FASHIONABLE DOGS at AKC Museum
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BREED COLUMNS SCHEDULE
Sporting and Working Groups
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Toy, Non-Sporting, and Herding Groups
March, June, September, and December issues
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The Dogs of Autumn

Fall is here, and we are busier than ever! 2023 has been another great year for AKC sports, with more than 26,000 events taking place this year. We are grateful for each and every club, judge, exhibitor, handler, steward, superintendent, and their amazing dogs who made this yet another banner year for AKC.

Last month we held a very successful AKC Meet the Breeds in Columbus, Ohio. This family-friendly canine extravaganza had more than 90 breeds of dogs, several demonstrations including agility, rally, and scent work, and a bustling kid’s zone with an art contest. We interacted with thousands of dog lovers and were able to educate them about responsible dog breeding and ownership. We want to thank the parent and local clubs, exhibitors, and their beautiful dogs for volunteering their time to make this event a success. We appreciate your continued support.

In addition to Meet the Breeds, we held a wonderfully attended AKC Breeder Symposium with 94 attendees. We have received nothing but positive feedback and look forward to holding symposiums in the future.

We are entering our favorite time of the year. Entries are now open for the 23rd annual AKC National Championship presented by Royal Canin. America’s dog show returns to Orlando’s Orange County Convention Center (OCCC) North/South Concourse this December 16 and 17. ANC is the largest show in North America and the only one that crowns America’s Champion.

During our annual Championship weekend, the OCCC will be a buzz with activity. The AKC/Royal Canin National All Breed Puppy and Junior Stakes celebrates the next generation of puppies that will soon become champions. The AKC Agility Invitational will highlight some of the finest dogs in the
country that demonstrate their athleticism and keen acumen, and the AKC Obedience Classic will showcase dogs that are masters at executing commands. These events display the incredible talent and training of canine athletes.

To add to the excitement of our Championship weekend, we will have additional competitions including the AKC Fast CAT Invitational and the North America Diving Dogs’ “Santa Splash.” Earlier in the week at the OCCC, spectators can see top dogs compete at the Space Coast Kennel Club of Palm Bay, Brevard Kennel Club, and Central Florida Kennel Club shows.

Should you be unable to attend the AKC National Championship in person, you can still enjoy the show from the comfort of your home. As with previous years, the National Championship group judging and Best in Show, Puppy and Junior Stakes groups and Best in Stakes, NOHS groups and finals, Best Bred-by-Exhibitor and groups, as well as Juniors competitions in conformation, obedience and rally, and agility, will be available on AKC.tv and live in our on-demand library for your viewing pleasure.

As we approach the end of another year, we are grateful for our breeders, exhibitors, club members, judges, staff, and our dedicated Board of Directors for the genuine support shown to the AKC and the dedicated work they do on behalf of dogs.

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President and CEO
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This month we celebrate *Fashionable Dogs*, the new AKC Museum of the Dog exhibition. For the gazette, it’s a natural. In fact, some of our vintage glamour shots are part of the show. Photos combining stylish women and magnificent purebreds have been a gazette staple for nearly a hundred years.

If you are in New York for the holidays, swing by 101 Park Avenue and enjoy the museum’s most festive show yet.

**On Our Cover:** Poodle skirt, c.1950s, from *Fashionable Dogs*, modeled by Olivia Mendelson, AKC Museum staff
“My fashion philosophy is, if you’re not covered in dog hair, your life is empty.”

—Elayne Boosler
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AKC Library and Archives is processing a large series of scrapbooks maintained by Geraldine Rockefeller Dodge at her fabled Giralda Farms, in New Jersey. Mrs. Dodge, founder of the Morris and Essex KC and considered among the most consequential fanciers of the 20th century, started the scrapbooks in the 1920s.

AKC Archivist Jamie Fritz visited Giralda to inventory the books. They contain photos and news clippings documenting the history of the sport, the Morris and Essex show, and Mrs. Dodge’s work on behalf of the English Cocker Spaniel. The first batch of scrapbooks, covering the 1920s to ’40s, is now at AKC Archives in New York.

“We are so excited for our researchers to see them,” Fritz says. “We will eventually be fully digitizing this collection and making the scrapbooks available online.”

Archives staff, the AKC Humane Fund, and the AKC Museum of the Dog have established a collecting relationship with St. Hubert’s Animal Welfare Center and Mrs. Dodge’s descendants.

In keeping with the project’s spirit of partnership, the AKC Humane Fund has made a grant to St. Giralda’s Safe Haven program. Safe Haven helps victims of domestic abuse escape danger by providing interim care for family pets.
**UPDATES**

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*Basenji Club of America*
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*Irish Setter Club of America*
*Pembroke Welsh Corgi Club of America*
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The perception of body postures plays a similarly important role in dogs and humans, says a study conducted at the University of Vienna and the University of Veterinary Medicine Vienna. Published in *Communications Biology*, the research provides new knowledge of how the two species perceive each other and their environment. Also, it confirms that the temporal lobe plays a central role in social communication and perception.

Humans and primates have brain regions in the temporal lobe specialized in perceiving faces and bodies. Dogs have a temporal lobe evolved independently of primates. Recent behavioral research shows that dogs, like humans, are experts in perceiving facial expressions and bodily gestures such as hand signals.

Researchers Magdalena Boch, Claus Lamm, and Ludwig Huber developed training protocols to accustom the dogs to MRI gradually. The dogs were not sedated and could have left the MRI at any time.

The study of 40 human participants and 15 pet dogs yields the first evidence that dogs, like humans, have a brain region in the temporal lobe that is specialized in the perception of body postures. In addition, further regions in the canine brain are equally involved in perceiving faces and bodies. In contrast to humans, this did not only affect visual brain regions. When dogs look at faces and bodies, there are also differences in activation in areas responsible for processing scents.

Boch says, “We humans often focus on the face when communicating with others. Our results suggest that faces are also an important source of information for dogs. However, body postures and holistic perception seem to play a superior role.”

This underscores the human-canine bond. “We may not be closely related,” Lamm says, “but dogs have been close companions for thousands of years. Therefore, comparing dogs and humans also gives us new insights into the so-called convergent evolution of social perception and information processing.”
Hail, King of Terriers!

MACUNGIE, PENNSYLVANIA—Rachel Pearce judges Airedale Terriers on day 1 at Hatboro Dog Club. 12:17.

Wires and Wood

LUDWIG’S CORNER, PENNSYLVANIA—At Devon Dog Show Association, Wood Wornall runs the Wire Fox Terrier ring. 14:22
New Litter Ad Experience

Here is the AKC’s introduction to the newly designed litter ads at marketplace.akc.org.

1:40

Retro Dogs in Team Sports

Long before the AKC Agility League, dog people experimented with canine team sports.

10:14
VIDEOS

Keeping America Safe
From Insider Business, find out what it takes to become a TSA explosives-detection K-9 team. 10:34

High-Speed Pursuit
Our YouTube slideshow features coursing hounds doing what they’ve bred to do for millennia. 1:03
A delightful new show at the AKC Museum of the Dog explores the connection between dogs and fashion.

By Alan Fausel
The exhibition *Fashionable Dogs* is running through December 31 at the AKC Museum of the Dog in New York City. 

*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.”

Here, Fausel presents a few visitor favorites from the exhibition.

**Herb Ritts (American 1952–2002)**

“Kate Moss, Malibu #2”

Exhibition print

Courtesy the Herb Ritts Foundation

Herb Ritts was a noted fashion photographer whose portfolio included work for nearly all the major fashion publications featuring super models, musicians and actors during the 1980s and ’90s. Here, the subject is not of a line of clothing, but rather just Kate Moss and the giant Harlequin Great Dane. They share the frame equally and depending on your point of view, there is an argument as to who is more important.

The dog in the photo belonged to the famed Olympic champion Greg Louganis whom Mr. Ritts had photographed years previously.

Mr. Louganis shared this remembrance of the session from Tuesday February 22, 1994, which was published as a feature in the May 1994 issue of *Allure* magazine:

“Yes I remember that shoot quite well. I was told time and location with my dogs, I showed up and went to check out the layout, and of course ran right into Herb. He was a bit confused and said, ‘Greg I am not shooting you today.’ And I said, ‘No not me, you are shooting my dogs.’ He said, ‘You have big black and white dogs?’ I said, ‘Yes, harlequin Great Danes.’ We laughed and I got the dogs out. I do remember Brutus was about 180 pounds, and walking along the beach he stepped on Kate’s foot, I felt so bad for her, he was a big boy. His registered name was Olympian Dane Edwin Moses, and I called him Brutus. Beautiful images he got that day of the two of them. He was a gentle giant, Brutus.”

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No single article of fashion evokes the spirit of the 1950s more than the iconic Poodle skirt. The simple circle skirts with an appliqué Poodle recall the era of Bobbysoxers dancing to the jukebox at the local soda fountain.

The first Poodle skirt was created by singer-turned-fashion-designer Juli Lynne Charlot, in 1947. Prior to her fashion career, she performed in minor roles in film and on Broadway, and toured with the Marx Brothers during WWII.

Her first dog-themed skirt featured three Dachshunds; however she quickly moved to Poodles. Her small Los Angeles boutique soon brought the attention of retailers such as Bullocks, Nieman Marcus, and Bergdorf Goodman. Her skirts were such a success that she was soon operating a factory producing her custom designs, which helped set off the Poodle craze throughout the country. The skirt is modeled here by Olivia Mendelson, AKC Museum of the Dog staff.

**French, c. 1900**
**French Bulldog Growler**
**Papier mâché**
**Museum Purchase**

These iconic toys were produced in large numbers...
during the first quarter of the 20th century, when “Frenchies” enjoyed their first period of popularity. Their bodies consisted of flocked and dyed papier mâché set on wheels and could be pulled by a child with an attached chain. The head was formed separately and mounted on gimbles so it would nod as it rolled along. This example sports a large furry collar which was fashionable attire for French Bulldogs in the day. With live dogs, the fur was traditionally badger, but in the toys, a cheaper, more widely available boar’s hair was substituted. However, the big surprise came in the articulated jaw that could be operated by a sharp pull of its chain attached to a ratchet that produced a
bark-like rasp from which their popular name of “Growler” derives.
Growlers were available in several different styles. Other versions had a lower-slung body and more aggressive stance and expression. They also had “Rose” ears which reflected the breed’s origins in the English Miniature Bulldog. Our example shows the “bat” ears which the breed acquired on the European Continent in the latter half of the 19th century and was a source of great controversy among breeders of the day.

**Louis Icart (French 1888–1950)**
*Joie de Vivre (Joy of Life)*
Colored etching 1929
Museum purchase

Icart was a French painter, engraver, and illustrator of the Art Deco era, best known for his piquant pictures of young women.

The AKC Museum of the Dog houses four of his distinctive images. In what must be considered one of...
FEATURE

Fall Fashion Tips for the Well-Dressed Fancier

The Fashionable Dogs exhibition includes materials used in “Best in Show Styles,” the GAZETTE’s long-running fashion column written by Babs Vierhaus. In this excerpt from September 1950, Vierhaus prepares fancier-fashionistas for looking good and showing well during the fall campaign.

Texture interest in autumn fashions means more to the feminine handler than what appears on the surface. For the nubby knits, curly wools, flecked tweeds, oxford flannels, kasha jerseys and patterned worsteds which highlight the designers’ daytime collections are practically immune to dog hair. Deep-piled fabrics are doubly smart in coats and suits for the dog show followers because they resist wrinkling and can be quickly shaken free of paw prints and other marks.

Topcoats have an interesting inside story this season. A lining of contrasting color, texture or pattern makes the plainest coat gay. It may be glimpsed only when you emerge from your station wagon in a tangle of leashes, or it may be designed to confuse your audience by adding an extra coat to your wardrobe. Many of the handsome new coats are two-faced, cleverly tailored turn-coats that do double duty for town and country. Your fleece show coat may reverse into a rich velvet for dinner at the hotel. Checked coats turn into plain wools, light coats turn dark and bright woolens become fur coats this year. The reversible coat is no longer merely a raincoat in disguise.

Icart’s most iconic works, his model, seen from below, is atop a windswept hill with a pair of Borzois near at hand. The gusty winds force her to hold onto her hat while at the same time pressing her thin dress to reveal her figure. The composition harkens back to a more modest endeavor a couple of generations earlier, Claude Monet’s “Woman with a Parasol–Madame Monet and Her Son.” —A.F.

Fashionable Dogs 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.
NEW YORK CITY—At Rockefeller Center, 1944, Ch. Aristocrat’s Fashion Plate and handler Arthur Davis participate in a parade of champions as part of National Dog Week.

The handsome Pointer’s admirer is a fashion plate of a different sort, the glamorous movie star Constance Bennett. During her heyday in the 1930s, Bennett was Hollywood’s highest-paid leading lady.

Fashion Plate’s owner was Clarence F. Gaines, who in 1928 revolutionized the dog-food industry by founding the company bearing his name. Gaines was an avid sportsman. He developed a “complete meal” recipe for his hunting dogs, and before long Gaines was the first name in commercial dog food.

Gaines’s first love was the breeding and racing of trotting horses. Generations of his Gainesway trotters set records here and abroad.

After selling his company to General Foods in 1943, he also had time to devote to his Aristocrat Pointers. The Aristocrat line produced several ring and field champions of the 1940s and ’50s.
Here’s **Paula Nykiel** on choosing an outfit for a Westminster judging assignment: “My motto when you go to New York is, ‘If it isn’t black, put it back.’ Black is New York. Selecting what to wear to judge a dog show on national television can be tricky. You want something that is comfortable and easy to move in, but that also passes the bend-over test.”
BREED COLUMNS

Edited by Arliss Paddock

In this month’s Basenji Club of America column, Marcia Woodard shares tips for taking a picture-perfect win shot. (Gilbert photo: Damara Bolté with Ch. Reveille Re-Up and judge Ruth Tongren at Trenton KC, 1971)
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

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Afghan Hounds
TO HOLD OR NOT TO HOLD:
THAT IS THE QUESTION

We have become generic in our stack presentation of the Afghan Hound. Today, I believe the majority of judges expect that we stack our dogs with one hand on the tail to complete the picture. It sometimes seems that a judge may even suspect a negative ulterior motive for an exhibitor to not have a hand on the tail. I assure you, this is not done to “hide” anything, but rather just that the dog prefers to not have that manipulation at its back end. As exhibitors of this breed, we know that it is more important that a hand is held at the front end of the Afghan Hound for an approach and examination of the dog by a stranger.

The standard clearly states that “at a trot” the Afghan Hound moves with its tail carried high. This absolutely completes the moving picture of such a dog of regal bearing.

Nowhere does the standard say anything about said tail carriage at a static pose. Whether the dog is standing with his tail either propped by human hand or naturally dropped behind him at rest bears no difference on the arrogant impression. Now of course, if the dog chooses to hold his tail up on its own, that may add to the air of self-esteem. Likewise, if a dog stands with his tail down and actually tucked between his back legs, more than likely the sense of apprehension is visible. It is the exhibitor’s prerogative how an individual dog is presented in front of the judge. The exhibitor knows the dog and knows which style will make for the best experience.
Please consider the fact that no other sighthound is presented with a manually propped tail. It may be argued that few sighthounds move with their tails held high, but even so, the fact is that some do. All stand with a tail in repose.

Enough time has passed that we’ve lost some major forces in our breed, and forgive me for not mentioning all of them, but to my point, these include the unforgettable Judy and Herman Fellton (Mandith), Col. Wallace Pede (Scheherezade), and Ruth “Babbie” Tongren (Ben Ghazi). As Afghan Hound breeders these important figures played hugely appreciated roles, creating foundations for the development and education, hence the promotion of this breed to the fancy as it would rise to the height of its popularity. All four became esteemed judges, and for decades in their positions, they more than requested that their beloved breed be presented without a helping hand on the tail. We always respected and followed their instruction.

To hold or not to hold: There is no question. Both presentations are acceptable, neither preferred, and both are proper and correct.

—Harry Bennett, harryonly@aol.com
Afghan Hound Club of America

Basenjis
LOOK AT THE BIRDIE AND TOSS THE SQUEAKY

When some time ago I posted a request on Facebook for show-photo anecdotes and advice, I received a record (for me) 47 comments—a total of 2,313 words! Several fanciers claimed to have the worst or funniest photo, but nearly everyone agreed on the following pointers:

• Remove lead, put right hand on collar, and get your left hand out of sight (but don’t be a “teapot”).
• Look at your dog and smile with pride.
• Don’t let anyone rush you (my pet peeve).
• Request more than one shot.
• Consider the option of taking a more candid front-angle, with the dog sitting.
• Practice show poses in front of a mirror, both on a table and on the floor. Get it down.

Two techniques were also suggested for the avoidance of “handler’s turkey neck”:

• Tilt head to the right. Chin up. Show teeth.
• The middle-aged-celebrity method: Smile with your mouth closed, and put your bottom teeth in front of your top teeth. (I tried this. Feels weird but works like a miracle.)

Practice in front of a mirror.

My advice? I rely on photo coaches: people I trust who know the breed and my dog. I like one coach to help me, and one to stand back, shout directions, and give the thumbs-up.

Laurie Gregory, who has been the official photographer for several Basenji
national specialties, is often my photographer and coach. According to Gregory, you want your dog to look as good as possible and to resemble the breed standard as closely as possible. In other words, accentuate the positive and minimize the negative.

Recommended poses:
- **Profile** — straight silhouette
- **Profile with head turned** — straight silhouette with head turned so second eye is slightly visible (shows wrinkle and ear-set)
- **Body at a slight angle toward the camera** (shows head)
- **Front portrait** — often with front feet standing on a box
- **Sitting** — angled slightly away from camera

(The last two also work well for a nice portrait of older dogs, or for photos of performance dogs when conformation is not the focus.)

With regard to the handler, Gregory advises placing the collar high up on the dog’s neck and holding it lightly; the dog should appear to stand on his own four feet, not held up. She agrees that the handler’s left hand needs to stay away from the dog’s silhouette, as she has seen too many pictures where an extra appendage, caused by the handler’s fingers, appears on a dog’s underline.

Where should the handler look? For me, it’s a crap-shoot where my gaze might land at the moment my dog finally looks right. According to Gregory, the common choices are to look at your dog, look where your dog is looking, or look at the camera. Since the photographer concentrates on the dog and takes the picture when he or she sees symmetry—ears alert, topline level, feet well placed—the handler must take responsibility for herself.

Gregory recommends research. Look at win photos in breed and show magazines for the placement of the handler's hands, the direction of the handler's gaze, and the positioning of the dog.
Basset Hounds
AN EPIC PUPPY PARTY—LET’S HAVE MORE OF THEM!

In June of this year, two litters of Basset Hounds were at the “sweet spot” for puppy evaluation—about 10–11 weeks of age. This is a bit older than the age at which some other breeds are evaluated, but not at all unusual in Basset Hounds.

One of the litters was out of Bliss, a bitch whom I had sold to longtime and successful Labrador Retriever breeder Beth Wilkerson. So while not a co-breeder, I had a strong interest in the litter. The other litter was out of Pippi, a bitch owned by Rosemary Ryan, a good friend with whom in the past I co-owned and co-bred dogs.

One day as Rosemary and I were talking about our respective upcoming litter evaluations, we struggled with the timing and distance to each be involved in both litters’ evaluations. We came on the idea of holding a joint puppy evaluation for these pups who were born only three days apart. We called another Basset breeder, Cheri Feldhausen, of CJ Bassets, who lived pretty equidistant from the litters and asked if we could use the building on her property that is set up for handling classes. She agreed, and we were off and running.

What started as bringing the litters together quickly grew to a puppy-evaluation party that I think no one involved will forget anytime soon.

Part of our motivation in organizing the party was surely getting the puppies evaluated. We valued each others’ opinions, and we wanted to offer Beth, the new breeder who owned Bliss, the opportunity to hear what we were focused on and how we evaluated the pups. But if hearing from the two of us would be interesting, and we hoped educational, surely also hearing from other experienced Basset breeders would be even better!

Every time Rosemary and I talked, we identified another breeder whose opinion we valued, and out went the invitations.

Ultimately, six Basset Hound breeders, including three breeder-judges with a collective total of over 250 years of experience, gathered for the evaluation. They included Sharon Dok, of Castlehill Bassets; Gail Allen, of Tailgate Bassets; Bonnie Tetlock, of Bonorlea Bassets; Cheri Feldhausen, of CJ Bassets; and of course Rosemary Ryan, of Bramble Bassets, and myself, Sylvie McGee, of HeavenScent Bassets. Among us was also a breeder-handler, Brian Black, also of Tailgate Bassets, who is often referred to in our circles as the Puppy Stacker—and given we were evaluating a total of 15 pups, we were delighted to have his talented and patient hands!

As the day grew closer, we

Keep smiling, everyone.
—Marcia Woodard,
marciabarkless@gmail.com
Basenji Club of America
divided up responsibilities. With a group of puppies that size, ex-pens were essential. Cheri virtually sterilized the building the pups would be in. I took the easy job and picked up food and water at Costco.

As the date got closer, we also decided to invite a new member of the Basset Hound Club of Greater Seattle—Laura Oltman, who is a newer exhibitor but is eager to learn. She had visited Rosemary’s pups, and we knew she was really taken with them, even though at that moment not ready for another dog. But what better way to learn about Basset structure, function, and development than to listen to evaluation of a wide range of pups by breeders with varied perspectives and experiences, who breed different styles of quality Basset Hounds.

The party was a blast. Every pup was carefully evaluated—strong points praised, and possible challenges identified. Comparing notes was so

*Brian Black and Gail Allen, both of Tailgate Basset Hounds, evaluate a puppy; Basset youngsters enjoy their free time afterward.*
educational. We talked about structure, about function in the field, and about health and how well pups hold up as they mature.

With so much experience, so many litters bred and raised by expert breeders, it was fascinating to listen to breeders with much more experience than I have talk about what they would forgive, where they might draw the line, and what they have learned watching the development of their own litters.

It was equally fascinating watching the hands of other breeders running over the pups, feeling for shoulder placement, running down the length of rib, checking the reach of the sternum, cupping the rear, and commenting on how evenly the pup stood on its rear legs (often a challenge at that age). So much art in those experienced hands!

In the show world, I often hear from experienced breeders bemoaning newer breeders they perceive as wanting to be “instant experts.” And I equally hear from people starting out that they feel like doors are closed to them and they cannot find mentors willing to explain rather than dictate. If there is truth on both sides—and I believe there is—then how do we solve that problem? How do we ensure that hard-learned lessons (because no breeding program is without them) are passed on, and that questions are asked that make us really think about our beliefs, our assumptions, and how to better express what we think is important to our breeds?

Our puppy party reminded me of old-style specialties where after a day of showing, we often gathered after dinner and talked dogs, and pulled both youngsters and veterans out to go over them. Those are the experiences that kept both Rosemary and me in the breed. In June, I think we replicated that for two new Basset enthusiasts, and that’s a really great start.

Do you have or know of a litter upcoming? Who can you reach out to in your region to offer their opinions? Who do you think does a good job of breeding quality dogs—even if they are perhaps a different style from those you breed? And who can you invite in to learn from you and those folks? Let’s keep on building the future of our breeds and our fancy.

And also, don’t forget the food … there was a lot of great talk over lunch!

—Sylvie McGee, sylvie@sylviemcgee.net
Basset Hound Club of America

Bloodhounds

Longtime Bloodhound breeder and AKC GAZETTE columnist Anne Legge wrote the following in 2008.

SHOWTIME FOR YOU AND YOUR BLOODHOUND PUPPY

This column is addressed to the novice exhibitor. You know, nobody was born knowing this stuff—we all were novices once.
You have bought your first show puppy. What advice could make your new venture easier and more enjoyable? If you bought a puppy from show stock, you have also acquired a mentor who will give you ongoing guidance and encouragement. Of course, your household will socialize the new baby, introduce her to a crate, and teach her the rudiments of good family behavior.

She must learn to walk on a leash without pulling and jerking. Some people like flexible leads, but a six-foot leather lead is safer.

When she has had her puppy shots and you are confident she is under control, take her to parks, schoolgrounds, and shopping malls. This entails short rides in the car.

