PRESIDENT'S LETTER

SECRETARY'S PAGES

BREED COLUMNS

BRITANYNS
Lagotti Romagnoli
Nederlandse Koekenhondjes
German Shorthaired Pointers

CHESAPEAKE BAY RETRIEVERS
Curly-Coated Retrievers
Golden Retrievers
English Setters
Gordon Setters

IRISH SETTERS
Clumber Spaniels
Cocker Spaniels
English Cocker Spaniels
English Springer Spaniels

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

2019: A YEAR IN PICTURES

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Mush!

NEW YORK—Mush! A Tribute to Sled Dogs from Arctic Exploration to the Iditarod, the AKC Museum of the Dog’s winter exhibition, is now running through March 29.

Mush! covers the history of sled dogs around the world. These mighty workers factored decisively in the historic expeditions of Admiral Byrd and other Arctic explorers, delivered mail over vast expanses of frozen tundra, and saved countless lives in 1925’s famous “Serum Run,” subject of the new movie Togo (see trailer on page 11).

The exhibition gathers pieces from the AKC Archives and Museum collections, including prints, paintings, drawings, artifacts, and a vintage wooden sled. Special attention is paid to five AKC breeds doing what they were bred to do: the Alaskan Malamute, Chinook, Newfoundland, Samoyed, and Siberian Husky. A highlight of the show is the work of noted sled-dog artist Jon Van Zyle.

Link
Plan your visit
The 19th annual AKC National Championship was the largest entry in AKC history! It was a joyous event that culminated in the crowning of America’s Champion. Replays of the show are now available on AKC.TV for your viewing pleasure (see page 7).

We are currently preparing for the wildly popular educational extravaganza known as AKC Meet the Breeds in New York City taking place at the Jacob K. Javits Center. The venue allows us to bring visitors a new and enhanced experience.

Now in its 11th year, AKC Meet the Breeds will be held on January 25 and 26. This unique extravaganza is a pet lover’s dream. We once again welcome The International Cat Association (TICA) to join us with their gorgeous felines, creative booths, and knowledgeable breeders. Their wonderful booths and cat agility always engage the public.

AKC Meet the Breeds is a unique educational undertaking where New York tri-state area residents are able to learn from parent-club breed experts, with helpful information about which breeds work for their lifestyle and meet and greet with over 160 breeds of cats and dogs. This occasion and the media support around it help promote one of our key messages: responsible ownership.

The educational endeavor is made possible with the enthusiasm and support of our AKC parent-club volunteers. As always, I extend my deepest thanks to you and your fabulous dogs who make this day a hit with animal lovers annually. AKC Meet the Breeds is proudly sponsored by AKC Pet Insurance, TailTrax, Motel 6, AKC Visa® Card, Cloud® Wag More Bark Less®, The Farmer’s Dog, Pet Brands Products, LLC, V Foundation®, and Hudson Yards.

If you cannot make it to Meet the Breeds, please visit akc.org or follow us on our social media channels for video and photos. And for more coverage, watch us live on AKC.TV.

Dennis B. Sprung
President and CEO
Welcome to the Club!
Barbet, Dogo Argentino join AKC as breeds 194 and 195

On January 1, we welcomed two breeds to the AKC Stud Book: a merry, curly-coated Frenchman and the courageous white avenger of the Argentine Pampas. Congratulations to the Barbet and Dogo Argentino parent-club members on the years of work and commitment it took to reach this singular moment for their breeds.

BARBET
(SPORTING GROUP)

Parent club: Barbet Club of America (est. 2009)

In a nutshell: This amiable French hunting dog, specializing in waterfowl, is known for his profuse coat and kind heart. The Barbet's all-around athleticism, coupled with an eager intelligence, make him a willing partner in a wide array of dog sports.

Description: The Barbet (bar-bay) is a rustic, medium-sized dog with a dense curly coat that covers him from the top of his large, broad head to the tip of his curving tail. The coat comes in shades of black, gray, brown, or fawn, sometimes with white markings. The breed's amiability and delightful shaggy coat create the impression of a Muppet come to life, but the Barbet is a strong, solidly built dog bred to be a keen hunter and tireless swimmer (complete with webbed feet). Balance is a key word in this breed: Balanced in its physical proportions, the Barbet also possesses an admirably even disposition. The breed name comes from the French barbe, meaning "bearded"—the Barbet's sporty goatee is another distinctive aspect of this unique-looking dog.

Backstory: The Barbet is such a loyal, affectionate, and versatile companion, it's hard to believe the breed teetered fairly recently on the verge of extinction. Some experts claim the Barbet as Europe's original water dog, the primary ancestor of such breeds as the Poodle and Irish Water Spaniel, bred to retrieve downed fowl from sometimes icy water. The Barbet has been known in France since medieval times, a cherished hunting buddy of Henri IV, Louis XV, and other French royals down through the ages. Before the rise of wing-shooting with rifles, the Barbet was sometimes used to retrieve arrows that missed their mark and landed in lakes or swamps.

From the standard: “The coat of the Barbet is his defining characteristic. Profuse hair covers the whole body evenly with thick, natural curls that range from large and loose to tight, smaller curls. The hair on the top of the head reaches the bridge of the nose. … While scissoring is necessary to keep him neat, excessive sculpting and shaping is to be penalized.”

Health: “The Barbet is in general a healthy breed. However, because numbers are still low there is not too much information available concerning the health of the breed. … The main concerns at present in the breed are hip dysplasia, eye disease (such as entropion and cataract) and immunity issues, and epilepsy.”—BCA

DOGO ARGENTINO (WORKING GROUP)

Parent Club: Dogo Argentino Club of America (est. 1985)

In a nutshell: From the majestic Grande Mountains to the Pampas grasslands of central Argentina, the Dogo first earned his feed as an athletic and tenacious big-game hunter. A masterful white dog of muscular courage, the Dogo is today a loyal companion and peerless protector of loved ones.

Description: The Dogo Argentino is a large working breed of substantial bone, recognized by its short white coat. Balance and harmony are hallmarks of the breed’s general appearance. A male can stand from 25 to 25½ inches and weigh 88 to 100 pounds. Females run slightly smaller and present a distinctly feminine look. The breed’s fanciers place great emphasis on the large, broad head, with its high-set ears, almond-shaped eyes, black nose, well-developed jaws, and tight lips. The expression is alert and intelligent, and in the words of the breed standard, possesses a look of “marked hardness.” The Dogo has a smooth and balanced gait of great reach and powerful rear propulsion. This, combined with a deep chest allowing for plenty of lung power, enables the Dogo to spring quickly into action and, when necessary, pursue quarry for hours on end.

Backstory: It was in the Cordoba province of central Argentina in the 1920s that teenaged brothers Antonio and Augustin Nores Martinez began the development of the Dogo Argentino. In striving to create a breed that could work in packs as hunters of jaguar, puma, and other big game, the brothers began their breeding program with the Cordoba Dog, a fearsome fighting breed now extinct. Into the genetic mix they introduced such breeds as the Great Pyrenees, Pointer, Great Dane, Dogue de Bordeaux, Boxer, Spanish Mastiff, Irish Wolfhound, Bull Terrier, and Bulldog. “There can hardly be another breed in the world that can boast such a complex origin,” canine historian Desmond Morris wrote. It took 20 years of selective breeding before Antonio, by then a prominent surgeon, published the first breed standard in 1947. From the standard: “The Dogo Argentino’s head gives him his unique stamp. The measurement from the brow bone to the tip of the nose is the same length as the measurement from the brow bone to the occiput. These proportions were designed to give the Dogo a sufficiently large mouth and powerful bite for holding prey.”

Health: Generally, the Dogo Argentino is a healthy dog with few genetic problems. The parent club recommends BAER testing.

Registries: FCI (1964), Argentina KC (1973)

2020 National Specialty: February 15 and 16 at Seguin, Texas
UPDATES

From AKC.TV

2019 AKC National Championship Videos

Saturday Night
Sunday Night

Sporting Group
Hound Group
Working Group
Terrier Group
Toy Group
Non-Sporting Group
Herding Group

Miscellaneous class
Best in Show
National Owner-Handled Series
Bred-by-Exhibitor and Junior Showmanship
Obedience and Rally
Agility

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GET A QUOTE
Your Favorite Stories of 2019

Here are the stories that readers made the most popular GAZETTE articles of the last 12 months, based on statistics compiled by Zmags, provider of our viewing platform.

If you would like to contribute an article or images to the GAZETTE in 2020, write us at gazette@akc.org

FEATURES

“Next Tuesday”
America’s most famous service dog begins a new chapter in his extraordinary story of hope and healing. By Patricia Robert

“Mindful Tracking”
“Living in the moment” helps tracking handlers and other dog-sport participants reduce anxiety, improve performance, and enjoy the process. By Michael Roehrs

“Scent Work: Search for Success”
Thinking of trying Scent Work or adding it to your club’s event schedule? If so, this is the only article you’ll ever have to read. By Dr. Bev Sigl Felten

BREED COLUMNS

“Telepathic Ability in Dogs” By David A. Webb, American Brittany Club

“Breeding and Modern Technology” By Mary Lamphier, Irish Setter Club of America

“What It’s Like to Win the Breed’s First National: An Interview with Sarah Brown” Nederlandse Kooikerhondje Club of the USA

NEWS/OPINION

“A Month of Mourning”
Friends and admirers eulogize beloved dog people.

“CHF and the Canine Athlete”
Health research benefits agility dogs. By Sharon M. Albright

“Glass Half Empty?”
An AKC Delegate asks readers: Why are we the only sport that focuses on and publicizes its negative aspects? By Eduardo Fujimura (reprint from the Perspectives newsletter)

“Hide and Seek: Cryptorchidism” By Dana B. Mackonis, Belgian Tervuren Club

“Who’s a Good Sport?” By Marianne Sullivan, Collie Club of America

“Grading Your Litter” By Eric Liebes, Komondor Club of America

“Dog Shows—What’s the Point?” By Marnie Harrison, Spanish Water Dog Club of America

“Rescue Madness” By Jan Warren Linne, Dalmatian Club of America

“The Rising Tide of Lyme Disease”
New research says this dangerous and hard-to-treat malady is becoming a national, year-round concern. By Bud Boccone

“Threlfalls Come Full Circle”
Mother and son handle to first BIS at same show—47 years apart! By Arliss Paddock

“There Are No People Like Show People”
A letter to the editor, from Jeannette York

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“Threlfalls Come Full Circle”
Mother and son handle to first BIS at same show—47 years apart! By Arliss Paddock
Our readers aren’t shy about bragging on their dogs—and with dogs like this, who can blame them?

From Gerianne Darnell:
“My three dogs earned an amazing 67 titles between them in 2019! The biggest accomplishment was by my new AKC Quintuple Champion Border Collie, Ch./HC/CT/OTCH/MACH/VCC Skyland Ricochet, UDX10, OGM, VST, TDX, TDU, PUDX, VER, GN, GO, RAE2, HXAsd, HXBsd, MXS, MJB, MFB, T2B, SWM, CGCA, CGCU, TKN, FDC. Rick is a multiple High in Trial winner in obedience, herding, rally, and Scent Work, and he was the first dog in the country to earn the PUDX title. Rick earned his TDX/CT/VCC in January of 2019 at the tender age of 14 years, 4 months, and just this past September, he earned his overall Master Scent Work title. He is still competing in Scent Work at the age of 15 years, 2 months, and two weeks ago he earned a High in Trial at the Nebraska Kennel Club scent work trial.

“My Papillon, GCh./OTCH/POC/RACH /MACH2/PACH Top Flite Ricochet, UDX2, OM4, VER, TD, BN, GN, GO RM3, RAE2, PUDX2, MXB, MXPB, MXP3, MJS, MJPB, MJP3, MXF, TQX, T2B, PAX, VCD2, SWE, SCM, SEM, SIM, CGCA, CGCU, FDC, TKA, has a collection of AKC Championship titles that no other dog has earned, and my young Border Collie Ricochet Rayna, BN, RN, HIBd, HSAd, SWA, SCNE, CGCA, CGCU, TKN, earned 32 titles in herding, scent work, rally and obedience this past year. There is nothing better than to be able to train, compete, and enjoy living with these three wonderful dogs.”

From Marcia Muller:
“Ziva, my Canaan Dog, is GCh.MBIS/RBIS/URO1/A LCH/SPOT-ON/River Rock Reach Any Higher, BN, RA, FDC, NAP, NJP, CAX2, FCAT, CGCA, CGCU, TKE, ATT, TT/CDCA-HCX, VS. Notable AKC firsts in breed include TKE, ATT, FDC, both CAX & FCAT and earning all 3 CGC titles.

“Ziva was exclusively owner-handled, always a Top 10 Canaan Dog [All Breed] and the #1 Canaan Dog bitch in the 2016 AKC NOHS. She was the first (and youngest) to qualify for the CDCA Versatility Superior title and has 6 CDCA Top Performance Awards.

“Ziva is my ADA Hearing Service Dog and keeps me smiling in retirement. She turns 6 in Jan. 2020 and it would be a great birthday gift to see her in the GAZETTE Brag Bag.”

From Nicole Wright:
“This is my first AKC-registered Dalmatian, Aloha’s A Spot O’ Teula, BN, RA, NAJ, NE, FDC, FCAT3, SWNE, SWA, SCAE, SEAE, SIE, SIE CGCA, TKE, RATI, VA, ORT, NW1, SDS-N. In 2019, she received her FCAT, FCAT2 and FCAT3 with an average speed of 28.81 mph as well as 26 new titles and 33 placements. We participate in Trick Dog, Canine Good Citizen, Rally, Obedience, FastCAT, Farm Dog, Agility, Scent Work and our newest activity, Tracking. At three years old there, is no stopping this wonderful girl.”

If your dog has achieved some notable first or milestone in its breed, send your brag and photo to gazette@akc.org.
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Javits Center, NYC
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VIDEOS

Wasabi’s Victory Lap
2019 AKC National Champion Wasabi the Pekingese visits Good Morning America. 4:47

Skye Walkers
AKC’s “I Am a Breeder” series continues with Maida Connor and Michael Pesare. 6:47

Junior Hunter Test for Pointing Breeds
Enjoy some lovely footage of bird dogs doing their thing in a new AKC video. 5:30

Trailer: Togo
Willem Dafoe stars as legendary musher Len Seppala in an epic recreation of the 1925 “Serum Run.”
A Year in Pictures
It was a remarkable 12 months for photography in the GAZETTE, and we’ve got the pictures to prove it!

2019 was a big year for photography in the GAZETTE. Over the past 12 months, we have brought our readers more photos covering a wider range of events than we have in many years. We thank all the photographers who shared their very best work with us and our readers in 2019. We stand in awe of their talent and their commitment to our sport. Here are a few of our favorite images of the year.

From our March 2019 Breed Columns: A pair of frolicking Tibetan Terriers (Andrea Reiman)
BREED COLUMNS

Our breed columnists provided some vivid shots of their breeds in the great outdoors: a Gordon Setter working on grouse (Jean Collins-Pitman); a trio of Finnish Lapphunds eagerly anticipating a major snowfall (Veronika Myrvang Martinsen); PBGV Lacey Posey contemplating a breathtaking vista (submitted by Peggy Vanadoe)
EVENT CANDIDS

This page: A Bulldog working in Scent Work (Bill Ogle); a happy Cocker Spaniel at Plainfield KC (Ree Smyth) and a glistening Great Dane at Burlington Wisconsin KC (Lynda Beam);

Next page: a Samoyed at the 2018 AKC National Championship (HOTdog); from our “Brag Bag,” an English Toy Spaniel runs FastCAT (MLBar); our March cover image: a Pointer at the Southern Maryland English Setter Club field trial (Melissa Hampton); Charlie, winner of the first Nederlandse Kooikerhondje national (T&C Pet Photography)
KID STUFF

A Belgian Laekenois and young admirer graced the cover of our June issue celebrating the FSS breeds (Perren Photography Studio); 4-H kids and their dogs at the Minnesota State 4-H Dog Show (Kathleen Riley); A pair of American Gentlemen at Orlando (David Woo); catching the attention of a French Bulldog (Lynda Beam)
FEATURE

PORTRAITS
An artful Shetland Sheepdog portrait by Lynda Beam, and two cover shots from Kathleen Riley: Doberman Pinscher (February) and Siberian Husky (December)
OLDIES BUT NEWIES

In 2019, three vintage images made their internet debut in the GAZETTE. From the May “Old School” issue: A portrait of Patricia Stillman Scott and her famous Lhasa Apso Ch. Hamilton Torma, newly colorized by David Woo; and from our “Crane Scrapbooks” feature, Mary Crane and her Basquarie Great Pyrenees.

Our September AKC 135th anniversary issue featured a shimmering never-before-published Tauskey portrait of Miriam Breed and her Barmere Boxers.
ODDS AND ENDS

Our own Arliss Paddock concocted the above gag shot of the “Silver-Coated Pouch Terrier” for an April Fool’s prank that became our most popular Facebook post ever; a Leonberger makes an inanimate friend at the AKC Museum of the Dog (David Woo); one of our most admired images of the year featured a Great Pyrenees and a ballet dancer from the “Dancers & Dogs” project (Kelly Pratt and Ian Kreidich); a great favorite with readers was Winston the Glen of Imaal Terrier, from our “Brag Bag” (Mark Brown).
Our Man in Orlando

The AKC National Championship is the world’s most multifaceted dog show. As such, it takes more than one photographer to capture all the sights of the show weekend.

Along with the gang from HOTdog Photography, our own David Woo roamed the arena and returned to New York with hundreds of shots of the events that make the ANC unique: dock diving, Puppy and Junior Stakes, Miscellaneous class, Juniors agility, ACE winners, Trick Dog, Best Booth in Show, and more, in addition to his photos from the main ring.

You will be seeing David’s photos from Orlando decorating our pages throughout the coming year. Here is a preview portfolio in slideshow form.
ORLANDO, FLORIDA—In this special feature-length edition of “Ringside,” we take you into the main ring of the Orange County Convention Center for world-class conformation action, seen through the lens of HOTdog Photography. We thank Oleg Bochov for sharing his treasure trove of stunning photos with us.

Results

AKC National Championship
National Owner-Handled Series
FEATURE

National Owner-Handled Series
FEATURE

Best Bred-by-Exhibitor
FEATURE

Group Judging
FEATURE

Group Judging
FEATURE

Best in Show
FEATURE

Best in Show
COME VISIT

The largest collection of canine-related art and artifacts, chronicling the historic human-canine relationship

Now Featuring the Exhibit

MUSH! A TRIBUTE TO SLED DOGS FROM ARCTIC EXPLORATION TO THE IDITAROD
2020 is the 75th anniversary year of the Black and Tan Coonhound in the AKC Stud Book. We mark the occasion with a look at some of the hounds and breeders who helped to establish the B&T as an AKC show dog.

From The Black and Tan Coonhound (2008), by Linda Hubbard:
“The American Kennel Club first recognized the Black and Tan Coonhound in December of 1945. 

