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### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

### VIDEOS

### BREED COLUMNS

#### Sporting Group

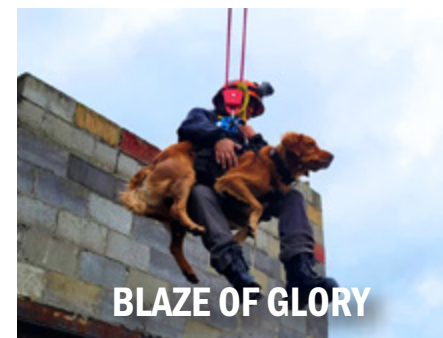
Brittanys	English Setters	Field Spaniels
Nederlandse Kooikerhondjes	Gordon Setters	Irish Water Spaniels
Pointers	Irish Setters	Sussex Spaniels
German Shorthaired Pointers	Clumber Spaniels	Welsh Springer Spaniels
Curly-Coated Retrievers	Cocker Spaniels	Vizslas
Golden Retrievers	English Cocker Spaniels	Weimaraners
Labrador Retrievers	English Springer Spaniels	

#### Working Group

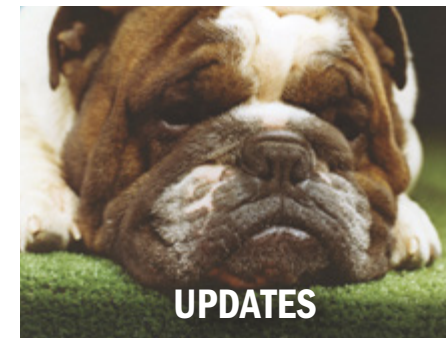
Akitas	Dogues de Bordeaux	Neapolitan Mastiffs
Alaskan Malamutes	German Pinschers	Newfoundlands
Anatolian Shepherd Dogs	Giant Schnauzers	Portuguese Water Dogs
Bernese Mountain Dogs	Great Danes	Rottweilers
Black Russian Terriers	Great Pyrenees	Samoyeds
Borboels	Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs	Siberian Huskies
Boxers	Komondorok	Standard Schnauzers
Bullmastiffs	Kuvaszok	Tibetan Mastiffs
Chinooks	Leonbergers	
Doberman Pinschers		

#### BREED COLUMNS SCHEDULE

Sporting and Working Groups January, April, July, and October issues	Hound and Terrier Groups February, May, August, and November issues	Toy, Non-Sporting, and Herding Groups March, June, September, and December issues
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**BLAZE OF GLORY**



**UPDATES**

### SECRETARY'S PAGES

\*  
Links to AKC Parent Clubs  
appear following  
Secretary's Pages  
\*



**TIMES PAST**



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THE COOL CLUSTER**



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## AKC *and the* Ukrainian Spring

Spring is here, and we are excited about the season ahead. We are thrilled to see events strongly back in action. This season is always a busy one, and we are enthusiastic about our events making a positive impact on the sport and their local communities.

As you read this, the [AKC National Agility Championship](#) is being held April 1 to 3 at the beautiful World Equestrian Center in Ocala, Florida. This annual competition highlights the best canine athletes who have competed at their highest level to earn their slot. A total of 1,374 dogs from 47 states are competing for championship titles. The preliminary competitions will be available to stream on [AKC.tv](#), and the finals will air on ESPN2 on Sunday, April 17. It will be a glorious display of athleticism and the human-canine bond. Be sure to check your local listings to see our lauded competition.

I would be remiss if I did not mention the crisis in Ukraine. It is truly devastating and has been at the forefront of our thoughts. The ongoing events have deeply affected the

Ukrainian dog community, with many in harm's way fleeing in fear for their lives with their pets in tow, taking care not to leave their animals behind regardless of the sheltering situation. The sacred human-canine bond remains strong amid relentless fear, uncertainty, and the violation of human rights.

We quickly recognized the need to assist owners and their pets and have worked to find legitimate organizations to donate to. AKC and AKC Reunite donated \$25,000 to [Equiwent](#), a German organization with operations in Poland and Romania. Equiwent is assisting in the humanitarian effort by helping with the Ukrainian refugees and their pets. Clubs and fanciers may donate to the cause by using the Equiwent link above.

In addition, the AKC Shop sold "[Peace for Ukraine](#)" apparel by Teddy the Dog during the month of March, with *all proceeds* going to Casa lui Patrocle animal rescue. Casa lui Patrocle is located 25 miles outside of Ukraine, offering shelter, veterinary care, and emergency assistance to anyone crossing the border with pets. To date, over \$24,000 has



been donated. We will continue to find ways to support Ukrainians during this most difficult time.

We appreciate the support of the fancy for these efforts and very much look forward to seeing you in the ring.

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Mural seen in  
Lower Manhattan

## The Biggest Dog in Town

*“There are many advantages to owning a dog of this breed, but there are very few bred and very few exhibited. If the trend keeps on, eventually the breed will become extinct.”—“Why Are Frenchies So Scarce?,” AKC GAZETTE, 1961*

*“Could the French bulldog become America’s favorite purebred pooch? After riding a rocket ship to popularity over the last quarter-century, Frenchies came in second only to Labrador retrievers—the leaders for 30 straight years—in the American Kennel Club’s latest rankings.”—Associated Press, last month*

What a difference a mere 61 years make! French Bulldog fanciers of the 1960s, such stalwarts as Ralph and Amanda West, and Lavender “Laddie” Lovell, would be delighted but not surprised to witness the Frenchie’s reign as America’s biggest little dog. They and other true believers promoted their breed’s virtues

constantly, knowing that the vast pet-owning public eventually would listen.

So, what has changed since the breed faced extinction? Not the dog. The Frenchie is the same sturdy but stylish, discreet but friendly little charmer he has always been. Rather, the country has changed.

The shift in populations of young professionals from suburb to city, begun some years ago, has reached critical mass. Dog lovers in America’s cities are looking for pets uniquely equipped as urban companions, and they want something with a little cachet, a dog that announces to city multitudes, “The human on the other end of the leash has arrived!”

In the AKC’s 2021 breed-popularity rankings announced in March (see page 5), the Frenchie placed first in Atlanta, Chicago, Columbus, Dallas, Detroit, Houston, Philadelphia, Los Angeles, Miami, New York, San Diego, San Francisco, and Washington, D.C. The French Bulldog, of course, first earned his rep as a town dog in the ultimate city, Paris, but is now equally at home in Peoria, Pittsburgh, and Pawtucket.

For more on city dogs and the relative popularity of our breeds, enjoy these episodes of the AKC *Down and Back* podcast: “[Uniquely Urban: Dogs Bred for City Life](#)” and “[Top Dogs and Underdogs: Most Popular Dog Breeds in America](#).”

### On Our Cover:

*Dogue de  
Bordeaux  
photo by  
David Woo*



BUD BOCCONE/AKC GAZETTE COLLECTION



## Board Class of 2026 Elected

NEWARK, NEW JERSEY— At the annual meeting of the American Kennel Club held on March 8, the Delegates elected members to the AKC Board of Directors Class of 2026: Christopher Sweetwood ([Trap Falls KC](#)), Harold “Red” Tatro III ([Fort Worth KC](#)), and Ann Wallin ([Atlanta KC](#)).



Harold “Red” Tatro III



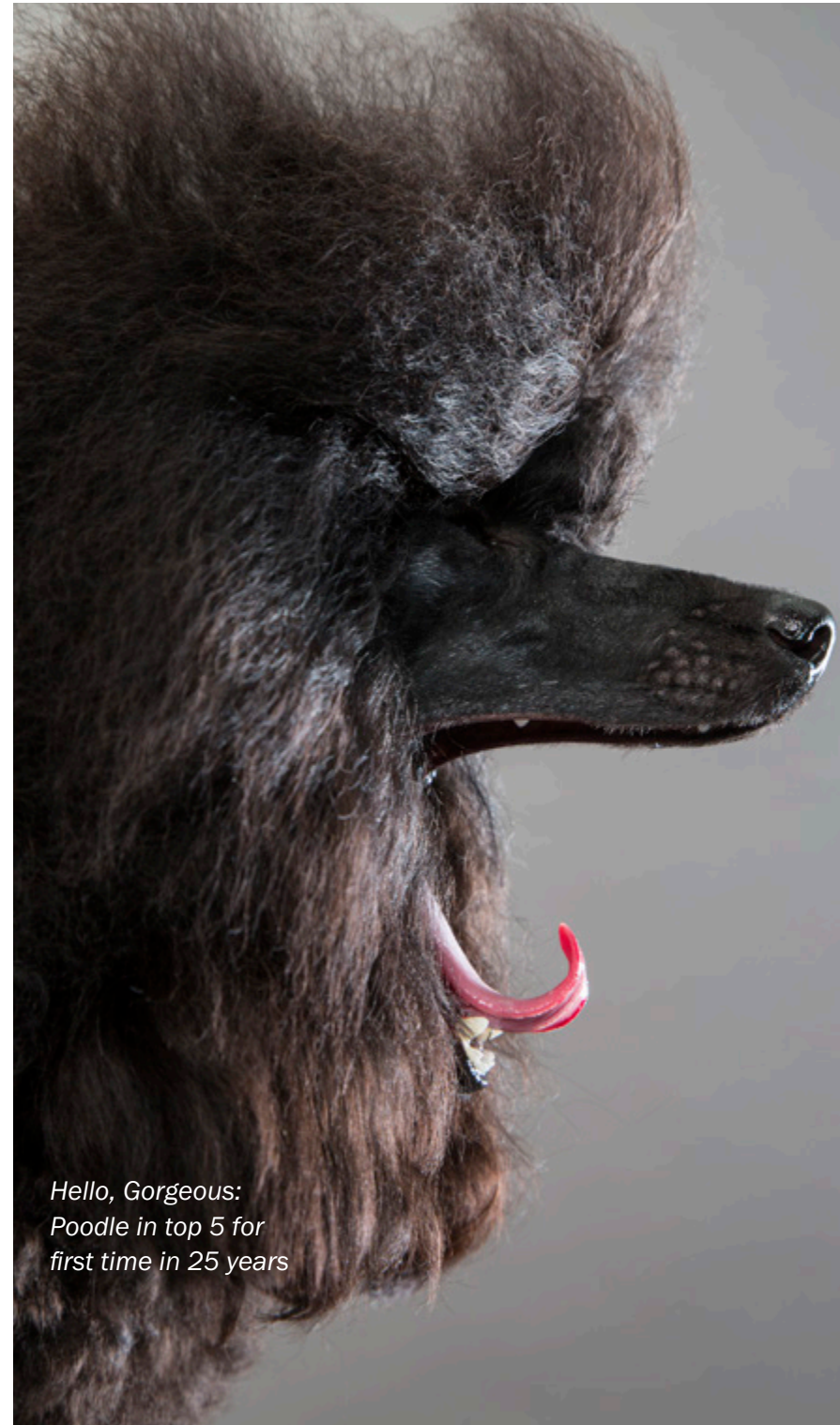
Christopher Sweetwood

At a Board meeting convened after the annual meeting, the Board of Directors reelected Dr. Thomas M. Davies ([Springfield KC](#)) as



Ann Wallin

Chairman of the Board and Dominic Palleschi Carota ([Pharaoh Hound Club of America](#)) as Vice Chairman of the Board.



Hello, Gorgeous:  
Poodle in top 5 for  
first time in 25 years

## 2021 Registrations: Lab Still Tops; Bulldog Drops

NEW YORK—At a March 15 press event in the [AKC Museum of the Dog](#), AKC staff announced that the Labrador Retriever topped the AKC individual-dog registration rankings for the 31st consecutive year.

“The versatile, family-friendly Labrador Retriever has solidified itself as America’s dog,” AKC Executive Secretary Gina DiNardo says. “With their loving, outgoing personality and eager-to-please attitude, it’s no surprise that the Lab has continued its record-breaking run as America’s most popular breed.”

The Poodle has returned to the top five in the rankings for the first time since 1997, bumping the Bulldog, a top-five breed since 2012, down to six. The Flat-Coated Retriever rose a remarkable 10 spots in just one year (103 in 2020 up to 93 in 2021).

2021’s top 10 breeds in individual dog registrations:  
1. Labrador Retriever, 2. French Bulldog, 3. Golden Retriever, 4. German Shepherd Dog, 5. Poodle, 6. Bulldog, 7. Beagle, 8. Rottweiler, 9. German Shorthaired Pointer, 10. Dachshund.



Hey Bulldog: Cheer up,  
you’re still in the top 10!

BOARD PHOTOS/AKC COLLECTION; POODLE/LANDON NORDEMAN ©AKC;  
BULLDOG/BOB HEATHERINGTON, AKC GAZETTE COLLECTION



# UPDATES

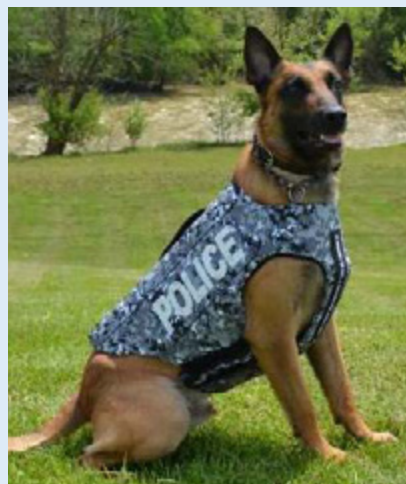


## Update: Adopt a K-9 Cop

LOUISVILLE, KENTUCKY—AKC Reunite has announced \$15,000 in donations to the Shepherdsville Police Department K-9 unit through the AKC Reunite Adopt a K-9 Cop matching-grant program. Funds were raised by contributions from the [Louisville KC](#), donating \$5,000 (two K-9 grants) for a total of \$20,000. Shepherdsville PD officers accepted the donation at the Kentuckiana Cluster on March 19.

Shepherdsville recently lost two of its K-9s; one retired, and another, K-9 Officer Dash, was killed in the line of duty on March 9 while saving his handler's life. The death of Dash shocked the community, says Debra Owen, AKC Delegate from the Louisville KC. "The whole area around here is in mourning—the dogs are like family."

CEO of AKC Reunite Tom Sharp says, "It is important to us to be able to provide police departments with the funds they need to obtain K-9 police dogs. They are an integral part of law-enforcement agencies and help keep the community safe."



K-9 Dash was killed in the line of duty last month.

## Something New for NOHS

The AKC has launched the National Owner-Handled Series Levels of Achievement program. Owners and their dogs can obtain Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Platinum recognition by earning a predetermined number of lifetime NOHS points.

"We are pleased to recognize the accomplishments of all dogs and their owner-handlers going back to the start



of the NOHS program," says Executive Vice President Doug Ljungren. "The Levels of Achievement will acknowledge these exhibitors' hard work, passion for their dogs, and

enthusiasm for the sport."

A commemorative pin and downloadable certificate are given for the highest Level of Achievement a dog has earned at the time the expansion is implemented. A pin and certificate will be awarded for each higher Level of Achievement earned. Send comments or questions to [awards@akc.org](mailto:awards@akc.org).

[More information](#)

BERGER PICARD/COURTESY HOTDOG PHOTO; GERMAN SHEPHERD DOG/SHEPHERDSDVILLE PD

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# UPDATES

## Discovering the “Little Gene”

*The mutation responsible for small dogs existed in ancient wolves.*

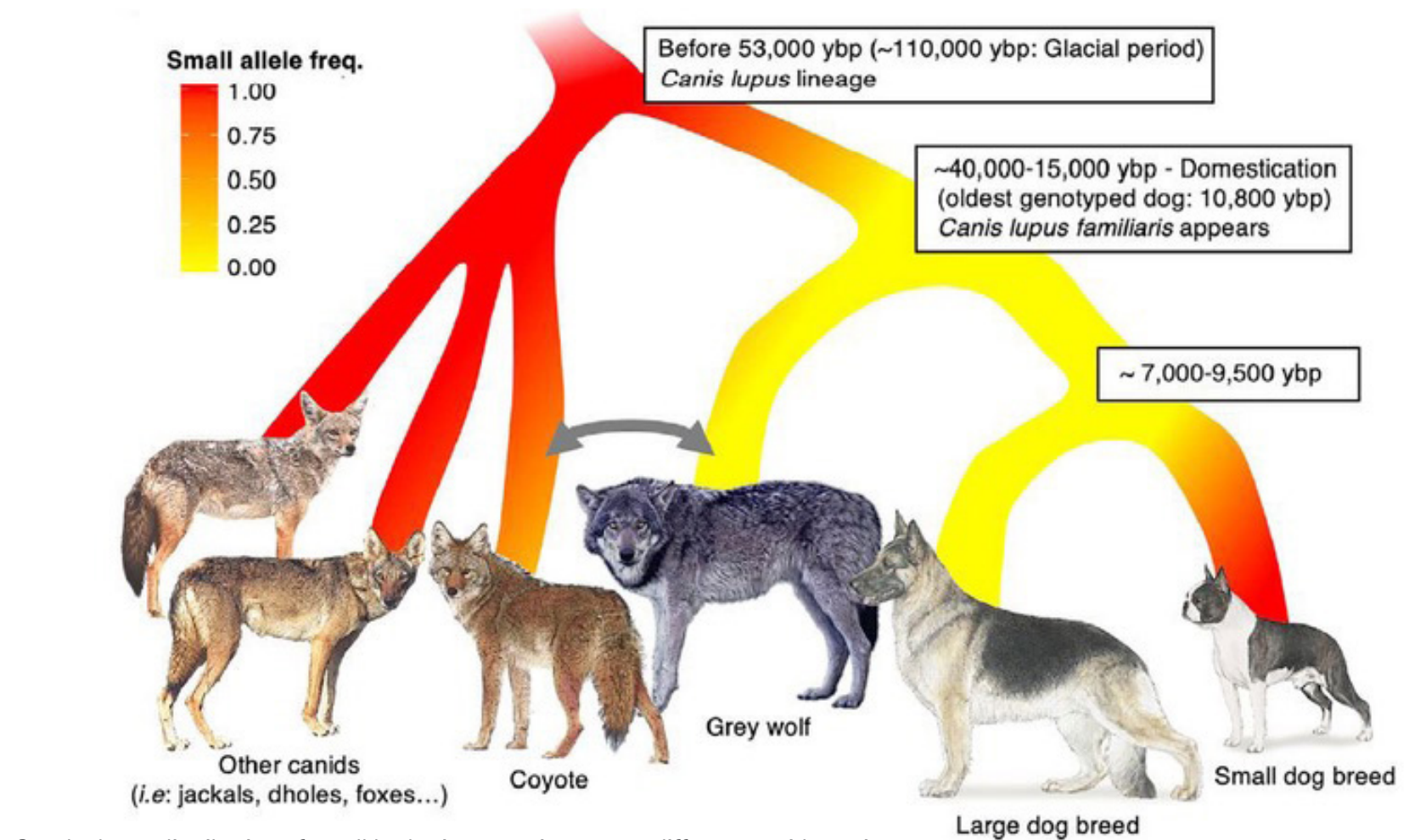
BETHESDA, MARYLAND— Popular belief has been that small dogs, such as Pomeranians and Chihuahuas, exist because after dogs were domesticated, humans wanted small, cute companions. But in a recent issue of the journal *Current Biology*, researchers

at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) identify a genetic mutation in a growth hormone-regulating gene corresponding to small body size in dogs that was present in wolves over 50,000 years ago, long before domestication.

The search for this mutation had been ongoing at the NIH for over a decade, but researchers did not find it until Jocelyn Plassais, a postdoctoral researcher working under geneticist Elaine Ostrander, suggested that they search for sequences around the gene that were positioned backwards and confirm if any were present in other canids and ancient DNA. With this approach, their team found a reverse form of the insulin-like growth factor 1 (IGF1) gene with variants that correlated to dog body size.



*This little cutie’s long march to the show ring began some 54,000 years ago.*



*Graph shows distribution of small body-size mutation across different canid species.*

“We looked at 200 breeds, and it held up beautifully,” Ostrander says.

The researchers then collaborated with evolutionary biologists Greger Larson at Oxford University and Laurent Franz at Ludwig Maximilian University to look through ancient-wolf DNA to see when the IGF-1 mutation first showed up. Scientists have theorized that dogs began large and became smaller about

20,000 years ago, when they were domesticated, but this discovery presents the possibility of a new evolutionary narrative.

Indeed, when the team looked at the DNA of a 54,000-year-old Siberian wolf (*Canis lupus campestris*) they found that it, too, possessed the growth-hormone mutation. Ostrander says, “It’s as though Nature had kept it tucked in her back pocket for tens of thousands of years until it was

needed.”

The finding holds not just for dogs and wolves, but also for coyotes, jackals, African hunting dogs, and other members of the family of animals referred to as canids. “This is tying together so much about canine domestication and body size, and the things that we think are very modern are actually very ancient,” Ostrander says.

Ostrander and her team plan

to continue to investigate the genes that regulate body size in dogs. “One of the things that is pretty cool about dogs is that because they have evolved so recently there aren’t actually a lot of body-size genes,” she says. “Canids have only 25 known genes that regulate body size, compared to several hundred in humans. I really want to understand the whole continuum—from Chihuahuas to Great Danes.”



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# RINGSIDE

COOL CLUSTER—GRAYSLAKE, ILLINOIS

GRAYSLAKE, ILLINOIS—The Chain O'Lakes KC, International KC of Chicago, and Park Shore KC converged on the Lake County Fairgrounds for the Cool Cluster of five dog shows, held February 9 to 13. We are happy to report that Lynda Beam is back from sabbatical and filed this photo journal.

## RESULTS

### IKC

Chain O'Lakes

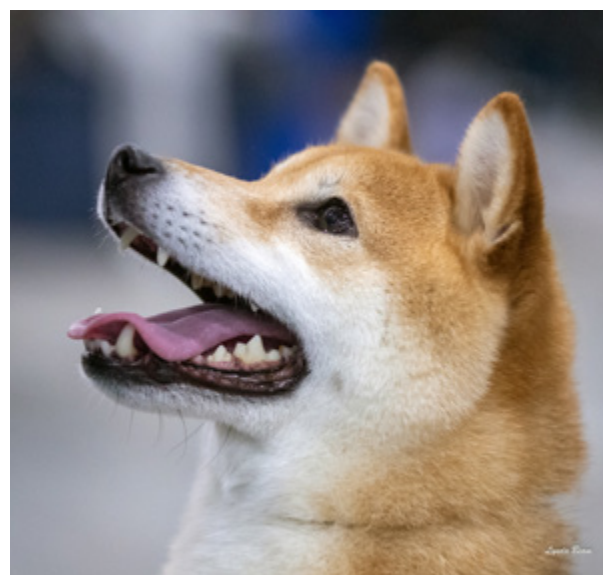
Friday

Sunday

Park Shore

Thursday

Saturday



Photos by *Lynda Beam*



# RINGSIDE

COOL CLUSTER GRAYSLAKE, ILLINOIS



Photos by Lynda Beam





## Speak! *Your Dog Is Listening.*

*We revisit the Hungarian university where scientists are making remarkable strides in the study of human-canine communication.*

*BUDAPEST—We last presented results of canine research conducted by Hungary's Eötvös Loránd University department of Ethology (ELTE) in our February 2021 “[Science Fair](#)” issue.*

*In recent years, ELTE has become a magnet for talented scientists from around the world in the field of canine cognition. The team at the university's Faculty of Science is dedicated to seeking answers to provocative questions: How do dogs think? How do they process human speech? And how has the dog's ancient affinity for humans changed the canine brain?*

*Here we present a roundup of three recently published ELTE studies.*

*Is your dog's curious head-tilt a sign of canine genius?*



## THE DOG-AND-BABY CONNECTION

*Dogs learn about word boundaries as human infants do.*

ELTE researchers have found that dogs extract words from continuous speech using similar mental functions and brain regions as humans do.

Human infants can spot new words in a speech stream long before they learn what those words mean. To tell where a word ends and another one begins, human infants make complex calculations to keep track of syllable patterning: Syllables that usually appear together are probably words, and those that do not probably aren't. ELTE's brain-imaging study discovered that dogs, too, may recognize such complex regularities in speech.

"Keeping track of patterns is not unique to humans: Many animals learn from such regularities in the surrounding world, this is called statistical learning," Marianna Boros, a lead

author of the study, explains. "What makes speech special is that its efficient processing requires complex computations."

To learn new words from continuous speech, it is not enough to count how *often* certain syllables occur together. It is much more efficient to calculate how *probably* those syllables occur together.

To solve the seemingly difficult task of word segmentation, humans—even 8-month-old infants—calculate complex statistics about the probability of one syllable following the other. Boros says that "until now we did not know if any other mammal can also use such complex computations to extract words from speech. We decided to test family dogs' brain capacities for statistical learning from speech."

Dogs are the earliest domesticated animal species and probably the one we speak to most often, but Boros says, "We know very little about the



An "awake, cooperating, unrestrained" subject is wired for brain imaging.

neural processes underlying their word-learning capacities."

To discover what kind of statistics that dogs calculate when they listen to speech, researchers measured electric brain activity of awake, cooperating, unrestrained animals.

The team saw differences in dogs' brain waves for frequent compared to rare words.

"But even more surprisingly," the study's co-author, Lilla Magyari, says, "we also saw brain wave differences for syllables that always occurred together compared to syllables

that only occasionally did, even if total frequencies were the same."

It turns out that dogs keep track not only of simple statistics (the number of times a word occurs) but also of complex statistics (the probability that a word's syllables occur

together). Magyari says, "This has never been seen in other nonhuman mammals before. It is exactly the kind of complex statistics human infants use to extract words from continuous speech."

To explore how similar the responsible brain regions

GRZEGORZ ELIASIEWICZ



# FEATURE

behind this complex mental capacity in dogs are to those in humans, researchers also tested dogs using functional MRI. This test was performed also on awake, cooperating, unrestrained animals.

“We know that in humans both general learning-related and language-related brain regions participate in this process, explains Boros. “And we found the same duality in dogs.” Both a generalist and a specialist brain region seemed to be involved in statistical learning from speech, but the activation patterns were different in the two.

Boros concludes, “We now begin to understand that some computational and neural processes that are known to be instrumental for human language acquisition may not be unique to humans after all.”

*This study was published in [Current Biology](#).*

## THE SIGN OF GENIUS?

*There might be a link between head-tilting and intelligence.*

The quizzical head tilt as a dog processes an interesting sound has long been a familiar sight to owners, but ELTE’s “An exploratory analysis of head-tilting in dogs” is the first scientific treatment of the behavior.

Data on this behavior were collected during the “Genius Dog Challenge,” a series of live-broadcast experiments that went viral on social media, and during a previous study aimed at investigating some dogs’ ability to learn the names of numerous toys.

Several animals, including humans, present an asymmetry in the way they move or perceive the environment through their senses. For instance, one can prefer an ear or an eye over the other when processing a vocal signal or an image.

In dogs, these asymmetries can be seen in such behaviors as tail wagging, nostril use while sniffing, and paw preference when trying to grasp something. Lateralization is



*Whisky, tilting leftward, shows off a “Gifted Word Learner” certificate.*

also present in brain functioning. “Tilting the head is yet another asymmetrical movement in dogs, but it had never been studied,” lead researcher Andrea Sommesse, says. “We investigated the frequency and direction of this behavior in response to a specific human verbal vocal-

ization: when the owner asks the dog to bring a toy by saying its name.”

The researchers analyzed the videos collected during the study called “Word learning dogs,” which showed that not every dog could learn toy names after three months of intensive training. The test

was rather easy to execute: The toys were placed in one room and the owner and researcher in another. In each trial, the owner asked the dog to fetch a specific toy by saying its name.

Typical dogs were unable to learn the names of even just two toys, but some could learn multiple names and received the label “Gifted Word Learner” dogs. Over the course of two studies, carried out over several months, researchers observed two groups of dogs: 33 typical dogs and 7 Gifted Word Learner dogs.

For the study “An exploratory analysis of head-tilting in dogs,” scientists recorded the presence (or absence) of head-tilts when the owner requested specific toys, and also analyzed the side of the tilt.

The “gifted” dogs very often tilted their head upon hearing the owner’s request for a named toy, while typical dogs rarely did. That is why

the researchers then decided to observe head tilts only in the gifted dogs during two further experiments, with more toys involved.

The researchers found that the side toward which the dogs tilted their heads was consistent for each individual in experiments spanning 24 months.

“It seems that there is a relationship between success in retrieving a named toy and frequent head tilts upon hearing its name,” study co-author Shany Dror says. “That is why we suggest an association between head-tilting and processing relevant and meaningful stimuli.”

It should be noted that this study investigated head tilts during one specific communication: when the owner asks the dog to fetch a named toy. We should, therefore, refrain from thinking that only gifted dogs tilt their heads in situations not tested in this study.

*This study was published in [Animal Cognition](#).*



## BILINGUAL DOGS

*Dogs can distinguish between languages.*

A brain-imaging study by ELTE researchers finds that dog brains can detect speech and that they show different activity patterns to a familiar and an unfamiliar language. This is the first scientific demonstration that a nonhuman brain can differentiate two languages.

Laura Cuaya, first author of the study, moved from Mexico to Hungary to join the ELTE ethology department. “My dog, **Kun-kun**, came with me. Before, I had only talked to him in Spanish,” she says. “So, I was wondering whether Kun-kun noticed that people in Budapest spoke a different language, Hungarian. We know that people, even human infants, notice the difference. But maybe dogs do not bother. After all, we never draw our dogs’ attention to how a specific language sounds.” To find out, Cuaya designed a brain-imaging study.



*Kun-kun lies still for a brain scan.*

Kun-kun and 17 other dogs were trained to lie motionless in a brain scanner, where the team played them speech excerpts of *The Little Prince* in Spanish and Hungarian. The dogs had heard only one of the two languages from their owners, so researchers could compare a highly familiar language to an unfamiliar one. “We also played dogs scrambled versions of these excerpts, which sound completely unnatural, to test whether they

detect the difference between speech and non-speech at all,” Cuaya says.

When comparing brain responses to speech and non-speech, researchers found distinct activity patterns in dogs’ primary auditory cortex. This distinction was there independently from whether the stimuli originated from the familiar or the unfamiliar language. There was, however, no evidence that dog brains would have a neural



*After a tough day at the lab, Kun-kun settles down with a good book: the Spanish translation of The Little Prince.*

preference for speech over non-speech.

“Dog brains, like human brains, can distinguish between speech and non-speech,” Raúl Hernández-Pérez, the study’s co-author, says. “But the mechanism underlying this ability may be different from speech sensitivity in humans: Whereas human brains are specially tuned to speech, dog brains may simply detect the naturalness of the sound.”

In addition to speech detec-

tion, dog brains could distinguish between Spanish and Hungarian. The older the dog, the better their brain distinguished between the familiar and unfamiliar language.

“Each language is characterized by a variety of auditory regularities,” Hernández-Pérez says. “Our findings suggest that during their lives with humans, dogs pick up on the auditory regularities of the language they are exposed to.”

Attila Andics, senior author of the study, is excited by the findings because they reveal that the capacity to learn about the regularities of a language is not uniquely human. “Still, we do not know whether this capacity is dogs’ specialty, or general among nonhuman species,” he says. “Indeed, it is possible that the brain changes from the tens of thousands of years that dogs have been living with humans have made them better language listeners, but this is not necessarily the case. Future studies will have to find this out.”

And if you wonder how Kun-kun is doing after moving to Budapest, Cuaya says he lives just as happily as he lived in Mexico City: “He saw snow for the first time, and he loves swimming in the Danube. We hope that he and his friends will continue to help us uncover the evolution of speech perception.”

*This study was published in **NeuroImage**.*



# VIDEOS



## Crufts Best in Show

The Kennel Club posted this beautifully produced coverage from last month's big show at Birmingham. 24:19



## And Now for Something Completely Different ...

Also from Crufts, a uniquely English special feature: team showing in the Breeders Competition finals. 27:08



## 1981 German Shepherd National at Tulsa, Oklahoma

A YouTube time machine! How many of these dogs and fanciers of 41 years ago do you recall? 59:53



## Up, Up, and Olé!

Meet Scooby, the amazing acrobatic Chihuahua featured in the May/June issue of [AKC Family Dog](#). 6:53



# FEATURE

# Blaze of Glory

A disaster site is a treacherous environment—noisy, chaotic, dust filled, and often dark. It takes an extraordinary search-and-rescue canine with the boldness, drive, energy, strength, and agility to focus and perform under these conditions. These specially trained canines love their work and need to work.

This is the story of Barbara “Barby” Gonzalez Tamburello and her Golden Retriever, Blaze, a certified K9 Search Specialist team with FEMA Task Force 2. Barby has been a firefighter and a “hazardous materials” HAZMAT Driver/Engineer with the City of Hialeah Fire Department in Florida for 20 years. She became interested in canine search and rescue while working as a HAZMAT Specialist deployed and housed with canine teams. While there, she had the opportunity to observe and help with the training of the canines, got a taste of what was required, and decided that this was something she wanted to pursue.

Most search-and-rescue teams are firefighters. The Search Dog Foundation believes it is easier for firefighters to incorporate a search canine into their career and lifestyle, as firefighters are trained to be the first on a disaster scene. They know how to follow a rigorous training program and as a result are very prepared for this type of work.

*At the scene of a horrific disaster, a dog and handler earn their stripes and strengthen their bond of love.*

*By Alyson Casper*







*Blaze's descent into hell: Search teams are commonly hoisted into the jaws of disaster.*

After about nine months of participating in training sessions, one of the lead handlers thought Barby was ready to get a dog. She also felt ready, and luckily there was a litter being planned by two handlers in the FEMA Task Force—the sire and dam were both S&R canines, and

many more could be found in the bloodlines of the sire and dam. There were seven puppies in the litter. Six went off to become working dogs. Four of the six are in the Search and Rescue system, following in the paw prints of their parents. Barby's Blaze is one of the four.

### LEARNING HIS TRADE

As soon as Barby got her Golden Retriever pup, Blaze, they began their training. She brought her puppy to work at the fire station to expose him to all of the noises and different people. She built a baby debris pile in the fire station and at 10 to 12 weeks

began working with Blaze on ladders, tunnels, wooden pallets, and walking on unstable surfaces and wire grates. She did formal imprinting and reinforced his toy drive and play with other people so he would respond not only to her as the handler but also to strangers.

From there, the training advanced to playing hide-and-seek so Blaze would learn to “find” and play. This was advanced again to get Blaze to elicit a focused bark alert once he had a live find. This training was then done at greater distances.

Once Blaze had mastered

finding and eliciting a focused bark alert, the training was advanced to the use of bark barrels. Initially, only one barrel was used. A person hid inside the barrel with the lid open and Blaze was instructed to “find.” As he mastered this skill, the training was advanced to the barrel being a greater





*Search-and-rescue dogs require lots of positive reinforcement when working disaster sites.*

distance away, then to multiple barrels and then multiple barrels with the lids closed. In the final phase, the barrels were lifted off the ground and onto a debris pile. Each time Blaze would find “the victim,” the victim would give him a toy and play.

At 9 months of age Blaze went to Memphis, Tennessee, for his first formal training in becoming a K9 Search Specialist. It was Barby’s first experience flying in an airplane with Blaze and traveling to a new town.

This stage of Blaze’s training concentrated on search strategies, agility, and direction and control of the canine. In September 2019, they took the FSA (Foundations Skills Assessment) Test. This test evaluates the dog’s obedience, direction and control, alert commitment, agility, and basic search skills. Blaze passed and was then considered a state asset. On January 26, 2020, at 2½ years of age,

Blaze passed his FEMA CE (Certification Evaluation) test and became certified to respond nationwide. For this final test, Blaze had to complete two complex rubble-pile searches, locating up to six survivors with no false alerts. Blaze and Barby officially became a K-9 team with FEMA’s Florida Task Force 2.

## DISASTER!

Their first deployment occurred on June 24, 2021, when they were sent to the Surfside disaster in Miami. The tragic collapse of a 12-story beachfront condominium became a nationwide story. During my interview, Barby said that in her 20 years of experience she had never witnessed anything like it. She said she had seen the news and had spoken with colleagues who were already working at the disaster, but nothing prepared her for the sights, sounds, and smell when she arrived. Barby brought in her gear, set up,





and had Blaze searching on a debris pile within 15 minutes of their arrival.

K-9 teams typically work for about 10 to 15 minutes at a time depending on the weather. The wind sending debris flying and the salt air made the search challenging. Barby talked about the emotional toll that working the

disaster had on both herself and Blaze. The search teams usually mockup situations where the dog can find a live person and be reinforced for their hard work because when there are only “blank piles” or no one alive the canines can become frustrated or stressed.

Barby said it was also extremely emotional for

her. She recounted a story of heading out with Blaze to clear a debris pile and encountering a whole family sitting on a curb. They asked if they could pet her dog before the search. She said yes, and the man petted Blaze and whispered into his ear. This family was hoping that Blaze and every other K-9



*Blaze negotiates an uneven debris pile at a training facility and then gets his rope toy as a reward for a job well done.*



# FEATURE

out there were going to find a miracle.

On Barby's return to the staging area, she also noticed a family sitting close by. She noticed that every single time they heard a dog bark, the family stood up to check if it was an alert on a victim. One of the handlers told Barby that the family sitting in staging was of the chief of police to a surrounding area. His mother was in the building that collapsed and had not been found yet. The handler pointed to some furniture on the top of the rubble and said it belonged to his mother.

Barby cried when she related this story to me, indicating the loss of life became poignantly real to her. To see the personal belongings and children's toys everywhere was a sight never to be forgotten.

Barby was so very proud of the job Blaze did at the disaster area. He stayed on task, and she was able to send him out onto areas unsafe for humans a good



Tamburello and Blaze work on the "Go" command.

distance away, to search independently of her.

The teams worked hard to ensure the health and safety of themselves and their dogs. After each search, Barby washed Blaze in a shower on the beach. Despite these precautions, Blaze developed a severe case of contact and inhalation allergy. He was treated by his dermatologist with Apoquel and antibiotics and made a full recovery.

## LOVE OF THE JOB

More recently, Blaze has now also become certified in tracking and trailing, enabling him to assist the police in finding missing persons. He passed the tracking and trailing test by successfully completing a find from scent on a water bottle, with the track being one hour old, having two turns in direction and 600 meters in distance. Blaze accomplished



Blaze's Golden K-9 family

this task in about nine minutes.

For this second certification, Barby not only had to use different equipment with Blaze, but she also learned to understand the meaning of Blaze's body position and tail carriage while tracking.

Unfortunately, there is a shortage of teams needed for both Search and Rescue and Tracking and Trailing. According to the Search Dog Foundation, it costs approximately \$41,000 to create a Certified Search and Rescue

team. This cost includes the purchase of the canine, the care and training of the dog, and the first year of advanced training.

Barby does receive some assistance from her employer, the City of Hialeah Fire Department, including some assistance for Blaze's training. Barby applied for and has received a grant through the Search Dog Foundation for Non-foundation handlers. She indicated that although police officers receive more financial support from their employers, the K-9 teams she works with accept what they are up against financially and do the work for the love of the job.—A.C.