The next step is to go to a dog show without your pup and watch your breed: how the dog is posed (stacked), how the head is presented and the bite shown, and how
the tail is held.

Note the ring attire. Ask polite questions about showing and grooming—just not when people are getting ready to go into the ring.

Now, get your pup used to show tack and procedure. We use the same collar all the time, a nylon choke-collar that is stuffed, not flat, and just large enough to go over the dog’s head. In the ring we use a strong, light leather lead about three feet long, one that you can comfortably coil in your left hand.

Practice stacking your dog in front of a mirror or a sliding glass door and moving her around an imaginary ring in the common gaiting patterns: down and back, a triangle, and a circle. Make these practices short and positive. Encourage your pup with praise and bait (bits of cheese or meat), but do not teach her to sit for a treat. In the ring you will use bait to present her attractively to the judge, and sitting is a no-no.

Hook up with your nearest kennel club and try to find a handling class that meets once a week, allowing practice between classes. Be prepared to drive a distance if necessary.

Buy a ring bag and the necessary gear: show collar and lead (we use the same ones we trained with), two small slobber towels, a brush or hound glove, baby wipes, a spray-bottle, a small bucket, and bottle of water, for starters. Bloodhound grooming is minimal compared to that far some other breeds, but it must be done religiously. Our weekly routine involves cleaning eyes and ears, cutting toenails, brushing teeth with an electric toothbrush, and brushing or combing the coat.

Now for your own attire. Show clothes should be comfortable and conservative: suits or sportscoats and slacks for men, and for women, pants or skirt outfits that will not inhibit movement or flap in your dog’s face. Make sure you have pockets for bait, and button your jacket. Tuck a slobber-towel into your pocket or waistband. Above all, wear comfortable, nonskid shoes.

When you are finally ready to enter a show, call on your mentor to advise what class to enter and translate the mysteries of the entry form and the judging schedule. Entries close three weeks before a show, and judging schedules come a week ahead or can be accessed online.

The day before the show, give your dog a bath and do final grooming. Get to the show at least an hour before your ring time. Exercise your dog, make sure she takes care of body functions, give her a drink, then put her up. Find your ring and pick up your armband. Watch the procedure and gaiting pattern.

Now get your little star—it’s showtime! —Anne Legge, 2008

—Betsy Copeland, Copelandia@aol.com
American Bloodhound Club
Borzoi

THE NECK

I first heard the expression “stallion neck” in reference to a Borzoi at one of the regional specialties I had attended in my early days of showing. Once you see a specimen with such a neck, you will never forget that dog’s regal posture, and, as a breeder, you will always strive to achieve it in your dogs.

The “General Description” part of the standard talks about the Borzoi’s unmistakable elegance, flowing lines, and graceful appearance. The Borzoi’s arched neck is what gives the dog his proud bearing and noble looks. In addition to being aesthetically pleasing and making the Borzoi stand out among other dogs, the arched neck is correct from the standpoint of structure and function.

The standard’s general description places special emphasis on a short list of specific characteristics,
and “strong neck and jaws” are on that list, preceded only by the sound running gear, which is required for catching up to the prey. The proper neck and jaws enable the Borzoi to achieve the breed’s original purpose of catching and holding prey.

The standard’s description of the neck reads: “Neck: Clean, free from throatiness; slightly arched, very powerful and well set on.” Ideally, a Borzoi should have tight skin around the throat-latch area. The top of the neck-line should form a gentle arch behind the occiput, where the neckline continues parallel to the ground and ever-so-slightly climbs up to its crest, before gently falling away to the withers in a slight curve. The neck is flattened laterally, its muscles tight and lean, making it powerful without appearing coarse, bulky, or round. It continues the graceful lines of the Borzoi’s head and blends smoothly into the withers and shoulders. A “ewe neck,” which is concave above and convex below, instead of the reverse, is faulty in its abrupt transition to the shoulders and lack of an arch. It causes the dog to have less strength and flexibility when catching prey in the field, but often can appear long in the ring. Inevitably, this faulty neck is paired with an incorrect front assembly.

While the breed’s AKC standard does not mention the neck’s ideal length, the 1888 Imperial Society’s standard draws a distinction between Borzoi lines used on different types of prey: “A well-muscled and strong neck is required of wolf-hunting males, but a longer neck works better for catching a hare with ease”. A short, inflexible, stuck-on neck is undesirable, as it hinders the dog’s ability to strike at his prey without losing speed.

Before the 1970s, the breed’s AKC standard specified “a neck shorter than that of a Greyhound’s”—a statement that was later removed but which many still remember.

Incidentally, any coated dog’s neck, especially a Borzoi’s, will appear shorter. Borzoi often grow thicker coat, forming a “buffalo hump” on the withers, and have a “profuse and rather curly” neck-frill required by the standard. A hands-on examination is needed to feel for the arch and proper neck-to-shoulders transition, as well as to ascertain that clever grooming is not concealing a faulty ewe neck, or establish that a naturally thick coat is not hiding a sufficiently long, arched neck.

The neck’s flexibility comes from its arch, proper length, and correct transition to the shoulders.

First impressions of a dog in the ring, aside from its overall balance, are influenced by the dog’s posture. The proper neck makes or breaks a dog’s stance and is one of the key “puzzle pieces” of a Borzoi.

To quote the early 20th-century Greyhound trainer B.A. McMichan: “A long, graceful, and well-set
BREED COLUMNS

HOUND GROUP

neck adds to that vague (but to experts, well understood) term, quality.”
—Kristina Terra, k.terra@mac.com
Borzoi Club of America

Dachshunds
“UNDER THE GROUND,” BACK IN THE DAY

Back in the day, the Westminster dog show at Madison Square Garden had good shopping. Vendors of rare dog books, antiquarians offering complete settings of Victorian china decorated with hunting dogs, deer, and game birds, and art dealers with 19th-century paintings were present. Looking over shelves of books one year, a book cover caught my eye with its clean, modern design. The red of the bolting fox, the narrow red lines of the rifle’s sling, and the red on the back of the Dachsie’s head like the last rays of the winter sun pulled me into the picture.

The book was Mit dem Dachshund unter der Erde (With the Dachshund Underground), by Hugo Siegwart (1865–1938). It was full of photos showing the hunting of badger (Meles meles), red fox (Vulpes vulpes), and hare (Lepus europaeus) in Central Europe early in the 20th century. Published in Frankfurt, Germany, in 1920, the original edition now sells for from €50 to €75 or more, depending on condition. (The 2014 reprint is €20.) The author, Siegwart, was Swiss, not German, and lived in Lucerne.

The photos in the book show how daunting a badger hunt could be. The badger “sett” is not just some hump of dirt with three or four woodchuck tunnels. It’s a huge hill that has been developed over generations of badgers, each adding new tunnels, entrances, or exits. And they are deep! (I really wonder how those two men in the photo dug that hole. Are the other diggers hiding behind the photographer?)

The photos include women in attendance, a rather uncommon thing in late 19th- to early 20th-century hunting photos. The result of these badger hunts could be a lovely, heavy badger “carpet” or throw pictur esquely draped over a settle by a window.

Badgers were not hunted to extermination but were also raised so that there would be badgers to hunt in the future, as seen in the photo showing young badgers eating with young Dachshunds (and a Basset puppy?). Another photo in the book shows young badgers being bottle fed.

Siegwart seems to have had a sense of humor. Another photo in the book bears a caption that identifies him only as “the hunting mate of Tschämpi and Waldi”—not the owner, which he was. (How many Dachsies are still called Waldi a century later and a continent away?)

My subway ride to Westminster turned out to be a time machine that showed me how badgers
Published in Frankfurt, Germany, in 1920, the book’s title translates to “With the Dachshund Underground”; the book’s author with Dachshunds Tschampi and Waldi; badger pelts made into a furniture throw; digging deep into the badger tunnel complex, or “sett”; oddly, young badgers meant for future hunts were raised with dogs.
were hunted “long ago and far away.” That gave me a new respect for the courage and tenacity of the Dachshund and the men and women who trained and hunted them—back in the day.

—Trudy Kawami, salixbrooklyn@aol.com
Dachshund Club of America

Greyhounds

WHAT MAKES A GREYHOUND A GREYHOUND?

People often ask why a Greyhound is shaped the way it is. (As well as asking, why do Greyhounds look like baby dinosaurs when they themselves are babies?) Here is why. The outline of a Greyhound shows us the parts and pieces that allow the Greyhound to do his unique job of hunting and chasing prey of various sizes and speed, and over varied terrain, for long periods of time. The parts and pieces must come together into a single unit that speaks to balance, symmetry, and oneness.

That’s a mouthful, but let’s break it down a bit. We know from various writings dating back to the ancient Greeks that the Greyhound was used to course a wide variety of game. We know Greyhounds were found inhabiting areas of sand, mountain, and rocky hills, and terrain in between. We see in canine art through the centuries that the dogs were used in these places and for these purposes. How fortunate we are to have this documentation of an ancient breed!

So, back to the outline: so smooth, and with seamless transitions from head to tail and brisket to loin, often described as the shape of a pair of “S” curves. Our standard calls for a slight rise over the loin that is due to both muscling and a curvature of the spine. This configuration allows for the contraction and expansion of the double-suspended gait, acting almost as a hinge. No breed does this

The Greyhound’s “parts and pieces must come together into a single unit that speaks to balance, symmetry, and oneness.”
better, in my opinion.

There is a deep chest that allows for good lung capacity, and tuck-up to the loin that allows the rear and front legs to pull up tightly under the body and then explode out, propelling the Greyhound forward.

A functional Greyhound has a strong neck that transitions into the shoulder, allowing for capture of game on the move. This neck is not only functional but also adds to the elegance of this breed with its length and arch.

At the other end, a long, sweeping tail that curves slightly upward on the move completes the outline. Add to this long legs under the body, forelegs that are as long from the elbow to the ground as the length from the withers to the elbow, and a strong, moderately angled rear to match.

Hopefully you can see a picture of an elegant, functional, well-muscled Greyhound in your mind from this description.

Hopefully this has whetted your appetite to know more about this beautiful, hunting sighthound.

—Patricia Clark, GCA Judges’ Education coordinator, willomoor@att.net

Greyhound Club of America

Ibizan Hounds

THE IBIZAN TEMPERAMENT: A BRIEF HISTORY AND MODERN BREEDER’S GUIDE

Throughout its history, the Ibizan Hound played a crucial role in the lives of the inhabitants of its namesake place of origin (Ibiza, an island off the coast of Spain, in the western Mediterranean). The dog’s primary purpose was as a hunting companion, skilled in chasing and capturing small game such as rabbits. Due to its exceptional speed, agility, and keen sense of sight and smell, the Ibizan Hound proved indispensable to the local hunters, helping to provide food for the community. Over the centuries, the breed’s hunting abilities were refined through careful breeding practices, strengthening its physical attributes and temperament.

The importance of temperament in pack dogs throughout history cannot be overstated. Pack dogs, which work together in groups, have been valuable assets to human societies for various tasks, such as hunting, herding, guarding, and even companionship. A pack’s success in achieving its objectives heavily relies on the individual temperaments of its members and their ability to collaborate effectively. Throughout history, humans have selectively bred dogs with desirable temperaments, ensuring that the pack members can cooperate harmoniously, communicate efficiently, and remain loyal to both their human handlers and their fellow pack members.

In Ibiza and the surrounding Balearic Islands, dogs with high levels of cooperation, obedience, and adaptability were preferred,
as they could follow the commands of their human leaders and adapt to various hunting scenarios. The strong bond and trust developed within the pack allowed them to function efficiently as a unit, contributing significantly to the prosperity of the pack and the hunter.

The modern breeder of these dogs must take great care to evaluate puppies for temperament to ensure that they are placing well-suited puppies with future owners and in keeping with the desired temperament of the breed. The evaluation process typically begins shortly after birth and continues as the puppies grow and develop.

One essential aspect of temperament evaluation is observing a puppy’s social behavior. Breeders look for signs of confidence, curiosity, and friendliness, as these traits indicate a well-adjusted and sociable puppy. Ideally puppies will actively engage with humans and their littermates, show interest in their surroundings, and display appropriate levels of playfulness.

Another crucial aspect of temperament evaluation is assessing a puppy’s reaction to various stimuli. Breeders expose the puppies to different sounds, sights, and experiences to gauge their responses. Puppies with a balanced temperament should show a level of resilience and adaptability,
remaining calm or recovering quickly from unfamiliar situations.

Additionally, breeders assess a puppy’s level of sensitivity and threshold for stimulation, as this can indicate how well the puppy will handle potential stressors in its future environment.

By conducting thorough temperament evaluations, the modern Ibizan breeder can not only match puppies with compatible families but also can ensure that the breed continues to be preserved as intended.

—Meegan Pierotti-Tietje, Heron and Hound
IHCUS Board of Directors
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Ibizan Hound Club of the US

Irish Wolfhounds
THE NEED TO RUN

Exercise is essential for nearly all canines, but off-lead exercise is a life-line for the athletic, giant Irish Wolfhound. Providing the Wolfhound with a home environment having ample, secured property is one of the best ways to achieve their prosperity. The Irish Wolfhound Club of America, the breed’s parent club, recommends that the ideal home provides sufficient fenced property to accommodate this athletic sighthound’s galloping nature, and that the Irish Wolfhound is not a dog to be acquired without serious forethought because of his great size and the amount of exercise essential to his well-being.

Let’s face it. Dogs love sunshine and fresh grass to roll in. But even more, Wolfhounds love to run and stretch out, which is why they are called galloping hounds. They exhibit unmistakable sheer glee that you can see in their expressions as they gallop at top speed, bounding through the air.

Self-exercise at home in their sufficiently large, fenced property provides not just freedom; it releases energy and is necessary for the Wolfhound’s physical development. The hound who regularly partakes in free-running exercises such as bounding, twisting, and turning develops strong muscles.

Though I lack the space here to expound on developed skeletal muscle technicalities, they are vital for posture and movement and aid in maturation and longevity. An equally important function for muscles is to provide stability to the joints of the body, making it easier for them to function and protecting them from injuries.

Also, liberating romping provides valuable mental stimulation benefiting a Wolfhound’s psyche, soul, and spirit. It can sustain his overall happiness and health. His personality and character will develop to their full potential, which is especially crucial in such a powerful, giant hunting breed that must be even tempered and well adjusted.

Some prospective puppy buyers frequently pose an alternative to the ideal-sized
fenced property by planning on walking their Wolfhound daily. Though walking is beneficial and provides necessary changes of scene, with new stimuli and socialization, it cannot totally replace a sufficiently sized fenced property large enough for galloping.

The Irish Wolfhound Club of America: “We must never forget that pursuit is his natural sport, and the sight of him in characteristic gallop, swiftly covering the ground beneath him, is exhilarating and leaves no doubt of his need to exercise his birthright.”
Practical questions are posed. What if you are too tired to walk several miles after a long day? Suppose family obligations or work responsibilities increase, or an illness occurs? In that case, it invariably impacts the time spent with the Wolfhound on a leash. Consider inclement weather with brutal temperatures and humidity, or snow and rainstorms that alter our best-laid plans. What if the hound’s owner or daily walker becomes incapacitated? Without a large, fenced property or lengthy walking excursions, the hound is handicapped as well.

Finally, Wolfhounds, especially younger hounds, can become bored and destructive if they do not have the benefits and advantages of ample-sized fenced yards. Some Wolfhounds may eat through sheetrock walls, tear down draperies, and more. Frolicking, galloping, and freestyle exercise allow them to vent their energy positively. It is strongly recommended that when a young IW is unsupervised, he resides in his safe zone of an ex-pen or giant crate, especially overnight. However, the parent club warns careful use of these, as an IW should never be crated or penned routinely for long periods, such as during work hours. Doing so can be detrimental to muscles and joints and encourage the formation of bursas. So too, IWs can develop behavioral issues such as frustration and heightened roughhousing propensities from long hours of confinement. It also leaves little opportunity for socialization, which can foster timidity in a hound and leave their personalities undeveloped.

In essence, “Asking the prospective owner to think about the responsibility of obtaining an Irish Wolfhound is not a throw-away issue ... Although the chase is not his preoccupation, we must never forget that pursuit is his natural sport, and the sight of him in characteristic gallop, swiftly covering the ground beneath him, is exhilarating and leaves no doubt of his need to exercise his birthright.” —Irish Wolfhound Club of America

—Lisa Dubé Forman,
lisadubeforman.com
Irish Wolfhound Club of America

Norwegian Elkhounds

Ah, the longsuffering, ever-enduring exhibitor who walks into the performance ring leading an Elkhound! I think they can just feel the sympathy exuding from the owners of breeds such as Border Collies, Malinois, and GSDs. Well, fellow Elkhound lovers, take heart! The breed excels in many venues.

Take Barn Hunt, for instance. In 2015, Elkhound owner Dennis Bell of Oregon and his dog Loki finished #1 in the Barn Hunt Grand National results.
Another area where Elkhounds do well is agility. They seem to love it. It always brings me to tears to see an Elkhound running the courses, so happy to be doing the different challenges and proud to be working and running with his owner.

By nature of their function while hunting, the Elkhound must be independent. They are what we could call free thinkers. He ranges far ahead of the hunter and therefore has to make his own decisions in trailing the moose. It is this independence that makes him such a great hunter, as no human can keep up with a fleeing moose; the dog has to rely on himself to achieve the hunting goal.

The breed is extremely intelligent and thus learns quickly. I am convinced from then on he wonders why we humans insist he rehearse and rehearse what he already knows when his owner insists on classes that entail repetition.

I have a friend whose bitch hated the long downs, and after she would leave the area this bitch would sit up on her haunches and wave to the crowd. As soon as the laughter started, she proceeded to open her bag of “cuteness tricks” and perform, which was obviously far more fun than being a bored statue lying on the floor.

In the hunt, when the moose tires from trying to flee the Elkhound trailing him, he will stand and frequently fight. The dog’s job is to corner the moose while avoiding the hooves and huge antlers and to keep the moose cornered until his humans arrive. Some owners have taken their Elkhounds to herding trials, and they have done very well at this task. The similarity between these two jobs lends credulity to the feeling that Elkhounds can do this job instinctively.

I spent a wonderful 10 years working as a lobbyist for dog owners’ rights at the Georgia state capitol. While there, I met and worked with a number of great like-
minded folks and groups. One of these groups was the hunters who live throughout the state. I became friendly with the owner and publisher of an outdoors/hunter’s magazine. He informed me that a hunter in middle Georgia used several Elkhounds to hunt wild hogs, as he valued the fact that they are silent hunters. The dogs would trail the hog, and when it goes to ground the Elkhound feels his work is done. At that point he sends in a few of what he called “pit bull–type” dogs to rout the animal out of its lair, the most dangerous part of the job. Wild hogs can be fierce. It is as if the Elkhounds understand that going in after the game is not their bailiwick.

Don’t misunderstand me, the Elkhound was brave enough to battle the wolf when left home to guard the family and livestock in Norway. Cave drawings show the Elkhound going into battle with the Vikings centuries ago, but it as if they have a sense of picking the hill on which to die. Perhaps protecting their family and farm was important to them.

Elkhounds excel as pure-bred-dog ambassadors too. There are many who visit nursing homes, hospitals, and hospices. They are a breed that seems to understand what their family thinks and what they are feeling, and they act accordingly. Quick to pick up on certain words, I can ask one of mine if she has to go out. She looks at me and then turns her head to look out the window, indicating her response is “Yes, I do need to go out.”

They do like their food—and more especially, your food. This makes them great show dogs, and great beggars at the dinner table. Judges have come to expect them to stand and free-bait with ears erect and tails up over their backs. I would warn Elkhound handlers or owners, however, not to correct their dog while preparing him to go into the ring. Elkhound spitefulness is legendary. Do too much or unusual grooming, or fuss at them for sniffing the dog or bitch standing next to them, and you are likely to get an exhibit who has suddenly forgotten how to gait, has lost the strength to hold his tail up, or has no interest in anything you offer him as bait—even though every Elkhound is a chow hound.

Know this about Elkhounds: They are loving, devoted, smart, independent, joyful, wonderful companions to whom contact with humans is everything. —Bonnie Turner, 2016

Norwegian Elkhound Association of America

Otterhounds

TEMPERAMENT: WHAT MAKES OTTERHOUNDS SPECIAL

Otterhounds are large and strong, but they are also sensitive and require positive, consistent guidance. A successful bond requires humans who understand
them. Rewarding desirable behavior is the key. Harsh treatment may not make them slink away, but often they will stop working and may seek solace in destructive behavior or in silly antics. And it is easy to motivate an Otterhound by using food rewards or exuberant praise.

Pack mentality makes owning a number of Otterhounds fairly easy. They accept those who live with them and form a pack with each other, with their human family members, and with other animals in the home and on the property. Many of us own one or more cats who sleep with our hounds. Horses, pigs, and many other barnyard animals are tolerated or befriended. The saying “Otterhounds are like potato chips, because you can’t have just one” illustrates just how easy it usually is to add an Otterhound to the family pack. And it is easy to motivate an Otterhound by praising a housemate’s accomplishment.

Working-dog people use the word “drive” to describe that quality that makes a dog want to do what it was bred to do, no matter what the obstacles. Often people equate this drive with repeatedly retrieving an object and refusing to give it up until the end of a long session of tugging. Drive or heart in a hound is different from what one expects in many breeds.

Otterhounds may not tug a toy or race to retrieve a bumper or ball; they are rarely sharp or super active. And even “drivey” Otterhounds will rarely repeat a behavior over and over.

Independent hunters, every Otterhound has dogged persistence in pursuing quarry. The oft-quoted phrase “when their nose turns on, their hearing turns off,” usually an explanation for their failure...
to come when called, is the very thing that enables an Otterhound to follow an old scent in rivers, over the banks and down a city street. This is the drive that makes them ignore fallen trees or cars and traffic as they follow their noses for long trails even in heat. All Otterhounds are persistent; the good working hounds do not give up once they know what you want from them. In fact they catch on despite humans’ often clumsy attempts to convey the goal of the game.

Curiosity, another Otterhound characteristic and one they share with cats, draws them to explore any hole or closed door or niche. Otters weren’t safe from the pack, whether in their holts or in water. At home with their human family, hounds will explore and figure out how to open doors, gates, refrigerators, garbage containers, and ovens. It is humbling to watch an Otterhound open a fence gate after seeing his human do it once or twice.

These are dogs who never give up when trying to do their job, even self-appointed tasks.

Many owners fall in love with the Otterhound look, tousled hair, and huggable size, but their pack mentality, tenacity, and curiosity make them very special companions, so different from sporting, working, or herding dogs.

—Eibhlin Glennon, Riverrun Otterhounds
eibhlinglennon@yahoo.com
Otterhound Club of America

Petits Bassets Griffons Vendéens

This month’s article is penned by one of our club’s top performance experts, Megan Esherick (ClancyPBGV@gmail.com). Meg’s PBGVs are titled in almost every AKC performance event, in addition to the conformation ring. Meg trains the full range from puppies to adults at her training facility at home in Pennsylvania.

PURINA PRO PLAN INCREDBLE DOG CHALLENGE 2023

On May 6, Ch. MACH6 Clancy’s Pumpkin Spice Ale, VCD1, BN, RAE, MXS2, PADS, MJG2, PJDS, MFS, T2B5, SWA, SBE, SHDE, RATN, BCAT, PCMH, CGCA, TKP, THDN, became the first PBGV to compete at the Purina Pro Plan Incredible Dog Challenge. Spice was one of five dogs invited to compete in the Small Dog Agility Competition at the Central Regional in Fort Worth, Texas. I was first approached about this event at Westminster in 2022, when a Purina trainer came to talk to me after watching Spice’s brother Gromit run. She was looking for small dogs with good speed and skills who were not traditional agility breeds.

When asked if I would consider traveling to attend this event, I said that I would, but also that I thought Spice would be the better representative.
Last May, Spice—Ch. MACH6 Clancy’s Pumpkin Spice Ale, VCD1, BN, RAE, MXS2, PADS, MJG2, PJDS, MFS, T2B5, SWA, SBE, SHDE, RATN, BCAT, PCMH, CGCA, TKP, THDN—trained and handled by owner Megan Esherick, became the first PBGV to compete at the Purina Pro Plan Incredible Dog Challenge.
Gromit is cute and funny (and always a crowd favorite), but Spice is the more reliable and faster agility dog. I was asked to send photos and videos as well as some information about myself and my dogs, but nothing was promised.