The Black and Tan was the first of the coonhound varieties to gain admittance into the AKC. The acceptance of the breed paved the way for the Black and Tan to be shown in AKC dog shows.

“The Black and Tan Coonhound that leads the registration list of the AKC is Grand Mere Big Rock Molly, who was owned by John C. Ellsworth and bred by John Evans of Big Rock, Illinois. Molly was born on March 12, 1936. The first champion to be recognized by the AKC was Grand Mere Lassie.

“The Grand Mere dogs were carefully bred to produce show-quality Black and Tan Coonhounds. Orville O. Dunham of Niles, Michigan, owned the line, and he is well recognized as being a pioneer in the development of show-stock Black and Tan Coonhounds. …

“Mignon Murray produced one of the most famous lines of Black and Tan Coonhounds. She is credited with breeding Ch. Karlena’s Musical C Note, the first Black and Tan to compete at Westminster and winner of Best of Breed in 1949. Ch. Karlena’s Musical C Note sired 11 champions. For the following 20 years it was either Ch. Karlena’s Musical Ratter or Ch. Mignon’s Musical Junior, both C Note’s progeny and owned by Anne Clark, who won the breed at Westminster.”

From the American Black and Tan Coonhound Club website:
“Don Stringer’s Ten Oak Kennels were one of the premier AKC-registered packs that dominated shows in the Illinois and Indiana area in the late 1940s and ‘50s. …

“Mr. Stringer was a founding member of the National Black and Tan Club and was in attendance at the first meeting held February 15, 1947, at Anderson, Ind. He was also instrumental, along with fellow pioneer breeders William Cosner and Orville Dunham, in developing the first AKC standard by which the breed is judged today.”
We honor the memory of Eugene W. Haupt—owner, handler, working-breed judge, and decorated war veteran—who died on Christmas Day. The longtime resident of Louisville, Kentucky, was 97 years old. His club affiliations included the Louisville Kennel Club, Mid-Kentucky Kennel Club, and Doberman Pinscher Club of America.

During World War II, Mr. Haupt was a member of the 101st Airborne Division “Screaming Eagles,” whose mascot was a Boxer. A recipient of three Bronze Stars and a Purple Heart, he was part of the first wave of American soldiers to hit Omaha Beach on D-Day.

“I don’t remember the bad parts much anymore,” Mr. Haupt told his hometown paper of his military service. “I wish that we could learn by experience, but we never will. War is awful. I think of all the young men that I knew that never got to see the world as I know it. You don’t have to be as old as I am to know war is not an answer. It’s really not an answer to anything.”
The Many Faces of Political Action

At the AKC National Championship, the AKC Political Action Committee (PAC) hosted a fun initiative to raise money and awareness of the PAC’s efforts to advance dog-friendly public policy. Donors of $50 or more to the PAC who came by the PAC booth over the weekend got a caricature of themselves and their dog by renowned caricature artist Rafael Diez.

In supporting the AKC PAC, participants are taking an active role in helping protect their right to own, exhibit, and breed dogs and ensure that legislators understand that AKC dog-club members will hold their legislators responsible for laws affecting dog ownership.

The AKC Political Action Committee is a nonpartisan organization dedicated to supporting the election of leaders who support responsible dog ownership, the rights of dog owners, and the future of purebred dogs.

AKC Government Relations extends thanks to all who donated to the AKC PAC for this event. Check out the images to identify yourself and your friends—and be sure to plan to participate in 2020.

The most successful dog book ever published, with over two million copies sold, *The New Complete Dog Book* is the American Kennel Club’s bible of dogs, a celebration of every breed—over 200—recognized by the AKC. This volume offers readers:

- Official standard for every AKC-recognized breed
- Over 800 exceptional color photographs of adults and puppies
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This 22nd edition of The American Kennel Club’s *The New Complete Dog Book* belongs in every dog lover’s home, the library of every town and institution, and dog club reference section in America.

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

THIS MONTH

SPORTING GROUP

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80 Portuguese Water Dogs
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82 Samoyeds
83 Siberian Huskies
85 Standard Schnauzers
It’s a cold, crisp, bright, sunny January day. A new foot of puffy, light snow had fallen overnight on top of an icy crust. The previous week, about a foot and a half of snow had covered the ground. It had since thawed and refrozen.

Before the new fresh snow had fallen, Dewey—our 5-month-old Brittany pup—had been all legs and feet flying around and sliding on his back, unable to get his footing on the icy crust. But now with the new fallen snow, he had his footing. He could run, jump, and bury his nose, tunneling into the white, fluffy stuff.

The pup was bold. He cast up through the woods to the edge of a small field. Then Dewey stopped and began feverishly digging through the crusty snow. The pup sunk his teeth into a brown, hairy hide of what was revealed to be a whitetail deer skin—undoubtedly one left by the neighbor when he had skinned his deer near that area during the previous fall hunting season. Trash in the woods!

A few not so pleasant words were spoken. “That hide should have been buried or put in the garbage.”

Dewey shook the hide frantically back and forth. Then he stopped and looked at me as in a loud, firm voice I said, “No!” This emphatic statement was echoed two more times toward the pup across the open field. The pup turned and ran farther into the woods, dragging the hide. Dewey then stopped and looked back; nothing more was said as I began lumbering through the snow. The distance was probably half a football field.

Still holding tight to the deer hide, the pup moved back into the field. It became a game! He circled around me as the distance closed between us. The distance closed to ten or fifteen feet, with the pup circling and then dashing off to maintain the distance between us. It was a Mexican standoff. There was a brief pause as each of us waited for the other to move next. The pup dropped the hide to get a better grip, and with that, a move was made to quickly rush in and tackle the pup.

Dewey was grabbed by the nape of the neck with one hand and the loose skin on the middle of his back with the other hand; he was lifted out of the snow and shaken—not violently, just enough to bring the pup’s feet off the ground and out of the snow. At the same time, several stern “No” commands were spoken. Dewey had always known loving hands from his master; undoubtedly he was taken aback by his sudden turn of events. He yelped!

During this event, I was surprised as to how calmly the process had been. When all four feet were back on the ground, he looked up quickly and away quickly. Start of a “lesson learned.”

The deer hide was picked up, and I walked back toward the barn. Pup was called to follow. Twice stops were made and the hide placed on the snow, and pup was given a stern “No” command. Dewey had the scent and then backed away. Over the next several days, when pup was out for a run, he was brought around to the hide and tempted with its scent. The hide was then put in the garbage.

Dewey lived to be 13 years of age. He bird hunted every year but the last one. He had a “full” life—being a super family companion, and obtaining his Field Championship during an AKC event in Kentucky; in addition he spent time in the show ring, though he fell short without the majors. But when he came across scent or saw a deer, he never gave chase.

Now, groundhogs … that’s a different story.

—David A. Webb, davida webb@aol.com
American Brittany Club
cubs.akc.org/brit
BREED COLUMNS

SPORTING GROUP

Lagotto Romagnoli

Carolyn Talbert and her husband, Jim Talbert, have been involved in the Lagotto Romagnolo for nine years. Both serve the breed’s parent club—Carolyn as membership chair, and Jim as president of the Lagotto Romagnolo Club of America. Jim also serves as the AKC Delegate for the LRCA. Carolyn and Jim are also members of a local all-breed club, the Langley Kennel Club, as well as an international member of the FCI’s club Italiana Lagotto Romagnolo. Carolyn spends her weekend and evening time grooming, training, exhibiting, and traveling with their three Lagotti to earn multiple titles, both in conformation and performance events.

THE VERSATILE, PURPOSE-BRED LAGOTTO ROMAGNOLI

To be a versatile, “purpose-bred” dog, the Lagotto Romagnolo should exemplify the key characteristics of its purpose and also still personify its breed standard. While Lagotti started out as mainly an eager-retrieving water dog, once the Italian marshes were drained, the Lagotto Romagnolo easily transitioned into their new primary purpose of scent/nose-work and finding the coveted, indigenous truffle on the Italian hillsides. To be recognized as a versatility dog within the Lagotto Romagnolo Club of America is an honor that demonstrates that a Lagotto has reached premium achievement in construction, intellect, and physical ability—fulfilling his or her purpose.

GCh.S CH-R.F.K Il Granaio Dei Malatesta Adriano, CM2, BCAT, SWA, SWN, SEE, SIE, SCE, CGC, DS, DJ, DN, otherwise known as Cannoli, is one such purpose-bred Lagotto! Early on Cannoli showed promise in the conformation ring. Cannoli and his owners, Carolyn and Jim Talbert, cut their teeth in the Miscellaneous Class before the breed was fully recognized by the AKC and joined the Sporting Group. With the help of his housemate, Gelato, Cannoli quickly earned a CM2, just in time to start showing with the “big dogs” in the group.

One of the biggest early challenges was finding majors in a low-entry breed. As popularity grew, and more Lagotti started to show, Cannoli earned his AKC championship; silver grand championship; Best Dog at Crufts, in 2016; and Best Dog at the World Dog Show, in Moscow in 2016.

After Cannoli had achieved his silver grand championship, he and the Talberts turned their attention to performance events to start earning working titles. Probably the most fun was the North American Dock Diving events, where the pups and the owners all make a big splash! And without a doubt, the most rewarding has been the teamwork with his human to earn numerous scent work titles—starting with Novice, and now almost completing all titling for the Excellent levels. It has been said from several of our fellow competitors, that Lagotti are to scent/nose work what the Border Collies are to agility. The Lagotto’s innate, natural ability for scenting out the “hides”—figuring out the puzzle—and working tirelessly to find the solution is an absolute gift and joy to be at the other end of the lead of.

Hopefully the Lagotti can soon make their mark in the detection dog arena, currently in high demand throughout the U.S.

As the AKC Lagotto Romagnolo breed standard says, “The dog should give the impression that he has the strength and endurance to work all day in difficult and challenging terrain.” The honor of receiving the Lagotto Romagnolo Club of America Versatility Award Excellent certainly demonstrates this aspect of the standard.

Respectfully submitted by Carolyn D. Talbert
Lagotto Romagnolo Club of America

Nederlandse Kooikerhondjes

2020 NATIONAL SPECIALTY—“WAGGIN’ TAILS ON OREGON TRAILS”

The Nederlandse Kooikerhondje Club of the USA would like to invite you to the club’s 2020 national specialty, to be held in Albany, Oregon, on April 2–5, in the beautiful Pacific Northwest!

Our specialty judge is Mr. Wim Wellens, from the Netherlands. After judging, he’ll be doing individual dog assessments throughout the weekend, with the times to be coordinated with owners. He’ll also be bringing a special film devoted to Kooikerhondjes, which will be aired during our “movie night” for attendees on Friday. At this time Mr. Wellens will also give an explanation of the breed standard in layman’s terms, understandable for everyone, including new owners and first-time breeders.

You might ask yourself, “Why would I go to a national specialty if I don’t do conformation?”

The Chintimini Kennel Club will host three
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days of obedience and rally, and the Columbia River Agility club will have three days of agility competition indoors on dirt. Come talk about the breed, observe beautiful dogs in motion, and enjoy the beautiful countryside of the Willamette Valley. Meet your fellow Kooiker owners, share stories, and attend the annual meeting on Saturday evening. We promise there will be something for everyone!

A big thank you to everyone who supported our online specialty auction, which netted almost $1,300, and props once again to Dawn Lugo for organizing this great fundraiser. Our next auction will be in February, so start gathering your donations now—and visit the auction page on Facebook to bid on the many wonderful items!

On Thursday, April 2, the day will begin with a welcome breakfast from 7:30 to 9:30 A.M., followed by our national specialty starting at about 10 A.M. Following Best of Breed judging, the last Kooikerhondje classes in the ring will be fun and new events for our NKCUSA members. First will be the Stud Dog and Brood Bitch classes, which are standard AKC competitions. Next will be the **Kind en Hond**, a takeoff from an event at a European show we have seen in the Netherlands. In this class, children 4 to 9 years of age can enter the ring with their dog on leash and accompanied by a parent. The judge will go through the motions, but no official placements will be given. Children are encouraged to dress in traditional Dutch outfits. We will split the group into two age categories, 4 to 6 and 7 to 9 years. All entrants will earn a participation ribbon and have pictures taken with the judge.

We have also planned a judges’ education seminar with Mr. Wellens, working in conjunction with the club’s JE committee. Being from the Netherlands, he has an enormous wealth of information to offer our new judges of the breed in the U.S. The seminar will start immediately following the conclusion of national specialty judging on Thursday, April 2, but not before 1:30 P.M. There will be a theoretical section, a quick break, and then a hands-on section until approximately 5:15 P.M.

From Friday, April 3, through Sunday, April 5, will be three days of supported Kooikerhondje entries at the all-breed shows, with special prizes and rosettes offered. On Saturday, April 4, we will hold our Annual Membership Meeting and Awards Dinner. (The location will be off-site, to be announced.)

Looking for camper hook-up space at the show? For information and reservations, click here.
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For updates and more information about the 2020 NKCUSA national, visit the club’s website and Facebook page.
Start making plans to attend this epic event! Nederlandse Kooikerhondje Club of the USA
https://www.kooikerhondjeusa.org/

Pointers

Our guest columnist this month is Jenna Krucek.

INSIGHTS ON JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP

I’ve been showing dogs for almost 20 years. I started in Junior Showmanship at 10 years old with my family’s Pointer. My family and I decided to get a Pointer after learning more about the breed.

My favorite things about the Pointer are their playfulness, elegance in motion, and confidence in the ring. They are powerful, agile, graceful, alert, intelligent, and driven. Their compassionate expression is a trademark of the breed, and they are loyal and devoted to their family.

When I was 9 years old, I began going to training classes with my older brother, who was also showing in Junior Showmanship, and I learned how to show my Pointer while learning tips and tricks to make us stand out in the juniors ring.

I enjoyed traveling to shows every weekend with my family and showing Diva in juniors. Showing in juniors was one of the best experiences I’ve had in my life. I learned how to have good sportsmanship, how to respect others and their breeds, and to enjoy showing as a performance. It was a special experience I could share with my companion, as well as my family.

My Pointer and I made a great team, ranking as a Top Five Junior Handler with a Pointer in the country, and Number 1 Junior Handler in Ohio during my career. Diva and I also qualified for the AKC/Eukanuba National Championship and Westminster Kennel Club shows in Junior Showmanship competition.
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every year that we were eligible. I competed at the AKC/Eukanuba National Championship in Florida one time, and the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show in New York City three times. I met many people while traveling to shows, made friends within the Junior Showmanship community, built relationships with mentors in the breed and handlers within the organization, and continued to learn and grow at each show I attended.

After aging out of juniors, I took a break from showing to attend a university away from home, and after graduating I decided to start showing again. I met my husband while attending school, and we began traveling to shows together. He bought a Dogue de Bordeaux to show, and I bought another Pointer. My Pointer Tenlee is eager to please, very loving, and a dream to show. She has the personality of a true Pointer—she is filled with playfulness, confidence, compassion, grace, and love. She earned her championship in September 2018, and we are currently working on her grand championship.

As I worked my way back into showing with my husband, and making new friends in the Pointer world, we aspire to preserve the great qualities of the breed and breed our own Pointers in the future. —J.K.

Thank you, Jenna, and best wishes for the future!

—Helyne E. Medeiros,
seasydehm@aol.com
American Pointer Club

German Shorthaired Pointers
MY, WHAT A LOVELY COAT YOU HAVE ...

“M’y, what a lovely coat you have” … but is it functional? For the early developers of the breed, the coat was of utmost importance because they wanted an all-purpose dog that would be working in open fields, heavy brush, dense woods, water and potentially adverse weather conditions. Further, it was their desire that the breed would be handsome both in body type and coat.

With the breed referred to as Deutsch Kurzhaar because of its shorthaired coat, there was concern that the reference could be construed to mean any German breed of dog with short hair. However, it was a specific type of shorthaired coat that was wanted.

Throughout the year, the dog would be expected to work in dense, wooded areas, muddy fields, and heavy underbrush, to do water Retrieves during all types of weather conditions, and to live in the home as part of the family. It was the desired water work that led to the observation that using the otter, beaver, and polar bear coats as examples, one does not find longhaired water animals in
nature. These types of coats resisted mud and ice and protected from the harsh elements of cold wet weather.

Subsequently a short, dense hard outer coat was achieved, with a very short, dense, waterproof, oily undercoat bred in for its insulating qualities, allowing the short outer coat qualities to be retained. The hair shaft is not flat or porous, rather when rolled between the fingers will feel firm and round. While the hair found on the head and ears is shorter and softer to the hand, it has the same qualities as those on the body. Note: The undercoat reference does not mean the breed has a double coat as found in other breeds.

This short, tight coat allowed the dog to work in heavy or dense bush conditions without entanglement or picking up burrs. The coat resists ice formation and easily sheds dried mud and doesn’t mat or require trimming, making the breed easier to keep in the home.

When the comment was made to Herr Seiger, “You breed your dog too beautiful—it is too beautiful and noble for the rough work outside in the field!” Herr Seiger replied that the beauty of the dog and its coat was obtained through efficiency trial fundamentals that indicated the desired suitability they wished to attain. He further said their best working-trial Siegers, with maybe a slight exception, were identical to their most beautiful dogs in the ring. He continues in response to the remark if it was aimed at specific dogs because their short coat hair allowed their clean outline musculature and bone structure to be seen. “We are glad of having maintained this beauty, though there has been a change in the hair itself. To prevent the covering hair from becoming longer and losing in beauty, we have bred to our Shorthair an oil dense underwool that converts him into the most suitable water-dog.” (Note: “Underwool” is not indicative of a double coat, as stated earlier in the article.)

When judging the Shorthair, care should be given to coat texture and the purpose for which it was developed.

—Patte Titus,
chexsix@mac.com
German Shorthaired Pointer Club of America

Chesapeake Bay Retrievers

Nathaniel Horn wrote the following wonderful piece for this column in 2011.

PASSION FOR THE BREED

It never ceases to amaze me when fanciers reflect on the subject of their astounding passion for the Chesapeake Bay Retriever breed.

I attended a wedding this past weekend and ran into friends who had gotten their first Chesapeake about 25 years ago. The father and his son often hunted with the Chesapeake, and the mother and daughter always thoroughly enjoyed their pet and her many antics. These folks have always had only one Chesapeake at a time and recently have become owners of their third. Once having owned the breed, it was the only breed they could ever want and find suitable for their needs. They became accustomed to the idea that they have always wanted to have a Chesapeake as a member of their family.

In the mid-1940s, a couple on their honeymoon befriended a Chesapeake while on vacation. Shortly thereafter the wife received one of the breed as a very special gift from her beloved husband. That couple—my parents—became the founders of Eastern Waters...
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Chesapeakes, which is now shared by me and my siblings. I could not begin to count how many families have adored this breed and carry on the tradition over multiple generations. Over many years of showing in conformation, I have discussed experiences with judges who have had pleasant experience with the breed. The late William Kendrick befriended a Chesapeake when he was a child. Dr. Harry Smith’s father owned Chesapeakes and used them as hunting dogs. Both Mr. Kendrick and Dr. Smith always have had a special feeling toward the breed.