## Bonus Video

[Blaze in action](#)

*Alyson Casper is the AKC Delegate from the [Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever Club, USA](#). Her story first appeared in Perspectives, the Delegate newsletter.*



With the founding of the Kennel Club (England) in 1873 and the AKC in 1884, the stage was set for what would become dog shows as we now know them. As fanciers created the breed groups and show classes that define the sport, another group of innovators was pioneering a new kind of advertising, actually a new art form: the illustrated color poster.

“Gone were the drab streets and boring broadsides,” Tony Fusco wrote in his history of posters.

“The boulevards of Paris, the tiny streets of Belgium and Holland, the otherwise solemn squares of London, and the shop windows of America proliferated with colourful images, a veritable public poster parade, created by some of the most talented artists of their times.”

Posters had been around in one form or another since ancient times, but it was not

until the mid-1800s that new technologies allowed vividly colored posters to be mass produced quickly and cheaply.

Dog clubs were not alone in adopting posters to promote their events. By the time dog shows became popular entertainment

of the internet, posters are still being created every single day for all sorts of reasons.”



for city dwellers, advertisers were using eye-catching posters to hawk just about everything, from products and political candidates to theaters, circuses, and operas.

The experts at [designishistory.com](https://designishistory.com) tell us that posters “influenced the development of typography because they were meant to be read from a distance and required larger type to be produced. ... The artists of the international typographic style of design believed that [the poster] was the most effective tool for communication, and their contributions to the field of design arose from the effort to perfect the poster.



## Sister Choate: Queen of the Hill

Robin Hill was America's premier Sealyham Terrier kennel of the 20th century. Located in Danvers, Massachusetts, Robin Hill was the domain of Elizabeth Robbins "Sister" Choate, wife of Boston media tycoon Robert "Beanie" Choate. Muriel P. Lee wrote of the woman known as "Mrs. Sealyham":

"Mrs. Choate not only bred top-winning and top-producing dogs but also imported the best dogs from England. The kennels were managed by Joe Thompson, but Mrs. Choate made the rounds of the kennels every morning, looking over the dogs. She played an active role in the breedings, always looking for the dogs that excelled in conformation and retained the working-terrier spirit."

In our November 1940 issue, Arthur Frederick Jones wrote admiringly of how the Choates' hilltop home over-

looked acres of lush farmland and modern kennel facilities, including spacious housing for some 50 Sealys, a whelping house, and cottages for two live-in kennelmen.

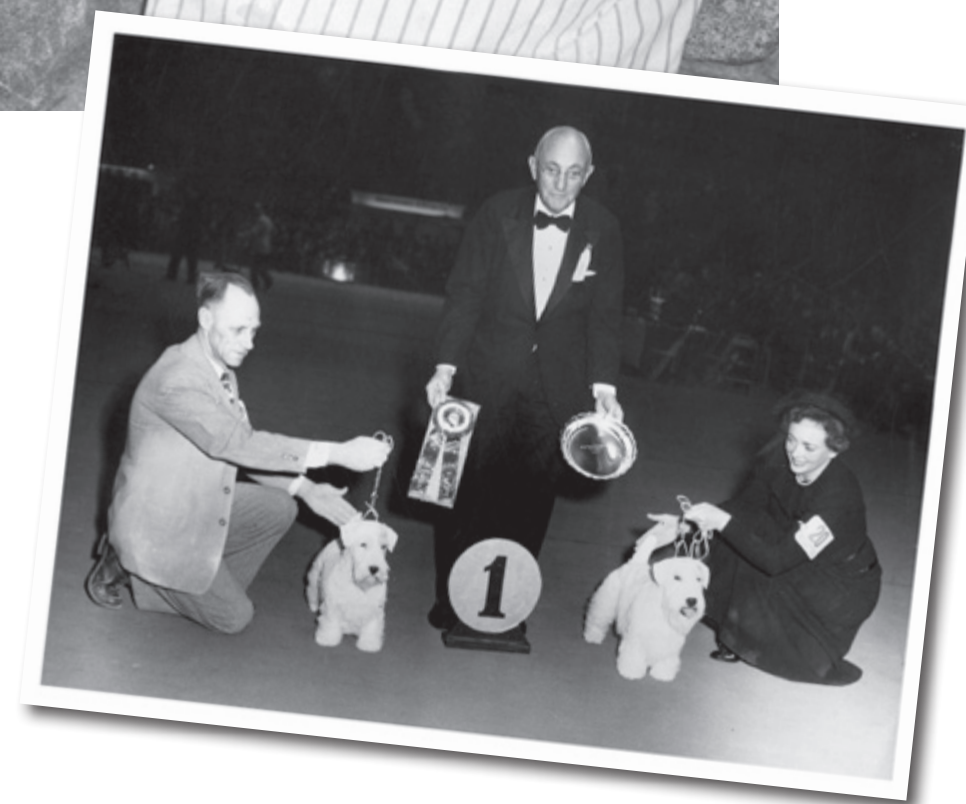
"Her policy is line breeding, but it is not as intensified as is sometimes used," Jones wrote. "When new blood is to be added to the line, it is brought in on the dam's side. A bitch carrying some of the dominant blood is bred back to a sire of the dominant strain."

"Although Robin Hill is well supplied with proven stud dogs, the main concern is usually with the brood matrons, for it is through them that the establishment's identity is set. Curiously, show bitches are not always good dams. Some of the greatest mothers have never set foot in the ring. ... The policy at Robin Hill is to replace each brood matron with a daughter that is better."



Left: Mrs. Choate and daughter Liz with national-specialty winner Ch. Robin Hill Brigand (left) and Ch. Robin Hill Ballad.

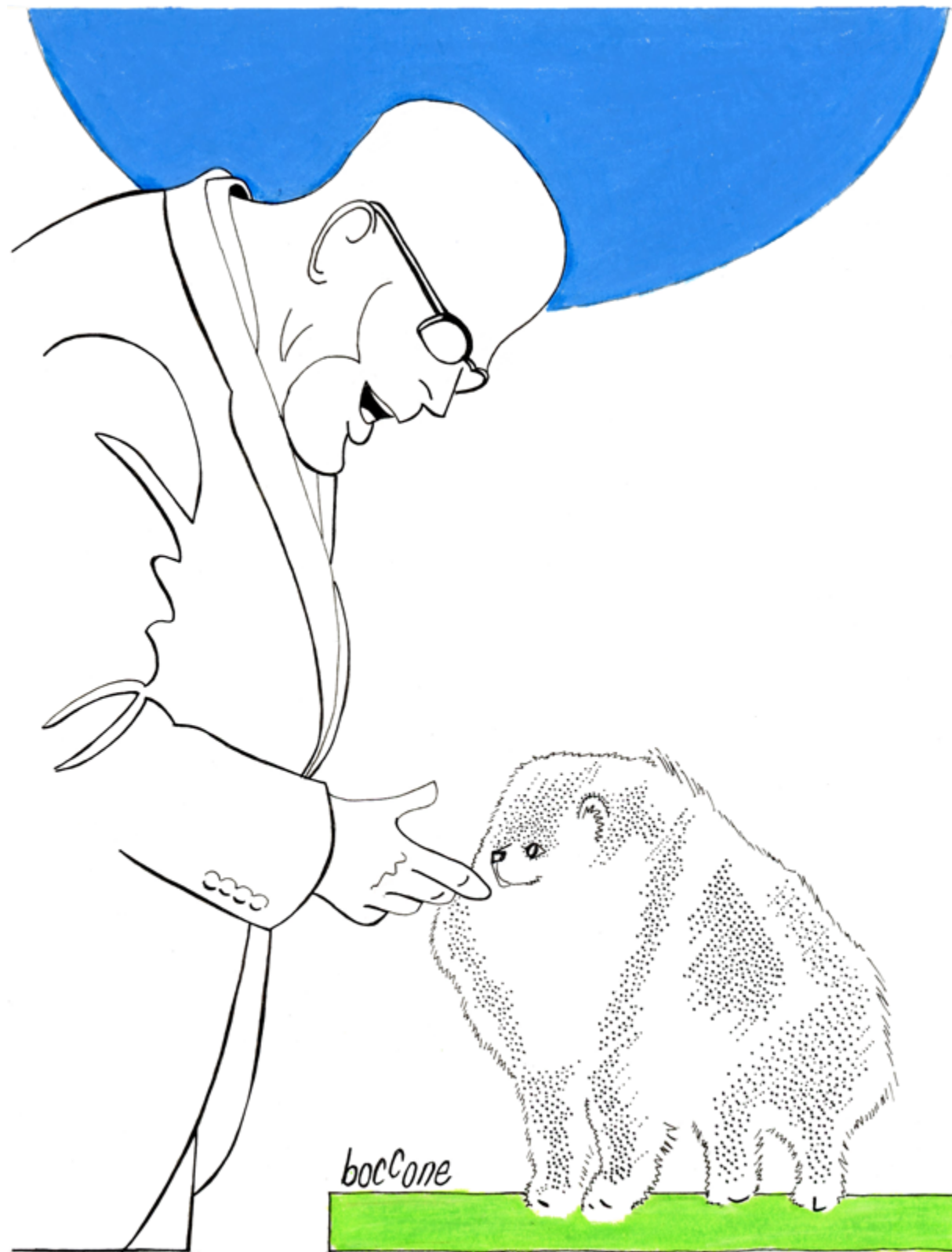
Below: Westminster 1948, Best Brace in Show: Brigand and Ch. Robin Hill Fantasy, handled by Joe Thompson and Mrs. Choate. The judge is Dr. Samuel Millbank.



Jones noted that except in rare instances, Robin Hill bitches were not kept in competition longer than the minimum time required for them to finish. "Mrs. Choate believes that they can do far more good for the breed by producing good Sealyham puppies than by rolling up a string of victories."

Mrs. Choate spent a long retirement as a sage of Sealydom and died in 1987 at her farmhouse on the hill. She was 86.





## Edd Bivin

**“m**y first breed was Pomeranians; they acted like big dogs and they were anything but small,” says

Bivin, who was something of a boy prodigy of the show ring. While still in high school, he bred a Pomeranian Club of America national-specialty winner.

Today, as one of the longest-serving judges in AKC history, he can still sympathize with the exhibitor. From his “Judge’s Place” interview: “You have to stop and think sometimes what these people had to go through to get to this dog show. Did they leave a husband or wife at home so they didn’t have to load the whole family, did they not have the money to afford a hotel room, et cetera ... you never know.

“Frequently people will walk into my ring and say, ‘I’m scared to death. This is the first time I’ve ever done this.’ And my standard comment is, ‘Look around you. Everybody here once came to a dog show for the first time and probably didn’t know as much about it as you do.’”





*This month: As researchers look into the nutritional benefits of insect protein for dogs, the English Setter Association of America’s Carlotta Cooper asks, “Would you feed your dog insect-based food?”*

# 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 [Arliss.Paddock@akc.org](mailto:Arliss.Paddock@akc.org).

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## SPORTING GROUP

### Brittanys

#### TEMPERAMENT

According to the new edition of Merriam-Webster, the definition for the word *temperament* is “characteristic or habitual inclination or mode of emotional response.”

As a reader of this Brittany breed column in the AKC GAZETTE, you know that this author often uses the dictionary to define and study a specific word being the subject of an article. The result often is nothing but confusion, but in this instance let’s just move forward with the word temperament.

Often in the dog world one hears regarding the term *temperament* that the dog is “biddable”—easily trained. Biddable defined as “obedient, docile,” and a dog easily taught.

The description of temperament in the breed’s AKC standard says the Brittany is “A happy, alert dog, neither mean nor shy.”

That description has left out, from this author’s viewpoint, that the Brittany is affectionate, docile, easy to train, eager to please, and a great family dog. After having the Brittany in our household for almost 50 years, there probably is a bit of prejudice.

If one discusses the breed with others, the comment often is “The Brittany is a breed with high energy and needs lots of exercise.” From my own experience, this is probably sometimes the case. However, it is one of



*Brittany pup: The Brittany is affectionate, docile, easy to train, eager to please, and a great family dog.*

the characteristics of a Brittany that can be improved. It starts at a very young age, during the first week after the pups have been whelped and within a day or two after tails have been docked and dewclaws removed.

Talk to Mom Brittany and gently pick up pups one at a time, hold it, snuggle with pup; repeat couple times a day. After a few days, while holding snuggling, invert and turn the pup on its back. The pup will probably cry; stroke the head and belly gently. In a few days

pup will be OK being turned. This is the very beginning of the socialization process. Repeated contact most every day is extremely important in the development of this young Brittany pup.

As pup’s eyes and ears open to sight and sound, which occurs in 10 to 15 days; it becomes aware of a “new world.” This time is also important to continue the human contact. The pup’s mom may show concern for pup being removed from the “den” and the pup’s littermates; just calmly reassure her, “Everything is all right.”

As pup matures on thru the process of being weaned, between 5 to 6 weeks of age, this human contact and socialization is necessary to achieve the desired calm temperament. During this young time of life, puppies’ ability to absorb information is unbelievable—they are like a sponge. Kids, whether neighbors or grandchildren, do a great job of providing that human contact. Undoubtedly genetics play a part; however, the techniques described do have an effect on Brittany pups. It has been observed in our household, with the 16 litters over those 50 years.

Breeding has changed over the years, with now a focus on temperament and improving the characteristics of the Brittany. The specific male and female for the breeding are chosen carefully; sometimes artificial breeding

methods are used because the male, who had achieved during his life a worthy record, has been deceased.

Our breeding program has never lost sight of the fact that a majority of the people who purchase a pup want it to be a new member of the family. A fair number of those folks may bird hunt. A minority of those Brittanys will be purchased for competition—agility, shows, and field trials.

It’s been almost a lifetime spent with the Brittany. It’s been an adventure with the Brittany, who has created many memories. With the next installment, hopefully this author will share with you some of those memories and the influence that our Brittanys have had with the breed. Thank you from this author for being able to share with you, the reader, these adventures.

—David Webb,  
[davidawebb@aol.com](mailto:davidawebb@aol.com)  
[American Brittany Club](#)

### Nederlandse Kooikerhondjes

#### BREED NOTES AND NEWS

It bears repeating: How do you say the breed’s name? A close approximation is *NAY-der-lond-suh COY-ker-hond-juh*—or Kooiker (*COY-ker*) for short. *Kooi*, meaning “cage” or “trap,” refers to a centuries-old system of

COURTESY DAVID A. WEBB





Nederlandse Kooikerhondje

trapping waterfowl practiced in the Netherlands, where the birds are caught by use of an intricate covering over ditches or canals. Brightly colored orange-and-white dogs assisted the trapper by luring the ducks into the traps; the ducks were drawn in by the

dog's well-feathered white tail that waved as he walked through the tall reeds and grasses.

The breed has existed in the Netherlands for at least 400 years; the Kooikerhondje was also a favorite of Dutch nobility and appears in paintings by the Dutch Masters.



Kooikerhondjes are still quite rare outside of Europe, with fewer than a thousand dogs currently in the U.S.

The Kooikerhondje is of almost square body proportions. The black hairs at the tips of the dog's ears, called "earrings" or "fringes," are characteristic of the breed. The dog's soft, silky coat naturally repels water and dirt and is maintained in a natural, untrimmed condition. A weekly brushing is usually sufficient to prevent heavy shedding.

Although Kooikers vary from light-boned to stocky, they ideally stand 14 to 16.5 inches at the shoulder and weigh between 22 and 28 pounds. The breed is generally healthy, living 12 to 14 years. Responsible breeders test their stock for a few disorders that can occur in the

breed, including Von Willebrand's disease and hereditary necrotizing myelopathy (a recessive degenerative spinal disease similar to multiple sclerosis in humans).

The Kooiker is highly intelligent and has a moderately high energy level, and they do best with daily activity to keep them occupied both physically and mentally. They are fun-loving and happiest being with their people at all times. They are happy, extremely devoted companions and can make good family dogs, but it should be remembered that they can be somewhat sensitive and high-strung; they also can be resource-guarders, and can be reactive with strange dogs. For these reasons, early training and plenty of socialization while young are a must with the breed. They are highly trainable and excel in the agility, obedience, and rally rings, as well as in other canine sports and activities.

*NKCUSA National Specialty in Albany, Oregon, on April 7*

Want to meet some Kooikers? Fans of the breed will gather at the Chintimini Kennel Club cluster at the Linn County Fairgrounds in Albany, Oregon, Thursday–Sunday, April 7–10, for the breed's first national specialty in three years (as the 2020 and 2021 events had to be cancelled due to Covid). The host hotel is the Holiday Inn and Suites, 541-928-8820. Following is the schedule of events:

COURTESY NKCUSA



## SPORTING GROUP

*Thursday, April 7*

8 A.M. — Check-in and casual breakfast

10 A.M. — Specialty judging (photographer on site for winner and personal photos)

12 P.M. — Breeders' Symposium

1:30 P.M. — Judges' Education (members invited and encouraged to attend!)

5:30 P.M. — Meet and Greet with Mr. David Frei

6 P.M. — Annual Meeting and Awards Dinner, Photo Contest, and Silent Auction/State Baskets

*Friday, April 8*

—Friday night casual meet-up at [Calapooia Brewing Company](#) in downtown Albany. Dogs welcome and encouraged!

*Friday–Sunday, April 8–10*

—Three days of supported entries at the all-breed shows

—Three days of obedience and rally hosted by the Chintimini Kennel Club

—Three days of agility hosted by the Columbia River Agility Club

For more information, visit the parent club's website <https://www.nkcusa.org> or the Facebook page for the 2022 NKCUSA National Specialty: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/nkcusaspecialty2022/>

[Nederlandse Kooikerhondje Club of the USA](#)

## Pointers

### THE IMPORTANCE OF GOOD TEMPERAMENT

How important is temperament in a Pointer? Given that the owner is going to spend many years with the dog, it has to be one of the priorities when breeding.

The majority of Pointers are sold as pets who will be living in a family environment, possibly meeting other people's children as well as the ones they know; meeting other dogs when on walks and having to cope with all sorts of sights and sounds that a working Pointer may never encounter. Think about an excited or upset screaming child, a visit to the beach where people are paddling and having family picnics, etc. and you start to see that a kind and even disposition are vital.

Living with a dog with a poor temperament on the other hand can make life very difficult and limits the owner's enjoyment of their pet. They may have to walk when other people and dogs won't be around, shut their pet in another room when they have visitors, and so on.

For those of us who show our dogs, another level of good temperament is required. Dog shows expose dogs to crowds of strangers, dogs they don't know in close proximity, lots of noise (including sudden whistles from those public address systems!), flapping tents, excited, nervous owners, long journeys with other dogs, overnight stays in hotel rooms



*Pointer Ch. Cookieland Seasyde Hollyberry Holly*

and more, all for a few precious moments in the ring when they need to perform and be at their very best. It is much better to have a relaxed dog who is able to cope with all of this! In fact, it would be unfair to expect a dog with a poor temperament to cope with the stress.

Working Pointers, on the other hand, may enjoy doing what they were bred to do but while their environment is a much more natu-

ral one, they must not be gun-shy and must be happy to travel in the back of a vehicle with other dogs out on the day's hunt with never a wrong word. So, while the environment may differ between the pet, the show dog, and the working dog, in all cases a basic good temperament in a Pointer is vital and good breeders must aim to produce great temperaments as this makes for happy dogs and happy owners! —*Ria Nelis, 2018*

Please visit the APC website at [americanpointerclub.org](http://americanpointerclub.org) for information on our wonderful breed.

[American Pointer Club](#)

## German Shorthaired Pointers

### BODY LANGUAGE

While observing the unspoken language of dogs, I continue to be amazed at the subtlety between the dogs and obliviousness of their owners.

For the most part, those of us who have been involved with the breeding of animals understand there is a hierarchy within the pack, herd, or mob when it comes to expected behavior from the young, adolescent, and sexually immature. Dams and other adults will use age-appropriate correction when a pup or adolescent exhibits undesired behavior.

Knowledgeable breeders understand the





*Our Shorthair immediately recognized our daughter's dog, whose reaction was to stand tall with head up and eyes locked. The Shorthair follows with a play-bow.*

importance that pups learn important social dog skills appropriate for their breed before going to their new homes. Shorthairs were developed to be an all-purpose breed to interact well with people and other dogs. But how do they communicate with other dogs?

Like most canines, they will use their eyes, ears, body posture, tail, verbalization, and piloerectile hair. The dam and other adults teach pups acceptable and unacceptable behavior via this canine communication.

It had been six years since our Shorthair

bitch (now 9 years old) interacted with our daughter's family dog (now 3 years old). The first time occurred when their dog was 3 months old and persisted with unacceptable behavior until reprimanded by our Shorthair using a big voice and strong body language.

Now they will meet again—and our daughter's dog is 3, on her turf, and accustomed to being the only dog. Thankfully both families have the same house rules for dogs, but the backyard is her domain.

It was understood that the dogs would be

on leash when they met to observe their body language. Not surprisingly, our Shorthair immediately recognized her and approached in a friendly manner. Her reaction was to stand tall with head up and eyes locked. The Shorthair play-bows and she accepts—but with a chase intent, followed with a low growl. The Shorthair immediately stops, full body up, with a forceful, no-nonsense bark and forward motion toward her. She backs up but doesn't turn away. They watch one another, then the Shorthair play-bows again. Rules established,

they proceeded to interact, well-behaved for the remainder of the visit to the point of trading off sleeping in each other's dog beds.

Our Shorthair is pretty good about reading the body language of other dogs and avoiding confrontation, but she doesn't hesitate to stand her ground, a trait desired and bred for by the early developers of the breed. On the other hand, in today's world I'm the one that tends to watch the body language from afar and determine if it's time to cross the street.

Case in point, while walking her in an



## SPORTING GROUP

unknown Colorado neighborhood we managed to avoid two Malamutes, a Rhodesian Ridgeback, and another large dog—all on loose leads.

It was the owner of a small mixed-breed dog that surprised me. I had observed as they approached the hair on his dog's back was raised from its withers to the base of its tail. By the time they were closer, I had moved my girl to the opposite side and stepped off the sidewalk so they could pass. He stopped and asked if my dog was friendly. I replied, "Yes, but the hair raised along your dog's back is a warning sign that it may not be friendly toward my dog," and we continued on our way.

I never cease to be amazed by an owner's lack understanding their dog's body language.

—Patte Titus,  
[chexsic@mac.com](mailto:chexsic@mac.com)

[German Shorthaired Pointer Club of America](#)

### Curly-Coated Retrievers

Guest contributor Jenny Dickinson continues with her tracking ideas, which follow.

#### TRACKING FOR FUN

Curlies are so good at tracking that more of us should do it! The pandemic time fouled up everybody's plans for competitive events with

our dogs. I want to share with you what I am currently doing for fun, with the understanding that you may later decide to try for tracking titles. I will not have you do something sloppy that you might have to fix later.

As in obedience, we want to break down each component of the exercise into as simple a unit as possible. I learned tracking with Rottweiler people who used the German style, so I use a tremendous amount of food. You do not have to, but why would you not? In the event that you decide you want to work toward titles, your dog must clearly indicate to the judge that he has found an article, such as a glove. You will be 30 feet behind your dog and the judges will be behind you, so the indication needs to be unmistakable. I like my dog to lie down at the article. I am not taking the cart before the horse here and shall explain why.

From the very beginning, I teach pup to lie down with the article between his front feet. I use an old leather glass case which I can run to and open up to disclose yummy meat or cheese. This keeps the dog in place. You might also use a leather glove with meat on or in or under it. The dog needs a clear terminus—a goal to be reached. So I teach pup to indicate from the very beginning. I want to be able to have that be the end of *every* track, even the beginner's 20-foot track.

Tracking is not a race! We want the dog to



be slow and methodical so he does not overshoot a turn. Turns are introduced after the pup can follow long, straight lines in different wind conditions with confidence.

In the beginning, I use lots of food when I lay a track. I might open a can of sardines when I begin. I drip the oil at the start pad, scuff it in, and then continue to drip in front of each step, so that my footsteps, which the dog will ultimately track with no food, are imbued with something that has a compelling and enticing smell. The sardines themselves end up in a glass case or glove that pup discovers at the end of the track.

Laying the first track: Let pup watch you from behind a fence or let a friend hold his leash as he watches you lay the track. Face into the wind. Let him see you place a flag. Rub a piece of hot dog on the bottoms of your shoes and stamp your feet, making a scent-pad just to the right of the flag. Let him see you carefully step with one foot right in front of the other, dropping bits of hotdog in your footprints. Go 20 feet or so. Let the dog see you drop the article, put food on it and step on it, and then turn 90 degrees and run away.

Some people like to triple-lay the first track, stepping back and forth up and down the line,

COURTESY LYNDY BEAM



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so it is *loaded* with scent. However, you must make sure that you always end at the article, because dogs know the direction the track. Some people like to scuff the track for this same reason.

We want pup to understand the game from the very beginning. This is not the time to have him struggle. The track needs to be as distinct as we can make it, and we want it to be easy and gratifying for him to discover the idea of this game.

There are a certain type of trackers who use hotdog scent in each footstep because their dogs are required to have a “deep nose.” AKC tracking makes no requirement in terms of style, and tracking is pass-fail. I think it makes sense to encourage pup to keep his head down so that he does not lose the track, even though his posture is not graded in AKC. Air-scenting is not penalized in AKC. However, it can lead the dog to confusion, so we do not promote it. In the beginning, when you work closely to the dog, you can easily point him back down to the ground if you need to

There is much more to say about the mechanics of setting up yourself and your dog for tracking, and I will have more to say in a later column.—J.D.

Thank you, Jenny, for sharing this very worthwhile column. Also, since I live in Florida and have only tracked in Florida, I

have not used food as you have described and would be very interested to hear from any Floridians who track as just how they utilize food with our challenge of ants and food on the ground.

—Ann Shinkle,  
[annshinkle@aol.com](mailto:annshinkle@aol.com)  
 Curly-Coated Retriever Club of America

## Golden Retrievers

### CBD OIL A POSSIBLE HELP FOR ARTHRITIS?

Canine osteoarthritis (OA) has bedeviled Golden Retrievers and other large breeds for decades. Pain-management remedies have included pharmaceutical products, physical therapy, massage, other hands-on therapies, and in many cases, surgery.

Hopefully we now can add another “weapon” to our arsenal of pain management solutions: cannabidiol.

The use of cannabidiol (CBD oil) in treating canine osteoarthritis (OA) is a groundbreaking partnership between veterinary science and hemp extracts to help relieve a dog’s pain from the inflammation caused by OA.

To clarify, we’re not talking about marijuana (or “pot” or “weed”). Although marijuana and hemp are the same species of the cannabis plant, legal marijuana contains more than .03 percent THC (tetrahydrocannabinol), the



Golden Retriever Ch. High Farms Sutter's Gold, 1967

chemical that is primarily responsible for the “high” associated with cannabis.

But not for our Goldens! Hemp contains less than .03 or less THC, which poses no danger to our precious dogs.

Although not yet part of standard veterinary care for dogs with OA, several clinical trials

currently underway are evaluating the potential benefits of CBD oil in treating dogs with chronic OA.

Dr. Joseph Waskshlag, DVM, Ph.D., DACVN, DACVSMR, professor of clinical nutrition and veterinary sports medicine and rehabilitation at Cornell University, in a 2018 clinical trial



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studied 22 dogs diagnosed with OA for 10 weeks, comparing dogs that were treated with CBD oil and others that received a placebo. Results showed a significant decrease in pain in the CBD oil group, as well as a noticeable increase in the dogs' activity. Results thus far have shown no downside to the use of CBD oil.

A 12-week clinical trial of 21 dogs at the University of Milan in Italy added CBD oil to pharmaceutical products that included NSAIDS (non-steroidal anti-inflammatory drugs). The dogs treated with the added CBD oil experienced an obvious improvement in their levels of pain and overall quality of life.

Yet another clinical trial, conducted by investigators at Baylor University, produced more promising results. Twenty dogs that were being treated for OA lameness at a Houston veterinary clinic, were given varying doses of CBD oil. Both owners and veterinarians reported significant improvement in the dogs' quality of life.

Given the positive outcomes of multiple trials and studies, Dr. Waskshlag suggested that “we, as veterinarians, would be remiss not to discuss CBD oil with dog owners as we guide them toward products to help their dogs.”

The takeaway from all this is that there is hope on the horizon for Goldens with OA. While not yet FDA approved for use in standard veterinary medicine, perhaps CBD oil

should be included in your arsenal of possible treatments for a dog that suffers from any form of OA.

—Nona Kilgore Bauer,  
[nona@nonabauer.com](mailto:nona@nonabauer.com)  
Golden Retriever Club of America

## Labrador Retrievers

### THE UNHAPPY EXHIBITOR

The woman and her dog finished the Utility routine and exited the ring quickly. She was working with what most people would consider a very challenging breed, and she had qualified—but just barely.

Recognizing that the team had accomplished something remarkable, a stranger congratulated them. “Oh, it was awful!” the competitor said, retreating back to her setup.

Discontent is contagious. While we are all occasionally disappointed, it is best to keep the feeling closely controlled, using it as a motivator for improvement. Whether done intentionally or inadvertently, widely-broadcast discontentment affects others and reflects poorly on the sport.

“Train, don’t complain” is the oft-quoted mantra. Often an exhibitor’s unhappiness springs from a lack of preparation. He is either not familiar with the rules or not experienced enough with the venue to appreciate all



Labrador Retriever My Lucky Charm, watercolor, Molly Poole

its nuances.

It is not always the novice who is guilty of ignorance. Often the school of hard knocks is ultimately more expensive than the making of a commitment to study a rulebook, attend a class or seminar, or read a magazine or online forum that will provided needed education.

Many exhibitors find themselves “caring too much.” They are so invested both emotionally

and financially in their hobby that they lose perspective. One judge likes to remind competitors, “This is not a matter of world peace. Win or lose, your dog will be just as pleasant a companion when you take him home tonight as when you drove him here this morning.” While our dogs are entitled to their good and bad days, it is our job to give them the best opportunity to achieve by controlling our own

COURTESY MOLLY POOLE



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emotions enough to hold up our end of the partnership.

The unhappy exhibitor sometimes fails to recognize just how much they have accomplished. They don't see the tiny steps of progress, only that they have not performed up to their expectations. Upper-level work in all the venues appears to be nothing short of magic to people who aren't familiar with the sport. "If it were easy, the achievement wouldn't be very meaningful" is an attitude that will see one through many a ribbon-less weekend.

A simple thistle underfoot is enough to distract a dog from its performance or give doubt as to its soundness. Agility is an excellent venue for teaching the lesson of "Some days you're the bug, and some days you're the windshield." Eventually most competitors just learn to smile regardless of how the chips fall, certain in the knowledge that the calls will all even out in the end.

Another approach for those who find themselves terminally at odds with judging or the way an event is run is to participate on a judges' selection committee or maybe chair an event. If you find you are consistently troubled by the quality of judging, then become a judge yourself. Even if you never judge an event, you will gain perspective on the challenges involved.

The power to make for a happy weekend lies

in our own hands. Gratitude is one of the keys to happiness, and graciousness helps ensure that happiness is infectious. The next time you attend a dog event, make an effort to be positive. Find something pleasant to say to a volunteer who is making this day possible for you, or compliment someone's dog. Sometimes a pleasant remark can be just as rewarding as a ribbon. No matter how unworthy you might think your effort, if you should be on the receiving end of a compliment, a simple *thank you* is all that is required. —*Lee Foote, 2010*

[The Labrador Retriever Club, Inc.](#)

### English Setters

#### GOOD GRUB: WOULD YOU FEED YOUR DOG INSECT-BASED FOOD?

Most of the time I try to stick close to English Setter topics in this column.

However, in my non-English Setter life, if there is such a thing, I write about pet foods for a living. One of the subjects I keep encountering in my work is insect-based pet foods, so I thought this might be a good time to look at these.

We all know that there have been huge changes in dog foods in the last 30 or so years. When I got my first English Setter in 1987, I was told by the breeder to feed a well-known traditional food that was only available in pet



"Seven English Setters," Edmund Osthaus, 1911

stores at that time.

Think about how things have changed since then. Grain-free and holistic or natural foods became popular in the 1990s, despite the fact that terms like "holistic" and "natural" have virtually no meaning for the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, which oversees pet food labeling. People wrote books about how pet food is made, with information that may or may not have been exaggerated. Many dog owners were frightened into feeding raw diets

or making homemade food for their dogs.

In 2007, pet food ingredients from China were found to be tainted with melamine and caused the deaths of countless pets in North America. Some owners used this terrible incident as a further reason to move away from traditional pet foods.

In recent years, grain-free dog foods and foods made by so-called "boutique" brands became so popular that if you admitted to feeding a more traditional dog food (that is,



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anything with grain or, heaven forbid, a food with corn), you could expect to be lambasted on social media. Not only that, but many companies simply didn't make grain-inclusive foods at all.

Then, several years ago, some people began to report problems with dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM) in their dogs. DCM was occurring in breeds without a genetic predisposition to this heart disease. Researchers, including the FDA, appeared to find a link to some grain-free dog foods. (This link has not yet been fully proven or explained, but the research continues.) Many people began to turn away from grain-free foods and started looking for foods with grains again. Researchers recommended feeding the same foods that people had been shunning for years.

That brings us to insects. For people concerned about the climate, insects have been offered as a solution as an alternate dietary protein—not just for humans, but also for pets. Sustainability and phasing out animal agriculture are two reasons why insects seem appealing from this perspective. Insects require less land and resources to raise than do cattle or chickens, for example.

Analysts for [PetfoodIndustry.com](https://www.petfoodindustry.com) suggest that the idea of using insect protein is [because of its sustainability](#):

“The main reasons for this increasingly [sic]

popularity revolve around sustainability, first in the sense of being able to provide sustainable supplies of food, especially proteins, for pets and humans as populations increase globally and demand for protein rises in tandem. In terms of broader sustainability, including impact on the environment, insect production has been shown to use substantially fewer resources in terms of land, water and, to a lesser extent, energy, and also to create much less waste, than traditional livestock production.”

In January 2021, the Ingredient Definition Committee of the Association of American Feed Control Officials (AAFCO) approved black soldier fly larvae (BSFL) as an ingredient in adult maintenance dog food and treats. Use in cat food in the U.S. is expected in 2022.

The European Union is ahead of the U.S. in approving the use of insects in dog foods as a protein source. Dog foods with insects as an ingredient have been on the market in other countries for several years. Pet food giants such as Nestle Purina and Mars have joined the competition, with Purina launching Beyond Nature's Protein in Switzerland in November 2020. This food includes black soldier fly larvae (BSFL) as one of its protein sources. In April 2021 Mars announced the introduction in the U.K. of its food Lovebug, which also includes BSFL.

As well as black soldier flies, crickets and

mealworms are also being used as insect proteins in dog foods. At least one company in France that produces mealworms also makes human food ingredients made from mealworms. EnviroFlight, based in the U.S., has announced plans to develop a research and development center in North Carolina in 2022 to develop its production of black soldier fly larvae (BSFL).

In Canada, Enterra has opened a large, commercial-scale black soldier fly larvae (BSFL) research and production facility in British Columbia.

At this time, researchers are looking to prove the nutritional benefits of insect protein for dogs and cats. This is part of the regulatory approval process, but they will need to do this anyway if they hope to convince people to buy their foods. They are also engaged in consumer research to determine if pet owners in North America and Europe will accept insects as ingredients in pet foods.

According to one University of Pennsylvania study, American pet owners said that they would be more willing to consider a pet food that contained an ingredient such as insect flour versus dried whole insects. Currently, many of the insect proteins being used or studied for pet food are in meal or oil form. Altogether some 70 percent of the study participants said they would be “willing to try

insects in some form.”

There are other surveys online that had very different responses. In [one survey](#) from 2018 that asked questions of people in 13 countries, people from eight of the 13 countries gave resounding “no” responses (Japan, Russia, Spain, India, Australia, U.K., USA, and South Africa). In fact, the responses in those countries were labeled as having “disgust” with the idea of eating insects. One country was tempted (Brazil). Four countries were willing to try (China, Thailand, Peru, and Mexico); insects are already part of the cuisine in some of these countries). In most countries, men were more willing than women to try insects. The study included a total of 7800 consumers, with 630 participants per country.

Many of the companies mentioned are banking on consumer acceptance—even demand—for insect protein in pet foods in western countries. I'm a little skeptical. Most of the dog lovers I know spend a lot of time worrying about what to feed their dogs. They look at ingredients, where the food is sourced, who makes the food, where it's manufactured, and so on. They tend to think of buying dog food like buying their own food—in fact some probably put a lot *more* thought into what they feed their dogs. It's a little hard to believe these dog owners are going to suddenly switch from buying food with fish, lamb, or bison, often



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with human-grade ingredients, to feeding their dogs black soldier fly larvae, no matter how good it's supposed to be for the planet.

There has also been limited research done on how insects affect the nutritional status and health of dogs, and no research for cats (<https://www.petfoodindustry.com/articles/10392-dont-oversell-insect-protein-sustainability-nutrition>). Additionally, insect-based foods will need to be supplemented with various amino acids to meet a pet's nutritional requirements.

I understand that it's probably a lot cheaper for pet food companies to buy and use insects than real meats for protein, while claiming that it's "sustainable" and good for the climate. Certainly, sustainability and concern about the climate are hot topics at the moment. But I really don't think I can look at my dogs and give them a bowl of insect-based food.

—Carlotta Cooper, Greeneville, Tennessee, [eshever@embarqmail.com](mailto:eshever@embarqmail.com)

[English Setter Association of America](#)

## Gordon Setters

### MORE FIRSTS IN THE FIELD

In submitting the October 2021 column that I dealt with Gordon Setter firsts in the field, I inadvertently lopped off the last paragraph when submitting it to AKC. There were more field firsts that space did not allow, and the

intent was a third column. Those firsts for the breed are listed here.

Let's start with the most recent first. In 2018 The Gordon Setter Club of America, through the AKC, began offering a national championship for walking gundogs. The first winner was National Walking Gundog Ch./FC Prairie Star Outwit Outplay Outlast, owned by Marianne Gasaway, of Iowa, and Sandra Basham, of Ohio. That first championship was held at the Norman G. Wilder Wildlife Area near Dover, Delaware. There are exciting times to come for this event.

In 1982 the Gordon Setter Club implemented a working certificate program as a means to ensure that hunting ability was retained in the breed for those dogs who were bred primarily for show or companion purposes. It also served as a way for owners who were not involved in horseback field trials or true hunting to have an outlet for field work. The first titles were earned in the autumn of 1982.

The first two dogs to earn the Working Dog Retrieve title were both owned by Linda Sanders of Nevada. They were Ch. Chaparral Aces High, CD, MH, WDR, and Ch. Chaparral Dressed to Kill, WDR.

The first two to earn Working Dog titles were Gordon Hill Wee Bit O'Daylight, WD, owned by Susan DeSilver, of Connecticut, and Ch. Gordon Hill Zephyr, WD, owned by

Ms. DeSilver and the late Muriel Clement of Connecticut.

