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PRESIDENT'S LETTER

VIDEOS

BREED COLUMNS

Sporting Group

Brittanys	English Setters	English Springer Spaniels
Lagotti Romagnoli	Gordon Setters	Sussex Spaniels
Nederlandse Kooikerhondjes	Irish Setters	Welsh Springer Spaniels
Pointers	Clumber Spaniels	Spinoni Italiani
Curly-Coated Retrievers	Cocker Spaniels	Viszlas
Golden Retrievers	English Cocker Spaniels	Weimaraners

Working Group

Alaskan Malamutes	German Pinschers	Newfoundlands
Anatolian Shepherd Dogs	Giant Schnauzers	Portuguese Water Dogs
Bernese Mountain Dogs	Great Pyrenees	Rottweilers
Black Russian Terriers	Komondors	Samoyeds
Boxers	Leonbergers	Siberian Huskies
Bullmastiffs	Mastiffs	Standard Schnauzers
Doberman Pinschers	Neapolitan Mastiffs	Tibetan Mastiffs

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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UPDATES COVID-19

SLIDESHOW VIVID MEMORIES

SECRETARY'S PAGES

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

TIMES PAST

RINGSIDE THE COOL CLUSTER



NEW PUPPY SENSITIVE SKIN & STOMACH FORMULAS



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during this global pandemic, we have been faced with difficult decisions and unimaginable hurdles. However, regardless of how many adjustments we have had to make to preserve our organization we are confident that we will get through this together.

AKC Staff is continuing to help each club by providing our services every day of the week. A list of direct contacts is below for any assistance you desire. To report a cancellation, please call 919-816-3579 or write to eventplans@akc.org, and on the weekend or outside of business hours call 919-816-3955 or contact staff directly:

- | | | |
|----------------|--|------------------------------------|
| Dennis Sprung | DBS@akc.org ; | 212-696-8327;
cell 516-637-6567 |
| Doug Ljungren | Doug.Ljungren@akc.org ; | 919-816-3903 |
| Alan Slay | Alan.Slay@akc.org ; | 919-816-3806 |
| Glenn Lycan | Glenn.Lycan@akc.org ; | 919-816-3560 |
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| Pattie Proctor | Patricia.Proctor@akc.org | |
| Carrie DeYoung | Carrie.DeYoung@akc.org ; | 818-886-8212 |

The crisis of the past few weeks has been swift and devastating and are ones that no one could have anticipated. In the last two weeks we have seen over 5,100 event cancellations, more than 25 percent of our annual total. Currently, over 100 clubs are postponing or cancelling events each day. We are helping



clubs by providing ideas as well as assisting with opportunities for a future date, checking corresponding dates, mileage, judges conflicts, and so on. Please do not hesitate to reach out to us. We continue to consistently update information on akc.org and Facebook and send e-mail updates to our constituency. Regardless of the need, AKC staff is here to assist you. Currently, the majority of our staff, across all departments, are working from home and maintaining AKC's regular busi-

ness hours. Every department remains open to serve you. This includes among others Registration, Customer Service, Sports and Events, and CGC that are assisting our customers daily without interruption.

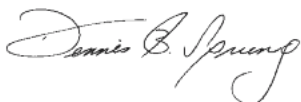
For more information on COVID-19 and event cancellations, resources, etcetera, we have created three sites to assist you:

[Events and Health](#)
[Government Relations](#)
[Resources and Activities](#)

As this situation remains very fluid, I continue to meet seven days a week with our staff so that they may share up-to-date information as it develops.

Our sports and the people associated with them have always been strong, dedicated and resilient. We know that we will be victorious in this battle and return to our beloved competitions with our fabulous dogs. We look forward to seeing you and enjoying competing soon. We are winners!

Dennis B. Sprung


Dennis B. Sprung
President and CEO

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Glen of Imaal Terriers
Winston and Griffin,
owned by Kelli Whit-
field. Winston is one
of our *Brag Bag all-
stars*.

On Our Cover: Sealyham Terrier,
David Woo ©AKC



GLEN OF IMAAL TERRIERS COURTESY KELLI WHITFIELD

UPDATES

Placing Puppies in the Age of COVID-19

Safety Advice for Breeders By Penny Leigh, AKC staff

RALEIGH—Coronavirus concerns did not dominate headlines when Beci Beasley boarded a plane for Canada in late January.

Traveling with the North Carolina resident was her cherished Cavalier King Charles Spaniel, Sunny, who had a long-awaited date with a carefully selected stud dog.

“I had been waiting two years to do this breeding,” Beasley said. “There has been

a lot of planning and research to make this happen.”

On March 25, Sunny delivered six beautiful puppies into a world that had been transformed in the nine weeks since the litter was conceived.

Breeders now face questions of how to socialize and place puppies while keeping themselves and potential buyers safe from COVID-19. “This is very nerve-racking,” Beasley said. “Socialization is terrifying.

With my last litter, I had 15 to 20 different friends visiting on different nights, so the puppies were exposed to people outside the household.

“Today, you don’t want anyone coming to your home. So how do you make sure your pups get the experiences they need?”

The health crisis has not diminished the desire for puppies. With a majority of Americans working from



home, many families decided it is an opportune time to obtain a new dog. [AKC](#)

[Marketplace](#) has experienced a record-breaking number of visits in recent weeks as the

puppy-seeking public searches for available litters.

[Continue reading](#)

Virus Rocks Pet Product Industry *2020 sales plummet; rebound expected in 2021*

ROCKVILLE, MARYLAND—The pet industry is famously recession-proof, coming through the September 11 terror attacks and the Great Recession of 2008 relatively unscathed. But not even the historically robust pet industry is immune to the novel coronavirus pandemic.

In its “[U.S. Pet Market Outlook 2020–2021](#),” released April 1, the market-research firm Packaged Facts forecasts that total 2020 U.S. retail sales of pet products and services will decline by 17 percent, instead of growing by 5 percent, which was anticipated before the coronavirus outbreak. These projections translate to a drop from \$95 billion in 2019 sales to \$78.5 billion in 2020. The firm projects a substantial

though partial rebound in 2021, given the underlying strength of the pet industry.

This forecast factors in double-digit sales declines in 2020 for three out of the four pet-industry sectors. Nonmedical pet-service sales are expected to suffer the sharpest drop in 2020, at 47 percent, due primarily to the link between petboarding services and travel for business or pleasure. Also projected to drop in 2020 sales are the veterinary sector and non-food pet supplies, reflecting in part the discretionary nature of some of the services and products involved.

Somewhat mitigating the overall market loss will be continued (though tapered) growth in essentially nondiscre-

tionary pet products, primarily pet food and cat litter. Food, the largest pet-industry sector, is forecast to grow 4 percent in 2020, in contrast to the 6 percent growth forecast before the pandemic.

Increased ownership rates for dogs, another pattern evident in the wake of the Great Recession, “might also help soften the blow of pet-industry losses,” says David Sprinkle, research director for Packaged Facts. “In the long term, losses aren’t characteristic to the U.S. pet market.”

Dog ownership might get a boost among a national population now largely isolated, staying at home, and well aware of the mental and physical health benefits of pet ownership.

UPDATES

Gz

Earn AKC Titles in Your Living Room

FUN FOR THE SOCIALLY DISTANCED HANDLER

If you are a dog person suffering “title withdrawal,” you can earn AKC Trick Dog titles by video in your living room or backyard.

This applies to all levels of Trick Dog training, part of the AKC Canine Good Citizen family of events.

HOW IT WORKS

Teach your dog tricks at home. When he has mastered the tricks required for a title, send a video of the performance to an AKC CGC evaluator for review.

When the video is reviewed and approved, the evaluator sends you a form verifying your dog’s passing performance.

There are five AKC Trick Titles: AKC Novice Trick Dog (TKN), AKC Intermediate Trick Dog (TKI), AKC Advanced Trick Dog (TKA), AKC Trick Dog



Dogs of all breeds who enjoy learning and performing can achieve at Trick Dog’s highest levels. A motivated owner with a sense of humor is a plus.

Get started at the [AKC Trick Dog page](#).

Performer (TKP), and AKC Trick Dog Elite Performer (TKE).

BOERBOL: COURTESY ANITA CRESS; LABRADOR RETRIEVER: COURTESY ANDREW SKOLNICK; BEAGLE: COURTESY MARY CUMMINGS

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Dogs and COVID-19 *What We Know and What We Don't*

From the researchers and veterinarians at the [Dog Aging Project](#): Like many of you, the team at the Dog Aging Project has been watching the unfolding situation with COVID-19 here and around the world.

WHAT ARE CORONAVIRUSES AND HOW ARE THEY RELATED TO ANIMALS?

The coronaviruses are a large family of viruses, which can infect dogs, cats, farm animals, and wildlife. The trouble with coronaviruses is that they tend to mutate (change their genes) over time. Sometimes they share genetic material with other strains of coronaviruses. Such recombination (genetic mixing) can create new strains of coronaviruses that behave differently from previously known strains.

Scientific evidence suggests that this new form of coronavirus, known as SARS-CoV-2, originated in bats and devel-

oped the ability to infect humans. Once a virus mutates in this way and “spills over” into a new species (in this case, humans), it generally tends to stay there. That is, it becomes a virus that infects humans rather than other animals. While back-and-forth transmission between humans and other animals is possible, our best scientific understanding at this time suggests this is unlikely.

WHAT IS COVID-19?

COVID-19 is the illness caused by this new form of coronavirus, which is called SARS-CoV-2, which stands for “Severe Acute Respiratory Virus-CoronaVirus-2”.

WHAT ARE THE FACTS ABOUT THE DOG IN HONG KONG?

A dog in Hong Kong whose owner was sick with COVID-19 tested positive for the presence of the virus in its mouth

and nose on two separate occasions. As far as we know, that dog was never sick. It is not clear exactly what this means.

The owner, who was sick, was spreading viral particles around the home environment and contaminating various surfaces. It is possible that the dog may have licked the owner or these contaminated surfaces, and the virus in its mouth was detected by scientists. It does not necessarily mean that the virus was actively multiplying in the dog’s body.

Dogs can be infected by a variety of coronaviruses, but we do not know whether or not SARS-CoV-2 can infect dogs or if they can become sick with COVID-19.

COULD INFECTED DOGS SPREAD SARS-COV-2 BACK TO HUMANS?

Currently there is no evidence that SARS-CoV-2 is



being transmitted between people and pets, or from pet-to-pet. There are no reports of a person becoming ill with COVID-19 from a dog (or cat). But dealing with emerging viruses is always difficult because we cannot predict all of their behaviors accurately. We must be realistic about what we do and don’t yet know.

Because the virus was detected in the mouth of the dog in Hong Kong, we have to consider that this kind of transmission *could* occur. It is possible that a sick person could sneeze or cough and that a dog could lick up these droplets and then lick someone else. In this way, the dog would not have to be sick, but it would act as a vector, carrying the virus from a sick person to a well person.

As far as we can tell, this is a very, very, unlikely occurrence, but it could happen.

ARE THERE PRECAUTIONS TO TAKE, JUST IN CASE?

Practice social distancing. Take your dog for a walk but avoid crowded places or busy dog parks. Wash your hands frequently with soap and water or an alcohol-based hand sanitizer after playing with or petting a dog or cat, especially after contact with pet saliva or feces.

If you are sick, avoid close contact with other members of your household, including your pets. Have another member of the household care for your animals.

If you must look after your pet while you are sick, main-

tain good hygiene practices and cover your face if possible. (We recognize that there are significant shortages and that we need to prioritize masks for healthcare workers. A bandana, if washed frequently, will work just fine as a face shield while caring for pets.)

WHERE CAN I GET MORE INFORMATION?

Unfortunately, there is a lot of misinformation out there. You can get reliable information from the sites below as well as from your local public-health authorities.

- [AKC CHF Webinar: Dogs and Infectious Disease](#)
- [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#)
- [World Organization for Animal Health](#)
- [CDC Recommendations for Pet Owners](#)
- [Emerging Coronavirus Strains and Veterinary Patients](#)

Questions? Write to team@dogagingproject.org.

RINGSIDE

THE COOL CLUSTER, JANUARY 22 TO 26

GRAYSLAKE, ILLINOIS—With our sport on hold, we had no ring shots from the spring shows to share with you this month. It was heart-breaking to think that a new issue of the GAZETTE would go live without some depiction your fabulous purebreds on the contemporary show scene. Happily, our friend [Lynda Beam](#) came through with a lovely set of photos from the Cool Cluster—the [Kenosha KC](#), [Park Shore KC](#), and [Chain O'Lakes KC](#) shows—held in late January at the Lake County Fairgrounds and Event Center. Thanks to Lynda for these and for her photos in this month's feature story, "Where Fanciers Gather."

Results

[Kenosha KC](#)

[Park Shore KC](#)

[Chain O'Lakes KC](#)
[Friday](#)
[Sunday](#)

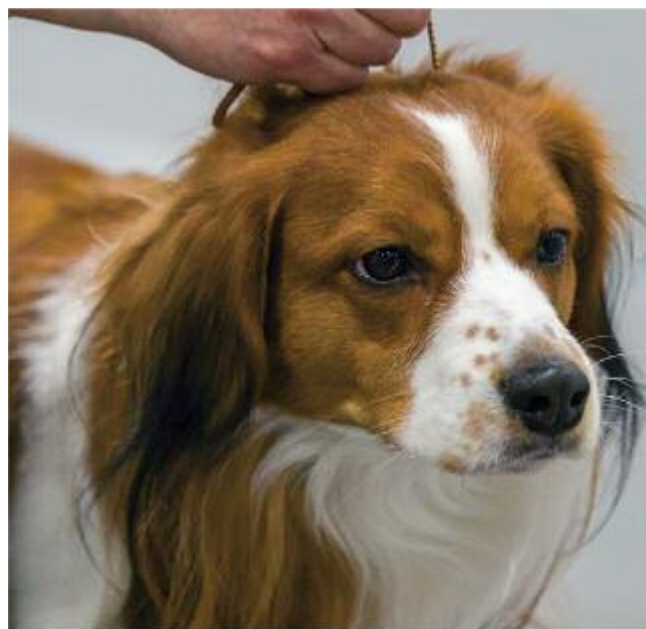


RINGSIDE

THE COOL CLUSTER, JANUARY 22 TO 26



Photos by *Lynda Beam*

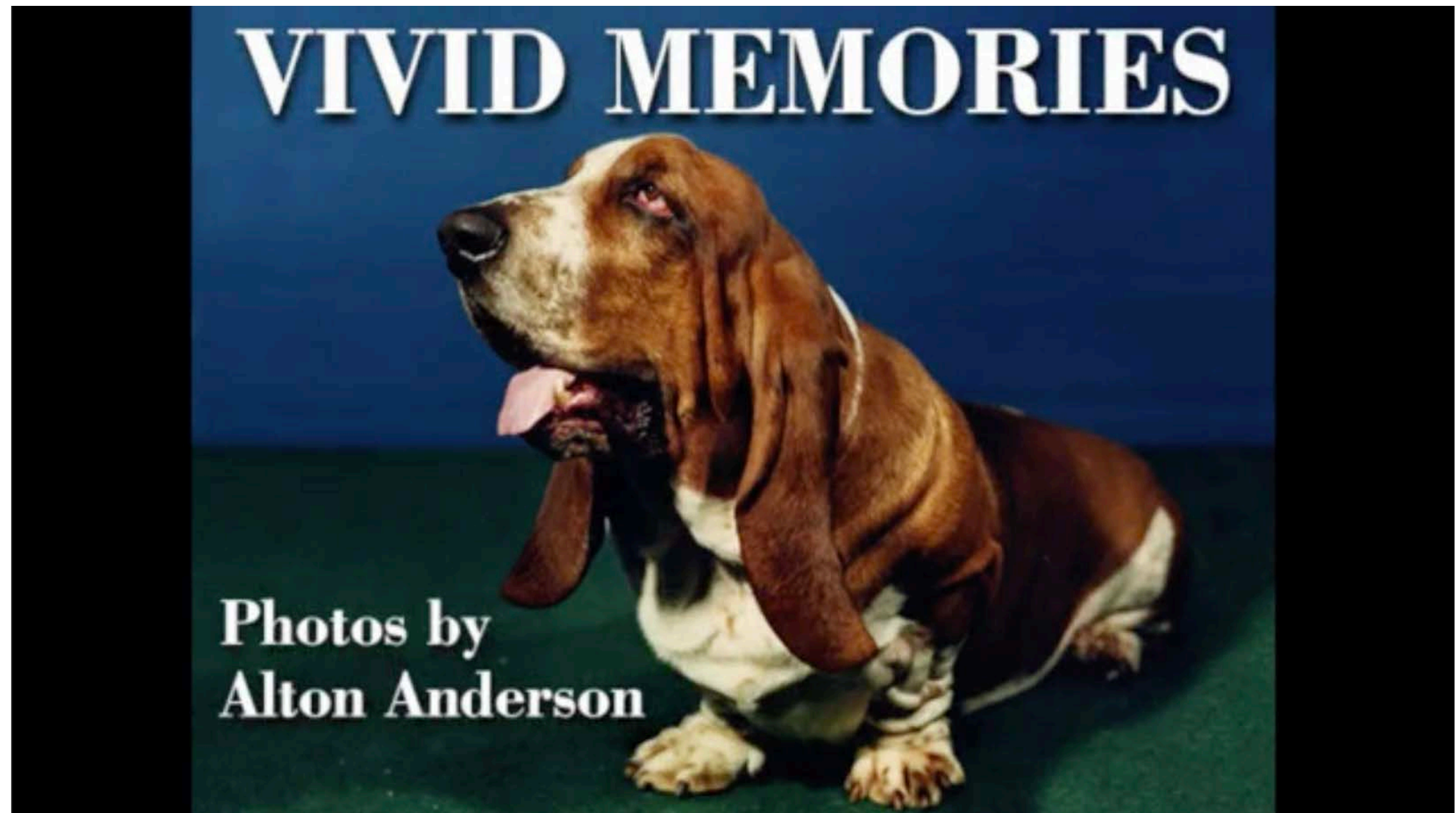


COURTESY LYNDA BEAM

New York's Finest

Alton Anderson, of Rockland County, New York, was among our most admired canine-portrait photographers of the 1970s and '80s. He was a fascinating man of many parts. A World War II Navy veteran who saw action in the Pacific, Anderson attended Clark, Harvard, and Oxford universities. He was a collector of Native American relics and Alaskan artifacts, an orchidologist, an amateur architect, and a Doberman Pinscher breeder who served as a board member and president of the Rockland County KC.

Anderson's vivid breed portraits appeared in the enormously popular Roger Caras Dog Book, first published in 1980. Several of these photos later found a home at AKC Archives and



were put to work as illustrations in GAZETTE breed columns during the 1990s.

Caras, the longtime ring announcer

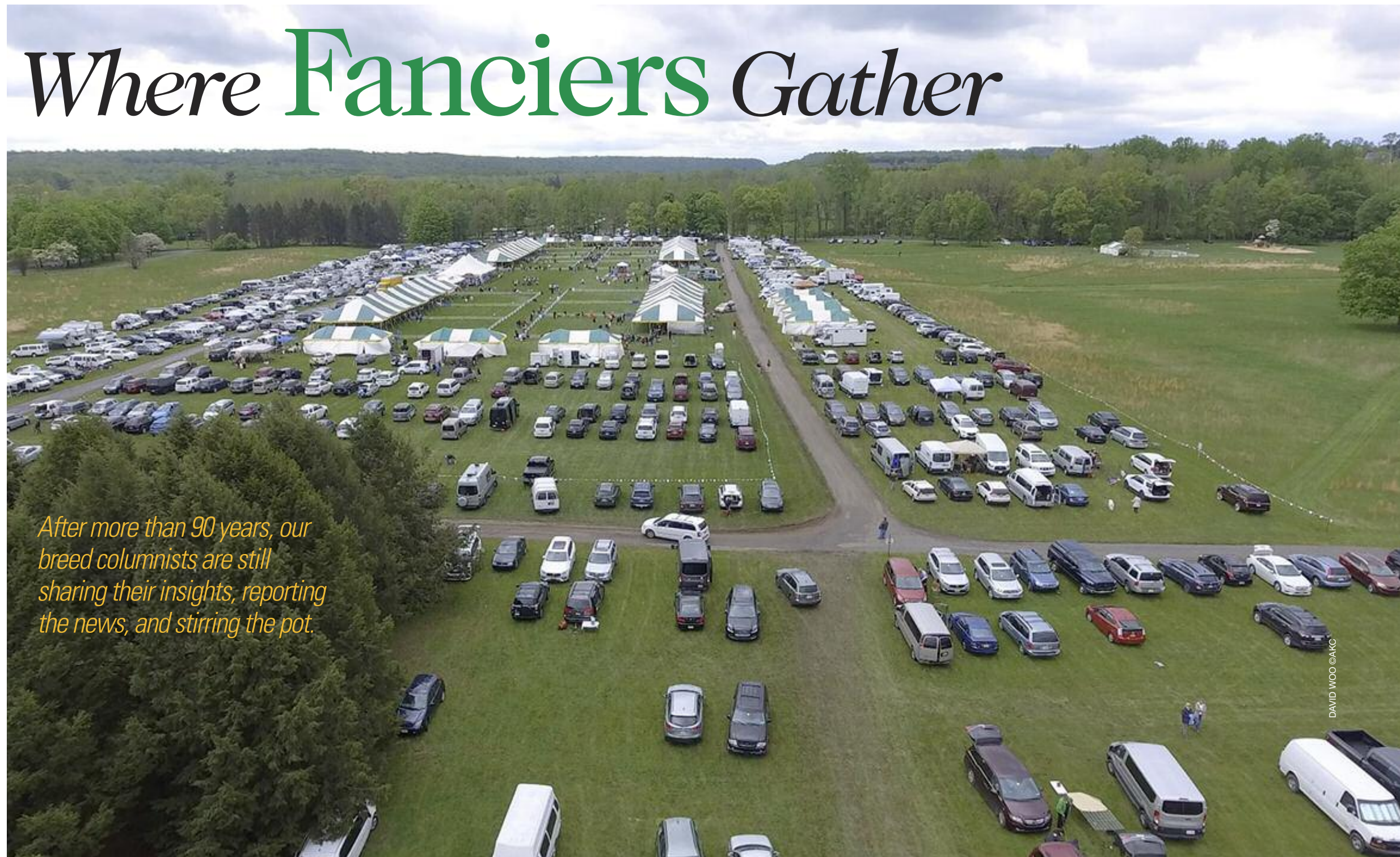
for Westminster and a prolific writer who shared Anderson's passion for animal-welfare issues, wrote in his book's introduction, "Anderson's

work is representative of the finest dog photography ever done. I am proud to share this volume with him."

In the mid-1920s, when the GAZETTE was transforming itself from a stark rundown of AKC business into a full-fledged magazine, the editors launched a new department called “Where Fanciers Gather.” This roundup of news from the show world, contributed by AKC club members, soon evolved into what we now know as our “Breed Columns” section.

In the more than 90 years since, parent-club correspondents have contributed thousands of columns of breed-specific and all-breed interest touching upon all things canine—but most particularly the conformation dog show in all its many aspects. Over the decades, parent clubs have put forward accomplished and articulate members to represent their breeds in our pages.

The following is a sampler of excerpts from GAZETTE breed columns, of all-breed



FEATURE

interest and arranged by topic. It is hoped that as you read you might chuckle, nod in agreement, or even disagree. Disagreement, long-time breed columnist Dorothy Macdonald once told us, is what makes dog shows necessary: “If everyone agreed on what constitutes a good dog, we could all stay home and have a computer send out the ribbons.”

Here, then, is a virtual roundtable of contributors to our “Breed Columns” section, a place where fanciers still gather.

ON BREEDING

Eibhlin Glennon, [Otterhound Club of America](#): Sometimes a person’s first attempt at breeding will result in a very nice litter. Most breeders, however, will tell you that to produce the hound they envision can take years and some failures. Breeding is never easy, and breeding decisions are agonizing.



“Breeding is never easy, and breeding decisions are agonizing.”



Lois Thomasson, [Irish Wolfhound Club of America](#): Dr. Braxton B. Sawyer, in his seminars, always suggested careful selection when choosing a brood bitch, and listed three points of investigation: the individual herself, her pedigree, and the progeny (this is where the “horizontal pedigree” of siblings, aunts, and uncles gains importance). Because the brood bitch’s window of opportunity to demonstrate what her bank of genes will produce is so much more limited by the number of offspring as compared to the stud dog, great care should be taken in her selection.

A great brood bitch becomes the jewel in your crown. She carries your hopes for the future, nourishes and cares for the puppies upon their arrival, and during those early, critical weeks she imprints them for a lifetime as she teaches them how to live in the world they will inhabit.

OTTERHOUND: COURTESY LYNDIA BEAM



"Shouldn't a dog show be where breeders enter their very best specimens?"

The dam may only contribute one half of the chromosomes, but her influence is far more reaching when you consider that she helps shape the puppies' character. This is

why it is so critical to breed only from bitches with solid temperaments, as the puppies take their cues from their mother as she interacts with humans.

Phoebe J. Booth, [American Whippet Club](#): I have nothing against these popular sires. Most of them were and are quality animals who produced quality get. But



"In a nutshell, do what is right for the dog."

I wonder, in some cases, were the quality offspring a true reflection of the worth of the sire, or just a function of percentages and numbers? Who is the better sire: the dog who sires five champions in two litters, or the dog who sires 50 champions in 40 litters?

Even more importantly, the dog who is siring 40 litters is not only limiting the possibility of genetic diversity in the breed but is also setting the stage for potential disaster.

Just as a sire can be prepotent for desirable qualities, he can also be prepotent for undesirable and—even more significant—unhealthy qualities. Were the popular sire later to be shown to carry the genes for a serious health condition, the problem could be rampant in the breed before it is even discovered.

Ann Allen, [American Wirehaired Pointing Griffon Association](#): Dog shows of

late seem to have evolved far beyond being an evaluation of breeding stock. Certainly some breeders do use conformation events as a place to showcase their breeding stock; others, however, seem to use these events for inflating the entry to boost their latest special's numbers. Yet other entries are filled with dogs who can merely finish their championship but which breeders or owners are not intending to breed. Shouldn't a dog show be where breeders enter their very *best* specimens?

Sande Abernathy, [French Bull Dog Club of America](#): Dogs have feelings, intelligence, and loyalties. All breeders must acknowledge this in their practices. In a nutshell, do what is right for the dog: *Don't* pass bitches around, don't declare a puppy a show prospect when he's not clear, and don't skip health testing; *do* research lines and learn

WIREHAIRIED POINTING GRIFFON: AKC GAZETTE COLLECTION; FRENCH BULLDOG: COURTESY LYNDIA BEAM



about genetics, and do investigate other breeders before working with them. This is the hard, not glamorous, and tedious work of being an ethical breeder.

Don't make the mistake of saying "just this once" (in a

third or fourth breeding of a bitch, skipping a health test, or ignoring genetics). This is the beginning of a classic slippery slope: One small infraction leads to more and more, and larger and larger, and soon you can't hold your head up.

Amelia Averill, Bulldog Club of America: It is so important to always keep in mind that this is a *hobby*. A hobby means a diversion. It is important to enjoy your participation in the sport and to not let yourself be agitated

with pettiness.

We hear about the betterment of the breed repeatedly. Certainly, the dogs do not care if they are improved or not. It takes the committed individual who works to improve his dogs and the breed. All serious breeders are on a quest to breed the perfect dog and thus improve the breed. You will be disappointed many times, but do not be discouraged. There is no better feeling than breeding that real good dog. The love for your dogs and for your hobby will keep you going.

SPEAKING DOGLISH

Jan Warren Linné, Dalmatian Club of America: The first, very obvious bit of dog jargon that catches people off guard is "bitch." If you've been in dogs for any length of time, you probably use the word unconsciously, but to someone new to dogs this particular expression can really rattle them.

A friend's daughter had been going to dog shows almost from the day she was born. One day, as an adorable youngster of 5 or 6, she was holding a bitch at their grooming area when a lovely, well-dressed, obviously non-dog show woman came up to her and made the comment, "What a nice dog you have!" Without batting an eye, the tyke responded, "Thank you, but it's not a dog, it's a bitch. A dog has a penis." After retrieving her jaw from the ground, the woman hurriedly moved on.

In its proper context, we should never have to apologize for use of the word, but we would do well to soften the blow as best we can when speaking to someone outside of our circle.

Marnie Harrison, Spanish Water Dog Club of America: The term "single-tracking" has been cause for much debate in our national breed club. Should it be

included in our breed standard or not? I had the opportunity to approach a highly respected judge and asked her that question. She smiled kindly, and without hesitation said, "Your breed does not have enough leg to single-track. Converge, yes; single-track, no."

Such simple clarity does not come without long experience, and demonstrates the importance of exposure to the breed for the experts, and exposure to the experts for the breeder and exhibitor.

Dr. John V. Ioia, American Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club: In discussing a dog's leg we get into some confusing terminology. The "upper thigh" is the part of the dog's leg below the hip and above the knee, much like a human thigh. The "lower thigh" is beneath the knee to the hock joint. This lower thigh is analogous to the human shin or lower leg. This "lower thigh" term leads

BULLDOG: COURTESY LYNDIA BEAM

FEATURE

to confusion but is rooted in history. The knee joint is called the stifle, and it sits on the front of the hind leg. Instability in this joint will lead to all sorts of gait issues.

[When speaking Doglish, the word style has two nearly opposite meanings. Style can be a synonym for fashion, a regional preference or the thing currently in vogue. But style can also mean a certain timeless quality, a touch of class that is uniquely one's own. Audrey Hepburn, for instance, had style beyond fashion. The top show dogs are said to possess this hard-to-define quality.]

Connie Vanacore, Irish Setter Club of America: The late, great Annie Clark said she could tell immediately whether one of her Poodle puppies would have the quality of style that would set him apart from the others as he grows up.

If a dog enters a show ring saying to the world by his presence, “Here I am—you

“In discussing a dog’s leg we get into some confusing terminology.”



have to look at me,” that dog has style! There was an Irish Setter years ago whose very presence commanded attention. This dog had his detractors, of course. But there was no denying his presence. Other exhibitors, bystanders, and the judge in the center of the ring all recognized that this was no run-of-the-mill dog. He had star quality. He had style!

Dogs who excel in all sorts of venues also may have style. A hunting dog locked up on a

staunch point has style. A hound covering ground as though he was flying has style, just as a model carrying herself like a queen has style.

Style is an inborn quality. It cannot be taught. Nor can it be denied. Dogs cannot fake it, though some of their human counterparts try. Style and elegance go together. They might even be synonymous, though not always.

Daryl Martin, American Maltese Association: When

CAVALIER KING CHARLES SPANIEL AND IRISH SETTER: COURTESY LYNDIA BEAM



"Judges are not detectives. They are not expected to ferret out hidden qualities."

people say there are different types in various parts of the country, they are referring to *styles*. These terms should not be interchanged. Just because one part of the country may have dogs who are little and small boned, and in other areas the dogs may be bigger, with different heads or coats, that is not referring to type. Yes, there is a range within our standard; that does not make one style right or wrong, providing it is still within what the standard calls for.

AROUND THE RINGS

Alice Bixler, Briard Club of America: Why is it that many exhibitors feel compelled to stuff their dog with bait just when the judge is examining him?

In a recent survey of judges, an overwhelming majority labeled the misuse of bait as their pet peeve. Small wonder!

There's the familiar scenario where the judge wants to check the dog's bite but

has to wait till the dog has downed the lump of bait the exhibitor shoved in his mouth just as the judge approached. Or the occasion when the dog is so engrossed with the treat the exhibitor is holding that he resolutely refuses to face forward so the judge can assess expression, eye shape, and so on.

A few judges have become so fed up, they've banned bait in their rings. But what if the bait transgressions happen in the ring next door? In a couple of breeds (mentioning no names, of course), handlers are notorious for showing their dogs some bait and then pitching it away so the dog's eyes follow its flight. Unfortunately, the handler often doesn't watch where the bait goes (or he has rotten aim), and the occasional ringsider or unwary steward gets beamed by low-flying liver. Sometimes the bait lands in adjoining rings, prompting dogs there to break gait in order to gobble up the

treats falling from heaven.

Tired of such disruptions, one popular judge called time out in his ring, walked over to gather fallen goodies from his mats, and then leaned over the fence into the ring where the treats had originated. Holding them aloft, he bel-lowed, "If anyone needs bait, I seem to have plenty over here!"

There were no takers.

Carole Lee Richards, Weimaraner Club of

America: One of the most frustrating situations for judges is to have a good dog in the ring that is not properly prepared to be judged. It is impossible to evaluate gait when the dog is flaying about, dragging its handler, or moving at an inappropriate speed.

Judges are not detectives. They are not expected to ferret out hidden qualities, nor does time permit for such analysis. When you enter a dog in a show, your dog is

called an "exhibit." You as the handler are expected to exhibit him in a manner that is advantageous and that showcases him.

Sarah A. Ferrell, English Springer Spaniel Field Trial Association: In canine communication, a critical dog who regularly growls at other dogs is likely to be shunned by well-socialized, friendly dogs. This is not always true with humans at dog shows. ... Keep smiling, remember to walk up to newcomers in your breed and introduce yourself. Dredge up all the nice manners your mother taught you. You will make a newcomer delighted to be a part of our breed. You will also encourage them to come back. The novice you welcome today may enter the one extra dog you need to get a major tomorrow.

[Our favorite fictional dog fancier is Wax Waneforth, the voice of reason in the witty ringside

WEIMARANER: COURTESY LYNDY BEAM



"What your mother said."

vignettes of Irish Terrier columnist Ellis West.

In this excerpt we find our narrator under the grooming tent, chatting with the revered Mr. Waneforth.]

Ellis West, Irish Terrier

Club of America: A young exhibitor waved and came over. After a round of hellos the exhibitor began to physically examine the dog Wax had on his table. Within a few seconds the criticisms and faultfinding of the dog began.

Wax steered the conversation in another direction until the exhibitor wandered away.

"What my mother taught me," I said, "was that if you don't have anything good to say, then don't say anything."

"Hard to learn what's right with a dog when you're studying what's wrong with it."

A thought seemed to amuse Wax. "Imagine coming to a show to see what's wrong with dogs instead of what's right with them."

"Yeah," I mused, "How much can you learn about excellence if you sit ringside with people who can only point out what's wrong with a dog but are incapable of or unwilling to point out excellence?"

"Or," Wax asked, "Why would people even want to play this game when so many players are obsessed what is wrong with dogs?"

"So, how do we start to fix that?" I asked.

Wax smiled. "What your mother said." **GZ**

You Win Some, You Lose Some

The seasoned campaigners that they are, our breed columnists turn philosophical when discussing winning and losing.

Rita Laventhall Sacks, Pharaoh Hound Club of America: Good manners are part of good sportsmanship. Thank the judge for your ribbon, even if it is for fourth place and you feel your dog should have won. You may ask for advice from the judge if there is time after judging is completed, but remember that an opinion has been given, and there is no need to question a placement. The entry fee was for the judge's opinion, and it was given. There are always other shows to enter.

Nancy Dougherty, Parson Russell Terrier Association of America: We have all lost when we decidedly should have won. I have bitten my tongue more than once but still congratulated the winner, took my ribbon graciously, and thanked the judge. Heading home, I then released my thoughts of the judging! But I like to think I have shown good sportsmanship in and out of the ring that day, and I hug my dog and tell him he was really the best one! It's just my opinion, but if you cannot stand to win and be gracious, and also lose and still be gracious, then you need to just stay home.



Pat Rock, United States Lakeland Terrier Club: My favorite quote about winning and losing is from the late Garry Shandling: "Nice guys finish first. If you don't know that, you don't know where the finish line is."

IRISH TERRIER: COURTESY LYNDIA BEAM; BERNESE MOUNTAIN DOG: DAVID WOO ©AKC



Crowned

Yearning for some ring action? Try this Fox Sports inside look at Westminster 2017, one of the best dog-show docs ever made, featuring many familiar faces. 43:31



Like Lassie, Only Smaller

The AKC's "I Am a Breeder" series continues with a visit to Susan Bintliff's Pinelands Shetland Sheepdogs in Medford, New Jersey. 2:44



Annie (and Ludwig) on Springers!

From the English Springer Spaniel Foundation: a photo montage of Annie Clark showing and judging Springers, set to Beethoven's First Symphony. Both classic and classical! 20:13



Miss Emily Makes It All Better

With the AKC Museum in lockdown, staff is finding new ways to reach the public. Here, Emily Brostek soothes our frayed nerves with a read-aloud of the kiddie classic Harry the Dirty Dog. 6:51

Larry the Boxer Guy

Hawley Laurell “Larry” Downey (b. 1917), Boxer handler and breeder deluxe, was among the biggest names in his breed for more than 30 years. He made his reputation as a young handler for the renowned [Mazelaine Boxers](#) before World War II intervened. While serving in Germany, Army private Downey visited Frau Stockman’s famous kennel and acquired Zack von Dom, the foundation stud of his breeding program. After the war, Larry and his wife, Alice—herself a force in the Boxer fancy—ran a large kennel in Libertyville, Illinois, where such up-and-coming handlers as Stan Flowers and Clay Cody learned their trade.

