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March, June, September, and December issues
Hound and Terrier Groups
February, May, August, and November issues
Sporting and Working Groups
January, April, July, and October issues
CELEBRATING 10 YEARS OF EXHILARATION

Congratulations to all the winners* at the 10TH ANNUAL MASTERS AGILITY CHAMPIONSHIP AT WESTMINSTER!
We’re proud to support you and this incredible showcase of canine athleticism and teamwork.

FIND THE NUTRITION FOR THE CHAMPION IN YOUR LIFE AT ProPlan.com

*The handlers or owners of these champions may have received Pro Plan dog food as Purina ambassadors. Purina trademarks are owned by Société des Produits Nestlé S.A. Any other marks are property of their respective owners.
CONGRATS, BUDDY HOLLY!

2023 WESTMINSTER BEST IN SHOW WINNER*

Congratulations to Buddy Holly, the 2023 WESTMINSTER KENNEL CLUB BEST IN SHOW WINNER. With his diminutive stature, happy demeanor, and shaggy appearance, the six-year-old Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen won over the crowd and judges. We’re proud to be a part of Buddy Holly’s amazing victory, fueling him with the advanced nutrition of Purina Pro Plan Sensitive Skin & Stomach Salmon & Rice Formula.

FIND THE NUTRITION FOR THE CHAMPION IN YOUR LIFE AT ProPlan.com

*The handlers or owners of this champion may have received Pro Plan dog food as Purina ambassadors. Purina trademarks are owned by Société des Produits Nestlé S.A. Any other marks are property of their respective owners.
Summer is a superb season for our many sports. It is a wonderful time to gather with friends and have spirited competition. It is always something to look forward to.

In the spirit of competition, the 2023 AKC National Obedience Championship and the 2023 AKC Rally National Championship will be held this month in Ohio. Hundreds of dogs will descend on the Roberts Centre in Wilmington, Ohio, to vie for National Champion titles in their respective sports. We are excited for the outcome and wish all the competitors an eventful competition and safe travels.

Also in competition news, one of our most high-energy sports is coming to ESPN2! The AKC Disc Dog Challenge, presented by The Farmer’s Dog, will air on ESPN2 on Saturday, June 17, at 5 p.m. ET. The AKC Disc Dog Challenge brought together 24 dog-and-handler teams for an exciting competition that is sure to thrill spectators. The broadcast will be hosted by noted sportscaster Carolyn Manno and include sideline reporting by Bill Ellis and analysis by Jason Rigler. This is sure to be an abundance of fun and a unique display of canine athleticism. Be sure to check your local listings—you won’t want to miss it!

And lastly, this is a reminder that the deadline for nominating an incredible dog for the AKC Humane Fund Awards for Canine Excellence (ACE) is July 1. Each year the AKC Humane Fund is proud to honor five dedicated, hard-working dogs for making significant contributions to an individual or entire community. Since the award’s creation in 2000, 115 ACEs have been presented. Former recipients include a Boykin Spaniel who helps children alleviate the stress of court proceedings, and a Flat-Coated Retriever who located a missing elderly woman in less than 15 minutes.

Awards are given in the areas of Uniformed K-9 Service, Exemplary Companion, Search and Rescue, Therapy, and Service. Honorees of the AKC Humane Fund Awards for Canine Excellence will receive $1,000 to be awarded to a pet-related charity of their choice. These amazing stories come from nominations across the country. Anyone can nominate a worthy dog. If you know a dog making a difference, please visit www.akchumanefund.org to submit a nomination.

This and so much more is happening at AKC, and it is always a joy to share this information with you.

Until next time,

Dennis B. Sprung
President and CEO
Canine Cruise Chicago: a benefit for the AKC Museum of the Dog

Friday, August 25
6:30-10 p.m.
Docking at McCormick Place, Chicago, IL

Join the American Kennel Club Museum of the Dog for a festive night on board the Spirit of Chicago as we enjoy cocktails, a buffet-style dinner, silent auction, and dancing while admiring the Chicago skyline from the waters of Lake Michigan.

After boarding at McCormick Place, guests will have the opportunity to enjoy dockside cocktails from the cash bar before embarking on a two-hour cruise with spectacular sunset views from climate-controlled interior and exterior decks. DJ entertainment will serenade guests during dinner before dancing the night away and placing bids at our art-inspired auction.

All proceeds from this special evening will benefit the AKC Museum of the Dog in New York City and enable the Museum to continue to care for the canine art in its collection, provide educational programming for the public, and inspire positive engagement with dogs year-round.

**Individual Tickets: $150 per person**
($79 of which is tax-deductible)
- first-come, first-served seating for one on the 1st or 2nd floor decks.

**VIP Tables: $2,500**
($1,772 of which is tax-deductible)
- reserved table with seating for eight on the top floor deck with a private outdoor lounge
- includes two complimentary drink tickets per person
- signage at the event with name or logo

To register, go to this URL or scan the QR Code:
bit.ly/caninecruisechicago
The morning after their big win, Buddy and handler–co-owner Janice Hayes made the obligatory victory lap around New York. After delighting George Stephanopoulos and company at Good Morning America, Buddy and Janice dropped by AKC headquarters, to the delight of newly minted fans among AKC staff who whipped out their phones and got photos that lit up social media. (Chris Espiritu, GAZETTE staff, got the shot you see here.) This month we begin our two part coverage of Westminster with a roundup of the winners and a package of the big event’s best videos. In July, we will continue with on-the-scene interviews conducted by Bev Thompson, our Sealyham Terrier Club of America columnist.
The AKC has announced judging panels for the 2023 National Owner-Handled Series (NOHS) Finals and the AKC Royal Canin National All-Breed Puppy and Junior Stakes to be held in December in Orlando, Florida, in conjunction with the AKC National Championship presented by Royal Canin.

Dennis B. Sprung will judge the NOHS Finals Best in Show; Best in Stakes will be judged by a panel of three judges: Sprung, Clay Coady, and Terry Stacy.

**NOHS GROUP JUDGES**
- **Sporting** Alessandra Folz
- **Hound** Dr. Daniel Dowling
- **Working** Dr. Johan
- **Terrier** Dr. Adam Stafford King
- **Toy** Robin Stansell
- **Non-Sporting** April Clyde
- **Herding** Linda Clark

**ALL-BREED PUPPY AND JUNIOR STAKES GROUP JUDGES**
- **Sporting** Desmond Murphy
- **Hound** Vicki Seiler-Cushman
- **Working** David Kirkland
- **Terrier** Amy Rodrigues
- **Toy** Linda Rowell
- **Non-Sporting** Joseph Verngetti
- **Herding** Nioma Stoner Coen

**Montgomery New CHF CEO**
Stephanie Montgomery, DVM, Ph.D., DACVP, has been named chief executive officer of the AKC Canine Health Foundation. She had been serving on the CHF board and as chair of the Scientific Review Committee.

Montgomery has a Ph.D. in Microbiology & Immunology from the University of North Carolina School of Medicine and earned her veterinary degree and completed an anatomic pathology residency at the North Carolina State University College of Veterinary Medicine. She is a board-certified veterinary pathologist whose research interests include infectious disease, cancer, vaccines, biodevices, and biological therapies.

“We are thrilled to have Dr. Montgomery join the leadership team at CHF, Board Chairman Dr. Charles Garvin says. “She has consistently demonstrated her belief in and dedication to CHF’s mission and goals, and we know her to be highly intelligent, efficient, and effective.”
Westminster Wrap-Up

Westminster KC, May 8 and 9, Queens, New York, Total Entry: 2,637

Best in Show Judge Beth Sweigart
Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen GCh. Soletrader Buddy Holly

Sporting Group Judge Frank Kane
First English Setter GCh. Winchester’s an Apple a Day, JH; Second Irish Water Spaniel GCh.S Pooles Ide Sargeant Sloane, CD, RN, MX, MXJ, MXF; Third Pointer GCh. Aspyre Cat Got Ur Tongue; Fourth Brittany GCh.P Brigadier Shamrock All Silver Stars

Hound Group Judge Edmund Dziuk
First Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen GCh. Soletrader Buddy Holly; Second Afghan Hound GCh. Zaida Bint Muti Von Haussman; Third Borzoi GCh. B Horse and Hound Full of Hope Fourth English Foxhound GCh. Monocacy Bend’s Lady of the Chase

Working Group Judge Paula Nykiel
First Giant Schnauzer GCh. Hearthmore’s Wintergreen Mountain, CGC, TKN; Second Great Pyrenees GCh.S Rivergroves

Terrier Group Judge Connie Clark
First American Staffordshire Terrier GCh.P LBK’s Rebel and Proud Party Crasher; Second Dandie Dinmont Terrier GCh. Kings Mtn Mortimer Mouse; Third Kerry Blue Terrier GCh. Kilgawny Take My Man; Fourth Sealyham Terrier GCh.G Goodspice Efbe Money Stache

Toy Group Judge Cindy Vogels
First Pekingese GCh. Pequest Rum Dum

(Continued on next page)
August 12th -14th, 2023 at the Westin Kirkland Resort

The 1st Annual SMART DOG TRAINING CONFERENCE is your amazing journey into all things DOG! Do you want to learn more about training? Are you a SAR handler or is dog sports your hobby? Do you train, own or deploy dogs in special ways that help humans stay safe? Then this is where you want to be in August.

Over 80 K9 Related Vendors!
www.MySmartDog.net

Sponsored by:
Entlebucher Standard Revision

At its April meeting, the AKC Board of Directors meeting approved revisions to the Entlebucher Mountain Dog breed standard. The changes brought forth by the parent club are effective June 13.

Judges assigned to judge the Entlebucher Mountain Dog, or assigned to judge the Herding Group or Best in Show where the breed may be present at AKC conformation events held on or after June 13, will be required to judge in accordance with the newly approved breed standard.

These revisions affect several sections of the standard and includes the addition of disqualifications related to height.

To ensure judges who may refer to the AKC website to access breed standards during judging, the revised standard will not be posted until after the last events are held this year and before the June 13 effective date.

Gazette Extra

Revisit our best-read feature stories from recent issues:

**Centennial Clubs: The Test of Time**
It takes commitment and imagination for a dog club to survive 100 years.

**The Popularity Contest**
The ups and downs of the 20th century’s most-registered breeds

**Breeder Seminar Roundup**
From CHF: Summary of the 2022 Canine Breeder Excellence Seminar

Working Dog Webinar

The AKC Detection Dog Task Force webinar series will present Dr. Cindy Otto on the topic “Working Dog Veterinary Care, What Makes It Different?” on Thursday, June 22, at 7:30 p.m.

Registration is required.
Prep your puppies for the unexpected with an Initial 30 Days of Pet Insurance Coverage*, a feature of their AKC registration. Send your puppies to their new home with extra peace of mind. Contact our Breeder Support Team to learn more about how you can send your puppies home with the Initial 30 Days of Coverage.

A lot can happen in the first 30 days. Are your puppy buyers prepared?

GI Upset
Ear Infection
Broken Bones
Lacerations
Foreign Body Ingestion**
Cherry Eye

After your litter is registered, complete each puppy's individual registration with the American Kennel Club. Send puppy buyers to www.akcpetinsurance.com/akc-offer to learn more about the Initial 30-Day Offer. Direct them to Customer Care at 1-866-725-2747 if they need assistance with activation.

The Initial 30 Days of Coverage from AKC Pet Insurance (underwritten by Independence American Insurance Company) may cover unexpected accidents and illnesses that occur in your puppies' first days in their new homes.

Conditions that may be eligible in the Initial 30 Days of Coverage:

Benefits subject to policy terms, conditions, exclusions, and waiting periods. See link below for complete details. *The AKC Pet Insurance initial 30 days of accident and illness coverage is administered by PetPartners, Inc. See your policy for additional details. Insurance is underwritten and issued by Independence American Insurance Company (rated A- "Excellent" by A.M. Best) with offices at 11333 N. Scottsdale Rd, Suite 160, Scottsdale, AZ 85254. Not available in all states (including CA and WA) and available to U.S. residents. Eligibility restrictions apply. Activation required for coverage to take effect. Premium is deferred on initial 30 days of coverage. Visit https://www.akcpetinsurance.com/akc-offer or call 1-866-725-2747 for more information or to review terms and conditions. **Foreign body ingestion, dogfights, and toxin ingestion are only covered once during the lifetime of a pet.
Prep your puppies for the unexpected with an Initial 30 Days of Pet Insurance Coverage*, a feature of their AKC registration.

Send your puppies to their new home with extra peace of mind.

- After your litter is registered, complete each puppy's individual registration with the American Kennel Club.
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- Ear Infection
- Broken Bones
- Lacerations
- Foreign Body Ingestion**
- Cherry Eye

Contact our Breeder Support Team to learn more about how you can send your puppies home with the Initial 30 Days of Coverage.

breeders@akcpetinsurance.com | 800-956-2491

*The AKC Pet Insurance initial 30 days of accident and illness coverage is administered by PetPartners, Inc. See your policy for additional details. Insurance is underwritten and issued by Independence American Insurance Company (rated A- “Excellent” by A.M. Best) with offices at 11333 N. Scottsdale Rd, Suite 160, Scottsdale, AZ 85254. Not available in all states (including CA and WA) and available to U.S. residents. Eligibility restrictions apply. Activation required for coverage to take effect. Premium is deferred on initial 30 days of coverage. Visit www.akcpetinsurance.com/akc-offer or call 1-866-725-2747 for more information or to review terms and conditions. **Foreign body ingestion, dogfights, and toxin ingestion are only covered once during the lifetime of a pet.
The AKC Working Group is home to the blue-collar, lunch-bucket bruisers of dogdom, those breeds that guard flocks and families, pull carts, haul freight, perform rescues, fight wars, and do other dirty work in the service of humankind. The size and strength of these big guys make it imperative that they be bred responsibly, not only for their physical traits but for sound, stable temperament.

A brief history of the Working Group:
At the dawn of civilization, humans first domesticated canines for use as watchdogs and flock guardians. Then came about 15,000 years we can conveniently fast-forward through, until we get to 1983. By then, the AKC family of breeds had grown from the two original breed groups, Sporting and Non-Sporting, to six groups. By far the largest was the Working Group. It contained 32 breeds traditionally considered working dogs, plus 14 herding breeds. The AKC broke up this unwieldy assemblage by moving the herders into their own group, leaving 18 breeds in the Working Group. Today, it stands at 33 breeds.
Where Fanciers Gather:

Good Sports

In this installment of an occasional series, our breed columnists weigh in on good sportsmanship.
Another Westminster has come and gone, and the results are in the books. I remember telling myself as I watched the Best in Show judging that the judge could close his eyes and point and he wouldn’t be wrong, and I turned out to be right. The quality of the dogs was breathtaking, and their performances were flawless. … While we all had our personal favorites, we have to remember there could only be one winner, and the judge was the one who made that decision.

But then the complaints began. “Not the foo-foo dog,” “Poodles always win,” “Grooming wins again,” and of course, “It was rigged!”

What is wrong with us? In these days of animal-rights activists, the “Adopt, don’t shop” mentality, breeding-restriction laws, and shows getting smaller and smaller, we are eating our own. This is the time, and those are the reasons for us to come together as dog show fanciers now more than ever and to support each other and what we do.

Westminster is our biggest venue—our Super Bowl, as we like to say—and here we are tearing down our Top Dog of the year. Why? Because she wasn’t your choice? Instead of tearing our sport down, we need to be building it up in every way possible, whether the show is on national television or at a local fairground.

We regularly invite the general public to attend our shows, and, like inviting...
guests to our homes, we must be on our best behavior. Don’t let them hear us grousing about the judge because our dog didn’t win. Don’t let them see us throwing down a third-place ribbon in disgust. Don’t let the gossip and our tearing-down of a competitor make a poor impression. We want people to get involved and enjoy the sport of dogs like we do, and those kinds of public displays will not be winning anyone over.

Mayno Blanding, Bichon Frise Club

Remember: Others are paying attention. They see and hear what we say and how we say it. People are turned away from participating in our wonderful sport when they are made uncomfortable by unsportsmanlike behavior or lack of ethics. We must rise to the top at all times like the cream that we are, whether we are in public or online.

Patricia S. Johnson, Boston Terrier Club of America

We all need to be gracious, whether winner or loser, which some of us forget. There is only one winner on a given day, and if the same person won every time, no one else would waste their money to show. If you win, thank other exhibitors and say there were a lot of nice dogs in the ring. Be gracious always. If you don’t win, suck it up and smile, saying
congratulations to the winners. It’s a sport! Enjoy the fellowship afterward; remember, the judge made the decision. Bad sportsmanship has no place at dog shows.

Everyone wants to win, but don’t let it spoil friendships. We all learn from each other. The winner you acted ugly to may be the one person you want to buy a dog from or breed your female to. It’s a win for everyone when showing good sportsmanship, and when you don’t it makes you look bad. Before you speak unkindly, think; would you like someone to say that about your dog? Realize people only hear you and may decide they want no part of crazy.

The dog show is no place to show your temper. Keep it behind closed doors. If you love [your breed] and want it to be remembered in the future, words can hurt. So think before speaking, and let’s have fun at the dog show!

Margaret R. (Peggy) Wolfe, United States Neapolitan Mastiff Club

Once at a dog show, a judge awarded Best of Breed to a dog owned and handled by a good friend. I overheard the following ringside conversation:

First observer (with obvious disgust): “It’s all politics. The judge picked that dog because it was so-and-so’s dog.”

Second observer (placatingly): “No, the judge picked that dog because he liked it the best.”

First observer (a little disgruntled): “OK …”

Second observer (going for the win): “The judge liked that dog best because it was so-and-so’s dog.”

Politics? Maybe. Maybe not. The only way to say yes is if the dog so clearly did not deserve the pick
that the final selection is shocking to the most casual of ringside watchers.

Otherwise … give ’em a break!

Debbie Lynch, Keenhond Club of America

An increasing phenomenon seems to be judge intimidation, such as an exhibitor walking up to confront the judge after what the person feels is an unfair decision. Some are even bold enough to do it in the ring, and some even feel free to loudly criticize the winner in front of the judge and the other competition.

Judges can help here by drawing a bright line around such behavior whenever it is encountered. They should call out these exhibitors on their behavior and if necessary report it to a bench committee.

If you are old enough to remember tennis star Jimmy Connors, you might recall that the tennis courts were rife with bad behavior at the time he was competing. Players threw racquets, cursed at judges, and were generally out of control. This all occurred when my husband was first teaching me to golf. I asked him why you didn’t see this behavior from golf professionals, as that sport was also being widely televised. He said, “As you learn to play, you
will learn that the rules of golf are very strict and they are strictly enforced. No one would think of doing these things, and if they did, the consequences would be immediate and severe.”

By overlooking poor sportsmanship, we enable more of these incidents to occur. Worse yet, our novices are also in the ring, and this presents them with an unfavorable impression. They may see this and quit the sport, or they may think that this behavior is the way to succeed and emulate it. Either way, the sport of dogs is the ultimate loser.

Lisa Hubenig, Samoyed Club of America
I’ve have often wondered why folks become so upset when they lose to another dog. They may become negative and angry with the owner-handler-breeder of the winning dog. But it was the judge who awarded the dog—not its owner, handler, or breeder. There should be no anger at the judge, either! You entered the dog and paid for the judge’s opinion, who gave it to you. If you don’t like it, why get mad with the people who didn’t even have anything to do with the decision?

Shannon Rodgers, Field Spaniel Society of America
Remember to not take things too seriously. At the end of the day we can all
afford to be kind and appreciate the amazing dogs that make our world awesome and enrich our lives. Being able to laugh at the fact that we spend many hours, miles, and dollars for a bookmark ribbon is priceless.

Know that the letters added to our dogs’ names are labors of love that we choose to pursue—they mean precious little to the uninitiated, but sure built a bond that is readily apparent.

Appreciate the silliness of our dogs and that a feral canine and a pampered grand champion alike still like to poop, roll, and snort.

Share the pride in what you have gained in your experience, and do your best to foster that in others’ learning. You just might be surprised who you teach and what the outcome might look like.

Marianne Sullivan, Collie Club of America

If we want dog shows to survive, we need to think more broadly about how we affect people by what we do and say. Yes, the competition can be intense and we get discouraged, but it can also be fun. A kind word or gesture could turn a day around completely. It’s that childlike definition of fun we need reminding of, that this is the thing that is supposed to give us enjoyment, and to approach it with a sense of playfulness and kindness has its own intrinsic rewards. gz
The most successful dog book ever published, with over two million copies sold, The New Complete Dog Book is the American Kennel Club’s bible of dogs, a celebration of every breed—over 200—recognized by the AKC. This volume offers readers:

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

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

Available at Amazon or in the AKC Shop at shop.akc.org
VIDEOS

WKC: Triumph and Tears
From ABC News, Will Reeve goes behind the scenes at Westminster to see how champions are made. 8:07

Baker Takes the Cake
Around the ring at WKC’s Masters Obedience Championship; video by NJ.com. 2:48
VIDEOS

Agility Masters
Fox Sports posted this nicely done highlights package from the WKC Masters Agility Championship. 11:15

Besties
A GAZETTE photo gallery: a dozen famous Westminster Best in Show dogs of times past. 1:06
TIMES PAST
25 Years Ago

MADISON SQUARE GARDEN, NEW YORK CITY, FEBRUARY 16 AND 17, 1998— In our archive is a cache of wonderful Westminster photos taken 25 years ago by Tara Darling-Lyon for AKC. Shot during the waning days of analog photography, Tara’s photos came to us as Kodak slides. Our production team has digitized the images and we present them here, many of them seen for the first time anywhere.

The 1998 edition of Westminster, with an entry of 2,587, was one for the ages. Peter Green, handler of Best in Show winner Norwich Terrier Ch. Fairwood Frolic (Rocki), made history with his fourth Westminster BIS, tying the record set by the sainted Percy Roberts.

Among the cast were such mainstays of late-20th century dogdom as BIS judge Dr. M. Josephine Deubler, show chairman Ron Menaker, and Rocki’s owners Sandy and Glorvina Schwartz. Angela Lloyd, the show’s Best Junior Handler, would return to the Garden in 2011 to gait Hickory the Scottish Deerhound into the winner’s circle.

The event attracted big-name spectators from stage and screen, lending the affair a touch of showbiz glamour. (That’s Mary Tyler Moore and husband Dr. Robert Levine visiting the Mastiffs.)

Of Rocki, the New York Times reported, “The 3-year-old terrier, who is two weeks pregnant and retiring after this show of shows, picked up her 87th best in show when Dr. Josephine Deubler, the octogenarian veterinary professor who did the final round’s judging, looked longest and last at her. ‘She never stopped asking for it,’ said Deubler.”
TIMES PAST
In Memoriam
Geir Flyckt-Pedersen

AKC GAZETTE 29 JUNE 2023
This month, Japanese Chin columnist Jennifer Baumer provides a look at the breed’s lively range of colors—including red and white, seen here.
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

Toy
32 Brussels Griffons
35 Cavalier King Charles Spaniels
37 Chihuahuas
38 Havanese
40 Italian Greyhounds
42 Japanese Chin
44 Maltese
46 Papillons
48 Pekingese
50 Pomeranians
51 Shih Tzu
53 Toy Fox Terriers

Herding
85 Bearded Collies
87 Belgian Malinois
89 Belgian Sheepdogs
90 Belgian Tervuren
92 Briards
94 Canaan Dogs
95 Cardigan Welsh Corgis
96 Collies
98 Finnish Lapphunds
99 Icelandic Sheepdogs
102 Norwegian Buhunds
104 Pembroke Welsh Corgis
105 Pulik
108 Shetland Sheepdogs
110 Spanish Water Dogs
112 Swedish Vallhunds

Non-Sporting
55 American Eskimo Dogs
58 Bichons Frises
60 Boston Terriers
62 Bulldogs
64 Chinese Shar-Pei
66 Chow Chows
67 Dalmatians
69 French Bulldogs
70 Keeshonden

73 Lhasa Apsos
74 Poodles
78 Schipperkes
80 Shiba Inu
81 Tibetan Spaniels
83 Tibetan Terriers
**BREED COLUMNS**

**TOY GROUP**

**Brussels Griffons**
**THE BREEDER AND THE BUYER: FINDING A MATCH**

The couple lived only an hour away, and they asked if they could visit and meet my Brussels Griffons. It turned out that the wife had owned Brussels Griffons for the past 20 years. She tearfully recalled her first, Betty, who had introduced her to this wonderful breed. Since then, she had always kept five Griffons. Currently, there were only three Griffs in her household, as two had recently passed, at 15 and 16 years of age.

She loved the two 17-week-old boys who were available. She talked about buying both, which I don’t allow.

When you get two at the same age, they fight each other for your attention, and neither one is ever satisfied that he’s gotten enough. Also, it makes housebreaking harder, as you are never sure who is guilty, so you may refrain from disciplining—by which I mean, talking to the dog in a harsh voice. If you don’t tell him it’s bad to pee on the blue carpet, that means it’s okay to pee on the blue carpet. Also, walking two rambunctious puppies is difficult, which usually causes the owner not to walk them at all. Walking on a leash is an important part of your new puppy’s life. The one-on-one time you spend walking him is bonding for both of you.

“If you really want two, it’s better to get one now, then get the second in about six months,” I told her. “That way, the first puppy will help you train the second. The second puppy will pick up the good habits of the first one.”

But it turned out this was
AKC MEET THE BREEDS® IS COMING TO CHICAGO AUGUST 26TH AND 27TH in conjunction with the International Kennel Club Dog Show

Sign up to represent your breed and join in the fun!

AKC Meet the Breeds offers a unique opportunity to educate the public about our wonderful breeds and responsible dog ownership. With colorful breed booths and exciting demonstrations, it is a fun, family-friendly event.

Your breed deserves to be represented! Come meet and greet thousands of dog lovers and be a champion for your breed!

Click here to get the form

The deadline to register is July 7, 2023
not a puppy-buying venture, because she had spent $12,000 at the vet trying to save the lives of her 15- and 16-year-old Griffons so did not have the money to purchase a puppy at this time. “But I’ll give you a deposit, and I’m sure you’ll hold him for me.”

She was surprised when I said, “That won’t work. I don’t want my puppy to spend his childhood here, when he could be with his new family.”

“Well then, I’ll give you $500 now, and you can let me know when you have the next litter.”

Again, I said, “That won’t work, either. I don’t take a deposit until I have a puppy here that you want.”

Forty years ago, I would have agreed, but I am an older and wiser breeder now. First, breeding Brussels Griffons is a delicate endeavor. The bitches don’t come in heat every six months, as the textbooks say. Time between heats can vary from four months to 12 months. The breeder must watch carefully to keep up.

Next, you can plan your breeding as carefully as possible, and the breeding doesn’t take. Or, the breeding takes, but the puppies arrive too early, undeveloped, and cannot survive.

Or—and this is the part I hate the most—you can raise a litter of beautiful puppies, only to suddenly lose them for an unknown reason. This could happen at one week or 8 weeks of age. Just last December, I had a litter of two gorgeous puppies, with big heads, short backs, and human expressions. A breeder friend was visiting when they were 7 weeks old, and said, “Sharon, if you are not keeping the male, could I buy him?”

