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Spring Has Sprung

Spring is upon us, and we are very excited for the next few months of spirited competition. March proved to be an eventful month of expanding the AKC brand to dog lovers across the country.

As you read this, our AKC Flyball Challenge, presented by Tractor Supply Company aired on ESPN2 on March 25. Eight teams from the United States and Canada vied for bragging rights in a thrilling competition across two days at the end of February. This year’s competition also included the Inaugural Flyball Run-Off Races, a head-to-head competition for individual competitors. We are excited to share this sport with dog lovers and introduce them to some of the dynamic things our dogs can do.

The show is available to watch on ESPN on demand and we are certain you will enjoy it.

Speaking of dynamic dogs, last month we held one of our largest companion events of the year. The AKC National Agility Championship was held on March 16 to19 at the Built Ford Tough Livestock Complex in Tulsa, Oklahoma. Over 1,200 dogs from 47 states and three countries competed for the title of National Champion at various jump heights. Congratulations to the 2023 AKC National Agility Champions and the AKC Preferred National Agility Champions. If you missed the Preferred finals, you can relive every thrilling moment...
on AKC.tv. The Finals will be broadcast on ESPN (check your local listings).

And lastly, but certainly not least, the AKC Meet the Breeds tour heads to Chicago (August 26 and 27, in conjunction with the International KC of Chicago) and Columbus, Ohio, on October 14 at the Greater Columbus Convention Center.

With colorful breed booths, fun demonstrations, and activities for the whole family, AKC Meet the Breeds is an excellent way to educate the public about purebred dogs and responsible dog ownership. It is also an enjoyable and interactive way to extend our knowledge and brand to dog lovers who may not otherwise engage with the AKC and share with them important information about the work that we do.

Information about these two dates, including sign ups have been sent via e-mail and postal mail, which you should have received. If you have not received the information, please write to meetthebreeds@akc.org, and we will send you the forms. Please encourage your clubs to sign up and participate, as we further our mission to educate the public about our cherished breeds and responsible breeding and dog ownership.

We thank each club and volunteer for being a part of our AKC Meet the Breeds. Your time, energy, and enthusiasm for educating the public drives these accomplishments and is deeply appreciated.

Until next time ...

Dennis B. Sprung
President and CEO
Sixty-two years ago, the GAZETTE carried an article titled “Why Are Frenchies So Scarce?” It began with a dire warning: There are many advantages to owning a dog of this breed, but there are very few bred and very few exhibited. If the trend keeps on, eventually the breed will become extinct.

As this month we report the Frenchie’s climb to the top of the 2022 registration rankings, it is hard to believe we ever had need to publish such an article. We congratulate the French Bull Dog Club of America on their stewardship of today’s Frenchie—and we honor the memory of the breed’s top fanciers of the mid-20th century: Angel Terrett, Ralph and Amanda West, the colorful Lavender “Laddie” Lovell, and others who kept the breed viable in America until the puppy-buying public caught up with it.

In this issue we also salute the Labrador Retriever, the lovable family dog who topped the rankings for a record-setting 31 years. A shout-out to the Labrador Retriever Club for handling their breed’s immense popularity with such aplomb.
Board of Directors, *Class of 2027*

At the annual meeting of the American Kennel Club on March 14, the Delegates elected the AKC Board of Directors Class of 2027: Dr. Charles Garvin (Dalmatian Club of America); Steven Hamblin (Pekingese Club of America); and Daniel J. Smyth, Esq. (Burlington County Kennel Club). Dr. Thomas M. Davies (Springfield Kennel Club) was reelected as Chairman of the Board, and Dominic Palleschi Carota (Pharaoh Hound Club of America) was reelected as Vice Chairman of the Board.

2023 ANC Judges Announced

**COADY, STACY “AT THE HELM” IN ORLANDO**

Clay Coady will judge Best in Show and Terry Stacy will judge Best Bred-by-Exhibitor in Show at the AKC National Championship Presented by Royal Canin to be held at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, Florida, on December 16 and 17.

The AKC will announce judges for Junior Showmanship, the National Owner-Handled Series Finals, and the AKC Royal Canin National All-Breed Puppy and Junior Stakes at a later date.

**GROUP JUDGES**

- **Sporting** Pluis Davern; Charles Olvis; Victoria Seiler-Cushman; Harold “Red” Tatro III; Rosalind Kramer; David Kirkland; Dr. Carmen Battaglia
- **Hound** Charles Olvis
- **Working** Rita J. Biddle, Esq.; Kathleen J. Ferris; Andrew Brace (United Kingdom)
- **Terrier** Robin Stansell
- **Non-Sporting** Jon R. Cole
- **Miscellaneous Class** Desmond Murphy

**BRED-BY-EXHIBITOR JUDGES**

- **Sporting** Dana Cline; Daniel J. Smyth, Esq.
- **Hound** Charles Olvis; Rita J. Biddle, Esq.
- **Working** Kathleen J. Ferris; Andrew Brace (United Kingdom)
- **Terrier** Robin Stansell
- **Non-Sporting** Jon R. Cole

**Breed Judges**
AKC.tv, Wurl Team to Reach Millions

AKC.tv has joined forces with Wurl, the leader in data-driven solutions for CTV distribution and marketing to distribute its FAST channel to new streaming services.

AKC.tv is now available on Plex TV, the free global streaming media platform for over 50,000 free entertainment titles. AKC.tv gives dog lovers everywhere on-demand access to dog-related programming 24/7.

The channel will feature a wide variety of programming including AKC’s action-packed live dog events, as well as their lifestyle programming with shows like “AKC Dogcenter,” “Ask the Expert,” and “Meet the Breeds.”

Through Wurl’s Global FAST Pass solution, AKC.tv will be marketed to streamers on a worldwide scale. Wurl Global FAST Pass is a suite of services that enable content companies to create a global CTV distribution network reaching more than 300 million viewers in over 50 countries across more than 130 streamers.

August 12th -14th, 2023 at the Westin Kirkland Resort

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TEAM DOG
The AKC has announced that the French Bulldog topped the 2022 individual-registration rankings, ending the Labrador Retriever’s record-breaking 31-year reign as America’s top dog. The Frenchie has reached the top of the registrations heap for the first time in its 125 years in the AKC Stud Book.

“The sturdy little Frenchman has been quietly climbing the charts for many years. Over the past decade, the Frenchie has gone from 14 in 2012 to number 1 in 2022, and registrations have increased over a thousand percent in that time.

“The French Bulldog has seen a surge in popularity over the years, and for good reason,” AKC Executive Secretary Gina DiNardo says. “Frenchies are playful, adaptable, loyal, and outgoing. They make wonderful companions for a variety of people, but it’s extremely important to do your research to not only find the right breed for your lifestyle, but to ensure that you’re getting a well-bred dog from a responsible breeder.”

IN OTHER NEWS ...

Breeds making moves in 2022 include the American Hairless Terrier, which jumped an impressive 15 spots year over year (135 in 2021, to 120 in 2022), the Gordon Setter (113 in 2021, and 99 in 2022), the Italian Greyhound (73 in 2021, and 63 in 2022) and the Anatolian Shepherd Dog (88 in 2021, and 79 in 2022).

Making strides over the past decade are the Cane Corso (60 in 2012, and 18 in 2022), the Belgian Malinois (71 in 2012, and 32 in 2022), the Giant Schnauzer (96 in 2012, and 58 in 2022) and the English Cocker Spaniel (64 in 2012, and 40 in 2022).
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As the Labrador Retriever ends its record-setting 31-year run as America’s top dog, we honor the lovable Lab with a slideshow of some favorite GAZETTE images. The following is from our April 2017 appreciation of the breed:

We may never know exactly what’s going on inside a Lab’s broad and noble head, but one gets the feeling it involves lots of exclamation points:

“You want me to swim a few hundred yards across a half-frozen lake and retrieve a dead duck—and you want me to do it again and again all day long? Cool! Let’s get started!”

“You want me to guide a blind person through a crowded city? Wow! Love to!”

“You want me learn a complex obedience routine and perform it flawlessly for a judge? Well, if a little scrap of ribbon means that much to you, count me in!”

“You had a rotten day and you want me to rest my head on your knee and look up adoringly, like you’re the greatest thing since bacon? Yes! Yes! A thousand times yes!”

In a world where selfishness is encouraged as though it were a virtue, where we spend hours online building virtual shrines to our own egos, and where the word loyalty is encountered more on marketing spread-sheets than in the human heart, the selfless devotion of a good Lab can be inspirational. Technology has made having a “friend” easy, but having a best friend has never been more difficult. The Labrador Retriever reminds us that the only way to have a best friend is to be one.

Photo credits appear on the slideshow’s YouTube page.
The answers are likely as varied as the number of people who do this. But I will speak from personal experience that applies to my husband and myself. A brief summary of our life with Dandie Dinmonts began when friends asked us to find them a dog that didn’t shed, drool, smell, etcetera. My husband, Winston, suggested a stuffed animal.

By Sandra W. Stuart
(WinSan Dandies)
At that time and for about two years we showed Bassets, so that weekend we were off to a show where I exhibited and he stewarded. At lunchtime we decided to go to the grooming area to check out some of the breeds. Across the room, Winston made eye contact with a “grey” dog on a grooming table. It was love at first sight, and there we met the owner Mary Scott and her lovely pepper girl Happy. By the way, our friends ended up with a cat and we ended up with Dandies.

That began a 40-year devotion to this unique terrier from the Scottish Borders. It was akin to meeting your soulmate. Mary, an American, had lived all over Europe and was at heart an Anglophile. All her Dandies were from European lines and in fact she had the first International Champion Dandie, Senacre Derring Do (Jack). When she won the breed in Monaco, Princess Grace presented
After long discussions about pros and cons of European versus American Dandies, we decided to wait until we could get a dog from Mary. During the ensuing two years I was given untold pages of pedigree info and many articles of winning Dandies in Europe. When I next saw Mary, I would be quizzed on the information. So, I had a firm understanding of the major lines in Europe before we acquired our first Dandie, an 18-month-old pepper named Heather Sprite, from our mentor.

Dandies are on the rare and endangered list for the Kennel Club in the U.K. due to their low numbers. In the past few years there have only been only about 200 to 250 born each year worldwide each year. It is feared that this low number will not be able to sustain a healthy gene pool for breeding.

**BUILDING WITH IMPORTS**

Our mentor died in 1996, but we contacted two friends of hers in Europe and imported Emma from Paul Keevil and Tiger from Germany. Paul’s Dandie Dylan won 21 CC’s during his show career. Also winning two major specialty shows, then winning the breed at Crufts twice, each time defeating over 100 Dandies. Emma was a double granddaughter to Dylan so a very special dog from the start. We have had more winning dogs but never one who represented the perfect Dandie for me. After a litter of five, she still weighed just 18 pounds, with the standard stating weight is to be 18 to 24 pounds. Judges loved her but always asked to see her when she grew up.

When I would relay this to Paul, his reply was always that “she is not small, she is bloody correct.” But many judges, only seeing larger dogs, did not know what to make of her.

Thus began the building of our own line from these two imports. Tiger was invited to Westminster in 2000, and his frozen semen years later produced our ET (Eye of the Tiger). Both of these males became my service dogs, but sadly we lost ET to lymphoma last July at just 8 years old.

A friend in California had a Dandie from Scotland so he was bred to our Mary Gold (Emma x Tiger). Five generations later Carol has
recently lost her remaining Dandies but not before putting Earthdog Excellent titles on mother and son. She is bringing a Dandie pup back from Crufts in March that will keep the line going.

I am a firm proponent of the adage “If you don’t rescue, don’t breed.” For over 35 years I have worked with or headed Dandie rescue and fostered over 25 Dandies. When we lost my beloved ET, I had a dilemma. Do I get another Dandie and essentially start all over? Knowing that I could not take a dog into the ring anymore due to mobility problems, and at our advancing age raising puppies seemed more than we wanted to tackle.

A DIFFICULT DECISION

The only dog I had as a child was a smooth Dachshund. And I had always been told that the Dandie Dinmont was breed to the smooth to produce the wire Dachshund.

The Haining’s life-sized statue of Old Ginger was created by Elizabeth II’s official sculptor for Scotland, Alexander “Sandy” Stoddart, renowned for his larger-than-life historical pieces throughout Britain and Europe. The international Dandie community raised £20,000 to commission the sculpture, unveiled in 2015.

Sandra Stuart was part of a large contingent of Dandie fanciers in Scotland for the ceremony and reported in her July 2017 gazette feature, “As the sculptor looked on, there were gasps, tears, and applause. It truly exceeded expectations and made us all realize how fortunate we were to have an artist of this caliber create something this magnificent for a little-known breed.”

There is a horseshoe unobtrusively sculpted into the base of the carving, said to pay homage to John Stoddart, the blacksmith who built the Haining’s kennels that still stand today. Also, John Stoddart bred Wasp, Old Ginger’s grandmother.

“So,” Stuart wrote, “an inscription that says STODDART MADE IT applies to both Stodarts since, each in his own way, both ‘made’ Old Ginger. While not related, two men named Stoddart have left their mark on the Dandie world, past and present.”
Another huge factor for me was that Dandies in America are getting far too large. While the standard says 18–24 pounds, most in the ring now are well over 30 pounds and some have even admitted to me that theirs were closer to 35. A dog should be able to do what it was bred to do, in this case go into holes after foxes, badgers, rats, and so on. A 35-pound Dandie cannot function well in this activity. A smaller dog seemed like the best solution for us. Many hours were spent in contemplation when the lightbulb went off.

I will always love Dandies, rescue them, and continue to support The Haining, a Georgian mansion in the Border town of Selkirk, Scotland. This is where the first registered Dandie was born, and the original kennel buildings still stand. In the courtyard near the kennels, Alexander Stoddart, the Queen’s Sculptor in Ordinary for Scotland and a world-famous sculptor, produced a bronze Dandie (see page 17). After three international gatherings of Dandie fanciers at The Haining over the past eight years, we garnered much publicity for DDTs.

But with our low numbers, I did not want to take a pup away from the show ring or from the whelping box. It was a difficult decision, but we found an 11-month-old mini wire Dachshund. At a whopping six pounds, Jenn is a bundle of curiosity. While she was not socialized, after just four weeks she is making huge strides and has already wormed her way into our hearts.

For us, a smaller and easier-to-handle breed and one related to the Dandie was our answer. But there is always hope that there may be another Dandie in our future. Time will tell, but for now my heart is full of wonderful memories of the many Dandies that have owned us over the years. And our lives are enriched every day with the little whirling dervish that is such a joy now.

P.S.—For years I produced a rescue calendar, and one of my favorite stories that I included was about an old Chinese chest with many drawers. Each time you lose a dog all the memories go into one of the drawers. You can take them out anytime to relive the joy that dog brought. But there is always another drawer waiting for the next dog to come into your life. May this be true for each of you whose lives are made whole by the dogs who have shared their lives with you.—S.S.

Sandra Stuart is an AKC Breeder of Merit and a two-time recipient of the Dog Writers Association of America’s Maxwell Medallion. She has made 25 trips to Scotland and has worked tirelessly for the Dandie Dinmont Terrier, being involved in rescue for 30 years.
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VIDEOS

The Fantastic 5
The AKC’s Gina DiNardo introduces the gang at Good Morning America to 2022’s top-ranked breeds. 2:46

Comparative Oncology
In this 60 Minutes segment, Anderson Cooper reports on the link between human and canine cancer research. 13:50
VIDEOS

**Jolly Good Show!**

*From Birmingham, England, enjoy the pomp and pageantry of Crufts 2023 Best in Show in this nicely shot video. 20:49*

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**A Breeders' Showcase**

*In the always colorful Crufts Breeders Competition, breeders exhibit teams of three or four dogs from their kennels. 22:45*
Ed and Rose Radel, of East Hanover, New Jersey, were part of the American fancy’s “jet set,” those adventurous show folk who traveled the world to exhibit their dogs.

“I credit Pat Scully with starting us by suggesting that we exhibit in foreign locations,” Rose wrote in the newsletter of the Ramapo KC, a club she served as president and AKC delegate. “We started in Canada, Bermuda, and Mexico. From there, it extended to Europe, South and Central America, and many islands and various places we would probably never have visited except that they held dog shows.”

The Radels’ top winners on the international circuit were a brace of Miniature Pinschers, Int./Am./Mex. Ch. Repeage’s Shameis and Int./Am./Can./Mex./Bmda. Ch. Repeage’s Toma. Rose told the New York Times that she believed Toma to be the first male Min Pin to win the world title when he went Best of Breed at the 1978 World Show in Belgium.

Shameis earned his Mexican and international titles in four straight shows. At the 1978 Mexican KC shows in Mexico City, Shameis and Toma took Best Brace in Show under judge Max Riddle, and Shameis won a group third in the Companion Group (encompassing the breeds of the AKC Toy Group and most of the Non-Sporting Group).

The Radels’ 14-year-old nephew, Scott Radel, handled both dogs in Mexico.

Among Rose’s favorite international stops was the Riviera Circuit, featuring gala shows in Monte Carlo, Monaco; Nice, France; and San Remo, Italy. At Monte Carlo she struck up a long friendship with Prince Rainier’s dog-loving sister, Princess Antoinette, and made the acquaintance of a fellow American, Princess Grace. Rose wrote, “I am so grateful for those spectacular experiences and the incredible memories.”
Andrew Brace, judging the Best Bred-by Exhibitor Toy Group at this year’s AKC National Championship, is among the United Kingdom’s most respected judges and dog writers. “All too frequently we find people demanding respect,” Brace wrote. “Respect can never be demanded. And those who demand it are the very people who are least worthy of it.”
This month, the Chinook Club of America’s Kathleen Riley tells the story of Chinook founder Arthur Walden’s connection to the historic exploration of Antarctica by Admiral Richard Byrd (pictured here with Chinook, the breed’s foundation animal).
**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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Brittanys
FIELD TRIALS AND CLUBS

It’s cool, rainy spring morning; not a day to work outside. I’m sitting in the office looking at the bookshelf, eyes fixed on a couple of bird-dog books that focus on field trials—*Field Trial Record of Dogs in America 1874–1907*, by J.M. Taylor, and *National Field Trial Champions*, by William F. Brown and Nash Buckingham. The subject of both books are setters and pointers, the pointing bird dogs. Thumbing through the pages started me thinking about how this author became involved in field trials with Brittanys, soon after becoming a member of a Brittany club.

I just thought it would be an interesting story to be told to the readers of this AKC GAZETTE Brittany column. Well over 50 years ago the Brittany became a part of our family. The breed was chosen to be a family pet and to be used to hunt birds. Years passed, with another one or two Brittanys added to our family. When 12 years of age, each of our sons, after completing a hunter safety course, started bird hunting with a Brittany or two. Several years later, for various reasons, as a Christmas present for one of our boys a Brittany pup was obtained from Dick and Ester Keenan, of Flying Feather Brittanys, as mentioned in previous columns. Several months later one of our older Brittanys passed; as a replacement from the same litter, my wife bought a liver-and-white pup. With that purchase also came from Dick the invitation to train the pup on their grounds anytime. The Keenans said they would love to see how the pup progressed.

Coco traveled to their grounds during the spring, summer, and fall months that first year. She was bird crazy; most of the time a quail or pheasant was pointed, flushed, and chased. On one of those training sessions late...
summer as the time was completed, Dick commented, “Have you ever consider taking her to a field trial?” The response was “Really? Not sure what that is all about!”

Next were training sessions—not necessarily for the dog, but for me to learn how to handle the pup in the field trial event. At the conclusion of the last session, Dick handed me an application—the premium—for a field trial to be held in two weeks, at a site not far from our home. “Enter Coco in the puppy stake” was Dick’s comment. Application was made, and when the time came we traveled to the club for the running.

Short remark about the outcome: She won the blue ribbon. The “hook was set,” and field trials have been a major passion ever sense.

My actual participation has varied. Initially I only attended walking events, then on to renting a horse when wranglers were there at the club grounds. Because my employment necessitated a lot of travel, the advice from a local bird dog trainer was to have a professional train and handle the Brittanys in those competitive events.

At the same time, several years earlier, I joined a local Brittany club. Admittedly my involvement with the club varied due to my often-extensive travel. As the years passed, it became evident some of the club members had goals that varied from my own; discussion that follows will attempt to illustrate.

As readers of this breed column know, this author often uses the Webster dictionary to define a specific word. A club is defined as “a group of persons associated for a common purpose.” One should consider that the term “common purpose” needs to be further clarified. It was thought by this author that “common purpose” would be to focus on the Brittany and its performance, competition, and progress toward breed improvement. This would naturally be the main objective—the “common purpose”—of a Brittany club.

The Brittany is so versatile that he can be a field trial All-Age champion, a conformation blue ribbon winner, and compete in agility and other competitive events such as NAVDA.

In preparation for writing this piece, research focused on the club’s bylaws, which state objectives as follows: “… to promote cooperation and friendship among breeders and owners of Brittanys and to encourage higher standards of breeding, training, and showing of Brittanys in the Field and the Show Ring.” “… to discourage the Breed from becoming split in groups of ‘Field Dogs’ and ‘Show Dogs’ and strive to keep it forever a ‘Dual Dog.’ ”

Without a doubt the objectives are practical, with the reference being the American Kennel Club standard for the Brittany.

There are two key words in the club’s objective statement given
above—“cooperation” and “friendship.”

As years move along, older membership often move along and unfortunately develop other interests and/or pass away. It’s a challenge to keep the club membership at an operating level to perform the duties of the club, such as maintaining club grounds and operating field trials and other events. With the addition of new members, consideration needs to be given to the fact that as they become involved in the activities of the club, these new members may want to participate in club operations. These new members may have new ideas. Cooperation and working together can then become a challenge. However, reasonable people can disagree and also respect others’ opinions and work together for the “common purpose” to be of benefit for the club.

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

**Lagotti Romagnoli**

**HOORAY FOR PERFORMANCE SPORTS!**

Lagotti are energetic, athletic, smart dogs that need a lot of mental stimulation and activity. They thrive on it. However—and this is the main reason that performance activities may be especially appropriate for them—they also thrive on being with and pleasing their people.

There are a wide variety of performance “games,” such as field trials, retrieving, scent work, and herding. Some are best suited to certain breeds than others. For example, a Herding Group dog, developed to move livestock, will likely excel at that type of event.

The Lagotto Romagnolo, in the Sporting Group, is an ancient Italian breed of water dog currently utilized for hunting truffles—although before the lakes and wetlands in their area of origin dried up and disappeared, they worked as retrievers. Thus one potentially exciting activity for a Lagotto might be scent work.

If you saw the 2020 documentary *The Truffle Hunters* (and if you haven’t, what are you waiting for?), you watched mixed-breeds as well as Lagotti search for that rare and expensive fungi. Although some Lagotti will be better than others at scent work, their large noses and extreme desire to work with and please their people make them likely to enjoy the game.

In actuality, hunting for truffles is a very special experience for both human and canine companion. They are together all day, every day, in season when they are doing the work, and likely out of season as well. They are walking over steep terrain, searching and only occasionally succeeding. That moment deemed successful by their special person—that “Good dog, great job! Here’s a treat!”—that’s more pleasing to a Lagotto than anything else in the world.
Robin Morehouse, a breeder of Lagotti in Santa Fe, New Mexico (Fino Lagotto), who has raised several different types of dogs in her career, whose mom raised dogs, and whose stepfather was an AKC judge, says that she has never seen this desire to please so strongly exhibited. It shows up in other breeds, of course, but for the vast majority of Lagotti, it appears to be coded in their DNA, along with a dedication to their person, the ability to focus intently, and a strong work ethic.

Robin, who has a great deal of performance experience with Lagotti, believes that they really want to make their people happy. It is that moment of celebration that they love, the eye contact and shared joy. They are very food oriented, so a treat adds to the experience greatly. She also mentioned that Lagotti, when performing an activity over and over again, don’t seem to get bored.

Some Lagotti may also enjoy or prefer games centered on agility. These events involved measurement:

Sportsmanship dictates that dogs compete against others of similar height. (This puts Lagotti in a different class than Border Collies—a good thing, because Border Collies would likely be “unfair” competition; they tend to be agility stars.)

The wonderful thing about performance sports is that they are about the joy of the game. Winning is irrelevant to having a good time, making new friends, and bonding with your animal companion. I should note, however, that Lagotti have won several performance titles since gaining AKC recognition in 2016.

Many local kennel clubs have weekly or monthly agility trials, scent work competitions, tracking trials, and Fast CAT events that are open to non-aggressive dogs of all breeds including mixed—with levels from novice to master. Simply check the schedule to see what events appeal to you and your family.

Buona fortuna, and divertiti!
German Shorthaired Pointers

CHASING POINTS AND TITLES

Shorthairs with black coats can now be shown in the conformation ring. Some would say it’s been a long time coming. The first petition presented to the parent club Board for a membership vote to remove the color black as a DQ was in 1998. Part of the rationale was by allowing the dogs with black coats, this would increase the entries in areas where majors were hard to come by because only the liver dogs could be shown. Well, here we are 25 years later with a standard change—but will it make a difference in the entry numbers?

Chasing points or majors can be frustrating depending on where one lives, but show clusters have the potential to draw more entries depending on the location, judges’ panel, and potential competition from the area. The AKC has 15 Divisions, and the points earned within each of those divisions is determined by the number of dogs/bitches defeated. When it comes to points toward a championship, the dog or bitch must earn 15 points, with a minimum of two major wins of three points each under two different judges.

The AKC point schedule is based on the competition held the previous year within one of the AKC designated Divisions, a sex and a breed. The AKC’s point schedule doesn’t change with January of each new year; rather, after tabulating the previous year’s numbers, the new points schedule will start by a selected date in May of the new calendar year. Therefore, the 2022 schedule was still in effect when the new GSP standard became effective on January 1, 2023.

So where did the first...
black Shorthair champion finish? Word quickly spread it would probably be in Division 4—FL, GA, SC—at the Florida Classic cluster of dog shows, with 10 all-breed shows that started on January 12 and ended on the 22nd.

Once the final entries closed it was a bit of a surprise to see the Shorthair entry at this cluster only ranging from 19 to 13 total. With the Division 4 2022 point system in effect, only two of the 10 shows would have three-point majors in bitches, while dogs only had one point in six of the 10 shows unless they went Best of Winners for a total of two points. To acquire more points the class dog/bitch would have to go Best of Breed or Best of Opposite Sex over specials to accumulate the necessary points toward a major and a championship.

So how did the first black dog win its championship in Florida? Two points at a time for the first four shows, a five-point major by going Breed over specials at the sixth show, followed by one point at the seventh for a total of 14 toward the championship. At the eighth show he was awarded two points, thus reaching the required number for a championship but lacked the second major win … with one last show to compete, the second major was awarded by going BW for three points, for a total of 19 points overall.

So, would the 2023 Division four-point system have made a difference? In this situation, yes, because the dog would have had three major wins with the first four shows, and a total of eleven points, and finished his championship with the fifth show upon being rewarded the five-point major for a total of 16 points. Would the owner then move him up to compete in Best of Breed for the four remaining shows? Most likely, yes.

—Patte Titus, Historian

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Chesapeake Bay Retrievers

Our guest columnist this month is Sonia Cunningham. Sonia has been a Type 1 insulin-dependent diabetic since 1987. She is a nationally recognized environmental scientist, specializing in human behavior. She has a retired service dog, Bowie, who serves as a backup for Fisher, Sonia’s 5-year-old diabetic-alert service dog. Fisher is also an accomplished AKC show, performance, and companion sports dog. As of December 2022, Fisher was ranked the number-four Breed and the number-two All-Breed Chesapeake Bay Retriever. He is a Grand Champion Silver (GCh.S) and the second Chesapeake to hold the Rally Champion 2 (RACH2) title. He has earned the Companion Dog Excellent (CDX) title in obedience and was the first Chesapeake to achieve the Dock Premier (DP) title, for dogs consistently jumping over 28 feet. He also
BREED COLUMNS

SPORTING GROUP

holds the Chesapeake Bay Retriever world distance-diving record of 29 feet 9 inches. In total, “Fisher the Diabetic Alert Dog” has earned more than 50 conformation, performance, and companion sports titles from the AKC, UKC, ASCA, and IABCA—but first and foremost, he is Sonia’s lifesaver. Fisher is GCh.S RACH2 Red Water’s Iron Compass, CDX, BN, RM6, RAE4, FDC, BCAT, DP, DEA, CGCA, CGCU, TKP, ATT, VHMA, WD.

FLYING TO DOG SHOWS: WHY WE NEED TO DO BETTER

In 2019, I was readying myself and my service dog, Fisher, to go to our first AKC National Championship in Orlando, Florida. As I was prepping for our trip, there was a discussion in a Facebook group about transporting dogs to the event. Most exhibitors encouraged driving, and many were planning to fly their dogs in cargo. During the discussion, a professional handler wrote that he always flew his client dogs as service dogs, as it was more convenient for him and cheaper for his clients. His argument: “I am not flying my ranked special, worth over $50,000, in cargo.”

This person was intentionally misrepresenting his client’s pet as a service dog.

Pets on planes are frightening for people with disabilities who use service dogs to perform essential day-to-day work or tasks.

As a business traveler and
frequent flyer, I can’t tell you how often Fisher and I have been accosted in an airport by an aggressive dog. Extensive training goes into a service dog, and yet the American public still thinks it’s okay to bring pets into a highly stressful situation, like a flight. When a trained service dog is attacked by another dog under extreme stress, it can ruin a service dog’s career forever, not to mention wastes thousands of hours of training and financial investment that can never be recouped.

Flying is stressful not only for people, but also for properly trained service dogs. Airlines allot about seven square feet of space to each passenger for the duration of a flight. A service dog must share that space with their handler, adjacent to 150 other passengers and crew, for upwards of six hours. A pet in an appropriately sized crate flying in cargo is going to be safer and less stressed than being fraudulently thrust into a service dog vest while riding in cabin.

