*
Clumber Spaniel Club of America, Inc.—*Kelly E. Lease*
Collie Club of America, Inc.—Mr. John G. Buddie
Colorado Kennel Club—Mrs. Louise Leone
Colorado Springs Kennel Club—Douglas Johnson
Columbia Kennel Club, Inc.—Nili Young
Columbia Missouri Kennel Club—Theresa L. Wilson
Columbia Terrier Association of Maryland—Leslie A. Joseph
Conroe Kennel Club—Jane Bates
Dachshund Club of America, Inc.—Larry Sorenson
Dalmatian Club of America, Inc.—Dr. Charles Garvin
Dandie Dinmont Terrier Club of America, Inc.—Karen Dorn
Dayton Kennel Club, Inc.—Leah H. Schiller
Del-Otse-Nango Kennel Club—Stephanie A. Crawford
Delaware Water Gap Kennel Club—Dr. A. D. Butherus
Doberman Pinscher Club of America—Glen Lajeski
Dog Fanciers Association of Oregon, Inc.—Mrs. Patti L. Strand
Durango Kennel Club—Donald E. Schwartz, V.M.D
Durham Kennel Club Inc—Mr. Jack E. Sappenfield, II
Eastern Dog Club—Frederick R. Vogel
Eastern German Shorthaired Pointer Club, Inc.—Robert Rynkiewicz
Elm City Kennel Club—Dr. Gregory J. Paveza
English Cocker Spaniel Club of America, Inc.—Mrs. Beth Hendrick
English Setter Association of America, Inc.—Dr. Brenda J. Parsons, D.V.M.
English Springer Spaniel Field Trial Association, Inc.—Susanne Burgess
Farmington Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—Terrie Breen
Field Spaniel Society of America—Lori Carver
Finger Lakes Kennel Club, Inc.—Margaret B. Pough
Finnish Spitz Club of America—Kim Raleigh
First Dog Training Club of Northern New Jersey, Inc.—Mary D. Curtis
Flat-Coated Retriever Society of America, Inc.—Neal Goodwin
Fort Lauderdale Dog Club—Stephanie S. Brooks
Fort Worth Kennel Club—Harold Tatro III
Framingham District Kennel Club, Inc.—Gale Golden
Furniture City Kennel Club, Inc.—Merry J. Millner
Garden State All Terrier Club, Inc.—Mr. Richard L. Reynolds
Genesee Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—Virginia Denninger
German Pinscher Club of America—Barbara L. Visinski
German Shepherd Dog Club of America—Dr. Carmen L. Battaglia
German Shorthaired Pointer Club of America—Ms. Karen R. Nauer
Giant Schnauzer Club of America, Inc.—Chris Reed
Glens Falls Kennel Club, Inc.—Mrs. Bonnie Lapham
Gloucester Kennel Club of Virginia—Debbie Hockaday
Golden Retriever Club of America—Mrs. Ellen Hardin
Gordon Setter Club of America, Inc.—Nance O. Skoglund
Grand River Kennel Club, Inc.—Mrs. Cindy Stansell
Greater Clark County Kennel Club Inc—Ms. Karen J. Burgess
Greater Collin Kennel Club, Inc.—Barbara Shaw
Greater Swiss Mountain Dog Club of America, Inc.—Joanne Schottinger
Green Mountain Dog Club, Inc.—Elizabeth Trail
Greenville Kennel Club—Gloria Askins
Greenwich Kennel Club—Donna Gilbert
Hatboro Dog Club, Inc.—Sally L. Fineburg
Heart of the Plains Kennel Club—Patricia M. Cruz
Hockamock Kennel Club, Inc.—Nancy Fisk
Hungarian Pumi Club of America—Nancy Nelson
Huntingdon Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—Dick Blair
Huntington Kennel Club, Inc.—Ms. Marile A. Waterstraat
Ingham County Kennel Club, Inc.—Rita J. Biddle
Irish Red and White Setter Association of America—Christopher M. Orcutt
Irish Setter Club of America, Inc.—Ms. Karolynne M. McAteer
Irish Water Spaniel Club of America—Dan Sayers
Irish Wolfhound Club of America—Eugenia Hunter
Kanadasaga Kennel Club—Christine Cone
Keeshond Club of America, Inc.—Richard Su
Kenilworth Kennel Club of Connecticut, Inc.—Doreen Weintraub
Kennel Club of Beverly Hills—Thomas Powers
Kennel Club of Buffalo, Inc.—Margaret Doster
Kennel Club of Northern New Jersey, Inc.—Dr. Suzanne H. Hampton
Kennel Club of Riverside—Sylvia A. Thomas
Kennesaw Kennel Club—Bud Hidlay
Kuvasz Club of America—Agi Hejja
Lackawanna Kennel Club, Inc.—Ms. Kimberly Van Hemert
Ladies’ Kennel Association of America—Ylisa Kunze
Lakeland Winter Haven Kennel Club—Mary McDaniel, D.V.M.
Lancaster Kennel Club, Inc.—Carolyn M. Vack
Land O’Lakes Kennel Club, Inc.—Jan Croft
Langley Kennel Club—Ms. Dianne E. Franck
Lawrenceville Kennel Club, Inc.—Robert N. LaBerge
Lehigh Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—Cindy Meyer
Leonberger Club of America—Don James
Longshore-Southport Kennel Club, Inc.—Michaelann Mako
Louisville Kennel Club, Inc.—Debra H. Owen
Magic Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—Ruth Crumb
Mahoning-Shenango Kennel Club, Inc.—Jessica Ricker
Manatee Kennel Club—Judy Seltrecht
Marion Ohio Kennel Club, Inc.—Lynn Garvin
Maryland Kennel Club—Gary Sarvinas
Mid-Continent Kennel Club of Tulsa, Inc.—Mr. Marc Crews
Middleburg Kennel Club—Beth Wilder
Miniature American Shepherd Club of the USA—Suzanne T. Ritter
Miniature Bull Terrier Club of America—Dr. Marci Cook
Mississippi Valley Kennel Club—Gretchen Bernardi
Montgomery County Kennel Club—Ms. Ida E. Weinstock
Monticello New York Kennel Club, Inc.—Barry A. Hoovis
Morris Hills Dog Training Club, Inc.—Eleanor Campbell
Mount Vernon Dog Training Club (MVDTC)—Christopher Marston
Mt. Baker Kennel Club, Inc.—Jane F. Ruthford
Myrtle Beach Kennel Club—Sylvia Arrowwood
National Beagle Club—Eddie Dziuk
National Shiba Club of America—Maggi Strouse
New England Dog Training Club, Inc.—Lucy Grant-Ruane
Newton Kennel Club—Catherine H. Murch
Newtown Kennel Club, Inc.—Susan Marucci
Norfolk Terrier Club—Susan Schneider
North Shore Kennel Club—Holly E. Johnson
Northeastern Maryland Kennel Club—Ann M. Schultz
Norwich Terrier Club of America—Jean Kessler
Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever Club (USA)—Alyson Casper
Olympic Kennel Club, Inc.—Tim Ufkes
Onondaga Kennel Association, Inc.—Glenn E. Glass
Orange Empire Dog Club, Inc.—Bradford Yamada
Pacific Coast Pekingese Club—Frank Meister
Parson Russell Terrier Association of America—Gary Koeppel
Pasanita Obedience Club Inc.—Mrs. Betty M. Winthers
Pekingese Club of America—Steven Hamblin
Pembroke Welsh Corgi Club of America, Inc.—Kevin E. Lord
Penn Treaty Kennel Club, Inc.—Bettina M. Sterling
Pharaoh Hound Club of America—Dominic P. Carota
Philadelphia Dog Training Club, Inc.—Larry Wilson
Pioneer Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—Ms. Linda Gagnon
Plainfield Kennel Club—Linda A. Deutsch
Plum Creek Kennel Club of Colorado—William E. Ellis
Poodle Club of America, Inc.—Patti Jason
Port Chester Obedience Training Club, Inc.—Kathy Gregory
Portuguese Podengo Pequenos of America—Diane Conyers
Providence County Kennel Club, Inc.—Kristen Burgoyne
Puyallup Valley Dog Fanciers, Inc.—Frances Stephens
Rhodesian Ridgeback Club of the United States, Inc.—Ms. Mary L. Elliott
Richmond Dog Fanciers Club, Inc.—Debra F. Jones
Riverhead Kennel Club, Inc.—Michael Capozzi
Rockford-Freeport Illinois Kennel Club—Barbara L. Burns
Salisbury Maryland Kennel Club—Karen Cottingham
Salisbury North Carolina Kennel Club—Leslie P. Rogers
Saluki Club of America—Monica H. Stoner
Sammamish Kennel Club—Roberto A. Zorzi
Samoyed Club of America, Inc.—Gary Griffin
San Antonio Kennel Club, Inc.—Nancy J. Shaw
Santa Barbara Kennel Club, Inc.—Abbe R. Shaw
Saw Mill River Kennel Club, Inc.—Mimi Winkler
Sawnee Mountain Kennel Club of Georgia—Karen W. Byrd
Scottish Deerhound Club of America, Inc.—Dr. Robert S. Dove, D.V.M.
Scottish Terrier Club of America—Helen A. Prince
Scottsdale Dog Fanciers Association, Inc.—Barbara Reisinger
Shenandoah Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—Sharyn Y. Hutchens
Shoreline Dog Fanciers Association of Orange County—Susan L. Hamil
Siberian Husky Club of America, Inc.—Ann M. Cook
Skyline Kennel Club, Inc.—Gloria Shaver
Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of America—Sally Sotirovich
Somerset Hills Kennel Club—Harvey Goldberg
South Shore Kennel Club, Inc.—Linda C. Flynn
South Windsor Kennel Club—Mrs. Laurie Maulucci
Southeastern Iowa Kennel Club—Marilyn R. Vinson
Southern Adirondack Dog Club, Inc.—John V. Ioia
Southern Colorado Kennel Club, Inc.—Sheri L. Wright
Spinone Club of America—Karen Luckey
Springfield Kennel Club, Inc.—Dr. Thomas M. Davies
St. Bernard Club of America, Inc.—Susan Weigel
St. Croix Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—Mrs. Deborah J. Wilkins
St. Louis Collie Club, Inc.—Isabel Ososki
St. Petersburg Dog Fanciers Association—Jan R. Gladstone
Standard Schnauzer Club of America—Dr. Harvey Mohrenweiser
Staten Island Kennel Club, Inc.—Marianne Megna
Steel City Kennel Club, Inc.—Miss Susan M. Napady
Suffolk County Kennel Club, Inc.—Mr. Robert Eisele
Sun Maid Kennel Club of Fresno, Inc.—Marcy L. Zingler
Susque-Nango Kennel Club, Inc.—Laura Trainor
Sussex Hills Kennel Club, Inc.—Mrs. Florence Duggan
Taconic Hills Kennel Club, Inc.—Marylyn DeGregorio
Talbot Kennel Club—Ann S. Wallace
Terry-All Kennel Club, Inc.—Kevin O’Connell
Texas Kennel Club, Inc.—Dr. Michael Knight
Tibetan Terrier Club of America, Inc.—Stacey La Forge
Toy Dog Breeders Association of Southern California—Mrs. Marla Meindl-Capozzi
Trap Falls Kennel Club, Inc.—Christopher L. Sweetwood
Tualatin Kennel Club, Inc.—James S. Corbett
Tucson Kennel Club—Dr. Kenneth H. Levison
Twin Brooks Kennel Club, Inc.—Patricia C. Sarles
Two Cities Kennel Club—Eduardo T. Fugiwara
Union County Kennel Club, Inc.—Jennifer V. Modica
United States Kerry Blue Terrier Club, Inc.—Mr. Carl C. Ashby, III
United States Lakeland Terrier Club—Maria Sacco
Upper Potomac Valley Kennel Club—Robert Lachman
Utah Valley Kennel Club—Kelly D. Reimschiissel
Valley Forge Kennel Club, Inc.—Mrs. Carol Fisher
Vancouver Kennel Club—Jolyne Lea
Ventura County Dog Fanciers Association—Mrs. Connie Brown
Virginia Kennel Club, Inc.—Mrs. Sandie Friend
Vizsla Club of America, Inc.—Mrs. Kathy A. Rust
Wampanoag Kennel Club, Inc.—Rachel Wilson
Waterloo Kennel Club, Inc.—Cindy Miller
Waukesha Kennel Club, Inc.—Marthina L. Greer
Weimaraner Club of America—Jennifer Martin
Welsh Terrier Club of America, Inc.—Bruce R. Schwartz
West Highland White Terrier Club of America—Tracy J. Pancost
West Volusia Kennel Club—Cathy Driggers
Westbury Kennel Association, Inc.—Peter J. Festa
Western Fox Terrier Breeders Association—Torie Steele
Westminster Kennel Club—Sean W. McCarthy
Whidbey Island Kennel Club Inc.—Laura Myles
Wilmington Kennel Club, Inc.—Bonnie Bieber