In 1987 the AKC began its Hunting Test programs, and Gordon Setter owners plunged into this program with enthusiasm. The first Gordons to earn Junior Hunter titles all did it on March 29, 1987. The list below is a testament to the hard work and dedication of one breeder and owner who should be quite proud of the accomplishments of her dogs in all parts of our sport.

The first titled Gordons were Ch. Chaparral Amaretta, CD, JH, WD, WDR, owned by Linda Sanders of NV, and three littermates Ch. Chaparral I'm Serious, JH, owned by Ms. Sanders and Karen Simmons, of California, Chaparral in Memree O'Iowa, JH, owned by Ms. Sanders and Maribeth Clark-Esslin, of California, and Dual Ch. Chaparral Instant Pride, CD, MH, owned by Dan McGinty of Nevada.

The first Gordon to earn a Senior Hunter title was Ch. Chaparral Endora, CD, MH, WDR, owned by Shelley LeBlanc and Dean Fries of Minnesota. Her title was also earned on March 29, 1987, making it a memorable day for Gordon Setters. All four Junior Hunter titles and the Senior Hunter title were earned in tests held at Lake Perris CA.

The first Master Hunter was Ch. Chaparral Aces High, CD, WDR, MH, owned by Linda



Gordon Setter Ch. Chaparral Aces High, CD, WDR, MH

Sanders. Ace earned the title on December 6, 1987, one month shy of his 10th birthday. He was also the first of the then three setter breeds to earn the Master Hunter title. His picture accompanies this column.

And finally the first Master Hunter Advanced was GCh. Glenlea Hot in Cleveland, MHA, owned by Lynne Lavigne, who earned the title in April 2016 in Connecticut, at a test run by the Tartan Gordon Setter Club.

Thank you to all the breeders, owners, and handlers for all the hard work and dedication that went into these achievements. And thanks to all the folks continuing to keep the breed active in the field. The Gordon currently

COURTESY JAMES THACKER



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napping on my foot is overwhelmed by all of this.

—James Thacker,

[dunbargs@sbcglobal.net](mailto:dunbargs@sbcglobal.net)

Gordon Setter Club of America

### Irish Setters

#### BODY OF WORK

Those who practice the creative arts, painting, photography, music; artists of every genre, create a body of work. It may be a commercial success or artistic success or both or neither. But every creative endeavor forms the body of work that identifies them and gives insight into the artist themselves.

Dogs sports also create a body of work. For the breeder, each and every time you produce a litter that reaches the ground and goes on to adulthood, you are contributing to your body of work. Every puppy reflects on your true priorities as a breeder. Your adherence to the standard, as viewed through the prism of your personal beliefs about priorities, is reflected in each puppy's appearance and approach to the world. Your adherence to health testing reflects what you prioritize as essential to the well being of the individual as well as the breed.

Longtime breeders have a well-developed body of work from which to inform others



in the breed of their true priorities. It always seems to me that this is where our sweeps judges should come from, breeders of long standing who have demonstrated their priorities over time, and from that would develop judges whose grasp of hallmarks and breed

subtleties is a compilation of generations of making choices that result in an appreciable body of work.

As a side note, animal-rights agendas of “only breeding when I need something to show” seldom contribute positively to a body

of work. Focus should be on the individual's ability to contribute to the breed, rather than a judgmental numbers game.

Judges also have a body of work. Single-breed breeder-judges and multi-group all-rounders all have a body of work reflected in their choices. Any one who has been around the dog shows and paid attention can make predictions about how a judge will judge. Is he or she looking for breed type, clean coming and going, a big side gait, a pretty face, a familiar appearance? Does the appearance of propriety and equity shine a light over the decisions? Over time, judges build a body of work that results in choices made by show chairman, handlers, and owners. The truly great ones find that their awards are treasured because of the body of work they reflect. The competent ones contribute because they are essential to moving the sport forward. The ultimate body of work is one that remains true to the stated underlying purpose of the sport: to choose the best breeding stock to move the breed being judged forward while preserving original purpose and type.

Handlers too, both owner and professional, build on body of work every time they walk in the ring. Are the dogs in your custody treated with care and kindness and presented with attention to what suits that individual best, or have you not yet reached that understanding

DAVIS WOO ©AKC



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in this breed? Do you take a moment to help a newcomer, even the perpetual newcomer, to smooth their way around the ring? Or do you back-bite behind the scenes, machinate, complain of crooked judging and fail in your responsibility to the breed and sport to present correct dogs as well as possible? The body of work that each person who handles in the ring contributes to the sport can drive both breed type and the desire of others to learn to contribute to the sport.

A body of work is a heavy responsibility. It accompanies the roles you see yourself in, as well as the roles you fail to note. We have been rudely reminded of what is important the last few years. Be sure your body of work reflects what you aspire to as well as what is best for the breed and the sport.

—Mary Lamphier,

[erinfyr@gmail.com](mailto:erinfyr@gmail.com)

[Irish Setter Club of America](#)

### Clumber Spaniels

#### HAPPY GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY, CSCA!

The Clumber Spaniel Club of America celebrated its 50th anniversary this past February. Its founding was probably the most significant single step ever taken in America to provide our beautiful, irresistible breed with at last an organized group to really act both as its

spokesperson and defender. As sole surviving founding member, I share here some of the club's beginnings that may be of interest to those of us who don't want to live without one or more Clumbers by our side.

Clumbers were among the only nine breeds recognized by the American Kennel Club at its founding in 1884. (These included four spaniels—Clumbers, Cockers, Irish Water, and Sussex; three setters—English, Gordon, and Irish; Chesapeake Bay Retrievers; and Pointers.) The very Cocker-oriented American Spaniel Club, founded 1881, theoretically served as our breed's parent club for 90 years until 1971, when it finally relinquished all jurisdiction except for (American) Cocker Spaniels.

In January 1972, Eunice Gies, then the country's only active Clumber breeder, sent a letter proposing founding a Clumber Spaniel club during Westminster. The world's first Clumber club had been founded 1904 in London with forty members. The world's second Clumber club had its humble beginnings 68 years later in New York City, with six members.

It was a frigid Monday afternoon, around 1 p.m., on February 14, 1972. As usual, I had had to transport my Clumber in my arms from the hotel through the Big Apple's filthy slush to get to the Westminster KC show. Right after showing under renowned Judge



Percy Roberts, our little group gathered, standing, in a drafty Madison Square Garden hallway, so the meeting was short and sweet.

First order of business: a president. By acclimation: Eunice. Next: name. "American Clumber Spaniel Club" was rejected. In no way did we want to imply Clumbers on this

side of the pond were to be different from England's, where the breed first became known. Last order of business: a newsletter. Eunice pointed out that since we were from such different parts of the country, the only way we could really be held together was by a frequent, regular journal. Meeting adjourned.

COURTESY HOTDOG PHOTO



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In those days there were so few Clumbers in the U.S. that we Clumber people pretty much knew each other. Word of the club's founding soon went out by mail and phone, and within a few months the CSCA's 1972 membership went from six to 45. By 1979 it had reached 121, more than doubled in the 1980s to the 1990s, and by 2009 counted no fewer than 559.

The much-vaunted newsletter became a reality only a month after the club's founding, with a simple, one-page mimeographed *Clumber Bulletin*, followed by six others the same year. Thanks to a succession of hard-working editors, it finally evolved into today's professional-quality *Clumber Chronicles*.

After the required AKC-sanctioned matches, the first point show was celebrated August 18, 1978, in Ann Arbor, Michigan. This first national specialty was pretty informal, held in Mary Ann Cianciolo's spacious backyard, with most of us using sleeping bags. But with an entry of 34, none of us had ever seen so many Clumbers, so we talked most of the night! This was a far cry from, for example, the 2008 national specialty 30 years later, in Shawnee-on-Delaware, Pennsylvania, with 193 Clumbers—the largest number ever assembled at one time in one place anywhere in the world.

It is interesting to compare AKC Clumber registrations before and after the CSCA's

founding. Ten years earlier, in 1962, there was exactly *one* Clumber registered the entire year. The decade after the club's founding there was an average of 60 per year, and more than doubling to 126 in 1983. Thus in about 20 years, annual Clumber registrations had gone from 1 to 126, and to 280 by 2008.

In 1976 the U.S. had its first Clumber Best in Show, with Bonus (Ch. Neal's Double Bonus) at the Ventura Dog Fanciers' Association, over an all-breed entry of 3,136, and a second BIS for Bonus in Roseburg, Oregon, less than two months later, with an entry of 1,576. After that, "BIS Clumber" was no longer an oxymoron. Newsworthy was only Eng./Am./Can. Ch. Raycroft Sheriff, the first Clumber to go BIS at the American Spaniel Club's annual show. And of course newsworthy for any breed was in 1996 Brady (Ch. Clussexx Country Sunrise), the first Clumber to win Best in Show at Westminster—in a show for champions only—with an entry of 2,571.

For the first time the public began to actually see Clumbers. People seldom if ever fall for a breed just from photos. Our breed has a built-in rarity: They are difficult to breed, difficult to whelp. But it was finally becoming known.

—Bryant Freeman, Ph.D.

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Breed Historian, Founding/Life Member,  
[Clumber Spaniel Club of America](#)

## Cocker Spaniels

### WHEN THE GOING GETS TOUGH ...

When the going gets tough, the tough call upon their *sisu*.

There is little question that Cocker Spaniels are a challenging breed to breed, conserve, and improve. There are a number of potential pitfalls for a breeding program, with challenges not just in breeding Cockers to meet the standard, but in avoiding genetic problems in the long term. Not going to here provide a comprehensive list of genetic problems or faults, but it is daunting.

The serious breeder invests their time, effort, resources, and indeed themselves in this hobby and the breed they love. The activity can be the "best," and it can be the "worst." The "best" can manifest itself when the breeder succeeds in producing an outstanding individual that proves to be a winner in the show ring or performance events, and/or becomes a promising producer of the next generation.

It can be the "worst" when suddenly an individual manifests a serious genetic problem, possibly putting the whole program at a roadblock. Over the years, the Cocker Spaniel, at various times, has faced temperament problems, hip and patella problems, disc problems, and eye problems such as juvenile cataracts, and the list goes on.

If the "worst" happens to you in your other-

wise successful program, this is when you need to summon *sisu*—a term for what the Finnish people consider to be spirit and energy and inner strength; the ability to sustain courage, determination, and perseverance in the face of adversity more demanding than usual; the inner strength to act rationally in the face of adversity. In summation, "guts." This is what you will need to continue long-term when confronted by such a shocking and disappointing blow to your breeding program.

Note that I said, "acting rationally." Don't blame others. Don't quit, don't panic, don't jump to conclusions. I know it can be a shock when things are going along so well and so successfully and then a serious problem surfaces. Rationality should dictate that if something happens—let's say, for example, that an individual's hips do not pass OFA, or an eye exam shows cataracts—you do not blame others or accuse the most famous dog in the affected individual's pedigree. Rationality says: First, find out as much as you can about the problem and the mode of inheritance, if any. There is no substitute for thoroughly informing yourself with correct information. Secondly, in the course of doing this, you may want to reach out to experts in the field, to veterinary schools and teaching hospitals and their connections to experts and research studies, check to see what information the parent club has on the subject. Assess



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whether the one individual Cocker's problem is more widespread in your program. Then, figure out whether an ongoing, particular testing program will help in the long term.

Not all problems are the same. Some issues, such as hip dysplasia, can be determined at a fairly early age, whereas others may not surface until the dog's middle age, after the affected individual has already reproduced, which is perhaps even more disappointing and challenging.

Don't overreact, and don't discard everything without complete research; don't overreact by immediately seeking an outcross to your bloodlines. As a matter of fact, in ordinary times when you do choose to bring in a outcross, be prepared to keep the results of the outcross "to the side" in your thoughts and plans until some years have passed and possible unknown defects arise in your crosses. Whatever individuals you choose to include in your program, do your best to get health history and clearances on them.

You cannot be faulted for facing the problem head on, employing all possible research, health testing, and cautious care as you move forward in trying to persevere, and work your way through adversities that come to most serious and concerned breeders at some point in their long-term program.

It is what action you take and the strength



Cocker Spaniel

with which you solve problems in the long term that prove your intelligence and determination as a breeder. Rationality should steer you away from being petty, and toward serious answers to move forward in breeding healthy Cockers who meet the breed standard and can reliably produce such specimens.

—Kristi L. Tukua

[American Spaniel Club](#)

### English Cocker Spaniels

#### FROM THE ARCHIVES: BREED IDENTITY (1968)

*The following is excerpted from the English Cocker Spaniels column that appeared in the September 1968 issue of the AKC GAZETTE, written by Mrs. Harry Clark, of Broad Run, Virginia.*

"Every breed seeks to maintain its identity, both in the absolute sense and within the breed's own frame of reference (i.e., compared

to related and/or similar breeds). The greatest danger comes, of course, from other breeds within the same 'family,' where the problem is one of maintaining differences without losing similarities.

"A few breeds are gifted with a distinctive type feature (e.g. the correct Chesapeake Bay Retriever coat) which, if observed, will offer insurance of breed identity. Our own breed is not so fortunate.

"There are ten breeds of sporting spaniels officially recognized by the AKC. Four of these are seldom seen (the Sussex, the Clumber, the Field Spaniel, and the Welsh Springer), and two are so diverse from all the others that they need not be considered here (the Irish and American Water Spaniels). Basically, then, our English Cocker seeks to preserve his breed identity within the frame of reference of the remaining four: the Brittany, the American Cocker, the English Springer Spaniel, and himself.

"I should like to point out that the reason for 'families' of dogs is their common origin. It should be remembered that in England it was possible to register an "all spaniel" litter (both parents registered spaniels, but not of the same breed) as late as 1950; and of course in this country we have been separated from the American Cocker in the Stud Book only since 1945. The definite characteristics of any

DAVID WOO ©AKC



## SPORTING GROUP

breed are developed consciously, over a period of time, and vary in their importance. In some cases they are for functional reasons, in others for aesthetic reasons. In the show ring they become important for type evaluation, and in the field they are important because of specialized functions. [...]

“The American and English Cockers are probably the most closely related of all spaniel breeds. English Cockers imported into

this country founded what was to become the American Cocker; and conversely, several Cockers bred in this country were imported to England for important breed contributions. [...] Almost as close to us stands the English Springer Spaniel, admittedly used in perfecting the English Cocker in his home country, and bearing undeniable similarity to many of our parti-colors, even today. [...]

“Show news is brisk this month. Ancram’s

English cocker Simon, owned by Joyce Scott-Payne and handled by Ted Young, finished his championship with BW at our Specialty at Monmouth, his fourth major. The Fergusons’ imported Reklawholm Swingtime, who was RWB at the Specialty, finished her title the following day at Plainfield. Another import, Ethelwyn Harrison’s black Astrawin Androcles, has also finished title. ... Up in the Northwest, Beth McKinney’s Soho Speculation, C.D., is now both an American and Canadian champion, finishing the latter title in four straight shows, including a BB over champions. Two weeks later her eight-month daughter, Pagan Hill Flower Child, took her first Canadian major at Lions Gate K.C. in Vancouver, with a BB over three champions and on to First in Sporting Group! A week later Flower Child took her first American major at Mt. Baker, with another BB ... (looks like those hippies are taking over everywhere!). Mrs. McKinney, a newcomer to our breed, trims and shows her own dogs, and I think deserves special credit. That very active Heart of Michigan ECS Club held a Plan B match on June 8, with an entry of 22. Best Adult in Match was Jean Glassen’s Maple Lawn Soho Syndicate ...”

—Mrs. Harry Clark (September 1968)

*National Specialty in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania C,*

*May 13–20*

The 2022 ECSCA National Specialty will take place May 13–20 at the All Star Sports and Event Complex in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania. The show site is adjacent to the host hotel, the Eisenhower Hotel and Conference Center, (717) 334-8121 (mention you are with the English Cockers). For more information and the schedule of events, visit the [2022 ECSCA National Specialty webpage](#) or the [ECSCA Facebook page](#).

[English Cocker Spaniel Club of America](#)

## English Springer Spaniels

### OLD DOGS: THEY DO GET CREAKY

Gray eyebrows, or a bit of silver hair starting to separate the edge where dark coat meets white on the muzzle, often take us by surprise. We never want to think about the dogs we love having such a short lifespan compared to ours. We hear a knee creak. Reluctantly, we realize that the dog who was wild and leaping last year is easing down onto the floor slowly, making an almost inaudible sigh.

Veterinarians, dog-product researchers, and the pet-owning public search for ways to make geriatric changes progress more slowly. Sit down with any longtime dog owner and you can discuss nutrition, supplements, beds, ramps, and geriatric medical and supplemen-



CH. ANCRAM'S SIMON (English Cocker Spaniel) SA364779 shown going BW under Henry Stoecker at E.C.S.C.A. Specialty Monmouth County K.C. 5/25 with a 5-pt. win. Ted Young Jr. handler. Breeder-owned by Joyce Scott-Paine, R.F.D., Ancramdale, NY 12503

Left: Westbury Kennel Association, 1969: Judge William Kendrick awards Group I to English Cocker Ch. Ancram's Simon, bred and owned by Mrs. Joyce Scott-Paine of Ancramdale, New York, and handled by Ted Young Jr. Above: Ancram's Simon going BW in May 1968 ("Recent Wins," September 1968 GAZETTE)



## SPORTING GROUP

tal care for hours. When you meet a dog who has passed 15 years, don't you want to ask their owner a million questions about how they take care of their dog?

Judy Manley (Vistah English Springer Spaniels) has two dogs over 15 years old who are living active lives. Manley has bred healthy, beautiful Springer champions for decades. She has educated breeders, puppy buyers, and rescue owners to test their dogs for health needs, feed their dogs the very best foods and to understand that age is functional, not strictly chronological in progression. Optimal health is not limited by a dog's age in years. Manley is also a registered pharmacist, making her an excellent source for sharing experience using various supplements that have kept her aging dogs moving and comfortable.

"Around age 11," Manley sees most dogs begin to show signs they are slowing down and are ready for extra care and comfort. "Immediately," is how soon she begins special care.

Lifestyle changes go far to make our aging dogs more comfortable, preserve mobility and prevent injuries. Manley explained, "It is important for dogs to have good, non-slip footing. I find I have to shave the hair out of the bottoms of their feet at least every two weeks to prevent them from slipping."

She ensures that all her dogs have supportive, comfortable beds, saying, "My old bones



English Springer Spaniel Ch. Lilac Wonder, May 1930

like better beds for my aching legs. It is the same for our old guys. Without proper cushioning they can do more damage to their joints. I make sure they sleep in a warm spot; especially in the cold months." She explains that supplemental supports such as acupuncture, massage, physical manipulation and stretching, treadmill in water, and so on may bring comfort, "especially to a dog with an injury that can benefit from these treatments to improve their condition."

"I firmly believe in lots of exercise," Manley says. She recommends to everyone who obtains a puppy from her kennel that they keep up lifelong, daily exercise. She shared that she has recently experienced a problem convincing an owner that a dog needs frequent exercise to build a body that will be sound and move well the length of the dog's life.

Her concern was obvious as she shared, "I am experiencing a problem watching a young dog not get to move and play enough. I sold a littermate to my dogs to someone nearby, and it is hard to watch that this dog never gets to run for exercise in his yard. His only exercise each day is to go out the front door, on leash, and straight back into the house. He has had no experience with stairs or running for exercise. His muscles have atrophied. He cannot move or get around half as well as the litter brother I have who runs, jumps, and plays."

Manley encourages "lots of walks, ball chasing, hunting, agility, obedience, conformation, and more. Another important factor for joint care is weight maintenance. I see so many overweight dogs and think to myself that the owners are shortening the lives of their dogs and causing them more discomfort." Any sport or activity that exercises the dog's body and mind will help to safeguard joints and activity levels in years ahead. Both of her geriatric dogs are AKC champions, and they were

obedience trained.

Manley's dogs eat Purina Pro Plan dog food, soaked to soften, and Bil-Jac frozen food. The supplements they take are salmon oil, Phyto-Flex from Natures Farmacy, and Antinol by Vetzpetz."

Adamant that dogs' hips and elbows are OFA tested, both of her older dogs have "good" ratings. She has all her dogs evaluated by OFA (offa.org) in an effort to improve the structure and health of dogs she breeds. Health checks and evaluations provide powerful knowledge to create stronger, longer-lived dogs. With obvious heartfelt conviction for breeding better dogs, she says, "I firmly believe it all comes down to genetics. A healthy pedigree of dogs will continue to give you healthy dogs."

—Sarah A. Ferrell, Locust Grove, Virginia

[facebook.com/Valentine-Vishnu-](https://facebook.com/Valentine-Vishnu-Ferrell-1053487794678146/)

[Ferrell-1053487794678146/](https://facebook.com/Valentine-Vishnu-Ferrell-1053487794678146/)

[English Springer Spaniel Field Trial Association](#)

## Field Spaniels

### BEYOND POINTS AND TITLES

I have been fond of saying "a dog is not a robot." Our lovely dogs are training companions and our obsession in the fancy, to be sure, but they are oh, so much more: Best



# BREED COLUMNS

## SPORTING GROUP

friends, confidantes, furry roommates, emotional support, family! Heart and soul, love, pride, and joy. They are our very reason for living at times, and what keeps us going, what gets us out of bed and moving, facing another day throughout the rollercoaster of life. I have said that even if we never set paw in a ring again, my dogs would still be my dogs, with every breath until the very end of time. They own their worth as valued, cherished, trained companions who are my heart and family.

As a serious student of dog sports and the conformation fancy, you and I undertake the very human aspect of competition that takes on judgment, winning and losing, and measuring up.

Some of that is competitive; placements, rankings, having to do better than another. Other times it is the competition with yourself, reaching for your personal best, improving your score and obtaining a qualification. Either way it is important to see the human ego involved.

No dog ever filled out an entry form or asked to do these trials and shows and tests. We have to bear in mind the process and the product, the entire picture.

Remember the journey as well as the destination.

As an exhibitor, it is always my prerogative to pull my entry. If I feel conditions are unsafe



Field Spaniel

or it is not in the best interest of my dog, I would much rather eat the entry fee, swallow pride, do whatever it takes for the good of the animal entry. My dog's safety and health come first.

No ribbon, title, or trophy is worth enough in my book to justify the sacrifice of a dog's well-being.

Far too many times we have seen people who seem self-serving, and greedy, pushing limitations and beyond the good of an animal. I personally prefer a more European approach

to the slow growth and careful training that yields graceful maturation and soundness both physically and mentally, not to mention longevity and a lifetime of valued companionship barring any complications.

Is it all about the mighty major? Getting those points, those double QQs, those class placements or scores or coveted wins that we work hard for?

At the end of the day, no. These things are mere benchmarks we humans use to measure our success. This proves useful to the breeding

program, the human ego, and the assessment of our practices in training. In the great scheme of things that is their most useful purpose.

Putting the time, energy, and money into our canine investments is highly worthwhile as a hobby and pastime. We can all agree that these endeavors bring us much joy and camaraderie, keeping us passionate and active as we pursue our dreams.

Having the relationship we and our community desire with this species is paramount to our success as a society, with the small world of the fancy and dog sports a mere microcosm of the world in which we live.

It is my hope that we see and consider not only the numbers and letters surrounding these amazing animals but value their overall health and spirit as well. They are truly a gift beyond any measure, and that is definitely more than enough.

—Shannon Rodgers,

[shannontroders@gmail.com](mailto:shannontroders@gmail.com)

Field Spaniel Society of America

## Irish Water Spaniels

### RINGLETS, MOHAIR, AND THE ELEMENTS

One of the distinguishing characteristics of the Irish Water Spaniel is its unique coat. Solid in color and naturally patterned in a manner that leaves the face, throat, fronts of



## SPORTING GROUP

the rear legs below the hocks, and most of the tail smooth-coated, the breed's actual coat grows to several inches in length and is curly in texture. The curls are unlike those of any similar breed of dog in that they form separate and distinct strands over the head, beard and ears, neck and body, and legs and feet, and at the base of the tail. These hair formations are considered "crisp" due to their tightness and elasticity, and they are referred to as "ringlets." Ringlets provide protection and insulation to this water dog and are a hallmark of the breed.

Another domesticated animal possesses ringlets, although it's much better known than is our rat-tailed spaniel. Originating in Turkey, the Angora goat is a very old breed whose fleece has been cultivated for centuries to produce fiber called *mohair*. This specialty fiber is sheared with single cuts and is spun for the production of fine clothing and apparel, and it is commonly used in the manufacture of high-end carpets and upholstery. The fleece of an Angora goat is assessed by the characteristics that reflect its productivity and quality. These properties are the "cover" of the belly, legs, topknot, and chin; the definition of the ringlet (or lock) and its uniformity of style, character, length and fineness; and the yield that can be



Eng. Ch. Colleen of Seedhill, circa 1948

expected in a six-month time period. Like the IWS, the Angora's fleece can be patterned to reveal smooth areas, but unlike our beloved dogs, a goat can be disqualified for having bareness on the belly, neck, or insides of the legs; having a fleece with irregularities or lack of luster; and for having a double coat.

Because its coat of ringlets is the Angora goat's *raison d'être*, a unique vocabulary is used to describe the various types of fiber (or hair). In addition to the acclaimed mohair, there are less desirable fibers, such as *medulated fibers*, which are hollow and possess a scrunched appearance and a coarse texture. *Kemp* are short fibers that are also hollow, and these make up a large percentage of a kid's fleece. And *yolk* is the name for the wax-like grease that naturally protects the fiber from damage by the sun.

Free-range herds can be entirely lost after shearing due to damp and chilly weather, so Angora breeders cannot over-emphasize the importance of breeding for the correct fleece. Improper texture and extremes of bareness can kill and are anything but cosmetic considerations.

Since the coat of the IWS likewise affords protection while working, it behooves breeders and judges to consider the breed's coat for the extraordinary natural wonder that it is: repellant of water, protector of skin, insulator of organs, and sustainer of life. Proper coat is of *vital importance* per the breed standard, and the correct covering of ringlets affords our breed the best protection from the elements. —*Dan Sayers, 2010*

## Irish Water Spaniel Club of America

### Sussex Spaniels

Some judges have recently requested more information on tails in Sussex. If you are a judge and do not have the tail document put out a few years ago by the Sussex Spaniel Club of America (SSCA), here it is again. Judges need to do their research before they accept a judging assignment. This document is included with our standard in all our seminar breed packets and is also available on the SSCA website.

### SSCA STATEMENT ON TAILS

The Sussex Spaniel Club of America, AKC Parent Club of the Sussex Spaniel Breed, Updated Statement on Tail Docking and Natural (Undocked) Tails

The Sussex Spaniel standard states, in its opening paragraph, that Sussex have been, since the 1800s, "an excellent hunting companion"; "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 the breed has never gained great popularity in numbers, the Sussex Spaniel continues today essentially unchanged in character and general appear-



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ance from those 19th century sporting dogs.”

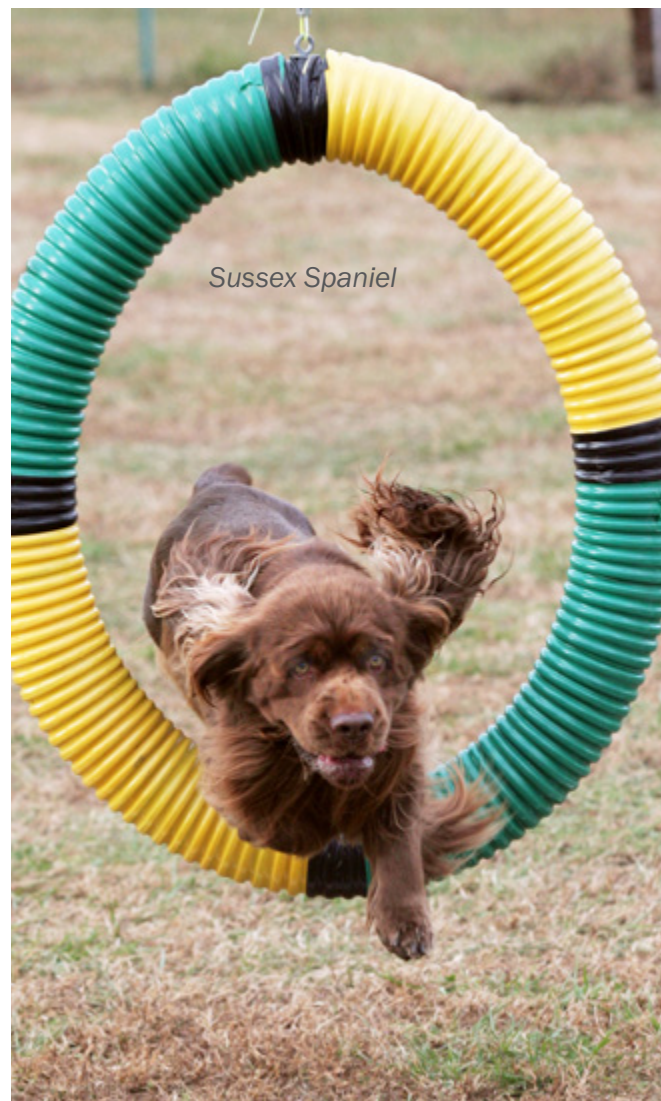
Breed historians note that Sussex Spaniels have been depicted with docked tails since then and in both field and conformation; docked tails perform a utilitarian function and reinforce the breed’s long, low outline. Working in dense undergrowth necessitates docking to prevent injury.

However, the AKC-approved breed standard for the Sussex Spaniel does not include any disqualifications. While most dogs in the United States have been customarily and routinely docked, Sussex Spaniels imported to this country from abroad are not. While an undocked (natural) tail may not be customary in the US, it is considered acceptable.

When judging a Sussex Spaniel with a docked or natural tail, please remember the breed standard’s description of correct tail carriage—set low. *When gaiting the Sussex Spaniel exhibits nice tail action but does not carry the tail above the level of the back.*” Tails, whether docked or natural, should not be carried above the level of the back. Sussex Spaniels that demonstrate incorrect tail carriage should be faulted.

The standard also says: “The tail is thickly covered with moderately long feather” and “The features of lesser importance are the eyes, nose, neck, chest and shoulders, tail, and coat.”

Ultimately, it is your responsibility as the judge to interpret the breed standard and



assign that interpretation to the entries in your ring. The determination of your awards should always be by the assimilation of the overall positive characteristics of your exhibits.

The standard also says: “The tail is thickly covered with moderately long feather” and “The features of lesser importance are the

eyes, nose, neck, chest and shoulders, tail, and coat.”—Sussex Spaniel Club of America, June 2015

Another question that has come up recently is that there are some breeders telling people that C-sections in Sussex are not only frequent but also necessary. This is not true. Sussex Spaniels are fully capable of free-whelping a litter. Constant attention by the breeder is essential. A Sussex may go two or three hours or more between puppies, but after over 50 years of breeding Sussex I can say that most of my litters have been naturally whelped, and the puppies are more alert and easier to raise. Solo puppies where there isn’t enough oxytocin produced to start labor and very large litters where the uterus has no room to contract are the most common causes of a C-section in this breed.

May 2022 be full of heathy people and dogs!

—Marcia Deugan,

[ZYADAHreg@aol.com](mailto:ZYADAHreg@aol.com)

[Sussex Spaniel Club of America](http://SussexSpanielClubofAmerica.com)

## Welsh Springer Spaniels

### REMEMBRANCE OF ANNE LEGARE, OF HOLLY HOUSE WELSH SPRINGER SPANIELS

The Welsh Springer Spaniel community mourns the loss of one of our most storied breeders, Anne Legare, the woman

behind Holly House Welsh Springers.

Anne owned American Cockers as a child and the bred and owned Golden Retrievers after she married. By the early 1980s, she was looking for a new breed and had it in her head she might like an Irish Wolfhound. She went to a dog show and sat at the Wolfhound ring. Then she saw one relieving itself and was gobsmacked by the size of the puddle that was left behind.

Shortly thereafter, a woman walked by with two Welsh Springers on lead. Anne found the dogs both unique and gorgeous and followed the woman to strike up a conversation. This was the famous Connie Christie, the power behind Killagay Welshies. Connie and Anne became fast friends, and in 1981 Anne acquired her first Welsh Springer, DMS Rhiannon. She showed Rhiannon herself and won the bitch points at her very first show.

“After that” Anne recalled, “I was hooked!”

Anne became a powerhouse in the world of Welsh Springers. She burned up the ring in conformation, always finishing her dogs herself before passing the best of them off to handlers for their Specials careers. First George Alston, then Doug Holloway, and finally Chris Berg and Kellie FitzGerald piloted her dogs to the heights. Her Welsh Springers won several of the conformation awards the Welsh Springer Spaniel Club of America (WSSCA)

DIANE LEWIS FOR AKC



## SPORTING GROUP



Clockwise from top: Ann Legare at home with her dogs; with Doug Holloway and Chris Berg; doing agility with Blenny in 1998; with Suzette, BOS at a regional specialty.

has on offer: the Deckard Cup (twice), the Olympian Cup (six times), and the Founders Cup (once). Her dogs also won top honors at WSSCA national specialties and the breed ring at American Spaniel Club.

She was an early enthusiast of agility, running and training her dogs on equipment she set up on her property. Her enthusiasm for the sport led her, in 2003, to sponsor the Holly House Master Excellent Agility Award, still offered by our breed club. She ran in agility until two hip replacements put an end to that. She continued in obedience, rally, field training and nose work—training, trialing and putting titles on her dogs well into her late 80s. Despite coming to rally and nose work late in life, she excelled in both sports, frequently placing at trials.

Anne was a stalwart member of Talbot Kennel Club on Maryland's Eastern Shore, chairing that all-breed show precisely once.

"Oh, my word," she said years later, "was that a lot of work. And the complaints from people who didn't lift a finger to help! Never again." (Heh. Some things never change!)

The Talbot Kennel Club shows continued to loom large in Anne's life as she opened her home to fellow Welsh Springer exhibitors. She hosted a dinner on Saturday night of the show weekend that was open to all the Welshie folks. *Legendary* is the only way to describe those dinners that usually featured a roast turkey and ended with a magnificent layer cake. Bourbon (Woodford Reserve) and all kinds of wine (especially a good Sauvignon Blanc) were the adult beverages of choice.

I was lucky enough to be Anne's traveling companion early in my time in the breed. On those long drives she regaled me with tales of dogs and people in the breed 40 years ago. Those rides were a master class on the topic of Welsh Springers.

We will never forget Anne Legare or her contributions to Welsh Springers.

(A version of this article ran in the March edition of the WSSCA breed club magazine, *The Starter Barks*).

—Wendy J. Jordan,

[wendy.jordan@capstrategiesgroup.com](mailto:wendy.jordan@capstrategiesgroup.com)

COURTESY WENDY JORDAN/WSSCA STARTER BARKS (AGILITY PHOTO)



## SPORTING GROUP

Welsh Springer Spaniel Club of America  
**Vizslas**

### TESTING FOR A TROUBLESOME GENE: THE LONGHAIR GENE IN VIZSLAS

As a breeder, you spend hours studying pedigrees, temperament, structure, and health. You scrutinize PennHIP testing and OFA radiographs of hips and elbows; you pore over cardiac tests, thyroid levels, and eye exams, weighing the good and bad, hoping to improve the next generation. Despite our efforts, something has escaped our focus, a silent issue lying in wait, hidden from the view of our most-experienced breeders—it's the longhair gene. We saw it pop up in the 1980s but haven't heard much chatter since.

Two coat types are recognized in Vizslas: the Shorthaired Vizsla (simply called "Vizsla"), and the Wirehaired Vizsla. Both are independent breeds recognized by the AKC and around the world. A longhaired Vizsla can turn up in either breed but isn't recognized by any organization.

The FGF5 gene is responsible for whether a dog has long hair or short hair. Long hair is a recessive trait. In other words, a puppy must inherit two recessive alleles (versions of the gene), one from each parent, to have long hair (LH/LH). If a puppy inherits one allele for long hair and one for short hair, the puppy will have short hair from the one



*Vizsla puppies, shorthair and longhair. A recessive trait, long hair is not recognized in the breed by any registry.*

COURTESY JUDY CAMPBELL



## SPORTING GROUP

dominant allele but will carry one recessive allele for long hair (SH/LH). The risk is that a recessive allele can pass undetected and unexpressed for years, waiting for a recessive partner.

While the longhaired Vizsla is somewhat rare, it has recently shown its face in the United States. The great news is we now have a DNA test to determine if your dog is a carrier of a hidden longhair allele. Your dog can be tested at any age, and breeders can test their litters before placing them.

Back in 2008, when many people were importing Vizslas from Europe, there was talk about the longhaireds popping up. At that time in the U.K., DNA tests for the longhair gene were in full swing. In 2005, VCA member Judy Campbell imported her dog Budha from Hungary, and her sister also imported two longhaired Vizslas. With the intent to breed Budha, Judy searched for a lab to test her imported dog for the LH gene. It turned out that testing didn't exist in the U.S.

For Judy, that was unacceptable. She got busy searching for a test and found success when she contacted Andre De Waele in Hungary. De Waele was collecting samples from longhaireds and “smooths” to send to two labs, including Animal Genetics U.K., to develop a test for the Vizslas over there. This

sparked an idea in Judy, and in late 2008, she contacted Veterinary Genetic Services (Vet Gen) at UC Davis. They offered to create a test if she would send them DNA swabs for both longhaireds and smooths. She swabbed her sister's two longhaireds and her own shorthaireds, Budha and Szari, and sent the saliva samples off to VetGen. By early 2009, VetGen had the markers and alleles to offer a coat-length DNA test for Vizslas. Both Budha and Szari were LH-free.

Meanwhile, many years passed with no reports of longhaired Vizslas. Judy got caught up in standard health testing—PennHIP, OFA hips and elbows, cardiac, eyes, and thyroid—but did not test for LH any longer. Judy had two litters out of her Lila and a litter out of Lila's daughter, Ali, with no issues. Then, in 2021, in Ali's second litter of seven, she got five longhaired puppies and two carriers. At 71 percent, that's a genetic anomaly. To rule out an insemination mixup, a DNA test proved parentage of the two intended shorthaireds, who are well-bred, health-tested Vizslas from reputable breeders. Unfortunately, both girls from the affected litter are longhaireds, so Judy's hope of carrying on her line was dashed. Irony can be cruel: The very person who was instrumental in developing the LH gene test in the U.S. was dealt the most devastating blow of all.

For our breed, let's turn this tragedy into triumph. This is not epilepsy or hemangiosarcoma. At minimal cost, we can test for the longhair gene and plan around it so it never happens to another breeder. It's time to test all our breeding stock. A single carrier need not end a breeding line. This story is a reminder that we must breed to a noncarrier and test those puppies before placing them. If we breeders educate ourselves, we can eliminate this recessive allele from our gene pool.

Thanks to Judy Campbell, we have the science to test our breeding stock. Being good stewards of our breed now will be the best gift we can offer future generations of Vizslas.