Again, non-disabled passengers still feel entitled to bring their pets on board. Between 2013 and 2018, the U.S. Department of Transportation (USDOT) saw a 326-percent increase in passenger complaints against service animals aboard aircraft (USDOT 2020). According to an Association of Flight Attendants survey conducted in 2018, 53 percent of flight attendants reported flight disruptions from aggressive or threatening behavior by an in-cabin animal. This is part of why the USDOT revised its rules for service animals aboard aircraft in early 2021. Yet the problem remains.

The Air Carrier Access Act (ACAA) and Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) are designed to protect people with disabilities against discrimination. They do not grant special privileges to disabled persons; they grant accommodations for a qualified disability. Service dogs are an accommodation. They are expensive medical equipment, like a wheelchair, guide cane, cochlear implant, or insulin pump.

Misrepresenting a pet as a service dog not only breaks state and federal civil and criminal laws, but it also violates the AKC’s mission and position statements on service animals, which condemns the misrepresentation of pets “as service dogs … or attempting to benefit from a dog’s service dog status, when the individual using the dog is not a person with a disability.” As exhibitors, we commit to abide by AKC’s code of ethics. The AKC has said that “it is of the utmost importance that we demonstrate our commitment to respecting service dog laws by holding ourselves to the highest standards.”

For people with disabilities, trained service dogs play a vital role in our daily lives. These highly trained dogs make it possible for people with disabilities to work, travel, stay healthy, and, in some cases, even stay alive.
We need to do better, especially on planes!—S.C.

I want to thank Sonia for taking the time from her professional “writing life” to write the above column. I first met Sonia when she was exhibiting Fisher, her Novice A dog, in obedience when I was judging at our national specialty show held in Washington in September 2019.

—Betsy Horn Humer, tiderumr2@verizon.net
American Chesapeake Club

Curly-Coated Retrievers
Kari Swarztrauber has shared this very important subject with us. I cannot stress enough just how important it is to be very well aware of this challenging problem that she thoughtfully has shared with us all.

BLOAT: A CAUTIONARY TALE
I had just gotten home from a hike in the national forest with my pack of five Curly-Coated Retrievers (Curls). The sun had been brilliant, and I had brought Madge, my 5-year-old, 100-pound Curly who had given birth to 15 healthy puppies three months prior. She was finally in prime condition. She ran the whole two-hour hike nonstop. I remember thinking to myself, “She is going to live forever.”

Shortly after the hike, I fed my Curls dinner. About an hour after eating, Madge came over to me seeking comfort. She stretched her neck way out in front of her as if to clear her throat and also made small attempts to vomit. Her stomach was slightly tucked up. She continued to retch, bringing up...
saliva. She paced and was restless.

I called my vet and drove the rural roads to her office. It was about 8 P.M. It was the time of COVID, and despite that there were only two people at the vet office, I was not allowed into the building. I waited.

An hour or so later, the vet came out and said she was sure Madge was not bloating, because she had given her a treat and Madge had eaten it. She explained that dogs who will eat can’t be bloating. She said she was going to bring Madge back out to me and I could take her home.

My vet explained that they were not doing surgery after hours anymore, “A new nationwide veterinary policy.” I had to drive two hours to an emergency vet if I wanted to have Madge surgically decompressed.

I remember looking at Madge as my eyes filled with tears, huge waves of anger and sadness. “We will never make it,” I cried, “Madge is going to die in my car on the way there. Isn’t there anything you can do?”

I lost Madge that night. After the waves of sadness, I got angry, and then I got busy. Social media allows us to communicate with people who share our interests from all over the world. Using the Jotform technology platform, and with the technical help of Maureen Thompson and the support of the Curly Coated Retriever Club of America (CCRCA), I put together a questionnaire about bloat in Curlies. About 70 people reported on over 120 Curly Coated Retrievers from around the world. I analyzed the data. The results showed that seven percent of Curlies bloat in their lifetime. Bloat is more common in Curlies whose first-degree relatives bloated; it is more common in males, and more common in Curlies over 3 years old.

I wrote up an article about these findings, and it was published in the CCRCA’s Jan/Feb 2023 Curly Commentator (Swarztrauber, K., Estimated Lifetime Prevalence of Bloat in Curly-coated Retrievers Using International Survey Data of Owners).

In my mind, I can still see Madge running across the hill. She stops and turns to look at me, her panting tongue pink and wet against her black, tight curls. Her eyes dance with joy. She
turns back and then, like a flash, disappears over the hill.—K.S.

Thank you, Kari, for sharing this with all of us.
—Ann Shinkle, 
ansshinkle@aol.com
Curly-Coated Retriever Club of America

Golden Retrievers
IT ALL STARTS WITH A SNIFF

A new tool in the law enforcement fight against crime has four legs, a tail, and most importantly, a nose. Known as electronic storage device (ESD) detection K-9s, these specialty-trained sniffers are part of the Federal Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force. Trained to find hard drives, thumb drives, cell phones and other electronic storage devices that might contain evidence of child pornography, the ESD K-9 can search hidden, even nasty, places an investigator might avoid or could easily miss.

Layla, a 4-year-old Golden Retriever whose beauty belies her crime fighting skills, works with private investigator, Spence Cowand, in Westfield, Indiana. Spence says her temperament is excellent for this type of search work.

“At home, she’s a normal pet, and can be silly and playful,” Spence says, “but when I ask her, do you want to go to work, it’s like she visibly flipped a switch. She becomes very calm and mellow, and ready for her work collar and vest. When I tell her to Seek, she’ll start sniffing, and when she alerts that she found something, she sits. I’ll tell her to ‘show me,’ and she will use her nose to pinpoint the exact spot with the scent.”

Suspects often hide their child pornography by taping their ESDs under furniture or under cabinet drawers, Spence said. In one notable instance, Layla alerted on the obvious, a pencil cup on a desk. “It’s so important to be thorough,” Spence
added. “Leaving something behind can mean the difference between life and death for the victim(s).”

Layla is food motivated, and when she finds a device, she gets a handful of food as her reward. During those times when they are not working on a search warrant, Spence sets up mock searches several times a day so Layla can work for her food reward, and also to enhance the bonding process between handler and K-9.

Layla was trained in electronics detection at Jordan Detection K9 in Indianapolis, Indiana. Owner and trainer/handler, firefighter Todd Jordan, has trained ESD K-9s for law enforcement since 2014. Most of Todd’s ‘trainees’ come from Paws with a Cause, an organization that trains dogs for the disabled. Todd calls them “career-change” dogs and says their training at Paws transitions well into electronic detection search work. Trained to work with the disabled, they already know basic obedience and other skills that provide an excellent foundation for sniffing out crime.

In 2015, Todd’s first certified ESD K-9, a black Lab named Bear, was called on two search warrants that vaulted his business into the national spotlight. The house they were to search was owned by Jared Fogle, the former Subway spokesman. Bear found a thumb drive full of child pornography, and shortly thereafter, more evidence during a raid on the home and gym of U.S. Gymnastics coach Marvin Sharp.

Todd explained that there is a chemical involved in the manufacturing process that prevents all electronic devices from overheating. The dogs are trained to recognize and alert on that odor. The retriever’s acute sense of smell is ideal for such work, and while Todd uses primarily Labradors, a few special sniffer Goldens, like Layla, have joined his Labs in pursuit of child predators.

And if you asked Layla, Spence says, she would rather be out there searching for evidence than lounging on the couch at home.

For more information on the National Crimes against Children Task Force, and Jordan Detection K9, visit www.electronicdetectionK9.com.

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

FOOT NOTES

As the saying goes, “No hoof, no horse.” Unlike horses, dogs can manage fairly well with only three functional limbs. In veterinary school it is often suggested that dogs are essentially “three legs and a spare.” Unfortunately bad feet can mean that all four limbs are compromised.

Like horses, dogs are digigrade animals—they walk on their toes, not their heels. Because of this, the condition of the digits is especially important. While...
poor feet may service a dog adequately when they are young, good feet are central to a long, active retrieving career and should be, as with horses, emphasized in any breeding program.

Over the last several decades I have witnessed deterioration in Labrador Retriever feet. My guess is there are multiple causes for the poor state of Labrador feet, but it would be wise for breeders and judges alike to take note of the situation and acknowledge correct individuals. The agility ring seems to be the one venue where one sees generally better foot structure. Perhaps the reason lies in that agility dogs are rarely overweight, and they generally work on even terrain. Perhaps the agility ring is self-selecting, as dogs with bad feet don’t enjoy jumping. However splayed feet paddle their way through the show ring in alarmingly high numbers. Young dogs tend to have sloppy ligaments when they are growing very fast and carrying extra weight at that time is far more likely to have long term consequences. Many of the worst feet are on the more massive individuals. Excessive bone and body in addition to too much “condition” can lead to premature deterioration of the feet. Housing dogs on gravel, sand or snow can exacerbate already compromised foot structure, but like overfeeding, can’t be blamed for all the ills we see in the show ring.

In the field, I often see gnarled, broken feet. The deformities are often due to poor structure and injuries in the form of poorly healed sprains, dislocations and broken toes. The legendary stoicism of the Labrador Retriever means that many dogs work despite the pain of an injury and thereby set themselves up for a less-than-optimal repair. Many of these feet are “asking for injury” because they

Labrador Retriever
are longer-toed, refined bone and lacking in proper arch. Many young Labrador Retrievers are asked to run hard on uneven terrain long before their skeletons are mature and ligaments up to full strength. I believe, too, that many owners and trainers are not as meticulous as they could be about nail maintenance, thereby further inviting injury.

So what does a good Labrador foot look like? As described in the standard, "Feet are strong and compact with well-arched toes and well-developed pads. ... Splay feet, hare feet ... are serious faults.”

Most knowledgeable dog people would refer to the typical Labrador foot as a “cat’s foot.” While the two central toes are longer, they should still show a good arch and give an overall impression of roundness to the footprint. The appropriate arching will offer adequate cushioning when running and jumping on uneven terrain and compactness facilitates endurance.

Despite oft-touted common wisdom, the Labrador Retriever foot has no more webbing than other breeds. The best of feet will need little nail maintenance on a working dog.

A Labrador Retriever’s feet should be able to carry him through a decade of dedicated work. We need to reward specimens with the good feet, because the individual dog will pay the consequences of perpetuating faulty feet. It is simple to keep in mind that with Labrador Retriever feet, “tight is right.” —Lee Foote, 2015

The Labrador Retriever Club

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**English Setters**

This month we are fortunate to have a guest column from Shelley Garland. With her husband, Steve, Shelley is active in raising and training dual English Setters for both show and field.

**THE CONCEPT AND REALIZATION OF DUAL CHAMPION ENGLISH SETTERS**

The English Setter has a very long history in the United States and was one of the nine original “charter breeds” to be recognized by the AKC in 1878. Although the breed is a sporting breed, it wasn’t until 1980 that DC Heathrow’s Rainbow Robber, owned by M.A. Samuelson, was the first Dual Champion recognized. Over the next 40 years there were only 12 more DCs crowned, making this a rare, elusive dream for most. Many felt such a beautiful dog belonged only in the show ring. However, the dogs had a different viewpoint and set out to prove their worth.

It started in 2017, when Frank Luksa, Jr. (Windsor Setters) completed the requirements for Tessa, number 13 DC AFC Windsor’s Field Harvester, JH, to be crowned, that the present group of English Setters found their footing. Frank, a longtime field trial
and hunt test competitor with his Duchess, MH, took it up a notch with the incredible Tessa, completing her DC at the age of 4. Frank and his wife, Maryella, poured time and energy into the breed and their owners, helping them become competitive in trials. Since that time a small but dedicated group of amateurs have bred, handled, and trained their dogs.

The stunningly good looks of these bench English Setters allowed them to take their rightful place in the show ring, but becoming competitive in field trials took a huge effort. With

*Top: The first time that four living English Setter dual champions were together, photographed at the breed’s national field trial last November. The dogs are Tessa, English Setter Dual Champion number 13, with Frank and Maryella Luksa; Hank, number 14, with Shelley Garland; Hawk, number 15, with Steve Garland; and Ella, number 16, with Karen Lishinski and Ray McVeigh.*

*Bottom: Father and son: Hank, pointing, and Hawk, backing.*
Frank previously in New Jersey, and now in South Carolina, and Terry Barnes on the West Coast doggedly entering trials from the early 2000s to the current day, it allowed judges and other competitors to recognize these beautiful dogs with the flowing coats as belonging in the trials.

In 2013 Steve and Shelley Garland (PineWalker Setters), who live in Georgia, purchased Ryder (littermate of Tessa, DC number 13) from the Luksas and Hank from Pam Kozak in Wisconsin and set out to learn how to train their pointing dogs. In 2017 at the ESAA national specialty’s companion field trial in Illinois, the Garland’s young male champion Hank was the Amateur Gun Dog Stakes winner, and they were hooked. They competed in field trials in the eastern U.S., learning the game along the way—and they had a lot to learn. With encouragement from Frank and other setter owners and steadfast determination, Hank racked up 38 gundog placements, 34 in all-breed trials. Hank was usually first to a bird and always strong, stylish, and staunch in the field, generating comments from judges such as “the most rock-solid dog they saw all weekend.”

In 2021 Steve and Hank traveled to Wisconsin, where 7-year-old Hank won the Open Gun Dog stake to become the breed’s 14th Dual Champion. Hank is DC/AFC Kei-Rin’s Family Tradition, SH, VES4. In 2021 Hank also earned a placement at the AKC English Setter NAF Trial. Hank earned the prestigious ESAA Heathrow Rainbow Robber Award for a record three consecutive years for defeating the most dogs at field trials.

In 2018 the Luksas and Garlands co-bred a litter with Hank (DC number 14) and Tessa (number 13). This “dream breeding,” the first DC to DC, produced a beautiful litter of seven—fondly called “The Amazings,” as all seven are pointed (or more) to a FC/AFC. One special pup, Hawk, went to the Garlands at 9 weeks. Hawk showed fabulous speed and drive and lived up to his potential. In 2019, at 16 months, he became the youngest gun dog stakes winner at the ESAA national events trial, winning his first 4-point Amateur Gun Dog major. Always first and forward, judges were impressed with his incredible drive and “never say die” attitude in the field.

In 2020 and 2021, Hawk quickly racked up 24 placements to become a FC at age 2. After spending three weeks on the road with handler Lindsey Cook, he finished his championship with two five-point specialty majors at the ESAA Regional and the combined at Hudson ESC to become the youngest DC, at 3 years 3 weeks. Number 15 is DC Windsor’s Stormy Nighthawk of PineWalker.

Although 2021 was a banner year with two new DCs, 2022 saw three new DCs.
crowned—all the result of great breeding, training, and handling by their amateur owners. The first to see a DC in January 2022 was the beautiful Ella, now fondly known as Sweet 16. Number 16 DC Hiddenlane She Is Back to the Future, JH, VES4, is owned and trained by breeder Karen Lishinski (Hiddenlane Setters) and co-owner Ray McVeigh, in Michigan. Ella has consistently turned in stylish, forward field trial performances. She followed the footsteps of her mother, Claire, winning the 2018 ESAA Sweepstakes, after her mother won the same event in 2017. Ella had a big win at the 2018 ESAA National Derby. She is only one point away from adding AFC to her name, and one pass to also add SH to her title collection. At only 5 years of age, she has a bright future ahead. Ella finished her conformation championship in style with four prestigious majors, including two very large specialty five-point majors, at Buckeye and by defeating 65 bitches in Minnesota, at the regional after the national.

December 3, 2022, was a banner day, with two new DCs announced. The first, number 17, is Twister, GCh.S DC Festivity BJ’s Tornado Warning, RA, SH, CGC, TKN, VES4, bred and owned by mother-daughter duo B.J. Parsons, DVM, and Kristen Mooney Apodaca (BJ-Festivity Setters). Twister is trained and handled by B.J., who has been a solid winning competitor in the field along with her son, Spencer Mooney, for several years. After a six-year hiatus from the field, Twister, at age 9, turned in several top-notch trial performances in 2021 and 2022. He garnered 24 gundog placements, completing his FC. Twister has a beautiful flowing, energetic style that captures the judge’s eye. He also turned in back-to-back AKC NAF Trial performances, with placements in both 2021 and 2022.

Twister’s fabulous show career, always owner handled, consisted of RBIS and numerous BISS and group placements, along with his Silver GCH and multiple Top 20 years. BJ, Spencer, and Kristen live and train in North Carolina.

Last, but certainly not least in 2022, is number 18, Gauge, the “old man” of the bunch, who was 11½ years old when he completed his FC/DC in California, also on December 3. Now known as DC/AFC Pantemonium’s Winchester Son of a Gun, UD, BN, RM2, RAE2, MHA, NA, NAJ, AXP, AJP, NF, NFP, TKP, VES6, he also is the most-titled English Setter. Gauge hit the field in spring 2012 as a puppy with owner Terry Barnes and went on to 31 placements concluding his DC. Gauge is also the only English Setter to hold the FC, AFC, and MHA titles. As indicated by his vast titles on both the front and back end, the very talented and versatile Gauge is proficient not only in
the field, but in obedience, agility and rally. A very successful show dog, Gauge gathered three majors on the way to his championship. Terry is not a newbie at the sport, and she has earned both DC and FCs on other English Setters. Her Ranger became DC number seven in 1995 and was formerly the most-titled English Setter. Terry and Gauge live and train in northern California.

2023 is already a promising year, with the first dual champion crowned on March 4. DC Windsor’s Bleu Sky, is trained and handled in the field by owner handler Bob Sexton. Bob and Kim Sexton have persevered in all sorts of weather traveling to some top field trials from their home in New Jersey, including to Wisconsin to win the 2022 Open Gun Dog stake at the Minnesota English Setter Club Field Trial, the same trial that his dad Hank finished his FC at the year before. Bleu, as he is known, even though he is an orange belton, turned in a beautiful performance at the 2022 AKC ESAA National Amateur Field Trial, earning a 4th place in a strong field. Bleu has been predominantly handled in the ring by Jamie Lamphier and completed his Ch. at the Maryland Sporting Dog Association show. Bleu is a littermate to #15, Hawk.

There are several dogs at the precipice of completing a DC. One more of the “Amazings” litter, Tesla owned by breeder, trainer handler Frank Luksa, Jr. and General Rhonda Cormun, has achieved a FC, as well as the 2022 NFC and NAFC titles and standing on 12 championship points. 2022 was the first time a benchbred English Setter has earned National Field Trial Champion titles.

Spencer Mooney and his little “pocket” Rocket have already turned in stellar performances to complete an AFC and CH and are close to completing a FC for a DC. Terry Barnes’ young girl, Quail, has been on fire. She has a MH title and 39 field trial placements and is looking to close in on both a FC and AFC in 2023. Bruce and Amy Arnold, long-time winning amateurs and competitors at trials and tests, also have two females: their Ch. Joy who is very close, needing three points; and they have a young female Ch. Allie, showing great promise in the field.

The seven most recent English Setter dual champions have a common thread. They have all been bred, owned, trained, and handled by amateurs. Training a field trial champion takes considerable energy and resources. This small group of English Setter supporters can be found working hard to support their beloved breed by hosting trials, judging, scouting, and doing all of the behind-the-scenes work that is involved in competing in field trials with a show dog, while keeping enough coat on a field trial dog to be competitive in the show ring.—S.G.

Thank you, Shelley, for
this update on our dual champions. We all need to support these dogs and their owners, breeders, and handlers. All dog sports are tough, but to excel at two sports and achieve this great distinction is truly an honor in our breed.

—Carlotta Cooper, Greeneville, Tennessee, eshever@embarqmail.com

English Setter Association of America

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**Gordon Setters**

**MISCELLANEOUS LOOSE ENDS**

Let’s begin with an update to the last two columns on Gordon Setter dual champions. In September when the January column was submitted for publication in the GAZETTE, there were 62 Gordons who had earned the coveted title of Dual Champion. On October 22, that number grew to 64 in a single day at a field trial in Dillwyn, Virginia.

Congratulations to the two newest members of this club:

Dual Ch. Tartana Cruiser, SH, owned by Holly Wachuta and Mark Fuessinger. This is the seventh dual champion for Tartana.

Dual Ch. Munroc Paris Promise, MHA, owned by Rhonda Cornum, Janie Bristow, and Sylvia Timmerman. This is the first dual champion for Munroc.

And as an interesting side note to the above, there must have been something in the water at that trial, because an Irish Red and White Setter won the Amateur Limited Gun Dog Stake to become both the first field champion and first dual champion for that breed. So here’s a salute to Dual Ch. Truly Love Long
and Hold Fast, owned by Katie Donovan. Welcome to the dual club, Fernley.

And while we’re handing out kudos for great accomplishments, we should also offer a tip of the Gordon cap to an Irish Setter cousin for going best in show at the finals of the AKC’s National Owner Handled competition in Orlando in December. That would be GCh.S Bramblebush Piper at the Gates of Dawn (Declan), owned, bred, and shown by Dr. Cheryl Stiehl, DVM. Bramblebush also has a long history in Gordon Setters with Dr. Charlene Kickbush, DVM. I can attest that Declan gives great ear-nuzzles and loves having his ears scratched in return.

And more kudos should go to GCh. Fair Isle Love Me Do for going Best of Breed for Gordon Setters at the AKC show. Dewey is proudly owned by and was bred by Colleen O’Brien.

During the last half of 2022 there were a number of litters of Gordon Setter puppies whelped, and now that it’s spring, puppy classes at the specialty shows should be filling up much more than in the past couple of years. It would be a good time to stop by a show and check them out. Two shows that have been fully approved at this time this column was submitted are listed below.

On April 14 and 15 there will be GSCA specialties at the Georgia National Fairgrounds in Perry, Georgia. Entries will be closed by the time you read this, but spectators and help are always appreciated. For info, contact Susan Gordon at gordonsetters@earthlink.net.

May 13 will mark the 69th year for the GSCA Midwest Specialties, with both a morning and afternoon show at the Lima KC show grounds in Lima, Ohio. Info from Jim Thacker at dunbar.gordons@gmail.com. The Midwest shows are the oldest ongoing Gordon shows, and 2024 will be the Diamond Jubilee or 70 years for this show. There will be more about this show and special plans surrounding it in the coming months.

The national specialty this year will take place from September 30 through October 4 in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, pending the final AKC approvals. Agility, obedience, rally, and a hunt test are all back this year, along with the regular classes, puppy sweepstakes and the always popular veterans’ sweepstakes.

The year has changed to 2023, and there is a new panel of officers for the GSCA. Susan DeSilver will become the new president, replacing Dr. Amy Johnson, DVM, who will step down to vice president.

Thank you, Amy, for great leadership in your second tenure as president. As an interesting side note, this will be the first time that women have filled all the officer and board positions for the GSCA.

—James Thacker, dunbargs@sbcglobal.net
Gordon Setter Club of America
Irish Red and White Setters

CALIFORNIA, HERE WE COME!

The Gold Country Irish Red and White Setter Society (GCIRWSS) will be the hosts for the Irish Red and White Setter Association of America (IRWSAA) 2023 national specialty on the Yuba-Sutter Fairgrounds on May 13, in conjunction with the Two Cities Kennel Club’s four-day all-breed shows May 11 to 14 that includes obedience, rally, juniors, and Owner-Handled competition events. Promising something for everyone, this year’s National Specialty Committee is offering welcome bags, special treats, an online raffle, a quilt raffle, and other fun activities throughout the long weekend. I recently heard rumors of a BBQ and a wine tasting.

A Welcome Party is planned for Wednesday or Thursday after the all-breed show and any other official evening events associated with the show. The Annual Awards Banquet is on Saturday following the national specialty show. The banquet is on the showgrounds in our overnight parking area. This is a lovely, parklike setting with access to a covered area, shade trees, and facilities with showers. On Sunday will be the designated GCIRWSS specialty show. Maps and more information about the show site can be found at https://ysfair.com/.

Several special events are also in the works. The committee is bringing back the Three-Generation Class. This will be exhibition only and will be the last class to be shown in conformation. This class consists of teams of three generations of dogs bred by the same breeder; same ownership of all dogs is not required. A rosette will be awarded for each three-generation team. This an excellent chance to see our lovely Irish Red and Whites (IRWS) in various developmental and life stages.

The committee invites you to please plan to stay after the Awards Banquet on May 13 for the Stud Dog Gala. Organizers will have tables set up for breeders to present their current and future stud dogs in grand style to those in attendance. This is a must see. Both activities are celebrating IRWS breed lines and pedigrees. While the IRWSAA is only 25 years old, the breed is thought to be one of the oldest of the setters, with pedigrees reaching back hundreds of years.

According to the committee, the closest airport is the Sacramento Airport (SMF), 39 miles from the Yuba-Sutter Fairgrounds. There are several hotels in Yuba City, including Comfort Suites, Hampton Inn, Motel 6, Travelodge, Econo Lodge, and Best Western, to name a few. The West Coast’s famous In-N-Out Burger and other eateries are nearby. Yuba City and sister city Marysville make up the Two Cities area, which is known for agriculture. Fields of rice and hay, along with nut and fruit
trees as well as livestock, dot the landscape. The area is in the middle of the great Sacramento migratory bird flyway, delighting both birdwatchers and duck hunters.
The National Specialty Committee and the Gold Country Irish Red and White Setter Society welcome everyone to join us in May for a celebration of our beloved breed. We hope to see you there! Show information is updated across social media.

Speaking of social media, the IRWSAA Board moved to producing a podcast as the quarterly newsletter. Gary Scypta introduced the revised Newsletter on January 29 in an e-mail. He interviewed club president Michael Lamp, who will be attending the National Specialty in California in May. They discussed the change, mentioned upcoming events, and then answered a few questions from Gary. The podcast can be found on Podbean. Links to other podcasts such as Hunting Dog Confidential and interesting articles are listed. Members are encouraged to submit articles, photos, and suggestions.

—Cynthia Lancaster, Lake Jackson, Texas

ccllancaster@gmail.com
Irish Red and White Setter Association of America

**Clumber Spaniels**

**HIGH POINTS OF CLUMBERDOM**

This month we look at notable points in the breed’s long history.

**1761–1765** Construction of Clumber House, Clumber Park (3,800 acres), Sherwood Forest, Nottinghamshire, England.


**1807** April: *The Sporting Magazine*, First known account of “the Duke’s [or ‘Mansell’s’] breed.”

**1840–1936** British royalty owning Clumbers: Prince Albert (consort of Queen Victoria), King Edward VII, and King George V.


**1859** Clumbers shown at first organized dog show, Birmingham, England, by the Earl of Spencer (ancestor of Princess Diana).

**1860** First known Clumber photo (reproduced in Jan Irving, *The White Spaniel*).

**1863** Prince, the first Clumber shown in a French dog show.

**1865** First Clumber standard, by Stonehenge (John Henry Walsh, 1810–1888),
in *Dogs of the British Islands*.

1873 The Kennel Club (U.K.) founded; Clumbers among 40 breeds recognized.

1875 May 31: First Clumbers shown in any U.S. show: Jock and Flax, at the Watertown (N.Y.) KC show.

1876 First Clumbers in any canine registry: Arnold Burges, *The American Kennel and Sporting Field*. Four from England (including two from the 6th Duke of Newcastle), one from Canada.

1877 May 8–11: First Westminster KC show; 11 Clumbers entered. Benched; dogs shown by uniformed attendants; c. 20,000 spectators.


1880 First volume of *The Kennel Club Stud Book* (U.K.); 20 Clumbers listed.

1881 American Spaniel Club founded, represents (theoretically!) Clumbers until 1971.

1883 First Clumbers in Australia, from Clumber Park.

1884 Clumbers one of only nine breeds recognized by AKC at founding: four spaniels (Clumber, Cocker, Irish Water, Sussex), three setters (English, Gordon, Irish), and the Chesapeake Bay Retriever and Pointer.

1888 Clumbers one of only nine breeds recognized by Canadian Kennel Club at founding: Black and Tan Toy Terrier, Clumber, Cocker, Collie, Deerhound, English Setter, Pointer, Saint Bernard, and Smooth Fox Terrier. Twenty-seven Clumbers listed.

1890 First AKC Clumber standard, created single-handedly by young German-born Canadian Francis Hubert Frederick Mercer (1867–1900); stood unchanged for 70 years, until 1960.

1892 First Clumber (Alveley Banker) in Netherlands.

1895 First Clumber (Jack) in South Africa.

1897 First Clumber in Sweden.

1899 Field Trial Ch. Beechgrove Bee, first Clumber winner in Spaniel Club field trials, England. Ponto, first Clumber BIS in any all-breed show in the world, in first show of Auckland (New Zealand) KC.


1905 233 Clumbers registered in U.K.; number
not surpassed until 1991, with 245.


**1933–1957** Squirrel Run Kennels, DE, of Hallock and Virginia du Pont. Largest Clumber kennel in history: 62 litters bred, 185 Clumbers at one time.

**1947** Clumber Spaniel Club (U.K.) holds first championship show.

**1959** Ch. Thornville Swim, first Clumber BIS at any Australian all-breed show, Phillip Island Hospital KC.

**1960** Prince Rainier III and Princess Grace (née Kelly) of Monaco acquire French-bred Clumber.

**1967** First Clumber (Sefton’s Boy Wonder) in Denmark, imported by Lizzi Bauder.

**1972** Feb. 14: The CSCA founded by Eunice Gies with six founding members (those showing Clumbers at Westminster KC, Madison Square Garden in New York City). Bryant Freeman now the only surviving founding member.

Aug. 5: first CSCA Fun
Match, Transfer, Pa.


1983 October: Clumber Spaniel Club Nederlands founded by Anna Linden.


1988 First CSCA obedience trial, entry 12.

1989 CSCA member club of AKC, first Delegate Ricky Blackman Adams. First CSCA Hunting Trial.

1991 Jan. 12: Eng./Irish Sh.Ch. Raycroft Socialite (Garfield), BIS at Crufts Centennial show, entry 22,921—then the largest dog show ever held. First CSCA Tracking Test. Aug. 10: Clumber Spaniel Club of Finland founded by Ira Sarlin; since dissolved. Peggy Grayson and Rae Furness, *The Clumber Spaniel*.