The next week, the female puppy was lethargic, so I rushed to my vet. Usually, the cause is upper-respiratory infection, but her lungs were clear. The vet couldn’t find the cause, so sent me home with antibiotics and an appetite stimulant. The puppy died several hours later. Two days later, the male died the same way.

These puppies were 7 weeks old, an age at which you expect they are over the hump and no longer fragile. But you never know with Griffons.

In my early days, I drove the bodies to the University of Pennsylvania School of Veterinary Medicine for an autopsy, which is called a necropsy when it’s done on dogs. Every time my veterinarian received their report, it read, “Undeveloped heart and lungs.” He was dissatisfied with that. “It’s not an answer,” he complained. “Of course, they are undeveloped; it’s a little puppy. This doesn’t tell me what caused the death.”

These lessons have stuck with me, so I do not offer a puppy for sale until he is about 10 weeks old, has passed the veterinary health-check, and is athletic and sturdy. If he is not one I want for my own showing and breeding program, I offer him for sale. He won’t leave my house until he’s 12
weeks or older.

There’s a postscript to this story; the wife called the next day and said, “I was so relaxed at your place, when I got home, I didn’t even have to take my medication! I’ll have to visit you two or three times a week!”

You can guess what I said. “That won’t work.” A breeder’s life is too busy for that!

—Sharon Sakson
American Brussels Griffon Association

Cavalier King Charles Spaniels
THOUGHTS ON JUDGING THE CAVALIER KING CHARLES SPANIEL

Three words should come to mind when describing our breed: *friendly, elegant,* and *graceful.*

My “Must has” for the Cavalier are fairly simple. If not for its beautiful head and expression coupled with a gay, active, and friendly demeanor, the Cavalier would be a generic spaniel. The Cavalier standard makes this clear in stating that the tail shall be “in constant motion when the dog is in action.” This demonstrates the happy nature of our breed.

When I approach a Cavalier, I want to be met by a sweet, melting expression.

Center: Coming at you, the front legs should also be straight and true; they should not be out at the elbows nor exhibit paddling.

Bottom row: The “sweet, melting expression” comes from large, dark brown, lustrous eyes set well apart ... the skull is slightly rounded; the ears when alert should appear to flatten the skull and fan forward framing the face, adding to the expression.
This comes from large, dark brown, lustrous eyes set well apart and with good cushioning under those eyes. While the skull is slightly rounded, the ears when alert should appear to flatten the skull and fan forward framing the face, adding to the expression. The muzzle completes the picture and should be broad but tapering slightly, and the bite should be scissors. For me a level bite is acceptable, as long as it does not detract from the overall appearance.

A judge must remember the roots of the Cavalier King Charles Spaniel and its history. This is not an English Toy Spaniel or a “Charlie,” which is a delightful breed in its own right. Remember that it was Roswell Eldridge (an American) who in 1926 sought to re-establish the breed as depicted in the 17th- and 18th-century paintings with a “long face, no stop, flat skull, not inclined to be domed and with the spot in the center of the skull.” A Cavalier must not appear to have a domed skull or deep stop.

A Cavalier King Charles Spaniel must have good depth of chest, nice proster-num, and proper layback of front assembly, with matching rears. This assembly will provide proper reach and drive, with level side gait and correct level tail carriage to complete the picture.

While Cavalier breeders strive for a nice layback of shoulders (40 to 45 degrees), the reality is that many specimens are more upright. This will be apparent both on the table and as soon as you watch side gait. Similarly, the rear angulation should match to balance the dog and once again movement will expose correct or incorrect structure.

There are many good to excellent specimens in the ring today, and the breed continues to improve. I do, however, see some issues. With popularity comes large numbers. With large numbers comes some disparity. The Cavalier is a toy spaniel, and I am concerned when I see some very large or coarse specimens winning. The Cavalier is a “moderate” dog, and anything overdone should be avoided, whether it is size, coat, bone, heads, or eyes that appear too large.

An important issue to Cavalier breeders concerns eyes. A tiny amount of white in the inner corner may be acceptable, but white around the eye is awful. Similarly, light-brown eyes ruin the warm Cavalier expression.

The manner in which Cavaliers are being exhibited is also important. The Cavalier is a natural breed, with many accomplished owner-handlers and professionals in the ring. I am concerned that excessive grooming, sculpting, and trimming, plus overabundance of coat are becoming all too common. The ACKCSC reminds judges in their education program that “specimens where the coat has been altered by trimming, clipping, or by artificial means shall be so severely penalized as to
be effectively eliminated from competition.”

I want to remind judges that there are only four acceptable colors for the Cavalier: Blenheim, Black and Tan, Ruby, and Tri-Color. All other colors are to be disqualified. That is made clear in the recent revision to our standard.

Finally, an issue which is extremely important to our breed and to the sport relates to junior handlers. The Cavalier is to be shown naturally and free-stacked. The American Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club is proud of our junior handlers, our program, and their accomplishments.

A juniors judge should never ask a junior handler to hard-stack their exhibit. This is incorrect, and our juniors know better.

About the author: Dr. John Ioia has a 50-year history in AKC activities. He began judging in 1982 and now judges all Toys, Terriers, and Non-Sporting breeds, Best in Show, and Junior Showmanship. He is a Cavalier breeder and has shown in both conformation and rally.

—Dr. John V. Ioia, MD, Ph.D,
bonefixr@gmail.com
American Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club

Chihuahuas
THREE WORDS: SELECTION, SELECTION, SELECTION

Ever wonder why your friend succeeds in their breeding program, while you keep struggling for the next best show dog? I believe success is determined by the reasons for breeding and the selection of puppies.

Think of the importance of location, location, location as applied in the world of real estate. A house may not be the best on the block, but it has the location you want, and you can build on it. Also, a good foundation is the key to the longevity of a home, but you must also make repairs to keep it in tip-top shape.

With our fast-paced world, development of a “line” seems to be a thing of the past, and breeding the next great show dog has taken priority for many these days. There are still a few old “dinosaur” breeders left out there, however, who breed because they love the breed. They are patient and select puppies not because they are the best for the show ring, but because they are the best for the future of the line and future of the breed.

Selection of the puppies they keep is the key to the success of these breeders. A kept puppy may not be the best show dog in the litter, but he has the missing piece that their line needs to move forward. They are forever reaching for that elusive “perfect dog.” Again, I point out that they have a line developed and know
all the dogs in that line and what those dogs are capable of producing. Adding a new dog to a line can take up to five years before learning what the new genetics carry.

This is why line-breeding is preferred to outcrossing. In the outcross you get the good genes with the bad, and you must discover any unwanted genetics through breeding as the new bloodline combines with the old one. This takes more time than most want to devote, and therefore some will choose the selection of “the next best show dog.”

This type of selection and breeding can produce hit-and-miss results. We’ve all seen that top-winning dog never to be reproduced or heard of again. What happened to that dog, and where are his or her puppies? Many top-winning dogs have never produced great get.

When entering the world of dog showing and breeding, we all must decide what we hope to gain from our efforts. Which path suits your needs and desires? Is showing dogs and winning in the ring your priority, or are you the “dinosaur” breeder whose joy comes from years of development of a line? Both are needed in the dog show world.—Virginia (Jenny) Hauber Chihuahua Club of America

Havanese

“EENY, MEENY, MINEY ...”

“Moe gets my vote!”

Really? Let’s think about that.
Almost every breed club has a process for selecting judges for its national and various other important competitions. There are a variety of selection methods, but for the most part, the Havanese Club of America falls into the category where members (and members only) submit suggestions for judges, and those names get whittled down to a tight few for the final balloting process.

As Americans, we cherish our rights to vote in an established and fair manner. While this doesn’t always happen and perhaps the candidates of our preference don’t always get elected to the jobs we wanted them to get, we normally (and should) accept the outcome in a calm manner. Judges for national specialties are usually chosen a year or more in advance. That helps to ensure that the candidates chosen will have a clear spot on the calendar for the event. The more lead time the better, absent the uncertainty of ill-health, death, weather crises, or airlines foul-ups.

The actual voting process is not as concerning, in my opinion, as the process of selecting who to nominate or for whom to vote. Decisions, decisions. Therein lies the dilemma. How does one decide?

Of the dozens of opportunities I have had to participate in this process for my breeds, I can honestly say that my candidate of choice has only been selected a couple of times—usually for an event I can’t get to for one reason or another. So, all you can do is go through the nomination and final selection procedures with the objective of finding the “best judge” you can.

What constitutes the “best” judge for a particular event? Keep in mind, you are usually deciding many months, and perhaps years, in advance for this assignment. The dog that a judge liked yesterday may not be in the ring for this event in the future. Dogs change; they get old, they die. Things happen. So never select a judge based on the success of a particular dog that you or your competitors are
showing today.
Perhaps, if you show often and keep good records, you might say, “I always show green-colored dogs, and every time I have shown a green-colored dog to that judge, I never win.” OK, that may be a reason to not vote for that judge for your own reasons.

Or on a positive note, you might say, “I have been watching a particular judge for years, and I think highly of his/her ring procedure, manner with exhibitors, and overall selections.” Those are reasons to vote for a judge without thinking about whether that judge likes green dogs.

If you haven’t studied a judge yourself, then you may not be qualified to vote for that person just based on hearsay. Certainly it is inappropriate to choose or not choose a judge based on whether or not they have rewarded a dog owned by someone you don’t like! Your selections must be solely based on who you think can do the best job in an unbiased (yes, that is possible) and respectful way, and who gives equal consideration to each dog regardless of who is on the end of the leash.

Some people show a lot. Some show very little. Some haven’t been near a show ring in years. “To thine own self be true.” If you don’t feel that you have current knowledge of the scene, the appropriate thing to do is to not vote. It is unfair to make your decision based on online chatter or gossip. Realize that judges can only make their choices based on what is in the ring that day. If you read that a dog that you don’t like was awarded a ribbon by a judge, it may have been the best dog in the ring that day! Unless you are there to see the entry and go over the entry yourself, you might want to withhold judgment on that judge.

If you are really looking at the candidates and saying, “eeny, meeny, miney, moe,” perhaps you need to think again.
—Alice L. Lawrence, pulifuzz@aol.com
Havanese Club of America

Italian Greyhounds

Longtime columnist Lilian S. Barber wrote the following in 2013.

SOME THOUGHTS ON HOUSETRAINING
Since it is perhaps the biggest problem new owners encounter with IGs, this subject has been tossed around extensively on the internet, in magazines and books, and wherever owners meet.

Here are just some random thoughts on the subject, from someone who has had IGs for many years:
1. Housetraining requires time, patience, and consistency. Anyone not willing to offer these should not have a dog at all.
2. Housetraining is not a complicated procedure. It does require that a dog be confined when not being watched, along with the qualities mentioned in #1.
3. The fact that the most
successfully housetrained IGs are those with access to a dog door indicates that part of the problem is that owners expect their IG to only “go” when it’s convenient for the humans. We do not like situations where we can’t go to the bathroom when the urge arises. Why do we expect our dogs to put up with this type of arrangement?

4. Some will have a different idea about this, but I don’t have a problem training our dogs to go outside when someone is available to let them out, and using newspapers or pads in the dog room at other times.

5. Another point of contention: I do not believe in withholding water. How would you feel if someone arbitrarily decided that you couldn’t have a snack, or even a drink of anything, after 7 P.M.? Most dogs won’t drink a great deal on a cool evening anyway, or even on a warm one if they haven’t been running and playing actively. So, a tongueful of water before bedtime isn’t going to have them needing extra potty trips during the night. Dogs should always have fresh water available—except in the rare instance that they are going to the vet for surgery the next morning.

6. IGs, in their little sighthound minds, cannot understand why it should be necessary for them to ring a bell, grab their owner by the trouser leg, or make eye contact and bark to let that owner know they have to potty. Most will do a simple “woof” or look a certain way or sit by the door for a few seconds. If the owner is too busy or unfocused to notice the signal, there
might be a small gift left in an unacceptable place. If you are someone who just doesn’t notice the signals (I’m one of those people myself), paper- or litter-box-train your IG so she can go when she has to go.

7. Regarding the old bugaboo about rain, snow, sleet, hail, wind, and other unpleasant weather, I know it’s possible to force your IG to go out into those conditions, but I would never expect mine to go out if I weren’t willing to go out with them. I’m lucky to live in Southern California. My dogs do go out in rain or in any temperature we experience here; but if I lived in the frozen North I would not expect my IGs to go out during winter because I wouldn’t be willing to stand there myself, even if I were dressed in polar fleece and boots—and I don’t have a tail and sensitive rose ears that would get icy cold. —L.S.B.

**Japanese Chin**

**THE COLORS OF THE JAPANESE CHIN**

One of the many beautiful traits of the Japanese Chin is the range of colors allowed in our standard. While only three colors are listed in the breed’s AKC standard—black and white, red and white, and black and white with tan points—the variety of shades within these colors is diverse.

The AKC standard for the Japanese Chin says the following regarding color:

“Either black and white, red and white, or black and white with tan points. The term tan points shall include tan or red spots over each eye, inside the ears, on both cheeks, and at the anal vent area if displaying any black. The term red shall include all shades of red, orange, and lemon, and sable, which includes any aforementioned shade intermingled or overlaid with black. Among the allowed colors there shall be no preference when judging. A clearly defined white muzzle and blaze are preferable to a solidly marked head. Symmetry of facial markings is preferable. The size, shape, placement or number of body patches is not of great importance. The white is clear of excessive ticking.”

One does see more black and white Chin because the color is genetically dominant in the breed.

It is interesting to note the only disqualification in the Japanese Chin standard regards color. It states “Disqualification—any color not listed.”

Adding to the diverse shades is the patterning on the body, which varies from Chin to Chin. As to body patterns, the standard notes: “The size, shape, placement or number of body patches is not of great importance.”

Japanese Chin range from very slightly marked to quite heavily marked, and all are acceptable on the body. The only statement about body color is this: “The white is clear of excessive ticking.”
Japanese Chin colors include (top row) black and white, and lemon and white; (middle row) red and white, and sable and white; and (bottom) black and white with tan points—with a diverse range of shades and markings within each.
BREED COLUMNS

SO YOU WANT TO GROW A SHOW COAT

There are four main things to take into consideration when growing a show coat.

1. Genetics and behavior.

There are many different types of Maltese coat textures that can be inherited (and are thus out of our control), ranging from the correct true silk that is a breeze to look after, to soft, fragile coats, to heavy, curly coats, and everything in between.

Knowing what kind of coat has been inherited will determine what kind of coat care is required. Although rare, there are some coats that simply will not grow beyond a certain length. Also, some lines can go through major coat changes (which can be very frustrating), while others don’t seem to at all.

I also like to include in this section how a dog “lives” in its hair. Some Maltese are especially hard on their coats. There’s the head-rubber, the foot-licker/chewer, the whisker-chewer, the ex-pen-rubber, the carpet-roller, and

Maltese

Longtime Maltese breeder Vicki Fierheller wrote the following excellent information on care and grooming of the Maltese coat in 2009. Vicki and her mother, Glenna, bred over 100 champions under the Fourhall prefix, including many Best in Show winners and top dogs in America and Canada. Sadly, Vicki passed away in 2019.

When it comes to the head, the following from the standard defines color placement:

“A clearly defined white muzzle and blaze are preferable to a solidly marked head. Symmetry of facial markings is preferable.”

Clearly, color and patterns are a very important aspect of the Japanese Chin. It is also a very fun and sometimes challenging aspect for the breeder and the fancier.

—Jennifer Baumer, jenbaumer@gmail.com
Japanese Chin Club of America
the leg-lifter … the list can go on. Seems no matter how good you are to the coat, the dog thinks otherwise and can wreck his own coat in very short time! So, genetics and behavior play an important role.

2. **Grooming technique.** How a Maltese is groomed can make or break a show coat. I have seen beautiful coats ruined by improper grooming. Likewise, I have seen icky coats that are brought out to their absolute best through good grooming. Grooming is an art, and some people have the talent, and some people, no matter how hard they try, simply don’t. You can read all the books you want, use all the products everyone recommends, watch other breeders while they groom, and have a mentor show you how, but it all boils down to how you physically look after the coat.

It can come down to even little things like how you brush the ends of the coat. Are you gentle when doing the ends of the coat, or do you rush the brush through and snap off the ends? Some coats will require oiling, and some will need to be wrapped. How often do you need to bathe? How do you band or wrap the hair? How do you blow-dry the coat? And so on. And because every coat (and dog) is unique, how you approach each one will require a different technique.

Technique is probably the most elusive and difficult part of Maltese grooming, and perhaps the most important aspect in getting that show coat. Pretty well any Maltese who is specialed is kept in wrappers. Doing this is an art unto itself and should not be attempted until you are adept at regular grooming. If your dog is matting, that needs to be addressed first before trying wrapping, otherwise it will just make the situation worse.

3. **Products.** Technique and products used go hand in hand. Using the wrong products (or grooming tools) on a coat can make coat care an absolute nightmare. How many of you have tried a new product someone recommended, only to have the coat become a total mat? If you are like me, you all have an entire shelf full of various grooming products!

Every coat is different, and what works great on one coat could be totally wrong for another. The trick is to find products that prevent matting and allow the brush to glide through for that particular coat.

Finding the correct products can be a real trial and error. Sometimes a good starting point is to ask the dog’s breeder what products she would use, as it is likely one of the parents will have a similar coat. Another source is to ask an experienced breeder—or even better, a professional Maltese handler—to look at the coat and make some recommendations. This is just to help find some initial products and tools that hopefully will agree with the coat.

4. **Environment and diet.**
In order to grow a show coat, the dog’s environment must be factored in. Any kind of “drag” on the coat-ends is going to break coat—this can include carpeting, weedy grass, cement sidewalks, dirt, and so on. You want to look for coat-friendly surfaces like linoleum or tile flooring; smooth decking; short, maintained grass; wire flooring in pens; and so on. While it is great to walk your Maltese daily, it is likely not so hot for the show coat! (This is one time where wrapping is a bonus.)

Also, where you live in the country can affect coats. Northern winters are extremely drying and cause the coat to have static and to mat (although central humidifiers help). Southern climates are very humid and can also cause the coat to frizz and mat up.

A proper diet is vital for growing coat and for the dog’s overall good health. What you feed your Maltese will be reflected on the outside, including his coat condition. If the coat seems dull and lacks luster, perhaps a change of diet or a supplement of fatty acids (Missing Link is good) might help.

As a final word, not only is there the task of grooming the Maltese, but there is the challenge of keeping the coat white. Some oils, for instance, can yellow a coat. Urine, tearing, and licking will also discolor the coat.

A Maltese in full-coated glory is a sight to behold, and while it can be a lot of work getting there, it is worth it in the end.—V.F.

—Daryl Martin, daryldmartin@sbcglobal.net

American Maltese Association

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**Papillons**

**THE CHARACTER OF YOUR BREEDER MATTERS**

What are the qualities that one looks for in a purebred dog breeder? On the top of the list would be one who has a good reputation in the dog show community, which means the breeder should be reputable, an honest broker, and a person with integrity, morals, and ethics. They should also have shown their dogs in competition, such as trials, rally, agility, and/or have a history of multiple years of dogs earning AKC championships, conforming to the AKC Papillon breed standard.

One should also be personable and honest, especially when you are dealing with the public and representing purebred dogs. You become a teacher of strong character, who answers their questions with conviction of moral principles and ethics.

Along with the moral argument, you should want the breeder of your pup to give you important information about the breed, including the pros and cons. Most of all, they must be frank regarding their health records. Following are questions a prospective buyer might ask a breeder:

1. Are there any illnesses in these lines?
2. Are the dogs’ hearts and patellas sound?

3. Have their eyes been tested by a registered veterinary ophthalmologist for PRA-1 and/or other eye diseases?

4. Can I see a copy of the puppy’s eye test and the parents’ tests?

5. Do you have a list of the dates of the vet checks?

6. Can I see the proof of the litter’s vaccines and worming records?

7. Are the puppies up to date with their shots?

8. When are their next shots due?

It’s also very important to know which vaccination never to administer, which can be extremely dangerous—the leptospirosis vaccine. The Papillon puppy could die from this particular vaccination.

Another important issue is, were you able to see both parents on site, and/or see any repeat breeding from their sire and dam? It certainly would be helpful to see how the puppies could develop in the future, particularly when they are fully coated and have their sweet personalities emerge. You can also see firsthand if they are not fearful or shy—which would be a rare trait for a Papillon to have, since they should be outgoing, confident, and always curious!

Also, make sure you know what dog food the breeder recommends, and how much to give them. It would also be extremely important to have the breeder give you a list of foods that are highly detrimental to their health or even toxic or poisonous. On top of this list are all kinds of foods you might not think would be harmful, but here they are: chocolates, including white, dark and milk chocolate, since they all contain methylxanthines, which are stimulants and can disrupt your dog’s metabolism, resulting in effects as severe as vomiting, seizures, diarrhea, irregular heart rhythms, and even death.

Also on the “do not feed” list, according to the American Kennel Club, are wild cherries, almonds, apricots, balsam pears, Japanese plums, yeast dough, coffee grinds, macadamia nuts, tomatoes, potato leaves and stems, avocados, onions, onion powder, and grapes.

Another list the breeder should supply you with is
a list of poisonous plants, particularly if you have a garden and/or take walks with your pup in a field.

As with all toy breeds, it is important to emphasize to the purchaser how to care for their teeth. Getting the pup used to brushing their teeth several times a week is vital to their health.

It’s also important to know what products to use to clean their teeth with, plus what chew-toys are helpful to keep their teeth clean and which ones are dangerous. The breeder should tell you what chew toys are very dangerous, which you should never give a Papillon, which is a “string rawhide.” This is a choking hazard which will surely become stuck in their esophagus. I was fortunate to be there to pull the rawhide string from a pup’s mouth, and it was indeed very frightening for both of us!

There are some fun products called “puppy play pens” that puppies enjoy. These pens have toys attached to a hoop that help to stimulate a curious young puppy’s mind. Puppies love pulling on and mouthing the toys. However, you must be watchful and not leave them alone, as the toys can become shredded and therefore another dangerous choking or strangling hazard.

Also, most importantly you should always have a written contract with the breeder that spells out what is expected of you as a responsible puppy buyer. Usually, a reputable breeder will stipulate in their contract if for some reason you no longer are able to care for or keep the dog in your possession, you are to return him or her to the breeder and never hand the dog or bitch over to a shelter.

Other examples which you may find in a contract would be not to ever leave the puppy on a wire leash outdoors, and/or alone with wireless fencing. This is dangerous and a cruel thing to do. Some Papillon breeders may not be so concerned or care what you do with your dog after you purchase it, so beware.

Finding a reputable breeder should not mean looking for the “cheapest and least expensive breeder,” as you can never make shortcuts when it comes to your dog’s health and welfare. Beware of puppy-mill-type individuals who could make shortcuts with testing. As the old saying goes, “You always get what you pay for.”

Most of all, you certainly don’t want to trifle or gamble with the health of your beloved Papillon.

—Roseann Fucillo,
cilloette@yahoo.com
Papillon Club of America

Pekingese
LIFTING THE PEKINGESE

Whether you’re in the show ring or at home, the Pekingese should be lifted correctly. The Pekingese is surprisingly heavy for their size with the majority of their weight found in the front half of the body. Because of this, their body must be supported
in the same way whether at home or in the ring. If they are lifted the same way at home, they will accept the same handling by the judge in the ring.

Wrap your arm around the dog behind the shoulders and under the body and use your other arm to support the chest from the front. This technique of lifting the dog can be done from the floor at home or from the table in the ring and can be accomplished whether someone is right- or left-handed.

Judges should practice lifting a Pekingese so it is comfortable for them and they are able to evaluate that the majority of the weight is in the front half of the body. All weights are correct within the limit of 14 pounds. If the judge suspects the weight is over 14 pounds, the scale should be called. Many judges and exhibitors think the reason for lifting the dog is to determine the correct weight—it can’t be emphasized strongly enough that the only reasons a judge should lift the dog are to determine that the majority of the weight is in the front half of the body and that the dog is surprisingly heavy for its size. These are the main reasons the dog should be lifted properly at home to develop security and so as not to drop or injure the dog. The dog will then be comfortable with being handled in a secure way in the ring. A dog who is correctly built would appear “front-heavy” and may fall forward if he were picked up under the middle of the body and not
supported properly. There is no need for the judge to pick up a Pekingese and turn him to face the judge. They will not see proper expression. Lifting a few inches off the table is all that is necessary to feel that the majority of the weight is in the chest or front half of the body.

Judges in the ring should not ask exhibitors to lift their Pekingese to further examine them or to check the dog’s features. Being held in the exhibitor’s arms will distort the expression. The dog should be returned to the table if further examination is required. As you know, two dogs at one time may be on the table for examination and comparison. It is important to remember the rule, “Examine on the table, judge on the floor.”

Nigel-Aubrey Jones said, “Correct body shape is vital if correct balance and movement are to be achieved.”

—Carol Kniebusch Noe, 2017

Thank you, Carol.

The Pekingese Club of America

Pomeranians

POST WITH CAUTION

“W”ords are free, but how you use them may cost you.”

There is no doubt that social media has changed how we advertise ourselves, our dogs, and our businesses. Websites that once shared a wide array of pertinent information like photos and pedigrees have slowly disappeared, and information is instead shared on our personal or kennel pages. Print magazines are becoming obsolete as digital versions, which are cheaper and faster to distribute, are taking over. We love instantly sharing and connecting, and we can now do so with much more speed and efficiency to a broader, more global audience.

There are many positives to social networks, but it has also revealed a darker side that must be addressed.

The internet has provided a veil of anonymity that has made us numb to the impact of what we post and say. It is very simple to sit behind a keyboard and “speak your mind” through the various channels of social media, with no regard for the consequences. There are many Facebook groups and “judge’s report card” posts which can quickly deteriorate into bashing and badmouthing. Commenting or contributing to these posts, and even something as simple as tagging judges in posts or win photos, opens the door to possible AKC complaints and suspension of registration and showing privileges.

As participants and representatives of the sport of purebred dogs, especially for those who are members of a local or national breed club, we must be conscientious in our use of social media. Sharing pictures of dogs that are not our own to bash them and criticize them is unsportsmanlike at best.

As members of the American Pomeranian Club, we sign a code of ethics that we agree to abide by:

“I will try at all times to show good sportsmanship
BREED COLUMNS

TOY GROUP

and keep in mind that the good of the breed comes before any personal benefit and that the Club exists to protect the breed.”

This encompasses any post or comment made on platforms such as Facebook, and violations of this are taken seriously. Remember that you are representing not only your own character, but also that of the American Kennel Club, the American Pomeranian Club, and any local all-breed or specialty clubs to which you belong.

In a time when breeders and purebred dogs are already under extra scrutiny from all sides, we cannot have breeders and exhibitors “eating their own” online. Let’s use social media for constructive and educational purposes, keeping in mind the impact of what we say and the outcome it has.