Windham County Kennel Club, Inc.—Nanette Prideaux
Yorkshire Terrier Club of America, Inc.—Pamela A. Langstein
Dennis B. Sprung, President in the Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. ET.

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

The meeting recessed for the Delegate Forum. The topic was “The Future of Our Breeds & Our Breeders” – The Parent Clubs’ Breeders Development Subcommittee offers ideas to help breeders succeed in their pursuit of breed preservation.

The Chair called the meeting back in session at 10:30 a.m. ET.

The Chair introduced the persons on the dais: Chairman, Dr. Thomas Davies; Vice Chairman, Dominic Palleschi Carota; Joan Corbisiero, Professional Registered Parliamentarian; Gina DiNardo, Executive Secretary; Shari Cathey, the Court Reporter.

Condolences were offered in the recent passing of members of the Delegate Body:

Josephine DeMenna passed away on August 23, 2023. She was the Delegate for Progressive Dog Club, 2003 to 2006; Upper Suncoast Dog Training Club from 2007 to 2015; and then back to Progressive since 2015.

David Helming passed away on August 30, 2023. He was the Delegate for Hutchinson Kennel Club from 2006 to 2013 and the Delegate for Newfoundland Club of America since 2013.

Mary Stolz passed away on September 4, 2023. She was the Delegate for the Tampa Bay Kennel Club since 2003.

The Executive Secretary read the names of Delegates seated since the last meeting.

Rebecca Barber, Springfield, MO, to represent Ozarks Kennel Club
Kristen L. Burgoyne, Glocester, RI, to represent Providence County Kennel Club
Kathy L. DelGrande, Harrisburg, PA, to represent Pacific Coast Bulldog Club
Dr. Robert Scott Dove, DVM, Flint Hill, VA, to represent Scottish Deerhound Club of America
Debbie Hockaday, Providence Forge, VA, to represent Gloucester Kennel Club of Virginia
Patricia Jason, Saline, MI, to represent Poodle Club of America
Ylisa Kunze, Glen Cove, NY, to represent Ladies’ Kennel Association of America
Pamela A. Langstein, Woodmere, NY, to represent Yorkshire Terrier Club of America
Kate McCallum, Northville, MI, to represent Alaskan Malamute Club of America
Sean McCarthy, New York, NY, to represent Westminster Kennel Club
David Todd McDonald, Central City, IA, to represent Cardigan Welsh Corgi Club of America
Jean Pero, Lakewood, CO, to represent Pyrenean Shepherd Club of America
Nanette J. Prideaux, Hardwick, MA, to represent Windham County Kennel Club
Sheri Wright, Walsenburg, CO, to represent Southern Colorado Kennel Club
Roberto Zorzi, Snohomish, WA, to represent Sammamish Kennel Club

Linda Gagnon to represent Pioneer Valley Kennel Club
Beth Hendrick to represent English Cocker Spaniel Club of America
Debbie Hockaday to represent Gloucester Kennel of Virginia
Patti Jason to represent Poodle Club of America
Ylisa Kunze to represent Ladies Kennel Association of America
Nanette Prideaux to represent Windham County Kennel Club
Sheri Wright to represent Southern Colorado Kennel Club
Roberto Zorzi to represent Sammamish Kennel Club

The following Delegates, who were attending their first meeting in-person since their approval were introduced from the floor:

Kristen Burgoyne to represent Providence County Kennel Club
Dr. Robert Scott Dove to represent Scottish Deerhound Club of America

The minutes of the June 13, 2023 Delegate Meeting were published in the online July 2023 AKC Gazette and the complete transcript was posted on the Delegate Portal on AKC’s website. There were no corrections and the minutes were adopted as published.

Dr. Thomas Davies delivered the Chairman’s Report as follows:
Good morning. Three and a half years ago, we saw the beginning of an unprecedented health emergency that turned our world upside down. Although the pandemic is not totally behind us, life is much improved. The effects of COVID-19 continue to be a point of discussion in
the realm of economics, consumer behavior, education, and public health. In the context of the purebred dog fancy and our AKC Sports, the pandemic had a surprising effect in many ways.

We know that dog breeding increased to meet the market demand for puppies while so many people were able to work from home. Prices soared; wait lists grew long. Traffic to AKC.org swelled and AKC Registration rates bumped up.

Today, litter and dog registrations have leveled off – still higher than four years ago, but not as high as in 2021. Last year’s litter registrations were stable relative to the prior year, which was a period that represented the highest registrations of litters since 2009. We continue to develop programming and marketing campaigns to keep registration a priority for breeders and new puppy owners.