At the time I knew very little about the Incredible Dog Challenge, other than the fact that it was a long-standing televised event that features a variety of dog sports.

Purina has sponsored the IDC for more than 26 years. It’s a standalone event, and runs don’t count toward titles in AKC or any other organization.

The regional competition that we attended featured agility, dock diving, disc dog, and Jack Russell racing. It was held at the Texas Motor Speedway on sod that was installed in the middle of a sea of blacktop, in conjunction with a Ducks Unlimited Outdoor Expo.

In February I received an official invitation to compete. I was disappointed to realize that it was on the same day as Westminster agility, which is two hours from home, and that attending would mean driving to Texas just a month after being there for the PBGV national.

I had a couple of weeks to make a decision, but when several high-level agility competitors told me that this was a bucket-list item for them and that I should definitely go, I figured out how to arrange my schedule for another 1,500-mile drive.

Leading up to the event there was somewhat limited communication, and all of it came from a production company. When Spice and I set out for Texas, I still didn’t entirely know what to expect other than when and where we were expected to be.

The drive went pretty smoothly—turns out you can make better time when you aren’t in an RV with 11 dogs. I saw a couple dogs at our hotel on Thursday night and was able to find someone to follow in the morning to the tunnel for infield parking, where we were instructed to enter the track. Getting in was a little confusing and involved driving into areas where it didn’t seem we would be allowed, but eventually I parked and figured out where the crating tent was.

The forecasted temperatures for the weekend were in the high 90s, and everything was outdoors. For perspective, it had been 45 degrees when we left Pennsylvania, and we almost never trial outside, so the conditions alone were going to be a test. The crating tent had big fans, and there were pools for cooling dogs, so everything possible was done to keep dogs safe and comfortable. A Purina staff veterinarian was available if anyone felt their dog needed assistance. I was prepared with battery-operated fans and a cooling coat.

When we proceeded to check in, we first had to pose for head shots and then picked up our competitor credentials and shirts. I was
surprised at this point to be handed a check to help cover travel expenses, which was an unexpected bonus. During check-in I was asked if I would do an interview later in the day about Spice’s work as a therapy dog. We had some time to hang out before the lunch and handler briefing. Because of the heat, I mostly stayed in the tent with Spice.

Anyone who thinks PBGVs are noisy and energetic should really spend a weekend with dock diving and disc dogs! I can assure you that Spice was the calmest and quietest dog in the whole tent.

At lunch, they explained a little more about the event and gave very specific instructions about how to share our experiences on social media. This was all becoming pretty intimidating, especially since I didn’t really know anyone and appeared to be the only person who hadn’t brought a guest-helper.

After lunch we had the chance to walk the agility course, and they explained that we would have two practice runs on Friday—yes, practice runs of the same course we would be running the next day, which was definitely a different experience. We were told that the first practice run could be a training run, with toys and sequences repeated if needed, but the second time we should try to run the course.

All of the cameras were in place on Friday, which was a good opportunity to let the dogs get used to them. Spice looked twice at a photographer who was moving through the ring as we ran but wasn’t bothered by the stationary or overhead cameras, although I think a lot of dogs could have been.

I feel silly saying this, but it wasn’t until the walk-through that I realized just how small and exclusive this event was. I knew it was hard to get invited, but not that there were only 15 dogs total, from all jump heights. Looking around, I also realized that I was probably the only one there who had not competed internationally on one of the World Teams. That said, everyone was extremely nice and supportive. I had no trouble finding people to help video my runs, and the other exhibitors were really complimentary of Spice’s skills.

Since Spice doesn’t care much about toys, and I didn’t feel the need to train any obstacles, I just ran the course straight through on both practice runs. We were the first dog to run clean on the first try, so it was cool to see we could get it right the first time.

One the second run on Friday I got caught behind on the slippery sod, and Spice had a run out, but I was feeling good about her willingness to run all-out in really tough conditions. Afterward I did an interview with the production crew about PBGVs and therapy dogs, so hopefully some of that made it onto TV.

On Saturday we ran at 11:30 a.m., so it was a little cooler than Friday, but
not by much. I was wearing shoes with more tread in the hopes of not slipping on the sod. The format on Saturday was that everyone ran twice, with only the better run counting. Scoring was time plus faults, and the other dogs were a lot faster than us, so I knew a podium spot was a long shot. My goal was a clean run, and we did manage that on the second run.

The winning small dog was a Border Collie-Papillon cross, purpose-bred for agility. Spice is not as tall and weighs more than twice as much, so the laws of physics are not on our side, but she ran as fast as she could and handled the course well. I know we were there as the token untraditional breed (“off breed,” to use the common term, but I hate that phrase). That’s fine—it was a huge honor to represent not only PBGVs, but everyone who is out there running their breed of choice in agility.

The style of the course used was much more like a European agility course than what we normally run in AKC. There were four tunnel passes, huge distances between obstacles, and areas where you couldn’t be close by to support the dog. I’ve been training (and whining about) distance work a lot lately, because it’s something we need for another important agility goal. I have to say that this helped us get through the course clean, because I had to trust in my ability to send Spice to an obstacle and take off running, or I wouldn’t have been where I needed to be later in the course.

In hindsight, we could probably have prepared better by running some international courses at local trials, but this isn’t something I usually do. The heat, the cameras, open ring gates, and the announcer (who declared Spice to be “the cutest dog here”) all added some challenges also, but Spice has done big events before, and she held up like the rock star that she is.

In the end, Spice placed fifth in the small dog division. I’m so glad that I had this opportunity to show off my awesome girl and to run her among some of the best agility dogs in the country.

—Megan Esherick
Thank you, Megan!
—Susan Smyth, PBGVCA Gazette column chair, oldyork2002@aol.com
Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen Club of America

Pharaoh Hounds
PHARAOH HOUND STRUCTURE

It is always a good idea for Pharaoh Hound breeders to review the standard and then analyze their own Pharaohs as compared to it. It seems that, for many, this is a difficult thing to do, considering the faults that are most prevalent in today’s Pharaohs. It is hard to accept that many breeders are actually breeding certain serious faults, without recognizing them, or else not respecting the standard but breeding traits that they prefer to have.

The most common
serious faults found in Pharaoh today are straight shoulders and over-angled hindquarters, resulting in a dog that is out of balance—two faults leading to a third fault, and to yet another: incorrect gait.

The standard reads:

*Forequarters*—Shoulders long and sloping and well laid back. Strong without being loaded.”

This means that the shoulder blade and upper arm join at an angle of 90 degrees. Not every Pharaoh Hound will have the shoulder blade and upper arm meet at an angle of 90 degrees, and an angle of slightly more than that is acceptable. *However, an angle of 110 degrees results in an extremely open and straight or upright shoulder and is a fault.* The proper construction of the shoulder can best be described as when a line drawn through the shoulder blade at an angle of 45 degrees would meet a line drawn through the length of the upper arm at an angle of 90 degrees.

Length of the shoulder blade and of the upper arm should be equal.

The muscles of the shoulders should be long and flat. Bulging or “loaded” shoulders are not pleasing to the eye and are detrimental to proper gait. They are an indication of faulty shoulder construction.

The standard reads:

*Hindquarters*—Strong and muscular. Limbs parallel. Moderate sweep of stifle. Well developed second thigh.”

The hindquarters of the Pharaoh Hound should be strong and well-muscled but must not be overly muscular or “beefy.” The moderate sweep of stifle should be clearly defined so that the bend can easily be seen. Correct construction of the hindquarters is present when the pelvis and upper
shank meet at a right angle (90 degrees) and the upper and lower shanks, which are of equal length, meet at an approximate right angle, possibly more than 90 degrees.

For those who find it difficult to deal with degrees and diagrams, there is a simple method by which a Pharaoh’s rear angulation can be evaluated. The dog should be standing with hocks perpendicular to the ground. Viewed from the side, if you were to imagine a plumb line going from the base of the tail to the ground, that line should touch the dog’s toes. If he is overangulated, the line would fall in front of the toes. In many of today’s winners, the line would miss the toes by several inches. This is not moderate sweep of stifles. It is not what the standard calls for. It is, instead, approaching German Shepherd–type angulation. The excessive sweep of stifles may be flashy to some breeders and judges, but it is not the moderate sweep of stifles called for in the standard. The overangulated Pharaoh is not Pharaoh Hound type, a most serious fault.

When viewed from the side, the gait of the Pharaoh Hound, moving at a trot of moderate speed, should be free, smooth, and powerful, with great reach in front and great drive behind. This necessitates correct and balanced front and rear angulation. The side view reveals if the front step is the same as the rear step and if front and rear angulation are correct and in balance. However, it may be difficult to see if the Pharaoh is moving correctly by simply judging him from the side.

The Pharaoh should also always be judged moving away from and back toward the viewer, since the standard states that legs and feet should move in line with the body. When he moves forward and back, it is easy to see if he is moving his feet in line with his body or if he is single-tracking, which is unacceptable in Pharaoh Hounds.

When moving away from the viewer, the rear feet and legs of the dog should move directly forward with hocks parallel to each other and in line with the body. When approaching the viewer, the dog’s front legs should move in line with his body and be parallel to each other. The dog whose shoulders are straight will not have the reach in front to avoid his rear feet stepping on his front feet. This dog cannot move his legs in parallel lines to his body. He can either bring his rear feet together in line with the center of his body to “single track,” or he can move them to the side, “crabbing” to avoid his front feet. Either way, it is incorrect motion, since feet and legs should move in line with the body.

Correct gait cannot exist in a dog that is overangulated in rear even if he has correct front angulation. This dog cannot move his legs in parallel lines. His long back legs will overstep his front feet causing him to
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crab, single-track, or cross in rear to avoid hitting his front feet. His movement will worsen to the degree of his failure to conform to the standard.

For those who want a fool-proof method to see how correctly the dog is moving, gait him on damp sand or light snow, and see if those elusive parallel tracks are evident.

On the positive side, there are breeders who take the standard seriously and who strive to breed accordingly. While the future of the Pharaoh Hound depends upon them, it also depends upon good judging. Human nature being what it is, people want dogs who look like the current winners. It is up to the judges to be certain that current winners represent the ideal Pharaoh Hound as closely as possible. If a Pharaoh is a poor specimen of the breed, and he is the only Pharaoh entered, he should not receive a ribbon that will take him into the group.

Group and Best in Show judges should be aware that with the frequency of small Pharaoh Hound entries, the Pharaoh they are judging might be the only dog that was entered and is not necessarily a good representative of the breed. He should not be automatically accepted as such. It is the responsibility of a judge to be well informed with regard to the breed being judged. It should be a mutual goal shared by well-informed judges and breeders to protect the integrity of any breed.

I brought the third Pharaoh Hound into the U.S. in 1969, and as the number of Pharaohs grew, they remained most uniform for about 20 years. As the number of breeders grew, Pharaohs gradually began to change. It is distressing to see how different the breed looks today, and I can only wonder what the future will bring.

We must reflect on the PHCA motto: “... a great responsibility ... to keep faith with 5,000 years of true breeding ... they must shun man’s natural tendency to ‘improve’ which so often in dog breeding terms means to alter out of all recognition.” —Rita Laventhall Sacks, 2016

Pharaoh Hound Club of America

Salukis

THE 2023 SALUKI EUROPEAN CONGRESS

For Saluki people and fanciers, the 2023 Saluki European Congress encompassed not only Congress seminars but two Saluki specialties and the World Lure Coursing Championships. The last international Saluki Congress was admirably done by the Finnish Saluki Club in 2008 (and before that in 2007, the Festival of the Saluki hosted by the Saluki or Gazelle Hound Club in England). The Swedish Saluki Club’s splendid effort followed that grand tradition and did not disappoint.

Just days after Midsommar
The leading lights of the Saluki European Congress (left to right): presenters and judges Dagmar Hintzenberg-Freisleben, Wendy Duggan, Mary Sanders-Parker, and organizers Agneta Doverholt and Katarina Peterson.

—the longest day of the year, and a traditional Swedish celebration of life and love—93 dedicated people from Austria, Belgium, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, England, Finland, France, Germany, Lithuania, New Zealand, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland, and the U.S. gathered in the lovely and dog-friendly Kristianstad on June 26 to discuss and learn about our beloved, ancient breed. The Congress venue was a pleasant dining hall on a forested, decommissioned Swedish Army base now owned communally for housing, schools, and craft workshops.

After a warm welcome by the organizers Agneta Doverholt and Katarina Petersson, and the day began with “The Illustrated Breed Standard,” by Mary Sanders Parker (GBR, Classicus Salukis). Following this was “Understanding the Saluki Standard from a Historical and Functional Viewpoint,” by Wendy Duggan (USA, Kyzyl Kum Salukis), which featured coursing videos. After a delightful lunch, Dagmar Hintzenberg-Freisleben (DEU, Sawahin Salukis) offered “A Breeder’s Experience since 1977,” detailing the activities our breed can enjoy—lure coursing, obedience, agility, and scent and service work—and discussed concerns for breeders such as the influence of genes, personality, and anatomical structure.

After fika (the charming Swedish term for a traditional break in the day featuring coffee, conversation, and pastries), Dagmar challenged her audience with a workshop puzzle to match up developing puppy photos from her litters at different ages with their mature photographs. The room came alive with spirited opinions about which puppies would become which adults, and before
closing, Dagmar revealed who was who, with several people delighted to learn they’d made correct choices.

The following day, the first Saluki specialty began, with the three Congress presenters judging various classes throughout the day, including Best Veteran, Best Head and Expression, and Best Smooth. In the final competition, Wendy Duggan awarded Best in Specialty (Best of Breed) to her winners from the Working Classes (coursing)—a black-fringed red, feathered male, BA Ch. CIB FI LCCH SE LCCH SE&DK UCH Sharwassim Fayek Al Shim (Haglund), with Reserve going to the dark-grizzle, feathered male from the Working Class, CIB CIBP CIC FI LCCH FI&EE CH SE LCCH Al Wathba Fahyim Kenson Saril (Hägg, Pettersson, Hägg). In the grand finale, Sanders-Parker selected the best Saluki from both specialties, and the Supreme BIS went to Husniya’s Barakeh of Barakisch.

With Congress and the specialties concluded, four days of FCI World Championship Lure Coursing began (https://wcc2023.svvk.se). The BIS from the Tuesday specialty, Sharwassim Fayek Al Shim, was ranked number 14—very respectable, with so many coursing Salukis. To honor his show and coursing wins, Fayek was specially awarded Best Dual-Purpose Saluki. This was a nice validation of the conformation judges’ choice of this dog from the Working Class.

The Finnish word sisu means strength of will, determination, and perseverance through great difficulties. After the Saluki World Congress of 2008, I wondered who would host the next one. Three years of planning, fund-raising, and hard work by Agneta Doverholt, Katarina Petersson, and the Svenska Salukiringen (Swedish Saluki Club) created the 2023 Saluki European Congress. Now, who has the sisu to organize the next international Saluki Congress?

—Brian Patrick Duggan, bpduggan@mac.com

Saluki Club of America

Scottish Deerhounds

OUR NATIONAL SPECIALTY—A FAMILY AFFAIR

Our 2023 national specialty is now in the history books, and it deserves to be shared! This year we convened at
Oglebay Resort in West Virginia, where the deer roam freely and the hills are magnificent. That is, until someone tries the trek back to the hotel from the ring on foot! Most of us utilized wheels in the form of our cars, trucks, and motor homes, and we enjoyed the short drive to and from the hotel to the ring and back, right on the truly lovely hotel grounds.

Our judge this year was longtime breeder Jay Phinizy, who with his wife Elin has had Deerhounds since 1970—an amazing 53 years! Although they bred infrequently, Jay and Elin were very active in the breed over the years, and they won the national specialty themselves twice with their Ch. Fangs Wraith of Black North. Jay has been recognized as a judge in England since the late 1970s and was approved by the mid ‘80s to judge in this country as well. His judging assignments have included the Hound Show in England, as well as the Breed Show there twice, and assignments in this country at Santa Barbara, Westminster three times, and our own specialty in 1995 and this year. We were very honored to show under him in May.

This year we held many events, more than ever before, and we struggled to fit them all in, but we did it! Working together, our volunteers have always accomplished great things, and this year was no exception. It would be wonderful if we could include all our spectacular winners here, but with a nod to space restrictions we’ll only list the top winners.

Our week began with Fast CAT competition, including both all-breed on Sunday and Deerhounds on Monday. Also on Monday we had LGRA competition, held at the beautiful Sandcrest site. Tuesday saw ASFA lure coursing, and Wednesday AKC coursing, both held at Sandcrest. The
competition was keen on both days, and there were fun runs and puppy runs in both venues. It was an action-packed time, enjoyed by all.

Futurity was held on Wednesday and judged by Jean Turoci, who has been involved with the community for years, breeding and showing her Deerhounds during that time. On Thursday we had our obedience trial, judged by Anita Eisthen—where we were treated to an entrant earning a perfect score of 200, something not often seen!

Following that judging was our sweepstakes, judged by Mary White, who has been judging Deerhounds in Canada since 2003. This was capped off by dinner in the ballroom, with a timely health seminar presented by Dr. James E. Radcliffe, who spoke on “The Future of Veterinary Medicine—Where We Are, Where We’re Going.” This is something which is so very critical to our future.

Packed into our week also at scheduled times were the sample collections and health-clinic testing: cardiac clinic, blood-draw clinic for the CHIC DNA Bank, testing for delayed post-operative hemorrhage (DEPOH), eye clinic, and DCM study. We’re indebted to our great group of volunteers who helped make these happen and who made things go smoothly and with good cheer.

Moving into Friday, we began our conformation classes, with our Veterans classes coming first, followed by our regular dog classes and Winners Dog, and then on to our regular bitch classes and Winners Bitch. Friday night we gathered for our group dinner and enjoyed our annual raffle and silent auction.

On Saturday we watched Junior Showmanship, always a great class as our younger generation get their honors in the ring.

One of the most emotionally charged times for us all was on Saturday morning, our incredible annual Parade of Champions, piped into the ring by the special sound of the bagpipes. It’s always a tear-filled time, which honors the special nature of our Scottish breed.

Winding up our week was the Best of Breed competition, where over 35 of our champions competed for top honors, which went to Ch. Lehigh Darkwynd Kyla, owned and bred by Paula Pascoe, Pam Smithson, and Grant Winchell, and Best Opposite Sex was awarded to GCh. Battle of Stirling Bridge, bred and owned by Lauren Lynne Lozano and Lynn Kaier.

Not to be forgotten were our Generations and Special Properties Classes, judged by longtime Deerhounder Mary Ann Rose. Ending our week on a high note was our annual awards banquet and live auction.

I think all would agree that this Scottish Deerhound national specialty was truly a one-of-a-kind experience that we’ll all remember!
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—Frances Smith, Scottish Deerhound Club of America

Whippets

Our guest columnist this month is Karen Bowers Lee, a second-generation breeder of the well-known Surrey Hill Whippets. Karen and her late mother, Carolyn Bowers, have bred Whippets and Corgis and several other breeds for more than five decades. The Surrey Hill Whippets are known for their success in both conformation and performance areas of competition and also for their health and longevity. Karen is especially qualified to address the issues of the aging Whippet, as in her professional career she is a registered nurse specializing in hospice care. Her column follows.

THE AGED WHIPPET

The typical lifespan of an overall healthy Whippet averages 13 to 15 years. Any Whippet owner who is fortunate enough to see their beloved Whippet survive past all the ages at which accidents or earlier onsets of diseases such as cancers or cardiac may find themselves in possession of what many of us abbreviate as a VOD—that is, a “Very Old Dog.”

With Whippets, the VOD may have nothing specific that might claim their lives and may indeed be on no medications for specific problems, yet they grow more and more thin. “Old age anorexia” is one of the ways this can be described, and it often leads to concern on the part of the owner that Whippets (who look thin to the general public even if in perfect condition) might appear starved or abused to non-fanciers. Many owners attempt to circumvent this sort of scrutiny by dressing their VODs in jammies or coats when bringing them out into a public space such as a veterinarian’s office. The VODs themselves might be perfectly cheerful and happy, eating and drinking as normal, but they continue to look thinner and more wasted in their muscle tone and mass. Because our breed is built on lean lines to begin with, and they have no fluffy coat to hide protruding bones, this can be a source of discomfort to owners even though the elderly Whippet might be in no discomfort at all.

He or she is simply a Very Old Dog.

In human hospice nursing, there is a diagnosis code called sarcopenia. It basically means that the patient is progressively wasting away despite continuing to eat and drink. Eventually, human patients with this diagnosis generally end up bed bound and unable to get up or reposition themselves, which potentially leads to other horrible things like bedsores and pneumonia. Near the end, there is more mental confusion. Eventually the weakness progresses to death, but not before a period of bedbound and incontinent status and usually all the issues that come from that.
Elderly dogs can suffer from something very similar if nothing else takes them earlier. They just decline. You will see it maybe a year out when although they are eating, their muscle mass is decreasing. They start to look skinny. They may appear progressively weaker but are still able to get up and down enough to go outside and potty, but overnight incontinence may become an issue.

I have a VOD like that now. He still has relatively bright eyes and can walk and trot and bunny-hop around, but his formerly powerful double-suspension gallop is long gone. He has no active disease process to a specific organ that accounts for any of these changes. His blood work is good. However, weakness is progressing, appetite is decreasing, and he paces the kitchen a lot when there is no need to pace. The weight and muscle tone has melted off his bones in the last six months. I am cooking special foods to tempt his appetite, high in protein and very digestible. In a human patient, we’d be looking at hospice care. But since he is an elderly Whippet, we can duplicate comfort measures and nutritional support at home. He is on fluffy beds, he has a disposable belly.
band at night, and we get as much good quality food and protein into him as he is willing to eat.

Some days, he sleeps a lot. But he has irrational bursts of exuberance where he rollicks around after the younger ones and *woof-woos* for his snacks. His life is still worth living, even though he looks like he is skin over bones.

Cherish the last days, weeks, and months with a beloved VOD, but do understand that these are natural processes and not a medical emergency if they are eating some and their stools are normal. When he is no longer able to rise on his own, and when that liveliness is gone from his eyes, I will know it is time.

—Karen Bowers Lee, Deland, Fla., surreyhillwhippets@gmail.com

Thank you, Karen.

—Phoebe Booth, Blandford, Mass., Shamasan@aol.com

The American Whippet Club

American Hairless Terriers

IS THE AMERICAN HAIRLESS TERRIER HYPOALLERGENIC?

A

ccording to the American Academy of Allergy and Immunology, allergies are among the most common chronic health conditions worldwide. Allergies are triggered when the immune system over-reacts to certain typically harmless substances. The symptoms generated vary greatly from person-to-person and range from uncomfortable (runny/itchy nose, sneezing, eye swelling, rash) to life-threatening (asthma, anaphylaxis). Allergies can affect anyone, and they tend to run in families, although the exact genetic mechanism is not fully understood.

Millions suffer from pet allergies caused by the proteins found in animal dander, saliva, and urine. When skin cells are shed, tiny dander flakes float in the air, making their way into people’s airways and eyes, causing an immune response. Contrary to popular belief, the animal’s hair/coat is not the culprit. However, the coat holds the dander and/or can collect additional substances (e.g., pollen, dust), making the pet a “walking allergen.”

All dogs—even hairless dogs, including the American Hairless Terrier (AHT)—produce the proteins responsible for allergic reactions in people. While it is true that some people can tolerate one breed but not another, this is likely due to variation in breed-specific proteins or in dander-turnover rates. Reactions also vary between puppies and adults, and there is a decrease in allergic reaction to non-shedding dogs (fewer allergens released into the air). The amount of dander required to produce an allergic reaction in individual people also varies. So, if the level is below a person’s threshold, there may not be an obvious reaction (although there may still be an immune response that the person does not detect).
Many allergy sufferers and their families (including ours) have discovered that the AHT is a wonderful companion that does not trigger typical allergy symptoms. However, the AHT does not work for everyone. The first step in considering adding an AHT to your home is participating in an allergy trial. The “gold standard” trial occurs in a home with only hairless AHTs (the coated AHT is likely to cause the same allergic reaction as other short-coated breeds).