—Stephanie Hentschel, darrightpoms@gmail.com
American Pomeranian Club

Shih Tzu
“BREEDER’S TERMS”

A re you considering purchasing a bitch on “breeder’s terms?” Acquiring a show specimen on “co-ownership”? Getting a stud and having the breeder retain “stud rights”?

If you are the prospective buyer, such arrangements may be the only way you can get what you really want, either because of your finances or because you especially want a dog the breeder needs for his own breeding program, or simply loves too much to part with.

If you are the breeder, there are only so many dogs you can house and care for properly yourself, and it may be a way to incorporate a dog into your breeding program or have it shown under your name when you would otherwise had to sell it outright.

For both of you, “terms” can lead to lifelong friendships—or create bitter enemies.

Usually, disagreements arise because neither of you have considered everything in advance. It is best to talk things out calmly first, rather than emotionally after the fact—and then get things in writing so there’s no possibility of a misunderstanding.

What happens, for example, if you owe the breeder pick of the litter and there is only one puppy? Does he get the puppy and you the stud fee and vet bill, or will you work out some compromise arrangement? When will the breeder make his selection so that you can sell the rest of the puppies—at 8 or 12 weeks, or at 6 months?
What if the pick of litter is one you would like to keep and show yourself? Do you have first option to buy, at a prearranged price, if the breeder doesn’t plan to keep the puppy himself? Who will pay the stud fee, whelp the puppies, pay the vet bills, and so on? When will the bitch be bred? What happens if she is infertile—and how many breedings are necessary to establish this fact?

If the breeder retains stud rights, how many? And do the rights apply only for his own bitches, or for any he sends to you? To accommodate an agreement you might have to trek to the airport, board a bitch for a week, postpone a vacation, or miss a show. Bitches are notoriously inconvenient in deciding when they’re ready for breeding! The possibility of more quality puppies in the ring to boost your stud’s reputation, however, can be worth a good deal in the long run.

Many of the above considerations also apply to co-ownership. Who pays for food, vet bills, advertising, and so on? Will the dog be placed with a handler? How often will it be shown, and where? Showing can be expensive, and while co-owning can cut the cost in half, it could still be too much for your pocketbook.

What if one of you wants to sell the dog? I know someone stuck for months with a buyer for a dog in her kennel she wanted to sell, and a co-owner who wouldn’t give up her half. And as a breeder, I can speak with feeling about putting a top show specimen out on a co-ownership and later discovering it hadn’t been brushed for a month! A child with bubblegum or a weekend in the country, complete with ticks and burrs, could create the same havoc, even if the dog has a happy home.

In other words, make sure that both you and the breeder can live happily together. Make a mental list of both the tangible and intangible costs and returns of such an arrangement.
before coming to any decision.

Most breeders are willing to meet you more than halfway in clarifying the terms. However, they’re not putting a prized bitch out on terms to then be rewarded with the pick of a litter sired by Flopsie, who was so convenient a stud because he lived just down the street.

And while individual arrangements are for the two of you to work out, and are based in large part upon the quality of the dog, remember that by letting a dog out on terms, the breeder is sacrificing cash now from some other buyer—and could lose out altogether if something should happen to the dog, or if you don’t live up to your part of the agreement.

If you both decide to go ahead, have a grand time. “Terms” can be the way to own a top specimen and establish a close relationship with a knowledgeable breeder from which you can gain a great deal.

If not, wouldn’t you be better off saving your pennies until you can buy your very special dog outright?
—Jo Ann White,
joawhite@juno.com
American Shih Tzu Club

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**Toy Fox Terriers**

**GETTING A TOY FOX TERRIER**

Now that you’ve fallen in love with these wonderful little dogs, it’s time to find one. How do you go about finding a Toy Fox Terrier to join your family? There are a few decisions you need to make before you begin your search.

First, do you want a puppy or an adult? Then, male or female? Or perhaps it doesn’t matter. Color is normally less of a consideration, unless your heart is set on one of the less common colors: White and tan, white and black, and white and chocolate with tan are more difficult to find than white and black with tan.

Many families with work and school schedules are choosing to get an adult Toy Fox Terrier. They avoid many of the issues of raising puppies, as adult dogs are often already housebroken, don’t have to go outside as often, and are done teething and less likely to chew up your home.

If you decide on an adult, then you have a couple of choices. Toy Fox Rescue works to rehome Toy Foxes who find themselves in unfortunate situations such as having been found and unclaimed, death or illness of their owners, or surrendered by owners who find themselves unable to properly care for the dog.

Additionally, you might find a suitable adult from a breeder, as ethical breeders will take back dogs they bred in these situations. Occasionally breeders and show exhibitors also have adults they wish to retire into a pet home or who they kept to show but didn’t turn out. These dogs usually already have had some basic training such as house-training, walking on a leash, getting their nails done, and socialization. Breeders occasionally place these adult...
dogs to keep numbers manageable or to allow the dogs to be the star of their own family instead of being one of many dogs.

Should you decide on a puppy, there might be a wait and travel involved. Toy Fox Terriers aren’t produced in the numbers the more popular breeds are, so there is often a wait to get one.

There are several good places to begin your search. It’s important to be cautious as you search for your puppy.

The most treacherous place to look is online. Scammers are rampant, and many steal legitimate breeders’ photos and set up false pages and websites—and then when they see a person online searching for a puppy, they pounce. The Better Business Bureau estimates that up to 80 percent of sponsored internet ads for puppies are fake.

An excellent place to start your search is the breed’s parent club, the American Toy Fox Terrier Club. The ATFTC.com website has a list of members who wish to be listed as breeders, and it also has excellent information on the health and genetic testing that the puppies’ parents should have prior to being used for breeding. The club also has puppy-referral volunteers who can help point you to current or planned litters. Another place to look is the AKC Marketplace.

When you find a person with puppies, check their references, make sure the puppy’s parents had the recommended genetic and health clearances, and pick up the puppy in person. If that isn’t possible, ask the seller to write the date on a piece of paper and Facetime you with the puppy and the date in the video.

Adding a Toy Fox Terrier to your family will bring love, joy, and years of fun. Whether puppy or adult, male or female, Toy Fox Terriers are devoted little dogs who steal your heart.

—Susan Thibodeaux, vicepresident@atftc.com

American Toy Fox Terrier Club
American Eskimo Dogs

Our two-part article, to continue in the September issue, is contributed by Jay Kessel. Jay and his wife Lynn Ancona have achieved a total of 45 MACH titles on seven different American Eskimo Dogs. Jay is an AKC agility judge and also has handled the only American Eskimo Dog thus far that has been on the AKC Agility World Team. They competed in South Africa in 2013.

KODY AND DENISE, AN AGILITY TEAM EXTRAORDINAIRE

PART I: THE ROAD TO MACH48

In AKC agility, the Master Agility Championship (MACH) title is awarded for “superior performance on the agility course.” Speed and consistency are key. To acquire the MACH, a dog must achieve a minimum of 750 speed points and 20 double qualifying scores (“double Q’s”) obtained from the Master Standard Agility and Master Jumpers with Weaves classes. One speed point is awarded for each full second the dog is under standard course time.

The MACH is a coveted title. Along the journey to the MACH, handlers keep track of speed points and double Q’s they get at each trial. As they get closer to the 20th double Q, pressure kicks in, often making it difficult to get the last few double Q’s.

When teams finally get the MACH, they celebrate with a lap around the ring as the crowd applauds. The club awards them with a huge rosette and a jump bar, known as a MACH bar. A MACH celebration often follows, with “MACH cake.” Everybody signs the MACH bar. A MACH celebration often follows, with “MACH cake.” Everybody signs the MACH bar. A MACH celebration often follows, with “MACH cake.” Everybody signs the MACH bar. A MACH celebration often follows, with “MACH cake.” Everybody signs the MACH bar. A MACH celebration often follows, with “MACH cake.” Everybody signs the MACH bar. A MACH celebration often follows, with “MACH cake.” Everybody signs the MACH bar. A MACH celebration often follows, with “MACH cake.”

Consistent and speedy teams repeat this accomplishment and can achieve a MACH2, and even a MACH3, and beyond. Multiple MACHs mean that the handler and dog are really in sync: The dog knows what the handler is thinking, and the handler knows what the dog is thinking.

Last year, Denise Schneider and her American Eskimo Dog Kody achieved their 48th MACH. Kody has more MACHs than any other dog in AKC history. How is this possible? This team must be so in sync that they finish each other’s sentences!

Following is an interview with Denise about their amazing journey.

You run and have run other dogs besides Kody, but is Kody your first agility dog?

Denise: Yes, Kody is my Novice A dog. [The Novice A Division is for a dog that has never received any agility title and is handled by a person that has never put an agility title on a dog.]

How long did it take you to get through Novice, Open, and Excellent with Kody?

Novice and Open did not take long at all: Novice STD took three qualifying runs within four trial days;
Novice JWW, three qualifying runs within six trial days; Open STD, three qualifying runs within four trial days; and Open JWW, three qualifying runs within three trial days.

Excellent was more difficult: Excellent STD took three qualifying runs over 32 trial days, and Excellent JWW took three qualifying runs.
over nine trial days.

When you got into Master, how long did it take before you and Kody started to achieve a level of consistency?

We reached the Master level in both STD and JWW in June 2011. It took us six trial days of running before we earned our first double Q on June 19, 2011. Once we earned our first double Q we ran 34 trial days until we started to show consistency.

Our journey in Master to earn the 20 double Q’s for our first MACH spanned from June 19, 2011 to March 17, 2012 (9 months /66 trial days). We had reached our 750 points earlier than the 20 Double Q’s.

What were some of the things that kept you and Kody from being consistent at first?

One of the biggest contributors that kept us from consistency as a team at first was me being a Novice A handler. I did not always understand the commitment point of Kody with the obstacle in order to allow enough time to get into my next side-change position efficiently (knowing when to trust my dog). I also remember having to learn the concept of when to decelerate, and I often pushed on the dog’s line too far too deep, which then may have caused Kody to take an off-course obstacle.

Kody went through challenges that most inexperienced dogs do: off-course tunnels and tables. He was always so proud to find the pause table and sat on it so happily!

But I do have to say, tunnels off-course were his favorite. That is one thing that was always on my radar as a potential off-course throughout our entire agility career—in particular, tunnels that were on the side of the dog’s path in between obstacles.

Did Kody speed up at some point, or was he always fast?

Kody was a fast-running dog from the start. Obviously, experience created more efficiency. In his prime years, his YPS were as follows: In Standard, he averaged 4.58 YPS (with 5.03 YPS his fastest STD run ever); and in Jumpers, he averaged 5.60 YPS (with 6.24 YPS, his fastest JWW run ever).

Of all the dogs you have run, why do you think Kody is the most consistent?

Kody’s natural striding has aided in beautiful, consistent contacts. He rarely ever missed a contact zone, and his dog walk was extremely fast in his prime years.

He was also bred with good structure. He was a very good jumper and rarely knocked bars. Once we became a cohesive team, he listened very well to my cues.

To what do you attribute your success with Kody? Are there any instructors who were particularly influential?

Kody and I have worked with two different instructors for regular instruction/classes over the years. I am grateful for what each of them contributed to our journey. Our first agility instructor was Diane.
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Quednau of Jump and Run Training. She provided the early stages of foundation fundamentals; taught me the basic crosses and course analysis.

Our second instructor was Helen Kurz of Pinnacle Dog Sports. Helen brought more focus on the dog’s speed, enhancing the efficiency of my handling skills, introducing premier and international handling techniques.

Overall, our success was due to having a well-bred, good-structured, healthy dog who has great engagement in the game, along with my dedication and desire to always strive on improvement to become a better team.

The key word that comes to mind is bond—the bond formed between Kody and I cannot be put into words.

**What is your training regimen with Kody, and how has it changed over the years?**

We honestly had a relatively simple training regimen. Kody attended weekly training classes for about five years, coupled with short practice sessions at home one to two times a week. When he peaked in his career, we stepped away from the regular classes and only took an occasional private lesson to fine tune areas we wanted to work on. We always spend time on conditioning walks; treadmill, and FitPaws core work.

Part II will continue in the September 2023 issue.

Denise, Geoff, Kody, and their other three Eskies—Zoey, Lucky, and Gypsy—live in Ohio. Thank you so much to Denise, Kody, and Jay for sharing the first part of your amazing trek into the world of agility with us.

It goes without saying that Kody, also known as MACH48 SR Extreme Curiosity, MXS12, MJS13, MFB, TQX, T2B5, CGC, TKA, will forever be an agility legend to which other competitors aspire!

—Stella Brown, American Eskimo Dog Club of America

Bichons Frises

**BREEDING TO THE STANDARD: TEMPERAMENT AND SOUNDNESS**

The standard for our breed is not just a pretty piece of paper. It is a guideline for breeding that no breeder should ignore. Every breeder should read and reread this document until it is etched in memory because every word is there for a purpose. Even better, please study The Illustrated Discussion of the Bichon Frise Standard, which is now available online on our parent-club website, at https://bichon.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/07/BFCA-Illustrated-Standard-061021.pdf.

The first and last paragraphs of our standard are, in my opinion, the most important. Why? Because therein lie the hallmarks of our breed.

First: “The Bichon Frise is a small, sturdy, white powder puff of a dog whose merry temperament is evidenced by his plumed tail carried jauntily over
the back and his dark-eyed inquisitive expression.”
Last: “Gentle mannered, sensitive, playful and affectionate. A cheerful attitude is the hallmark of the breed and one should settle for nothing less.”

There can be no doubt that the writers of the Bichon Frise standard felt that a cheerful temperament was paramount. When I talk to the general public who own Bichons, this is what I hear from them— their Bichons are wonderful companions who get along with everyone, dog and person alike, who are a joy to own, and whose owners would never want another breed.

The second paragraph of the standard says, “This is a breed that has no gross or incapacitating exaggerations and therefore there is no inherent reason for lack of balance or unsound movement.”

The penultimate paragraph says:

“Movement at a trot is free, precise and effortless.
In profile the forelegs and hind legs extend equally with an easy reach and drive that maintain a steady topline. When moving, the head and neck remain somewhat erect and as speed increases there is a very slight convergence of legs toward the center line. Moving away, the hindquarters travel with moderate width between them and the foot pads can be seen. Coming and going, his movement is precise and true.”

This is a description of a well-built dog on the move and could be applied to almost any athletic breed. As the illustrated standard says: “Since he has no gross exaggerations, the ideal Bichon should be one of the best moving dogs in the ring. The balance of his parts and his angulation allow for smooth and efficient movement.”

Bichons are indeed beautiful to behold, but there is a good reason the standard calls for balance and sound movement. This breed is not just a pretty face—it is a sturdy little breed.
that should be sound. Remember, Bichons were well known for their ability to do circus tricks like walking on their back legs and performing backflips, and they were able to survive as dogs of the street during times of hardship. They should excel in all types of activity, whether in the agility or obedience rings, taking a walk, scampering up and down the stairs, or seemingly levitating up onto the couch for a cuddle well into old age.

A well-balanced, well-built Bichon going around the ring is a joy to behold. I love the breed’s gorgeous reach and drive, and it almost seems as if a cup of coffee on his back would balance without spilling. I love to see the head carried proudly in front of his long, arched neck, and that lovely tail curved gracefully over his back. It’s enough to bring on tears of joy.

—Mayno Blanding, maynob@gmail.com
Bichon Frise Club of America

**Boston Terriers**

**ARE YOU PREPARED FOR A WORST-CASE SCENARIO?**

If something happens to you, what’s the worst-case scenario for your animals? The following experiences are true, where years of a breeder’s work can disappear in a few days.

Ever wonder what happened to some of the past top bloodlines? Making a will, co-owning, telling a friend what to do with your animals is sometimes not enough to save a bloodline. Whether we like it or not, we are observed by many people. Their reaction to our decisions can be taken the wrong way. Even while at your home, you may be observed. To protect your animals, be aware. There are many folks who think anyone having more than three or four dogs must have a puppy mill, be a hoarder, or just doesn’t take care of their dogs.

Imagine thinking you have prepared for your animals to be cared for. One breeder had a friend keep 13 of her Boston Terriers over the holidays, at no charge, while she was in the hospital. The
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person was to return them when the breeder was well enough to care for them. The friend wanted nothing in return and didn’t co-own any of the animals. There was a co-owner living in Canada who would take over this 50-year bloodline of line-bred show dogs. There was also a wonderful veterinarian who has been treating the dogs for over 30 years. So what could possibly go wrong?

Unfortunately, things really went wrong. The woman died; her boss didn’t know the phone number of the lady in Canada. She had told her boss her will was in a deposit box at the bank, but there was no other information left on who to call about the dogs. He called her veterinarian, who took all the dogs into the clinic, spayed and nurtured them all, and found them good homes. By the time the will was read, with the co-owner’s phone number and address listed, the legacy of a great bloodline was gone.

Neighbors around you need to feel comfortable that the dogs are cared for. Invite them over to visit every now and then. Give your cell phone number and a list of phone numbers they can call if you are not seen at home for a few days. Tell them about trips you are going on ahead of time. Not doing this can cause them to be afraid something has happened to the dogs or that they have been abandoned. They might then call police, animal control, or a rescue group, or even file an animal welfare complaint with the USDA.

Communication is a wonderful thing and can prevent a lot of heartache. Protect yourself! Make friends with people of authority and obey the law. Get a USDA hobby or kennel license if appropriate, letting them inspect and see you are doing a good job caring for animals. Remember that people care strongly about animals and will do anything to protect them, even seizing your dogs.

To help change dog laws, get involved with your county advisory board. It’s worth the trouble. It will take time to get their respect, and it takes a lot of commitment to be the only one who shows and breeds dogs. You may be considered the enemy and challenged about why you are there. It’s worth the time to find out the problems and help let them realize not all breeders are bad.

Having a coded lock-box on your front door can be helpful so that others can have access in an emergency if you are away, and it’s good to have a list of information posted on the refrigerator or other easily seen location in case someone needs to know who to call. Always prepare for the worst scenario that could happen.

—Patricia S. Johnson, BTCA and DWAA

patsgrooming@gmail.com

Boston Terrier Club of America
BREED COLUMNS

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Bulldogs
THE ROLE OF BULLDOG CLUBS IN THE COMMUNITY

There are many types of dog clubs. There are national breed clubs, obedience clubs, hunt clubs, trial clubs, and specialty clubs, among others. While each club is unique, there are certain concepts that are shared by all.

Concentrating on local specialty clubs, particularly local Bulldog clubs, we can look into several ways a club can function and serve the breed in the community.

A club should be a main link to the community in which it resides. By offering an outlet for like-minded fanciers to meet and discuss the breed, a club can function as both a social club and a teaching club, as well as creating and executing educational events such as “Meet the Breed”-type get-togethers, puppy matches, obedience trials, health clinics, seminars, and conformation shows.

The specialty club is likely working within the framework of official by-laws as prescribed by the breed’s parent club. This usually establishes details such as a set meeting time. Certainly many clubs are flexible as far as meeting locations are concerned, whether it is in a member’s home, a local library, or a dog-training facility (particularly beneficial if the education being offered involves live dogs).

Restaurants with private meeting rooms are also excellent options. Clubs with smaller memberships and not much in the way of funding will often meet at dog shows or trials.

The official business of the club is most important, but wherever possible, clubs should attempt some sort of breed education and social opportunities.

In the case of any press, be it positive or negative,
the breed club should function as a mouthpiece for the breed and the enthusiasts that support it. Hopefully local journalists know about the club’s existence and would reach out to the experts in the breed for comment, rather than some random local person such as found in an internet search.

The Bulldog Club of America is the breed’s national parent club. The BCA is divided into eight divisions, and within each division are the local clubs.

In Division 1, the local clubs are the Bulldog Club of Connecticut, Bulldog Club of New England, Bulldog Club of New Jersey, Bulldog Club of Philadelphia, Bulldog Club of Pittsburgh, Lenape Bulldog Club of Pennsylvania, Long Island Bulldog Club, and the Lower Susquehanna Bulldog Club of Pennsylvania.

Division 2 includes the Chicago Bulldog Club, Iliana Bulldog Club, Bulldog Club of Indiana, Kentuckiana Bulldog Club, Detroit Bulldog Club, Western Michigan Bulldog Club, Buckeye Bulldog Club, Cincinnati Bulldog Club, Toledo Bulldog Club, and the Milwaukee Bulldog Club.

Division 3: The Phoenix Bulldog Club, Bulldog Club of Greater San Diego, Bulldog Club of Northern California, Mother Lode Bulldog Club, Pacific Coast Bulldog Club, Hawaiian Bulldog Club, Las Vegas Bulldog Club, and Reno Bulldog Club.


Division 5: The Oregon State Bulldog Club, Southwest Oregon Bulldog Club, Bulldog Club of Utah, and Bulldog Club of Greater Seattle.

Division 6: The Bulldog Club of Central Iowa, St. Paul-Minneapolis Bulldog Club, Bulldog Club of Greater St. Louis, and the Heart of America Bulldog Club.


Division 8: The Bulldog Club of Metro Atlanta, Music With Bulldog Club, Smoky Mountain Bulldog Club, and the Tampa Bay Bulldog Club.

The BCA is unique in that there are so many local specialty clubs. There are membership opportunities in most areas of the country.

The Bulldog Club of America website has links to officers of these local clubs if you are interested in membership.

—Elizabeth Milam,
celticdogges@me.com
Bulldog Club of America
Chinese Shar-Pei

OUR BREED IS THE BEST!

Every breeder of every breed thinks their breed is the best. And they are all right! But the difference is in what they are the best for, or the best at.

I’ve had Shar-Pei for over 40 years (I know— I don’t look it!), and I’ve often thought to get another breed. I love dogs. I find so many breeds just beautiful and fascinating. But there was always something (and it’s usually something a good breeder of that other breed shares with me, because good breeders don’t want buyers to be bad fits!) that stopped me from adding a new breed to my mix.

The Chinese Shar-Pei is “my” best for a number of reasons:

1. They are wash and wear. They don’t require hours of grooming, or special coat treatments, or

Chinese Shar-Pei are kind, though not pushovers, and they seem to “get” children and elderly people.
worries about their coat length or breakage. They don’t need hours of drying and brushing, and they need no trimming. I bathe mine every few weeks (currently none are show dogs). They get their nails trimmed once a week with a Dremel. They get their ears cleaned weekly or more if needed. But that’s really pretty much it for a healthy Shar-Pei. (And no, they don’t get mold in the folds—I wish that old rumor would go away!)

2. They practically housebreak themselves, even at 6 weeks! If you raise them and move their papers farther and farther away, and/or have them near a place they can get outside, it’s the most easy thing in the world. Even as tiny pups they don’t like to mess where they eat and sleep, so tapping into that natural tidiness makes housebreaking a dream. Most puppy buyers have reported only one or two accidents, if any, and even then the new owner will share that it’s because the human didn’t get the pup outside upon waking or getting home.

3. They are great crate dogs, for the same reasons as number 2. Their natural tidiness means they are not a breed that mess in their crate then smear it around or roll in it! (Yes, there are those, and they were removed from my “oh, I want one” list!) Shar-Pei very much view a crate, once crate trained, as their private bedroom.

4. While there are exceptions to every generalization, they are not diggers. You won’t have to fill in holes all over the yard. Now, they may try to dig under a fence if there is something fun on the other side! But that is not too hard to fix. And there will be paths as they have a set way to check the yard and perimeter check! But that is their job.

5. They tend to bark to warn you if something is going on, someone is coming up the drive, but they are not endless yappers. They seem to get bored with barking about the time you might get annoyed with it.

6. They are smart but don’t have to be entertained. They are kind but not pushovers. They are cautious but not afraid. They just seem to “get” what children and the elderly are. They don’t suffer fools gladly, and if you aren’t smarter than them, or more capable of defense than they are, you will be herded aside and they will make the decisions!

And, yes, there could be a list of things we might change (it’s pretty short!) but this is an amazing breed. And I imagine dedicated breeders of all other breeds can easily write their own list! It is why we do what we do.

Shar-Pei drew me in with their wrinkles, funny faces, and deep, soulful eyes. They made me theirs forever for all the above reasons, and so many more.

—Karen Kleinhans DeSilva, kasupei@aol.com

Chinese Shar-Pei Club of America
Chow Chows

COAT COLOR—RARE, OR WRONG?

When you are considering an ancient breed like the Chow Chow that has existed and is recognizable in pottery and sculptures from the Chinese Han Dynasty (206 BC–AD 22), any attribute which is currently referenced as “rare,” unusual, or seldomly occurring must be questioned. All things that are rare do not increase the value of dog. If an attribute is wrong, it may well be injurious, unacceptable, or not meeting the defined standard for the breed. For example, it is rare to find a Chow Chow breeder who is dedicated to maintaining, testing, and developing a line of Chows that can pass all health testing, or to find a Chow Chow with five generations of dysplasia-free ancestors. These attributes are highly desirable and certainly rare, but they are not highly valued by the general public. There are other attributes that are definitely undesirable, such as ancestors who consistently have had unhealthy eyes or large, drooping, soft ears, or allergies.

A dog’s color is one of the easiest attributes to see, and therefore when an unusual color or pattern appears on a puppy, the term “rare” may be used to create a sales opportunity, even when there may be detrimental health issues linked to that color and there are no improvements to the breed associated with the color. Many AKC-recognized breeds are now struggling with health issues proven to be consistently linked a specific coat color or pattern. This includes the Chow Chow. The Chow Chow standard says: “Clear colored, solid or solid with lighter shadings in the ruff, tail and feathering. There are five colors in the Chow: red (light golden to deep mahogany), black, blue, cinnamon (light fawn to deep cinnamon) and cream. Acceptable colors to be judged on an equal basis.”

All five of the approved colors in rough or smooth-coated Chow Chows may
have lighter shading in the tail, ruff, breeches, and feathering. These are acceptable colors according to the standard, which says there can be “lighter shadings in the ruff, tail and feathering.” The Chow Chow is not allowed to have patterning (merle, brindle, piebald).

Responsible breeders, devoted to preserving and protecting this ancient breed, carefully place any puppy with an unapproved color or mismarking in a loving, forever home where the puppy will be spayed or neutered and will be registered with a Limited registration, or not registered.

—Love Banghart, 
Lkendr4300@aol.com
Chow Chow Club, Inc.

Dalmatians
PLACING A DEAF PUPPY

Times have changed dramatically in the last 20-plus years or so. There was a time when it was expected that bilaterally deaf puppies born to a litter were humanely euthanized. It
was one of the most difficult and heartbreaking things we faced when breeding. The reason for this was usually liability, because if the deaf puppy injured someone, the breeder could be held liable for knowingly placing a “dangerous” dog.

Having survived the vast amount of rescue we did at that time, we also saw a lot of deaf dogs who were abused because their owners would become frustrated with them and tie them out and forget them. I know of one dog who froze to death one winter because of this neglect. The prevailing thought of many breeders was it was better to let the puppy go gently to sleep than to possibly suffer or face an uncertain future.