Even at the height of the pandemic, our AKC event participants still wanted to be able to compete with their dogs, and our clubs did their best to provide opportunities. Many were limited by their local and state provisions, but we all had our dogs’ and owners’ best interests at heart, whether we stayed home or ventured back into the rings.

Today, we are seeing impressive and encouraging growth in events and entries since 2021. Conformation Events are up almost 20% and entries have grown by approximately 9%. Performance Events have grown 11% and entries are up almost 15%. Companion Events are up more than 10% and entries have grown by more than 11%.

When we look at individual types of events, we see that Rally Events increased more than 16% and entries are up nearly 19%. Fast CAT® continues to boom, with more than 21% growth in events, and nearly 30% growth in entries. Entries in each FAST CAT® Event are also up by 7%. Continuing the tradition of the enthusiastic participation in our new sports, Scent Work Events have increased 17% and entries are up 23%. These sports, while a departure from our foundation, are an excellent base from which to welcome newcomers to the world of AKC.

There is always discussion about the notion that we have too many dog shows. Yes, there are more shows than there have been in the past decade or more, and in fact 2022 had more events of all kinds than any previous year. Contrary to what some may expect, there are also more clubs forming to host these additional
shows. We have also seen an average of three new breeds per year, with four joining the AKC ranks since the waning of the pandemic.

Does a preponderance of events actually hurt entries? We have looked into this question thoroughly. There is a line of thinking that the existence of more than one show in a similar territory hurts the entries at both. We looked into that question to find out the facts. Through competition records, we studied the effects on entries in a scenario of three shows located in a triangular configuration on the same weekend, each 250 miles from the other. When one of the three shows changed its weekend, we learned that the remaining two shows did not absorb the entry of the rescheduled show. Ninety percent of the exhibitors at the original location of the rescheduled show did not exhibit in one of the two remaining shows on that weekend. Why? A number of factors. The judging panel can be a determining factor, of course. But more often people reported they did not want to travel further than a limit they had set for themselves. On average, most exhibitors will travel up to 200 miles to show their dogs. They didn’t want to have to stay overnight. They didn’t find that the breakdown would increase sufficiently to make the trip. They simply did not have the time and money to invest in the distance.

There are many reasons people choose to stay somewhat local. The price of gas, lodging and food easily come to mind. The pace of life in general has become faster and busier. We work harder and longer than earlier generations. I recall many years ago I was told that my 40-hour workweek would before long become a 36-hour workweek, Of course, that didn’t happen. Those of us lucky enough to be able to retire have to wait two years longer or more, than folks could 40 years ago. We seem to have less leisure time altogether. We love our sport, but it takes a great deal of time. America’s pastime, baseball, has changed some of its rules to keep the game moving and retain its fan base. This isn’t as feasible in our world. So, we make the time, and we use it judiciously, selecting events carefully. The availability of events to accommodate more exhibitors everywhere they are, has become necessary to advance AKC’s mission.

We all know the graying of the sport is real. But, as I said, clubs are growing. My own All-Breed Club has seen quite a few new, younger members in the previous year or two.
New club accreditation of course decreased in 2020 and 2021 as a direct result of the pandemic, when it was difficult to hold events. In those years, we saw 32 and 39 new clubs form respectively. Growth came in 2022 with 51 new clubs, which was also more than the pre-pandemic year 2019. On the flip side, 6 clubs did dissolve last year, which was fairly consistent with the previous years. The bottom line is every year we are in positive territory, with many more clubs forming than leaving. This indicates that our sport is still a vibrant activity for people eager to build community around breeding, showing, training and competing with purebred dogs.

The “strange days” of the pandemic are in our rearview mirror. Thankfully, with entries rising, events growing, registrations stable and new clubs forming, there is much to look forward to.

As we study the trends, we can say, “I think we are back.” Even though we know we never left. And we’re better than ever before. See you all in Orlando.

Mr. Sprung delivered the President’s Report as follows:

My thanks to the Delegate Advocacy and Advancement Committee for last night’s excellent New Delegate Orientation. It was a successful evening attended by members of the Staff, the DAAC committee, the entire AKC Board, and there were 31 new Delegates in attendance. The array of educational topics was most impressive. So, appreciation to their committee for their consistent quality initiatives.

Today’s meeting we’ll share with you the wide body of work within the AKC universe, including presentations from Business Intelligence, Delegate Ruth Crumb’s remembrances of 9/11, an introduction to Sports & Events video of Meet the Breeds in the Field, an update on Juniors, as well as the AKC Archives, Detection Dogs and the PAC.

The Chair called on Ruth Crumb, Delegate of the Magic Valley Kennel Club, who spoke as follows: Thank you, Dennis. I’m sure that many of you thought we were going to forget our annual remembrance presentation of 9/11. But we’re not. We’ve always had very meaningful presentations of each anniversary, and there was one such two years ago that Dennis and I had a conversation afterward, he always wants to talk on this subject, and I do too because I was here, and we started a conversation out about the presentation effort two years ago, and I began to tell him
that there were many writings on the Delegate e-list following that event that I wish I had copied and saved. But I didn’t. Dennis was intrigued, and I volunteered to work on soliciting and assembling the stories of the Delegates who were present on 9/11/01, and so this project began. It started about a year and a half ago, soliciting stories from the Delegates. As a background, were there were 288 Delegates present on 9/11/01, and when I started this project there were 70 who remained as Delegates. Since I started soliciting the stories for you to write, we have sadly lost three who have passed away, and at least two who have resigned as Delegates. Those two did contribute their stories. And before she passed away, one Delegate wrote her story. Today I am happy to announce that a webpage on AKC.org has been created to house this living document. Delegates can access it by going to: https://www.akc.org/clubs-delegates/delegates/akc-911-tribute/.

More importantly, for those of you who did not respond to my many requests, I encourage to do so as soon as you can before you forget. Please send your stories. I’m at wrcrumb@aol.com. I’m also in the directory. I will format these that you submit as I did all of the others, and then I will turn them over to AKC for placement on the website.

I want to thank Amy Hamernick, Executive Projects Administrator; Alexandra de Leon, AKC Corporate Projects and Services Administrator, Chris Espiritu, Design Projects Manager; Dan Smyth, AKC Board for making many calls and follow up emails to help solicit the input for this and certainly not least to Dennis for his guidance and support. In closing I refer you back to the title of the cover page of tribute document, Infinite Remembrance. One definition of the word “infinite” is things that are endless. Our memories of that day are indeed infinite. In addition, the memories reflected in these stories are very poignant, personal and funny. They show that our Delegates on 9/11/01, in the days reflect the strength, ingenuity and resilience of each of us on 9/11/01.

I wonder if we could have those present that are here now today that were here on 9/11/01, could you stand, please? And don’t forget to visit the website. Thank you.

Mr. Sprung led a moment of silence in remembrance of 9/11/01.

(Moment of silence.)

The Chair called on Kassi McCombe, AKC Business Intelligence Manager, who spoke as follows:
Good morning. The term “Data-driven” is becoming sort of a buzzword in the corporate culture. But I do want to take a little bit of time today to talk about the data-driven workforce. Specifically, how Business Intelligence is transforming data and making it accessible and informative in the AKC so our internal stakeholders and employees can continue to strive toward that data-driven workforce and data-driven decision-making ideal.

As just introduced, my name is Kassi. I am the Business Intelligence Manager. I started about five years ago with AKC and was just here speaking with you all about a year ago. At that time, we talked about statistics and demographics, and today I want to talk about ad hoc and automated recording that the Business Intelligence department does to support and foster a data-driven workforce here at AKC.

Every organization has data. The AKC is no different. In fact, you could make an argument that the AKC is a data company. The organization runs on the collection, retention, and processing of data. From registrations to results, at its core, it is all data. What we do with data, how it’s stored and accessed, has a big impact on how it can be leveraged within a company. A lot of us might be familiar with some the images to the left. These can be messy or overwhelming ways to store or access data sets. We can talk about Oracle or SQL, CMS and Excel. I love a good Excel. But you might know that it’s hard to update. You have to update it manually (unless you’re technically proficient to figure out a way to automate it); there’s human error that can get into Excel; and it’s pretty hard to share. You might make a wonderful graphic, but in order to replicate it or have your colleague be able to see any changes that you make, can be difficult.