Over the last 20-plus years we have facilitated hundreds of AHT allergy trials, with the following results: 25% of the allergy sufferers had no reaction to the breed; 25% experienced their typical allergic response; and 50% had some allergic response that was less severe than their usual response.

Some in the last category opted to move forward with the AHT, implementing environmental modifications and accepting some discomfort and/or daily medication use, in order to have a dog.

Helpful environmental modifications include:
- eliminating carpet/upholstery
- installing HEPA filters
- keeping the dog out of
bedrooms/off furniture
 • bathing the dog to reduce surface allergens
 • maintaining outstanding skin condition to reduce flaking (this includes feeding a complete, well-balanced diet and protecting the dog’s skin from sunburn)

Other allergy sufferers are simply unsuccessful no matter how hard they try.

Please keep in mind that allergy trials are not perfect. A trial under one set of conditions does not guarantee failure (or success) in a different environment.

For example, results may vary in these two scenarios: a trial in a carpeted, multi-AHT home (lots of dander) vs. a single AHT home with hardwood flooring (less dander).

Additionally, many people were successful in a four-hour trial but failed after bringing their pup home.

Furthermore, a significant trial reaction suggests that long-term success with an AHT is unlikely.

If you move forward, you must discuss your allergy situation with your breeder and be sure your contract is clear about return policies.

Although having a contract reduces fears about “what to do if you can’t keep the dog,” it does nothing to diminish the sadness and disappointment of having to take the dog back. You may even have discussed “How will we feel if we can’t keep the dog?” but nothing really prepares you for having to make such a decision.

All in all, if you have any doubts as to whether the dog can stay, you may not want to bring one home in the first place—for your sake, and for the dog’s well-being. Adding a dog to your home should be a forever decision, and not one that should be taken lightly.

In closing, although the AHT is not for everyone, many have been able to experience the joy, unconditional love, and companionship of a dog thanks to this incredible breed!

—Karyn Pingel, wmk.ahts@gmail.com

American Hairless Terrier Club of America

Australian Terriers
FORM FollowS FUNCTION
The Australian Terrier, according to our standard, as indicated in the following with italic font style, is a small, sturdy, medium-boned terrier, rather long in proportion to height with pricked ears and docked tail who was bred to work.

Part of his job was to protect the family from the vermin that invaded their homes in the Outback of Australia. But that was not his only job. He also participated in the hunt and “went to ground” after prey; served as watchdog, informing the family of convicts, bushrangers, and marauding natives in the area; helped to herd the livestock; and lived in the home as a loving companion to the family.

As befits their heritage as versatile workers, Australian Terriers are sound and free moving with good reach and drive.
The recognizable outline of the Aussie starts with a head that is long and strong, set atop a long, slightly arched and strong neck, blending smoothly into well laid back shoulders, and continues along a level and firm topline to strong hindquarters with legs well angulated at the stifles and hocks, short and perpendicular from the hocks to the ground.

The length of the body comes from both the length of back from the withers to the front of the tail being ~1–1 ½ inches longer than from wither to the ground, as well as from the forelegs being set well under the body, with definite body overhang (keel) before them when viewed from the side.

The Australian Terrier Club of Queensland’s website description of the Aussie says “because of their longer body they are very agile and can leap in the air and turn on their body length and come down behind the prey.”

The distinctive harsh-textured outer coat, protective ruff blending into the apron, forelegs slightly feathered to the pasterns and a silky top-knot provided the Aussie protection from the harsh environmental conditions, as well as from snake and rat attacks. A strong and powerful muzzle and teeth of good size allowed him to dispatch these pests with ease.

The small eyes, small, erect and pointed ears, tight lips and small, clean, catlike feet reduced chances of injury while working or fighting with their prey that may otherwise occur with larger, protruding eyes; larger, floppy ears; loose jowls; and bigger, loose feet.

The skull being full between the eyes, with slight but definite stop allowed him to be able to see well even while carrying something, such as prey, in his mouth. The lips, eye-rims, nose, and V-shaped area free of hair on the bridge of the muzzle were black (lips can be dark brown on red dogs) to prevent sunburn.

The tail set on high and carried erect, docked to slightly less than on half the tail, provided a good handhold when mature for pulling.
them out of the ground if needed while hunting.

The Aussie’s expression was keen and intelligent; the temperament spirited, alert, courageous, and self-confident with the natural aggressiveness of a ratter and hedge hunter; and as a companion they were bred to be friendly and affectionate.

As breeders, we must understand our standard and how it relates to the ideal Aussie. We must remember, “Form follows function.” The further an Aussie is from the ideal, the less likely he would be able to perform the jobs of his ancestors.

—Dr. Grace Massey, Gloucester, Va., firewalkeraussies@gmail.com

Australian Terrier Club of America

BREED COLUMNS

TERRIER GROUP

Our Bedlingtons can and do excel in companion and performance events.

When the proliferation of these events was just beginning, one of our high-achieving, super-star trainers heard the following comments at a venue: “Can those dogs do anything?” and “Can you believe that the AKC Gazette featured a dumb Bedlington in an article about agility?” (Regarding the latter example, the unfortunate commenter had to compete with the “dumb Bedlington,” with predictable, humiliating results!)

My focus has always been on health, breeding, and conformation exhibition, but much to my delight and good fortune, one of my original puppy clients was a very dedicated and talented trainer. My Tyler Blue’s scores were rarely below 196, and he won several Open B classes. He also excelled in earthdog and flyball when these were just fledging events. In the mid-1990s I was appointed chair of the parent club’s Awards Committee. At the time, the only awards given were very limited conformation awards; I immediately suggested that we incorporate awards for companion events, and the Board approved it. It then seemed like companion and performance events grew exponentially and I needed the help of someone with a depth of experience and knowledge of the events.

We now have awards for eight companion events and four performance events and Versatile Dog and Versatile Champion Dog, which are administered by a very precise system of evaluation developed by Pat Hussey.

Organized agility competition began in Great Britain in the 1980s, and by the mid-’90s Bedlington owners from across our nation were competing in agility. Among them were Sue Latz from Ohio, with Willow and Wiggles; Pat Hussey from Illinois, with Spanky; Patti Bott from Southern...
California, with Calvin; Jeri Bernard in Northern California, with Powder; Randi Neill from Florida, with Dusty; Debbie Miller from Arizona, with Andy; and Anaclare Evans from Michigan, with Farnsie. Two of these exhibitors formed a group for Bedlington owners interested in agility which now numbers 50 members!

In 2001, Powder (Ch. Serendipity Uptown Girl, AX, AXJ, MX, MXJ) was the first Bedlington to complete in the Agility Nationals. Her littermate Hunter (Ch./MACH8 Serendipity’s Heartbreaker), owned by Melody Guiver, was the first Bedlington to become a Master Agility Champion. The littermates were bred by Dr. Cynthia Cook and Paul Pruitt. (The late Dr. Cook was an avid agility trainer as well.)

Some of our high achievers in these events have been active over nearly three decades. Arlene Myslinski, Debora Regan, and Paul Von Gerichten have been prominent in companion and performance events. Currently one of our top conformation dogs, GCh. Lamz Really Really Ridiculously Good Looking, boasts the titles FDC, CAA, TKN, and ATT. Mother-and-daughter breeders Laurie Zembrzuski and Gaby Gilbeau are also participating successfully in dock diving. In 2022, the Top Barn Hunt Award was
won by Trudy Harlow’s GCh. Chelsea’s White Lightnin’, FDC, NAJ, CAX, FCAT7, RATCHXS, TKN, ATT.

Another relative newcomer to the breed, Tisha Palmer, has garnered 54 AKC titles and 14 titles in other licensed venues on her dog Gilbert—GCh. Ashcroft Green Gables Xpectation, CD, BN, FDC, CAA, FCAT3, SWM, SHDN, RATN, CGCA. CGCU, TKP, ATT, VHMA, in just a few years. Gilbert was the first Bedlington Terrier to win a Scent Work title, which he achieved in short order. Tisha has had to manage some difficult health issues while exhibiting her superstar. Her credo is “Just make the attempt, and be willing to fail.”

All of these dedicated owners have earned our admiration for their hard work, commitment, and love for the breed.

Did you happen to notice that our current top dogs in companion and performance events also have Grand Championship titles? This is truly significant and speaks volumes about our breed fancy. Our high achievers in a variety of disciplines are capable of reproduction, which is vital to our low-numbers breed.

—Lucy Heyman, Spring, Texas

lucy@carilloncares.com
Bedlington Terrier Club of America

Border Terriers
Longtime Border Terrier Club of America member and volunteer Annette Neff of Wildwood Border Terriers shared the following excellent advice on training the breed.

USING PRAISE TO TRAIN AND REWARD YOUR BORDER TERRIER

Border Terriers are willing students and learn easily when you train with rewards. When training with rewards, it is important to not rely upon them. Reduce the number and timing of rewards once he understands what to do. There are three principal ways to phase out rewards:

1. Do the same exercise several times. Reward randomly.
2. Do the same exercise for a longer period of time. Reward at varying time intervals.
3. Do several different exercises for the same reward. Reward new or problematic exercises.

Fading rewards can cause your Border Terrier to be less motivated. So phase out rewards effectively, and use what motivates your dog. You need to be the primary motivation. Your Border must learn to work for verbal and physical praise, for fun, and for the love of working. So the secret is that interacting with you is fun and exciting, not boring or repetitive. The way to Borders’ brains is through their stomachs and natural instincts.

Food and toys are extensions of you—little perks that make training fun and exciting. What types of noises turn him on, and
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what toys or games excite him? Use them to motivate the dog. Remember, you can have all of the food and toys in the world, but if you are not your dog’s primary source of motivation, your dog will not comply when the food or toys are not available.

Learning to correctly praise is a key component in the successful training of your Border Terrier. Discover the words, sounds, or gestures that build your dog’s ego and boost his confidence. Praise is what will keep your dog enthusiastic and eager to learn.

With the stay command, to help him think through what he is learning the praise should be quiet and soothing. He needs to learn to hold the position until he is released. Exuberant praise would cause him to break.

To “rev your dog up,” praise needs to instigate the behavior. To get your dog to fly back to you on a retrieve or recall, praise enthusiastically to excite the dog. Your voice should fluctuate.

For difficult exercises, your praise should be explosive! You are rewarding his effort and courage, pumping up his ego, and building your Border Terrier’s confidence.

Don’t babble to your Border or use a monotone voice. That will teach your dog to ignore you. Droning on and on and not changing your tone of voice will bore him. Don’t praise your dog unless he has done something worth praising.

Recognize how and when to praise your dog. Be a good teacher, and give and take feedback to and from your dog. Your Border will show you what he understands through his responses.

Border Terriers must continue to get positive interaction and motivation throughout the learning process. Dogs learn through repetition, consistency, and association. Praise must come during the exercise. If the timing is off, praise...
is worthless. Praise should never signal the end of an exercise.

Trust your dog. Don’t use food as a crutch to ensure compliance. The key is to stop using food as your only reward. Instead, lavishly praise your Border Terrier and build his confidence and ego. —A.N., 2020

Thank you, Annette.
—D’Arcy Downs-Vollbracht, darcy@dvmlawfirm.com
Border Terrier Club of America

Cairn Terriers
TEMPERAMENT TESTING AND THE CAIRN PERSONALITY

The AKC Breed Temperament Guide describes the Cairn Terrier as “active, curious, alert, affectionate: dignified but tenacious and bold when working,” as stated in the Cairn breed standard.

Those of us who love this breed chose the Cairn for their intelligence and independent natures; they are loving companions, but also stubborn and manipulative. They can also be fierce hunters and possessive of their position in a pack structure.

The Cairn breed was selected by Scottish crofters as vermin control, but also as companions who would live in the home. To be kept as part of the family, Cairns needed to be even-tempered and social while also maintaining their drive for quarry when outside in the barn or fields.

Before launch of the AKC Temperament Test (ATT) program, some national breed clubs had developed temperament-certification programs specific to their breed. The AKC introduced the ATT program in 2019 to evaluate a dog’s temperament as he or she reacts to six categories of stimuli. These include Social, Auditory, Visual, Tactile, Proprioceptive (motion), and Unexpected Stimulus. Each category has several possible situations within which the dog can demonstrate its manner of reaction.

ATT testing can identify behaviors related to temperament that can be addressed through training.

There are four possible tests within each category, for a total of 24 test items. Three items from each category are administered in each trial. The two items always required are umbrella opening (Visual) and walking on a wire grate (Tactile).

The ATT is described as a noncompetitive, pass-fail test that screens for fear, shyness, inability to recover, and lack of cooperation. Taking the ATT allows dog owners to determine how close their individual dog’s temperament is to the breed standard. An ideal dog of desirable personality will be emotionally stable, inquisitive, appropriately social for its breed, biddable, and able to recover from a startling situation within a reasonable amount of time.

To earn an ATT title, a dog must be at least 1 year old when tested and must pass the test twice and under two different evaluators.
Clockwise from top: Temperament testing statistics; the six categories and 24 elements of the AKC Temperament Test (ATT); ATT evaluator and Cairn Terrier breeder-judge Pam Davis observes an Airedale Terrier walk across overlapping hoops to test proprioception; meeting a stranger with an umbrella is one of the visual elements; a Cairn Terrier crosses cavaletti, also testing proprioception.
Dogs who do not pass may retest when ready. ATT evaluators are chosen from specially trained AKC obedience judges, rally judges, and AKC-approved Canine Good Citizen Evaluators. Since 2019 the ATT program has grown, both in the number of testing sites offered and in the number of titles granted to dogs. In 2022 there were 788 tests held, with 5,019 ATT titles awarded to all dogs participating. For dogs within the Terrier Group, 371 titles have been earned. Since the program started, 48 Cairn Terriers have earned the ATT title.

Cairns by nature are highly social animals and are smart, reasoning, and independent. They were selected to serve as house-dogs while maintaining strong hunting drive. Cairns need a calm and affectionate demeanor to be the loving companions we so value. Any Cairn who is fearful, timid, or aggressive is not correct for the breed. The AKC ATT program offers an excellent means to evaluate temperament in response to standardized stimuli.

Further information on the Temperament Testing program is available on the AKC website.
—Pat Joyce, patjoyce1@att.net
Cairn Terrier Club of America

Dandie Dinmont Terriers
WORKING TOGETHER TOWARD THE BREED’S FUTURE

The Dandie Dinmont Terrier is an endangered breed. Our numbers in America have not yet been able to gain the ground we need to improve the gene pool and increase the numbers. Due to having only a few breeders of more than one litter per year, the breed type in America has areas where we are straying from our breed standard in ways that are endangering the essence and purpose of this terrier.

One example of the issues are too many Dandies with long, straight toplines and too tall at the shoulder. The AKC standard says: “Height is from 8 to 11 inches at the top of the shoulders. Length from the top of the shoulders to root of the tail is one to two inches less than twice the height.”

If Dandies in the ring in America were actually being measured, many would not meet this standard.

Continuing, from the illustrated standard: “The topline is rather low at the shoulder, having a slight downward curve and a corresponding arch over the loins, with a very slight gradual drop from the top of the loins to the root of the tail.”

Again, straight toplines on Dandies, with shoulders too high, is being seen too frequently. The Dandie is not a hound; he is not like a Dachshund. These straight toplines can also lead to Dandies having back issues, similar to the Dachshund and other long, straight-backed, short-legged breeds.
The Dandie Dinmont is a terrier, pure and simple, built to go to ground. Keeping our eye on the standard is critical to keeping this breed born to its roots.

One other serious issue is Dandies that are being bred with no layback of shoulder. Their front legs are too far forward, under the ears and not under the shoulder. This is detrimental to their ability to have the reach and drive to “go to ground” and to move as they are intended.

The Dandie Dinmont Terrier Club of America (DDTCA) and our members have worked very hard to obtain and keep records of health issues that have shown up in our breed. They are working to avoid increasing health issues, but again, the small size of the gene pool is not our friend in this effort. We are working with breeders outside of the U.S. in order to increase this gene pool with outcrosses. This is a very positive effort we must continue with Dandie breeders in Canada, the U.K., Sweden, Finland, and other countries where there are dedicated Dandie breeders.

The number of Dandies in the show ring continues to remain small and in many areas is declining. Majors are very difficult to find, so breeders often must “build their own major.” The DDTCA has worked with club members who tirelessly participate in the “Meet the Breeds” events organized with the help of the AKC, as well as other opportunities to have our breed seen. Club members and Dandie owners have participated in parades and other events to show off this breed, its
uniqueness, and its incredible temperament.

However, getting newcomers to join in the sport of dogs has been impacted by the “cluster” setup that is now everywhere. Many can participate on weekends but cannot participate as frequently so find it difficult to be competitive. Clusters have been great for handlers, retirees, and clubs, and we understand why. For working people, however, these events are not as accessible.

It may be time for the AKC and local clubs to look “outside the box” again for ways for more local people to become involved in the sport without the expenses and time for travel to participate.

Some of the positive changes in the show community include getting young people involved in the sport. Adding the features beyond conformation and obedience for youth, Pee Wee events, veterans, dock-diving, Fast CAT, and more have given many people more opportunities to participate. These additions have brought more interest from the public, and that is great!

Hopefully, we can all continue to work together as breeders and participants to keep this sport continuing to provide the fun, excitement, and camaraderie at the same time we continue to maintain the quality and future of our breeds that we love so much.

—Anita Kay Simpson, anitaksimpson@gmail.com
Dandie Dinmont Terrier Club of America

The intent of our column for this issue is to let pictures say a thousand words. The accompanying images are a sampling, and following are brief descriptions.

**Smooth Fox Terriers**

**SMOOTH FOX TERRIERS IN ART**

The Best Spot in the Yard

By Mary Beacon (recent; private collection)

Mary is well known for her painting of dog breeds and for her sculptures. She has owned a number of Smooths and depicts them with skill.

**Two Smooths and an escaping rabbit (c. 1880)**

By Thomas Blinks (1853–1912) (Print in collection of J. Dawson)

Blinks was a British artist, prominent in the Victorian era, who exhibited at the Royal Academy. Some Smooth admirers would not appreciate that this work shows two Smooths letting a rabbit outfox them.

**What Kind of Dog Is That?**

By Vic MacKenzie (recent; the artist’s collection)

MacKenzie is well known in Fox Terrier circles for his books of caricatures, sometimes personalized for the client. His depictions of FT behaviors are hilarious and accurate to anyone who has lived with one.

**Ch Nornay Saddler (1941)**

By Franklin Brooke Voss (1880–1953) (AKC Archive; print in The
Museum of the Dog

This well-known painting depicts Best in Show winner Saddler, who was bred in England and bought by an American, James Austin. Austin was a great promoter of his dog, to the point of publishing a hardbound book about Saddler. The pose Voss used in the painting is similar to the Tauskey photo of the same dog, but it is not verified that Voss used the photo as reference.

Where is the original Saddler painting now? There were 310 copies made of the original. Voss also painted great racehorses of his day, including Man of War and Seabiscuit.

Fox Terrier with pheasant (c. 1900)

By Arthur Wardle (1864–1949) (private collection)

Yes, I know this looks like a Wire, but I couldn’t resist since it hangs in a friend’s home. Wardle was famous for his paintings of terriers, especially The Totterridge XI, which was commissioned by Francis Redmond, a famous English Smooth Fox Terrier breeder. According to the Kennel Club (England) and the Wikipedia article on the painting, Wardle related that “Mr. Redmond stood over me and made me ‘perfect’ all his dogs—shorten their backs, lengthen their necks and muzzles, make their ears and feet smaller than they really were—and so on. None of them were half as good as in their picture.” Wardle’s paintings remain desirable today. Mr. Wardle knew his dogs!

—Judy Dawson, bjscout90@gmail.com
American Fox Terrier Club

Wire Fox Terriers

THE AGING OF WIRE FOX TERRIER BREEDERS

It’s true. We Wire breeders are an aging group, with very few younger people joining our ranks. It’s especially noticeable at Central States and Montgomery, although at many of our local shows across the country, there are single points or often no points at all!

The dogs who live with us “seniors” might include a puppy, but we keep fewer now. It’s more likely the dogs keeping us company are retired dogs and bitches who have sired or delivered their last litters. It’s gotten harder to be up all night on our knees whelping puppies, and more and more messages from our “puppy families” are to tell us that their much-loved old Wire has “crossed the Rainbow Bridge.”

All of that is a natural progression, but what’s different now is that there are so few young people interested in breeding and showing Wires. Much of that can be attributed to the steep learning curve in trimming and keeping Wires in coat. But what does that mean for the breed if there aren’t new people to take our places? Will puppy mills, backyard breeders, and the Amish be the ones to fill that gap? Will we leave it up to the handlers? They may produce
some lovely dogs, but will they also have time and the interest to mentor the pet owners?

To have the future of Wires only in the hands of a few people or families means a probable lack of diversity and bloodlines over time. It is only my opinion, but I believe that now is a critical time to address the issue.

Here’s the good news. I have Dalmatian friends who are now in their late 50s, and they have been proactively working to address what will happen to their line when they are no longer able to continue it themselves. It started when they sold a promising puppy a few years ago to a young woman who showed interest in the breed. Over time, they began seriously mentoring her. Eventually, they allowed her to be a co-owner on the show-quality youngsters, and then she began to whelp litters on her own. Now her name is on almost every one of their show dogs.

Everything was in place, and they felt their breeding program was in safe hands. Today they still hope that is true, but the young woman is married now, and her life is changing. Whether or not this all will work out, only time will tell, but at least they are being proactive in their efforts to protect and allow their line to continue.

What about us? Are there Wire Fox Terrier breeders who either have a plan or will make a plan for the continuation of their lines? If not, what’s going to happen to our beloved breed?

It’s something to think about. —Diane Ryan, 2017

—Joan Gordon Murko, AFTC columnist, donohill@optimum.net

American Fox Terrier Club

Glen of Imaal Terriers

The following first appeared in the December 2010 ShowSight and was written by Dr. Mary McDaniel, Judges’ Education Chair for the
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Glen of Imaal Terrier

First impressions are extremely important when judging the Glen of Imaal Terrier. The Glen should appear powerful and somewhat primitive in appearance. The breed’s “antique” features and substance are critical to establishing type and understanding the breed. The antique features—those hallmark traits once common to many early terrier types—include a head that seems almost too large for its sturdy body; a matched pair of rose or half-prick ears; slightly bowed front legs, with a similarly slight turnout at the pasterns; and a longer-than-tall body profile, with a slight rise to the rear.

Two numbers resonate throughout the standard: 3 and 5. We are given to calling them the “magic numbers” for the breed. The muzzle-to-skull and height-to-length ratios are 3:5, and the approximate weight is 35 pounds.

Glens should have a strong head with a round, medium-sized dark eye. Light eyes are objectionable. The skull should appear almost square when viewed from above and there should be a pronounced stop. The foreface should have good fill under the eye and taper slightly towards the muzzle with a black nose. The teeth are big, with full dentition; a scissors bite is preferred, with level bites acceptable. The ratio of muzzle to skull is 3:5. Ears are small.
for the head and are rose or half-pricked. Full-drop or full-prick ears are to be faulted. Also incorrect is a “mismatched pair”—that is, one rose and one drop ear, or one half-prick and one drop ear.

The topline is of particular importance and distinct to the breed’s history. It is straight (not level), with a strongly muscled loin and a slight rise to the highly set, half-docked tail or natural tail. That’s a slight rise; dogs with an extreme rise in the topline are often straight in the stifle or excessively bowed in the front legs. Regardless of length, the tail should be carried in the 12 to two o’clock position.

There should not be a drop-off at the croup. The rising topline served a function in working Glens. It gave the dog leverage for pulling large vermin from dens and for walking the wheel or treadmill that drove a turnspit or churn.

The ratio of height (withers to ground) to the length of body (point of chest to point of hip) is 3:5. The maximum height is 14 inches, and the minimum is 12½ inches.

Though this is a range of only 1½ inches in height, given that the breed is 40 percent longer than tall, this can mean there is upward of 2½ inches difference in length. Add to that the third dimension of substance, and you have a substantial range between the smallest and largest Glens.