1992 First National Specialty, Clumber Spaniel Club of Finland.


1996 Feb. 13: Ch. Clussexx Country Sunrise (Brady)
BIS at Westminster KC, entry 2,571 (champions only).


1999 Ch. Wicfair’s Sir Cedric, first Clumber Champion Tracker, owner/trainer Kathy Marshburn.

2000 Jan Irving, The White Spaniel, acclaimed “one of ten best breed books of all time.”


2005 First National Specialty, Clumber Spaniel League Victoria (Australia).

2008 Greatest number of Clumbers registered in the U.S.: 280. April 29–May 2, CSCA National Specialty, Shawnee-on-Delaware, Pa., with 193 Clumbers (277 entries)—the largest number of Clumbers ever assembled at one time in one place. Am./Eng. Sh.Ch. Clussexx Crayola Crayon (“Willard”), BIS Scottish national. Entry c. 22,000.

2009 Largest CSCA membership: 559 members, from 10 countries.

2012 Clumber Spaniel Club of Southern California founded by Jennifer Darcy, Jan Sutherland.

2017 January: Mid-America Clumber Spaniel Hunt Society founded by R. Tamara de Silva.


2019 June 20: Clumber Spaniel Club of the Carolinas founded by Shelley Miller.


2022 June 12: Ch. Cearig Millstream Take Command MH, SHA, SCME, RATN, owned by R. Tamara de Silva/Shelley Miller, the first dog of any breed awarded both Scent Work Detective Dog and Master Hunter.

—Bryant Freeman, Ph.D. Breed Historian, Clumber Spaniel Club of America, Inc. bryantfreeman72@yahoo.com

Clumber Spaniel Club of America
Cocker Spaniels
BEST PAW FORWARD

You know from experience that your feet “are your foundation,” and that problems with same are likely to have an impact upon your activity and function.

Much is asked of the Cocker Spaniel as a sporting dog. His construction as described in the official breed standard clearly shows what characteristics relate to his function.

Feet are described in the “Forequarters” section: “Compact, large, round and firm with horny pads; they turn neither in nor out.” You can understand why the Cocker needs such feet when the standard says, “He is a dog capable of considerable speed, combined with great endurance.”

The standard goes on to describe the Cocker’s movement picture in the “Gait” section: “Above all, his gait is coordinated, smooth and effortless … and prerequisite to good movement is balance between the front and rear assemblies. He drives with strong, powerful rear quarters and is properly constructed in the shoulders and forelegs so that he can reach forward without constriction in a full stride to counterbalance the driving force from the rear.”

Obviously, the Cocker needs to run on his feet with ease and without pain in order to achieve the rest of the gait provisions outlined in the standard. The feet cushion and absorb all this motion.

The Cocker’s foundation in terms of his feet/paws needs to be nurtured not only through the genetics of proper structure, but also mentally in individual dogs by early handling of the puppy’s feet in a gentle way. Puppies need to become accustomed to having their paws handled, and accept it, for purposes of examining the feet, trimming the feet, nail-trimming, and having any foreign bodies removed, as well as examination in the show ring, the veterinarian’s office, or other arenas. It is so much easier if, from the time a Cocker is a baby puppy, you have included gentle handling of the paws in your routine.

Do a visual and manual periodic examination of your Cocker’s paw-pads. Check in between toes for stickers, possible infections,
and overly dry and cracked skin. Check also in the event your dog appears to be paying too much attention to his feet, such as pulling on the hair or licking his paws excessively or is in any way limping. This is just a starting point for further examination. It is important to be alert to any undue attention your Cocker is giving to his feet. Problems can range all the way from a foreign body between the toes to a manifestation of allergies, and on and on, up to and including issues caused by boredom and stress.

You are the first line of defense for your Cocker’s possible foot problems, and you need to know about this and seek veterinary treatment as necessary.

I have observed some judges in the ring pick up a Cocker’s leg and feel the paw-pads; likely a valuable procedure for discovering if the Cocker has the correct foot structures described in the standard. Remember that Cockers have many requirements with regard to proper movement, and that the foundation for these is putting their “best paws forward.”

—Kristi L. Tukua
American Spaniel Club

English Cocker Spaniels
OUR KATE: THE INCOMPARABLE
KATE ROMANSKI

At the end of January, the English Cocker Spaniel fancy was saddened to learn of the passing of Mrs. Kate D. Romanski, who had played an invaluable role in the breed for decades.

Kate Romanski’s extensive involvement in the breed spanned more than half a century. She had her start in English Cockers in the 1960s, campaigning several notable dogs in conformation and beginning a small breeding program under her Merrydown prefix. Over the decades she went on to make immeasurable contributions through her tireless work in publications and as club secretary and historian of the breed. With Beth McKinney she was co-editor of the ECSCA Review from 1971 through 1983, then moving to the ECSCA News-Review. She co-authored with Beth the two-volume Jubilee Book of the English Cocker Spaniel Club of America, Inc., 1936–1986—a massive project which chronicled the breed’s history during the club’s first 50 years and included the Directory of Titleholders 1936–1986. (The Dog Writers’ Association of America awarded the set Best Breed Book in 1987.) She and Beth then followed this huge undertaking with The English Cocker Spaniel Volume III, 1986–1999, and Volume IV, Directory of Titleholders 1986–1999, both published in 2000.

Kate grew up in New York City, born to a family with history going all the way back to the Revolutionary War. When she was a child her father bought her a black puppy, an American Cocker named Rikki, who would become Bing’s Rikki, CD. Kate would run home
from school to exercise her puppy in the empty lot next to the family’s apartment. The lot was known as the “WeeWee Parlor,” which Mr. Astor provided for the use of his tenants.

Kate and her puppy Rikki studied obedience with the founder of the AKC obedience program. Kate’s two loves as a child were sailing and dogs, and as a teenager she was really uninterested in her debutante ball. She preferred to be at a dog show but attended the ball anyway to please her father. Her dad was always very supportive of Kate’s interests and drove her to shows and left her there.

The first dog show that Kate attended was the 1948 Ladies KC, where she showed her puppy in obedience. Her second show was out on Long Island—a benched show, as most were in those days. Kate and Rikki qualified in obedience that day.

While sitting on the bench at that show, an English Setter that was benched nearby fell off its bench and was hanging himself. Teenaged Kate and a nearby Cocker breeder rescued the dog and became friends. That Cocker breeder was Kay Marchel, mistress of the Hickory Hills Cockers from Connecticut.

Kay Marchel gave Kate her first show Cocker, again an American Cocker, Hickory Hills High Shadow, and began Kate on her path to breeding spaniels.

Kate attended The Chapin School, the elite NYC girls’ school on the Upper East Side in Manhattan, as did ECS breeders Babs de Garis (Abracadabra) and Louise Platt (Merrythought). Kate graduated from Vassar and in 1957, on New Year’s Eve, sailed back to England by way of Scotland. Kate married Alex Romanski in March 1957. They moved to Doncaster, England, and had two children. (Her third child, Tom, was born after Kate and Alex returned to the United States.)

While living in England, Kate acquired Peanut, a black and tan English Cocker whom we know little about other than that the grandsire was Cowboy, Eng. Ch. Collinwood Cowboy. Peanut arrived for Kate by train, unaccompanied, as was very common in those days.

Back in the States, Kate, went back into American Cockers, but soon she developed cataracts. Following this setback she concentrated on English Cockers.

How does one sum up the life of such an extraordinary person? A debutante, a writer, a sailor, a music aficionado, an artist, and a historian, Kate was even in the drama club in high school.

Kate always a fierce and devoted friend. Our Kate could occasionally be prickly and, to the uninitiated, she could be a bit intimidating. Once you earned her respect, however, you were friends for life, and if you didn’t call often enough you were in for a scolding. Conversations with Kate could quickly turned into
fascinating, hours-long discussions about dogs, history, politics, family, and the New York Times, which she had delivered and read daily.

Comments from a close friend of Kate’s:
“A stay at Kate’s was always a treat, albeit with very little sleep! Her accumulated history of the breed, and the club, was overwhelming. I often read, or looked through her countless photo albums, until 3 a.m.—which was a bit of a problem since Kate got up at 4:30 a.m.! It took her a while to get ready for the day, by 5:30 the dogs were out and breakfast was being made. Kate had an English muffin and a tangerine every single morning, and the dogs would patiently wait for their tangerine peels. Lunch or dinner was usually a trip to her favorite restaurant, the A&W, or we would go to a surprisingly fancy Italian restaurant because she loved pizza. “When you asked Kate what her life’s career was, she’d say, ‘Dog Historian.’ She is irreplaceable.”

(Thank you to ECSCA members for providing the information and anecdotes above.)

Immediately following the announcement of her passing on the club’s Facebook page, many who knew Kate flooded the page with heartfelt expressions of sorrow and deep appreciation for this very special person in the breed. Below are just a few snippets from the vast outpouring of comments—with many more echoing the sentiments:

“The breed and the fancy will miss the treasure that was Kate.”
“Truly the end of an era. Newer people in the breed will never have the advantage of Kate’s vast knowledge of breed history.”
“I was new to the breed when I first met Kate. She ‘knew’ my dogs and their breeders … I will never forget how this made me feel I belonged.”

“Kind to all, and with a knowledge of English Cockers like no other. I know she will be having endless conversations with Annie, Jane, and David.”

“The stalwart of the breed is gone. She could tell you anything and everything about our beloved breed.”

“It’s mind-boggling to think of all of the information that is lost (at least without having to dig) with the loss of such an icon!”

“I can see all of those ‘…& tans’ greeting her at the Rainbow Bridge, along with all of her other longtime friends that passed before her. What a tremendous loss for the breed. We were so lucky to have had her.”

“Truly one of the wonders of the dog world. … With an encyclopedic knowledge and a memory bank that would rival the best computers, she has faithfully documented the history of our breed and pedigrees.”

“I’ve always thought of Kate as the doyenne of the English Cocker Spaniel world. The stories she told me of growing up in NYC, taking the bus up Madison Avenue to the AKC office when she was 12 years old to study their Cocker studbooks, were unforgettable. I don’t think anyone will ever know as much about this breed as Kate.”

“We have all lost a true friend and a powerhouse of an EC devotee without equal.”

“No one was ever more devoted to English Cockers than our Kate.”

“Rest in peace, Kate—for a longtime job exceptionally well done.”

—English Cocker Spaniel Club of America

English Springer Spaniels
HANDS FILLED WITH MAGIC: SPRINGER ARTISTS TO LOVE

My first experience shopping the wide array of Springer arts, crafts, and treasures was at a national in Allentown, Pennsylvania, several decades ago. There, I met artist Ruth Dehmel and acquired two gorgeous pieces of her jewelry designs, a group of her exquisite ceramics, and several of her trademark sweet (and conformation-correct) T-shirts.

Dehmel (Rendition) finds inspiration capturing the spirit and conformation of her lovely dogs. She says:

“I have always loved dogs, and the ESS has owned my heart and been constantly inspiring to my artist’s eye since exhibiting my first show Springer in 1973. My favorite mediums are clay and sculpting. My favorite piece of work is my bronze sculpture of Ch. Felicity Diamond Jim. I work in my small studio; busy creating new sculptures and jewelry. I invite jewelry and sculpture lovers to visit my booth at the 2023 National at Purina Farm (facebook.com/groups/296406517230796). The best way to contact me about my art is by
private Facebook message (facebook.com/ruth.dehmel.1). I have always been happiest when I am bringing the vision of the elegance, strength, and lovely expression of our breed to life in art that speaks to the hearts of other Springer lovers. Whether making breeding decisions or bringing a perfect dog in my imagination to life in art, I am always inspired by the gentle, loving spirits and classic, regal beauty of the Springers who have filled my life with love and inspiration. My creations reflect my desire to recreate my lifelong study of our breeds’ conformation excellence. I am very excited and eager to bring more Springer art inspiration to life.”

As I type, a big standing silver Springer cuff on my wrist reminds me of the thrill when I opened my first jewelry order created by artist, Roxana Bowman-McKinnie (Paradise Springers, facebook.com/pawzazzdogdesigns byroxy/). She works in many mediums, including “fine breed jewelry in gold and silver; resin hand-painted jewelry; whimsical figurines; life figures; paintings and resin or cold-cast bronze statues.

“Seeing all the beautiful breeds while going to dog shows keeps me inspired. I started making fine jewelry
because I wanted to create my own designs, often capturing the beauty of
dogs I have bred and loved. Those are my best sellers."

Bowman-McKinnee enjoys creating custom orders.
Check out her creations at facebook.com/pawzazzdogdesignsbyroxyl.

Suzanne Magel-Ernst creates custom quilted collage portraits. Having 25-plus years of sewing and creating dazzling, intricate quilts, her muses—gorgeous Springers Skye and Piper, always at her side—sparked her move into creating custom canine portraits.

Magel-Ernst is captured by the magic of disappearing into the creative process to bring Springer faces to life from carefully chosen fabrics and reflecting many years of watching expressions and beauty of Springers. She explains there are many facets from design to finished piece of portrait art, saying:

“Each dog takes about a month to create. I use a large variety of fabrics to piece the faces, and then add the stitched detail, using fifteen to twenty different colored threads per portrait. After the portrait—or portraits, if there are multiple dogs in a project—is finished, I choose the background. Next, I lay the portrait onto the background and assemble and quilt the many layers. It is always exciting to see the face emerge. I save the eyes for last. I love how the detail in the eyes bring the whole portrait to life.”

Enjoy a look at ‘Quilted Springer’ creations on Facebook (https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=100063538942119). Contact Suzanne for a custom portrait of a dog you love at quiltedspringer@gmail.com.

Have a favorite Springer artist? Please share who and why you love them!

—Sarah A. Ferrell, Locust Grove, Virginia facebook.com/Valentine-Vishnu-Ferrell-1053487794678146/ English Springer Spaniel Field Trial Assoc

Field Spaniels
BEING Jekyll AND HYDE
PART ONE

In recent conversations, I discussed the black-and-white nature of dog training and how we establish our own rules and criteria depending on our lifestyle and disciplines. Fields are very bright and love a good game, but sometimes we muddy our expectations (I’ve been guilty of this too!) and make things unclear to them.

It is far more important to be fair to our dogs and be clear with them than to worry about what others think of a “Jekyll/Hyde” juxtaposition of gruff voice/happy praise or sudden, bright reward after a verbal or physical correction.

Remember, this stuff is all information to your dog, and humanely helping them to understand what behavior we want. In discussing the use of firm command and fair correction versus happy praise and reward, I argue that blended, balanced training not only has room
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for both but is clear communication that, when used consistently, brings consistent results.

It doesn’t matter if we are talking day-to-day life functions of the home, specific performance behaviors, or ring commands; having a clear picture of what to do and what not to do helps make dogs successful and happy. They feel secure when they understand what is and isn’t allowed and can perform to your standards.

This can be a matter of safety as well as winning moves, so it applies to everyone, whether on the road to titles or hanging out and cuddling.

The on-and-off switch of attention

Teaching a puppy or dog to respond to their name or an attention command is fairly simple, and I liken it to a teacher calling on you in class. It is obviously tough to learn new things if we can’t pay attention, so the first step is to acknowledge you know you are being called upon! It is meant to get a response.

Pairing call name or an attention command with rewards is fun, but even more fun is challenging them to hold that focus longer, to ignore a distraction, and to prepare for more activity after the “on switch” is activated.

Similarly, teaching a release lets them know they are no longer under active attention and the switch is off, they are free to bounce, move, and turn their focus elsewhere. Having this distinction reinforces your work no matter the discipline, as they distinguish the two states. How you develop these is largely dependent on your commitment to consistency, but they are useful for canine sports and activities as well as companion training and home life.

Examples of this rather black-and-white picture range from being ready to move, watching an object, or looking to a handler for a next command or signal. Release could be followed with a reward, action, or activity that is perceived as “free fun” for the dog.

Targeted behavior and shift of focus

Another juxtaposition in training is that of where we have our pups pay attention. This also matters in most activities, be it a place type command in the home or at class, active training direction, or the dog’s awareness. Many of us teach targeting in some form or another, from chasing a toy or touching our hand to a formal retrieve or execution of an obstacle.

Dogs are very quick to learn how to follow a human’s gaze or gesture, and with motivation can quickly pick up interactive attention with us. Further challenge to maintain that in motion and with props shows us how valuable that line is between “on and off.” Our timing affects their understanding and response, so feeling a little crazy with the whole Jekyll/Hyde voice and behavior is normal in
training a new pup.

Being able to shift that focus off of us comes into play with distraction and distance work but should come along separately from teaching the duration of continued attention. Your expectation has to build up gradually, as the idea of walking before flying applies. Build slowly from two seconds to 10, and so on, and certainly know you will need reinforcement (leash, high-value rewards) to be able to eventually move away and then return to you.

“Dog Zen”—learning to ignore a treat or toy and watching you instead—reinforces that laser-like focus on you and what you are doing. It is useful in learning and transfers to the ring. Tossing a toy or treat ahead starts the foundation of moving away from you (as opposed to all of the antics we do to have them stick with us) where we might have them visually mark an object or location or to move out toward a place or an obstacle.

*Leave it* should be taught as a serious command that takes attention off of something else and shifts it back to you—which should always be reinforced, as you are the safe place they should want to check in with!

Lastly, body awareness is another focus-shift that directs a dog to have spatial awareness and more effective use of their bodies. This
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applies to anything involving their body, which starts with their dam and littermates and can continue when you touch mouths and handle their feet or ask them to back up, pivot, or use their weight.

To be continued in the July issue.
—Shannon Rodgers,
shannontrodgers@gmail.com
Field Spaniel Society of America

Sussex Spaniels

Sussex and Toys

I was once shocked when someone who had only two Sussex informed me that she had visited a breeder and was upset to see that the dogs there had no toys. I tried to explain to her that this was not neglect on the breeder’s part, but that many Sussex will simply not share toys.

Some of mine will share, but only with certain other dogs. And some will not share at all. It doesn’t seem to matter if the object is a cow-hoof, chewy, plushie, or squeaky toy. Some Sussex don’t care for toys at all. Most, when you have multiple dogs, just want all of them—or none—no matter what!

Rina, one of my house-dogs, has always been very possessive. She has a certain crate she likes, located in a bedroom, and she sneaks toys and bones out of the living room or kitchen, where most activity takes place, and secures them in the back of this crate. Periodically, when I notice a lack of dog-type objects to fall over, I go and look and crawl in and pull out a pillowcase-full. The stuffed toys then go directly to the washing machine, and the others are dumped in the kitchen. She always gives me a dirty look when she sees me do this.

I have found that the competitive aspect seems to decline as the toys get older. It is the new ones that set things off. For the dogs who like toys, I have found the best way to introduce

*Pro Plan*
new toys is to separate the dogs—put them in crates or different rooms, give them the toys, then pick the toys up before letting the dogs all run together again.

And some Sussex, no matter what toy or chewy you try, simply do not want them.

The older dogs who liked toys in the first place like to simply just have them as they age. It is the “pride of possession” of having a new toy or a chewy to just simply guard and own. It makes them feel good to have something, even if they don’t use it. (Much like a magpie who will steal something shiny just to have it—I have yet to see a magpie wearing a diamond ring!)

Trust a breeder to know their dogs. If their dogs don’t have toys, there is a reason, and it isn’t that we don’t provide them. Sussex often prefer to play with other dogs, particularly other Sussex, more than anything else. They generally like wading pools, garden hoses, and running and wrestling with one another. They are also good at digging, birdwatching (sometimes catching), and squirrel-chasing.

Best toy ever for puppies? Those cardboard rolls from bathroom tissue and paper towels, or even better—the stronger ones from gift wrap! They’re lightweight, recyclable, easily replaceable, and cheap!

—Marcia Deugan, ZiyadahReg@aol.com
Sussex Spaniel Club of America

Welsh Springer Spaniels
WHAT JUDGES SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE BREED

A poll for this column invited Welsh Springer Spaniel breeders for their answer to this question: What is the number-one thing you want judges to know about the Welsh Springer? This question garnered the following responses from a number of longtime breeders regarding structure.

• “The Welsh Springer Spaniel holds true in type as a working spaniel regardless of where in the world it may come from and where it may be seen—field, show, or pet. The Welsh Springer Spaniel is a working spaniel—simple, functional, unexaggerated.”

• “The Welsh Springer Spaniel should be a balanced, unexaggerated spaniel with a unique rectangular outline created by well angled fore and hindquarters rather than length of body.”

• “The Welsh Springer Spaniel has a rectangular profile and is of medium size. They have a strong topline and a ground-covering, easy gait without exaggeration.”

• “The Welsh Springer Spaniel is an all-day hunting dog. This requires soundness—structural, both soft and hard tissue—and coordination. Yes, the entry should be typical with a rectangular profile ‘a la Welsh,’ but there is no room for unsoundness for these ‘do it all and all
day’ dogs.”

• “The Welsh Springer Spaniel is an attractive, medium sized, well angled dog whose coat and movement should both follow its function as a working spaniel.”

• “The Welsh Springer Spaniel is a happy, red and white, rectangular dog of medium size, with a round body, who should be shown in a natural coat with no obvious barbering.”

• “The Welsh Springer Spaniel head is unique and should in no way approximate any other spaniel breeds.”

Respondents were also asked to consider what they want judges to know about Welsh Springer temperament.

• “Confident, amiable, aloof; not shy or aggressive with people or other dogs.”

• “Although the Welsh Springer Spaniel can be reserved with strangers, in recent years a happy, active, and friendly temperament is often exhibited by many in the breed.”

• “With a history of some timid/reserved Welsh Springer Spaniels, I believe that Welsh Springer should be confident. If a dog needs more socialization and training, get this accomplished before a show.”

• “While the breed standard indicates the Welsh Springer Spaniel may be reserved with strangers, that should not be interpreted to forgive shy, fearful, or otherwise unhappy
behavior in the ring.”

With my thanks to all who took the time to participate in this exercise. Judges, take note!

—Wendy J. Jordan, wendy.jordan@capstrategiesgroup.com

Welsh Springer Spaniel Club of America

Vizslas
THE PERFECT MATCH

How do you match a puppy with the perfect home? I was asked this question recently over a glass of wine while watching my new litter of Vizslas romp around the backyard. As the breeder, I try to pick the right puppy for the right home. How do you decide which puppies to place with what families?

The truth is, there’s no simple answer. I’m thoroughly involved with raising my litters and implementing all the current early neurological stimulation and Avidog scent protocols. I also use the Puppy Culture program. When the pups’ eyes open, I already have an idea of who uses their nose, who is submissive, and who will test their boundaries.

There’s something to be said for the first puppy to escape the whelping box. I’m not sure that holds much relevance besides being in the right place at the right time. But when the puppies are presented with their first puzzle of the barrier challenge, we begin learning which puppies are the problem-solvers, and who will demand help. While these are only games, they do offer a little glimpse into who or what each puppy may become.

Early in the process, I have each potential puppy-buyer complete a questionnaire. It’s a valuable tool for learning what they’re looking for in a puppy and where their interests lie.

As with wine tasting, everyone has a slightly different palate, and every opinion is correct for that person.

When the puppies are a month old, things start moving quickly, beginning with the introduction of sound and studying their reactions. Who’s reactive? Who’s curious?

At 5 weeks, we introduce the puppies to their first birds. We start them with a clicker, begin tracking exercises, and expose them to wobbly objects and eating in crates.

At 6 weeks, we start building the detection foundations with Scent Work bowls. We continue the bird introduction and teach the puppies how to stack on a table. All these different activities give them an excellent foundation for solving problems.

At 7½ weeks, someone the puppies don’t know does temperament testing, and we continue with bird introduction and the puppy party. The temperament testing is done in a new environment, and we will see who has absorbed skills, is distracted or focused in a new environment, has a toy drive, or is people-oriented.

At 8 weeks, a breeder who
has not seen the puppies daily will conduct conformation and movement evaluations. We note what we like about the litter and what we think should not carry on in the line, and we evaluate who might be the best show prospects in conformation and movement.

At this point we have a lot of information. From watching them grow up I know who is dominant, more submissive, active, engaged, and laid-back. I see how each puppy reacts to situations and who is potentially the most bidable. The temperament testing will show us who is easily distracted in a new environment and who can be laser-focused. Then my mentor and I match the strengths of each puppy with what each new family wants.

Again we look back through those puppy questionnaires. Who is looking for a field dog, an agility dog, a conformation dog? Is anyone wanting to breed?
Which homes already have dogs that will need to welcome a new puppy? Who is most suited for that? Which puppy is most well-suited for a first-time home? Which puppy should go to a more structured home?

Honestly, so many factors play into the placement of each puppy that it can give you a “puppy hangover.” But despite the pressure and pragmatism that go into the whole process, it’s one of the most rewarding activities when you get it right. It’s like a food-and-wine pairing that just works. After months of planning, waiting, whelping, watching them grow, opening their minds, and sending them off into the world, seeing the connections made with their new homes is the best reward.

In the words of British wine writer Michael Broadbent, “Drinking good wine with good food in good company is one of life’s most civilized pleasures.”

— Jamie Walton, Vizsla Club of America

**Weimaraners**

**CUTER THAN WORDS**

’mon, ‘fess up. Do you talk to your dog? I’m not referring to the “training command words,” such as “sit, stay, come,” and so on. I mean the real conversations you have with your dog.

Maybe it’s just a simple question, like “Do you want to go for a walk?” Maybe it’s more complex, like “I’d really like to get you a new collar, so we can retire that ratty one you’re wearing.”

Then there are the conversations where you don’t expect a reaction but your dog is such a good confidant that you need to share thoughts with them and possibly try out ideas, as in: “I’d like to move to a new city, but there are so many factors that we have to consider, including making new friends. Do you think we should do it?”

While you are spewing out a jumble of meaningless sounds, our dogs are so patient. They look right at you with that upturned, noble face, you stare into those big eyes… and then they do it. It? The totally adorable tilt of the head. Somehow that movement makes you sure that you’re in perfect sync with your dog.

Why is that tilting of the head so endearing? Why does it make you just melt? Why are you so sure that they understand your words and emotions? That head-tilt is cuter than words.

Believe it or not, there are studies about why a dog tilts his head. I’ll jump to the bottom line and tell you that even with meticulous, scientific theorizing no one can tell you with 100-percent certainty why they do it. However, there are some interesting thoughts on the matter.

One idea is that there’s a difference between human and canine hearing. No, not only that they can hear sounds that we miss. Dogs are more limited than humans in pinpointing the direction from which
a sound emanates. The theory is that they tilt their heads to improve their ability to detect and process the direction of sound.

Another thought is that tilting the head gives the dog a better view of our facial expression. We all know that they key in on our body language, so head-tilting may simply help the collection of more useful information.

Have you, in the course of a conversation (with another human), ever found that you nodded your head to indicate you were still listening? Canine head-tilting may be the equivalent. Does the dog tilt his head to assure us that they are still with us and paying attention?

In many instances when we talk to our dogs, we ask a question that is reinforced by a behavior. When we ask questions, we change the pitch and inflection of our voices. Are our dogs picking up on that too? “Do you want to go out?” “Do you want a cookie?” The question is rewarded, and therefore the head-tilting behavior will be repeated.

Is head-tilting a higher form of communication between species? Past studies compare the reactions of dogs who are well socialized and those who are not. It was overwhelmingly found that head-tilting is much more prevalent with the well-socialized dogs. The head-tilt is associated with increased social communication between humans and canines.

Humans love the look of the head-tilt. Sometimes when it happens we react with oohs and aahs, and there’s a good chance we
engage in some baby talk. “Oh, you’re so smart.” or “Ahh, you’re such good listener—you know my every thought.” We reinforce the head-tilting behavior, and our dogs know that making us happy may lead to something that is good for them. The reinforcement may be just a smile or a pat on the head, but they pick up on the fact they’ve done something we like.

You can take head-tilting as just another soulless, Pavlovian response, or you can bask in the warmth of close communication with your canine companion. In either case, look into those eyes that make direct contact with yours, and enjoy the bond between you and your Weimaraner.

The novelist Julia Glass may have said it best: “When most of us talk to our dogs, we tend to forget they’re not people.” —Carole Lee Richards, zarasweimaraners@yahoo.com

Weimaraner Club of America

**Akita Mentors**

Remember that day you arrived home with your first show puppy? So full of promise, and you could not wait to hit the show ring. Then the dread hit: What to do next?

If you did things right, you purchased your pup from an Akita Club of America (ACA) reputable breeder who would be there for you with advice and support. This was your first mentor.

Now, so many years down the road, you have gained much knowledge, hopefully. That knowledge can be shared with newbies and make a difference for them between success or leaving the dog scene altogether.

What makes a good mentor? So many things. Think about it: How did you learn? Your pup’s breeder helped in most cases, but many others did also. Those people who helped you at training class when you wanted to give up. Your pup not standing still for exam and hopping around the ring.

Things that made you want to give up. The instructor who helped you see the potential in your pup and gave you help to succeed. Some who offered tips and encouragement. A mentor!

You attended dog shows and shook your head, sure you were never going to understand it. Someone approached and saw your confused look. They spent the time to explain why people and dogs kept going in the ring, coming out of the ring, and going back in. It made sense, finally. They pointed out the perfectly handled dog in the ring and how the judge had an easy time examining that trained dog. They also pointed out the dog who was not given the same advantage in the ring. The handler who was not paying attention to the judge’s instructions, the handler who did not groom their dog, the dog who wanted no part of being in the ring. A mentor!

The person who took the time to help you learn to bathe and groom your dog.
Not an easy feat. I personally watched someone in our area groom at shows—she is one of the best. She never made me feel like a bother. She went about grooming her dog and explained most of the tools and processes she used. We have one of the best who is willing to share her grooming secrets active in our breed now. You may know her; she did a column for me recently about coat care. She is always there to help. A mentor!

The professional handler at a show who saw you struggle and offered tips to better present your dog. A mentor!