For more information about the longhair gene, please contact the VCA Welfare Foundation at <https://vcaweb.org/welfare/welfare.shtml>

Here's a list of labs that test for the longhair gene:

[VetGen \(UC Davis\)](#) (\$50 per test)

[VetGen \(Michigan\)](#) (\$40 for one test, and \$20 for the second dog)

[Animal Genetics USA](#) (\$40 for one test)

[DNA Diagnostics Center](#) (\$58 per test, but often a two-for-one deal)

—Jamie Walton,  
[jamie@professionaldesign.org](mailto:jamie@professionaldesign.org)

## Vizsla Club of America Weimaraners

### A MATCH MADE IN HEAVEN

Outside the realm of science, there are few universals. However, one that we know as Weimaraner owners is when you take your Weimaraner for a walk, their noses work overtime.

We've all been dragged along by a big, gray dog who seems to have been transformed into a nose on four legs. They glue their noses to the ground, sometimes holding their heads up high to sample airborne scents and become so enthralled with sniffing that it invades their being with overpowering purpose. Their attention is focused on what they are experiencing through their most highly developed sense.

A dog's sense of smell is a marvel and is so more highly developed than our own that I doubt we can fully appreciate the sensory bombardment that our dogs constantly experience. Their physiology is so skewed toward everything olfactory that the part of their brain that processes smells is 40 percent larger than our own.

Not only are their brains hardwired to process smells, in addition their noses are sophisticated structures made to efficiently glean odors from their environment. Ever wonder about the moistness of a dog's nose? (Yes, there is a purpose beyond smearing up our



## SPORTING GROUP

glass windows.) A moist nose allows a dog to inhale a larger number of scent molecules. These molecules are then wafted into the nose where dogs have specialized mucous membranes that are packed with scent-detecting cells and olfactory nerves.

When a dog sniffs, it is quite different from when we say we've caught a smell of something. Our dogs' sniffing is a series of rapid intake and exhaling. Each nostril has a structure called the *alar fold*—which allows new air to come into the center of each nostril when the dog inhales, but closes down so the dog exhales through the slits in the side of the nose. All those *schnuffing* noises we hear when our dogs are gathering in scent, are the result of this quick intake and exhaling.

Why am I going on about dogs' noses? Because I've become enthralled with the new dog sport of AKC Scent Work. The short definition of Scent Work is “a sport that mimics the task of working detection dogs to locate a scent and communicate to the handler that the scent has been found.” It is a sport that is made for a breed like ours that loves to use their noses. Couple dogs who live to sniff with training that

depends on positive reinforcement with food, and you and your Weimaraner have found a new dog sport that is a perfect match.

Giving a Weimaraner a chance to participate in Scent Work is to bring a joyful activity into their lives. They get to sniff, and when they find the scent they get food. What a perfect match! Scent Work also gives dogs and handlers a chance to build teamwork and strengthen the human-canine bond. By the very nature of the activity, the handler must totally trust the dog to use an ability that, in comparison to a dog, is so underdeveloped in humans.

Since the first AKC Scent Work trial was held back in 2017, there has been an accelerating increase in the number of participants. Many local dog clubs and training facilities now offer classes—and even if you can't take advantage of formal classes, there are many “how to” videos on the internet. If you haven't already tried it, take the plunge, because you and your dog will love this sport.

Weimaraner + sniffing + food rewards = the formula for great fun for everyone.

—Carole Lee Richards,



Weimaraner

COURTESY HOTDOG PHOTO



## WORKING GROUP

### Akitas

Please welcome our guest columnist for this issue, Dr. Wenny Wang Bauman.

#### COAT CARE OF THE AKITA

Coat is a component of breed type. Quality coat that is also correct is our goal when it comes to coat care.

*Genetics*—Fortunately we started with a foundation with good genes of skin and coat. Moving our breeding program forward, this characteristic has been always a significant priority for us along with the big picture in mind: Type, Balance, and Soundness.

*Environment*—We live in Santa Fe's beautiful countryside, New Mexico. The downside is fairly dry climate with especially high UV index due to high elevation. This creates a great challenge in maintaining quality coat. A routine has been developed for our Akitas to go outside exercise and relax only in the morning and evenings. Shades with UV protection are installed for all the kennels at the top and on the sides. All the kennels are cleaned and disinfected almost daily as long as the weather allows. Thanks to Santa Fe's dry weather, the kennels often dry up quickly in the afternoon when not occupied. All the dog beds are cleaned daily and dried to prevent stains on the coat that is often caused by lying on a wet surface.

*Diet*—A simple, balanced diet with a little something exciting daily is what we believe, and it works well for our Akitas. That is, rotating between premium food with a variety of protein sources (for example, salmon, chicken, duck, or buffalo) every few months. We usually have up to eight different foods that are tailored to each of our Akita's needs. An extra spoonful or two of something exciting is offered each meal, such as whole-fat yogurt, raw meat, salmon oil, coconut oil, and so on. The only supplements we use are probiotics, Tri-C, and Phyto-Flex. Coat supplements that are especially popular among professional handlers are not used, as we don't believe they benefit the dog's long-term health.

*Routine baths*—Ninety-five percent of our coat work is done at home through routine baths. Our bathing protocol has continued to improve over the years as we gain more experience and knowledge. Routing bath is scheduled every two to three weeks. Each routine bath takes an average of three and a half hours.

The shampooing procedure must be thorough. Pay extra attention to the sebaceous areas such as the chin, armpits, rear, tail, and in between the toes. Massage the product through the hair and down to the skin level. Leave it on for five minutes before rinsing.

The conditioning procedure is similar to

shampooing. However, less conditioner is needed on the back and the back of the neck, due to the concern of overly softened outer coat. Deep conditioning is recommended for the rear and face; that brings out the volume.

After the coat is completely dried, spray on light leave-in conditioner prior to brushing. Do not ever brush the coat dry! Rake/pin brush/comb are used in that exact order for taking all the loose hair out and having the entire coat worked. This is followed by a slicker brush and terrier palm-pad for detailing.

The very important last step of the routine bath is a long and relaxing walk with our Akita. Perfect bonding time between a happy groomer and refreshing fur kid!

*Show preparation*—With dedicated routine baths, the skin and coat are kept in excellent condition of all time, full coat or not, therefore little work is needed prior to showing. For a cluster show, light spray of bodifier on the first day of showing followed by water spray the rest of the weekend are proven sufficient.

Since Akitas blow coat every five to six months, sometimes we may have to show them without full coat. For our Akitas, the



Ch. Quinn, in full coat, after a relaxing routine bath

“showable coat” is considered 60 percent of the full coat. With our in-house cloud-based database app, Dog World Streamlined, all the routine baths and hair growth information are recorded. This helps us determine how soon we would achieve the “showable coat.”

Nothing makes me more proud as a groomer and breeder than that our Akita enters the ring with a healthy, fresh, and beautiful coat!  
—W.W.B.

Thank you, Wenny!

—Linda Wolf,

[Okamiakitas@aol.com](mailto:Okamiakitas@aol.com)

[The Akita Club of America](#)



## WORKING GROUP

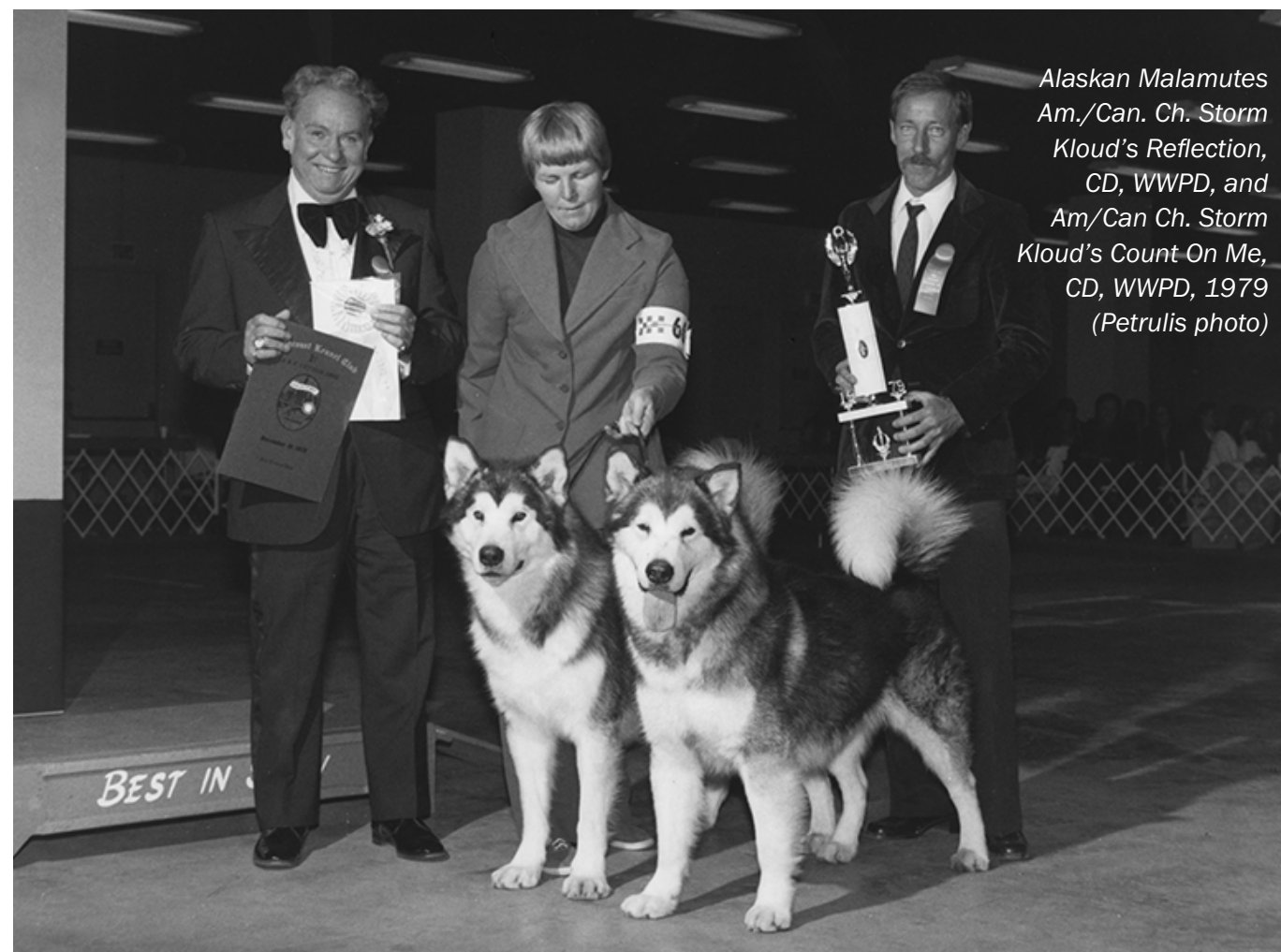
### Alaskan Malamutes

#### THE PASSION THAT DRIVES US

Last October, when I returned from the LAMCA national specialty, I began to come to terms with some of life's most critical issues. First among these was the shock we all felt at the sudden and unexpected passing of our club's esteemed Life Member and AKC Delegate, Patricia Peel, during the national. It was the most tragic event we ever experienced during national week, and I will forever deeply respect the group of Patty's closest friends who cared for Patty's husband, Tex, and mobilized at a moment's notice to handle everything that needed to be done.

In the aftermath, as I reflected on the suddenness that life events often take, I took a hard look at my own long-neglected fitness, caught up on my medical visits, signed up for classes and workout sessions at my local YMCA with an amazing personal trainer, transformed my diet, and set weight-loss goals, which I am steadily reaching. I am determined to achieve my ultimate goal: to be fit enough to show in the breed ring again.

Tex and Patty's devotion to their own Sno Klassic dogs and to their peers, co-owners, and friends in the breed never wavered. They were a pivotal presence in the parent club and at virtually every national for over 30 years—just as were my own close friends Joe



*Alaskan Malamutes  
Am./Can. Ch. Storm  
Kloud's Reflection,  
CD, WWPD, and  
Am/Can Ch. Storm  
Kloud's Count On Me,  
CD, WWPD, 1979  
(Petrulis photo)*

and Sandy Pistolesi (Battlefield), whom we also lost just a few years earlier. All had one thing in common: Their lives revolved around their dogs, their parent club, regional, and all breed clubs, and the breed at large. Despite health issues and advancing years, their commitment never wavered.

The demonstration of commitment is an existential and complex quantity. As we exam-

ine ourselves, comparing our presence in dogs with that of our working and family lives, we quickly recognize that all of these are in a delicate balance. And yet, in the majority of our AMCA families, the joys and challenges of raising children blend with the equal joys and challenges of breeding and showing the dogs—plus the blessed and rewarding sight of children learning to care for and compete with

the dogs they helped bring into the world. The promise is kept; the priorities are juggled, and somehow everything gets done!

In contrast, over the years, we all know those who have slipped away from club membership, from showing, and even from the breed, after their own dogs have passed. Certainly, overwhelming health issues and other tragedies can force one to give up everything but survival. But what I have personally never understood is why an otherwise healthy person, financially comfortable, and often at retirement, completely gives up dogs and dog activities, and turns a page of life that resembles nothing so much as a complete midlife crisis. And everything changes!

Several friends have departed thus, into 55-plus planned communities in warmer climes, where superficially immaculate, curving streets boast virtually identical homes whose color schemes are dictated by a central planning board—even down to the color of their front doors. And that's only the start of the strictures of these communities: no fenced yards, no vegetable gardens out back, front yards devoid of spontaneously creative and at times untidy plantings; not even a quirky garden gnome dare show its face. And pets? Only by explicit permission, and often limited by size and weight.

But of course, there are glamorous



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amenities, and I hear cheerful tales of new people met, clubs for every interest, and recreation galore. For some reason, pickleball—a relatively new cousin of tennis—is the most popular pastime. But after all the fun and chatter, after the cute amateur art show at the gorgeous clubhouse, after the wine is tasted and you make your way back to your gorgeous identical home and open your gorgeous identically painted front door, don't you have a moment where you are suddenly faced with the silence, the emptiness, the white-gloved antiseptic set piece that you now call home?

It is a silence without a soft *woo* of greeting, without a happy wagging tail, without eyes full of unconditional love for *you*. And this is what I will never understand. Because, you see, for so many years, I thought we were cut from the same cloth, from the same lifetime of devotion to our dogs and everything that goes with them. I thought we were united in this, the passion that drives us. But now I have to adjust my mind and heart a bit, because we are different in a deep and fundamental way.

How much better—how much more real and deep and genuine—are the friendships of those for whom life is defined by the lovely dogs around them, and the ways they contribute to the clubs whose very existence depends upon their support. Because no matter how many years pass, your parent club still values

you, and your fellow members care about you. There are always newer members to mentor, and committees which need your experience.

Most of all, there is always another Malamute to rescue, to transport, and to help into a wonderful new life with you or a trusted friend. There is always an ethical animal shelter that will welcome your donation. And that's the thought I want to express, even to those who have turned that page to the leisure life of the planned community. Just give this one small gift in memory of the dogs you once owned and loved. After you do that, your heart will be happier, and your pickleball game and your fun new friends will still be there when you return ... I promise!

—Phyllis I. Hamilton,  
[benchmark1946@gmail.com](mailto:benchmark1946@gmail.com)  
[Alaskan Malamute Club of America](#)

## Anatolian Shepherd Dogs

### SOCIALIZATION AND THE ANATOLIAN SHEPHERD DOG

When Anatolian Shepherd Dogs were first brought to the United States in significant numbers, as part of a project investigating the usefulness of livestock guarding dog (LGD) breeds, there was a notion that the dogs didn't need to be socialized. It was thought that you could just throw them out with their

livestock and ignore them, and you would have a better LGD. People actually believed that socializing the dogs would somehow make them less effective at guarding stock. This is patently false reasoning.

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

All dogs require handling by people, even working livestock guarding dogs, whether the dog and his stock are being moved from one pasture to another, or the dog is being handled by the stock keeper in routine maintenance—or, in a worst-case scenario, the dog has been injured in the course of his duties and requires a trip to the veterinarian. A well-socialized dog will handle all of these situations far better, and with less stress for all involved, than a dog who has not been socialized. I have been told wild-sounding tales of dogs who had to be lured into chutes or shot with tranquilizer darts so that their owners could bring strangers into a pasture to purchase livestock. If true, these tales only serve to tell of the sad failure of the dogs' owners to do right by their dogs and give them

Anatolian Shepherd Dog



the socialization required to achieve the most basic of handling. A well-socialized dog will guard his livestock just as well as a feral dog who has not been allowed to develop a normal bond with his caretakers. He will likely end up living a better life overall than his unsocialized counterpart, because he will be able to be safely handled and likely will receive better care as a result.



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

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

Anatolians can take a while to mature

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

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

[Anatolian Shepherd Dog Club of America](#)

## Bernese Mountain Dogs

### IS YOUR EXAMPLE A GOAL, OR A WARNING?

I recently was a steward at a local obedience trial. An array of emotions were provoked as I observed the interactions between handler and dogs. It was reassuring to see so many people eager to test their training skills. It was heartwarming to see some of the wonderful working partnerships.

In this post-Covid era, there were many people with rusty skills. There were many

who were new to competitive obedience, with rudimentary skills. There were some very awkward body mechanics. Mechanics are based on muscle memory—to create muscle memory means practicing until you don’t have to think.

Body mechanics can be improved by practicing in front of a mirror, working with a partner, attending a class, or videoing your practice. Things to improve start with moving naturally. Moving comfortably while being



*Bernese Mountain Dogs  
Tommy, James, and Juby at  
the 2021 national specialty.*

COURTESY MARJORIE GEIGER



## WORKING GROUP

scrutinized is harder than it sounds. Yet your dog may not recognize who is at the end of the leash if you walk like Frankenstein.

Move with head up, shoulders relaxed, stepping confidently. Start all turns on the right foot. Having turns and stops consistent and less abrupt helps the dog follow. Halt using two or three steps, and do the about-turn in three steps. These are motor-skill techniques that are less military and more easily followed by your dog. Also, keep your leash neatly looped into a bundle that doesn't flap in the dog's face.

One of the most obvious issues were handlers being preoccupied in the ring while the judge is watching and scoring. Having spectators watching challenged handlers to keep the connection with their dog. Keeping your eyes on your dog makes it easier for them to give you their full attention. Although it is polite to look at whom you are speaking, while in the ring don't look at the judge. If the judge asks a question, respond while still staying attentive to the dog. A goal is 100-percent attention on the dog. A good practice is to focus in front of your dog about two to three feet, where the dog's next step will be. Try it—it is harder than you think!

Some teams achieved the connections. There was a delightful Bernese Mountain Dog team. The BMD was a very patient male

who intently watched his sweet old handler. Together they moved slowly around the ring. He methodically followed all commands. His bushy tail never stopped wagging as he escorted his octogenarian handler. They obviously were accustomed to working together.

One scenario broke my heart. The dog did not perform up to the handler's expectations. They left the ring frustrated and disconnected. The handler's friends gathered around to console her. The dog was ignored, sitting beside her. The dog stayed in a sit as commanded but tried every possible leaning position to get his human's attention. The dog wanted reassurance and support. He needed his human to reconnect with him. Every part of his body language said, "Touch me, reassure me." Unfortunately as the team walked away, the lady was still frustrated, and the dog dejected and disconnected.

It was more than imagination that interpreted the dog's posture and attitude. A study was published (Front. Psychol., 16 December 2020 <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpsyg.2020.584037>) saying, "They [dogs] are highly competent in learning about directly observable but also quite subtle behavioral, gestural, vocal, and attentional cues, which is of high adaptive value for life in the human environment. In addition to their behavior-reading competences they also seem to be

sensitive to some mental states in humans." I wonder what this read in his handler's behavior, and if he will be eager to go in the ring next time.

The day made me think of how the adage "If you can't be a good example, then you can be a warning" rings true.

For the love of a Berner, be a good example of connectedness.

—Marjorie Geiger,  
[marggeiger@yahoo.com](mailto:marggeiger@yahoo.com)  
Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America

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## Black Russian Terriers

Our guest columnist for this issue is Jill Chase, Juniors Coordinator for the Black Russian Terrier Club of America.

### PROVIDING EDUCATIONAL EXPERIENCES FOR JUNIORS

"Mom, I think I would like to try showing dogs as my 4-H project" was the statement that started our family's dog journey. Although I had extensive experience showing horses, I had no knowledge of the dog show world. The extent of our family's knowledge began and ended with watching the Westminster Kennel Club dog show on the television. My husband grew up in 4-H and believes the program teaches kids valuable lessons. I grew up

showing horses and spending every waking hour at the barn. We both agreed we wanted these types of experiences for our girls. Both our girls started showing dogs in the 4-H program, until they were encouraged to try competing at AKC events.

I share this backstory because 4-H was a great starting point for my juniors. I really appreciated many aspects of the program—the main being that competition wasn't the sole focus of being a 4-H member. Education, sportsmanship, and active membership were emphasized. The girls were given opportunities to gain knowledge of dog anatomy, physiology, nutrition, health and wellness, breeds, grooming, and so on. These experiences provided them with insight into the industry and contact with experienced, professional dog people. These contacts are what encourage my girls to become active in AKC and provided them with the opportunities to meet mentors and build lifelong relationships.

Ten years later, our family is very much involved in dogs and AKC-sponsored clubs and events. Currently, I am the newly designated Juniors Coordinator for the Black Russian Terrier Club of America, in addition to being Recording Secretary and Juniors Coordinator for the Colorado Springs Kennel Club, and Recording Secretary for the Rocky Mountain Russian Toy Club, a newly forming



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regional club.

Both my girls have benefited from their juniors experience and have had many opportunities to grow as exhibitors and future breeders and professionals. I wanted to give back to the juniors program by volunteering time to offer opportunities to other juniors to learn beyond the competitive aspect of the sport.

As a junior coordinator, before the position was even recognized, I saw the need to offer educational opportunities. Once the girls graduated to AKC, they no longer were held accountable for furthering their knowledge of “dog husbandry.” Yes, they surrounded themselves with some of the best dog people the industry, but they still expressed that they would like more opportunities to learn and hone their dog knowledge, while socializing with peers in a noncompetitive setting. I decided to ask other juniors what they wanted to learn about and what opportunities they would like to see offered. Using their feedback, I organized junior education opportunities at our local kennel club show.

Our first event provided juniors the opportunity to judge two separate classes consisting of four dogs each. After the juniors were given an opportunity to evaluate each class of dogs, two AKC judges volunteered their time to speak to the juniors. They allowed the juniors to share



what they saw in the dogs and their placings. The judges discussed their findings, clarified any misconceptions, and shared with the juniors advice and books they felt helped them become respected judges. One of the biggest takeaways from this was how grateful the juniors were that the judges took time to spend with them “talking dogs.” All those involved walked away with a greater appreciation for one another, and the juniors left more at ease knowing that judges are just people who love dogs, too.

Last year the juniors were given the opportunity to shadow judges during a match sponsored by the Rocky Mountain Russian Toy Club. Juniors chose the ring based on their interest of the group being presented in that ring. The judges talked to the kids about topics such as ring procedure, evaluation techniques, breed-specific nuances, and what to look for when animals are gaing. The culminating experience was when the juniors were given the opportunity to judge “adult showmanship.” An aged-out junior mentored the group through ring procedure, individual evaluation, and coming to a consensus on placements. All involved in the evening’s events commented on how the experience opened their eyes to the importance of mentorship and the value of shared experience and perspectives.

In my new role as Juniors Coordinator for the

COURTESY LYNDIA BEAM



## WORKING GROUP

BRTCA, I look forward to finding ways to help juniors explore opportunities to meet our breed and to connect to professionals and breeders who will mentor them through the experience. My girls would not be who they are without the support of their breed mentors.

Juniors, I encourage you to come to the BRTCA 2022 National, happening September 8–12 at Greeley, Colorado. We will have opportunities for juniors to meet the breed, talk with breeders, and learn from professional handlers who specialize in the handling of the Black Russian Terrier. Come find out if the breed is right for you. Experienced? Get insider tips on how to get that winning edge with your BRT junior partner. BRT juniors, come so you can share what you would like to see offered from your national breed club. —J.C.

Thank you, Jill.

—Emily Foster,

[leighfost@gmail.com](mailto:leighfost@gmail.com)

[Black Russian Terrier Club of America](#)

## Boerboels

### INTRODUCING THE BOERBOEL

I feel privileged to welcome GAZETTE readers to the very first breed column for the Boerboel, which achieved full recognition to the AKC Working Group in 2015.

In this column I will introduce our breed's parent club, The American Boerboel Club (ABC); touch upon the history and attributes of our breed that have shaped the Boerboel of today; describe some of the many areas in which Boerboels excel; and then share advice on finding a reputable breeder and red flags to beware of.

*Our club.* The American Boerboel Club—a comparatively young, vibrant, and growing club—has served the breed since 2006. (Actually longer than this, as before a club is successfully established, there is an enormous investment of time and effort by a small number of committed people.) We became the breed's parent club designee for the South African Boerboel when the breed was accepted into the AKC Miscellaneous Group on January 1, 2010, and in February 2014 we were named the official AKC parent club for the Boerboel. The Boerboel became eligible for AKC registration on December 1, 2014, and was admitted to in the Working Group beginning January 1, 2015. It should be noted that the ABC is the *only* national Boerboel breed club recognized and sanctioned by the American Kennel Club. Please visit our [website](#) to read our Mission, Code of Ethics, standard, membership and registration information, general breed information, upcoming events, guidance in finding a breeder and



Upper left: The very first entry of Boerboels invited to the Westminster Kennel Club show, 2016. Boerboels are extremely muscular and athletic, and one of the most agile of the molosser breeds.

much more!

*History.* The history of the Boerboel in South Africa is somewhat complicated, depending upon which authors' accounts you read. However, it is generally agreed that the pro-

genitors of the Boerboel included (at various times) Bullmastiffs and Mastiffs/mastiff-type dogs (such as Jan van Riebeeck's "Bullenbitier," in 1652), as well as breeds from several other countries that accompanied their settler

COURTESY AMERICAN BOERBOEL CLUB



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families. As these early families intended to farm the land in an inhospitable environment, “a land occupied by animals (lions, cheetahs, leopards, etc.) who kill to live and will kill people, especially children, who fall victim to them” (Semencic, 1998), it seems probable they brought robust dogs who would be strong protectors.

In any case, during *De Groot Trek* (“The Great Trek”) of 1838, settlers (the Boers) and their dogs moved more deeply into remote areas of South Africa to farm, which is said to be the basis of the name Boerboel—meaning “farm dog.” Over the years inbreeding occurred, as well as mating with wild dogs. This, coupled with the fact there was little if any veterinary care, created a large, robust, and generally healthy dog, devoted to and fiercely protective of family and livestock.

In the early 1980s, interest grew in finding and preserving the “original” Boer dog as a proper, registerable breed. Lucas van der Merwe of Kroonstad, together with Jannie Bouwer of Bedford, launched a search for such dogs. Two hundred and fifty dogs which qualified were found. Of these, only 72 were selected for registration. Presently, the breed is still relatively unknown and considered to be rare, although it has been declared a “Land Race” in South Africa (the equivalent of a “native” breed, such as the Mastiff in England).

*Attributes and abilities.* The breed standard can be found on both the ABC and AKC websites. To summarize some key points: This is a large canine. Dogs are 24 to 27 inches tall; bitches are 22 to 25 inches; dogs *may* reach 150 to 175lbs—but size must not impair athleticism. The head also deserves special mention, as it is impressive and a distinctive feature of the Boerboel. It should be blocky, broad, deep, square and muscular, with well-filled cheeks.

Boerboels are extremely muscular, with powerful, free-flowing, but supple and athletic movement (they are one of the most agile of the molosser breeds), which makes them versatile contenders in conformation showing as well as in agility, rally, CAT and Fast CAT, dock diving, and other competitions. As working dogs, they protect livestock and track and hunt game. There are multiple Boerboel champions in all of the competitive categories. Five have been invited to the 2022 Westminster Kennel Club show!

This is an intelligent breed, devoted to their families and quite sensitive to our moods. I personally have never owned a dog that made as much eye contact and searched our faces for cues as our Boerboel. They are often described as “dominant.” I would clarify to say that, like other guardian breeds, your safety may transcend what you want them to do, and they are ever-alert for potential threats

(which often disagree with the owner’s view). They are definitely *not* a first dog.

### *Finding a reputable Boerboel breeder*

If you are enthusiastic about the breed, the *vital first step* is to do in-depth research. The website of the [American Boerboel Club \(ABC\)](#) has a wealth of information and advice! However, you should also honestly assess your own knowledge, experience level, and motivation for buying one. As noted above, despite many wonderful attributes and abilities, Boerboels are *not* recommended as “first dogs,” and they should never be used as “macho” fashion accessories.

If you have done comprehensive research—including understanding the ABC/AKC Boerboel breed standard, which is the “blueprint” for our breed—as well as sincerely assessing your abilities, and you still believe a Boerboel is the breed for you, the next step is searching for a reputable breeder. Your top priority should be a well-bred puppy. Reputable breeders invest great care and expense to ensure their litters come from health tested, well-bred parents.

*Where to look.* The American Boerboel Club (ABC) and the AKC offer breeder-referral lists. One important point noted in ABC guidance: “Ask of your breeder what organization they belong to and how their dogs are registered. Know that if your breeder in America

registers his dogs with the AKC, a Code of Ethics and regulations will govern his ability to continue to breed under that registry’s name.” You can do your own online searches for breeders; however, be aware there are many disreputable breeders and breeder scams out there that can lead to heartbreak.

*“Red flags” that should alert you that a person advertising puppies may not be reputable:*

- On websites:

All hype, no substance—Site is dominated by photos of large, aggressive-looking Boerboels, with little or no reference to breeding program goals or health testing. Immediate emphasis on the “impressive” size or weight of dogs used for breeding. Promoting “rare colors” and/or colors that are not accepted in the breed standard. Pictures of parents that clearly do not conform to the breed standard. Statements of “championship lines” when no champions, working titles, or pedigrees are evident on the site.

- In conversations with the breeder:

Breeder does not thoroughly screen you but rather gives you a sales pitch and pressures you to move forward with a deposit and sale. (“I think the fawn boy is the best I have, but couple X are going to give me a deposit tomorrow.”) Breeder is disinterested in discussing breeding program and goals. There is no contract stipulating the breeder’s and



## WORKING GROUP

buyer's respective responsibilities for the puppy. Breeder states that puppies are available at less than 8 weeks old.

*Common scams.* The current pandemic has unfortunately increased possibilities for scams, with curtailing of in-person visits with breeders and puppies. Following are some of the more common scams that have been noted as issues in a number of breeds:

- Bait and switch: Breeder asks for a non-refundable deposit on a specific puppy but sends an inferior substitute, often without registration papers—or from a registry that is not recognized by the ABC and AKC. A variation is: The breeder sells a puppy with an allegedly “impressive pedigree,” but registration papers never arrive. The breeder offers excuse after excuse, and as time goes on, the buyers become very attached to their puppy and let the matter go. Often the puppy is not purebred but the result of an “oops” pregnancy.
- Breeder asks for an exorbitant puppy deposit, then claims your puppy has died—but your deposit is not refundable. You're told it can be applied to the next litter, but of course there is then a problem with that litter as well. The buyer is strung along until he or she gives up.
- Breeder asks for an exorbitant deposit, then simply vanishes.
- Breeder outcrosses to another breed to achieve certain traits and falsifies registration

documents.

The above is not intended to be all-inclusive; the objective is to encourage potential Boerboel owners to be alert and discerning buyers, whatever your plans for your puppy. The Boerboel is a marvelous breed, but it is our job, as breeders, owners, and fanciers to preserve and protect it.

—Karen L Cornelius,  
[klc@klcassociates.com](mailto:klc@klcassociates.com)  
[American Boerboel Club](#)

## Boxers

### BOXERS NEED A JOB

Longtime owners have discovered the Boxer mind can often be compared to that of an intelligent, yet curious pre-teen human. Boxers are working dogs by classification and make the best of companions—but they have busy brains, and they need a job.

Boxer jobs can be as mundane as a household pet and companion, supervising everyday activities and notifying the chef at dinnertime, but Boxer breeders and owners have been enamored by the opportunities offered in dog activities and have found the breed adapts to most challenges.

As athletes, the breed has become competitive in most dog sports. It is no longer



*Boxers serve in many roles, including therapy work. Enjoying the company of a Boxer puppy is Dr. Ted Fickes, of Arriba Boxers—breeder of Ch. Arriba's Prima Donna, who was BIS at Westminster in 1970 with Jane Forsyth handling.*

COURTESY VIRGINIA SHAMES



## WORKING GROUP

unusual to see a Boxer herding sheep, dock diving, lure coursing, and participating in Barn Hunt, in addition to the many Boxers who are spectacular in obedience and agility. As each new dog sport is developed, some Boxer owners accept the challenge, and conquer and succeed.

But the Boxer abilities are not limited to athletic endeavors, their empathetic nature has led them to careers as guiding dogs and emotional-support dogs as well as therapy dogs.

And the protective nature of the breed is obvious, as Boxers excel in military service as well as police and guard service.

But how can the everyday household Boxer with his loving owner contribute to society?

Many years ago, we were unable to care for my father as his illness progressed. He was in a lovely care facility; however, something was missing in his life. I asked for permission to bring one of the Boxers to visit and was approved. Not only did it brighten Dad's spirits, but the regular Boxer visits became a patient favorite, and many of the residents awaited each visit. We soon had to schedule the visits in the community room and would occasionally bring a puppy or three for the residents to interact with. It always amazed me as my active show dogs and even the puppies adapted their enthusiasm with

the seniors and brought so much love to the residents. Perhaps this is an option your couch-potato Boxer might excel in? Most facilities welcome your visits—check out local facilities.

Each year, the American Boxer Club offers an award for the Unsung Boxer Hero. This award is open to any Boxer who has provided service to his community and served as an example of the diverse contributions a Boxer makes to mankind. For more information, contact Gail S Karwoski, Chairman, [surfdomboxers@gmail.com](mailto:surfdomboxers@gmail.com).

A list of the American Boxer Club Unsung Hero Award winners is available on the American Boxer Club website.

And the best news yet!

The American Boxer Club national specialty will be held this year! Plans are for a full week of Boxer activities, including two independent specialties, the national futurity, the national specialty, obedience, agility, the Top Twenty competition, agility, the awards banquet, and more.

Due to circumstances and conflicts, we are scheduled June 11–17, at the Marriott Indianapolis East, in Indianapolis, Indiana. Join us!

—Virginia Shames,  
[Arribatali@aol.com](mailto:Arribatali@aol.com)  
[American Boxer Club](https://www.americanboxerclub.com)

## Bullmastiffs

*Thanks to the Bullmastiff fanciers who have offered us advice and friendship over the years, as well as to the French Bulldog community and to our Clumber Spaniel friends who have shared and taught us so much. Thanks, too, to the dogs who have made our lives so much richer, as well as those to come.*

### BULLMASTIFFS AND FRENCHIES AND A CLUMBER, OH, MY!

So many breeds, so little time. No doubt this same thought occurs to many dog fanciers

frequently. Whether we are born into a breed, fall in love accidentally, or make a reasoned choice after research, Bullmastiff lovers are not alone in admiring other breeds, even as we recognize our breed as the right one for us. Or, at least one of the right ones.

When asked by fellow dog enthusiasts about our own animals, we find ourselves saying, “We are in Bullmastiffs” or “We have had Bullmastiffs for more than 25 years.” We breed, train, show, rescue, live with, and love Bullmastiffs, which involves all of the investments of emotion,



Bullmastiff

COURTESY LYNDA BEAM



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money, and time that are too numerous to mention. The return on those investments is priceless. They are our primary breed and, our ages and infirmities aside, we hope to own Bullmastiffs always. The longer we live with them, the more we come to see how well they fit into our lives. Or, is it we who have come to fit into theirs?

We can all agree that it is probably a combination of both. As much as we enjoy the loyalty, protection, and, yes, the humor that we have come to recognize as Bullmastiff traits, there is seldom a training class attended, a visit to a pet-supply store, or a trip to a dog show that doesn't involve us admiring another breed or two or three. Over the years, that admiration and the subsequent introductions to those dogs and their people have led to us acquiring a few French Bulldogs, one Clumber Spaniel, and even a small mixed-breed who found us. We know that ownership of multiple breeds is somewhat common among our community in the sport. While initially we were hesitant to add another breed, let alone a few, it has taught us so much, brought us so much enjoyment, and made us all too aware of the many other breeds we admire. Maybe someday ...

Life in what can best be described as a multiple-breed household, including the addition of a feline or two or three, can be

incredibly rich, if one has truly “gone to the dogs” in all the best ways. Our cupboards contain all sizes of stainless steel food bowls, from puppy to adult and including tilted ones for the Frenchies and those which keep out floppy, furry ears, for the Clumber. There are foods and supplements specific to one dog or another or to one breed or the other. The same is true for beds and crates in the house and the RV. We enjoy the variety of characteristics and personalities the dogs bring to us, and they also enjoy, learn from, and teach one another. Again, they have all fit into our lives, and we have fit into all of theirs.

We have learned that having more than one breed can broaden the dog world experience exponentially, not only by bringing wonderful dogs into our lives, but also because of the people who come with those dogs, their breeders and owners, and for the diverse activities different breeds enjoy and excel in performing, from agility and conformation to field trials and obedience and even barn hunts and tracking. Anyone with Bullmastiffs or any other dog who is considering a second breed, or even a third breed, should remember how much enrichment one breed brings, and just do the math!

—Lindy Whyte,

[Trumphe@comcast.net](mailto:Trumphe@comcast.net)

[American Bullmastiff Association](#)

## Chinooks

### HISTORY OF THE CHINOOK

Chinook history is a little like grandma's secret recipes. Bits are shared on written scraps of paper and in oral traditions, letters, interviews, and old publications. Wanderlust, adventure, and exploration are part of the magical mixture that helped create the Chinook breed.

The breed's founder, Arthur Treadwell Walden, was a Klondike Gold Rush adventurer, dog driver, and participant in the first Byrd Antarctic Expedition. He is also known as an author and developer of the Chinook sled dog breed.

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

Arthur Walden was born in 1871, the son of Episcopal minister Rev. Treadwell Walden and Elizabeth Leighton. Walden attended Shattuck Military School in Faribault, Minnesota, and then lived in Boston. He was not a fan of city living. After completing his education, he moved to his family's country home in Tamworth, New Hampshire. Once in New Hampshire, he became the farm man-

ager of Wonalancet, Kate Sleeper's 1,300-acre farm and inn. Sleeper was the daughter of prominent Bostonians Charles F. Sleeper and Zilpha Thomas.