From an excellent [appreciation of Downey’s career](#) posted at the American Boxer Club website, we

learned:

“Larry had a photographic memory when it came to Boxers. He could look at a Boxer and tell you the pedigree—having seen almost all of the greats of the breed from the beginning. He knew all of the judges and what to take to them. He and [Jane Kamp](#) had ‘magic hands’ that they would run over a Boxer and it went from Backyard Bozo to Ch.

Greatdog. He trained them to move with animation and with rubber balls (as did Nate Levine) to ‘look’ and stop like they owned the ring (usually they did too). Larry handled many top Boxers and estimated that he had taken 90 of them to BIS. He had the BOB winner at ABC nine times and won Group I at Westminster Kennel Club three time. He received many awards, including the Gaines



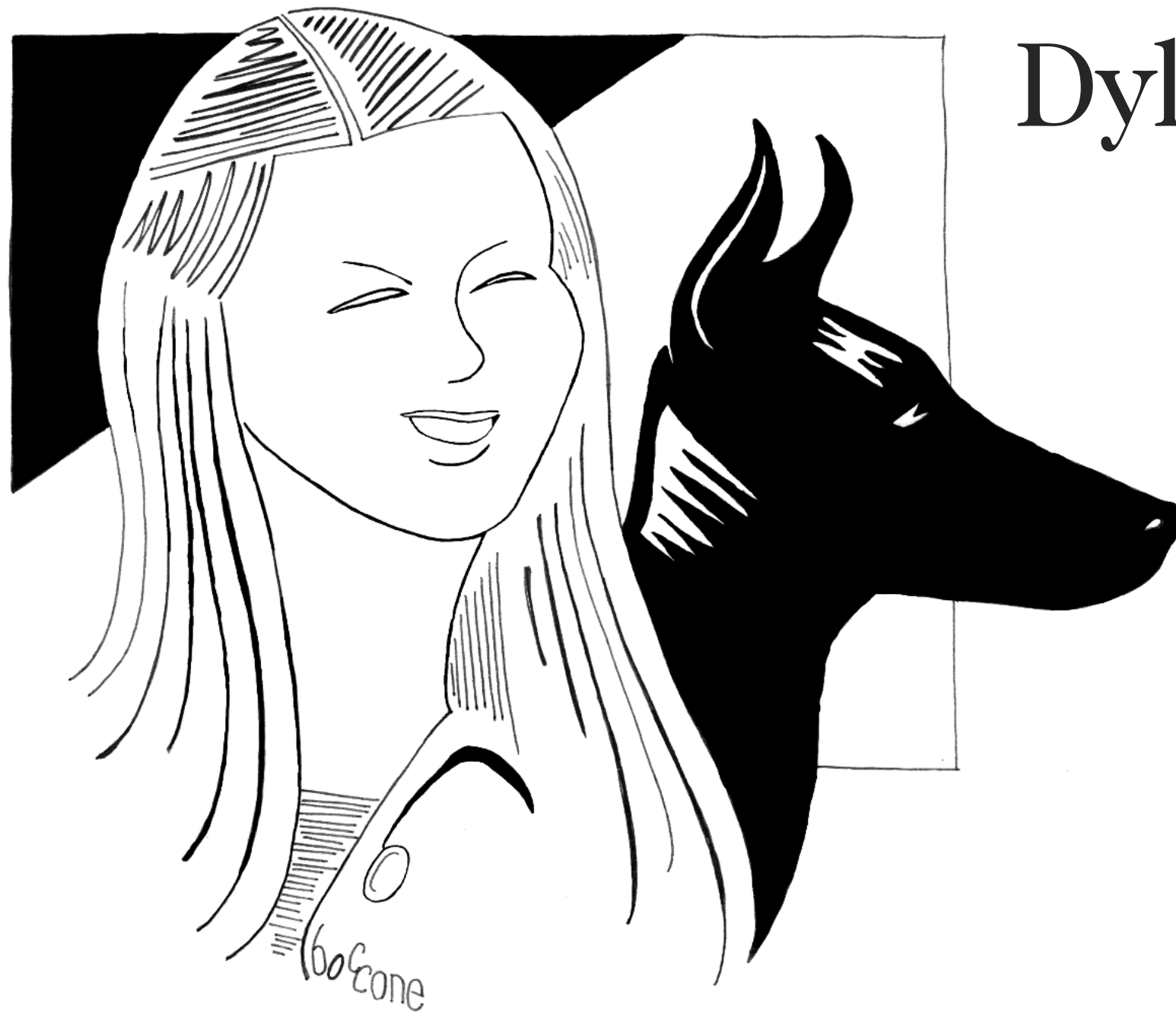
Chicago Municipal Airport, 1948: Larry Downey and Ch. Zack von Dom welcome a bitch visiting from Birmingham, England, for the purpose of breeding. It is assumed that Zack, the sire of 31 champions, consummated the transatlantic romance with his usual aplomb.

Handler of the Year (1952) and the Ken-L-Ration award twice. ...

“Larry retired from handling in

early 1971 and became a judge, doing ABC in 1972. ... He eventually had the Working and Sporting groups

and about half of hounds. He passed away on March 8, 1978, a victim of cancer.”



Dylan Kipp Keith

Our featured video this month is *Crowned*, a behind-the-scenes look at the 2017 Westminster show. Susan DePew, handler of the 2017 Terrier Group winner, Tanner the Norwich, was featured in *Sports Illustrated's* show coverage:

“It was a family affair for Susan DePew. ... She showed Tanner’s mother before him, and both her daughters competed at Westminster this year, Dylan Kipp with a Doberman and Devon Kipp with a flat-coated retriever. She didn’t push them into it, she swears. ‘In fact, I kind of wish they hadn’t,’ she says. ‘It’s a hard lifestyle. It’s a 24/7 job and there’s so much travel. It’s just tough.’ ”

No word yet if Dylan has similar reservations about her own daughter, Sloan, getting into the family business. But, considering that Sloan is barely 6 months old, Dylan and her husband, handler Chris Keith, have plenty of time to mull it over.



This month, Sarah A. Ferrell's English Springer Spaniel Field Trial Association column urges us all to "Encourage Tomorrow's Stars: Support Junior Showmanship."

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 AVP@akc.org.

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Brittanys

AMONG THE ASPENS

I reflect on the faint whisper of the autumn breeze. It comes mixed with the turning of the aspen leaves to golden yellow. I stop, listen, and watch the pieces of gold as they dance with slightest whisper of wind.

Several times a year for the past several years, I visit this little grove of quaking aspens. There are eight or 10 trees still standing where once there was twice that number. Twenty years ago a bulldozer cleared an adjacent woodlot area for a small housing development. The windbreak of those trees was lost to the small aspen covert, and over the next few years many of the trees were uprooted.

There are several new aspens in the grove that have sprouted or germinated from seed. The buds of the young trees provide a rich nutrient source for grouse. Here in Western Pennsylvania aspens tend to not be as long-lived compared to the majestic northern red oaks.

My tranquil walk through the aspens is often when the golden yellow shower of leaves is falling to the ground from the overhead branches. I like to hear the leaves rustle in the breeze and the soft sound as each leaf lands on the covert's floor. I'll stand motionless and gently move the golden yellow pieces

with my boot.

Then: A reverie about an orange/white Brittany who moved quickly through those golden leaves, and then whirled on point. The grouse appeared to be pinned. The dog with his head and tail held high. Rocky was gathering in the scent to locate the bird. His feet never moved, as he seemed to lean into and then back slightly from the scent. The point was solid.

Taking several steps, I moved past Rocky, with the thunder of wings erupting. There was no 12-gauge double in my hands to follow the bird's flight, as it was two weeks before the opening day of grouse season. At 15 months the Brittany was not steady to wing. His pursuit of the bird was not much beyond the aspen covert.

Within a minute or two he was back at my side. I talked to him softly, telling him what a good pup he was. I rubbed his ears and stroked his back and ribs.

The trance was broken as several golden leaves bounced from my uplifted face. I stood near the hallowed ground, beneath, which the Brittany had been placed, wrapped in his blanket with his collar still in place. He could have undoubtedly had many years in our grouse and woodcock covets. I then looked down and stared at the aspen leaves. They became cloudy as I reflected on the Brittany's first grouse-point among the aspens.

—David A. Webb,

davidawebb@aol.com

[American Brittany Club](#)

Brittany (photo by Billy Hustace)



AKC GAZETTE COLLECTION

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Lagotti Romagnoli

Our guest columnist for this issue is Judith Martin, breeder-exhibitor of Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers and Lagotti Romagnoli.

MY HISTORY IN LAGOTTI

In late 2003 I stumbled across a breed name which I was unfamiliar with and started my search: Lagotto Romagnolo, an Italian breed. I joined a Lagotto Yahoo Group started by Mel and Hilarie Gibbs-Sykes which had more than 5,000 posts in the archives, and I read them all. I also checked every website on the internet, most in other countries. I noted the only disease of record was cerebral abiotrophy, which only seems to affect a very small number. Websites were scrutinized, and breeders were contacted all over the world for about a year to locate someone who would work with an American breeder. A Wheaten breeder living near me in Arizona (Jocelyn Slatin, of Jamboree) was willing to support a breeding program.

We acquired girls in early 2005 from two different Italian breeders. I then worked with another Italian breeder and purchased a male in 2006. He was oversized, with poor hips, so his breeder graciously replaced him with another male, which I flew over to Italy to get in late 2007.



Earlier in 2007, I was contacted by one of the major U.S. dog publications, and they wanted to do a piece on the rare Italian import, Lagotto Romagnolo. Knowing the impact on the world of this beautiful, smart, medium size, non-shedding breed, I hastily gathered a group of dedicated breeders and fanciers to start a national club, and by the time the publication was on the stands, we had completed all the paperwork necessary to become the Lagotto Club of America, with an address and website. I became the founding president, with six others who worked very quickly together to preserve and protect our breed.

In fall 2007 I attended the International Lagotto Raduno in Italy, sponsored by Club Italiano Lagotto. Lots of opportunities to learn so much more about our breed in their country of origin. Over 100 Lagotti from all over the world competed in truffle hunting on one day and conformation the next. That year, the same dog won both events.

In the early days as an FSS breed, we exhibited in smaller venues. Our local kennel club would not allow unentered dogs on the site. I questioned AKC FSS about the show policy, and they quickly added our breed to participate in companion events. In the years following, the club changed to Lagotto Romagnolo Club of America and the breed was put into

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the Miscellaneous Class, and in 2014 it moved into the AKC Sporting Group.

As to exhibiting our breed, any coated breed is subject to the whims of the handlers, but we try to educate the judges on the rustic nature of our coats and how to manage them. As with any sporting dog, the coat should protect the dog.

With any new breed, we walk a fine line on wanting to educate the public about the wonderful qualities of our breed, yet not over-popularize the breed. The club is working with our breeders to educate on testing, temperament, and conformation.—J.M.

Thank you, Judith.

—Lynn Looper,

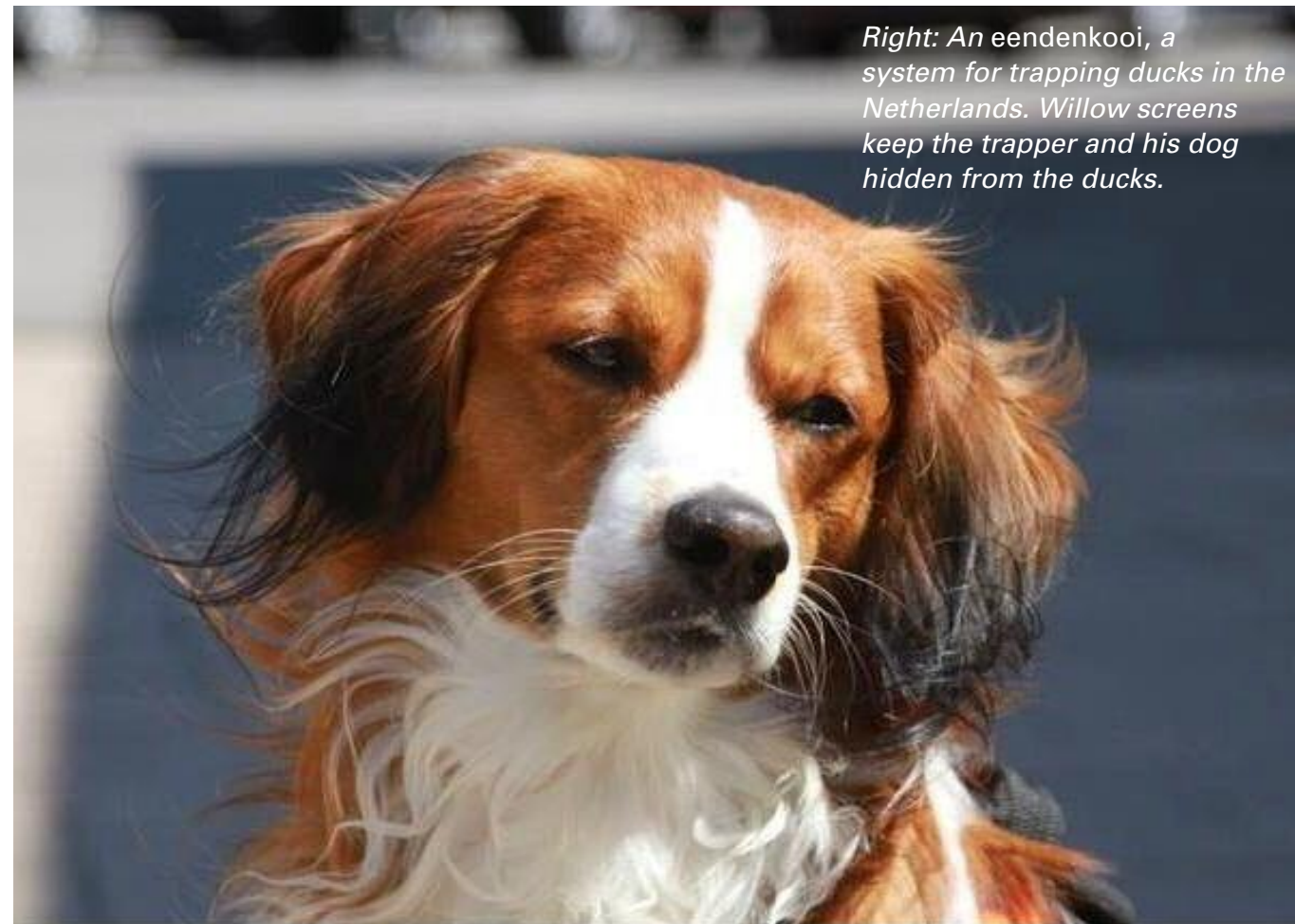
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Lagotto Romagnolo Club of America

Nederlandse Kooikerhondjes

THE KOOIKERHONDJE'S JOB

What is the original purpose of the Kooikerhondje? The Nederlandse Kooikerhondje is a working dog. The breed was developed to trap ducks in enclosures called *eendenkoois* built along the canals and wetlands in the Netherlands. Smart, responsive, and independent, the Kooikerhondje worked closely with the *kooiker*, or duck trapper, responding to hand signals and silent cues



Right: An eendenkooi, a system for trapping ducks in the Netherlands. Willow screens keep the trapper and his dog hidden from the ducks.

to lure the ducks down a net-covered canal and into a trap.

This elaborate method of trapping ducks takes place on a very large scale and is incredibly complex. It requires the cooperation and training of many decoy ducks, the Kooikerhondje, and the duck trapper. It also requires constant maintenance and repair of the intricately-constructed walls and pipes of the trap.

Keeping this ancient form of trapping alive means preserving the Dutch wetlands, which protects not only waterfowl, but also provides a habitat for native flowers, plants, and other animals as well.

The website of the breed's national club in the Netherlands, [Vereniging Het Nederlandse Kooikerhondje](http://VerenigingHetNederlandseKooikerhondje.nl) (VHNK), offers detailed information on the *eendenkooi* and elaborates on the work of the Kooikerhondje:



“The Tasks of a Kooikerhondje

“Walking up and down behind the screen is a very specific task of the Kooikerhondje. A well feathered tail is therefore very important. The ducks get curious because they only see the tail every now and then.

“The work in a duck decoy must be done in

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silence; barking could scare the ducks. That is why the decoy man has taught the dog not only to react on his voice but also on his signs. There has to be a silent co-operation between the dog and its master, even in such a way that the dog can complete his task independently, yet still paying attention to the movements of his master.

“Before the 20th century, the Kooikerhondje was not allowed to leave the decoy field, not even at night, so he was used to being alone in the decoy shed.

“The Kooikerhondje has another important task besides luring ducks, which is destroying vermin. Especially during the breeding season of the ducks.

“The decoy business does not only concern catching ducks, but also concerns the supervision of the vegetation, the pond, and so on.

“The original decoy business is a unique co-operation between the ducks, the decoy man, and the Kooikerhondje. It is a typical example of catching birds with birds, a pure form of bait trapping. It requires quite a lot of dedication, patience, and professional knowledge, especially about the behavior of ducks and the dog. Peace and quiet are very important.

“There are still approximately 100 duck decoys in The Netherlands; most of them are involved in scientific research. In some cases the decoyman still gets assistance from a

Kooikerhondje.”—VHNK

Not many modern Kooikerhondjes have the opportunity to do the work for which they were developed. Now they are more likely to find a home as a valued family companion. However, these are spirited and smart little animals, and they need to have a job to keep them occupied. They thrive on physical and mental stimulation, and excel in the agility ring. They are successful in obedience, rally, tracking, and search-and-rescue, among other dog sports and competitions

Note: Our 2020 national specialty and supported entries that were scheduled to take place this month in Albany, Oregon, were cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. For information on the breed as well as news of upcoming activities and events, visit the NKCUSA website (below) and [Facebook page](#), and stay tuned to club communications via e-mail.

[Nederlandse Kooikerhondje Club of the USA](#)

Pointers

Breeder-judge Mr. Thomas Bradley III wrote the following perspective on the breed in 2013.

ON POINTERS: THOMAS BRADLEY, III

A good Pointer when he enters your ring has a bit of an attitude—a little bit of arro-



gance—with his head held high and his nostrils large and flared. A good Pointer is moderate in size, not too big and overdone, not too refined. From the tip of his somewhat upturned nose to the tip of his shortish tail, he fits. He has good balance. He is in proportion.

I judge good Pointers on the premise that shorter is always preferable to longer—every-

where. Shorter in muzzle is better than longer. Shorter-backed is better than too long. Shorter loin is much better than too long. Shorter ears are way better than too long, and they should be somewhat pointed—never round—with thin, almost see-through soft leather. Not Foxhoundlike—not ever!

Our standard says that the tail is “Heavier at

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the base, tapering to a fine point. Length no greater than to the hock.” I find this to be fairly self-explanatory. You would be amazed at those who miss this point. It does not mean that the tail must come to the hock. It means what it says: “no *greater* than to the hock.” Again, a shorter, or “bee-sting,” tail is better than a long tail, and it will likely be straighter. Long gives a multitude of problems. They hang, as in an unhappy Bloodhound or, as they are often set on too high or level, they curl—or worse, stick straight up at 12 o’clock. All are equally offensive.

The standard says, “Croup falling only slightly to the base of the tail.” This clearly means that the croup falls off “only slightly to the base of the tail.” The tail therefore should not come off level with the back.

As he stands there, the picture of what you believe to be a good Pointer, you become concerned about his topline—it isn’t level. Well, good! It isn’t supposed to be. If it were, he couldn’t do the job he was bred to do. The standard says, “slight rise from croup to the top of the shoulders. Loin of moderate length, powerful and slightly arched.” This “slightly arched” gives him his powerful drive and the ability to do his work effortlessly for hours on end.

So, now we have a moderate-sized dog who is compact—all over—and has an attitude!

Now we pray that when he moves, he is basically sound coming, going, and on the go-around and doesn’t pick his front feet up too high—that is, hackney.

The standard says, “A good Pointer cannot be a bad color.” This does not mean that he can be purple! He can be liver and white, black and white, orange and white or lemon and white, with associated points to match—black noses and eye-rims on the blacks and oranges, self-colored on the livers and lemons. He can even be solid colored of any of the four colors listed previously. I will say, however, that I have never seen a solid-colored Pointer that I feel would fit into my above description of a good Pointer.

In my opinion, they may never be tricolored. Most of the oldest books now available warn frequently about tricolored Pointers carrying “too much of the Foxhound blood.”

Again, muzzle too long, ears too long, tails too long. Now, look at his feet. This is a working dog. Oval feet, not round, with well-arched toes, allowing him to work all kinds of ground effortlessly.

So, now what do we have? We have a moderately sized dog who comes into your ring with his head held rather arrogantly. Your first impression is head, tail, and attitude. Next, he appears to balance, and he is in fit condition. We know now that the standard says he can’t

be a bad color, and he is one that is acceptable.

Always look at a Pointer from all sides—coloring or patching can easily deceive, and for some reason his “off-side” is often more pleasing to the eye. He moves around your ring with power and grace. His tail, we hope, will lash somewhat from side to side as he moves soundly on four good legs. When he stops, he looks at you with a soft, trusting expression. Lucky you ... you’ve just judged a good Pointer. The others just won’t measure up. Enjoy. —T.B.

Thank you, Tom, for this informative column. Please visit the APC website (below) for information on our wonderful breed. Your suggestions and comments are welcome.

—Helyne E. Medeiros,
seasydehm@aol.com
[American Pointer Club](#)

Curly-Coated Retrievers

This month, Mary Kay Morel shares with us just what Meet The Breeds events are all about. Some dog shows sponsor these events, and spectators really enjoy meeting and asking questions about the various breeds of dogs recognized by the AKC.

MEET THE BREEDS: FUN FOR ALL!

Very few dog shows of today are benched,

during which spectators could see the variety of breeds and talk to owners and handlers of the different breeds. Therefore, Meet The Breeds events fill a need and give spectators a chance to touch the dogs and talk to the owners who are all willing to share information about their breeds. If you would like to participate in one of these events, here are some tips that may make the experience pleasant for all involved. First, if showing, wait until after ring time to have your Curly on display. Second, it is wise to take only a Curly that you are certain is extremely well socialized and can handle the stress of meeting hundreds of strangers. Some Curlies may be a bit more aloof but, as long as your Curly will stand or sit quietly, people will appreciate the chance to talk about our breed. Third, be alert and anticipate any problems before they arise.

Be sure that your outgoing Curly is well mannered, with all the different age ranges of the people who visit your booth. With very small children (infants and toddlers), it might be a good idea to hold the dog’s head and allow them to pet the back or rear end to feel the coat of the dog. Some Curlies love to kiss babies on the face when they are in their strollers. Not all moms appreciate or want this, so respect their wishes too. Even if you have the friendliest Curly in the world, it is really not a good idea to let any dog get that close to

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a strange child or baby's face.

You might engage well-behaved older children by asking if they know the best way to meet a new dog. First, remind them to always ask permission before approaching a strange dog. Show them each the method of touching their tongue to the back of their hand before quietly extending it (palm down) for the dog to sniff. To a dog, smelling the saliva on the back of your hand is like “touching noses”—only without the need to jump up in your face.

Be aware that children or handicapped people may make unusual noises or act unpredictably around your dog. A crying baby held on a parent's shoulders or a handicapped individual with a wheelchair, walker, or mobility cart might appear strange and frightening to your dog. People can accidentally drop items on or near your Curly or even step on your dog's foot or tail. Babies will often drop their bottles or toys unexpectedly. People trip over metal chairs and bump into tables. This can easily startle a dog.

Be prepared to patiently answer the same basic questions over and over again—and do it with a smile. Remember, you are goodwill ambassadors for the breed, and act accordingly. People often will remember the first time they meet a Curly and will relate the experience (good or bad) to other people whom they meet. If you wear a shirt that says “Curly-



Curly-Coated Retriever

Coated Retriever” on it or have a sign that you can point to may help people remember the name of our breed.

Some frequently asked questions are: Is that a real breed? Do they shed? How much do they weigh?—and many others. Be a good Curly ambassador, and use this opportunity to share some good information! Know your facts, and be prepared to share some basic

information about the history of the breed, the breed standard, and other aspects of Curlies. —M.K.M.

Attending a Meet The Breeds event with your Curly-Coated Retriever is well worth the time spent sharing our breed with the public.

Thanks, Mary Kay, for sharing this very worthwhile information.

—Ann Shinkle,

annshinkle@aol.com

[Curly-Coated Retriever Club of America](#)

Golden Retrievers

MAKING A DIFFERENCE

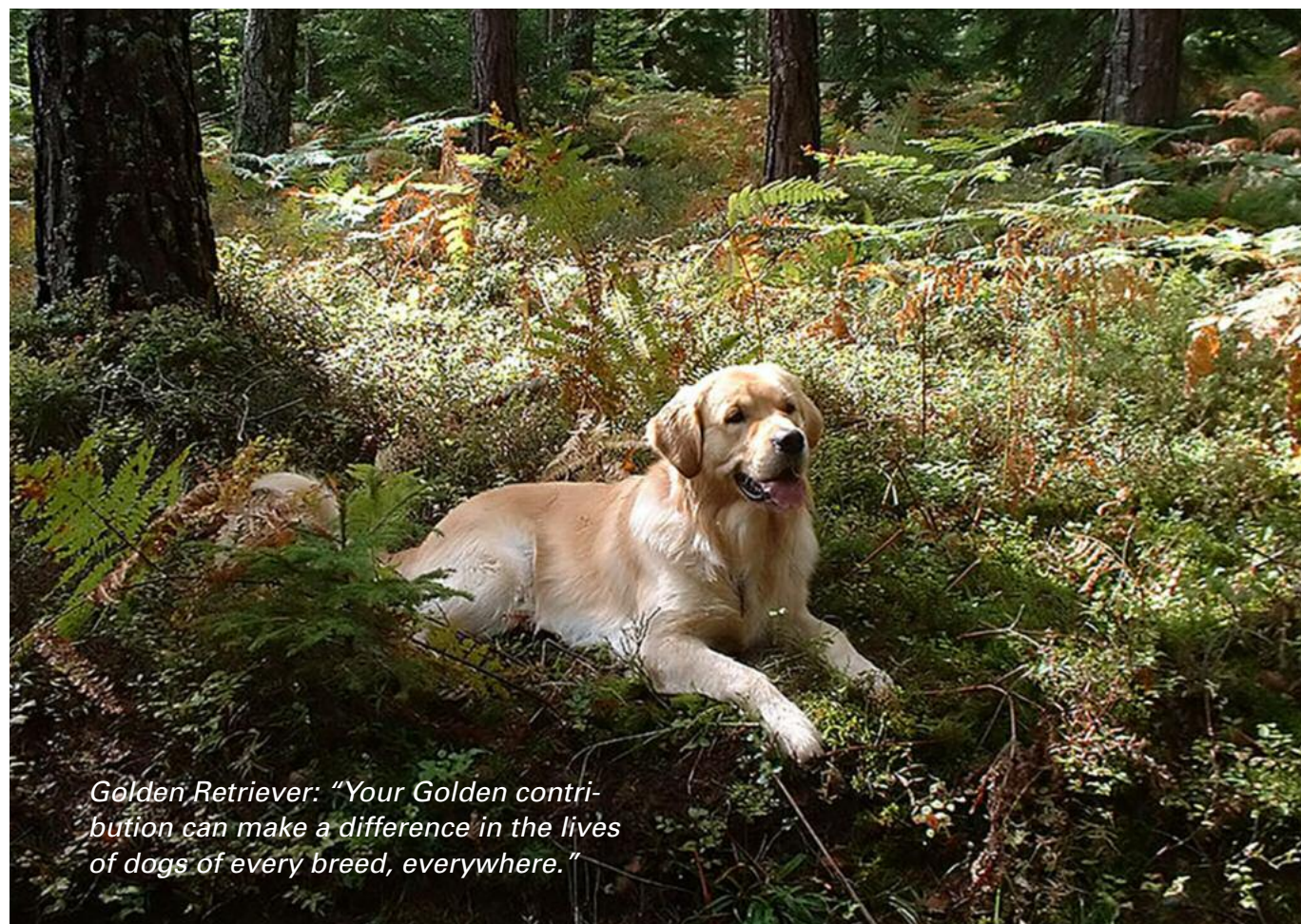
Cancer is a heart-stopping word. In Canines, that dreaded disease has many frightening names, with hemangiosarcoma, osteosarcoma, lymphoma, melanoma, and mast cell tumors being the five most common. About 60 percent of all Golden Retrievers will die from one of these cancers, a statistic that has remained steady for the past decade. Hemangiosarcoma, a cancer of the blood vessels, affects one in five Goldens, and lymphoma, a cancer of the lymph nodes, affects one in eight. These two cancers represent about half of all the cancers in the breed.

Osteosarcoma is the most common bone tumor cancer in dogs, affecting primarily large and giant breeds, with 8,000 to 10,000 cases diagnosed each year. Melanoma is the most common malignant tumor found in the dog's mouth. Melanomas are very aggressive cancers and tend to metastasize elsewhere in the body. In one unusual case, an 8-year-old Golden Retriever developed a melanoma between her toes, which quickly spread to her lungs, resulting in death four months later.

Mast cell tumor is a type of skin cancer that

DAVID WOO ©AKC

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Golden Retriever: "Your Golden contribution can make a difference in the lives of dogs of every breed, everywhere."

can occur anywhere on the dog's body. Although it is the most common skin tumor in dogs, it also can invade other parts of the body; the lymph nodes, spleen, and liver.

With the rise in cancer detection in dogs of all breeds, the battle to defeat cancer also has increased, with cancer studies currently ongoing at almost two dozen universities around the country. The success of those studies often

depends on input and participation of the Golden Retriever community. GRCA club members and other Golden owners have volunteered to contribute to cancer research programs. To date, over 3,000 Goldens have been enrolled in the Morris Animal Foundation (MAF) Lifetime Health Study.

Although the MAF program is fully enrolled, Golden owners wishing to support cancer

research can contribute to other programs and studies. You can donate blood and tumor tissue samples from affected Goldens to cancer research programs at universities around the country. Information on donations can be obtained at the website for the [Canine Comparative Oncology and Genomics Consortium](#).

In another avenue of support, blood samples from dogs of any age, whether healthy or affected with any disease, can be donated to the Canine Health Information Center where it will be banked and stored. The DNA will be made available to ongoing and long-term research projects. Information on the donation process is available at the [CHIC DNA Repository](#).

To further participate in the war on cancer, owners can enroll their dog in a clinical trial. Cancer research conducted at many colleges of veterinary medicine offer clinical trials that include new drugs, therapies and procedures. Some studies may involve dogs from around the country, while others require the dog to reside in their geographic area. For information on clinical trials, to locate a specific trial, or to learn more about a particular area of research, visit [AKC Canine Health Foundation](#) and [Veterinary Cancer Society](#).

Participation is key to the success of these many programs. Your Golden contribution

can make a difference in the lives of dogs of every breed, everywhere. And, potentially, in the lives of humans who will ultimately benefit from canine cancer research. The effort is small, and the rewards are great.

—Nona Kilgore Bauer,

nona@nonabauer.com

[Golden Retriever Club of America](#)

English Setters

CELEBRATING FIELD ACHIEVEMENTS

With the coronavirus now putting most dog events on hold, this seems like a good time to take a look at the things our English Setters do best. English Setters are beautiful, and we love them for their personalities, but they wouldn't exist today were it not for their working abilities.

In order to see how some of our top English Setters are doing in the field today, I checked with Shelley Garland, Frank Luksa, Terry Barnes, and M.A. Samuelson—all of them field experts. Here are their updates.

Shelley Garland reports on a special bench-bred litter whelped in May 2018, co-bred by the Luksas (Windsor Setters) and the Garlands (Pinewalker Setters). Sired by Ch. Kei-Rin's Family Tradition, SH (Hank), and out of DC/AFC Windsor's Field Harvester, JH (Tessa), the litter of seven is known as "The Amazings"

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English Setter Gauge, AFC/Ch. Pantemonium's Winchester Son of a Gun, UD, RAE, MAE, NA, NAJ, OAP, AJP, NFP, VES4, pointing and retrieving at a field trial

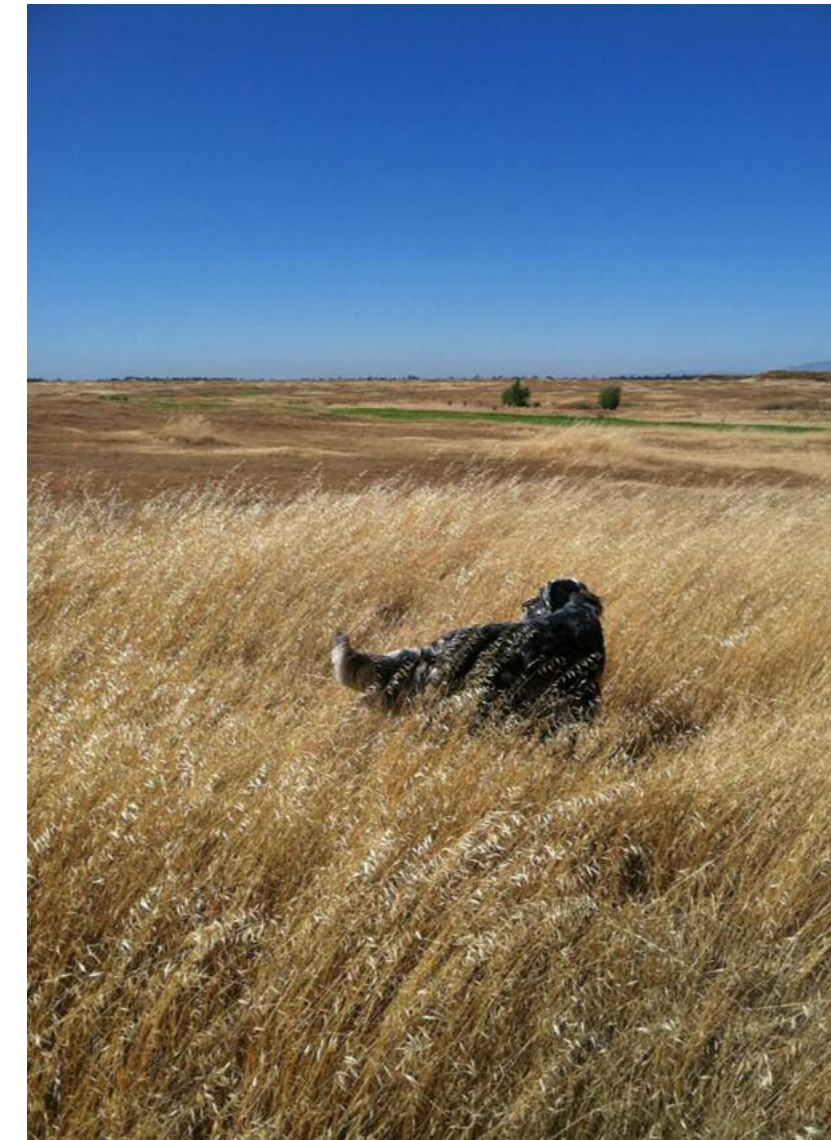


because at less than 18 months of age, all seven pups have all-breed field trial placements. Five dogs in the litter are pointed toward their FC/AFC titles. It's unusual for an entire litter of bench-bred English Setters to have field trial placements. To achieve these placements with seven young dogs is remarkable.

One dog from the litter, Windsor's Stormy Nighthawk of Pinewalker (Hawk), has been extremely successful. At 16 months and 5 days, he won a four-point amateur gundog major. At 18 months of age, Hawk has four broke gundog placements. Three of the place-

ments were in major stakes, earning eight points toward his field championship (FC). Hawk is the youngest English Setter to win a broke gundog stake at the English Setter Association of America (ESAA) National Walking Field Trial. He has 22 field trial placements.

In 2019 Hank, Ch. Kei-Rin's Family Tradition, SH, was the winner of the ESAA Heathrow Rainbow Robber Award for most dogs defeated in field trials, for his second time. In January 2020 Hank earned the last point needed for his AFC title. He has 33 field



trial placements. He also has 12 points toward his GCH, including two five-point majors in the show ring. Hank is now an amateur field champion, so his title is AFC/Ch. Hank is also a VES4 – Versatile English Setter, Level 4. Hank is now AFC/Ch. Kei-Rin's Family

PHOTOS: TARA GRIFFIN

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Tradition, SH, VES4.

Two other English Setters have become amateur field champions this year: AFC/Ch. Santan Kiss The King's Court Jester, RN, MH, HDX, CGC, TKN (Jester), owned by David and Cathy Michels; and AFC/Ch. Pantemonium's Winchester Son of a Gun, UD, RAE, MHA, NA, NAJ, OAP, AJP, NFP, VES4 (Gauge), owned by Terry Barnes and L.D. Madden, M.D.

Jester is rated the number-one Amateur/All Age English Setter and number-five Open English Setter. He has been exclusively trained and handled by his devoted owner, David Michels.

Gauge is the first AKC CH to earn the very difficult Master Hunter Advanced title. Gauge has won Awards of Merit from the Field Trial Dog class at multiple English Setter specialties.

Jester, Gauge, and Hank are the breed's eight, ninth, and tenth Amateur Field Champion/conformation champions.