Getting away from some of those manual processes, the Business Intelligence department is pushing the AKC towards new types of reports which I’m going to refer to as dashboards, and they’re a much cleaner way to display the data both visually and in standard data tables. The program that we’re using is called Tableau. It’s a phenomenal program and making a big difference in how we access data and use data to make informed business decisions at AKC. We brought in this program in very late 2017, and over the past couple of years, we have developed well over 100 dashboards supporting all channels of the organization. Notably robust with Marketing, Registration, Sports & Events, and e-Commerce.
When you talk about combining data into one place, security is very important. Tableau has advanced permissions and is only available to internal AKC employees. Within that, we can permission and limit who can see items, so it stays confidential to its department, as needed. As I was mentioning Excel updating, the benefit to Tableau is the automated data refresh. Nearly all our reports used internally update daily at 5:00 a.m. We do have some that update weekly, monthly, and quarterly by team request, and we do have some that actually update every single hour. There are a number of other items that make Tableau a benefit to the organization, but the primary one is the consolidation of data. We are aggregating data and creating a one-stop-shop in order to access data across the organization.

The power of this program lies in Business Intelligence purposely building reports to make them available both cross-departmentally, so we have multiple departments accessing the same report, and/or providing access to extremely granular data that otherwise is very difficult to get a hold of. We’ll go through four examples quickly, two for each of these items.

Online dog registration, we actually have this for our dogs and litters. This is one of the dashboards that updates every hour. I think it’s safe to say Mark Dunn has this up on his screen just about every day. It helps us monitor the online registration flow, how many dogs have started, completed or even abandoned that online registration process. It tracks the health of the website. While it’s primarily being used by registration, it has been used to push decision-making for the IT team. In addition to tracking the health of the site and identifying when we have a spike or a dip in online registration, IT was able use this in identifying when is the best time to take that site down for mandatory maintenance. Using data from this report, we were able to identify the best period for the developers to complete their work. In fact, we were able shift the overnight work...
schedule two hours earlier than planned, allowing developers to begin maintenance work at 10 p.m. rather than 12 a.m. Not only were we able to make our developer a little bit happier, but we were also able to minimize and approximate the number of registrations which might be interrupted during that time frame.

Moving to more granular data, rather than having a report to service departments across the organization, these reports might be more specific to a certain team or department. What these types of report are doing is decreasing the number of tickets or requests that we’re sending to IT to generate recurring report. Instead, we’re making them available with one click, and the level of detail you can get is unlike anything we’ve had before. There are three of these dashboards, which look at entries for Conformation, Companion and Performance Events by their class. We can drill down below the event or competition type to primary class, and even secondary class. We can go so far, in fact, as to ask, “how popular are ducks in herding trials?” If you wanted to go further, you can ask, “how many Started dogs, running Course A, use ducks versus sheep?” There is lots that you can do here. You can really dive in and ask some pretty crazy questions just with a couple of clicks. Finally, because of the way these are built and automated… when we introduced the Bred-by-Exhibitor adult and puppy classes, nothing in this report had to change. As soon as results for the new BBE Adult and BBE Puppy classes were in our data set, we were able to start evaluating some of the impact.

Finally, we have Junior Handler ownership of dogs. I think many of us are familiar with the pilot program that began last year. At that time Business Intelligence was approached to understand and try and get a good idea of how many Juniors were showing that dogs that they owned or a close family member owned. We wanted to track longitudinally how the change in the rules were impacting the ownership there. We built this really early on, within the first two months of that rule change to ensure we had a gauge on the interest and success of the rule change. Both of these dashboards were built in an automated fashion and built to both last and support the dynamic and changing nature of our sports.

Today we have seen some examples of both granular data that can help evaluate our programs and inform business decisions, as well as showcase purposeful design for departmental use, decreasing any kind of the data discrepancies and increase in transparency within the orga-
nization. Through dashboards like these, Business Intelligence is really diving into the trove of data that AKC has to support a data-driven culture and data-driven decision-making within the organizations. Thank you.

The Chair called on Caroline Murphy, AKC Director of Performance Events, who spoke as follows:
Hello everyone. I am here today on behalf of Doug Ljungren, our EVP of Sports & Events, and to share with you a short segment of an educational video called Meet the Breeds in the Field.

The purpose of the video is to demonstrate both the form and function of working dogs, in this case Pointing Breeds. To do this, we had 2 Conformation judges explain the major characteristics of each breed, that is the form part, then we filmed the dogs hunting in the field, that is the function part.

The complete Meet the Breeds in the Field video features 15 Pointing Breeds, and each breed representative was selected by its Parent Club. In the interest of time, what you will see today has been shortened to 6 breeds. That should give you an idea of what Meet the Breeds in the Field is about. This video has been shared with several areas:

Conformation judges have been informed of its availability for their education and so far, it has been viewed over 3,000 times.

It has been provided to all AKC Pointing Breed Clubs for use at their meetings, outdoor expos or when they may have a booth.

Government Relations will use it when appropriate at legislative sportsmen caucuses.

It has also been shown to AKC employees for their education.

The AKC has many stories to tell. One that is central to our mission is explaining the value of purebred dogs and the enjoyable experiences they bring to us. That is what the video tries to do.

In addition to being interesting and educational, there are some important messages.

To understand the interdependence of form and function is to understand the value of purebred dogs. This concept is the foundation of an important part of AKC’s Mission – “promoting the sport of purebred dogs and breeding for type and function.” It is an essential part of what
AKC is about.

While Conformation and Field Events are often thought of as separate sports, though enjoyed in their own right, they are linked together in a higher purpose – the preservation and enhancement of purebred working dogs.

When AKC was founded in 1884, its first two sports were Conformation and Field Trials. This was driven by the desire of owners and breeders to have a structured way to evaluate form and function.

Understanding the history of these breeds allows us to appreciate, that thoughtful owners and breeders, have been working to enhance them for hundreds of years, and we are the lucky ones who are benefitting from their work.

Considering the breeds in context of time, serves to remind us of our responsibility to the future of our breeds. Let’s now take a look.

(Video played.)

Ms. Murphy continued: We hope that you found this interesting and educational, perhaps even a little thought-provoking. We would also like to thank everyone who volunteered their time to help make the video possible. If you would like to see the full 45-minute video, from the AKC.org home page, you can click on Products and Services, then Canine College, then Videos. The video has also been published on the main page for Pointing Breeds under Sports & Events, and on the AKC.tv. If you have any comments or thoughts about how the video can be used to help further tell the story of purebred dogs, please email Doug Ljungren at dvl@akc.org.

Ted Phillips, CFO, delivered the Financial Report as follows: I appreciate your time and your support and your attendance today. I have a personal shout-out to my Finance team in the back of the room, helping with the balloting. I’m glad they could get out of the office and get to meet some of you.

Today we’re going to present some key performance indicators of non-financial and financial results for the first six months of 2023. This slide presents the totals for litter and dog registrations.

As you can see litter registrations total 155,735, which is 7 percent lower than the same period in 2022. Dog registrations total 339,936, which is 14 percent lower in the same period in 2022. To echo comments made earlier by Kassi,
our online litter registrations make up 83 percent of total litter registrations, and our online dog registrations total 88 percent of dog registrations.

Once again, thank you, breeders; thank you Delegates; Board of Directors, Management Staff, my colleagues for the continued support of this registration program.

For our Sports & Events area, things are looking very positive this year. Events total 13,203 for the six months ending June 30, 2023 which is 6 percent higher than the same period the prior year. Also, for that same six-month period, entries totaled 1,824,717 and that’s 3 percent higher than in 2022. Both events and entries are on pace for increases this year.

This is a high-level overview of the financial operating results year to date, through June 30, 2023. Please remember that these results reflect Board-approved spending for 2023. Each month we provide the board with a detailed report and analysis of financial results. Year to date through the end of June, you can see solid operating results with net operating income of $7.8 million. This result continues to allow us to invest in our company for the future. As of June 30, net operating results are driven by total operating revenues of $53.2 million. Almost 70 percent of the first quarter revenues come from registration and event fees, totaling $36.5 million. Advertising, sponsorship and royalty revenues total $9.5 million or 18 percent of total revenue; this represents the second largest line of revenue in business operations. Product and service sales total $6.2 million or 12 percent of total revenue, and this section is principally led by e-Commerce, DNA Services and Good Dog Help Line.

Let’s look at some operating expenses for the same period, the six months ended June 30, 2023. Total operating expenses for this period are $45.4 million. Staff expense, our largest portion of that is $22.1 million and comprises 50 percent of our total. The other substantial operating lines are listed on the slide and represent only budgeted items that run the AKC programs. These include professional fees, fulfillment expenses, insurance, rent and depreciation. And of course, a most important part are donations to support our charitable activities. We measure these as a percentage of total operating revenues, so while on the slide you see it saying 6 percent of total expenses, the Board policy is to look at a range of 4 to 5 percent of operating revenues; the total as of June 30, 2023, is 4.7 percent which aligns with the approved
policy. In total, we endeavor to manage these costs very closely to ensure that our programs are well-preserved and represented. Non-operating expenses are reported to the board as well and include the annual cost of pension expense and changes in the value of investments.