Thankfully, a new mindset that has developed since then. Many bilaterally deaf dogs are now being placed successfully, with many different options available, including private adoptions and rescues. However, it is, of course, the responsibility of the breeder to ensure that their puppy lands in the best and most humane situation possible. Even the AKC has gotten with the times, and currently allows deaf dogs to participate in various performance events.

There are many rescues these days that specialize in training and placing special-needs dogs, whether it be hearing, vision, or physical impairments. Nevertheless, you have to do your homework to verify their claims and credibility. Make sure you check with people who have adopted from them and can follow the history of dogs they’ve placed. The breeder wants a happy ending; hopefully, the rescue does too. Thankfully, many rescues will continue to work with the adopters to ensure they follow appropriate training methods. They can be there for you whenever you need to ask advice or pick their brains.

I know of one puppy who went into a great rescue and while watching the rescue’s goat (don’t ask) go through agility, decided to give it a try. The trainer at the rescue said she doesn’t normally put puppies through agility because of developing bones and ligaments, but they decided to begin training with the puppy—the thought being if the puppy was going to do it, he might as well learn to do it properly so he doesn’t injure himself. As a result, he became a YouTube star.

If a good breeder chooses to place their deaf puppies, it is a process that again requires lots of inquiries and studies of applicants who are willing to take on this responsibility. While deaf dogs can learn to do anything a hearing dog can do, the process is more of a challenge, since they are unable to hear verbal cues during training. Above all things, the trainer must be patient, gentle, and consistent in their methods. The obvious first choice would be someone who has previous experience with a deaf dog, but with a good trainer for the owner, anyone has the ability to give it a go.
So let’s *hear* it for the deaf ones! They can do it!
—Jan Warren Linné, janlinne56@yahoo.com
Dalmatian Club of America

French Bulldogs

**ASK NOT WHAT THE CLUB CAN DO ...**

I’ve heard non-members ask, “Why should I join the parent club?” Likewise, sometimes members demand, “What do I get for my $25 a year, anyway?” Membership in a breed club is a two-way street. It involves considering not only what the club can do for you, but also what you can do for the club—and the breed.

Here is a brief summary of the French Bull Dog Club of America’s objectives, as stated in the club’s constitution: to encourage and promote quality in the breeding of Frenchies, and to promote their proper care; to encourage the organization of local French Bulldog clubs; to urge members and breeders to accept the standard of the breed; to protect and advance the interests of the breed; to encourage sportsmanlike competition at dog shows and obedience trials; and to conduct sanctioned matches and specialty shows and obedience trials.

What does the FBDCA do for you?

In furtherance of the objectives listed above, our club is a repository of information, experience, and knowledge—serving novices, exhibitors, breeders, pet owners, and people just interested in learning more about the breed. It provides support for those who want to show their dogs in competition by holding specialty shows (including performance events) and supporting the breed entry at all-breed shows. It attempts to educate
the general public, owners, breeders, and judges by providing seminars, “Meet the Breed” events, and a website offering volumes of information about every aspect of French Bulldogs.

The club’s elected Board of Directors and its many committees work hard as volunteers to carry out these objectives in a responsible, open, and interactive manner, always with the best interests of the breed their uppermost concern.

What can the FBDCA expect from you?

The club expects its members to adhere to its constitution and bylaws, as well as maintain high ethical standards regarding all aspects of Frenchie ownership, showing, and breeding. Each member is an ambassador for not just the breed but also its parent club, and when a member breaches our ethical standards, this reflects badly on us all and is taken very seriously.

Members are expected to support the club’s goals by helping to educate people about our breed. Volunteering to help at public-education events (such as Responsible Dog Ownership Day, Meet the Breeds, and other public events) is one way to do this. Being helpful to people who inquire about the breed and directing them to information sources such as the club website is another. Providing dogs for use in judging seminars is very important. Acting as a mentor for people who are trying to learn about owning, breeding, handling, training, and showing a Frenchie is a great service.

Members may volunteer to serve on committees, help with specialty shows and supported entries, and provide financial support for trophies and other aspects of specialty shows and related events.

Instead of saying “the club should do this or that,” remember that the club is its members. If we want something done, we should volunteer to fill whatever we see as a need. — Jan Grebe, FDBCA columnist, 2008

— Sande Abernathy, jpaaplay@comcast.net
French Bull Dog Club of America

Keeshonden
WHERE WILL YOU GET YOUR NEXT PUPPY?

As many of you have probably noticed, the price of purebred dogs has steadily been rising. Much of this has to do with the availability of puppies—they are harder and harder to find. This is true of not only purebred dogs but also mixed-breed puppies, and all puppies in general. The situation has led rescue organizations that depend on the revenue from the sale of dogs to change their operations. Some have been importing dogs from foreign countries. These are street dogs and puppies that enter our country without parental or basic health testing and can carry diseases that are not common in North America. Nonprofits that achieve their mission, such
as the reduction of stray dogs in a community, are generally supposed to adjust their mission or go out of business. This has not happened, and these imported strays present a threat to the entire North American canine population. A regulatory and legislative solution is needed as more and more rescue organizations turn to this strategy, and even the practice of breeding dogs.

However, we are presented with another problem with regard to preservation breeders and purebred dogs. What is the cause of shrinking breed populations and fewer available puppies? Several causes come to mind.

First the baby boom. Those born after WWII, the largest generation in U.S. history, are mostly now retired, being between 57 and 75 years old. They are also retiring from breeding dogs.

Second, entry into the dog world of showing and breeding is not clear and is fraught with more obstacles than previously. Clubs are no longer required to hold independent puppy matches. In the past, for many people this was their introduction to the purebred dog world. This situation has been helped by the addition of the 4–6 Months puppy classes, but these are still held at a busy all-breed show where the focus is on points and breed competition, with little help and information available for the newcomer.

Third, many breed clubs and dog show participants are still in an “anti-breeder” mode. By this I mean that they do not welcome new breeders or provide mentoring and educational support for them. But worst of all, if someone is in a position with the time and resources to breed more than one one
or two litters a year, they may be highly criticized for excessive breeding, being a “puppy mill,” or breeding for profit. It is possible to do an excellent job with your puppies, both in terms of health and socialization, if you have the time and resources.

Keeshonden are in increasing demand, and we do not have nearly enough puppies to meet the demand for healthy, well bred puppies. Further, a healthy breed population would require by some estimates a minimum of 600 dogs—and here is the rub—all of whom have an equal chance of being selected for breeding.

What can we do to help this situation? First, we can look at changing our attitude about newcomers and encouraging them to learn, and help them move toward breeding their first litter. I was given very good advice by long-term and highly respected Keeshond breeder Eloise Geiger. She advised me to learn to show my young bitch who was from a well respected kennel, then she said I should put an obedience degree on her. Her reasoning was that every breeder will be mentoring their puppy buyers in training and behavior, and by obtaining a CD (Companion Dog) title, I would be able to provide the foundation for this knowledge. She then offered her mentorship and advice on selecting a stud dog for my dog, since my dog’s breeder had retired. She advised me to study the breed standard and watch the judging at the dog shows. Through this practice and discussion with mentors, I could learn to apply it to the dogs in the ring. She said every breeder needs to determine for themselves their goals and objective and how they will serve the breed. This advice served me very well over the years.

We can make more litters available by recognizing opportunities for co-breeding when they occur. Though they may be rare, there are people who enjoy raising puppies under the guidance of an experienced breeder. In terms of stud dogs, more well-bred males need to be health tested so that they will have an opportunity to be added to the gene pool. A national registry for Keeshonden available in frozen semen, and geographic registry of Keeshonden stud dogs with CHIC numbers, photos, and pedigrees would also be very useful in expanding breeding opportunities and mitigating restrictions on our gene pool.

By discussing these challenges with your specialty club, you can think of many ways to address the problem. These are just a few of the approaches available.

Our breed is very versatile and important. Keeshonden are excellent with children and they make wonderful therapy dogs, hearing ear dogs, and companions for all sizes and shapes of families.

I am at the stage of my breeding career—old!—where families are calling for puppies because their dog
has passed from old age. It has been a frustrating challenge to help them find a puppy. This situation is not unique.

Our breed will be healthier if we maintain a healthy breeding population and attract new, dedicated breeders to the joys and challenges of breeding healthy and wonderful Keeshond puppies!

—Deborah Lynch, dlnpoconsult@gmail.com
Keeshond Club of America

Lhasa Apsos
“SORRY, NOT A WINNER!”

The odds were millions to one … yet dreams of paying bills, helping family, travel, and buying a new car fueled your imagination. But when you checked your lottery ticket, your bubble burst: “Sorry, not a winner!”

You entered your dog in a dog show. Dreams of class wins, championship points, maybe even Best of Breed, group wins—and above all, Best in Show—filled your imagination. The odds were not as daunting as the lottery, and you thought you had a shot. But the message was the same: “Sorry, not a winner!”

Winning the lottery is random luck. You can improve your odds in a miniscule way by buying more tickets. With dog shows, there is an element of luck, but you pay for a subjective opinion, not a random draw. So beyond having a good dog, there are some things you can do to make that opinion more favorable.

Let’s assume you have sought a knowledgeable and objective evaluation of your dog, and it has been deemed ring worthy. Short of hiring a professional, what can you do to improve your odds?

Conditioning. A good dog must be in top physical condition. Good muscle tone, clean teeth, trimmed nails, and a coat that is clean, well-groomed, and in peak condition for its age and
breed. Be equally certain that you look like a person who is proud of your dog and serious about winning. Dress appropriately. Clothing doesn’t have to be expensive, but it should be clean and pressed. Wear clean shoes and a jacket and tie for men, and professional-looking attire for women. Your attire should frame your dog, and make you look like a team, not create a distraction. Choosing a color that highlights your dog is a plus.

Training. Both you and your dog should know ring procedure, and you both should move at a speed that demonstrates good movement and attitude. Your gait should match your dog’s. A dog with a smooth, effortless gait looks awkward if its handler is taking short, choppy steps.

Use the right lead for your dog, and make sure it is the right length for you. Take training classes for both of you from a qualified professional to sharpen your presentation.

Timing. Nothing screams “amateur” in the wrong sense of the word than someone who doesn’t allot the time needed to do things right. Arriving late to the show then rushing from the parking lot to the ring in a panic upsets your dog and sends a bad message to everyone who sees you. Some delays are unavoidable, but factor in time for the unexpected.

The AKC requires that judges maintain a schedule, with limited time to evaluate each dog. If you delay judging by being called multiple times for your class, or fail to make advance arrangements for extra help when you show more than one dog, you are upsetting the judge’s schedule and risk annoying the judge and fellow exhibitors.

Observation. Before you are ready to show, watch the judge. Familiarize yourself with their ring procedure, especially if it involves something out of the ordinary. Mentally go through stacking and moving your dog according to the judge’s procedure so there is no last-minute confusion that might unsettle you, your dog, or the judge. Your body language should signal confidence in what you are doing which translates into confidence in your dog.

Sportsmanship. Be gracious and courteous. No one likes a sore loser, but arrogant winners are equally unappreciated.

Questions. Not all judges will oblige, but don’t hesitate to politely ask the judge if there was a deciding factor in your win or loss. The knowledge you gain will help in the future. Improving your odds in many small ways can move you along to being what you desire: a winner.

—Cassandra de la Rosa, dlrcas@msn.com
The American Lhasa Apso Club

Poodles

TO PLANT A SEED IS TO BELIEVE IN TOMORROW

It’s early spring as we share these thoughts, so
close to the Poodle Club of America’s national specialty show that our suitcases should be all be packed and ready. It’s time for us to spend time planting.

The Seed
In early 2013, the late (and very missed) Dennis McCoy and Mary Ellen Fischler, along with Gina Wieser and Tabatha Waters, developed the concept of a Junior Education Program for the Poodle Club of America. The initial outline and goals of the program were presented to the PCA Board of Directors at the first meeting of the year, and in 2014 the idea became a reality. A Junior Education Committee was established, and the first PCA Junior Education Program was supported enthusiastically by attendees at the national specialty in Salisbury, Maryland.

The program’s mission statement was and remains: “[To] Foster and reward youth participation, teach ethics in animal care, handling, and training practices, encourage young people to become actively involved in the sport, instill good sportsmanship, and generate pride in accomplishments earned competing with Poodles.”

Granted, it’s a mighty mission statement. How could we ever achieve this?

Let’s begin by planting the seeds for the future, and include and involve our youth. Focus on good sportsmanship, and offer mentorship from those who are established handlers, owners, breeders, photographers, groomers, trainers, and everything else “dogs”—not just Poodles.

By fostering a solid foun-
tion, we seek to create a better world. Invest in our youth, and let’s see how we grow.

**The Planting**

We’ve said it more than once, “If you want to have fun at the national, join us in the junior program.” The ideal is to make it fun and interesting! The Wednesday pizza party is usually loud enough to be heard by spectators ringside. It’s enriching, it’s educational, and it’s a blast! Presenters are icons in the sport and leaders in the fancy and often were juniors themselves. After our presenter, the yearly trivia game distributes donated grooming supplies and dog stuff while it rewards breed knowledge and general animal husbandry awareness. (We do have fun, while the goal is to learn.)

Every year the PCA Junior Education Committee tries to offer something new and of value and of interest to all juniors attending. We add in ways to create interaction, as action equals involvement, and involvement equals participation, which leads to enthusiasm. See how the soil is tilled?

Do you know how to perform CPR on your pup? There are juniors from the PCA national specialty who do! Can you correctly judge a class of Poodles? Are you prepared to offer critiques and justification using the breed standard and the basis of “form follows function” to validate your placement? After Gina Wieser taught a judges’ breed-structure seminar, the juniors nailed it!

The PCA Junior Education Program logo was conceived during a brainstorming session during the juniors’ luncheon and was later made reality by a graphic designer to stand as our identity for years to come. Professionals and icons in the fancy have taught juniors “How to Get Started in Field Trials with Your Poodle,” and Patty Proctor from AKC has discussed social media and how it affects us all. Professional handlers at the top of their game volunteer their time to work one-on-one with juniors “on the grass”—for those who haven’t attended the PCA national, that’s in the big ring. What an opportunity to learn and sharpen handling skills! And there was also a hands-on class for proper brushing and drying.

Support and wisdom from past juniors, now successful, contributing adults, has been consistent. Beginning obedience and rally walk-throughs got everyone going in the right direction, and a Dress for Success training session had everyone up and bending, twisting, laughing, and learning what to wear and what not to! Adventures as members of the AKC Junior Agility Team and international competition were shared to the fascination of a roomful of juniors who represent all of the possibilities of youth. The wealth of knowledge contributed is
vast and has been invaluable.

**The Tending**

Corporate donors such as Pet-Agree grooming supplies, Artero USA, Purina, and others have provided fantastic gifts for all juniors attending the national specialty. Many businesses are investing in and assisting in equipping our juniors with the products and tools needed to be successful.

Poodles are a coated breed with a reputation for some pretty amazing presentation. Keep in mind, though, Poodles are more than grooming and showing. The program encompasses field, tracking, obedience, agility, rally, and even therapy work. The goal is to open the doors for all juniors, regardless of their area of interest. The PCA Junior Education Program seeks to acknowledge and reward juniors in all disciplines.

The seedling and the sprout are tended by this program. There are those who are just beginning participation, and those who are about to age out. Since the inception of the Junior Education Program, through commercial donors and personal donations, all juniors are gifted with gift bags, leads and towels, training treats, food cups, travel bags and poop bags, and grooming products, regardless of their chosen discipline.

Beginning in 2021, Randy Garren provides all juniors attending the PCA national with monogrammed towels featuring the unique PCA Junior Education logo. The PCA Board of Directors has provided pens, free entry into the national specialty, and a yearly invitation to the Blue Ribbon dinner at the national specialty and are some of our strongest supporters.

**Don’t Forget to Water**

Through donations of the fancy of art and gifts, and via the support of the attendees of the national specialty purchasing tickets to the 50/50 Raffle and the donated items, the PCA Junior Education Program offers the Anne Rogers Clark Stipend to any Poodle junior who applies. The ARC Stipend has increased in value through the years and is available to those competing at the national specialty, the AKC National Championship, or Westminster, or with the AKC Junior Agility Team—or any or all of those events! Juniors are not limited to just one ARC Stipend.

The PCA Junior Education Program is a self-sustaining entity of PCA that is funded by generous donations, fundraising, and soliciting sponsorships. It is the goal of the Jr. Ed. Committee to continue to award the stipend to every junior who applies for every sanctioned event in which they are able to participate. Our affiliate clubs offer incentives for junior entries.

The FB page launched in 2019 has more than 1K followers. (Even though the juniors think FB is “lame”—and yes, that’s a quote! That comment has us hoping for
an Instagram-savvy volunteer so we can step up our social media game.) There’s also a lending library of breed magazines and dog books that have been donated.

The Harvest
Former junior Kathleen Hartig said, “I learned so much while I was in juniors. I learned responsibility—to my dog, to my breed, to my academics.” Kathleen is now a professional handler and a breeder of Collies! (She was one of the first juniors this writer worked with, and her comment has never been forgotten.)

Is there a guarantee that the junior standing beside you today will be working with animals in 10 years? No, there is not. Life doesn’t come with guarantees. You’ll need to check on the harvest. See the young professionals, still learning, working with BIS-winning handlers. They’re members of affiliate clubs and members and committee chairs of all-breed clubs. They’re prospective college students, submitting their entrance essays on animal care and preservation of the Poodle breed. They’re out there. It only takes belief in them. A little care, focus, and attention, and you be able to clearly see the future.

• The upcoming PCA national specialty boasts our highest junior entry, with 19 juniors entered across all disciplines.
• To date the PCA Junior Education Program has awarded 19 Anne Rogers Clark Stipends since 2017 (and 2020 didn’t count!).
—Tabatha D. Waters, Co-chair, PCA Junior Education Committee

Poodle Club of America

Schipperkes
WHAT DOES “COBBY” MEAN?
Our standard describes the Schipperke in part as “thickset, cobby.” And the standard in Belgium, the breed’s country of origin, also describes the dog as “short and wide, therefore cobby.” Recently a breeder said to me, “I think some people and some judges are confused, or mistaking ‘cobby’ for short on leg.”

I know my own interpretation of the word, but I set out to talk with others and see if this is indeed a confusing term.

The word cobby as used in AKC standards is thought to refer to a cob horse for comparison. A cob is a type of horse from the U.K. generally described as “small to medium size with a broad chest, strong legs, and a thick neck.” And perhaps some confusion owes to cobs also sometimes being described as “shorter legged.” Often they are said to be “larger than a pony, smaller than a horse”—or similar to a small draft breed.

Does this apply to what we are seeking in the physically perfect Schipperke? For example, without a frame of reference, in looking at a photo of a Schipperke one might be hard pressed to tell if it is a small dog. Our standard says quality takes
precedence over size; however, the fact remains the breed is to be a square and thickset dog, no matter the size. While smaller, they are to be sturdy, with a relatively heavy body, good spring of rib, and some forechest.

When you pick up a Schip, you might be surprised at how much dog there is there! The older descriptions actually called for them to appear heavier in the front than the rear, and rather more pear shaped. This is of course accentuated by the Schipperke’s ruff, cape, and jabot giving at least the visual allusion of more dog up front (think of the mane of a male lion). Balance is key, and it’s hard to achieve; I think this is why we often see wide fronts and narrow rears when moving. The breed is to “double track with a tendency to converge as speed increases,” but they should ideally stay parallel. In other words, when the dog is moving away, one sees the back legs and paws when he is coming toward you, only the front legs are visible.

In asking longtime breeders, judges’ education chairs, and breeder-judges, as well as all-round judges, what does “cobby” in the Schipperke standard mean to you?

The answers were quite similar. Overall, they replied that a Schip should be a sturdy, small dog who looks to be capable of a variety of work; a breed possessing some speed and endurance, but in exhibiting to be moved at a moderate pace. After all, Schips had to be strong to take on wharf and barn rats or other small vermin. “Chunky” but not fat, with well-muscled hindquarters and good bone without being coarse.

One person who judges in Europe but officiates here in the U.S. as well said, “For lack of a different term, the Schipperke is rather stout.”

Remember, they are not a diminutive Belgian shepherd, nor a little Akita, nor are they a Pomeranian. They are moderate in all ways, with bone in proportion.
to size, the distinctive coat pattern forming a key part of the thick look; and again, square. 

So, let’s focus on our “cobby” dogs with their hardy appearance and hopefully better understand the comparison to the cob horse. 

(P.S.: There are cob guinea pigs, too—but let’s save that for another day!)

—Virginia Larioza, Schipperke Club of America

**Shiba Inu**

**MORE WAYS TO HAVE FUN WITH YOUR SHIBA**

The Shiba Inu was originally bred to hunt by sight and scent in the dense undergrowth of Japan’s mountainous areas to flush birds and small game, and occasionally to hunt wild boar. This requires the Shiba’s movement to be nimble, light, and elastic to allow for agility and the skill to turn on a dime. 

Shibas possess a spirited boldness and an unaffected forthrightness, which yield dignity and natural beauty with an independent nature. This package has led many people to believe a common misconception that this spirited breed is difficult to train for the performance ring, with their unreliable recall and their tenacity to hunt.

A Shiba owner will agree on the latter, but this breed is quite easy to train with the handler who understands how a Shiba thinks. 

While I say “easy to train,” however, the handler will have their challenges. The Shiba’s mind is highly intelligent and picks up training concepts quickly but frowns upon a lot of repetition. The handler must see the training through a Shiba’s eyes: “I am not here to please you—and furthermore, how are all your requests advantageous to me?”

Understanding this, as well as the breed’s independent hunting nature, allows the Shiba Inu and handler to excel in the performance world. 

Increasingly more Shibas and their owners are dip-
ping feet and paws into the wide array of events offered by the AKC and other organizations. Coursing ability tests—CATs, Fast CATs—scent work, and Barn Hunts are weekend favorites for the highly active Shiba who can show off their skills chasing and seeking out critters.

A recent scenario described to me depicted a Barn Hunt event set up near the conformation ring, and the Shiba let loose the breed’s typical “Shiba scream” outside the show ring once his keen sense of smell picked up the rat scent. I can only imagine the handler diligently working to gain the focus of their Shiba before entering the ring.

The owner who is looking for a little more challenge and has a nearby facility can try dock diving. Shibas have earned titles in this sport—quite the achievement for a breed that is not particularly fond of water.

The opportunities to earn titles such as Trick Dog and rally through AKC’s virtual program allow the Shiba and their owner to explore performance in a low-stress and safe environment at home or a training facility.

The NSCA is seeing more of the membership participate in these activities and earn titles, which in return can be applied toward the club’s annual award program.

I personally took the opportunity to explore trick titles with my Shibas. I’ll admit tricks with my crew were never on the list; however, I quickly realized the fun I missed—and it was me, the handler, who needed to learn how to teach the trick!

These fun events extend beyond being a great pastime to challenge the Shiba mind and their athletic, compact body—they enhance the relationship between handler and dog, build confidence in a young Shiba for the show ring, help an older senior be active, and increase skills of the new or advanced handler.

—Letty Hughes, lettyhughes.nsca@gmail.com

National Shiba Club of America

**Tibetan Spaniels**

**WHAT’S IN A NAME?**

A s breeders, one of the most important and personal decisions we can ever make is choosing our kennel name. After all, this will be the prefix that represents our family of dogs for generations to come and will appear on pedigrees, in show catalogs, and in magazines around the world. We want something unique that resonates with us.

I canvassed a number of our Tibbie breeder-exhibitors to find out the origin of their kennel names, and I got some delightful and surprising responses.

Geographical features and place names always provide inspiration. Colleen Bias Chaffee came up with Shenanwood in 1972, when she lived near the Shenandoah Valley on a wooded property in New York state. Back then, she had English and Welsh Springer Spaniels, but when she acquired her first Tibetan Spaniel in 1993, she continued with the name,
and that was more than 100 champions ago.

Mallory Cosby Driskill had Norwegian Elkhounds before Tibbies. Her late mentor, Jay Child of Amroth Tibetan Spaniels, told her she needed a kennel name, and Mallory wanted to find something that could work for both breeds. Returning from a trip to Connecticut where she showed at her first specialty, she was passing through Amherst County in Virginia and saw a sign for the Ambrier Shopping Center. She tweaked the spelling to Ambrier and had her kennel name.

Pamela Bradbury used Northwood for her Welsh Corgis because her “heart was in the North Country of Wisconsin.” Her first litter of Tibbies contained a little girl she named Northwood Dragonsong, and Pam decided Dragonsong was more fitting for an oriental breed.

Dianne Tyree had Golden Retrievers before Tibbies. With the purchase of her third Golden, she was told the litter theme was Ireland, so off she went researching place names. She found Wexford, and as a fan of author Ruth Rendell’s Inspector Wexford mystery series, that seemed the perfect name for both breeds.

Teri Paris started Runningbrook in 1989 when she lived in Manhattan. She dreamed of one day having property with a running brook, as it was her very favorite sound. It only took 20 years for her to get stuck in the Catskill Mountains in the middle of winter and discover a property that had not one but two running brooks on it!

Special names—of people, dogs, even sports teams!—can hold intensely personal feelings for us. Brad Hooper and Sergio Yazid chose Sergio’s mother’s first name, Livier, to honor their Tibbies.

Marcia Becker combined the names of their first three Tibbies—Angel, Roadie, and Belle—for Arabelle. “Obviously Belle, being our first Tibbie, the one that got...
us hooked on the breed, earned top billing,” adds Marcia.

Torie Marks is a diehard Florida State fan, and the team has an Appaloosa horse named Renegade as its mascot. “Being a bit of a renegade myself, that name seemed perfect.”

Barbara Smith’s kennel name Briallu is taken from the Welsh for “primroses.” Barb’s first Welsh Springer Spaniel was Kyna, Ch. Shuk’s Kyna Rose, CD. The name Briallu celebrates all the Welshies and Tibbies that followed.

The Flolin prefix was coined in 1969 after Linda Foiles’s marriage to husband Floyd, combining the first three letters of their first names.

The exotic-sounding name of Namtrah is actually Hartman spelled backwards, as in longtime Tibbie breeders Harold and Mary Hartman.

Gail Krall chose Lantana, a girl’s name from the Greek meaning “the rare flower.” It is also a vibrant flower that Gail would see all over San Antonio when the Kralls lived there.

Sometimes an evocative word makes the choice for us. Janet Wright used the kennel name Gembox when she raised Boxers. She considers Tibbies her little gems, so she kept the name.

Martha Feltenstein chose Kan Sing for her Tibetan Mastiffs; it’s Tibetan for the mythical snow lion that appears on the Tibetan flag and symbolizes power, strength, fearlessness, and joy. Once she began breeding Tibbies, the name seemed equally appropriate.

Lary Hesdorffer and Ed Jimenez honored a first puppy “whose sable coat shimmered in the sunlight like spun gold” by choosing the name Eldorado. They also liked the loose reference to the legendary lost city of gold, El Dorado.

In my own case, I named an Afghan Hound Pashmina many years ago. I loved the exotic sound of the word, the image of the shawl, and the silk fabric it is made of.