There is no preference for size, and overall balance must always take precedence over any particular number. Glens should have well-laid-back shoulders, leading to strong, short, bowed front legs. The forearm curves around the rib cage, and the elbows are tight. The feet turn out slightly from the pasterns only. Correct Glens have enough forechest and keel to prevent fiddle-fronts. The hindquarters of a Glen are impressive. They are well-boned and -muscled and have a well-defined second thigh and good bend of stifle. They should never be soft or flabby, since they are the driving forces of the dog.

The Glen is the only one of the four terrier breeds of Ireland that is not defined by color. They come in an array of colors that fall within the wheaten, blue, or brindle ranges. There is no preference for color or depth of color.

Regardless of color, the coat is harsh—not wire—with a soft undercoat. It is kept at a medium length of approximately 1½ inches over the body, and longer on the head and furnishings. The hair of the furnishings is generally softer than the shorter body hair. It is also commonly a bit lighter in shade.

The Glen should give the appearance of a rough-and-ready working terrier. He should never be overtrimmed. The coat is hand-stripped and never scissored. It may be neatened by hand but should never be sculpted.

You may be surprised at how freely a Glen can move. They can cover ground well
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with good reach and drive. They are clean coming and going, without paddling of forefeet and carry their tail gaily. Move them on a loose lead and allow room between dogs.

We do not encourage sparring. Glens are generally gentle and docile but can be exceptionally game when called upon. Their short, stocky bodies can be difficult to control if they are focused on a challenge. Aggression in the ring should never be tolerated.

Any departure from the standard is considered a fault, and the seriousness of the fault is in proportion to the degree of departure.

Remember:
• Judge on the ground, examine on the table
• Antique features
• 3:5 ratios
• Appearance of maximum substance for size in a dog of approximately 35 pounds
• This is a rough and ready working dog, not a groomer’s idea of a generic terrier.
—M. McD.

Thank you, Mary.

—Jo Lynn, irishglen@aol.com
Glen of Imaal Terrier Club of America

Irish Terriers
THE MALES

“It’s sexist,” Ms. D said from the other side of the whelping box.

Wax Waneforth, making his customary visit to inspect a litter once the pups could stand and pull up their tails, looked pained. “I didn’t mean it to be,” he said.

Wax and Ms. D are known to value their own opinions and to defend them vigorously. It wasn’t nice when they were on different sides of the fence.

“I’m confused,” I said. “Why don’t you take it from the top again?”

Wax nodded.

Ms. D shot daggers at me and mouthed the word coward.

“A long-term breeder of any merit has his or her own way of saying that you’re not really breeding dogs until you’re using your own males.”

“And the bitches are what?” Ms. D taunted. “Chopped liver?”

Wax drew another deep breath. “Let’s not make this a tit for tat, dogs against bitches. That’s not what this is about. It’s a simple saying that hides a complex thought.”

“I can’t believe you’d encourage breeders to use a dog just because they own him,” I piped up, partially to support Ms. D.

“Neither would I encourage a breeder to use his dog because the primary basis is that he bred the dog,” Wax said. He put his hand over his eyes and then held his index finger straight up before him. “Very few breeders linebreed on their bitches. The breeding life of bitches is too short, and they produce fewer offspring than a well-used dog. Not that it hasn’t or couldn’t be done. It has.”

Ms. D and I looked at him blankly.

“If you use a male and
he improves your pups, then you keep those of his progeny that show the improvement. You may use him again or mix together some of his get or grand-get. If a son, grandson, or more distant descendant of your original dog doesn’t catch your eye and figure into your future breeding plans, then there’s a problem. The quality descendants which already exhibit some virtues of your original dog can now add some qualities of their own to the mix.”

“From your bitch,” Ms. D injected.

Wax touched his finger to his nose and pointed at her, then pointed into the whelping box. “When I looked into this box, I immediately saw pups with some of the qualities of their great-grandsire, some had qualities of their grandsire, and some looked like their dad.”

Ms. D looked thoughtful. “And that’s a good thing?”

“Sure. Imagine if you had bred to someone else’s unrelated dog. Why, you’d still be sorting out the puppies with new good qualities from the surprises you didn’t want. This way you can choose between virtues you know something about, and make a decision about which pup to keep based upon what you think will help your current bitches. Now you’re using a dog tool as well as a bitch tool. You’re making double the progress.”

Ms. D looked up. “And if none of them are good, then you’ve chosen your dog poorly and have to start over building a dog line.”
A witticism crossed Wax’s face like a shadow, but his lips never moved. Instead, he raised his finger toward her once again and darted it forward and back as if adding a period to a well-chosen sentence. —Ellis West, 2016

Irish Terrier Club of America

Kerry Blue Terriers

WHAT’S SO SPECIAL ABOUT SPECIALTIES?

“B”ehind every move in the far-flung sphere of pure-bred dogs, there stands an imposing organizational structure. How seldom we stop to consider the intricacy of the machinery that accomplishes this gigantic task with mathematical precision, breed by breed, year after year, all over the country. But the mechanical apparatus of records and statistics is as nothing compared to the living issues, canine and human, constantly arising and subject to adjudication by rules, old and new, as well as supervision.

“It is the function of the parent club to be a representative of the breed to the American Kennel Club, to formulate and watch over the Standard of Perfection of the breed, to publish and disseminate breed literature, to form a connecting link between breeders all over the country, and to conduct specialty shows—the proving grounds for the breed.”

The above words of Mrs. Walter L. Fleisher, from a copy of the 1968 KBT handbook, seem very fitting to read after celebrating a century of American Kennel Club recognition.

To better serve the membership, the United States Kerry Blue Terrier Club has for a number of years fostered and encouraged the establishment of regional Kerry Blue Terrier clubs as local affiliates of the parent club. Today there are 11 such affiliated clubs. Local clubs serve an additional objective; while the USKBTC operates on a national basis in an atmosphere necessarily impersonal, its local affiliates hold periodic meetings of the members, puppy training classes, grooming seminars, and picnics and other social get-togethers, furnishing the personal touches that bind Kerry Blue Terrier fanciers together and stimulate interest in an understanding of the breed.

In early May, many USKBTC members and KBT fanciers participated in the celebration with a variety of AKC events and included evenings of celebration of their Kerry Blues through the years.

With large entries across the country, we were joined by world-renowned breeders Harold and Helena Quigg. Breeding under the Irisblu prefix, they have from generation to generation produced award-winning Kerry Blue Terriers in the country of origin, Ireland. Experienced in the breed, it was easy to follow Mr. Quigg’s eye as he consistently sorted through the classes and made his placements.

Drawing in many patrons
of the breed, there is much to learn from the knowledge and decades of experience. The fellowship among old friends and new faces proves the passion for the breed is still strong. Showcasing numerous new breeders and exhibitors, the future looks bright.

It is always of particular interest to see the class animals at specialty shows. Assessments of the progeny of potential stud dogs drive the ambition for the next generation. Sweepstakes held in conjunction with specialty shows offer fanciers more rare opportunities to see our beloved breed and to rate junior prospects. Fanciers delight in marking their catalog, evaluating the next generation of breeding stock from ringside while the judge sorts through the second-largest entry of the year, surpassed only by that
of the Montgomery County Kennel Club weekend.

In mid-July, the Kerry Blue Terrier Club of Chicago celebrated their 90th anniversary since the club’s foundation. A four-day weekend in July offered daily activities after the exhibition, from painting to a custom canvas of your dog, to door prizes wrapped in a cellophane ball for entertainment. Raffle items rivaled that of any all-breed cluster raffle. A good time was had by all who attended.

Traveling to other regions for specialty shows offers a different variety of genetics and opinions. With the level of hospitality extended from this small but mighty group, it is a must when planning your shows for the next calendar year.

With good dogs and friends, we continue to write the next chapter of our breed.
—Jon Hebert,
EidmarTerriers@gmail.com
United States Kerry Blue Terrier Club

**Lakeland Terriers**

**NEW FINDINGS ABOUT MEGAESOPHAGUS**

At the AKC/Nestle-Purina Canine Health Conference in August, Dr. Leigh Anne Clark presented summary of her research “Genomic Studies Reveal Risk Factors for Congenital Megaesophagus in German Shepherds.”

Primary megaesophagus (ME) is a result of a lack of proper enervation of the sphincter that prevents stomach contents from backing up into the esophagus during the muscular contractions of the stomach that are necessary to mix the stomach contents with stomach acid.

The sphincter muscle must relax during peristalsis of the esophagus when swallowing occurs, conveying swallowed material into the stomach. If the sphincter doesn’t relax, material backs up and causes the lower esophagus to stretch and swell.

When the limits of stretching of the lower esophagus are reached, regurgitation occurs. (Regurgitation is not vomiting, because the material has not reached the stomach.)

Affected dogs are at risk for aspiration of food material into the lungs, leading to pneumonia and death. In some cases, affected dogs can survive by being fed a semi-liquid diet as long as they are held vertical for half an hour or so in a special feeding chair.

Dr. Clark recruited affected German Shepherd Dogs and performed genome-wide association studies (GWAS) on both affected and unaffected dogs of the breed.

What she discovered was three recessive genes possessed by the affected animals. These genes were found throughout the breed, but they only caused the defect when all three were in the genome of the same dog. (GWAS is a powerful tool for studying genetic disorders).

This research doesn’t prove that idiopathic ME is universally caused by these
three genes in other breeds.

And secondary ME is a different disorder altogether. It can have other causes—one of which is a secondary condition subsequent to persistent right aortic arch, a congenital heart defect where a sliver of a ligament that should disappear during fetal development fails to disappear, acting like a tourniquet across the esophagus. A puppy affected in this way will do the same regurgitation once it starts on solid food as an ME-affected pup. If surgery to clip the remnant ligament is done early enough, the regurgitation can be resolved. If not recognized soon enough, the lower esophagus may be so stretched that the heart surgery can’t fix the problem of regurgitation.

Likewise, a pup may be born with a stricture anywhere along the esophagus, which can be sometimes reversed by repeated surgical dilatation.

So what implications does this research have for Lakeland Terriers? We don’t know if ME that occurs in Lakelands is caused by the same three genes that put GSDs at risk. What is significant is the fact that ME in Lakelands has been very sporadic. I’ve seen it in my breeding program, but the time in between has been anywhere from 15 years to 25 years. That fits with a disorder requiring the line-up of multiple recessive genes, but it just as well could have been due to some nutrient lack during gestation. Now that we have Dr. Clark’s research, an environmental cause is less likely.

The good news is that I have never heard of the kind of situation that has occurred in GSDs, with entire litters affected.

What is the practical takeaway of this new research? I doubt seriously if any research money will be forthcoming to do a GWAS in Lakelands, or even Lakelands and Welsh (ME occurs in that breed as well).

First of all, thank your lucky stars if the only genetic defect you turn up is one that is the breeders’ heartache, and not the pet owners’! Make sure that every puppy sometimes has eaten some dry kibble (feed in shallow pan, one puppy alone—a greedy pup can...
choke on dry food fed in a gang situation) before you release it to its new owners. Dr. Clark showed in her presentation a classic Punnett square representation of the likelihood of a GSD puppy showing up with ME if both parents possessed all three recessive genes. The theoretical proportion of affected pups getting homozygous recessive genes at all three loci is 1 in 27. So how does it happen that a breeder can get an entire litter all ME affected? The only thing it takes for a pup not to be affected is to have one “normal” dominant gene at one of the three loci. If both parents only have one “normal” dominant gene at a different locus, it is indeed possible to have littermates that are unrelated.

If ME is inherited in Lakelands the same as in GSD, we have two powerful tools to prevent its occurrence: sharing information, and the UCDavis VetGen Diversity Project. There is no need to broadcast the birth of an affected puppy in your breeding program, but if you breed those parents again, you need to ask about the producing record of the potential mates. And using the Diversity Project you can get the Internal Relatedness value for prospective parents and assess the degree of inbreeding much more accurately than using COI. (Coefficient of Inbreeding is merely a mathematical construct, whereas the IR value measures markers throughout the genome.) It is possible to have littermates that are unrelated.

—Pat Rock, hollybriar@widomaker.com United States Lakeland Terrier Club

Manchester Terriers

AGE IS JUST A NUMBER

Joan Collins famously said, “I don’t look my age, I don’t feel my age, and I don’t act my age. To me age is just a number.” This describes the Manchester Terrier and their 15-to-17-year life expectancy. Most are not even middle-aged until they reach 8 to 9 years. Even then they are often just as spry as they were 5 years before. They may be a little gray around the muzzle, but they physically don’t look their age. Sprinting around the yard or chasing a critter, they definitely don’t feel their age. A favorite toy or treat comes out, and they absolutely don’t act their age. A Manchester does not know they are getting older and instead tries their best to keep that terrier fire burning.

With our beloved dogs, we all say we never have them long enough and lose them way too soon. Although the same goes for the Manchester Terriers, we are lucky enough to have most of them longer than many other breeds. A Manchester’s longevity is appealing to many looking for a hardy, long-lived breed that is small to medium-sized and acts young at heart even into double digits.

While no dog breed is free from health issues,
Manchesters are considered an overall healthy breed. Health testing is available to rule out some of the more common health issues that could impact their lifespan—that includes thyroid, patella, and CAER/CERF screening, and genetic testing for vWD, JDCM, and xanthinuria.

As young as Manchesters

As they get older, Manchesters should receive extra care while also being allowed to do things that keep them happy and young at heart.
can appear, they should receive extra care as they get older. There are things an owner can do to protect their Manchester as they age:

• Yearly examinations by their veterinarian to check overall health, especially their teeth.
• Baseline blood panel when they are younger so there is something to compare to as they age.
• Appropriate exercise to avoid compromising aging bones and joints.
• Monitoring diet to ensure they are maintaining a healthy weight.
• More frequent trips outside, as aging impacts a dog’s ability to hold urine as long.
• Observing behaviors and cognition to ensure they are comfortable in their surroundings.
• Sweaters and coats may be needed sooner, since they could chill easier than they did when they were younger.
• Quality of life (This is one we watch every day as they age.)

While monitoring is important, allowing them to do the things that make them happy and young at heart are just as paramount. All Manchesters will show these age-related changes at different times in their lives, and knowing your dog is important to their well-being. Your veterinarian, breeder, and even breed groups on social media are a great source for getting through these age-related differences. You could have a Manchester that is just as spry at 10 as they were at 3. Overall, being prepared is the greatest way to keep your best friend comfortable in their retirement.

A few extra beds and snuggly blankets are excellent as well. No Manchester will turn down a chance to cuddle up.

As another month passes and another sun sets, we all continue to hug our cherished Manchester Terriers and appreciate every single day we have with them. We all treasure each birthday and each year we get to say our Manchester Terrier is going strong. Their devotion for their owners and desire to please is instilled in them until they take their last breath, and we are fortunate to have them walk among us.

—Robin Gates,
robingates42@gmail.com
American Manchester Terrier Club

Norfolk Terriers

IS IT RESCUE, OR REHOMING?

Every so often there are posts on Facebook and in other social media where people put up a photo of a Norfolk they say they have rescued. Often, it is clear that the dog in question may have little, or no, Norfolk DNA in it. And that’s OK. As long as the “rescuers” are in love with their new dog, that’s really what matters.

However, as corresponding secretary of the Norfolk Terrier Club, I fairly frequently get inquiries from people who say they want to “rescue” a Norfolk when what they actually want is an older puppy or mature adult rather than a 12-week-old
youngster. They are looking for a dog who is available for rehoming, and that’s where reputable breeders shine.

There are also times when family situations change, sometimes suddenly, and an owner needs to find a new home for a beloved family pet. (Yes. It happens.) In some of these cases, the dog’s breeder is not available to provide assistance or there may be other extenuating circumstance that make providing such help difficult.

While there are few Norfolks that are actually neglected, abandoned, or in shelters without identification, it does occasionally happen. These are the dogs in true “rescue” situations and they definitely need prompt help.

Fortunately, the Norfolk Terrier Club offers assistance in a variety of ways. On our website, http://www.norfolkterrierclub.org, there is information about Norfolk Terrier Rescue, a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization that helps find homes for Norfolks regardless of their circumstances. There is also a breeder-referral contact and a list of breeders located in various parts of the country who can be helpful in matching dogs with new owners, even if they don’t have one of their own in need of placement.

As part of our stewardship of our breed, finding lifetime homes for our dogs is imperative. So whether a dog needs to be “rescued” or “rehomed,” it’s our responsibility to be “matchmakers” whenever we are in a position to do so.

—Sheila Foran, sforan2@cox.net Norfolk Terrier Club

Norfolk Terrier

Norwich Terriers

TEMPERAMENT AWARENESS

W e all know that Norwich can be consummate escape artists—Houdini had nothing on a Norwich Terrier catching sight of a squirrel, not to mention the Norwich who can dig out of a fenced yard with six-inch concrete blocks around the perimeter and barbed wire buried beneath that! God forbid our Norwich escapes while our back is turned and ends up
in a shelter or running loose, afraid to go to a stranger in a strange environment.

Without some way to identify you as the owner, shelters assume control of your dog, and the hard truth is that some shelters are kill shelters, and some are no-kill. In both cases, a common practice in shelters now is temperament testing. In the kill shelter, those dogs failing the temperament test are either euthanized or required to stay longer in the shelter before adoption.

I consider my dogs well-adjusted, and certainly, they are all microchipped—but then I learned that not all microchip scanners read the same chip, and I watched a TV piece on temperament tests commonly done at shelters. To my great surprise, the typical shelter temperament test was such that my dogs may or may not pass them.

The “umbrella test” (used at our local shelter) is a case in point. The tester points an umbrella at the dog to test its response, and if the dog charges the umbrella, it fails the test. Needless to say, I now teach my puppies how to deal with all the possible temperament tests they might encounter should the unthinkable happen and they find their way to a shelter.

Not only because we expect our Norwich to become valued members of our family, but also because of the prevalence of anti-dog legislation we need to be aware of our dogs’ behavior at home and in public. The darling baby puppy tests its place in the pack by growling and charging its littermates. This is an inborn instinct that the dam, if given the opportunity to remain with the litter through this life stage, polices behaviorally. Watch as she intervenes in play that becomes too intense. You’ll see the dam nose between the littermates engaged in the behavior, and in the case of the really stubborn puppy, she will
definitively correct it. With the meek puppy, the dam will often encourage more robust behavior by playing tug-of-war.

Mental traits are both genetic and acquired as responses to a dog’s environment. As a breeder, you can exert a positive influence on your breed through directing a dog toward good behavior and redirecting unacceptable behavior.

Norwich are a stubborn, independent breed. They challenge us to meet them on an intellectual level that demands time and attention in the early phases of development if they are to mature into good citizens and family members.

From birth, you can begin to work with your puppies’ instinctive response to stimuli. The brain has to have time to develop for the puppy to give thought to a given response or solve a given problem. If you begin in the first days of the puppy’s life to expose the puppy to elemental stimuli, that stimulus becomes “old hat” to the puppy rather quickly. Eyes and ears are not open, but their sense of touch is developed.

Briefly putting the puppy on different surfaces, holding the puppy in different positions, cuddling the puppy in the crook of your neck, massaging the puppy head to toe, tickling the inside of the pad of the foot with a Q-tip—all start the puppy off with stimulating events that encourage the brain cells to respond and the puppy to instinctively know he or she does not have to fear new situations. As the puppy grows, there are many ways to properly channel their behavior patterns, and if you spend the time with them from birth, you have the opportunity to evaluate inherited behavior patterns that need to be redirected or encouraged.

Resources for temperament testing are readily available. By evaluating your puppies’ temperaments at an early age, you have the opportunity to alter their behavioral response to certain stimuli. What the puppy perceives as a threat, you can teach the puppy to think through and solve the problem, rather than allowing fear to drive the response. You can teach the puppy to think through each situation to differentiate neutral, friendly, and threatening situations they are confronted with in everyday life.

If you make problem-solving a game for the puppy, they are drawn into the thinking process and start to think before they react. This is a slow process as the puppy matures, and you need to allow each puppy the time to assess the new situation and think it through.

Never push a puppy into a situation it feels is threatening, as you are interrupting an inborn survival response. Rather, allow the puppy the opportunity to think through the perceived threat and make a reasonable determination as to an appropriate, acceptable response. The trick here is
in helping the puppy differentiate actual threats vs. acceptable new experiences.

Problem-solving skill sets begin with the early stimuli discussed above when the puppy is a newborn. Increasing the complexity of these skills as the puppy grows can be as simple or elaborate as you have the time and resources to offer, but remember that the puppy has a very short attention and retention span.

Training “games” are very successful for Norwich, as they respond well to the enthusiasm usually associated with these games. Sessions should be short and should always end on a positive response—three positive responses in a session are sufficient to consider the session a success. Ending the session at that point keeps the puppy looking forward to playing the game again.

Rather than longer sessions over and over again for the same skill set, I prefer a diverse training plan for this breed. Norwich thrive on intellectual stimuli and become bored quite easily. Successful problem-solving skills build the foundation for a puppy to become a valued member of your household and community.

Should you have a Norwich with a behavioral challenge outside your ability to alter, consider working with an animal behaviorist. People who work with pet behavior are applied animal behaviorists. These specialists are often concerned with promoting behavior change in animals by altering the human-animal relationship. For example, an applied animal behaviorist may come to your home and observe your family’s interactions with a pet to determine why the pet is behaving as it is and what changes the family can make in order to improve the pet’s behavior.

**Resources:**

American Temperament Test Society

“Creativity and Critical Timing Are Key to Puppy Socialization” (AKC)


Also recommended: Culture Clash, by Jean Donaldson; Don’t Shoot the Dog, by Karen Pryor; and The Toolbox, by Terry Ryan.

—Judi Hartell, datadawg11@gmail.com

The Norwich Terrier Club of America

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**Scottish Terriers**

**THE BATTLE AGAINST BREED MISINFORMATION**

Let’s face it, Scotties often have a reputation among the general public as a dour, aggressive dog that doesn’t get along with anybody else.

While traveling in Scotland some years back, I kept seeing Westies everywhere, and when I finally stopped a man walking his two Westies, I asked, “Why don’t I see any Scotties in Scotland?” The man turned
Which brings me to this year’s Westminster Kennel Club broadcast on Tuesday night, May 9, 2023. In eager anticipation of the Terrier Group, I was astounded at what the Fox Sports commentator said when the Scottie was doing its down and back: “When this breed gets too excited, they get what they call Scottie Cramp … when muscles kind of … kind of tense up and they don’t walk as comfortably.”

Listeners continued to hear more misinformation as he added the following statement which essentially painted all terriers with the same defective brush: “They get kinda rigid when they are sparring and getting excited. Terriers are so intense that they just kind of firm up.”

Obviously, the commentator did not know what he was saying, or know that Scottie Cramp is a neurological disorder impacting some of the dogs in our breed, but certainly not all, and not all terriers, and the Scottie shown during the broadcast showed no signs of cramp.

Scottie Cramp has been known in the breed for many generations and has been researched extensively ever since the 1980s by the STCA Health Trust Fund (HTF). This neurological disorder is inherited when both sire and dam carry the mutation. The incidence of Scottie Cramp in the breed is not known at this time, but it is relatively rare these days, as breeders have conscientiously bred away from it whenever possible. The HTF has funded Scottie Cramp research in the past and continues to search for a marker so that all breeders can avoid the disorder with a DNA test.

The STCA contacted Westminster Kennel Club (WKC) immediately and requested that the audio portion of that broadcast be removed in subsequent airings, as we felt that health issues should not be discussed in such a venue. The following day WKC replied with a sincere
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apology and agreed to remove the remarks, and also agreed that any comments regarding breed health issues are inappropriate during their broadcast. In subsequent rebroadcasts, that discussion has thankfully been removed.

Shortly after we got that issue resolved, we discovered an article by Nikki Riggsbee in the May 2023 Canine Chronicle titled “Breed Priorities: Scottish Terrier.” This is a feature I’ve always enjoyed, as I’ve learned so much from them. However, the photograph the magazine selected for the Scottie shows them sparring, badly, which to most people would look like the dogs were fighting. During a proper spar, the dog’s feet should never leave the ground, and they should be in complete control, not showing the impressive set of canines the Scottie possesses. Here again, our breed faces the misperception that the Scottish Terrier is aggressive, dour, and unfriendly. Our breeders have worked for years against this commonly held belief that our dogs can’t be part of a family or get along with other dogs. Over the past 35 years, the three to five dogs at a time with which I have shared my home as an uncrated pack would certainly defy any such notion.