Here’s our balance sheet, the “Keep It Simple” balance sheet. Total assets of AKC on June 30, 2023, were $255 million. Investments make up the largest portion of our assets.

Our investment results which are derived from a blended asset allocation policy, total 7.6 percent as of June 30, 2023, and this is improved over prior periods; the allocation and investment policy statement are well represented in the results. The liability section is composed primarily of retirement and lease obligations, and as with all of the numbers presented today, we follow generally accepted accounting principles.

I thank you for your time, appreciate your support, and I’m available to answer any questions that you may have. Thank you.

There was a vote on the amendment to Chapter 2, Section 14, of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Dog Show Entries, Conditions of Dogs Affecting Eligibility, which inserts “or access to”, to recognize the acceptance of digital copies of required booklets at events. It modifies the list of required references, removing The Complete Dog Book. It also replaces the list of documents to have available “when applicable” with the generic statement of “any other applicable rules, regulations and/or guidelines for the competitions being held.” in recognition of the greatly expanded and changing list of competitions held with Conformation dog shows.

This amendment was proposed by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee and brought forward with approval by the AKC Board of Directors.

There were no questions or discussion. There was a two-thirds vote in the affirmative and the amendment was adopted.

The Chair called on the Executive Secretary to read the proposed amendment to Article XIII, Section 2, of the Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club.

Ms. DiNardo: This amendment is to Article XIII, Section 2, of the Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club, which adds clarity and describes the current practice for a Trial Board notice of charges being filed.
This amendment was proposed by the Delegate Bylaws Committee and brought forward with approval from the AKC Board of Directors.

It will be published in two issues of the *AKC Gazette* and you will be asked to vote on it at the December 2023 Meeting. The full text is on the worksheet previously emailed.

There were no questions or discussion.

The Chair called on the Executive Secretary to read the proposed Amendment to *Article XIII, Section 7*, of the *Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club*.

Ms. DiNardo: This amendment is to *Article XIII, Section 7*, of the *Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club*, which removes the italics that do not affect the meaning of the sentence about an appeal of a Trial Board decision.

This amendment was proposed by the Delegate Bylaws Committee and brought forward with approval from the AKC Board of Directors.

It will be published in two issues of the *AKC Gazette* and you will be asked to vote on it at the December 2023 Meeting.

There were no questions or discussion.

The Chair called on the Executive Secretary to read the proposed amendment to *Article XIV, Section 1*, of the *Charter and Bylaws of the American Kennel Club*.

Ms. DiNardo: This amendment is to *Article XIV, Section 1*, of the *Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club*, which adds clarity and describes the current practice for an Event Committee suspension by a club or association.

This amendment was proposed by the Delegate Bylaws Committee and brought forward with approval from the AKC Board of Directors.

It will be published in two issues of the *AKC Gazette* and you will be asked to vote on it at the December 2023 Meeting.

There were no questions or discussion.

The Chair called on the Executive Secretary to read the proposed amendment to *Chapter 11, Section 13*, of the
Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Dog Show Entries, Conditions of Dogs Affecting Eligibility.

Ms. DiNardo: This amendment is to Chapter 11, Section 13, of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Dog Show Entries, Conditions of Dogs Affecting Eligibility, removes the reference to sweepstakes and futurity judges from the rule as any restrictions have historically been defined by Board policy. It also replaces the third paragraph of the current rule with a general statement that directs individuals to the Rules, Policies and Guidelines for Conformation Judges for information concerning exhibiting restrictions for sweepstakes, futurity and special attraction judges as they are defined by Board policy.

This amendment was proposed by Staff, endorsed by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee and brought forward with approval from the AKC Board of Directors.

It will be published in two issues of the AKC Gazette and you will be asked to vote on it at the December 2023 Meeting. The full text is on the worksheet previously emailed.

There were no questions or discussion.

The Chair called on the Executive Secretary to read the proposed amendment to Chapter 16, Section 1, of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Championships.

Ms. DiNardo: Chapter 16, Section 1, of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Championships, which removes verbiage related to the Parent Club designating one specialty as its National Specialty show as this text was inserted with the amendment to allow Parent Clubs the option to offer a 3-pt. major for Reserve Winners at its National Specialty and it would no longer be relevant for purpose of this section. It replaces Parent Club with breed club and National Specialty with specialty show to reflect the ability for a 3-pt. major to be awarded for Reserve Winners at any specialty show. It also rearranges text for better understanding and comprehension as well as removes the provision which only applied to the 2021 calendar year.

There were no questions or discussion.

The Chair called on the Executive Secretary to read the proposed amendment to Chapter 14, Section 29, of the Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedure for Pointing Breeds.
Ms. DiNardo: This amendment is to **Chapter 14, Section 29**, of the *Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedure for Pointing Breeds*, which removes the restriction that if the club fails to hold the horseback championship, it may lose the ability to hold the walking championship.

This amendment was proposed by the Gordon Setter Club of America and brought forward with approval from the AKC Board of Directors.

It will be published in two issues of the *AKC Gazette* and you will be asked to vote on it at the December 2023 Meeting. The full text is on the worksheet previously emailed.

There were no questions or discussion.

The Chair called on Jaimie Fritz, AKC Archivist, who spoke as follows:

Good morning. I’m Jaimie Fritz. I’m the AKC’s Archivist and Librarian, and I’m here to talk about our services, what we’ve been doing over in the library, and to give you an update on some new projects and let you know how you can interact with us and what we’re doing for you. Let’s start with what we do in the library. Our mandate is to collect, preserve and promote history of the American Kennel Club and the history of purebred dogs. We do this by acquiring a series of collections in various forms of media. As you can hopefully see on the slide, we have over a 1,000 feet of archival collections that are primarily paper-based. By “feet” we usually mean a standard banker’s box, so lots and lots of boxes. We have a 10,000+ volume library. Those volumes date back from as early as the 1500s to new releases that are being published today. We also have historical magazines and newspapers from the AKC. Of course, we have our Gazette, as well as Parent Club publications, international kennel club publications, and other dog news items. Lastly, we have the AKC administrative archives. These collections vary but they include things like founding documents, rule pamphlets, breed standard information and other items which let us track the history of AKC events, standards and breeds.

What we do in the archives with all of these things? We have a variety of services. Primarily they start with acquisition, which means bringing new objects into the collection and taking stewardship of them on behalf of the AKC Archives. We expand our collection both physically and digitally. More digital materials are becoming very standard for us to be working with, so we are building platforms that will allow us to store and hope-
fully promote those digital materials. But of course, we do still get a lot of paper-based contributions. Once we acquire the materials through donation, we do collection management, which involves organizing and rehousing materials so that they are preserved for the future. This means preventing any physical degradation or information loss, as well as making sure that materials are discoverable and usable by our patrons. In many cases our donors will participate in that organizing effort with us. In some cases, we have to do that on-site, where we’re making sure that collections are grouped together, and that they’re being described well and are discoverable through our online search functions.

Reference is another big vector for us, and one that I do want to speak a little bit more on very quickly. We do lots of research. We scan letters and documents. We prepare materials for visitors and for folks who have questions about items in the collection. Particularly post-COVID, a lot of this has moved into the virtual model, where we on the AKC side do research for those patrons who are not able to make it into visit our collections. We are currently working on an overhaul of our reference intake system to address a backlog of reference requests. I know some of you I’ve spoken to already about the backlog which has come from both an influx of new projects as well as existing virtual requests that require significant on-site research time. We are planning on debuting a new system for managing that, which will let us know who you are, what materials you need, what that will require from the archives, and when we’ll be able to get back to you. It will also include more regular updates if those projects are in process but haven’t been completed yet, and we’re hoping to eliminate the lag time some of you have experienced where you have not received timely updates about your reference requests.

We also participate in outreach. We just helped to curate the new Fashionable Dogs exhibit at the Museum of the Dog, which I highly recommend. We also fulfill social media and web article requests, and I do research for our podcast Down and Back which I also recommend if you haven’t listened to. Lastly, we offer services like pedigree verification going back hundreds of years for folks who need verifications and genetic information from the pre-digital records.

How can you get involved with the AKC Archives? There are plenty of ways and again, we would love to facilitate this more efficiently in the future. Our hope is to automate more of these processes to allow
us to serve you better by making contributions to the Archives easier. The most common way to get involved with the Archives is to organize and donate materials from your Parent Club. Your club may already have somebody designated to organize these records. If you don’t have a collecting relationship with the AKC archives, we are also able to provide workshops on what to preserve and how to better organize your own records. If you are keeping those records within your club, we can provide advice on how to track those materials and properly store them to keep them safe for future generations. Additionally, if you do personal research that you feel contributes to the study of your breed significantly, we do have breed research files and we would love to have your contributions to those. If you have events or projects that you would like to support with archival materials like photographs or research, we’re available for that as well.