Both Jester and Gauge are first and foremost the Michels' and Terry's personal hunting dogs, spending most of the hunting season afield with them.

Terry Barnes is also bringing along a new young dog named Winchester's Having a Field Day (Quail), so look to see her in the field soon!

Many English Setter owners are also taking

advantage of hunt tests offered to show off their dog's instincts and abilities. Here are the results from the ESAA Hunt Tests and Field Trial Sweeps in September 2019.

ESAA Field Trial Sweeps Results: Judges Larry Madden and Garth Gourlay

1—Windsor's Sky's the Limit "Skylar" (Frank J. Luksa, O/H)

2—Windsor's Lightning Over Munroc "Tesla" (Gen. Rhonda Cornum and Frank J. Luksa/H. Luksa)

3—Ch. Linwood Additional Incentives, JH, BN, CGC, TKN, VES1, "Addie" (Phil Gorman and Amber Bach Gorman/H. Amber Bach Gorman)

4—Ch. Bull Mtns Kiss the Girls, JHA, BN "Zander" (Rhonda Dillman, Anastasia Swarthout/H. Swarthout)

AOM—Bayou Bend La Belle of the Ball, JH, HD, VES1, CGC; "Tessa" (Steve and Donna Rolando, O/H)

AOM—Windsor's Blue Sky, "Blue" (Robert and Kim Sexton/OH)

Senior Hunter Passes: Judges: Robert Webb and Jean Webb

GCh. Willowpond & Hiddenlane Clear the Deck "Claire" (O/Karen Lishinsky and Ray McVeigh, H/R. McVeigh)

DC AFC Windsor's Field Harvester, JH "Tessa" (O/Frank and Hunter Luksa, H/Frank Luksa)

Junior Hunter Passes: Judges: Timothy W. Cummings and Mary Cernak

Hemlock Lane Evenstar of Rivendell, JH, HD, VES1, CGC "Ginger" (Steve and Donna Rolando, O/H)

Huntwood Keeping It Kool, HD, VES2 (O/Judi Hunter H/Ray McVeigh)

Pine Hollows Isabella's Eyes "Izza" (O/Lynda Chase and David Dhewski, H/Lynda Chase)

Ch. Pine Hollow's Don't Question It, BN, CD, RA NAP, CAA "Quest" (O/H Barb Mattes)

Bayou Bend La Belle of the Ball, JH, HD, VES1, CGC "Tessa" (Steve and Donna Rolando, O/H)

GCh. Pine Hollow's Something To Talk About, HD "Gabby" (O/Lynda Chase and David Otlewski, H/Chase)

Windsor's Blue Sky "Blue" (O/Robert and Kim Sexton, H/Robert Sexton)

GCh. Linwood Additional Incentives, JH BN, CGC VES1 "Addie" (O/Amber Bach Gorman, Phil Gorman, H/Amber Bach Gorman)

Bull Mtns Set'r Ridge's Stetson, BN "Stetson" (O/Rhonda Dillman, Anastasia Swarthout, Melissa Newman)

Stardom Dancing In The Moonlight "Cassie" (O/Donna and Steve Rolando and Renee Metz, H/Donna Rolando)

Windsor's Sky's the Limit "Skylar" (O/H Frank J. Luksa, Jr.)

BJ's Silverline Wind From The Sea "Wyeth" (O/H Donna Richardson)

Ch. Fairray N Wingfield Make No Mistake "Agatha" (O/Don Coller and Pat Coller and Eileen Hackett, H/Ben Coller)

Ch. Stagedoor Knight Rider "Rider" (O/H, Joan Savage)

Hiddenlane She's Back to the Future, HD, JH "Ella" (O/Karen Lishinsky and Ray McVeigh, H/McVeigh)

Please stay healthy and well everyone.

Remember, even in these times of "social distancing," your dogs need exercise. It's always a good time to take your dog out into the field.

—Carlotta Cooper,

eshever@embarqmail.com

[English Setter Association of America](#)

Gordon Setters

WORLD'S LARGEST CANINE CANCER VACCINE TRIAL BEGINS—HISTORY-MAKING GORDON SETTER FIRST CANINE TO RECEIVE VACCINE

In May 2019, the five-year study to examine the beneficial effects on 800 dogs began. "First one—we did it!" said Arizona State University scientist Stephen Johnston, professor in the School of Life Sciences and director

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of the Biodesign Center for Innovations in Medicine. The female Gordon Setter received her first vaccine at the University of Wisconsin–Madison School of Veterinary Medicine, co-participant in the Vaccination Against Cancer Canine Study.

The vaccine can target several cancers common to dogs, including lymphoma, a cancer of the lymphatic system; osteosarcoma, or bone cancer; hemangiosarcoma, a deadly cancer that originates in the blood vessels and is almost exclusive to dogs; and mastocytomas, or mast cell tumors.

The trial is slated to run over five years. Cancer-free, healthy dog between the ages of 6 and 10 will be randomized to receive either a series of the investigational vaccine or placebo vaccine. Healthy, middle-aged pet dogs will be enrolled, continuing to live normal lives at home and receiving biannual exams with a complete clinical pathology workup.

Dogs will be randomly chosen to receive the vaccine or a mock version. Dogs receiving the mock vaccine are expected to develop cancer at normal rates. The experiment will determine whether the test vaccines can prevent cancers. Two sets of vaccines will be given every two weeks, for a total of four treatments, then annually.

Researchers haven't observed any side effects



Arizona State University professor Stephen Johnston with a Gordon Setter named Trilly, the first dog to receive the cancer vaccine during a trial launched in May 2019.

other than those typical of any vaccine in mice or dogs to date, such as moderate local pain or swelling at the injection site, but the study will characterize any unanticipated adverse reactions in the larger study population.

Participating dogs will live at home and be checked two to three times yearly for five years after enrollment to monitor them for the development of any cancers. “We should know as soon as two years from now whether or not we see the vaccine is having an effect,” Johnston says. Their medical care will be covered by the study, though funding by the grant from Open Philanthropy it is also supported by Calviri Inc., a company Johnston started to

commercialize the vaccine if it is effective.

For Johnston, the moment was the culmination of a 12-year, high-risk, high-reward quest to re-shape the way we approach treating cancer, by preventing cancer before it can start. “If this can work in dogs—and that’s a big *if*—then we believe it can work in people too,” he says.

Johnston, who developed the vaccine with his team at ASU Biodesign Institute’s Center for Innovative Medicine. As with people, cancer is the number-one cause of death in older dogs. One out of every three dogs are affected, and 6 million new canine cancer cases are diagnosed every year.

The study is made possible by a \$6 million grant that Johnston received from the Open Philanthropy Project. The UW School of Veterinary Medicine, Colorado State University, and UC-Davis are the participating institutions.

“We’re testing a totally novel way of creating an anticancer immune response,” says David Vail, professor and board-certified oncologist at UW School of Veterinary Medicine. “The holy grail would be to prevent cancer, as opposed to waiting for it to start and then treating it.”

The anticancer vaccine is made up of a proprietary cocktail developed by Johnston’s ASU team that targets approximately 30 abnormal

proteins found on the surface of cancer cells. These proteins, a result of improperly coded RNA—so-called frame-shift mutations—are generally only found in patients with cancer (in both dogs and people). By injecting this cluster of proteins into healthy patients along with a substance that stimulates an immune response, researchers believe the vaccine could serve as a universal defender against cancer by “turning on” the immune system to recognize and defeat cancer. If successful, Johnston plans to create a vaccine for humans.

Article reproduced with permission, courtesy of ASU; photo courtesy of Meghan Lepisto/UWMadison.

—Carolyn R. Gold,

spellbound24kgold@gmail.com

[Gordon Setter Club of America](#)

Irish Setters

THE PSYCHOLOGY OF WINNING

There are so many examples in real life and in books of the essential ingredient in winning, it would be impossible to list them all in a short column. We will try, however, to describe some instances that are applicable to the dog world, although they may occur anywhere.

Every team coach, no matter what the sport, is a psychologist for his or her players. Perhaps the most famous rallying cry is Ronald

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Reagan's "Win one for the Gipper!"

Most recently a college football player, being taken off the field after breaking his leg, admonished his team to win it for him. Despite being the underdog, the team did win—to great acclaim and cheers. The players were no different than they were before, but their motivation was spurred into greater effort by their combined will to succeed.

The same impetus applies to any effort. The will to win is the essential ingredient in any competitive effort, whether it be soccer, football, high marks in school, or dog shows. Success requires skill, training, and the right ingredients to make a team.

How does this apply to dog shows?

There is no more important team than the relationship between a handler and a dog. It does not matter whether the owner or a professional handler shows a dog; the attitude and the relationship that flows between them is the same. Dog showing has changed dramatically over the years, and those changes are reflected in the attitudes which handlers—both owners and professionals—bring into the ring.

Recently this writer attended a local show. It was a large-entry circuit, spanning many days, with many of the same dogs and handlers entered every day. Under those circumstances it is particularly important for everyone connected with a dog to be at the top of their game. The



win for any dog is the culmination of a learning process that should begin long before the dog and handler ever set foot in the ring.

Ideally, it should begin when the dog is a puppy, taught with kindness and patience what it means to be a show dog. Lead-training,

stacking, and trotting in a pattern are all essentials, just as is having early training in obedience, field, agility, or any of the other dog sports introduced while the dogs are young and most impressionable. Not so different than childhood team games—in both

cases, youngsters must learn to love the game.

To be a winner, it is critical that no matter what the sport, the novice must love what they do.

Dogs are no different in their reactions to training than any human being learning a sport. Good handlers, whether novice or professional, are critical to the success of any show dog. Oh, there are examples of a dog being "a natural," just as there are natural athletes. However, even those rare individuals have to hone their skills, both mental and physical, in order to win.

Years ago, before the time of endless shows and huge traveling circuses of dogs, with their retinues of handlers, assistants, schleppers, and hangers-on, dogs were either shown by resident kennel managers or by their owners. Those days are long gone. In their place has sprung up a business of part-time handlers, along with those professionals who carry 20 or 30 dogs to the ever-increasing number of dog show circuits. In addition, amateur-owner-handlers are finding their voice in the ring in increasing numbers. With their own classes in competition, they are playing a more important role in many of the shows.

At the end of the day, those handlers, whether professional or amateur, will win as much on spirit and talent and how the dog performs as how it is built. It takes teamwork between the handler and the dog. It involves

COURTESY LYNDIA BEAM

SPORTING GROUP

trust on the part of the dog and confidence on the part of the handler. This is partnership at its most intimate and personal level. A dog must have trust in the handler, as well as the handler trusting the dog. Those handlers who are of the “have leash will travel” variety may have some success if they are fortunate enough to handle a truly spectacular specimen. Usually, however, the really significant handlers in the sport have taken the time to get to know and understand each dog. They are able to evaluate each one’s strengths and weaknesses and show him to his best advantage.

Excellent handlers are blessed with what observant teachers call “good hands.” It is a talent that rarely can be taught but which dogs, particularly, appreciate. It is part of the skill of winning.

To be a winner requires courage, knowledge, instinct, and the ability to relate to others, whether it be a teammate on a soccer field, or a dog in a show ring or a field. —Connie

Vanacore, 2013

[Irish Setter Club of America](#)

Clumber Spaniels

BOOK: THE WORLD OF CLUMBERS IN THE NEW MILLENNIUM 2000–2015

When the 2nd Duke of Newcastle, lord and master of Clumber Park, obtained

his original breeding stock of “this peculiar race of Flushers” from France, supposedly in the mid-1760s—and which his head gamekeeper, William Mansell, would breed “unmixed” for some 30 years—no doubt did either in their wildest dreams suspect the fame these “cock-flushers” would eventually acquire. When the good Duke died in 1794 and his faithful gamekeeper 12 years later, these white spaniels had still not yet acquired even the name of Clumber Spaniels. But today one wonders how many rare breeds have been the subject of so many books. Already in 1912 James Farrow published almost the first book limited to only one breed, Clumbers, and today in my library are no fewer than 30 books just on Clumbers—not to mention 46 years of the Clumber journal. And now we are privileged with even another great Clumber book.

The CSCA has eight Life Members, based on service to the breed and not years in the club, but it has reserved its highest title of Honorary Member for only one living person, Australia’s Jan Irving. Jan is author of the encyclopedic *White Spaniel* the result of 15 years of loving labor and judged one of the 10 best breed books ever published—as well as of three other books on Clumbers. And for 26 years she edited the international *Clumber Spaniel Correspondence* magazine, part

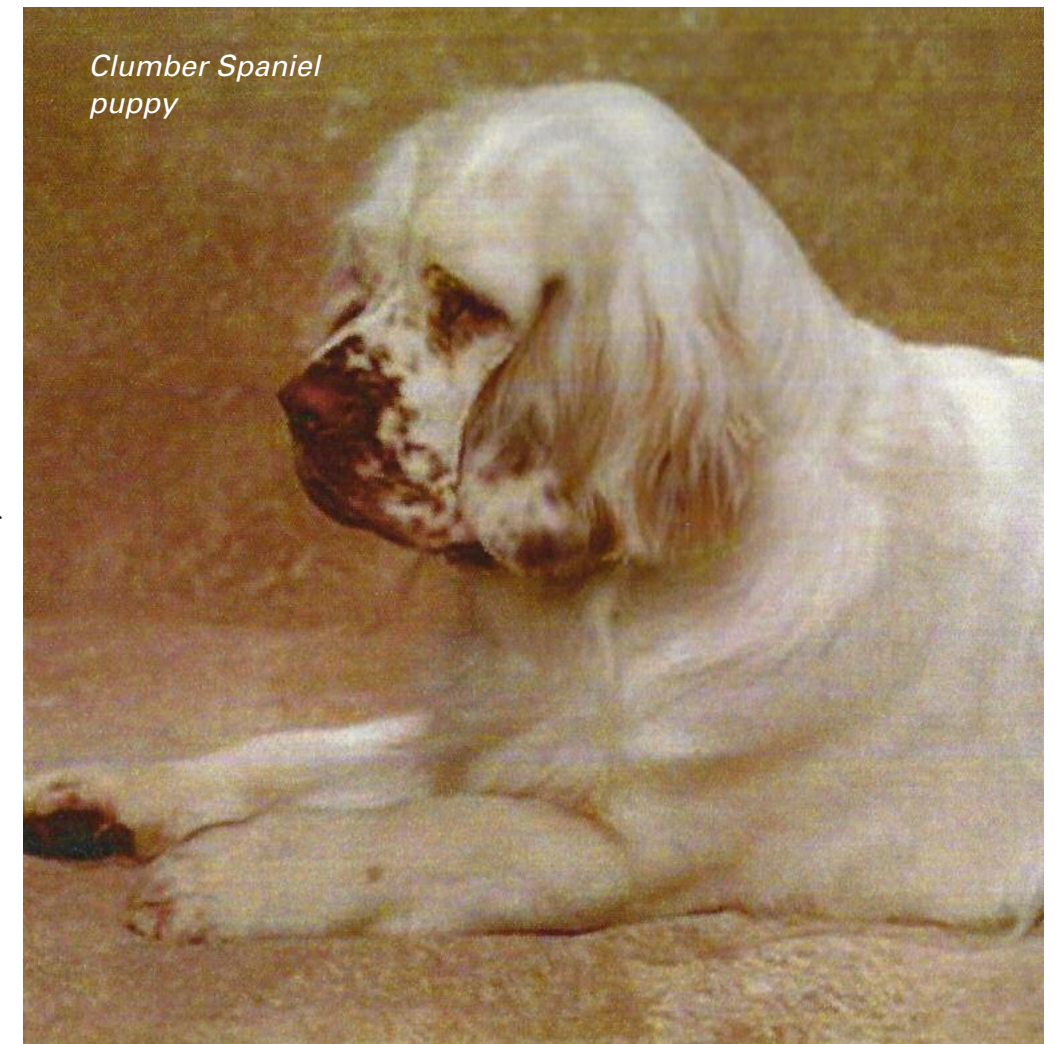
of an Irving family commitment of 62 years to Clumber Spaniels!

Now she has edited the hardcover, large format, glossy paper, 320-page book *The World of Clumbers in the New Millennium 2000–2015*, published in December 2019 as part of a series of books on rare breeds under the general editorship of Bas Bosch, by the BBPress, Netherlands (€75/US \$81.85, plus shipping). Lavishly illustrated throughout, it contains 730 color pictures, many full-page. This is indeed a collective work,

with contributions from 85 “Clumberphiles” from 15 countries, including 28 from the United States. Approximately a third of the volume presents Clumbers in their major performance activities, with the remainder detailing Clumbers in twenty representative countries, arranged alphabetically.

Fittingly, this true celebration of Clumberdom opens with a chapter on the

most beloved for so many of us: the elderly Clumber. Lovingly recounted are the life stories of 19 Clumbers reaching the age of from 15 to even 16½ years. The second chapter, aptly titled “Reliable Finders,” is made up of accounts of Clumbers working in the field in Australia, Canada, Sweden, the U.K., and the U.S., emphasizing the radically differing climates, terrain, ground cover, and prey. The



Clumber Spaniel puppy

COURTESY DR. BRYANT FREEMAN

SPORTING GROUP

Clumber's superb sense of smell, methodical hunting style, protective coat, and highly visible white color continue to serve him well in the field wherever he may be. In addition, his weight and strength give him a distinct advantage in forcing his way especially through dense undergrowth impenetrable to lighter flushing spaniels.

Other chapters describe Clumbers in performance events: scent work, tracking, obedience, Barn Hunt, therapy, agility, and even dancing. Included is a "photo tutorial" on grooming, as well as the Clumber portrayed in photography and in art. A special section details the U.K.'s Working Clumber Spaniel Society, founded in 1984 and now comprising some 450 members. Another is devoted to "Rigg" (Midori Diamond Huddleston), a 3-year-old male Clumber who in December 2016 was awarded first place in an any-variety U.K. field trial—the first Clumber so honored since the famous Field Trial Ch. Beechgrove Bee in England in 1899. Closing this part of the book is a heartwarming section on "The Eternal Puppy."

The remaining two-thirds of the book is comprised of a cross-section of Clumber activity in twenty chosen countries in as many chapters. Selected are Colombia, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Mexico, Netherlands, Norway,

Poland, Russia, Switzerland, and even the Channel Islands—in addition of course to the usual English-speaking nations and Sweden, most often associated with our breed. Evidently not included for want of space are twelve other Clumber-breeding countries: Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Estonia, France, Guatemala, Japan, Malta, Portugal, Slovakia, South Africa, and Spain.

The country-by-country sections vary greatly, and not necessarily corresponding to respective Clumber activity. Thirteen contain detailed accounts of that country's Clumber history for 2000-2015, five written by Jan Irving herself. Thirteen present informal color pictures, the most impressive being 50 from the Czech Republic, followed by the U.K.'s 31. Seventeen of these 20 nations have provided three-generation pedigrees accompanied by a formal show shot. In the lead is Sweden, with 101; followed by the U.K., with 73; and Australia, with 50. Eight U.S. Clumber kennels are so honored: Avalea, Bella Vita, BlueMoon, Cajun, Casmir, Clue Clumber, Millerwood, and Moonrysn. This impressive volume should have a place in every serious Clumber-lover's library.

—Bryant Freeman, Ph.D.,
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Breed Historian and Delegate, [Clumber Spaniel Club of America](#)

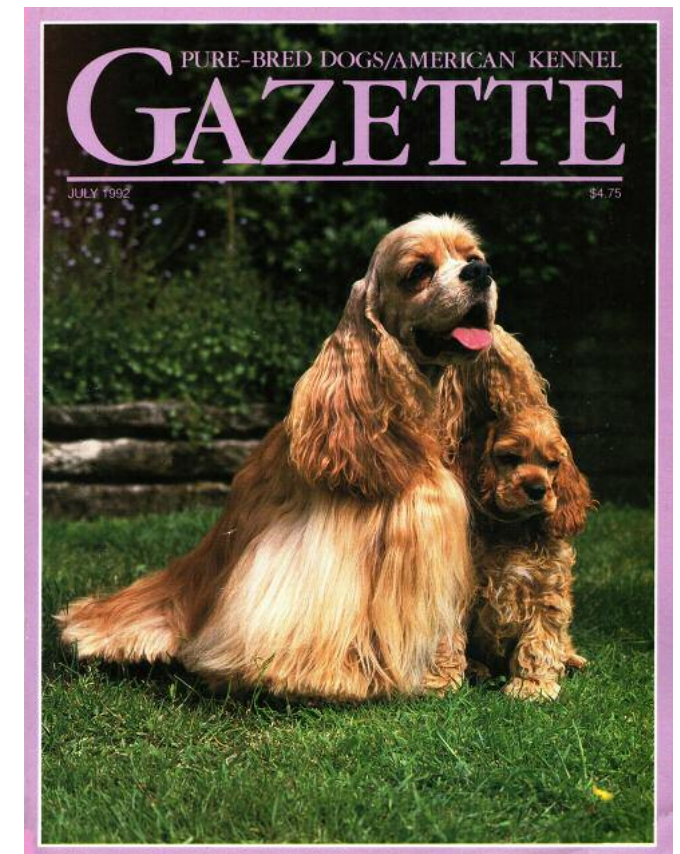
Cocker Spaniels

WINNING BY A NECK: BEAUTY AND FUNCTION

Whether you are an admirer of the Cocker Spaniel, a judge, a breeder, or someone who participates in performance sports or in the field with dogs, there is a focus on the Cocker's neck and shoulder assembly. Few areas of canine construction are more difficult to understand and teach, yet more important to beauty *and* function!

As usual, we turn to the descriptive language of the breed's official AKC standard. The "Neck, Topline, Body" section provides: "Neck—The neck is sufficiently long to allow the nose to reach the ground easily, muscular and free from pendulous 'throatiness.' It rises strongly from the shoulders and arches slightly as it tapers to join the head." The "Forequarters" section says "the shoulders are well laid back with the upper arm of approximately 90 degrees, which permits the dog to move his forelegs in an easy manner and with forward reach."

A practical suggestion for understanding is that you seek knowledgeable mentors using Cockers of various conformation constructions to demonstrate and teach Cocker neck blending with shoulder layback and shoulder lay-in. It makes more sense when you can not only read the descriptions and view diagrams,



Cocker Spaniel: July 1992 (photo by Sally Anne Thompson)

but also put hands on the neck and shoulder areas of dogs. When you come to an exhibit where you feel a long, arched neck and your hands glide along, feeling smooth, clean shoulders well set in and laid back, you will understand the joy of correct construction in this area of the Cocker. The beauty is evident just viewing the profile: gracefully arched, long neck blending seamlessly into smooth shoulders. By contrast, there is nothing beautiful or elegant about the construction of a short neck

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“stuffed” abruptly into upright shoulders with the perilous “throatiness” under the neck (or in other words, the skin hanging down loosely).

Consider the function of the Cocker Spaniel breed. The standard’s “General Appearance” section describes the Cocker, in part: “The Cocker Spaniel is the smallest member of the Sporting Group.” “He is a dog capable of considerable speed, combined with great endurance.” The Cocker is a flushing spaniel which by nature finds, flushes into the air, and retrieves birds in upland game hunting. That is the Cocker’s natural function. Watching a Cocker perform this function is a joy, just as the breed’s correct construction is a joy to behold. This function dictates a Cocker built for efficient movement and endurance. The Cocker in the field, carrying out the breed’s natural function, must move forward with the least amount of effort and be built to sustain that movement for the hunt.

The correct neck and shoulder construction allows the Cocker to freely sniff the ground, moving his head easily and face forward to move freely with good front and rear extension. Cocker function requires the ability to cover ground with less expenditure of energy.

The neck-area construction is key to whether or not a Cocker can perform its intended function—and, miraculously,

whether or not a Cocker aesthetically exhibits elegance and beauty. —Kristi L. Tukua

[American Spaniel Club](#)

English Cocker Spaniels

BREED HISTORY

Spaniels as a group have been in existence since at least the 1300s, with most historians tracing their origins to Spain. It was, however, the British who developed the breeds that we know as spaniels in the Sporting Group today.

It wasn’t until the 1800s that the spaniels were divided into “springing” spaniels and “cocking” or “field” spaniels, with weight, height, and hunting style being the notable differentials. The Cocker Spaniel was developed to hunt in dense cover, flushing and retrieving game, primarily woodcock, but larger game birds and even hare were not uncommon quarry. Therefore, the breed needed to be sturdy and robust, capable of bustling through the thick hedgerows and bramble—not too large to go into and under the brush, nor too small to retrieve the hefty game.

In the early stages of the breed’s development, the dogs were much smaller in stature. The taproot sire Ch. Obo, whelped in 1879, was a mere 10 inches at the withers, 16 inches



Above: English Cocker Spaniels in 1946, photographed by the Thomas Fall Studio; right: Ch. Obo, whelped in 1879



long from withers to set on of tail, and weighed 22 pounds.

By the late 1800s and early 1900s, the breed was beginning to stabilize, sporting the familiar appearance with more length of leg and balanced body proportions. A new era dawned in 1901 when the American Spaniel Club abolished the weight limit for Cocker Spaniels, and from that year onward, steady progress was in evidence. Uniformity in type

was starting to be noticeable, and breeders began to produce and exhibit sturdy, short-backed Cockers, scoring heavily in spring of rib and depth of girth.

The Cocker Spaniel Club was founded in

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the U.K. in 1902, establishing the breed standard shortly thereafter. In 1935 the English Cocker Spaniel Club of America was formed in the United States to promote the interests of the English Cocker Spaniel and differentiate it from the American-type Cocker that was emerging. The AKC recognized the English Cocker Spaniel as a separate breed from the American Cocker Spaniel in 1946.

The modern-day English Cocker Spaniel is a devoted family companion as well as a hardy sporting dog, eager to work in the field at the side of his master. The breed excels at performance events such as agility, obedience and any form of nose work, always with the hallmark merry temperament and ever-wagging tail.

[English Cocker Spaniel Club of America](#)

English Springer Spaniels ENCOURAGE TOMORROW'S STARS: SUPPORT JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP

When the student is ready, the teacher will appear.—Laozi

What do you do when your little girl is “dog crazy”? At age 10, Susan Schneider (Peridot), began to show her Springer, Tag (Ch. Bordalyn’s Resolution) in AKC Junior Showmanship. Springer folks Jud Perry (Kearnach), Bonnie Bosley (Bordalyn), Ray

and Lou Perry (Tontine), and Vic and Sue Capone (Poco-Pyr) were delighted to mentor an eager exhibitor. Schneider worked for five years, for George and Mary Ann Alston, of Fieldstone. Schneider learned to do “whatever needed to be done at their show kennel and on the road: feeding, exercising, cleaning; packing the show vehicle, preparing dogs for the ring and keeping everyone on top of ring times to have dogs at ringside ready to go.”

In 1979, Schneider won Best Junior at Westminster—24 years after her mentor, George Alston, had won Juniors there in 1954. The lesson here: If your heart is set to winning a particular prize, it pays to set your mind to finding a teacher who knows the ropes.

Schneider delights in the memory of winning Westminster. “The day before the big win, in the preliminary class, I showed to judge Anne Rogers Clark, who in 1956, was the first woman to win Best in Show at Westminster. To show well under Mrs. Clark’s keen eye has always been a great accomplishment, because I consider her the best of the best. I had taken second place in Juniors in 1978, and 1979 year was my last shot before I aged out of Juniors. The night before the show, there was a snowstorm in New York. We almost did not make it into the building. The crowds around the rings were six people deep. It was tough to get from the grooming area to



Judge Frank Sabella awards Best Junior Handler to Susan Schneider and English Springer Spaniel Ch. Bordalyn’s Resolution at the 1979 Westminster KC show.

the ring. Frank Sabella was the Juniors finals judge. He had famously won Best in Show at Westminster in 1973 with a white standard

Poodle. When he pointed his finger at me, it was truly a dream come true. I was ecstatic to be surrounded by my family, friends and especially

COURTESY SUSAN SCHNEIDER

SPORTING GROUP

my English Springer Spaniel best buddy, Tag (Ch. Bordalyn's Resolution). Tag loved to strut his stuff and catch a treat in the air, and he was the best partner ever."

"My parents were very supportive. My dad would watch me show and give me feedback. We had lots of conversations with professionals and experienced breeders."

Mentors along the journey to winning Westminster "nurtured my confidence in my skills and taught me to fade into the background and always make my dog shine in the forefront."

"My most vivid memory—my very first time in the ring—is having a broken arm in a cast. It was hard work to concentrate on keeping the show lead bundled up neatly in my hand. The judge was so kind and patient with me and my dog, and made me feel confident to want to get right back in the ring."

Schneider was competitive from the very start, admitting, "I would watch the classes before me to understand the judge's ring procedure. Once I entered the ring, I focused on my dog, the judge, where I was on the mat, the distance between my fellow competitors, and so on. Every time I did not get a ribbon, I would spend time setting goals for how to improve before the next show so my dog would have the chance to be the very best he could be."

"I understood how my connection to my dog laid the groundwork for my dog to develop confidence and be happy to show himself in the ring. Juniors taught me that there was 'homework' to be done before the show. The fun of competing with other juniors and the camaraderie that developed between us was a major part of the fun. These days at shows, I see friends who began as juniors competing as adults."

Schneider's advice for parents? "Make sure your child's outfit, hair, and shoes are age appropriate and clean. Teach them that they do not want to dress or act in any way that would outshine their dogs. Encourage your junior to learn to care for, condition, and groom their dogs."

All exhibitors need to "learn to be confident, patient, persistent and motivated to practice and improve each time. Pay attention to your own physical conditioning and healthy eating choices to be ready to run a sporting dog around the ring."

Schneider feels strongly that exhibitors of all ages can and should help each other succeed. She would not hesitate to ask another professional or owner handler "to watch my dog and me in the ring and give me feedback."

It could be hard to outdo winning Juniors at the Garden as a teenager, but Schneider has had favorite wins as an adult, too. "Winning

Best in Show National Owner Handled Series in Fort Wayne, Indiana; Best of Opposite Sex at Maryland Sporting Dog, and Best in Sweeps and Winners Bitch at the Kerry Blue national specialty as a breeder-owner-handler" have also been big moments in the ring.

Judging sweepstakes and futurities have been exciting ways to share skills that were taught her by a generation of handlers who worked hard to share their dedication to the sport of exhibiting purebred dogs. For Schneider, becoming a Junior Showmanship judge is a way to give back to the program that shaped her adult successes showing dogs.

—Sarah A. Ferrell,

saf@abrohamneal.com

English Springer Spaniel Field Trial Association

Sussex Spaniels

REMEMBERING DEBBI MILLER

The Sussex Spaniel world has lost a long-time, prolific breeder. Debbi Miller, Remedi Sussex Spaniels, died after a long illness. She left not only her beautiful Sussex Spaniels, but also her husband, Tom, and family and many friends. Debbi was an advocate of raw feeding and natural remedies, a longtime member of the SSCA, was on the Judges' Education committee, and was a

founding member of the Heart of Ohio Sussex Spaniel Club. She is and will always be sorely missed.

AKC NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP AND MEET THE BREEDS

The AKC National Championship Presented by Royal Canin show in Orlando last just gets bigger and better every year. The Meet the Breeds booths are more professional and elaborate every year. Although at December 2019 event the Sussex booth didn't win a ribbon, we got lots of compliments on it. The real showstopper was the puppy pen, with real, live 4-month-old and almost 6-month-old puppies. They were sweet, gentle puppies, and the children loved being able to pet (and hold if they sat on the floor) them. It was an especially good experience for the many autistic and Downs Syndrome kids who were there. It brought tears to my eyes to see the children start off so tentative and then end up laughing and playing with them.

I want to mention two other booths that caught my eye (and my quirky sense of humor. The Greyhound booth had an entire couch sectional with several dogs on it and a sign that said "45 mph Couch Potatoes," and the Siberian Husky booth had an entire table of combed out Sibe hair with a sign that said, DO SIBERIAN HUSKIES SHED?



Debbi Miller, of Remedi Sussex Spaniels

It was wonderful to have about 30 judges attend the SSCA judges' seminar that was held. I am very encouraged that so many judges actually care about learning to judge the breed. They asked good questions and listened intently to the answers. None of them could believe that

there were only 34 Sussex born in the U.S. in 2018. Hopefully, the numbers will be up for the past year, although I know of several litters where either all the pups were lost or all but one or two. Sussex are such a wonderful breed—we just keep trying. We repeated again and again that all Sussex are valuable to the breed, and that females, while not quite as showy, are the gold of the breed.

Our next national specialty will be in Olympia, Washington, in September.

—Marcia Deugan,
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Sussex Spaniel Club of America

Welsh Springer Spaniels A MOMENT IN HISTORY MADE FOR THE VELCRO DOG

The Welsh Springer is a breed of ancient origin, known at least as far back as the 16th century. They were bred to “spring” game into a net; this skill was prized by hunters prior to the widespread use of firearms in hunting.

Another trait bred into Welsh Springers is they do not range too far afield, instead quartering the terrain fairly close to their owner. This unusual hunting method probably led to the Welshie's well-known desire to be as close to their owner as possible. That's why you'll often hear the nickname “velcro dogs.”



Was there ever a dog better bred for this moment in history? Social isolation? Not when you have a Welshie, or two, or three. My dogs have been training for this their entire lives! Instead of two concentrated playtimes, morning and night, my three can now spend as much time in the fenced yard as the weather allows. Heaven! The little girls next door have a

trampoline, and the dogs have quickly learned that if they bark at the merriment too much, they earn a quick trip back inside. They're smart, and it didn't take them long to figure out that cause and effect.

I have a job that allows me to work from home. And what I have quickly learned is that trying to read or write while sitting on the

LEFT: COURTESY SSCA; RIGHT: COURTESY BONHAMS

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couch is not productive. First, Louis wants to sit on my lap and stare directly into my face. Given the chance, he will lovingly snort directly into my ear. Lollie will sit to my right and try to flip my arm into the air instead of allowing me to turn pages or type. Mamie will wander off and find a patch of sun to settle into—good girl! After a few workdays trying to make the couch-office work, I admitted defeat. Reading now takes place in a straight chair at the kitchen table and typing is either at the table or a bit of kitchen counter. We're all adapting.

It's gaining back the three hours a day that used to be wasted on commuting that has really made a change in the lives of the dogs.

Dinnertime is never delayed by traffic, hooray! Mom doesn't disappear out the back door before it is light every morning, yay! The dogs are delighted with a more consistent schedule.

However, if you have a litter on the ground or are contemplating a breeding, there are considerations for potential puppy owners. On the one hand, this is a great time to be training a puppy. Many people are home all day and can bring greater consistency to potty training. But veterinary services are becoming more constrained. This can mean delays in health testing results, inability to get pre-whelping X-rays and other diagnostics. And the regimented schedule for puppy inoculations could be disrupted for

their new owners.

Finally, the downside to our Velcro dogs is that there is a tendency to separation anxiety in the breed. So new puppy owners should be warned to continue with crate training and plan to have the puppy crated in another room, out of sight of the owners, for age-appropriate periods of time. Then, when we all come out the other side of this pandemic, the well-adjusted Welshie puppy can adjust to the owners' work schedules. Meanwhile, my dogs are loving this.

—Wendy J. Jordan,

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Welsh Springer Spaniel Club of America

Spinoni Italiani CHANGING BREEDS

As dog people, we each have our chosen breed and are part of a community of people also devoted to that breed. Our breed has the physical characteristics, purpose, temperament, and personality that appeal to us—and which are obviously superior to those of any other breed! Our breed is so beautiful, intelligent, devoted, so sensitive and empathetic, such a special companion, that we can't imagine why anyone would have anything else. Obviously, there is something wrong with someone who doesn't recognize the best dog

Spinone Italiano: "Obviously, there is something wrong with someone who doesn't recognize the best dog in the world."



DAVID WOO ©AKC

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in the world! We know that we have found perfection and will forever live our lives surrounded by these wonderful creatures.

Sometimes, though, circumstances change. Unexpected things happen. There can be unforeseen changes in living arrangements or in the amount of indoor and/or outdoor space available. There can be a move to a different climate, the changes that come with getting older, health limitations, even health issues, or changing characteristics of the beloved breed itself. Sometimes you have to face the fact that the breed that has suited you so well is no longer a good choice for you. You grieve for the loss of a major part of your life, and then you make a new list of desired traits, research breeds and breeders, and bring home that new puppy.

That is not all there is to it, though. The dog world associates each of us with a specific breed and is not necessarily quick to accept a new one. There are many puzzled looks; after all, you already had the most perfect breed, so how could you change? You get used to hearing “That’s a funny-looking (former breed)!” and, in a shocked tone accompanied by an expression of disbelief, “You have a (new breed)?”

The challenges are not just with friends and acquaintances. Where once you knew every dog in your breed by their call names, could

discuss pedigrees and traits generations back, and could recite the breed standard in your sleep, now you have to start over. You are the newcomer. Conversations filled with breeders’ names, dogs’ call-names, or references to various national specialties sound like they are in a foreign language. There is so much to learn.