For me, it works equally well for the Tibbies.

Here’s hoping you’ve been inspired.

—Allan Reznik, reznikallan@gmail.com
Tibetan Spaniel Club of America

Tibetan Terriers
SUCCESS IN THE RING AS A TIBETAN TERRIER OWNER-HANDLER

When considering acquiring a Tibetan Terrier with a view to being successful as an owner-handler, one needs to think carefully about this choice, most especially because of the lack of ease when it comes to grooming and ring preparation. In our case we have fallen in love with our breed, decide to show them ourselves, and have learned by trial and error how to manage all that it takes to show a Tibetan Terrier.

Probably the most challenging aspect of success is the keeping of one’s TT profuse double coat in tip-top, mat-free condition, with
not only weekly—when not actively showing—bathing and grooming, but also the use of good products and carefully chosen, wholesome nutrition and supplements.

Regular exercise to maintain good muscle tone underneath all that hair is also of extreme importance. TTs love to run, and they often come home with lots of twigs and leaves snarled into their long coats. Not to mention their joy of rolling in delicious-smelling cat or fox poo! Constant maintenance is required in order for your dog to be able to be in show-ready condition, but even then, ring preparation can and does, still take hours.

The notion of a level playing field is not quite so straightforward in our breed. I was interested to read a comment by an owner-handler in the November 2020 edition of Showsight magazine regarding the NOHS (AKC National Owner-Handled Series). This person said that there is most definitely a place for the NOHS, and that the program keeps many coming to shows when they have a breed that is dominated by a handler or a breeder in a specific area.

While there are now more owner-handlers in the ring than there have been in past years, it is occasionally challenging for them not to feel frustrated when they have shown their very best. Despite the fact that their dog reflects many of the good qualities the TT breed is known for, they are often at times overlooked by a dog who is being shown by a prominent handler. However, when a respected judge compliments you on the level of quality of owner-handler dogs being shown now compared to when the NOHS first started, this is a proud moment indeed. Yes, our breed can be successfully owner-handled!

The final reason that was given is one that likewise cannot be disputed regarding TTs, who are also very attuned to their owners. The joy of the one-on-one interaction that you, as an owner-handler, can experience with your dog in the ring is second to none.

—Sonam Kushner, sonamkushner@gmail.com

Tibetan Terrier Club of America
Bearded Collies

YOUR BEARDIE IS SMARTER THAN YOU THINK

“Well, aren’t you the pretty young lady,” said the judge, stooping down in front of Bounce. With regal dignity, Bounce stepped forward to put one pristine paw on the judge’s knee and leaned in to give him a quick, dainty kiss on the cheek before stepping back into The Pose. Guess who went WB that day?

She knew what she was doing. Like most Beardies I’ve known, she had the ability to figure things out, reason, and perceive cause and effect.

Bounce was the spoiled “boss bitch” of the household and was in a snit when she got relegated to an outdoor run one day. It wasn’t long before a mournful sound emanated from the run and there was Bounce, holding up a bloody paw, having ripped a nail on the chain link of the run. Of course, she was quickly brought back into the house to have her paw bathed and bandaged. Her limp was positively pitiful, designed to wring every drop of sympathy from onlookers.

In time, the paw healed nicely, but still she limped. And limped.

And then one day, I opened the back door and let her out to run with the rest of the crew. As I happened to glance out the window, I saw her tearing around the yard in flat-out pursuit of one of her buddies. No trace of a limp. As I opened the door, she stopped in her tracks, lifted a paw, and limped slowly toward me.

“You fraud,” I told her, “you’re limping on the wrong paw.”

At least she had the decency to look embarrassed as she switched paws to limp on the previously injured appendage.

In a book on canine lore, the author opined that show dogs didn’t know whether they won or lost and didn’t care in either case. Brit not only knew when he lost but he also made it quite clear how he felt about defeat. It
was downright humiliating. We’d barely exit the ring when Brit would throw himself down in the aisle and cringe. He’d hunch himself into a mahogany mass of misery. His sad eyes begged me not to beat him. Like I ever lifted a hand to him. No way! People would stare at me as though I took the disappointment of loss out on my poor dog. Trying to drag him away from the scene of disgrace looked even worse. It took some pleading, not to mention several chunks of garlic-tinged liver, to get him back on his feet and on his way.

Are you beginning to get the picture? Beardies not only know how to outthink us and play to our emotions, they also can display some rather amazing talents. I never figured out how Brit knew when we were a mile from home. But when we returned from a trip—no matter how short or how long—he’d wake up, stretch, and wag his tail when we were a mile from home. It didn’t matter that he was in a crate in the back of my van, with no way to see out and the windows closed to local aromas, he still knew the journey was just about over.

Cocoa, my parents’ Beardie, would park herself by the front door about 10 minutes before my Dad came home. He thought perhaps she knew the sound of his car and tried to trick her by shutting off the engine and coasting silently down the block. He tried coming in from a different direction. And he didn’t always come home at the same time. But she was always there. He even rode home with a friend. It didn’t matter. Mom noted that Cocoa would be in place 10 minutes prior to Dad’s arrival, regardless of how or when he arrived.

When my father died, I’m sure Cocoa was waiting by Heaven’s gate 10 minutes before he arrived.

Then there’s the canine’s incredible sense of smell. The increased interest in scent work has introduced more owners to the wonders of this ability. Many years ago, I got a phone call from a young lady in Buffalo, New York, who had bought a Beardie pup from me. Her mail was delivered through a slot in the front door, and her dog had picked out a letter I had written her (obviously before the days of email) and was stretched out on the sofa with the letter tucked under his paw. She thought it was quite a coincidence. It wasn’t. He did it again the next time I wrote. And the time after that. Despite its travels through the Canadian and U.S. postal services, the letters apparently retained enough of my scent for her Beardie to detect it.

I never cease to find it amazing that pups I’ve sent off to their new homes at 8 weeks of age will remember me months or even years later. The record belongs to a Beardie an OES breeder bought for his parents who liked the shaggy looks but didn’t feel up to contending with the OES coat. I’d see
the gentleman at shows, and he’d keep me up to date on how Skipper, the Bearded, was doing. Eventually, he moved closer to where I lived, and one day he called to tell me his folks were visiting and wondered if I’d like to see Skipper, now 12 years old. Sure! I drove over and when I arrived, Skipper came ambling over to say hi. Then he sniffed. And sniffed again. And suddenly he was all over me, jumping into my arms, licking my face and making happy noises all the while. It was humbling to think a Bearded who only knew me for a few weeks as a pup would remember me with such affection a dozen years later, with only scant sniffs to remind him.

Whether it’s the ability to reason, to deduce, to work out solutions, to employ some sixth sense, or use the astonishing sense of smell, you can bet your Bearded knows more than you think.

—Alice Bixler,
alice@bedlamkennels.com
Bearded Collie Club of America

**Belgian Malinois**

**BEGINNINGS**

The year 2023 marks 40 years since I got my first Belgian. That 1983 beginning seems like ancient history now. In fact, it is 30 percent of the time since that day in November 1891, when Professor Adolphe Reul gathered the herding dogs of Belgium at Cureghem, near Brussels, and concluded that “…there was a consistent type of native shepherd dog: a square, medium-sized dog with well-set triangular ears and very dark brown eyes that differed only in the texture, color, and length of hair.” (See *A History of the Belgian Shepherd Dogs*, by Mara Lee Jiles.) Perhaps this anniversary entitles me to a few words of reflection.

My first Belgian was not actually a Malinois. It was a Belgian Sheepdog. Having graduated college in 1982, then found employment and rented lodgings, I turned to my next project: buying a horse. Except, I could do math—and the math said I couldn’t afford it.

Well, OK, if not a horse, then a dog! I researched breeds all summer with the help of my brand-new *AKC Complete Dog Book* and the breeder listings in the *AKC Gazette*.

I had grown up with backyard Collies, but I wanted something different. Maybe not quite as different as the gargantuan flying mop on the dust jacket of my *Complete Dog Book*, identified as a Komondor clearing an obedience jump. For various reasons, once I discussed them with breeders, I found the Gordon Setter and the majestic white Kuvasz not to my taste. I spoke to a breeder about the sleek, athletic Viszla.

She told me that I wouldn’t want one, because they had too much energy. I took her word for it and abandoned the idea.

It was another 20 years before it occurred to me that Belgians have at least as much energy as Viszlas. The only difference is that no one told me that I wouldn’t
BREED COLUMNS

HERDING GROUP

Chieho’s Shatila, UDTX, age 9, still ready for anything; Tila’s first day in her new home, 1983 (those bedspread tassle-balls lasted less than 24 hours—sometimes it takes first-time dog owners a while to understand why crating unsupervised puppies is a good idea); Tila’s undying zest for life, adventure, and culture is on display in this 1983 photo of her critiquing a painting of the Maine coastline; Tila and Carilee Moran, way back in the 1980s when both were very young, winning a Utility obedience class. Carilee still has that shirt.

I was now officially out of ideas. But according to my trusty Gazette, there was to be a very big dog show in Cleveland, Ohio, that December, and I decided to go.

At that show, I saw a dog—a Belgian Sheepdog—dark as night, proud as Walter Farley’s black stallion. I was smitten. I must have approached an exhibitor or two and petted a few Belgians, but I was in no state to remember who they were, or even whether they were nice to me. It didn’t matter. I was sure. This would be my breed.

Back home, I rifled through my latest Gazette and discovered a listing for a nearby breeder. By the end of my first visit, I had put a deposit on a puppy. I was single, 23, and lived in a shabby duplex with no fenced yard. I had no experience and no references. Looking back, I realize how lucky I was that the breeder took a chance on me. Would it happen now?

I did not understand at the time what an extraor-
ordinary dog this was. She was bold and bright, and well-constructed, if not “typey.” I know now that she was more in the mould of a working-line Belgian. Smart, biddable, and tough as nails, she worked for the love of working, not because of my training skills. She was a towering talent. However, I, with my Koehler in one hand and my Monks of New Skete in the other, had a long way to go. I wish I had known more to start with, but we are all condemned to be beginners sometime or other.

Tila and I tried everything together. It stole a small piece of me when she died. The day after her death, I called a friend to tell him the news. He told me he that already knew. He knew because his dog, Magic, who had died just a few months before, had appeared to him in a dream the previous night. He said that Magic had run toward him through a field, carrying a ball, and had spit the ball out at Tila’s feet. Tila picked it up and followed Magic back out of sight through the waving bluestem grasses, and thus he knew.

Who could ask for a more beautiful way to remember their first dog’s final journey than this?

—Carilee (Cole) Moran, cole mich@sbcglobal.net
American Belgian Malinois Club

Belgian Sheepdogs
THE JACK OF ALL TRADES

The Belgian Sheepdog is truly a versatile, “Jack of all trades” breed—meaning most will excel in as many venues as their owners choose to train and participate in. The Belgian Sheepdog is an elegant, active athlete, regardless of the sport.

Recently a group of friends and I were talking about various dog sports, and a few of them expressed concern and disappointment over people not pursuing advanced titles with their Belgian Sheepdogs. My reply was simply that sometimes owners lack the discipline themselves to limit their activities to just one thing. This is definitely how I would describe myself! With all due respect to those who possess the time and discipline for advanced titles, sometimes some of us just love being with and training our dogs.

Since this is my debut as columnist for the Belgian Sheepdog, I suppose an introduction is in order. So: “Hi, my name is Shelly. My dogs and I love doing all the things!” I have owned Belgian Sheepdogs for over 20 years now, and this year also celebrates my 20th year as a Belgian Sheepdog Club of America member. I have participated in tracking, obedience, rally, herding, agility, and more recently, flyball, disc dog, dock diving, and scent work. Over those years, I’ve served as tracking chair and secretary for several national specialties, did two terms as Corresponding Secretary, and was the liaison for people seeking out puppies and
information about our beautiful, versatile breed via the AKC website.

I truly enjoy meeting and talking with prospective Belgian Sheepdog owners. What can I say? I like to stay busy, and I also love talking about the breed.

And, in my opinion, those types of people are the ones who tend to be successful Belgian Sheepdog owners. Belgian Sheepdogs have a tendency to want to be with their owner in whatever activity is provided.

So, whether you choose to pursue a herding championship or simply go hiking and play frisbee league on the weekends, as long as you, as a trainer, are keeping it fun, your dog will thank you, regardless of your level of proficiency.

—Shelly Brosnan, 3busydogs@gmail.com
Belgian Sheepdog Club of America

Belgian Tervuren
I LOVE MY DOG

Well, of course you do!

However, there are times that simple concept seems to be forgotten among Belgian Tervuren owners. For instance, you are at a dog show waiting for groups (with your rockstar group-winning dog), and a family approaches you with their Tervuren. They are thinking they would like to get into showing, maybe juniors with their daughter. Could you give them some pointers on how to start?

You have some time before groups go in, but you are just not sure why they would even consider showing this long-bodied male Terv with light eyes who is very pet quality—happy, but a pet.

As you try to figure out how to tell them there is no way you can show that dog, they tell you about what a wonderful dog she (now that was a surprise) is and how excited their daughter is. They watched Terv judging and saw you win. What a great dog you have!

You thank them, tell them all about your dog’s wins, his ranking, and point out

The Belgian Sheepdog is an elegant, versatile athlete.
his good qualities. You then compare your dog to theirs and basically imply that there is no way on God’s green earth that their dog should enter a breed ring—all the while not noticing the smile disappear from that young girl’s face. You, the Tervuren expert, then tell them they should consider starting over and tell them about your next planned litter, hand them a card from your pocket, and march off to the group ring to get your next placement.

Whether you know it or not, you just crushed someone. How hard is it to be kind to the person in front of you, the one whose dog sleeps on their bed and is the smartest dog in the whole world? Even if you did not know that a junior can show a dog that is neutered or only has a PAL number, this is someone who can be part of the future of our breed. You could even have sent them to the secretary’s table to get more information.

Or, what about when you are sitting at your setup at an agility trial with your MACH Terv, and a young woman approaches you with her Terv, a chubby little bitch with a nonstop wagging tail? She tells you she watches all the agility trials that she sees on TV and was so excited one was being held just two hours from her home, she just had to come see the event in person. She says she would love to try that with her girl, and could you tell her how you started with your Terv?

You have a while before your next run, but you just aren’t into educating pet people. So you tell her you only have a few minutes till your next run (really 90, but it is only a small exaggeration), but you can chat for a bit. You then begin to tell her about your dog’s record, his ranking, and his drive in the sport. You tell her how
long you have competed, how many dogs you have trialed, and so on. You then point out your dog’s body and what great shape it is in and go on to tell her that her dog is overweight. And you keep going, pointing out all the things her dog does not have.

By the time you are done, even the dog has picked up the tone in your voice and is no longer wagging her tail. The woman drove two hours to watch this trial, she complimented you and your dog, and she opened up her dreams to you … and how did you handle this? Once again, another person was interested in a sport with her Terv, and you have dashed her hopes without really giving her any real information and helping her figure out where to get more guidance.

We can replay these scenes over and over with multiple scenarios. We all have them in our memories. Mine, and the impetus for this article, was a show where a friend was entered for her very first time in breed with her first Terv. A bystander came over and told her—before she went in the ring—that her bitch had a gay tail, and that was a fault, and she should not be upset if today’s judge dumps her because of that. My friend was so stressed when she walked through those gates that she could barely remember what she learned in handling classes. She came over to my grooming spot after judging and told me what was said, and that this would be her one and only show—ever. She could not continue with it. She loved her dog the way she was.

So the next time you are approached by a fellow Terv owner, try a little kindness. Their dog sleeps near them at night just like yours do.

—Dana B. Mackonis, cachetnoir@yahoo.com
American Belgian Tervuren Club

We all have our quirks and idiosyncrasies, even our Briards. Especially our Briards, now that I think of it. I suppose that’s one of the things that makes them so lovable. Or puzzling. Or just characters.

For instance, there can be several feet of space on either side of me, so why does my Briard feel compelled to scoot between my legs instead of around me? Does she consider it a shortcut? I don’t think it’s because I’m not moving fast enough to suit her. If that were the case, she’d shove me along with a well-placed head-butt—another quirk of the breed that stems from their herding instinct.

And it’s not just my current Briard who dives between my legs on occasion. Thinking back over the years, I believe most of my gang have indulged in the sport. I’ve learned to bounce lightly on the soles of my feet and adopt a somewhat bowlegged stance when I feel I’m about to be ambushed. Heaven forbid I should ever have a Briard whose height at the withers
is higher than my inseam measurement!

There’s an old saying, “No one loves you more than a wet dog”—or a Briard with a wet beard. Gigi is at her most affectionate after slurping up half a bucket of water. Then I have her head in my lap or pressing against my jeans. Then again, is it truly love on her part, or am I just a stand-in for a towel?

Speaking of water, one of Gigi’s quirks is the insistence that her drinking water is absolutely fresh and pristine. If the water bucket has been sitting out for a while, or if one or another of the gang has already drunk out of it, she’ll stand over the bucket and look meaningfully back and forth between me and the offensive water bucket until I get the message and refill it with fresh H₂O. Then she takes her drink—and floods the laundry room floor in the process. Well, at least it’s clean water.

Then there’s Gigi’s insistence on being the last dog to go out at night before bedtime. But not alone. Oh, no, my brave black girl has to have me accompany her and stay out till she’s completed her final tour of the yard. I think she’s afraid of the dark.

In talking with another Briard owner, he confides his girls have the same attitude about after-dark outings. Unlike a number of sound-sensitive breeds, my Briards have never gone into a terror-stricken mode at the approach of thunderstorms. They’ve taken them in stride or simply slept through them. Channy had a reaction to T-storms at night, but it wasn’t that she was afraid of them; just the opposite. She’d jump up on my bed, stand protectively over top of me, and bark at the booming from above. The message was clear: “If you want to get to her, you’ll have to deal with me first!” I appreciated the sentiment, though it did interrupt my slumber.

If anyone had the right to be afraid of thunderstorms, it was Kiki. When a particularly vicious storm hit, with pelting hail along with the other accoutrements, she took refuge inside a dog-house attached to her run. Lighting struck a tree beside her house and split it in two, so the top half fell to form a “V” over her domicile. Far from being terrorized, she ventured out when the storm abated, stretched, and forgot about it.

Jessie was a living, breathing, eating machine. If there was food around, she’d find it. Her finest moment came when she removed a box of pancake mix from the cupboard, carried into the bedroom, and devoured most of it while reclining on my bed. I came home to find Aunt Jemima between the sheets.

Hey, if our Briards didn’t have their quirks, what would we have to talk (or write) about when we get together? It’s their character that makes them the wonderful companions they are.

—Alice Bixler, 2014

Briard Club of America
Canaan Dogs

CANAAN DOG BACKGROUND AND HISTORY

On September 7, 1965, four Canaan Dogs arrived at Oxnard, California, from what was then Palestine. They had been sent by Drs. R. and R. Menzel, after a two-year correspondence with Mrs. Ursula Berkowitz. The four new arrivals would be housed at a local boarding kennel.

As the events of history unveiled themselves in the early 1930s, the Menzels found themselves looking for refuge in Austria during the mid-'30s. They had family in the U.S. and Australia, but as accomplished dog trainers and scientists by profession, they had to find another place to practice their “trades.” Dr. Menzel was a medical doctor, and Mrs. Menzel a psychologist. Both were avid Zionists. By settling in then-Palestine, they could satisfy the demands of friends, escape to relative safety, and begin a study of pariah dogs “before it was too late.”

How fortunate that their timing was right.

Before resettling in Palestine, the Menzels had been urged by their cynologist colleagues to observe, study, and categorize the pariah dogs native to the area. They divided the types into four groups: a heavier farm dog resembling the Anatolian Shepherd, two middle types, and a lighter-boned Greyhound type.

We shall concern ourselves with the two middle types: the heavier, coarser, sled dog type (type 2) resembling the Australian Cattle Dog; and the more refined, Collie-like Canaan Dog type.

Around 1960, at the time of the publication of Pariahunde, the Menzels included “The Temporary Breed Standard of The Canaan Dog” in their book. They knew that Canaans needed recognition and appreciation in the U.S. to establish Canaans as a legitimate breed here and set about their task. Canaans are useful and adaptable and can be used as farm dogs.
as well as city-slicker companion dogs and show dogs. They enjoy the company of their families.

Enter Jay C. And Bertha V. Sheaffer, of Spatterdash Dalmatian Kennels in Emmaus, Pennsylvania. The Sheaffers had Aleph of Star Pine, the first Canaan Dog whelped in the U.S., by Birion me B’Nei Habitachon and out of Waf of Masada. Together with other imports, Birion and Waf started their own line of puppies.

Waf was the mother of good temperament in the breed. Spatterdash Dreidle, son of Aleph and Waf, was my first Canaan Dog. Last week, his family welcomed the second Best in Show won by a Canaan Dog bitch in the history of the breed, handled by Kimmie Calvacca, third-generation breeder-owner-handler of Boxers under judge Mr. Michael Canalizo, of Afghan fame. (The Best in Show photo is beautiful!)

More in the next columns. Thanks to my predeces-
sors, Donna L. Dodson and Denise Gordon, for their excellent contributions. Please address comments to Bcomsky@aol.com.

—Bryna Comsky, Ha’Aretz Canaan Dogs Bcomsky@aol.com Canaan Dog Club of America

According to the standard, the Cardigan’s temperament should be “even-tempered, loyal, affectionate, and adaptable. Never shy nor vicious.”

Considering one of the primary jobs of this breed when developed in Wales was to be a good family watch dog, temperament is a vital ingredient.

Personality, on the other hand, dictates the individual dog’s behavior. Most Cardis are extremely happy, cheerful, loving, intelligent, and biddable companions.

It should also be noted that Cardigans are often very silly dogs with a pronounced sense of humor! Their love of play never fades, but they are not in general what one would call “hyperactive” or utterly “job-driven.”

Cardigans greet people they know with enthusiasm and happiness, but after that first celebration of the visitor’s arrival, they will go lie down and gnaw a chewy or curl up on the couch to monitor the behavior of the humans under supervision.
Or go to sleep.

One of the tasks is explaining to others that the Cardigan’s temperament is usually different from that of the Pembroke. My own personal description is that the Pembroke is the outgoing, popular, bouncy high-school cheerleader, while the Cardigan is president of the chess club. (And one may see everything in between!) Neither is better than the other; it’s simply a different temperament, and those interested in acquiring a corgi should examine their personal lifestyle to determine which may be best for them. The Pembroke is more active, while the Cardigan is considered more laid back. (Obviously, there are exceptions!)

In the show ring, exhibitors have for years done what they could to make their Cardigans more showy. The Pembroke’s natural demeanor is to be on the go, and this is very appealing in the group ring. For decades the Cardigan has been considered very workmanlike. He trots around the ring nicely, but he doesn’t in general “ask” for the win. This is a normal function of the correct Cardigan temperament as a serious working dog. It took a discerning judge to see the overall quality of the Cardigan and not make a selection based on showiness.

Nowadays, if we intend to special a Cardi, we reward a more outgoing personality and flashy movement. Far more puppies go on to live in pet homes than see the show ring, however, and it’s vital that we explain the breed’s natural temperament, particularly to the prospective first-time owner. Buyers must also understand that this is a breed with a boatload of intelligence, plus reasoning and improvisational abilities.

Precocious children can be a challenge; so can the precocious Cardigan Welsh Corgi.

—Jennifer Roberson
Cardigan Welsh Corgi Club of America

Collies

My guest author for this issue is Anne Robinson Waldeck, president of the American Working Collie Association.

THE AMERICAN WORKING COLLIE ASSOCIATION

The purpose of the American Working Collie Association (AWCA), founded in 1979 by Cindy Dorsten, is to promote and preserve the Collie as a versatile, sound working breed.

Originally bred as a herding dog, the Collie of today is a wonderful family dog with a wide range of talents. The AWCA offers programs for Collies to showcase the...
extensive variety of work this breed can do. The organization promotes good sportsmanship during sponsored performance events and encourages such participation through its titling program. The AWCA also assists Collies whose owners have found themselves in financial need.

Open for members only, the AWCA’s Versatility Program recognizes Collies who have proven their competence as versatile working dogs in such venues as stock work, obedience, agility, tracking, scent work, lure coursing, draft work, assistance and therapy work, flyball, public relations, frisbee/disc work, and backpacking, as well as conformation. A Collie who has obtained titles from recognized dog sports organizations (such as the AKC) is eligible to earn the following AWCA titles: Versatility Companion Dog (VC), Versatility Companion Excellent (VCX), Versatility Champion (VCH), and Grand Versatility Champion (GVCH). Points are awarded by level of title earned from the activities listed above, as well as others.

In addition, the AWCA Working Titles Program offers a variety of AWCA-sanctioned titles. The Carting Dog and Carting Dog Excellent titles and the Herding Instinct Certification are open to all. The AWCA maintains two funds, supported by member donations, to extend financial aid to Collies. The Collie Rescue Fund extends financial assistance to any Collie who has come into rescue needing veterinary care or treatment. The other fund is the Compassionate Care Fund for owned Collies. When a Collie is in need of veterinary services but the owner is unable to assume the financial burden, we can help, and you don’t need to be an AWCA member to apply for help from either fund.

For more information, visit
the website at http://www.awca.net. Members are eligible to participate in our Versatility program and receive a quarterly newsletter, Collie Connection. We are also on Facebook, under “AWCA.” Both the website and Facebook group pages feature Collies that have earned titles in the Versatility program, as well as stories of special AWCA Collies.

We would love to have you join us. Go to the AWCA website, click on “Join AWCA,” download the application, and follow the directions. Then you can work toward Versatility titles with us, connect with like-minded Collie people, and receive Collie Connection. Our dues are nominal, and donations received at dues time help support our two funds for Collies in need of financial assistance with veterinary expenses. The American Working Collie Association does good works, entertains us, applauds achievement, and showcases the versatility of our wonderful breed.

—A.R.W.
Thank you, Anne.
—Marianne Sullivan, Charlottesville, Virginia
millknock@embarqmail.com
Collie Club of America

Finnish Lapphunds
AN INTRODUCTION TO THE BREED

Future Finnish Lapphund owners are often curious about what to expect of their new family member. “Lappies,” as we call them, have a strong desire to please, and as social, pack animals they are extremely loyal to their family and do not wish to be without their family members. Lappies and children make fast friends—although as with any herding breed, you may need to teach them not to herd the children! They are also accepting of other pets in their household when properly introduced. However they may “alert bark” at strange people, animals, or events. In most cases, with reasonable effort, undesired barking can be curtailed.
Lappies are an energetic breed, but given proper exercise, they make wonderful, calm housepets and companions. Their biddable nature makes training a Finnish Lapphund a rather rewarding venture. Finnish Lapphunds have tested well for herding instincts. However, their instincts for reindeer have yet to translate well to U.S. herding tests and trials that use cattle and sheep. That said, their intellect and adaptable manner enables Lappies to excel in a wide variety of companion events including obedience, agility, tracking, and therapy dog work, and as dock and Frisbee dogs. Some have even been trained as upland-gamebird gun dogs.