Spending time talking pedigrees to better understand the ins and outs of breeding. Explaining which lines in your opinion mesh better than others. Being truthful about health issue that some lines have that pop up more often—but also being truthful to the newbie that all lines have issues, even yours. Helping them come up with a breeding plan to produce healthy pups. A mentor!

We have all seen the newbie ringside who has a dog from a less than reputable breeder, we have. We watch when many exhibitors just keep their distance and won’t even acknowledge their presence. Hey, we all started somewhere and may have gotten dogs from people who we wouldn’t touch with a 10-foot pole now. We need to reach out and make them feel welcome. Most of them will see for themselves the difference. May take them years, but hopefully not that long. We need to encourage them, not ignore them. They are the future. Let’s try and improve it in any way we can. Become a mentor!

Your pup’s breeder is likely to be one of your first mentors in the breed.
BREED COLUMNS

WORKING GROUP

When you became a member of The Akita Club of America, what were your reasons? To join a group of dog people who love this breed and want to protect it? We formed friendships with many people. Not all of us agree on just about any subject, but we all love this breed. Welcoming new people is something we should all work on. The future of our breed depends on it.

Many of the best breeders are getting up there in age and retiring from breeding. Their knowledge will be lost forever. We need to reach out to grasp that knowledge. Those people are some of the best mentors. Give them a call, send them an email, strike up a conversation at a show. Don’t miss that chance. Learn from a mentor!

Talk to other breeders and owners about health issues you have had or seen. Explain the unique issues about Akita blood, the autoimmune issues and treatments that have been tried and work. Push the value of running thyroid tests and getting CHIC numbers on your breeding dogs. Explain the importance of microchipping all pups. Rescue groups will welcome this. Talk to rescue. Both you and they can learn. Keep up to date on the “don’t buy from” list that is kept up by Linda Logan. Share that list with your pet-puppy inquiries—this informs the public. Learn, and be a mentor!

Volunteer your time at a Meet The Breeds at your local show. Your dog will love the attention, and most people are willing to listen to the wonderful things our dogs can do. Seeing someone months or years later who listened to your advice and got a pup from a reputable breeder will make you smile. Be a mentor!

The ACA has a mentoring program. Region Reps can put people together to mentor those newbies. Members and nonmembers are encouraged to reach out. If you feel you have something to offer, please contact a regional rep or any ACA Board Member. They will welcome your involvement.

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

Alaskan Malamutes

Dian McComb wrote this piece about a rescued Alaskan Malamute in 2010.

TESSA: A PEARL OF GREAT PRICE

Tessa was a rescue, a Malamute mountain who was steered more than led by a leash. Her elderly owner had entered a rest home, and he gave his beloved pet to his daughter to cherish. His daughter promptly had her two teenage sons drop off Tessa at the nearest pound.

When I got the license for my kennel, I had promised myself that one run would be for a rescue dog. Its first resident was Lucky, an 8-year-old, seal-colored male who was rescued from
dispersal of a Missouri puppy mill. I quickly found out that no one wanted an old dog who had been let out of his run only for breeding. Lucky spent the remaining three years of his life with me.

So when I heard about Tessa, I waltzed down to the pound to do my good deed. When I saw her, however, I thought, Oh, God, I’ll never get rid of this one. She was another Lucky. Tessa was 8 years old, 25 inches tall, and at least 150 pounds. She was used to doing what she wanted to do and big enough that she usually got her way. She wasn’t friendly or pretty. She was the only completely aloof Alaskan Malamute that I have ever met in 40 years in the breed.

I put her on a diet; it didn’t help. She stayed huge. And she continued to do her own thing, regardless of what I thought was correct.

As time went on, I put out the word that I had this lovely mountain of a Mal that needed a home. Nothing. Then I got a nibble from a family in Alabama: If I could get her there, they would take Tessa. This would take some doing, however, since I live in a Los Angeles suburb.

I had gotten a Great Dane crate from the Salvation Army, figuring one never should pass up a shipping kennel. Tessa just could fit in it and turn around. With Mal rescue footing the air bill, off Tessa went to Alabama.

Her new family adored her. While Tessa had ignored everyone else in the world before, soon it was clear that she equally adored them. It’s also when we found out about Tessa’s gift, one of those things that medical science can’t explain.

When Tessa’s new owner, Sally, was five months pregnant, a drunken teenager drove through a stop sign and T-boned Sally’s truck while she was in the passenger side. Her daughter was born with cerebral palsy and subject to daily seizures. As time went on, Sally, who had developed a brain tumor, also began to have seizures.

Tessa had been in Alabama for several weeks when an excited Sally called me to tell me that Tessa could sense an epileptic several minutes in advance.
She would go in front of the person, point with her muzzle, drop her front end to the ground, and raise that enormous rear end in the air. This gave Sally or her daughter time to lie down before the seizure struck. Tessa couldn’t prevent the seizures, but she could tell those she loved what was going to happen.

Whether it was because Tessa could sense a change in brain waves, a disruption in an electrical field, or something else, whatever it was, she knew when an epileptic seizure was imminent.

There is a moral to Tessa’s story. An unwanted rescue, abandoned by owners, can be a pearl of great price. Tessa was. —D.M.

Alaskan Malamute Club of America

Anatolian Shepherd Dogs

This month we conclude a three-part series on raising Anatolian pups, begun in the October 2022 issue and continued in the January 2023 issue.

RAISING ANATOLIAN PUPS, PART THREE: AGE 6 WEEKS TO 8 WEEKS

At ages 6 to 8 weeks the pups are learning a great deal about interacting with other dogs and animals. Since I have an adult male Anatolian, 1- to 2-year old aunts and cousins, around 20 or 30 goats, and some poultry in the four-acre puppy pasture, the pups have many opportunities to experience many different dog and animal interactions. I want all of these interactions to be positive, so I am particularly careful to watch each day and immediately change out any animal who isn’t providing the correct level of training for the pups.

I highly favor pups who decide they prefer snuggling up against the goats rather than joining the “puppy pile.” In my experience these pups become the best guardians, because they maintain the closest bonding with their goats.

My very best guardians began abandoning the puppy pile, joining the goats instead, at about 4 to 5 weeks. Some of the pups never do. When I have to choose, I prefer keeping the pup who demonstrates superior bonding to their charges over the pup with superior conformation. After all, I am breeding Anatolians, and since working ability is the essence of the breed, working ability is my primary selection criteria!

At this stage some of the pups love their goats so much they want to play and interact with them. It is important they are with goats of the correct dominance level. When the goat is grazing and the pup decides to jump up on the goat to engage in play, the best goat will swing its head, knock the pup to the ground, and continue eating. This is normal goat behavior in a herd, and Anatolians must understand herd etiquette. The goat isn’t mean; she is just teaching the pup the correct behavior to fit comfortably into the herd.
Another behavior the puppy should be learning at this age is to walk slowly and carefully if they chose to walk through the herd. If instead they run through the herd, ignoring the goats, one of my nannies will leap forward and knock the running pup to the ground. This is the pup’s punishment for running through the herd. As the pup gets older and much larger, the goats are more reluctant to teach the pup this lesson. This is why I believe it is important to place pups with their carefully selected training flock beginning when the pups

Anatolian pups bred for superior working ability—the essence of the breed—know how to behave correctly around sheep or goats. Anatolian pup Lucky Hit Beton Sevan (Sevan) with her goats—you can see the confidence with which she moves around the pasture with the animals, even at this young age; by age 6 weeks the pups have moved into the pasture with the livestock.
are three weeks old.

At age 7 weeks, I take my pups to the vet for their puppy shots. I give the shots my vet recommends for our area. However, all puppy shots should include protection for tetanus, distemper, and parvo! All three are puppy killers. I know of pups taken inside a vet’s office prior to their first shots and then coming down with parvo a week later and dying. I keep my pups inside my pickup for this first protective shot. The vet comes outside, and I hold each pup as they give the initial puppy shot with gloved hands.

It takes the pup’s body a week to 10 days to develop an immune response. I don’t allow any pups to be taken to their new homes any younger than 8 weeks.

When identifying the superior pup, I watch for the pup who enjoys hanging out with the goats. While all the pups enjoy the goats, I occasionally see a pup that spends almost all its time with the herd and very little time with the other pups. This type of pup is an exceptional candidate as a potential future breeding Anatolian, because this pup tends to develop the highest level of working ability.

Another excellent trait I watch for is the pup who calmly watches something strange or different who appears to be evaluating the potential it has for danger. When people come by to look at the pups, I know the pup who hangs back and watches rather than running to the strangers for petting tend to become the best guardians.

I believe it is important to breed for correct Anatolian working behaviors. Anatolians who automatically accept a stranger as an immediate friend are not demonstrating a correct guardian response.

It is important to keep Anatolians pups with training sheep and/or goats from age 3 weeks of age to develop their genetic potential as working livestock guardians. Raising pups with sheep and/or goats helps an owner to more correctly evaluate each pup’s abilities and temperament. Working ability, like other traits, can be quickly lost in a line that is not tested and selected for working ability—the essence of the breed!

—Erick Conard, Lucky Hit Ranch, erickcon@icloud.com
Anatolian Shepherd Dog Club of America

Bernese Mountain Dogs

THERAPY WORK IS WORK OF THE HEART

Therapy work can be an amazing way to share your dog with the world. There are people everywhere who need a visit, and a wide range of opportunities for doing therapy work. Which should you pursue?

One way to narrow the choices to start is to consider what your dog likes best. Does your dog love children? Is a reading room at the library your idea of relaxation? Would you like to visit those in memory care?
or senior centers? There are some therapy teams that assists at national disasters. Perhaps you have a neighbor who would benefit from a visit. One local therapy team visits hospital emergency rooms during peak times, even altering their holiday plans to soothe and calm the tense families.

Therapy work is a service that Berners seem to excel in. Recently the AKC announced the winners of the AKC My Canine & Me Award. The award’s purpose is to honor children and young adults who are making a positive impact on the world with their dogs or achieving personal growth with and through their dog ownership.

There are four awards given. This year, two of these awards went to young people who have Bernese Mountain dogs as their therapy partners. From the AKC press release (October 17, 2022):

**Influential Junior Award—**
**Caleigh Brown, Attleboro, Massachusetts**

Caleigh began her journey with dogs at the age of 8, and her dogs have received many accolades and certifications over the years. She is the president of her local dog club, is a leader at the 4-H national convention and conference and heads her school’s stress-relief therapy dog club. She trains both dogs and dog handlers and gives talks at schools, meetings, fairs and more. She looks to promote responsible dog ownership and share effective dog training and the impact of the canine-human bond with others.

Caleigh and her Bernese Mountain Dog, Teddy, are also honored as the 2021 AKC Award for Canine Excellence (ACE) Therapy Dog

**Innovative Junior Award—**
**Miles Morgan, Atlanta, Georgia**

Miles has overcome his anxiety and found confidence in forming a human-canine bond with his Bernese Mountain Dog, Zuri. He and Zuri attended dog classes, quickly moving on to Canine Good Citizen (CGC) 1, CGC...
Community, and now CGC Urban. Miles hopes to continue Zuri’s training and make Zuri a registered therapy dog for the elderly.

As the Pet Therapy coordinator for a local hospital, my Berner girl Noelle was my trusted assistant. Noelle gave excellent demonstrations of proper behavior and patience for staff and volunteers.

The requirements for each certifying organization differ. Three major therapy-dog organizations are the Delta Society, Therapy Dogs International, and Love on a Leash. Attaining the AKC’s Canine Good Citizen requirements is an excellent place to start your training journey to therapy work.

The BMDCA recently established a committee for Therapy Dogs. The purpose is to provide assistance, knowledge, and guidance to those interested in doing therapy work. The coordinators are Beth Brookhouse (mountaingirlbeth@gmail.com) and Janet Nash (jhnash01@gmail.com).

When I was on staff at an assisted living facility, I brought Noelle to my office regularly.

One early dementia patient fiercely missed her own dogs, and she cherished our visits. We visited her regularly, and she would reminisce about her beloved dogs. Many months into the visits, the woman stopped me in the hall. She asked, “Do you work here? There is a dog that visits here. She is a big black dog, with the softest, curly coat. Do you know the dog?” I assured her that I did. She asked if I could please direct the dog to her room for a visit. So the dear woman remembered my girl in detail, but didn’t remember me at all. What an honor that my dog made such a positive impression on this person.

Wherever you might want to visit as a therapy team, rest assured there are people waiting to greet you.

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

Boerboels
MAKING A “SPLASH” WITH YOUR BOERBOEL

As summer is approaching, it is not too soon to begin considering activities you and your Boerboel may enjoy during hot months. The Boerboel’s typical high energy level, drive, and athleticism are perfect for dock diving—one of the more recently added sports to the AKC. The sport is conducted under the auspices of North American Diving Dogs (NADD); however, results and titles are recognized by the AKC.

What is dock diving?

The main element of the sport is an exciting distance competition that entails your Boerboel running down a 40-foot dock, set two feet above the water and leaping into a pool in pursuit of a “lure”—generally a favorite toy.

The competition is judged by the distance your Boerboel remains airborne, measured from the point your dog crosses the end of the dock to the point that
The base of his or her tail enters the water. Two trained judges visually assess the distance achieved. There is a ramp for your dog to return to the dock.

There is also a related dock-diving discipline called Air Retrieve, which entails running down the dock, but then leaping into the air to retrieve or knock down a suspended “bumper” over the pool. However, most afficionados I spoke with recommend beginning with distance competitions. Another important point to note is that life-preserver vests are allowed for dock-diving dogs.

A dock diving “team” consists of your Boerboel accompanied by one or two handlers—who may divide the tasks of throwing the lure and releasing your dog.

In any case, for this event, each team takes two leaps into the pool, back to back. These are referred to as “splashes.” (Note: The dog leaps, not the humans.) The longest of the two leaps is recorded as the qualifying score for that “splash.” There may be six or more “splashes” over the course of weekend.

There are five distance divisions—Novice, Junior, Senior, Master, and Elite—and two placement classes—Open (16 inches tall and over) and Lap (under 16 inches). Additionally, there is a class for dogs over 8 years old.

The top three dogs in each division each receive a placement ribbon. One qualifying score jump per “splash” counts toward NADD and AKC titles.

How to get started

Although dock diving is, thus far, not the most popular sport among American Boerboel Club members, those owners who participate are very enthusiastic—and some have earned top
titles! They have generally advised that if your Boerboel enjoys swimming in a pool or lake, you have established a solid first step; and it is best to begin to introduce them to swimming when they are puppies. One owner I interviewed, Morgan Jacoby, explained how she first became involved:

“My first Boerboel to dock dive was Amina. My dogs always have been raised on farms and have helped with pinning/sorting, and protection. For a Boerboel, dock diving is a very different kind of mental and physical challenge, and the reciprocation of love and trust needed to be successful for many of this breed in this sport is paramount. For Amina, known nationwide as ‘The Flying Brick,’ it started out very humbly.

“It was not long before Amina was crying and barking to get out of the car and run up the dock ramp. And her love of the water was born. Every dog is different, some just naturally have a great feel for their body and are naturally athletes.

“Since we started diving, we have now had many firsts in the Boerboel (and other breeds). In that time, I have learned a lot of really fascinating things about the different breeds and their psychology. How their different roles, drives, and breeding affect their learning and thinking, how to teach them to be thinkers instead of reactors. The water and a dock edge bring some incredible challenges to a canine/human team. I recommend this sport to all of my Boerboel puppy family. It is worth the money, the distance, and the time commitment.”

Other Boerboel owners echoed many of these sentiments but emphasized that the draw for them was that it is a really fun activity in which to participate with your dog.

Please see the websites of the AKC (https://www.akc.org/sports/title-recognition-program/dock-diving/) and NADD (northamerica.divingdogs.com) for more information and helpful hints to get started in this fun and very rewarding activity for you and your Boerboel.

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

Boxers
THE NOTION OF ENTITLEMENT

On one of the Boxer e-mail lists a while ago a controversy was described
involving the following: Someone won a major on his dog, and the judge, for whatever reason, chose not to cross the major points over to the bitch, therefore limiting her to minor points. The bitch owner was allegedly upset with the dog’s owner and/or handler. Some at ringside felt that the sportsmanly thing to do was for the dog’s handler to hold back in the Best of Breed class, so that the bitch would shine and possibly walk away with that coveted major. Others said, in effect, “Nonsense.”

In my region of the country, Boxer bitches require nine more entries than dogs to reach the three-point pinnacle. So it is no small feat to achieve that major win. But it should never justify a judge doing anything but what he is supposed to do on the day—judge dogs, and make the Best of Winners award exactly what it implies. To do anything less, much less bestow favors, corrupts the entire judging process.

The idea of showing any dog to anything less than full advantage is insulting to the judge who made him Winners, as well as to the dog’s breeder and his owner, who should be so disappointed to see his beloved winning “star” suddenly looking like dog-show roadkill. Likewise, the notion of showing a dog who finished on Saturday in the classes on Sunday to “hold the major” is spurious at best.

While we can all sympathize, and we have all pursued those elusive majors for seemingly endless weekends, winning one while worthy competition is made to look horrid is a hollow victory—or should be. Shouldn’t we have more respect for the judging process and for the merits of our dogs?

And while we’re at it—discussing these supposed “entitlements”—whoever said that entering a dog
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show and paying our $30 “entitles” us to anything other than a fair examination by the judge? And what of the rare animal who wins four majors on a circuit and only needs a couple of minor points to finish as Sunday looms—should the owner pull him on Sunday so as to be generous to the competition? After all, he doesn’t “need” the major. I say he should show for all he is worth—if he is that good, he will be out of the competition’s way in no time. Even an outstanding dog should not be expected to forego the chance to win points. I personally know of a dog who died of accidental injury before winning the single point he needed to finish—it can happen. Or what if the dog goes home on Saturday and ruptures a cruciate ligament running around the yard? He may never gait perfectly again. When you are winning, the time to finish the job is now.

When the dog is in fact finished (it is easy to look up your current tally of points on the AKC website), he should go home or be moved up. Piling on unneeded points makes no sense and in that case is truly worthy of condemnation within the fancy. And piling on major points after finishing one’s title? That might cause multiple melt downs, to put it mildly.

So the next time you gnash your teeth because the judge did not award Bruno or Brunhilda that crossover major, at least be glad that you did not try to damage the judging process in the mistaken belief that the judge “should” have made your day. When you went to the show and you or your handler made an honest effort to show your exhibit to the best of your ability, and you won or you lost on merit—that should have been “major” enough.

There is always another dog show, where the next more “learned and respected” judge may see things your way.—Stephanie Abraham, 2013

American Boxer Club

Bullmastiffs

Thanks to Charlotte Ramsay Roberts for this timely and thought-provoking column. Upon reading her recent President’s Message in our ABA Newsletter, I asked her to expand upon her remarks. Char is currently serving her second term as president of the American Bullmastiff Association and is active in the Southwest Bullmastiff Club. She breeds, shows, and trials Bullmastiffs under the kennel prefix Lion-S.

PRESERVATION BREEDERS AND THE BULLMASTIFF

Sometimes for something to survive, change is inevitable. We learned that hard and fast during the pandemic and will forever be left with effects of those changes. Two things that haven’t changed are our breed standard and our resolve as an AKC club to breed dogs who meet that breed standard.

There was a thought-provoking article in the July
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Bullmastiffs are smart, strong, and athletic, and the breed excels in canine sports.

2017 issue of Showsight magazine titled “What Does It Mean to Be a Preservation Breeder?” (https://showsightmagazine.com/what-does-it-mean-to-be-a-preservation-breeder/). The term “preservation breeder” is being used a lot lately in different forums. The Showsight article compared preservation breeding to the National Park Service’s four approaches to the treatment of historic properties. Those treatments are preservation, rehabilitation, restoration, and reconstruction.

To quote from the article, “Historic preservation requires that distinctive features, as well as noteworthy construction and craftsmanship, be preserved.” To relate that statement to breeding Bullmastiffs requires a breeder to go back to the recognized breed standard, reading and re-reading and memorizing. Then take that standard and lay it on top of understanding the history and original intent.

It’s not hard to take the first paragraph of the standard and see how that would apply to a gamekeeper’s dog: “That of a symmetrical animal, showing great strength, endurance, and alertness: powerfully built but active.” These traits are called out as a Bullmastiff’s noteworthy construction.

When looking into a ring of Bullmastiffs you should be looking at dogs who can cover ground to chase and take down a poacher, not just a dog who stands in front of a doorway to persuade someone not to enter. When you have the construction right, the mechanics of the gait should fall into place. Distinctive features of the Bullmastiff can be compared to the coat colors; dark, V-shaped ears; and the muzzle that is dark and broad.

The article then goes...
into “standards for rehabilitation.” Rehabilitation is defined by the National Parks Service as the act or process of making possible a compatible use, while preserving those portions which convey its historical, cultural, or architectural values. That can be related to breeding Bullmastiffs in exciting ways with genetic testing becoming more available, accessible, and reliable. For example, the building blocks of current Bullmastiffs should show that fewer of our dogs carry the gene for long hair. In that way, more of our litters will conform to the standard because the building materials (genetics) we are using are clear of that gene.

Rehabilitation can also “make alterations owing to a modified purpose,” but they “must be kept to a minimum.” Bullmastiff breeders may see a need for rehabilitation when balancing breeding a guardian breed and an all-around family pet. Breeders know that most Bullmastiffs will be loyal family couch-potatoes and will not be living on estates and taking down poachers and the poachers’ dogs. However, Bullmastiffs are a guardian breed, and a responsibility to own. It’s in their DNA. A Bullmastiff shouldn’t be asked to act like a Golden Retriever so much as they shouldn’t look like one.

Before we think we are going to rehabilitate the Bullmastiff’s temperament very much, it might be better to consider modifying our expectations. The Bullmastiff standard already calls for a dog who is “fearless and confident yet docile,” combining “reliability, intelligence, and willing to please.” This stable temperament should be a “distinctive feature” and a key to preservation.

As you are planning for the future of our breed, consider how each litter will help preserve our standard and history, and how each litter can improve the health and wellbeing of our dogs. If collectively we keep this focus, we won’t ever have to worry about the “restoration” or “reconstruction” aspects of the article.

—C.R.R.
Thank you, Charlotte.
—Lindy Whyte,
Tryumpe@comcast.net
The American Bullmastiff Association

Chinooks
ARTHUR WALDEN AND THE ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION

In 1923, a couple of years before Arthur Walden and his Chinook dogs traveled to Antarctica, a disaster struck when a distemper outbreak hit the Chinook Kennel, killing Walden’s entire racing team except for Chinook.

Walden took a two-year hiatus from serious competition to concentrate on breeding another competitive team. During that time, he never stopped supporting the sport of sled dog racing. In 1924, the New England Sled Dog Club (NESDC) held its organizational meeting in Walden’s home and elected Arthur Walden its
Admiral Byrd with his own dog, “Igloo”; Byrd with Chinook and Arthur Walden; Walden drivers training for the British Arctic Expedition (BAE); Ballaratt, one of the Chinook dogs on the expedition; Walden and the three men assigned to help with the dog teams; Chinook on the BAE, with sled and tent; Byrd’s flagship, “The City of New York”; Chinook and Walden with the dog drivers.
first president.

In 1928, Byrd began his first expedition to the Antarctic involving two ships and three airplanes: Byrd’s flagship was the City of New York (a Norwegian sealing ship previously named Samson that had come into fame as a ship some said was in the vicinity of the Titanic when the latter was sinking) and the Eleanor Bolling (named after Byrd’s mother); a Ford Trimotor airplane called the Floyd Bennett (named after the recently deceased pilot of Byrd’s previous expeditions), flown by Dean Smith; a Fairchild FC-2W2, NX8006, built 1928, named Stars And Stripes (now displayed at the National Air and Space Museum’s Steven F. Udvar-Hazy Center); and a Fokker Super Universal monoplane called the Virginia (Byrd’s birth state).

A base camp named Little America was constructed on the Ross Ice Shelf. Scientific expeditions by snowshoe, dog sled, snowmobile, and airplane began. To increase the interest of youth in Arctic exploration, a 19-year-old American Boy Scout, Paul Allman Siple, was chosen to accompany the expedition. Siple earned a doctorate and was the only person, other than Byrd himself, to participate in all five of Byrd’s Antarctic expeditions.

When Walden heard about the Byrd Expedition, he applied even though he was over the maximum age at 56. Walden agreed to accompany Byrd if he guaranteed that no euthanizing of dogs would happen to save supplies, as had happened with previous expeditions.

Walden was the lead driver and trainer of the dogs on the journey. Walden also led three men—Norman Vaughan, Freddie Crockett, and Eddie Goodale—who helped with the dog teams. Ninety-four dogs, including eight bitches went on the expedition. Named on these lists are Labrador dogs, Labrador bitches, Alaskan dogs, and dogs from Chinook Kennels. (The Labrador dogs and bitches are Labrador Huskies, not Labrador Retrievers.)

**Byrd Expedition Chinook Kennels dogs (listing weights)**

- Chinook, 90 pounds
- Karluk, 85 pounds
- Kuskokwim, 83 pounds (owned by Caryl Peabody)
- Scaramouch, 78 pounds (owned by Caryl Peabody)
- Muskeg, 70 pounds (owned by Caryl Peabody)
- Ballarat, 79 pounds
- Shagwa, 78 pounds
- Kewalik, 72 pounds
- Altrir, 74 pounds
- Tarmigan, 75 pounds
- Quimbo, 79 pounds
- Omiak, 65 pounds
- Kjack, 68 pounds
- Noatak, 78 pounds
- Chilcat, 74 pounds
- Unimak, 69 pounds

Chinook fanciers have long discussed Walden’s height in estimating the size of Chinook through photos. The Ohio State University Archives has documents with a brief history and
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—Kathleen Riley, kathleenrileyphotography@gmail.com
Chinook Club of America

Doberman Pinschers
SIZE DOES MATTER

The Doberman Pinscher standard is very specific regarding size. In the first sentence it says:
“`The appearance is that of a dog of medium size, with a body that is square."

Next, the heights are given:
“Dogs 26 to 28 inches, ideal about 27½ inches; Bitches 24 to 26 inches, ideal about 25½ inches,” measured from the highest point of the withers to the ground.

The Doberman began as a small medium-sized dog. In 1899, when the National Doberman Pinscher Club was formed in Germany, the height for males was 21.6 to 23.6 inches and for bitches 18.8 to 21.6 inches. Over the years it has become a large medium-sized dog.

After decades in horses and dogs, I often describe the Doberman as the “quarter horse” of canines: agile, nimble, quick, strong, and hard-bodied, with sound limbs. A Doberman properly built to spec—balanced fore and rear, with hard, tight muscling—will waste little energy when moving.

Proportion is a key component to the breed; it is a square dog, height equaling length. The depth of brisket should be approximately equal to length of leg. The upper arm and scapula should be equal, and their length and angles affect the height of the dog.

The standard asks for:
“Shoulder blade sloping forward and downward at a 45-degree angle to the ground meets the upper arm at an angle of 90 degrees.”

A front assembly with a short, straight shoulder—shifting the scapula forward, meeting a short upper arm—forced down and forward, creates a 140-degree angle and a taller dog, adding an inch or more in height at the withers.

In the article by Colby Homer at https://dpca.org/breeding/standard-size-why.shtml, Tony DiNardo says:
“The importance of judges rewarding the standard size Doberman Pinscher is one of the most significant statements that they could make for the breed. With the increase of height the breed does not have the corresponding increase in bone so as not to appear more refined. As the breed approaches the size of a large breed, in the majority of instances, the breed loses the attributes which attracted many to this medium-sized breed (stamina, bone, substance, angles, endurance, square, energetic, agility, etc.).”

In the same article, the following emphasizes the whys in the importance of size. “At both ends, the over-standard and the under-standard dog, the Doberman loses power and the athletic equipment designed to enable him to function in the capacity for which he was designed and bred … Remember, the best Dobermans must appear to be of medium size and should be within certain height specifications. Size is a fundamental breed characteristic.”

The Doberman is a galloping breed—a sprinter, like the quarter horse, not for long distances like the thoroughbred. When balance is out of whack, balance creates physical harmony, its purpose can be hard for that dog to complete. A straight front impedes reach, and an overangulated rear can be weak, unable to drive. Each impedes the vigorous gait described in the standard and requires more energy to cover short distances quickly.

Size should not be overlooked in breeding and judging the Doberman. Proper front angulation plays a role in height, and coupled with a short loin, long ribcage, and balanced rear, the square, standard-sized dog has the armature to connect tendons and muscles required to do their job.
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—Leslie Hall,
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Doberman Pinscher Club of America

German Pinschers

WHAT MAKES A GERMAN PINSCHER?

I began writing this column in 2016, and to date I haven’t written much about the breed ring or about conformation. I’m not, strictly speaking, a “conformation person.” But that doesn’t mean that I don’t think it’s important. Because if we think breeds are important—and I do—then standards are important.

The things that make a German Pinscher a German Pinscher and not, say, a Border Collie are myriad. Each piece of the standard contributes to the breed as a whole, to what exhibitors and judges want to see in the breed ring, to the type of dog we expect to own when we own a German Pinscher, and to how we talk about the breed to potential owners and to one another.

One way to look at the breed standard is to think first about the original purpose of the breed. German Pinschers were kept as general farm dogs. They were vermin catchers and alert dogs. According to the standard: “The German Pinscher is a medium size, short-coated dog, elegant in appearance with a strong, square build and moderate body structure, muscular and powerful for endurance and agility. Energetic, watchful, alert, agile, fearless, determined, intelligent, and loyal, the German Pinscher has the prerequisites to be an excellent watchdog and companion.”

When viewed through the lens of the breed’s original purpose, this makes sense.
Their “job” in a sense was to know what was going on, alert the farmer to perceived danger, and control the vermin population. It required athleticism and intelligence as well as alertness and quickness.

The standard goes on to discuss specific physical characteristics: Neck, Topline, Body, Forequarters, Hindquarters, Coat, Color, and Gait. These sections provide more specific detail about the German Pinscher appearance. For example, under Gait, the standard says: “The ground-covering trot is relaxed, well balanced, powerful, and uninhibited, with good length of stride, strong drive, and free front extension.”