Another problem with changing breeds is the “stuff.” If you were in your former breed for any length of time, you have collected books, figurines, prints, sculptures, jewelry, purses, clothing, and countless other items relating to that breed. Now what? There is always eBay, but it is hard to part with items that hold so many memories. You might also need to replace items you use every day, if the new breed requires different grooming tools or is significantly different in size from the old breed. Collars, show leads, crates, toys, obedience equipment, and other accessories may need to be purchased. It’s exciting and sad at the same time.

While the people in your former breed most likely don’t understand your decision to change breeds, the people in your new breed don’t question it at all. It makes perfect sense to them; after all, their breed is the most beautiful, intelligent, devoted, sensitive, empathetic, and special of all!

—Jan Naigus, 2012

[Spinone Club of America](#)

Vizslas

WHY RESPONSIBLE BREEDERS NEED DOG CLUBS

Several incidents in the past couple of years have made me do some extra thinking about the difference between careful, responsible breeders and the ones who are not serious about the responsibilities of breeding. Every Vizsla club or rescue organization has encountered individuals or families who are ready to give up on their dogs because of behavior or temperament problems; all too often the dog has come from a breeder who lacks knowledge and doesn’t feel any responsibility to help the owners or (if problem-solving fails) to take back the dog.

There are so many things that go into being an ethical breeder: carefully studying pedigrees, doing appropriate health clearances, socializing the puppies, screening buyers, considering every puppy a lifetime responsibility, and more. Going even deeper, though, I think one characteristic of good breeders is that *they value connecting with knowledgeable people who are committed to the breed’s purpose and heritage.*

When people ask how to find the right breeder, I strongly encourage them to ask whether a breeder is an active member of at least one dog club, because that is an indication that they value the good things that happen when committed breeders and owners work

together.

There are a lot of organizations to choose from: local/regional breed clubs, the breed’s parent club (the [Vizsla Club of America](#)), local all-breed clubs, field-training clubs, obedience/rally/agility clubs, and other groups that promote training, good sportsmanship, and responsible breeding. If one kind of club isn’t a good fit for an individual, it’s likely that another club will be. Each organization has its own individual purpose and bylaws, and its own ways to disseminate information, encourage responsibility, and support members’ activities.

Membership in a local or regional Vizsla club or the Vizsla Club of America is a good indication that a breeder values connecting with experienced, informed Vizsla owners and breeders. Members are not going it alone because:

- There are connections with knowledgeable people. Committed Vizsla owners are always looking to learn more about health issues, temperament, conformation, puppy socialization, training, and everything else that goes into having healthy, sound, happy dogs. Breeders who choose not to participate in a club are saying they don’t value this sharing of information.

- Members help each other sort through the almost infinite quantity of online information and misinformation. A club is a good place to find mentors who can provide guidance about what is accurate and important and real and

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helpful. When these mentors team up with tech-savvy club members, there are great opportunities to provide solid information on websites and social media.

- Clubs encourage participation in activities that help provide objective assessments of hunting ability, conformation, trainability, and so on. Reputable breeders don't rely solely on their own opinions of their dogs' qualities. They want to participate in trials, shows, and tests where their dogs can demonstrate their abilities.

- When problems happen, there's almost always someone who has been through it before and can provide help and advice—or empathy and understanding when the worst things happen.

- A club's Code of Ethics provides a framework for decisions about responsible breeding—a basic blueprint for doing the right thing. In situations where doing the right thing isn't easy, this ethical compass becomes especially important.

- Club members can provide mentoring and guidance to promote careful, ethical breeding that is true to the breed's heritage of health, temperament, trainability, and suitability for its purpose.

- Mentoring tends to have a domino effect, as new breeders mature and become mentors to others.

Other types of clubs also have something to offer, especially in locations where there isn't a nearby Vizsla club. All-breed clubs or training clubs can provide a more general kind of mentoring, and often there is a lot of value in the knowledge and perspective of owners of other breeds.

We all know that dog clubs aren't perfect; *what should be* isn't always *what is*. Like any group of human beings, clubs can be subject to differences of opinion, personality conflicts, political maneuvering, and various time-wasting distractions. People make mistakes. Sometimes it's tempting to give up and retreat from participating—but that means being cut off from the useful resources a club can provide. If one club isn't a good fit, another club could be more suitable.

If we want to do right by our dogs—especially when it comes to producing and raising puppies—I think we owe it to them to work with other people who share a commitment to learning, sharing and mentoring.

—Beth Nash,
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 Vizsla Club of America

Weimaraners

WEIMARANER WORLD 1960

There's been an uptick of interest in the 1960s. We talk about the *Mad Men* era,

mid-century modern furniture, and how the 1960s brought a dramatic change to the cultural fabric of American life. It was a transitional time that took us from the conservative 1950s into the youth-centric, antiestablishment, freewheeling 1960s.

What does all this have to do with Weimaraners? For me, it was curiosity about what was happening in the world of Weimaraners at the start of the 1960s. Were things as they are today, or has the world of Weimaraners dramatically changed? It would be wonderful to talk to someone who lived through the Weimaraner world of the early '60s, but unfortunately I have no such direct source. What's the next best place to start poking around? It's the written word in the form of issues of *The Weimaraner Magazine* from the early '60s.

I'm lucky enough to have collected some of the early magazines, and here are a few eye-opening things I found looking through issues from 1960. You'll be surprised by how so many things have changed, and yet so much remains the same in our breed.

Lacking today's instant information via the internet, in the early '60s there was only one major means of mass communication about all things Weimaraner, and it was the *Weimaraner Magazine*. Each month people would anxiously wait for the mail to bring the

news about what was happening in Weimaraner circles.

What was the magazine like back then? The 1960 magazine measured a bit larger than the current issues, and there were no color pictures. It was published each month except for December, and the average number of pages was about 50. At the front of the magazine was a listing of the national officers. There were no local clubs but rather 18 geographic regions headed by a Regional Governor. Ladies, listen up to this one: All the national officers, and 17 of the 18 governors, were men.

When it came to event write-ups, field activities predominated. The calendar of coming events was about 75-percent field trials, with the balance divided between specialty shows and rating tests. Flipping through the pages of event results, it is noticeable that the dogs had far more German names than we encounter today.

In 1960 the Bench Futurity program was in its infancy, but the rules were being questioned and in some cases changed. While the Futurity program was formulated by the Weimaraner Club of America in 1954, the first Futurity wasn't held until 1956. Initially the Bench Futurity rules did not permit professional handlers to compete. In 1960 there was a recognized dilemma since a number of

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prominent owners were also professional handlers. To deal with this situation, the Bench Futurity rules published in October 1960 permitted professional handlers to exhibit if they were the owner or breeder of the exhibited puppy.

There was a prediction about the future in an article about breeding Weimaraners. The author foresaw that breeders “will make use of electronic computers in arriving at the best possible mate ... feeding pertinent data into one of these machine marvels will come up with one or more suitable candidates.”

Talking about breeding, it seems that the Weimaraner population was not large enough to keep up with the market for puppies. The magazine ran a plea from the Executive Secretary: “[S]upply is not keeping up with demand. We need good breedings. At this point in time, this office receives well over 100 inquiries a week asking where they can purchase quality Weimaraners.”

I hope you’ve enjoyed this peek back into the 1960s and that these facts give insight into the history and evolution of our breed and our parent club.

—Carole Lee Richards,
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Weimaraner Club of America

<http://www.weimaranerclubofamerica.org>

COURTESY REE SMYTH

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Alaskan Malamutes

THE DOG SHE LOVED THE MOST

As dedicated breeders and students of genetics, we endeavor to make the right decision for our bloodline at each moment in time. Is it time for a strategic outcross? The middle ground of a line-breeding? Or, in a brave step to preserve the best traits of our bloodline, one might decide to do a close line-breeding that “doubles up” and seeks to bring the best of the past into the present.

And so in January, 2005, I welcomed a lovely litter of eight, sired by Ch. Benchmark Black Elk and out of Ch. Benchmark Blast From the Past: both sired by Monty, Ch. Benchmark Captain Montague, ROM, but out of different and unrelated champion dams, each outstanding in her own right, to contribute valuable genetic diversity. And on a brisk April day, two dear friends, AMCA members Donna Schmoyer and Sandi Komaromy, joined me with a special goal: to pick a top show prospect for Sandi as she built her presence in our breed and in the show ring. What a thrill to watch that boisterous litter play, wrestle, and vie for “king of the hill” on the heavy wood platform put there for that purpose.

Of the show prospects, one seal male kept catching our eyes with his substance, athleticism, and presence—the puppy I called



In the show ring, Alaskan Malamute Weber, GCh. Benchmark Too Hot to Handle, was always handled by his owner, Sandi Komaromy. Most importantly of all, he enjoyed life as a beloved part of the family.

Badger, for the deep black face markings of his sire. And like his grandsire so many years before, he had a canny way of managing the dynamics of play, winning each moment not with aggression but with a fascinating blend of youthful diplomacy and budding wisdom.

And so, amid spring breezes and the golden



COURTESY AUTHOR

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sweep of the forsythia in full bloom beyond us, three hands pointed as one: Badger would be Sandi's dog, and so he went home with her and husband Jim, in due course to become Weber, GCh. Benchmark Too Hot to Handle.

An Unexpected Challenge

Soon, Sandi faced a challenge she had never expected—not with Weber, who was as willing and blissful as a young Malamute can be, but with the expectations and personality of his breeder, who had the annoying habit of instantly crystallizing the promising 3-month-old's entire lifetime campaign and presenting her vision to his new owner. And then I learned that, behind Sandi's gentle soul and soft-spoken manner, there dwelt a mother grizzly who quietly informed me that unless I learned to listen to her own goals, she would not show him at all!

And so, Sandi found the key to opening my ears and engaging my mind in the life she would share with Weber, the goals she would set and reach, the joys they would all share as a family, and the depth and meaning in a balanced and beautiful life—a life where show weekends blended with walks along lakeshores and prairie paths, where instead of “must-do” five-day clusters driven to exhaustion, a day or two when it counted merged seamlessly into relaxing days hosting family get-togethers,

usually with Weber dressed for the occasion in a comic costume of Sandi's design, Batman being a favorite choice!

That's how the wonderful years flew by, as Weber easily gained his championship and then his grand championship, always handled by Sandi. And what an elegant team they made: Sandi in her lovely jewel-toned suits, with Weber perfectly groomed, in prime coat and alert to Sandi's every move, the very picture of a mannerly and polished presence.

Their life together taught me everything, really, about what our lives as show breeders can be, and about the many lives the dogs we breed can have with their families. Sandi showed me that there are so many more ways to love our sport: not just the Type-A, fly-down-the-road, compress-your-existence into judging schedules and point-totals I had come to live by, but a life of balance, of family, of time for all.

The years I spent at ringside watching them are among the best memories of my life. I was blessed to share time with Sandi, Jim, and Weber at their home too, and see for myself the infinite sides of Weber's personality. There was the football-jock exuberance of his sire Otter; the silliness of eternal youth as he carried a tennis shoe everywhere; the flashes of gravitas and intellect of his grandsire, and the way he would often strike a majestic pose as a

veteran, gazing off into the distance as if to welcome someone.

Defining Our Lives as Breeders

We love this sport, and we often define our lives by it for different reasons. We count our days, our points, and our titles. We track the success of our breeding programs and the achievements of our dogs, and we do our very best to put each puppy into the right hands, positioned to achieve all they possibly can in their lives and the lives of their people.

And so, it took me a bit of time, a few years, in the life I shared with Sandi and Weber, to deeply and fully appreciate the gift they gave me. It was a gift not measured in armfuls of group rosettes, nor in stacks of glossy magazine covers (although it could have been), but in a solid, just-right show career, and in hundreds of photos, formal and casual, in the ring and at home, always in the arms of the family who loved him.

In time, Sandi and Jim's Malamute family grew to four wonderful dogs who gained their titles amid the family life all show dogs deserve. Early on, Sandi, however, declared Weber her “heart dog.” Among a household of lovely Malamutes, he was always her truest and deepest friend.

Four years ago—far too early, as it always is—a fierce melanoma swept that gallant dog away.

One year ago, likewise far, far too early, and in an astonishing and unaccountable tragedy, an equally fierce cancer swept Sandi away too. It is a loss none of us will ever reckon with. I will never accept that this beautiful, gentle soul, this incredible wife, mother, and grandmother—six years younger than I—this generous, pure-hearted, talented, and patient friend would not outlive the difficult, driven person to whom she taught so much.

But now I think I know why Weber would strike those poses, looking off into the distance. Now I know who he was preparing to welcome. That was Sandi's last gift, the best gift a breeder could ever wish for:

To breed the dog she loved the most.

—Phyllis I. Hamilton,

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[Alaskan Malamute Club of America](#)

Anatolian Shepherds

DEATH AND THE DOG TAX

There is a dog tax that has nothing at all to do with licenses and everything to do with a tacit agreement that you make the moment you bring a dog into your life. You bring home a puppy and you have stars in your eyes, dreams, hopes, plans. This one dog, this is the one that will be the salvation of your breeding program, or the start of it. This dog

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will be your best in show winner, it will be the dog that you take into the group ring as an owner handler, and make the pros sweat and worry that maybe, just maybe, they won't get a piece of the action because of you and the lovely dog on the end of your lead.

You are so wrapped up in the joy and excitement of your new puppy that you pay scant attention to the non-corporeal being holding a contract made up of your hopes and dreams in one hand and a lancet in the other—"Just a drop of your own heart's blood, that's all that is required, and you can take this dog home."

You wave the being away while the puppy licks the blood from your finger—puppies have such sharp little teeth (because surely that is where the drop of blood came from), we need to work on "no bite!"—and you head off into the rest of your life with your new best friend while the angel (or is it a demon?) puts a seal on your contract and files it away in some celestial cabinet, to be pulled out at a later date, generally 10 to 15 years in the future.

Time passes and you take classes together, you go to shows and trials and add titles to the dog's name. If the dog passes all its health testing, maybe you raise litters from him or her. Perhaps the dog helps you raise your own children, sees you through relationships, jobs, the loss of parents. As with all things, there are bumps in the road, but you adapt.

You get the bad news that the dog has hip dysplasia, but by then you've got so much emotional capital invested that you choose to keep the dog and take half the purchase price back instead. Or like me, you tell the breeder that you are fine with keeping the dog and they don't owe you any replacement.

Your hair gets grayer. The dog's muzzle gets frostier. You both get a little slower. Some of the joint supplements that you both take have the same labels. Old dogs know the routine. They're always there at your feet during meals to pick up the crumbs that fall. They can't make it up onto the bed any longer, so you buy a fancy dog bed that you place right next to yours or you buy doggy stairs so they can still climb up the bed to be with you.

One day you notice he's dragging his rear a bit. Then you see that his rear completely falls out from under him as he races across the yard—but being a tough breed, he manages to pull his rear under himself and keep on going. You call the vet and talk to her about it. Yes, he's got bad hips. You up the supplements, keep him lean, add pain medication when needed. You do all that you can to forestall that fateful day when some angel (or demon) comes and taps you on the shoulder with a contract in hand.

That tap on the shoulder, the one I did my best to ignore for so long, like a bill I didn't want to pay, came at 2 this morning, when I

had to help my old dog up to go outside. It came with the heavy realization that I have to help him up most of the time now. He knows that if he barks and wakes me I will get him up and put him on his feet so he can walk to where he wants to go. But lately he's been looking confused and fearful. He's trying less to get up on his own and relying more on me to lift him.

Sometimes there is a definite sign that it's time to let a dog go—cancer, some disease that can't be managed, injury that can't be treated. Sometimes it's just old age.

Knowing when to let go and say goodbye is the hardest thing, and it is so very individual. I always regret that decision, even when I know I'm making it for all the right reasons. The best I can hope for is a feeling of peace. Taking a life, even for the best of reasons, should never be something lightly done. Listen to your dog, and don't be afraid to make the decision to let go sooner rather than later. Better a week early than a day late. Talk to your vet about the process and ask their advice. Find the balance between your head and your heart. Remember that quality of life always trumps quantity.

The contract has an end date. For us it's 5:00 P.M. on Tuesday the 21st of January, 2020. I signed the contract early in the summer of 2004. By the time you read this, the sharpest pain of grief will have passed for me. I know from having walked this path with other dogs

that the pain will always be around, but it will fade from an ugly gash to a silvery scar.

Instead, I will try to remember the national-specialty trips we took together, the way we learned rally obedience together when it first came out, the three times we won the group and got to run around the Best in Show ring together, the last national specialty that I took him to where he hobbled around the ring at 14 and a half and basked in the clapping and the praise. I will recall the friends I have made in the breed as a result of this one, awesome, amazing, flawed, but ultimately perfect, dog.

But right now, right this very minute, my heart is breaking. I am feeding him buttered toast as I write, and trying not to think of the last bath he will get tomorrow, before we make that last car ride together. He was my beginning in the show ring for the breed, my hopes and dreams. He is a lifetime of experiences. He is my heart. I don't want to let him go.

—Jo Lynne York,

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[Anatolian Shepherd Dog Club of America](#)

Bernese Mountain Dogs TRAINING TRANSFER OF VALUE THROUGH GAMES

Can you tell that I love training? I enjoy researching best practices and new theo-

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ries. The last article was about Conditioned Emotional Response. CER is associative learning with classical conditioning. CER alters a previous negative or stressful connection, shifting it to a joyful, pleasurable event. Just as your dog has learned that the leash means fun on a walk, they can learn to love

can have the toy.” If the dog won’t take the food, offer again. If still a refusal, move the dog further away from the toy. If dog takes the food, immediately reward with the preferred toy. The dog learns that it gets to play when it takes the food treat. More common is a dog that is not very interested in toys. Increasing their toy

walking into a performance ring or a vet’s office. This month I want to explore transfer of value and delayed gratification. Both are conditioned response principles.

You probably will recognize the Premack Principle, also known as “Grandma’s Law.” Grandma’s Law is “First eat your vegetables, then you can have dessert.” The key is setting up the behavior with “first this—then that.” This can be very helpful strategy in developing new motivators in your dog.

There are Berners who are not food motivated. They can be taught to transfer value from a toy to a food reward by starting out with a very high value treat. The idea is “if you take the food I offer, then you

motivation is the reverse, but the same method. Offer the toy starting with a nose touch. Give the food treat when they comply. Progressive steps for touch to lick, to bite will bring transfer value to the toy and widen the reward options.

When my Berner boy was young, he was very picky. He vastly preferred affection to food. I use mealtime as a training session. I ask for a behavior and hand-feed his meal. As he chewed, I would pet and tell him what a good boy he was for eating. Then I ask for another behavior, and repeat. I reinforce those lessons still to make sure the transfer stays active.

Delayed gratification is a learned discipline needed in our lives, and our dogs’ lives. Making mature choices today because tomorrow is coming can be difficult to keep in mind in the exciting moments. Choices in our life can be to save money or to regularly exercise. Those choices may not be fun in the moment, but they do bring contentment and health in the future. Teaching your dog delayed gratification can bring calmness of your home. Imagine the joy of picking up your dog’s leash and he sits at your feet waiting patiently for the snap. Impulse control training teaches dogs “you must give up what you want to get what you want.” Your dog wants to go on a walk, so they must sit for the leash to be attached. If he wants to go out the door, he must wait for you to go first. Using the activities of the day as a reward

takes your relationship out of management into a higher plane.

There are many games that strengthen relationships and impulse control. Daily routines and interactions with your dog either reinforce or undermine the impulses. Susan Garrett has popularized a game called *ItsYerChoice* (IYC). It starts with a fistful of cookies and your dog learning to wait until your hand is open, not mugging your fist. It progresses to cookies scattered on the ground being ignored until given the release. It’s your choice is a way of life that can help your dog learn to make good choices. (For more, see [Susan’s blog](#).)

The best training takes the value of what the dog loves most of all and transfers it into whatever it is you want. This is a balancing act providing choice and allowing joy.

Happy training!

—Marjorie Geiger,

marggeiger@yahoo.com

[Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America](#)

Black Russian Terriers

HONORING OUR PAST, CELEBRATING OUR FUTURE

The Black Russian Terrier Club of America held its 13th national specialty at beautiful Purina Farms on September 17–20, 2019. National specialty week began on

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Tuesday, with a scent work seminar held by Corrine Dreyfus. The participating dog-handler teams were quick to “catch the scent,” and attendees were enthusiastic to participate in this new sport. Maybe a scent work trial will be in the club’s future.

On Wednesday afternoon, judge Anna Lorenz officiated over the obedience and rally trials, with a combined entry of 23.

The 2019 national specialty was the club’s largest entry to date, with a total of 70 Black Russians and a total entry of 143. The national specialty began Thursday morning, with Judge Lorenz also judging the three sweepstakes classes (Puppy, Veteran, and Bred-by-Exhibitor), with a total entry of 50.

The regular conformation classes were judged by Harry Tast, a well-respected FCI all-breed and international judge from Finland. Judge Tast was well acquainted with the breed from its early development in Russia, and he has judged the breed many times in Russia as well as other countries. It is always enlightening to receive the unbiased

Clockwise from top left: BRTCA 2019 national specialty Top 20 winner GCh.G Oles Ognennij Zver, CGCU; Top 20’s People’s Choice GCh.S Medvezhya Staya Zhivaya Legenda, CA, CGCA, TKN; Best of Opposite Sex Ch. Herodes Fyodor Bella Fantasia; and Best of Breed Deneb-Keitos Zabava Putyatichna

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opinion on breed development in the U.S., which is why BRTCA periodically invites international judges. Best of Breed was awarded to the Winners Bitch, Deneb-Keitos Zabava Putyatchna, and Best Opposite Sex to Ch. Herodes Fyodor Bella Fantasia (Slovenia).

On Friday evening, the Black Russian Terrier Club of America celebrated its inaugural Top 20 event, also held at Purina Farms. Over 110 BRT enthusiasts put on their finest to attend the event and banquet. How to celebrate the present without honoring the past? This year's Top 20 event was a one-of-a-kind in its uniqueness, in that qualifying dogs were invited based upon cumulative points earned over years 2004 to 2009 and years 2010 to 2018. The three Top 20 judges were Fritz Dilsaver and Olga Kornienko (both longtime BRT breeders) and AKC judge Gary Andersen. The winner of the inaugural Top 20 event is GCh.G Oles Ognennij Zver, CGCU, and the People's Choice Winner is GCh.S Medvezhya Staya Zhivaya Legenda, CA, CGCA, TKN. The next Top 20 event will be held in 2021, for the years 2019–2020.

The BRTCA also hosted its first Western Regional Specialty as a designated event with the Palm Springs Kennel Club on January 4.

—Emily Foster,

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[Black Russian Terrier Club of America](#)

Boxers

PLAYING IT SAFE

Bad things can happen to the very best of dogs in the most loving homes. For example, a cherished Boxer boy escaped his fencing and was tragically run over by his owner in the stable yard where he loved to play. On another occasion, a 6-year-old male Boxer was left in his fenced yard while the owners went to work. Sadly, he, too escaped his confinement—and in this case, he was shot by a police officer who was convinced he was doing the right thing to protect the neighborhood. In still another instance, a 10-year-old, nearly blind and deaf Boxer got out of his house, and when he did not respond to a policeman calling to him on the sidewalk, he too fell victim to a gun.

We must all remember that Boxers are not immune to problems of breed discrimination. A large percentage of the uneducated public thinks that they are “pit bulls.” Much of law enforcement thinks they are pit bulls. Many shelters consider them pit bulls and will not even attempt to rehome them if turned in. We must be their best advocates and their protectors.

Fencing must above all be secure, so that the Boxer cannot dig under it nor climb or jump over it. Some dogs are easily contained, while others are notorious escape artists. It is not



Boxer Ch. Arriba's Prima Donna with handler Jane Forsyth and judge Henry Stoecker (1969)

GILBERT PHOTO/AKC GAZETTE COLLECTION

WORKING GROUP

wise to leave your dog alone for hours in a fenced area lest he either escape or be victimized by a thief or a poisoner. Many years ago our family Boxer was poisoned with strychnine in her suburban yard by an unbalanced dog-hater. She survived, but many of his other targets did not.

Boxers who are not accustomed to being loose in a neighborhood often have the instinct to run if they are suddenly freed. If they are lucky, they are seen by a friendly rescuer and coaxed to safety until their owners can be located. If not, however, they are likely to fall victim to not only the automobile but also to the misguided efforts of some who seek to prove they have saved the area from the wicked, marauding “dangerous dog” on the run. I don’t believe I am overstating these concerns.

Every Boxer puppy should be sold with a proviso that he be microchipped. At least that might save some who are turned in to shelters or veterinarian’s offices. It is a first line of defense, at any rate. Enrolling with [AKC Reunite](#) will, for a small fee, provide recovery services across the country for abandoned or at risk dogs—for life. And every new owner should be instructed on the care and safety of that Boxer they take into their home.

The American Boxer Club’s “[Meet the Boxer](#)” booklet outlines many safety concerns and solutions for the puppy as well as the adult

dog. For example, how many of us have our front doors protected so that if an unexpected visitor opens it, the dog does not have the option to run outside? Food for thought.

Please take these warnings to heart—they just might save your Boxer’s life one day.

—Stephanie Abraham

[American Boxer Club](#)

Bullmastiffs

AN INTERVIEW WITH DENISE BORTON

PART TWO

This month we continue the interview with Denise Borton, begun in the January issue.

As an AKC judge, what is your opinion of dog shows today, and how do you see the future of the sport?

There are too many shows and not enough good judges. There should be more opportunities for youth, junior, and Pee Wee events, as they are the true future of the sport.

What are the strengths of the Bullmastiffs you are judging and what are the challenges breeders would do well to address? What has changed over the years?

A Bullmastiff is identified by his headpiece. A dog who does not have the correct “square on a square” head might as well be a mongrel. Since the head is the business end of the dog, its function is to ram and hold. The standard

is very clear in describing the expression, ears, skull, muzzle, stop, nose, flews, and bite.

Judges need to consider and reward proper head type without being “headhunters” and fault judging. I wish judges would reward honest dogs regardless of who is on the other end of the lead and have the confidence to place those dogs ahead of inferior dogs who may benefit from professional handlers and advertising.

I see nothing but positive and promising strides toward improving the Bullmastiff so it is capable in competing with all breeds in all events. We have dogs who lure course, herd, and track with the best of those breeds that are considered high-achievers in those events. We have CT, UDT, and UDX Bullmastiffs. It thrills me to see a good Bullmastiff in the group and be rewarded for it. In the early 1970s, the Working Group included herding dogs, and a group placement was a tough one to cut the teeth on. Now, Bullmastiffs are placing and winning groups with more regularity. Good bitches who are competitive with dogs are being speialed longer before retiring to the whelping box.

I’m absolutely delighted to see more owner-handled dogs, especially in Best of Breed competition. It takes a certain commitment and dedication to cultivate a winning and successful campaign, and owner-handlers definitely have

the edge in doing that. I love to hear of Bullmastiffs participating as therapy dogs in any situation—with children, in hospital/nursing home residents, and with veterans. We are so fortunate that the breed is inherently confident and stable and can adapt to almost any situation without missing a beat.

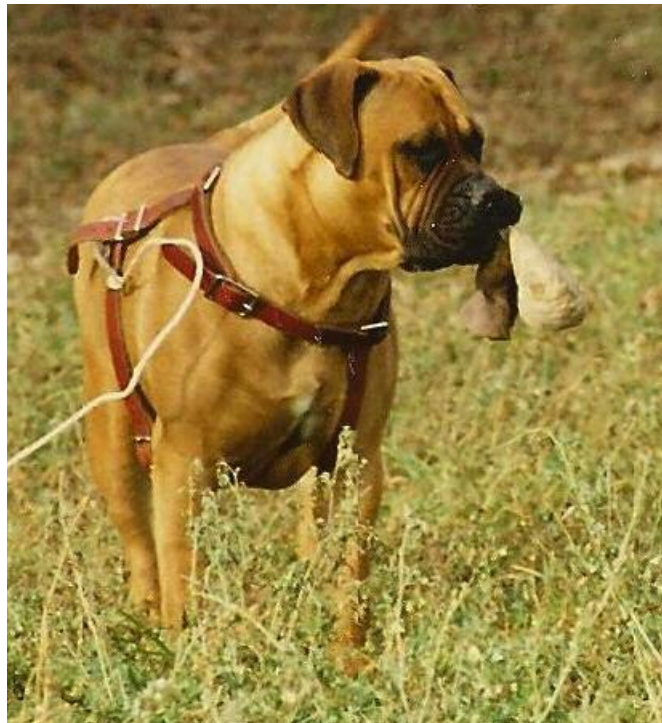
Breeders are becoming more aware of health issues that plague the breed and are more diligent in screening and selectively breeding to avoid them. Not always, not all breeders ... but still a majority.

The Bullmastiff will continue to increase in popularity, as it has already in the past 10 years. Breeders and owners need to be very aware of the risks that are involved when a breed is positively or negatively cast in the public eye. We should all consider ourselves stewards of the future for the dogs we love. We have globally managed to protect and insure the welfare of the Bullmastiff for the generations ahead.

Are there any final thoughts you would like to share?

Often the media will incorrectly describe an unfortunate incident as involving a Bullmastiff when it wasn’t really a Bullmastiff at all. Typically, it might include other molosser breeds, but unless the fancy is aware of the situation, we are powerless to defend the breed. We do have “Meet the Breed” booths at various dog shows across the country, and dedicated owners and breeders try their best to educate

WORKING GROUP



the public about the Bullmastiff.

Breeders must also be very careful in screening potential buyers so that the puppy does not fall into the wrong hands. All too often the cute and amusing ways of a puppy quickly become annoying and threatening as a juvenile when the behaviour was not corrected initially. Bullmastiffs are not for everyone, and as long-time breeder Carol Beans has often said, she judges the compatibility of a prospective buyer by the way their children behave: If their children are disrespectful and out of control, she doesn't sell that family a pup.

I cannot think of one circumstance where increased popularity has benefited a breed. We now have Bullmastiffs in movies, in television commercials, and owned by celebrities. This media attention can be very harmful to any breed when high exposure to the public creates a high demand in producing more dogs.

We have some afflictions that were unheard of when I first started in the breed—almost 50 years ago. Progressive retinal atrophy, cardiomyopathy, subaor-

tic stenosis, renal disease, hypothyroidism, and orthopedic problems such as elbow dysplasia were rarely identified. It was not unusual to have dogs living well into the double digits of twelve to fourteen years of age. Now, we have dogs dying of cancer as young as 2 years old. As a rapidly growing, heavy-boned breed, the Bullmastiff can be prone to joint problems if it is not carefully managed as a young puppy. There are opportunities to participate at the national specialty by donating blood for the Broad Institute at MIT, and the AKC has the wonderful Canine Health Foundation. These particular groups are very keen on mapping out genome markers for DNA sequencing, and research is funded in part by contributions to them. It's only through this type of honest and voluntary participation by breeders and owners that we will be able to identify the maladies that are taking our dogs way too early.—D.B.

Thank you, Denise.

—Lindy Whyte,

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[American Bullmastiff Association](#)

Doberman Pinschers

THE HUNT FOR NATIONAL SPECIALTY SITES

One of the important functions an AKC parent club offers is the breed's national

*Clockwise from top left:
Denise Borton's Bullmastiffs
Caitlin, Shelah, and Sister*

COURTESY DENISE BORTON

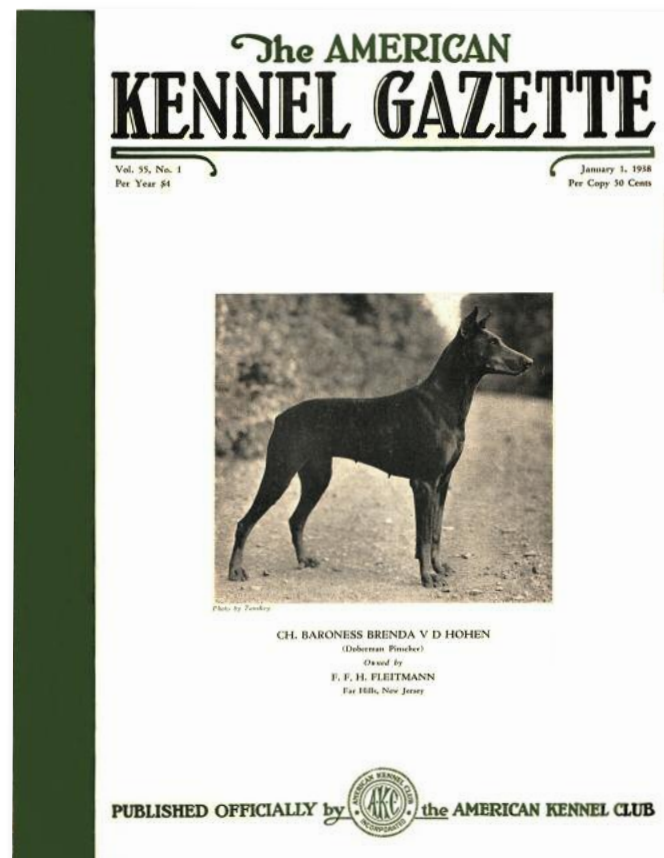
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specialty. For the Doberman Pinscher Club of America this is usually scheduled in early October. The first was held in 1924, and except for 1945, it has been held every year since.

The national specialty hosted by a chapter club (clubs created for local membership under the auspices of the DPCA) premiered in 1957. Chapter clubs were the hosts of every national, in charge of finding the location, providing the workers, and all incidentals required for the Specialty and Convention, until 2006, when the DPCA took over. The Pilgrim Doberman Pinscher Club hosted in event in 2007.

As the decades rolled along, many chapter clubs disbanded, including eight that had hosted the national, for reasons including an aging membership, waning interest in volunteering, the financial obligations, and workload being split among only a few remaining members. There are currently 46 local chapter clubs, in 30 states, including Hawaii.

Once the DPCA took over the national, the hunt for sites that can accommodate the eight-day event began with a committee being formed. A regional specialty is held the first weekend, and the DPCA annual meeting kicks off the week on Monday, concluding with intersex on Saturday. This year we also have events on Friday prior to the regional. We've



Doberman Pinscher Ch. Baroness Brenda v d Hohen, 1938 (photo by Tauskey)

been all over the country, from sea to shining sea, but—and that's a big *but*—sites are dwindling quickly.

Our club requires green space for our Working Aptitude tests, and paddocks for exercise. We have agility and obedience trials. And you can't forget Barn Hunt. We need large halls for matches, the Futurity and Maturity stakes, specialty classes, and three Top Twenty events—in agility, conformation, and obedience. Finally, we need rooms for

meetings, seminars, and health testing—and, ideally, a hotel connected to the convention space.

Phew! It's tougher each year to bring it all together. We are not alone in this quest, as many parent clubs face the same problem.

We had a signed contract for our 2020 site, and in November 2019 we were told the resort could not guarantee it would be available. So, we scrambled to find a venue for our national in October 2020! We worked it out and will return to Topeka, the 2019 site.

More than a few sites we've used have had their buildings condemned or sold, and/or they were renovated and no longer wanted dogs. Since November we've looked into more than 47 sites, many suggested by members. Of those responding to our inquiries, only a handful could be considered. Trying to move the national around the country, West-to-Central-to-East and back, makes the search even more difficult.

That said, our nationals are fantastic: The education, passionate discussions, hundreds of Dobermans, friendships continued, and excitement of the win. The 2019 national culminated with Best of Breed being awarded to GCh.B Mirabel Endless Love, CGC, TKN, BCAT, RATN, presented by her breeder-owner-handler.

No matter where it is, the reason we pack up

and go to the national is for the breed. The breeders. The exhibitors. And *those* moments!

— Leslie Hall,

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Doberman Pinscher Club of America

German Pinschers

PLANNING THE WORK

German Pinschers are an independent breed. They were originally farm dogs, responsible for ratting and raising alarms, which means that much of their work ethic is focused outward and they're intensely interested in what's going on around them. It can make them very good dogs for scent work and tracking and Barn Hunt, and more challenging dogs to train in sports that require focus and precision, like obedience and rally. Not impossible—German Pinschers have achieved Master Agility Championships (MACHs), Utility Dog, and advanced rally titles—but not always easy.

I enjoy participating in performance and companion sports with my dogs. I feel fortunate to be living in an age where there are so many options for dog and handler teams—obedience, rally, tracking, scent work, Barn Hunt, dock diving, and so on. Conformation and breed standards are critical for the long-term health of the German Pinscher and

WORKING GROUP

every other breed, but my heart is in working with my dogs, building relationships, and testing that relationship in our chosen sport. Still, there have been times when I've not been training my dogs, and I've been sad and frustrated about it, but, busy with work, social obligations, other relationships, I've gone right on not training my dogs.

"Set goals," people say. "Make a plan." And I do—but I don't always stick to it. Lately I've spent some time thinking about why that is and coming up with some ways to make goals work for me and my dogs.

First, just as it helps to train the dog you have rather than the dog you wish you had, it's important in goal setting to know yourself. I love aspirational goals—for example, to earn the first OTCH on a German Pinscher—but they can easily be overwhelming or, like the aforementioned OTCH, not suited to me or my dogs. I also can be guilty of wanting to do All the Things—so many sports, only so much time. This can lead to choice overload, where it's too hard to decide and so I don't.