What is it about Chesapeakes that appeal to special people? They are a biddable breed and are individualistic, with personality; they are protective and adoring with children, comical with their famous snicker smile, playful with balls and other child toys, and loyal and loving to the owner and the family. They are proven as a fantastic hunting dog, especially in cold waters, with all-day stamina for the duck hunter. They perform well in field events, obedience, tracking, and agility. There are numerous cases of heroic rescue of children by the Chesapeake.

Chesapeakes are a hearty breed, with a typical lifespan of 13 to 14 years. The loss of the family pet is always heart wrenching, subsequent to which many families carry on with a new addition—a Chesapeake puppy. The care and rearing of the puppy is always a rewarding experience, with the milestones of the first swim, the first retrieve, and the dog-person relationship that develops so quickly.

I recall wrestling as a child with Chesapeakes on the floor, the family soccer-ball-chasing games with the dogs, the swimming events, and talking at them to get them to snicker and smile. Always lovable, they sought attention and petting, would jump up and lick you, and would just always be glad to see you when you came home. —N.H., 2011

American Chesapeake Club

Curly-Coated Retrievers

This month, Jenny Dickinson shares with us more about obedience training. Jenny says, “First I want to say that the Curly-Coated Retriever’s raw talent for learning means that challenges can be resolved.” Her column follows.

BACK TO ATTENTION

My charming 3½-year-old intact male Curly is girl crazy! We take classes at several training centers with different groups of obedience dogs, and Billy can barely contain himself around the females—all of whom are spayed. He might leave me briefly during an exercise, sniff the floor as though he were tracking, and otherwise respond to his own impulse. This became so frustrating that, instead of constantly correcting him, I stopped all the fun Open and Utility exercises and began to focus exclusively on attention!

I have the original Janice DeMello attention book, which I learned from 30 years ago with my Rottweilers. I have now gone back to using a pinch collar for the very first time while training Billy. At fist he was a little unnerved with the collar, but with big chunks of meat used to entice him, he bought right into the process (I am a very generous food provider)! I still use generous chunks of beef—not from my mouth or pocket, but from a plate just outside the ring—for a reward after each effort. Billy now takes delight in our daily practice.

We take fewer than three steps forward at this point. I am not going back to tolerating half-baked attention. I do not care how long it takes to get back to a full-length heeling routine. I know that my boy is smart and capable enough to resume his other skills when we get back to this “revision” in our process. I always go back to foundation work when I am not sure what to do. I do not think that it is ever a waste of time to work on attention. Andy Vaughn used to say that heeling is an attention exercise. I think that is right, as if attention falls apart, you have got a mess!

Billy’s challenge may be girl craziness, but I have enormous faith in my dog. The Curly
trait of enjoyment in learning makes me certain of eventual success. —J.D.

Thank you, Jenny, for sharing your valuable training ideas. Sometimes one needs to step back and use a new approach, and you have done just that!

—Ann Shinkle, annshinkle@aol.com
Curly-Coated Retriever Club of America

Golden Retrievers

There is growing concern within the dog-owning community over rescued dogs imported from Europe and other foreign countries. Many bring with them a number of highly communicable canine diseases, such as brucellosis, canine influenza, rabies, and heartworm. One young dog imported from South Korea was infected with the Asian-1 strain of canine distemper, a virus hitherto unseen in the U.S. It is suspected that the infected animal was rescued from a Korean dog meat farm, one of many that supply dog meat markets in South Korea and other Asian countries.

Thousands of dogs, purebreds as well as strays, are brutally slaughtered annually to support the dog meat industry, with Golden Retrievers among those victims. One rescue organization in Florida is working to save as many Goldens as possible from the plight of the Korean dogs.

Since 2015, the Golden Retriever Rescue of Southwest Florida (GRRSWF) has imported 44 Goldens from South Korea. Mark Dahlberg, GRRSWF international rescue coordinator, has personally picked up each of those dogs from three Florida airports. “Prior to 2015, I was unaware of the local South Korean animal rescue efforts. I did not understand the depth of the animal cruelty crisis or the dedication of those working to eradicate it.”

Mr. Dahlberg discovered those rescue efforts through a chance encounter on social media that ultimately led to almost-daily communication between Dahlberg and the South Korean rescue groups.

Some of the rescued dogs are found in situations similar to dogs here, surrendered by their owners, strays living on the streets, or barely surviving in rudimentary shelters that border on inhumane. Others are rescued from the dog-meat industry. Rescue volunteers foster as many dogs as possible, some in homes and others in kennels. All the dogs receive veterinary care while waiting for flight arrangements to the United States, and all are issued the necessary health certificates before they leave the country. Flight arrangements can take up to several months and can cost up to $1,200. GRRSWF relies heavily on donations and sponsors to meet that cost.

Upon arrival here, the dogs are transported to Angel Animal Hospital in North Naples for a complete wellness check. Once cleared, they are placed with families on the rescue waiting list.

“Many communities throughout Southwest Florida have weekly farmers markets,” Dahlberg said, “and the same is true about towns and cities in South Korea. The difference, however, is that dogs and dog meat are available in the overseas venues. The cruelty imparted on these helpless pups is beyond written description.” His hope is that through social media and the ease of international travel, “the next generation of South Koreans realize that this practice no longer has a place in the 21st century.”

GRRSWF rescue president, Alesia Griffith,
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of Estero, Florida, said that, thanks to their sponsors and donors, they have not denied any Golden or Golden mix from Florida or Korea. “Our mission is the same for dogs we rescue locally and our Korean dogs: finding exceptional homes for exceptional Golden Retrievers and Golden mixes.”

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

English Setters
THE WHOLE PICTURE

Facebook and other digital media have been a boon to dog owners and breeders in many ways. We can have immediate results from dog shows, instant win photos, and even watch some shows live. (Not to mention all of the wonderful puppy pictures and other fun photos of our English Setters that are shared.) But the digital era also has drawbacks. For instance, it’s done nothing to halt the spread of that old-time dog lovers’ curse: kennel blindness.

Kennel blindness, for those of you new to the sport of showing dogs, makes someone incapable of seeing the faults in their own dogs—though it can heighten the ability to see faults in everyone else’s dogs. It occurs in every breed and just about every dog owner and breeder falls victim to it sooner or later.

Most people recover, but some never do. They go through life happily believing that their dogs are perfect. They believe that the breed standard describes them exactly. And any time they lose in the ring, it must be due to politics or the nearsightedness of the judge. Kennel blindness is one of the reasons why dog shows are important so we can get relatively objective feedback about our dogs.

You can usually tell when someone has a case of kennel blindness. These are the folks who always speak up and say, “Oh, my special has a perfect layback. Here’s a picture.” Or, “My puppy has a gorgeous front. Here’s a picture.” And the ever-popular, “Here’s a picture of my dog moving,” though it’s hard to tell much about a moving dog from a still photo.

None of this is said to discourage anyone from posting pictures of their dogs or pointing out their good points. I had my own proud moment in the sun years ago when a judge gave my English Setter bitch Best of Breed and told every other exhibitor to come feel her layback because it was “perfect” and they should be breeding for it. I’m sure they were all thrilled. I still have the win photo up on my wall. But my dog wasn’t perfect, as much as I loved her. Her head really needed improvement, for example.

Kennel blindness does disappear for most people, especially after you have a few litters.
BREED COLUMNS

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After you identify some things you want to improve in your dogs and start hoping to find it in your new puppies, it’s amazing how critical you start to become about what you’re seeing in your dogs.

On the other hand, the folks who are forever saying, “We don’t have good ___ [fill in the blank] in English Setters anymore” really drive me crazy. Whether they single out fronts, layback, rears, or whatever, it’s such a negative view. Have they actually seen every dog being shown, or all of the dogs people are breeding?

Some people also forget that not all of the dogs in the good old days exemplified the breed standard. When we see pictures of dogs from the 1930s, ’40s, and ’50s (many of them thanks to ESAA historian Carl Sillman), we are usually seeing the most outstanding dogs of the times. It’s easy to forget that there were plenty of dogs who didn’t make it to the show ring or the field. There were ES even back then which didn’t measure up.

I think the truth about English Setters today probably lies somewhere between the people who have kennel blindness and the folks who think the breed is lacking compared to dogs of the past. Every breed is always a bit like a work of art, still in the process of creation. English Setters were not a finished breed in the 1870s when they were accepted into the AKC, nor in the 1930s when our parent club was formed. They weren’t completed in the 1960s, when the Guys n’ Dolls dogs with their great bodies and the beautiful, typey dogs of Clairiho were around. They’re not completed today. They will still be changing and evolving, even within the breed standard, for years to come. It’s up to us to make sure they stay true to what they should be. We always say that there are no perfect dogs, so the perfect English Setter has yet to be born.

—Carlotta Cooper, esbever@embarqmail.com

English Setter Association of America

Gordon Setters

THE POWER OF YOUR VOICE

Learning the songs to sing: Know the power of your voice.

Use it wisely and lovingly, not as a weapon.

Time to dust off my puppy-training skills. I now have a new, homebred puppy.

The first thing a puppy owner, whether new or seasoned, should ask is, “What do I want to train this puppy (or adult dog) to do?” There are myriad answers. The categories include: to show; to do performance (such as field trials, hunt tests, personal hunting, or obedience, rally, agility, or tracking); to do search-and-rescue; and/or to be a family friend and household pet.

No matter what you decide, it will require training. The building blocks of the training foundation are three simple commands, and ones that can save the pup’s life: learning his name, to immediately come when called, and learning what “no” really means (which in and of itself covers myriad other things).

Housetraining and other important “living lessons” are vital but not lifesaving.

The most important training tool is your voice. Your voice can alarm; it can soothe; it can be threatening; it can be harsh and commanding in times of life-threatening crisis, when a command must be followed; and it can be gentle and loving.

“Voice” is defined as the sounds humans make with our larynx, which covers a seemingly infinite number of choices. It is also defined as the ability to make musical sounds,
or songs. Our challenge is to learn to make the right sounds at the appropriate time, and to “sing” the right songs to our puppies or adult dogs using clear, consistent, calm, and loving words to the “songs” (or commands).

Gordons are a mystifying combination of stubbornness (true to their Scottish heritage) and softness, these sensitivities requiring a “velvet glove” training approach. Gordons live to please their person. If their person uses her voice as a scolding/punishing tool, it can have terribly negative affects. Conversely, using your voice to praise/soothe/love has rewarding results. Using it for corrections, if done properly, is very affective—we are singing the right songs. Using it for harsh punishment can have long-lasting, disastrous ramifications. A Gordon can totally shut down if the owner’s “song” is too harsh. Gordons have long memories, can hold a grudge, and do not forgive being deeply hurt. Training commands delivered with an angry, yelling, loud, and/or mean voice meant to intimidate, along with accompanying words. They will be “the wind beneath your wings”—songs to share with your pup that will last a lifetime, and perhaps could even save his life.

—Carolyn R. Gold, spellbound24gold@gmail.com
Gordon Setter Club of America

Irish Setters
HEALTH AND GENETICS
Tomorrow’s breeder will have many more tools than breeders of just a few years ago. Rather than make things simpler, this will make things more complex. Breeders must acquire a thorough working knowledge of genetics and modes of inheritance while retaining the knowledge of breed type and purpose. Preservation breeders want to present the most physically healthy specimen to the fancy, but that physical specimen must also carry forward the instantly recognizable persona of the Irish Setter.

Most of the fancy has grasped the ramifications of breeding of simple autosomal recessives. Most understand that a carrier bred to a carrier will produce an affected animal. But work presented at the most recent AKC Canine Health Foundation Conference shows that breeders must understand the subtler nuances of genetics going forward and must work to preserve as wide a genetic pool as is possible within the confines of purebred dogs. Collins (and Shelties, to a lesser extent) find themselves in a position where a multifactorial autoimmune disease, dermatomyositis, which is subject to 27 combinations of three chromosomes, nine of which contribute to high risk for the disease is extremely difficult to breed away from. Collies are essentially painted into a corner as they try to incorporate the safer combinations due to the prevalence of “bad” combinations. To avoid a similar situation, it is important that all stakeholders—that means every person putting a dog and bitch together who expect to produce purebreds—engage in health and genetic testing that is available.

The important corollary to this is that breeders understand what the tests mean when there is a normal, affected, or carrier outcome, and that a less than optimal outcome does not mean that dog is immediately out of the gene pool.

The answer to the PRA test was to eliminate every carrier from the gene pool. We are only just beginning to understand the ramifications in terms of limiting our genetic diversity. We can restore some diversity within the confines of the breed by seeking out purebreds from other countries and from other divisions, if you will—that is, field bred. This will only work, however, if these participants also agree to fully participate in genetic and health screening. “It doesn’t happen in ______ lines” is not an acceptable excuse for not screening.

Additionally, science marches forward in our understanding of many health concerns, as was demonstrated at the conference. As in humans, the importance of the gut biome in both overall health and temperament issues...
was demonstrated by several speakers. The gut biome is very susceptible to not only antibiotics, but also to many common wormers used on our dogs. Analysis of the gut biome will affect treatment in the future, as well as affect the daily life of our dogs.

Probiotics on a routine basis do show evidence of real benefit, with different species of probiotics showing different effects.

Other dietary concerns brought up at the conference are the very real, but still undetermined reasons for the effect that grain-free diets are having on dogs. In a clinical setting, vets are seeing dogs with no history of cardiac problems negatively impacted—and, if caught early enough, they are also seeing regression of heart disease through discontinuing the diet. To quote a researcher, “We know something is causing it, we just aren’t sure what.” Boutique diets should be considered a choice not without consequence.

One other diet note is that cannabinoid therapy for seizure-prone dogs will likely become widespread as science marches forward.

In addition there are studies linking cancers to vector born pathogens, as well as advances in the dreaded scourge hemangiosarcoma.

It is our veterinarian’s responsibility to stay abreast of medical breakthroughs, in terms of both cause and resolution. It is our responsibility as breeders to make sure that our continuing education reflects current science in genetics joined with the knowledge to preserve the type and purpose of our breed so that the result is a healthy, vibrant representative of the standard.

Mary Lamphier, erinfyr@gmail.com
Irish Setter Club of America

Our guest columnist is Ronald Larsen (Coventry). Ron was the AKC GAZETTE’s Clumber Spaniel columnist from 1978 to 1984—when it still enjoyed existence as a print publication. Ron’s January 1979 column addresses a timeless problem all dog people have to face. I am still haunted by my vet’s question: “Are you keeping him alive for him, or for you?”

THAT FINAL, AGONIZING DECISION

I realized his discomfort was turning into acute pain, and a decision would soon have to be made. Countless dog owners face the same decision. It may face you before you expect it. What is the best way to make such a decision? Is there a best way? At what point do you show compassion by ending a life?

We did what we could to minimize his pain. The vet made the situation clear, but carefully avoiding what had to be my decision alone. Thinking back, I’m struck by the fact that he

Clumber Spaniels

Our guest columnist is Ronald Larsen (Coventry). Ron was the AKC GAZETTE’s Clumber Spaniel columnist from 1978 to 1984—when it still enjoyed existence as a print publication. Ron’s January 1979 column addresses a timeless problem all dog people have to face. I am still haunted by my vet’s question: “Are you keeping him alive for him, or for you?”

THAT FINAL, AGONIZING DECISION

I realized his discomfort was turning into acute pain, and a decision would soon have to be made. Countless dog owners face the same decision. It may face you before you expect it. What is the best way to make such a decision? Is there a best way? At what point do you show compassion by ending a life?

We did what we could to minimize his pain. The vet made the situation clear, but carefully avoiding what had to be my decision alone. Thinking back, I’m struck by the fact that he
never used terms such as “pain” or “suffering.” He confined his remarks to facts—to medical data, not mental states.

I have reflected on the vet’s approach as I have on the entire problem. I desperately wished he would help me decide either by implication or by direct suggestion. He could have referred to the dog’s pain, thus making it easier. He could have emphasized the possibility, however remote, that medication would eliminate or minimize the problem, thus encouraging me to hold on to him a bit longer. My vet did neither. I felt he was avoiding the issue, and I resented that. With the perspective of time, however, I realize he was not avoiding the problem (one that was after all mine and not his). He was simply meeting his obligations both ethical and professional.

Your vet may do differently, may intentionally or accidentally influence your decision. Bear in mind however—before, during, and after—that it is your decision to make. It is you who must use all the facts and opinions, you who must form your own conclusion.

Finally my decision was made. I made the necessary arrangements, and having long agonized over the decision, I found them surprisingly easy to make, almost routine. Bathing and grooming was not very different than if he were going to a show, rather than soon going to his death.

But upon arriving at the vet’s office, things changed abruptly. My detached objectivity disintegrated. My cool, dispassionate attitude crumbled. I was seized by doubt, remorse, and—worst of all—guilt. I became only too aware of my deep attachment. The realization robbed me of control over both self and situation.

Is this anything more than a very personal and sentimental story being told? I hope so. I have a serious message for you.

Every dog owner has eventually to face this loss. Many will face the agonizing decision of when, not whether, to put a dog down. At what point is it best to act, to be humane, and to end the life of a creature for whom there is a deep emotional attachment? Only you can make that decision, and you must be prepared to do so. You must be prepared to live with your decision, as your dog will live or die by it. The emotional attachment you have may cause you to wait too long, to prolong needlessly your dog’s suffering.

We all tend to rationalize and delay the inevitable. Part of us—a selfish part—tends to cling to futile hope and blind us to the dog’s real condition. Because of emotion, our objectivity and our reason grow fuzzy, and we may act, or fail to act, with unintended cruelty. But don’t misunderstand. Emotions are vital and valuable; they are, after all, largely responsible for the joy and satisfaction we derive from our dogs. Remorse over losing a dog is an integral part of the love we had for it. While they are essential and valuable, emotions must be managed if we are to be humane toward a deteriorating dog.

How do you manage emotions? Generations of mankind have struggled to answer that question, but only general guides are available. They are guides, however, that will ease your task of deciding the fate of an ailing dog.

First, take time to analyze your own feelings, attitudes, and values with respect to the dogs you love. Weigh your concern for their welfare against your regard for life. Try to draw some conclusion: When, in your opinion, does the quantity of life (short or long) lose meaning compared to the quality of life? You may tend to think with your heart alone (emotionally) rather than with a balance of heart and head. Do this analysis now—while you have both time and presence of mind to do it clearly.

Second, expect the unexpected. Even with forethought and preparation, you may
BREED COLUMNS

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encounter surprises when the time for decision comes. The situation may be unforeseen, or it may be your reaction to the situation that surprises you. Try to anticipate many possibilities and lay some tentative plans for each. Then, adapt your tentative plans to the unexpected. In short, decide on “what-to-do-if”—but keep it flexible.

Third, recognize that two of you are making the decision—your rational self and your emotional self—and that the two of you might fight each other. Without forethought and analysis, your emotional self is almost bound to win, and that is not necessarily in the best interests of either you or your dog. Keep yourselves in balance throughout; give each of you a fair hearing.