Lappies are a medium sized, generally healthy breed with average longevity of 12 to 15 years. While occurrences are low, hip and elbow dysplasia, PRA (a form of hereditary blindness), and juvenile cataracts are the main health concerns for the breed, and all breeding stock should be examined and cleared for these conditions prior to breeding.

Lappies were bred to live and work north of the Arctic Circle and have a dense double coat in order to ensure their success in this harsh environment. Thorough brushing every week and regular baths every four to six weeks keeps their coat in excellent condition. Lappies lose their coat twice a year, with the largest loss in the summer. This helps them to withstand the summer heat.

Because it is never exactly hot in Lapland (summer highs are usually less than 75 degrees), Lappies are extremely heat intolerant. Strenuous outdoor activities should be halted or strongly considered above 80 degrees. Anyone in warmer regions must keep their dogs in a climate-controlled environment during the warmer months.

Many find coat color to be the most fascinating aspect of the Finnish Lapphund. Because temperament and structure are considered by breeders to be most important, the Lappy coat spectrum has developed a broad range of color. Lappy puppies are usually born dark and lighten in coloring as they mature. However, cream pups are born light and will tend to darken a bit with age.

The Finnish Lapphund is intelligent, versatile, willing and affectionate. Lappies are very energetic, while remaining composed and adaptable. Their outstanding looks, good health, and great temperament make them wonderful companions and great family members.

—Contributed by Andrea Johnson in 2014

Finnish Lapphund Club of America

Icelandic Sheepdogs
DOUBLE DEW DARE YOU!

Icelandic Sheepdogs figure on the short list of working and livestock breeds original to snowy, mountainous regions of Europe that have dewclaws on both
The breed standard for the Icelandic Sheepdog says that dewclaws are required on all four legs; the absence of dewclaws is a fault. Double dewclaws may appear on all four feet (alspori or alspora is the Icelandic term for this rare occurrence), but mostly they are found on the hind legs, where “well-developed double dewclaws” are “desirable.”

What is a dewclaw? Allegedly named for how it touches dewy grasses but not fully the ground beneath, a dewclaw is an additional (fifth) toe found on the inside of the dog’s leg. This extra toe can be closer to the foot or higher.
up on the lower leg, depending upon the breed and the individual.

On the forefeet, the dewclaw is similar to the other four toes, consisting of bones, joints, muscles, tendons, and a nail.

Essentially, the front dewclaw is like a human thumb. Dogs at rest use them to groom and to hold and grip items in their front paws (e.g., bones, sticks, and toys). When standing or sitting still, the dog typically does not put his weight on the dewclaw. However, when a dog runs and turns, the dewclaws bear weight when making contact with the ground as the dog flexes his wrists (carpal bones), thereby reducing torque on the leg, and providing additional traction and stability.

In some breeds, including the Icelandic Sheepdog, the hind dewclaw(s) may also be functional, with bone and tendon integrated into the structure of the rear legs—this is what the Icelandic standard states as “desirable.” With functional double dewclaws (a characteristic called polydactyly), two separate bones are attached to the foot or leg for the fifth and sixth toes. By contrast, nonfunctional dewclaws usually attach only to the skin on the inside of the leg near the ankle (tarsal) bones but still maintain a blood supply that allows the nail to grow.

Fore and aft dewclaws help the Icelandic Sheepdog in the breed’s native environment traverse ice and volcanic rock and give the dog extra “toe-picks” to pull himself out of water onto rock or an icy surface.

Why do only some dogs have dewclaws on their rear legs, and even double dewclaws? These are questions still investigated by scientists. Most dogs today do not have dewclaws on their hind legs, and some think that vestigial or functional first digits in the rear legs/feet is a reoccurrence (atavism) of a structure that was originally present but disappeared via evolution. A related view is that humans selectively bred dogs who presented with the unusual—and functional—rear dewclaws because the additional toes and claws offered advantages for the dogs’ work with humans.

Double dewclaws are, technically, a genetic anomaly or mutation whose occurrence may in some breeds be associated with certain proteins and/or a higher-than-normal amount of one or more proteins. Current research indicates that the appearance of polydactyly in dog breeds may arise from a combination of genetic factors that seem to differ across the breeds, though in some cases breeds may share one or more particular factors.

Researchers have yet to fully map the genetic factors in Icelandic Sheepdogs that give them the rear dewclaw as well as polydactylism of the rear feet and occasionally the front feet.

No matter the origin, the rear double dews on the Icelandic Sheepdog are one of the keys to the breed’s genetic identity. They are
also a visible curiosity to those who meet the breed for the first time!
—Dr. Karen B. Westerfield Tucker
kbethwt@yahoo.com
Icelandic Sheepdog
Association of America

Norwegian Buhunds

TRICKS FOR BUHUNDS

Over the years I have taught numerous tricks to my Norwegian Buhunds and have come to realize that the main requirement for teaching tricks is lots of patience—and a sense of humor.

It does not matter if you have poor timing or no coordination, there are bound to be some tricks you can teach your dogs. And the more tricks your Buhund knows how to perform, the quicker he will be at picking up new tricks.

You can also combine chains of tricks to create a little sequence and entertain your friends. For example, teaching your dog to fetch sodas for your guests from the refrigerator would certainly be an entertaining party trick.

How do we decide which tricks to teach our dogs? The dog’s breed, body type, and temperament affect which tricks he will be good at, and which ones will be more difficult for him to learn.

Norwegian Buhunds are a high-energy, active breed, and as such they enjoy learning tricks that involve movement and action. They love to jump and are particularly good at tricks such as jumping through your arms, rebounding off you, or spinning to their left or right. On the other hand, tricks requiring stillness can be more difficult for them. I have tried to teach my Buhunds to “play dead,” but the end product is not convincing. Although the Buhunds do lie on their backs and hold still, their tails just cannot seem to stop wagging.

Norwegian Buhunds are square in profile. The breed standard says their “height, measured vertically from the ground to the highest
point of the shoulder blade, equals the length, measured horizontally from the prosternum to the rear projection of the upper thigh.” This makes it easier for them to learn tricks that require standing on their hind legs, and even walking or “dancing” (going in circles) on their rear legs.

Their build also makes them good at the “say your prayers” trick, in which dogs sit, put their front paws up on an object, and bow their heads.

Buhunds find it relatively easy to put their front paws up on various objects while sitting or standing—a trick that is particularly useful in dog therapy at nursing homes. Of course, teaching them to stand on their rear legs does make it a little more difficult when training Buhund puppies to greet people without putting their paws on them.

Some Norwegian Buhunds love to carry objects in their mouths. One of my Buhunds, Finna, has a natural affinity for this. As a puppy she used to love running around carrying her toys (and occasionally our slippers) in her mouth and then would bring them to us to trade for a treat. I must say that this trick comes in useful when I am in a hurry (or just feeling a bit lazy), since I can always ask her to fetch something that falls on the floor or to bring my slippers when I come home. She also likes to follow me as I carry the laundry to the basement. When I accidentally drop a piece of laundry, she picks it up and proudly carries it to the washing machine.

In addition, Finna enjoys learning tricks that involve thinking, such as finding an object by its scent. She can differentiate between my scent and that of my husband and fetches the appropriate pair of slippers, depending on who asks her to fetch. And she will go around the house and locate our keys, remotes, and other items that we have a tendency to misplace.

Norwegian Buhunds need to keep their minds active and love to learn challenging tricks involving thinking. For example, it can be fun to teach directionals (discriminating their left from their right) to your Buhunds. Just like humans, most dogs favor their right or left paw, with research suggesting that the majority of dogs (especially female dogs) favor their right paws. I find it easier to start training my Buhunds’ preferred side first, and then teach the trick on the other side to make sure that they are well-balanced. Waving the right or left paw is a particularly cute trick for dog therapy, especially with kindergarteners and young elementary school children who are themselves learning to differentiate their right hands from their left. And the children always find it hilarious if my Buhund mixes up her left from her right while performing a trick. After all, children love to see dogs perform tricks, and it does not matter how well the tricks are executed.
HERDING GROUP

—Jasmine Tata, Jtata2@yahoo.com
Norwegian Buhund Club of America

Pembroke Welsh Corgis
REVISED VERSATILITY AWARD REQUIREMENTS, PWCCA SCHOLARSHIP

In the early 1990s, the Pembroke Welsh Corgi Club of America (PWCCA) approved a Versatility Program for the breed after several meetings of a committee formed to develop the program.

There are two levels: Versatile Corgi (VC) and Versatile Corgi Excellent (VCX). The committee wanted a program that would encourage the one- or two-dog owner to participate in a variety of events that did not require breeding nor necessarily showing in conformation. At that time, a Ch./UDT title was considered the epitome of a performance Pembroke, and the VC scale was set with that in mind. The AKC Herding program was in its infancy and agility, rally, scentwork, and variable surface tracking were not even yet in the idea stage.

The VCX requirements were originally set that a dog had to have points in two of the three performance categories (obedience, tracking, herding), have a top title in one of the categories and meet the point requirements. For the early VCX dogs, that meant having a herding title.

The first VCX certificates were awarded in 1993. Retroactive VC awards went back to the early 1960s. Any Pembroke who meets the requirements is eligible for the beautiful certificate designed by Kristin Orr. Pembrokes do not need to be owned by a PWCCA member nor do they have to be a conformation champion, and rescue dogs are welcome. All the owner must do is apply for the award. The certificates are awarded at the annual membership meeting at the national specialty. Some people travel a long way...
to personally accept their award.

Getting Pembrokes off the couches and into the fields, arenas, and rings has been wildly successful, with over 80 VCX and over 250 VC awardees thus far.

With the addition of more AKC events open to the breed, the VC/VCX scales have been revised through the years. The most recent revision was approved in the fall of 2022. Advanced rally and scent work titles were added in response to many requests from the fancy, along with a polling of more than a dozen exhibitors who have earned multiple VCX awards on their dogs.

A dog still must have a top title in one of the four performance categories: UDX or OTCH from obedience/rally; TDX, VST, or CT from tracking or SWM or SWM/SWD in the tracking/scentwork category; a HX or HC from herding; or a PACH from the 8-inch Preferred height, or a MACH.

Additionally, a VCX awardee needs to have points in at least three of the four performance categories. There is an optional track for a VCX for those exhibitors who are not able to compete in herding. One VCX point scale is based on having a herding title (after all, we are a herding breed!) and the other is without.

In addition, exhibitors will be offered a one-time update to their deceased dogs titles on their VC and/or VCX awards. Often the dogs went on to additional titles after receiving their award, but the list of awardees at www.pwcca.org does not reflect that.

For more details about the versatility awards, see the section About Pembroke Welsh Corgis on the PWCCA website.

**PWCCA Scholarship**

The PWCCA will award up to $2000 scholarship to a qualified college student. The deadline to apply is August 1. See Events & Awards/Junior Scholarship on the PWCCA website for details.

Come join us September 23–30 at Purina Farms in Gray Summit, Missouri, to see the best our versatile breed has to offer in herding, obedience, rally, agility, and conformation. Details can be found at www.pwccanational.com.

—Lynda McKee, TifflynLDM@aol.com Pembroke Welsh Corgi Club of America

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**Pulik**

**DEWCLAWS**

All dogs have four weightbearing toes on each foot. Most dogs also are born with a fifth toe—the dewclaw (or dew claw), located higher on each front leg and in some breeds, also on the rear legs. All Pulik are born with front dewclaws, and more rarely, also with rear ones.

The dog’s dewclaw is anatomically equivalent to the human thumb. The dewclaw is typically a fully formed toe (that is, it has bones and
ligaments firmly attaching it to the limb, although the dewclaw can be wiggled a little bit). The dewclaw has its own nerve and blood supply, muscles, and tendons, just like the four toes that touch the ground. Rear dewclaws (if present) or sometimes even front dewclaws are only attached by skin or a small tendon, making them “floppy.”

Many dogs have their front dewclaws removed at 3 to 5 days of age in the belief that dewclaws are nonfunctional and out of concern that they might become injured in active dogs. If not removed properly (with removal of all the cartilage containing the nailbed, beyond skin level), dewclaws can grow back as your puppy gets older. Additionally, a regrown dewclaw is often not the same as the original; it can end up being a twisted or deformed nail, making it hard to trim.

Dewclaws are most likely to be a liability if left to become overgrown. The best way to prevent dewclaws from snagging on things (and possibly being torn off) is to keep

Mojo the Puli speeds through the weave poles. Dogs who compete in agility or other sports can benefit from having front dewclaws.
them short.

For some Puli owners, the dewclaw can be troublesome. A Puli owner may complain about needing to locate and trim the extra nail in a corded coat, which is especially challenging with a black Puli having black toenails.

As noted by longtime Puli breeder Stephanie Horan in her grooming manual *Striking the Right Cord*, quite often the dewclaws can end up in the center of a cord and easily forgotten for clipping. Likewise, the dewclaw can become snagged in general in a corded Puli coat and could possibly be torn.

When a dog is just standing, it may be tempting to think that since the front dewclaw does not come into contact with the ground, it is no importance. Dr. Chris Zink, who is a canine sports medicine and rehabilitation consultant, provides a well-explained analysis of the function of the dewclaw for athletic and working dogs on her website.

In short, when the dog is galloping, the dewclaw, which then is in contact with the ground, will dig into the ground, which make it easier for the dog to change the direction. In this situation, the muscles attached to the dewclaw will reduce the risk of twisting the forelegs. For this reason, dogs who compete in agility or other dog sports can benefit from having front dewclaws.

If a dog does not have dewclaws, there is a higher potential for the carpal (wrist) ligaments to stretch and tear which could result in laxity and arthritis over time. This can then result in more stress being generated through the dog’s wrist, elbow, shoulder, and spine as it tries to compensate for the lack of digit.

So, for a working/athletic dog, leaving the dewclaw in place likely prevents arthritis in the carpal joint as they age. Additionally, in a study of agility dog injuries by Sellon et al. (2018, J Amer Vet Med Assoc), removal of dewclaws was associated with increased risk of digit injury.

The AKC says: “Active dogs are prone to getting them caught and torn, causing extreme pain and significant injury. For these cases, it is better for them to be proactively removed shortly after birth when little or no pain is experienced, rather than to risk serious injury and infection later in an injured mature dog.” (“Dispelling the Myths of Cropped Ears, Docked Tails, Dewclaws, and ‘Debarking’”)

There are no specifications in the Puli Club of America’s breed standard as to removal. Some Puli breeders choose to have dewclaws removed, while others do not. It should be noted that during the past 10–20 years, removing dewclaws has fallen out of favor with many veterinarians.

To learn more about the functional use of dewclaws in dogs, the following YouTube videos are recommended: “How the Dew Claw Is Used by the Dog,” and “Dew Claws Do Have a Purpose.”
WE NEED TO TALK

Disqualifications are like speed-limit signs: They are not merely to be regarded as suggestions.

For Shelties, we have three disqualifications in our written standard: over 16 inches, under 13 inches, and brindle color.

As for the brindle color, if you see it you can be assured there is some degree of mix from another breed in the individual. While serving as a member of the American Shetland Sheepdog Association (ASSA) board, I saw several pictures of Shelties with breed type that were brindle in color. All came from reliable sources and concerned members who saw them and took pictures. I believe they came through puppy mills where breeding security was lacking. However, since seeing those pictures, I believe our forefathers were concerned enough to insist this disqualification needed to be in the standard.

The DQ for size over 16 inches is finite. Any measurement by an AKC official wicket that doesn’t allow both wicket legs to contact the measuring surface at the same time means that animal is over 16 inches and shall be disqualified. Three DQs renders the dog permanently disqualified.

You can complain that a measurement was inaccurate, but the dog can only be measured once on that day. There are no redos.

When I first began judging, I had an AKC rep tell
me that since size has a DQ, if it crosses your mind as judge to seriously question a dog’s size, you must measure. It is not fair in your judging to question size and just discount the dog and pass it to the end of the line without establishing the actual size.

Since you have to know your own exhibit, as an exhibitor you must be prepared for this possibility if your dog is pushing 16 inches at the shoulder. All Shelties need to be familiarized with the measuring procedure. We measure puppies a lot, but we can’t depend on judges and other exhibitors recognizing whether your dog is too big or too small. Train your dog to stand quietly and correctly. The more you practice, the more likely your dog will be measured accurately.

The same issues apply when we look at the disqualification for a Sheltie measuring under 13 inches. However, it is usually a puppy that is under 13 inches, so just let it grow up a few more months, and it will probably measure in. If it is an adult that stays under 13 inches, you should definitely question why you would show or breed the dog anyway.

There are more disqualifications to worry about than those that are part of our breed standard. The AKC rules stipulate other mandatory disqualifications. The weight of the dog can only be a disqualification if it is a DQ item in the standard for that breed. The judge can form an opinion about the dog’s weight but can only actually weigh the dog if that is allowed by the standard.

Attack of a person is a disqualification if there are no extenuating circumstances, such as the dog drawing blood when grabbing for the bait. For everyone’s safety, a human-aggressive dog must be disqualified. A judge is to act responsibly and attempt to protect the next judge or person who may come in contact with a human-aggressive dog, regardless of size. If a dog is dog aggressive, it may necessitate excusing one or more dogs.

A dog who the judge determines to be blind, deaf, or lacking two normal testicles in the scrotum is to be disqualified. Blindness or deafness may be difficult for the judge to determine, but they do not need to seek the advice of a veterinarian.

Lack of two normal testicles is more apparent. There are reports of some exhibitors attempting to resolve this problem surgically, but that just intensifies the situation. Not only have you now heaped a second DQ on this dog (changing the dog by artificial means), but it also confirms that the dog has only one normal testicle. My repro veterinarian told me that this is definitely an inheritance from both sire and dam. The genetic material must be present in both parents to be expressed in a male in the litter. We don’t breed monorchid males, but we breed the brothers and sisters, so the carriers continue. Maybe we need a
little more disclosure about littermates when making decisions on breeding individuals. We seem to be adamant about neutering male pets, but castration of a retained testicle can be more invasive and expensive procedure.

And then we have the disqualification for “change in appearance.” Now this is a big issue. Would we even be able to hold a major at a breed specialty if the following was actually applied:

“A dog which has been changed in appearance by artificial means, except as specified by the standard for its breed, may not compete at any show and is to be disqualified … [a dog] is considered changed in appearance by artificial means if it has been subjected to any type of procedure that has the effect of obscuring, disguising, or eliminating congenital or hereditary abnormality or any undesirable characteristics or anything that improves a dog’s natural appearance, temperament, bite, or gait.”

The statement goes on to say that anyone who exhibits or causes to be exhibited such a dog can be subjected to disciplinary action. So how do we as breeders and exhibitors want to address this one? Do we go on like we have for decades and decades, ignoring the numerous products and practices aimed at presenting dogs for exhibition in their very best light?

Dog showing is touted as a family sport where amateurs and professionals successfully compete against each other. How much are we breeding better dogs, or are we just more capable of creating a winning look with all the tools and products now available? Who leaves puppies’ ears totally alone to allow a natural outcome? Who has never purchased a product to add to your spray-bottle to enhance or protect a show coat? And on and on.

Am I pointing fingers? No! There are few breeds not being enhanced in some manner to bring to the judge a better first impression by exhibitors who work hard to hone their skills. Could we go back to a time such as I remember of trimming feet and ears and cutting nails, giving a bath, and heading for the one show for that weekend? I doubt it, but we must remember in a breeding program that chalk, powder, scissoring, and other means of altering appearance do not reflect a dog’s genetics. If we push beyond the acceptable and regulated limits, we may have to pay for it in future generations.

—Janice Leonard, leolair63@msn.com
American Shetland Sheepdog Association

**Spanish Water Dogs**

**MENTORSHIP IN A “NEW” BREED**

“But have you been to Spain, and seen the breed there in the pastures and fields?” asked my very good friend, with some exasperation, during
a heated conversation about elements of breed type.

Of course she knows that while I have been to Europe to observe the breed, I have not been to Spain (and she has). Ultimately we agreed to disagree on the point of contention; but really, who is correct, and how will we find out?

Despite a slowly increasing breed community in both the United States and Canada, the Spanish Water Dog remains largely a rare and little known breed on this continent. As yet, there are no breeding programs with generations of depth in pedigrees of home-grown champions and/or performance titles or, in many cases, even breeding stock. The names in our pedigrees are often still primarily dogs that were European bred and owned, with the majority unknown to us other than through pictures and pedigree databases.

Those of us with a deep commitment to the breed pursue our passion with the best of intentions and to the best of our abilities, but of course also with our own biases. Not all of our breeders are even willing to get involved in conformation and performance, citing disillusionment, cost, and travel constraints. Other breeders get underway with one or two litters but then
BREED COLUMNS

HERDING GROUP

decide for various reasons to discontinue breeding. We can count on one hand the number of breeders in the U.S. and Canada involved in the breed for more than 10 years who are still actively breeding and also promote the breed on an ongoing basis through involvement in AKC and/or CKC conformation and/or performance events.

There are breed fanciers in North America who have and continue to import dogs (and/or semen) that will enhance and expand our genetic base. Imported dogs who are carefully chosen—for temperament, health, and structure—will be of ongoing value in supporting steady improvement in Spanish Water Dogs on this side of the Atlantic in coming years. At the same time, it is also important to recognize that admiration of foreign dogs needs to be balanced with breeders here continuing to develop an “eye” and a vision for their own domestic breeding goals.

So to whom then do we look for true mentorship? Those of us who have gazed across the Atlantic have engaged with breeders in various European countries seeking knowledge and expertise. Some have traveled in Spain and elsewhere attempting to gain an understanding of true type and the subtleties behind an extremely vague FCI standard. The breed’s AKC parent club worked hard to offer more detail and clarity in their version of the breed standard. Some of those details continue to be debated with longtime Spanish breed fanciers (who of course do not always agree even among themselves).

A number of AKC and CKC judges have provided warm support and expressed genuine interest in our breed. They have given valuable input in seminars, informal conversations, and through judging our dogs in the years leading up to and following full recognition. Despite all of this, however, the most extensive and authentic knowledge base for this breed still lies in Spain. We would do well to remind ourselves that “the work” must be ongoing, and consider how best to support ongoing personal growth in breed knowledge.

As fanciers of a young but steadily growing breed in North America, we are at a significant turning point. With newcomers constantly becoming involved in our beloved breed, it is essential that we all, newcomers and experienced breed fanciers alike, have the capacity to access and offer meaningful mentorship. —Marnie Harrison, 2018

Spanish Water Dog Club of America

Swedish Vallhunds

REFLECTIONS ON THE AKC NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

When I was asked by one of our board members to contribute an article about my experiences at the 2022 AKC National Championship, I readily agreed, flattered that some-
one might actually want to hear about our experience. As the deadline for submission of the article rapidly approached, I realized that I really needed to reflect on the trip and identify what information of value I might have to pass along to others considering entering next year.

Why did I choose to accept my invitation to attend the AKC National? Mainly because my older bitch, Annie (GCh.B Akutchi’s If You Could See Me Now at Kanouse, RI, FDC, OAP, NJP, NFP, ACT1, CGC, TKN), was in the Top Ten of the National Owner-Handled Series. I believe in showing my own dogs whenever time and distance make that possible. Also, I intended to retire Annie at the end of 2022, having three of her offspring waiting in the wings. Inga (GCh. Kanouse I Believe in Angels) is the first of the three to finish her championship, so she came along as well.

Were we prepared for the potential confusion and stresses of a show as large as the national? I believe we were well prepared. I had experienced Westminster, both at the Garden and Tarrytown. Those trips pro-
vided the crowding and chaos inherent in a huge benched show, as well as the pleasant atmosphere of a very large, summertime outdoor show.

Though our trip entailed a two-day drive, I had a dog friend along for human company and an extra set of hands. We did not encounter any bad weather en route. I preplanned our overnight stop almost immediately after my decision to attend the national.

Once at the actual show site, we checked into our first-floor, two-bedroom hotel suite—again planned for and reserved as early as my commitment to attend. This gave us a convenient location and an island of peace and calm to unwind after long days at the show.

What type of preparation did my dogs receive? We entered two of the all-breed shows preceding Royal Canin. This gave Inga a chance to work in the large show-arena setting. She was BB one day, and BOS the other, with her mom, Annie, Select Bitch the second day.

In addition, I work with my dogs regularly to improve and maintain their physical condition. This includes flexibility, strength, and balance exercises. Stretching exercises, wobble boards, and hill walking are among our fitness routines. As far as diet, the dogs are fed complete and balanced meals, with the addition of boiled eggs from our hens, to enhance coat condition. Of course, leash training, extensive socialization at all life stages, and familiarity with all ages and sizes of dogs and people begin at home and as soon as puppy shots are in place.

Words of advice for exhibitors considering entering in the future:
• Plan early—hotels, overnight stops, gear to bring, etc.
• Make sure your dogs are in top condition.
• Practice with your dogs, both the young and seasoned veterans. Gaiting, standing on the table—I sometimes use video, other times mirrors, to see what the judge sees. Is the dog positioned correctly? Are we gaiting at the proper speed for this dog? The best of the best come to Orlando, so every little bit of practice can help when even a slight competitive edge may be the deciding factor.
• Have another adult with you—to share driving, help with gear, and have someone to talk to besides the dogs.
• Anticipate emergencies—weather-related, car problems, etc. Have a backup credit card available for large unexpected expenses.
• Bring good walking shoes!

Don’t let the size of the show or the length of the trip deter you from participating. Over time, the AKC National Championship has become a bigger and better show, more organized and more comfortable for humans and dogs alike.

—Diane Polito, President, Swedish Vallhund Club of America, with assistance from Laura Kiedaisch

Swedish Vallhund Club of America
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.