Again, the STCA responded with a letter to Canine Chronicle, stating that the selected image was inappropriate. Another photo would have served the article and the breed better had they selected one that represents true breed type, its unique appearance and characteristics, not to mention the Scottie’s “heads up, tails up” attitude in the ring, as noted as an important virtue of the breed in Ms. Riggsbee’s article. We asked that the photo be changed and that in the future, they request an appropriate photo of the breed from the parent club. The STCA received a response from Canine Chronicle, where they declined to change the image and stated that the photograph was taken at the Montgomery County Kennel Club show and therefore was appropriate to use.

The reputation our breeds have with the general public is an important aspect of what each parent club needs to be keenly aware. Lately, terriers are at the forefront of misinformation about our various breeds. But we all need to vigilant against such misinformation—spoken, broadcast, or photographed—used to portray either a stereotype or present a negative impression of our breeds.

We all know how much joy our Scotties bring us; let’s use every opportunity we can to spread that message.
—Richard C. Bumstead, glenclark6517@yahoo.com
Scottish Terrier Club of America

Sealyham Terriers
SHORT-IN-STATURE, SCENT-SATIONAL SEALYS!

Sealyhams, and terriers more broadly, have an
innate talent and a fine-tuned sniffer for tracking scent in Barn Hunt, earth-dog, and the ever-growing sport of AKC Scent Work. AKC Scent Work dogs are trained to identify essential oils, including birch, clove, anise, cypress—and the scent of their owner, in Handler Discrimination. Alerts for scent can be interior or exterior locations. Dogs alert their handlers much like detection dogs who scent out narcotics or explosives.

At 10.5 inches or less at the shoulder, Sealyhams are considered short in stature. They must locate scent sources, known as “hides,” two feet and above in Advanced classes and Handler Discrimination. Height-challenged terriers and other long-bodied, shorter-legged breeds are competing against breeds two to three times their height within the same time limit to locate odor source.

Terriers demonstrating their skills in AKC Scent Work: West Highland White Terrier James, Australian Terrier Poppy, and Sealyhams Marceline and Pip-pa.
Hides at two feet and above that are deeply hidden, and sometimes “inaccessible.”

**Can shorter dogs hold their own against taller dogs?**

As an AKC Scent Work judge, Jennifer P. Anderson, of RiverHorse K9 Training, believes, “Shorter dogs may not discern the wafting of higher overhead odor that a taller dog may detect, but they will pick it up as it drops near the base of the hide and follow the source to the strongest odorant point and look straight up. Their audible breathing and body language will also have marked changes (speed, freezing at odor) to assist the handler reading their search status.

“At many trials, I’ve watched a shorter dog diligently track an odor plume across a room, cruising under chairs and tables that a taller dog would be obstructed,” says Anderson.

Margaret Simek, trainer at One Happy Dog, says: “Air flow affects a small dog’s ability to search. Small dogs can be challenged by the limited ability to get in and out of scent cones.”

Simek teaches a class, Small Dogs Do It All, that builds a small dog’s confidence and persistence in finding and their ability to stay at a source with height. She says, “Scent is a moving target, carried and distorted by the wind. As a handler, one of the most challenging parts of your job is figuring out how to help your sniffer dog get to where they need to be to find odor. Understanding scent theory is critical to the success of your team.”

**Inaccessible hides**

These can be unpredictable puzzles for the handler and dog. When odor is well out of reach, this necessitates a much larger area to source and respond within.

“The height and depth of hides is a tricky variable, due to the huge size variations in dog breeds,” says Abi-K9 Training Services. “Hides on the ground can be a challenge for some dogs. Many have a tendency to scratch or bite (disturbing the source site). Nose-height hides are the least challenging for dogs, but what constitutes ‘nose-height’ will differ.”

With too many out-of-reach hides for dogs who are short in stature, they often become frustrated, resulting in a dog who “fringe alerts”—not being able to directly target the source.

“The inability to reach inaccessible hides is demotivating. Give lots of quality treats for these hides. Keep it fun!” says Sandy Schneider, at advanced levels with her Witzn Sealyhams.

Following are several top “Scent-sational Sealyhams.”

**Masters Level:** Ch. Bonnev Diamonds Are a Girl’s Best Friend (Leah)

**Excellent Level HD:** Goodspice Full of the Dickens (Pip-pa)

**Masters Level Elite:**

**Ch. Witzn Who’s Randy Butternubs?**

**Excellent Level:**

**Rosemont’s Don’t Come EZ at Witzn (Marceline)**
Are mobility, sight and hearing dogs at a disadvantage?

According to Anderson, “[Dogs with] mobility issues, whether using a cart or moving with a slower gait, can flourish. ADA compliance guidelines facilitates the dog’s ability to move around a room or outside area. Sight- or hearing-compromised dogs seemingly ramp up their olfaction acumen and don’t waste time on the visual or auditory distractions that distract a sighted or hearing dog.”

“Every dog can participate in this sport, regardless of their age, breed, or physical ability, says Freak on a Leash Dog Training. Scent Work can be done by dogs who are blind, deaf and even missing a limb. It’s a lower-impact sport; an excellent choice for senior dogs.”

Another good reference: How Do Dogs See With Their Noses, by Alexandra Horowitz.
—Bev Thompson,
Thompscom@aol.com
American Sealyham Terrier Club

Skye Terriers

SKYE TERRIERS AND FAST CAT

Does your Skye Terrier love to run? Ever wonder how fast a Skye can run? Four Skye Terriers have been invited to run in the fourth AKC Fast CAT Invitational, to be held Tuesday, December 12, through Saturday, December 16 in Orlando.

The “CAT” in Fast CAT stands for Coursing Ability Test. During the test, a dog dashes 100 yards inside a fenced-in chute (often snow fencing), and the speed is timed electronically. The dog is held on a leash in the designated as a “start box” area, and the catcher goes down to the other end of the course and stands in the runout area, which extends 30 yards past the finish line. When all are ready, the lure (a plastic bag) is pulled down course and the dog is released. The dog races at after the lure, whose speed is adjusted by the lure operator.

Several of the Fast CAT people with whom I spoke admitted that some dogs seem more interested in getting to their catcher than chasing the lure. Kathleen Brodie shouts of “get the squirrel” to encourage her Skye. She also gives out treats after they have left the fenced-in area.

A dog can run twice in one day. Before and after each run, the dog is inspected for any signs of lameness, and a female must not be in season. Additionally, all dogs must be at least 12 months old. Since Skyes are a dwarf breed, it might be best to have your veterinarian check that your pup’s bones have finished growing before you let them participate in Fast CAT.

If you’re lucky you can start your dog off with “fun runs,” but not every group offers them. Practicing for Fast CAT can be difficult because it is so popular, and the spots fill up almost as soon as the events are posted.

Some dogs are not as prey driven and may take some time to figure out the goal. Kathleen says she found
that some dogs will chase a white plastic bag when it has something like a small rock inside. Heather Everett, who is also running a dog, says that even sighthounds may need some time to understand the purpose of the plastic bag.

Heather is delighted by all the attention her Skye, Dougal, gets at the meets. He has become a bit of celebrity in an event that may be filled with Whippets. A ripple goes through the crowd. “Oh, my gosh, the Skye is here!” Since Dougal is being shown in conformation, he races in full show coat. Many folks come up to Heather with questions about the breed.

Becky Blevins is also running a Skye in Fast CAT. She had been showing Pointers for 30 years, but then she watched a Skye in the ring and became interested. She remembered seeing the Greyfriars Bobby statue when she was young. The fact that Skyes are endangered motivated her to contact a breeder, who made her “jump through hoops” before she would let her have a puppy. Becky said she respected that, because she too is always fussy about the homes where her Pointer pups go.

Her Skye is also competing in conformation and runs in full coat, which gets a lot of attention. A Skye running in full coat is always an appealing sight.

Everyone said that they participate in Fast CAT because the dogs like it and they enjoy doing things with their Skyes. It is also helpful for people to see our endangered breed participating in many different events. Let’s hope that they get some TV and press coverage at the Orlando Invitational.

—Judith Tabler, JudithATabler@gmail.com
Skye Terrier Club of America
1. Biothane leash

I was introduced to Biothane leashes when I was competing in dock diving with Krista. These leashes are not only waterproof but are also easy to clean and come in beautiful colors. They are available in different widths. I have purchased these in several lengths so that I can use them when training for scent and distance work.

2. Zen Clipper and Zen Clipper Precise

The Zen Clipper has a patented conical blade that only allows the tip of the pet’s nail into the cutting area, similar to inserting the tip of the nail into a small funnel. You clip just the tip and avoid the quick. There is a sizing guide to choose which one is right for your dog. Another option is the Zen Clipper Precise, which is adjustable for various nail widths. petppi.com

3. Dremel 7300-PT 4.8V Cordless Pet Dog Nail Grooming & Grinding Tool

I really like this Dremel because it is lightweight and allows me to easily maneuver into difficult positions in order to smooth out my dog’s nails. It is relatively quiet and has two speeds.

4. Crash-tested crate or harness

Although they are more expensive, crash-tested crates and harnesses are important when traveling long distances. The Center for Pet Safety is a voluntary certification program which indicates a commitment by manufacturers to meet independently developed safety standards. The testing and product performance requirements are rigorous. The Sleepypod Clickit Sport and Sleepypod Clicker Terrain both passed testing, and you can even see it for yourself on their website. I have used the Sleepypod harness in the past and most recently switched to using a crash-tested crate, and there are several excellent ones to choose from. I have the Rock Creek Crate’s Medium Aluminum Kennel with Secondary Door Bolts and Strength-Rated Anchor Straps. There are also several other crates that were tested and approved on the website: https://www.centerforpetsafety.org/cps-certified/

5. Baskerville Ultra Muzzle by Company of Animals

It’s important for all dogs to be comfortable wearing a muzzle. This one allows the dog to take treats and...
breathe properly. It can also be custom fit. There is also information on the website on how to acclimate a dog to the muzzle.

companyofanimals.com

6. Ryobi 18-volt ONE Plus Hybrid portable fan with battery and charger
When competing at shows in the summer it can get really uncomfortable, and this fan can help keep both you and your dog cool. Even though it’s relatively small, it is quiet and powerful.

7. Millers Forge Designer Series Soft Slicker Brush
I have had this brush for years and found it to be my favorite for when a spray a mist of water or detangler and brush through the coat. It is easy to clean and inexpensive.
**BREED COLUMNS**

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**8. Portable Travel Crate**

*Noz2Noz Sof-Krate N2 Series (30” L X 21” W X 23” H)*

This crate is light and folds easily, with a handle on the side for carrying. I often bring this crate with me when I am staying overnight. This is also where my dog sleeps when at home. It’s not appropriate, however, for puppies or dogs who may attempt to chew through the mesh screen.

**9. The Freedom Harness**

There is no substitute for teaching a dog to walk properly on leash, which comes from refining attention skills and practice—however, this is my favorite training harness. It is only for training to walk nicely on leash and should be removed when not walking. In order to work properly, care should be taken for correct fit; there is a sizing guide on the website. The harnesses come in beautiful colors. In case you forget and your dog chews through the harness, this company had a replacement policy. [2houndsdesign.com](http://2houndsdesign.com)

**10. Training Platform**

I use a pedestal for training to improve focus and drive. The raised surface improves focus, drive, and precision, according to renowned trick trainer Kyra Sundance. They are useful for feeding time, remote sits, recall, stays, and even for friendly greetings when guests arrive. I like that they’re portable so that you can bring them with you for training.

My favorite ones are the KLIMB and CATO Board. These can be used to teach many behaviors, and there are videos on the websites to show how to integrate this tool into your training program.

The KLIMB resembles a table and helps to facilitate learning. It is only 14 pounds and measures 24 x 24 x 12 inches and is rated to hold 500 pounds. The legs are removable and are stored in the back. It can be used alone or stacked into different configurations.

The CATO board weighs 6.5 pounds for the turf surface, and 7.25 pounds for the rubber-matted surface. They are 16 x 24 inches and 3.5 inches high.

—Dorice Stancher, MBA, CPDT-KA, CTDI, AACE, [www.caninescando.com](http://www.caninescando.com)

**Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of America**

**Staffordshire Bull Terriers**

**RUBBLE ROUSING**

One of the things that appeals to many people about the Staffordshire Bull Terrier is its versatility. The dogs are known by fanciers as the “foremost all-purpose dog,” and for good reason. Though their original job as fighting animals is well in the past, the qualities that made them excel at that task—tenacity, fearlessness, stamina, reliability—make them an excellent match for other high-energy activities. Staffords can be seen competing in a variety of sports, including agility, dock diving, rally, Barn Hunt, scent work, and more. And a handful of handlers have upped the game, introducing their dogs...
to the world of search-and-rescue.

**Leah Gilmour and Rocco**

Leah Gilmour and her Staffordshire Bull Terrier Rocco (Ch. Ghostpine’s Heart of Eternity, CWSD, CRACL, SCIN, SCN, RN, RATI, RATN S, CGN, BH-VT) are active with the Canadian Search and Disaster Dog Association (CASDDA). When she first brought Rocco home, Gilmour says Rocco was a busy puppy, so they started trying out different sports, like rally and agility. In 2019, she says, she saw a sign posted at her local agility...
club advertising a search-and-rescue seminar.

“It sounded like a fun and inexpensive weekend playing sport with my dog,” she says, and once they started training, they were hooked. “Rocco’s toy drive, focus, and tenacity landed him an invitation to join the team. It involved a very big-time commitment and dedication to learning, but the prospect of going on to deploy and save lives was worth it.”

Rocco certified in area and rubble search in 2019. She says that his fearlessness and intense work ethic made it possible for him to excel at training, which requires the dogs to work in intense situations.

“I find Rocco unique in his ability to shut out his environment to stay on task,” she says. “He is never deterred by low light, unstable footing, tight spaces, or distractions.”

Sometimes, she says, that means that he lacks in the area of self-preservation. “One day during a building search, he jumped out a second-story window, landed on his feet and continued working,” she says. “This is the sort of tenacity a search dog needs to persevere in a real-life scenario.”

Gilmour hoped to certify for international deployment in 2020, but COVID put their plans on hold. International certification would allow them to assist in global disasters with the United Nations disaster team. All of the dogs who do that are dual-purpose, meaning they search for both live and deceased victims in the aftermath of tsunamis, earthquakes, and hurricanes.

The team has recently stepped away from SAR training to focus on other life commitments (SAR is a very time-consuming and rigorous activity), but they were invited in 2022 to train alongside international dog-and-handler teams on rubble piles in France, Spain, and Italy. Like a true Stafford, Rocco was steady as can be throughout the trip.

Even on the flight to Europe, he was a good ambassador for the breed. “Rocco flew in the cabin in his official capacity as a working dog,” she says. “Most of our fellow passengers didn’t mind being seated beside a quiet, well-trained dog.”

Staffords are not common in the search-and-rescue world, so those that do pursue the activity find that they are surrounded by German Shepherds, Belgian Malinois, and hounds. However, Stafford owners tend to be tenacious and fearless, just like the dogs they love, and when they set their sights on something, they pursue it.

**Jane Lasher Sobus and Sawyer**

Jane Lasher Sobus of Pennsylvania has owned multiple Staffordshire Bull Terriers in her life. In 2020, she decided to join her local search-and-rescue group, Mason Dixon Search Dogs, with her Staffordshire Bull Terrier Sawyer (GCh.B Brewlin’s
Today’s Tom Sawyer, CAA, FCAT, RATCH, CGC, TT, RAZEA, CZ8S, TKN, SPOT-ON). “I wanted to show how versatile this breed can be,” she says. “It’s true that the Stafford is not a breed you think of or see in SAR. But I do know there are a few out there that do it.”

They trained for a couple of years, and it was difficult but rewarding work. Search-and-rescue training often begins early in the morning and can last until late in the day. No matter the weather, training goes on, because the dogs need to learn to work in all conditions if they’re going to be prepared to deploy on a real-life search.

“From freezing cold to burning hot, Sawyer was always ready to go,” she says. “He loved the training, and the tug reward at the end was his favorite part.”

One of the best parts, though, was giving people who’ve had little exposure to Staffords a different lens through which to view them. “I believe he made a few people look differently at the breed,” she says.

Sobus and Sawyer stepped away from Search and Rescue so they would have the time to pursue all of the other activities that Sawyer enjoys, including conformation, Barn Hunt and FastCAT. But she thinks there are certainly Staffords well-equipped for the job. She recommends that anyone interested in learning more should reach out to their local SAR clubs, which are usually volunteer-run nonprofit organizations that coordinate with local, state, and national organizations to deploy qualified teams to disaster sites when called upon.

“Go to trainings, ask a lot of questions,” she says. “Make sure that you are prepared to dedicate a lot of your time and energy to training. It’s worth it, though, if you put in the training.”

Don’t forget, though, that Staffords will probably throw so much of themselves into a task that they may not know when to quit. Though they are athletic, they aren’t always well-equipped for long hours in the heat, so it’s up to the handler to ensure they don’t overwork themselves. Gilmour says that Rocco has a huge heart and will try to do anything she asks. “The trait that holds him back most is low heat tolerance,” she says. “He needs regular forced breaks, and I have to be careful to avoid heat injury.”

—Erin Sullivan, erinsullivan66@gmail.com Staffordshire Bull Terrier Club of America

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Welsh Terriers

ARE YOU STILL LEARNING?

When I first started “in dogs” I knew I had a lot to learn, but after a while I thought I had learned all I needed to know. Serious dog people know they need to never stop learning. Yes, we go to conformation shows where we watch the great groomers and handlers and learn from them. Most of us also spend time observing...
the other long-legged terriers and comparing type and structure. Perhaps we also go to breed seminars on breeds other than Welsh Terriers. It is easy to stop there.

However, there are other valuable sources of information we might be missing. Take time to watch agility performances to see how the animal’s structure aids in their performance or inhibits it. Talk to veterinarians who do a lot of work with performance animals and you will learn what part of the animal breaks down first during strenuous exercise. Performance seminars will give you a chance to see in slow motion what a dog’s body does during fast turns and weave-patterns, for instance. Note how the dog’s front moves as he goes through a tunnel; see what feet and pasterns do as the dog lands after going over the jump. This will give you an idea why good feet, strong pasterns, and shoulder blades that allow the dog to crouch are aids in tunnel work and help him to be a more functional hunter—the prime performance for which a Welsh was bred. While looking at agility notice that top performance dogs in this category are slightly longer-cast than a Welsh Terrier should be and have less rib spring. A person looking for a performance animal would make a good home for a sound but not compact Welsh.

There are seminars on training dogs for therapy work, which will help you learn how a dog thinks and what his body language can tell you. These are useful tools when you need to help a novice solve behavior problems you haven’t encountered. Usually breeders correct little problems before they become big ones, so we find working out the big problems requires assistance. Talking to trainers who specialize in rehabilitating problem dogs gives you much insight.

You will be amazed by what you can learn from watching a “barn hunt.” The insights this provides into natural hunting ability and the structure that the long-legged terrier needs to do his job should translate into breeding better Welsh. What one learns about the dog’s body language as the intensity of the hunt continues can be used in reading canine body language to stop dog fights before they start.

Another subject that requires continual learning is selecting people you want to sell dogs to. Of course references from other breeders who know the people and the people’s veterinarian are valuable, but sometimes that is not enough. Even if the person has had terriers before, learning what questions to ask is important.

If the prospective owner starts out with a list of things like “He wouldn’t let me cut nails, brush whiskers, or take toys away from him,” you might experience problems later. If they insist on underground fencing, are
you comfortable with that? How are they going to keep the children’s hamster away from the dog? Will the cat let the dog live there? These and other questions will come up.

Sometimes you have to ask another experienced breeder how they solved such problems. It is easy to forget the wealth of information that other dog people have and are willing to share.

For terrier owners sharing ideas is a must because few books, videos, or obedience seminars are directed at the terrier breeds. We are usually considered as an afterthought. Because of this, I think that terrier people are more willing to share information—we have to.

One way we do so is in through the AKC breed columns—all which have much useful information in addition to the column for your breed. Read them all, and share the information.

—Diane Orange, 2015

Welsh Terrier 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.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Bracco Italiano Club of America

DELEGATE CREDENTIALS

Robin Barkhaus, Hartford, WI,
Kettle Moraine Kennel Club
Angela Boeske, Plainwell, MI,
Kalamazoo Kennel Club
Wayne Bond, Silverdale, WA,
Peninsula Dog Fanciers Club
Cindy Grodkiewicz, Glen Gardner, NJ,
American Wirehaired Pointing Griffon Association
Mike Kriegel, Stanwood, WA,
Bell Vernon Kennel Association
Margaret Kudirka, Ellicott City, MD,
Dog Owners’ Training Club of Maryland
Karen Park, Layton, UT,  
Mount Ogden Kennel Club  

Julie Poulin Siefert, Neenah, WI,  
Newfoundland Club of America  

Susan Sorbo, Bradenton, FL,  
Old Dominion Kennel Club of Northern Virginia  

NOTICE  
The American Kennel Club Board of Directors at its August 2023 meeting imposed a suspension of Mr. RC Williams’ judging privileges for a period of one year and a fine of $1000 for inappropriate comments and/or conduct with exhibitors regarding but not limited to, race, color, religion, disability, national origin, age, sexual orientation, gender, gender identity, or are sexual in nature. As Mr. Williams elected to appeal the Board’s decision, the effective date for any disciplinary action was deferred until after his hearing with the Board Appeals Committee.

The Board Appeals Committee considered Mr. RC Williams’ appeal of the suspension of his judging privileges and presented its findings to the Board at its October 2023 meeting. Based on its review of the record and Mr. Williams’ written appeal, the Appeals Committee determined that the suspension of Mr. Williams’ judging privileges was properly imposed, and therefore, it denied Mr. Williams’ appeal, upholding the suspension of his judging privileges for a period of one year and imposing a fine of $1000.00 effective October 10, 2023.

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. Cody Bowen (Kerrville, TX)  
Mr. Bob Burgess (Aurora, CO)  
Mr. Paul Dochmechewsky (Huntington Beach, CA)  
Ms. Dee Miller (Bastrop, TX)  
Ms. Janis Moriarity (Azle, TX)  

NOTICE  
Mr. Jeffrey Creasey (Bedford, VA). Action was taken by the Fort Dearborn Basset Hound Club for conduct at its August 28, 2023 event. Mr. Creasey was charged with neglect of a dog at or in connect with an event. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the Event Committee’s report and set the penalty as a six-month suspension of AKC privileges and a $1,000 fine, effective August 29, 2023. (St. Bernards)
NOTICE
Mr. Jon Hopkins (Mesa, AZ). Action was taken by the Bonneville Basin Kennel Association for conduct at its September 16, 2023 event. Mr. Hopkins was charged with physical contact of an insulting or provoking nature and inappropriate, abusive, or foul language. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the Event Committee’s report and set the penalty as a three-month event suspension and a $500 fine, effective September 16, 2023. (Staffordshire Bull Terriers)

NOTICE
Mr. Kueper Kuhni (American Ford, UT). Action was taken by the Bonneville Basin Kennel Association for conduct at its September 16, 2023 event. Mr. Kuhni was charged with harassment, verbal or written. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the Event Committee’s report and set the penalty as a three-month suspension of all AKC privileges and a $500 fine, effective September 16, 2023.