Finally, the standard says this about the German Pinscher temperament: “The German Pinscher has highly developed senses, intelligence, aptitude for training, fearlessness, and endurance. He is alert, vigilant, deliberate, and watchful of strangers. He has fearless courage and tenacity if threatened. A very vivacious dog, but not an excessive barker.”

These characteristics, too, relate back to the dog’s original purpose. It’s important for a general-purpose farm dog to be adaptable, independent, and persistent.

The conformation ring is designed to showcase many of the traits described in the German Pinscher standard—how they move, their alertness, and their physical characteristics: the shape of their head, their topline, forequarters, and hindquarters, as well as their coat, eyes, and ears.

If you’re interested in German Pinschers, a great place to start is to study the standard. You can find it here: [https://germanpinscher.org/akc-standard/](https://germanpinscher.org/akc-standard/) And if you can, visit a show where you can see German Pinschers live in the conformation ring.

—Deb Coates, [charmingbillie@gmail.com](mailto:charmingbillie@gmail.com)

German Pinscher Club of America

### Giant Schnauzers

**LET’S RALLY!**

The GSCA had 50 Giant Schnauzers qualifying in rally in 2022. Three Giant Schnauzers have earned a RACH title to date, with one having earned a RACH3.

Giant Schnauzers love to work in obedience, and rally is a dog sport based on obedience. It was originally devised by Charles L. “Bud” Kramer from the obedience practice of “doodling”—doing a variety of interesting warmup and freestyle exercises. The “doodles” were usually parts of obedience exercises that taught the skills and improved performance and accuracy. Unlike regular obedience, instead of waiting for the judge’s orders, the competitors proceed around a course of designated stations with the dog in heel position. The course consists of 10 to 20 signs that instruct the team what to do. Unlike traditional obedience, handlers are allowed to encourage their dogs during the course.
In AKC Rally, which is open to AKC breeds and mixed-breed dogs registered in the AKC Canine Partners program, the team starts with 100 points, and the judge deducts points for mistakes. Examples of errors include the dog leaving heel position when not cued to do so and the handler holding the leash too tightly, miscounting steps on certain exercises, or incorrectly performing the sign.

After qualifying three times under at least two different judges, the dog earns a title, which appears after the dog’s registered name. Each qualifying trial earned is known as a “leg.”

There are five levels in AKC Rally:

Novice, the beginner’s class. The dog is on leash and there are 10 to 15 stations. The title is RN.

Intermediate, an optional title for dogs who have completed their novice title but have not yet completed their advanced title. The dog is on leash, and there are 12 to 17 stations of signs from the Novice and Advanced levels. The title is RI.

Advanced, for dogs who have completed their Novice title. Dogs are judged off leash, and there are 12 to 17 stations of signs from the Novice and Advanced levels. The title is RA.

Excellent, for dogs who have earned their Advanced title. 15 to 20 stations, including two jumps, are used in this class. The title is RE.

Master, the highest class, for dogs who have earned their Excellent title. The title is RM; however, this title requires 10 qualifying scores.

There are three higher titles. There is the Rally
Advanced Excellent (RAE) title, in which the team must qualify in both Advanced and Excellent in 10 trials. The highest title for most competitors is the Rally Championship title (RACH), for which the team has to qualify in Advanced, Excellent, and Master in the same trial, at least 20 separate times; and earn 300 points based on earning scores of 91 to 100 points out of 100 points in those classes and that earn the required championship points. Dogs and their handlers who meet the required qualifications have a chance to compete at the yearly Rally National Championship.

For more information, see the AKC website’s section on rally (https://www.akc.org/sports/rally/).

Good luck to all the Giants planning to compete June 16 and 17 in Ohio!
—Mary Falls, classicgiantschnauzers@gmail.com

Giant Schnauzer Club of America

**Great Pyrenees**

**THE IMPORTANCE OF BREED HISTORY**

When I did my initial research for the dog breed I wanted to become part of my family, I looked at its history. There was a need to understand the breed’s underlying physical and behavioral characteristics.

“The Great Pyrenees is an ancient breed” is a phrase you’ve heard from various televised dog shows. What does it mean? In this case, the Great Pyrenees is a breed of dog that has been around for thousands of years. It’s a working breed, a livestock guardian breed, that had the job of protecting working with a shepherd and protecting the flocks from predators. This is an independent-thinking, natural-born protector. I wasn’t looking for a dog breed to help me hunt, fetch things, or do tricks. I was looking for a protector who could determine threats without my assistance.

This is a consistent thread when you read the various books and articles about Great Pyrenees. Our breed standard was written with the history in mind. To quote the standard: “Character and temperament are of utmost importance. In nature, the Great Pyrenees is confident, gentle, and affectionate. While territorial and protective of his flock or family when necessary, his general demeanor is one of quiet composure, both patient and tolerant. He is strong-willed, independent, and somewhat reserved, yet attentive, fearless, and loyal to his charges, both human and animal.” This is what I was looking for.

Another part of our standard deals with conformation. Correct conformation enables the Great Pyrenees to function as a livestock guardian in many different landscapes. Historically, the Great Pyrenees would work with his shepherd as a team. During the warmer months, the dogs would travel with their shepherd and flock to
the green pastures in the mountains to graze. They worked as a team to warn off and prevent predators from attacking and killing their sheep. During the winter months, they would return to their villages and live a different life until spring.

Today’s Great Pyrenees live in various scenarios. Some live in homes, some on small farms, and some on vast acreage. In all these cases, they still do the job they were historically meant to do. They protect their flock, whether man or beast.

The Great Pyrenees Club of America has a wonderful array of historical information and items tracing the breed’s origins. Joan Ziehl, chair of our Historic Preservation Committee, has done an outstanding job of categorizing, scanning,
organizing, and sharing this information. There are photos, pedigrees, correspondence, advertisements, and postcards from Mary Crane, who is recognized as the founder of the Great Pyrenees breed in the United States. We also have videos that are in the process of being digitized from their original format.

I’m always encouraged when I see clubs maintain the history of their beloved breeds, and the Great Pyrenees Club of America does just that. Kudos to Joan and those who shared their historical artifacts with us. Thank you to all club members who dedicate their time, wisdom, and knowledge to breed preservation based on our history.

The visit our extensive collection of historical artifacts, books, videos, and more, please visit https://greatpyrenees.club/historical-preservation/ and https://greatpyrenees.club/history-of-the-great-pyrenees/.

We also have a Facebook group that shares vast historical Great Pyrenees information. You can find it at https://www.facebook.com/gpcahistoricalpreservation. —Karen Reiter, AKC GAZETTE columnist

Great Pyrenees Club of America

Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs

KEEPING YOUR DOG AT A HEALTHY WEIGHT

“How much does your dog weigh”? Nine times out of 10, that is either the first or second question out of the mouth of someone meeting a Greater Swiss Mountain Dog. If the first is “What kind of dog is that?” the second is “How much does he weigh?” The higher the number, the more impressed the observer tends to be.

This is a very unfortunate trend in a breed where obesity is one of the major preventable health issues. We live in a society where bigger is perceived as better, and that carries over into the world of large-breed dogs.

Unfortunately bigger is correlated with a weight on the scale that may be far too high to be appropriate for the individual.

Veterinarians consider obesity one of the major health concerns in today’s dogs. Obesity is now thought to affect at least 25 percent of the canine population, with that number running higher in the GSMD and other breeds that easily lend themselves to obesity. Obesity in dogs is a serious medical problem. Overweight dogs are more at risk in surgery, more prone to injury, and have more stress on heart, lungs, liver, kidneys, and joints. Excess weight can worsen osteoarthritis, cause respiratory problems during exercise, lead to diabetes mellitus, and generally lessen the quality of life for a GSMD.

In young dogs being overweight has now been proven to be as influential a factor as heredity, if not a larger factor, when it comes to orthopedic problems, especially hip and elbow dysplasia and OCD—
yet many new puppy owners and some breeders seem to be in a race to fatten their puppies up quickly. It is very hard to convince them that a lean puppy is a healthy puppy. This is a breed that matures very slowly. It is not uncommon for them to take three to four years to reach their mature weight. In old age they are going to weigh less than their ideal mature weight. This loss of muscle mass should not be replaced with fat. This breed is prone to spondylosis, and carrying extra weight in old age aggravates that condition.

There seems to be no simple solution to the epidemic because big (a higher weight on the scale) is equated with better, and food is equated with love. Most GSMD will always eat everything they are given and generally they do this very rapidly. They tend to be easy keepers with many maintaining proper weight on two to three cups of food per day. They approach every meal like it will be there last. Many owners fall prey to the “I’m starving to death” trap and feed more. Managing obesity can be very difficult for some owners, when in reality it simply involves feeding less food. Green beans, carrots, or some other low-calorie foods can be added for additional bulk. Increasing exercise is also helpful.

Obesity can take years off the life of a GSMD and lead to many health problems, especially as puppies and in old age. It would do owners and breeders a great service to throw away their scales and start looking at their dogs. —Catherine Cooper, 2012

Greater Swiss Mountain Dog Club of America

Komondorok

KEY PHRASES IN OUR STANDARD

One responsibility of the Komondor Club of America, our breed’s national parent club, is our breed standard. Judges, owners, and breeders depend on the standard to properly describe the breed. While judges are experienced at reading and understanding many standards, many breeders are not as practiced. How should these 1,200 words be prioritized?

Our standard was updated in 1994. It can be found on the AKC website, in the Komondor breed section (https://www.akc.org/dog-breeds/komondor/).

I was one of the people who contributed in 1994, so if I sound positive about the wording, it may be related to that!
As standards go, ours is good. It has key phrases that I think are the most important guides to understanding our breed, and plenty of other detail.

Here are what I think are the three most important sections:

“While large size is important, type, character, symmetry, movement and ruggedness are of the greatest importance and are on no account to be sacrificed for size alone.”

“General Appearance: The Komondor is characterized by imposing strength, dignity, courageous demeanor, and pleasing conformation. He is a large, muscular dog with plenty of bone and substance, covered with an unusual, heavy coat of white cords.”

“Gait: Light, leisurely and balanced. The Komondor takes long strides, is very agile and light on his feet.”

The first phrase, from the “Size, Proportion, Substance” section says, in plain language: Bigger is not better, better is better!

When the standard was revised, some of us thought we should insert a size limit, none of us had ever seen a dog over 32 inches tall who had good angles or good gait, but since no other historic or current Komondor standard had a height limit, and these key features of quality are covered in the standard, no limit was added. It should be clear from this phrase in the standard that a lumbering, sagging or unsound large dog is not better than one who is large enough (in standard) and has good symmetry, balance, and movement.

What is “type” in our breed? It is not the length of the coat (which is purely a function of age). We asked Anne Rogers Clark this question, and she replied: “The silhouette. This is the correct, flowing line from the top of the large head down a moderately arched neck, over well-laid-back shoulders, over a level and strong topline, down the slightly sloped, muscular rump, and down to a
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muscular rear with well-bent stifles.” (All of these are words in our standard).

This outline exists, both standing and moving, at all ages, though it is most visible once the coat is long enough to hang down. Mrs. Clark was correct.

The standard is kicked off by the second statements in the “General Appearance” section. If you had never seen a Komondor before, this description would take you most of the way to recognizing one. It is especially appropriate that three words, dignity and courageous demeanor, refer to the Komondor’s personality rather than his physical appearance. Komondors are defined by the mental character needed to do their job, to protect their charges faithfully and fearlessly, whether livestock, home or owner.

“Plenty of bone and substance” is a phrase which needs context to be understood. “Plenty” means enough to do their job. It does not mean more is better; there is a practical limit. That practical limit is given in the quoted part of the “Gait” section. “Plenty” means enough to be rugged, but not so much that the dog loses his characteristic gait: “very agile and light on his feet.” It must be remembered that in order to face a large wolf on the move (the Eurasian Wolf, like the North American Gray Wolf can be over 100 pounds), the Komondor needs to stay grounded. “Light and leisurely” or “light on his feet” is not elevated or suspended gait; the dog still has contact with the ground, as he is covering ground with long strides and agility. The suggestion that “the head is carried slightly forward when the dog trots” supports the need for the dog to be grounded.

There are other important phrases in our standard. The disqualifications must be enforced; the head (and the whole dog) must be strong.

While the amazing, corded coat is characteristic, the dog must be evaluated by judges and breeders for the athletic, courageous animal under the coat.

—Eric Liebes, ericliefes@earthlink.net
Komondor Club of America

Kuvaszok
COAT MATTERS—OR DOES IT?

The Kuvasz is an exceptionally beautiful dog whose coat serves a deliberate function: to insulate the dog from extreme temperatures (hot and cold) and to protect the dog in the event of attack by a predator.

The AKC standard for the Kuvasz says:

“The Kuvasz has a double coat, formed by guard hair and fine undercoat. The texture of the coat is medium coarse. The coat ranges from quite wavy to straight. Distribution follows a definite pattern over the body regardless of coat type. The head, muzzle, ears and paws are covered with short, smooth hair. The neck has a mane that extends to and covers the chest. Coat on
the front of the forelegs up to the elbows and the hind legs below the thighs is short and smooth. The backs of the forelegs are feathered to the pastern with hair 2 to 3 inches long. The body and sides of the thighs are covered with a medium length coat. The back of the thighs and the entire tail are covered with hair 4 to 6 inches long. It is natural for the Kuvasz to lose most of the long coat during hot weather. Full luxuriant coat comes in seasonally, depending on climate. Summer coat should not be penalized.”

Several years ago I wrote an article for the this publication that discussed the danger of rewarding dogs in the show ring who had been trimmed to the point of deviating from the AKC breed standard, and that by doing so, exhibitors would attempt to create the same “picture perfect” look that had been successful in the ring. Sadly, the day has come, as many of the Kuvasz being exhibited in the ring today have been scissored to the point of being almost unrecognizable by those of us who have long appreciated and understood the unique coat that helps define our breed.

At a recent show an exhibitor was overheard mentoring a judge by stating to the judge that as long as the coat wasn’t shorter than an inch, it didn’t bother her for the dog to be trimmed. Let me be perfectly clear; it bothers the Kuvasz Club of America, and it should bother every judge whose responsibility it is to judge the Kuvasz according to the AKC breed standard.

Imagine a Newfoundland, Great Pyrenees, or Malamute with coats trimmed to approximately an inch over the entire body. Impossible, you say? Ridiculous? Of course! I would have said the same thing several years ago about my beloved Kuvasz but look where we are today. As long as excessively trimmed dogs are rewarded in the show ring, you will see a further decline in the look and quality of a coat that is consistent with the AKC breed standard.

A well-groomed Kuvasz is not to be confused with a dog who has been excessively trimmed, and it is not difficult to visualize the difference. An excessively trimmed coat will mostly be the same length over the entire body and totally devoid of guard hair, whereas the well-groomed dog will have different lengths as described in the breed standard, with guard hair intact.

In addition to the visual degradation of a beautiful coat, perhaps another significant result is the dog’s inability to be protected in extreme weather conditions. Think form and function for our heritage breed.

At one time I had hoped that this was just a passing phase, brought on by a desire of some to present a picture of a perfect, though deceptive silhouette of the Kuvasz. Sadly this has not been the case, as more and
More exhibitors are excessively trimming the coats of their dogs.

It is my hope that judges will reacquaint themselves with the Kuvasz breed standard, critically evaluate the coats of the Kuvasz presented in their rings, and withhold awards from those dogs who have been excessively trimmed.

You get to decide: After all, coat matters—or does it?
—Lynn Brady, AKC Gazette columnist

Kuvasz Club of America

Leonbergers
Socializing the Adolescent Leo

Driving to work one day, I was listening to a local radio station’s “80’s at eight o’clock” playlist. As a teen of the 1980s, I was singing along to the Stray Cats’ 1982 rockabilly hit “Rock This Town” as lead singer Brian Setzer warned, “Well, you look at me once, you look at me twice, you look at me again and there’s a-gonna be a fight …” Suddenly it occurred to me that those lyrics are literally the message, blaring at 140 decibels, that is given by many intact adolescent male Leonbergers who have locked eyeballs with another male dog.

Owners who just weeks ago were congratulating themselves for raising such a happy, outgoing puppy are suddenly faced with a 100-pound, stiff-postured, and staring upstart, difficult to control around other dogs and downright frightening to behold. Confused, they often call their breeder or a trainer and ask, “What could have happened? We were so careful about socializing him! What happened to our baby boy?”

The answer, dear owners, is a simple one: Your baby is growing up. When our Leonberger boys are adorable little fluff-balls, eager to explore and in love with the world, it’s so easy to believe that they’ll stay just as perfect as they are at that infantile state. The fact is, however, they grow (and grow and grow!) and the hormones surge, and suddenly their best friend from the dog park is viewed not as a pal but as a potential challenge, resulting in much smack-talking and chest thumping from the very same darling baby boy.
The topic of managing adolescent socialization could easily fill a year’s worth of GAZETTE columns, but almost always, the genesis of a conflict between dogs begins with one simple action: eye contact. As we all know, two young males engaged in a staring contest rarely ends positively. Perhaps the most vital tool in heading off these DEFCON 2 escalations is to be aware of your dog’s surroundings and quickly break eye contact with other dogs before the dance for dominance begins. Foundational training is crucial. A reliable “Watch me” command is invaluable in getting your young male to shift his focus to you, which then enables you to redirect his brain to something more positive: a quick heeling pattern, for instance. Having something else to think about and focus on lowers the dog’s heightened state of arousal and enables the owner to head off a potential escalation of hostilities before it begins.

It’s human nature to avoid uncomfortable situations, and when the “butt-head adolescent male” phase hits, it’s very tempting to just stay home and avoid any potential conflict. However, this is exactly the time that adolescent males should be out there, properly managed, engaging in their world and learning exactly what kinds of behaviors are appropriate—and which, decidedly, are not. Don’t stay home. Remain vigilant and proactive about the body language of your dog and those you encounter, and soon your “butt head” days will be a distant memory, replaced with the pleasurable companionship of a happy, confident, well-socialized Leonberger who you can truly take anywhere.

—Astrid Robitaille, 2017 Leonberger Club of America

WHEN JUDGING THE MASTIFF

Whether a person is showing their first Mastiff or is a seasoned professional or a provisional or experienced judge, it’s important to realize that each breed has its own personality, likes, and dislikes. The MCOA offers the following insights regarding how to judge a Mastiff and what the exhibitor should expect when being judged.

The Approach

Always approach the Mastiff from the side, and not directly from the front. Mastiffs are notorious for being nearsighted, and they prefer to have you appear than watch you approach.

Speak to the exhibitor with a calm and friendly voice. After examining the bite and head, avoid speaking during the rest of the examination, as speaking over a Mastiff can unnerve them.

The Hands-On Examination

Examination of the bite should also include checking the bite’s occlusion.

Mastiffs

Guest columnist Diane Collings contributed the following in 2013 on judging the breed.
**BREED COLUMNS**

**WORKING GROUP**

**Presentation**
Mastiffs are not “born show dogs,” so do not put a premium on showiness nor penalize a Mastiff for being less than “thrilled” during his ring presentation.

Mastiffs are a natural breed, so require little grooming. Efforts to enhance mask or ear pigment are sometimes attempted, and watch for excessive trimming of the coat.—D.C. Mastiff Club of America

**Neapolitan Mastiffs**
THE MOST AWESOME NEAPOLITAN MASTIFF IS STILL A DOG

Someone in a different breed recently pointed to two pictures of a *Mastino*—one photo from the early 1900s, and one current image of a nice dog today. They then rather huffily asked, couldn’t everyone see that the current Neapolitan Mastiff was extreme and overdone? And how could the parent club members be OK with a standard calling for such heavy wrinkle?

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During your examination of the front, feel for the prominent prosternum. Feel that the chest extends to at least the elbow; “skirting,” or excessive skin of the chest and flanks, can give a false illusion of depth.

**Type, Soundness, and Balance**

Dogs are usually larger than bitches but should not be given preference.

Proper proportion is preferred, rather than overall size. Overall height comes from depth of body, rather than length of leg.

The Mastiff is rectangular, with overall length coming from forechest to rump being greater than height at the withers.

**Movement**

Avoid excessive speed in the show ring. Speed doesn’t always equate to correct movement, which “denotes power and strength” and has “good reach with the front and drive in the rear.”

Mastiffs should never be “strung up” on a tight lead. They should be moved with their head slightly above level of the back, which allows for the greatest amount of front reach.
You will usually have a problem trying to judge a breed today by looking at photographs from long ago. In order to understand the current Neapolitan Mastiff standard, one must understand two things. First, the FCI standard was originally written in 1946, not 1900. Even by 1946, dogs considered good were far more wrinkled, thick skinned, and heavier boned than the dogs of 1900. And further, the AKC standard correctly describes the same desirable Neapolitan Mastiff dog as the FCI standard.

Second, and more importantly, when you describe the essence of “type,” the Mastino of today has always been the same dog, whether we’re talking from 1900, 1946, or 2023.

Yes, breeds do change ... but the essential type doesn’t change. There are stone statues in museums of dogs from Babylon and Assyria that Mastino experts love to point at and then say this is exactly like the Mastino of today. The casual observer might doubtingly say, “Ummm …” But it is true! The statues are of large bodied, heavy-boned dogs with a shortened muzzle, big head, loose skin, and even a sizeable dewlap. That describes the correct Neapolitan Mastiff exactly of 2,000 years ago, and of today too.

And those words regarding type still accurately describe the dogs from 1900 as now—but our interpretation of how that looks does change. Style may change, but essential type does not. However, it is a problem that the “bad guy” animal-rights groups pull out pictures of all sorts of breeds from “long ago” and compare them to pictures of the dogs “from now” and convince the public to think the breeds have gone south, and that breeders are wackos breeding horrible extremes.

The real problem is the ammunition we give to the bad-guy groups when as breeders we ignore or overlook the dog’s lifelong comfort in the interests of producing fabulously impressive critters to wow our judges and our breed fans.

Every dog has the right to live without pain, to be able
to function for itself, and to have a reasonable life span. No, giant dogs might not necessarily live as long as some of the smaller dogs. They shouldn’t die at age 3 or 4 or 5, either. Every dog should be able to breathe, see without pain, and get up and walk, trot, and run around as much as they want to.

I am beginning to think that the term “pet” might the most important title in breeding dogs. But “pet” should not be used as a pejorative to indicate a poorer quality. Breeders should be creating purebred dogs that will make good pets. And by “pet” I mean family dogs, companion dogs, and working dogs, no matter what your breed type is. And then because we are proud of our work, we show the ones we feel are the best representatives of our own vision for the breed.

A show is one point in time. A pet is a someone’s pal for years and years.

Overdone dogs of any breed are as incorrect as underdone dogs. The normal Neapolitan Mastiff may look overdone to most people, even when compared to other giant and Molosser-type breeds. And yes, we have an education problem—of judges, of our own breeders, of onlookers. And yes, there are overdone Neapolitan Mastiffs. We must consider these just as undesirable and incorrect as underdone dogs: the ones without wrinkles, or with sky-blue eyes and tight skin.

It is easy to see type. In the Neapolitan Mastiff it isn’t hard to understand too-little type, but it can be tough to know the correct limits of too much. One of the challenges each parent club faces is to help those new to breeding understand what they should be doing. After all, even the most stunning and magnificent Neapolitan Mastiff, the one winning Best of Breeds, groups, specialty shows, and even all-breed shows, is still a dog, and someone’s pet.

—Margaret R. (Peggy) Wolfe,

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

Newfoundlands
NEWFIES IN THE WHITE HOUSE

Do you know how many presidents were owned by a Newfie? I’m not talking about before or after they led our nation, but presidents who had Newfies living in the White House with them. The answer is four. The last Newfie to walk the halls of the great White House was named Veto.

James Buchanan was the first president to bring a Newfoundland into the White House. Her name was Lara. “The president brought Lara, all 170 pounds of her, to the White House with him from his Wheatland estate near Lancaster, Pennsylvania. In 1857, it was rare to spot a Newfoundland in the U.S. Several sources from the time report that Lara looked like a bear, and she seems to have caused quite
a stir in our nation’s capital. Because photography was in its infancy at the time, no photos exist of Lara. However, her popularity did warrant an artistic rendering in Frank Leslie’s Illustrated Newspaper, a popular magazine, and this comment: “Prominent also is Mr. Buchanan’s Newfoundland dog, Lara, remarkable for [her] immense tail and [her] attachment to [her] master … This dog will hereafter become historical as a resident of the White House.”

“In addition to their close friendship, the president and Lara also shared unusual eye habits. Lara had the somewhat unnerving practice of sleeping motionless for hours with one eye open and the other eye closed. Interestingly, Buchanan was nearsighted in one eye and farsighted in the other. This condition caused him to frequently tilt his head to the left, both in conversations and when he was reading.”

Ulysses S. Grant’s son Jesse had a Newfoundland named Faithful. Jesse did not have good luck with pets up until Faithful. When presented with the Newfoundland, President Grant said, “Jesse has a new dog. You may have noticed that his former pets have been peculiarly unfortunate. When this dog dies, every employee in the White House will be at once discharged.”

Rutherford B. Hayes had a Newfoundland named Hector. It’s also said that he had 20 other pets at the White House with him, including birds, cows, horses, and cats. Due to the era before photography, there are no pictures of Hector.

James A. Garfield had a Newfoundland named Veto. Why Veto? According to the book First Dogs: American Presidents and Their Best Friends, “Garfield wanted to remind the rambunctious Congress of 1881 that he might not sign all of the bills it passed.” He declared those bills were essentially “a revolution against the Constitution.” According to reports, Veto was a true protector, and one time “Veto held the reins of a valuable horse on a rampage in the barn, and he...
kept on holding the stamping horse until help arrived.” On another occasion, when the barn caught fire, “it was Veto’s barking that sounded the alarm.”

It should also be noted that Robert F. Kennedy had a Newfoundland named Brumis who visited the White House on occasion.

When will the White House be once again blessed with the love and devotion of a Newfoundland?

—Jen Costello,
Mybrownnewfies.com
Newfoundland Club of America

Portuguese Water Dogs
A HISTORIC HAIRCUT

Portuguese Water Dogs sport a particularly distinctive hairstyle which inevitably garners stares from passerby, and even occasional jokes about their “missing pants.” However, few people know that the lion clip dates back centuries and made it possible for PWDs to work more efficiently on Portuguese fishing vessels. The current PWD hairstyle is rooted in great historic tradition and is anything but a frilly fad.

The earliest documented Portuguese Water Dog appeared in the writings of a Portuguese monk in 1297 describing a powerful swimming dog who rescued a fisherman. The “water dog had long, black fur, which was sheared to the first rib, and had a tuft on the tip of its tail.”

Until the technology boom of the mid-20th century, the PWDs earned their keep on the fishing boats in the Atlantic Ocean along the coast of Portugal. With superior swimming skills and a hearty work ethic, they towed lines, retrieved bait, and ferried messages between boats and to shore. They worked closely beside their masters and were revered for their companionship, loyalty, and tireless work ethic. Many “Lion Dogs,” as they were sometimes nicknamed because of their unique haircut, were rented to visiting fishermen because they offered critical skills assisting in the water.

The lion clip was a functional part of the PWD’s lifestyle. The long hair on the dog’s chest protected key organs in the cold ocean waters and likely lessened the shock when they dove in. The shaved rear quarters reduced the weight of wet hair when swimming and prevented the hair from tangling in the nets as they paddled. The shaved hind also kept the dog cleaner, which undoubtedly was appreciated in the tight quarters on the boats. The shaved length of the tail allowed it to function critically as a rudder, while the “flag” at the tip was a marker for the fishermen to locate the dog when it dove to retrieve nets and bait. The shaved muzzle helped the dog grab and carry supplies without the added beard hair getting in the way, while the long hair over their eyes acted as a visor to protect them from the sun’s glare on the water.

Regular grooming is key,
since Portuguese Water Dogs have non-shedding hair that continues to grow. Breeders generally recommend cutting the hair about every two months and thoroughly brushing the coat at least every other day.

The PWD coat can be coarser with tight ringlets, fall in shiny loose waves, or appear somewhere in between—the dogs affectionately termed “curlies,” “wavies,” and “worlies,” respectively.

The lion clip appears slightly different on PWDs with varying coats, but the guide to grooming remains the same. (See the PWDCA’s guide to grooming the Lion Clip at [https://www.pwdca.org/site_page.cfm?pk_association_webpagemenu=8853&pk_association_webpage=18310](https://www.pwdca.org/site_page.cfm?pk_association_webpagemenu=8853&pk_association_webpage=18310).)

PWDs in Europe and Australia are groomed only in the lion clip, but in the U.S. the retriever clip—a style cut evenly to one-inch overall with a longer flag left on the end of the tail—is allowed in the show ring and most commonly seen on family pets.

Whether the PWD’s coat is fashioned in the retriever or lion clip, and whether it is curly or wavy; black, brown, white, or a mix of colors, their characteristics under the skin are the same. Every Portuguese Water Dog exudes the same great traits that the fishermen valued centuries ago and is an athletic, smart, loyal, and fun-loving member of the family.

—Maureen G. Nowak (owner of PWDs Ciara, Finn, Éile, Dooley, and Shea, all clipped in the lion style.)

Portuguese Water Dog Club of America

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Rottweilers

PRESENTING THE ROTTWEILER IN A POSITIVE LIGHT

I train dogs in classes in the evenings. My day job occasionally has me in a civil courtroom representing my company interests.
While sitting in a civil courtroom waiting one day, the judge looked down from the bench and asked what happened to my hand. While working with a problem Rottweiler the night before, the dog had spun suddenly and bit my hand, injuring it to the bone. The hand was bandaged, and my arm in a straight board with a sling. Without thinking I replied, “A Rottweiler bit me.” The judge and three attorneys present asked in unison if the dog had ever bitten before. They laughed and then nervously explained it was simply their training to ask the question. I am sure that comment wouldn’t have been made if the dog were a Golden or a Lab.