Finally (and this is something that we are only now learning) express whatever grief you may feel. Let it out; don’t feel guilty or ashamed or less of a person for expressing grief in whatever way is appropriate. It is just as natural, legitimate, and healthy to show grief as it is to show love. We have recently learned that this full expression of grief results in a far better adjustment over the long term. Be preparing now, even though the need may seem to be years away. You will strengthen your ability to handle the decision when it must be made. You will increase your ability to cope with the loss. The mourning won’t be so painful. The doubt won’t be so haunting. The guilt won’t be so punishing. You will be able to cherish the memory of a loved companion with far more pleasure. —R.L.

Thank you, thank you, thank you, Ron.

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

Cocker Spaniels

SUBSTANCE IN THE COCKER SPANIEL

The second section in the official Cocker Spaniel breed standard is entitled “Size, Proportion, Substance.” Reading through this section, I note detailed coverage and information on Cocker Spaniel dogs and bitches as to size, as well as measurement to determine size. This is all very important because later in the standard, in the final section, you will find, under the “Disqualifications” section, the disqualification for height over a certain measurement for a male, and over a certain measurement for a female.

However, in our section “Size, Proportion, Substance,” I find not one other use of the word “substance.” Nor is the word “substance” used ever again in the standard. It is just as natural, legitimate, and healthy to show grief as it is to show love. We have recently learned that this full expression of grief results in a far better adjustment over the long term.

Be preparing now, even though the need may seem to be years away. You will strengthen your ability to handle the decision when it must be made. You will increase your ability to cope with the loss. The mourning won’t be so painful. The doubt won’t be so haunting. The guilt won’t be so punishing. You will be able to cherish the memory of a loved companion with far more pleasure. —R.L.

Thank you, thank you, thank you, Ron.

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

The “General Appearance” section of the standard, being the very first section, yields the term sturdy used in the sentence, reading in part, “He has a sturdy, compact body …” Later in the same section there is another reference that could pertain to substance, in which the term strong is used: “He stands well up at the shoulder on straight forelegs with a
topline sloping slightly toward strong, moderately bent, muscular quarters.” The words “strong” and “muscular” certainly imply substance.

Even in the standard’s section pertaining to the head, you find the language “the muzzle is broad and deep, with square, even jaws.” This language would indicate a sturdy dog with substance. The subsection on teeth says, “Teeth strong and sound, not too small and meet in a scissors bite.” This language again gives the impression of a sturdy dog with substance. The subsection on teeth says, “Teeth strong and sound, not too small and meet in a scissors bite.” This language again gives the impression of a sturdy dog with substance.

The “Neck, Topline, Body” section has references to that which would imply substance: The neck is described as “muscular,” and “rises strongly from the shoulders.” The topline subsection again mentions muscular quarters (implying substance). The subsection on body says, “The chest is deep … Ribs are deep and well sprung. Back is strong …” These references can indicate substance.

The “Forequarters” section says, “Forelegs are parallel, straight, strong boned and muscular…the pasterns are short and strong.” This description denotes a dog with substance. The “Hindquarters” section says: “Hips are wide and quarters well rounded and muscular…The hind legs are strongly boned, and muscular with moderate angulation at the stifles and powerful, clearly defined thighs. The stifle is strong … The hocks are strong and well let down.” These descriptions evoke the idea of substance, rather than a weedy dog with weak construction.

The “Gait” section speaks of a strong dog, saying, “He drives with strong, powerful rear quarters,” and it mentions that there should be a driving force from the rear that needs to be counterbalanced with proper forward, unconstricted reach.

So, although one of the sections in the standard is in part entitled “Substance,” and that is the only use of the word “substance” in the standard, I believe there are many references in that document which enable you to build a vivid mental picture of a Cocker Spaniel with “substance.”

—Kristi L. Tukua
American Spaniel Club

English Cocker Spaniels
A VINTAGE COLUMN FROM JESSIE DIKE

Miss Jessie M. Dike, of Dicroft English Cockers, began in the breed when as a young woman working overseas for the American Red Cross in England during World War II she managed to get a long-wished-for spaniel puppy. When the war ended, she managed to bring “Sissy” back to America with her on board the Queen Elizabeth. (“Her passage
Maxwell travelled over most of the British Isles, much of the European continent, visiting museums, libraries, studying famous books and tapestries and finally visiting many of today’s breeders. From out of this vast amount of material, Mrs. Maxwell discusses each breed with fine attention to what is known of its development and what it has become today. “Along the way she brings out often startling facts, such as the big part some of the Hound and Working Breeds have played in the development of the Sporting Dog. Some breeds particularly, such as the Pointer and the Irish Setter, owe much to the early Hounds rather than the Setting Spaniel as is commonly believed.

“The amount of research done by Mrs. Maxwell in preparing to write this book quite takes one’s breath away. In her search for the uncertain beginnings of many breeds, Mrs. Maxwell travelled over most of the British Isles, much of the European continent, visiting museums, libraries, studying famous books and tapestries and finally visiting many of today’s breeders. From out of this vast amount of material, Mrs. Maxwell discusses each breed with fine attention to what is known of its development and what it has become today. “Along the way she brings out often startling facts, such as the big part some of the Hound and Working Breeds have played in the development of the Sporting Dog. Some breeds particularly, such as the Pointer and the Irish Setter, owe much to the early Hounds rather than the Setting Spaniel as is commonly believed.

The book is divided into the various categories, i.e., Spaniels, Setters, Retrievers, etc. Herein are found the familiar breeds as we know them plus those that, although recognized by the AKC, are rarely seen in our rings. To these are added some totally unknown breeds which are familiar in other countries. Thus we read about a longhaired German Sporting Utility breed with the tongue twister name of Kleinemunsterlander, which for the uninitiated suggests a Spaniel but is not a Spaniel. Within these categories, the author makes some changes in discussing the breeds, exercising, as she says, the author’s privilege. The Irish Water Spaniel, then, is listed with the Retrievers since ‘long ears he does have, but his occupational are not Spaniel. Nor is his temperament. Nor is his coat pattern, he with his topknot and the all-round clothing of his forelegs. his tail is not Spaniel.’ The English Pointer stands alone following the section on Setters and preceding the Retrievers, and one finds the Shorthairs, the Wirehairs, the rare Wirehaired Pointing Griffon, the Vizla and the Weimeraner at the end of the book after a short chapter on European Sporting Utility Breeds.

“Fortunately for us, dogs were often pictured throughout the ages in many ways, and in the magnificent Devonshire Tapestries woven in Flanders in the 1400s the author points out that the picturization of the Setting Spaniel working for the falconer may seem to depict a perfect little setter. And again, the frontispiece of a book written in 1575 depicts a falconer using a brace with like body qualities and feather, but with heads that had by then become remarkably like a Brittany Spaniel’s.

“The book is divided into the various categories, i.e., Spaniels, Setters, Retrievers, etc. Herein are found the familiar breeds as we know them plus those that, although recognized by the AKC, are rarely seen in our rings. To these are added some totally unknown breeds which are familiar in other countries. Thus we read about a longhaired German Sporting Utility breed with the tongue twister name of Kleinemunsterlander, which for the uninitiated suggests a Spaniel but is not a Spaniel. Within these categories, the author makes some changes in discussing the breeds, exercising, as she says, the author’s privilege. The Irish Water Spaniel, then, is listed with the Retrievers since ‘long ears he does have, but his occupational are not Spaniel. Nor is his temperament. Nor is his coat pattern, he with his topknot and the all-round clothing of his foreleg. his tail is not Spaniel.’ The English Pointer stands alone following the section on Setters and preceding the Retrievers, and one finds the Shorthairs, the Wirehairs, the rare Wirehaired Pointing Griffon, the Vizla and the Weimeraner at the end of the book after a short chapter on European Sporting Utility Breeds.

“To those of us interested in English Cocker Spaniels, the chapter on this breed holds much of interest, including many pictures, but one moves on to the other chapters with equal interest and reads with fascination the development of each breed through the devious plans of man as he breeds a dog that will best suit his needs—to hunt, to retrieve, to flush, to point—to work on water and on land, in cover, and in the open—and, of course, to show—the Sporting Dog. You’ll find this book hard to lay down.

“We are happy to report the rising of a new...
BREED COLUMNS

SPORTING GROUP

star on the Group Front this month adding one Sporting Group First, one Second and Two Fourth placements in a rather short space of time to the achievements of our breed for the year. He is Betty Batcheldor’s dark blue Ch. On Time Lucy’s Ben. He was bred of course, by the Pragers and is shown by Terry Stacey. Bonnie Proctor reports that Rabbit (Roth, Tustin and Proctor) has won his seventh Group for the year and by the grapevine we hear that he also took the Breed both days at Philadelphia and Camden and went on to Group Two at the latter show. Very late comes the news that Beth McKinney’s Ch. Paganhill Commander in Chief has two Group Three placings, but I do not have the shows.

“New titlists for the month are Linden Hill Widgeon finishing at Philadelphia (owner’s name missing—will report next month), On Time Julie’s Burt (Cushman) finishing at Antelope Valley with four Majors, and Squier’s Positive Flash (Squire) taking title at Mansfield, Ohio. To add to these, Sharon Moore reports that her Ch. Harwell Manor Blue Chip Stock took his Bermuda Championship by winning the Breed all four days. Last, but not least, we have Gerry Waldstein’s Wecturian Phoebe Forest Rock placing Second in Novice B with a score of 181 for her first leg. Congratulations to all these dogs and their proud owners Next month join me for news of the annual American Spaniel Club Show.” —Jessie M. DiKe, Dicroft, Rd. 2, Butler, PA [February 1973]

English Cocker Spaniel Club of America

English Springer Spaniels

YOUR DOG’S BOWL: WHAT’S IN THERE?

“What do you feed your dog?” Ask that question in a room full of dog lovers and prepare to be astonished by how seriously and with great diligence dog people research foods, supplements, and feeding practices. When I posed feeding questions to nearly 25 dog owners, the response was dramatic, and the information shared was varied and thought provoking.

There was a long discussion over grain-free versus non grain-free foods. Most people feed grain free, but a small percentage were very worried by recent articles on dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM) increases in dogs who ate grain-free kibble. Several people pointed out that later articles suggest that the few studies that caused recent DCM anxiety may have been very small studies and may have concentrated on breeds with a high incidence of cardiac concerns. Like any medical concern, changes made regarding health and nutrition need to be discussed with our veterinarian.
BREED COLUMNS

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Internet searches at many veterinary school websites will yield valid scientific information. For a very helpful article about DCM and dog food, click here.

“Do you feed kibble wet or dry?” Those who let their kibble soak for a while to absorb liquid did so due to their concerns related to bloat (gastric dilatation, or GD, and gastric dilatation and volvulus, GDV). They believe the dog feels more full with the soaked food and had less tendency to lap up lots of water after the meal. Nearly everyone added some liquid to food, even if just enough to moisten supplements added. Lots of people add bone broth, either made fresh in their slow cooker, or purchased. Bone broth recipes are easily found with an internet search. Encouraging a bit of quiet time right after eating was common. Bloat was definitely a strong cause for concern among Springer fanciers and the experiences shared were all heart breaking. A few interviewees had dogs saved with surgery and the surgeon had tacked the stomach down as a preventive measure to prevent bloat. A veterinarian can explain why supplementing with an optimal renal system function.

Almost everyone interviewed added one or more supplements. Most added a fish oil/Omega 3 supplement, choosing from specially formulated canine products like Wellactin, to high-quality, human-grade salmon oil. A sardine a few times a week, rather than an oil supplement, was another option for those worried about heavy metal contamination in fish oil products made from larger, longer-lived fish. A veterinarian can explain why supplementing with an optimal ratio of Omega 3 to Omega 6 is important. Just because a small supplement is healthful does not mean that giving a larger amount, or guessing the optimal amount, of anything we feed our dogs is safe. Never give your dog a supplement, herb, or food just because someone with a great-looking dog raves about results with their dog. Do your own research. Talk to your allopathic and holistic veterinarian/s for guidance.

Immune-support supplements containing probiotics, prebiotics, amino acids, vitamins, minerals, herbs and other nutraceuticals were often added to meals. Nature’s Farmacy.com was a frequent source cited by interviewees for supplements. Many veterinarians sell supplement products that they recommend.

Pain relief for orthopedic conditions and supplements to relieve anxiety were added to many dogs’ meals. These supplements included CBD and hemp products, hydrolyzed fish proteins, rice carbohydrates, green tea extract, tryptophan, omega-3, l-theanine, and others. Try an internet search on “calming, dogs” to research these products.

Supplements for eye health, coat quality and whelping support were reported. When it comes to helping dogs live longer, healthier lives most dog fanciers think of costs last and put the dogs’ health and vigor first. Those same people wouldn’t have it any other way. —Sarah A. Ferrell, saf@abrahameal.com English Springer Spaniel Field Trial Association

Field Spaniels “DOGHACKS”: TIPS TO MAKE YOUR LIFE AS A DOG PERSON EASIER

We are all looking for ways to make life easier—notice how popular Pinterest ideas and YouTube videos for “lifehacks” have become. Living with Field Spaniels has taught me to create some easy shortcuts as a dog owner as far as general care and maintenance, and at shows and trials it is not uncommon to see dog people ogling each other’s setups and unique vehicle configurations to get ideas.

I am seldom without leads, collars, clips and carabiners to make management and organization a breeze, and holders for poop bags and treats are commonplace. As we rethink ways to help us in dogs, necessity is the mother of invention. We create solutions to keep our furry friends cooler, warmer, safer, healthier, cleaner, less smelly and hairy, and more stylish. We make training and showing more efficient and find ways to make home and kennel more pleasant and livable.

Around the rings, I envy the efficient ways around the rings, I envy the efficient ways —Sarah A. Ferrell, saf@abrahameal.com English Springer Spaniel Field Trial Association —Sarah A. Ferrell, saf@abrahameal.com English Springer Spaniel Field Trial Association around the rings, I envy the efficient ways...
vans, using everything from countertop material to reusing old drawers to create space underneath the crates that we haul dogs in. Not only is this smart for saving space, it helps us to train and travel on the go with the necessary equipment. Converting end-tables and cabinetry into stylish home crates that double as furniture is the stuff of intrigue. I am jealous of folks with sewing talent who create fabulous dog gear, as well as the industrious types who up-cycle pallet skids and other things to make amazing dog bedding and furniture.

We may have moved away from using heavy old tack-boxes and crates in favor of lightweight yet durable containment, but we are always improving materials and usage to suit our endeavors. Those old wooden carriers for the scent articles used in the Utility obedience classes make adorable trinket shelves and awards displays now!

We live in a world of interactive toys and dog puzzles, mechanisms to slow down a dog’s eating (for this you can cheaply add a billiard ball, rock, or other obstacle to his dish, or spread his meals out in a muffin tin or on a cookie sheet), gear to protect and aid canine healing and rehabilitation, and various tools to make life easier.

Beside the usual stuffing Kongs and making food-puzzle balls to stimulate our dogs, try freezing some big treats this summer in rubber tubs or plastic buckets for amazing outdoor busy toys that will also hydrate. I toss in treats, durable toys, and even a splash of broth to create an enticing big, icy “pupsicle.”

Tips on the merits of baking soda, old squeeze-bottles, cleaning safely with vinegar, even modifying clothing for use with dogs abound on the internet. We can find numerous treat and bait recipes that are healthy and low-cost and easy to bake or freeze.

The same can be said for homemade cleaners, liquid and shampoos (and de-skunk using things like peroxide, baking soda, Dawn dish soap), even breath fresheners!

As a carryover from the world of agility, I have found that PVC is an indispensable material for building and organizing things. A tall locker cabinet with tension rods became a great collar display and training-equipment storage.

Dog people are masters at packing and storage solutions. Home-improvement stores, hardware stores, and lumberyards are our havens. Craft shops and grocery stores offer solutions as well, and I tend to scour thrift shops for ideas and items that will be put to use for such canine comfort.

Hopefully we fanciers have all learned the simple value in stashing cupboard staples like canned pumpkin (which aids in relieving diarrhea and constipation), using basic first-aid helpers like hydrogen peroxide and styptic...
BREED COLUMNS

SPORTING GROUP

powder, and keeping an aloe vera plant to safely help heal cuts.

I find that cheap polar-fleece remnants make for lots of hacks—they make easy washable bedding, cut into strips and braided they make great tug-toys, and they are great for car and hotel travel.

Squeegees, rubber gloves, and lint brushes make for great hair cleanup. Binder clips are useful for many things beyond paper. And who among us has not used a leash for something other than leading a dog?

Plastic-bottle toys and waterers can be safely created; you can find 101 things to do with a box; and the apple cider vinegar, cornmeal, dryer sheets, old towels, garbage bags, and pillowcases get put to good use.

Our Field Spaniels (and other drop-eared breeds) are known for their food and water habits, and so we use everything from having them wear hair scrunchies and snoods to anchoring deep water bowls with cement blocks to aid with those issues. My vehicle and bags are always host to loop-leashes, dog treats, and plastic bags that can be handy in emergencies.

What “doghacks” help you on the road and in the kennel? We are always on the lookout to improve this grand life with dogs …

The next time you come up with a creative canine hack or notice something new at the shows, e-mail me, and we’ll share in a future column!

—Shannon Rodgers
shannonrogers@gmail.com
Field Spaniel Society of America

Irish Water Spaniels

Dan Sayers wrote the following for this column in 2010, and the message so eloquently put forth is unfortunately as needed now as it was then.

BREED RESCUE

During a lunch with coworkers the other day, our receptionist indicated that she and her fiancé were discussing the possible addition of a puppy to their new family. Barbara’s family had Goldens growing up, and she wanted her first very own dog to be one of these extraordinarily companionable Retrievers.

My thought upon hearing this was that hers was an informed decision, since she was already experienced with the breed and its social, physical, and grooming requirements. Of all the dogs available to her, this outgoing young lady would be hard-pressed to find a more suitable companion (other than her soon-to-be husband, of course).

So I was somewhat perplexed by the response from a few of the people sitting at the lunch
table. Jason and Naomi asked in unison why Barbara wouldn’t rescue a shelter dog instead. Their tone was somewhat accusatory, inferring that an otherwise perfectly suitable dog would be sentenced to death if she acquired her dog from any other source. How much more noble, they proposed, would it be for Barbara to actually save a life, as opposed to merely adopting a dog—or, heaven forbid, buying it? The whole conversation seemed less focused on providing a dog with a good home than it did with the desire to see that someone else does the politically correct thing.

Our impromptu exchange that afternoon got me to thinking about what the word rescue means and how it relates to those of us who are committed to the health and welfare of purebred dogs. Over the past two decades, the breed parent clubs have formally organized their own rescue groups. Depending on the breed, either the rescue is called into action only sporadically, or it has been all but overwhelmed by the volume of dogs in need of care and rehoming. Through a network of cross-country volunteers, these clubs have time and again answered the call for any dog in distress, no matter the circumstances that caused its situation to become dire. Monies used to facilitate a rescue are raised through private contributions and through often-innovative events that accompany specialty shows and various functions held throughout the year. Although the a given parent-club’s focus is always primarily on that club’s specific breed, very often a dog that resembles the breed in question benefits directly from the hands-on action and none-too-deep pockets of club members.