DELEGATE CREDENTIALS

Rebecca Barber, Springfield, MO, Ozarks Kennel Club

Kristen L. Burgoyne, Gloucester, RI, Providence County Kennel Club

Debbie Hockaday, Providence Forge, VA, Gloucester Kennel Club of Virginia

Patricia Jason, Saline, MI, Poodle Club of America

Heidi Kilgore, Winslow, IN, Evansville Kennel Club

Pamela A. Langstein, Woodmere, NY, Yorkshire Terrier Club of America

Sean McCarthy, New York, NY, Westminster Kennel Club

Kate McCallum, Northville, MI, Alaskan Malamute Club of America

Sheri Wright, Walsenburg, CO, Southern Colorado Kennel Club
NOTICE
At the June 13, 2023 Delegate Meeting there will be a vote on the seating of a Delegate for the Ashtabula Kennel Club in accordance with Article VI, Section 8 of the Charter and Bylaws of The American 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:

Dr. Phyllis Giroux (Goldvein, VA)

Ms. Toni Linstedt (Town & Country, MO). Action was taken by the Warren County Kennel Club for conduct at its April 1, 2023 event. Ms. Linstedt was charged with inappropriate, abusive, or foul language. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the Event Committee’s report and set the penalty as a reprimand and a $100 fine. (Dalmatians)

Ms. Lynn Nagrani (Roswell, GA). Action was taken by the German Shorthaired Pointer Club of America for conduct at its March 5, 2023 event. Ms. Nagrani was charged with physical contact of an insulting or provoking nature directed towards a judge and inappropriate, abusive, or foul language directed personally towards a judge. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the Event Committee’s report and set the penalty as a six-month event suspension and $500 fine, effective April 25, 2023. (All-American Dogs)

Mr. Larry Soles (Laurinburg, NC). Action was taken by the Carolina Piedmont Retriever Club for conduct at its March 26, 2023 event. Mr. Soles was charged with inappropriate, abusive, or foul language directed personally towards a judge. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the Event Committee’s report and set the penalty as a two-month event suspension and $100 fine, effective March 29, 2023. (Labrador Retrievers)

The AKC’s Management Disciplinary Committee has reprimanded Ms. Sylvia Calderwood (Eugene, OR) imposed a $100 fine, for improper treatment in connection with an event. (Shetland Sheepdogs)

The AKC’s Management Disciplinary Committee has suspended Mr. Dan Murray (Bismarck, ND) from event privileges for one year and imposed a $1,000 fine, for AKC Rules/Regulations, effective May 8, 2023. (Multiple Breeds)
NOTICE

REPRIMANDS AND FINES

Notification of fines imposed on clubs for late submission of event results, *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*, Chapter 17, Section 2
Carolina Dog Training Club .............. $100
Lehigh German Shepherd Dog Club.... $100

Notification of fines imposed on a secretary for late submission of event results, *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*, Chapter 17, Section 2
Karen Burgess .............................. $300

Notification of fines imposed on a secretary for changing an entry without a request from an owner or agent of the dog, *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*, Chapter 11, Section 6
Georjan Bridger .......................... $100

Notification of fines imposed on a club for not allowing an exhibit to continue to compete, *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*, Chapter 14, Section 1
Cardigan Welsh Corgi Club of America .......................................................... $100

PROPOSED SUSSEX SPANIEL STANDARD FOR COMMENT:

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

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

*Size-* The height of the Sussex Spaniel as measured at the withers ranges from 13 to 15 inches. Any deviation from these measurements is a minor fault. The weight of the Sussex Spaniel ranges between 35 and 45 pounds.

*Proportion-* The Sussex Spaniel presents a rectangular outline as the breed is longer in body than it is tall. *Substance-* The Sussex Spaniel is muscular and rather massive.

**Head:** Correct head and expression are important features of the breed.

*Eyes-* The eyes are hazel in color, fairly large, soft and languishing, but do not show the haw overmuch. *Expression-* The Sussex Spaniel has a somber and serious appearance, and its fairly heavy brows produce a frowning expression.

*Ears-* The ears are thick, fairly large, and lobe-shaped and are set moderately low, slightly above the outside corner of the eye.

*Skull and Muzzle-* The skull is moderately long and also wide with an indentation in the middle and with a full stop. The brows are fairly heavy, the occiput is full but not pointed, the whole giving an appearance of heaviness without dullness. The muzzle should be approximately three inches long, broad, and square in profile. The skull as measured from the stop to the occiput is longer than the muzzle. The nostrils are well-developed and liver colored. The lips are somewhat pendulous. *Bite-* A scissors bite is preferred. Any deviation from a scissors bite is a minor fault.

**Neck, Topline, Body:**

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

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

**Forequarters:** The shoulders are well laid back and muscular. The upper arm should correspond in length and angle of return to the shoulder blade so that the legs are set well under the dog. The forelegs should be very short, strong, and heavily boned. They may show a slight bow. Both straight and slightly bowed constructions are proper and correct. The pasterns are very short and heavily boned. The feet are large and round with short hair between the toes.
Hindquarters: The hindquarters are full and well-rounded, strong, and heavily boned. They should be parallel with each other and also set wide apart—about as wide as the dog at the shoulders. The hind legs are short from the hock to the ground, heavily boned, and should seem neither shorter than the forelegs nor much bent at the hocks. The hindquarters must correspond in angulation to the forequarters. The hocks should turn neither in nor out. The rear feet are like the front feet.

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

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

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

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

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. Sara Black (112313) TX
(903) 530-7989
seblack2222@gmail.com
Bulldogs

Mr. Michael R. Deer (112419) TX
(847) 910-9905
privacylawyer@hotmail.com
Dalmatians

Mrs. Cynthia (Cindy) Freeman (112403) WA
(760) 285-3906
qrlabs@yahoo.com
Labrador Retrievers

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

Mr. Jeffrey Margeson (112361) VA
(240) 674-7158
jmargeson70@gmail.com
Chinese Cresteds, Xoloitzcuintli, Australian Shepherds, Border Collies, Miniature American Shepherds, JS

Mrs. Sharlene M. Pitman (106864) VA
(540) 775-5496
brookhavenlabradors@verizon.net
Labrador Retrievers, JS

Mr. Mark A. Russo (111871) CT
(860) 738-9090
townhillcorgis@charter.net
Pembroke Welsh Corgis
April Stich (112285) CT
(860) 841-5830
stich1@att.net
Cocker Spaniels, JS
Mr. Dustin Wyatt (111585) VA
(757) 535-9394
dustin.wyatt@verizon.net
Miniature Schnauzers, Welsh Terriers
Kathleen Zehetner (112314) WI
(414) 458-8270
kazes@att.net
Collies

ADDITIONAL BREED JUDGING
APPLICANTS
Mr. Richard D. Albee (57263) AL
(334) 821-7829
albeerd@charter.net
Balance of Hound Group
(Bloodhounds, Cirnechi dell’Etna,
Norwegian Elkhounds, Portuguese
Podengo Pequenos, Sloughi)
Ms. Nancy S. Amburgey (42492) OH
(614) 264-7524
lopat@aol.com
Affenpinschers, Pekingese, Poodles,
Silky Terriers
Mr. Dean Burwell (103997) SC
(803) 628-8323
daen@pawgate.com
Irish Terriers, Norfolk Terriers,
Norwich Terriers, Parson Russell
Terriers, Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers,
West Highland White Terriers
Mrs. Kathleen V. Carter (6164) CO
(303) 425-6756
dancehalldolly@live.com
Chinooks, German Pinschers,
Beaucerons
Mrs. Sandra S. Coffman (96285) KS
(785) 230-4647
coffmantribe@gmail.com
Azawakhs, Borzois, Treeing Walker
Coonhounds, Whippets
Wendy A. Corr (104103) CA
(925) 381-1023
onakalmac@aol.com
Norwegian Elkhounds, Samoyeds,
Siberian Huskies, American Eskimo
Dogs, Lowchen, Shiba Inu
Dr. Lisa Costello (101255) CO
(630) 625-2019
mtncow100@gmail.com
Basset Hounds, Bloodhounds, Irish
Wolfhounds, Norwegian Elkhounds
Ms. Karen A. Dumke (7168) WI
(920) 279-4519
karendumke@gmail.com
Cairn Terriers, Glen of Imaal Terriers,
Miniature Schnauzers, Norwich
Terriers, Scottish Terriers
Cathy Eke (101345) IN
(317) 695-2829
onlybdogs@aol.com
Boxers
Dr. Bev Sigl Felten (65674) WI
(414) 828-2449
beverlyfelten5@gmail.com
Pointers, Curly-Coated Retrievers, English Setters, Gordon Setters, American Water Spaniels, Clumber Spaniels, Field Spaniels

Janet L. Fink (6374) CA
(909) 307-9778
janetfink@verizon.net
Whippets, Chihuahuas, Pomeranians

Mr. Rick Fowler (105295) TX
(214) 914-9335
richf45882@aol.com
Airedale Terriers, Kerry Blue Terriers, Norfolk Terriers, Norwich Terriers, Sealyham Terriers, West Highland White Terriers

Mr. Jeffrey Kestner (100655) OH
(614) 571-7524
kestnerj@aol.com
Affenpinschers, Maltese, Manchester Terriers, Papillons, Pekingese, Silky Terriers

Shari Kirschner (97107) IN
(219) 331-9493
smkirschner@comcast.net
German Shorthaired Pointers, English Springer Spaniels, Vizslas

Mr. Steven Kirschner (97109) IN
(219) 746-8499
sakirschner@earthlink.net
Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers, English Springer Spaniels, Spinoni

Italiani

Mrs. Marianne C. Klinkowski (7135) CA
(408) 446-0604
naharin@comcast.net
Keeshonden, Lhasa Apsos, Xoloitzcuintli

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

Mrs. Joan Luna Liebes (6515) CO
(719) 749-0232
joanluna@hotmail.com
Pointers, Chesapeake Bay Retrievers, Flat Coated Retrievers, Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers, American Water Spaniels, Vizslas

Rev. Rick Martin (101711) TX
(512) 992-9016
crm238@outlook.com
Borzoi, Dachshunds, Greyhounds, Ibizan Hounds, Salukis, Whippets

Ms. Sharon Masnick (97181) SC
(843) 933-5516
skmasnick@aol.com
Dalmatians, French Bulldogs, Lhasa Apsos, Tibetan Terriers

Dr. Camile McArdle (66682) MN
(612) 743-7329
camillemca@gmail.com
Balance of Sporting Group (Lagotti Romagnoli, Pointers, Labrador Retrievers, Wirehaired Vizslas)
Ms. Shelley Miller (102995) NC
(919) 525-5001
sunmagicclumbers@gmail.com
Brittanys, German Shorthaired Pointers

Ms. Donna R. O’Connell (81640) TX
(214) 724-6629
tuscanydocr@comcast.net
Bracco Italiani

Mrs. Betsey Orman (99925) WI
(847) 778-7661
brambliepup@gmail.com
German Shepherd Dogs, Norwegian Buhunds, Polish Lowland Sheepdogs

Mr. John C. Ramirez (1814) CA
(310) 991-0241
jrami68620@aol.com
American Eskimo Dogs, Boston Terriers, Finnish Spitz, Norwegian Lundehunds, Schipperkes, Xoloitzcuintli

Mr. Benson E. Ray (97179) SC
(843) 933-5367
benson592@aol.com
Dalmatians, French Bulldogs, Tibetan Terriers

Dr. Judi Roller (102261) WI
(608) 370-2679
judir7024@gmail.com
Bluetick Coonhounds, Plott Hounds, Redbone Coonhounds, Rhodesian Ridgebacks, Treeing Walker Coonhounds

Mr. Thomas Schonberger (107485) AK
(907) 529-6693
yogi@mtaonline.net
Doberman Pinschers, Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs

Ms. Amy Sorbie (36968) CO
(720) 245-5781
amy.sorbie@vca.com
Border Collies, Collies, Norwegian Buhunds, Shetland Sheepdogs

Mr. Robert E. Stein (37717) TX
(210) 725-0661
topwinn@gmail.com
Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers

JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP JUDGING APPLICANTS

Ms. Jessica Braatz (112407) FL
(239) 691-2970
jessicajadenbraatz@gmail.com
JS

Ms. Caroline Clegg (112318) OH
(513) 313-9371
carolinemclegg@gmail.com
JS

PERMIT JUDGES

The following persons have been approved on a <B>Permit</B> 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
Mrs. Lenise A. Adams (112014) IL
(815) 528-0802
donlen83@gmail.com
Collies, 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 person has been approved on a Approve status 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.

Mr. Joao Machado (110191) TX
(832) 339-6926
joao.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 PERMIT JUDGES
Mr. Kurt D. Anderson (18749) CT
(203) 640-6460
kurt@kmander.com
Border Collies, Bouviers des Flandres, Finnish Lapphunds, Icelandic Sheepdogs
Mrs. Shilon L. Bedford (15789) MN
(320) 485-4825
shilon@tds.net
Balance of Toy Group (Biewer Terriers, Chinese Cresteds, Russian Toys)
Mr. Hal Biermann (3643) NJ
(973) 635-0114
htb3643@gmail.com
Pointers, Curly-Coated Retrievers, Sussex Spaniels
Ms. Sandy Bingham-Porter (94107) IL
(217) 345-7571
sbinhamporter@ieu.edu
Afghan Hounds, Greyhounds, Ibizan Hounds, Norwegian Elkhounds, Otterhounds
Mrs. Janet Bodin (101381) WI
(414) 614-7822
jbodin@wi.rr.com
Bearded Collies
Mr. Phil Briasco (66406) FL
(352) 427-6992
aranisle@cfl.rr.com
Affenpinschers, Biewer Terriers, Italian
Greyhounds, Maltese, Russian Toys, Shih Tzu

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 Tervuren

Mrs. Christine E. Calciniari (7041) NH
(603) 334-9816
belhaven.nh@icloud.com
Chihuahuas, Shih Tzu, Silky Terriers, Toy Fox Terriers

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, Finnish Spitz, Tibetan Spaniels, Xoloitzcuintli

Mrs. Lisa Dube Forman (63962) NY
(518) 524-8279
lisa@lisadubeforman.com
American Foxhounds, Azawaks, Bluetick Coonhounds, Harriers, Portuguese Podengo Pequenos, Sloughis, Treeing Walker Coonhounds

Mrs. Nancy Eilks (23143) WI
(920) 650-2299
eilks@gdinet.com
Bracci Italiani, Nederlandse Kooikerhondjes, Gordon Setters, Field Spaniels, Welsh Springer Spaniels

Mrs. Donna Ernst (91808) TN
(440) 773-5052
anthemkennel@msn.com
Bulldogs, Chow Chows, Dalmatians, Lhasa Apsos, Poodles

Mrs. Julie Felten (17972) IL
(847) 452-6902
jacfelten@aol.com
Balance of Non-Sporting Group (Bichons Frises, Cotons du Tulear, Finnish Spitz, Norwegian Lundehunds, Schipperkes, Tibetan Spaniels), Biewer Terriers

Cassie Frank (108441) NH
(702) 595-7607
tailwindcardis@gmail.com
Australian Shepherds, Belgian Sheepdogs, Berger Picards, Pembroke Welsh Corgis, Pumik
Mrs. Jan Ritchie Gladstone (96299) NC
(267) 251-4483
janritchiegladstone@gmail.com
Affenpinschers, Havanese, Italian Greyhounds, Japanese Chins, Pugs, Toy Fox Terriers

Mr. Rick Gschwender (6740) ID
(208) 477-3934
rggschwender@yahoo.com
Dachshunds, Irish Wolfhounds, Norwegian Elkhounds, Rhodesian Ridgebacks, Miniature Schnauzers, Affenpinschers, Chihuahuas, Havanese, Manchester Terriers

Mr. Steve Hayden (6674) IL
(217) 725-3647
hybrk1@comcast.net
Dogo Argentinos, Portuguese Water Dogs

Ms. Dawn Hitchcock (100299) SC
(864) 238-2742
bubblezsc@hotmail.com
Bichons Frises, Boston Terriers, Cotons du Tulear, Lowchen, Norwegian Lundehunds, Tibetan Spaniels

Mr. Ryan Lee Horvath (50283) CA
(415) 305-5478
homardachs@gmail.com
Afghan Hounds, Black and Tan Coonhounds, Cirnechi dell’Etna, Grand Basset Griffon Vendeens, Harriers, Salukis

Mrs. Betsy Horn Humer (5156) VA
(757) 442-3672
tiderunr2@verizon.net
Bichons Frises, Dalmatians, Finnish Spitz, Keeshonden, Shiba Inu, Tibetan Terriers

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

Mrs. Linda Krukar (7250) FL
(203) 913-9045
dabneydobes@me.com
Balance of Non-Sporting Group (American Eskimo Dogs, Bichons Frises, Chinese Shar-Pei, Chow Chows, Cotons du Tulear, Finnish Spitz, Keeshonden, Lowchen, Norwegian Lundehunds)

Mr. Neil McDevitt (91600) OH
(937) 371-8249
nmcddevitt1@woh.rr.com
German Shorthaired Pointers, American Water Spaniels, Boykin Spaniels, Cocker Spaniels, English Springer Spaniels, Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs

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, Dojo Argentinos, German Pinschers. Komondorok, Kuvaszok, Neapolitan Mastiffs

Ms. Deirdre Petrie (63937) PA
(610) 763-8976
deirdrepetrie@yahoo.com
Bulldogs, Dalmatians, Keeshonden, Lowchen

Ms. Nancy E. Ridgway (101703) TX
(972) 671-5000
nancyridgway@earthlink.net
Alaskan Malamutes, Bernese Mountain Dogs, Boxers, Bullmastiffs, Doogo Argentinos, German Pinschers

Mr. John Schoeneman (98359) NC
(704) 363-7238
schohaus1@aol.com
Bearded Collies, Belgian Laekenois, Border Collies, Bouviers des Flandres, Icelandic Sheepdogs, Miniature American Shepherds, Old English Sheepdogs, Pyrenean Shepherds

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

Ms. Inge Semenschin (27410) CA
(510) 620-9688
ingeakc@gmail.com
Afghan Hounds, Beagles, Borzois, Pharaoh Hounds, Salukis, Scottish Deerhounds

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

Mr. Eric Steel (98787) NY
(464) 479-9177
ericsteel@mac.com
Pharaoh Hounds, Whippets

Mr. John P. Wade (5936) NV
(916) 508-7979
jpwade508@gmail.com
Judy Wade (99715) OK
(214) 693-4447
wademanordogs@gmail.com
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

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

Patricia A. Proctor (27757) MA
(203) 482-2121
proctorpattie@gmail.com

RESIGNED CONFORMATION JUDGES
Mr. Ian Copus
Mr. Ronny Junkins
Ms. Jennifer Krawczyn
June A. Moore
Ms. Sandy Wheat

EMERITUS CONFORMATION JUDGES
Mrs. Betty J. Abbott
Mrs. Joan P. Anselm
Dr. Klaus Anselm
Mrs. Carol R. Callahan
Mrs. M. Donna Clark
Mrs. Dorothy N. Collier
Mrs. Donna J. Francis
Mr. Jeff Gilmore
Mrs. Susan H. Hamlin
Mr. P. Levi Marsman
Sandra A. McCambridge
Mrs. Carol Kniebusch Noe
Mrs. Barbara Rupert
Mrs. Lisa Warren

JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP PERMIT JUDGES
Christine Asay (111935) AK
asayacres@gci.net
JS

Terri Erickson (112073) WA
(253) 334-0499
paragon717@me.com
JS

Mr. Rick Fowler (105295) TX
(214) 914-9335
richf45882@aol.com
JS

Ms. Tracey Luty (105151) CO
(720) 233-8632
taluty@gmail.com
JS-Limited
DECEASED CONFORMATION JUDGES
Mr. Geir Flyckt-Pedersen
Ms. C.L. (Surely) Rawlings

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.
BLUE MOON-Belgian Sheepdogs – Janet E. Bennett
CAELI PR- Poodles- Angeliz Perez & Cariemar Rivera
CALI DREAMIN’ – Great Danes- Renee Broden
DOCKSIDE- Australian Shepherds – Julia L. Wade
GOLDEN HEART- Yorkshire Terriers- Sviatlana Isklandarzada
HASHTAG- Dachshunds- Herminio Perich
HEARTHSIDE- Australian Shepherds- Betsy J. Atkinson
HEARTHSIDE- Miniature American Shepherds- Betsy J. Atkinson
J-BIRD’S- Poodles- Margaret J. Rucker DVM
LA BRISA – Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers- Laura Hamilton
MEADOWBROOK- Golden Retrievers- Lauren Sawyer
MTN HOLLOW- Australian Shepherds- Denise Miller & Samuel Miller
OPENHEART –Bernese Mt. Dogs- Alicia A. Barnes & John P. Beaston
OSTRAVA- German Shepherd Dogs- Libor Zavalsky & Rachael A. Savalsky
REIVAX-French Bulldogs- Alfredo M. Davila & Maria M. Davila
ROYAL DYNASTY- Doberman Pinschers- Ashley R. Tufte
SERENDIPITY- French Bulldogs- Penny L. Wyatt
TEMPLAR-Cavalier King Charles Spaniels- Christine Morigi
TIMBER SPRINGS- Wirehaired Dachshunds- Jennifer Carlson
VOM WURTTEMBERG- Giant Schnauzers- William (Corey) Compton

REGISTERED NAME PREFIXES GRANTED
The following applications for a breed-specific Registered Name Prefix have been granted.
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
SECRETARY’S PAGES

BON VIVANT-Australian Shepherds- Whitney B. Legrand
CASK 11-Australian Shepherds-Danielle E. Cunningham
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
The Board convened on Friday, May 5, 2023, at 8:30 a.m. Eastern Time.

All Directors were present in the New York office except for Dr. Battaglia who participated by phone. The Executive Secretary was also present.

Copies of the April 10-11, 2023 Board Meeting minutes were provided to all Directors for review.

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

**PRESIDENT’S REPORT**

Mr. Sprung updated the Board on a number of business matters as well as on past action items.

Management held a series of meetings with the senior staff of different corporate sponsors resulting in each being successfully renewed.

The AKC and Government Relations department will each have a booth at Westminster along with the AKC Canine Health Foundation and the AKC Museum of the Dog.

A discussion was held on a request for registration of cloned dogs. Based on input from numerous Staff and in keeping with the Board Policy established in January 2010 there was unanimous agreement not to accept registration of a clone. Under certain circumstances a cloned dog may obtain a PAL enrollment.

**Legal Update**

The Board reviewed the Legal Department update as of April 2023.

**FINANCE**

Ted Phillips, Chief Financial Officer, presented preliminary financial statements (unaudited) as of March 31, 2023.

Unaudited Financial Results for the 3 months ended March 31, 2023

Net Operating Income is $4.3 million due to lower controllable expenses and increased Registration and Sports & Events revenue.

REVENUES:

Total Revenues of $27.1 million exceed budget by 1%.
Registration Fees total $11.1 million, exceeding the budget by 2%.
Recording & Event Service fees, Title Recognition, and Event Applications fees total $3.9 million, and are higher than budget by 9%.
Product & Service Sales total $3.6 million and are lower than budget by 5%.
Advertising, Sponsorship and Royalties total $4.4 million and are lower than budget by 11%.

EXPENSES:
Controllable Expenses total $20.1 million and are lower than budget by $1.3M or 6%. Non-Controllable expenses are comparable to budget.

Non-Financial Statistics for the 2 months ended February 28, 2023
Registrations: 2023 YTD Litter Registrations are 5% ahead of budget, and 6% lower than 2022 YTD. 2023 YTD Dog Registrations are trailing the budget by 4% and are 13% lower than 2022 YTD.

Events & Entries
Compared to the same period in 2022, Events & Entries were up by 9% and 3% respectively.

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

Sussex Spaniel Breed Standard Revision
Following a motion by Dr. Garvin, seconded by Mr. Sweetwood, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to approve the proposed revision to the Sussex Spaniel Standard which will be published in the June Secretary’s Page of the AKC Gazette.

English Cocker Spaniel Proposed Breed Standard Revision
The Board reviewed a request from The English Cocker Spaniel Club of America, Inc. (ECSCA), to revise the tail section of the breed standard to include a description of an undocked tail, as a result of a petition submitted by the membership. The current standard was approved October 11, 1988.

Following a motion by Mr. Powers, seconded by Dr. Garvin, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to permit the ECSCA to ballot the membership in accordance with the club’s Constitution and Bylaws.

Black and Tan Coonhound Stud Book
The Board reviewed a request from the American Black and Tan Coonhound
Club to keep the Stud Book Open for the Black and Tan Coonhound. The Black and Tan Coonhound Stud Book is scheduled to close July 1, 2023. Currently AKC will accept dogs registered with United Kennel Club and Professional Kennel Club.

Following a motion by Mr. Hamblin, seconded by Mr. Tatro, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to consider the matter at this meeting, waiving the normal notice procedures.

Following a motion by Mr. Powers, seconded by Mr. Tatro, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to keep the Black and Tan Coonhound Stud Book open until July 1, 2033.

2023 Nominating Committee
The Board was reminded that the Nominating Committee for the March 2024 Board of Directors election must be appointed by August 15, 2023, and its report must be received no later than October 15, 2023.

This will be discussed further at the July meeting.

New Breed for Foundation Stock Service® – Brazilian Terrier
It was reported that the Foundation Stock Service® (FSS) Committee recently approved a petition for the Brazilian Terrier to be accepted into the FSS program with a Terrier Group designation.

New Breed for Foundation Stock Service® – Pont-Audemer Spaniel Dog
It was reported that the Foundation Stock Service® (FSS) Committee recently approved a petition for the Pont-Audemer Spaniel Dog to be accepted into the FSS program with a Sporting Group designation.

AKC Communication Q1 2023 Report

TOTALS:
Clips Evaluated in Q1: 9,162 (+2.7% from 8,919 in 2022)
Q1 Estimated Audience Reached: 11,629,690,854

Q1 Totals Comparison

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Clips Evaluated</th>
<th>Estimated Audience</th>
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<tr>
<td>2020</td>
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<td>10,481,192,432</td>
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<td>11,573,861,989</td>
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<tr>
<td>2023</td>
<td>9,162</td>
<td>11,629,690,854</td>
</tr>
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Media Coverage Highlights Resulting from Proactive Pitches:

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Media Outlet</th>
<th>Subject</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1/2</td>
<td>Good Morning America</td>
<td>AKC’s National Champion</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
1/10 Time Out New York  AKC Meet the Breeds
1/27 WPIX-TV        AKC Meet the Breeds
2/3  Great Pet Care  AKC expertise
3/15 Good Morning America  Most Popular Breeds announcement
3/15 Associated Press  Most Popular Breeds announcement

2023 Highlights
• 9% increase in media relations and press coverage in Mandarin language and Spanish language publications.
• Consistent increase in the media visibility of our Chief Veterinary Officer.
• Maintained a 96.1% positivity rating.
• Aggressive PR Campaign for Meet the Breeds and Most Popular Breeds

AKC Education Quarter 1 Review

Online Education
Breed-Specific and Breeder Courses
A total of 61 breed-specific courses and 27 breeder courses, webinars, and exams are now available on Canine College. Three breeder seminars and a microlearning library were launched in Q1, four breed courses are complete and in various stages of review, and four breed courses are under development.

Launched
• Breeding 101
• Developing a Male Line
• Pedigree Theories
• Cavalier King Charles Spaniel

Exams
• Show Secretary Test – Launched
• ATT Exam – Launched
• Spaniel Hunt Test Exam – Launched
• 5 breed exams updated
  o Akita
  o Brussels Griffon
  o Cavalier King Charles Spaniel
  o Spanish Water Dog
  o Tibetan Terrier

To improve user experience on mobile devices, expedite required updates, and gather additional learner data, 23 exams (11 Performance and 12 Conformation) have been migrated to the native assessment tool in the Learning Management System. More work will be completed on this initiative during Q2.

Special Projects
Stewarding Education Program – Launched
• Course 1: Stewarding 101
• Course 2: Preparing for the Ring
• Course 3: Running the Ring

Judge’s Obedience Education Program – Launched
• Course 1: Obedience Judges’ Getting Started
• Course 2: General Regulations
• Course 3: Judging Standards and Procedures
• Webinar: Judging Obedience Q&A
  April 18th @ 7:00 PM EST
• Course 4: Novice Classes – In Progress

S.A.F.E. Groomer – Six courses revised and launched.