As a proud Rottweiler owner, I look for ways to present the breed in a positive light. My current Rottweilers get along very well and love people. We take them anywhere with complete confidence. They are well bred, socialized, and attend training classes weekly.

As a dog obedience instructor, I have the opportunity to educate my students using my personal Rottweilers as demo dogs. My training assistants also have the breed and the public is introduced to well trained Rottweilers.

If a student has an ill dog or just getting over surgery, I offer one of my Rottweilers as a loaner for the class. If students bring children, I offer them an opportunity to work with the breed. Again, all of my present dogs are very safe and well mannered. We have received so many positive comments from my students at the end of their eight-week class about how sweet and gentle the breed can be. We often hear that they were afraid of the breed and worried about our Rottweilers in class as demo dogs. Even the most tentative student warms up to the breed after a few weeks.
One class night will always stand out in my memory. I had my Quigley, who was working on his Utility Dog title and a former High in Trial competitor. A mother was working her mixed-breed dog in class, and her son always accompanied her. I caught him watching Quigley, and vice versa. The young man was 8 years old, and Quigs adores kids, so I introduced them.

The boy was extremely cautious, and I offered that he could work with Quigley in class. He reluctantly accepted the offer. They literally stole the show. This newly formed team worked with precision. Every time they came to halt while heeling, Quigley would lean over and kiss the boy. The class was so impressed, and the boy and Rottweiler were beaming with happiness.

During the class the mother told us that this was huge and would explain after class. During the week I received a call from the boy’s therapist, who asked if I could make the dog available to the child for the duration of the class session. He said that his patient could only talk about Quigley and how well the dog had responded to him.

—Frank Nelson, 2013
American Rottweiler Club

Samoyeds

Our guest column for this issue is Heidi Churas. Heidi has owned Samoyeds for 19 years. She’s been a dog owner since her toddler years, learning more through her experiences with each dog. Samoyeds are her favorite breed. That smile, gorgeous coat, and stunning personality was all it took. Heidi Churas and her Samoyed Yeti feature their love of the breed on their YouTube channel, Yeti’s Place—Adventures in Samoyed Ownership. Some of their segments include how to train, work with, understand, groom, and more. Check them out when you have an opportunity.

LIFE WITH A SAMOYED

My first Samoyed, Chewy, lived up to his name, eating our entire house. He shred carpeting, causing my husband and I to go to all hardwood floors—oak, among the strongest of hardwoods. He ate window-sills, baseboard trim, our sofa, and so much more.

Surely I was doing something wrong, so I dove into research. When I found my answer, it was like a giant, megawatt lightbulb of sunlight beamed directly down at me.

Without knowing it, I was expecting Chewy to get by without long walks, a lot of exercise, no herding, no sled pulling, no activity like his ancestors had done hundreds of years ago. Chewy needed activity, and a lot of it.
Our patterns changed that moment. We went on multiple long walks every day that became like a Hobbit’s meals—a 5:30 a.m. walk, followed by a before-work walk, a mid-morning walk, then a walk at noon, followed by a “noonsies” walk … and so on, every day. Chewy became an angel dog. I was able to exorcise Chewy’s inner velociraptor and discover the joy of being a Samoyed owner.

At the dawn of time for Samoyeds, they lived with their humans in Siberia. You know the place up near the Arctic Circle? That was where Sammies thrived. They were reindeer herd-ers, keeping good old Sven out of trouble and nearby. They worked as heavy-sled pullers, using their brute strength to haul all the stuff their human mother bought at the nearest town. At night they would sleep with their humans, sometimes lying on top of them, to keep their people warm. Their humans would take the wonderful “floof” that naturally fell off and weave it into very warm, super-soft clothing. Samoyeds were true members of the family, working synergistically with them.

The modern-day Samoyed excels in activities such as agility, herding, and carrying daypacks while on a hike with their people. They’re able to pull heavy equipment, sometimes of literally over one ton. They’re like the Superman of dogs. While on a walk, if your Sam wants to go in the other direction and he either plants his feet or pulls you, may I suggest some great training. Otherwise, your wrist, arm, neck, back, and other areas will need a doctor.

Training a Sam isn’t for a first-time dog owner. Mind you, I had owned many dogs of other breeds from the time I was a toddler. No two dogs are alike, and two different breeds of dog are certainly not alike.

I brought my second Samoyed, Yeti, to puppy training mainly so he could meet other dogs. I tried
training him, but he knew commands like a simple sit, stay, come, and down wouldn’t work. Sams learn best when multiple training methods are used. You can’t adequately expect a Sammy to want to be trained until they’ve had a chance to exert some of their nonstop energy. Let them play with the other dogs first, then work on basic commands when they’re young.

While they grow, you should add more complex tasks, involving a lot of high-quality treats. You want to get their attention and keep it, especially if they see a skunk. They will go after that skunk like white on rice. If they’re sprayed, they’re likely to kill it, use it as a play-toy, and bring it to Mom like a gift to thank her for training. I really do love my Sams, even if they sometimes bring me dead, super-smelly skunks.

Our Sams do all of this while carrying on with the giant, lovable Sammy smile. The smile that melts our hearts. —H.C.

Thank you, Heidi.
—Heather LoProto, SCA Public Education Chair, hloproto@comcast.net
Samoyed Club of America

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The Dryland Working Certificate

The Dryland Working certificate program was developed by members of the SHCA Board with input from the purebred dryland mushing community. This program allows Siberian Husky owners in snowless areas to demonstrate the working ability of their dogs by accumulating miles toward a working certificate through dryland racing. While the program does not have the strict time-differential requirements of the SHCA Sled Dog degree program, Siberian owners must accumulate 30 miles on their dogs in competition in order to apply for the certificate. Once the certificate is awarded, the owner may use the Dryland Working (DW) initials after their dog’s name.

Although not every Siberian owner can field a sled-dog team, I think it is critical to the character of our breed to continue to work our dogs in whatever ways we can. I sincerely
hope that this new program encourages people to seek out, train for, and participate in dryland events as they become more popular throughout the country. You can find more information on the Dryland Working certificate on the SHCA website at https://www.shca.org/dryland-working.

**The Vance Rogers Shepard Memorial Sled Dog Program**

In early 2022, the SHCA received a generous bequest from the estate of Vance Rogers Shepard. As the Board discussed how best to use this gift, SHCA Second Vice-President Joe Fitzgerald proposed the Vance Rogers Shepard Memorial Sled Dog Program. Roger Shepard (as he was known) competed for years in snow races throughout the northeastern United States as well as dryland races in the south. Joe thought it fitting to use part of Mr. Shepard’s gift in a way that honored his dedication to the working Siberian Husky.
During its inaugural season (2022–2023), the program provided one dry-land and five snow races around the country with purse contributions and/or SHCA logo-themed gold, silver, and bronze medals. These prizes were awarded to the top three purebred Siberian Husky teams in each class at the races. This program is designed not only to encourage race-giving organizations to include registered-breed classes in their races, but also to encourage Siberian Husky owners to train and race their dogs. Judging by the photos of smiling, medal-wearing recipients and positive posts on social media this winter, the pilot program was a great success! I look forward to seeing what races the program supports next season, and maybe even winning a medal or two with my own team. If you are interested in attending a VRS Memorial Sled Dog Program race next season, keep an eye on the SHCA Bulletin for future announcements, or follow the SHCA Facebook page.

The Dryland Working Certificate and the Vance Rogers Shepard Memorial Sled Dog Program are two more ways the SHCA is striving to keep the working roots of the Siberian Husky relevant. If you haven’t been to a national lately, you may not be aware of another one: The Pulling Aptitude Test (PAT). The first PAT was organized by SHCA Working Chairman Wayne Curtis for the 2018 SHCA national, and it has since become a staple of our national specialties. It will be offered again this year at the 2023 SHCA national in Ontario, California, along with the usual mixture of educational seminars, companion events, and conformation. If you haven’t seen the PAT, all the more reason to come to southern California this autumn! The national is scheduled for October 23–28, and the theme this year is California Dreamin’. Show chair Julie Lawter and her committee have been working hard to make their event special. This year’s national will include Fast CAT, as well as Top 20 and Beginner Puppy competitions. I hope to see you there!

—Jessica Breinholt,
jbshca@gmail.com
Siberian Husky Club of America

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Standard Schnauzers
SOME HEALTHY HERBS AND SPICES FOR YOUR DOGS

Variety is said to be the spice of life, and your dog is no different. Oh, sure—the naysayers claim things that are just plain wrong. Dogs can’t discern flavors or colors or textures? Or appreciate beauty? Or solve a problem? Dogdoodoo! We all can relate anecdotal evidence about our Standard Schnauzers that show they can!

If variety is the spice of life, would thinking, reasoning, perceptive Standard Schnauzers want to eat the same boring meal day and
day out? Keeping healthful good-for-your-dog herbs and spices on hand, both dried and fresh, to sprinkle on your dog’s food for variety is the answer.

Try herbs and spices for your furry friends to taste-test. Dogs, like humans, have flavor likes and dislikes. Dried herbs, convenient for winter, are dead herbs. Fresh herbs are alive with healthful components not found in dry versions. Fresh is not only better, but tastes better, too.

Please note: I’m not a veterinarian, nutritionist, nor herbalist, nor is information herein clinical advice. Consult with your vet before giving your dog new herbs or spices—some plant compounds do more harm than good in dogs with certain conditions or on certain drugs or supplements. Plants are nature’s pharmacy and should be treated with the same cautions and respect you’d give any drug.

Basil, an aromatic leafy green herb known for its antioxidant, antiviral, and antimicrobial properties, can, with its high concentration of beta-carophyllene, help alleviate the effects of arthritis in dogs, treat inflammatory bowel disease, lift downer moods, decrease stress, and reduce anxiety. Chop or chiffonade a few fresh basil leaves, toss with grated Parmesan or Romano cheese, and sprinkle on your SS’s supper—voila! Instant Italian!

Cinnamon’s safety for dogs is controversial, but ASPCA says it’s non-toxic. Cinnamon smells festive; it
boosts energy, vitality, and brain function. Cinnamon’s natural antifungal properties protect against yeast-causing fungus infections plaguing dogs with allergies. Experts recommend Ceylon cinnamon for dogs rather than common (cheaper) Cassia variety because Ceylon cinnamon contains less coumarin and blood thinning. Despite looking similar, the two types will have very different effects on what happens within your SS’s body.

Ginger, an aromatic spice from ginger plant roots, can soothe a dog’s upset tummy, improve cognitive function, and relieve joint pain, as well as providing natural anti-inflammatory and anticancer benefits. Mince or grate rhizome before mixing it in your pal’s food.

Parsley is a powerful leafy green herb containing flavonoids, antioxidants, vitamins, lycopene, and carotenoids. It freshens breath and soothes stomach upset. Groceries’ produce sections usually stock fresh flat-leaf (Italian) parsley and curly-leaf parsley. Chefs prefer the full-flavored flat-leaf variety, claiming the curly-leaf variety has almost no taste. The two varietals differ nutritionally. Flat-leaf is rich in iron and calcium, full of fiber, high in Vitamin A and essential antioxidants like Vitamin E, but low in calories. Curly parsley has more vitamin C, almost no dietary fiber, more carbohydrates per volume than flat-leaf, but not as rich in iron and calcium. Buy grocery parsley instead of foraging in the wild, however, because Spring parsley (also a member of the carrot family) looks almost identical to the herb but is toxic for dogs and cats. Do not give any parsley to a dog with a history of developing calcium oxalate stones, because parsley contains high amounts of oxalates.

Rosemary, a fragrant antioxidant herb, is high in Vitamin B6, iron, and calcium. Its essential oil is used as a natural preservative in natural dog foods, so check rosemary content before adding more. Rosemary is a natural stimulant, increasing blood flow to the brain while reducing nervous system oxidative damage. Fresh rosemary: Remove the soft, needlelike leaves from woody stems, mince or chop leaves, then discard the stems. Mince or grind dried rosemary leaves—those sharp needles can hurt your dog’s mouth.

Cilantro (Coriandrum sativum) is a leafy green herb (also called Chinese parsley or Mexican parsley) known for its fresh flavor and rich supply of phytonutrients, flavonoids and phenolic compounds that provide antibiotic, antibacterial, antifungal, antioxidant, and anti-cancer benefits. It’s low in calories and high in Vitamin K and Vitamin A. Cilantro also helps control blood sugar and improve calcium absorption. Cilantro flavors salsas and other Mexican dishes. When cilantro blooms and goes to seed, gather the seed heads for the lemony spice, coriander.
Not dangerous for dogs, you can add cilantro freely into your SS’s diet.

Anybody can be known as a great cook if they use enough salt, butter, and cream. The challenge lies in achieving the mouth-watering flavors of the great chefs for you and your SS without those ingredients. We’ve found these ingredients are unnecessary when we flavor food with herbs and spices, especially those fresh from our garden. Meals with no (or minimal) salt, butter or other fats, or cream yet with added herbs and spices not only taste great for you and your dog, but also result in a healthier lifestyle for you both.

—Suzanne T. Smith, Los Alamos, New Mexico, WustefuchsSS@aol.com since 1967

Tibetan Mastiffs

COAT COLOR

“‘A rose by any other name would smell as sweet.”’ While this is one of the Bard’s most frequently quoted lines, it would no longer be true today. Shakespeare lived in the day before manmade hybrids. Roses now come in every color in the rainbow, including multicolor, striped, spotted, and swirled, yet many varieties have lost the very qualities that have characterized and endeared them to our hearts for centuries, including fragrance, cold-hardiness, disease resistance, and vigor.

The same thing seems to be happening to the Tibetan Mastiff (TM), as breeders strive to chase the latest fad or create a signature color to grab attention. The breed has historically included many colors, but that does not mean that any and all colors are desirable or acceptable. Every time our breed standard comes up for a revision, color becomes a point of debate. I won’t attempt to justify or deny any particular color, but I would like to simply highlight and interpret what our standard actually says, color by color.

Black is black, and pretty self-explanatory, but because a solid black TM is rare, let me take this opportunity to discuss markings. “White markings on chest and feet are acceptable.” White anywhere else is a disqualification, including white stockings, muzzle, tail, underbelly, behind the head, or a white stripe down the nose. White markings should be minimal, not a prominent feature. A large, white chest, as seen in the Bernese Mountain Dog, is incorrect for a TM: “Large white markings to be faulted.” It is important to distinguish between white markings and light tan markings, which can include light silver that can appear almost white.

Black and tan describes a black dog with tan markings that can be found above and around the eyes, on each side of the muzzle, on throat, on feet and the lower part of both front and back legs extending upwards on the inside of the legs, on britches, and the underside of the tail. The color of
tan markings ranges “from light silver to rich mahogany.” Please note that while mahogany can describe markings, it cannot describe the dog, and this will be discussed further below. Black and tan is a common color pattern found in many breeds, from Dachshunds to Rottweilers, and is easily recognizable.

Blue/gray is one color and is a dilute black. As such, it carries with it dilute eye-rim and nose-leather. The depth of color of the leather should correspond with the depth of color of the dog. I will also add that even though dilute, the color should be consistent, not mottled in appearance. Blue/gray can have tan and/or white markings.

Brown, or chocolate, is also a dilute, and also carries dilute eye-rim and nose-leather. A brown Tibetan Mastiff would be similar in color to a chocolate Labrador Retriever, although a chocolate TM may also have tan and/or white markings. A TM that appears brown but has black leather is not a true chocolate, and this would be a disqualification.

Gold is the most varied and the most debated color in the Tibetan Mastiff. Gold is described as “shades ranging from a pure golden to a rich red gold.” Gold can vary vastly depending on lighting, especially light golds. What may look gold in natural light may wash out to the point of appearing cream under artificial light, especially the fluorescents found in most show venues. Care needs to be
taken when assessing color, especially with a light-gold puppy, whose fluffy puppy coat may appear cream. True color can be determined by checking the ear-flaps and muzzle. Sabling may be found on gold dogs, and some may be heavily sabled. Wolf-sabling and sabling in a saddle pattern are unacceptable. If a TM is patterned similar to a German Shepherd, it is a disqualification.

Since the Chinese Market-type dogs appeared on the scene in the early 2000s, red gold has become a hotly contested color. Personal opinions vary dramatically, but it is critical that the description in our standard is upheld, both by breeders and judges. Our standard does not say dark red; it does not say deep red; it does not say mahogany; it does not say chestnut; it does say “rich red gold,” which is very different from any of the previously mentioned colors and is a departure from the FCI standard. While dark red is acceptable under the FCI standard, it is not acceptable under the AKC standard, and this seems to be a point that many judges who have judged in Europe or Asia under FCI have missed. Dark red, or mahogany, such as seen in Irish Setters, is a disqualification.

“All other coat colors (e.g., white, cream, wolf sable, brindle and particolors) and markings other than those specifically described” are a disqualification.

Why the concern for color? Because a deviation in color begs the question as to whether another breed has been introduced to give that color, and thus calls the integrity of the breed into question. Indeed, sabling in the gold TMs first appeared only in the 1980s as a result of the introduction of a Central Asian Ovcharka as well as another dog of questionable ancestry from Ladakh. Because of its prevalence, sabling has now been accepted, but it should be noted that it was a DQ under a previous FCI standard.

Some colors can be extremely beautiful and eye-catching, but we are striving for true, not flashy. Everyone has their favorite color, and whether you agree with it or not, anything other than these specified colors is a disqualification for the Tibetan Mastiff according to the AKC breed standard.

Both breeders and judges have a responsibility to protect the puppy-buying public, maintain the integrity of the breed, and preserve the work of generations of responsible preservationist breeders who have adhered to the breed standard to produce dogs that are authentic in type and color, rather than sacrificing a breed we love in order to create the latest fad. Judges have a duty to put aside personal preferences and uphold the AKC standard, securing the future of the breed by preserving the legacy of the past.

—Deborah Mayer, American Tibetan Mastiff Association
ATTENTION DELEGATES

NOTICE OF MEETING

The next meeting of the Delegates will be held at the Doubletree Newark Airport Hotel on **Tuesday, June 13, 2023**, beginning no earlier than 10:00 a.m. It will follow the Delegate Forum which will begin at 9:00 a.m.

DELEGATE CREDENTIALS

**Eileen Barbieri**, Pine Plains, NY, Mid-Hudson Kennel Club

**Kathy DelGrande**, Harrisburg, PA, Pacific Coast Bulldog Club

**Peter Festa**, Smithtown, NY, Westbury Kennel Association

**Beth Hendrick**, Sterling, VA, English Cocker Spaniel Club of America

**Karen Justin**, Westtown, NY, Great Pyrenees Club of America

**Ylisa Kunze**, Glen Cove, NY, Ladies’ Kennel Association of America

**Christian W. Paris**, Elverson, PA, Pocono Beagle Club

**Jean Pero**, Lakewood, CO, Pyrenean Shepherd Club of America

**Nanette J. Prideaux**, Hardwick, MA, Windham County Kennel Club
SECRETARY’S PAGES

Howard Solomon, Newton, NJ, Bedlington Terrier Club of America
Sally Sotirovich, Glen Head, NY, Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of America
Lee Ann Stusnick, Shawnee, OK, Schipperke Club of America
Frederick Vogel, Pomfret Center, CT, Eastern Dog Club
Robert Zorzi, Snohomish, WA, Sammamish Kennel Club

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. Branndon Butler (Monroe, GA)
Ms. Roxanne Jourdain (Waco, TX)
Ms. Jordan Leyendecker (Hewitt, TX)
Mr. John Walker (Arroyo Grande, CA)

NOTICE
Mr. Chase Verdoorn (Platte City, MO). Action was taken by the German Shorthaired Pointer Club of America for conduct at its October 22, 2021 event. Mr. Verdoorn was charged with physical contact of an insulting or provoking nature. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the committee’s report and set the penalty at a ten-year suspension from event privileges and a $10,000 fine, effective October 27, 2022. Mr. Verdoorn appealed the decision to the AKC Performance Trial Board. The Performance Trial Board modified the penalty to seven-year suspension from event privileges and a $5,000 fine, effective October 27, 2022. (German Shorthaired Pointers)

NOTICE
Ms. Julie Wilkinson (Landrum, SC). Action was taken by the Mid-Atlantic Hound Association of Central North Carolina for conduct at its December 31, 2022 event. Ms. Wilkinson was charged with inappropriate public criticism of a judge, not disruptive, but demonstrating a lack of sportsmanship. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the Event Committee’s report and set the penalty as a one-month event suspension and $500 fine, effective January 9, 2023. (Multiple Breeds)
as a one-month suspension of event privileges and $200 fine, effective December 31, 2022. (Rhodesian Ridgebacks)

**NOTICE**

The AKC’s Management Disciplinary Committee has suspended the following individuals from all AKC privileges for a lifetime and imposed a $10,000 fine, for violation of AKC’s *Judicial or Administrative Determination of Inappropriate Treatment* policy:

Effective October 12, 2021:
Mr. Richard Patterson (Petersburg, VA)
Doberman Pinschers

Effective February 14, 2023:
Ms. Mary Esh (Gordonville, PA)
Multiple Breeds

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE CHARTER AND BYLAWS OF THE AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB, INC. – ARTICLE VI, SECTION 6**

The AKC Board has endorsed the following amendment to *Article VI, Section 6* of the *Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club, Inc.*, proposed by the Delegate Advocacy and Advancement Committee. This will be voted on at the June 13, 2023 Delegate Meeting.

**ARTICLE VI SECTION 6.** Any person in good standing with the AKC who is a resident citizen of the United States, its territories or possessions, or has permanent resident alien status as defined by the Immigration and Naturalization Act, shall be eligible to become or remain a Delegate, providing this person meets the criteria for occupational eligibility given herein. No person is eligible to become or remain a Delegate if he or she (a) is a professional handler or trainer of dogs, (b) is engaged in trade or traffic in dogs, which includes commercial breeders or brokers of dogs for resale, (c) is employed full time in the manufacture or sale of dog food or dog supplies, (d) is a publisher or other person who promotes show dogs/kennels through solicitation or acceptance of advertisements in commercial dog publications, dog show superintendents or his or her employees. (e) has a significant interest in a dog registry, dog event-giving organization or any organization deemed to be in competition with AKC or in conflict with its objects. Significant interest would include but not be limited to, ownership in, employment by, a directorship of, and holding office in.

**CONFORMATION JUDGES**

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

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

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

**APPLICANTS**

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

**NEW BREED JUDGING APPLICANTS**

**Mrs. Lenise A. Adams (112014) IL**
(815) 528-0802
donlen83@gmail.com
Collies, JS

**Ms. Terri Cournoyer (112049) MS**
(662) 803-4064
thcournoyer@gmail.com
Bull Terriers, Miniature Bull Terriers

**Mrs. Caron Marie Honeck (107434) MN**
(763) 263-3102
danesvbluestone@netzero.net
Great Danes

**Ms. Shawne Imler (112061) MD**
(410) 371-6044
shawne698@gmail.com
Cane Corso, Standard Schnauzers, Miniature Schnauzers, Pugs, JS

**Ms. Shawne Imler (112061) MD**
(410) 371-6044
shawne698@gmail.com
Cane Corso, Standard Schnauzers, Miniature Schnauzers, Pugs, JS

**Ms. Shawne Imler (112061) MD**
(410) 371-6044
shawne698@gmail.com
Cane Corso, Standard Schnauzers, Miniature Schnauzers, Pugs, JS

**Ms. Lenore Severni (112040) CT**
(860) 205-0699
springerlab@comcast.net
Labrador Retrievers

**Mrs. Ann M. Wolf (112085) TX**
(815) 503-1518
beagler@wolfrunbeagles.com
Beagles, JS

**FOREIGN JUDGE APPLICATION UNDER AKC SYSTEM**

The following applicant requesting approval to judge under the AKC system have been accepted under AKC’s Foreign Judge Policy for the breed(s) specified. The individual listed is NOT eligible to accept assignments.

**Mr. Joao Machado (110191) TX**
(832) 339-6926
joa.machadotx@gmail.com
Toy Group (Affenpinschers, Biewer Terriers, Brussels Griffons, Cavalier King Charles Spaniels, Chihuahuas,
Chinese Cresteds, English Toy Spaniels, Havanese, Italian Greyhounds, Japanese Chins, Maltese, Manchester Terriers, Miniature Pinschers, Papillons, Pekingese, Pomeranians, Poodles, Pugs, Russian Toys, Shih Tzu, Silky Terriers, Toy Fox Terriers, Yorkshire Terriers)

ADDITIONAL BREED JUDGING APPLICANTS

Mr. Hal Biermann (3643) NJ
(973) 635-0114
htb3643@gmail.com
Pointers, Curly-Coated Retrievers, Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers, Sussex Spaniels, Welsh Springer Spaniels, Airedale Terriers, Irish Terriers

Ms. Sandy Bingham-Porter (94107) IL
(217) 345-7571
sbinghamporter@ieu.edu
Afghan Hounds, Greyhounds, Ibizan Hounds, Norwegian Elkhounds, Otterhounds

Ms. JoAnne M. Buehler (22770) FL
(301) 590-9056
joanneb@his.com
Bichons Frises, French Bulldogs, Australian Shepherds, Belgian Laekenois, Belgian Malinois, Belgian Sheepdogs, Belgian Tervurens

Mrs. Connie H. Clark (65733) CA
(831) 685-3934
mwclark1@aol.com
Balance of Toy Group (Biewer Terriers, Maltese, Miniature Pinschers, Russian Toys, Toy Fox Terriers, Yorkshire Terriers)

Mrs. April Clyde (52836) DE
(302) 542-3003
1aprilclyde@gmail.com
Balance of Non-Sporting Group (Bichons Frises, Finnish Spitz, Keeshonden, Norwegian Lundehunds, Schipperkes, Shiba Inu, Tibetan Spaniels)

Mr. Todd Clyde (52861) DE
(302) 542-3416
tclyde002@msn.com
Chihuahuas, Chinese Cresteds, American Eskimo Dogs, Chow Chows, Cotons du Tulear, Finnish Spitz, Tibetan Spaniels, Xoloitzcuintli

Ms. Deirdre Maureen Dawson (105262) CA
(925) 768-1005
kangadale2@yahoo.com
Bull Terriers, Wire Fox Terriers, Irish Terriers

Ms. Jane M. Engemann (96727) OK
(580) 248-0578
jtoddot@aol.com
Dandie Dinmont Terriers, Miniature Schnauzers, Norfolk Terriers, Norwich Terriers, Toy Fox Terriers

Mrs. Jan Ritchie Gladstone (96299) NC
(267) 251-4483
janritchiegladstone@gmail.com
Affenpinschers, Havanese, Italian Greyhounds, Japanese Chins, Pugs, Toy Fox Terriers
Ms. Dawn Hitchcock (100299) SC
(864) 238-2742
bubblezsc@hotmail.com
Bichons Frises, Boston Terriers, Cotons du Tulear, Lowchen, Norwegian Lundehunds, Tibetan Spaniels

Dr. Adam Stafford King (49694) IL
(812) 568-6972
askingdvm@gmail.com
Balance of Terrier Group (Border Terriers, Rat Terriers, Russell Terriers, Skye Terriers, Welsh Terriers), French Bulldogs

Miss Lee Kouski (100825) IL
(847) 921-1407
goldnblu2@hotmail.com
Biewer Terriers, Poodles, Shih Tzu

Mr. Neil McDevitt (91600) OH
(937) 371-8249
nmdevitt1@woh.rr.com
German Shorthaired Pointers, American Water Spaniels, Boykin Spaniels, Cocker Spaniels, English Springer Spaniels, Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs

Ms. Sylvie McGee (95341) WA
(360) 705-1233
sylvie@sylviemcgee.net
Alaskan Malamutes, Scottish Terriers

Mrs. Debbie L. Melgreen (98655) IL
(309) 358-1233
melridge@mymctc.net
Azawakhs, Bluetick Coonhounds, Irish Wolfhounds, Portuguese Podengo Pequenos, Rhodesian Ridgebacks

Mrs. Cyndi Myhre (107128) MN
(763) 229-2707
shamrockess@msn.com
Golden Retrievers, Vizslas, Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs, Cavalier King Charles Spaniels

Mrs. Diane Ondo (95991) PA
(610) 970-9122
melcairn@verizon.net
Miniature Pinschers, Pomeranians, Toy Fox Terriers

Ms. Sheila D. Paske (46304) CA
(530) 306-8889
sheilapaske@gmail.com
Anatolian Shepherd Dogs, Black Russian Terriers, Dogo Argentinos, Dogues de Bordeaux, German Pinschers, Komondorok, Kuvaszok, Neapolitan Mastiffs

Mr. David J. Peat (6909) AZ
(480) 473-4776
davepeat@cox.net
Barbets, Brittany, Lagotti Romagnoli, Nederlandse Kooikerhondjes, German Shorthaired Pointers, Gordon Setters, Clumber Spaniels, Cocker Spaniels, Field Spaniels, Welsh Springer Spaniels, Weimaraners

Ms. Deirdre Petrie (63937) PA
(610) 763-8976
deedrepetrie@yahoo.com
Bulldogs, Dalmatians, Keeshonden, Lowchen
Ms. Nancy E. Ridgway (101703) TX
(972) 671-5000
nancyrigdway@earthlink.net
Alaskan Malamutes, Bernese Mountain Dogs, Boxers, Bullmastiffs, Dogo Argentinos, German Pinschers, Great Pyrenees

Mrs. Janice K. Schreiber (17450) WA
(253) 846-7999
ashenafea@msn.com
Brittanys, Gordon Setters, Clumber Spaniels

Susan Souza (105071) CA
(707) 293-3432
averson@sbcglobal.net
Biewer Terriers, Russian Toys

Dr. Oleg N. Voloshin (101869) MD
(301) 379-8847
voloshino@yahoo.com
American English Coonhounds, Basset Hounds Black and Tan Coonhounds, Bluetick Coonhounds, Harriers, Irish Wolfhounds, Redbone Coonhounds, Scottish Deerhounds, Treeing Walker Coonhounds