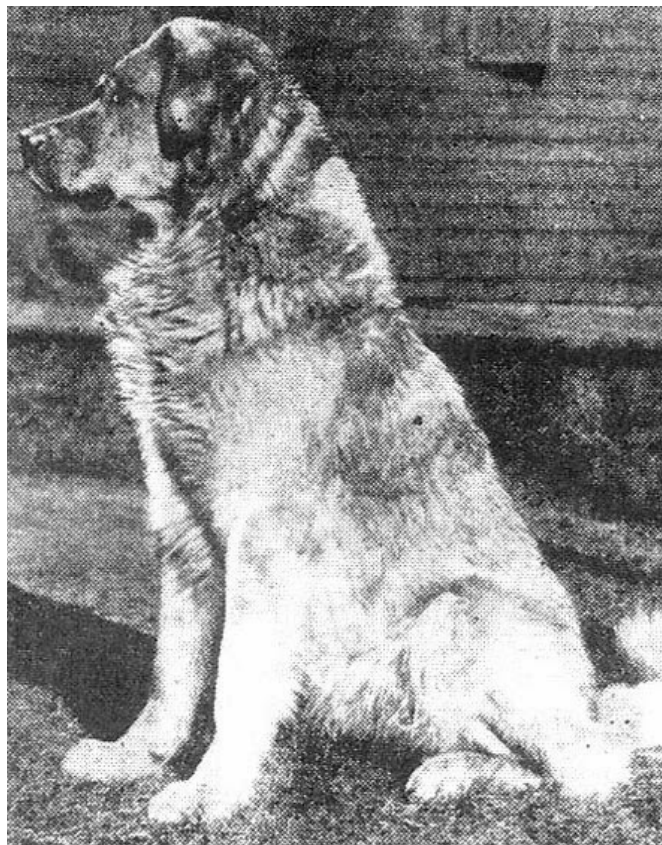
At 24, true to form, a restless Walden wanted more adventure, and he debated whether South America or Alaska would offer more. He flipped a coin; Alaska won. He headed north to Alaska in 1896—traveling up the Inside Passage, over the Chilkoot Pass, down the Yukon River through the Whitehorse Rapids,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

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

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



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Clockwise from above left: Kim, sire of Chinook, the foundation dog of the Chinook breed; Chinook's dam, Ningo; Polaris, grandsire of Ningo (Polaris was Admiral Peary's lead sled dog on his 1909 expedition to the North Pole); Chinook standing; portrait of Chinook on a cigarette card.



bination of strength, speed, endurance, and good-natured temperaments.

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

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

Walden first used Hootchinoo as his lead

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

Watch for our next column, where we explore the Chinook's New Hampshire connections.

—Kathleen Riley,  
[kathleenrileyphotography@gmail.com](mailto:kathleenrileyphotography@gmail.com)  
Chinook Club of America

## Doberman Pinschers

### MARKINGS—AN IMPORTANT ASPECT OF BREED TYPE

*Graceful, beautiful, powerful, elegant, confident—* these are among the adjectives that can describe the Doberman. In a dog park or a multibreed canine event, the breed is recognizable. Their physical demeanor and keen awareness of their surroundings are also part of what makes a Doberman a Doberman. In addition to their cropped ears and docked tail—part of their history and described in the AKC standard, their coat color—smooth-haired and short—with rust markings distinguish them from other medium-sized breeds.

COURTESY KATHLEEN RILEY // POLARIS: KATE KELLY/AMERICACOMESALIVE



## WORKING GROUP



Doberman Pinscher Ch. Rancho Dobe's Storm and puppies, circa 1952

The Doberman Pinscher comes in four allowed colors: black, red (brown in other countries), blue (like slate), and fawn (Isabella, a pale cream-brown or parchment). The standard describes markings as:

“Rust, sharply defined, appearing above each eye and on muzzle, throat and forechest, on all legs and feet, and below tail.” The thumbprint on their cheeks, the eyebrows, the leg markings, and the rust beneath their tail create an animal that is easily identified—from any angle in a 360-degree view.

Muddy markings where there is no clearly defined demarcation on the muzzle, small chest markings, and straw- or tan-colored markings have been present for the decades I have been involved in this breed. Recently, however, these seem to be more prevalent. Muddy muzzle markings on black dogs “run” into the coat color from the cheek to the nose, creating an ombré effect from rust to black. Large, “splashy” markings are also a deviation, as are cheek thumbprints not completed surrounded by coat color—where the muzzle markings are connected to the thumbprint.

Melanism, or a Doberman displaying the melanistic trait, is uncommon but has been seen on occasion. Caused by an increase in dark-pigmented melanin, it is believed to be genetic, caused by a recessive allele at a single locus. ([https://journals.plos.org/plosone/](https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0006435)

[article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0006435](https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0006435)) It often presents itself in Dobermans as an all-black dog; there may be a hint of rust in bright light, but there are no noticeable markings. The breed also displays, although it is not mentioned in the standard, small flecks of coat color above each nail, as if painted using a nail-polish brush. Something that has become more common are large markings on the toes, wider than the nail, and “brushed” up each digit to the top of the (well arched, compact and cat-like) foot. Puppies can display what looks like a wooden-spoon shaped extension of their coat color—with the spoon handle on the leg—going down the front of their forelegs and ending with the “spoon” on top of their foot. Usually these markings fade as the puppy grows, but on occasion they remain into adulthood.

Markings are generally not at the top of most breeders’ lists of attributes when selecting a breeding pair, but they should not be ignored. While there are many traits to be considered—temperament, full mouth, health test results, pedigree—coat color and markings are integral to what makes a Doberman unique. Imagine looking at a Doberman head without the eyebrows, and rust muzzle, or the chest without the two triangular rust markings, or their two-toned legs. Each description of the parts in our standard combine to create the Doberman, and each is important to the



## WORKING GROUP

whole.

The next time you are at a show, check out the color, shape, and placement of the Dobermans' markings. It might be an eye-opening experience!

— Leslie Hall,

[pajant@aol.com](mailto:pajant@aol.com)

Doberman Pinscher Club of America

## Dogues de Bordeaux

### THE ATHLETIC DOGUE DE BORDEAUX

Several years ago, the Dogue de Bordeaux's athletic capabilities and importance to the breed's conformation were covered in a previous breed column. However, the breed's athletic capabilities are so crucial to its functional capabilities that it is time to revisit the subject in some detail and reemphasize its importance.

The Dogue de Bordeaux's roots trace to his roles as a guardian, gladiator, and hunter. However, as a working breed, he has proved versatile at many tasks, including draught work, weight pulling, agility, obedience, and even lure coursing! In order to be capable of these activities, athleticism would be a prerequisite, and it cannot be emphasized enough in stressing how important it is to the Dogue de Bordeaux's conformation to the AKC breed standard.

A good portion of the breed's current

and recently revised AKC standard defines the proper attributes of the running gear that facilitate the breed's athletic capabilities: Powerful legs with strong bone structure, shoulders having "powerful prominent muscles," slant of shoulder blade being "45 degrees to the horizontal," thighs being "well developed and thick," and angle of hock joint "moderately open" all denote features that contribute to "good drive from the hindquarters, and good extension of the forelegs, especially at the trot, which is the preferred gait. He is capable of great speed over short distances by bolting along close to the ground" —AKC breed standard for the Dogue de Bordeaux

A literature review offers several references attesting to the Dogue de Bordeaux's athleticism. French Professor Raymond Triquet, who established the modern-day FCI Dogue de Bordeaux standard and by his description is "the rescuer of the breed," wrote in his book, *The Saga of the Dogue de Bordeaux*, "The Dogue de Bordeaux is also able to spring very quickly, close to the ground, for instance, to catch a sparrow, or, with forelegs wide, to play and change direction at speed." Referencing judging he has done in Europe and Asia, Triquet further states, "I drew the attention of the veterinarian in charge to the mobility of the shoulder, which enables the front leg to reach for the



ground far ahead, while the head is lowered in direct line with the topline, which inclines forward slightly. That this beautiful gait is not seen more often in the ring is because, in general, our dogues aren't well trained, and their handlers even less so, and because the rings are too small. You have to go to Moscow to see those immense rings. In the hall with 60 Dogues de Bordeaux, I too had all the space required to judge their movement."

World-renowned British author Colonel David Hancock, M.B.E., was a professional soldier in the British Army. While assigned to 22 countries, he devoted his free time to studying their dogs and ancestries. Hancock developed a photo/image library of over 5,000



*The Dogue de Bordeaux must be supple, having agile movement with good reach from the forelegs and powerful drive from the hindquarters.*

depictions (Charwynne Dog Features) used by national and international magazines and film companies. As an author, advisor, judge, and researcher, he has devoted over 50 years to studying dogs. Col. Hancock has several recognitions from the Dog Writer's Association of America among the many tributes to his works.

In his book, *The Mastiffs: The Big Game Hunters*, Col. Hancock makes the case that mastiffs, called "powerful heavy hounds, were invaluable in times when, before the invention of firearms, man needed to catch and kill game." He goes on to state, "Scenthounds could track, sighthounds could chase, terriers could unearth, and setting dogs could indicate

COURTESY DBSA



## WORKING GROUP

unseen game. But when big game was hunted, powerful fearless dogs were needed to risk their lives so that the quarry was either slowed down, pulled down, or “held” for the hunters. Just as in warfare, infantry are needed to close with the enemy and destroy him, so too in the hunting field are strong-jawed, powerfully muscled, awesomely determined dogs needed to get hold of the quarry. This was the task of the mastiffs, with their enormous physical strength, immense courage, considerable fortitude, and the remarkable gripping capabilities afforded by their mighty broad mouths.”

The common denominator is that a Dogue de Bordeaux needed to function as a working breed in his historical utilization as a guardian, gladiator, and hunter. This required that the breed be athletic; in most cases, it was the difference between life and death. The breed must be supple, have agile movement with good reach from the forelegs and powerful drive from the hindquarters. This athleticism is no less important for the breed’s present activities in conformation, obedience, agility, draught work, weight pulling, lure coursing, or just a pleasant stroll with its human companions in various settings. During one of my email exchanges with Col. Hancock, he provided an excellent summary of the Dogue de Bordeaux’s athleticism and functional attributes.

*“Your breed has a past as a hunting mastiff in the*

*stag and boar hunt, as a seizer of giant valour and immense value in the hunting down of perhaps the most ferocious quarry pursued by dogs. The blend of power, athleticism, reckless bravery and anatomical soundness in the breed just has to be acknowledged.”*—Colonel David Hancock, M.B.E.

—Victor C. Smith, AKC Liaison, Chair,  
Judges Education Committee,  
[v102071@inreach.com](mailto:v102071@inreach.com)

[Dogue de Bordeaux Society of America](#)

## German Pinschers

### WHEN YOU FINALLY GET THAT PUPPY

I wrote a column for the October 2021 *AKC GAZETTE* titled “Thinking About Puppies.” Now, here we are in April 2022 with another column about puppies. Why? Because I’m no longer thinking about puppies—I have one. She’s a German Pinscher (of course). She’s currently 6 months old. And I wanted to share some of the things I’ve discovered along the way.

There’s a certain freedom to thinking about a puppy in the abstract that disappears once that puppy is actually living in your house. In the first few months, a puppy needs to go outside frequently, learn some basic household rules, and adjust to the separation from his or her littermates. In those same few months, you begin to learn about your puppy’s personal-



DAVID WOO AKC



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ity, how the two of you fit together, and what adjustments might be required of both of you. For at least a month or two, you'll be getting up in the middle of the night, getting rained on, cleaning up accidents, and puppy-proofing the house you thought you had already puppy-proofed.

One of the lovely parts of thinking about a puppy includes the hopes and dreams you have for him or her. Part of actually owning a puppy is figuring out how that specific puppy fits with those hopes and dreams, with your training style and with the home—your home—it's now living in.

If you bring home a German Pinscher puppy, you can expect several things. Since, of course, you've chosen a German Pinscher from a knowledgeable breeder, you can expect him or her to largely conform to the German Pinscher standard—specifically, “a medium size, short coated dog, elegant in appearance with a strong square build and moderate body structure ...”

In my experience, German Pinscher puppies are not only smart and creative, but also agile and quick. They can find the gap in your fence, the door you forgot to close, the morning mail you left too close to the edge of the table. They are also quick learners of things you both did and didn't intend to teach them.

The challenges of a puppy depend on you

and on your circumstances. For me, it's been eight years since my last puppy, and I'm now retired. Though I'm home more and have a more flexible schedule, I still want my puppy to be crate trained and to have a regular feeding and exercise schedule, and I want to have time away, for both her sake and mine. If you work full-time, if you don't have other dogs, if you have children, or if you've never had a puppy before, you'll have different challenges than I do.

In general, your breeder is an excellent source of information about your puppy and issues you might be struggling with. The German Pinscher website (listed below) is another resource. As is [akc.org](http://akc.org). Most locations will have in-person classes specifically geared toward puppies, and there are online resources as well. While puppies can have short attention spans, they're learning all the time. Puppies can follow their nose, and it's a great time to introduce tracking and scent work. They can learn simple commands, tricks, and how much fun their big new world can be.

The most important thing to remember is that puppies aren't puppies forever. They can be work and a big change to your routine, but they are also a joy—they are funny and entertaining, and watching them learn about the world and you is worth the work, and worth enjoying.

—Deb Coates,  
[charmingbillie@gmail.com](mailto:charmingbillie@gmail.com)  
German Pinscher Club of America

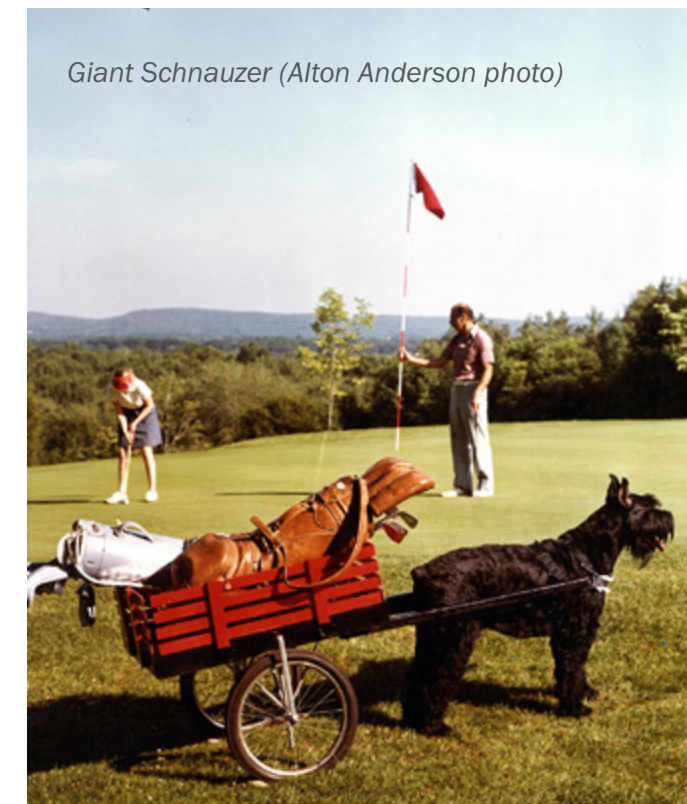
## Giant Schnauzers

### TRAINING NEEDS

The following is a suggested outline of training plans for new owners of a Giant Schnauzer puppy, including socializing, training classes, providing guidance, and preventing possession problems.

Giant Schnauzers are a breed that doesn't self-socialize and often appears to regress during adolescence. Rewarding good socializing is focusing on relaxed behavior. In other words, focus on when the pup is behaving correctly by using a combination of praise, opportunity to explore a new thing (such as new area, person, or friendly dog), and low-value treats (to keep arousal down, letting the pup fully process the social event). Rewarding correct social decisions should stay a priority through adolescence, which can last until 2 to 4 years old. Focus on quality interactions, progressing at the pup's individual pace.

Arousal can occur while socializing, and it is important to be aware when this occurs so that the pup does not practice this behavior. An example is a puppy who jumps up on strangers. The pup is too excited to offer the



Giant Schnauzer (Alton Anderson photo)

behavior we want. I have found it is better to change something to allow the pup to be successful, by either reducing the arousal of the environment (say meeting one neutral person, instead of a crowd of people cooing over the pup) and/or working at a farther distance.

Ideally we want dogs who are neutral to the environment, but Giant Schnauzers tend to move in that direction when they go through adolescence. Continuous, quality socialization will make sure the “backsliding” in adolescence is only minor.

Socializing can be combined with a little engagement work—I say a little focus work,



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as pups need lots of time to just hang out and process things. Control Unleashed, the puppy program by Leslie McDevitt has lots of focus/engagement information.

The first class to attend is puppy class. Chapter 21 of the film *Puppy Culture* goes into what to look for in a puppy class.

After puppy classes, I recommend classes that include engagement and focus work. If there are no local classes on this subject, online sources such as The [Fenzi Academy](#) can supplement local classes.

In addition to working around other dogs and people, in-person classes usually have down time, which is perfect for working on engagement/focus work and mat/crate work (relaxing while other dogs are doing stuff). Training beyond puppy classes is important, as Giants can be powerful dogs.

Providing structure and guidance to puppies is essential. Be aware that some Giants will be actively defensive to restraint or corrections. Practice the collar-grab game, where they get cookies after you grasp their collar, and keep corrections in the form of consequences, rather than harsh responses from you. In addition, this approach avoids teaching dogs to handle conflict with aggression. Though better still, set the pup up for success, reducing their mistakes. An example of this type of training is if a pup starts biting after 20 min-

utes of play, the consequence would be to end the play session and confine the pup to help him settle down—but better yet stop the play session at 15 minutes and quietly praise and stroke the puppy for transiting into a relaxed emotional state. Of course they still might need a nap, as puppies require lots of sleep.

This brings me to another tough area for Giant Schnauzers: possession (food and items). This behavior is a normal thing for dogs, but with some guidance a dog can develop an emotional response to you taking things that is not a conflict for them. I recommend Chapter 13 of the film *Puppy Culture* to understanding how to play the “trade game.” This skill is critical for living with a Giant Schnauzer. —Bridgette Tuerler, 2016

[Giant Schnauzer Club of America](#)

## Great Danes

*The following was written in 2010 by Paddy Magnuson, who served as this publication's columnist for Great Danes for more than 40 years.*

### THE IMPORTANCE OF EARLY SOCIALIZATION

When one is a Great Dane breeder-owner-handler and trains and participates in performance events, one becomes aware of the great intelligence and athleticism of our Danes, their powerful structure, and their



majestic elegance—the combination earning the breed its stature as “The Apollo of Dogdom.”

I have lived with this breed for most of my life. I got my first puppy when I was about 7 years old, and I was told he was my responsibility from the moment I took him in my arms and brought him home. What a heavenly day that was! We were inseparable. He traveled on tram-cars, climbing the open metal staircase to the upper deck. He followed us as we went horseback riding and bicycling. He resided courtside as we played racquet sports. He had a seat on the train when we traveled to shows

in Dublin, Ireland. Wherever we were, I can remember the kids gathering round us and my poor, ever-patient Mum trying to keep order. Those were the days when people and dogs enjoyed freedoms that must sound so foreign to some today.

When both parents pass the tests of temperament, health and longevity, and sound physical structure, and the progeny from such is given the opportunity to develop to their full potential, the Great Dane's versatility is unlimited. However, such is only obtained when the puppies are handled from birth and are socialized from 5–6 weeks of age by rides



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in the car and outings such as visits with children at the local high school. Mine visit school at 5–6 weeks, and they love it. They are very easily lead-broken at this age—they automatically follow along, and their training continues gradually, without them being aware. At such a young age, they are learning mostly from body language, and the lead is a guide.

Motivational training takes place a little later, when conformation training begins with stacking, baiting, and gaiting. This I begin in earnest at 3 months. By 4 months the puppy is looking forward to the workouts. He loves the baiting! And his socialization has continued daily, with trips to the store or mall and mingling with other puppies at puppy school. Nothing is forced.

A well-socialized puppy doesn't develop idiosyncrasies of temperament, and fear or aggressiveness does not surface when pups are given the opportunity to develop mentally, eliminating fear of "unknowns."

Performance events are also introduced at a young age. Simple obedience exercises are started in puppy school, as well as the agility exercises. With all jumps and obstacles set very low, they learn the routine, and they have fun running through the tunnels! (This is not to say that an older Dane is untrainable. There are many older Danes who tackle the agility course to add to their titles!)

Bloodlines are important, as they propagate the level temperament and sound structure required. Such can be wasted, however, if the puppy is not socialized from an early age. It will never obtain full security and stability unless given the opportunity to do so through loving, caring, hands-on guidance as it matures.

Breeders take years developing the bloodlines of champions. Appreciate how fortunate you to have acquired a beautiful, well-bred puppy. Put your heart and soul into helping him into a stable, mature dog who can strut into a show ring, speed through an agility course, climb a mountain, be a loving family dog, and fearlessly perform whatever is asked. The potential is there; it is up to you to develop it. —P.M.

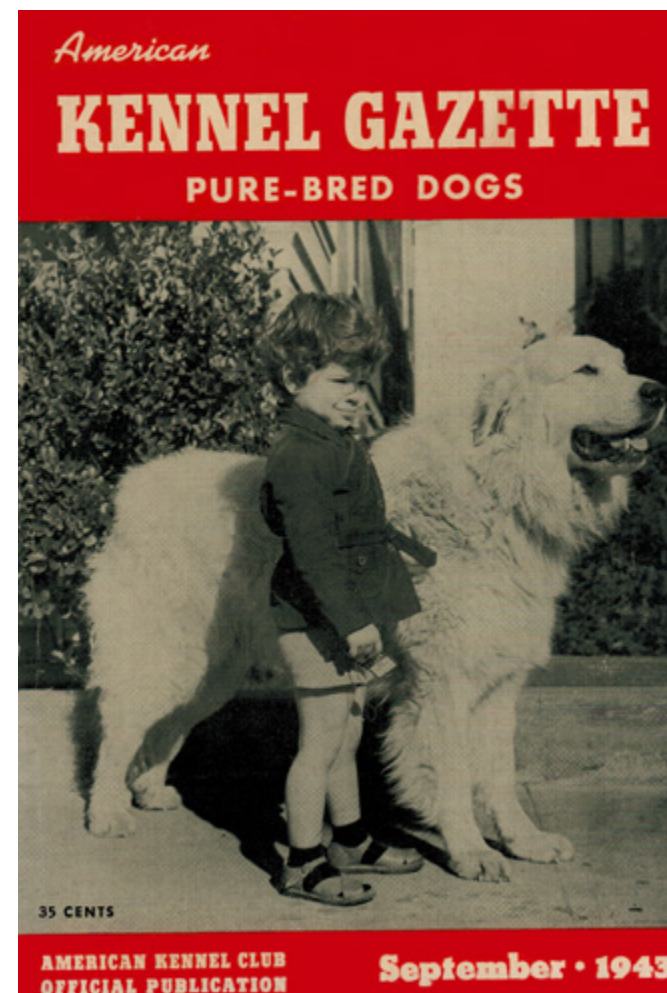
[Great Dane Club of America](#)

## Great Pyrenees

### THE NATURE OF THE BEAST

A Great Pyrenees, especially in glorious winter coat and groomed, is a jaw-dropping, astoundingly beautiful dog. Walking downtown with one or two Pyrs on lead will draw a crowd, everyone anxious to touch or pet them.

Of course, my dogs know and expect to be petted. They'll move in front of people to



Great Pyrenees, September 1943

stop them and seem surprised when someone doesn't pause and pet, hug, or kiss them.

While the dogs are being admired, I expect the same set of questions.

"What kind of dog is this?"

"How much do they eat?"

"What is their personality like?"

The last question allows me to share the nature of the beast. A Great Pyrenees is like a

fussy little old lady with a lot of doilies. (Please note, I'm not disparaging little old ladies. I am one. Well, maybe not the "little" part ...)

What do I mean by this? A Pyr needs to have order. A place for everything and everything in its place. Sheep in the field? *Check*. Children in the yard? *Check*. Coyotes at a distance? *Check*. As long as everything is in the right place, it's time for a nap. When things get out of order, it's time to bark. They are the least aggressive of all the guarding breeds, using their voice, not their teeth, to announce something is wrong, different, or in need of being challenged. And they are great tattle-tales. Someone gets loose from their kennel or out of the yard, they'll let the world know of the escape.

We once placed an adult dog on a small dairy farm. The dog was in charge of keeping the calves in the field and general patrol duties. Over time, the fencing around that pasture developed great gaps. Not one cow or calf was allowed to leave. Cows in the pasture? *Check*.

People would arrive daily to pick up their gallon of milk from the farm. That was fine with the Pyr, because that was the order they expected. Ah, but what if someone came after their milk and the owners weren't around? The strangers could get out of their car and wander around the farm at will. Not a problem. Nothing is out of order. But what if the



## WORKING GROUP

stranger picked up his milk? Without the owners approving this change, the Pyr would stand in the door and bark. *Put. The. Milk. Back.* As soon as the gallon of milk was returned to the refrigeration unit, the barking would stop and they could leave.

Pyr were developed to be independent thinkers. They figure out their role in the family, farm, or ranch and will protect their humans and the critters in their care. Performing in obedience, rally, or agility isn't really most Pyrs' cup of tea. What's the point? Nothing's out of order. They may show just how pointless these silly games are by doing them as slowly as possible. Think molasses on a cold day.

The 1935 Standard of Perfection best summed up the breed like this:

"... He is as serious in play as he is in work, adapting and molding himself to the moods, desires, and even the very life of his human companions, through fair weather and foul, through leisure hours fraught with danger, responsibility, and extreme exertion; he is the exemplification of gentleness and docility of those he knows, of faithfulness and devotion for his master even to the point of self-sacrifice; and of courage in the protection of flock placed in his care and of the ones he loves."

—Carrie Stuart Parks, 2017

[Great Pyrenees Club of America](#)

## Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs

### MARKINGS: ICING ON THE CAKE

I recently heard a breeder exclaim that their newborn litter was "all show quality" because they all had white tail-tips. I may be a little slow, but what could possibly make a newborn litter "all show quality" other than markings? According to our breed standard markings are considered cosmetic and *"should be considered of less importance than other aspects of type which directly affect working ability."*

This being said, why is such a premium put on markings by breeders and judges alike? I believe that it is because markings are the easiest thing to learn. Everyone has their "favorite" markings. Some like a wide blaze, some like a narrow blaze; both are correct. White patches or white collars are acceptable.

Very shortly after the GSMD was accepted by the AKC, I was showing to a judge whom I greatly admired. She proceeded to give my puppy Winners Dog, my Open bitch Winners Bitch, and my special BOS. I was bursting with pride and thinking, "She sure knows nice type and movement and appreciates a good topline" as I was waiting for my win pictures. When she made the comment "Your dogs were the only ones with the correct Swiss cross on their chests," I was totally deflated. She was judging something purely cosmetic that I paid little to no attention to, since it was not related



Greater Swiss Mountain Dog

to form or function.

Although this type of comment occurs much more frequently than it should in the breed ring and among breeders, serious students of the breed should heed the description of color in the standard. From the description it is obvious that the standard encompasses a large variety of correct markings. The standard also clearly states that markings are cosmetic and

are less important than temperament, type, and structure.

This is not to say that markings are of no importance at all. This is a *"striking, tri-colored"* breed. The black topcoat with rich rust and white markings is certainly one of the hallmarks of the breed and an essence of breed type. Without the typical markings a GSMD would become a fairly generic black or brown dog.

It is difficult to grade puppies who have a variety of acceptable, yet perhaps not perfect markings. Breeders must heed the standard and look at structure, temperament, and type first. The perfectly marked puppy with straight shoulders and hyper-extended hocks is not a show puppy. The best puppy may be one with asymmetrical facial markings or without a white tail-tip. It is up to breeders to find the best puppies first and look at markings after that.

The same is true for judging the GSMD in the show ring. Judges should learn to look at the whole dog first. If they find two dogs who are equal in type, structure, movement, and temperament, then the decision can be made on markings. Perfect markings on a lovely specimen are icing on the cake, but they should never be mistaken for the cake. — Catherine Cooper, 2016

[Greater Swiss Mountain Dog Club of America](#)



## WORKING GROUP

### Komondorok

#### YOUR KOMONDOR IN PUBLIC

There is something truly special about owning a rare and unusual breed. Komondors are this kind of breed. People react to our dogs in a unique way. They question the coat, the size, and the courageous demeanor of the breed. Our dogs themselves react to the world in their distinctive way with their calm yet decisive presence; their ownership of the area in which they stand. All livestock-guarding breeds have some of these characteristics, each tuned to their tasks, the threats they faced and the people they lived with.

When we take our dogs into public settings, especially the dog show setting, we ask them to deal with an unusual set of circumstances. We have to deal with unusual circumstances also. When someone asks us seemingly silly questions like “Is that his hair?” “Do the cords hurt him?” or “Is that real?” we must understand that their interest is real and a good thing. The oddity of the Komondor breed and their inexperience with them makes it hard to ask a more sensible question. So, we answer as best we can, but we must remember going into the public with an oddity will provoke many questions and that educating is part of everyone’s role at a dog show.

One of the circumstances our dogs deal with



Komondor

at dog shows is strangers who want to touch them and other dogs who they must allow to be near them. When I was a new judge, my ring was the place for a failure of such tolerance. Two adult male Koms were in different classes. Each was perfectly well behaved in their classes. Luckily, for what was about to happen, each was held by a capable and strong handler. When they were brought back in together for winners, in one glance each decided there was no room on our planet (and certainly not in the ring) for the other. They roared and fussed but the handlers controlled

them and actually, we all thought it was funny. I put them in opposite corners awarded Winners and Reserve and we called it a day. Was there a lesson from this? I guess that Komondors will be Komondors, and sometimes that is just the way it is.

To balance that story, I have two others which characterize how unique our breed can act well in unexpected public situations, one with a dog, one with a person. Twenty-plus years ago I was approaching a ring entrance with a young champion male (maybe 3 years old). He had finished his championship quickly, so he didn’t have much show experience. At a pinch point where chairs blocked most of the way, I was walking him on a gently tight but short lead. A Boxer leapt out at him and grabbed a mouthful of hair on his neck and shoulders. The Boxer’s owner shouted and pulled her dog back, so between that and the mouthful of hair, there was no physical damage. The Komondor just stopped and stared at the offending dog and held his stand. As the owner of the dog apologized, I suggested to her that my dog was fine, but that she needed to attend to her dog. He was next to her, rolled over on his back, and peeing submissively up in the air. My Kom was standing still and was

telling the Boxer (in dog body-language) that he’d better submit, because otherwise he was going to die. After a moment I told my dog he was a good boy, and he trotted away and showed that day as if nothing had happened.

Another time, with a different male, we were at ringside waiting our turn. A child, 2 or so years old, spotted this big dog with his unique coat and grabbed him around the neck, shrieking for joy as he did it. I did not see this coming, and the shriek was my first hint of the event. His mother grabbed him and dragged him off. My Komondor had not moved a muscle. Typical of the breed, he had not startled; he just stood his ground. Somewhere in his dog brain he recognized that this was a child and therefore not a threat to him or me. He got a big hug and a treat for his exceptional behavior.

Practically no other breed would have handled these events without reacting (perhaps badly), and practically no other breed would have continued with their days as if nothing unusual had happened. That’s Komondors. Their physical presence and coat are only part of what makes them unusual. It is their heritage as a fearless protector and their brains that set this breed apart.

—Eric Liebes,  
[ericliebes@earthlink.net](mailto:ericliebes@earthlink.net)  
[Komondor Club of America](#)

COURTESY ERIC LIEBES



## WORKING GROUP

### Kuvasz

The following is provided by the Kuvasz Club of America judges' education committee.

#### KUVASZ NECK, TOPLINE, AND BODY

The breed's AKC standard says the following regarding "Neck, Topline, and Body":

"Muscular, without dewlap, medium length, arched at the crest. Back is of medium length, straight, firm and quite broad. The loin is short, muscular and tight. The croup well muscled, slightly sloping. Forechest is well developed. When viewed from the side, the forechest protrudes slightly in front of the shoulders. Chest deep with long, well-sprung ribs reach almost to the elbows. The brisket is deep, well developed and runs parallel to the ground. The stomach is well tucked up. Tail—carried low, natural length reaching at least to the hocks. In repose it hangs down resting on the body, the end but slightly lifted. In state of excitement, the tail may be elevated to the level of the loin, the tip slightly curved up. Ideally there should not be much difference in the carriage of the tail in state of excitement or in repose."

The saying that form follows function could not be more true in Kuvasz structure. The medium-length, muscular neck has a purpose. It is long enough that the Kuvasz is agile

with supreme maneuverability and muscular to minimize injury. The standard mentions "dewlap," which is loose skin hanging under the neck. In people we call it a double chin. Breeds that commonly have a dewlap include Bloodhounds and Bulldogs, for example. A dog who may find himself in a confrontation with a predator would be at a decided disadvantage with a dewlap!

The neck should blend well into the shoulders and topline. The withers are a muscular area between the shoulder blades and aid the neck to blend well into the topline.

A frequent fault seen today are fronts set too far forward. The necks of these dogs have a more abrupt angle into the shoulders and topline and lack forechest.

We will discuss forequarters in greater depth in a future article, but this section mentions, "The forechest is well developed." When viewed from the side, the forechest protrudes slightly in front of the shoulders. What is that? It is the prosternum! The prosternum is the most forward projection of the ribcage that forms the front of the forechest. Most importantly, it is not hair! It is a bony protrusion straight down from under the chin and is the front of the forechest. One should be able to get their fingers on it.

The topline should be well muscled, straight, and broad. A common fault are dogs that are

too narrow, when the standard dictates the chest is deep with well-sprung ribs. Narrow-chested dogs typically have V-shaped chests. Deep, narrow-chested dogs are more prone to bloat than dogs with broad, well-sprung chests and lack the necessary lung capacity for endurance.

The croup is a reflection of the angle of the pelvis. The slightly sloping croup is also fundamental in the function and purpose of the Kuvasz gait. It affords the dog the ability to "cover rough terrain for long periods of time." A steep croup puts a dog at a decided disadvantage regarding endurance. Assuming the angles match front to rear, a dog with a steep croup may have a decent side-gait but would lack endurance. A dog with a steeper croup who is also longer bodied may have a decent side-gait but still be incorrect. A steep croup would also be less muscled than a slightly sloping croup. Muscle mass equals strength and stamina for forward momentum. It would also put more strain from the hips on down to the hocks.

The opposite problem can be a flat croup. A flat croup can impede the rear feet from moving far enough forward. A dog with a flat croup, balanced front to rear, could potentially be a really fast sprinter, but we still have the issue of endurance. It is difficult to determine endurance in a show ring. Judges have to feel

for the proper structure under all of the hair.

Tail carriage is an extension of the croup and should be set on low. The tail should reach at least to the hock joint. Whether standing or moving the tail should ideally continue the beautiful line of the neck through the topline, through the croup, and onto the tail. It is a fact that the happier they are, the higher their tails are carried. A timid dog carrying his tail low should not be rewarded for tail carriage without being penalized for temperament.

All of this describes the perfect Kuvasz. No perfect dog exists, and any deviations from the ideal should be faulted to the extent of the deviation.

—KCA Judges' Education Committee  
[Kuvasz Club of America](#)

### Leonbergers

#### SEA DOGS, AHoy!

A whole ballroom full of Leonbergers was such a soothing sight for the soul! In 2020, the COVID pandemic caused the Leonberger Club of America to make the difficult, but important, decision to cancel our national specialty that year. We were fortunate enough to be able to secure the same wonderful site for the 2021 national, and we all settled in to wait out the pandemic. But it was not to be! The rise of a new variant and another



## WORKING GROUP

wave in cases forced our hand a second time, and the 2021 national was also cancelled. Finally, this March we were able to hold our 35th LCA National Specialty, lovingly dubbed Sea Dogs.

Thanks to the continued efforts of the specialty committee, and the devoted energies from so many wonderful volunteers, the specialty was a success. The setting was The Founders Inn and Spa, in Virginia Beach, Virginia, which was filled to the brim with Leonbergers for almost a week! With events and activities every day for Leos of all ages and their devoted humans, from newbies to longtime owners, there was never a dull moment. There were obedience and rally trials, and workshops on scent work and draft. There were two draft tests, a scent work trial, CGC and novice trick dog testing, and a handling clinic. There was a seminar on balance in the Leonberger, a newbie welcome and mentor social, and a fabulous raffle that spanned for tables and tables! As the week rolled on, there was also a grooming seminar, puppy and veteran sweepstakes, and a health clinic conducting blood draws for research.

The LCA held our “club show” on Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday, complete with written evaluations. Then on Saturday we held our AKC conformation show. Many thanks to our judges, and to all who made the



journey to attend.

Among the most popular events at our nationals are the parades! The parades were held in the main ballroom, in the main show ring, and they attracted a great audience. The rescue parade featured dogs from rescue who have found their forever homes. The therapy

parade featured all the dogs who do therapy work, including how many visits and what type of therapy they participate in. The veteran parade allowed each veteran to make their way around the ring while their story was told. And though there was not a dry eye in the place by that time, then came the draft costume contest! Teams that took the time to decorate their carts, their dogs, and themselves, came into the ring, much to the delight of everyone. Such clever ideas, each one unique and entertaining. Ballots were distributed so the audience could vote on which team won for a variety of categories. All of them were winners in our eyes, though.

In among all of this flurry of activity, there was the LCA Board meeting, the general membership meeting, a judges' education seminar, the Top 20 judging and dinner, the awards banquet, junior handling, and more obedience and rally trials. Wrapping it all up was the judges' review on Sunday morning, followed by a tour of the Virginia Beach Aquarium.

This type of marathon adventure requires countless hours of preparation and coordination and planning by many volunteers. The two-year delay due to COVID complicated things twice in a row and required a whole new level of flexibility on the part of those volunteers and the staff at The Founders Inn and

Spa. It was worth every minute of preparation. Thank you all so much for all that you do.

Details on all the winners, new titleholders, and judges for all the events can be found on the LCA website <https://www.leonbergerclubofamerica.info> and on the LCA's Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/LeoClubOfAmerica/>, along with lots and lots of photos.

—Shannon White,  
[oceanleonbergers@gmail.com](mailto:oceanleonbergers@gmail.com)  
Leonberger Club of America

## Neapolitan Mastiffs

### AN ITALIAN EXPERT SPEAKS ABOUT THE BREED

#### PART TWO

*This is part 2 of a transcription of a lecture given by Italian FCI judge and breed expert Arch. Giuseppe Alessandra after the 1997 National Specialty.*

“The neck must be extremely powerful and very noble. It cannot be straight, because if the neck is straight, then the shoulder also becomes straight. It should come out from the withers with a nice arc up to the back of the head.

“The chest must be very broad, and never narrow or slab-sided. The shoulders must have an angle of about 70 degrees. The depth of the chest must be more than half of the height of the dog. The front legs must look like two columns. The feet must be compact, as compact



## WORKING GROUP



Neapolitan Mastiff  
puppies

as you can get them. And the pastern cannot be too weak—it cannot have a very sharp angle.

“Topline as straight as possible. Again, it is wide and powerful. And the croup must be a continuation of the topline, slightly inclined. The tail must be attached, in a continuous line from the croup. The tail could be held slightly over the topline, never straight up like a pointer.