NOTICE
Ms. Tana Rugg (Monument, CO). Action was taken by the Cheyenne Kennel Club for conduct at its September 7, 2023 event. Ms. Rugg was charged with inappropriate, abusive or foul language. 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. (Dalmatians)

NOTICE
The AKC’s Management Disciplinary Committee has suspended Ms. Virgina Bellino (Bemidji, MN) from all AKC privileges and imposed a $1,000 fine, for non-compliance with AKC’s Care and Conditions Policy (unacceptable conditions, dogs, and/or facility and record keeping and dog identification requirements, effective October 10, 2023. (English Springer Spaniels, Labrador Retrievers)

NOTICE
The AKC’s Management Disciplinary Committee has suspended the following individuals for all AKC privileges for five years and imposed a $1,000 fine, for refusal to make their dogs and records available for inspection when requested:
Effective October 10, 2023:
Ms. Carmina Ibarra (Tomball, TX)
French Bulldogs
Mr. Ephraim Zook (Fort Plain, NY)
Multiple Breeds

NOTICE
The AKC’s Management Disciplinary Committee has suspended the following individuals from all AKC privileges for
six-months and imposed a $500 fine, for refusal to make their dogs and records available for inspection when requested:

Effective October 10, 2023:
Ms. Paula O’Flynn (Taylorsville, KY) Basset Hounds
Mr. Emilio Perez (Spring, TX) French Bulldogs

NOTICE
The AKC’s Management Disciplinary Committee has suspended Ms. Tara Richardson (Kidder, MO) from registration privileges and imposed a $500 fine, for submitted false online application without written permission from the co-owner or co-litter owner, effective October 10, 2023. (Multiple Breeds)

NOTICE
The AKC’s Management Disciplinary Committee has suspended the following individuals from all AKC privileges for five years and imposed a $2,000 fine, for neglect at or in connection with an event by an individual and disregard of published club regulations:
Effective October 10, 2023:
Ms. Keiko Shimizu (Rancho Santa Margarita, CA) Multiple Breeds
Mr. Masuki Shimizu (Rancho Santa Margarita, CA) Multiple Breeds

REPRIMANDS AND FINES
Notification of a fine imposed on clubs for late submission of event records, Rules Applying to Dog Shows, Chapter 17, Section 2
German Shepherd Dog Club of Greater Washington................................. $75

Notification of a fine imposed on a secretary for late submission of event records, Rules Applying to Dog Shows, Chapter 17, Section 2 and Rally Regulations, Chapter 1, Section 4
Cindy O’Hare, Dog Shows by Design .......................................................... $150

Notification of a fine imposed on a club for not fulfilling their responsibility as an event committee, Dealing With Misconduct
Greater Kerrville Kennel Club ....... $500

Notification of fines imposed on a performance club for late submission of results, Regulations for Lure Coursing Tests and Trials, Chapter 10
Midwest Coursing Club (Lure Coursing) ..................................................... $150

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CHARTER AND BYLAWS OF THE AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB, INC. – ARTICLE XIII, SECTION 2
The AKC Board has endorsed the follow-
ing 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 calen-
secretary’s pages

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)

PROPOSED KEESHOND STANDARD FOR COMMENT:
In accordance with the Guidelines for Breed Standard Revisions this is being published to receive any comments prior to the balloting of the club membership. Any comments may be forwarded directly to: Mari-Beth O’Neill VP Sport Services mbo@akc.org

General Appearance: The Keeshond (pronounced kays-hawnd) is a natural, handsome dog of well-balanced, well-balanced dog with a short-coupled body. They attract attention not only by his by their coloration, alert carriage, intelligent foxlike expression, but also by his characteristic spectacles and small pointed ears. They also have a stand-off coat, his and richly plummed tail that is well curled over the back, well curled over his back, his foxlike expression, and his small pointed ears. His The coat is very thick around the neck, fore part of the shoulders and chest, forming a lion-like ruff-more profuse in the male. His The rump and hind legs, down to the hocks, are also thickly coated, forming the characteristic “trousers.” His The head, ears, and lower legs are covered with thick, short hair.

Size, Proportion, Substance: The Keeshond is a medium-sized and square-appearing. They are sturdy, dog, with bone in proportion to the overall dog, neither coarse nor lightly made. The ideal height of fully matured dogs when measured from top of withers to the ground is 18 inches for males and 17 inches for bitches - a 1-inch variance either way is acceptable. While correct size is very important, it should not outweigh that of type. When dogs are judged equal in type, the dog nearest the ideal height is to be preferred.

Head: Expression - Expression is largely dependent on the distinctive characteristic called “spectacles” - a hallmark of the breed. Spectacles are a combination of
markings and shadings in the orbital area which must include a delicate, dark line slanting from the outer corner of each eye toward the lower corner of each ear coupled with expressive eyebrows. Markings (or shadings) on face and head must present a pleasing appearance, imparting to the dog an alert and intelligent expression. Very Serious Fault - Absence of dark lines which form the “spectacles.” Eyes - Eyes should be dark brown in color, of medium size, almond shaped, set obliquely and neither too wide apart nor too close together. Eye rims are black. Faults - Round and/or protruding eyes or eyes light of color. Ears - Ears should be small, triangular in shape, mounted high on head and carried erect. Size should be of the ear is proportionate to the head-length approximating the distance from the outer corner of the eye to the nearest edge of the ear. Fault - Ears not carried erect when at attention. Skull - The head should be well-proportioned is in proportion to the body and wedge-shaped when viewed from above. - not only the muzzle, but the whole head should give this impression when the ears are drawn back by covering the nape of the neck and the ears with one hand. Head In profile should exhibit a definite stop. It has a defined stop. The topskull is somewhat flat and in parallel planes with the top of the muzzle. Faults - Apple head or absence of stop. Muzzle - Of medium length, neither coarse nor snipey, and well-proportioned to the skull. The muzzle, from tip of nose to stop, should be approximately the same length as from stop to occiput. Mouth - The mouth should be neither overshot nor undershot. Lips should be black and closely meeting-not thick, coarse or sagging, and with no wrinkle at the corner of the mouth. Lips should be black and closely meeting-not thick, coarse or sagging, and with no wrinkle at the corner of the mouth. Faults – Overshot, undershot or wry mouth. Teeth - The teeth should be white, sound and strong meeting in a scissors bite. Fault - Misaligned teeth. Faults-Overshot, undershot or wry mouth.

Neck, Topline Body: The neck should be moderately long, well-shaped and well set on shoulders and set well into the shoulders. The topline is straight with a slight slope to the hindquarters. The body is well ribbed, compact and strong with a good spring of rib. The easily felt prosternum is in line with the point of shoulder with a deep chest that extends approximately to the elbow. The loin is short, with the belly moderately tucked up, should be compact with a short, straight back sloping slightly downward toward the hindquarters: well ribbed, barrel well rounded, short in loin, belly moderately tucked up, deep and strong of chest. Tail - The tail should be moderately long and well feathered, set
on high, tightly curled over the back and lying close to the body, and tightly curled over the back. It should lie flat and close to the body. The tail must form a part of the “silhouette” of the dog’s body, rather than give the appearance of an appendage. Fault - Tail not lying close to the back.

**Forequarters:** Forelegs should be straight seen from any angle. Pasterns are strong with a slight slope. Legs must be of good bone in proportion to the overall dog. Shoulder to upper arm angulation is between slight to moderate. The shoulder blade, upper arm and forearm are of equal length, with the highest point of the withers being in line with the elbow. Elbows are held close to the body. Forelegs are straight seen from any angle and set behind the forechest. Distance from withers to elbows approximately equals distance from elbows to ground. Ideal shoulder angulation is moderate. Pasterns are strong with a slight slope. The feet are compact, well-rounded, cat-like. Toes are nicely arched, with black nails. Dewclaws may be removed.

**Hindquarters:** Angulation in rear should be between slight to moderate to complement the forequarters, creating balance and typical gait. Hindquarters are well-muscled with hocks perpendicular to the ground. Feet - The feet should be compact, well rounded, cat-like. Toes are nicely arched, with black nails. The hindquarters are well muscled, moderately angulated, and in balance with the forequarters. Hocks are perpendicular to the ground, neither under nor extended way behind the croup. Feet are the same as described in the forequarters section.

**Coat:** The body should be abundantly covered with long, straight, harsh hair standing well out from a thick, downy undercoat. Head, including muzzle, skull and ears, should be covered with smooth, soft, short hair-velvety in texture on the ears. The neck is covered with a mane-more profuse in the male-sweeping from under the jaw and covering the whole of the front part of the shoulders and chest, as well as the top part of the shoulders. The hair on the legs should be smooth and short, except for feathering on the front legs and “trousers” on the hind legs. Hind legs should be profusely feathered down to the hocks-not below. The hair on the tail should form a rich plume. Coat must not part down the back. The Keeshond is to be shown in a natural state with trimming permissible only on feet, pasterns, hocks and - if desired - whiskers. Trimming other than as described to be severely penalized. *Bitch Coat:* The bitch coat may be less abundant than that of the male. Bitches should not be penalized for their shorter coats.
They may also carry as much coat as their male counterparts. The bitch’s coat should reflect her feminine type and appearance, making it easy to distinguish her from the male. Puppy Coat: The puppy coat may be predominately undercoat. It may feel soft in texture as it lacks the harsh guard hairs present in adults. The age and rate at which guard hair grows varies among puppies. Trimming: The Keeshond is to be shown in a natural state. Trimming permissible only on feet, pasterns, hocks and —if desired—whiskers. Trimming or sculpting of the coat or any grooming which alters the natural appearance to be severely penalized. Faults - Silky, wavy, or curly coats. Part in coat down the back.

Color and Markings: A dramatically marked dog, the adult Keeshond is a mixture of gray, black and cream. This coloration may vary from light to dark. The hair of the outer coat is black tipped, the length of the black tips producing the characteristic shading of color. Puppies are often less intensely marked. The undercoat is very pale gray or cream, never tawny-containing tan, brown, or orange tones. Puppies are often less intensely marked. The dramatic color and contrast seen in adults may be lacking in some puppies as they haven’t developed the guard coat that typically determines the variations in the black color.

Head: The muzzle should be and ears are dark in color with some natural shading, seldom solid black. “Spectacles” and shadings, as previously described, are characteristic of the breed and must be present to some degree. Ears should be very dark almost black.

Ruff, Shoulders and “Trousers”: The color of the ruff and “trousers” is lighter than that of the body. The light gray shoulder line markings of light gray must be well defined.

Tail: The plume of the tail is very light in color when curled on the back, and the tip of the tail should be black.

Legs and Feet: Legs and feet are cream. Faults - Pronounced white markings. Black markings more than halfway down the foreleg. Penciling excepted is acceptable on the toes and feet. White foot or feet. Very Serious Faults - Entirely black or white or any solid color; any pronounced deviation from the color as described.

Gait: The distinctive gait of the Keeshond is unique to the breed. Dogs should move boldly and keep tails curled over the back. They should move cleanly and briskly; the movement should be straight and sharp with reach and drive between slight to moderate. The Keeshond movement is clean and brisk with balanced reach and drive. They move confidently, with the head carried naturally above a steady
topline, while keeping the tail tightly curled over the back. When seen from the side they should not move with extended reach and drive. There is no overstepping or interfering between the front and rear movement. The Keeshond is a double tracking breed. The legs move parallel coming and going but as speed increases the legs tend to slightly converge toward a center line.

**Temperament:** Temperament is of primary importance. The Keeshond is neither timid nor aggressive but, instead, is outgoing and friendly with both people and other dogs. The Keeshond is a lively, intelligent, alert and affectionate companion.

**Official Standard of the Sussex Spaniel**

**General Appearance:** The Sussex Spaniel was among the first ten breeds to be recognized and admitted to the Stud Book when the American Kennel Club was formed in 1884, but it has existed as a distinct breed for much longer. As its name implies, it derives its origin from the county of Sussex, England, and it was used there since the eighteenth century as a field dog. During the late 1800’s the reputation of the Sussex Spaniel as an excellent hunting companion was well known among the estates surrounding Sussex County. Its short legs, massive build, long body, and habit of giving tongue when on scent made the breed ideally suited to penetrating the dense undergrowth and flushing game within range of the gun. Strength, maneuverability, and desire were essential for this purpose. Although it has never gained great popularity in numbers, the Sussex Spaniel continues today essentially unchanged in character and general appearance from those 19th century sporting dogs.

The Sussex Spaniel presents a long and low, rectangular and rather massive appearance coupled with free movements and nice tail action. The breed has a somber and serious expression. The rich golden liver color is unique to the breed.

**Size, Proportion, Substance:** *Size* - The height of the Sussex Spaniel as measured at the withers ranges from 13 to 15 inches. Any deviation from these measurements is a minor fault. The weight of the Sussex Spaniel ranges between 35 and 45 pounds. *Proportion* - The Sussex Spaniel presents a rectangular outline as the breed is longer in body than it is tall. *Substance* - The Sussex Spaniel is muscular and rather massive.

**Head:** Correct head and expression are important features of the breed. *Eyes* - The eyes are hazel in color, fairly large, soft and languishing, but do not show the haw
overmuch. *Expression* - The Sussex Spaniel has a somber and serious appearance, and its fairly heavy brows produce a frowning expression. *Ears* - The ears are thick, fairly large, and lobe-shaped and are set moderately low, slightly above the outside corner of the eye. *Skull* and *Muzzle* - The skull is moderately long and also wide with an indentation in the middle and with a full stop. The brows are fairly heavy, the occiput is full but not pointed, the whole giving an appearance of heaviness without dullness. The muzzle should be approximately three inches long, broad, and square in profile. The skull as measured from the stop to the occiput is longer than the muzzle. The nostrils are well-developed and liver colored. The lips are somewhat pendulous. *Bite* - A scissors bite is preferred. Any deviation from a scissors bite is a minor fault.

**Neck, Topline, Body:** *Neck* - The neck is rather short, strong, and slightly arched, but does not carry the head much above the level of the back. There should not be much throatiness about the skin. *Topline* and *Body* - The whole body is characterized as low and long with a level topline. The chest is round, especially behind the shoulders, and is deep and wide which gives a good girth. The back and loin are long and very muscular both in width and depth. For this development, the back ribs must be deep. *Tail* - The tail is set low.

When gaiting, the Sussex Spaniel exhibits nice tail action, but does not carry the tail above the level of the back. The tail may be docked or undocked. If docked, the tail is 5 to 7 inches long.

**Forequarters:** The shoulders are well laid back and muscular. The upper arm should correspond in length and angle of return to the shoulder blade so that the legs are set well under the dog. The forelegs should be very short, strong, and heavily boned. They may show a slight bow. Both straight and slightly bowed constructions are proper and correct. The pasterns are very short and heavily boned. The feet are large and round with short hair between the toes.

**Hindquarters:** The hindquarters are full and well-rounded, strong, and heavily boned. They should be parallel with each other and also set wide apart-about as wide as the dog at the shoulders. The hind legs are short from the hock to the ground, heavily boned, and should seem neither shorter than the forelegs nor much bent at the hocks. The hindquarters must correspond in angulation to the forequarters. The hocks should turn neither in nor out. The rear feet are like the front feet.

**Coat:** The body coat is abundant, flat or slightly waved, with no tendency to curl.
The legs are moderately well-feathered, but clean below the hocks. The ears are furnished with soft, wavy hair. The neck has a well-marked frill in the coat. The tail is thickly covered with moderately long feather. No trimming is acceptable except to shape foot feather, or to remove feather between the pads or between the hock and the feet. The feather between the toes must be left in sufficient length to cover the nails.

**Color:** Rich golden liver is the only acceptable color and is a certain sign of the purity of the breed. Dark liver or puce is a major fault. White on the chest is a minor fault. White on any other part of the body is a major fault.

**Gait:** The round, deep and wide chest of the Sussex Spaniel coupled with its short legs and long body produce a rolling gait. While its movement is deliberate, the Sussex Spaniel is in no sense clumsy. Gait is powerful and true with perfect coordination between the front and hind legs. The front legs do not paddle, wave, or overlap. The head is held low when gaiting. The breed should be shown on a loose lead so that its natural gait is evident.

**Temperament:** Despite its somber and serious expression, the breed is friendly and has a cheerful and tractable disposition.

**Faults:** The standard ranks features of the breed into three categories. The most important features of the breed are color and general appearance. The features of secondary importance are the head, ears, back and back ribs, legs, and feet. The features of lesser importance are the eyes, nose, neck, chest and shoulders, tail, and coat. Faults also fall into three categories. Major faults are color that is too light or too dark, white on any part of the body other than the chest, and a curled coat. Serious faults are a narrow head, weak muzzle, the presence of a topknot, and a general appearance that is sour and crouching. Minor faults are light eyes, white on chest, the deviation from proper height ranges, lightness of bone, shortness of body or a body that is flatsided, and a bite other than scissors. There are no disqualifications in the Sussex Spaniel standard.

**Approved October 10, 2023**

**Effective January 1, 2024**

**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.

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sandfoxvm@gmail.com  
Dachshunds, Bernese Mountain Dogs,  
Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs, Standard  
Schnauzers

Ms. Ellen W. Schultz (110815) TX  
(713) 899-2418  
apollogoldens@att.net  
Labrador Retrievers, Nova Scotia Duck  
Tolling Retrievers

Inge Semenschin (27410) CA  
(510) 620-9688  
ingeakc@gmail.com  
Basset Hounds, Black and Tan  
Coonhounds, Bloodhounds, Ibizan  
Hounds, Otterhounds, Redbone  
Coonhounds

Mr. Channing Sheets (99781) CA  
(415) 254-2582  
cashe90@hotmail.com  
Berger Picards, Border Collies,  
Briards, Finnish Lapphunds, Icelandic  
Sheepdogs, Miniature American  
Shepherds, Polish Lowland Sheepdogs,  
Pumik, Swedish Vallhunds

Rhonda Silveira (100061) OR  
(503) 428-2021
rsilveira.akcjudge@outlook.com
Afghan Hounds, Basenjis, Basset Hounds, Otterhounds, Pharaoh Hounds, Portuguese Podengo Pequenos, Rhodesian Ridgebacks, Alaskan Malamutes

Mr. Gus Sinibaldi (103241) NC
(954) 614-9308
gus.sinibaldi@yahoo.com
Bedlington Terriers, Border Terriers, Dandie Dinmont Terriers, Irish Terriers, Kerry Blue Terriers, Parson Russell Terriers, Rat Terriers

Mr. Daniel J. Smyth, Esq. (6347) CA
(609) 351-3647
danieljsmythe@aol.com
German Wirehaired Pointers, Boxers, Dogues de Bordeaux, Pumik

Mr. Jon Titus Steele (55162) MI
(989) 860-9677
jonauroal@gmail.com
Beaucerons, Bergamasco Sheepdogs, Berger Picards, Cardigan Welsh Corgis, Collies, Norwegian Buhunds, Polish Lowland Sheepdogs, Shetland Sheepdogs

Dr. Jerry Sulewski (93475) WI
(920) 833-2242
collieknutt@yahoo.com
Shetland Sheepdogs

Mrs. Cindy J. Valko (110124) PA
(412) 780-6129
somersetsts@comcast.net
Bernese Mountain Dogs, Bullmastiffs, Great Danes, Newfoundlands

JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP PERMIT JUDGES

Mrs. Claudette DuPont (112807) NC
(336) 380-6317
claudettemdupont@gmail.com
JS

Kimberley M. Dye (110679) NJ
(609) 420-3746
doglover4life@comcast.net
JS-Limited

Mrs. Jackie Esperance (112827) OR
(636) 219-7189
ross.jackie79@gmail.com
JS

Mr. Matthew Fox (112833) NY
(716) 961-8048
matthewfoxtrail@gmail.com
JS

Mr. Mitchell Fox (112834) PA
(716) 698-4290
mitchellfoxtrail@gmail.com
JS

Ms. Christiana (Chris) Gaburri (112608) PA
(412) 559-9536
k9brusger@gmail.com
JS

Mr. Joao Machado (110191) TX
(832) 339-6926
joao.machadoTX@gmail.com
JS

Ms. Rebecca A. Nunes (112752) CA
(714) 401-6471
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.

Cynthia Hutt (95461) CO
(720) 933-8328
lapicfern@gmail.com

Vicki Sandage DVM (98425) KY
(606) 922-9552
sandfoxdvm@gmail.com

Mr. Joseph R. Vernuccio (96251) CT
(203) 829-2428
joevernuccio@gmail.com

RESIGNED CONFORMATION JUDGE
Ms. Frances A. Nelson

DECEASED CONFORMATION JUDGES
Mr. John S. Contoupe
Mr. Thomas Cozzoni
Dr. A. Todd Miller

REGULAR STATUS APPROVED 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.

Mrs. Nanci Hayes (93215) NH
(603) 662-7400
yankee@fairpoint.net
Obedience – Utility

Sarah Schroeder (34510) MO
(417) 234-6141
wicklowsetters@gmail.com
Rally – All

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.

Tim Tedrow (34235) SC
(864) 616-8400
ttedrow@bellsouth.net
Rally – All

DECEASED OBEDIENCE/RALLY/TRACKING JUDGES
Robert (Bob) Margolis (NC)
Obedience & Rally
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.

BLU DIAMOND= Silky Terriers - Johanna L. Shewan & David K. Shewan
CAERLEON- Great Danes- Lucy Conroy
CHALAND- Belgian Malinois- Angela Chamberlain
FIRE SKY- Papillons- Julita A. Deddo
FOREVER CHARMED- Biewer Terriers – Chris Caldwell & Jessica Caldwell
GRAYSON’S- Belgian Malinois- Ashley N. Walker
HALESTORM- German Shorthaired Pointers- Christy J. Hale
LAROH- Miniature Schnauzers- Rod Hartshorn, DVM & Laura Hartshorn
LNL- Giant Schnauzers- Frank E. LaVoie
LOUCAN- Chihuahuas- Candace Henry
NOBLERIDGE- Cavalier King Charles Spaniels
PERSEVERE- German Shepherd Dogs- Chasity Casey
POPOFF-Pomeranians- Mary Hart
RUBYREDS- Poodles- Louie A. Martucci
RUFFIAN’S- French Bulldogs- Stacey D. Hayes
SUMMERS- Bernese Mountain Dogs- Anne Summers

REGISTERED NAME PREFIXES GRANTED

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

ANGEDOR- Golden Retrievers- Laurie Grall
APEX- Cane Corso- Wendy Burns
AZURE- Papillons- Kathy E. Patterson
2BLUE BAYOU – Australian Cattle Dogs- Dawn R. Carr & Thomas N Carr
BEAR CREEK-Giant Schnauzers – Victoria G. Kallett
BONNIE BRAE- Golden Retrievers- Susan J. Wilcox
CRAFT-ED-Miniature Schnauzers- Julie E. Craft
DOG LAWZ-Labrador Retrievers- Joy D. Lucero & Dave M. Lucero
ENCANTOS-Poodles- Vimarie Monge
FOG HOWL- Border Terriers- Ivan Hudak & Carol Yarbrough
FOREBEAR- Newfoundlands- Ivy C. Surdi
GRAVES FARM- Mudik- Denise Graves
GREEN GABLES- Havanese – Lisa B. Minshull & Collin W. Minshull
GOTTA GO- Australian Cattle Dogs- Nancy L. Hansen
KARDROVI- Siberian Huskies- Sandra Alvarez
KNOCKOUT- Miniature American Shepherds- Matthew M. Reed & Gennefer L. Reed
MEETING of the BOARD OF DIRECTORS
AKC Offices at 101 Park Avenue,
New York, NY
October 9-10, 2023

The Board convened on Monday, October 9, 2023, at 8:30 a.m. Eastern Time.

All Directors were present in the New York office. The Executive Secretary was also present.

Copies of the August 7-8, 2023, Board Meeting minutes had been previously provided to all Directors for review.

Dr. Garvin asked that the language for the proposed revision to the Tail section of the English Springer Spaniel Breed Standard be included in the August Minutes. The Board VOTED to approve this addition.

Upon a motion by Mr. Powers, seconded by Ms. McAteer, the August 2023 Board Meeting minutes were unanimously approved as amended.

PRESIDENT’S REPORT
Mr. Sprung updated the Board on several business matters as well as on past
Entries are now open for the America’s National Championship, which will take place in Orlando on December 16-17, 2023.

Litter Registration is at the level planned, while individual dog registration is trailing. The aggregate financials are level.

Through August, Events and Entries are both positive, with a 5% increase in events and a 3% increase in entries led by Fast CAT®, Scent Work, Rally, and Conformation in that order.

Mr. Sprung will distribute a new quarterly email for Delegates and Club Officers reminding them of tips for their Club’s fiduciary responsibilities, to continue to be watchful for email Phishing scams, and an explanation that Pop Ups ads on akc.org are not generated internally. He will also provide information to Parent Clubs to take advantage of the Grants for Breed rescue that are offered through the AKC Humane Fund.

The Executive Secretary introduced the new Executive Director of the AKC Museum of the Dog, Christopher Bromson.