What are the types of records that we collect? Administrative records, publications, event records, photos and video, any kind of multimedia really. We also love to see memorabilia and other ephemera. We have a limited capacity for it but it’s very fun for our visitors. I always say, “wild card.” We have some journals from breeders that folks are always asking to see. We have a card game of AKC breeds. We have vintage grooming tools. The more unique the better! We love to see all aspects of dog history.

Lastly, I just have a few quick updates about our new projects. The Digital Library, I’m sure some of you have heard of by now, is at library.akc.org. This is a fully text searchable database of the full run of the AKC Gazette, as well as our historic show catalog collection. This is a huge wealth of information. The search functionalities are finicky sometimes, but the materials are always there and are downloadable. We are planning on continuing to add to this collection, and we would love feedback on some other large categories of published materials that would be useful to our members. Some collections that we have considered are historical iterations of our rule pamphlets and breed standards. If you have any questions about the Digital Library, please be in touch.

Another huge project that we’re really excited to talk about is the St. Hubert’s at Giralda Farms scrapbooks. I’ve been working with my colleagues at the AKC Humane Fund and the Museum of the Dog to establish a collecting relationship with St. Hubert’s Animal Welfare Center and the family of Geraldine Rockefeller
Dodge, one of the icons of our sport. We traveled to New Jersey to inventory a large series of scrapbooks that contain photographs and news clippings documenting the history of the sport, the Morris & Essex show, and more. The first batch of those scrapbooks, which date roughly from the 1920s-1940s, have now been transferred to the Archives and we are so excited for our researchers to see them. We will eventually be fully digitizing this collection and making the scrapbooks available online. That will be a collaborative project and in the spirit of this partnership the AKC Humane Fund has given a grant to St. Hubert’s Safe Haven Program which helps victims of domestic abuse leave dangerous living situations by providing interim care for family pets.

Finally, we have an upcoming book sale fundraiser that I wanted to briefly speak about. This will take place on November 4, 2023 at the Museum of the Dog, and there will be an online component as well. We are doing an overhaul of our library catalog to ensure that we’re making space for new titles in our collection. We want to keep our offerings fresh and, in that spirit, we will be doing a book sale. We will be weeding some duplicate volumes and some older editions of existing titles and putting those on sale to make room for new books. If you would like to donate books to the sale, you are more than welcome to do so, and please be in touch. But otherwise, you will be able to purchase select volumes online through the Museum gift shop when that time comes, and there will be preview sales for Parent Clubs for books that are regarding their particular breed. We are really excited about that, and all of the money raised will be going right back into the Museum and funding new purchases for the library. If anyone has additional questions, please feel free to email me and thank you for your time.

The Chair called on Vice Chairman, Dominic Palleschi Carota, to recognize AKC Delegates who served 25 years.

Mr. Carota: Thank you. Good morning. We will now honor Delegates with 25 years of consecutive service. The medalion is in recognition of meritorious and long-term contributions to our Sport. This program enables us to recognize our core constituency and allows a grateful American Kennel Club the opportunity to honor our own.

Connie Butherus, Afghan Hound Club of America
Carl E. Gomes, Pacific Coast Boston Terrier Club
Carl Holder, Beaumont Kennel Club
Gary Kavan, Nebraska Dog and Hunt Club
Cindy Miller, Waterloo Kennel Club
John R. Lewis, Jr., Sussex Spaniel Club of America

Also, we’d like to acknowledge three additional Delegates who achieved 25 years of consecutive service but were not previously recognized.
Lucy Campbell, Baltimore County Kennel Club
Susan LaCroix Hamil, Shoreline Dog Fanciers Association of Orange County
Betty Winthers, Pasanita Obedience Club.

This is the 25th time that AKC has had the privilege to present Delegate medallions to a total of 142 Delegates.

The Chair called on Chairman, Dr. Thomas Davies, to recognize the clubs celebrating 100 years of membership in The Great American Kennel Club.

Dr. Davies: Good morning again. You know The America Kennel Club recognizes its clubs on the anniversary of their centennial. That’s 100 years of membership.

The following clubs are celebrating 100 years of Membership:
The Chihuahua Club of America, Delegate, Joao Machado
Louisiana Kennel Club, Delegate, Luis Sosa
Onondaga Kennel Association, Delegate Glen Glass
Samoyed Club of America, Delegate, Gary Griffin

The Chair called on Sheila Goffe, AKC Vice President Government Relations; Dr. Carmen Battaglia, AKC Board and Delegate for the German Shepherd Dog Club of America; and Chris Sweetwood, AKC Board and Delegate for the Trap Falls Kennel Club, to give an update on the Detection Dog Task Force.

Dr. Battaglia: I’m Carmen Battaglia, and I want to talk a little bit about the AKC Detection Dog Task Force, and Dennis, thanks for a nice introduction. Everything got started for us with 9/11. Then there was Boston, Brussels, Chelsea, and Manchester. In 2016, the U.S. Senate held hearings on the security of the infrastructure using working dogs. Sheila Goffe from Government Relations and Dr. Cindy Otto from University of Pennsylvania Working Dog Center were two of the witnesses. The Senate learned that 80 percent of the dogs used in this country to protect us came from Europe,
and a large percentage of them fail when they get here. Following those hearings, Dr. Otto asked me to contact the AKC Board to see if we could get involved. She knew that we had the breeders, the clubs, the capacity to help the country, and it goes back to when AKC helped the country back in World War II with a program called Dogs for Defense Program. I contacted the Board and told them about the problem, and they agreed and formed the AKC Detection Dog Task Force. Our mission was to develop a domestic breeding program for detection dogs. Chris Sweetwood became my Co-Chair, and we set out to get the job done. The task force is made up of AKC Board members and AKC Staff. We set out to identify and visit breeders, clubs, vendors, and government agencies. We identified the stakeholders and began to have annual meetings to learn and discuss how to better develop detection dogs. Lots of questions surfaced. Awareness became our big problem, and it made us learn how to better communicate. Our program with the breeders is called the Patriotic Puppy Program. Sheila is going to explain how we make that work, and help you appreciate what AKC is really doing to help the country.

Ms. Goffe: Thank you, Dr. Battaglia. The Detection Dog Task Force realized that a number of issues were creating the shortage of detection dogs. This included little awareness of the crucial role that detection dogs play in protecting national security, little understanding of the need for a reliable domestic source for detection dogs; government policies and pricing that actually discouraged U.S. breeders and the need to educate breeders about how to raise puppies to be future detection dogs.

We developed a three-prong approach to the mission, working with lawmakers to change policies and improve opportunities for U.S. breeders. Raising awareness and bringing together expert stakeholders including breeders, buyers, researchers and trainers to create solutions and share best practices. And of course, breeder education, providing breeders with information, tools and resources that they need to produce future detection dogs.

Our accomplishments and activities included in the area of public policy, we testified before Congress and drafted legislation to streamline government purchasing practices. In July 2023, in fact, we were invited to present our program to a new federal interagency coalition on working dog acquisition. We were the only private organization invited. Since
then, we hosted 18 webinars and seminars with more than 1000 participants. Our webinars offered expert instruction and discussion on a wide range of topics with plenty of Q&As for the experts.

The AKC 2022 National Detection Dog Conference brought together over 100 participants and 23 presenters for two days in Durham, North Carolina. We explored topics ranging from genetics of successful working dogs, to best training practices, national standards and advocacy, plus networking opportunities to foster breeder-industry collaboration and mentoring. Our next conference will be next summer in 2024. In the meantime, we put together a new quarterly newsletter that provides updates on these and related topics.

The third prong of our effort is breeder outreach and education. There are two key components, the Confident Puppy online course leverages content from top breeders and from the AKC Patriotic Puppy Program to help anyone raise a confident puppy that can go on for advanced training as a working dog, competition dog or just a great pet.

The jewel of our program is the Patriotic Puppy Program, and it’s managed by Stacey West. Early phases of this program developed puppy-raising fundamentals protocols and demonstrated that AKC breeders can raise exceptional detection dogs that meet our nation’s needs. Today, we are working with participants one on one to continuously improve outcomes and scale up their detection dog puppy breeding and raising activities.

More than 140 breeders in 35 states are participating, and more than 70 Patriotic Puppy graduates are working in detection careers. I’m pleased to introduce a brief video that highlights our program.

(Video played.)