Mr. John P. Wade (5936) NV
(916) 508-7979
jpwade508@gmail.com

Judy Wade (99715) OK
(214) 693-4447
wademanordogs@gmail.com
Chow Chows, Dalmatians, Lhasa Apsos, Schipperkes, Tibetan Terriers

Dr. Jill Warren (94859) NM
(505) 670-5590
esthete.es@comcast.net
Balance of Herding Group (Finnish Lapphunds, Icelandic Sheepdogs, Polish Lowland Sheepdogs, Pyrenean Shepherds)

Claire Wisch Abraham (100709) VA
(517) 318-2768
outlawgwp@aol.com
Gordon Setters

JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP JUDGING APPLICANTS

Mrs. Kimberly D. Beam (112018) AK
(907) 354-3628
fireday2002@hotmail.com
JS

Caroline Buettner (100151) NE
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JS

Peggy L. Crawford (108450) AK
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JS

Terri Erickson (112073) WA
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JS
Mr. Rick Fowler (105295) TX
(214) 914-9335
richf45882@aol.com
JS
Mr. James R. Holliday (112101) AL
(803) 487-6670
jholliiday2080@gmail.com
JS
Ms. Tracey Luty (105151) CO
(720) 233-8632
taluty@gmail.com
JS-Limited
Mrs. Mariecel Torres-Young (110183) OR
(503) 297-3020
conquest.cockers@comcast.net
JS-Limited

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

NEW BREED PERMIT JUDGES
Lucretia Coonrod (111397) OK
(785) 217-5192
kanpoint@yahoo.com
German Shorthaired Pointers

Brenda Fontanos (111809) OR
(541) 405-6896
cuddleums@gmail.com
Bulldogs

Elaine Goto-Tamae (111873) CA
(310) 429-6112
triumphcolds@gmail.com
Collies

Ms. Sindi L. Leo (111735) VA
(703) 864-5882
lsinbmd@aol.com
Bernese Mountain Dogs

Ms. Cheryl L. Sams (111737) PA
(724) 283-2667
cheryl.sams@me.com
Bernese Mountain Dogs

ADDITIONAL BREED PERMIT JUDGES
Mrs. Danelle M. Brown (7231) TX
(512) 863-4341
nomadcorgis@att.net
Boston Terriers, Norwegian Lundehunds, Schipperkes, Tibetan Spaniels

Mrs. Terry Dennison (47424) AK
(907) 373-7376
katagnik@yahoo.com
Bearded Collies, Berger Picards, Miniature American Shepherds

Ms. Julie Dugan (98801) DE
(302) 521-7004
julie@eddiedawg.com
Golden Retrievers, Borzois, Whippets
Ms. Mary Lynne Elliott (100062) CO
(720) 289-2517
ml@vedauwoorr.com
Bloodhounds, Norwegian Elkhounds, Portuguese Podengo Pequenos

Mr. Ed Fojtik (104757) IL
(847) 254-6166
efojtik@aol.com
Bracci Italiani, German Shorthaired Pointers, Labrador Retrievers, Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers, Bouviers des Flandres

Ms. Alessandra Folz (102109) NH
(603) 654-7010
alessandra.folz@gmail.com
Greyhounds, Whippets, Boxers, Doberman Pinschers, Great Danes, Airedale Terriers, French Bulldogs, Poodles, Tibetan Terriers

Mr. Duff M. Harris (91790) CA
(714) 425-0454
allegro6@ix.netcom.com
Akitas, Alaskan Malamutes, Bullmastiffs, Mastiffs, Samoyeds, Siberian Huskies

Mr. Steven Herman (6305) FL
(813) 973-3153
ljlucin@gmail.com
Poodles

Dr. Cynthia Hutt (95461) CO
(720) 933-8328
Lpicfern@gmail.com
Bullmastiffs, Dogo Argentinos, German Pinschers, Great Pyrenees, Mastiffs, Standard Schnauzers

Ms. Britt E. Jung (66281) TX
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brittej@gmail.com
Balance of Sporting Group (Bracci Italiani, Nederlandse Kooikerhondjes, Flat Coated Retrievers, Labrador Retrievers, Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers, Gordon Setters, Boykin Spaniels, Cocker Spaniels, Field Spaniels, Wirehaired Vizlas)

Mr. Richard Lashbrook (7340) IL
(217) 546-6645
rel50@comcast.net
Balance of Non-Sporting Group (Bichons Frises, Keeshonden, Norwegian Lundehunds, Tibetan Spaniels)

Mrs. Nancy Lovelady (97313) NV
jwnsl@sbcglobal.net
Afghan Hounds, Azawakhs, Basenjis, Borzois, Salukis

Mr. Brian Meyer (15140) IL
(815) 332-4848
bckennel@aol.com
Cesky Terriers, Miniature Bull Terriers, Norfolk Terriers, Rat Terriers, Russell Terriers, Staffordshire Bull Terriers

Mrs. Cindy Meyer (15141) IL
(815) 332-4848
camjudge1999@gmail.com
American Foxhounds, Basset Hounds, Beagles, Grand Bassets Griffons, Vendeens, Greyhounds, Norwegian
Elkhounds, Petits Bassets Griffons
Vendeens, Sloughi

**Mr. Gary L. Myers (96615) CA**
(619) 992-4393
webe_gm@yahoo.com
Dogues de Bordeaux, American Hairless Terriers, Smooth Fox Terriers, Wire Fox Terriers, Kerry Blue Terriers, Rat Terriers, Staffordshire Bull Terriers

**Mr. Andrew Ritter (92968) NJ**
(908) 996-7355
cerri.bmd@att.net
Beaucerons, Canaan Dogs, Finnish Lapphunds, Miniature American Shepherds, Polish Lowland Sheepdogs

**Sheree Sanchez (97389) CO**
(719) 313-1755
outlawaussies@hotmail.com
English Foxhounds, Bergamasco Sheepdogs, Briards, Mudik, Pulik, Spanish Water Dogs, Swedish Vallhunds

**Mr. Gus Sinibaldi (103241) NC**
(954) 614-9308
gus.sinibaldi@yahoo.com
Airedale Terriers, American Staffordshire Terriers, Cairn Terriers, Smooth Fox Terriers, Wire Fox Terriers, Lakeland Terriers, Miniature Schnauzers, Scottish Terriers, Sealyham Terriers, Welsh Terriers, West Highland White Terriers

**Mr. Daniel J. Smyth, Esquire (6347) CA**
(609) 351-3647
danieljsmythesq@aol.com
Nederlandse Kooikerhondjes, German Shorthaired Pointers, Golden Retrievers, Labrador Retrievers

**Ms. Debra Thornton (18837) GA**
(434) 262-6267
cypressbaydlt@gmail.com
Balance of Non-Sporting Group
(American Eskimo Dogs, Coton du Tulear, Lowchen, Norwegian Lundehunds, Xoloitzcuintli)

**Lisa Young (43070) AZ**
(605) 390-1135
younsongbeagles@gmail.com
Black and Tan Coonhounds, Bluetick Coonhounds, English Foxhounds, Harriers, Portuguese Podengo Pequenos, Redbone Coonhounds

**JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP PERMIT JUDGES**

**Michelle LaFlamme Haag (69404) AZ**
(801) 560-8091
saluki76@me.co

**Miss Alaina House (111681) IN**
(317) 828-1483
alainahouse02@yahoo.com

**Ms. Lucinda Napoli (111625) FL**
(904) 868-8283
lucindanapoli98@gmail.com

**REINSTATED JUDGE**
The Judging eligibility of the following person has been reinstated.

**Karen Justin (64864) NY 10998**
(845) 726-3437
impyrial@aol.com
Great Pyrenees, Newfoundlands

**RESIGNED CONFORMATION JUDGES**
Mrs. Dorothy D. Baker
Mr. Jerry A. Berkowitz

**EMERITUS CONFORMATION JUDGES**
Mrs. Janis Church-Stadler
Mrs. Catherine S. DiGiacomo
Mr. Clayton P. Fell
Mr. Robert E. Hall
Mr. Robert E. Hawkins, Jr.
Mr. Robert B. Lawson
Mrs. Helene Nathanson
Mrs. Karen Skaggs
Mrs. Laurale Stern

**DECEASED CONFORMATION JUDGES**
Susan Buckel
Mr. Daniel Fleitas
Mr. Dennis McCoy

**REGISTERED HANDLERS**
Letters concerning registered handers and handler applicants should be addressed to the Handlers Department at 8051 Arco Corporate Drive, Raleigh, NC 27617.

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

It is the responsibility of all registered handlers to notify the Handlers Department of any changes or corrections to their address, phone, fax or emails. These changes are very important because they affect your handlers record, the Web site and the Handlers Directory. Please notify the Handlers Department at (919) 816 - 3884 or Email handlers@akc.org

**NEW REGISTERED HANDLER APPLICANTS**
The following person has submitted an application for the Registered Handler Program.

**Ms. Terri Erickson**
18321 S Tapps Drive E
Lake Tapps, WA 98391

**REGULAR STATUS APPROVED OBEDIENCE/RALLY/TRACKING JUDGES**
The following persons have completed their Provisional Judging assignments and their names have been added to the list of regular approved judges for the class indicated.

**Christine Ward** (104367) MO (39068)
(314) 402-2619
tina.ward@centurylink.net
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.

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

EMERITUS OBEDIENCE AND RALLY JUDGES

Mrs. Sally E Burgess – Obedience & Rally (MO)

DECEASED OBEDIENCE, RALLY, TRACKING JUDGES

Robert “Bob” Willoh – Tracking (MO)

APPLICATION FOR BREED-SPECIFIC REGISTERED NAME PREFIX

The following applications for a breed-specific Registered Name Prefix have been submitted to The American Kennel Club.

Letters in regard to these applications should be addressed to Gina DiNardo, Executive Secretary:

ALLHEART-Australian Shepherds-Mary F. See
ARCTIC ICE-Samoyeds- Pamela Egan
BEARDS&BOURBON-Wirehaired Pointing Griffons-Tania Warnock
BLACKCREEK-German Wirehaired Pointers-Amanda C. Martino
BLACK WATCH-Wirehaired Pointing Griffons-Kristen A. Mathis & Thomas A. Mathis
BON VIVANT-Australian Shepherds-Whitney B. Legrand
CAVE CANIS-Wirehaired Vizslas-Katalin J. Miller
CHATSWORTH- Cavalier King Charles Spaniels – Brittany D, Chambers
FISHPAW- Labrador Retrievers- Natalie J. Williams
GOODWIN-Shetland Sheepdogs-Jaimie A. Goodwin
HUNU- Dachshunds- Marie E. Dorris
KALIDOR-Giant Schnauzers-Melissa Delatorre
KEALOHA-Dandie Dinmont Terriers-Teresa A. Bell
MONARCH’S- Australian Shepherds-Samantha A. Hughes & Trudy J. Gagas
MYSTIK- Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers- Jeanine M. Oostveen
PARADISO-Cane Corso- Renee Irvine
ROSEWVIEW- Shetland Sheepdogs-Mary E. Heiden & Richard F. Heiden
SAGE RIDGE- Border Collies-Alex Pruett, DVM
SAMWISE- Australian Shepherds-Star Mathis & Zoe Mathis
STARLIGHT’S – American Cocker Spaniels- Helen T. Harrison Markow
STONEY VIEW- Toy Fox Terriers- Ashely T. Cuzzolino
TAYLORMADE- Alaskan Malamutes- Sherri L. Taylor
SUPERNova’S – Rhodesian Ridgebacks- Deborah M. Higgins
TRADEMARK- German Shepherds & Australian Shepherds- Vera R. Symonds
TRIO’S- Shetland Sheepdogs- Susan Beardslee
VALENTINE BLUFF- American Staffordshire Terriers
WILDFLOWER- American Cocker Spaniels- Karen L. Svenningsen

REGISTERED NAME PREFIXES GRANTED
The following applications for a breed-specific Registered Name Prefix have been granted.
ALANGUS- Miniature American Shepherds – Deborah G. Murray
BLUE ELK- Miniature American Shepherds- Allyson Senek and Gary Senek
BLACK OAKS- Belgian Malinois- Lisa L. McClelland
BLOSSOMING- Bulldog- Debra JH Clark
BREN-DACH’S- Dachshund- Brenda J. Nichols
BUGABOO- Old English Sheepdogs- Douglas W. Johnson and Michaelanne Johnson
CANYON RIDGE- Golden Retrievers- Carol M. Betzer
ENCHANTÉ’S- Labrador Retrievers- Stephanie S. Brooks
HOT COMMODITY- Poodles- Samantha J. Canez
JCAM- Labrador Retrievers- Janet M. Cameron
LAZO’S – Australian Shepherd- Caylee S. Lazo
MCCOOK’S POINT- Carin Terriers- Nancy E. Pawlik
MIRABEL- Doberman Pinschers- Michelle Kramer and Jim Lauver
PHOENIX- Whippets- Susan A. Halpin
ROCHEUSES- Bouviers des Flandres- Douglas W. Johnson and Michaelanne Johnson
ROCKING H- Australian Shepherds- Jackilyn E. Williams
RUXALEV- Papillons- Ruxandra Levado
SPRING MTN- Saint Bernards- Beverly L. Oliver
SOUTHERN- Pointers- Tina M. McDonnell and Lydia Frey
STUDIO- Australian Shepherds- Amy R. Johanson
SUNKISSED- Golden Retrievers- Kara J. Ferri
TAILWIND- Cardigan Welsh Corgis- Cassie Frank
TEXAS DIAMOND- Whippets- Kye D. Hamlin and Erin E. Hamlin
 Secretary’s Pages

Walkabout—Australian Kelpies—Kim Frazier and James W. Frazier
Wild Blue—Staffordshire Bull Terriers—Debbie Schwagerman
Willo Moor—Labrador Retrievers—Kimberly R. Horn

Annual Meeting of the Delegates
Of the American Kennel Club
March 14, 2023

Dennis B. Sprung, President
Present 264
Abilene Kennel Club—Richard Nance
Affenpinscher Club of America—Letisha Wubbel
Afghan Hound Club of America, Inc.—Ms. Constance Butherford
Airedale Terrier Club of America—Aletta L. Moore
Akita Club of America—Steven Lisker
Alaskan Malamute Club of America, Inc.—Ruth Levesque
American Bloodhound Club—Mary Lou Olszewski
American Bouvier des Flandres Club, Inc.—Patte Klecan
American Boxer Club, Inc.—Sharon Steckler
American Cesky Terrier Fanciers Association, Inc.—Mr. Brian P. Meindl
American Chesapeake Club—Heidi Henningson
American Chinese Crested Club, Inc.—Neil Butterklee
American Fox Terrier Club—Connie Clark
American Lhasa Apso Club, Inc.—Don Hanson
American Maltese Association, Inc.—Ms. Sandra Bingham-Porter
American Manchester Terrier Club—Roberta Berman
American Miniature Schnauzer Club, Inc.—Barbara Donahue
American Rottweiler Club—Mr. Peter G. Piusz
American Sealyham Terrier Club—Barbara Shapiro
American Shetland Sheepdog Association—Marjorie Tuff
American Shih Tzu Club, Inc.—Mark S. Stempel
American Sloughi Association—Erika N. Wyatt
American Whippet Club, Inc.—Karen B. Lee
Anatolian Shepherd Dog Club of America—Edward Collins
Anderson Kennel Club—Laura A. Rockwell
Anderson Obedience Training Club, Inc.—Ms. Patricia A. Sample
Ann Arbor Kennel Club, Inc.—Anne R. Palmer
Arrowhead Kennel Club—Deb Phillips
Atlanta Kennel Club, Inc.—Ann Wallin
Atlanta Obedience Club, Inc.—Gail A. LaBerge
Augusta Kennel Club, Inc.—Catherine Iacopelli
Australian Cattle Dog Club of America—Joyce Rowland
Australian Terrier Club of America, Inc.—William I. Christensen
Baltimore County Kennel Club—Lucy C. Campbell
Basenji Club of America, Inc.—Katie Campbell
Basset Hound Club of America, Inc.—Dr. Norine E. Noonan
Bayshore Companion Dog Club, Inc.—Susan Soviero
Bearded Collie Club of America, Inc.—Kathy Coxwell
Beaumont Kennel Club, Inc.—Carl Holder
Belgian Sheepdog Club of America, Inc.—Mary G. Buckwalter
Belle-City Kennel Club, Inc.—Carole A. Wilson
Berger Picard Club of America—Jacqueline Carswell
Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America, Inc.—Sara Karl
Bichon Frise Club of America, Inc.—Mayno Blanding
Border Collie Society of America—Lisa M. Pruka
Border Terrier Club of America, Inc.—Mrs. Ruth A. Naun
Borzoi Club of America, Inc.—Prudence G. Hlatky
Briard Club of America, Inc.—Diane Reid
Bronx County Kennel Club—Alexa Samarotto
Bryn Mawr Kennel Club—Victoria Glickstein
Bucks County Kennel Club, Inc.—Priscilla Gabosch
Burlington County Kennel Club, Inc.—Mr. Daniel J. Smyth, Esq.
Butler County Kennel Club, Inc.—Barbara Ioia
Cairn Terrier Club of America—Pam Davis
Canaan Dog Club of America—Pamela S. Rosman
Canada Del Oro Kennel Club—Dr. Sophia Kaluzniacki
Cape Cod Kennel Club, Inc.—David Harsch
Carolina Kennel Club, Inc.—Jaimie Ashby
Carolina Working Group Association—Matthew Townsend
Carroll Kennel Club—Mrs. Rachann E. Mayer
Catoctin Kennel Club—Joseph Fitzgerald
Catonsville Kennel Club—Beverly A. Drake
Cedar Rapids Kennel Association, Inc.—Robert E. Tainsh, M.D.
Central Ohio Kennel Club—Rebecca Campbell
Channel City Kennel Club, Inc.—Anita R. O’Berg
Charleston Kennel Club—Terri Hallman
Chihuahua Club of America, Inc.—Mr. Joao Machado
Chow Chow Club, Inc.—Margaret DiCorleto
Clackamas Kennel Club—Tami Worley
Clermont County Kennel Club, Inc.—Marjorie Underwood
Colorado Kennel Club—Mrs. Louise Leone
Colorado Springs Kennel Club—Douglas Johnson
Columbia Missouri Kennel Club—Theresa L. Wilson
Columbia Terrier Association of Maryland—Leslie A. Jaseph
Cudahy Kennel Club—Mr. Don H. Adams
Dachshund Club of America, Inc.—Larry Sorenson
Dalmatian Club of America, Inc.—Dr. Charles Garvin
Dandie Dinmont Terrier Club of America, Inc.—Karen Dorn
Dayton Kennel Club, Inc.—Leah H. Schiller
Del-Otse-Nango Kennel Club—Stephanie A. Crawford
Delaware Water Gap Kennel Club—Dr. A. D. Butherus
Des Moines Kennel Club, Inc.—John D. Hughes
Doberman Pinscher Club of America—Glen Lajeski
Dog Fanciers Association of Oregon, Inc.—Mrs. Patti L. Strand
Dogue de Bordeaux Society of America—Victor Smith
Durango Kennel Club—Donald E. Schwartz, V.M.D
Durham Kennel Club Inc.—Mr. Jack E. Sappenfield, II
Eastern German Shorthaired Pointer Club, Inc.—Robert Rynkiewicz
English Springer Spaniel Field Trial Association, Inc.—Susanne Burgess
Fargo-Moorhead Kennel Club—Sarah Ford
Farmington Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—Terrie Breen
Fayetteville Kennel Club, Inc.—Teresa Vila
Finger Lakes Kennel Club, Inc.—Margaret B. Pough
Finnish Spitz Club of America—Kim Raleigh
First Dog Training Club of Northern New Jersey, Inc.—Mary D. Curtis
Flat-Coated Retriever Society of America, Inc.—Neal Goodwin
Forsyth Kennel Club, Inc.—June Guido
Fort Lauderdale Dog Club—Stephanie S. Brooks
Fort Worth Kennel Club—Harold Tatro III
Framingham District Kennel Club, Inc.—Gale Golden
Garden State All Terrier Club, Inc.—Mr. Richard L. Reynolds
Genesee County Kennel Club, Inc.—Ms. Cynthia (Cindy) Collins
German Pinscher Club of America—Barbara L. Visinski
German Shepherd Dog Club of America—Dr. Carmen L. Battaglia
German Shorthaired Pointer Club of America—Ms. Karen R. Nauer
Giant Schnauzer Club of America, Inc.—Chris Reed
Glen of Imaal Terrier Club of America—Jo Lynn
Gloucester County Kennel Club, Inc.—Barbara Breidenback
Golden Retriever Club of America—Ellen Hardin
Gordon Setter Club of America, Inc.—Nance O. Skoglund
Grand Rapids Kennel Club—Mrs. Carol L. Johnson
Greater Clark County Kennel Club Inc.—Ms. Karen J. Burgess
Greater Collin Kennel Club, Inc.—Barbara Shaw
Greater Ocala Dog Club, Inc.—Mrs. Penny DiSiena
Greenville Kennel Club—Gloria Askins
Greenwich Kennel Club—Donna Gilbert
Greyhound Club of America—Kathleen B. Whitaker
Harrisburg Kennel Club, Inc.—Sandie Rolenaitis
Hatboro Dog Club, Inc.—Sally L. Fineburg
Heart of the Plains Kennel Club—Patricia M. Cruz
Hendersonville Kennel Club—Betty Ann Brown
Hockamock Kennel Club, Inc.—Nancy Fisk
Holyoke Kennel Club, Inc.—Jane Wilkinson
Houston Kennel Club, Inc.—Thomas D. Pincus
Hungarian Pumi Club of America—Nancy Nelson
Huntingdon Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—Dick Blair
Huntington Kennel Club, Inc.—Ms. Marile A. Waterstraat
Illinois Capitol Kennel Club, Inc.—Ann L. Cookson
Irish Red and White Setter Association of America—Christopher M. Orcutt
Irish Setter Club of America, Inc.—Ms. Karolynne M. McAteer
Irish Water Spaniel Club of America—Dan Sayers
Irish Wolfhound Club of America—Eugenia Hunter
Italian Greyhound Club of America—Ms. Kim Brinker
Jacksonville Dog Fanciers’ Association—Victoria A. Marks
Japanese Chin Club of America—Cecilia Resnick
K-9 Obedience Training Club of Essex County, NJ, Inc.—Dave Morgan
Kachina Kennel Club—Lee Ann Stusnick
Kenilworth Kennel Club of Connecticut, Inc.—Doreen Weintraub
Kennel Club of Beverly Hills—Thomas Powers
Kennel Club of Philadelphia, Inc.—Harry Booker
Kennel Club of Riverside—Sylvia A. Thomas
Kennesaw Kennel Club—Bud Hidlay
Kettle Moraine Kennel Club, Inc.—Jacquelyn Fogel
Key City Kennel Club, Inc.—Melissa Lembke
Kuvasz Club of America—Agi Hejja
Ladies’ Dog Club, Inc.—Mrs. Arna B. Margolies
Lagotto Romagnolo Club of America, Inc.—James Talbert
Lake Shore Kennel Club, Inc.—Mrs. Diana L. Skibinski
Lakeland Winter Haven Kennel Club—Mary McDaniel, D.V.M.
Lakes Region Kennel Club, Inc.—Deborah L. Kreider
Lancaster Kennel Club, Inc.—Carolyn M. Vack
Land O’Lakes Kennel Club, Inc.—Jan Croft
Lawrenceville Kennel Club, Inc.—Robert N. LaBerge
Leonberger Club of America—Don James
Long Island Kennel Club—Mr. William B. Tabler, Jr.
Longshore-Southport Kennel Club, Inc.—Michaelann Mako
Louisiana Kennel Club, Inc.—Luis F. Sosa
Magic Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—Ruth Crumb
Manatee Kennel Club—Judy Seltrecht
Marion Ohio Kennel Club, Inc.—Lynn Garvin
Maryland Kennel Club—Gary Sarvinas
Mastiff Club of America, Inc.—Mary L. Speer
Memphis Kennel Club, Inc.—Pam E. Ireland
Mid-Continent Kennel Club of Tulsa, Inc.—Mr. Marc Crews
Middle Tennessee Amateur Retriever Club—John Russell
Miniature Bull Terrier Club of America—Dr. Marci Cook
Mississippi State Kennel Club—Roxanne Hilsman
Mississippi Valley Kennel Club—Gretchen Bernardi
Morris Hills Dog Training Club, Inc.—Eleanor Campbell
Mt. Baker Kennel Club, Inc.—Jane F. Ruthford
Myrtle Beach Kennel Club—Sylvia Arrowwood
National Capital Kennel Club, Inc.—Norma Ryan
National Shiba Club of America—Maggi Strouse
Naugatuck Valley Kennel Club—Viola Burgos
New England Beagle Club, Inc.—Blaine Grove
New England Dog Training Club, Inc.—Lucy Grant-Ruane
Northeastern Maryland Kennel Club—Ann M. Schultz
Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever Club (USA)—Alyson Casper
Old English Sheepdog Club of America, Inc.—Sheila Kenyon
Olympic Kennel Club, Inc.—Tim Ufkes
Onondaga Kennel Association, Inc.—Glenn E. Glass
Orange Empire Dog Club, Inc.—Bradford Yamada
Otterhound Club of America—Joellen Gregory, D.V.M.
Ox Ridge Kennel Club—Jane Harding
Pacific Coast Pekingese Club—Frank Meister
Pekingese Club of America—Steven Hamblin
Pharaoh Hound Club of America—Dominic P. Carota
Philadelphia Dog Training Club, Inc.—Larry Wilson
Piedmont Kennel Club, Inc.—Dean Burwell
Plainfield Kennel Club—Linda A. Deutsch
Plum Creek Kennel Club of Colorado—William E. Ellis
Port Chester Obedience Training Club, Inc.—Kathy Gregory
Portland Kennel Club, Inc.—Mrs. Joan Savage
Portuguese Water Dog Club of America, Inc.—Janet L. Boyd
Puyallup Valley Dog Fanciers, Inc.—Frances Stephens
Ramapo Kennel Club—Jeffrey D. Ball
Redwood Empire Kennel Club—Johnny Shoemaker
Rhode Island Kennel Club, Inc.—Grace Wilkinson
Rhodesian Ridgeback Club of the United States, Inc.—Ms. Mary L. Elliott
Rio Grande Kennel Club—Mary E. Ferguson
Roanoke Kennel Club, Inc.—William L. Totten III
Rockford-Freeport Illinois Kennel Club—Barbara L. Burns
Rubber City Kennel Club—Cathy Gaidos
Salisbury Maryland Kennel Club—Karen Cottingham
Salisbury North Carolina Kennel Club—Leslie P. Rogers
Samoyed Club of America, Inc.—Gary Griffin
San Antonio Kennel Club, Inc.—Nancy J. Shaw
Santa Clara Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—Mr. David J. Peat
Santa Cruz Kennel Club, Inc.—Melissa Robison
Sawnee Mountain Kennel Club of Georgia—Karen W. Byrd
Scottish Terrier Club of America—Helen A. Prince
Scottsdale Dog Fanciers Association, Inc.—Barbara Reisinger
Seattle Kennel Club, Inc.—Jeff Ryman
Shenandoah Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—Sharyn Y. Hutchens
Shoreline Dog Fanciers Association of Orange County—Susan L. Hamil
Siberian Husky Club of America, Inc.—Ann M. Cook
Skyline Kennel Club, Inc.—Gloria Shaver
South Shore Kennel Club, Inc.—Linda C. Flynn
South Windsor Kennel Club—Mrs. Laurie Maulucci
Southeastern Iowa Kennel Club—Marilyn R. Vinson
Southern Adirondack Dog Club, Inc.—John V. Ioia
Space Coast Kennel Club of Palm Bay—Glenda Stephenson
Spinone Club of America—Karen Luckey
Springfield Kennel Club, Inc.—Dr. Thomas M. Davies
St. Bernard Club of America, Inc.—Susan Weigel
St. Croix Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—Mrs. Deborah J. Wilkins
St. Petersburg Dog Fanciers Association—Jan R. Gladstone
Staffordshire Bull Terrier Club of America—Amy J. Schwoeble
Staffordshire Terrier Club of America—Jeannette O’Hanlon
Standard Schnauzer Club of America—Dr. Harvey Mohrenweiser
Staten Island Kennel Club, Inc.—Marianne Megna
Suffolk County Kennel Club, Inc.—Mr. Robert Eisele
Susque-Nango Kennel Club, Inc.—Laura Trainor
Sussex Hills Kennel Club, Inc.—Mrs. Florence Duggan
Taconic Hills Kennel Club, Inc.—Marylyn DeGregorio
Talbot Kennel Club—Ann S. Wallace
Tennessee Valley Kennel Club—Mrs. Richella M. Veatch
Terry-All Kennel Club, Inc.—Kevin O’Connell
Texas Kennel Club, Inc.—Dr. Michael Knight
Tibetan Spaniel Club of America—Mallory C. Driskill
Tibetan Terrier Club of America, Inc.—Stacey La Forge
Tidewater Kennel Club of Virginia, Inc.—Kathie Vogel
Trap Falls Kennel Club, Inc.—Christopher L. Sweetwood
Trinity Valley Kennel Club—Debby Fowler
Tucson Kennel Club—Dr. Kenneth H. Levison
Twin Brooks Kennel Club, Inc.—Patricia C. Sarles
Two Cities Kennel Club—Eduardo T. Fugiwara
Union County Kennel Club, Inc.—Jennifer V. Modica
United States Kerry Blue Terrier Club, Inc.—Mr. Carl C. Ashby, III
United States Lakeland Terrier Club—Maria Sacco

Upper Potomac Valley Kennel Club—Robert Lachman
Vancouver Kennel Club—Jolyne Lea
Ventura County Dog Fanciers Association—Mrs. Connie Brown
Virginia Kennel Club, Inc.—Mrs. Sandie Friend
Vizsla Club of America, Inc.—Mrs. Kathy A. Rust
Wachusett Kennel Club, Inc.—Dr. Anne Testoni
Weimaraner Club of America—Jennifer Martin
West Highland White Terrier Club of America—Tracy J. Pancost
Western Fox Terrier Breeders Association—Torie Steele
Whidbey Island Kennel Club Inc.—Laura Myles
Wilmington Kennel Club, Inc.—Bonnie Bieber
Winston-Salem Dog Training Club, Inc.—Jane Fitzin
Woodstock Dog Club, Inc.—Karen Dewey
Dennis B. Sprung, President in the Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:02 a.m. ET.