In addition, most of us don't just eat, sleep, and train our dogs. Doing All The Things (or even one difficult thing) has to coexist with all the other priorities in life. Breaking big goals down into smaller pieces and often breaking those smaller pieces down even further until, even when life is busy, I can train for five min-

utes or while we're on a walk or even out running errands, can make the difference between frustration and success. Each of those tiny training sessions, if I've planned the work, advances us a little further toward our goal and, when joined together, can take us where we planned.

—Deb Coates,

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German Pinscher Club of America

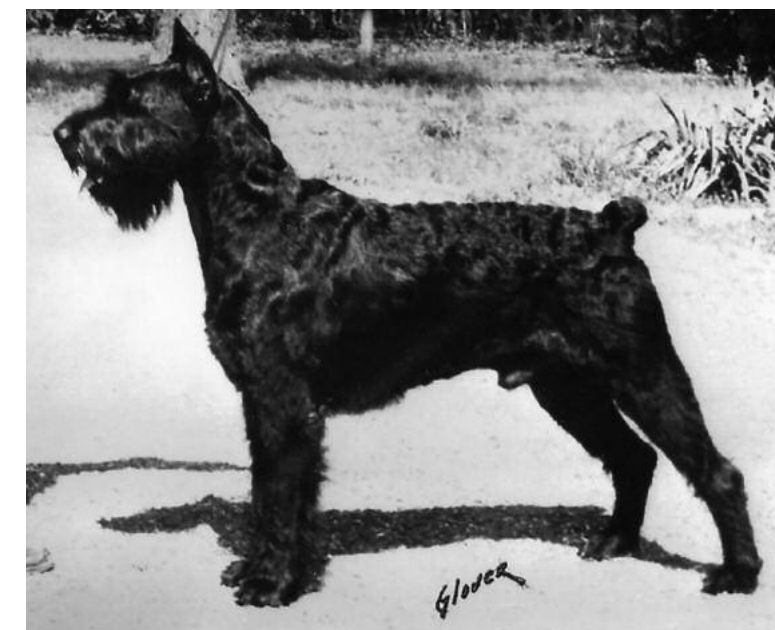
Giant Schnauzers

My guest columnist is longtime Giant Schnauzer enthusiast and author Yvonne Schilla.

THE MAKING OF A BREED HISTORIAN

The first duty of a breed historian is obvious: to love and respect the breed. Next, the scope or goal of any history must be established. There are several ways to study a breed. One could research the great and influential dogs, or handlers and owners. A third survey could be about breeders, or conformation or performance could be the goals. Health issues is another worthy area. Even though one's personal preferences will guide research, all facts should be verified through impartial sources.

When I first met Giant Schnauzers in the



Clockwise from top left: Giant Schnauzer Ch. Terry v Krayenrain, 1964; Ch. Terry v Krayenrain, 1967; Terry awarded Best in Show at Arkansas KC, 1962; 1964

AKC ARCHIVES; BARKER COLLECTION; MRS. THOMAS BAGLEY

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early 1970s, I kept hearing about one dog, Ch. Terry v Krayenrain. It is truly interesting how Terry, an import, earned his championship. Because there were so few Giants shown in the late 1960s, and therefore few points to be earned with Best of Breed wins, Terry earned his championship the hard way—by winning Group and Best in Show awards. This information really piqued my curiosity.

To learn more about Terry, I sought back

issues of the AKC GAZETTE and the AKC Studbook. This hunt uncovered some interesting tidbits. Giant Schnauzers were officially recognized by the AKC in 1930. However, for four decades Giants seldom appeared in the breed ring. Because of Terry v Krayenrain's success in conformation, Giants became better known. Using AKC information, ringside chatter about who did what could be verified. And I was hooked. Who were the breeders



Left to right: Ch. Terry v Krayenrain is awarded Best in Show at Lexington KC, 1966; Terry goes Best in Show under Maurice Baker at the Southeast Missouri KC, 1966

behind Terry? What was their motivation to breed this farm dog? Where were they located? What information was available?

A historian does need to search diligently for material dating to the first stages of a breed's emergence. My curiosity led to a search for all kinds of printed material. I was fortunate to locate studbooks from Europe and many European show catalogs. I also located books written before World War II by several German breeders. Pictures of the early Giants in Bavaria were also available. All these provided clues to the early breeders.

For that became my focus, a 75-year history

of Giant Schnauzer breeders, 1930–2005. I checked studbook listings, show records and certified pedigrees for accuracy. Sometimes when a particular animal was registered in a second country, the name was spelled differently, and in some cases it was even changed. I had to be careful with details such as birth dates, registry numbers, and the parents of an individual dog. While some registries are almost faultless, others are not so much. Consistency can be a problem.

Such an endeavor as this needs the help of others. There are so many who have knowledge about various Giants and their breeders. Sheila Cole and Doris Redmann's sourcebook of pedigrees was most informative of the earlier Giants. Catherine H. Brown and Enid S. Lagree were very helpful. Brown had an encyclopedic knowledge of the early days. Lagree contributed not only her breed knowledge, but also her photograph collection and editing skills. Leena Urkola and Nicole Denbom helped gather data about Giants in Europe.

It was intriguing and truly lots of fun to dig around in all those databases. I thoroughly enjoyed the process. May others find their searches just as interesting.—Y.S.

Thank you, Yvonne.

—Mary E. Falls,

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[Giant Schnauzer Club of America](#)

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Great Pyrenees

THE POTATO CHIP FACTOR

In the mid-1980s, I joined a Great Pyrenees online listserv where I “met” many breed lovers. Pyr-l was a wonderful place to ask questions, share stories, and have discussions about our wonderful breed. The members consisted of people with many years of experience in the breed, those new to the breed, and those everywhere in between. Some of the members had working dogs, some had pets, and others were into showing and rescue. I learned about type, conformation, the beauty and pitfalls of rescue, health and behavior issues, showing, and regional and national clubs. The variety of knowledge was something that you could never find in books.

Pyr-l was a place where you could have discussions, some of which would last for days. It was very different from today’s online world, where someone shares a post and others make comments, and the “thread” is difficult to follow when someone comments on another’s comment. They don’t always make sense, and you don’t know who commented on what. It was on this list that I made lifelong friends and learned about showing, rescue, behavior, health, working dogs, and the “potato chip factor”—that is, “betcha can’t have just one.”

Shelly, my first Great Pyrenees, grew up and lived with other dogs. I was worried about her



behavior because she seemed depressed. I don’t like to anthropomorphize, but there is something to be said about canine behavior; Shelly wasn’t her usual self. When I posted about her behavior and asked if getting another Great Pyrenees would help her become her bubbly, happy self, I received a few chuckles and then the advice: *Get another Pyr.* The Great Pyrenees breed is used to working as a team to protect their flocks. Since my family was the flock, we needed additional

protection.

Around the same time as this discussion, a rescue situation emerged in Florida. The GPCA Rescue Coordinator was in need of good homes for a number of Great Pyrenees that had been removed from a horrid situation. Their ages ranged from young puppies to 2–3 years old. I expressed interest in getting a puppy, since I wasn’t certain how an adult would be received by Shelly. A few weeks later I received a phone call from our GPCA



Left to right: Great Pyrenees Shelly and Trooper; Trooper and Emma with columnist Karen Reiter

National Rescue Coordinator. They had a puppy that needed a home! Finally, I was going to get my next potato chip. A week or so later, Trooper entered my life and my home. He and Shelly got along famously. She taught him the ropes, the older training the young. Her depression went away. She recognized that she now had a backup, and it was required for the Great Pyrenees to do their job effectively.

Since getting my second Pyr, I’ve always had at least two and as many as five Great Pyrenees in my life. Many of my friends and other Pyr owners seem to add an additional

COURTESY KAREN REITER

WORKING GROUP

Pyr to their family. Currently, I have a Great Pyrenees, a Pyr/Anatolian mix, and an Anatolian Shepherd. I don't know if people in other breeds experience the same "love recognition" of breed characteristics, but I am thankful for learning about the "potato chip factor."

—Karen Reiter,

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Great Pyrenees Club of America

Komondorok

RAISING A SINGLETON PUPPY

Several times in 40 years of breeding I've wound up with a singleton puppy. Sometimes mom only conceives one, or sometimes there is a single survivor from a troubled pregnancy or whelping. This is a special case for early care and later handling.

First, with proper prenatal care, mom has had an X-ray or ultrasound showing a small litter, so you know what's up. Although Komondors are usually good free-whelpers, sometimes one or two puppy pregnancies don't generate the chemical trigger needed to get mom in labor. If you know when mom ovulated (by progesterone testing, or about four days before she was receptive to breeding), she should whelp 63 days after ovulation.

By the 64th day, if she is not actively in



Komondor puppy

labor, it is time to involve your veterinarian. Waiting extra days puts the puppy at great risk. Mom might need calcium or oxytocin to get things underway. A quick ultrasound will tell if the puppy is in distress, and a C-section might be the order of the day.

Another use of oxytocin is to bring milk down after birth. The small or single-puppy litter may not get milk flowing. We've seen oxytocin used for milk stimulation both as an injection and in a nasal application.

Komondors are usually great moms, but they are ready to nurture a full litter of four to eight puppies. That single puppy might get too much attention from mom. Keep an eye on mom and discourage her from constant licking, though the puppy does need licking to promote peeing and pooping. A single puppy doesn't have littermates to share the warmth. We keep a heating pad on low, under a towel in one corner of the whelping box (it is hard to find a new one that doesn't shut off after a short time; we have an old one). If you see the puppy going over there, they are looking for warmth, which can also be provided by tucking the puppy back near the good nipples between mom's back legs. If mom is bored with caring for only one, encourage her to stay in the box.

During the first few weeks this puppy does not have the normal competition for food

COURTESY ERIC LIEBES

WORKING GROUP

between littermates, he or she will be getting a little spoiled and maybe kind of fat. A fat puppy is good unless it really can't get around—just something to keep an eye on.

Now is a good time to handle the puppy more than normal. You provide the stimulation that littermates would otherwise. Mom should trust you to do this. During handling, roll the baby over on his back; there will be more of that needed later.

At 2 weeks, the eyes will be opening, and at 3 weeks it is time to introduce outside food. We use a wet slurry of goat's milk or puppy formula with ground puppy food in a flat pan. Put the puppy right in the pan for unavoidable exposure. In litters the puppies wade in the food and lick it off each other as much as out of the bowl. No possibility of that for the "one and only," so you can help him get the knack by licking food off your fingers.

Once the puppy is getting good nourishment from puppy food soaked with less and less goat's milk, mom should start to dry up. If she is still producing a lot of milk, a few days of separation and light meals will help her dry out. She still has a role in cleaning and warming the puppy, as well as providing company, so this is a tricky time in the life of our singleton. You should be handling the puppy lots.

By 5 weeks a singleton needs more stimula-

tion, and we introduce them into our broader household. Be careful of grumpy older dogs! Sometimes grandma or some other experienced older bitch is a good companion. Once Mom is dried up, she will help socialize the puppy. Our moms roll their pushy, overconfident puppies over as much as we do. You should definitely insist on occasional submission from your puppy. I just roll them over in my lap and wait until they stop objecting. This is much easier to do with a 6-week-old than the dominant adult Komondor they will become.

Training needs to start early for your singleton. Train against chewing on your fingers by objecting and offering legal chew toys. Convert their natural tendency to follow you around into the talent of coming when you call. For stimulation of the possibly destructive puppy, we put a safe ex-pen right in the middle of our busy house.

By 12 or 13 weeks, it is time to gently introduce a soft lead. Komondor puppies have several fear-imprinting stages. One is around 12 weeks. If your puppy has an uncooperative day, just wait a day or two until they are following you around again.

Good luck with your new dog!

—Eric Liebes,

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[Komondor Club of America](#)

Leonbergers

SOCIABLE

Driving home recently from the dog show weekend in Westminster, Maryland, I was feeling sentimental about the fact that it had been 22 years since I brought home my first Leonberger, after a two-year search for just the right puppy. Somehow it had been 22 years since the Mid-Atlantic Leonberger Club held our first regional specialty in Vienna, Virginia. Back in those days, Leonbergers were not yet recognized by the AKC, and, as such, we put on our own independent specialties. The world of social media did not exist yet, and those specialties were also social gatherings for both the dogs and their humans. Longtime friendships were formed and strengthened at those specialties, and the camaraderie both inside and outside the ring seemed to mirror the sociable nature of our wonderful breed.

The first line of the AKC breed standard for the Leonberger includes the word "sociable" as a general descriptor for the breed. This word was not lightly chosen by the Leonberger Club of America when we wrote that standard. The word generally means "inclined to seek out and enjoy companionship," and that describes the overall nature of the Leonberger to a "T." Interestingly enough, it also tends to describe the general nature of

the typical Leonberger owner—if not by nature, then through the process of owning these big, hairy, sociable animals. If you are not good at public speaking before you get a Leonberger, you usually will become good at it once you own the breed.

Leonberger owners regularly have to spell out the name of our breed when people inquire about them in public at events. Indeed, it is seldom possible to venture out in public with one or more Leonbergers without having to stop and answer a slew of questions about the breed, multiple times over. The dogs themselves seem to bask in the attention they receive when out and about. One of my Leonberger boys used to adore meeting new people so much that I had to warn his frequent admirers that he was going to sit on their feet! He would go right up to these people, turn to sit on their feet, then lean back against them and gaze up at their faces with a look that seemed to say he had waited his whole life to meet them. He made every person he met feel like his long-lost friend. This is not unusual for the breed. Though they are versatile and good-natured working dogs, they are not aloof or indifferent to strangers, as some other large working breeds can sometimes be.

Written standards allow limited space to address the temperament of a breed, and

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*"Leonberger in an Alpine Setting,"
Conradyn Cunaeus,
(1828–1895)*

often the terms used can carry multiple possible meanings, leaving much open to interpretation by the reader. The term “sociable” is not to say that Leonbergers are indiscriminately trusting. Though created primarily as a family companion and all-around farm dog, the Leonberger does have ancestral roots in livestock-guardian breeds. They are intelligent and discerning. However, they do not thrive

when left out of the activities of their human pack. They crave being part of the festivities. And 22 years after our first independent regional specialty, I’m pleased to say that the general atmosphere ringside among the owners in Westminster, Maryland, this fall continued to be sociable. It seems that one of the most important traits of our breed continues to draw a similar trait among the owners.

—Shannon White,
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Leonberger Club of America

Mastiffs

PREPAREDNESS FOR NATURAL DISASTERS AND YOUR MASTIFF

Over the past few years, increasingly volatile weather conditions have wreaked havoc and caused death, destruction, hardship and evacuations across our country and other parts of the world, including wildfires in California and Australia, hurricanes and massive flooding in coastal and Midwest areas, and devastating tornadoes, not to mention earthquakes that can level entire cities. As we have learned from a seemingly never-ending succession of catastrophes, family pets are often the ones who suffer most, through blindly running away in panic or sustaining injury, and/or being lost, abandoned, or denied rescue during evacuations.

Managing and ensuring the safety and successful evacuation of any pets can be quite challenging; if your pet is a Mastiff, this elevates problems to an entirely new dimension. As one of my friends who escaped a hurricane last year said, “Evacuating was hard enough with our cats and two small dogs; with an injured and terrified Mastiff, it was a

nightmare.”

Hence, this article focuses on emergency preparedness for Mastiffs. I asked several MCOA members and other Mastiff owners who live in areas frequently threatened by wildfires, hurricanes, flooding, or tornadoes and have firsthand experience with them to offer advice and tips. Here are their top recommendations.

Real experiences and recommendations for preparation:

- Whether you are evacuating or staying, ensure you have assembled what Tamara Sculley Cavanaugh described as an emergency “go bag” for your Mastiff. As well as usual emergency supplies, such as bottled water, batteries, medical kit, and so on; this contains your Mastiff’s health history/vaccination paperwork, copies of ID and rabies tags, favorite “comfort” toys, a long lead, an extra leash, a reserve bag of dog food, and medications your vet approves.

- In preparation for an evacuation, Celeste Groghan Guerrero commented, “We had a van loaded with basic go supplies—bowls, expens, a couple of toys, beds, and jugs of water, and ziploc bags of food for birds and cats. I had two meals for each dog and the medications they took, to tide me over until I could buy more. I had my cat and bird carriers labeled and easily accessible. Collar with ID

WORKING GROUP

tags and leashes were all in one spot easy to grab.”

Celeste also had one horrible experience in which she had to convince her Mastiffs to board a rescue helicopter. She recommends cotton ear plugs and Help 'Em Up harnesses, which—with handles at the shoulders and hips—enable two people to help “propel” a Mastiff in a direction he or she may be reluctant go.

- Dani Hall told me: “We have always lived in an area that is very susceptible to wildfires, as such we’ve always had a plan in place. We try to have at least two drivers capable of driving the bigger vehicles that can fit all of our animals. Each of our ‘dog vehicles’ is equipped with food, water, bowls, and crates.”

- Teresa McMahan, who lives in a wildfire danger area, periodically does evacuation drills with her Mastiffs and pets. On a similar note, Karen Karably—who lives in a tornado zone—says: “I’ve learned the hard way to get pups comfortable with basement stairs to avoid the impossible task of trying to pull 200-plus pounds of dog down slippery, barewood steps to a dark, creepy place they’ve never been when a twister is closing in.”

- Nikole Yahre and her family—who experience frequent hurricanes and severe storms—own pygmy goats, chickens, and rabbits as well as Mastiffs. Hence, they would

rather “ride out the storm” rather than be stuck on the road with all of the animals. To that end, they built on land that has proven to be high and drains well. They have installed windows that can withstand bullets, and have multiple generators, freestanding AC units, and “safe rooms”—one for the family and dogs, and one for the livestock. Nikole has prepared protections for important documents, as well: “We also send a full backup every six months to family/friends out of state to hold should we need to restore. It may not cover everything, but I’d rather lose four months of stuff than *everything*. It may sound extreme, but we’ve seen some storms, and we’re responsible for lots of lives.”

Additional tips:

- If you are going to evacuate, decide on a destination, and know in advance the address and phone number of a veterinary clinic. Additionally, as you plot your escape route(s), keep the names, addresses, and phone numbers of dog-friendly hotels and motels.
- Consider microchipping your Mastiffs. If your pet runs away or is lost in the confusion of an evacuation or rescue, tags and collars are frequently lost.

—Karen Cornelius,
klc@klcassociates.com
[Mastiff Club of America](#)

Neapolitan Mastiffs

WHAT HURTS ONE HURTS ALL

There is an individual bragging that he has successfully re-created an ancient molosser. He (ironically) calls it the “American Molossus.” Videos and promotional documents can be found with a quick internet search.

The pictures of his “American Molossus” look like a mix of primarily Neapolitan Mastiff and Mastiff.

He has a written standard. It is clearly a copy of the AKC Neapolitan Mastiff standard, modified to describe an uber-typey *Mastino*: bigger, heavier, and wrinklier. Some of the clumsy, amateurish verbiage describes physical impossibilities.

Undoubtedly there *was* an astounding canine used in battle by ancients. However, what astounded people 7,000 years ago is surely not what would be astounding today, just as what was “amazingly fast travel” 7,000 years ago would not be considered either amazing or fast today. People were smaller. Would a “big” dog then be the same as a “big” dog today? Would people expect to care for their dogs the same as today? No.

This story of the “American Molossus” is spun by a charlatan, a fabulous fairytale to justify the taking of huge amounts of money from goggle-eyed buyers. But what does that

have to do with us?

What harms one harms all.

At first the innocent buyer is over-the-top excited: They’ve got something special, and it’s very cool.

But these sorts of swindlers do not health-test their breeding stock. Strangely enough, they pretend to have a “breed” protected by the myth of “hybrid vigor.” And there cannot be a history of tracking and monitoring temperament, type, or the occurrence of issues. So predictably, problems will occur.

At some point the formerly innocent owner will encounter issues of health, temperament, construction, soundness, or longevity. They will realize they’ve been bamboozled and have a very expensive mixed-breed that is going to get even more expensive. That’s if they’re lucky. If they’re unlucky, they might have an unstable dog, a dangerous dog, or a dead dog.

Those wretched persons become the most believable voices in the claxon calls against the purebred fancy. And their call is that all breeders are evil, web-spinning liars.

So, how can we fix the problem?

We must get to those pre-buyers first! We need to use the Internet too. It also means that when we talk to people we sell the positive (and true) aspects of ourselves and our dogs. We cannot expect to be compete against these bilkers if we run and hide. And we cannot be

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successful in attracting the new buyer if all we do is whine about how expensive and what hard work breeding is.

Luckily, we have a tool that the mixed-breed tricksters do not have: We have the AKC dog show. Like using the internet, dog shows allow us to talk to people without inviting scary strangers into to actual our homes. Like the internet, we can control the experience—not by showing select pictures but by bringing the best attraction: our perfect, well-behaved, clean dogs.

And guess what? Dog shows are much better than the internet; they are hands-on! Plus they can have many levels of experience, fun for both kids and adults. Or they should be.

But for our dog shows to do the job we need, attracting spectators must become key. We must make time to talk with people, laugh with them, make them want to come to the shows, and make them feel we enjoy having them. Every one of us at shows—workers, exhibitors, judges, or vendors—must actively engage casual spectators. Show them the happy side of AKC purebred dogs. Make them want to join us.

If all we do is show, grab the ribbon, and go, we are only talking to ourselves. We are only selling ourselves to ourselves.

If we don't make room ringside. If we don't recognize the needs and cater to the casual

observer at our biggest and best venues for education, we will not attract the innocent new buyer.

But believe me, the fellow who recreates the “American Molosser,” and others of his ilk, will.

—Margaret R. (Peggy) Wolfe,
Margaret.peggy.wolfe@gmail.com
United States Neapolitan Mastiff Club

Newfoundlands

“DOWN AND DIRTY”: THE REALITIES OF GETTING THAT CUTE PUPPY

It is easy to see that people staying home during this COVID-19 crisis are cruising the Internet. Puppy inquiries have increased. It is easy to see the beautiful pictures of puppies online and dream about having one of your own.

We need to make sure that we are doing enough to prepare prospective first-time dog owners (especially of the large to giant breeds) regarding the wear and tear that a dog can innocently cause to a home. Thus, this updated column on “down and dirty.”

When I talk to potential Newf owners, I, like most Newf people, mention the hair, the drool, and the debris that a dog as large as a Newf can carry into a home from a walk or playing in the yard. But then we move on to

other subjects. Perhaps we should be spending more of our time to prepare a future owner of what exactly we are talking about.

Drool. We should mention that an experienced Newf can easily deposit drool on ceilings—and not just your standard-height ceilings. We had



Newfoundland

COURTESY HOT DOG PHOTO

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one Newf fling drool to the very highest part of a stairwell. (Try getting up there to clean that!) Sometimes paint, no matter how you carefully scrub it, will retain a stain of where a goober landed.

Hair. No matter how much you groom the dog or what expensive vacuum cleaner you try, there will *always* be hair! I do believe it multiplies at least tenfold after it leaves the dog. It makes for “dust puppies” under chairs and couches, no matter how much you sweep and vacuum. You will find it on freshly laundered sheets and clothes, no matter how many times you wash and dry. Hair will also join ketchup, mustard, and mayo as a condiment. It will appear on the Thanksgiving turkey and the Christmas ham.

Dirt. It is amazing how much sand, dirt, grass, twigs, and even bugs a large, coated breed can drag into the house—even if the dog didn’t look that dirty when he came in the door! I dread mud season and feel great relief when it passes, and I am not mopping floors multiple times a day. It is even worse if your dog is a digger. They appear at the door with brown noses, chests, and feet, and that dirt will settle everywhere as it dries and falls out of the coat. Not a pretty sight, and it makes for a lot of dusting! Last time out at night, especially in the summer, has hitchhikers such as moths, mosquitoes, and other assorted nightlife gaining entry.

House. Puppies (and sometimes bored adults) will leave teething mementoes on stairs, windowsills, woodwork, and chair and table legs. Each doorway will have a black slick of dirt from the dog rubbing against it each time he enters and leaves. Nails, even well trimmed ones, will scratch hardwood floors or pull threads from rugs and carpets.

Yard. Pee spots. Those ugly circles of dead grass. Need we say more? Chewed-up sticks everywhere. Shrubbery chewed or plantings uprooted. Racetrack paths worn around the perimeter. And the hair again! The birds will love your yard for its never-ending supply of nesting material.

Looking at this list, you would wonder why anyone would have a dog!

Seriously, it does behoove all of us to make sure our puppy buyers are well prepared for the down and dirty part of life with a dog.

—Mary Lou Cuddy,
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[Newfoundland Club of America](#)

Portuguese Water Dogs

GOOD PWD HEALTH NEWS

As I write this column, we are all concerned over the Coronavirus pandemic and hopefully by the time you read this, all will be well on the way back to “normal.”

The PWDCA recently announced that the test for PES (puppy eye syndrome) or microphthalmia, is now available thru PennGen (University of Pennsylvania, or UPenn). It is a syndrome that presents at birth in various ways, as well as severity. “The one constant finding is that the eyes are involved to some degree. Most puppies have multiple other health or internal organ problems, and few live to adulthood. Breeders may mistake this for ‘fading puppy syndrome’ or failure to thrive. In the rare case that they do live to adulthood, they have been unable to reproduce. With the help of UPenn research, a DNA-based gene test is now available. Like the microphthalmia syndrome test, PRA, EOPRA, GM-1, JDCM, and IC are all autosomal recessive (simple recessive) gene conditions.

“The good news is if a dog is a carrier, he/she can still be bred. A breeder would certainly want to make sure only to breed to a dog that is tested clear of the tests, if their dog was a carrier. Two carriers bred together will likely produce affected offspring.”

The PWDCA Board of Directors has now added the following requirement to the current health testing protocols:

“At least one parent of any breeding pair is required to be tested for microphthalmia syndrome and found *not* to be a carrier. This will

ensure that all litters born within this requirement will not have Affected puppies without removing dogs that otherwise make important contributions from the gene pool. It is known that this disease has affected litters in early days of the breed in this country indicating that there are likely dogs among the early foundation stock that were carriers.”

All breeders are encouraged to test for this syndrome, as well as the others, in an effort to understand the “pervasiveness of this gene within the PWD breed,” and thereby make sound breeding decisions. For detailed instructions regarding the test, please visit the [PWDCA website](#) and carefully read the valuable information shared there.

Heartfelt thanks from the PWDCA goes to the researchers at UPenn, the PWD Foundation, all donors who supported this research, and to the various breeders “who selflessly sent in the affecteds and provided DNA from their related dogs to make this research possible.”

My sincere thanks to Christine Dostie, and Janice Reilly for sharing this important information with us.

Let us all remember: “*The average dog has one request to all humankind: Love me.*”—Helen Exley
—Carole Prangley-McIvor,
mcivor_carole@yahoo.com
[Portuguese Water Dog Club of America](#)

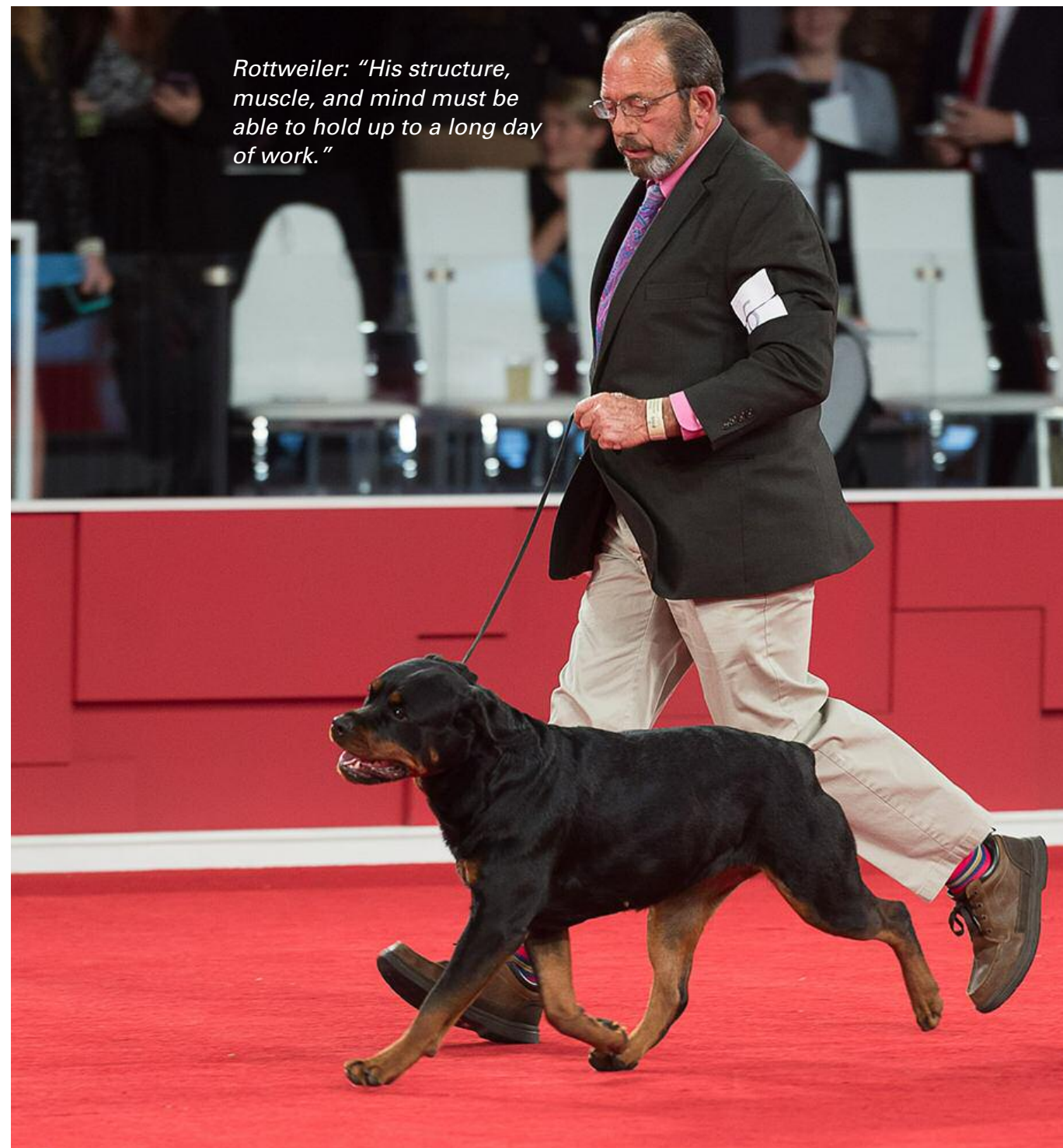
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Rottweilers

THE ROTTWEILER IS *NOT* A HEAD BREED

Contrary to what some may believe or espouse, the Rottweiler is not a “head breed,” meaning that the judging of our breed is not primarily based on the dog’s headpiece. The Rottweiler is, first and foremost, a working dog. His structure, muscle, and mind must be able to hold up to a long day of work—herding, driving, carting, guarding property and livestock, babysitting the children, bringing stock back to the barn, holding a bull at bay, guarding his owner from robbers and predators, and then sleep contently, so as to be up and ready the next day—and yet, with a open ear for ne’er-do-wells. They are carefully bred for temperament, to be thinkers and not reactive; this behavioral trait is a hallmark of the breed.

The Rottweiler standard specifically states “medium length” for the head. Be careful not to award too-short of a muzzle; this generally leads to breathing and cooling issues, misaligned teeth and, frankly, a dog that can’t bite and hold on, whether it be bull, predator, or bad guy. The forehead should be flat, without doming or excessive skin and wrinkles. Extreme head type often contains faults such as excessive wrinkling both atop and at the sides of the head, drooping or loose lower eyelids, jowly flews with saliva escaping the



Rottweiler: “His structure, muscle, and mind must be able to hold up to a long day of work.”

mouth, and a weak underjaw.

Recently, dogs with more Bullmastiff-type heads have been awarded in the show ring. It is not only incorrect for our breed, but brings with it muzzles that are not level. Noses turning up, bumpy toward the nostrils, or turning downward are not acceptable and are serious faults.

A massive head is heavy to carry, weighing the dog down and compromising his ability to work a full day. Too short a muzzle interferes with cooling and breathing, shortening how long the dog can be useful. A dog that is overheated, short of breath or exhausted by mid-morning is useless. Better to award good, balanced structure with expansive, ground-covering movement.

While there is no doubt that an impressive head is indeed head-turning (pun intended), it must sit upon a neck of medium length and notable strength, inserting correctly into a moderately angulated shoulder assembly, allowing the dog to easily reach forward on strong upright pasterns. Eyes are almond shaped, not round or bulging, with well-fitting lids, eyes dark brown in color. You should be able to see or feel the muscle of the mandibular jaw, often demonstrated by good, strong cheeks. A large black nose with large holes for breathing is mandatory for scenting and cooling.

The Rottweiler’s head is clean and efficient,

COURTESY HOT DOG PHOTO

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designed for work. Above all else, never forget that what's inside the head is the most important aspect of our breed. Pretty is as pretty does—and this breed must be able to work, think, make decisions, and display discrimination.

—Jill Kessler Miller,
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American Rottweiler Club

Samoyeds

Our guest columnist for this issue is Peggy Gaffney. Peggy has owned, bred, and shown her Samoyeds of Westernesse since 1968. She is the author of the *Kate Killoy Mysteries, Suspense for the Dog Lover* series, featuring Samoyeds, and she is also the author of a dozen *Crafty Dog Knits* books for different breeds and the designer of Kanine Knits picture knit patterns featuring more than 100 unique dog breeds. Her websites are peggy-gaffney.com and kanineknits.com. People can contact her at gaffney@kanineknits.com.

SAMOYED HAIR

The first thing people ask me when they see my Samoyeds is “Do they shed?” My answer is “Yes, 365 days a year. If you don't want every dark piece of clothing you own covered with white hair, don't get a Sam.” I, however,

love this hairy breed, which I have raised and shown for more than 50 years—and one of the major reasons is *hair*.

The Samoyed has a double coat. The outer coat consists of stiff guard hairs that stand straight out from the body. The undercoat is soft, light, and fluffy, and it sheds, daily, floating all over the house. Male Sams blow coat once a year, and girls twice. A brush won't be enough to keep up with the generosity of the breed in donating tons of hair. Take the dog outside, get your dog dryer and a brush, notify every bird in the neighborhood that soft nesting material is coming, turn on the dryer, and blow the coat while brushing. Your neighborhood will experience a hairy blizzard, with lightweight hair floating everywhere, like snowflakes. Never bathe a Samoyed with loose hair that hasn't be brushed out—that's how the dog gets mats. Also, avoid using conditioner on the coat, because it will soften the guard hairs and defeat the purpose of the standoff coat.

The Samoyed's coat is not oily; the undercoat works like insulation. In sub-freezing temperatures, the coat must remain fluffy and lightweight in order to provide the air pockets that hold in the heat. Each hair, which is often six to eight inches long, is approximately eight times warmer than wool. The breed's tolerance of cold was what attracted explorers to

Samoyed: “Do they shed?”
“Yes, 365 days a year.”



PHOTO BY ASHBEY/KC GAZETTE COLLECTION

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use them when exploring the Poles. In fact, the first domestic creature across the South Pole was a Samoyed.

When the hair is spun into yarn, you must blend it with Merino wool or some other yarn in order for it not to be too hot when worn in climates more moderate than that of the North or South Poles. However, because of the length of the hair, plus the ability of the white hair to accept any color dye and the softness of garments knit with it, the yarn is in high demand by knitters. An average Sammy produces enough hair when combed out on a regular basis to fill several large garbage bags each year. As I mentioned, it spins into beautiful yarn. If this is something you'd like to have done, local breeders of llama or alpaca might be able to help. There are even places that specialize in dog hair.

The reason for blending the Samoyed hair is that the hair itself will shed if only knit as just Sammy hair. Each hair is made up of microscopic scales that are directional. By mixing Samoyed hair with fibers from sheep, alpaca, or llama, you create a fiber with different-shaped scales, causing them to grip. It is this irregularity of scales that prevents shedding.

Care of the Samoyed's coat requires brushing—lots and lots of brushing. The nice part about the brushing is that combined with

shedding, your Sam, even when he hasn't had a bath in months, looks still white and beautiful.

Hair may now be added to the list of many good things about the Samoyed breed. —P.G.

Thank you, Peggy.

—Heather LoProto, SCA Public Education Chair,

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[Samoyed Club of America](#)

Siberian Huskies

MUD SEASON

Neatly tucked between the departure of winter and the arrival of spring is New England's least favorite time of the year. To locals, it is known as "mud season," and although its duration is relatively short, it is a curse to all humans who live in the region. To the dogs, this "fifth season" is a change of pace after the routine of the winter months. The cold nights and warm days that contribute to the region's production of maple syrup also signal the beginning of the spring thaw, which turns rural roads into roller-coasters, the melting mountain snow transform small creeks into raging streams, and resulting mud puddles morph Siberian Huskies into monsters from another world.