Meet the Breeds in the Field 45-minute video – Video completed – awaiting Legal review for terms and conditions for music service.

Bailey’s Book Club
Throughout Quarter 1, we received three large Bailey’s Book Club book donations totaling over 250 books. The bulk of the donations received came from Star City Canine Training Club, Susan Amundson (author), and Amanda Mohr.

Read With Bailey Videos
During Q1, three new Read with Bailey videos and related resources were released, each celebrating a different holiday (Chinese New Year, President’s Day, and International Women’s Day/Month). The new videos reached a total audience of over 1,300.

AKC Library and Archives
AKC Library and Archives began working with The Museum of the Dog on a collaborative event that would include a book sale of the library’s discards and duplicates. This would help better organize our library and provide funds for new acquisitions.

Work is underway to update the Gazette collection in the digital library and provide Stud Book access to authorized users.

Education for Stewards
Ashley Jacot gave a presentation on new educational materials for Stewards. AKC Education is supporting with:
• Interactive Courses
• Webinars
• Online Resources

Course 1 “Stewarding 101” teaches current or potential stewards the positive attributes of a good ring steward, general assignment and duty information, and how to find a stewarding assignment when you are ready to assist.

Course 2 is “Preparing for the Ring” which covers obligations and etiquette, ring bag, table organization and setup, and key tasks that should be completed before judging begins.

Course 3, entitled “Running the Ring”, reviews how to handle check-ins, maintain ring awareness, and assist with ring management, as well as special situations.
Additionally, Course participants can post to the “Ask AKC” discussion board, find links to valuable resources, and receive notifications as new videos are added.

AKC will also offer an AKC Steward of the Year award. A winner will be chosen for Conformation, Obedience and Rally by a panel of AKC Staff. Consideration will be given to number of events stewarded, extraordinary contributions, and feedback from those familiar with the steward.

The winning Steward will receive $1,000 to give to an AKC Club or approved dog related charity of their choice.

**Government Relations (GR) Update First Quarter 2023**
Sheila Goffe highlighted active, priority legislative issues that AKC Government Relations (GR) is actively working on and a status update on current department activity, major projects, and legislative successes. She noted that additional information is available on the AKC legislative action center microsite: [www.akcgr.org](http://www.akcgr.org).

As of the end of Q1, the AKC GR team is monitoring more than 1,200 newly introduced legislative bills that could impact responsible dog ownership, the health and wellbeing of dogs, the rights of dog owners, and/or the interests of the sport and the American Kennel Club.

In Q1, GR published 107 geo-targeted legislative alerts to constituents and via social media. The team provided written comment, recommendations and/or oral testimony directly to lawmakers on approximately 85 measures.

The largest proportion of legislation monitored was related to cruelty. In many cases, measures that expand requirements, restrictions or licensing for dog breeders fall into this category, as “breeder cruelty” are cited by proponents of breeding restrictions. Similarly, many cruelty bills include references to or restrictions on breeding. By volume, the most common types of bills monitored in Q1 2023 related to:

- Cruelty 187 (22%)
- Working Dogs 169 (20%)
- Animal Control 117 (14%)
- Veterinary 88 (10%)
- Hunting 76 (9%)
- Dogs in Public 64 (7%)
- BSL & Dangerous Dogs 63 (7%)

There were 92 measures that fell into “other” categories, illustrating the broad range of types of canine legislation the team tracks.
GR is also monitoring approximately 740 actively pending proposed regulation (administrative or implementing changes) at the state and federal level.

Other Q1 highlights include:
AKC 2023 National Legislative Conference: AKC GR held a two-day legislative conference in Raleigh on February 21-22. More than 50 legislative liaisons/canine advocates from around the country participated. Fifteen presentations/panel discussions updated attendees on trends in canine legislation and animal extremism; empowered attendees with tools, resources, and information to be effective advocates for dogs in their local communities; and promoted networking and sharing of ideas and experiences.

Webinars/Seminars for Clubs/Federations: GR presented 9 webinars or in-person seminars to clubs and federations.

AKC Meet the Breeds®: More than 85 tri-state lawmakers participated as honorary chairs. More than two dozen lawmakers, family members or staff stopped by to meet GR Staff and receive a specialized event tour.

Advocacy at the Capitols: Approximately 15, multi-day advocacy trips were made to state capitols and U.S. Congress by Staff. Trips typically average 15 meetings with key lawmakers. AKC also sponsored 5 legislative educational events/booths in state capitols.


Blogs: 15 blogs covering policy issues and resources for advocates and the public were published at www.akcgr.org.

**Agility League Update**
AKC Staff members Penny Leigh, Seth Fera Schanes, and Kassandra McCombe participated in this portion of the meeting.

The AKC Agility League Program recently concluded its third season with more than 200 teams and 1,200 dogs competing and has opened enrollments for the Spring/Summer 2023 season with expectations for our largest entry so far. The League program launched on May 20, 2022.

**Season 3**
The third season, the Winter Season, launched on January 16, 2023, and concluded on April 9, 2023. More than 200 teams, ~910 handlers, and more than 1,200 dogs spanning 109 breeds
were enrolled.

This season brought additional choices so more agility enthusiasts can participate in the League. Whereas the first two seasons only allowed dogs to compete at the top levels of ISC or Masters, skill level classes for intermediate dogs (Sophomore) and novice dogs (Freshman) were added. These classes are available for both the Regulation size fields/rings and the Limited size fields/rings. In addition, we received requests from trainers who wanted to run in the Ph.D. class but did not have the 100 X 100 field. So, we created the Regulation Ph.D. classes for those with fields at least 70 X 100 so they can practice on the world team type courses, but on a course adapted for that size field/ring.

Our offerings now include:
- International/Ph.D. – ISC style courses for fields min. 100X100
- Regulation/Ph.D. – ISC style courses for fields min. 70X100
- Regulation/Senior – Masters style courses for fields min. 70X100
- Regulation/Sophomore – Open style courses for fields min. 70X100
- Regulation/Freshman – Novice style courses for fields min. 70X100
- Limited/Senior – Masters style courses for fields min. 50X70
- Limited/Sophomore – Open style courses for fields min. 50X70
- Limited/Freshman – Novice style courses for fields min. 50X70

AKC Agility League Championship
The first League “live” championship is planned for September 2-4, 2023, at Purina Farms in Gray Summit, Missouri. The event is open to all teams and dogs that have successfully completed a league season since the program began with the pilot season. Winners will be named in teams and individual dogs, including veterans, and junior handlers. All levels will be offered including Sophomore (Open) and Freshman (Novice). AKC.tv will livestream the event.

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

COMPLIANCE
Bri Tesarz, Director of Compliance and Marcus Bach, Director of Investigations & Inspections, participated in this meeting portion via video conference.

Mr. Trent Wilkinson (Request for Reinstatement)
Mr. Trent Wilkinson was suspended from AKC event privileges for one year and
fined $1,000, effective June 30, 2022, for improper treatment in connection with an event. Mr. Wilkinson has requested early reinstatement of his AKC event privileges.

Following a motion by Mr. Tatro, seconded by Mr. Powers, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to deny the request for early reinstatement.

**Amend Board Policy Regarding Referral**
The Board reviewed a request of AKC Board Policy referring to Registration: Referral and Cancellation which was last updated in 1995. The revision will allow Staff to align the privileges affected by any Referral with the privileges that are in jeopardy of suspension in accordance with *AKC Disciplinary Guidelines*. Furthermore, Staff recommends removing unnecessary language regarding “types of referrals.”

This will be discussed further at the July meeting.

* **Q1 2023 Digital Performance Report**
The Board reviewed a summary of Q1 2023 performance for AKC.org, AKC Marketplace, Shop.akc.org and Email/Newsletters. AKC.org Q1 2023 performance is above expected driven by a stronger than planned January, while February and March are essentially on plan. Marketplace Q1 2023 traffic measures are all above Q1 2022, and all measures of AKC Shop Q1 2023 traffic were above Q1 2022.

* **Marketing - Social Media Report**
Highlights of our social media strategy in Q12023 included on-site coverage of the Flyball Dog Challenge on ESPN2, National Agility Championship in Tulsa, Oklahoma, and the Diving Dogs Challenge in Raleigh, North Carolina that also aired on ESPN2. AKC Social achieved a 5.9% total follower increase vs. Q1 2022.

* **Q12023 TOTAL FOLLOWERS BY PLATFORM:**
  - Facebook: 4,105,864 followers
  - Instagram: 425,041 followers
  - Twitter: 100,000 followers
  - TikTok: 270,110 followers
  - Pinterest: 69,802 followers
  - Total*: 4,970,779 followers

**MARKETING**
Melissa Olund, Director of Digital Marketing; Jacqueline Taylor, Director of Marketing; and Kerri Schreiber, Social Media Manager, participated in this portion of the meeting.
Update on AKC Brand Tracker Report Supplement
Staff provided an update on brand awareness, brand tone and consumer perception of AKC based on survey responses. These results are collected and quantified quarterly.

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

Tracking Tests - Recording Devices, and Protective Eye Goggles
The Board reviewed a Staff recommendation to modify the AKC Tracking Regulations to state that:
1) that recording devices are not allowed on the tracking field and 2) that dogs may wear eye goggles.

There has been an increase in exhibitors using various recording devices, while on the tracking field, and then challenging the decision of the judges both at the test, and after the test on social media. Exhibitors have asked that we allow the dog to wear protective eye goggles to avoid eye injury from various plants and seeds found in tracking areas across the country. Protective coats and footwear are currently allowed.

This will be discussed further at the July meeting.

Change to Gordon Setter Walking National Gun Dog Championship
The Board reviewed a recommendation to remove a condition regarding the GSCA Walking National Gun Dog Championship that states if the Parent Club fails to hold its traditional horseback National Championship, the right to hold the walking event may be rescinded by the Performance Events Department.

This recommendation ensures a National Championship stake for walking handlers can continue to be held for the Gordon Setter if the Parent Club so chooses, regardless of if they host a traditional horseback National Championship stake. This is a change to the Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures for Pointing Breeds. If approved by the Board, this addition must be approved by a vote of the Delegates.

This will be discussed further at the July meeting.
Coursing - Change to Muzzle Description
The Board reviewed a recommendation to update the description of acceptable muzzles that may be worn in Lure Coursing, CAT, and Fast CAT® events. The dog must be able to open its mouth to breath freely.

This will be discussed further at the July meeting.

It is a change to the Regulations for Lure Coursing Tests and Trials, which if approved, would become effective August 1, 2023.

Pointing Breed Hunt Tests/Field Trials – Tracking Devices
The Board reviewed a recommendation to clarify three items in the Regulations Governing the Use of Tracking Devices for pointing breed field trials and hunting tests:
1) Discontinue Staff from having to approve each brand of tracking receiver.
2) Clarify that a scout may not carry a device which can be paired to a receiver.
3) Clarify that receivers when left in various locations during an event, cannot be turned on.

This will be discussed further at the July meeting.

Retriever Hunting Tests – Talking to Dog in Junior Level
The Board reviewed a recommendation to allow handlers in the Junior level test to speak quietly to their dog and to be allowed to touch their dog for reassurance or positioning anytime during the test.

There are three testing levels in the retriever hunting test program. Junior is the most basic and entry-level. In examining what could help handlers at this level, AKC received feedback from attendees during AKC judging seminars. Staff learned that some handlers from other programs enjoy talking to their dog or petting it during a test. They found it made for a better experience for their dog during the entry-level and gave their dog more reassurance and confidence before preparing for the next level.

Currently, handlers during Senior and Master test levels are allowed to speak quietly to their dog only during the honor portion of the test. The honor is when the working dog completes his retrieves and then moves down the line remaining on a sit stay while watching the next working dog retrieve.

This will be discussed further at the July meeting.
Obedience & Rally – Event Site Approval Process

One of Sports & Events goals is to make it easier for clubs to host events and to reduce internal work for Staff wherever possible. In past years, Staff has never rejected an approval for a new site in Obedience or Rally.

To provide guidance to clubs, the Obedience/Rally Trial Manual description of what a club should consider when seeking a new event location will be enhanced. This will make it faster and easier for clubs to gain approval for their events and reduce the Staff’s workload.

CONFORMATION

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

Conflict of Interest Statements Across the Sports

The Board requested the Staff review the conflict of interest statements across the sports for possible recommended changes.

Staff recommended that the Board approved proposed modifications to the policies that define exhibiting restrictions in Conformation for (1) those who attend training classes presented by judges, and (2) judges who use the services of a handler and that they establish a Board policy to establish a six-month period of ineligibility for former co-owners with judges.

Following a motion by Mr. Powers, seconded by Dr. Garvin, the Board VOTED (unanimously) to approve the following modifications to the Board Policy:

1. Handling/Presentation Classes – No entry shall be made at any Conformation show under a judge of any dog or owner for which said judge has provided in-person or virtual handling and presentation instructions in either Conformation or Obedience training classes. This restriction will apply within six-months prior to the date of the show.

2. If you use the services of an agent, instruct the agent that he/she, any member of the agent’s household, or any handling associate of the agent may not exhibit dogs under you or any member of your house-
hold while in your employ and for at least six months after working for you.

In addition, you or a member of your household must not knowingly use the services of an agent, any member of the agent’s household, or any handling associate of the agent to handle your dog(s) for at least four months after the agent has exhibited under you. This policy applies to all levels of competition.

3. If you co-own dogs, instruct any co-owners that he/she and member of their household may not exhibit dogs under you or any member of your household while currently co-owning dogs, and for at least six months after the end of all co-ownership arrangements.

These changes will become effective May 31, 2023.

**FSS Open Show Regulations**
The Board reviewed a Staff suggested modification to modify Chapter 2, Section 4 of the *FSS Open Show Regulations* deleting the term “agent” and inserting verbiage clarifying that the eligibility restriction for professional handlers also applies to members of a professional handler’s household and current assistants.

This will be discussed further at the July meeting.

**Sweepstakes and Futurity Judges – Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Chapter 11, Section 13**
The Board reviewed a Staff recommendation to modify Chapter 11, Section 13 of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*, removing the statement related to sweepstake and futurity judges and replacing it with italicized text clarifying restrictions involving judges of special attraction competitions are defined by Board Policy.

This proposal will be forwarded to the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee for discussion at their June meeting, and it will be discussed further by the Board in July.

**Limited Number of Events Policy – Limited Breed shows**
The Board reviewed a request submitted by the Big Apple Working Group Club to modify the Limited Number of Events Policy to allow all limited-breed clubs to hold up to four Conformation dog shows in a calendar year. Staff suggests modifying the allowance for limited-breed clubs in a similar fashion to prior policy for specialty clubs such that limited-breed clubs would be permitted to hold two shows or two days of shows in a calendar year.
This will be discussed further at the July Board meeting.

**Major Reserve at Specialty Shows - Rules Applying to Dog Shows Chapter 16. Section 1**
The Board reviewed a proposal to modify Chapter 16, Section 1 of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*, which would allow specialty clubs the option to offer the awarding of a three-point major to Reserve Winners provided that the number of dogs competing in the regular classes of the Reserve Winner’s sex totals at least twice the number required for a five-point major at any specialty show for its breed.

This will be discussed further at the July Board meeting.

**JUDGING OPERATIONS**
Doug Ljungren, Executive Vice President, Sports & Events, and Tim Thomas, Vice President of Conformation, participated in this portion of the meeting.

**Conformation Judges Daily Limit**
Following its discussion at its February 2023 meeting, the Board directed Staff to draft a white paper memo on the potential benefits of a rule change lowering the daily limit for Conformation judges to 150 entries. This memo would be forwarded to the Delegate Dog Show Rules and All-Breed Committees for feedback if the Board should choose to consider this matter further. The most recent version of the draft memo was reviewed in May and will be represented in July following edits based on the Board’s discussion.

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

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

**Two Path Event Process for New Club Accreditation to License Status**
The Club Relations Department is proposing two event paths from accreditation to license status for all new clubs. Currently, there are eight event paths for clubs to reach license status. The event path assigned to a club will depend on their experience in the sport. This recommendation will simplify the licensing process for clubs and Staff.
This will be discussed further at the July meeting.

Exploring Options for Existing Local Specialty Club Territories
Staff presented information about current procedures for establishing local specialty club territories. Territory expansion requests for existing AKC clubs are routinely reviewed by Club Relations based on membership shifting over time, or loss of suitable event sites. Clubs which have developed membership outside of their local territory may have local boundaries extended provided the impact is positive and healthy for events in the area, and the territory extension does not infringe upon another local specialty club’s territory.

New local specialty clubs for less common breeds may be granted larger territories under the Encouraging the Formation of Local Specialty Clubs policy (August 2018). These extended territories may be statewide, or multi-state, depending on the density of the breed.

Staff will continue to explore new ways to resolve these issues.

REPORT ON MEMBER CLUB BYLAWS APPROVED IN MARCH AND APRIL
- First Dog Training Club of Northern New Jersey, Inc., Bergen County, NJ (1947)
- Great Pyrenees Club of America (1935)
- Sandia Dog Obedience Club, Albuquerque, NM (1960)
- South Hills Kennel Club, Washington County, PA (1993)
- Vizsla Club of America (1971)

REPORT ON NEWLY LICENSED CLUBS APPROVED IN MARCH AND APRIL
- Mesa Grande Retriever Club of Southeastern California, Santa Ysabel, CA (including communities north to Bonsall, south to La Mesa), 23 total households, 14 local.
- Sporting Dog Club of Indiana, greater Indianapolis, IN (including communities north to Cedar Lake, IN, south to Bloomington, IN, including Casey, IL and Mt. Vernon, IL), 28 total households, 12 local.
- Willamette Valley Dachshund Club (Earthdog), greater Salem, OR (including communities north to McMinnville/Canby and south to Eugene/Bend), 25 total households, 8 local.

REPORT ON MEMBER CLUB BYLAWS APPROVED ADDING JUNIOR MEMBERSHIP
American Lhasa Apso Club (1974)
**CONSENT**

Following a motion by Dr. Garvin, seconded by Mr. Powers, it was VOTED (unanimously) to approve the following Consent items:

**Health Clinics at AKC Events**
The Board VOTED to modify the policies regarding Special Attractions Application and Special Attractions with Standing Written Approval list to insert the direction, “Health services and breed characteristic evaluations held with AKC events may not be conducted in a ring and should be held in a location away from congestion and heavy traffic to provide a conducive atmosphere.”

**Pointing Breed Hunting Tests – The Buddy Hunt**
The Board VOTED to amend Chapter 1 of Regulations for AKC Hunting Tests for Pointing Breeds to allow for a Buddy Hunt in the Junior Hunter level test in Pointing Breed Hunting Tests. In a Buddy Hunt, a Junior, family member, or friend may accompany the handler. In addition, this opportunity can help to offset the inhibition many new owners feel prior to handling their own dog for the first time. The buddy cannot assist in handling the dog or flushing the birds. There is a limit of one buddy per handler. There would be no change to the running of the event.

Chapter 1, Section 15, New Paragraph 11. The Buddy Hunt. At the handler’s option in the Junior Hunter level test, the handler may be accompanied by one person. The purpose of the buddy is to engage new people in the sport and to familiarize new owners about what to expect prior to running their own dog. The buddy must not assist in handling the dog or in flushing birds. The buddy is there only to observe. During the flush, the buddy must stand back and not interfere with the dog or handler. The judge should instruct the buddy where to stand if there is uncertainty.

**Pointing Breed Hunting Tests – Providing Flexibility in Finding Judges**
Testing levels in Pointing Breed Hunting Tests can be divided into divisions at the discretion of the host club. This is usually done if the club expects a large number of entries. The Board VOTED to amend Chapter 1, Section 6 of the Regulations for AKC Hunting Tests for Pointing Breeds to allow Pointing Breed Hunting Test judges to enter in a division of a testing level that they are not judging. Currently the Regulations state a judge may not enter the testing level they are judging. This change will provide clubs additional flexibility in securing judges.
Dachshund Field Trials – Request to Hold Eight Trials Per Year

The Board VOTED to approve a request from the Dachshund Club of America to increase the number of field trials a local club can hold per calendar year from four to eight. Clubs may start applying for additional events on or after June 1, 2023.

AKC Fetch, a New Family Dog Activity

The Board VOTED to add a new titling program in AKC Family Dog called “AKC Fetch.” Beginning with the premise that one of the most popular activities that dog owners do with their dogs is retrieving a ball, AKC Fetch will be a fun program with four titling levels including Novice, Intermediate, Advanced, and Retriever.

By providing a source of exercise for dogs and owners, AKC Fetch has clear health benefits. Further, the skills learned for each of the titles (e.g., remaining steady at the line until the ball is released) are related to future success in other AKC sports. AKC Fetch titles will be a valuable addition to the existing AKC FIT DOG program.

AKC Fetch will be an official AKC Event for which an Event application must be submitted 30 days in advance of the event. The fee for the event application is $35. AKC Fetch tests will appear on the Events calendar so that they are easily accessible to participants.

- A dog must pass the test for each level twice to earn the title.
- AKC Fetch tests may be conducted by individual who have completed the online training modules.
- Evaluators will complete an online educational module for AKC Fetch.
- Tests may be held in conjunction with other AKC events or as stand-alone events set up by evaluators.
- An event report (how many dogs tested, how many passed/failed) must be submitted within 7 days of the completion of the event.
- Owners that pass the test will apply for the AKC Fetch title through the Title Application Portal at a cost of $30.00.

Sports & Events will begin accepting AKC Fetch titles on January 2, 2024. There will be a soft launch in early October so that evaluators may begin completing their AKC Fetch evaluator training.

Club Designation for Shikoku

The American Shikoku Ken Club was designated as the Parent Club for the Breed, allowing them to hold FSS Open Shows.
**FSS Open Show Regulations -Removing Outdated Wording**
The Board VOTED to update the FSS Open Show Regulations to update or remove sections and outdated wording that are no longer applicable.

**Delegate Approvals**
Eileen Barbieri  
To represent Mid-Hudson Kennel Association  
Published March 2023, April 2023

Peter Festa  
To represent Westbury Kennel Association  
Published March 2023, April 2023

Howard Gussis  
To represent American Bullmastiff Association  
Published February 2023, March 2023

Beth Hendrick  
To represent English Cocker Spaniel Club of America  
Published March 2023, April 2023

Karen Justin  
To represent Great Pyrenees Club of America  
Published March 2023, April 2023

Chris Marston  
To represent the Mount Vernon Dog Training Club  
Published in February 2023, March 2023

Christian W. Paris  
To represent Pocono Beagle Club  
Published March 2023, April 2023

John C. Schneiter  
To represent Middlesex County Kennel Club  
Published February 2023, March 2023

Howard Solomon  
To represent Bedlington Terrier Club of America  
Published March 2023, April 2023

Sally Sotirovich  
To represent Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of America  
Published March 2023, April 2023

Lee Ann Stusnick  
To represent Schipperke Club of America  
Published March 2023, April 2023

Frederick Vogel  
To represent Eastern Dog Club  
Published March 2023, April 2023
Tripod Dogs in Rally and Obedience Classes Without Jumps

The Board reviewed a Staff recommendation to allow three-legged dogs (tripods) to participate in the non-jumping classes in Rally and Obedience. There are two classes in Obedience and three classes in Rally that do not involve jumping. Currently they are not allowed to participate as they are considered lame. The Rally and Obedience Regulations define lame as any irregularity of locomotion.

There was a motion by Ms. Biddle, seconded by Mr. Powers to approve the Staff recommendation. The motion failed. (In favor: Powers, Smyth, Tatro, Sweetwood, Biddle. Against: Garvin, Knight, McAteer, Wallin, Carota. Abstained: Hamblin and Davies. Absent: Battaglia.)

There was a motion by Ms. Biddle, seconded by Mr. Powers to approve the Staff recommendation as an 18-month pilot program. The motion passed. (In favor: Tatro, Biddle, Powers, Davies, Hamblin, Sweetwood, Wallin, Smyth, McAteer. Against: Garvin and Knight. Abstained: Carota. Absent: Battaglia.)

It was VOTED to adjourn Friday, May 5, 2023, at 4:20 p.m. Eastern Time.
PARENT CLUB LINKS

SPORTING GROUP

American Water Spaniel
Barbet
Boykin Spaniel
Brittany
Chesapeake Bay Retriever
Clumber Spaniel
Cocker Spaniel
Curly-Coated Retriever
English Cocker Spaniel
English Setter
English Springer Spaniel
Field Spaniel
Flat-Coated Retriever
German Shorthaired Pointer
German Wirehaired Pointer
Golden Retriever
Gordon Setter
Irish Red and White Setter
Irish Setter
Irish Water Spaniel
Labrador Retriever
Lagotto Romagnolo
Nederlandse Kooikerhondje
Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever
Pointer
Spinone Italiano
Sussex Spaniel
Vizsla
Weimaraner
Welsh Springer Spaniel
Wirehaired Pointing Griffon
Wirehaired Vizsla
HOUND GROUP

Afghan Hound  American English Coonhound  American Foxhound  Azawakh  Basenji

Basset Hound  Beagle  Black and Tan Coonhound  Bloodhound  Bluetick Coonhound

Borzoi  Cirneco dell’Etna  Dachshund  English Foxhound  Grand Basset Griffon Vendéen

Greyhound  Harrier  Ibizań Hound  Irish Wolfhound  Norwegian Elkhound

Otterhound  Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen  Pharaoh Hound  Plott  Portuguese Podengo Pequeno

Redbone Coonhound  Rhodesian Ridgeback  Saluki  Scottish Deerhound  Sloughi

Treeing Walker Coonhound  Whippet
# Working Group

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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
PARENT CLUB LINKS

NON-SPORTING GROUP

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

Australian Cattle Dog  Australian Shepherd  Bearded Collie  Beauceron  Belgian Laekenois

Belgian Malinois  Belgian Sheepdog  Belgian Tervuren  Bergamasco  Berger Picard

Border Collie  Bouvier des Flandres  Briard  Canaan Dog  Cardigan Welsh Corgi

Collie (Rough)  Collie (Smooth)  Entlebucher Mountain Dog  Finnish Lapphund  German Shepherd Dog

Icelandic Sheepdog  Miniature American Shepherd  Mudi  Norwegian Buhund  Old English Sheepdog

Pembroke Welsh Corgi  Polish Lowland Sheepdog  Puli  Pumi  Pyrenean Shepherd

Shetland Sheepdog  Spanish Water Dog  Swedish Vallhund
AKC
REGISTERED HANDLERS

The American Kennel Club Registered Handlers Program establishes criteria and standards for responsible, knowledgeable professional handlers. All handlers enrolled in the Program have met these criteria and made the commitment to follow the guidelines and Code of Ethics as set forth by the AKC.

For additional information concerning the Registered Handlers Program, click here:
http://www.akc.org/events/handlers/

For information on upcoming RHP Handling Clinics
http://www.akc.org/events/junior-showmanship/junior-clinics/
http://www.akc.org/events/handlers/adult-clinics/