Delegates were reminded to check in at the reception desk, so they would be recorded as present.

The Chair introduced the persons seated on the dais. On my immediate left is our Chairman, Dr. Thomas Davies. To his left is the Vice Chairman, Dominic Palleschi Carota. On my right is Joan Corbisiero, Professional Registered Parliamentarian. To her right is Gina DiNardo, Executive Secretary, and to Ms. DiNardo’s right is Shari Cathey, the Court Reporter.

Condolences were offered in the recent passing of Dennis McCoy, on February 18, 2023. He was the Delegate for the Poodle Club of America since 2022.

The Executive Secretary will now read the report of the Nominating Committee.

Ms. DiNardo: Pursuant to Article VIII, Section 2, of the Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club, the NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

- Sylvia A. Thomas, Chair – Kennel Club of Riverside
- Karen J. Burgess – Greater Clark County Kennel Club
- Marge B. Calltharp – Chinese Shar-Pei Club of America
- Linda C. Flynn – South Shore Kennel Club
- Laurie Maulucci – South Windsor Kennel Club

and Alternates:
- Connie Clark – American Fox Terrier Club
- Don Hanson – American Lhasa Apso Club

appointed by the Board of Directors at its July 2022 meeting have nominated the following Delegates as candidates for such vacancies on the Board of Directors as to be filled today at the annual meeting of the Club on March 14, 2023. There are 3 vacancies for the Class of 2027.

Nominees for the Class of 2027 are:
- Dr. Charles Garvin – Dalmatian Club of America
- Steven Hamblin – Pekingese Club of America
• Daniel J. Smyth, Esq. – Burlington County Kennel Club

Pursuant to Article VIII, Section 4, of the Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club, the following Delegate has been endorsed in writing by the required number of Delegates as a candidate for the vacancies on the Board of Directors for the Class of 2027, to be filled today at the annual meeting of the Club on March 14, 2023:
• Eduardo Toshio Fugiwara – Two Cities Kennel Club

Mr. Sprung: reported that the Bylaws state that nominations may not be made from the floor. Nominations, therefore, closed on November 15, 2022. Delegates were reminded that elections, in accordance with Robert’s Rules of Order, require a majority vote to elect.

The election procedure was overseen by the accounting firm of KPMG. The ballots were scanned and tabulated electronically. All candidates were offered the opportunity to observe the election procedures.
[There was a brief recess as the Delegates cast their ballots.]

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

Dr. Marci Cook, Columbus, MT to represent Miniature Bull Terrier Club of America
Arlene A. Czech, Naples, FL to represent Greater Naples Dog Club
Joseph Fitzgerald, Jefferson, MD to represent Catoctin Kennel Club
Carla D. Giroux, Stevensville, MT to represent Idaho Capital City Kennel Club
Holly Johnson, Ipswich, MA to represent North Shore Kennel Club
Kim Raleigh, Albuquerque, NM to represent Finnish Spitz Club of America
Bradford Yamada, Las Vegas, NV to represent Orange Empire Dog Club

The following Delegates, who were attending their first meeting since being officially seated, were introduced from the floor:
Connie Brown to represent Ventura County Dog Fanciers Association
Dr. Marci Cook to represent Miniature Bull Terrier Club of America
Joseph Fitzgerald to represent Catoctin Kennel Club
Jennifer Martin to represent the Weimaraner Club of America
Nancy Nelson to represent Hungarian Pumi Club of America
Kim Raleigh to represent Finnish Spitz Club of America
Barbara Reisinger to represent Scottsdale Dog Fanciers Association
Theresa Wilson to represent Columbia Missouri Kennel Club
Bradford Yamada to represent Orange Empire Dog Club

The minutes of the December 16, 2022 Delegate Meeting were published in the online January 2023 AKC Gazette and the complete transcript was posted on the Delegate Portal on AKC’s website. If there are no corrections, the minutes will stand approved as published. There were no corrections, and the minutes were adopted as published.

Chinook Club of America and Gloucester Kennel Club of Virginia were duly elected as members of The American Kennel Club.

Dr. Thomas Davies delivered the Chairman’s Report as follows:
Welcome to Newark, on this lovely snowy day. At our last meeting in Orlando, we convened for the AKC National Championship, and shared the event with the public via our streaming broadcast. The televising of our dog show went exceptionally well. As an update, I would like to share with you some comments about the biggest TV show in our AKC line-up and tell you about other exciting developments in the broadcasting side of our organization.

The “ANC” premiered on the ABC television network on New Year’s Day. This was our third year on ABC, which has helped our show build and grow a dedicated audience. There were over 1.3 million viewers on average for the three-hour show, peaking at nearly 2 million viewers for Best in Show. It was so exciting to see each and every breed represented in the show.

A one-hour highlights show was edited from the original, as has been done for the past three years, and was aired on ESPN as part of a programming block on Super Bowl Sunday. Those viewers who could tear themselves away from the Eagles, the Chiefs and Rihanna were in for a real treat: four hours of AKC dogs doing what they do best.

The AKC National Championship TV production continues to be one of our greatest assets, as it allows us to showcase all the merits of purebred dogs, our Sport and the AKC to mass audiences. Importantly, the Show continues on as the legacy of our dear friend and visionary leader, Ron Menaker.
I would also like to tell you about the terrific progress we are making with AKC Companion Events on television, specifically with the ESPN Networks. For decades, the general public has associated AKC only with Conformation dog shows.
Not many people know that we offer 26 sports for dog enthusiasts to enjoy – with Agility being among our most popular. In 2022 we produced and aired ten different shows which featured individual sport competitions for Agility and Fast CAT® as well as “AKC-adjacent” events: Flyball, Disc Dog and Detection Dog.

We also had a specially produced show about the dogs that won the AKC Humane Fund’s Awards for Canine Excellence. Notably, we were able to film the AKC Agility Invitational for ESPN2 for the first time last year, which meant we had two world-class productions being filmed during our flagship event at the same time.

All of these fast-paced sports shows portrayed the athletic talents of purebred dogs, and each one enjoyed several debut and encore performances, with a total of 120 broadcasts. These shows were on the air for more than 200 hours. The network loves this content so much that the number of shows and airtime increased more than 25 percent over the prior year.

Under the leadership of Gina DiNardo and Bill Ellis, AKC Staff produces these programs and delivers them to ESPN, so the content is always on our terms. Therefore, we can include not only our sponsors but also promotions for important AKC programs and messaging such as AKC.tv, the “If it Barks” campaign and the *Pupdate* educational newsletter for new puppy registrants.

In all, the ESPN networks’ airings of AKC productions in 2022 garnered over 200 million impressions, and this exposure is on track to increase as we create more shows. The value that AKC has received for the airtime in 2022 is worth well over $6 million. Folks, this is publicity that we did not have to buy! I want to make it clear that while we do produce our shows on our own behalf, the advertising that we sell and place into the programs more than covers those expenses thanks to the efforts of Ron Furman and Daphna Straus. It’s a fantastic win-win for AKC.

Coming up later in the year, there will be even more places to enjoy AKC televised content. AKC.tv has been picked up by more streaming channels, and we will have AKC.tv’s *Dog Center* show syndicated for the local, New York-area Fox television station on weekends starting this summer. Be on the lookout for press announcements describing when and how to watch all of this wonderful programming.

As the public’s desire for dogs and information about them continues to grow,
AKC is poised and ready to educate and entertain everyone to greater extents and more effectively than ever before. To those who want to know more about purebred dogs and our sports, we offer clubs, events, web sites and great television – across the country and all throughout the year.

Tune in and join the fun! Thank you.

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

Congratulations to the Great American Kennel Club on our increased services and achievements in 2022. To mention a few:

Sports & Events surpassed each former record and set new highs with events and entries at 25,178 and 3,549,472 respectively. Congratulations to Doug, Tim and Mari-Beth’s Sports Services.

Litters and individual dog registrations have increased year over year with the added plus of 6 percent growth in the number of unique breeders. Thank you, Mark.

Under Sheila’s leadership of Government Relations and Brandi’s PR achievements, their combined departmental efforts did more to protect our rights as responsible breeders and owners.

Education led by Ashley continues to teach multiple audiences. As you may recall, we charged her department with assisting clubs by educating fanciers on learning how to steward. The first two courses are Conformation based and were finalized after testing on March 1, 2023. The third course covering Obedience and Rally will be rolled out within weeks. These courses are each entirely complimentary to everyone, in another effort to help Clubs.

We have increased our brand exposure on many fronts, including growth in media sales and sponsorships. This of course includes the well-admired ESPN, ESPN 2, and ABC networks. In addition, AKC.tv continues to serve our various constituencies with dog channel, AKC heroes, the most popular breeds series and at live events nationwide. Thanks Gina, Ron and Daphna.

The AKC National Championship presented by Royal Canin brought to an end the 2022 competitions. Held in Orlando, it achieved being the largest dog event in North America, with unique entries totaling 9,395, including Performance, Companion and Conformation. We thank our many Delegate volunteers for your very generous display of knowledgeable and inspiring assistance at America’s
National Championship.

Certainly, there are many more departments contributing to our increasingly broad array of services and offerings. We succeed due to the collaboration of IT/Engineering, Finance, Legal, Support Services, Planning and Business Intelligence as well as the outreach from Inspections, and those doing both, such as Marketing and Customer Service.

Last night the Board and Staff were delighted to have invited you to the AKC Museum of the Dog to enjoy and engage. We last had this opportunity in 2020 and since then 132 new Delegates have been seated. In just three years, that is a 23 percent turnover of this Body.

The AKC Museum of the Dog is your museum, and it should be visited, appreciated and supported as it represents the history of each of our unique breeds in the most positive light.

Once again, the Board and Staff thank everyone for their work on behalf of a year full of increased events, entries, registration and much more.

I thank every department of the Great American Kennel Club for their loyalty to our mission. My appreciation to the Board for their numerous accomplishments in making 2022 memorable.

The Sports & Events Department created a Meet the Breeds in the Field – Pointing Breeds video. This teaches the interdependency of a working breed’s form and function. The concept as we know is essential to understanding the value of purebred dogs. Meet the Breeds in the Field provides a message of the obligation responsible breeders and owners have to maintain and enhance understanding of these breeds for the benefit of future generations.

We began 2023 in New York City with the first AKC Meet the Breeds® of the year and our social media experts have put a creative short reel together.

(Video Played.)

On another note, I have had the privilege of attending Delegate meetings since March 1981 when I was seated to represent the Bronx County Kennel Club. As I stand here, after these many years and look around the room, I note a few empty seats – where are some of the regulars? Sadly, a number of our dear friends are no longer with us.

We are fortunate to be dog people, part of a unique blended group, that extends
beyond our immediate family and blood relatives.

Each of us chose this lifestyle not wishing to be alone with our dogs but to share the joys of the whelping box – exhibiting and being active in our clubs with like-minded people.

We made it through COVID-19, losing some special people, as we did during the horrific AIDS epidemic in the 1980’s and the fright that rippled through each of us on 9/11 when we were together in this very room while our nation was being attacked. With or without a crisis, it’s important to continue reaching out – that kind phone call or email whenever we cannot see one another in person to give a supportive hug – just to let friends know we are thinking of them.

Look around, be thankful we have one another. Please continue to help and care for each other.

Ted Phillips, CFO, delivered the Financial Report as follows:

Good morning. It’s an honor to follow these gentlemen and the comments they made. I enjoyed attending Meet the Breeds at the Javits Center earlier this year, and it was fun – I highly recommend it. Thank you, Delegates. We appreciate you being here, your time, energy, and dedication.

Today I’ll present the key performance indicators of both non-financial and unaudited financial results for the year ending December 31, 2022. It’s a high-level overview and has been presented to our Board.

Our litter and dog registration is listed on this chart. Litter registrations total 326,945, similar to 2021. However, it’s important to remember that this is the eighth consecutive year of increases in litter registrations. Dog registrations totaled 716,519, which is 11 percent lower than in 2021. The good news is that our online litter and dog registrations exceed 86 percent of our registrations. Our systems are robust, which is a credit to our Staff, our brand, and the presence of AKC. In summary, I thank all of you, our breeders, the AKC Board of Directors, Management, and Staff for this achievement.

Next, we talk about entries. As Dennis mentioned, Events total 25,178, 12 percent higher than in 2021. Entries totaled 3.5 million, 11 percent higher than in 2021. For the entire year of 2022, the 3.5 million entry number was the highest number of events in AKC’s history. We look forward to continued success and growth in that area in 2023.
From a financial statement point of view, we will now review the full year 2022 preliminary and unaudited results. 2022 was a financial success for AKC. We saw operating revenues increase to $106 million, and management maintained control of expenses while ensuring that budgeted programs were completed. Net operating income for the year was $19.4 million. A combination of the following generated these results: increased registration revenues which, as I mentioned online, is the key driver, and recording and service fees, which increased by 12 percent in 2022.

Operating revenues totaled $106.7 million for 2022, a ten percent increase over 2021. Registration and events service fees totaled $73 million or 69 percent of total operating revenue. Advertising sponsorship and royalty revenues total $19.6 million or 20 percent of the total operating revenue. Finally, product and service sales of $12.7 million round out the remainder of the revenue streams.

Looking at expenses, a total of $87.7 million, which is 13 percent higher than 2021, principally due to how we run the programs. Staff expenses are the largest portion of operating expenses and increased along with the additional business activity. This combination raised the overall expense base in 2022. One significant number you see is the support from charitable affiliates CHF, Museum of the Dog and others: this totals four and a half percent of operating revenue. While the slide shows six percent of expenses, four and a half percent is in line with the Board procedure that says we’ll follow operating revenues.

As per our Bylaws, I’m reporting to you that the total cost for the Board of Directors expenses in 2022, is $345,368.

Next, the AKC balance sheet. This report of total assets is what protects AKC and moves us forward. Total Assets at the end of 2022, were $244 million, primarily due to positive net operating results. Our 2022 investment performance was negative at 11 percent per year. This is an example of where the AKC investment policy statement, which is Board approved ensures that when the market declines like it did last year, we have investments with some upside protection. The liability section on this balance sheet is principally comprised pension and retirement obligations, and we are in compliance with the lease obligation under accounting requirements.

I want to thank you for your time today. I look forward to answering any questions that you may have at your convenience. Thank you.
Mr. Sprung informed the Delegates that the proposed rule changes to Chapter 6, Section 2A; Chapter 7, Sections 6, 7, 9, 13 and 17; Chapter 9, Section 10; and Chapter 11, Section 6, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* would be voted as one amendment. Delegates were given the opportunity to discuss each rule change.

**Chapter 6, Section 2A, of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Premium Lists and Closing of Entries**, deletes verbiage eliminating outdated means of production and inserts distribution methods consistent with current technology and practices. It also inserts show secretary as a required contact to be included in notice published in premium lists where applicable. This amendment was proposed by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee and brought forward with approval by the AKC Board of Directors.

The Chair recognized Diana Skibinski, Lakeshore Kennel Club, who spoke as follows:

I’m Diana Skibinski, Acting Chair for the Dog Show Rules Committee. We have a proposed word change. We would like to amend the language to add “comma, email or in person” at the end of the third sentence.

There was a motion and a second to revise the wording of the amendment.

There was a vote in the majority to amend the amendment.

**Chapter 7, Section 6, of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Judges**, inserts “show secretaries” to bring current with existing and long-standing expectations for those serving as a show secretary. This amendment was proposed by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee and brought forward with approval by the AKC Board of Directors.

There were no questions or discussion.

**Chapter 7, Section 7, of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Judges**, inserts “show secretaries” to bring current with existing and long-standing expectations for those serving as a show secretary. It also replaces gender pronouns for consistency within the Rules. This amendment was proposed by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee and brought forward with approval by the AKC Board of Directors.

The Chair recognized Neal Goodwin, Flat-Coated Retriever Society of America, who spoke as follows:

Neal Goodwin, Delegate for the Flat-Coated Retriever Society of America. The last version of the amendment we saw on
the Delegate Portal there were three places where it says “his,” and only one of them was corrected. I just wanted to make sure that all three were corrected to “his/her.”

Mr. Sprung: Yes.

Mr. Goodwin: Thank you.

Chapter 7, Section 9, of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Judges, inserts “Superintendent or Show Secretary” to the list of individuals responsible to ensure notice of a change of judge is posted at an event. It also replaces gender pronouns for consistency within the Rules. This amendment was proposed by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee and brought forward with approval by the AKC Board of Directors.

There were no questions or discussion.

Chapter 7, Section 13, of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Judges, replaces the word “other” with “another” for clarity. It also replaces gender pronouns for consistency within the Rules. This amendment was proposed by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee and brought forward with approval by the AKC Board of Directors.

There were no questions or discussion.

Chapter 7, Section 17, of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Judges, which inserts “Superintendent or Show Secretary” to the list of individuals who may be in possession of judge’s books. It also replaces gender pronouns for consistency within the Rules. This amendment was proposed by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee and brought forward with approval by the AKC Board of Directors.

The Chair recognized Diana Skibinski, Lakeshore Kennel Club, who spoke as follows:

Diana Skibinski, Acting Chair for the Dog Show Rules Committee, and we have a proposed word change. We would like to amend the language to add, “no other person” in the beginning of the third sentence.

Mr. Sprung: “No other person” as opposed to “none other.” Is that correct?

Ms. Skibinski: Yes.

There was a motion and a second to revise the wording of the amendment.

There was a vote in the majority to amend the amendment.

Chapter 9, Section 10, of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Superintendents
and Show Secretaries, inserts “show secretaries” to bring current with existing and long-standing expectations for those serving as show secretary. This amendment was proposed by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee and brought forward with approval by the AKC Board of Directors.

There were no questions or discussion.

**Chapter 11, Section 6, of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows** – Dog Show Entries, Conditions of Dogs Affecting Eligibility, which revises and inserts language for clarity about who may make a correction to an entry after closing, and under what conditions. This amendment was proposed by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee and brought forward with approval by the AKC Board of Directors.

There were no questions or discussion.

There was a vote on the proposed rule changes to Chapter 6, Section 2A; Chapter 7, Sections 6, 7, 9, 13 and 17; Chapter 9, Section 10; and Chapter 11, Section 6, of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows as amended during the meeting.

There was a two-thirds vote in the affirmative and the amendments were adopted as amended.

Mr. Sprung informed the Delegates that the proposed rule changes to Chapter 8 and Chapter 10, Section 2, of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows will be voted as one amendment. Delegates were given the opportunity to discuss each rule change.

**Chapter 8, of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows** – Selection of Superintendent, Show Secretary and Veterinarians, replaces “obedience trial or tracking test” with generic “companion event” per the recommendation of the Companion Events Committee. It also inserts content from the deleted Chapter 9, Section 3, addressing the event committee’s responsibility to complete arrangements with a veterinarian to service its show either in attendance or on call. Additionally, it is revised to be consistent with current application procedures which do not ask or require for the name of the Show Veterinarian. Lastly, it relocates content into Chapter 8 which is proposed to be deleted from Chapter 10, Section 2.

This amendment was proposed by AKC Staff and brought forward with approval by the AKC Board of Directors.

The Chair recognized Diana Skibinski, Lakeshore Kennel Club, who spoke as follows:

Diana Skibinski, Acting Chair for the Dog
Show Rules Committee, and we have a proposed word change. I would like to amend the language to add the words “publication of a premium list for an,” in the second paragraph. So, it will read “prior to the publication of a premium list for an event.”

There was a motion and a second to revise the wording of the amendment.

The Chair recognized Dr. Sophia Kaluzniacki, Canada del Oro Kennel Club, who spoke as follows:
Sophia Kaluzniacki, Delegate for the Canada del Oro Kennel Club. I would just like a clarification of exactly what does on call mean? Does that mean that the dog gets taken to the veterinarian that is on call there, or does it mean that the veterinarian comes out to the show and examines the dog?

Mr. Thomas: Tim Thomas, AKC Staff. Traditionally the role and expectation for an on call veterinarian is where the individual with the dog goes to the facility. The veterinarian is not expected to come to the event.

Dr. Kaluzniacki: That answers my question. Thank you.

There were no further questions or discussion.

There was a vote in the majority to amend the amendment.

**Chapter 10, Section 2, of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Show Veterinarians, deletes verbiage related to duty of the club proposed to be inserted into Chapter 8. It also replaces “On call” veterinarian with Show Veterinarian, clarifying that whether in attendance or on call, the Show Veterinarian must be available to examine dogs during show hours. Lastly, the word “treat” is replaced with “examine” for veterinary procedural purposes. This amendment was proposed by AKC Staff and brought forward with approval by the AKC Board of Directors.**

The Chair recognized Diana Skibinski, Delegate for the Lakeshore Kennel Club who spoke as follows:
Diana Skibinski, Acting Chair for the Dog Show Rules Committee. We have a proposed rule change. We would like to amend the language to add the word “during show hours.”

Mr. Sprung: Okay. Is there a second?

There was a motion and a second to revise the wording of the amendment.

There was a vote in the majority to amend the amendment.
There was a vote on the proposed rule changes to Chapter 8 and Chapter 10, Section 2, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* as amended during the meeting.

There was a two-thirds vote in the affirmative and the amendments were adopted as amended.

The next vote was on the amendment to **Chapter 11, Section 8**, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Dog Show Entries, Conditions of Dogs Affecting Eligibility*, which inserts “and all other single entry non-regular classes” to expand the classes in which neutered dogs or spayed bitches may be allowed to compete. It maintains the allowance to only be permissible at independent specialties or All-Breed dog shows where there is no competition beyond Best of Breed. It also maintains that to achieve a Conformation title, a neutered or spayed entrant must have first attained its Championship title by competing unaltered in the regular classes. It corresponds to the proposal to Chapter 6, Section 2, which adds verbiage to clarify that information must be included in the premium list if the club elects to permit neutered dogs and spayed bitches to compete in Veterans, or any other single-entry non-regular class. This amendment was proposed by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee and brought forward with approval by the AKC Board of Directors.

There were no questions or discussion.

There was a two-thirds vote in the affirmative, and the amendment was adopted.

The next vote was on the amendment to **Chapter 6, Section 2**, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Premium Lists and Closing of Entries*, which inserts “and/” to reflect the need, when applicable, to list both a superintendent and individual show secretary in the premium list. It also inserts for clarity that notification must be included in the premium list for an independent specialty or All-Breed dog show that does not offer Groups or Best in Show, if the club has elected to allow neutered dogs or spayed bitches to compete in non-regular classes. This amendment was proposed by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee and brought forward with approval by the AKC Board of Directors.

There were no questions or discussion.

There was a two-thirds vote in the affirmative, and the amendment was adopted.

The final vote was on the amendment to **Chapter 14, Section 11**, of the *Field
Trial Rules and Standard Procedure for Retrievers, which will not allow Local Retriever Field Trials that award championship points to do so during the two National Championship events. This provision does not prohibit clubs from holding derby stakes, qualifying stakes or owner-handler qualifying stakes. This amendment was proposed by the Retriever Field Trial Advisory Committee and brought forward with approval by the AKC Board of Directors.

There were no questions or discussion.

There was a two-thirds vote in the affirmative, and the amendment was adopted.

The Chair called on the Executive Secretary to read the proposed amendment to the Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club, Article VI, Section 6.

Ms. DiNardo: This amendment is to the Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club, Article VI, Section 6, removes the reference to professional judges (one who charges a fee in excess of expenses) as it relates to Delegate occupational eligibility.

This amendment was proposed by the Delegate Advocacy and Advancement Committee and brought forward with approval by the AKC Board of Directors.

It will be published in two issues of the AKC Gazette and you will be asked to vote on it at the June 2023 meeting. The full text is on the worksheet previously emailed.

There were no questions or discussion.

The Chair introduced Karolynne McAteer, Irish Setter Club of America and Chris Sweetwood, Trap Falls Kennel Club, to provide an update on AKC’s PAC.

Ms. McAteer: We are here to speak about the PAC this morning for those of you who didn’t get up with your coffee and join us at 7:30 a.m. in the Legislative Caucus meeting. We are going to talk to you about the importance this year versus others. We are often guided by the Farm Bill, and the Farm Bill comes up every five years, and that’s when the consistent additional number of things that we would like not to happen starts to happen. That means we are out with legislators and others who influence the rules that come and that costs a bit of money. We’re hoping that you will join us today at the government booth and make a lovely donation there, and also to let you know that in
June, we will come back with our super-duper raffle. It will be pulled in Orlando. Anyway, think about the PAC, everyone because they are the ones protecting daily the thing that we love.

Mr. Sweetwood: We can’t stress it enough; this bill comes up only once every five years. It could be trashed or repeated, and it is extremely important that we do this at this time because whatever happens with this bill will affect us at a major level for the next five years. We really, really need your help. Thank you.

The Chair called on the Chair of the Teller’s Committee from KPMG to read the results of the ballot of the Class of 2027.

Mr. Obubah: Good morning. Ernest Obubah from KPMG. I’m here to read the results of ballot one for Class of 2027. The number of ballots cast 256. Number of invalid ballots was 1. The number required to elect is 129. Here are the results: Eduardo Fugiwara, 114; Dr. Charles Garvin, 198; Steven Hamblin, 183; Daniel J. Smyth, 167. Thank you.

The Chair declared that Dan Smyth, Steven Hamblin and Charles Garvin have been duly elected as members of the Class of 2027, as there is no further balloting necessary, we’ll continue with the meeting.

The Chair advised the Delegates that the Tuesday, June 13, 2023, Delegate Meeting will be held at the Doubletree Newark Airport Hotel. More detailed meeting information will be emailed to the Delegates as soon as available. The Board was instructed to meet immediately following the in the Salem/Warren room.

Lunch was served on the Terrace and the Essex Ballroom. Delegates were reminded to leave their badges at the registration desk following lunch.

The following Delegates spoke during New Business:

Alyson Casper, Delegate for the Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever Club (USA) spoke as the Coordinator for the June 2023 edition of the Perspectives newsletter themed “Dogs of Summer”. She encouraged the Delegates to submit their ideas, articles and photos by the due date of April 15, 2023.

Jan Ritchie Gladstone, Delegate for the St. Petersburg Dog Fanciers, gave kudos to AKC Staff and breed clubs involved in AKC Meet the Breeds®. She congratulated everyone on a fantastic event in January 2023 at the Javits Center, New York City.
Marianne Megna, Delegate for the Staten Island Kennel Club shared some recent statistics about a dog she bred, making North American Fly Ball Dog Association (NAFA) and Vizsla history – being the first to reach the Hobbes Award.

Nancy Fisk, Delegate for the Hockamock Kennel Club and Chair of the Juniors Committee thanked the AKC Family Dog magazine Staff for the March/April issue dedicated to Juniors. She asked the Delegates to promote this issue as it represents the future of the sport.

Hearing no further business, the Chair adjourned the meeting.

(One sharp rap of the gavel.)

(Proceedings concluded at 10:22 a.m. ET.)

*The opinions expressed by the speakers may not necessarily reflect those of The American Kennel Club.*
PARENT CLUB LINKS

WORKING GROUP

Akita
Alaskan Malamute
Anatolian Shepherd Dog
Bernese Mountain Dog
Black Russian Terrier
Boerboel
Boxer
Bullmastiff
Cane Corso
Chinook
Doberman Pinscher
Dogo Argentino
Dogue de Bordeaux
German Pinscher
Giant Schnauzer
Great Dane
Great Pyrenees
Greater Swiss Mountain Dog
Komondor
Leonberger
Kuvasz
Mastiff
Neapolitan Mastiff
Newfoundland
Portuguese Water Dog
Rottweiler
Saint Bernard
Samoyed
Siberian Husky
Standard Schnauzer
Tibetan Mastiff
PARENT CLUB LINKS

TERRIER GROUP

Airedale Terrier  American Hairless Terrier  American Staffordshire Terrier  Australian Terrier  Bedlington Terrier

Border Terrier  Bull Terrier  Cairn Terrier  Cesky Terrier  Dandie Dinmont Terrier

Fox Terrier (Smooth)  Glen of Imaal Terrier  Irish Terrier  Kerry Blue Terrier  Lakeland Terrier

Manchester Terrier  Miniature Bull Terrier  Miniature Schnauzer  Norfolk Terrier  Norwich Terrier

Parson Russell Terrier  Rat Terrier  Russell Terrier  Scottish Terrier  Sealyham Terrier

Skye Terrier  Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier  Staffordshire Bull Terrier  Welsh Terrier  West Highland White Terrier

Wire Fox Terrier
PARENT CLUB LINKS

TOY GROUP

Affenpinscher  Biewer Terrier  Brussels Griffon  Cavalier King Charles Spaniel  Chihuahua

Chinese Crested  English Toy Spaniel  Havanese  Italian Greyhound  Japanese Chin

Maltese  Manchester Terrier (Toy)  Miniature Pinscher  Papillon  Pekingese

Pomeranian  Poodle (Toy)  Pug  Shih Tzu  Silky Terrier

Toy Fox Terrier  Yorkshire Terrier
### NON-SPORTING GROUP

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<th>Bichon Frise</th>
<th>Boston Terrier</th>
<th>Bulldog</th>
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<td>Dalmatian</td>
<td>Finnish Spitz</td>
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<td>Lhasa Apso</td>
<td>Löwchen</td>
<td>Norwegian Lundehund</td>
<td>Poodle (Miniature)</td>
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<td>Shiba Inu</td>
<td>Tibetan Spaniel</td>
<td>Tibetan Terrier</td>
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<td>Xoloitzcuintli</td>
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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/