What if it were possible to rescue more than just individuals, however? What if complete families or even entire communities could be rescued? Well, this is precisely the role of the very best breeders of purebred dogs. With every thoughtfully planned litter, tested for physical and mental soundness and carefully placed in homes that last each dog’s lifetime, breeders are literally “rescuing” their breeds from oblivion. This is as true for the Golden Retriever as it is for the Irish Water Spaniel, for without breeders’ clear understanding of and adherence to the standard, any breed is vulnerable to disappearing. Visionary breeders understand that our dog breeds are more than simply commodities to be salvaged by the well-intentioned. They are a living testament to the incredible journey that both our species share together, and their existence is every bit as worthy of being rescued.

The next time you hear it suggested that the rescued dog is the only dog to get, please don’t hesitate to let the speaker know that you’ve been voluntarily rescuing an entire breed for a long, long time. —Dan Sayers, 2010

Irish Water Spaniel Club of America

Sussex Spaniels
SAVING THE SUSSEX

The Sussex Spaniel is a wonderful, rare, low-entry, golden-liver breed that has always and still does need our club and our breeders to continue to thrive. We love and treasure our dogs. We breed with care.

The Sussex Spaniel is doing better, in the last few years, than it ever has before. Still, however, we had only 34 puppies registered last year. Now the breeders of Sussex Spaniels and other breeds have a name—a good name. Possibly a great name. We are preservation breeders. We are dedicated to preserving and promoting our breed or breeds. But for now let us concentrate on the Sussex.

I encourage everyone to go to the AKC website and watch the video presentation given to the Delegates at a recent meeting. It was an excellent presentation done by Doug Johnson and Bill Shelton (Corgis). They explained how the AR movement has publicized their movement of not breeding and purebred elimination. They pointed out how many litters each of them have had in the last year. How much they have helped their chosen breeds, and how much the fancy has lost due to the death of a top breeder of Dandie Dinmonts. In a low-numbered breed such as Dandies or Sussex, loss of one successful breeder can make a terrible difference in the breed.
After you watch that video, please start thinking about this: I am suggesting an additional microchip protocol. My suggestion is that for, especially, low-volume breeds and vulnerable breeds—both designations for Sussex—the AKC Reunite make a small addition. Can we not add a certain combination of letters to all our new microchip numbers? Perhaps “PB” for Preservation Breed?

If a dog with a PB in its registered microchip is scanned in a lost or shelter or vet situation, we could publicize and stress that a dog with this designation that is intact should never be neutered or put to sleep without proof that the person presenting the dog is the actual owner. If the owner cannot be found, could the breed club then be called? So many purebred dogs have been stolen (in one way or another) and destroyed or neutered in the last few years.

Much publicity would need to be done to educate vets and shelters and Reunite telephone people to this. The telephone people would have to be very much up to the mark.

Could this be a way to help preservation breeders? We are good people and to many, breeders are now considered evil. We need to change this perspective.

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

Welsh Springer Spaniels
WSSCA 60TH ANNIVERSARY IN 2021

The Welsh Springer Spaniel Club of America will celebrate its 60th anniversary in 2021. We are gearing up for a celebration of the club and its beginnings at our national specialty in May of next year.

It was on Tax Day of 1961 that a letter was sent to WSS fanciers in the United States by James P. Parker. He suggested meeting to begin the formation of a club to be known as the Welsh Springer Spaniel Club of America. That first meeting took place in October of...
were sponsored by well-known breeders the top-scoring Welsh Springer bitch. These cups—Obedience Cup, and the Olympian Cup for and others at our annual membership meeting the WSSCA Board: the Cicero Gus Pferds and the Prestons, respectively. In a nod Springers had achieved AKC championships. 

Certificates were gained by a Welsh Springer owned by WSSCA Corresponding Secretary Lori Hatz. Two years later, 29 Welshies were judged by Jeannette G. Brady. Look where we are today! Roughly 400 people are members of WSSCA. We hold a national specialty and annual membership meeting every year. Most years also feature a regional specialty, and there are several supported entries scattered around the country. Welsh Springers compete in virtually every aspect of performance as well as conformation. We all look forward to the day that the sight of a dozen Welsh Springers outside the ring doesn’t prompt a joke from the steward asking if this is a specialty. (“Ha ha,” not!) Welshies are huge favorites at AKC Meet The Breeds events each year, and our innovative booth, allowing for lots of dog/public interaction has won several awards.

That’s some big changes since 1961. If you’ve been married for 60 years, you’re celebrating your “Diamond Anniversary.” With this in mind, our National Specialty 2021 trophies will all feature “diamonds.” Don’t be looking to sell a trophy to pay your mortgage, though; these will be shiny and look like diamonds, but will really be crystals. Come and celebrate with us in Hendersonville, North Carolina, in May 2021. There’s a “diamond” in it for you …

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

Welsh Springer Spaniel Club of America

Spinoni Italiani

NURTURE AND NATURE

I haven’t mentioned our Spinone “Pearl” in this column before. As a young pup her daring athleticism both amazed and concerned us. On walks, our more mature dogs seldom had to wait for her because of dallying or trouble negotiating difficult terrain. She would just make it through thick and thin. I worried about her joints taking the strain. Because any nearby game scent was quickly found by her elders, Pearl took her own independent path rather than follow along. Her hunting range soon expanded to exceed theirs—and often mine.

In the house, she was sensitive and deferential. In the show ring, her lovely expression and floating trot led to champion status quickly. I called her “the colonel” because of her beautiful beard and mustache, but we decided that with her short body coat she was not likely to win at more important events. So with help from mentors, she became our hunt specialist, watchdog, and pace dog on pack walks, still going strong at age 10.

Pearl came from our own repeat breeding, which was our largest litter ever. And she was different in many ways from her full older sister, Ruby, of the first litter. Coat, temperament, and hunt style were all uniquely hers. This didn’t surprise us, as they weren’t line-bred, and that huge litter size had changed many of our and our bitch’s routines for care and training. It did, however, introduce us to two common themes that must dominate many breeders’ private musings: Were these variations of nurture, or nature? If nature, what lay behind the variations and characteristics we experienced?

We did our best on the nurture front. My wife had grown up with well-cared-for and long-lived dogs and had bred a few litters of kittens. Before we got our first Spinone, we had marginally trained but healthy family dogs. We were lucky with vets and other mentors, and we talked with all the Spinone people we could to uncover any special breed tips. Most everyone talked freely about such things then. My medical training made reading and understanding canine literature fairly easy when we had questions, though little was written about our breed, other than about its particularly narrow gene pool and the incidence
of cerebellar ataxia. One pup went to a canine nutritionist whose advice was very confirming of what we were doing. Whew!

But the nature piece was such a big black box, despite the genetic primers available—thank you, Dr. Claudia Orlandi, and others. The breeders of Pearl’s parents were very helpful, but cold calls about the grandsires to Italian strangers were just not done or even feasible, given the language or cultural barriers involved. And “pedigree incorrectness” for imported dogs was treated to mythic status in those days, when many an after-event discussion turned to someone’s humorous or frustrating trip to various Italian kennels, of dogs misrepresented or allegedly switched after purchase. The stories reminded me of The Prisoner of Second Avenue and lent strong cachet status to the tellers. We did our best with little depth.

Fortunately, modern genetic studies are coming at speed now. They tell us that for most uncommon breeds, the peak of genetic narrowness in the modern era were the 1980s and ’90s, though there are many areas of intense genetic narrowness and disease. We now can compare the dog genome generally to that of wolves and debate how near or far these two worlds are from each other. We can read about gene-altering techniques that create new mosquito lines blocked from carrying malaria. However, we are still a long way away from specific genetic guidance for breeders who hope for line breakthroughs in cancer, epilepsy, or fertility soon.

Today, there are research programs specific to our Spinoni underway right now. When the results come, surely some of the breakthroughs will be spectacular. And I look at Pearl, see her glorious variations, remember the road we have traveled, and worry what will happen when we know more than we’re bargaining for.

When we learn how to specify the genes we want in these special dogs, will we have the wisdom of restraint, as well? —Dan Graz, 2016 Spinone Club of America

VERSATILE DOGS NEED A VERSATILE FIRST AID KIT

Wherever you go with your Vizslas, a first aid kit is a good thing to bring along. Our active, versatile dogs occasionally need their owners to attend to scrapes, cuts, bumps, irritated eyes, sore feet, and other effects of their escapades.

Over the years, our household’s separate human and canine first aid kits have evolved into one all-purpose kit. Although you can buy first aid kits that are advertised as containing everything you need, the standard kits don’t always have everything you need for canine activities. Based on our adventures with Vizslas, following are some recommendations.

• Sterile saline solution. It’s great for cleaning dogs’ eyes on a dusty, weedy day, and useful for cleaning wounds.

• EMT gel. This helps close a wound to stop bleeding, and then it helps seal out dirt. Some people prefer surgical glue instead.

• Thermometers. These should be clearly labeled, so you don’t confuse the dogs’ rectal
thermometer with the humans’ oral thermometer.

• Vet-wrap self-stick bandage (other brands include Co-flex). It isn’t as sticky as duct tape, but it’s almost as useful. You can bandage just about anything with it.

• Hemostat and/or tweezers. Either item will help remove splinters, but the hemostat is better if you need to pull out porcupine quills.

• Magnifying lens. The older an owner gets, the more useful this becomes.

• Heat-reflective emergency blanket. This is useful if you’re far from your car or indoor shelter in cold weather.

• Old sock with the toe end cut off. If your dog gets a cut or tear on its ear, you’ll want at least one of these. Pull it over the dog’s head to hold the ear in place, and tape the sock on with lots of Vet-wrap. Ear cuts often bleed a lot, and the sock will help limit the blood spatter when your dog shakes her head (which she will).

• Dog booties. A bootie will help keep an injured foot clean while it heals, while also keeping any medication off your furniture and clothing. We like lightweight nylon ones from sled dog suppliers; you may prefer sturdier ones if you need to protect feet from cactus or thorns. Buy more than you think you’ll need, because many dogs love to remove or destroy them.

• Syringes (without needle). One of these works a whole lot better than a spoon for giving liquid medicines.

• Muzzle. Even the best-tempered dog can bite if he’s terrified and in pain. If you don’t have a muzzle, you can improvise with gauze or a pair of pantyhose. I’ve tried this, however, and it was difficult for the humans and scary for the dog. Keep a muzzle in your first aid kit.

• Surgical staples. Maybe not everyone needs one of these, but if you’re a long way from a vet it’s nice to have. You’ll still want to take your dog to the vet as soon as possible. Our vet once commented that he wished more hunters carried a staple.

• Eye ointment. Your vet can recommend an appropriate ointment for soothing irritated eyes.

• Hydrogen peroxide. If you need to induce vomiting, you don’t want to waste time going to the drugstore. The same applies if you need to mix up a batch of skunk clean-up solution (1 quart peroxide, a half-cup cup baking soda, and a good squirt of Dawn dish detergent). Keep an eye on the expiration date, because peroxide doesn’t last forever.

• Diphenhydramine (Benadryl). This is the first thing to try for an allergic reaction (symptoms such as itchiness, red eyes or runny nose, or mild hives). The usual dose is up to two milligrams per pound, every eight hours; your vet can advise you about the dose for your dog.

• Bag Balm. This works especially well for sore feet, and if the dogs lick it off, it doesn’t
seem to do them any harm. After applying Bag Balm, crate your dog so he doesn’t rub the medicinal-smelling lanolin all over your furniture and clothing. You can find it at farm-supply stores.

Depending on how much experience you have with first aid, and how far you are from civilization, a good canine first aid book is another handy item to have.

If you’re putting together a kit from scratch, remember to also include gauze pads, disinfecting wipes, antibiotic ointment and rubber gloves.

Depending on your dogs’ needs, your vet may recommend specific medications to include in your kit. Make sure these are clearly labeled, including dosages and expiration dates; these things may seem obvious on a sunny morning, but for some reason emergencies like to happen when it’s windy, rainy, or dark.

—Beth Nash, nash@centurylink.net
Vizsla Club of America

**Weimaraners WHAT DO JUDGES THINK?**

As a judge of Weimaraners and as a long-time owner, I bring an insider’s view of what it’s like to judge Weimaraners in conformation. What do other judges think about judging our breed in the show ring?

The question intrigued me, and I set about asking a few fellow judges about our breed. I make no claim that what I found out is based on a scientifically designed sample of opinions. Rather, it’s just a compilation of several conversations that produced recurring answers to my question. These of you who show your Weimaraner in conformation may be surprised about how we are viewed by people who judge our breed.

I got a mix of comments about show handling and overall reaction to judging the breed. Here are a few comments about preparation of the dogs.

Several judges mentioned the grooming that they have experienced and specifically about the cleanliness of the dog. They noted that there’s a distinctly different feel of the newly washed coat and one that hasn’t seen shampoo and water for a while. Having a smooth-coated breed can lull you into less than ideal standard of hygiene.

Also in the realm of grooming, the length of toenails was mentioned by more than one judge. “Some of the nails are long enough that the dog could sit on a perch,” is one direct quote.

On a positive note, the general friendliness and good nature of Weimaraners was greatly appreciated.

Further comments about the dog touched on the behavior and training for the show ring. While no negative comments were made about the antics of puppies, there was a hope that older dogs were better socialized and trained to allow for thorough evaluation on the exam.

Numerous comments were made about common handling errors. The most frequently mentioned was about the speed of gaiting. The consensus was that Weimaraner handlers seem to think “faster is always better.” Yes, reach and drive are important to demonstrate in the show ring, but every dog has an ideal speed. One specific example was given about a dog that was beautiful at a slower, controlled trot but couldn’t hold its topline at breakneck speed.

Another tip for improved presentation, specifically centered on free-stacking at the end of an “out and back.” When a handler completes the “out and back,” stops in front of the judge, and free-stacks their dog, the objective is to give the judge an overall impression of the dog’s conformation. If you come in too
BREED COLUMNS

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close to the judge, that “big picture” view doesn’t happen. Handlers coming in too close to the judge only afford a good look at the top of the head and back.

One comment that totally surprised me was the handling error of showing the dog with its tail “cranked up like a terrier.” Our standard isn’t specific on the angle for presentation, but it does say that the tail should be carried in a manner expressing confidence. In other breeds, that usually means a tail that is held at a “two o’clock position,” and not at high noon.

There was universal agreement by the judges that Weimaraners are not an easy breed to show. They are big, strong dogs with a streak of independence and insatiable curiosity. With all those characteristics in one package it is an art to get sustained cooperation. Whether it is the buzz of an insect, a bit of fluff on the ground, or the photographer in the next ring, most Weimaraners find those things to be far more interesting than giving the handler their undivided attention.

Think of the last time you showed your Weimaraner, and see if any of the observations that I got from other judges apply to how you show your dog. Hopefully these “inside” tips will help you in the show ring.

—Carole Lee Richards, zarasweimaraners@yahoo.com
Weimaraner Club of America

WORKING GROUP

Alaskan Malamutes

A BREEDER’S MIRACLE

Once in a while, in this life, we are granted a miracle.

After all, when we breeders reach “a certain age,” our responsibilities revolve around taking care of the dogs we have: working on a title or two for the younger ones, and making sure of every comfort for our beloved seniors. We watch at ringside as our friends fly around with their lovely specials. We stay involved via social media, thankful for its presence, as we offer congratulations to joyous announcements, and also reach out with hearts and empathy at the loss of a wonderful dog, or the poignant news of the loss of a friend within the fancy.

Especially when we live by ourselves, as I do, without the blessing of adult children, it becomes vital to stay involved in ways that are important: For me, the daily dog-centered routine, staying involved in breed rescue, and taking up pen and brush again, after many years, to create portraits of dogs and horses and recapture the challenge and joy of finding the mind and hand can still work as one.

But there is still a gap that only one thing can fill. Only one thing can stop seeing the march of generations move ever further to the right in descendants’ pedigrees. Only one dream: to see one’s own bloodline in the ring again. To gaze into a youngster’s eyes and see the eyes of the finest dog you ever bred; to hold that perfect puppy in your hands and see the wisdom of an old soul, a deep intellect, reflected in eyes full of energy and life.

Suddenly, a miracle

This past fall, news from close friend and fellow AMCA member Jay Van Zandt and wife Ilka Wagner-Van Zandt, DVM, stopped me in my tracks and rolled back the clock of my life. Esteemed fertility specialist Reto Fritsch, DVM, of the Ward Animal Hospital, in Nacogdoches, Texas, had achieved a pregnancy in the lovely young GCh. Shekinah’s I Set Fire to the Reign, bred by Jay and owned by AMCA member Janie Clement, from 27-year old frozen semen of my Ch. Benchmark Captain Montague, ROM. And what a pregnancy: Radiographs showed at least six, and likely more, and this past October 4, we welcomed eight healthy, vigorous puppies, three dogs and five bitches—three carrying the seal and white of their sire, and five the grey and white of their dam.

And so, in an instant, this breeder at age 73 has the opportunity she never dreamed possible: to be involved in this miracle litter, and through pictures and video, see and hear them

Two female pups from the “miracle litter”
and watch them grow almost as if they were here with me, instead of almost 2,000 miles away.

In this process, excitement has been tempered by the ups and downs of emotion, of age and health concerns on my part, and the balancing of one’s history within the breed and the show ring with the realities of day-to-day life. Thanks to heartfelt discussion, voicing concerns as well as ideas and lots of creative thinking, a wonderful plan is taking shape to benefit everyone.

That’s why I want to share this process with you, our readers, because it’s both very personal, and also a journey shared with many of our dear friends in dogs who are looking aging square in the face, and adjusting goals, balancing needs, and trimming an active lifestyle to one a bit more focused in scope but rich with enjoyment and sharing. Most of all, I hope it will be relevant and helpful to many of you.

Of course, for us as breeders, the blissful weeks fly by quickly, and I simply had to be there for the litter’s first detailed evaluation at seven weeks of age. And here’s where the logistics began, because Texas is truly in a league of its own in terms of the sheer size of the state, as well as the driving distance from any commercial airport to far-flung ranch country.

For me, though, Texas is a familiar and fondly remembered place. In the 1970s, my illustration and writing career began at the Wichita Falls Times & Record News, at the same time as my obedience career with my Irish Setters. My fellow competitors and I thought nothing of leaving at 3 A.M., driving over 300 miles to a show, and driving back again that same evening. I came to love Texas, its history, culture, and people; its sheer size and contrasts of geography, ecosystems, and the challenges of its politics and economy.

A journey, complete with ego-adjustment

And so, in mid-November, I drove down to Philadelphia and flew nonstop to Austin then drove the last 80 miles to Hearne, a small town close to College Station and the fabulous Texas A&M University. Now, many of you, like me, are expert deniers of our age and the related quirks of daily life. And when we are on a mission of excitement and full of energy, we feel young again. We expect to run hundreds of yards down the concourse, zip through security, and on to our gate, a consummate blend of maturity and cool detachment. Of course we do—until arthritis and our pesky knees weigh in!