@txt: Just as Siberians can sense the coming of winter, the smell of fresh mud and sight of

melting snow alert them to the arrival of spring. To them, it is a time of relaxation, playtime, and mischief-making. Anyone who has owned Siberians knows they are accomplished diggers and love mud and holes almost as much as snow trails. Novice owners are quick to learn that the dogs view any spot of bare ground as a potential prime excavation location for the annual ritual of digging the ever-elusive tunnel to China. The process is fascinating to observe and illustrates a distinct pecking order in the Siberians' approach to tunnel construction: Puppies are the students watching from the sidelines, yearlings and young adults are the apprentices, seasoned adults are the worker bees, and seniors are the critics. Somehow, each understands and respects their role in the project, with few signs of contention.

Mud season provides the perfect opportunity to identify any weak link in a kennel system. The importance of good kennel design and construction should never be underestimated. Shortcuts can lead to unforeseen escapes. If there is a way out, Siberians will find it. We have constructed a handful of kennels and each time have tried to incorporate design changes learned through experience. The present outdoor kennel system has patio blocks laid over tons of both gravel and compressed sand to ensure stability and good



Siberian Husky

drainage. If there is a weak link, it might be the exercise yard, with its gravel base and an opportunity for unsupervised digging, but rarely are the dogs left in the yard unattended. The perimeter fence panels are installed over rows of buried patio blocks to prevent bottom-digging.

If mud season doesn't provide enough of a challenge for Siberian owners, it often coincides with the spring shedding season. This can separate the true lovers of the breed from others. The sight of a Siberian covered in mud from his ears to his tail with blowing undercoat protruding from everywhere can

DAVID WOO ©AKC

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prove to be just too much for a novice owner. Having an in-house dog bath is a luxury worth its weight in gold. Frequent warm baths, a good set of grooming tools, and a great sense of humor all help in management of a trying situation.

Welcome to spring!

—Jane Steffen, Brownfield, Maine,

klonaquay@gmail.com

Siberian Husky Club of America

Standard Schnauzers

LOVE IN A TIME OF COVID-19

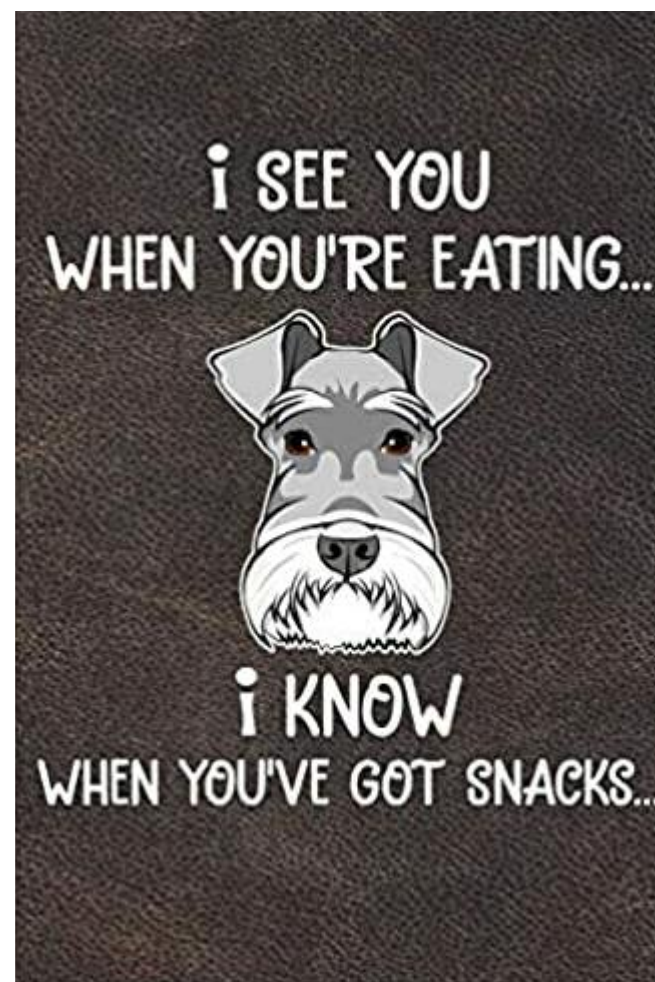
With some uncertainty about whether my next hand surgery scheduled for our April trip to Minnesota's Mayo Clinic might render my hands unusable for months, we started stripping our Standard Schnauzers in January to prepare for our usual summer dog shows.

Then our world came to a screeching halt. The new corona virus had arrived in America! President Trump recommended that state governors issue stay-at-home orders and restrictions on the size of public gatherings. In late March, New Mexico's governor issued a statewide stay-at-home edict, school closings, and a ban on gatherings greater than five people (think of your average dog show size!). Other state governors made similar

restrictions. Plans for the Mayo trip evaporated when doctors there notified us that the clinic had canceled scheduled office visits and elective surgery. Worse, the first of our summer dog shows—Albuquerque's Rio Grande KC and Coronado KC in May—were canceled, as have been many other dog events since then, some scheduled as late as November so far.

We were devastated. No dog shows! What were we to do with our groomed SS—all dressed up with no place to go?

But what about the devastation to others that dog-event cancellations cause? Not only damage the pandemic is causing to the national and global economy, but equally devastating damage for those whose income is derived from dog events. The AKC won't receive its small share of every potential exhibitor entry fee for every cancelled show. The superintendents for dog shows will take a loss for each cancelled show. The cadre of professional handlers who rely on dog shows will find their businesses disappearing unless they have additional income-generating activities like boarding, grooming, and training. Show photographers will lose anticipated income unless they have photography studios or other photographic work to pick up the slack. Dog show judges will lose their fees for cancelled shows.



A planner book with a Standard Schnauzer theme is a handy way to keep track of events during this challenging time.

The kennel clubs putting on the shows will suffer major losses when an event is cancelled. They will forfeit expenditures for show-site rental; advances for judges; trophy purchases; deposits on flowers for the rings and photographic area; and more. And of course revenues from exhibitor entry fees, vendor and

food-service booth fees, fees for overnight RV parking, day parking, and reserved grooming spaces may be lost. Can a new show-giving kennel club without a cushion in its treasury survive an economic blow of this magnitude?

Cancelled shows also mean major hits to vendors' incomes. Many vendors appear at only one show weekend each year, and exhibitors plan ahead to buy from them. Some vendors sell dog-related items and hand-crafted items that can be obtained nowhere else but from them. In our area of the Rocky Mountain West, we buy most of our show supplies from a Utah vendor who arrives in an eighteen-wheeler and sets out his wares in a gargantuan air-conditioned tent. Even if an item exhibitors are trying to find is esoteric, they can rest assured that Hathaway's will have it! We also await certain shows where a specific excellent sharpening service who can be entrusted with our very expensive grooming scissors will have a booth. There have even been shows where we don't enter because of the SS judge, but we go to the show anyway to see friends and shop!

Local businesses suffer as well. Exhibitors at AKC conformation dog shows spend an average of \$512 per person per dog-show weekend. Because AKC dog shows are an educational and family-friendly event, many exhibitors take family or friends to dog shows.

SUZANNE SMITH

WORKING GROUP

This means spending by AKC dog show exhibitors for a single show weekend could inject more than \$1.5 million into the local economy. If on-the-ball show committees have generated good pre-publicity before the shows, interested spectators (the puppy-buying public?) will attend. Out-of-town spectators generate additional revenues for local businesses from their spending on gasoline or airfare, hotel, food, clothing, sightseeing, and souvenirs such as local handcrafts.

In our minds, however, the biggest casualty of show cancellations in our minds is the crushing disappointment of the exhibitors. Like us, most exhibitors carefully plan their year of dog shows. For our SS, a major consideration for conformation shows is when our dogs will be in proper show coat. Timing of obedience and rally sports for intact females depends on when they are in season. For exhibitors with limited vacation time, closer shows are paramount, especially here in the Rocky Mountains, where a “close” show is a day’s drive—or perhaps an all-nighter, if an exhibitor can’t leave until after work the night before the show. A very important issue for conformation exhibitors in areas where the breed is sparse is whether a show might have enough SS entries for a major—or even a single point.

All of us exhibitors are in the same boat.

Without dog shows, there are no competitions for us and our dogs to earn those championship points or performance legs.

The COVID-19 shutdown has caught most Americans by surprise. Widespread hoarding across the U.S. has left empty shelves in stores and online, resulting in limiting per-person buying of restocked, formerly depleted items such as most paper products and such plundered areas as fresh meat counters, emptied almost as soon as they are refilled.

- After you touch any questionable surface, wash your hands with soap and water often, or use a 75-percent-alcohol hand sanitizer (if you can find some). The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) advises people to wash their hands after handling animals; they suggest doing as much as possible to keep pets and your home clean. It is not yet understood how and to what animal species the virus is transmitted and how it spreads. The American Veterinary Association (AVMA) and the CDC recommend that people ill with the coronavirus should limit contact with animals. The AVMA has reiterated that advice after learning of the positive COVID-19 test result for a Bronx Zoo tiger whose handler had the virus. The USDA says that there are no known cases of the virus in U.S. pets or livestock, although there have been reports from outside the U.S. of a few pet dogs, cats, and fer-

rets becoming infected after being in close contact with contagious people, including a pet dog in China who tested weakly positive in March.

While trying to decide on a photograph to accompany this column, I found the perfect image on the cover of our two-year planner book by Pretty Puppy (ISBN 9781674573342). This 6-x-9-inch book contains a planner page for each month, followed by pages for each week in that month for January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2021. The cover depicts the mischievous Standard Schnauzer we all know and love. We’re using ours to record momentous events during this worldwide lockdown while we’re confined to our homes. “Momentous events” now are a trip to the grocery store or post office, or walking the dogs in the neighborhood while crossing the street to maintain six-foot social distancing from any approaching pedestrians. Available [here](#) in paperback at [Amazon.com](#) for \$7.99 USD. Other covers feature other breeds (even cats), but the interiors are identical.

Stay safe, stay healthy, stay home. God bless America. And wash your hands!

—Suzanne T. Smith,
Los Alamos, New Mexico,
WustefuchsSS@aol.com
[Standard Schnauzer Club of America](#)

Tibetan Mastiffs

THE TIBETAN MASTIFF’S COAT

When I entered the breed 20 years ago, I remember hearing that the hallmarks of the breed are the head and the tail. A third characteristic that distinguishes the Tibetan Mastiff is the coat. Their thick, showy coat is what initially draws many people to the breed.

The undercoat is extremely dense, soft, and wooly. In winter, when the TM is considered “in coat,” it may be almost impossible to separate the fur to find skin. The overcoat, or guard hair, can vary from medium to long and can be fine or coarser, *“but hard, straight, and stand-off; never silky, curly or wavy,”* according to the standard. The coat tends to be longer and thicker around the neck, forming a manelike appearance, which can be pronounced in males and some females. TMs have a low-maintenance coat with minimal dander and do not have a doggy odor, so frequent baths are not necessary. A good weekly brushing to prevent tangles and to remove surface dirt is all that is required.

A number of factors influence coat, both genetic and environmental. While the amount and length of coat is heavily influenced by genetics, males generally carry more coat than females, both in length and thickness.

Age has to be taken into consideration when talking about the coat. The puppy coat is soft

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and fluffy. Sometimes TM pups never lose their puppy coat, but rather it becomes the undercoat as the adult coat comes in over it. The adult coat starts to make an appearance around 6 to 8 months in a distinct pattern—down the center of the back, and up the legs—and fills in from there. Coat will continue to grow and develop well into maturity.

Diet can affect both the amount and the condition of the coat, as can temperature and time of year. Diet is one area where you truly reap what you sow. A good-quality diet with adequate protein and oils will result in a shiny, healthy coat. Coats of TMs kept in an air-conditioned environment in the summer will fare much better than those left outside. Altered dogs, both male and female, may develop a different type of coat altogether, commonly called a “spay coat,” that is longer, softer, and of a finer texture.

General health of the dog can also affect the quality of the coat. Hair loss or a dry, brittle coat can often be the first signs of hypothyroidism or other health issues. A healthy, well-nourished and well-maintained coat will be sleek and shiny.

The Tibetan Mastiff’s winter coat is thick enough to be completely impervious to water in order to endure the harsh weather conditions of the Himalayas. In their native Tibet, where average winter lows range from minus



Tibetan Mastiff

10 to minus 18 degrees Centigrade in the plateaus and drops drastically with increased altitude, the coat of the Tibetan Mastiff is the very essence of its survival. Within the last 10 years, the breed has been infiltrated with foreign dogs interbred with Saint Bernards, Chows, Newfoundlands, and other breeds in an effort to produce larger size, more wrinkles, and longer

coat. One sure way to distinguish the descendants of these mixed-breeds is to carefully examine the coat—longer and more abundant for sure, but soft, wavy, and unable to repel snow and water. The TM coat should more resemble the coat of a Husky than a Chow. This is why our standard points out, “The quality of the coat is of greater importance than length.”

In summer, TMs lose their undercoat in a massive shedding over six to eight weeks that is referred to as blowing the coat. Sometimes the dogs will lose so much fur during this time that bare skin can be seen beneath the guard hair, and even the tail can become sparse. This is especially noticeable during the first two years, as the overcoat is still filling in. Our standard specifically says “dogs are not to be penalized if shown with a summer coat,” but many judges, like most individuals unfamiliar with the breed, expect a thick, plush coat year-round. This perception is magnified by the fact that most TM owners will not show their dogs when out of coat, so most judges have no idea what a summer coat looks like. I recently had one knowledgeable judge comment that when they are out of coat, “a TM in the ring is a coyote on a string.” An exaggeration, but the winter-to-summer transition is very real. Just as winter coat is essential for winter survival, summer coat ensures the dogs can survive the summer heat outdoors in their homeland.

Coat is not just a window dressing but serves a functional purpose for a working dog such as the Tibetan Mastiff. It is critical that we understand this, and not be thrown by an abundance of coat or the lack thereof.

—Debbie Mayer,

debmay@thetatek.com

[American Tibetan Mastiff Association](#)

COURTESY HOT DOG PHOTO



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 scheduled for Tuesday, June 9, 2020, at the Doubletree Newark Airport Hotel **has been cancelled** in response to the global pandemic health crisis.

All business that was to be conducted at the June 2020 Delegate Meeting will move forward to the next Delegate Meeting.

DELEGATES CREDENTIALS

Jane E. Bates, Montgomery, TX, Conroe Kennel Club

Michael Capozzi, Manorville, NY, Riverhead Kennel Club

Luanne K. Dunham, Newnan, GA, Newnan Kennel Club

Chereen M. Nawrocki, East Bangor, PA, English Cocker Spaniel Club of America

Dr. Brenda Jean (BJ) Parsons, DVM, Zirconia, NC, English Setter Association of America

Susan Soviero, Little Silver, NJ, Bayshore Companion Dog Club

Grace Wilkinson, Barrington, RI, Rhode Island Kennel Club

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE RULES
APPLYING TO DOG SHOWS
CHAPTER 3, Section 8-A – Dog Show
Classifications

The AKC Board has endorsed the follow-

ing amendment to **CHAPTER 3, Section 8-A**, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*, initiated by a member of the Board of Directors and presented by Staff to the Board based their request. This was to be voted on at the June 9, 2020 Delegates Meeting, which has been cancelled. All business that was to be conducted at the June 2020 Delegate Meeting will move forward to the next Delegate Meeting.

CHAPTER 3

SECTION 8-A. Clubs, at their option, may offer the Bred-by-Exhibitor Puppy Class, which shall be for dogs that are:

- Six months of age and over, but under twelve months as of the first day of the show;
- Not champions on the date of closing of entries for the show;
- Individually registered with The American Kennel Club as the date of the show;
- Owned or co-owned by any of the breeders of record as of the date of the show.

The person handling the dog in this class must be a breeder of record and an owner of record of this dog. In any subsequent classes for which a dog from the Bred-by-Exhibitor Puppy class becomes eligible, there are no restrictions as to who may handle. Clubs may at their option, further divide the Bred by-Exhibitor Puppy class into

two age groups consisting of six months of age and under nine months, and nine months of age but under twelve months.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE RULES
APPLYING TO DOG SHOWS

CHAPTER 3, Section 3 – Dog Show
Classifications

The AKC Board has endorsed the following amendment to **CHAPTER 3, Section 3**, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*, proposed by the Board of Directors. This amendment was inadvertently omitted from the March 2020 Delegate Meeting and was to be read at the June 2020 Meeting, which has been cancelled. All business that was to be conducted at the June 2020 Delegate Meeting will move forward to the next Delegate Meeting.

CHAPTER 3

SECTION 3. The regular classes of The American Kennel Club shall be as follows: Puppy (may be divided 6-9 & 9-12 months) Twelve-to-Eighteen Month (may be divided 12-15 & 15-18 months)

Novice

Amateur-Owner-Handler

Bred-by-Exhibitor Puppy (may be divided 6-9 & 9-12 months)

Bred-by-Exhibitor

American-Bred

Open

Winners

These classes shall be divided by sex.
The balance of this section is unchanged.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE RULES APPLYING TO DOG SHOWS

CHAPTER 3, Section 11 – Dog Show Classifications

The AKC Board has endorsed the following amendment to **CHAPTER 3, Section 11**, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*, proposed by the Board of Directors. This was to be voted on at the June 9, 2020 Delegates Meeting, which has been cancelled. All business that was to be conducted at the June 2020 Delegate Meeting will move forward to the next Delegate Meeting.

CHAPTER 3

SECTION 11. The Winners Class shall be divided by sex and each division shall be open only to undefeated dogs of the same sex which have won first prizes in either the Puppy (may be divided by age), Twelve-to-Eighteen Month (may be divided by age), Novice, Amateur-Owner-Handler, Bred-by-Exhibitor Puppy (may be divided by age), Bred-by-Exhibitor, American bred or Open Classes. There shall be no entry fee for competition in the Winners Class. After the Winners prize has been awarded in one of the sex divisions, the second prize winning dog, if undefeated except by the dog awarded Winners, shall compete

with the other eligible dogs for Reserve Winners. No eligible dog may be withheld from competition.

Winners Class shall be allowed only at shows where American-bred and Open Classes shall be given. All other regular classes are optional. A member club holding a show with restricted entries may include Winners Classes, provided the necessary regular classes are included in the classification.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE RULES APPLYING TO DOG SHOWS

CHAPTER 11, Section 9 – Dog Show Entries, Conditions of Dogs Affecting Eligibility

The AKC Board has endorsed the following amendment to **CHAPTER 11, Section 9**, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*, proposed by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee. This was to be voted on at the June 9, 2020 Delegates Meeting, which has been cancelled. All business that was to be conducted at the June 2020 Delegate Meeting will move forward to the next Delegate Meeting.

CHAPTER 11

SECTION 9. No dog with a communicable disease shall be on the show grounds or premises. Exhibitors should follow their veterinarian's recommendations to ensure that their dogs are free of internal and

external parasites, any communicable disease, and have appropriate vaccinations.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE RULES APPLYING TO DOG SHOWS

CHAPTER 14, Section 3 – Measuring, Weighing and Color Determinations When Factors of Disqualification in Breed Standards or Eligibility Under the Conditions of a Class or Division of a Class Cancellation of Awards

The AKC Board has endorsed the following amendment to **CHAPTER 14, Section 3**, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*, proposed by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee. This was to be voted on at the June 9, 2020 Delegates Meeting, which has been cancelled. All business that was to be conducted at the June 2020 Delegate Meeting will move forward to the next Delegate Meeting.

CHAPTER 14

SECTION 3. In those breeds where certain heights are specified in the breed standard as disqualifications, or in any class specifying height limits, the judge has the authority to determine whether any dog measures within those limits, provided the dog has not been previously measured during any competition at that show, excluding sweepstakes, futurities, and other special attractions.

If, in the opinion of a competing exhibitor

in the ring, the height of a dog in that ring appears to be outside the limits of the breed standard or the conditions of that class, such exhibitor may, before every dog has been individually examined and individually gaited, request that the judge measure the dog and the judge shall comply provided the dog has not been previously measured during any competition at that show, excluding sweepstakes, futurities, and other special attractions.

If the judge finds that the dog's height is within the breed standard or the conditions of the class, s/he shall mark and initial the judge's book "Measured in." If the judge finds that the dog's height is outside the allowable limits of the breed standard, s/he shall disqualify the dog and mark and initial the judge's book "Measured out - disqualified."

A dog that has thus been disqualified by three different judges may not again be shown.

If the judge finds that the dog's height is not in accordance with the conditions of the class, s/he shall mark and initial the judge's book "Measured out - ineligible." A dog thus declared ineligible for its class shall be considered entered incorrectly and cannot be transferred to any other class at that show. A dog thus found ineligible by three different judges may not again be shown in that class. In subsequent

shows, this dog may be entered in another class for which the dog meets the height limit or transferred to an eligible Open Class per Chapter 11, Section 6.

In all cases, the judge shall use a wicket that meets American Kennel Club requirements.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE RULES APPLYING TO DOG SHOWS

CHAPTER 14, Section 4 – Measuring, Weighing and Color Determinations When Factors of Disqualification in Breed Standards or Eligibility Under the Conditions of a Class or Division of a Class Cancellation of Awards

The AKC Board has endorsed the following amendment to **CHAPTER 14, Section 4**, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*, proposed by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee. This was to be voted on at the June 9, 2020 Delegates Meeting, which has been cancelled. All business that was to be conducted at the June 2020 Delegate Meeting will move forward to the next Delegate Meeting.

CHAPTER 14

SECTION 4. In those breeds where certain weights are specified in the breed standard as disqualifications, or in any class specifying weight limits, the judge has the authority to determine whether any dog weighs within those limits, provided the dog has

not been previously weighed during any competition at that show, excluding sweepstakes, futurities and other special attractions.

If, in the opinion of a competing exhibitor in the ring, the weight of a dog in that ring appears to be outside the limits of the breed standard or the conditions of that class, such exhibitor may, before every dog has been individually examined and individually gaited, request that the judge weigh the dog, and the judge shall comply provided the dog has not been previously weighed during any competition at that show, excluding sweepstakes, futurities and other special attractions.

If the judge finds that the dog's weight is within the breed standard or the conditions of the class, s/he shall mark and initial the judge's book "Weighed in." If the judge finds that the dog's weight is outside the allowable limits of the breed standard, s/he shall disqualify the dog and mark and initial the judge's book "Weighed out - disqualified."

A dog that has thus been disqualified by three different judges may not again be shown.

If the judge finds that the dog's weight is not in accordance with the conditions of the class, s/he shall mark and initial the judge's book, "Weighed out - ineligible." A dog thus declared ineligible for its class or

division shall be considered entered incorrectly and cannot be transferred to any other class at that show. A dog thus found ineligible by three different judges may not again be shown in that class. In subsequent shows, this dog may be entered in another class for which the dog meets the weight limit or transferred to an eligible Open Class per Chapter 11, Section 6. In all cases, the judge shall use a scale that meets AKC requirements including a platform of sufficient size as determined by the American Kennel Club to safely accommodate all applicable breeds.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE RULES APPLYING TO DOG SHOWS

CHAPTER 14, Section 6 – Measuring, Weighing and Color Determinations When Factors of Disqualification in Breed Standards or Eligibility Under the Conditions of a Class or Division of a Class Cancellation of Awards

The AKC Board has endorsed the following amendment to **CHAPTER 14, Section 6**, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*, proposed by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee. This was to be voted on at the June 9, 2020 Delegates Meeting, which has been cancelled. All business that was to be conducted at the June 2020 Delegate Meeting will move forward to the next Delegate Meeting.

CHAPTER 14

SECTION 6. In those breeds where certain color(s), pattern or markings are specified in the breed standard as disqualifications, or in any class or division of a class where certain color(s), pattern or markings are required, the judge shall determine if a dog is to be disqualified or declared to be ineligible for the class provided that such determination has not been previously made during competition at that show, excluding sweepstakes, futurities, and other special attractions.

If, in the opinion of the judge, the dog's color(s), pattern or markings require disqualification, the judge shall disqualify the dog, and mark and initial the judge's book "Disqualified - Color (or Pattern or Markings)".

If, in the opinion of the judge, the dog's color(s) pattern or markings do not meet the requirements of the class or division of a class in which the dog is competing, the judge shall declare the dog ineligible to compete in that class or division of class, and, s/he shall mark and initial the judge's book, "Ineligible - Color (or Pattern or Markings)".

If, in the opinion of any competing exhibitor then in the ring, the color(s), pattern or markings of a dog in the ring are disqualifications under the breed standard or do not meet the requirements of

the class or division of a class, such exhibitor may, before every dog in the ring has been individually examined and individually gaited, request that the judge render an opinion of the dog's color(s), pattern or markings, and the judge shall comply provided that such determination has not been previously made during competition at that show. If the judge finds that the dog's color(s), pattern or markings are disqualifications under the breed standard, the judge shall disqualify the dog and mark and initial the judge's book "Disqualified - Color (or Pattern or Markings)". A dog that has thus been disqualified by three different judges may not again be shown. If the judge finds that the color(s), pattern or markings of the dog do not meet the requirements of the class or division specified by the breed standard, s/he shall mark and initial the judge's book, "Ineligible - Color (or Pattern or Markings)". Any dog thus declared ineligible for its class shall be considered entered incorrectly and cannot be transferred to any other class or division at that show. In subsequent shows, this dog may be entered in another class for which the dog meets the requirements or transferred to an eligible Open Class per Chapter 11, Section 6.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE RULES APPLYING TO DOG SHOWS

CHAPTER 14, Section 6-A – Measuring, Weighing and Color Determinations When Factors of Disqualification in Breed Standards or Eligibility Under the Conditions of a Class or Division of a Class Cancellation of Awards

The AKC Board has endorsed the following amendment to **CHAPTER 14, Section 6-A**, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*, proposed by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee. This was to be voted on at the June 9, 2020 Delegates Meeting, which has been cancelled. All business that was to be conducted at the June 2020 Delegate Meeting will move forward to the next Delegate Meeting.

CHAPTER 14

SECTION 6-A. In those breeds where certain physical traits (ear carriage, coat length, etc.) are specified as a condition of a class or a division of a class, the judge has the authority to make a determination as to whether a dog meets those requirements. If the judge finds that the dog does not meet the requirements of the class, s/he shall mark and initial the judge's book, "Excused, ineligible for class." Any dog thus declared ineligible for a class or division of a class shall be considered to have been incorrectly entered and cannot be transferred to any other class or division

at that show. In subsequent shows, this dog may be entered in or transferred to another class for which the dog meets the requirements or transferred to an eligible Open Class per Chapter 11, Section 6.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE RULES APPLYING TO DOG SHOWS

CHAPTER 15, Section 2 – Protests Against Dogs

The AKC Board has endorsed the following amendment to **CHAPTER 15, Section 2**, of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows*, proposed by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee. This was to be voted on at the June 9, 2020 Delegates Meeting, which has been cancelled. All business that was to be conducted at the June 2020 Delegate Meeting will move forward to the next Delegate Meeting.

CHAPTER 15

SECTION 2. Any person who is handling a competing dog in the ring in any conformation competition may verbally protest to the judge before every dog in the class has been individually examined and individually gaited, alleging that a dog being shown in the competition has a condition which makes it ineligible to compete under Chapter 11, Section 8, or Chapter 11, Section 8-C, of these rules or a condition requiring disqualification under the standard for the breed; except that a verbal

protest alleging that the height or weight or natural color and markings of a dog requiring its disqualification under the breed standard or a determination of its ineligibility under the conditions of its class must be made under Chapter 14, Sections 3, 4, 6 or 6-A.

The balance of this section is 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.

APPLICANTS

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

NEW BREED JUDGING APPLICANTS

Mr. James Dagan (108235) CO

(719) 683-4799
dagan@elpasotel.net
Siberian Huskies

Ms. Lynne Dagan (108236) CO

(719) 683-4799
dagan@elpasotel.net
Siberian Huskies

Mrs. Marilyn Susanne Hickok (108183) OR

(503) 394-2689
marilyn@hope-dachs.com
Dachshunds

Ms. Barbara Madrigrano (108197) WI

(414) 915-7536
wingategoldens@gmail.com
Golden Retrievers

Ms. Debbie Owczarzak (108218) IN

(219) 374-8954
goldengaites@sbcglobal.net
English Cocker Spaniels

Ms. Shelby Lynn Russell (56118) WA

(253) 862-7511
shelbyrussell@live.com
Basenjis, Border Terriers, JS

Ms. Joyce B. Winkels (108226) WI

joyceandmax.winkels@gmail.com
English Cocker Spaniels, Pomeranians

ADDITIONAL BREED JUDGING APPLICANTS

Ms. Carolyn L. Alexander (6797) CA

(831) 455-2135
brigadoonbt@aol.com
Labrador Retrievers, Australian Shepherds, Belgian Malinois, Belgian Sheepdogs, Berger Picards, Entlebucher Mountain Dogs, Icelandic Sheepdogs, Swedish Vallhunds

Ms. JoAnne M. Beuhler (22770) DC

(301) 590-9056
joanneb@his.com
Balance of Working Group (Alaskan Malamutes, Boerboel, Chinook, Dogo Argentinos, Komondorok, Neapolitan Mastiffs, Saint Bernards), Miniature Schnauzers, Canaan Dogs

Mrs. Dawn Cox (97685) PA

(717) 965-5971
cox215@comcast.net
Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs

Mrs. Nancy L. Dougherty (17970) PA

(610) 255-4366
ndoughe982@aol.com
Grand Bassets Griffons Vendeens, Greyhounds, Otterhounds, Petit Bassets Griffons Vendeens, Rhodesian Ridgebacks, Whippets

Mrs. Janet Fink (6374) CA

(909) 307-9778
janetfink@verizon.net
Golden Retrievers, American Eskimo Dogs, Finnish Spitz, Lowchens

Mr. David L. Kittredge (7016) NY

(585) 279-9718
orange@rochester.rr.com
Balance of Toy Group (Chinese Cresteds, Japanese Chins, Manchester Terriers, Papillons, Pekingese, Shih Tzu, Toy Fox Terriers)

Mrs. Pamela S. Lambie (96227) AZ

(760) 272-0625
pam@pamlambie.com
Balance of Sporting Group (Barbets, Nederlandse Kooikerhondjes, Curly-Coated Retrievers, Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers, Gordon Setters, Boykin Spaniels, Clumber Spaniels, Spinoni Italiani, Wirehaired Vizslas), Australian Shepherds

Mr. Neil T. McDevitt (91600) OH

(937) 371-8249
nmcdevitt1@woh.rr.com
Golden Retrievers, Clumber Spaniels, English Cocker Spaniels, Field Spaniels, Irish Water Spaniels, Sussex Spaniels, Welsh Springer Spaniels, Spinoni Italiani, Vizslas, Weimaraners, Siberian Huskies, Dalmatians

Mr. David R. Miller (5128) OH

(440) 257-1006
jlaplan488@aol.com
Balance of Toy Group (Affenpinschers, Havanese, Japanese Chins, Manchester Terriers, Papillons, Pekingese, Shih Tzu, Toy Fox Terriers, Yorkshire Terriers), Doberman Pinschers, Dandie Dinmont Terriers, Glen of Imaal Terriers

Mrs. Jean Shepherd (95654) MN

(507) 482-6611
jfshephe213@gmail.com
Labrador Retrievers, Gordon Setters, Clumber Spaniels, Sussex Spaniels, Welsh Springer Spaniels

Ms. Michelle Shultz (99665) CA

(925) 351-8352
michelle.t.shultz@gmail.com
Ibizan Hounds, American Eskimo Dogs, Boston Terriers, Chow Chows, Finnish Spitz

Mrs. Nancy Tuthill (6729) MD

(240) 675-1560
cumbrian@myactv.net
English Cocker Spaniels, English Springer Spaniels, Whippets

Ms. Liz Wertz (77455) OH

(440) 226-0229
liz@vonwertz.com
Alaskan Malamutes, Bernese Mountain Dogs, Bullmastiffs, Dogues de Bordeaux, Great Danes, Great Pyrenees

JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP JUDGING APPLICANTS

Dr. Bev Sigl Felten (65674) WI

(414) 828-2449

beverlyfelten5@gmail.com

Miss Katherine Moore (108225) NC

katherinejmoore@yahoo.com

Ms. Olivia S. Persinger (108172) VA

(540) 460-9077

largo.kennel@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

Mrs. Vanessa Giamo (107955) NJ

(646) 327-1815

vanessagiamo@gmail.com

Bull Terriers, Miniature Bull Terriers

Mr. Barry Leece (107256) NM

(505) 639-5420

barryleece@gmail.com

Affenpinschers, Bouviers des Flandres, JS

Mr. Patrick A. Smith (107900) MI

patrick.a.smith@att.net

Cardigan Welsh Corgis

Dr. Jerry Sulewski (93475) WI

(920) 833-2242

collieknutt@yahoo.com

Collies

Ms. Catherine E. Urner (107392) PA

cat@voncharmdanes.com

Great Danes

ADDITIONAL BREED PERMIT JUDGES

Mr. Shawn Ashbaugh (98595) CO

(512) 217-2844

shawnashbaugh@gmail.com

American Eskimo Dogs, Boston Terriers,

Chinese Shar-Pei, Chow Chows,

Dalmatians, French Bulldogs,

Schipperkes, Xoloitzcuintli

Mrs. Janet Bodin (101381) WI

(414) 614-7822

jbodin@wi.rr.com

Australian Shepherds

Ms. Alisa Brotherhood (103359) TX

(281) 989-3130

touchstone0525@att.net

Boxers

Mrs. Sandra S. Coffman (96285) KS

(785) 582-5186

coffmantribe@gmail.com

Chow Chows, Norwegian Lundehunds,

Schipperkes

Mrs. Janet Cohen (90134) NJ

(516) 459-0211

newfie219@aol.com

Bichons Frises, Boston Terriers, Chinese

Shar-Pei, Dalmatians, Lhasa Apsos, Shiba

Inu, Tibetan Terriers, Xoloitzcuintli

Dr. Joyce Dandridge (62237) DC

(202) 726-9155

justuschows@verizon.net

Bullmastiffs, Chinooks, German

Pinschers, Kuvaszok, Neapolitan

Mastiffs, Tibetan Mastiffs, Bouviers des

Flandres

Mr. William Daugherty (6220) CT

(203) 266-5496

zack80@aol.com

Balance of Hound Group (Borzoi,

Dachshunds)

Ms. Bonita Fichtenbaum (105541) OH

(937) 620-6480

bmfichtenbaum@gmail.com

Chihuahuas, English Toy Spaniels

Mrs. Sulie Greendale-Paveza (7516) FL

(815) 353-2241

suliegp@comcast.net

American Eskimo Dogs, Chow Chows,

Coton de Tulear, Lowchen,

Xoloitzcuintli

Ms. Judith Heller (97763) MD

(301) 502-6270

jlhellr@me.com

American Staffordshire Terriers, Bull

Terriers, Manchester Terriers, Miniature

Bull Terriers, Rat Terriers

Mr. Steven Herman (6305) FL

(813) 973-3153

ljlucin@gmail.com

Balance of Hound Group (Azawakhs, Basset Hounds)

Mr. Bradley Jenkins (7469) AR

(870) 219-5525

dbltreechins@hotmail.com

Balance of Terrier Group (Border

Terriers, Bull Terriers, Cairn Terriers,

Dandie Dinmont Terriers, Irish Terriers,

Lakeland Terriers, Miniature Bull

Terriers, Staffordshire Bull Terriers,

West Highland White Terriers)

Mr. Steven A. Kirschner (97109) IN

(219) 746-8499

sakirschner@earthlink.net

Chesapeake Bay Retrievers, Curly-Coated

Retrievers

Ms. Shelly Spencer Marx (94215) AZ

(719) 331-0129

fcrdawson@msn.com

Lagotti Romagnoli, Nederlandse

Kooikerhondjes, Nova Scotia Duck

Tolling Retrievers, Clumber Spaniels,

English Springer Spaniels, Field

Spaniels, Spinoni Italiani

Ms. Sheree Moses (93651) WV

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shereemosesgsd@hotmail.com

Beaucerons, Bergamasco Sheepdogs,

Berger Picards, Icelandic Sheepdogs,

Norwegian Buhunds, Polish Lowland

Sheepdogs

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bramblie@aol.com
 Australian Cattle Dogs, Border Collies,
 Collies, Finnish Lapphunds
Mrs. Barbara Pessina (7372) NY
 (845) 528-9350
 moonshadowpulik@aol.com
 Cairn Terriers, Dandie Dinmont
 Terriers, Glen of Imaal Terriers, Irish
 Terriers, Miniature Bull Terriers,
 Scottish Terriers, Sealyham Terriers, Soft
 Coated Wheaten Terriers, West
 Highland White Terriers
Ms. Carol Pyrkosz (96273) TN
 (352) 300-2711
 cpyrkosz@yahoo.com
 Vizslas, Dachshunds
Mr. Cameron Dale Riegel (105311) NM
 (505) 362-8781
 cameron@cameronriegel.com
 Italian Greyhounds, Pekingese,
 Pomeranians, Yorkshire Terriers, Lhasa
 Apsos, Lowchen
Mrs. Charlene Rutar (94495) IN
 (765) 534-3002
 whiteriver.gsp@gmail.com
 Pugs, American Eskimo Dogs, French
 Bulldogs
Ms. Rachal McKee Sager (53911) VA
 (804) 357-1875
 seaclaed@gmail.com
 Brittanys, Labrador Retrievers, Irish
 Water Spaniels, Sussex Spaniels

Dr. Alan C. Santos (73979) TX
 (504) 232-7316
 obanesdoc@aol.com
 American Hairless Terriers, Bedlington
 Terriers, Bull Terriers, Cairn Terriers,
 Glen of Imaal Terriers, Miniature Bull
 Terriers, Norfolk Terriers, Norwich
 Terriers, Scottish Terriers, Skye Terriers,
 Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers
Ms. Lisa Toth (94231) MO
 (816) 588-5424
 sibeshowr@hotmail.com
 Samoyeds
Mr. Cledith M. Wakefield (80829) MO
 (573) 760-3616
 n2rotts@yahoo.com
 Black Russian Terriers, Bullmastiffs,
 Portuguese Water Dogs, Tibetan Mastiffs
Ms. Linda C. Wozniak (101087) NC
 (919) 942-5818
 oswicks@att.net
 German Shorthaired Pointers, Golden
 Retrievers, Irish Red & White Setters,
 Irish Water Spaniels, Sussex Spaniels,
 Welsh Springer Spaniels, Dalmatians
Mr. George Wright (105383) NJ
 (908) 996-3024
 georgewright221@gmail.com
 Airedale Terriers, Australian Terriers,
 Bedlington Terriers, Border Terriers,
 Cairn Terriers, Smooth Fox Terriers,
 Lakeland Terriers, Miniature Bull
 Terriers, Miniature Schnauzers, Russell

Terriers, Sealyham Terriers, Soft Coated
 Wheaten Terriers

JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP PERMIT JUDGE

Miss. Lilianna Apollos (107915) KY
 liliannaapollos@yahoo.com
 JS

BEST IN SHOW

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

Mrs. Vicki Seiler Cushman (100265) OH
 (513) 638-1585
 seilerva@yahoo.com

EMERITUS CONFORMATION JUDGE

Mr. W. Eugene Bellamy, Jr.
 Mrs. Sondra Joy Esporite
 Mrs. Alice Inman

DECEASED JUDGE

Mrs. Colleen Brossard
 Mr. Howard Falberg
 Mr. Paul Gindlesperger
 Mrs. Sandra L. Weinraub

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.