**Legal Update**
The Board reviewed the Legal Department update as of September 2023.

**2024 Budget**
The Board reviewed the draft of the 2024 budget.

It will be discussed further at the November Board meeting.

**Canine Health Foundation 2023 Q3 Update**
Stephanie Montgomery, AKC Canine Health Foundation (CHF) Chief Executive Officer, and Andrea Fiumefreddo, AKC CHF Chief Operating Officer, participated in this portion of the meeting.

Alongside the 2024 budget preparation, CHF is conducting strategic planning. The immediate focus is a 1-year 2024 plan to guide a coordinated effort across the organization and promote the success of each department in achieving CHF’s mission. The focus is on actualizing CHF’s mission through strengthening our partnerships, thoughtfully expanding our constituency and sponsors, funding impactful research, and providing educational resources and communications to meet needs that align with CHF programs.

This past quarter, Susan Childs, MSA,
CPA, CHF Director of Finance, prioritized completing 2022 financial statements in preparation for CHF’s 2022 financial audit.

Thus far, in 2023, 24 new grants have been awarded, totaling $1.65M in new funding.

The Theriogenology selection committee met in July to evaluate this year’s applications. Two programs were selected, one supporting a resident at the Ohio State University and one supporting a resident at Colorado State University. The Theriogenology Residency continues to be a fruitful collaboration between AKC, CHF, and the Theriogenology Foundation.

Invitations for the 2024 CHF Clinician-Scientist Fellowship Program were sent to selected institutions. This program supports Clinician-Scientist trainees who work with CHF-funded mentors. Applications for this program are due in mid-October.

CHF’s most recent call for proposals was on infectious disease and One Health. CHF currently has an open request for Early Career Investigators, who can submit proposals in any of the 23 established program areas. The purpose of this award is to advance the health of dogs while investing in outstanding early career individuals who have the potential to be tomorrow’s leading canine health researchers.

The 2023 National Parent Club Conference was held in St. Louis on August 11-13, 2023, made possible through the support of AKC, Purina, and the Orthopedic Foundation for Animals (OFA).

In July, CHF celebrated the 1,000th scientific article stemming from CHF-funded studies.

CHF presented a proposal for a 3-year AKC/AKC-CHF sponsored veterinary Residency Program in Canine Sports Medicine and Rehabilitation, starting in 2025.

This will be discussed further at the November Board meeting.

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

FINANCE
Unaudited Financial Results for the 8 months ended August 31, 2023
Net Operating Income is $9.6 million.

REVENUES:
Total Revenues of $68.8 million are lower than budget by 1%, excluding Interest & Dividends.

Registration Fees excluding Registration-Related revenues total $26.9 million, and trail by 3%.

Registration-related Revenues exceeded budget by $104k or 1%.

Recording & Event Service fees, Title Recognition, and Event Application fees total $11.4 million and are higher than budget by 7%.

Product & Service Sales total $8.2 million are lower by 9%.

Advertising, Sponsorship, and Royalties total $12.8 million, which are higher than the budget by 1%.

EXPENSES:
Controllable Expenses total $52.9 million and are lower than budget by $3.8 million or 7%.
Non-controllable expenses are higher than budget by $44k or 1%.

Non-Financial Statistics for the 6 months ended June 30, 2023
Registrations: 2023 YTD Litter Registrations are 1% ahead of budget and 8% lower than 2022 YTD.
2023 YTD Dog Registrations are trailing the budget by 8% and are 15% lower than 2022 YTD.

Events & Entries
Compared to the same period in 2022, Events are 5% ahead, and Entries are 3% higher YTD.

EXECUTIVE SECRETARY
Gina DiNardo, Executive Secretary, participated in this portion of the meeting. Mari-Beth O’Neill, Vice President of Sports Services; Sheila Goffe, Vice President of Government Relations; and Ashley Jacot, Director of Education, participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

Beagle Proposed Breed Standard Revision
The National Beagle Club (NBC) has submitted a proposed revision to the color section of the Beagle standard. The Board has additional questions, which will be directed back to the Parent Club.

This will be discussed further at the November Board meeting.
Keeshond Breed Standard Revision
The Board reviewed the proposed revisions to the breed standard as submitted by the Keeshond Club of America.

Following a motion from Mr. Sweetwood, seconded by Dr. Battaglia, the Board VOTED (Unanimously) to approve the proposed revisions to the Keeshond Standard to be published for comment in the November 2023 Secretary’s Page of the AKC Gazette.

Delegate Bylaws Committee Recommendation to require a Fee to File a Complaint
The Delegate Bylaws Committee voted unanimously to send a memo to the Board, which asks the Board to consider requiring a $50 fee to file a complaint at an AKC event. They concluded that requiring a small fee to file a complaint might deter the most frivolous complaints. They also suggest that AKC judges and show committee members be exempt from this fee.

This will be discussed further at the November Board meeting.

Danish-Swedish Farmdog Eligibility to Compete in the Working Group
The Board reviewed a petition from the Danish-Swedish Farmdog Club of America, which is seeking acceptance into the AKC Stud Book for the Danish-Swedish Farmdog so that it may be registerable and eligible to compete in the Working Group.

This will be discussed further at the November Board meeting.

Perro de Presa Canario Name Change
The Presa Canario Club of America has requested that the breed’s name be officially changed to Presa Canario, as opposed to Perro de Presa Canario, to be consistent with the country of origin.

This will be discussed further at the November Board meeting.

2024 and 2025 Delegate and Board Meetings
The Board reviewed the 2024 Board meeting dates, which were approved in October of 2022, and the proposed Board and Delegate meeting dates for 2025.

This will be discussed further at the November Board meeting.
AKC Education Quarter 3 Review

Online Education

Breed-Specific and Breeder Courses and Exams
A total of 65 breed-specific courses and 27 breeder courses, webinars, and exams are now available on Canine College. In Q3, one course was completed and launched, four courses are under final Parent Club review, and five breed courses are under development.

Breed-Specific Courses Launched in Q3
- Pembroke Welsh Corgi

Breed-Specific Courses Updated in Q3
- Dachshund
- English Cocker Spaniel

Breed-Specific Courses under Parent Club Committee Review
- Manchester Terrier
- French Bulldog
- Beagle
- German Shorthaired Pointer

Breed-Specific Courses in Development
- Alaskan Malamute
- Beauceron
- Biewer Terrier
- Borzoi
- Bracco Italiano

Breed-Specific Course in Queue
- Lancashire Heeler
- Leonberger

Public Education

Major Work in Q3
- Releasing “AKC Read with Bailey” Videos
- Processed New AKC Canine Ambassador Members
- Hosted Art Contest at AKC Meet the Breeds® - Chicago
- Hosted Information Booth at AKC Meet the Breeds® - Chicago
- Preparing for AKC Meet the Breeds® - Columbus
- Updated AKC PupPals Program
- New Issues of AKC Kids News and AKC Canine Corner

New “AKC Read with Bailey” Videos Released
During Q3, three new “AKC Read with Bailey” videos were released, each celebrating a different holiday (French Heritage Month, National Dog Month, and Hispanic Heritage Month). Related resources were also provided. The videos reached a total audience of over 1,300.

AKC Canine Corner & AKC Kids News Newsletters
During Q3 we released three new issues of the AKC Canine Corner Newsletter and made visual updates. Additionally, a new issue of AKC Kids News was released with information about Pee Wee events.
AKC Education Webinar Series
In Quarter 3 of 2023, AKC Education hosted four webinars for 2,230 participants, bringing the total number of participants to 60,665 since March 2020.

The following webinars were offered in Quarter 3 of 2023:
• Managing Your Litters in AKC Breeder Toolkit
• Club Development Presents: Using Technology to Teach ‘Old Dogs’ New Tricks!
• Review & FAQs on Conformation Judging Procedures, Policies & Guidelines
• Judges Education Webinar: Sloughi

AKC Breeder Education
A presentation was given on the new AKC Breeder Education course called Breeding Fundamentals. The course content was Streamlined from 7 courses into 1 course. This new format will:
• Increase participation with badges and a leaderboard.
• Foster peer engagement and new connections.
• Better track learner progress.
• Drive actionable marketing messages.

A digital badge is now available for every module the learner finishes.

The following content has been moved from Canine College to AKC.org and is available on a Complimentary basis:
• The revised, original breeder education courses
  • Dog Breeding and Health Articles
  • Breeder Webinars
  • AKC Breeder Newsletters
  • AKC’s Guide to Responsible Dog Ownership
  • AKC Breeder to Breeder Presentations

Government Relations (GR) Monthly Update:
Sheila Goffe highlighted numerous active priority legislation and administrative regulations in Congress and in State Legislation as of September 14, 2023.

She noted that additional information is available on the AKC legislative action center microsite: https://www.akcgr.org.

COMPLIANCE
Bri Tesarz, Director of Compliance and Jessica Lopez, Compliance Specialist, participated in this meeting portion via video conference.

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

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

**MARKETING**

Kirsten Bahlke, Vice President of Marketing, participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference. Jacqueline Taylor, Director of Marketing and Dylan Gibbons, Brand Marketing Associate, participated in this portion of the meeting.

There was a presentation on Sports & Events Marketing initiatives through September 2023.

The focus was on entry-level activities for dog owners, including the AKC Canine Good Citizen test, AKC FIT DOG, Fast CAT®, Scent Work and AKC Trick Dog. There was also a campaign to promote multiple sports that new dog owners could attend as spectators. It was noted that the majority of CGC titleholders typically achieved their first title through CGC. Among these initial titleholders, 42% later earned additional AKC Titles.

A nurturing Sports and Events email series was highlighted, which targeted new dog registrants to foster engagement, education, and enthusiasm in AKC Sports & Events.

There was also an initiative to increase the number of Parent Clubs and local specialty clubs participating in the Pupdate Newsletter. This program helps establish AKC Clubs as a lifelong resource for new puppy owners. Currently, there are over 100 clubs participating; over 20 have joined this year.

**CLUBS**

Doug Ljungren, Executive Vice President, of Sports & Events; Glenn Lycan, Director of Event Operations Support; and Lisa Cecin, Director of Club Relations, participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

**Exploring Options for Existing Local Specialty Club Territories**

The American Kennel Club expands existing club territories upon written request. The basis for warranting these territory expansions includes household membership shifting over time, event site issues, and the proximity of local specialty clubs of the same breed. Only newly accredited local specialty clubs are eligible for statewide and multi-state territories to help newly forming clubs meet AKC’s minimum household requirements. The Board reviewed a recommendation to permit existing clubs to expand their territories in the same manner as newly accredited local specialty clubs, provided certain parameters are met.
Staff is recommending expanding territories for existing local specialty clubs with the following parameters:

1. Club membership changes and/or event site changes warrant the need for an expansion.
2. Expansion may include statewide or communities in multiple states if necessary to meet the minimum of 12 local households required for local specialty clubs, as long as it does not infringe on another local specialty club’s territory.
3. As with all territory expansion requests, AKC reserves the right to adjust club territories by reducing a territory should the breed become more popular in the future and another club in the area is justified.
4. All other policies and standard practices will remain unchanged.

This will be discussed further at the November Board meeting.

REPORT ON MEMBER CLUB BYLAWS
APPROVED IN AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER
Chicago Collie Club, Chicago, IL (1914)
Dachshund Club of America (1895)
Irish Terrier Club of America (1897)
Lowchen Club of America (2018)
Mensona Kennel Club, Santa Rosa, CA, (1973)

REPORT ON NEWLY LICENSED CLUB
APPROVED IN AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER
Cane Corso Club of the Pacific Northwest, greater Enumclaw, WA (including communities north to Sedro-Wooley, south to Vancouver and east to Yakima), 26 total households, 13 local.

Central Florida Dogo Argentino Club, greater Lakeland, FL (including communities north to Ormond, northwest to Cedar Key, southeast to Pierce, southwest to Bradenton), 29 total households, 18 local.

Irish Wolfhound Association of the Carolinas, greater Asheboro, NC (including all communities in both North and South Carolina, south to southern Virginia communities of Danville, Suffolk, Newport News and Norfolk), 22 total households, 17 local.

Piedmont Bernese Mountain Dog Club of South Carolina, greater Greenville, NC (including communities south to Anderson, east to Rock Hill and north to the North Carolina state line), 20 total households, 14 local.

Rocky Mountain Saint Bernard Club, greater Colorado Springs, CO (including communities north to Cheyenne, WY, southeast to Strasburg, CO, and west to
Buena Vista, CO), 35 total households, 12 local.

Swan Lake Retriever Club, Marceline, MO (including towns of Brookfield, Sumner, Rothville, Mendon Salisbury), 22 total households, 13 local.

CONFORMATION
Doug Ljungren, Executive Vice President, Sports & Events; Tim Thomas, Vice President of Conformation; Glenn Lycan, Director, Event Operations Support; Mari-Beth O’Neill, Vice President, Sport Services and Alan Slay, Director, Event Programs, participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

Sweepstakes Age Limit
Currently, The AKC Show Manual restricts sweepstakes to dogs less than 18 months old. The Staff recommends updating the guideline to allow dogs less than 24 months old to compete in sweepstakes.

Following a motion from Dr. Battaglia, seconded by Mr. Powers, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to update the AKC Show Manual.

Sweepstakes or Futurity Classes
A specialty club that has been approved by the AKC to hold sweepstakes and futurities may hold these events in conjunction with its event or with an All-Breed event. The following conditions must be met:
• An application is submitted by the specialty club.
• Entries for sweepstakes or futurity are only accepted for dogs that are at least six months of age.
• Sweepstakes entries are for dogs up to 24 months of age.
• The class divisions are specified in the premium list. Age divisions are determined by the specialty club. Classes must be divided by sex.
• All other qualifications for the dogs and handlers may be set by the specialty club and must be stated in the premium list.
• The club may retain for expenses up to 50% of the sweepstakes entry fees collected. The club should only retain enough of the entry fee to cover the expenses of the competition.

Clubs have the flexibility to determine certain aspects of the sweepstakes competition. The following criteria may be adjusted by the club: age (up to 24 months), Dog (titled or not), Handler (professional or not). These items must be clearly defined in the premium list.

Catalogs - Rules Applying to Dog Shows, Chapter 12, Sections 1 & 4
Pursuant to the Rules Applying to Dog Shows
(“Rules”), Chapter 12, Section 1 and Chapter 12, Section 4, dog show catalogs must publish the names and addresses of the owners for all dogs entered. The Board reviewed a Staff recommendation to modify the Rules removing the requirement to publish the owner’s complete address and replacing it with the publication of the name, city, state, and email (if provided) of the owners for all dogs entered.

Following a motion by Mr. Tatro, seconded by Mr. Hamblin, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to approve the Staff recommendation.

These changes will be read at the December 2023 Delegate Meeting to be voted on at the March 2024 Delegate Meeting.

**Judging Programs for Multi-Day Events**

The Board reviewed a Staff recommendation to establish Board Policy to require judging programs for single shows with multiple days of judging to include the day or date and time for which transfers to Best of Breed/Variety must be completed.

There was a motion by Dr. Battaglia, seconded by Mr. Powers to consider the matter at the meeting waiving the normal notice procedures. This motion was unanimously passed.

Following a motion by Dr. Battaglia, seconded by Mr. Tatro, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to approve the staff recommendation effective January 1, 2024.

**Conflict Distance National Specialty**

The current Show Conflict Distance Policy imposes a 500-mile limit on local specialty clubs when participating with the National Specialty. However, the Parent Clubs Committee has proposed the elimination of this limit. The Staff supports the Parent Clubs Committee’s request to remove the 500-mile restriction.

This will be discussed further at the November Board meeting.

The Board adjourned at 5:17 p.m.
Conformation Judges Assignment Conflict Policy
The Board reviewed a Staff recommendation to modify the Board Policy, which defines the minimum time and distance between assignments to judge the regular classes for the same breed, group, or Best in Show at AKC Conformation Dog Shows. Under current policy, Conformation Judges may not be approved to judge the regular classes for the same breed, group, or Best in Show at AKC Conformation events held within 30 days and 200 miles. Staff recommends the policy be modified to events held within 21 days and 200 miles. This will be discussed further at the November Board meeting.

Conformation Judging Statistics
Judging Operations provided statistics related to Conformation judging applications considered by the Department in the preceding three months. Following are the statistics for New Breed (NB) and Additional Breed (AB) judges whose

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<td>AB TOTAL</td>
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applications were presented for final approval in the months of July through September 2023.

**COMPANION and PERFORMANCE**
Doug Ljungren, Executive Vice President, Sports & Events; Diane Schultz, Director of Obedience, Rally and Tracking; and Caroline Murphy, Director, Performance Events participated in this portion of the meeting via video conference.

**$3.50 Recording/Service Fee for all Entries**
The Board reviewed a recommendation to adopt a consistent recording/service fee of $3.50 per entry across all sports. Currently, all Performance Events are $3.50 per entry, while Conformation and Companion Events are $3.50 for the first entry and $3.00 for all subsequent entries of a dog at the same event.
The change would result in consistency across all sports. Since July 1, 2013, all Performance Events have had a $3.50 fee for every entry of a dog in the event.

If the $3.50 fee implemented in 2008 for Conformation was adjusted for inflation, it would be $4.76 today.

Following a motion by Mr. Tatro, seconded by Mr. Powers, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to adopt the recommendation effective January 1, 2024.

**Parent Club Request for Three-Quarter Jump Heights in Obedience – Australian Terrier and Old English Sheepdog**
The Australian Terrier Club of America (ATCA) and the Old English Sheepdog Club of America (OESDCA) have submitted documentation to support their request to have the jump height requirement in obedience for their breed to be lowered to three-quarters the height of the dog at the withers.

In the Obedience regular classes with jumps (Open and Utility), the minimum required jump height is the height of the dog at the withers. However, based on each breed’s structure and the impact
jumping has on the dog’s body, Parent Clubs can request to have their breed approved to jump three-quarters the height of the dog at the withers. Australian Terrier – Under current regulations, the breed’s regular jump height is 10-12 inches; with the requested change, they will be allowed to jump 7-9 inches. The request is consistent with previously approved breeds with a similar height/length/weight ratio of the Australian Terrier.

Old English Sheepdog – Under current regulations, the breed’s regular jump height is 22 inches and up; with the requested change, they will be allowed to jump 16 inches and up, depending on the height of the dog. The breed is thickset and heavy-boned. The request is consistent with previously approved breeds that are heavy in bone and have a thickset body.

There was a motion by Mr. Sweetwood, seconded by Mr. Smyth to consider the matter at the meeting waiving the normal notice procedures. This motion was unanimously passed.

There was a motion by Ms. Biddle, seconded by Mr. Sweetwood, and the Board VOTED (unanimously) to approve the requests of the ATCA and the OESDCA to have the jump height requirement in Obedience for their breed to be lowered to three-quarters the height of the dog at the withers. This change will become effective January 1, 2024.

**Lancashire Heeler – Eligibility for Earthdog Tests**
The Board reviewed a recommendation to approve the request from the United States Lancashire Heeler Club (USLHC) to allow their breed to be eligible to participate in Earthdog Tests. It has been documented the breed was used and developed to be a successful ratter by local farmers. They helped farmers hunt vermin and control rat populations in rural areas.

**CONSENT**
Following a motion by Dr. Garvin, seconded by Mrs. Wallin, it was VOTED (unanimously) to approve the following Consent items:

**Delegates and Approved**
Cameron R. Capozzi
To represent Queensboro Kennel Club
Heidi Kilgore
To represent Evansville Kennel Club
Teresa Nash
To represent American Belgian Tervuren Club
Helen Norton
To represent Greater Fredericksburg Kennel Club

Dr. LeeAnn Podruch
To represent Silky Terrier Club of America

Renee Lynn Popkey
To represent Pasco Florida Kennel Club

Sandra Schumacher
To represent Papillon Club of America

Elizabeth Szymanski
To represent Wallkill Kennel Club

**Member Club Approved**
Barbet Club of America
155 Total Households
1st Licensed Show: November 18, 2021
Bylaws: Acceptable
Recommendation: Approve – Published in August 2023 and September 2023 *AKC Gazettes.*

**Junior Showmanship Regulations - Junior Showmanship Judging Guidelines**
The Board VOTED to approve a Staff recommendation to revise the *Junior Showmanship Conformation Junior Showmanship Regulations,* *Guidelines for Judging Juniors in Conformation,* *Juniors in Performance Event Regulations* to clarify and specifically state that dogs with breed disqualifications may be shown in Junior Showmanship competition.

**German Spitz Club of America – Recommendation to Advance to Miscellaneous**
The Board VOTED to approve the request from the German Spitz Club of America to move the German Spitz into the Miscellaneous Class effective June 26, 2024.

**Sussex Spaniel**
The Board VOTED to approve the proposed revision to the Tail Section of the breed standard with an effective date of January 1, 2024.

Revision to the Tail Section:
Tail-The tail is set low. When gaiting, the Sussex Spaniel exhibits nice tail action, but does not carry the tail above the level of the back. The tail may be docked or undocked. If docked, the tail is 5 to 7 inches long.

**Catalog Class Order – Obedience**
The Board VOTED to approve a Staff recommendation to modify Chapter 1, Section 3 of the *Obedience Regulations* to state that the Regular and Preferred Open and Utility class entries may be listed together in the catalog, the same as they are in the judging program and judge’s book.
Awarding a Fifth Placement – Beagle Field Trials

The Board VOTED to amend *AKC Beagle Field Trial Rules* to allow judges to award a fifth placement rather than an NBQ designation for the next best-qualified hound per class in Beagle field trials except for brace trials. This placement would award 1/5 of a champion point for each starter (minimum six required), which would be applied towards a Field Champion title. The Beagle Advisory Committee voted unanimously for this change.

This is a change to the *AKC Beagle Field Trial Rules*, it will be read at the December 2023 Delegate Meeting to be voted on at the March 2024 Delegate Meeting. If approved, this would become effective May 1, 2024.

Remove 30 Day Restriction – Beagle Field Trials

The Board VOTED to approve a recommendation to amend *AKC Beagle Field Trial Rules* Chapter 3, Section 3 to remove a 30-day waiting period that restricts a Beagle Field Trial Club from holding its second trial in the same year.

Previously, Beagle Field Trial Clubs could hold a maximum of two trials per year and were required to space trials out a minimum of 30 days. The 30-day restriction has been in the regulations for over 20 years and was originally intended to spread trials throughout the calendar.

This will be read at the December 2023 Delegate Meeting to be voted on at the March 2024 Delegate Meeting. If approved, this would become effective April 1, 2024.

Parent Club Beagle Hunt Test Titles – Title Recognition

The Board reviewed a request from the National Beagle Club of America to offer two Beagle Hunting Test titles. The National Beagle Club of America has taken the initiative to develop a Beagle Hunt Test Program in hopes of encouraging more beagle owners to work with their Beagles in the field. The Parent Club recognizes there has been no dual champion Beagles in over 20 years.

The Parent Club is requesting AKC recognize two titles under the Parent Club Title Recognition Program – 1) Hunting Beagle Novice (HBN) and 2) Hunting Beagle Advanced (HBA). A Hunt Test evaluates a dog’s abilities against a standard of performance. It is a pass/fail event, there are no placements.

The Board VOTED to approve this request. This will become effective December 1, 2023.
NEW BUSINESS

4-6 Month Puppy Class
There was discussion of the 4-6 month puppy class and the Board asked Staff to consider means to enhance the program.

Recording of Colors on Registrations
The Board asked Staff to review the registration process with respect to how standard and nonstandard colors are recorded and to make recommendations.

It was VOTED to adjourn on Tuesday, October 10, 2023, at 10:45 a.m. Eastern Time.

Adjourned
Attest: __________________________
Gina M. DiNardo, Executive Secretary
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
PARENT CLUB LINKS

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

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

American Eskimo Dog
Bichon Frise
Boston Terrier
Bulldog
Chinese Shar-Pei
Chow Chow
Coton de Tulear
Dalmatian
Finnish Spitz
French Bulldog
Keeshond
Lhasa Apso
Löwchen
Norwegian Lundehund
Poodle (Miniature)
Schipperke
Poodle (Standard)
Shiba Inu
Tibetan Spaniel
Tibetan Terrier
Xoloitzcuintli
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

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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/