So, given all that, when did the concourses become 5K runs, and a computer bag and small carry-on suddenly weigh three times as much as they did at home? This moment of discovery created an instant ego adjustment, as I was forced to admit I needed assistance—yes, via that dreaded word, “wheelchair.” But it was manned by a terrific young man, full of energy and plans for his education, and as he wrangled his charge at top speed to her gate, we had a great discussion of ideas for his future.

This newly discovered legion of hard-working young men and women became my salvation at each phase of my trip, propelling me between airport gates, into elevators and to and from the car rental area. They were all pleasant and generous in sharing their stories and career goals.

And finally arriving back at Philadelphia, it was time for my final ego adjustment: needing the kindness of airport staff to drive this writer around the long-term parking lot because she was so sure of her superior spatial ability that she had found no need to record the section and row in which she parked her car.

Inspiration for you, too

But the visit was wonderful and the litter is outstanding, and there are two pick bitches who are lifting my heart and giving me the blessing of a brilliant new chapter in my life, and I am fortunate to have a part in their future. And equally wonderful, once spring is here, accompanied by good friends, we plan a road trip to bring a perfect companion boy or girl home—to share my sofa and my life, a youngster to be at my side for the rest of my days as we watch those sisters in the spotlight, carrying on their sire’s name!

If you, dear reader, are at this point in life and feel a bit left out of the sport you love, I urge you to reconnect with those you trust in your parent club and explore a co-ownership or similar agreement, drawn up in writing and in great detail, between all parties.

And just as importantly, create a specific power of attorney with capable, dog-owning friends who will be prepared to care for your dogs should you become unable to. And last but not least, use one of the wonderful services which call you each day at a designated time to make sure you’re all right—or if not, to instantly contact your designated family and friends to coordinate all arrangements and guarantee the safety of your dogs and other animals, at a moment’s notice.

One more thing, too: I have recently begun to see a wonderful life coach—an expert counselor and wise guide in her 50s who keeps my spirits high and helps me navigate this interesting and sometimes challenging road at this point in my life. Most of all, she keeps me aware of the wonderful people in my life and the joy of doing the things that matter most as I look forward to sharing my life with this miracle litter.

Regardless of the breed we’re involved with, we share the same passion in life: to see the dogs we love and helped bring into this world, and now share each moment with the next generation of fanciers. And so our hearts soar.
BREED COLUMNS

WORKING GROUP

again as we walk this path of inspiration and joy!
—Phyllis I. Hamilton,
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Alaskan Malamute Club of America

Anatolian Shepherds
THE RIPLE EFFECT

I don’t know about you, Gentle Reader, but I’m getting older. I’m tired. I’m not certain, but I’m pretty sure the dogs’ crates get bigger and heavier while sitting at the showsite from Friday night to Sunday afternoon. I’m jaded. Maybe it’s the random drink cups, handbills, and other detritus that ends up on top of the crates over the course of a weekend, maybe it’s the spot on the crate covers where someone has let their dog mark my dogs’ crates as they went by.

Maybe it’s the person with the smaller breed in the Working Group who cuts me off going into the Owner-Handled group ring and says, “Your breed is slow,” even as I shrug and think to myself, “Never been an issue in the other group ring.” The devil on one shoulder tells me to run up on her dog as we go around the ring. The angel on the other one reminds me that I tell my handling class not to crowd the dog in front of them, even as I make them practice moving around the ring behind a smaller, slower dog. If I gave in to my baser impulse to crowd the person in front of me out of spite on the go-around, I would no longer be fit to face the people in class on Tuesday night.

The rudeness of other exhibitors is a little more annoying on Sunday afternoon than it is on Saturday morning, the effort to bite my tongue and turn the other cheek a little harder won.

I’m writing this because of something that happened this weekend. Or several somethings. I was in the setup, stressing over a likely ring conflict between Anatolians and my other breed, Australian Cattle Dogs, when a member of the host club walked up and presented me with a softly spoken couple wearing matching deer-in-the-headlights looks. The woman was clutching an AKC new exhibitor pamphlet in her hands. The club member said something along the lines of “Here! I bring you tribute in the form of fresh blood!” (Given the way some people act at dog shows, that wouldn’t be out of place.)

Sorry. Actually, what she said was more along the lines of “These lovely people have working Anatolians and are interested in showing their dogs. I wanted them to meet you so that you could help them navigate dog shows, since you’re experienced in the breed.” Then the club member explained that when she first began showing in the U.S. she ran into a few hiccups because we do things differently here than they did at home in the U.K. We groom differently and present the dogs a little differently, and she said she wanted to make sure these newcomers didn’t have the issues starting out that she had, that she wanted them to learn from someone who knew Anatolians. And I was humbled. I felt a ripple in the dog show pond.

The next hour was consumed with talking to the couple about their dogs, explaining about points and how to build them, finding out where they lived (they had driven several hours just to watch the show), and giving them contact information for other people in the state who show the breed, along with the promise that I would attempt to find a handling class near them. They wanted to buy a show lead before going to a class, so we went to a vendor who had been in business for as long as I can remember and picked out an appropriate lead.

We discussed the nature of working
Anatolians and how some of the breed traits that make them excel as livestock guardians also make them less-than-ideal show dogs. Sometimes the most correct Anatolians don’t want to be shown. We discussed how the judges who truly know and appreciate the breed’s characteristics are few and far between, but how it’s always worth giving those judges an entry.

I was talking to a friend in another breed and asked her why I was still doing this when the temptation to quit has never been stronger, and she said she had the same question for herself on Friday night as she bathed her dogs and packed the van. She answered herself with the response that she still loved showing dogs. At the heart of it, she still loved the sport. There was another little ripple in the pond of dog showing when she said that. It buoyed me.

I stood ringside watching a breed I’m not familiar with and asked a longtime breeder-judge to mentor me, and he did. Another ripple went out, a bump on the water. I got home last night and opened up Facebook to see what I had missed over the weekend, and I saw the brags from all the people that come to Tuesday-night dog class (if one of you is reading this, thank you – know that you keep me going and keep me sane), and I realized that as much as I’m tired and jaded, what I do does make a difference.

Keep trying. Every kind thing you do in dogs means something to someone (conversely, every spiteful thing does as well, so choose to be kind), and enough small ripples can make a wave.

—Jo Lynne York,
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Anatolian Shepherd Dog Club of America

bernese mountain dogs

It is winter in North America now. Although Bernese Mountain Dogs were born and bred to enjoy the snow, some dog sports become a bit more difficult in wintertime. Inclement weather creates challenges in motivation and availability of practice sites. We can take a cue from plants: Winter is when plants roots grow and the plant strengthens. Inclement weather brings challenges in access, yet there are many foundation skills that can be practiced and deepened.

Hopefully you and your dog are fortunate to have found a sport or two that is exciting. Yet is your training exciting? Experimenting with different training patterns avoids boredom for you or your dog.

Dogs endure many stressful situations to be part of our lives. You can alleviate some of your dog’s stress through training for attitude. Conditioned Emotional Response (CER) is the
conditioning. Just as your dog has learned that the leash means fun on a walk, they can learn to love walking into a performance ring or a vet’s office. Conditioning uses the theory of neural plasticity to alter a previous negative or stressful treatment and the circumstance that is rewarded. Relaxation is a vital key to long-term learning and retention. In the relaxed state dogs are able to utilize their cognitive, “thinking” brains.

CER is associative learning with classical conditioning. Just as your dog has learned that the leash means fun on a walk, they can learn to love walking into a performance ring or a vet’s office. Conditioning uses the theory of neural plasticity to alter a previous negative or stressful connection, shifting it to a joyful, pleasurable event. It is the association of the wonderful learning and retention. In the relaxed state dogs are able to utilize their cognitive, “thinking” brains.

An easy way to introduce this concept during a training time is to play with your dog. During a rousing game, ask for a sit. When the dog complies with the cue, reward with an immediate return to the game. The dog who learns to sit when playing is more likely to be able to sit when other exciting things happen. The learning during the happy, excited time aids in the generalization of a happy emotional state.

Another simple exercise is to place an object in an unusual place. It is the only thing on the floor, and kibble is around it. That ensures it is a generalization of a happy emotional state.

Happy training!
—Marjorie Geiger
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Bullmastiffs
AN INTERVIEW WITH DENISE BORTON

Thank you, Denise, for sharing your insights with the fancy! As a breeder-owner-handler known for your record-breaking bitches, an AKC and national specialty judge of the breed, and a mentor to so many of us, your knowledge and perspectives are valued, and I am grateful that you have given us this interview.

When you first met a Bullmastiff, what were your initial impressions? Who was the dog, and where did you meet?

I saw my first Bullmastiff in 1972, at the boarding kennel where I worked while attending college as a freshman, and she was the one ultimately responsible for introducing me to the breed. Ch. Lady Victoria of Asgard, CD, was a regional-specialty BOS winner and ROM producer of three champion get from her only litter. She was the dam of the first triple-titled Bullmastiff and first Bullmastiff to earn the Tracking Dog title, Ch. Lady V’s Hot Shot Shelah, CDX, TD.

What made them so important to you?

I had show a Bullmastiff in formal adult competition was not that difficult. I have always had a keen interest in canine performance, from field and obedience trials to tracking tests. My motivation in becoming involved with the Bullmastiff breed was to have a dog who could compete in the conformation and obedience rings at the same time. In the early 1970s, tracking was a newly recognized event, and agility was still in the infancy stage of approval.

Who do you consider your mentors in the breed, and what made them so important to you?

While I have had many positive influences in the Bullmastiff breed, my most cherished mentor is Geraldine Shastid. Gerry taught me to recognize virtues in all dogs, and to recognize the ancestral duty of the Bullmastiff and preserve its history and place in the Working Group.

As an accomplished handler, do you have any tips for those of us showing dogs?

A Bullmastiff should quietly reflect confidence, stability, and balance on its own—not because of a handler insisting on unnatural showmanship with bait, toys, or constant chatter. Use handling classes, opportunities for socializing and proofing to develop the best canine and human mindset for the ring.

Attend seminars, and watch professional handlers with popular breeds to learn technique and skills that match the dog’s willingness to perform. Practice at home, and remember that a dog should enjoy working with the handler, and not all are made for show biz.
BREED COLUMNS

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Which of your wins remain the most wonderful memories?

To date, I hold the record for the top-winning bitch of all time, number three Bullmastiff overall. With Ch. Ladybug’s Lady Caitlin, TD, I won seven all-breed Best in Shows, three in a row at one cluster; won the national specialty twice; was the fourth of the breed to earn a tracking title; and won the breed at Westminster when it was champions-only, with an entry of 32.

How do you feel about your role as a mentor, and what advice given to you as a novice has proven the most valuable over time?

Being a mentor is a high honor. My advice to those who are beginning in the breed is to be mindful of the quality of the Bullmastiff that they have to move forward with. Showing or breeding for convenience sake rather than what is compatible in the pedigree, virtues or faults, can be disastrous. Breeding is a form of art and should be recognized as such, but it begins with honestly evaluating the dogs being used as breeding stock and considering health, temperament, and records in the stud pen and/or whelping box if they had produced prior offspring. Breeding mediocre dogs who have little or nothing to contribute to the gene pool can be disastrous—not only for a breeding program, but the future of the breed as well. Since I am not known as a breeder but rather as an owner-handler, I always kept in mind that I took the best dog home.

What words of wisdom would you offer to those thinking about owning a Bullmastiff and possibly coming into the sport?

We have had some lovely dogs who have made positive contributions to the gene pool, dedicated owners who have achieved historical firsts, and fanciers who have championed health research. What has been discouraging is the number of Bullmastiffs in rescue situations. The ABA has spent an exhausting amount of money removing dogs from neglectful/abusive situations and restoring health to those who deserve far better than what they received. We have an excellent volunteer network to foster and provide the funds necessary to help these dogs through fund raising efforts, fostering, transporting, and positive identification at shelters. The breed will always need dedicated fanciers at the ready for situations such as these.

Thank you, Denise.

Our interview will continue with Part Two in the April issue.

—Lindy Whyte,
tryumphet@comcast.net
American Bullmastiff Association

Cani Corsi

Shauna DeMoss wrote the following perspective on breed temperament in 2012.

CORSO TEMPERAMENT

There are two sides to the coin of Corso temperament. On one hand the breed is a dominant guardian who is suspicious of strangers and best suited for an experienced, confident, consistent owner. On the other is a sweet, sensitive marshmallow who can’t stand to be parted from his master by even the bathroom door! The Corso can be an enigma. One moment he is pushy and demanding, and the next he is so sensitive that even a raised voice hurts his feelings, sending him into a pout.

It would seem that these two sets of characteristics would not blend well, but that’s not
the truth of it. The Corso is delightfully intelligent. With a solid foundation on who’s the boss, he is so devoted to his master and lives to please to such an extent that he quickly learns and strives to accomplish what is asked.

It’s not unusual for the Corso to look into the eyes of his master as if trying to read the master’s thoughts in order to obey—or it could be that there is a piece of meat on the counter he wants, and he is trying to get you to understand! Either way, all those who have experienced the bond with a Corso realize they are not like any other breed. They steal your heart.

The Corso is hardwired to be a homebody, staunchly devoted to one small group of people. But in today’s world, not only is this no longer practical, it’s not desirable. Most dog lovers want their four-legged family members to experience life with them. So for those who choose the Corso, puppy rearing is more extensive, but certainly well worth it. In the right hands, the Corso can be a good ambassador and thrive in the modern world.

The Corso is not for the first-time dog owner, nor is he well suited for a family whose members are anxious or unsure. He needs a family unit that is confident and “take charge.” This does not mean heavy handed, however. In fact, a well-raised puppy rarely needs correction as an adult.

With a correct foundation laid, the Corso is an easy keeper, extremely interactive with his people and profoundly faithful and bright, adapting to whatever environment the family chooses.

However, in the hands of a person who is erratic and fickle, shy or anxious, or even one who is constantly absent, the dog will become one of two things: overly protective and bossy of the person he perceives as weak or incapable, or shy and fearful himself.

Ninety percent of temperament/behavioral issues in the Corso are created and fostered by the owner.

Separation anxiety can be avoided by ingraining in the young Corso that he is fine without his “mom and dad.” Handing the leash off to a trusted friend, family member, or trainer regularly will only help to reinforce the dog’s confidence. “Overbonding” is an issue in the breed, and the dog has to be literally taught that new environments and new people are a positive thing.

Any dominance or aggression should be nipped in the bud. The Corso owner must always be on alert to any trigger that may arise. Most of the time, a simple correct and then redirection is adequate to defuse the situation.

A good Corso owner will always be in control, keeping a sharp eye and remaining vigilant in order to avoid any situation that may be wrong for the Corso. Because of their size and the formidable appearance, the burden is on the owner to ensure that the dog and those around him stay out of harm’s way.

The old adage “you reap what you sow” is profoundly true with the Corso. Those who are willing and capable to invest the time and energy are richly rewarded with the most wonderful of dogs, a family companion who becomes so dear to your heart and part of your life that you just could never imagine not having one lying at your feet—or scratching at the bathroom door! — Shauna DeMoss

Cane Corso Association of America

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Doberman Pinschers

Faye Strauss contributed the following piece for this column in 2013.

JUDGING THE DOBERMAN

The Doberman was bred as a personal companion and protection dog. These qualities require certain mental and physical attributes. The dog must be stable, confident, energetic, and driven, and still be sociable and biddable.

The Doberman Pinscher is a medium-sized dog with a body that is square. The Doberman
is not tall or rectangular. Dogs are 26–28 inches, and bitches are 24–26 inches. Either sex will look imposing if it possesses the correct broad chest and heavy bone required. Although the Doberman may seem bigger than his inches, any deviation from the correct size should be faulted.

The square, compact Doberman is measured from the forechest to the rear projection of the upper thigh. The topline will appear level when gaiting if the dog is balanced with equal angles at both ends. The withers are the highest point of the body. The depth of the body is one-half the height of the dog at the withers. The underline is well tucked, but not overstated. The loin is wide and muscled. The coat is smooth, short, hard, thick, and close lying.

The head should appear long and dry, resembling a blunt wedge from both frontal and profile views. The planes are parallel, with a slight stop. The eyes are dark and almond-shaped. The jaw is strong, with underjaw visible from the front or side. The mouth has 42 correctly placed teeth. Poor occlusion is a problem, and the mouth should be thoroughly evaluated, both closed and opened. Four or more missing teeth are a disqualification, as is overshot by more than 3/16 inches or undershot more than 1/8 inches.

The Doberman is elegant in appearance, of proud carriage, reflecting great nobility. The elegant appearance is a result of the smooth transition of the neck into the well-laid-back shoulder blades, the smooth, straight topline blending into a slightly rounded, well-filled-out croup. The tail is carried only slightly above the horizontal. The Doberman looks like he was poured into his tight-fitting skin.

The dog must hold his silhouette when moving. His head comes forward to lead the way. His body maintains balance and square appearance, and the topline remains firm. The Doberman is a balanced, agile, quick, powerful mover, with fully extended reach and drive.

Like a fine oil painting, the profile must first be appreciated from a distance. Then a closer view from front, rear, and above will give a true assessment of correct structure.

The Doberman is a breed of balance. To quote the standard: “Length of head, neck and legs in proportion to length and depth of body.” Height to length is equal, depth of body to length of leg is equal, front and rear angulation are equal, shoulder and upper arms are equal, and upper and lower thighs are equal. Everything is in proportion, and nothing is exaggerated.

Good temperament is a must. The standard says, “of proud carriage, reflecting great nobility and temperament. Energetic, watchful, determined, alert, fearless, loyal and obe-
dient.” All this in a confident dog who is aware of everything and in control. The Doberman was bred as a personal companion and guard, therefore good temperament is essential. — F.S.

Doberman Pinscher Club of America

German Pinschers

LIFE AFTER RETIREMENT

In September last year I retired, after 40-plus years in the workforce and 32 years at my then-current place of work. It’s something I looked forward to and prepared for. A part of my retirement plan involves spending more time with my dogs—more time training, more time going for walks, and more time competing in sports we love. It also got me thinking about how my dogs change as they age, and what their retirement might look like.

German Pinschers generally live long, healthy lives. They’re medium-sized dogs, and they don’t have a lot of hereditary health issues. One of my German Pinschers turned 12 last September. He’s a little slower than he once was, he has a little gray on his muzzle and his toes, but otherwise he looks much as he always has. He loves food, doesn’t like rain, and is eager to go for walks, to go tracking, to take occasional trips, and to participate in Barn Hunt trials.

And yet, the reality is that he’s 12. He’ll turn 13 this year. And though I hope he’s around for many more years, I also want him to be healthy and happy during those years. I want to provide him with mental and physical stimulation without exposing him to injuries or over-stressing him.

Fortunately, we live in a world where there are plenty of options. If we want to keep competing, there’s nosework, and in tracking there’s the TDU (Tracking Dog Urban) option. There are new lower-impact sports like treibball, and tricks titles for dogs who just want to have fun. There are exercises to help maintain his balance and strength, and lots of toys and games to keep him mentally stimulated. I can work with my veterinarian to make sure his diet is good and his health is monitored.