Mr. Sweetwood: Good afternoon. We have just discussed what the task force is doing and why. We, The America Kennel Club, are the experts. We’ve done this before throughout World War II, Korea and the beginning of Vietnam, and we can do it again. When it comes to our first responders, they need our help. They want American Kennel Club purebred, purpose bred, pedigree dogs. European importation is costly, does not work and is a waste of our tax dollars. The task force is well on its way to solving these shortages of quality detection dogs. AKC breeders produce the best, healthiest, purebred dogs – pedigreed dogs that excel in the field. Our history has shown this. As Americans we’ve always answered the call, and our first responders and
military risk their lives daily to protect us. We owe them the best dogs. Sadly, many of them make the ultimate sacrifice. You can help. Enroll in Patriotic Puppy. Encourage your friends to enroll in Patriotic Puppy, and we will show you how to train and socialize your puppies for a career in law enforcement. Become a confident puppy raiser. Support AKC Government Relations, their legislative and policy efforts are crucial to the owners who work for the program, as well as your rights as dog lovers. Financially support AKC Reunite Adopt a K-9 Cop Program, that provides the grants to help the breeders get the price they need to be successful in this program. To keep this program financially viable for the future, we’ve had to limit the number of grants to 250 dogs per year. We’ve already reached that limit. To date that grant program has purchased over 500 police dogs in the USA. Let’s make it a thousand. Let’s all get involved and make sure that “If it Barks, it is AKC. ” Thank you for your time. If you have any questions, we’ll be outside at the booth, and we’ll work with you to help make this a success. Thank you so much.

The Chair called on Nancy Fisk, Delegate from the Hockamock Kennel Club, and Sally Fineburg Delegate from the Hatboro Dog Club, for an update on the Juniors Committee.

Ms. Fisk: Hi. I’m Nancy Fisk, Chair of the AKC Juniors Committee.

Ms. Fineburg: I’m Sally Fineburg, member of the Juniors Committee, representing the Hatboro Dog Club.

Ms. Fisk: We’re here with an update from the Junior’s Committee. Our mission is to assist clubs in attracting, engaging and retaining Juniors and young adults. Juniors are important to clubs for many reasons. It’s a way to bring new exhibitors to club events. We can work on building a new breeder base, so we have the next generation ready to take over for the current breeders. Bringing in Juniors is a great way to keep building your club’s membership.

Ms. Fineburg: To help attain our goals of creating our next generation of fanciers, the AKC Board approved the new role, the Junior Coordinator. This is a volunteer who advocates for Juniors, shares information from the AKC to the clubs and works within their club to develop ways to attract Juniors, build the Junior membership, promote Juniors at shows and events, as well as in their communities. For those clubs who to do not yet have a provision for the Junior...
membership, it’s easy to add. The Board has streamlined the process so your club may add the Junior Membership to your bylaws without review of the entire bylaws.

Ms. Fisk: The Junior Committee created quite a buzz proposing canine partners be eligible in Junior Showmanship. As many of you remember, The AKC Board approved this suggestion as a Pilot Program. While the Pilot Program was not adopted, the success of this program was it created quite the discussion about Juniors.

And it resulted in the Junior Ownership requirement being changed. Juniors no longer have to own the dog they are showing. This allows for novice participants who do not own a dog to test the waters and provides greater exposure and mentorship opportunity for those already participating.

Junior organized and run clubs are making a comeback. While we had a few, I believe in the 1970s, we have not had any for many years. Right now, we have Junior Clubs in Arizona and Washington. These clubs really speak to how capable our Juniors are and how much they can accomplish own their own, with just a bit of guidance and mentorship.

Ms. Fineburg: In an effort to reach out to as many kids and their parents and demonstrate the value of being part of Juniors, the Junior Committee is actively producing and seeking articles written by Juniors as well as those written by adults about Juniors. AKC’s Family Dog Editorial Staff has been supporting this initiative by featuring these articles as well as other publications.

Ms. Fisk: In addition to publishing articles, we are reaching out to 4-H kids to include them in AKC activities. We also watch what works for 4-H and model programs for AKC Junior activities.

Some clubs have had great success attracting Juniors to Junior Showcase events. The kids learn a lot and have tons of fun competing. They say a picture is worth a thousand words. Clubs are encouraged to offer a Junior Showcase event in either Obedience, Rally, Agility or Junior Showmanship. Clubs are encouraged to have reduced or no entry fees for the Junior Showcase Events. Additional events that clubs may offer for Juniors include AKC Registered Handler Program Clinics and social gatherings.

Ms. Fineburg: What’s been great fun is seeing Juniors enjoying and succeeding in Performance and Companion...
Events, like Lure Coursing, Field Events, Obedience, Agility and more in addition to Conformation.

Ms. Fisk: Clubs and clusters have found they attract more Juniors when they offer Juniors Scholarships to the Best Junior and/or Best of the Best Junior for the Cluster. Many offer a smaller scholarship to the Reserve or runner up Junior.

Ms. Fisk: These are our future breeders. Everything we do now to attract, engage and retain the younger generations will help develop our future breeders and handlers and keep our fancy alive. Educational opportunities that may exist include mentoring youngsters interested in your breed and also about the many events that the sport has to offer.

Ms. Fineburg: We would love to hear what you and your clubs are doing. We invite you – share your experiences and highlights. Feel free to send stories or pictures. Or contact us if you have questions. Just use the email on the screen: juniors@akc.org.

Ms. Fisk: We are thrilled with the progress we’ve been making with Juniors and look forward to what’s next. On behalf of Sally and I, I’d like to introduce the rest of the members of the Juniors Committee. Eddie Dziuk, Blaine Grove, Douglas Johnson, Patty Sample, Dr. Dawn Schroeder, Cindy Stansell, Marjorie Tuff, Jane Wilkinson, and a new member that we just added, Dan Sayers. We’d also like to thank Dr. Michael Knight our Board Liaison and of course Mari-Beth O’Neill our Staff Liaison who we are so happy to work with and for.

All of the people who are just listed as members of our club please stand up so that we can acknowledge you. Without the work of all of these people, we wouldn’t have been able to accomplish as much as we have with Juniors, and we look forward to doing much more. Thank you.

The Chair called on Gail LaBerge, Delegate from the Atlanta Obedience
Ms. LaBerge: Thank you, Dennis. First, I would like to thank Staff and the Delegates who did these wonderful presentations for us today. They have been excellent, informative, and a lot to take back to our clubs, thank you.

I know all of you have gotten the alerts from Government Relations and Sheila Goffe and the wonderful Staff she has, concerning the two bills that are being pushed to go onto the farm bill, and I know that all of you and your clubs have followed through and written your letters, contacted your representatives, your Congress people, but there is one other step that you can help. The PAC does donate as you know to those who are running for office or in office who support our position on canine legislation. One way that you can help open those doors for Sheila and her Staff and others representing us is by donating to the PAC. We are having our sweepstakes start, and I have a neat little picture for you that, will be sent out on the Delegate Google e-list, for each of you to share with your club members that tells you how to donate, how to have your donation get you tickets for the sweepstakes. The sweepstakes this year is a lovely basket valued at about $350, but inside that is $1000 gift card. It’s called Treat Yourself. Karolynne McAteer from the PAC Board came up with the idea. We hope that each of you will stop at Sheila’s booth to get your tickets. They’re $25 a piece or 5 for $100 and know that what you’re donating does go to help protect you and your dogs every day. Thank you for those who donate and for those who give monthly. I can’t tell you how important that is. Thank you.

The Chair called on Ernest Obubah from KPMG to read the Teller’s Report results of the vote for the Delegate Standing Committees.

Mr. Obubah: These are the results from KPMG.

For the All-Breed Clubs Committee, the following three candidates were elected for three-year terms:
   • Terrie Breen
   • William Ellis
   • Nancy Fisk

For the Canine Health Committee, the following four candidates were elected for three-year terms:
   • Dr. William Christiansen
   • Eddie Dziuk
• Dr. Marty Greer
• Dr. Joellen Gregory

For the Field Trial and Hunting Test Event Committee, the following four candidates were elected for three-year terms:
• Gloria Askins
• Neal Goodwin
• Heidi Henningson
• Nance Skoglund

For the Parent Clubs Committee, the following three candidates were elected for three-years terms:
• Karen Burgess
• Douglas Johnson
• Helen Prince

Also, for the Parent Club Committee, the following candidate was elected for a one-year term:
• Don Hanson

The Chair called on the Executive Secretary to read the names of the Delegates who will serve on the Committees that did not require a vote.  Ms. DiNardo:

Delegates who self-nominated and will serve on the Companion Events Committee are:
• Eleanor Campbell
• Ruth Crumb
• Laura Trainor
• Larry Wilson

Delegates who self-nominated and will serve on the Delegate Advocacy and Advancement Committee are:
• Barbara Burns
• Marge Calltharp

Delegates who self-nominated and will serve on the Dog Show Rules Committee are:
• Harry Miller
• Barbara Shaw
• Diana Skibinski

Delegates who self-nominated and will serve on the Herding, Earthdog, Coursing and Scent Work Events Committee are:
• Don Adams
• Pam Davis
• Robert LaBerge
• Lisa Pruka

Delegates who self-nominated and will serve on the Perspectives Editorial Committee are:
• Alyson Casper
• Blaine Grove
Mr. Sprung asked that the AKC Board of Directors to stand up so the new Delegates know exactly who you are and make sure that they can approach you at any time.