“The rear end must be extremely powerful.

The rear end must be powerful to propel a mastiff of that size. It must never be too much of an angle; if it had too much of an angle, it would be difficult to support that kind of weight.

“The ears can be cropped or uncropped. If they are cropped, they must be very short and form a small triangle that ideally lies on top of the head. If they are uncropped, they should not be too long; they should come

down parallel to the side of the face.

“The coat must be short, and the length must be uniform on all parts of the body. The colors are black, gray, and lead, also mahogany or tawny. They can have some slight brindle. It could have a small white spot on the chest—not very wide, not very big. And it could have white on the feet, but it should not extend over the toes. There should never be a white spot on the head; that is a disqualification.

“The skin must be thick and abundant throughout the entire body. It must also display the volume of the muscles and show enormous power in the neck, the shoulders, the kidneys, and the rear end. From 65 to 76 centimeters height for the male, from 60 to 68 centimeters for the female. You could tolerate 2 or 3 centimeters on the plus or the minus side, but it had better be on the plus side.

“The length of the body is about 10 percent more than the height at the withers. Personally, I prefer a dog that is slightly longer, rather than like a square. The length of the body, the angle of the shoulder, and the type of angle of the posterior gives, in the Neapolitan Mastiff, the typical movement, motion, which is a step that is sort of a glide, that makes it very similar to the motion of a lion. It is incredible to see how when he paces—he moves like a bear. And when he trots, he moves like a lion, even down to

the movement of the shoulders, and a little pigeon-toed. The dog does not gallop very often, but when he does, he looks like one of the large felines. The movement is another of the very important characteristics of the breed.

“The last of the characteristics of this breed is the temperament. It should never be uselessly aggressive. If the Neapolitan Mastiff is by himself, very rarely will he bark. It must be conscious of its own strength, which must be used only when necessary. So my advice is to never have dogs that are too aggressive, and get out of the ring dogs that show any aggressiveness. Excessive aggressiveness is the worst advertisement for our breed. Because when a Neapolitan Mastiff is really aggressive, it is very difficult to control. I repeat this all over the world.

“This is a dog that is to guard property and the people who are on the property. It is not a defense dog, not an attack dog. There are other dogs bred for those purposes. We should never get involved in temperament tests, because if you test a Neapolitan Mastiff, it must be at home, where the dog lives, because that’s where he works, that is what he must be protecting.”

—Margaret R. (Peggy) Wolfe,  
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[United States Neapolitan Mastiff Club](#)



## WORKING GROUP

### Newfoundlands

#### CLYDESDALES, NOT THOROUGHBREDS

A well-respected longtime Newfoundland breeder, long retired from active breeding and now an AKC judge, once told me that the Newfoundland should be “the Clydesdale of the dog world.”

I am sure that everyone is familiar with the Budweiser Clydesdale teams. Who hasn’t admired their beauty, elegance, stable temperament, and sturdy build, and they effortlessly pull the beer wagon?

And who hasn’t appreciated the Sport of Kings—Thoroughbred horse racing—and the horses’ sleek, smooth lines as they warm up on the track with barely contained enthusiasm and high energy? They are horses bred for speed and a high competitive drive for their race for the finish line.

What does this have to do with Newfoundlands? More than you might think.

Newfoundlands are working dogs. They are a draft breed developed to pull wagons and carts, like the Clydesdales. A breed developed to swim in the Atlantic Ocean in the worst of weather and waves. A strong dog with heavy build, strong muscles, waterproof coat, and structurally put together for economy and efficiency of motion. A dog with a stable, friendly temperament, calm with a wagging tail.

Contrast this with some of the dogs we cur-



rently see in the ring. The concept of “reach and drive” seems to have become the be-all and end-all—which is not a totally bad thing, but not at the expense of the dog’s structure. Striving for better side gait has helped to improve fronts and some rears. However, some breeders—and I daresay, some judges—misunderstand reach and drive, and they look for and reward a dog with the “highest kick” in the rear. People see this and want to have even more. Now croups are flattening, and

changes are occurring. Breeding for Newfs with a tremendous kick will also result in a dog who can’t reach underneath himself to cover ground efficiently. The dog looks flashy going around, but he doesn’t cover much ground with each stride and has to work twice as hard as a dog with an efficient stride and who reaches well underneath himself to cover ground.

Anyone who has spent any time watching and working Newfoundlands in draft and

water work has probably seen a dog who could not pull a cart up a hill, or who had to have a life vest in order to swim because of his structure.

Breeders and judges are cautioned to guard against rewarding the extreme of reach and drive and to instead reward a dog that moves efficiently, covering good ground with each stride. I love a nice, open side gait as much as the next guy, but not when I see dogs who are expending a lot of energy going nowhere.

Going back to our analogy with horses, Thoroughbreds, as a rule, are considered a “hot” breed temperamentally. Some individuals can be quite difficult to handle. Clydesdales are just the opposite. When you have a horse hitched to a heavy piece of apparatus, you don’t want that horse rearing up, bucking, or threatening to run off wildly. You want him calm, cool, and collected while in harness.

Newfoundlands in the ring should also be calm, cool, and collected. They should greet the judge with a wagging tail, soft eye, and gentle demeanor. Dogs who have a hard expression, who are aggressively posturing or trying to intimidate other dogs and/or people, or who even are giving a low growl are certainly not typical of the desired temperament for a draft breed.

Our goal should be that our breed so fulfills the ultimate draft animal ideal that



## WORKING GROUP

Clydesdales could also be known as the Newfoundlands of the horse world!—Mary Lou Cuddy

[Newfoundland Club of America](#)

### Portuguese Water Dogs

#### LIFE WITH PORTUGUESE WATER DOGS FOR 41 YEARS!

**Wow!** Has it really been 41 years since the first Portuguese Water Dog came into my life?

My mom always told me, “Time goes by the fastest when you are having a good time”—so life with a PWD has been a very good time! During these years I have owned six PWDs, obedience trained all six, bred two, owner-handled four, had four champions, and done therapy work.

I also lived aboard a 43-foot sailboat for five years in the Caribbean (sailing from Maine to Venezuela) with three PWDs on board and introduced the breed to many fellow sailors. The PWDs have introduced me to an unbelievable number of wonderful, special friends. I have had the honor of being the Portuguese Water Dogs Breed Columns editor for the AKC GAZETTE since 1988, and written over 130 columns. Needless to say, PWDs are the love of my life—and our current lady, Molly Brown, is one very special dog.

Alas, as times change, our lives change, and with a heavy heart I write this, my last column. Recently I read a poem that I will share below, as I feel it to be most appropriate at this time. My sincere thanks to *all* who have supported, read, and contributed to my PWD breed columns over the years. I sincerely treasure years of happy “Portuguese memories,” and look forward to many more in the years ahead.

*Obrigada.* —Carole Prangley-McIvor  
I’ll close with:

“What Is a Portuguese Water Dog?”

(Anonymous)

A Portuguese Water Dog is springtime on four paws. It’s a happy grin, eyes brimming with innocence, and a calculating mind covered in a shaggy coat, cleverly concocted to invite cuddling. It’s an instant paw stripping the blanket from your shivering shoulders, and a chill, damp nose muzzling your neck at sunup. It’s your shadow. A PWD has concealed coiled springs for hind legs and believes that heeling at shoulder-height is a perfectly acceptable practice. A PWD can jump into the air facing North and come down facing South—removing your hat and kissing your ear in the process. A PWD is devotion with a dash of devilishness, intelligence peppered with a sense of humor. A

The PWD is a study in contrasts. He can



Portuguese Water Dog

hear you take car keys from five rooms away but can’t hear your shout of “come.” The sound of running water in his dish brings him to the bathroom, but the sound of running water in the tub results in his disappearance. He’ll turn up his nose at his own dinner and

gobble up someone else’s—even though they are exactly alike. And you can always count on him to be well behaved, except when you have company.

A PWD is a glorious whirlwind of flying fur, a nonstop wag with body attached. Or it is a

ROBERT YOUNG ©AKC



## WORKING GROUP

pleading face in the window, paw against the pane, hoping you'll reconsider and return. A PWD is a *you're-not-alone* nudge under your elbow when you're feeling down, and an inquisitive tilt of the head when you talk. A PWD is an audience, a companion, and a friend.

Living with a PWD may not always be easy, but living without one is impossible.

[Portuguese Water Dog Club of America](#)

## Rottweilers

### SOCIALIZE THAT PUP—GO FOR A WALK!

As I was walking the puppy, who is now almost 6 months old, I remembered a common complaint by clients with young dogs: “He [or she] won’t go potty on a walk!” and they would go on and on about how their puppy would go for a nice long walk, sniffing, exploring, and greeting people, but no potty. Of course, as soon as they got home the pup—who had been holding it the entire time and really, really had to go—would urinate or defecate, or both!

Now, imagine you had only gone to the toilet in one room, the same room, the same toilet, every day, for several years. One day you go out to visit a friend and your friend says “Hey! While you’re here, use the toilet!” You are frozen. You don’t know how!

Unless you’ve been taking your pup out every day and the dog is comfortable being out in public and has preferably already urinated and/or defecated, this is the same situation! Pup has pottied only in your yard (or on pads in a particular room). Pup has not been out and socialized, exposed to real life. This is yet another example of how the antiquated admonishment of “don’t take pup out until after all vaccines (usually 4 months of age)!” is a deficit to your dog. There’s a lot going on outside of the home, some of it scary, some of it exciting—but being vulnerable and going potty in front of all it seems, well, unwise, if you’re only a few months old.

If pup hasn’t been out, the walk itself is very stimulating—it could be amazing, it could be scary, it could be eye-opening and astonishing. That in itself is a lot to handle when you’re a baby canine. But now you also want the dog to pee and poop in a strange place, in the open, where so many other dogs have been before? *No way*. We’ve all seen the same thing in some dogs who are new to dog events. They’re not accustomed to toileting outside of their yard or neighborhood, and so they hold it. Everyone is upset.

The points are this: If you’re a breeder, do not require puppy buyers to isolate their pups! If your buyers live in areas that are disease-free, it is more important to get

the pup out, to see and experience the real world while their brains are still open and receptive to new experiences, and they are able to start a foundation of safety in novel settings. If you have a new pup, take your pup out! A few minutes every day. New people, different sights, new sounds, varying ground and flooring types, car rides. The time for this is not after vaccine completion, when they are going through a neurologically sensitive time and often make incorrect assessments and negative associations.

So, walk that pup starting day one. If they go potty while out, praise calmly. Don’t be surprised when they don’t go, and make sure they have access to their familiar potty area immediately upon arriving back home.

Granted, my pup has been out every day and is very confident. He’s been urinating while out since 8 weeks of age, and it’s normal for him. And that’s the goal—that urinating and defecating becomes a normal and safe event when traveling. It doesn’t magically happen on its own; you have to work at it.

Let me say it again: Take your pup out to see the world! Or, at the very least, the city in which you live.

—Jill Kessler Miller,  
[jillymilysrc@gmail.com](mailto:jillymilysrc@gmail.com)  
[American Rottweiler Club](#)

## Samoyeds

Our guest columnist for this issue is Andrea Dunkle, of Fort Lauderdale, Florida. Andrea is a second-generation Samoyed breeder, under the ArticCross prefix, and member of the Samoyed Club of America. She has competed with her dogs for over 25 years in conformation, agility, obedience, and rally. During college Andrea spent time handling Samoyeds for others, with great success. She is an advocate for the dog fancy and has a passion for educating and mentoring others starting out in the breed.

### GROOMING AND COAT CONDITIONING FOR SAMOYEDS

It seems to be a shock when I tell most people that Samoyeds with proper coat and substance can be bathed, dried, combed, and shown, with only minimal trimming on their feet.

The first step in getting ready for showing is what I call a “pre-bath bath” for any dog who has not been bathed in over a month, or a dog who is considerably dirty. This bath should be done a week prior to the “pre-show” bath. The intent is to remove most of the dirt and grime, as well as loosen up any dead undercoat. For this bath, I will usually do two washes with a deep-cleaning shampoo. For the first wash, I use the shampoo to “get

COURTESY LYNDY BEAM



## WORKING GROUP



*Andrea Dunkle says of Samoyeds: “Let them get dirty ... let them play in the rain and mud-puddles—it’ll wash out!”*

into the coat” and remove surface dirt, then I rinse, and the dog is finally completely wet, so I can saturate the shampoo completely to the skin during the second wash. No whitening shampoo is necessary during this bath. Rinse thoroughly and blow-dry completely.

Post “pre-bath bath,” I will evaluate the dog’s coat condition, which will tell me what products I might use during the pre-show bath and dry, any staining that needs to be addressed. If the dog’s coat seems to need a lot of work with combing, doing this “pre-bath bath” allows me to spend a week of daily line-combing, as needed.

The pre-show bath and blow-dry should be

done within 48 hours of the show, and ideally within 24 hours of the show. This bath will go about twice as fast if you have done a “pre-bath bath.” The dog won’t be as dirty, and you’ve worked on the dog’s coat condition, so there is minimal loose coat. This bath, I do one or two washes depending on how dirty the dog is. The first wash, if needed, is usually again with a deep cleaning shampoo, then after rinsing I use my preferred whitening shampoo, taking care to thoroughly wash their face, ears and feet. I have a different whitening shampoo depending on what dog I am showing, so don’t be afraid to try a few and see what you like on each dog. It is generally not necessary to use any conditioner products on Samoyeds, but each coat and its condition should be evaluated individually.

Once fully rinsed, I take time and care drying the dogs after this bath to blow their coat straight. If you’re seeing curling or tangling, you have the dryer pointed too close to the skin, and if you can’t back up and still see the skin, your drier is not high powered enough. It is also important to pay attention to what direction you are drying the hair. Do not dry the hair on their croup or over their loin toward their head, lest you have a Samoyed who then looks like an Old English Sheepdog. Dry that coat toward the tail! Particularly, pay attention to the topline of the dog to make

sure the coat is straight with no lumps, bumps, or waves. The coat topline should resemble what the perfect topline is per the standard!

After the pre-show bath, I comb out the dog and trim nails and feet. The more work I do prior to the show day, the less I have at the show. Typically, it takes me less than 10 minutes to completely comb out a dog at the show if I’ve made sure they are bathed, dried completely, and combed out prior to show day. Talk about stress relief the day of the show!

Lastly—and I cannot emphasize this enough—wash and clean all crates, bedding, ex-pens, and flooring that your dog will be lying on. A clean crate, kennel, and bedding will result in a clean dog. A dirty environment will result in a dirty dog.

Regardless of how much we try, sometimes day-of-show leg-baths are necessary. It’s not hard to rewash legs. Some self-rinse, a small rubber or plastic tub, and a drier, and you’re good to go. I always check legs the morning of the show to see if anything needs to be done and so that I have time to rewash as needed.

If a dog is being shown every week, they will likely need a bath every week, unless you’re going to extremes to keep them clean. Even with going to extremes to keep a dog clean, sometimes they need a bath anyways. So let them get dirty and grimy. Let them



## WORKING GROUP

play in the rain, the pool, and mud-puddles with their friends. It'll wash out!—A.D.

Thank you, Andrea.

—Heather LoProto, SCA Public Education Chair,

[hloproto@comcast.net](mailto:hloproto@comcast.net)

[Samoyed Club of America](#)

## Siberian Huskies

### THE ALASKAN LINE OF SIBERIAN HUSKIES

It is late winter here in Alaska, and that means we are in the midst of two of the country's biggest sled dog races: the Fur Rendezvous Open World Championship and, of course, the Iditarod.

These are two very different races. The “Fur Rondy” is an open-class sprint race, with large teams of dogs racing 25 miles per day over a three-day competition. The Iditarod is a long-distance marathon race, with dog teams covering close to 1,000 miles across Alaska's varying and challenging terrain.

However, the races did have one thing in common this year: Each included a single purebred Siberian team, and both of those teams came from the world-famous Alaskan kennels, owned by the Norris family.

Alaskan kennels, and its Siberian Huskies “of Anadyr,” was started in 1946 by Earl and Natalie Norris. It is the oldest continu-

ously operating Siberian Husky kennel in the world. And this year, over 75 years later, it was the only Siberian Husky kennel to field a team in the two of the continent's premier sled dog races.

Alaskan kennels has a long history of supporting dog sports here in Alaska. Earl and Natalie met and married here, and both were instrumental in the foundation of dog clubs that continue to exist and thrive today. One of these clubs is the Alaskan Sled Dog & Racing Association (ASDRA), formed in 1949, which organizes the Fur Rondy sled dog race as well as many others throughout the winter. Another is the Alaska Kennel Club (also formed in 1949), which continues to present dog shows and promote purebred dogs in the state to this day.

The Norrises fielded their first Iditarod team in 1975, shortly after the race's inception. They have continued to run a team of Siberians in Iditarod in every decade since. In recent years their teams have been run by Lisbet Norris, Earl and Natalie's granddaughter. Lisbet has run her family's dogs in Iditarod four times over the past 10 years, most recently in this year's race.

The Fur Rondy team this year was run by Lisbet's father (and son of Earl and Natalie), JP Norris. JP and his wife Kari Skogen have participated in the World Championship



*JP Norris holds Lisbet Norris's team at the start of the Iditarod in Willow, Alaska.*

sprint race many times, rarely missing a year.

As Siberian Husky fanciers, we are truly lucky to own a breed that still can and will do the job for which it is bred. And we are very, very fortunate to have dedicated families like

the Norrises who continue to maintain the workability of the Siberian Husky.

—Jessica Breinholt,

[jbshca@gmail.com](mailto:jbshca@gmail.com)

[Siberian Husky Club of America](#)

COURTESY LISBET NORRIS



# BREED COLUMNS

## WORKING GROUP

### Standard Schnauzers

#### WHAT ABOUT TYPE?

Elusive in some breeds, “type” is the set of recognizable characteristics setting one dog breed apart from another. Standard Schnauzer type is described in the breed standard thus: “a robust, heavy-set dog, sturdily built with good muscle and plenty of bone; square-built in proportion of body length to height. The rugged build and dense harsh coat are accentuated by the hallmark of the breed, the arched eyebrows and the bristly mustache and whiskers.” A dominant variant of the R-spondin-2 gene produces this hallmark trait (<https://vgl.ucdavis.edu/breed/schnauzer-standard>).

Acceptable SS coat colors, salt-and-pepper or solid black, result from the agouti signaling protein (ASIP) gene. In salt-and-pepper SS (expressing the dominant allele of the agouti gene, as detailed here <https://www.genomia.cz/en/schnauzer/> and here <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/12950732/>), the dark coat has eumelanin (black/brown presented as black) pigment bands, and the lighter coat has pheomelanin (red/yellow faded to cream/white) pigment bands, both of which occur on the same hair shaft. These bands appear on the dog’s neck, shoulders, back and rump, usually looking lighter on the chest, belly and inside the legs (described here [www.terrificpets.com/articles/10268765.asp](http://www.terrificpets.com/articles/10268765.asp)). The all-black Standard



Schnauzer coat originally resulted from mating two dogs carrying the ASIP gene’s recessive black allele; SS with this genotype will have a solid black base coat (no cream/white), which they pass on to all their offspring (<https://vgl.ucdavis.edu/test/agouti-dog><https://vgl.ucdavis.edu/test/agouti-dog>).

Both breeders and judges are responsible for detrimental fads, conditions, or exaggerations affecting the health, welfare, temperament, soundness, and type of the SS they breed. Breeders must take care that these detriments are not perpetuated in future matings; they are responsible for preserving Standard Schnauzer type and for educating persons receiving their puppies in what SS type and soundness mean.

Judges must judge Standard Schnauzers according to the breed standard as working dogs, not as terriers, judging the entity attached at the lower end of the lead (the dog), not the upper end (the handler), disqualifying outsized SS and or those showing signs of aggression. Judges must pay attention to temperament and soundness reasons for excusing and disqualifying dogs as stated in the standard—it is not a kindness to the breed to let such dogs continue to a title or future matings. Owners of such dogs should be discouraged from allowing these dogs to further contaminate the gene pool.

Movement of working dogs derives from the



## WORKING GROUP

job each breed was evolved to do. A Standard Schnauzer's powerful, ground-covering gait, with proper movement coming and going and from the side, can't be achieved with faulty structure. Our breed standard specifies the correct structural skeletal proportions in front (for reach) and rear (for drive) to accomplish their tasks: guard property, protect people, herd livestock, hunt vermin, search for and rescue those lost, alert to bombs and contraband, detect cadavers in catastrophe rubble, locate survivors after a disaster, and more.

The “stand-firm-against-all-comers” attitude is part of Standard Schnauzer type—no wimps need apply here. Our breed standard has always faulted fearful, timid, shy SS, although too few judges excuse from the ring such obvious SS temperament problems: not responding to or shrinking from the handler, gaiting with tail clasped tight against the derriere, pulling back from the judge's examination.

Another characteristic of Standard Schnauzer type is the appearance of a robust, square-built, medium-sized working dog with plenty of bone. Today we see too many SS outside the “medium” size range specified in our standard (bitches, 17–19 inches; males, 18–20 inches); long-lined dogs (less of an issue with bitches, for whom extra length makes room for puppies); light-boned or poorly mus-

cled dogs who are far from rugged and sturdy; or obviously untrained SS shown in the ring.

SS are the smallest working breed permitted to train in Schützhund protection. A long-time breeder who trained her dogs in Schützhund protection here and in Germany told me this is because SS are the smallest breed capable of taking down a man. Back in the early 1970s, I wrote that breed's compact size makes them able to fit even into small apartments and a petite woman can handle them easily, yet they are large enough, with big enough teeth and attitude, to make potential wrongdoers think twice (or maybe even thrice) before tangling with them.

Since the first Wire-haired Pinschers (later called Schnauzers) were brought to this country around 1900 with its German breed standard, Schnauzer type remained fairly consistent for many years. But in the past few decades, changes in type have occurred—not surprising, given the 1925 SS breed standard was rewritten in 1959, 1977, 1991, and 2021.

These changes are obvious when comparing today's Standard Schnauzers with photos of such “old” dogs as (found in *The Standard Schnauzer in America: SSCA Source Book Vol. II*) Ch. Sgr. Rigo Schnauzerlust (p. 8); Sgr. Mampe von Hohenstein (p. 9) and his sire, Ch Prinz Schurl of Würtzberg (p. 12); and Ch. Hiss von Egelsee (p. 11). Even photos

from as late as 1922 and 1949, Ch. Resy Patricia and her grandson Ch. Chief of Staff (both on p. 12), respectively, depict minimal changes in type.

Photographs of show dogs dating back to the late 19th and early 20th centuries show vast differences in grooming. Renee Pope (Geistvoll SS) and I recently discussed SS type and today's grooming style versus in the early 1970s, when much longer furnishings were in vogue. Today, the closer trim on furnishings approximates that of the “old” SS type, resulting in a more working-dog appearance, rather than a frou-frou terrier-like look. Photographs don't tell the whole story, though; hands-on examination and in-person observation are the best ways to evaluate a dog's quality.

As breeders, we must preserve type. Part of doing this is taking a good honest look at our own breeding stock to determine inherent strengths and weaknesses, then figuring out which traits will improve our next litter and which traits to avoid.

Choose studs based upon what he can contribute to offset those weaknesses, not what his “big winner” status can add to a future litter's sales potential. Remember that he'll be a big winner for only a few years at best, but unless he's a truly outstanding representative of the breed and not just a fad of fans and

judges, the negative influence he could have in future Standard Schnauzer type might last forever.

Examine potential studs with your own eyes and hands—impossible to do with frozen sperm from a long-dead sire, but at least talk to trusted breeders/exhibitors who might have been around in his heyday. Examine in person as many of the stud's offspring (children, grandchildren, etc.) as you can. Then honestly answer this question: “Will this dog preserve SS type and improve not only my line but also the breed as a whole?”

“Young Guns and Legends” is the theme of the Standard Schnauzer Club of America 2022 national specialty, to be held at the Oklahoma City Fairgrounds June 29–July 2. Hosted by SSCA's newest regional club, the Red River SSC, and featuring five days of conformation shows (two SS specialty shows, and three all-breed shows), 11 flavors of performance activities, health clinics, seminars, an air-conditioned building, and an all-suite hotel—could you ask for more? Plenty of on-site RV parking, but no reservations—first come, first served. For more info, see [www.2022sscanational.com](http://www.2022sscanational.com).

—Suzanne T. Smith (Los Alamos, New Mexico),

[WustefuchsSS@aol.com](mailto:WustefuchsSS@aol.com)

[Standard Schnauzer Club of America](http://StandardSchnauzerClubofAmerica.com)



# BREED COLUMNS



## WORKING GROUP

### Tibetan Mastiffs

#### QUIRKS OF THE BREED

Every breed has certain habits, traits, and quirks that when owners start to compare notes, eyes start to roll and laughter erupts as they instantly relate. Tibetan Mastiffs (TMs) are no different. I thought it would be fun to look back and reminisce about the things we have all experienced that define the breed to a seasoned owner.

*I'll take the high ground.* Tibetan Mastiffs have a natural guardian nature, and will find the highest point from which to survey their kingdom and gain an advantage. Outside, that might be the highest hill, the top deck of the house, or maybe even the roof of the house. Inside, that might be the kitchen counter or the dining room table.

*Cold is cool.* TMs love the cold. The colder it gets, the harder it gets to convince them to come inside. So it's -30 degrees F? They are in their element. If you insist they come inside because your eyebrows have turned to icebrows, they

*Life with Tibetan Mastiffs is never boring. Shown here: counter surfing, climbing, love of cold and snow, digging, and shedding time. Bottom right: A Tibetan Mastiff in the breed's land of origin. In Tibet, women and children care for the dogs.*



COURTESY/ DEBORAH MAYER; (TIBET) HERNE KATHA



## WORKING GROUP

will bypass the \$200 custom-made dog bed you just bought off Etsy and find the coldest tile or cement floor in the house to lie on. In the summer, your air-conditioning vent will have a heavy, fur-coated cover until the snows come again.

*The other half.* When a double-coated breed loses its winter undercoat, we say it “blows coat.” This is a deceptive term, conjuring up gentle summer breezes with wisps of hair floating on the breeze. When a TM blows coat, a more accurate image would be a hurricane tearing through your world, leaving piles of destruction in its wake. When it’s over, half your dog is missing. Miraculously, it all reappears in the fall, to begin the yearly ritual all over again.

*Watch your step.* I won’t say that Tibetan Mastiffs are lazy, but a Jack Russell they are not. I tell people they make great throw-rugs. Nice room accessories during the day, but a definite indoor trip hazard at night.

*Let sleeping dogs lie.* We all like to think they sleep with one eye open, but truthfully, Tibetan Mastiffs can sleep sounder than any breed I have ever known. Maybe because they know they can handle whatever comes while they are sleeping. If startled, they awake ready to roll. Best to avoid any surprises awakenings.

*Neighborhood watch.* Speaking of nighttime, when the sun goes down, TMs wake up. They

are famous for their nighttime barking. Maybe infamous would be a better choice of words. They are such great neighbors, too; They take great pride in watching not only your home and yard, but your neighbors; and their neighbors; and all who are lucky enough to live within eyesight or earshot of your TM. Rest easy. The Tibetan Mastiff has the night patrol.

*Maintaining order.* Maxwell Smart was right: As every TM knows, Chaos is the enemy. Tibetan Mastiffs want their environment to be calm and orderly. This is not the breed for someone whose home is a revolving door of residents or visitors. If you don’t establish order, they will. Routine rules in the TM world.

*Homeward bound.* Any dog may dig, but a Tibetan Mastiff can *dig*. My kids had a book called *The Diggingest Dog*. That dog had nothing on TMs. They deserve not only a book, but a whole encyclopedia on how to do it right. We have always joked that they are digging home to Tibet.

*Houdini was an amateur.* If there is a way, *any* way, to escape from a space they want to get out of, a TM will find it. In record time. “Securely fenced yard” is a must, but almost an oxymoron for a TM.

*Counter-surfers.* First rule of owning a Tibetan Mastiff is to never leave any food you ever want to see again out on your table or counters. A

sandwich, a steak, or a cake will disappear in the blink of an eye, without even a tale-tale crumb of evidence to pin the crime on the canine perpetrator. Your TM will be sitting there, all angelic-like, looking at you with those big brown eyes like, “What?” And of course, you can’t resist, so they get another sandwich, steak, or cake, so just buy two to begin with.

*Food is optional.* While counter-surfing for *your* food is a favorite pastime, your Tibetan Mastiff may pass on eating his own food, sometimes for several days at a time. Most TMs are not food driven and are notorious for being picky eaters. They only eat when they are hungry, get bored with seeing the same thing in their food bowls day after day, and cannot be bribed with food, no matter how enticing. If you want your TM to eat, you have to make it new, interesting, and appealing. We have considered offering Gordon Ramsey a retainer.

*Window on the world.* Tibetan Mastiffs love to watch the world around them, and an owner who provides them with a window seat is much appreciated. By their TM. Sometimes, though, your mailman, or neighbor, or package delivery service is not so thrilled to see a huge dog barking at them up close and personal with only a pane of glass standing between them and the beast. Be aware that if there is a perceived threat, a window will not

stop a Tibetan Mastiff. I hear frosted window coverings or decorative scroll work has come in handy for many TM owners.

*Women and children first.* In Tibet, it is the women and children who are tasked with caring for the dogs, and in the nomad camps, the TMs are left behind to guard the women, children, and camps when the men are gone. We have often seen photos of TMs being led by a rope by a very small Tibetan child. So, it always surprises me when someone says TMs are not suitable as family dogs. They are absolutely suitable as family dogs, and are strong protectors of women and children. Most TM owners will tell you that their dogs will accept people in this order: Children first, women second, and men third.

*“Baby, come to me.”* Keep on singing it. It will help to keep you occupied while your TM wanders around the yard, ignoring your pleas to come. I have known TM owners who actually took their dog to the vet to check if he was deaf! Most all references on Tibetan Mastiffs will say they are stubborn and independent, but you won’t know the meaning of those words until you actually have a TM. Then it’s all over but the crying. Or the singing. *“Baby, come to me. Let me put my arms around you”* becomes your theme song. Learn it well.

—Deborah Mayer

[American Tibetan Mastiff Association](#)





**MISSION STATEMENT** The American Kennel Club is dedicated to upholding the integrity of its Registry, promoting the sport of purebred dogs and breeding for type and function.

Founded in 1884, the AKC and its affiliated organizations advocate for the purebred dog as a family companion, advance canine health and well-being, work to protect the rights of all dog owners and promote responsible dog ownership.

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## ATTENTION DELEGATES

### NOTICE OF MEETING

The next meeting of the Delegates will be held at the Doubletree Newark Airport Hotel on **Tuesday, June 14, 2022**, beginning no earlier than 10:00 a.m. It will follow the Delegate Forum which will begin at 9:00 a.m.

### DELEGATE CREDENTIALS

**Pamela Bagley**, Playa Blanca, CA,  
Santa Maria Kennel Club

**Barbara Breidenback**, Franklinville, NJ,  
Gloucester County Kennel Club

**Cathy J. Burleson**, Jackson, TN, Jackson  
Tennessee Dog Fanciers Association

**Mary Lynne Elliott**, Spruce Canyon Circle, CO,  
Rhodesian Ridgeback Club of the US

**Pamela Ireland**, Germantown, TN,  
Memphis Kennel Club

**Dennis McCoy**, Apex, NC,  
Poodle Club of America

**Janice L. MacWhade**, Medina, OH,  
Medina Kennel Club

**Deb Phillips**, Sun City, AZ,  
Arrowhead Kennel Club

**Giselle Simonds**, Petluma, CA,  
Miniature Bull Terrier Club of America

**Elizabeth S. Trail**, West Glover, VT,  
Green Mountain Dog Club

**Mary Wilder**, Winchester, VA,  
Middleburg Kennel Club

**Nili Young**, Summerville, SC,  
Columbia 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:

Ms. Amanda Byers (San Antonio, TX)

Ms. Liz Couzin (Albany, OR)

Ms. Tyler Crady (Bella Vista, CA)

Mr. Blake Daniel (Saint Jo, TX)

Mr. Richard Hudgens (Las Vegas, NV)

Mr. John Meyer (Hudson, WI)

Ms. Laurie Youmans (Tehachapi, CA)

## NOTICE

Ms. Jann Hayes (McKean, PA) Action was taken by the Columbiana County Kennel Club for conduct at its January 7, 2022 event. Ms. Hayes was charged with failure to properly control a dog at an event. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the Event Committee's report and set the penalty as a three-month event suspension and a \$500 fine, effective January 7, 2021. (St. Bernards)

## NOTICE

Ms. Lyn Ohmsen-Owen (Columbus, NC) Action was taken by Pasco Florida Kennel Club for conduct at its January 8, 2022 event. Ms. Ohmsen-Owen was charged with physical contact of

an insulting or provoking nature. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the Event Committee's report and set the penalty as a three-month event suspension and a \$300 fine, effective January 19, 2022. (Miniature Bull Terrier)

## NOTICE

Mr. David Peat (Scottsdale, AZ) Action was taken by the Inland Empire Hound Club of Southern California for conduct at its January 7, 2022 event. Mr. Peat was charged with inappropriate public criticism of a judge, not disruptive, but demonstrating lack of sportsmanship. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the Event Committee's report and set the penalty as a one-month event suspension and a \$200 fine. (Affenpinschers)

### PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE RULES APPLYING TO DOG SHOWS, CHAPTER 11, SECTION 6 – DOG SHOW ENTRIES, CONDITIONS OF DOGS AFFECTING ELIGIBILITY

The AKC Board has endorsed the following amendment to **Chapter 11, Section 6** of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*, proposed by Staff. This will be voted on at the June 14, 2022 Delegate Meeting.

## CHAPTER 11

**SECTION 6.** No entry may be changed or canceled unless notice of the change or cancellation is received in writing by the Superintendent or Show Secretary named in



the premium list to receive entries, prior to the closing date and hour for entries, except that prior to the judging:

- a correction may be made in the sex of a dog,
- a dog may be transferred within the divisions of the Puppy Class, the Twelve-to-Eighteen Month Class, the Bred-by-Exhibitor Class, or the Veterans Class,
- a dog may be transferred between the Puppy and Twelve-to-Eighteen Month Classes or appropriate divisions thereof.

A dog determined to be ineligible, by its owner/agent, for the class in which it has been entered may be transferred to an eligible Open Class at a show prior to the judging of any regular conformation class within the sex of that breed or variety, and that dogs which according to their owners' records have completed the requirements for a championship after the closing of entries for a show but whose championships are unconfirmed, may be transferred from one of the regular classes to the Best of Breed or Variety competition, provided this transfer is made by the Superintendent or Show Secretary at least one half-hour prior to the scheduled start of any regular conformation judging at the show; at a single show with multiple days of judging, the transfer must be made at least one half-hour prior to the start of judging on the first day of

the show (as defined in Chapter 3 Section 4).