Still, there will be a moment when I have to decide whether to enter him in any more trials, and whether to take him with me on long car trips that involve overnights in hotels and long days hanging out at a venue with the stress of other dogs, noise, and competition.

Sometimes this moment is heartbreakingly clear: an injury or illness happens that means no more sports. Often, though, it’s a question that arises gradually, with subtle changes in the dog and how they’re feeling.

It helps, I think, to develop process goals rather than outcome goals. Is my dog having fun? How does he feel after a run?

My criteria for Blue are still evolving. They include whether he’s in pain, whether he can relax at a trial, whether he eats well and is happy to take treats, and how he looks and acts in the ring. His sports are primarily low-impact sports, and my criteria, I hope, reflect that. I may enter him less often on trial weekends before I retire him completely. I may only enter him in trials that are within driving distance. I may take him to trials but just let him enjoy the surrounding activity. I may try different options at different times and see how he does.

I am fortunate to have a healthy, 12-year-old dog, and I hope he is healthy for many more years. And when he does finally retire from travel and competition, I hope we get as much
joy from walking around the block as we have from driving three states to a tracking test or obedience trial.

—Deb Coates, charmingbillie@gmail.com
German Pinscher Club of America

Great Pyrenees
PIECES OF DREAMS

When I finally decided it was time to add a dog to my family, I knew it had to be a large breed with some level of independence. I didn’t want to play fetch, worry about who was chasing my cats around the house, or have to chase a dog going after all the various wild critters in my area. I spent six to seven months doing research and visiting as many of the four breeds I was interested in as possible. Once all was said and done, I decided that the Great Pyrenees was the breed of dog for me.

In September 1994, I purchased my first Great Pyrenees from a local breeder. I really wanted a puppy, but every single pup in her litter was spoken for. She was retiring the dam of the litter from the show ring and was looking for a “retirement” home for her to live the rest of her days as a couch potato. Needless to say, I fell in love with her. Her call name was Shelly. Her registered name was Pyrless Pieces of Dreams. Shelly was everything I could have asked for and more.

My family insisted that since “I” was the one who wanted a dog the most, I should be her primary caregiver, and that was fine with me.

Once we arrived at the house, things changed rapidly. My teenage son volunteered to take her for walks. Who would have known that this big bundle of white fur would be such a “chick magnet”? Shelly was also a favorite of the neighborhood children. Some of the children were so small, you could barely see their fingertips through her fur when they reached around to give her hugs. Shelly loved every minute. A close friend and one of my first mentors referred to her as “Marshmallow.” Knowing where it was coming from, this was the sincerest form of endearment.

A few months had passed, and I kept thinking, this is a livestock guardian dog, a working breed. Where is all of this work? When will I ever see her protection?

You know what they say, “Be careful what you wish for.” We were out for our evening stroll on day and came across someone new in the neighborhood—an older, crotchety-type gentleman with a miniature Poodle. Shelly generally didn’t bother the other dogs in the neighborhood, but something was not right with this situation. The man carried a wad of newspaper in his hand, and every time this little Poodle pulled on the leash, he smacked her so hard she yelped and cowered.

I cringed and bit my tongue the first night. The second night, I spoke to him calmly and explained that perhaps she needed a harness. I offered to help show him how to correct her behavior in a positive manner. He cursed me out and went on his way. Each night, Shelly kept her distance but always kept her body positioned between this man and me. I found her behavior to be very interesting.

That third night, we saw him again, still doing the same, ineffective scolding, swatting, and cursing. As we got to the point where we were walking by them, he reached for his newspaper, started to curse, and Shelly pulled the leash from my hand, putting her body between this man and his Poodle. She didn’t growl, lunge, or attempt to bite. She simply did it to protect this poor little dog. His jaw dropped, he didn’t know what to do. I asked him if he really wanted this dog, he said no. I suggested that he contact his breeder to return her, but he had brought her home from the local shelter. Since I supported our local shelter, I contacted them the following day, and they followed up with him, and he returned her.

Never again did I doubt the protection and self-control of my Shelly. I’d like to thank Ann Smith for trusting her to me, and Valerie Seeley for breeding such a beautiful and wondrous Pyr.

—Karen Reiter, karenreiter@comcast.net
Great Pyrenees Club of America

Komondorok
SHOWING YOUR DOG FOR SUCCESS

In January this column covered techniques for judges to “see through the coat” and

1997: Great Pyrenees columnist Karen Reiter with Shelly at Letchworth State Park (N.Y.)
evaluate Komondors properly in the show ring. This column covers the issue from the other side: that of the exhibitor working to get the right message to the judge. Judges look for a dog who shows the ideal characteristics and looks like the breed. If you and your dog look like a winner, you can have success in the show ring.

How do you do this? The key guidelines are in our breed standard.

In the “General Appearance” section of our standard are descriptions of both the personality and key physical traits of the Komondor. Here are some excerpts—first, the personality features: “dignity,” “courageous demeanor,” “reserved with strangers,” “selflessly devoted”—and then the physical traits: “imposing strength” “pleasing conformation” “large, muscular dog with plenty of bone and substance,” and “covered with … [a] … heavy coat of white cords.”

In the “Gait” section, the standard uses these words: “leisurely and balanced,” “very agile and light on his feet.”

How do we exhibit the personality traits?
Your dog must be trained to be dignified and steady in the ring. This isn’t hard, as most Komondors are both trainable and fearless. It doesn’t matter that they don’t love being examined by a stranger; all that is being asked is to just stand there. If they are prepared to stand easily for the exam (and to be relaxed during the tooth exam), they will show the desired personality traits.

The dog’s only task after the exam is to simply trot off with you when you ask. If your dog can trot in an easy and effortless way, with their head held slightly forward but also above the horizontal, they will appear dignified.

The breed’s thick coat makes external observation of the dog’s structure a difficult task for the judge. The same is true for the rear. The legs should be straight when viewed from the rear, with the hocks set vertically, a little behind the rump of the dog.

In our Illustrated Standard, which is available to all on the club’s website, there is a drawing of the skeleton of an adult Komondor under the coat. “This is the structure you should be trying to show.”

Our dog is described in the standard as having well laid back shoulders. Watch an entry of Rottweilers, Dobermans, or even Irish Wolfhounds: See how the handlers carefully set the forelegs to be straight columns from the front, and with the elbows are directly under the withers, next to the deepest part of the chest? Imagine your Komondor under his coat; this is where you want to place his legs, so that the judge will find them there when they feel for the structure.

In our Illustrated Standard, which is available to all on the club’s website, is a drawing of the skeleton of an adult Komondor under the coat. “This is the structure you should be trying to show.”

The other way to show your dog’s conformation is on the move. Judges can’t see through the coat but will be watching what they can see. Komondors with good structure will have good dog movement.

Move your dog straight on the down-and-back. That way the judge can see the front footfall coming through the coat straight at them, and the pads coming up in the rear as the dog drives away. Find the best speed for your dog on the down-and-back—a speed that makes them look like a winner.
BREED COLUMNS

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where the legs are not flying in all directions but which shows the dog to be agile and athletic. From the side you may want to move a little faster to show off your dog’s reach and drive—again, not so fast that the legs are flying wildly. Well-built and conditioned dogs carry their toplines well on the move. The topline speaks to both structural angles and balance. Find the head carriage and speed that show this off well for your dog. Also, you will need to give your dog the exercise needed to maintain the good condition of the strong athlete you are trying to show.

Dog show judges are working to put up the best dogs. They have read our standard in detail, and most have read our Illustrated Standard as well. Exhibitors should also do their homework so that they can show the best features of their dogs.

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

Kuvasz doing Scent Work

Kuvaszok

THE SCENT WORK ATHLETE

I recently had an interesting conversation with a veteran agility exhibitor. It began with a discussion about the importance of developing a conditioning program for canine athletes. The conversation eventually turned to the types of events I compete in with my dogs and the types of conditioning used for each. This person was quite surprised when I said that I have a conditioning program for my Kuvasz, Starlite, who is predominantly a Scent Work competitor. She made a few lighthearted jokes about having a conditioning program for Scent Work dogs, and about how even classifying Scent Work dogs as a type of athlete seemed odd. Of course, I talked about my recent experience with Starlite in the Detective class, and how it takes a good amount of endurance to actively search an area that can be up to 5,000 square feet. Ultimately we agreed to disagree, but I was inspired to write this article.

Scent Work is still a new event for the AKC, and it is understandable that some competitors who are entrenched in their chosen events may not yet see it on equal ground with their own sports. However, I think it’s important to make sure that Scent Work and its canine competitors are given their due. I believe the first step to making this happen is to view the Scent Work dog as an athlete. I hope by the end of this article, you’ll agree.

To the best of my knowledge, there are no studies that have specifically examined what factors may affect olfactory acuity in Scent Work dogs. However, researchers have studied what effects olfactory acuity in professional detection dogs, and Scent Work competitors should be able to extrapolate some information from these results.

An article titled “Effect of Dietary Fat Source and Exercise on Odorant-Detecting Ability of Canine Athletes,” by Eric Altom, Gary Davenport, Lawrence Myers, and Keith Cummins, discusses a study performed with 18 Pointers. I encourage interested parties to read the entire article, which was published in Research in Veterinary Science, but I’ll summarize the results here for brevity’s sake.

The researchers observed that dogs who were enrolled in a 12-week conditioning program did not experience a decline in olfactory acuity after a 60-minute session of exercise. The dogs who were not involved in the conditioning program experienced a 64-percent drop in olfactory acuity after the same type of exercise.
The researchers also observed that non-conditioned dogs who consumed a diet high in saturated fats experienced a decline in olfactory acuity after a 12-week period, while the conditioned dogs who consumed the same diet for the same duration did not experience a decline in olfactory acuity at the end of the program.

So while it’s true that the tasks of a Scent Work dog are different than those of an agility dog, there is some data that suggest Scent Work dogs can benefit from handlers making good decisions about exercise and diet, much like any athlete.

There are a variety of other factors that are believed to affect olfactory acuity in dogs, and I may write about them in the future if the readers are interested. For now, I hope that giving potential Scent Work exhibitors another tool for success or another tool to troubleshoot with may encourage more Kuvaszok to get involved in this great sport.

—Julia Babecki, Jababecki524@hotmail.com

Kuvasz Club of America

**Leonbergers**

**THANK YOU, ASTRID**

Dear Astrid,

Thank you for your gift of time.

It is hard to believe it has been 10 years since you took on the challenge of introducing the Leonberger to the AKC world. During your tenure you have done a masterful job of communicating the successes, concerns, and culture of the Leonberger world to the rest of the dog fancy, and for that, the Leonberger breed will be forever indebted to you. Your use of humor or, when necessary, a gentle nudge to illustrate and make a point is a lesson in the art of communication that will be hard to follow.

Many people have written to say how much your columns have been appreciated. Some of those notes appear below.

“In 2010, when Astrid was winding up her term as President of the LCA Board of Directors, she presented each of the current board members a small stone upon which was inscribed a word that she felt characterized each of us. My stone had the word Passion engraved on it. She couldn’t have nailed it better. I still have that stone, almost 10 years later, proudly displayed in my home. If I were to present Astrid a stone that depicts her work for the past 10 years as our GAZETTE columnist, the word Inspired would be the one I would choose. One need only read her last column to get a taste of what I mean. Ten years of writing educational, funny columns, and occasionally columns like her final one, which asks us to take a retrospective look at what we’ve become, have provided a voice for our breed within the AKC.”

“I finally had the chance to read Astrid’s column in the AKC GAZETTE this afternoon, and I must admit I got very teary eyed. I’m not sure why, because time does march on. Perhaps it was the vision of dog shows and attire back in the 1930s versus today. Perhaps it was because it’s hard to believe that 10 years ago I was with a small group of LCA members at Westminster cheering on our breed as it was shown there for the first time after AKC recognition. Or, perhaps, because of changing lives and distance, we don’t get to see or chat on a regular basis as we once did. It’s probably a little of everything, but I would personally like to thank you, Astrid, for being our voice, for your commitment to the Leonberger breed, for your commitment to the LCA, and for authoring 10 years of delightful reading about our magnificent breed. I understand that it is now time to pass the baton, but, as someone else said, you are leaving big paws to fill.”

“As I’ve come to expect with Astrid’s column, her Fond Farewell is thoughtfully written and relevant.”
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“I have loved and looked forward to Astrid’s columns. They have been both informative and thought provoking. A huge thank you is due to her for her wonderful representation of the club and the Leonberger breed.”

“You have done the dogs, club, and members proud, Astrid. Your voice and column will be missed. Thank you for your time, contributions, thoughts, and dedication to the Leonberger breed!”

Finally, 10 years is a long time, and we have been incredibly fortunate to have you as an advocate for the breed. So thank you, Astrid, we wish you a well-earned retirement.

Gratefully yours,
The Leonberger Fancy
Leonberger Club of America

Mastiffs

For this issue I have invited a guest columnist, Mary Lynn Speer. Mary Lynn is an AKC Mastiff judge and chair of the MCOA Judges’ Education Committee. She has been a dedicated member of the MCOA for almost three decades, serving on the Board of Directors, twice as National Specialty Chair, and as chair and member of several working committees. Additionally, she has served on the board of the Midwest Mastiff Fanciers Club and Rescue Foundation, Inc. She has been a Mastiff breeder (Kinsman Mastiffs—an AKC Breeder of Merit) for 30 years, accruing many championships and working titles. In this article she discusses the Mastiff Club of America Judges’ Education program and some exciting changes.

MASTIFF CLUB OF AMERICA JUDGES’ EDUCATION

The MCOA Judges’ Education Committee (JEC) presents the official three-part AKC Judges’ Education Seminar annually at the national specialty. Upon request and presenter availability, we will conduct it at other educational events as well. As chair of the JEC, I’m responsible for ensuring that our programs effectively and efficiently educate aspiring judges on the official Mastiff standard. Key elements include:

• Continuously updating educational materials.
• Improving presentations and hands-on seminars.
• Supplying numerous mentors at the national and across the country to do ringside mentoring.

There is great pride in knowing that the AKC refers other parent clubs to MCOA’s JEC as a model when they are beginning or revamping their Judges Education (JE) programs. In over 25 years of these presentations, the majority of ratings on the required surveys completed by aspiring judges are positive, with comments both helpful and informative. I personally believe our consistent practices are responsible for this outstanding accomplishment!

MCOA Mentor Program

All MCOA-approved mentors are obligated to meet most of the requirements that AKC mandates for provisional judges. Minimum requirements to become a mentor intern include:

• submitting an application,
• 12 years membership in the club,
• have bred five litters and produced four champions,
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- attendance at prior presentations, and
- successful completion of the closed-book tests on structure and the standard.

Once all requirements are met, a mentor intern will be recommended to the MCOA Board for approval. At the national specialty, mentor interns are then required to:

- attend the standard, history, and hands-on presentations,
- audit mentoring sessions, sitting side-by-side with approved mentors and aspiring judges; and
- conduct mentoring to aspiring judges while being observed by one or more seasoned mentors.

The JEC feels the initial auditing by the intern highlights JECs commitment to positive mentoring. It is easy to point out faults but much more helpful to new judges to hear the positive aspects of the dogs they’re observing. If a mentor desires to be more active, they are encouraged to apply to become a presenter.

The JE presentation series is not static, but a “living document” divided into three sections: History, Standard, and Hands-On. Presenters are cycled through all three sections based on availability as equitably as possible. The History was recently updated by re-organizing it in chronological order, making it easier to follow. Pictures in the standard are typically deceased dogs, which are changed periodically as better examples of the standard section being discussed are identified. Some pictures have been recently changed with others under review.

The Hands-On exercise has been dramatically revamped, now that approved regional clubs hold regional specialties the day before the national. With the inclusion of regional specialties, the bitch class winners from the regionals as well as Winners Dog/Bitch, Best of Breed, and Best of Opposite Sex are invited to attend the hands-on. All dog class winners from the national continue to be invited. Class winners are set up in a ring, and aspiring judges are asked to walk around and go over any dogs they want, given the handlers’ agreement. All dogs are then moved and evaluated. If the presentation is positive, the new presenter is moved into the presentation rotation. If the presentation is not effective, the mentor is given input for improvement and is welcome to reapply.

MCOA AKC Judges Education Seminar Series

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The Hands-On exercise has been dramatically revamped, now that approved regional clubs hold regional specialties the day before the national. With the inclusion of regional specialties, the bitch class winners from the regionals as well as Winners Dog/Bitch, Best of Breed, and Best of Opposite Sex are invited to attend the hands-on. All dog class winners from the national continue to be invited. Class winners are set up in a ring, and aspiring judges are asked to walk around and go over any dogs they want, given the handlers’ agreement. All dogs are then moved and excused. The eight to 10 dogs from the top 40 are then brought in, evaluated, and ranked Best of Breed and Best of Opposite Sex. We have received phenomenal feedback on the new approach, as attendees can now see Mastiffs from 6 months of age to Veterans. The Mastiff is a giant breed, and the new process gives judges a better overall understanding of our magnificent breed as well as how they develop. While it is important to be able to pick the right dog for Best of Breed, it is just as important to pick the right dog for Winners. Aspiring judges leave us with a comprehensive overview of our breed, a printed copy of the standard presentation, and a pocket-card visualization.

It is important to draw attention to these improvements to highlight the fact that seminars seen in the past are very different from what is currently being presented. So if you haven’t attended recently, I invite you back. I also would like to highlight that the information you get from a trained mentor is much more accurate than the information you may get from a breeder or handler at a dog show. To that end, the JEC is in the process of developing guidelines for MCOA breeder-members to assist with mentoring in geographical areas where approved mentors may not be available.

Summarily I would like to say that judges’ education is treated the same way we treat breeding—by always striving to improve our procedures, processes, and materials. JEC is looking for ways to enhance the program, so if you are doing something that is working well for you, please, please, please, share it with me.

—Respectfully submitted,
Mary Lynn Speer,
kinesmennmastiffs@gmail.com
—Karen Cornelius,
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Mastiff Club of America

Neapolitan Mastiffs
COMMON QUESTIONS ABOUT THE NEAPOLITAN MASTIFF

Following are some common questions about the breed, and answers with discussion.

Is there such a thing as “too much” skin? If so, what is it?

The short answer is yes. The long answer is how much is “too much” depends on functionality and type.

With regard to the skin, there are two equally important aspects:
1. The skin is supposed to be thick and loosely attached.
2. The dog must be functional.

Properly thick skin feels thick. When you touch the dog, for example, feeling behind the shoulders, you should feel heavy skin. The Bloodhound also has loose skin, but it is a thinner skin. The Mastino’s skin must not be thin like that of a Bloodhound. The Mastino’s
wrinkles are thick folds of skin. If you see a crepe-y surface, it is because the skin is too thin.

Typically the skin is moves and is loose over the whole dog, head and body. It may form folds on the torso—for example, wrinkles may appear behind the withers (formed by the dog lifting his head), and there may be a fold over the shoulder, or across the front, or along the flank. You should see some hanging skin below the abdomen. If the skin is correctly thick, however, you typically won’t see little crepe-y wrinkles all the way down the leg below the elbow.