The Executive Secretary read the report on the Nominating Committee as follows:

Ms. DiNardo: At the July 2023 meeting, the Board of Directors appointed the following Delegates to the Nominating Committee to select three (3) candidates for the Class of 2028:

• Patti Strand, Chair – Dog Fanciers Association of Oregon
• Marilyn DeGregorio – Taconic Hills Kennel Club
• Florence Duggan – Sussex Hills Kennel Club
• Don James – Leonberger Club of America
• Barbara Shaw – Greater Collin Kennel Club

Alternates:
• Terrie Breen – Farmington Valley Kennel Club
• Douglas Johnson – Colorado Springs Kennel Club

The recommendations of the Nominating Committee must be submitted by October 15, 2023.

The Chair called on Patti Strand, Delegate from Dog Fanciers Association of Oregon and Chair of the Nominating Committee, who spoke as follows:

Thank you, Dennis. The Nominating Committee is not prepared this morning to tell who the nominees are. We have a wonderful committee. I would like them to stand. Marilyn DeGregorio, Don James, Barbara Shaw, Florence Duggan, and then alternates, Terrie Breen, and Doug Johnson. We had seven wonderful candidates. One of the really good things about being the chair of the committee is getting to remind ourselves about how much talent we have in Delegate Body. It’s always kind of a bittersweet thing because there are always more people that are talented enough and have skills to bring to the Board than we can nominate. Our nominating report will go to Gina DiNardo, and you will have it by the end of the week. Thank you very much.

The Chair informed the Delegates that the December 15, 2023 Delegate Meeting will be held in Orlando, Florida at the Rosen Centre Hotel prior to AKC’s National Championship. Hotel information was previously emailed to the
Delegates and posted to the Delegate Portal on AKC.org.

Lunch was served on the Terrace. Delegates were reminded to leave their badges at the registration desk following lunch.

The organizational meetings of the newly elected Standing Committees were instructed to begin as soon as the meeting ended.

The following Delegates spoke during New Business:

Don James, Delegate for the Leonberger Club of America, spoke as President on behalf of the Greater County Clark Kennel Club. He advised that they would submit an AKC Bylaws change to Article VII, Section 1, with the goal of rescinding AKC Board of Directors term limits, most recently voted on at the September 2022 Delegate Meeting.

Sylvia Arrowwood, Delegate for the Myrtle Beach Kennel Club, requested submissions for the next issue of Perspectives, for which she is the Assistant Editor.

Gale Golden, Delegate for the Framingham District Kennel Club, requested a way to address the non-standard breed registration issue so that AKC can continue to preserve purebred dog breeds and financial stability yet encourage new dog enthusiasts.

Roberta Berman, Delegate for the American Manchester Terrier Club, shared praise for an AKC Family Dog article about two AMTC Juniors, sisters who currently breed Manchester Terriers. The older is going to vet school, where she’s been a recipient of an AKC scholarship from the AKC. The younger one starts college this year and also plans to study veterinary medicine.

Don James, Delegate for the Leonberger Club of America reported on the status of the Parent Club Best Practice Subcommittee which wrapped up its two-and-a-half-year project developing a series of best practices webinars for Parent Clubs in ten different areas, and are available to current Parent Club members, FSS and Miscellaneous Breeds. The webinars averaged about 50 attendees per presentation and had consistent Q&A engagement.

Hearing no further business, the Chair adjourned the meeting.

(One sharp rap of the gavel.)
(Proceedings concluded at 1:00 p.m. ET.)

*The opinions expressed by the speakers may not necessarily reflect those of The American Kennel Club.*
PARENT CLUB LINKS

SPORTING GROUP

American Water Spaniel
Barbet
Boykin Spaniel
Brittany
Chesapeake Bay Retriever
Clumber Spaniel
Cocker Spaniel
Curly-Coated Retriever
English Cocker Spaniel
English Setter
English Springer Spaniel
Field Spaniel
Flat-Coated Retriever
German Shorthaired Pointer
German Wirehaired Pointer
Golden Retriever
Gordon Setter
Irish Red and White Setter
Irish Setter
Irish Water Spaniel
Labrador Retriever
Lagotto Romagnolo
Nederlandse Kooikerhondje
Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever
Pointer
Spinone Italiano
Sussex Spaniel
Vizsla
Weimaraner
Welsh Springer Spaniel
Wirehaired Pointing Griffon
Wirehaired Vizsla
HOUND GROUP

Afghan Hound  American English Coonhound  American Foxhound  Azawakh  Basenji
Basset Hound  Beagle  Black and Tan Coonhound  Bloodhound  Bluetick Coonhound
Borzoi  Cirneco dell’Etna  Dachshund  English Foxhound  Grand Basset Griffon Vendéen
Greyhound  Harrier  Ibiza Hound  Irish Wolfhound  Norwegian Elkhound
Otterhound  Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen  Pharaoh Hound  Plott  Portuguese Podengo Pequeno
Redbone Coonhound  Rhodesian Ridgeback  Saluki  Scottish Deerhound  Sloughi
Treeing Walker Coonhound  Whippet
PARENT CLUB LINKS

WORKING GROUP

Akita  Alaskan Malamute  Anatolian Shepherd Dog  Bernese Mountain Dog  Black Russian Terrier

Boerboel  Boxer  Bullmastiff  Cane Corso  Chinook

Doberman Pinscher  Dogo Argentino  Dogue de Bordeaux  German Pinscher  Giant Schnauzer

Great Dane  Great Pyrenees  Greater Swiss Mountain Dog  Komondor  Leonberger

Kuvasz  Mastiff  Neapolitan Mastiff  Newfoundland  Portuguese Water Dog

Rottweiler  Saint Bernard  Samoyed  Siberian Husky  Standard Schnauzer

Tibetan Mastiff
PARENT CLUB LINKS

TERRIER GROUP

- Airedale Terrier
- American Hairless Terrier
- American Staffordshire Terrier
- Australian Terrier
- Bedlington Terrier
- Border Terrier
- Bull Terrier
- Cairn Terrier
- Cesky Terrier
- Dandie Dinmont Terrier
- Fox Terrier (Smooth)
- Glen of Imaal Terrier
- Irish Terrier
- Kerry Blue Terrier
- Lakeland Terrier
- Manchester Terrier
- Miniature Bull Terrier
- Miniature Schnauzer
- Norfolk Terrier
- Norwich Terrier
- Parson Russell Terrier
- Rat Terrier
- Russell Terrier
- Scottish Terrier
- Sealyham Terrier
- Skye Terrier
- Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier
- Staffordshire Bull Terrier
- Welsh Terrier
- West Highland White Terrier
- Wire Fox Terrier
PARENT CLUB LINKS

TOY GROUP

Affenpinscher  Biewer Terrier  Brussels Griffon  Cavalier King Charles Spaniel  Chihuahua

Chinese Crested  English Toy Spaniel  Havanese  Italian Greyhound  Japanese Chin

Maltese  Manchester Terrier (Toy)  Miniature Pinscher  Papillon  Pekingese

Pomeranian  Poodle (Toy)  Pug  Shih Tzu  Silky Terrier

Toy Fox Terrier  Yorkshire Terrier
NON-SPORTING GROUP

HERDING GROUP

Australian Cattle Dog  Australian Shepherd  Bearded Collie  Beauceron  Belgian Laekenois

Belgian Malinois  Belgian Sheepdog  Belgian Tervuren  Bergamasco  Berger Picard

Border Collie  Bouvier des Flandres  Briard  Canaan Dog  Cardigan Welsh Corgi

Collie (Rough)  Collie (Smooth)  Entlebucher Mountain Dog  Finnish Lapphund  German Shepherd Dog

Icelandic Sheepdog  Miniature American Shepherd  Mudi  Norwegian Buhund  Old English Sheepdog

Pembroke Welsh Corgi  Polish Lowland Sheepdog  Puli  Pumi  Pyrenean Shepherd

Shetland Sheepdog  Spanish Water Dog  Swedish Vallhund
AKC REGISTERED HANDLERS

The American Kennel Club Registered Handlers Program establishes criteria and standards for responsible, knowledgeable professional handlers. All handlers enrolled in the Program have met these criteria and made the commitment to follow the guidelines and Code of Ethics as set forth by the AKC.

For additional information concerning the Registered Handlers Program, click here: http://www.akc.org/events/handlers/

For information on upcoming RHP Handling Clinics http://www.akc.org/events/junior-showmanship/junior-clinics/

http://www.akc.org/events/handlers/adult-clinics/