Miss Cheryl Bavister (103959) WA
 (360) 984-3454
 cb@terv.com
 Tracking – TD

Ms. Linda Morris (101667) MD
 (410) 430-7275
 Lmorris25@comcast.net
 Obedience – Open

Ms. Judy Stromquist (95803) OR
 (541) 409-1329
 hanstrom@gmail.com
 Tracking – VST

PROVISIONAL OBEDIENCE/RALLY/TRACKING JUDGES

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

Ms. Ellen Lash (100073) KS
 (913) 731-0173
 elash@hughes.net
 Tracking – TDX

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:

BACK COUNTRY – Australian Shepherds – Gail H. Kingrey

BYCHADA – Poodles – Marlene T. Isbell

CATTLEA – Great Danes – Sophi A. Yates

COLLINA BAIA – Spinoni Italiano –

Susan Dean & Stacey Anderson-Belt

CROSS B – Chow Chows – Janet L. Burke & Kaila D. Shinkle

GUIDING LIGHT – Australian Shepherds – Dior Y. De Moraes

HUGUENOT – French Bulldogs – Robin J. Whitmore

JND'S – Australian Shepherds – Julie A. Ostberg

MAELSTROM – Alaskan Malamutes – Elizabeth R. Hirtler

MIMOSA ACRES – French Bulldogs – Tracey S. Rymer

NITESHAD – Australian Shepherds – Candi L. Bucholz

NORTH IDAHO – French Bulldogs – Stacy A. Douglass

NORTH WOODS – Beagles – Scott M. Sasso

RD RANCH – Australian Shepherds – Sharon J. Bradley

ROSEHILL – Whippets – Sharon L. Miller

SIERRA RIDGE – Vizslas – Jannie S. Humphrey

SUNSHINE'S – Bernese Mountain Dogs – Celia E. Cuellar & Dan A. Cuellar

VANGOGHLDEN – Golden Retrievers – Kara L. VanDenBerg

WESTWOOD – Australian Shepherds – Tammy L. Woods

ZBZ – Dogo Argentinos – James A. Hood

REGISTERED NAME PREFIXES GRANTED

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

BELLALUNA – Australian Shepherds – Jacqueline M. Frazier

CELESTIAL JEWELS – Poodles – Megan L. Owen

CALI GOLD – French Bulldogs – Josh D. Diaz

E'MARIE – Collies – Eva Marie Taylor

FLYING D – Australian Cattle Dogs – Kristy D. Dykes

HEARTHMORE – Giant Schnauzers – Cherlann M. Ambrose

HOFFENMILLER – German Shepherd Dogs – Warren M. Miller

KAZURI – Beagles – Sarah Sweetman

LAZYVL – Lakeland Terriers & Giant Schnauzers – Mary Moe Porter

LILYOAKS – Australian Shepherds – Kayla D. Hartlage

ORIONVENTURE – Cavalier King Charles Spaniels – F. Wayne Emberton

SANDIA'S – Labrador Retrievers – Jaclynn R. Robertson

SERENDIPITE – Poodles – Patricia A. Elliot

SMOKY MOUNTAIN – Cavalier King Spaniels – Ingrid Eyler

TAMARI – Rhodesian Ridgebacks – Linda A. Shue

WATERFORD – Poodles – Maureen J. Hallowell



ANNUAL MEETING OF THE DELEGATES OF THE AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB MARCH 10, 2020

Dennis B. Sprung, President
PRESENT 281

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.—*Patricia A. Peel*

American Belgian Malinois Club—*Carol J. Shields*

American Belgian Tervuren Club, Inc.—*Ms. Janina K. Laurin*

American Bouvier des Flandres Club, Inc.—*Patte Klecan*

American Boxer Club, Inc.—*Sharon Steckler*

American Brittany Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Terri Hilliard*

American Bullmastiff Association, Inc.—*Alan Kalter*

American Chesapeake Club, Inc.—*Timothy Carrion*
 American Chinese Crested Club, Inc.—*Marilyn E. Currey*
 American Fox Terrier Club—*Connie Clark*
 American Foxhound Club, Inc.—*Harold Miller*
 American Manchester Terrier Club—*Roberta Berman*
 American Rottweiler Club—*Mr. Peter G. Piusz*
 American Shetland Sheepdog Association—*Marjorie Tuff*
 American Water Spaniel Club—*Michael Zarlenga*
 American Whippet Club, Inc.—*Karen B. Lee*
 American Wirehaired Pointing Griffon Association—*Kate DeSanto*
 Anderson Kennel Club—*Laura A. Rockwell*
 Anderson Obedience Training Club, Inc.—*Ms. Patricia A. Sample*
 Ann Arbor Kennel Club, Inc.—*Anne R. Palmer*
 Atlanta Kennel Club, Inc.—*Ann Wallin*
 Atlanta Obedience Club, Inc.—*Gail A. LaBerge*
 Austin Kennel Club, Inc.—*Bette D. Williams*
 Australian Cattle Dog Club of America—*Joyce Rowland*
 Baltimore County Kennel Club—*Lucy C. Campbell-Gracie*
 Basenji Club of America, Inc.—*Katie Campbell*

Basset Hound Club of America, Inc.—*Dr. Norine E. Noonan*
 Battle Creek Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Kathleen Ronald*
 Beaumont Kennel Club, Inc.—*Carl Holder*
 Bedlington Terrier Club of America—*Lucy A. Heyman*
 Belgian Sheepdog Club of America, Inc.—*Mary G. Buckwalter*
 Belle-City Kennel Club, Inc.—*Carole A. Wilson*
 Berger Picard Club of America—*Jacqueline Carswell*
 Bexar County Kennel Club, Inc.—*Jerry Yarbrough*
 Black Russian Terrier Club of America—*Susan Sholar*
 Blennerhassett Kennel Club, Inc.—*John McCullagh*
 Borzoi Club of America, Inc.—*Prudence G. Hlatky*
 Boston Terrier Club of America, Inc.—*Mrs. Kathleen M. Kelly*
 Briard Club of America, Inc.—*Diane Reid*
 Bronx County Kennel Club—*Alexa Samarotto*
 Bryn Mawr Kennel Club—*Victoria Glickstein*
 Bucks County Kennel Club, Inc.—*Priscilla Gabosch*
 Bulldog Club of America—*Robert L. Newcomb*
 Burlington County Kennel Club, Inc.—*Daniel J. Smyth, Esq.*

Butler County Kennel Club, Inc.—*Barbara Ioia*
 Cairn Terrier Club of America—*Pam Davis*
 Cambridge Minnesota Kennel Club—*Mr. Wayne F. Harmon*
 Canaan Dog Club of America—*Pamela S. Rosman*
 Canada Del Oro Kennel Club—*Dr. Sophia Kaluzniacki*
 Cape Cod Kennel Club, Inc.—*David Harsch*
 Capital Dog Training Club of Washington, D.C., Inc.—*Dr. Joyce A. Dandridge*
 Carolina Kennel Club, Inc.—*Jaimie Ashby*
 Carolina Working Group Association—*Cathleen Rubens*
 Catoctin Kennel Club—*Whitney Coombs*
 Catonsville Kennel Club—*Beverly A. Drake*
 Central Florida Kennel Club, Inc.—*Julian Prager*
 Central Iowa Kennel Club, Inc.—*Kristina M. DeLisi*
 Central Ohio Kennel Club—*Jon Green*
 Chain O'Lakes Kennel Club—*Barry D. Rose*
 Champlain Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—*John E. Cornell*
 Charleston Kennel Club—*Terri Hallman*
 Chicago Collie Club—*Bryna Comsky*
 Chinese Shar-Pei Club of America, Inc.—*Marge B. Calltharp*
 Chow Chow Club, Inc.—*Margaret DiCorleto*
 Clackamas Kennel Club—*Tami D. Worley*
 Clarksville Kennel Club—*Robert A. Schroll*

Classic Toy Dog Club of Western Massachusetts—*Dr. Stephen Lawrence*
 Clearwater Kennel Club—*Daniel T. Stolz*
 Clermont County Kennel Club, Inc.—*Marjorie Underwood*
 Collie Club of America, Inc.—*Mr. John G. Buddie*
 Columbia Kennel Club, Inc.—*Crystal Messersmith*

 Columbia Terrier Association of Maryland—*Leslie A. Jaseph*
 Connecticut River Working Group Association—*Fred G. Ferris*
 Conyers Kennel Club of Georgia—*Michael Houchard*
 Dachshund Club of America, Inc.—*Larry Sorenson*
 Dalmatian Club of America, Inc.—*Dr. Charles Garvin*
 Del Valle Dog Club of Livermore—*Sandra Olsen*
 Delaware Water Gap Kennel Club—*Dr. A. D. Butherus*
 Dog Fanciers Association of Oregon, Inc.—*Mrs. Patti L. Strand*
 Duluth Kennel Club—*Leah R. James*
 Durham Kennel Club Inc—*Linda C. Wozniak*
 Eastern German Shorthaired Pointer Club, Inc.—*Robert Rynkiewicz*
 Elm City Kennel Club—*Dr. Gregory J. Paveza*

English Springer Spaniel Field Trial Association, Inc.—*Susanne Burgess*
 Farmington Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—*Terrie Breen*
 Fayetteville Kennel Club, Inc.—*Teresa Vila*
 Finnish Spitz Club of America—*Mrs. Cindy Stansell*
 First Dog Training Club of Northern New Jersey, Inc.—*Mary D. Curtis*
 Flat-Coated Retriever Society of America, Inc.—*Neal Goodwin*
 Forsyth Kennel Club, Inc.—*June Guido*
 Fort Lauderdale Dog Club—*Eduardo T. Fugiwara*
 Fort Worth Kennel Club—*Harold Tatro III*
 Framingham District Kennel Club, Inc.—*Gale Golden*
 French Bulldog Club of America—*Mrs. Ann M. Hubbard*
 Furniture City Kennel Club, Inc.—*Merry J. Millner*
 Galveston County Kennel Club, Inc.—*Cathy De La Garza*
 Garden State All Terrier Club, Inc.—*Joan Church*
 Genesee County Kennel Club, Inc.—*Ms. Cynthia (Cindy) Collins*
 Genesee Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—*Virginia Denninger*
 German Pinscher Club of America—*Barbara L. Visinski*
 German Shepherd Dog Club of America—*Dr. Carmen L. Battaglia*

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—*Carol L. Johnson*
 Grand River Kennel Club, Inc.—*Ann Lettis*
 Great Dane Club of America, Inc.—*Jean Highlands*
 Great Pyrenees Club of America, Inc.—*Dr. Robert M. Brown*
 Great Western Terrier Association of Southern California—*Mr. Jack G. Smith*
 Greater Clark County Kennel Club Inc—*Ms. Karen J. Burgess*
 Greater Collin Kennel Club, Inc.—*Barbara Shaw*
 Greater Lowell Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mr. Joseph B. Philip*
 Greater Miami Dog Club—*Dr. Azalea A. Alvarez*
 Greater Philadelphia Dog Fanciers Association—*Mr. Jerry A. Berkowitz*
 Greater Swiss Mountain Dog Club of America, Inc.—*Catherine Cooper*
 Greenville Kennel Club—*Gloria Askins*
 Greenwich Kennel Club—*Donna Gilbert*

Greyhound Club of America—*Kathleen B. Whitaker*
 Hatboro Dog Club, Inc.—*Sally L. Fineburg*
 Heart of the Plains Kennel Club—*Patricia M. Cruz*
 Heartland Dog Club of Florida—*Linda Pheasant*
 Hendersonville Kennel Club—*Betty Ann Brown*
 Hockamock Kennel Club, Inc.—*Nancy Fisk*
 Holyoke Kennel Club, Inc.—*Jane Wilkinson*
 Hoosier Kennel Club, Inc.—*Karl H. Kreck*
 Houston Kennel Club, Inc.—*Thomas D. Pincus*
 Hungarian Pumi Club of America —*Marilyn Piusz*
 Huntingdon Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—*Dick Blair*
 Huntington Kennel Club, Inc.—*Ms. Marile A. Waterstraat*
 Idaho Capital City Kennel Club, Inc.—*Robyn Foust*
 Ingham County Kennel Club, Inc.—*Rita J. Biddle*
 Intermountain Kennel Club, Inc.—*Michael L. Van Tassell*
 Irish Red and White Setter Association of America—*Christopher M. Orcutt*
 Irish Setter Club of America, Inc.—*Ms. Karolynne M. McAteer*
 Irish Wolfhound Club of America—*Eugenia Hunter*

K-9 Obedience Training Club of Essex County, NJ, Inc.—*Dave Morgan*
 Kachina Kennel Club—*Lee Ann Stusnick*
 Kanadasaga Kennel Club—*Christine Cone*
 Keeshond Club of America, Inc.—*Richard Su*
 Kenilworth Kennel Club of Connecticut, Inc.—*Doreen Weintraub*
 Kennel Club of Beverly Hills—*Thomas Powers*
 Kennel Club of Buffalo, Inc.—*Margaret Doster*
 Kennel Club of Northern New Jersey, Inc.—*Dr. Suzanne H. Hampton*
 Kennel Club of Philadelphia, Inc.—*Harry Booker*
 Kennel Club of Riverside—*Sylvia A. Thomas*
 Kennesaw Kennel Club—*Bud Hidlay*
 Kettle Moraine Kennel Club, Inc.—*Jacquelyn Fogel*
 Kuvasz Club of America—*Richard Rosenthal*
 Lackawanna Kennel Club, Inc.—*Ms. Kimberly Van Hemert*
 Ladies' Dog Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Arna B. Margolies*
 Lake Shore Kennel Club, Inc.—*Diana Skibinski*
 Lakeland Winter Haven Kennel Club—*Mary McDaniel, D.V.M.*
 Land O'Lakes Kennel Club, Inc.—*Jan Croft*

Lawrenceville Kennel Club, Inc.—*Robert N. LaBerge*
 Leonberger Club of America—*Don James*
 Lexington Kennel Club Inc.—*Jan Wolf*
 Longshore-Southport Kennel Club, Inc.—*Michaelann Mako*
 Louisiana Kennel Club, Inc.—*Luis F. Sosa*
 Louisville Kennel Club, Inc.—*Debra H. Owen*
 Magic Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—*Ruth Crumb*
 Mahoning-Shenango Kennel Club, Inc.—*James P. Henshaw*
 Manatee Kennel Club—*Mr. Daniel R. Dahlberg*
 Marion Ohio Kennel Club, Inc.—*Lynn Garvin*
 Maryland Kennel Club—*Gary Sarvinas*
 Merrimack Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—*Jeannette Nieder*
 Mississippi Valley Kennel Club—*Gretchen Bernardi*
 Mohawk Valley Kennel Club—*Ms. Amy Romeo*
 Montgomery County Kennel Club—*Ms. Ida E. Weinstock*
 Monticello New York Kennel Club, Inc.—*Barry A. Hoovis*
 Myrtle Beach Kennel Club—*Sylvia Arrowwood*
 Nashville Kennel Club—*Anne Gallant*
 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*
 New England Old English Sheepdog Club—*Mrs. Jane C. Ogg*
 Newfoundland Club of America, Inc.—*David Helming*
 Newnan Kennel Club—*Willie Crawford*
 Newton Kennel Club—*Catherine H. Murch*
 Nisqually Kennel Club—*R. H. Hachtel*
 Northeastern Maryland Kennel Club—*Joyce Engle*
 Norwegian Elkhound Association of America, Inc.—*Lori Webster*
 Norwich Terrier Club of America—*Jean Kessler*
 Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever Club (USA)—*Alyson Casper*
 Obedience Training Club of Rhode Island—*James M. Ashton*
 Old English Sheepdog Club of America, Inc.—*Sheila Kenyon*
 Old Pueblo Dog Training Club, Inc.—*Felice Jarrold*
 Otterhound Club of America—*Joellen Gregory, D.V.M.*
 Pacific Coast Pekingese Club—*Frank Meister*

Park Shore Kennel Club, Inc.—*Susan Olsen*
 Parson Russell Terrier Association of America—*Gary Koeppel*
 Pasco Florida Kennel Club—*Patricia Lombardi*
 Pekingese Club of America—*Steven Hamblin*
 Pembroke Welsh Corgi Club of America, Inc.—*Mrs. Anne H. Bowes*
 Penn Ridge Kennel Club, Inc.—*Dennis J. Gallant*
 Pensacola Dog Fanciers Association—*Sandy-Sue McClure*
 Pharaoh Hound Club of America—*Dominic P. Carota*
 Philadelphia Dog Training Club, Inc.—*Larry Wilson*
 Piedmont Kennel Club, Inc.—*Dean Burwell*
 Plum Creek Kennel Club of Colorado—*William E. Ellis*
 Poodle Club of America, Inc.—*Dr. Donald Sturz, Jr.*
 Port Chester Obedience Training Club, Inc.—*Kathy Gregory*
 Portuguese Water Dog Club of America, Inc.—*Robin Burmeister*
 Putnam Kennel Club, Inc.—*Florence R. Laicher*
 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*
 Reno Kennel Club—*Ms. Vicky Cook*
 Richmond Dog Fanciers Club, Inc.—*Jan R. Gladstone*
 Roanoke Kennel Club, Inc.—*William L. Totten III*
 Rockford-Freeport Illinois Kennel Club—*Barbara L. Burns*
 Rubber City Kennel Club—*Cathy Gaidos*
 Salisbury Maryland Kennel Club—*Karen Cottingham*
 Samoyed Club of America, Inc.—*Mr. John L. Ronald*
 San Mateo Kennel Club, Inc.—*Harvey M. Wooding*
 Santa Barbara Kennel Club, Inc.—*Abbe R. Shaw*
 Santa Maria Kennel Club, Inc.—*Laurence J. Libeu*
 Saratoga New York Kennel Club—*Wanda H. Allen*
 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.—*Sandra Frei*
 Silver Bay Kennel Club of San Diego—*Nancy Dandrea*
 Sir Francis Drake Kennel Club, Inc.—*William J. Feeney*

Skye Terrier Club of America—*Mr. Stephen P. Hersey*
 Skyline Kennel Club, Inc.—*Gloria Shaver*
 South Shore Kennel Club, Inc.—*Linda C. Flynn*
 South Windsor Kennel Club—*Mrs. Laurie Maulucci*
 Southeastern Iowa Kennel Club—*Marilyn R. Vinson*
 Southern Adirondack Dog Club, Inc.—*John V. Ioia*
 Southern Oregon Kennel Club—*Warren Cook*
 Space Coast Kennel Club of Palm Bay—*Glenda Stephenson*
 Spinone Club of America—*Karen Luckey*
 Springfield Kennel Club, Inc.—*Dr. Thomas M. Davies*
 St. Croix Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Deborah J. Wilkins*
 St. Louis Collie Club, Inc.—*Isabel Ososki*
 Staffordshire Terrier Club of America—*Jeannette O'Hanlon*
 Standard Schnauzer Club of America—*Dr. Harvey Mohrenweiser*
 Suffolk County Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mr. Robert Eisele*
 Sun Maid Kennel Club of Fresno, Inc.—*Marcy L. Zingler*
 Superstition Kennel Club, Inc.—*Nancy Perrell*
 Sussex Hills Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Florence Duggan*

Taconic Hills Kennel Club, Inc.—*Marylyn DeGregorio*
 Tampa Bay Kennel Club—*Mary Stolz*
 Tennessee Valley Kennel Club—*Mrs. Richella M. Veatch*
 Texas Kennel Club, Inc.—*Dr. Michael Knight*
 Tibetan Terrier Club of America, Inc.—*Stacey La Forge*
 Town and Country Kennel Club, Inc.—*Aubrey Nash*
 Toy Dog Breeders Association of Southern California—*Marla Capozzi*
 Trap Falls Kennel Club, Inc.—*Christopher L. Sweetwood*
 Trenton Kennel Club, Inc.—*Karen Gunzel*
 Trinity Valley Kennel Club—*Debby Fowler*
 Troy Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mr. Donald S. Gillett*
 Tualatin Kennel Club, Inc.—*James S. Corbett*
 Tucson Kennel Club—*Dr. Kenneth H. Levison*
 Twin Brooks Kennel Club, Inc.—*Patricia C. Sarles*
 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*
 Vacationland Dog Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Joan Tabor*

Valley Forge Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Carol Fisher*
 Ventura County Dog Fanciers Association—*Lorraine Ebdon*
 Virginia Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Sandie Friend*
 Wachusett Kennel Club, Inc.—*Dr. Anne Testoni*
 Wallkill Kennel Club, Inc.—*Rose M. Robischon*
 Washington State Obedience Training Club, Inc.—*John J. Cadalso, Jr.*
 Waterloo Kennel Club, Inc.—*Cindy Miller*
 Waukesha Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mary A. Eschweiler*
 Welsh Springer Spaniel Club of America, Inc.—*Richard Rohrbacher*
 Westchester Kennel Club—*Pamela G. Beale*
 Western Pennsylvania Kennel Association, Inc.—*Judy McMaster Descutner*
 Whidbey Island Kennel Club Inc—*Dr. Karen M. Ericson*
 Woodstock Dog Club, Inc.—*Karen Dewey*
 Yakima Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—*Adele Keyfel*



AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB DELEGATES MEETING MARCH 10, 2020

Dennis Sprung, President in the Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m. (National Anthem played.)

Mr. Sprung reminded the Delegates in attendance to sign in at the computer stations outside the meeting room to be marked as present.

The Chair introduced the persons seated with him on the dias: Chairman, William J. Feeney; Vice Chair, Patricia M. Cruz; Joan Corbisiero, Professional Registered Parliamentarian; Gina DiNardo, Executive Secretary; Todd DeSimone, the Court Reporter.

The Executive Secretary read the report of the Nominating Committee, and the report on additional nominations.

Ms. DiNardo: Pursuant to Article VIII of the Bylaws of The American Kennel Club,

the Nominating Committee:

Mrs. Anne H. Bowes, Chair, Pembroke

Welsh Corgi Club of America

Ms. Constance Butherus, Afghan Hound

Club of America

Ms. Sally Fineburg, Hatboro Dog Club

Dr. Geno Sisneros, American Pomeranian

Club

Ms. Marilyn Vinson, Southeastern Iowa

Kennel Club

appointed by the Board of Directors at its July 2019 meeting, has nominated the following Delegates as candidates for such vacancies on the Board of Directors as are to be filled at the next annual meeting of the Club on March 10, 2020. There is one vacancy for the Class of 2021 and three for the Class of 2024.

CLASS OF 2021

Dr. Thomas M. Davies – Springfield

Kennel Club

CLASS OF 2024

Jeffrey D. Ball – Ramapo Kennel Club

Dr. Michael Knight – Texas Kennel Club

Karolynne M. McAteer – Irish Setter Club of America

Pursuant to Article VIII of the Bylaws of The American Kennel Club, the following Delegates have been endorsed in writing by the required number of Delegates as a

candidate for the vacancies on the Board of Directors for the Class of 2024, to be filled at the next annual meeting of the Club on March 10, 2020:

Carl C. Ashby III – United States Kerry

Blue Terrier Club

Dr. Carmen L. Battaglia – German

Shepherd Dog Club of America

Mr. Sprung reported that the Bylaws provide that no nominations may be made from the floor. Nominations, therefore, closed on November 15, 2019. As no additional nominations may be made, and the Bylaws make no provision for write-in candidates, without objection, the same procedure used in previous instances where there was an uncontested election was to be followed. The Executive Secretary cast one ballot for Dr. Thomas M. Davies. The Chair, without objection declares that Dr. Thomas M. Davies has been elected to the Class of 2021.

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

The Executive Secretary read the names

of Delegates seated since the last meeting:

Kristina M. DeLisi, Runnells, Iowa, to represent Central Iowa Kennel Club

Karen L. Dewey, Newport, New Hampshire, to represent Woodstock Dog Club

Glen J. Lajeski, Cloverdale, California, to represent represent Doberman Pinscher Club of America

Jolyne K. Lea, LA Center, Washington, to represent Vancouver Kennel Club

Arna B. Margolies, Needham, Massachusetts, to represent Ladies' Dog Club

Judy F. Murray, Baldwinsville, New York, to represent Onondaga Kennel Association

Diane Reid, New York, New York, to represent Briard Club of America

Jack G. Smith, Fallbrook, California, to represent Great Western Terrier Association of Southern California

Dr. Donald Sturz, Brooklyn, New York, to represent Poodle Club of America

Janet A. Wolf, Lexington, Kentucky, to represent Lexington Kennel Club

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

Kristina M. DeLisi to represent Central Iowa Kennel Club

Judy McMaster Descutner to represent Western Pennsylvania Kennel Association
Karen Dewey to represent Woodstock Dog Club

Leslie Jaseph to represent Columbia Terrier Association of Maryland

Arna B. Margolies to represent Ladies' Dog Club

Susan Olsen to represent Park Shore Kennel Club

Diane Reid to represent Briard Club of America

Dr. Donald Sturz to represent Poodle Club of America

The minutes of the December 13, 2019, Delegates meeting were published in the online January 2020 AKC GAZETTE and the complete transcript was posted on the Delegates Portal on AKC's website. If there are no corrections, the minutes will stand approved as published. There were no corrections, and the minutes were adopted as published.

It was noted that the Chairman's Report would appear on the Delegate's Portal as follows:

For the past eight years, I have been fortunate to serve on the Board of this great American Kennel Club, the world's strongest and most effective champion for

purebred dogs and our sport. It has been a privilege to play a role in the advancement of AKC's mission and to be a part of so many changes that have been put in place to support and improve what we do for our dogs and those, like us, who love them each and every day.

Thanks to the hard work of management and staff, the good sense of our Board of Directors, and input from the Delegate body, the American Kennel Club is stronger and better than ever before.

Registrations are the core of our business and represent the underpinning of our sport. Several years ago, a sustained drop in registrations of litters and dogs was a pressing and primary concern.

Today, thanks to enhanced customer service, technology improvements and breeder recruitment, AKC has turned the tide. We have enjoyed more than six years of consecutive, annual increases in litter registrations, and expansion by twenty percent across the board.

We are embracing breeders as never before. Our Breeder Development Outreach department educates breeders of all kinds about the value of AKC registration and welcomes those who want to

join us in producing quality purebred dogs for new owners everywhere.

Our Investigations and Inspections department seeks opportunities to educate breeders to achieve improvements in all areas of canine care and conditions.

Overall, we stand united in our commitment to responsible breeding. The Breeder of Merit and Bred with Heart programs were conceived to set responsible breeders apart and guide the public toward quality sources of purpose-bred dogs. All these efforts have played an important role in the growth of litter registrations and unique breeders in recent years.

Equally crucial with the development of our breeder base is the cultivation of a loyal audience of purebred dog owners. In a globalized world fueled by social media, doors to new adventures are always opening to people of all ages, and the AKC has become a destination. Our social media engages the public with a wealth of regularly posted, targeted information and newsletters.

Our entry into digital media with our own TV channel, AKC.TV, has allowed us to deliver the world of purebred dogs right

into living rooms at any time of day or night. Dog lovers are coming to know the AKC as a trusted resource, a leading authority, and a stellar content provider. We know we are succeeding as we are seeing higher rates of registration and more engagement with AKC dog owners than ever before.

As well, we are experiencing increased participation in our sports. Last year brought us over 3 million entries in our events, the highest total entries in history! Thanks to the development of Grand Championships and the National Owner-Handled Series, and our deepening involvement with Juniors and young members of the 4-H community, we have provided more opportunities and reasons for exhibitors to stay in the game, enjoying the events they love.

Other notable additions include the introduction of the 4 to 6 month puppy classes, the Puppy of Achievement program, and FSS Open Shows; the launch of new activities such as Fast CAT, Scent Work, Farm Dog Certified, and the Title Recognition Program which includes exciting sports like flyball, dock diving and disc dogs.

We developed the Family Dog Program to highlight the talents and potential of our

companion animals, and with it we added a wide range of new skills tests to the venerable AKC Canine Good Citizen Program including Advanced, Urban, Fit Dog, Therapy dogs, temperament testing, and the highly popular Trick Dog program. With the help of our newly established Club Development Department, many conformation clubs have embraced these new programs right along with us, and the results are quite encouraging.

Within the past eight years, we have also made a strong commitment to continuing education. We have made it our duty to bring young people closer to purebred dogs with a more active Public Education department that has launched more than sixteen programs. We have reached thousands of children and their teachers in classrooms all over the country by offering unique resources that simultaneously educate and entertain children's natural interests in dogs. A recent success has been our mobile app, AKC Math Agility, to reach the newest generation of purebred dog lovers.

Important changes to the judges' approval process were put into effect to enhance quality judging. Our Canine College judges' education platform has served more than 22,000 learners with 550 courses and exams to date. So far, more

than 45 breed-specific courses have been created to provide additional resources for prospective and current judges.

Protecting the rights of purebred dog fanciers has remained a high priority. We have doubled the size of the Government Relations department, adding legislative analysts and community outreach coordinators to help breeders and owners take a proactive stance on canine policy where they live. The department now provides welcome expert canine advice to legislators, regulators and industries.

We have expanded our outreach to lawmakers through legislative conferences, workshops and events around the country, and are addressing a wider variety of canine issues than ever before. More than eight years ago, the department had its hands full with breed specific legislation, mandatory spay/neuter and breeder licensing laws.

Today, we are tackling many more sophisticated measures including anti-breeder legislation, importation and public health regulations, the shortage of detection dogs, and the issues surrounding service dogs. The department tracks approximately 450 regulations per year and regularly provides expert comment for admin-

istrative rules at the state and federal level. Our breeders and our sport deserve this proactive work to ensure that our rights to breed, own and compete with purebred dogs remain intact indefinitely.

As a leader in our global community of dog lovers, we are building bridges beyond our borders to share knowledge and experience with our peers overseas through programs like AKC Global Service, and to find unity in protecting the future of purebred dogs and our sport at our upcoming international conference for kennel clubs.

It hardly seems possible that so many changes have been implemented in the span of eight years. Innovations at all levels, revitalization of customer service, and an unfettered commitment to our mission have brought about the improvements that we are enjoying today. AKC's reputation is growing ever stronger and our public perception index is higher than ever, as evidenced by a thirty-nine percent increase in press coverage since 2012, and a media audience approaching 52 billion views!

Just the other day, on my flight to this meeting, a flight attendant asked me what I was on my way to doing. I asked her if she knew of the American Kennel Club.

She responded, "Aren't they the people who protect dogs?"

We have all—Delegates, staff, and Board—played a role in this evolution of the AKC and should be proud of what we have accomplished together. It has been an honor and a privilege to work alongside all of you at this time in the history of the American Kennel Club. I know the best is yet to come. Believe me when I say it, the AKC rocks!

Mr. Sprung gave the President's Report as follows:

I would like to thank everyone for your contributions that led to numerous 2019 accomplishments. Staff's three primary goals resulted in litters being up five years in a row. The current increase is 3 percent. Individual registrations are in the plus column for six consecutive years, up over 1 percent. Secondly, the number of unique breeders grew by 5 percent, or 7,000, and furthermore aggregate entries are the highest ever at 3,310,000 plus, having grown by more than 67,000. Beyond those primary initiatives, in Orlando, at America's National Championship, there were 11,008 entries, making that the largest event in AKC's history. Highlights include 5,284 in the regular classes, 1,382

in stakes, 1,148 in bred-by, 791 in NOHS, and over 1,000 in dock diving, plus 408 juniors. Overall within our sports, agility and obedience are trailing, while other areas have achieved credible gains. These increases include hunt tests, plus 14,000 entries, rally up 18,000, fast cat grew by 28,000, and scent work increased by 52,000.

In other business areas, AKC.org is visited by more than 8 million unique people monthly. Instagram has gained 12 percent, and e-commerce expanded by 10 percent. Marketplace saw an increase of 18 percent in litters to over 53,000 and 12 percent in the number of breeders to 31,675. In summary, last year was positive beyond registration, unique breeders and entry growth. Achievements were significant for AKC.TV, our branding, government relations and marketing. There is more to accomplish for the well-being of dogs and we are well on our way towards achieving this as we work in collaboration with our Board, clubs and Delegates. Once again, we thank you for your contributions to the many successes we experienced last year.

Mr. Sprung further expressed words of gratitude to two people who have contributed a great deal over decades to our organization. William J. Feeney and

Patricia M. Cruz.

Bill Feeney, a truly kind man, long-time Delegate and Golden Retriever aficionado is completing his tenure as Chairman of the Board of Directors, a gentle, learned man with the ability to crystallize issues and offer wise, achievable, informed recommendations. He has been at the helm of the organization for the past year and led us through a period of growth and expansion in registration, entries and innovation. Bill has been shining a light of optimism and support. He leads by example, asking the hard questions and making tough decisions for the benefit of our dogs. On behalf of the Board, Delegates, Management and Staff, I thank you, Bill, for your service to AKC. I know we will continue to see you making an impact around the rings and amongst this body as a voice for progress in our sports. AKC rocks because Bill rocks.

Patricia Cruz is completing her tour as the Vice Chair of our Board. It is no exaggeration to say that Pat has done everything in and for our sports and there is little doubt that she will continue to give back because she just can't stop. An Afghan Hound breeder/owner/handler, Executive Field rep, judge, Delegate, sportswriter, steward and even a diplomat for AKC, when in the 1970s Bill Schmidt sent her to Mexico

to earn her all breed judge's license on behalf of the Executive Field staff. Pat has represented us in many diverse and important ways. We can't thank you enough for your dedication to purebred dogs and your unwavering support of clubs, Delegates and Staff throughout these past many years. Thank you both for your unconditional love of dogs and AKC.

Peter Rohslau, Controller, delivered the Financial Report as follows:
Good morning everyone! Thank you for coming this morning and we appreciate your time attending to AKC matters. I am glad to provide you with our performance report and unaudited financial results for the 2019 fiscal year.

Let's begin with a view of AKC's Registration Volumes and year over year performance. Our litter volume increased by 3%, with a total annual volume of 258,000 in 2019. Our dog registrations also rose by 1% for the year, reaching 588,000. This marks the 6th consecutive year of increasing volumes. We have now reached the highest volume over the last decade. This is an impressive accomplishment and thanks are owed to the entire Delegate Body, our Board of Directors, Breeders, Management and staff! Congratulations and we look forward to

more success in the future.

Next we highlight the growth experienced in AKC Sports and Events program in 2019. Our clubs produced over 22,700 sanctioned licensed and Member events throughout the year! This was an increase of approximately 5% over 2018. Our total entries in 2019 reached a height of 3.3 million which represents an overall increase of 2% compared to 2018 and is the highest volume in the history of the AKC. Once again, congratulations are in order to all of you and everyone involved in making this happen. We really appreciate the hard work and energy that was put forth to reach this goal.

Now let's move to the AKC's financial performance. Here we present an unconsolidated summary of AKC's Operating revenues and expenses for the year ended December 31, 2019 along with a comparison to the prior year. Overall, the results were positive as we increased revenue by 4.4%, while expenses only increased 3.8%. This resulted in an improved operating income of \$663,000. Additionally, please note there were a few unbudgeted adjustments that were not a part of our standard AKC operations in 2019. We made \$2.9 million in charitable donations to AKC 501(c)3 affiliates, in excess of our standard

donations. In addition, we paid \$480,000 in unrelated business income taxes.