*Remaining portions of this section are unchanged.*

## 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](mailto: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 APPLICANT

**Dr. Julia Brady (107775) TX**

(972) 838-8921

[brady.julia@gmail.com](mailto:brady.julia@gmail.com)

Leonbergers

**Ms. Cindy Hartwell (104985) FL**

(207) 751-0047

[cindy@mybeauce.com](mailto:cindy@mybeauce.com)

Beaucerons

**Ms. Mimi (Amelia) Hodges (110597) TN**

(615) 983-0030

[mimi@perkinscreative.com](mailto:mimi@perkinscreative.com)

Cavalier King Charles Spaniels

**Dr. Gillian Irving, DVM (110665) FL**

(727) 937-2526

[gillianirving11@gmail.com](mailto:gillianirving11@gmail.com)

Belgian Laekenois, Belgian Malinois,

Belgian Sheepdogs, Belgian Tervurens

**Ms. Lori Pelletier (110445) RI**

(401) 294-8819

[norfolkes@aol.com](mailto:norfolkes@aol.com)

Border Terriers, Norfolk Terriers, Norwich Terriers, JS

**Mrs. Clarissa Shank (110566) AZ**

(602) 920-2459

[skryderk9@q.com](mailto:skryderk9@q.com)

Australian Shepherds, JS

**Ms. Pat Vanden Heuvel (108151) WI**

(262) 483-1812

[patvandenheuvel@gmail.com](mailto:patvandenheuvel@gmail.com)

Golden Retrievers

**Ms. Sharon Walls (100575) NV**

(775) 475-0250

[sharon@saluqi.com](mailto:sharon@saluqi.com)

Salukis

## ADDITIONAL BREED JUDGING APPLICANTS

**Mr. James Albrecht (100017) MA**

(306) 770-6933

[nhbriard@aol.com](mailto:nhbriard@aol.com)

Barbets, Pointers, Irish Red and White Setters, Cocker Spaniels, Vizslas, Whippets, Bernese Mountain Dogs, Boxers, Scottish Terriers, Bulldogs, Dalmatians, Poodles

**Ms. Terrie Breen (65930) CT**

(860) 285-0499

[brenta@aol.com](mailto:brenta@aol.com)

Chihuahuas, Maltese, Toy Fox Terriers, Lhasa Apsos, Tibetan Spaniels, Tibetan Terriers

**Mr. Philip R. Briasco (66406) FL**

(352) 427-6992

[aranisle@cfl.rr.com](mailto:aranisle@cfl.rr.com)

Brussels Griffons, Chinese Cresteds, Havanaese, Papillons, Pekingese, Pomeranians, Pugs, Shih Tzu

**Mrs. Judith A. Brown (0253) TX**

(713) 249-3364

[judithabrown@sbcglobal.net](mailto:judithabrown@sbcglobal.net)



Balance of Toy Group (Biewer Terriers, Havanese, Japanese Chins, Maltese, Miniature Pinschers, Pugs, Russian Toys, Silky Terriers, Toy Fox Terriers, Yorkshire Terriers)

**Ms. Kathryn Cowsert (17121) CA**

(925) 672-1765  
kcowsert@hotmail.com  
Bearded Collies, Berger Picards, Bouviers des Flandres, Briards, Icelandic Sheepdogs, Norwegian Buhunds, Old English Sheepdogs, Swedish Vallhunds

**Mr. J. Calvin Dykes (100595) OR**

(541) 303-1142  
calvindykes@legacydirect.com  
English Toy Spaniels, Manchester Terriers

**Mrs. Nancy Griego (90264) NM**

(505) 681-8020  
nrgakc@spinn.net  
Bearded Collies, Border Collies, Bouviers des Flandres, Cardigan Welsh Corgis, Collies, Entlebucher Mountain Dogs, Old English Sheepdogs, Swedish Vallhunds

**Mr. Rodney E. Herner (6081) DE**

(302) 945-5797  
rodneyherner@gmail.com  
Doberman Pinschers

**Mr. Ronald Hoh (97979) CA**

(916) 481-7108  
ronhoh@naarb.org  
Black and Tan Coonhounds, Cirneco dell'Etna, Harriers, Otterhounds

**Mr. Ronald V. Horn (65755) CO**

(303) 797-8642  
vnnewf@gmail.com  
Balance of Toy Group (Biewer Terriers, Chinese Cresteds, Italian Greyhounds, Russian Toys, Shih Tzu, Yorkshire Terriers)

**Mrs. Genea White Jones (107472) IN**

(317) 752-8801  
ashwoodcockers@gmail.com  
German Shorthaired Pointers, Golden Retrievers, Irish Setters, Clumber Spaniels, Field Spaniels, Welsh Springer Spaniels, English Toy Spaniels

**Mrs. Cindy Lane (65098) GA**

(864) 316-6351  
glane1464@yahoo.com  
Balance of Terrier Group (American Hairless Terriers, Bedlington Terriers, Bull Terriers, Miniature Bull Terriers, Rat Terriers, Staffordshire Bull Terriers)

**Ms. Patrice Loves (102871) PA**

(717) 343-8619  
lovesgold@comcast.net  
Wirehaired Pointing Griffons

**Mr. George E. Marquis (5789) FL**

(603) 770-9830  
cheins@prodigy.net  
Miniature Schnauzers, Boston Terriers, Chow Chows, Dalmatians, French Bulldogs

**Mrs. Marla Meindl-Capozzi (100459) TN**

(931) 287-6651  
mikemarla1@optonline.net  
Azawakhs, Grand Bassets Griffons

Vendeens, Ibizan Hounds, Petits Bassets Griffons Vendeens, Rhodesian Ridgebacks, Salukis

**Mrs. Mary B. Napper (62737) TX**

(817) 458-1442  
mbnapper@gmail.com  
Lagotti Romagnoli, Pointers, Chesapeake Bay Retrievers, English Setters, Irish Water Spaniels, Wirehaired Pointing Griffons, Wirehaired Vizslas

**Ms. Sheila D. Paske (46304) CA**

(530) 306-8889  
sheila@storybookdachshunds.com  
Boxers, Doberman Pinschers, Great Pyrenees, Leonbergers, Mastiffs, Newfoundlands, Rottweilers

**Dr. Valeria Richard (92450) VA**

(703) 919-8753  
vrickard@jovallairedales.com  
Pointers, German Shorthaired Pointers, German Wirehaired Pointers, Curly-Coated Retrievers, Golden Retrievers, Labrador Retrievers, English Setters, Irish Setters, Vizslas, Wirehaired Pointing Griffons, Dachshunds, Giant Schnauzers

**Ms. Linda Robey (6621) MO**

(636) 677-6644  
lrobey@swbellnet  
Great Pyrenees

**Mr. Dani Rosenberry (104224) PA**

(814) 943-3511  
edanhill@aol.com  
Barbets, Irish Red and White Setters,

Biewer Terriers, English Toy Spaniels, Manchester Terriers, Pekingese, Silky Terriers

**Ms. Ann H. Roth (63187) NC**

(910) 791-3950  
harnetthounds@juno.com  
Black Russian Terriers, Boerboels, Cane Corsos, Giant Schnauzers, Komondorok, Kuvaszok, Leonbergers, Tibetan Mastiffs

**Mr. Patrick A. Smith (107900) MI**

(916) 847-1625  
patrick.a.smith@att.net  
Dachshunds

**Ms. Sylvia Thomas (101708) CA**

(951) 684-8230  
justsylviat2155@cs.com  
Alaskan Malamutes, Anatolian Shepherds, Black Russian Terriers, Doberman Pinschers, Siberian Huskies

**Ms. Sharol Candance Way (6668) PA**

(610) 869-3984  
bantryway@aol.com  
Chinese Shar-Pei

**Ms. Judith White (95513) OH**

(330) 854-0354  
jubilhill@sssnet.com  
American Hairless Terriers, Glen of Imaal Terriers, Irish Terriers, Manchester Terriers, Sealyham Terriers

**JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP JUDGING APPLICANTS**

**Mr. Adam Peterson (110670) NC**

(763) 458-0756  
harewoodkennel@yahoo.com



**Mrs. Madeline Peterson (110669) NC**

(757) 503-4543

harewoodkennel@yahoo.com

**Ms. Sharon Porter (110567) FL**

(813) 714-9569

porter.shal23@gmail.com

## PERMIT JUDGES

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

## NEW BREED PERMIT JUDGES

**Mr. Kenneth Calloway (109459) MI**

(248) 935-3620

callowayken@gmail.com

Bulldogs

**Mrs. Lynn Caswell (110417) FL**

wavemakerstaffords@gmail.com

Staffordshire Bull Terriers

**Dr. Karyn Colman (110419) NJ**

(908) 399-7425

nyrakym@gmail.com

Alaskan Malamutes

**Patricia L. Proctor (27757) MA**

(203) 482-2121

proctorpattie@gmail.com

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 Tzus, Silky Terriers, Toy Fox Terriers, Yorkshire Terriers, JS

**Mrs. Mariecel Torres-Young (110183) OR**

(503) 297-3020

conquest.cockers@comcast.net

Cocker Spaniels

**Mrs. Anita Zagraniczny (110405) IL**

azagraniczny@yahoo.com

Staffordshire Bull Terriers

## ADDITIONAL BREED PERMIT JUDGES

**Mrs. Janet Bodin (101381) WI**

(414) 614-7822

jbodin@wi.rr.com

German Shepherd Dogs, Icelandic

Sheepdogs

**Mr. Todd Clyde (52861) DE**

(302) 542-3416

tclyde002@msn.com

Boxers, Biewer Terriers, Bichons Frises, Bulldogs, Dalmatians, Lhasa Apsos, Lowchen, Tibetan Terriers

**Mrs. Penny DiSiena (76729) FL**

(330) 421-3618

pennyd1954@gmail.com

Basenjis, Dachshunds, English Foxhounds, Otterhounds

**Ms. Cathy Eke (101345) IN**

(317) 695-2829

onlybdogs@aol.com

Dogues de Bordeaux

**Ms. Mary Lynne Elliott (100062) CO**

(720) 289-2517

ml@vedauwoorr.com

Basenjis, Black and Tan Coonhounds, Grand Bassets Griffons Vendeens, Irish Wolfhounds, Otterhounds, Petits Bassets Griffons Vendeens, Salukis, Sloughis

**Ms. Christine Erickson (22529) AZ**

(480) 262-6630

cmerickson767@gmail.com

Affenpinschers, Havanese, Toy Fox Terriers, Yorkshire Terriers

**Mrs. Lisa Farmer (95249) GA**

(770) 891-8820

lisafarmer2013@gmail.com

Chihuahuas, Maltese, Papillons, Pekingese, Pomeranians, Pugs, JS-Limited

**Mr. Randy Garren (17218) NC**

(919) 608-9799

k9pro@aol.com

Bernese Mountain Dogs, Black Russian Terriers, Cane Corsos, Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs, Kuvaszok, Leonbergers, Neapolitan Mastiffs

**Ms. Joanne Leslie Gerow (74629) NY**

(845) 292-5949

indianhillbernese@gmail.com

German Pinschers, Giant Schnauzers,

Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs, Tibetan Mastiffs, Australian Shepherds, Finnish Lapphunds

**Mrs. Sue Goldberg (6502) NJ**

(908) 647-0907

brandongroup19@gmail.com

Rhodesian Ridgebacks

**Mr. Steven Herman (6305) FL**

(813) 973-3153

ljlucin@gmail.com

Giant Schnauzers

**Ms. Dawn Hitchcock (100299) SC**

(864) 238-2742

bubblezsc@hotmail.com

Balance of Toy Group (Biewer Terriers, Cavalier King Charles Spaniels, Chinese Cresteds, Italian Greyhounds, Japanese Chins, Pekingese, Russian Toys, Shih Tzu, Yorkshire Terriers), French Bulldogs

**Ms. Karen J. Hynek (35536) MO**

(636) 219-6991

jokaregs@aol.com

Dachshunds, Grand Bassets Griffons Vendeens, Greyhounds, Harriers, Ibizan Hounds, Norwegian Elkhounds, Petits Bassets Griffons Vendeens, Pharaoh Hounds, Scottish Deerhounds

**Mr. Richard Todd Jackson (94771) MD**

(202) 491-5513

richardtoddjackson@yahoo.com

Irish Setters, Afghan Hounds, Azawakhs, English Foxhounds, Greyhounds, Ibizan



Hounds, Pharaoh Hounds, Rhodesian Ridgebacks, Whippets, Chinese Cresteds, Papillons

**Mrs. Pat M. Jenkins (99451) UT**

(435) 770-0334

pmjl6@msn.com

Balance of Working Group (Boerboels, Chinooks, Dogues de Bordeaux, German Pinschers, Komondorok, Kuvaszok, Neapolitan Mastiffs, Portuguese Water Dogs)

**Dr. Adam Stafford King (49694) IL**

(812) 568-6972

askingdvm@gmail.com

English Cocker Spaniels, Cesky Terriers, Dandie Dinmont Terriers, Smooth Fox Terriers, Wire Fox Terriers, Irish Terriers, Kerry Blue Terriers, Lakeland Terriers, Norfolk Terriers, Norwich Terriers, Parson Russell Terriers, Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers

**Miss Lee Kouski (100825) IL**

(847) 921-1407

goldnblu2@hotmail.com

Brussels Griffons, Chihuahuas, Italian Greyhounds, Papillons, Toy Fox Terriers

**Mrs. Pam S. Lambie (96227) AZ**

(760) 272-0625

pam@pamlambie.com

Alaskan Malamutes, Bullmastiffs, Doberman Pinschers, Bouviers des Flandres

**Mr. Kent MacFarlane (100887) FL**

(772) 801-5293

foxfyrekennels@msn.com

Ibizan Hounds, Bullmastiffs, Dogues de Bordeaux, Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs, Mastiffs

**Ms. Robin MacFarlane (95827) FL**

(772) 801-5293

armor16@aol.com

Bernese Mountain Dogs, Boxers, Doberman Pinschers, Dogo Argentinos, Rottweilers

**Mrs. Betsey Orman (99925) WI**

(847) 778-7661

bramblie@aol.com

Bouvier des Flandres, Miniature American Shepherds, Old English Sheepdogs, Shetland Sheepdogs

**Dr. Vicki Sandage (98425) KY**

(606) 922-9552

sandfoxdvm@gmail.com

Pointers, German Shorthaired Pointers, German Wirehaired Pointers, Chesapeake Bay Retrievers, Labrador Retrievers, English Cocker Spaniels, Sussex Spaniels, Spinoni Italiani, Weimaraners

**Mr. Thomas Schonberger (107485) AK**

(907) 529-6693

yogi@mtaonline.net

Alaskan Malamutes, Bernese Mountain Dogs, Black Russian Terriers, Boxers, Great Danes, Rottweilers, Samoyeds, JS

**Mr. Robert E. Schwalbe (55062) GA**

(706) 693-7142

reschwalbe@yahoo.com

American Hairless Terriers, Glen of Imaal Terriers, Sealyham Terriers, West Highland White Terriers, Cardigan Welsh Corgis

**Mrs. Jean F. Shepherd (95654) MN**

(507) 482-6611

jfshephe213@gmail.com

Curly-Coated Retrievers, Golden Retrievers, Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers

**Ms. Michelle Struble (103633) IA**

(515) 371-3103

vpcollie@aol.com

Shetland Sheepdogs

**Mrs. Lisa Young (43070) AZ**

(605) 390-1135

youngssd@rap.midco.net

Pharaoh Hounds, Sloughi

**JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP PERMIT JUDGES**

**Mrs. Cynthia (Cindy) Bennett (108359) CA**

(360) 991-4372

langeline.cb@gmail.com

**Ms. Sarah Miriam Fox (110353) PA**

smfcollies@protonmail.com

**Jennifer Necker (110375) NM**

jennsetters@gmail.com

**BEST IN SHOW**

The following persons, having successfully **completed** the required Group Assignments in the first Variety Group for which they were **approved**, have been added to the list of judges eligible for ap-

proval to judge Best In Show.

**Mrs. Kathleen V. Carter (6164) CO**

(303) 425-6756

dancehalldolly@live.com

**Mr. Bryan K. Martin (3207) OR**

(847) 922-8735

bkmshows@aol.com

**EMERITUS CONFORMATION JUDGE**

Mr. Michael J. Dougherty

Mrs. Barbara Taylor Kloss

**DECEASED CONFORMATION JUDGES**

Dr. Robert A. Indeglia

Mrs. Patricia M. Lapinski

Mr. Jere Olson

Ms. Dona Powers

Mr. Ron Young

**PROVISIONAL OBEDIENCE/RALLY/TRACKING JUDGES COMPLETED**

The following persons have completed their Provisional Judging assignments and their names have been added to the list of *regular approved* judges.

**Carla Ogert (95493) IL**

(630) 844-0695

kellysridgefarms@sbcglobal.net

Tracking - TDX

**PROVISIONAL OBEDIENCE/RALLY/TRACKING JUDGES**

The following persons have been ap-



proved as a judge on a **Provisional** basis for the class/test indicated in accordance with the Provisional judging system. **They may now accept assignments.**

**Ms. Cheryl Bavister (103959) WA**

(510) 673-0113  
spectrum@terv.com  
Tracking – TDX

**Ms. Ann S Davis (108925) VT**

(802) 779-1849  
annie@vermontel.net  
Tracking – TD/TDU

**Dr. Cathy L Greenfield D.V.M. (100337) FL**

(217) 390-2050  
trackingtervs@gmail.com  
Tracking – TDX

**Dr. Cheryl Harris (109677) OH**

(513) 476-1393  
nml.doc@fuse.net  
Tracking – TD/TDU

**Ms. Mie Kingsley (99081) VT**

(802) 293-2931  
mskx2y@gmail.com  
Tracking - TDX

**Ms. Shawn Nies (67663) IL**

(314) 882-7929  
shawndachs@sbcglobal.net  
Tracking – TDX

**Ms. Reegan Ray (102663) CA**

(619) 855-7387  
rreegan@aol.com  
Tracking – TD/TDU

## REINSTATED OBEDIENCE/RALLY/TRACKING JUDGES

The following persons have been reinstated for the test level indicated and their name has been added to the list of **regular approved judges.**

**Ms. Jane Wiedel (3178) IL**

jfwiedel@hotmail.com  
815-275-0650  
Tracking – TD/TDU

## EMERITUS OBEDIENCE & RALLY JUDGES

Virginia Kinion – MO Obed/Rally  
Jerry Iermiero – FL Obed/Rally

## DECEASED OBEDIENCE, RALLY & TRACKING JUDGES

Ken Nagler

## 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:

C-ME- Miniature American Shepherds- Cynthia J. Weight-Carter and Tobin K. Weight-Carter  
CREEK- Great Danes-Kenneth L. Cregg and David A. Beek  
HAULIN- Australian Shepherds-Chelsie

Pendo and Suzette Pendo-Peira

HOLLY BLUFF- Shetland Sheepdogs-

James L. Hudson and Angela A. Hudson

IMAGINEER- Australian Shepherds- Gemi

Sasson-Brickson and Eric Brickson

IRRESISTIBULL- Staffordshire Bull Terri-

ers and American Staffordshire Terriers-

Linda E. Lavender

LEDENFER CBR- Chesapeake Bay Retrie-

vers- Dennis L. Ferderer

MAGNUMS-Beagles-Demetrius Nionakis

MISSAL- Belgian Malinois-Jill C. Missal

MARLOWIN- Miniature American Shep-

herds- Tina L. Winston

MYSTIC BLUES- Black Russian Terriers-

John R. Ayers & Linda H. Ayers

NUFOREST-Dachshunds- Susan A. Buck

and William F. Buck

RAGTYME- Bearded Collies- Lynn A. Za-

garella & Vince B. Zagarella

SHOW GUN- Boxers- Beth A. Collis &

Robert C. Collis

SOLARIS- Vizslas- Beth T. Kirven

TRAVELDA- Nova Scotia Duck Tolling

Retrievers- William Burland & Lisa Bur-

land

## REGISTERED NAME PREFIXES GRANTED

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

AQUATUNES- Portuguese Water Dogs-

Michael J. Antunes

AYUR-ES-SAH-EL-Azawakh-Lillia Berezkina

BLACKJACK- Gordon Setters- Joe E.

Wollschlager and Sandy G. Wollschlager

BLOOM/ING- Bichon Frise- Rhonda J.

Hall

BOURBON WOOD- German Shorthaired

Pointers- Eryk R. Seewald and Wanda F.

Seewald

CASTLEHILL-Basset Hounds- James R.

Dok and Shaon A. Dok

FAIRWILDE FARM- Australian Shepherds-

Amy Dettore

FOLLY'S-Bullmastiffs Tina Thompson

GRIDIRON-Staffordshire Bull Terrier-

Patricia M. Strickland

KICKIN' BRASS- Golden Retrievers -

James Giacalone

LONETREE-Boxers-Cheryl L. Hill

LUKOS-Portuguese Water Dogs-Karen

Widden-Martinez and Duane Martinez

MERAKI-Cavalier King Charles Spaniels-

Sher L. Miller

RUSSET LEATHER- Vizslas-Beverly A.

Wanjon

SILVERMORNING's-Papillons- Monica

Palermo

SNOWBOUND-Samoyeds- Lucy M, Gearty

and Timothy M. Gearty

SILVER OAK-Greater Swiss Mountain

Dogs- Lisa England and Allan England

TIDAL WAVE- Great Danes-Stephanie C.

Cahill

VINELAKE-Australian Shepherds- Sandra

J. Landrey and Amy R. Johanson



VOM MUSIKSTADT- Rottweilers Rosann  
M. Bentley  
VONGUARD-Doberman Pinschers-  
Meghan T. Schwartz  
WESTOAK- Miniature American  
Shepherds-Dana S. Huntington



**ANNUAL MEETING OF THE DELEGATES  
OF THE AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB  
MARCH 8, 2022**

Dennis B. Sprung, President  
PRESENT 240

Abilene Kennel Club—*Melanie Steele*  
Affenpinscher Club of America—*Letisha Wubbel*  
Afghan Hound Club of America, Inc.—*Ms. Constance Butherus*  
Airedale Terrier Club of America—*Aletta L. Moore*  
Alaskan Malamute Club of America, Inc.—*Ruth Levesque*  
American Belgian Malinois Club—*Carol J. Shields*  
American Bloodhound Club—*Mary Lou Olszewski*  
American Bouvier des Flandres Club, Inc.—*Patte Klecan*  
American Boxer Club, Inc.—*Sharon Steckler*  
American Brittany Club, Inc. – *Mrs. Terry Hilliard*  
American Bullmastiff Association, Inc.—*Alan Kalter*  
American Chinese Crested Club, Inc.—*Neil Butterklee*

American Lhasa Apso Club, Inc.—*Don Hanson*  
American Maltese Association, Inc.—*Ms. Sandra Bingham-Porter*  
American Manchester Terrier Club—*Roberta Berman*  
American Miniature Schnauzer Club, Inc.—*Barbara Donahue*  
American Rottweiler Club—*Mr. Peter G. Piusz*  
American Shetland Sheepdog Association—*Marjorie Tuff*  
American Whippet Club, Inc.—*Karen Bowers Lee*  
Anderson Kennel Club—*Laura A. Rockwell*  
Anderson Obedience Training Club, Inc.—*Ms. Patricia A. Sample*  
Asheville Kennel Club, Inc.—*Corie Haylett*  
Atlanta Kennel Club, Inc.—*Ann Wallin*  
Atlanta Obedience Club, Inc.—*Gail A. LaBerge*  
Australian Cattle Dog Club of America—*Joyce Rowland*  
Australian Terrier Club of America, Inc.—*William I. Christensen*  
Basset Hound Club of America, Inc.—*Dr. Norine E. Noonan*  
Bayshore Companion Dog Club, Inc.—*Susan Soviero*  
Bedlington Terrier Club of America—*Laurie W. Zembrzusi*  
Belgian Sheepdog Club of America, Inc.—*Mary G. Buckwalter*

Belle-City Kennel Club, Inc.—*Carole A. Wilson*  
Berger Picard Club of America—*Jacqueline Carswell*  
Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America, Inc.—*Sara Karl*  
Bichon Frise Club of America, Inc.—*Mayno Blanding*  
Birmingham Kennel Club, Inc.—*Martha Griffin*  
Black Russian Terrier Club of America—*Susan Sholar*  
Blennerhassett Kennel Club, Inc.—*John McCullagh*  
Border Terrier Club of America, Inc.—*Mrs. Ruth A. Naun*  
Borzoi Club of America, Inc.—*Prudence G. Hlatky*  
Briard Club of America, Inc.—*Diane Reid*  
Bronx County Kennel Club—*Alexa Samarotto*  
Brookhaven Kennel Club, Inc.—*Marie A. Fiore*  
Bulldog Club of America—*Link Newcomb*  
Burlington County Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mr. Daniel J. Smyth, Esq.*  
Butler County Kennel Club, Inc.—*Barbara Ioia*  
Cairn Terrier Club of America—*Pam Davis*  
Canaan Dog Club of America—*Pamela S. Rosman*  
Canada Del Oro Kennel Club—*Dr. Sophia Kaluzniacki*  
Capital Dog Training Club of Washington, D.C., Inc.—*Dr. Joyce A. Dandridge*



Carolina Kennel Club, Inc.—*Jaimie Ashby*  
 Catoctin Kennel Club—*Whitney Coombs*  
 Catonsville Kennel Club—*Beverly A. Drake*  
 Champlain Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—*John E. Cornell*  
 Chihuahua Club of America, Inc.—*Mr. Joao Machado*  
 Chow Chow Club, Inc.—*Margaret DiCorleto*  
 Clackamas Kennel Club—*Tami Worley*  
 Clermont County Kennel Club, Inc.—*Margorie Underwood*  
 Clumber Spaniel Club of America, Inc.—*Kelly E. Lease*  
 Collie Club of America, Inc.—*Mr. John G. Buddie*  
 Colorado Kennel Club—*Mrs. Louise Leone*  
 Colorado Springs Kennel Club—*Douglas Johnson*  
 Contra Costa County Kennel Club, Inc.—*James F. Barron*  
 Conyers Kennel Club of Georgia—*Michael Houchard*  
 Cudahy Kennel Club—*Mr. Don H. Adams*  
 Dalmatian Club of America, Inc.—*Dr. Charles Garvin*  
 Dandie Dinmont Terrier Club of America, Inc.—*Karen Dorn*  
 Dayton Kennel Club, Inc.—*Leah H. Schiller*  
 Del-Otse-Nango Kennel Club—*Stephanie A. Crawford*  
 Delaware Water Gap Kennel Club—*Dr. A. D. Butherus*

Doberman Pinscher Club of America—*Glen Lajeski*  
 Dog Fanciers Association of Oregon, Inc.—*Mrs. Patti L. Strand*  
 Dog Owners' Training Club of Maryland, Inc.—*Nancy Zinkhan*  
 Durango Kennel Club—*Donald E. Schwartz, V.M.D*  
 Durham Kennel Club Inc—*Mr. Jack E. Sappenfield, II*  
 Eastern Dog Club—*Mr. Theodore C. Hollander, Jr.*  
 Eastern German Shorthaired Pointer Club, Inc.—*Robert Rynkiewicz*  
 Elm City Kennel Club—*Dr. Gregory J. Paveza*  
 English Setter Association of America, Inc.—*Dr. Brenda J. Parsons, D.V.M.*  
 English Springer Spaniel Field Trial Association, Inc.—*Susanne Burgess*  
 Farmington Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—*Terrie Breen*  
 Finger Lakes Kennel Club, Inc.—*Margaret B. Pough*  
 First Dog Training Club of Northern New Jersey, Inc.—*Mary D. Curtis*  
 Forsyth Kennel Club, Inc.—*June Guido*  
 Fort Lauderdale Dog Club—*Stephanie S. Brooks*  
 Fort Worth Kennel Club—*Harold Tatro III*  
 Framingham District Kennel Club, Inc.—*Gale Golden*

Genesee County Kennel Club, Inc.—*Ms. Cynthia (Cindy) Collins*  
 German Pinscher Club of America—*Barbara L. Visinski*  
 German Shepherd Dog Club of America—*Dr. Carmen L. Battaglia*  
 German Shorthaired Pointer Club of America—*Mrs. Barbara N. Schwartz*  
 Giant Schnauzer Club of America, Inc.—*Chris Reed*  
 Gig Harbor Kennel Club—*James R. Dok*  
 Glen of Imaal Terrier Club of America—*Jo Lynn*  
 Golden Retriever Club of America—*Ellen Hardin*  
 Gordon Setter Club of America, Inc.—*Nance O. Skoglund*  
 Grand Rapids Kennel Club—*Mrs. Carol L. Johnson*  
 Great Barrington Kennel Club, Inc.—*Dr. Ellen C. Shanahan*  
 Great Dane Club of America, Inc.—*Jean Highlands*  
 Greater Clark County Kennel Club Inc—*Ms. Karen J. Burgess*  
 Greater Collin Kennel Club, Inc.—*Barbara Shaw*  
 Greater Swiss Mountain Dog Club of America, Inc.—*Joanne Schottinger*  
 Harrisburg Kennel Club, Inc.—*Sandie Rolenaitis*  
 Hatboro Dog Club, Inc.—*Sally L. Fineburg*  
 Havanese Club of America—*Shirley A. Petko*

Heart of the Plains Kennel Club—*Patricia M. Cruz*  
 Hendersonville Kennel Club—*Betty Ann Brown*  
 Hockamock Kennel Club, Inc.—*Nancy Fisk*  
 Holyoke Kennel Club, Inc.—*Jane Wilkinson*  
 Hungarian Pumi Club of America —*Marilyn Piusz*  
 Huntingdon Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—*Dick Blair*  
 Huntington Kennel Club, Inc.—*Ms. Marile A. Waterstraat*  
 Ibizan Hound Club of the United States—*Michelle Barlak*  
 Ingham County Kennel Club, Inc.—*Rita J. Biddle*  
 Irish Setter Club of America, Inc.—*Ms. Karolynne M. McAteer*  
 Irish Terrier Club of America—*Thea F. Lahti*  
 Irish Wolfhound Club of America—*Eugenia Hunter*  
 Japanese Chin Club of America—*Cecilia Resnick*  
 K-9 Obedience Training Club of Essex County, NJ, Inc.—*Dave Morgan*  
 Keeshond Club of America, Inc.—*Richard Su*  
 Kennel Club of Beverly Hills—*Thomas Powers*  
 Kennel Club of Buffalo, Inc.—*Margaret Doster*  
 Kennel Club of Niagara Falls—*Daniel Petko*



Kennel Club of Northern New Jersey, Inc.—*Dr. Suzanne H. Hampton*  
 Kennel Club of Riverside—*Sylvia A. Thomas*  
 Kennesaw Kennel Club—*Bud Hidlay*  
 Kettle Moraine Kennel Club, Inc.—*Jacquelyn Fogel*  
 Key City Kennel Club, Inc.—*Melissa Lembke*  
 Ladies' Dog Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Arna B. Margolies*  
 Lagotto Romagnolo Club of America, Inc.—*James Talbert*  
 Lake Shore Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Diana L. Skibinski*  
 Lakeland Winter Haven Kennel Club—*Mary McDaniel, D.V.M.*  
 Lancaster Kennel Club, Inc.—*Carolyn M. Vack*  
 Land O'Lakes Kennel Club, Inc.—*Jan Croft*  
 Lawrenceville Kennel Club, Inc.—*Robert N. LaBerge*  
 Lehigh Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—*Cindy Meyer*  
 Leonberger Club of America—*Don James*  
 Lewiston-Auburn Kennel Club, Inc.—*Laurie Green*  
 Longshore-Southport Kennel Club, Inc.—*Michaelann Mako*  
 Louisville Kennel Club, Inc.—*Debra H. Owen*  
 Lowchen Club of America—*Lisa Brown*  
 Magic Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—*Ruth Crumb*

Mahoning-Shenango Kennel Club, Inc.—*James P. Henshaw*  
 Manatee Kennel Club—*Judy Seltrecht*  
 Marion Ohio Kennel Club, Inc.—*Lynn Garvin*  
 Maryland Kennel Club—*Gary Sarvinas*  
 Mastiff Club of America, Inc.—*Mary L. Speer*  
 Middle Tennessee Amateur Retriever Club—*John Russell*  
 Mississippi Valley Kennel Club—*Gretchen Bernardi*  
 Monticello New York Kennel Club, Inc.—*Barry A. Hoovis*  
 Morris Hills Dog Training Club, Inc.—*Eleanor Campbell*  
 Mt. Baker Kennel Club, Inc.—*Jane F. Ruthford*  
 Myrtle Beach Kennel Club—*Sylvia Arrowood*  
 National Beagle Club—*Eddie Dziuk*  
 National Capital Kennel Club, Inc.—*Norma Ryan*  
 National Shiba Club of America—*Maggi Strouse*  
 Naugatuck Valley Kennel Club—*Viola Burgos*  
 New England Beagle Club, Inc.—*Blaine Grove*  
 Newton Kennel Club—*Catherine H. Murch*  
 Newtown Kennel Club, Inc.—*Susan Marucci*  
 Norfolk Terrier Club—*Susan Schneider*

Northeastern Maryland Kennel Club—*Ann M. Schultz*  
 Norwich Terrier Club of America—*Jean Kessler*  
 Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever Club (USA)—*Alyson Casper*  
 Old English Sheepdog Club of America, Inc.—*Sheila Kenyon*  
 Old Pueblo Dog Training Club, Inc.—*Felice Jarrold*  
 Olympic Kennel Club, Inc.—*Tim Ufkes*  
 Otterhound Club of America—*Joellen Gregory, D.V.M.*  
 Pacific Coast Pekingese Club—*Frank Meister*  
 Parson Russell Terrier Association of America—*Gary Koeppel*  
 Pasanita Obedience Club Inc.—*Mrs. Betty M. Winthers*  
 Pekingese Club of America—*Steven Hamblin*  
 Penn Treaty Kennel Club, Inc.—*Bettina M. Sterling*  
 Pharaoh Hound Club of America—*Dominic P. Carota*  
 Philadelphia Dog Training Club, Inc.—*Larry Wilson*  
 Plainfield Kennel Club—*Linda A. Deutsch*  
 Plum Creek Kennel Club of Colorado—*William E. Ellis*  
 Port Chester Obedience Training Club, Inc.—*Kathy Gregory*  
 Portuguese Water Dog Club of America, Inc.—*Janet L. Boyd*

Puyallup Valley Dog Fanciers, Inc.—*Frances Stephens*  
 Pyrenean Shepherd Club of America—*Mrs. Nancy-Lee H. Coombs*  
 Ramapo Kennel Club—*Jeffrey D. Ball*  
 Redwood Empire Kennel Club—*Johnny Shoemaker*  
 Rhode Island Kennel Club, Inc.—*Grace Wilkinson*  
 Rio Grande Kennel Club—*Mary E. Ferguson*  
 Rockford-Freeport Illinois Kennel Club—*Barbara L. Burns*  
 Rubber City Kennel Club—*Cathy Gaidos*  
 Salisbury Maryland Kennel Club—*Karen Cottingham*  
 Salisbury North Carolina Kennel Club—*Leslie Puppo Rogers*  
 Saluki Club of America—*Monica H. Stoner*  
 Samoyed Club of America, Inc.—*Mr. John L. Ronald*  
 San Mateo Kennel Club, Inc.—*Harvey M. Wooding*  
 Scottish Deerhound Club of America, Inc.—*Hon. James G. Phinizy*  
 Scottish Terrier Club of America—*Helen A. Prince*  
 Scottsdale Dog Fanciers Association, Inc.—*Dr. Dawn Schroeder*  
 Seattle Kennel Club, Inc.—*Jeff Ryman*  
 Siberian Husky Club of America, Inc.—*Ann M. Cook*  
 Skye Terrier Club of America—*Mr. Stephen P. Hersey*



South Shore Kennel Club, Inc.—*Linda C. Flynn*  
 South Windsor Kennel Club—*Mrs. Laurie Maulucci*  
 Southeastern Iowa Kennel Club—*Marilyn R. Vinson*  
 Southern Adirondack Dog Club, Inc.—*John V. Ioia*  
 Space Coast Kennel Club of Palm Bay—*Glenda Stephenson*  
 Spinone Club of America—*Karen Luckey*  
 Springfield Kennel Club, Inc.—*Dr. Thomas M. Davies*  
 St. Bernard Club of America, Inc.—*Susan Weigel*  
 St. Croix Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Deborah J. Wilkins*  
 St. Petersburg Dog Fanciers Association—*Jan Ritchie Gladstone*  
 Staffordshire Terrier Club of America—*Jeannette O'Hanlon*  
 Standard Schnauzer Club of America—*Dr. Harvey Mohrenweiser*  
 Staten Island Kennel Club, Inc.—*Marianne Megna*  
 Steel City Kennel Club, Inc.—*Miss Susan M. Napady*  
 Suffolk County Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mr. Robert Eisele*  
 Sun Maid Kennel Club of Fresno, Inc.—*Marcy L. Zingler*  
 Susque-Nango Kennel Club, Inc.—*Laura Trainor*

Sussex Hills Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Florence Duggan*  
 Taconic Hills Kennel Club, Inc.—*Marylyn DeGregorio*  
 Tennessee Valley Kennel Club—*Mrs. Richella M. Veatch*  
 Terry-All Kennel Club, Inc.—*Kevin O'Connell*  
 Texas Kennel Club, Inc.—*Dr. Michael Knight*  
 Tibetan Terrier Club of America, Inc.—*Stacey La Forge*  
 Trap Falls Kennel Club, Inc.—*Christopher L. Sweetwood*  
 Trenton Kennel Club, Inc.—*Karen Gunzel*  
 Tucson Kennel Club—*Dr. Kenneth H. Levi-son*  
 Two Cities Kennel Club—*Eduardo T. Fugiwara*  
 Union County Kennel Club, Inc.—*Jennifer V. Modica*  
 United States Kerry Blue Terrier Club, Inc.—*Mr. Carl C. Ashby, III*  
 United States Lakeland Terrier Club—*Maria Sacco*  
 United States Neapolitan Mastiff Club—*Ms. Margaret R. Wolfe*  
 Valley Forge Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Carol Fisher*  
 Vizsla Club of America, Inc.—*Mrs. Kathy A. Rust*  
 Washington State Obedience Training Club, Inc.—*John J. Cadalso, Jr.*

Waterloo Kennel Club, Inc.—*Cindy Miller*  
 Welsh Springer Spaniel Club of America, Inc.—*Richard Rohrbacher*  
 West Highland White Terrier Club of America—*Tracy J. Pancost*  
 Western Fox Terrier Breeders Association—*Torie Steele*  
 Western Pennsylvania Kennel Association, Inc.—*Judy M. Descutner*  
 Whidbey Island Kennel Club Inc—*Laura Myles*  
 Wilmington Kennel Club, Inc.—*Bonnie Bieber*  
 Windham County Kennel Club, Inc.—*Fred-erick R. Vogel*  
 Woodstock Dog Club, Inc.—*Karen Dewey*  
 Yorkshire Terrier Club of America, Inc.—*Claudia M. Grunstra-Pierro*



## AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB DELEGATE MEETING MARCH 8, 2022

Dennis B. Sprung, President in the Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. ET.

The Chair advised the Delegates that face masks covering the nose and mouth were required to be worn at all times in the meeting room and in public areas regardless of vaccination status.

Delegates were reminded to check in at the registration desk, to ensure they would be marked present.

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

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

- Kathie S. Moulton on October 20,



2021. She was the Delegate for the Green Mountain Dog Club since 2014.

- Chairman Emeritus Ronald H. Menaker on February 16, 2022. Over a 34 year period, he was the Delegate for the Bedlington Terrier Club of America, Des Moines Obedience Training Club, Rockford-Freeport Illinois Kennel Club and Memphis Kennel Club.

The Chair announced that it was the annual election of the Directors.

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

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

- Melanie Steele, Chair – Abilene Kennel Club
- Pamela Stacey Rosman – Canaan Dog Club of America
- Patti Strand – Dog Fanciers Association of Oregon
- Maggi Strouse – National Shiba Club of America
- Marilyn Vinson – Southeastern Iowa Kennel Club

and Alternates:

- Marge Calltharp – Chinese Shar-Pei Club of America
- Connie Clark – American Fox Terrier Club

appointed by the Board of Directors at its July 2021 meeting have nominated the following Delegates as candidates for such vacancies on the Board of Directors as to be filled at the next annual meeting of the Club on March 8, 2022. There are three vacancies for the Class of 2026.

## CLASS OF 2026

- Christopher L. Sweetwood - Trap Falls Kennel Club
- Harold “Red” Tatro, III - Fort Worth Kennel Club
- Ann Wallin - Atlanta Kennel Club

Mr. Sprung: The Bylaws state that nominations may not be made from the floor. Nominations, therefore, closed on November 15, 2021. As no additional nominations may be made, and the Bylaws make no provision for write in candidates, we will follow the procedure used in previous instances where there was an uncontested election.

Pursuant to Article VIII, Section 6, of the Charter and Bylaws of The American Kennel Club, the Chair declares that the three candidates for the Class of 2026 are

elected:

Christopher L. Sweetwood, Harold “Red” Tatro and Ann Wallin. Congratulations Chris, Red and Ann. The Executive Secretary read the names of Delegates seated since the last meeting.

**Karen M. Bodeving**, Cave Junction, OR to represent Klamath Dog Fanciers  
**Janet Lee Boyd**, Hokes Bluff, AL to represent Portuguese Water Dog Club of America  
**Kerri Dale**, Blue Ridge, GA to represent American Boerboel Club  
**Jean A. Evanoff**, Fargo, ND to represent Fargo-Moorhead Kennel Club  
**Ruth M. Levesque**, Tolland, CT to represent Alaskan Malamute Club of America  
**Kevin E. Lord**, Aubrey, TX to represent Pembroke Welsh Corgi Club of America  
**Marie Murphy**, Esq., Nashville, TN to represent Greater Murfreesboro Kennel Club  
**Jeffrey Ryman**, Snohomish, WA to represent Seattle Kennel Club  
**Ann Moore Schultz**, Joppa, MD to represent Northeastern Maryland Kennel Club  
**Judith A. Seltrecht**, Brandon, FL to represent Manatee Kennel Club  
**Matthew E. Townsend**, Mebane, NC to represent Carolina Working Group Association

The following Delegates, who were attend-

ing their first meeting since being officially seated, were introduced from the floor:

**Janet Lee Boyd** to represent Portuguese Water Dog Club of America  
**Ruth M. Levesque** to represent Alaskan Malamute Club of America  
**Jeffrey Ryman** to represent Seattle Kennel Club  
**Ann Moore Schultz** to represent Northeastern Maryland Kennel Club  
**Judith A. Seltrecht** to represent Manatee Kennel Club  
**Mary Lynn Speer** to represent Mastiff Club of America

The minutes of the meeting on December 17, 2021 were published in the January 2022 *AKC GAZETTE* and the complete transcript was posted on the Delegate Portal on AKC's website. There were no correction and the minutes were adopted as published.

The Portuguese Podengo Pequenos of America was duly elected as a member of The American Kennel Club.

Dr. Thomas Davies delivered the Chairman's Report as follows:

Good morning. I lost my dear friend a few weeks ago. Dealing with Ron's passing is a



deeply personal experience for me. He was my mentor, a colleague, and above all, a special friend. He had an enormous capacity to give of himself. I am who I am today, because I knew him.

However, I can comfort myself by remembering the camaraderie, the joy and the pride that I had in my relationship with Ron. He helped me to be my best. I will miss him very much as we all will, and I will do everything possible to honor his memory and his legacy in all that I do, as I am sure we all will.

Eleanor Roosevelt said, "Many people will walk in and out of our lives, but only a very few will leave footprints on our hearts." Ron's footprints will leave mighty impressions on our hearts and lives for as long as we take breath. We are so lucky to have had someone that makes saying goodbye so difficult.

We mourn him, as we should, but we should rejoice in the fact that he was one of us. As Dr. Seuss once said, "Don't cry because it is over, smile because it happened." Ron is one of those people that will never leave us, even as he is gone from our presence. Someone said, "Say not in grief, "He is no longer with us, but live in the thankfulness that he was".

What is left behind is not what is etched on stone monuments, but what is now a part of all of our lives. As we look back on his time with us, know that he spent it well, he made a giant difference, and that his presence will have a lasting impact on the lives of us all.

Ron, you will be sorely missed by us all lucky enough to have known you. As Mitch Albom said, "Life has to end, love doesn't".

Ronald H. Menaker dedicated his life to our Sport beginning in 1965.

From presiding over the rings as a Best in Show and five group Judge, to serving as President, Delegate and member of ten Parent and All-Breed Clubs, to countless stints as Show Chairman, Ron gave his all to purebred dogs. He served this Delegate Body between 1996 and 2018 as our Board Vice Chairman and Chairman. He held leadership roles in the AKC Affiliates as well as other prominent organizations devoted to the care and welfare of dogs.

After a long career in finance, Ron shared his management expertise throughout the philanthropic and corporate communities by serving on the boards of hospitals and companies. While leading the Board of the AKC, Ron guided our organization to set

financial reserves in order to secure the future of our Sport. He also used his experience in both the for-profit and not-for-profit worlds to put AKC on a growth trajectory that continues to this day.

Over the years Ron bred, showed and finished Bedlington Terriers, Giant Schnauzers and Border Terriers. But he famously didn't start out in the ribbons. As Ron said in his last address to you, *"For many of us, dogs have changed our lives in incredible ways. I am certainly no exception. Never could I have guessed back in 1959 that a Bedlington Terrier from Gimbel's department store would chart a course for me that would include more than twenty years of leadership at The American Kennel Club and a lifetime of joy with the Sport of Purebred Dogs."*

He went on to say: *"Today's AKC has evolved tremendously since those early days when I chased points for my Bedlingtons, Border Terriers and Giant Schnauzers. We all may be getting older, yet our dogs are getting better. Whether you think there are too many shows or if you are of the mind that there is not enough competition to satisfy your goals, we still have the most wonderful sport to enjoy with our dogs. I am not one to take it for granted."*

He surely did not. Ron was an influential

force in three major areas that were transformative of our organization. He spoke about them during his last address as Chairman of The American Kennel Club. In tribute to Ron, I would like to recount them now.

Today's AKC is agile, responsive and accountable. Twenty-one years ago, Ron remembered, we were anything but. A major technology and management failure created a severe backlog in registrations that caused our systems to effectively melt down. Months of hands-on work in the trenches, insight from consultants and the dedication of staff were needed to right our sinking ship. Ron Menaker led the team to victory. Every member of the fancy has benefitted from the work that Ron, management and staff achieved during that pivotal time.

Today's AKC is an active voice for purebred dogs. Before 2001, as Ron reminded us, we were purely a governing body with a grandfatherly attitude to events and clubs. Now we deliver on our responsibility to provide quality competition for the fancy and "edutainment" experiences for the public. Ron was instrumental in building the AKC National Championship to honor our breeders and to introduce the sport of purebred dogs to generations of new fans.



Today, the National Championship is our beloved celebration of the culmination of competition throughout the year. The show has enjoyed record-breaking entries for years and has developed a devoted following that has only grown since it has found its network home on ABC television. Thanks to our dedicated Staff who make it happen every December, our breeders who exhibit the best of the best, and most of all because of Ron's vision, the AKC National Championship has become a veritable institution in our Sport.

Today's AKC is a renowned brand with a world-class museum by its side. Headquartered together again in New York City, AKC and the AKC Museum of the Dog make a powerful statement. Ron helped make it happen. He felt strongly that our community should share our message of responsible breeding and ownership with as broad an audience as we could build. He also knew that we could preserve our history more effectively by bringing our collection into the light of a public forum. Our Museum allows us to do both. The Museum opened during Ron's tenure as Chairman, and of it he said "Little means more to me than the chance to tell the world our story, as in doing so, we can create more allies for the sport we cherish... The return of the AKC Museum of the

Dog to New York City has long been a dream for many people, including myself. I am thrilled to have been able to help turn the vision into reality and I will continue to support its growth. I hope you will all do the same." Ron was always a champion of the arts, and our Museum was so lucky to have him among its most active benefactors.

To me, Ron's legacy is in the work we have all achieved together to make purebred dogs more accessible to thousands of people. Let us remember his famous lesson of the Gimbel's dog: everyone has to start somewhere, and if given the chance, there is a place for everyone in the world of purebred dogs. Let's continue that legacy in his honor.

I want to remind you all about our most important consumer-facing educational program, AKC Meet the Breeds, which is set to resume in April. AKC Meet the Breeds® is our opportunity to connect the public to our breeds, clubs and the AKC. It is our chance to tell prospective owners why and how purebred dogs make a difference. We need to embrace this moment. Meet the Breeds® will go on a five-city tour throughout 2022, beginning April 23 in Tampa, Florida. Other stops on the tour include Dallas, San Diego, and Columbus.

Past Meet the Breeds® have welcomed record-breaking attendance, including 30,000 people at the Javits Center just before the pandemic struck. Over the past two years, we have been enormously successful in educating the public digitally, but it is time once again to bring dogs and dog lovers together in person.

AKC Meet the Breeds® is an event like no other. But we cannot do it alone. Our Parent Clubs, Local Specialty Clubs, Companion Events Clubs and their volunteers are our Meet the Breeds® heroes. Fellow Delegates, please ask the clubs you represent to heed AKC's calls for assistance, as we get closer to our Tampa event date. Please respond to the emails and postal correspondence requesting Tampa Meet the Breeds® registrations. AKC needs your help. Do it for your breed. Do it for our Sport. Do it in Ron's memory.

This ends my story of a most remarkable man with a most remarkable impact on all of us and on our Sport.

I'd like to leave on a somewhat lighter note and a personal anecdote. As you are probably aware, I like to share important quotes from important people. I have prepared a plaque that will forever hang on my office wall. It has on it, my favorite of

Ron's quotes, that, if I heard once, I heard it many hundreds of times, and it sure applies to his story. "You can't make this shit up." God speed, my dear friend. Thank you.

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

First down to business; the Clubs Report. Of late there has been some discussion about the number of AKC clubs and a perception of a loss. As a result, I worked with Lisa Cecin, Director of Club Relations, who furnishes factual information on this very topic to Staff and the Board on an ongoing basis. Lisa has assisted me with five years of data, 2017 – 2021, on which I am delighted to report.

Most positively, the number of clubs continues to flourish. Sharing a transparent five-year perspective, the following statistics are of interest to each of us and these facts are available for you and your members as well.

Beginning with the world of Performance: Hunt Tests have 10 new clubs with none dissolving; in Herding an addition of 11 compared to 1 leaving. Lure Coursing is plus 7, Coonhound plus 13 and Scent Work gained 36 clubs; none had a loss.



There were no changes in Earth Dog. Last but certainly not least we have 51 new Field Trial clubs compared to 2 dissolving. Moving over to the important disciplines of Companion: Rally had no changes. Obedience brought in 3 clubs against minus one. Tracking gained 2 and Agility increased by 11, both without having a loss.

Next is the Conformation universe: Group Clubs added 8; none left. All Breed gained 7 versus minus 6. Parent Clubs were plus 12 and a loss of 1. Specialty clubs increased by 65 with a minus 28, resulting in plus 37.

In summary, over the past five years 236 clubs were recognized versus 39 dissolving, a net gain of 197 clubs.

The current total number of clubs stands at 4,992. There are 645 member clubs, licensed clubs are 4,166. We have 95 at Sanctioned A and 86 at Sanctioned B. Relating to clubs elevated to member status covering the same five-year span: These include 11 Parent Clubs, 9 All-Breed, 2 Obedience and 1 Group club resulting in plus 23 compared to 4 fewer over the identical time period.

According to Lisa, the reasons for clubs

disbanding are the following:

1. Aging out
2. Lack of membership and/or new members
3. The loss of convenient suitable and available sites in the area, or general loss of interest in the Sport by club members over time.

When this is reported to Club Relations, Club Development is alerted and proactively reaches out to see if they can assist with increasing membership and/or site information. If you desire assistance, Glenn Lycan and Guy Fisher will provide it.

Disbanding due to unstable finances is extremely rare and our records do not reflect that this is the case. More frequently, clubs inquire as to where club funds may be donated when dissolving in accordance with their bylaws.

If anyone has any questions, please contact Lisa, her staff or me for a prompt response.

Another item to share with you is that Staff is working on a release of an NFT. If we can accomplish this, there will be an initial offer to friends and family which will include every Delegate. More information

will be provided to you if the project moves forward.

Now to a most important matter: Three years ago in 2019, Tom and I spoke with you about our Chairman Ron Menaker. What we said then with a little updating, bears repeating and should be remembered in the future.

Tom's words were true and heartwarming. Life with Ron was special. We spoke multiple times a day for years and years, then illness made that into a few days a week and gradually a moment or perhaps two at a time. We knew him as a special man, jokingly referred to as quiet, noncommittal and calm. To start the discussion of our Chairman is to restate the virtue we love in our dogs – that of unconditional loyalty. His appreciation and respect for AKC, dogs, our Board of Directors, delegates, clubs, fanciers and employees, simply had no barriers.

I really came to know him well while serving as Vice President and being told by both he and David Merriam that as a result of the 2002 registration meltdown I was immediately being transferred to North Carolina. What they didn't tell me was that Ron would be on the next plane where he helped in the registration de-

partment for months. He went through every single file cabinet, emptying them of registration forms and checks. As an older gentleman, he earned the nickname "Pops" from the ladies in the registration department. I recall during a conversation when every one of us was seated on the floor, placing the applications into batches, one of the ladies said to Ron, "What do you do?" He responded, "I'm Chairman of The American Kennel Club." Those dear women were hysterical as the room erupted in laughter. What a sense of humor "Pops" had. How could this regular guy who treated them the same way he treated himself, with common courtesy and without privilege, be Chairman? We began work every day at 7AM and stopped at 7PM, then ending the day at dinner with the consultants who were rebuilding the registration process to right the sinking ship. Thanks to Ron, we did. He led by example.

However, there is a more important side of the man bestowed with the title Chairman Emeritus for Life: That is Humanitarian. It entails much more than his generous donations to dog-related organizations. Without mentioning a single name, the people whose lives he assisted from a health point of view are just too, too many to count. Standing here I am reminded of numer-



ous people who were helped in their time of need because when you reached out to him, he reached out to others. Whether it was the judge who came to New York for a second opinion and was told the impossible to arrange procedure became possible and he had to be tracked down at the airport to return to the City; or the show chair whose grandson was critical so Ron sent a medivac helicopter; or the Delegate who wanted to bring her child to Manhattan to see a world-renowned specialist, only to be told there was a three-month wait while her own doctor gave her just weeks to live. The daughter saw the specialist that very week. I once accompanied someone to Ron's hospital where he was also their Chairman. We arrived at the emergency room's ambulance entrance and were met by many caregivers from the President of the hospital on down. Later I asked Dr. Logan, the hospital's President, "What were you doing out in the snow with a host of doctors and nurses in tow?" He said, "What do you think I was doing there, Ron called." Friends, that patient was my mother.

I often sat with your Chairman and observed how he moved mountains to help people in our sport. What amazed me is that many of the people he helped, he had never met. They were family to some dog

person, oftentimes one of you, and that was good enough for our Ron. There was his magical help behind the scenes so that children of our fancy, your very sons, daughters or grandchildren were accepted into that college of their dreams or obtained the job they applied for or miraculously were number 1 on the list for a hard-to-obtain apartment in NYC. It was Ron in the background making calls, reaching out, doing what compassionate powerful leaders do.

The American Kennel Club has been blessed with some great women and men over the past 138 years, but in today's world the word "great" is much too commonplace. Every breed does not have a great one. Each pick of the litter does not become the next great show dog. However, this friend of ours will be remembered as a great human being who touched every person. In my opinion, his contributions are yet to be fully realized or appreciated, either philosophically, business-wise or from a visionary point of view. The museum is but one example of his leadership. There may not have ever been an AKC Museum of the Dog without Ron Menaker; certainly, the Museum would not be in its magnificent NYC setting if not for him.

On behalf of the Board and Staff, we are thankful for his respect of our combined efforts to advance AKC, dogs and clubs. We thank Ron and will forever be indebted for his friendship and leadership. He truly loved us. We love you, Ron.

Chief Financial Officer, Ted Phillips, gave the Financial Report as follows:

Thank you, Dennis, and good morning, Delegates. Thank you for attending today's meeting. We appreciate your time and your support, and your energy. Today I'll be presenting the key performance indicators of both non-financial and unaudited financial results of operations for the year ended December 31, 2021. I will present the annual total for litter and dog registrations for 2020 and 2021. Litter registrations total 325,390, which is 12.7 percent higher than 2020. Dog registrations total 801,985, which is 13.7 percent higher than 2020. The 2021 totals for both litter and dog registrations were the highest since 2008 and 2007, respectively. The online presence of both litter and dog registrations exceeded 80 percent of all registrations. This is a credit to both the systems and especially the Staff at AKC. We thank our breeders, the Delegate Body, the AKC Board of Directors, and AKC Staff for this amazing achievement. In 2021, our sports

and events activities recovered to pre-pandemic levels. As of December 31, events total 22,411 which is 81 percent higher than the prior year. Entries total 3.2 million which is 73 percent higher than 2020. This is an excellent finish to 2021 since we started the year slowly due to the second wave of COVID. For the entire year, the number of events held was the second highest in AKC's history, and we're looking forward to continued success in 2022. Next, we will review the unaudited financial operating results for the year ending December 31, 2021. Overall, 2021 was an outstanding financial success for AKC, setting a record for operating revenues while maintaining control over expenses. Net operating income is estimated at \$29 million. These results are a combination of increased registration revenues with online registration as the key driver. Recording and service fees significantly increased in 2021 due to more events and entries. Operating revenues totaled \$105 million, which is an increase of 23 percent over the prior year. The largest percentage of this total is registration and events service fees, which total \$75 million, and represent 71 percent of operating revenue. Advertising, sponsorship, and royalties are an increasing line of AKC's business and represent 16 percent of operating revenue, and finally, e-commerce sales of various products



and services round out the remainder of the revenue stream for 12 percent of total operating revenue. Operating expenses total \$76 million, which is 7 percent greater than the prior year and comprised principally of the categories you see on this slide. The largest of which is staff expenses, followed by professional fees, insurance, rent, depreciation, and what we call fulfillment, which is essentially moving e-commerce business out to the customer. AKC continues to support our charitable affiliates and others through donations that equal 4 ½ a percent of operating revenues and total \$4.7 million. As per the AKC Bylaws, I'm reporting the total cost of the expenses for the Board of Directors in 2021; that number is \$325,542.

This slide presents our balance sheet or statement of financial position as of December 31, 2021. Total assets of AKC \$198 million. This is principally comprised of AKC investment funds. The balance sheet increase as of December 31, 2021, is principally due to the net operating results and increased investment value. Performance on investments as of December 31, 2021, was very positive, returning 13 percent. The balance sheet presents the liability section in gray, which is principally comprised of pension and retirement obligations.

Thank you again for your time. We appreciate your dedication to AKC. I personally enjoy working here and look forward to serving you. I'm available to answer any questions. For your convenience, this is my contact information. Thank you.

The only vote was an amendment to Section III, I of the Delegate Standing Rule on Committees – Herding, Earthdog and Coursing Events, which would change the Committee's name and charge to include Scent Work. This amendment was proposed by the Delegate Herding, Earthdog and Coursing Committee and brought forward with approval from the Delegate Coordinating Committee.

There was a two-thirds vote in the affirmative, and the amendment was adopted.

The Chair called on the Executive Secretary to read the proposed amendment to **Chapter 11, Section 6** of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* – Dog Show Entries, Conditions of Dogs Affecting Eligibility.

Ms. DiNardo: This amendment Chapter 11, Section 6 of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Dog Show Entries, Conditions of Dogs Affecting Eligibility reformats the section for easier comprehension. It inserts verbiage to allow transfer between

the divisions of the Bred-by-Exhibitor Class (puppy/adult) if offered, adds verbiage to specify transfer between the divisions of the Twelve-to-Eighteen Month Class and permits age divisions of the Veterans Class. It also inserts language to recognize that transfer between Puppy and Twelve-to-Eighteen Month Classes may involve divisions of either and adds language for clarity as to when a transfer between classes must be completed at multi-day events.

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

It will be published in two issues of the *AKC GAZETTE* and you will be asked to vote on it at the June 2022 meeting. The full text is on the worksheet previously emailed.

The Chair called on Gail LaBerge to speak about the AKC PAC Fundraiser.

Gail LaBerge thanked the Delegates for their generous support of the AKC PAC Fundraiser which ended in December 2021. Over \$19,000 was raised for the PAC. Another fundraiser will be held later in 2022. She also thanked Karolynne McAteer for the idea of having the Impact Dog Crate® as the grand prize and providing the financing for it. She requested that the

Delegates take the message to their clubs of what the PAC does to elect officials who support AKC's position on canine issues in legislation. If Delegates need information on how to donate to the PAC, they can contact her or Sheila Goffe, VP of Government Relations.

The Chair called on Brandi Hunter Munden, VP of PR & Communications to present a Communications update.

Ms. Munden: Good Morning. For those of you who do not know me, I'm Brandi Hunter Munden. Yes, for some of you who know me, I added a name. For those of who you don't, Howdy. I am the Vice President of Public Relations and Communications for The American Kennel Club and have been so for about seven years now, and I honestly love my job. I'm here to give you a refresher for those who do know, and for those who don't know, a brief introduction to us, and some of the good news that we have happening.

First our mission. We promote the mission of the AKC, the Sport of the dog, of course purebred dogs as a lifestyle companion, a regular companion and a show dog. We also position AKC as the leading authority in all things dog in the news and lifestyle media. We also protect our reputation as



well as help enhance the reputation of our affiliates.

What do we do? All of these are buzzwords so let me break it down a bit. Strategic communication is how we say things and when we say things.

Is it appropriate? It is the time and where do we speak to that particular audience we're trying to reach. Brand enhancement, we're always looking to improve the brand. Our brand is in an excellent spot right now, but we could always do better.

Media relations – that's interviews, sourcing, queries, fact checking. We do a lot of that.

Reputation and issue management, what does that mean? Well, it means when we see things, like we did recently in a *Richmond Times* article, that the AKC's standard for years was to put down disabled dogs, we say absolutely not. We track down the writer, and we say, No, you need to correct this immediately before word gets out that you're saying something completely wrong and something that doesn't even reflect the AKC. We do that on a regular basis. If you knew how many times we did it, you would be shocked but that's what we go after. We make sure that we're being repre-

sented properly in news media.

Crisis and management in communications. We don't do a lot of that very thankfully, but that's a testament to the work we do on a daily basis. But if it's needed, we definitely make sure we put a plan in place for anything that might impact the AKC negatively.

Club communications. This is media alerts. This is press releases for events. This is also statements and rebuttals. If you email us and say, this thing is wrong, our club wants to respond, we're always here to help craft a statement, or review what you have already written and help you distribute it.

Positioning of our spokespersons, our Chief Veterinary Officer, and Dr. Mary Burch for animal behavior and things of that nature to make sure that people are getting accurate quotes and the most up-to-date information when they're representing anything dog.

What does that mean? AKC is mentioned in the news and lifestyle media as canine health and wellness experts, breed experts, social commentary experts for things like, pet theft, trends, pet insurance, disaster preparedness, and the au-

thority in all things dog. What we've really been able to do in the past few years, is position AKC so that we're the first call on people's list. Yes, you may see us mentioned with other organizations, but they always say I wanted to talk to the AKC first, and that's what we strive for every time.

For Q4 2021, our year-end totals looked really great. 5,391 clips in a three-month span. That's a lot of work. Year-end clips, 27,531 – and these numbers come from Cision which is our media monitoring service. They pull the data for us, and we report it just as is. That means AKC is mentioned in the media 75 times a day, that's online, that's radio, that's tv, that's print, and digital articles – all of that, that's us.

Sentiment: There were no negative mentions of AKC in Q4. How could that be, right? You've seen Op-eds, letters to the editor, all of those things. What this means is that media outlets that are actually writing stories about dogs and the AKC are not speaking of us in a negative light. That doesn't mean that your neighbor who wrote the letter to the editor didn't get a word in, yes, but that's not considered news. That's considered opinion. That also means that when PETA is putting out something, guess what? The impact isn't going anywhere. Same thing with HSUS.

We out do them by thousands. You'll notice you see a blue and green line on this slide. Blue is neutral. Why is neutral a good thing? I get asked this quite a bit. That means we're being cited as the authority. We're being cited as the authority on something specific, whether it be canine health, whether it be a breed, whether it be anything of that nature. They're using AKC as their resource for factual information.

Activity highlights in Q4: We've been a little busy. We did an aggressive national and local PR campaign for our National Championship, which included a satellite media tour to promote the broadcast with the help of our wonderful Gina DiNardo and our host Carolyn Manno, who talked basically until they were hoarse doing interview after interview after interview. We secured a broadcast exclusive with our Best in Show winner on *Good Morning America*. Some of you may have seen Bayou and Chris, they did wonderful for us. They did several interviews around their win. We began our PR campaign for our 2022 AKC Meet the Breeds® Tour which included the national release. I've said it several times, but if your club hasn't signed up, we'd love to see you in Tampa and every other city. It's a great way to educate people about your breed but also create



responsible dog owners within your breed.

We also work for our affiliates. For the AKC Humane Fund, we got over 900 nominations. Actually, we were only 28 short of a thousand for the ACE Awards, and we promoted the broadcast. For AKC Reunite, we promoted more than 40 Adopt a K-9 Cop matching grant programs through our releases. We got a lot of great local press on that, people were very excited that their communities were able to get a police dog with the help of AKC. We saw a lot of good traction in local media. For AKC Museum of the Dog, we helped their visibility on social channels, since of course COVID had less people coming through the doors, so we wanted to elevate the brand in a different way, and we did so on Tik Tok. We're very popular if you have Tik Tok or friends with Tik Tok, please follow us. For the Canine Health Foundation, we helped them distribute press releases to get more coverage on a national level.

When they are writing directly about the AKC, they are writing about our show. They are giving us plenty of traction there. On *Daily Paws* – we have our AKC Paw of Courage Award. It goes over really well. It shows that we are honoring working dogs both living and fallen. This just happened to be fallen dogs. Police departments get

very excited about that as does their local media. This is what I mean by lifestyle. *Money* magazine was talking about puppy scams. They came to the AKC. They wanted to know what we were seeing. How they could prevent it? How people could go about not falling into these traps? We were their resource for that. Of course, our new breeds get excellent traction. We got over 2000 clips on our new breeds announced in January 2022, so people really tend to love those.

In 2022 so far, we did a successful media campaign for our Best in Show winner, and extensive media coverage around our two new breeds. We got around 2,000 clips worldwide which is really great for what we're doing. We've launched our consumer-friendly releases in Mandarin and Spanish. We're going to actually expand to other languages, but we really wanted to reach dog owners who may not be reading mainstream publications per se or publications in English, so we started with two of the most popular languages. We will be adding more. We assisted clubs with media releases and alerts for their events. The Communications Department is always here to help you draft releases, get distribution. We're here 24/7.

We began our outreach for Meet the Breeds® Tampa. Again, sign up please. We are booking TV in the market. We appeared on *Good Morning America*, *The Dan Abrams Show* and conducted 35 other interviews regarding pet theft and French Bulldogs – that's still ongoing. I got four requests while I'm sitting here at this meeting. We had our experts quoted in 64 publications so far, many of them syndicated, which mean it goes beyond where the initial story is.

In 2022, we plan to increase our positive media coverage by 8%, particularly in lifestyle media. A lot of pet owners want to learn how to live with their dogs, and we want to make sure we're the perfect pet resource for them. We plan to secure sports coverage on AKC on ESPN events. We want more mainstream media coverage as far as sports. We have some excellent sports and would love more mainstream media to write about them. We plan to execute a successful campaign around the most popular breeds. This is actually happening next week. We will be putting out 16 press releases, one national, 15 in major markets, and we will be on Good Morning America as well as have a story in the Associated Press to kick off our coverage. We will execute a successful campaign around Meet the Breed® Tour cities. Sign

up! A satellite media tour is planned to announce our 200th recognized breed in July 2022, so we'll do 20 to 30 interviews solely around that breed that will go to stations around the country for full coverage. We plan to increase media attention around AKC Reunite Adopt a K-9 Cop Program. It's a program we love, and people really respond to it, so we want to make sure they're getting as much traction and as much credit for the work as possible. We plan to create new syndicated content to reach dog owners, expanding our McClatchy articles. McClatchy is something we do every week which gives us coverage in 600 newspapers, so we're going to go up to three articles a week to expand our reach across the country. That's it. Thank you.

Mr. Sprung: Thank you, Brandi and to your department as well.

The Chair called on Ron Furman, Director of Sales and Bill Ellis, Director of Broadcasting, to give a presentation on AKC Broadcasting on Disney Networks, ESPN and ABC.

Mr. Furman: Thank you, Dennis, and everyone up here at the dais. Just to also recognize part of Ron Menaker's legacy, what we're talking about now, the broad-



casting piece very much started under his purview with the direction of Gina Di-Nardo within the AKC. His words to us when we engaged in this about four years ago was, we need to speak to different people, and it's okay to do it loudly occasionally. We're following through with that. It's very important and as our Chairman said, this is the education and entertainment portion of what we do for The American Kennel Club. We talk to people who are interested in dogs. They are interested in purebred dogs. How does that become part of their home? But also, they may not be part of the fancy, so we're looking to attract them in different ways.

What Bill, I and the rest of our team do – and by the way, kudos to Brandi and the PR team. We work with every department, but PR is exceptionally important because we're talking to people outside of our normal sphere. Broadcasting Sponsorship in Media, we're really here building on the mission of the AKC. All of the good things that we do from purebred dog sports and events, we're trying to bring that out to new people in a very important way. We build on that. We make it a reliable good portion of what we do every day, but we also do it in such a way that people are entertained by it. A quiz today on what we

think about when we combine education and entertainment. What does Christmas Day, New Year's weekend and Super Bowl Sunday all have in common? By the way I'll point out, Super Bowl Sunday is the number one most viewed television day in the entire year. The American Kennel Club was seen by millions of people across those three holidays. Those are family friendly holidays, great opportunities for people to enjoy themselves with their family, friends, and their dog as part of that ecosystem in their homes, and we had shows on every one of those weekends – for the first time in the history of The American Kennel Club. If you were watching or maybe you had seen the press releases or you heard about it afterwards, ESPN2 chose AKC's programming to create a 6 ½ hour marathon of American Kennel Club produced programming. We had events air such as Fly Ball and our Fastest Dogs U.S.A. We produced a new 30-minute promotional show to preview The American Kennel Club's National Championship, our most prestigious event every year. We followed up with a re-air of AKC Agility Premier Cup which is in all-star format. We take some of the best dogs through all of our Agility events, which we cover all year, and we bring them together and create an exciting format for people

who may want to think about how to get involved in Agility or our other sports. These are gateway sports for people who are considering or already own purebred dogs to get involved with their dogs, and we want to be part of that conversation.

How did we get here? This started about four years ago, 2018, 2019, where we at The American Kennel Club, approached Disney ESPN with the idea of expanding television beyond Westminster, the Philadelphia show and our National Championship, which was currently on Animal Planet at the time and create not only a place for highlighting our National Championship, but bring dog sports into the homes of folks who were not necessarily seeing it. We wanted to be a constant companion, no pun intended, to people who are looking to see what dogs can do in their lives and how they can have fun with them. The case in point and the real moment of truth was in August 2019, where we did an event on the campus at ESPN in Bristol, Connecticut in the middle of their corporate environment on their entire front lawn, basically in their quad, where they invited a thousand ESPN employees to come and watch an American Kennel Club event that we put together that featured a Meet the Breeds,

Agility, Diving and Fly Ball. It was a wild success for the people who make the decisions at Disney ESPN. At the end of it, they gathered Dennis, Gina, Dominic and I, and a number of folks that were there including Bill and said this is really a new opportunity. By the way, we love attracting new viewers. For us, new viewers are a variety of people not the least of which is a female audience, and Bill is going to talk a little bit about that in a few moments. But that's how it started and through that point, with the onset of COVID and the pandemic, we developed these sports to be able to be broadcast across the ESPN and Disney networks. Bill, please take us from here.

Mr. Ellis: It's very important for us as Ron said to find a home for the AKC National Championship to highlight that it in a new and expanded way and also include some of the sports that have been seen on television like agility, but we also wanted to make sure that we brought some of our newer sports to this expanded audience so that they can see it for the first time. So that includes events like that our Canine Detection Dog Challenge, and AKC Fastest Dogs, which is the television title for the sport of FastCAT®. It's important to think about how we produce the content. The



American Kennel Club produces and controls a hundred percent of the content when we produce these TV shows, that includes the majority of the commercial times, and we use that commercial time to make sure that we include mission messaging. What is that? It might be a commercial to promote a platform like AKC.tv or Retrievist. It might be messaging about responsible dog ownership or the AKC Canine Health Foundation, and then within the 93 minutes of content which is what you get for two hours of television on ESPN, we produce the entire thing, so it's a sporting event first, but we take the storytelling aspect of those shows very seriously. We want to educate the folks that are watching as to the sport that they're seeing. We want them to be entertained, and we want them to really connect with the human-canine bond. So, there are features that air in every show, and we'll show you a video next. It's from the AKC Agility Premier Cup. It's a feature on two of our top Junior Handlers that compete in Agility and it happens to be sponsored by Nationwide Insurance. But this will give you a nice example what a feature looks like to educate and entertain people during the show.

[Video clip played.]

We knew going into 2021, that we were

guaranteed a minimum of 48 hours across the networks of ABC, ESPN that are all Disney-owned. We didn't know that we would have a 250 percent increase by years end, which included 120 additional hours, so nearly one hundred broadcasts of American Kennel Club shows produced by the AKC across these Disney-owned networks, 168 hours total. Think about what you saw a few moments ago with the feature about those Junior Handlers. We knew going into it that would be seen at least three times. It was seen more than 20 times throughout the year.

What makes us attractive to ESPN and what makes the collaboration so successful? ESPN's stated goal is to increase their female audience. It's been an ongoing conversation with them and its well-established in our relationship. So that's what we're doing. We're delivering that female audience. AKC on ESPN programs were in the top 12 percent for total viewers and the female audience across ESPN2 for the entire year. We increased the total female viewership on our shows by nearly 40 percent. It is a true collaboration; ESPN has embraced it wholeheartedly. We've worked with ESPN hosts to be part of our shows. During our feature you saw Toni Collins, at the time she was hosting Sports Center, she was part of a few of our Agility shows.

We've worked with Bill Murphy. He's a sideline reporter who covers football for ESPN. He's been on a few of our shows, and he'll continue to be in the future. ESPN's graphics team created a custom graphics package and animation package for the entire series, and we worked together on an event called Bark in the Park. This was the second iteration of what Ron talked about when we were on the ESPN campus. We grew that event. ESPN wanted to move it to a minor league baseball park in Hartford, Connecticut. We were all in. Here's the difference. They produced the television show. We brought the events. We had a full Agility course. We had a weave pole challenge, a diving dog pool, a Fly Ball demo set up across the outfield of a baseball stadium, as well as a Meet the Breeds® event that was open to the public, that aligned with the various purebred dogs that we see in Disney movies.

Having the AKC on the ESPN platform allows us to talk to brands in a really new way. We're all familiar with the brands like Royal Canin. But what this has enabled is – Bounce and Swiffer, Proctor and Gamble owned brands, Tractor Supply Co, Lowes which are national retailers, tech companies like AT&T, these are all companies that have fully embraced this platform and come on as new sponsors.

We will move onto the AKC National Championship and give you an update on that, but I just want to showcase how we promote tune in for the AKC National Championship now on ABC, because we do fully embrace the promotional plan and put a lot of effort behind it.

[Video clip played.]

I can't even begin to tell you how many versions of that promo there are. There's 15 seconds, 30 seconds, tune in on January 2nd, tune in on Sunday, tune in tomorrow, tune in today. It's a very robust promotional plan, and we take the move from Animal Planet to ABC very seriously to fully promote that show. On ABC for the second consecutive year, averaging more than a million viewers over the course of the three-hour show, and as Ron mentioned, a new show this year that premiered on Christmas Day, a 30-minute show that was designed specifically to promote tune in for the full three-hour show in January. Not only did it air on Christmas Day to great ratings, but ESPN continued to use it in the weeks leading up to the National Championship broadcast on ABC to promote viewership and a one-hour highlight show. We produced a one-hour highlight show for the second year in a row, and what that allows is more flexibility for the programmers at Disney who



work on ABC, work on ESPN, work at Nat-Geo Wild, to find places to fit these AKC shows. Yes, we deliver the full three-hour broadcast that you're all familiar with which was re-aired several times, showcases every breed, but a one-hour version gives that programming team more flexibility to program their channels with the one-hour version. We'll leave you with this. Millions, millions, of people watched and were entertained by The American Kennel Club than ever before in its history. We reached a brand-new audience showcasing new sports, events, people, the human-canine bond, and most importantly, the AKC mission.

The Chair informed the Delegates that the Tuesday, June 14, 2022, Delegate Meeting will be held at the Doubletree Newark Airport Hotel. More detailed information will be emailed to the Delegates as soon as it becomes available.

The Chair advised the Board that they would meet in the Salem/Warren Room across the hall right after adjournment.

Lunch will be served following the meeting on the Terrace and in the Essex Ballroom. The Delegates are reminded to leave their badges at the registration desk following lunch.

The following Delegates spoke during New Business:

Karen Gunzel, Trenton Kennel Club announced that after two years of club members storing thousands of show supplies like rosettes, exhibitor gifts and medals, the Trenton Kennel Club will be celebrating their 100th show on May 8, 2022. In addition to a large All-Breed show, there will be six CAT, six FastCAT®, Obedience and Rally events.

Sylvia Thomas, Kennel Club of Riverside spoke as Chair and Editor of *Perspectives*. She gave her appreciation to the Delegates and AKC Staff for contributing articles to *Perspectives* and to Gina DiNardo for emailing a PDF version of the newsletter to the Delegates. She shared that as of the March 2022 issue, *Perspectives* will have a new look. Credit was given to Russell Bianca, Director, AKC Publications, for the suggestion and design. Rather than starting on the table of contents page, there will be a cover dog on each issue. She also informed the Delegates that Sharyn Hutchens would be the coordinator for the June 2022 issue and the deadline to submit articles was April 15, 2022. Now, in addition to articles, Delegates are asked to also send high resolution photos to be considered for the cover dog.

Nancy Fisk, Hockamock Kennel Club advised the Delegates that 45 clubs have appointed a Junior Coordinator. She encouraged the Delegates to have their clubs appoint Junior Coordinators because it's a way to reach clubs and club members with all of the important information about Juniors. To get Junior Coordinators into the system, email Mari-Beth O'Neill at [juniors@akc.org](mailto:juniors@akc.org).

Suzanne Burgess, English Springer Spaniel Field Trial Association congratulated the Board for the efforts of AKC Communications in getting AKC out into the public.

The Chair reminded the Board to meet across the hall in the Salem/Warren Room.

Hearing no further business, the Chair adjourned the meeting.  
*(One sharp rap of the gavel.)*

(Proceedings concluded at 11:24 a.m. ET.)

***The opinions expressed by the speakers may not necessarily reflect those of The American Kennel Club.***





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	Ibizan Hound	Irish Wolfhound	Norwegian Elkhound
Otterhound	Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen	Pharaoh Hound	Plott	Portuguese Podengo Pequeno
Redbone Coonhound	Rhodesian Ridgeback	Saluki	Scottish Deerhound	Sloughi
Treeing Walker Coonhound	Whippet			



# PARENT CLUB LINKS



## WORKING GROUP

Akita	Alaskan Malamute	Anatolian Shepherd Dog	Bernese Mountain Dog	Black Russian Terrier
Boerboel	Boxer	Bullmastiff	Cane Corso	Chinook
Doberman Pinscher	Dogo Argentino	Dogue de Bordeaux	German Pinscher	Giant Schnauzer
Great Dane	Great Pyrenees	Greater Swiss Mountain Dog	Komondor	Leonberger
Kuvasz	Mastiff	Neapolitan Mastiff	Newfoundland	Portuguese Water Dog
Rottweiler	Saint Bernard	Samoyed	Siberian Husky	Standard Schnauzer
Tibetan Mastiff				

## TERRIER GROUP

















Airedale Terrier	American Hairless Terrier	American Staffordshire Terrier	Australian Terrier	Bedlington Terrier	Border Terrier
Bull Terrier	Cairn Terrier	Cesky Terrier	Dandie Dinmont Terrier	Fox Terrier (Smooth)	Glen of Imaal Terrier
Irish Terrier	Kerry Blue Terrier	Lakeland Terrier	Manchester Terrier	Miniature Bull Terrier	Miniature Schnauzer
Norfolk Terrier	Norwich Terrier	Parson Russell Terrier	Rat Terrier	Russell Terrier	Scottish Terrier
Sealyham Terrier	Skye Terrier	Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier	Staffordshire Bull Terrier	Welsh Terrier	West Highland White Terrier
Wire Fox Terrier					
























# PARENT CLUB LINKS



## TOY GROUP

				
Affenpinscher	Biewer Terrier	Brussels Griffon	Cavalier King Charles Spaniel	Chihuahua
				
Chinese Crested	English Toy Spaniel	Havanese	Italian Greyhound	Japanese Chin
				
Maltese	Manchester Terrier (Toy)	Miniature Pinscher	Papillon	Pekingese
				
Pomeranian	Poodle (Toy)	Pug	Shih Tzu	Silky Terrier
				
Toy Fox Terrier	Yorkshire Terrier			

## NON-SPORTING GROUP

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



# PARENT CLUB LINKS

## HERDING GROUP



Australian Cattle Dog



Australian Shepherd



Bearded Collie



Beauceron



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



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/>