To delve into the numbers in more detail, let's take a deeper look at the reasons for our increase in revenue. Our overall revenue increased \$3.4 million, which represents a 4.5% increase over 2018. Our registration business was the biggest source of this increase with registration services growing just under \$1.5 million. All facets of registration increased with dogs, litters, pedigrees & other services all generating growth. Our other major program, Sports & Events, also showed healthy growth of \$677,000, or more than 4%. This is representative of the data shown earlier in the slide that presented solid growth both events and entries. In addition to the growth in our traditional business of registration and sports & events, our other programs also did well. In particular, our digital media activities, which include AKC.TV and digital advertising increased by more than \$1 million. We are very pleased with all of these areas performing well and providing growth to our organization.

Next let's look into our operating expenses. Our largest increase was for payroll and benefits which was mostly attributable to cost of living increases and growing benefit costs. The increase in rent and

related costs is attributable to our residing a full year in our new location which now house many of our newer programs, such as our digital media activities. Depreciation and amortization increased from recent investments in software and other fixed assets, which were made to create operating efficiencies and to ensure a productive workforce. Aside from these first 3 items, all other expenses actually decreased by almost 16%, or \$340,000. While we strive to keep our operating costs down, we are satisfied with this increase as our revenues grew more than our costs. We believe this is proof that our investment in staff and assets paid off as our revenue growth exceeded our increase in expenses. To address another important expense, as required by the AKC Bylaws, we can report that the total amount of Board of Directors' related expenses in fiscal 2019 was \$486,000 dollars.

Outside of AKC's operations, next we will take an overview of our investment performance. In 2019, we had a very different result from 2018. While 2018 was a poor year for our investment performance, we more than made up for it in 2019. AKC's investment activities generated almost \$15 million in gains in 2019 which was an impressive return just under 19%. As compared to our benchmark, we outper-

formed our target by more than 2%. Overall, we are very happy with this result. I would like to remind everyone that we do take a long-term focus and vision in our portfolio's goals and allocations. We try to diversify our investments to minimize risk, but we are subject to the market movements just like most others. While we are closely watching the recent weakness the global equity markets in recent weeks, we are sticking to our long-term strategy.

Moving on to our balance sheet, we next take a look at AKC's assets which ended 2019 with a balance of \$126 million dollars. The decrease from the prior year is mostly attributable to the AKC paying down all of its short-term debt, the write down of affiliate assets, along with a significant increase cash outflows related to our pension and other post-retirement costs. As explained last year, the short-term debt was acquired in 2018 in relation to the construction of the AKC's headquarters along with the Museum of the Dog at 101 Park Avenue. In light of the strong performance of AKC's investment portfolio in 2019, it was decided to cash in a portion of our investments and eliminate our debt and to cover other cash outflows.

Next, on the other side of the balance sheet are total liabilities. Total liabilities

have decreased significantly from \$106 million at the end of 2018 to \$85 million at December 31, 2019. As previously mentioned, the primary driver of the decrease in liabilities was the pay down \$23 million of short-term debt. In addition, our accounts payable and accrued expenses decreased by approximately \$4 million, while our pension and post-retirement obligations increased by approximately \$5 million. Overall, this shows that the AKC ended 2019 with a strong balance sheet and is well positioned to handle any unforeseen contingencies while continuing to support our mission.

In review, 2019 was a good year for the American Kennel Club. We celebrated our 135th anniversary in 2019 while experiencing solid growth in both our traditional programs while also making strong gains into new programs that we expect will continue to make AKC a vital organization for many more years to come. We are confident that together, we can continue our success into 2020 and beyond. I thank you for your time here today, as well as everything you do all year long to make AKC the strong institution it is. As a last point, please note that this full presentation deck will be posted to the AKC Delegates Portal by the close of business tomorrow. Thank you and have a great day.

The first vote was on *Rules Applying to Dog Shows Chapter 9, Section 2* – Superintendents and Show Secretaries, which would allow for an individual to be approved as a Show Secretary for the events held by one all-breed or group club and any additional events held on the same day and at the same site as the club, once in any calendar year. This amendment was presented by Staff to the AKC Board based on a request by a member of the Board of Directors and brought forward with approval from the AKC Board of Directors.

There was a two-thirds vote in the affirmative and the amendment was adopted.

The next vote was on *Rules Applying to Dog Shows Chapter 11, Section 8-A* – Dog Show Entries, Conditions of Dogs Affecting Eligibility, which removes the requirement for an injury to have occurred for an Event Committee to disqualify a dog that has attacked a person or a dog at its event, presenting a hazard to persons or other dogs. The amendment was proposed by the Staff, supported and brought forward with approval from the AKC Board of Directors. This vote was postponed at the December 2019 meeting to allow for questions to be addressed by Staff regarding this amendment.

There was discussion from the floor:

Peter Piusz, Delegate for the American Rottweiler Club, spoke as follows: In light of the fact that there are changes that have been made that the Delegates have not seen, shouldn't this be pulled instead of being voted on?

Mr. Sprung: What changes are you referring to, Sir?

Mr. Piusz: There is a form for disqualification which has much more detail that has not been seen. Further, it was stated that there are changes to the processes which the Delegates have not seen.

There was further discussion from the floor:

Jeannette O'Hanlon, Delegate for the Staffordshire Terrier Club of America, spoke as follows: I second Peter's motion that this go back and so the Delegates can be informed on how this is going to work.

Felice Jarrold, Delegate for the Old Pueblo Dog Training Club, was acknowledged but held her comments in favor of the amendment based on the motion to postpone.

James Phinizy, Delegate for the Scottish Deerhound Club of America, spoke as follows: The question of the motion is, parliamentary inquiry, is this an indefinite postponement or is there to a specific time or is it to be tabled?

Mr. Sprung: Yes, there is a specific time – it will be postponed until the next meeting, which would be June 2020.

Ann Lettis, Delegate for the Grand River Kennel Club, spoke as follows: I agree with the motion and I think that why staff introduced this, the whole process needs to be revisited. Currently if a person is attacked by a dog, there is no requirement for that person to have to make a statement to the AKC, which is wrong. There is also a very short time from the incident to information to the AKC from the person who was attacked. It is an extremely short time, should the person have a severe injury or be hospitalized, there is no time for them to contest the decision of an event committee, and anybody who is going to be involved in the event committee should be told right away how they could contest it, the findings, if they don't agree? They also should be able to see what the event committee sends to the AKC, which currently they can't, yet somebody from another club told me they give everybody a copy of

what they send to the AKC. So, there is a little, you know, which way is the right way? And I think everybody would have the right to see what is sent to the AKC.

There was a vote on the motion to postpone the amendment. A simple majority was in favor and the amendment was postponed until the June 2020 meeting. It was advised that the additional information and a copy of the form that was questioned would be provided to the Delegates.

The third vote was on *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* **Chapter 14, Section 5 – Measuring, Weighing and Color Determinations When Factors of Disqualification in Breed Standards or Eligibility Under the Conditions of a Class or Division of a Class Cancellation of Awards**, which eliminates the italics, rewords the section to add language to specify that all equipment must meet AKC requirements, and inserts it into the rule. The change also generalizes the wording for wickets to eliminate the need to modify in the future and clarifies expectation for a number of sets of wickets and scales that must be provided at all-breed, group or specialty shows. This amendment was proposed by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee and was brought for-

ward with approval from the AKC Board of Directors.

There was a discussion from the floor:

Robert Eisele, Delegate for the Suffolk County Kennel Club, spoke as follows: My only question is the availability of wickets, because I formed a club and we do a show in a box, so we have to have our own wickets. It took me almost three-quarters of a year to find a place to get it and then when I tried to get the wicket, the person was ill and it took me another six months. I mean, I understand the concept, if there is availability of getting wickets, I agree with it, but if it becomes difficult to get the wicket, I have a problem with that. Has the staff addressed making sure there is a supply of these?

Mr. Sprung: Call me up and I will get you a wicket. Seriously. I know you self-supervise. I know your show, what you do. We will help you. Just give us a call.

Mr. Eisele: Let's hope we get to a thousand. I'm just talking in general.

Mr. Sprung: We will help any club.

Cindy Stansell, Delegate for the Finnish Spitz Club of America, spoke as follows:

The reason Dog Show Rules brought this forward is that there was no consistency in scales, and some of the scales were quite dangerous to use and put the dogs in jeopardy. So, we appreciate that there is now wording there to safely accommodate all weighable breeds.

Steve Lawrence, Delegate for the Classic Toy Dog Club, spoke as follows: Similar to what Bob Eisele asked, I have looked into trying to find calibrated certified weights and the ones I have been finding are hundreds and hundreds of dollars. Does AKC have any source for these or have them available?

Mr. Sprung: We have sources for them. The answer is yes.

There was a two-thirds vote in the affirmative and the amendment was adopted.

The last vote was on *Beagle Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures for Brace, Small Pack and Small Pack Option, Field Trials and Two-Couple Packing Hunting Tests* **Chapter 6, Section 4**, removes the requirement to show the street address in the premium list for the judges, trial chair and club officers. This amendment was proposed by the Beagle Advisory Committee and the Delegate Field Trial and Hunting Test

Committee supported this change for all types of field trials. It was brought forward with approval from the AKC Board of Directors. This change also applies to the following:

- *Beagle Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures for Large Pack Field Trials* **(Chapter 6, Section 4)**

- *Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures Dachshunds* **(Chapter 6, Section 4)**

- *Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures for Basset Hounds* **(Chapter 6, Section 4)**

- *Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedure for Spaniels* **(Chapter 7, Section 1)**

- *Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedure for Pointing Breeds* **(Chapter 7, Section 1)**

- *Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedure for Retrievers* **(Chapter 7, Section 1)**

There was a two-thirds vote in the affirmative and the amendment was adopted.

The Chair called on the Chair of the Tellers Committee, Ernest Obubah of KPMG, to read the results of the balloting for the Class of 2024.

Mr. Obubah: Good Morning. The number of votes cast was 272. The number of invalid votes cast 1. The number needed to elect, 136. The votes are as follows: Carl C. Ashby, 69. Jeffrey D. Ball, 104. Dr. Carmen L. Battaglia, 152. Dr. Michael Knight, 178. Karolynne M. McAteer, 187.

The chair declared that Dr. Carmen L. Battaglia Dr. Michael Knight and Karolynne McAteer had been duly elected to the Class of 2024. [With no further balloting necessary, the meeting continued.]

The Chair called on the Executive Secretary to read the proposed amendment to the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* **Chapter 3, Section 8-A – Dog Show Classifications**.

Ms. DiNardo: This amendment is to the Rules Applying to Dog Shows Chapter 3, Section 8-A – Dog Show Classifications, proposes a new Section 8-A that would create a new class, Bred-by-Exhibitor Puppy, to be offered at conformation dog shows at the discretion of the club. This class will provide the opportunity for breeders to exhibit their puppies in an age appropriate class without risk of sacrificing their opportunity to attain the Bred-by-Exhibitor medallion.

This amendment was proposed by a member of the AKC Board of Directors, presented by Staff and brought forward with approval from the AKC Board of Directors.

It will be published in two issues of the AKC GAZETTE and you will be asked to vote on it at the June 2020 meeting. The full text is on the worksheet previously emailed.

There was a discussion from the floor:

The Chair recognized Carol Fisher, Delegate for the Valley Forge Kennel Club, spoke as follows: I'm for the proposal but if you have a puppy in bred-by and something happens from when you enter it until the day of the show, your only options, and you cannot show, your only options are to pull your entry or to move to open, and I was wondering if there was any thought given to having the chance for that puppy, the bred-by puppy, to move to a puppy class if the owner wants it and if the class is available. I mean, I don't want a puppy that I enter in a puppy class to be moved.

Mr. Sprung: You mean move to open from bred-by. You cannot move your entry at the day of a show if you are in bred-by or if

you are in puppy bred-by.

Ms. Fisher: I thought that was the class that everybody if for whatever reason you moved you could move to open.

Mr. Sprung: Not once entries close. You are asking if there is a consideration to make that change?

Ms. Fisher: I thought you could enter open.

Mr. Sprung: Yes, you could enter open.

Ms. Fisher: Not enter, to move to open.

Mr. Sprung: Yes, you can enter open after entries close. I stand corrected, Johnny.

Ms. Fisher: I was just wondering if there was any thought –

Mr. Sprung: Then that point would not count towards the bred-by-exhibitor medallion from open. So that's the reason to have the bred-by class and to have now what could be two bred-by classes, you could have a six to nine puppy and a nine to twelve puppy as well as bred-by.

Ms. Fisher: I understand what you are saying, and I concur with that. I'm saying if the person chooses to not want to move to

open or not to, you know, because at that point you are going to lose your chance for points, for the bred-by points anyway, to have the option to move to a puppy class if the puppy class is available, because then they are experiencing with the puppies and not in with the –

Mr. Sprung: The concept behind this medallion was each point would be from bred-by. So, to enhance the opportunity for people to earn the medallion from bred-by is to vote on now having the two different bred-by puppy classes as well as the regular bred-by class.

Ms. Fisher: I understand. I don't think you are understanding what I'm saying, is if you want to move your puppy, if you want to continue to show it, to give it experience, the only option is to go to open, and sometimes if you have a six-month-old puppy, you don't want to go to open. Your only other option then is to eat your entry.

Mr. Sprung: Or to stay in bred-by.

Ms. Fisher: If the person is not physically able to show, you have the option of not entering, pulling your entry or going to open.

Mr. Sprung: Yes, however the point would

not count in open.

Ms. Fisher: I don't want the points to count.

Mr. Sprung: That aspect was not considered. Your example was not considered during discussion.

Ms. Fisher: And I was just wondering if people had thought of that. I'm trying to bring it forward for people to think about for the voting. I'm for the proposal, but I think it should be the option of being able to, if they are not able to show in the bred-by puppy class, to have the option to move it to a regular puppy class if that puppy class is available.

Mr. Sprung: You can make an amendment in June. We did not consider what you are requesting.

Ms. Fisher: Okay. I was just bringing this forward.

Mr. Sprung: Thank you. I appreciate it.

An unidentified Delegate spoke as follows: I would just add that this happened last year to me at our national. I was under the bred-by and I had a puppy in it and my back went out and I could not exhibit and

she was moved to open but it would have been great for her to have been moved to puppy because she was just a six to nine puppy. I think that is the point she is trying to make.

Mr. Sprung: Thank you.

Katie Campbell, Delegate for the Basenji Club of America, spoke as follows: I just want to have a pause for thought on this additional puppy bred-by, that there are some special attractions at our all-breed shows and perhaps at other group shows where you have a puppy group and you also have a bred-by group. The rules would have to be delineated for those special attractions or I would suggest it be required on the form for the show when we make the application of exactly how those are defined, because I don't think we should be encouraging a puppy to be competing in potentially the class that they are, like a puppy bred-by and then a puppy group and a bred-by group and a regular group and potentially best in show. It is just too much.

[Note: The Read on *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* **Chapter 3, Section 3** was inadvertently omitted and will be read at the June 2020 Meeting.]

The Chair called on the Executive Secretary to read the proposed amendment to the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows Chapter 3, Section 11 – Dog Classifications*.

Ms. DiNardo: This amendment is to the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows Chapter 3, Section 11 – Dog Classifications*, inserts the proposed new Bred-by-Exhibitor Puppy Class into the list of classes from which first place advances to compete in the Winners Class. It adds language to clarify the puppy, 12-18 month class and Bred-by-Exhibitor class may be divided by age. It also inserts language to clarify American-Bred and Open classes are required and all others are optional.

This proposal is contingent on delegate approval of the new Chapter 3, Section 8-A to create the Bred-by Exhibitor Puppy Class. Rejection of the proposed Bred-by-Exhibitor Puppy Class would require amendment to this proposal.

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

It will be published in two issues of the AKC GAZETTE and you will be asked to vote on it at the June 2020 meeting. The full

text is on the worksheet previously emailed.

The Chair called on the Executive Secretary to read the proposed amendment to the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows Chapter 11, Section 9 – Dog Show Entries, Conditions of Dogs Affecting Eligibility*.

Ms. DiNardo: This amendment is to the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows Chapter 11, Section 9 – Dog Show Entries, Conditions of Dogs Affecting Eligibility*, which replaces current language with generalized language eliminating references to specific communicable diseases so that the revised section would address any health issues or diseases currently being experienced.

This amendment was proposed by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee and brought forward with approval from the AKC Board of Directors.

It will be published in two issues of the AKC GAZETTE and you will be asked to vote on it at the June 2020 meeting. The full text is on the worksheet previously emailed.

The Chair called on the Executive Secretary to read the proposed amend-

ment to the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows Chapter 14, Section 3 – Measuring, Weighing and Color Determinations When Factors of Disqualification in Breed Standards or Eligibility Under Conditions of a Class or Division of a Class Cancellation of Awards*.

Ms. DiNardo: This amendment is to the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows Chapter 14, Section 3 – Measuring, Weighing and Color Determinations When Factors of Disqualification in Breed Standards or Eligibility Under Conditions of a Class or Division of a Class Cancellation of Awards*, which modifies text for additional clarity as to when an entry may or may not be measured, as well as the judge's procedural responsibilities.

This amendment was proposed by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee and brought forward with approval from the AKC Board of Directors.

It will be published in two issues of the AKC GAZETTE and you will be asked to vote on it at the June 2020 meeting. The full text is on the worksheet previously emailed.

The Chair called on the Executive Secretary to read the proposed amend-

ment to the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows Chapter 14, Section 4 – Measuring, Weighing and Color Determinations When Factors of Disqualification in Breed Standards or Eligibility Under Conditions of a Class or Division of a Class Cancellation of Awards*.

Ms. DiNardo: This amendment is to the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows Chapter 14, Section 4 – Measuring, Weighing and Color Determinations When Factors of Disqualification in Breed Standards or Eligibility Under Conditions of a Class or Division of a Class Cancellation of Awards*, which modifies text for additional clarity as to when an entry may or may not be weighed, the judge's procedural responsibilities and the impact on any dog weighed out and associated limitations when weighed out for condition of class.

This amendment was proposed by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee and brought forward with approval from the AKC Board of Directors.

It will be published in two issues of the AKC GAZETTE and you will be asked to vote on it at the June 2020 meeting. The full text is on the worksheet previously emailed.

The Chair called on the Executive Secretary to read the proposed amendment to the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows Chapter 14, Section 6* – Measuring, Weighing and Color Determinations When Factors of Disqualification in Breed Standards or Eligibility Under Conditions of a Class or Division of a Class Cancellation of Awards.

Ms. DiNardo: This amendment is to the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows Chapter 14, Section 6* – Measuring, Weighing and Color Determinations When Factors of Disqualification in Breed Standards or Eligibility Under Conditions of a Class or Division of a Class Cancellation of Awards, modifies text for additional clarity as to obligations concerning disqualifications and conditions of class related to color and markings, the judge's procedural responsibilities and any impact on the dogs concerning future events.

This amendment was proposed by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee and brought forward with approval from the AKC Board of Directors.

It will be published in two issues of the AKC GAZETTE and you will be asked to vote on it at the June 2020 meeting. The full text is on the worksheet previously emailed.

The Chair called on the Executive Secretary to read the proposed amendment to the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows Chapter 14, Section 6-A* – Measuring, Weighing and Color Determinations When Factors of Disqualification in Breed Standards or Eligibility Under Conditions of a Class or Division of a Class Cancellation of Awards.

Ms. DiNardo: This amendment is to the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows Chapter 14, Section 6-A* – Measuring, Weighing and Color Determinations When Factors of Disqualification in Breed Standards or Eligibility Under Conditions of a Class or Division of a Class Cancellation of Awards, proposes the insertion of a new Section 6-A, which would have the effect of adding language specific to a judge's authority in classes where the condition of class is other than height, weight, color or markings. Approval of this proposal by the Delegates would then require approval of the corresponding proposal to Chapter 15, Section 2 to allow for protest by competing exhibitors in the same class.

This amendment was proposed by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee and brought forward with approval from the AKC Board of Directors.

It will be published in two issues of the AKC GAZETTE and you will be asked to vote on it at the June 2020 meeting. The full text is on the worksheet previously emailed.

The Chair called on the Executive Secretary to read the proposed amendment to the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows Chapter 15, Section 2* – Protests Against Dogs.

Ms. DiNardo: This amendment is to the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows Chapter 15, Section 2* – Protests Against Dogs, adds the proposed new Section 6-A to the list of sections where conditions of class are to allow for protest by competing exhibitors in the same class.

This proposal is contingent on delegate approval of the insertion of a new Chapter 14, Section 6-A.

This amendment was proposed by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee and brought forward with approval from the AKC Board of Directors.

It will be published in two issues of the AKC GAZETTE and you will be asked to vote on it at the June 2020 meeting. The full text is on the worksheet previously emailed.

The Chair called on Vice President Kirsten Bahlke, to give an update on the digital branding campaign.

Kirsten Bahlke: Good morning everyone. I am super excited to be able to introduce to you today a brand-new digital branding campaign for the American Kennel Club. We will actually launch in just two short days and I'm excited to be able to tell you a little bit about it. So, some of you may be saying, okay, branding campaign, but what exactly is that, Kirsten? I want to take a little time explaining to you and then I'm going to show you the good stuff, how we are bringing it to life. Let's take in two pieces a branding campaign. So branding, no, not this kind of branding, I mean our brand. It is all about the American Kennel Club and everything that we do and bringing that to life for consumers who may not be as involved as we want them to be. For the campaign, who are we going to talk to? I don't think it is any surprise that we want to talk to and engage with younger consumers, dog lovers who we want to bring into everything that is AKC, our sports, our training, our knowledge, our education. How will we do it? Again, not so surprising, we need to talk to them digitally, whether it is on their phone, their computer, which is usually a laptop, or an iPad, we need to be there wherever they are, not just thinking about if they were sitting at

home. And then finally, what channels will we use? We used to define our channels as okay, I saw them on TV, so am I on FOX, am I on NBC. Our new definition of channels is in this digital world. In this digital world we think of our channels as social, so on the bottom left, you can see on Facebook, so this is where you would see these advertisements.

On the top left, music. Today's younger generation all listen to music on their phone, apps like Spotify. We will be there as well. And then finally, this new world of OTT, over the top, these channels, these cord cutters, all these terms where people are watching things on their digital devices, we will be there too, just like AKC.TV. So, once we have identified everything we wanted this branding campaign to be about and how we were going to do it, we really wanted to make sure as a Marketing Department that we understood what are the core objectives for this campaign. First and foremost, how will we increase registration and acquisition of purebred dogs? Second, we want everyone to be interested in everything about AKC, including our sports. How do we make sure we are bringing that younger generation in? Finally, improve the overall perception of our brand. We did some consumer research both to get to this point and then I will show you about the concepts as well. But one of the things we learned is that

younger consumers don't love our brand as much as we do. They see us as a little bit stuffy. So that helped inform what we wanted to do with this campaign. Working with our digital agency, Media Cause, we came up with multiple ideas and then settled on one and it became a really great, winning idea, and I'm not just selfishly saying that, we put it out to consumers to tell us do you think this is a winning idea. We did market research with this concept for AKC and we found consumers told us it was extremely likable, very believable for the American Kennel Club, and made us feel very relevant to them. Overall, they had an improved perception of the American Kennel Club, exactly what we want. And, importantly, the numbers were even stronger with the 18 to 44-year-old group as well as prospective dog owners. So, we felt like we really had a winner. Now what I want to do is read to you what I call the concept. This is the base of all of the creative that we have done, and this encapsulates what we want to bring to life. The American Kennel Club has been around for 135 years, that is 945 in dog years, so you could say we've picked up a thing or two along the way. Or, if you want to get technical, 89,719,931 things. Got a question about training your terrier? Healthiest snacks for your Shih Tzu. Which breeds are best for the beach? We've got the expert knowledge, advice, resources

and support you need, anytime, anywhere, about anything and everything dog, whether your canine companion is wonderfully purebred or perfectly mixed. If it quacks, moos or meows, you've come to the wrong place. But if it barks, it's AKC. This is the idea behind what I will share with you now. We wanted to make sure that we were revitalizing our brand experience. You can see we chose a tone that was very fun, engaging and trying to get people to understand everything we love about AKC. We also thought it was extremely important to demonstrate that 135 years of knowledge. You will see that come through as we go through the creative. The campaign is called "If it barks, it's AKC". We have multiple ways that we will be bringing this to life. I'm going to show you a video first. We also, as I mentioned, will be on Spotify. So, I have audio. And then we have some campaigns that are things that you would see like on Facebook or as you are Googling things. Let's start with the videos.

[Video played.]

Ms. Bahlke: You can see we are trying to make sure people understand both our knowledge of what we can deliver but we can have a little fun with what is going on in the world today. If we go to the second video.

[Video played.]

Ms. Bahlke: In this one you can see we start

to bring in the importance of our knowledge, making a little fun of it with the pangolin but then also coming in with specific information about breeds, about the Beagle and about its sense of smell. One more video.

[Video played.]

Ms. Bahlke: These videos, as I said, you will start to see them beginning on March 12th. You will see them as what we call preroll, if you are on Google and you find something in a video you want to watch, you will see these come up first, please don't skip them, and then go right to your content. The next piece of the campaign, as I said, is audio, so if you are a Spotify listener or other music streaming services, this is where you will hear this.

[Audio played.]

Ms. Bahlke: We have another audio spot.

[Audio played.]

Ms. Bahlke: Thank you very much. You can see we are starting to pull those themes together, always bringing in a piece of knowledge about how you can trust AKC, but in a fun, engaging way. We also have our digital campaign, and this is what I said you will see coming up on your Facebook or as you are searching Google, and this is an animated versus an actual video. Why does my dog scoot? There he goes. Our guess, anal sac issues, but check with your vet. I guarantee this is the only ad you will

ever see about anal sacs. “If it barks, it's AKC. If you've got dog questions, we've got dog answers. Ask us anything.” So, again, we are trying to bring information in a lighthearted way but true information. We are also working together as a team to make sure that we are addressing the questions consumers have. We actually have done research, the content team helped out, in looking at what are consumers asking when they come to our website so that our campaign addresses them. What are people Googling? And believe it or not, they are Googling about the scooting, and now we have an answer for them. A couple of the other ones, these aren't animated, but you get the idea. These would all be animated. Are Great Danes good apartment dogs? Yup, Great Danes can be great for apartments, just make sure you have a big enough couch. “If you've got dog questions, we've got dog answers. If it barks, it's AKC.” Another one, why does my dog hide things? It's nature, not naughtiness. Keep your friends close and your underwear closer. “If it barks, it's AKC”. You've got dog questions, we've got dog answers. Ask us anything.” Why does my dog stare at me? Well, he either wants to go for a walk or steal your meatball sub. “If you've got dog questions, we've got dog answers. Ask us anything.” So, as you can see, those all had what we call a call to action, so we want

people to click on those and when they do they are going to come to a slightly redesigned AKC web page. Some of you may have already seen this because we actually have this already in place, but the campaign will drive them to here and they will see the “If it barks” logo and then “If you've got dog questions, we've got dog answers.” Even if people aren't coming from our campaign, we are still putting forth that attitude of we are here for you, we are a resource, how can we help. This is what it looks like on the desktop and this is what it looks like from a mobile perspective. And that's it. Hope you enjoyed. Thank you.

The Chair called on Gail LaBerge, Delegate from the Atlanta Obedience Club who spoke about AKC PAC initiatives as follows:

Ms. LaBerge: Good morning everyone. I had a question come to the PAC Board on why the AKC PAC is important and how it relates to each of us in the sport of dogs, so I talked with Sheila Goff and Chris Sweetwood, our Vice Chair, and we came up with a little statement I would like to share with you.

Think of your legislator as a crafter who is crafting legislation in his office or in his buddy's offices down the hall. In order to

help him craft legislation, we need the key that helps open the door to those offices. The key allows the AKC PAC to open the door to the legislators in order to educate them on what the AKC stands for and what we do in the sport of dogs. Your donation to the AKC PAC provides that key. Remember also that we need recommendations on which doors you need open in your own community to legislators that you see, that are on your city council, that are in your county government, your state-wide government, we need recommendations on who we need to reach out that understands our issues. We also would like for you personally to deliver that key in the form of the AKC PAC donation to that legislator in your community because we want them to associate you with animal issues as their expert, and the only way they are going to do that is if they get to know you personally. Buy a key today with your donation to the AKC PAC. Donations may be turned in after the meeting at the AKC GR table in the lobby as we go out to lunch. Become a key holder today. Support your community and your legislators that you need on your side. Thank you.

The Chair introduced a video featuring the Meet the Breeds® event which took place at the New York City Javits Center January 25-26 and thanked every AKC Parent Club for the support.

[Video played.]
A second video was played where Johnny Shoemaker, Delegate from the Redwood Empire Kennel Club encouraged a young autistic girl to show her stuffed dog at a Juniors event. It was noted that the video had received over 6 million views across social media channels.
[Video played.]

The Chair informed the Delegates that the next quarterly meeting would be on Tuesday, June 9, 2020, at the Doubletree Newark Airport Hotel. The Conference and Travel Department would post the hotel information on the Delegates Portal and email the Delegates when the block of rooms became available.

The Chair reminded the Board to meet immediately following the meeting in the Salem/Warren Room. He also instructed that lunch would be served at the close of the meeting on the Terrace.

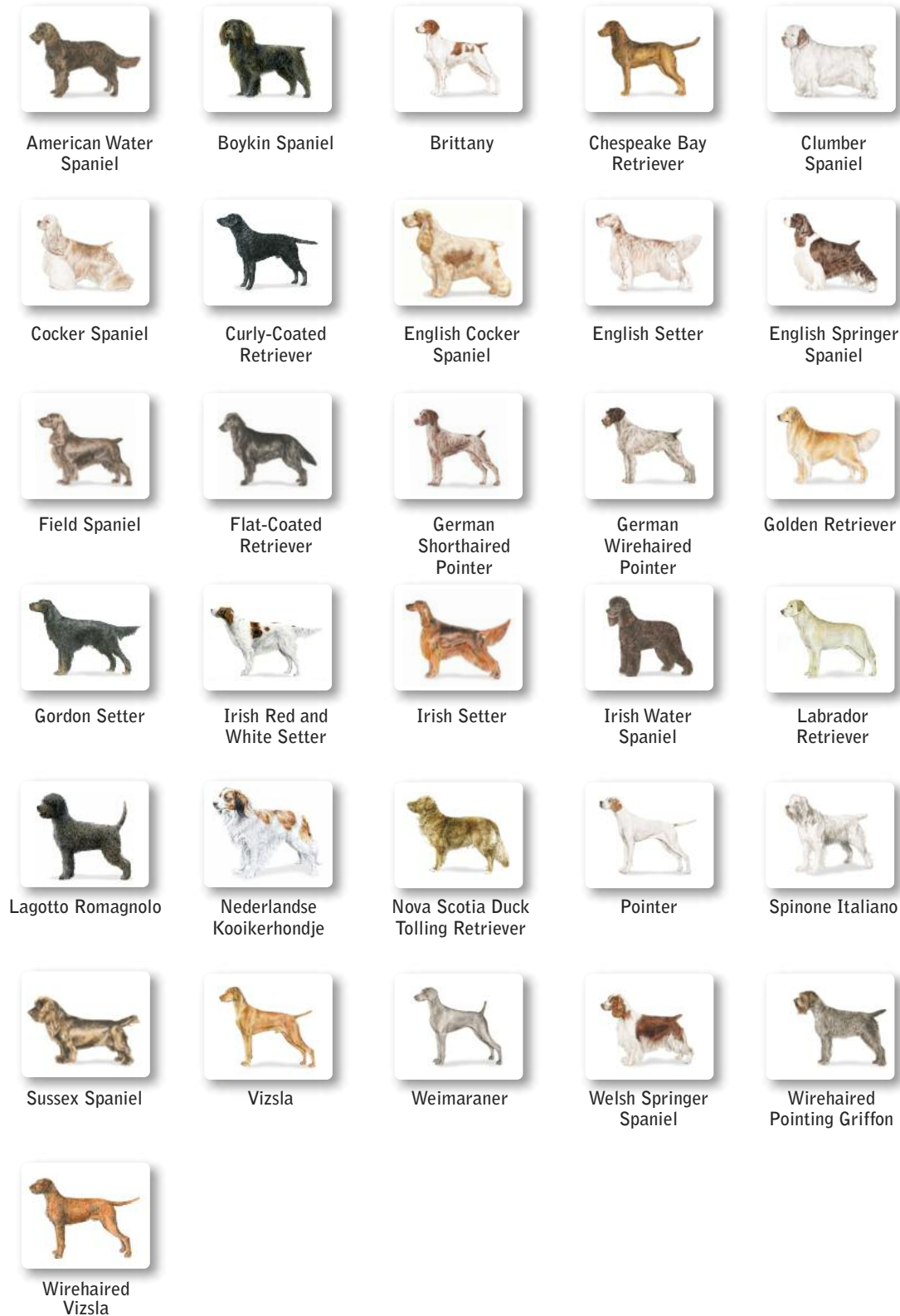
Hearing no further business from the Delegate Body, the Chair adjourned the meeting.
[Time noted: 10:35 a.m.]

The opinions expressed by the speakers may not necessarily reflect those of The American Kennel Club.

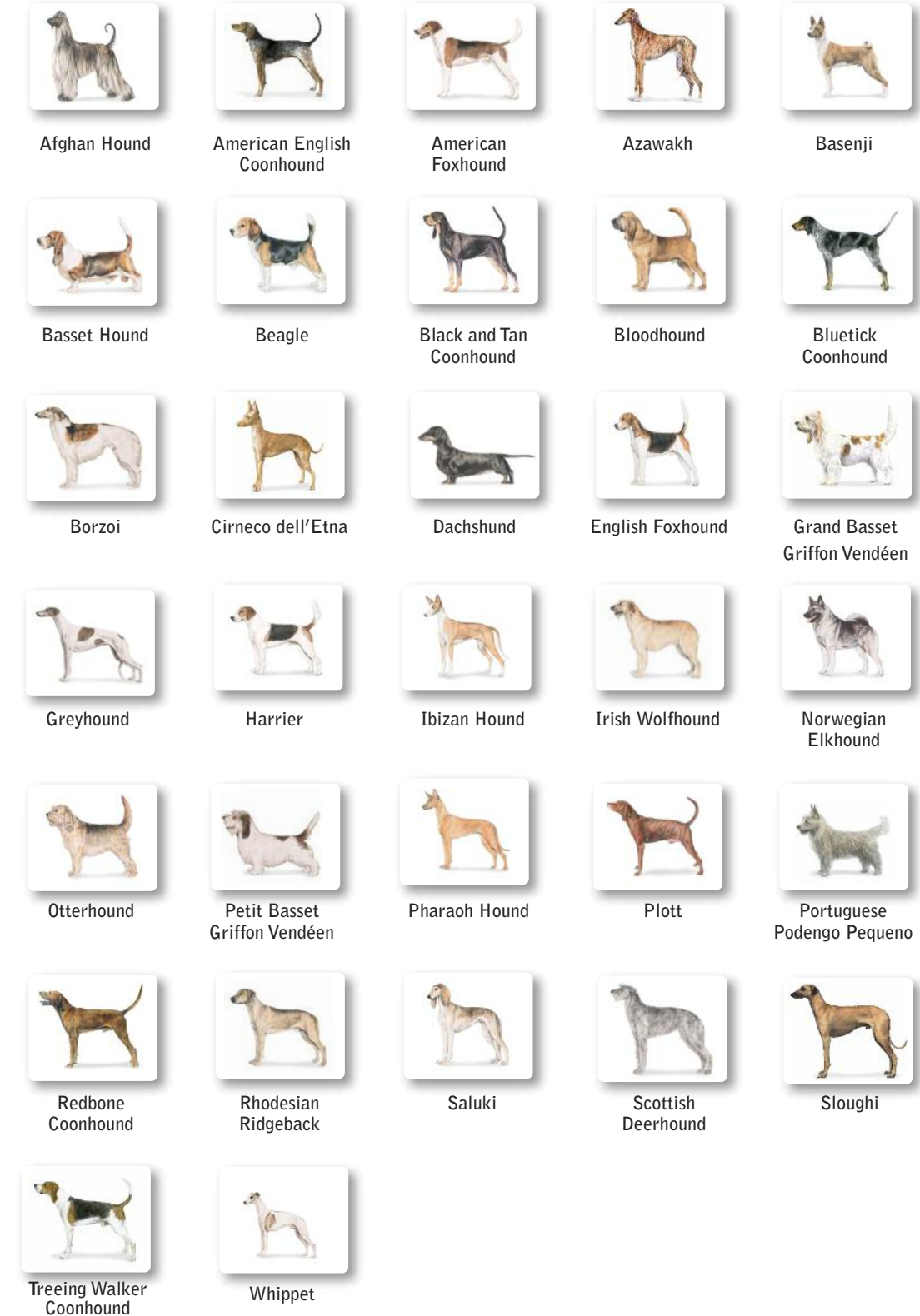
PARENT CLUB LINKS



SPORTING GROUP







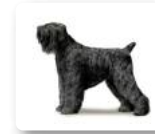

























HOUND GROUP































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	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	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/>