The dog must be functional. He has to be able to move and to see. The standard says the eyes are “almost hidden beneath drooping upper lids.” *Almost* hidden; not completely hidden. And of course the eye itself, although almost hidden, must be normal, not scratched or cloudy, even though the standard doesn’t specify this, but certainly this must also be true for the Mastino, just as it is automatically true for all healthy dogs.

Even the skin across the muzzle forms thick wrinkles. Following the leadership of the Italian *Mastinari* (true breed fans), we don’t count how many wrinkles on the muzzle, nor do we count the wrinkles over the body, nor do we feel “the more, the better.” We do expect the wrinkles, but they appear naturally; we don’t reward quantity or require any specific measurement. What is important is that the skin be thick and loosely attached, not thin or unattached!

*How much is too much dewlap?*

Lots of breeds have dewlaps, but other breeds have much less of a dewlap than the Neapolitan Mastiff’s, which is described as being “a voluminous dewlap” and as such is surely a feature of the breed.

If the skin is correctly thick and correctly attached to the dog, the length of the dewlap isn’t particularly an issue. We don’t really measure it, although it must be attached at the muzzle and the chest.

The dewlap is correct when it is “divided,” which will happen quite naturally when it is correctly attached from the lower jaw to the lower neck. “Divided” references the two parallel sides to the dewlap, coming from each side of the muzzle. They hang down next to each other and then blend into the neck.

In some dogs, especially if the skin is thin and overall too loosely attached, you might see the dewlap hanging more straight down under the jaw, instead of from both sides. If it’s not correctly attached to the neck, the dewlap hangs as a flat “flap” in front of the chest, often swinging widely back and forth in front of the dog’s chest as the dog moves. The problem in such a case is that the skin is thin and the dewlap isn’t correctly attached, not that the dewlap is too long.
BREED COLUMNS

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

Newfoundlands

Our guest columnist for this issue is Susan Marino.

SLEDDING WITH YOUR DOG

A fun winter activity that can include your children and your Newfoundland is sledding. As draft dogs, Newfoundlands love to pull. They also love the snow and cold weather, so they are eager to be active in the winter. Children love to sled, so imagine the added excitement when they are being pulled by a large dog through the snow.

There are a few important factors to think about before attaching a sled to your dog. Do not attach it to the collar. This would choke the dog and be cruel. Be sure to use a proper pulling harness that fits the dog well. The other issue when pulling a children’s sled is that there is no brake, so that the sled could slide forward into the hind legs of the dog. By adding simple shafts to the sled, such as aluminum conduit or wooden dowels slid through the brake-loops of the harness, it would keep the sled from hitting the dog. A simpler method that requires some manual labor and an extra person is to tie a rope to the back of the sled and have someone follow the sled and use the rope to pull the sled back to prevent it from sliding into the dog.

Find a company that makes carting harnesses for dogs. They will usually offer guidance as to how to measure the dog to purchase the correct size harness for the dog. Start with letting the dog wear the harness around the house or when you go for walks to get them used to the feel of the harness on their body. Next attach a small amount of weight (such as five to eight pounds) to the back of the harness, and let the dog drag the weight around the yard.

Be sure it is at least three feet behind the dog, so it doesn’t spook him and he can turn around to see what it is. This accomplishes two things, it obviously gets the dog used to pulling some weight but also gets the dog used to the sensation of having the harness tighten around their body when the weight is pulled. As they get used to it you can add more weight. If you chose to use shafts on the sled, start holding just the shaft against the side of the dog as they are walking with you. Move it from one side to the other until they are comfortable with the feel of the stiff shaft against their side preventing them from turning naturally.

Next, place the sled behind the dog, with the two shafts on either side of the dog—but do not attach the dog to the shafts or sled yet!

Newfs and their owners enjoy sledding in the wintertime. “As draft dogs, Newfoundlands love to pull. They also love the snow and cold weather, so they are eager to be active in the winter.”
BREED COLUMNS

WORKING GROUP

Pull the sled along behind them so that they hear the sled and feel the shafts. When they are comfortable with this step, you can attach the sled and shafts to the dog and continue to add more weight to the sled until the dog is ready to pull the weight of a child. If you don’t use the shafts, then you only have to get the dog used to dragging the sled with some weight in it before increasing the weight to the weight of a child.

Always keep the dog on leash so that you don’t risk them running off with the sled attached if something spooks them or if they want to chase something.

As you start to work your dog in the snow, watch out for snow/ice balls accumulating between their pads. It can be painful for them to walk on these chunks of ice. One way to prevent them is to apply a vegetable spray or Vaseline to the hair between the foot-pads.

Winter sledding is a great activity that you, your children and your Newf can enjoy together at a time of year when you may not do many other outdoor activities. Just think of the great photo you could take for your holiday card this year of your Newf pulling your children in their sled! —S. M.

Thank you, Susan!
—Mary Lou Cuddy
bearscamp@gmail.com
Newfoundland Club of America

Portuguese Water Dogs

HEALTH UPDATES

As we start a new year and spring breeding plans are in your thoughts, I strongly suggest you follow the PWDCA Breeding Guidelines and Health Testing recommendations. These two categories have been developed over the years as responsible breeders have worked diligently to eliminate various health problems from the Portuguese Water Dog.

The club and breeders have also worked with the Portuguese Water Dog Foundation (PWD), the AKC Canine Health Foundation (ACK-CHF), and several universities regarding research studies of various conditions and genetic studies. Thanks to proactive owners and professional investigators, certain tests are recommended for breeding dogs.

The most recent good news is that research headed by Margaret Casal, DVM, Ph.D, of UPenn, has led to “the identification of a marker gene for puppy eye syndrome (PES), and it is hoped that a marker test will be available to breeders in early 2020” (PWD). Previous AKC GAZETTE breed columns have covered PES, as well as other health conditions, including PRA, GM-1, improper coat, Addison’s disease, and hemangiosarcoma. More detailed information on each may be found on the PWDCA website, as well as informative articles in the Courier. The optimum good health of both a dam and sire should be a high priority for any breeder.

One other important health condition to mention is canine brucellosis. All dogs should be tested for this before breeding, as there are no obvious signs, and brucellosis is the leading cause of reproductive disease in dogs. Testing will aid in reducing the disease and the spread of it. The bacteria causing this is found worldwide and is an increasing concern in North America. More detailed health information can be obtained from AKC-CHF.

All breeders should stop, look, listen, and read all available information on health conditions and testing as they consider a breeding. Plan ahead, do not wait until the breeding time is on hand. By doing so we will be producing healthy dogs and decreasing the continuing medical problems that can occur. Please join the PWDCA and the AKC-CHF in their goal to eliminate disease from our dogs by being responsible breeders.

—Carole Prangley-McIvor
mcivor_carole@yahoo.com
Portuguese Water Dog Club of America

Rottweilers

PLEASE DON’T “IMPROVE” OUR BREED

I take umbrage with those who declare they are “improving” the breed. In my opinion there is no need to “improve” our Rottweiler; all that needs to be done is to breed to the standard. How our Rottweiler is to appear externally, move, and act (an internal standard, if you will) is in that sacred document. If you are intentionally breeding dogs away from the standard, you are not improving the
breed—you are purposely deviating. It has been my experience that people who deviate from the standard do it for greed. Greed comes in more than a few forms. Avarice causes people to breed to sell dogs for profit, and their breeding may include departures from our standard such as a bulbous top skull; too short of a muzzle; too muscular, or too soft; short, bull necks; straight shoulders; round eyes; too large/tall; or unbecoming temperament. These departures from our standard are usually to please buyers who like the “look” versus striving to breed to our standard.

The pursuit of financial gain aside, there are two other types of breeders who may stray. The first is the breeder who owns dogs who are incorrect, and that’s what they have to breed. In their mind, they have justified the use of their stock. They are often heard crowing, “It’s better” and more desired. Rather than cutting their losses and getting another or better dog from someone outside their small sphere, they just keep breeding bad dogs. Unfortunately, because they see their own dogs every day, how they look has become normalized in their minds.

The other type, and for which I take the most offense, are breeders who have been successful in the show ring and because of those accolades they feel justified to do whatever they want. These people have often been Code of Ethics club members in the past. Since they seem to believe they know more and better than other breeders, Code of Ethics requirements, and even research on inheritable health issues, they merrily leave their clubs and advice of their peers to go about breeding dogs that differ from the standard or lack normal health screenings. This is also greed, but it stems more from ego than...
Turning aside from our standard brings deviation that is dangerous. A perfect example is some of the so-called Rottweilers in Europe who look more like black and tan Boxers or Bullmastiffs. Just because people will buy it does not mean it is correct or right!

The breed standard is both our guide and touchstone. We must return to it over and over again, read and re-read it. As we mature in our experience in the breed, we will have deeper appreciation for certain clauses, and perhaps even notice something we hadn’t before. Being a fancier, competitor, a breeder, and even a rescuer is a path that takes time and an open mind to continual education and staying the course that is a correct Rottweiler. Accept, show, train, award, and breed nothing less, and the rewards will be yours.

—Ill Jill Kessler Miller, jillymillygsrc@gmail.com
American Rottweiler Club

Samoyeds
RESPONSIBLE BREEDERS: COMMITMENT FOR THE DOG’S LIFETIME

It all started when my daughter, Erin, wanted a “sled dog” for her fourth birthday (because she was enamored of sled dog movies like Iron Will and Balto) …

I’ve been a dog lover all my life, had always had a dog growing up, but we had not had a dog in the house as a family up to that point. I did a little research into various sled dog breeds. Malamutes were too big; Siberian Huskies were smaller, but just as independent. I had a daycare in the house at the time, so the dog had to be good with kids. Samoyeds were the answer. One of their original jobs in Siberia, in addition to herding reindeer, was “herding” the children and keeping their people warm at night. I called a former boss who I knew had raised Samoyeds at one point, and he told me he had a 6-month-old male with his sister-in-law’s family, and if I wanted him, I could have him. For free. And so it began…

I had grown up with a black Lab. We also had a Boxer at one point, a Saint Bernard, and a menagerie of my Dad’s hunting dogs. But this dog was different. He was like Nana from Peter Pan. He adored “his” child. He slept with Erin every night. We often found them curled up together for naps. He was an old soul from the beginning, gentle and easy with the kids. Multiple kids perfected their walking skills cruising across the house, hanging onto Rollie’s fur.

I was hooked on the Samoyed breed—because their connection to humans and their desire to truly part of our pack was something I had not seen before. We got involved in Samoyed rescue, to help with Sammies who ended up in shelters or who were owner-surrendered. We were “failed foster” twice, adopting two of our older rescue girls. I’ve heard it said that Sammies are like potato chips, that “you can’t have just one.” Certainly true in our case!

When my kids both went to school full-time in 2000, I went back to college for a career change. Seven years later I finished my Ph.D. in English—and for a “Ph.D. completion” gift for myself, I bought myself (what else?) a puppy … a Samoyed puppy. I found a breeder, drove to Minnesota, and came home with an 8-week-old baby. We named him Ray. That was the beginning of showing and breeding Samoyeds.

I got Ray with the possibility of showing him. I bought all the equipment and started taking him (and myself) to classes. I grew up on a farm and had showed hogs in 4-H, but this dog showing thing was new. There was a steep learning curve—I was clueless in the beginning, and I had a headstrong boy, but eventually we figured it out.

Ray finished his AKC championship in 2009, and by then I was hooked on dog shows. I found a wonderful circle of friends who made it fun amidst the competition, I got to show off my boy (whom I absolutely adore), and occasionally we got to bring home some...
BREED COLUMNS

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nice ribbons.

Ray’s first litter was born in July 2010, in Minnesota. Coming from a long line of livestock farmers who’ve bred and shown cattle, hogs, and sheep, breeding and showing my own dogs seemed like a natural turn of events. The first pups were born here in October of 2012.

Anyone who thinks dog breeders just sit back and haul in the money honestly doesn’t have a clue. If you’re doing it right, you’re testing beforehand for any genetic issues in your breeding dogs. In this breed, at a minimum, you’re getting hips X-rayed at 2 years for hip dysplasia. In our breed, it’s also desirable to run genetic tests for a couple of known diseases and get a cardiac clearance. Tests are not cheap. And though it hasn’t happened here yet, there’s always a chance that you put your heart and soul into a dog for two years only to find that he or she doesn’t pass one of those tests—and though you don’t love that dog one whit less, he or she can’t be used for breeding.

Sometimes it takes time and some veterinary intervention to get the female pregnant (which can be draining both financially and emotionally). And sometimes pregnancies end with C-sections—in the worst-case scenario, emergency C-sections. You lose puppies. That’s happened here, and it was a heartbreaking reminder that Mother Nature can indeed be cruel. Breeding animals of any sort is not for the weak at heart—and breeding an animal who is part of your family, who lives in your house? Every time, you’re putting a lot on the line. Including your heart.

We screen all potential homes—asking lots of questions and spending lots of time to make sure those home will be safe and happy ones for our babies. We keep in touch with people and live for the occasional photo that comes attached to an update e-mail, or the Christmas-card photo with the dog happily ensconced as part of the family. We write contracts that are for the lifetime of the dog, which say that if the new owners cannot keep the dog for any reason, the dog comes back to the breeder—because we are responsible for bringing them into the world, and we want to know where they are and how they are living for the rest of their lives.

Most responsible breeders keep at it, despite the financial costs and occasional heartbreak, because watching those babies come into the world, and holding them in your hands, is one of the most rewarding things we can imagine—as is the joy you can see and feel when someone takes one of your puppies into their family.

I also have to say that one of the most difficult things about being a dog breeder is the current political/legislative climate. We all know that dogs wind up in shelters, and many are euthanized. I’d like to suggest that that’s not so much a breeder problem as it is a responsibility problem. Responsible breeders send puppies out into the world with a lifetime safety net. But a lot of dogs don’t come from responsible breeders. They come from all sorts of sources—the person who wants to breed his or her dog “just one time” because “my dog is so cute,” or “I want another one just like him,” or “my kids need to see the miracle of birth.” They come from people who get an intact male or female and let it breed indiscriminately because they don’t (or won’t) have it spayed or neutered, or don’t keep their female confined during her season. Shelters are filled with owner-surrenders, where people get a dog and don’t know what they’re getting into or are unwilling to live up to the lifelong commitment to the pet they’ve purchased.

Most of us in the purebred world do all we can to make absolutely certainly none of our puppies end up in this system. That’s not to say that it never happens, when people don’t honor their contracts, but we really try.

However, as a result of the shelter/euthanasia issue, we all get lumped in together. The animal-rights movement paints any and all breeders as “puppy mills,” and we’re gradually being regulated and legislated out of existence. We’ve all heard “Adopt, don’t shop,” with adoption being perceived as somehow more rewarding or politically correct. Well, I’m here to tell you that it’s perfectly fine to get a dog from whatever source you’d like, as long as you do your research, search your heart, and make a commitment. A commitment for the dog’s lifetime. Get the dog you want, and keep him. Love him, and get love in return. That’s what it’s all about, in the end. —Cherie Rankin, 2014

Samoyed Club of America

Siberian Huskies

LET IT SN O W!

The term “climate change” can bring a tinge of panic to the hearts of winter people and their Nordic dogs. For those of us living in a year-round recreational destination locale, climate change is a constant concern in terms of serious potential economic impact on the region. The winter months are no longer the quiet season, and for many outdoor enthusiasts, it is their favorite time of the year. The area’s historic connection to winter goes back to Siberian fanciers who enjoy working their dogs?
The dogs, on the other hand, are all about the here and now. The hustle and bustle of the holidays are in the past, and with the return of colder weather and snow in the forecasts, the dogs sense it is now their time. They are often better predictors of weather than the meteorologists with scientific and computerized forecast assistance. The dogs sense the change in the wind as it comes across the mountains bringing a rush of cold air and snow. While last summer brought record warmth, it was preceded by bitter cold temperatures, record snowfall in the mountains, and a very late-arriving spring.

One very positive development is evolving to

*Many ski-lodging properties, guest attractions, cross-country ski centers, and snowshoeing trails are becoming more dog friendly—welcoming well-behaved dogs and setting aside accommodations and trails specifically for use by guests and their canine companions.*
help promote winter activities for the entire family. Many of the lodging properties, guest attractions, cross-country ski centers, and snowshoeing trails are becoming more dog friendly—welcoming well-behaved dogs and setting aside accommodations and trails specifically for use by guests and their canine companions. This is a welcome change from the many “No Pets Allowed” signs. It has taken awhile, but it seems that businesses have realized dogs are important family members and people want to travel with their pets. An additional benefit is that it encourages people to get outdoors and enjoy the winter season with their dogs, whether it be skiing, snowshoeing, or winter hiking. It also makes people aware of the importance of protecting our climate for recreational activities along with other, more critical, reasons.

Northern New England was once the center of the region’s dog sledding activity. Almost every weekend a different community would host a Winter Carnival, with dog sled races being the main focus of the event bringing mushers, dogs, and spectators together for a weekend of fun and socialization. Today, the circuit is a shadow of what it once was. Some blame a lack of volunteers, but it is difficult to be aware of the importance of protecting our climate for recreational activities along with other, more critical, reasons.

To reduce the impact of climate change on winter sports, some industries are investing in new technologies to help preserve and extend the season. A few large ski resorts are studying new, more efficient, eco-friendly methods of snowmaking and have begun experimenting on selective slopes. Others are studying possible changes to their trail systems, such as relocation to less sun-exposed terrain, along with establishing new trails at a higher elevation. Even a couple hundred feet can make a world of difference when it comes to annual snowfall and snow retention of trails.

Part of the world detests winter; the other part embraces it. Yes, there are many healthy, happy Siberians living in warmer climates and thriving, and someday in the future we may need to rely on them for advice. Still, nothing compares to the joy of watching Siberian Huskies running along a snow-packed trail or simply frolicking in the snow. I say, “Let it snow!”

—Jane Steffen, Brownfield, Maine, klonaqayj@gmail.com
Siberian Husky Club of America

Standard Schnauzers
CHARITY BEGINS WITH DOGS

As 2019 draws to a close, we examine some 501(c)(3) charitable organizations, listed herein. There are many more. We like charities that benefit dogs or that train dogs to use their natural abilities to help people. Evaluate any charity to determine if their mission and business practices fit your personal philosophy here.

* Guide Dogs for the Blind and its Canadian sister Guide Dogs for the Blind International. The late Nancy Aronstam, of Stone Pine Standard Schnauzers, worked tirelessly for Guide Dogs for the Blind, based in San Rafael, California. Nancy and her husband Charlie were among the earliest members of our oldest regional SS club, SSC of Northern California, founded in 1943. Those of you who have merited an SSCA award medallion might recognize their great lady dog, CH Stone Pine Nickel, on the medallion. Since 1942, GDB’s network of instructors, puppy raisers, volunteers, and donors have provided—without charge—highly qualified guide dogs, training, support, and financial aid (if needed) for veterinary care to serve and empower persons who are blind or have low vision from throughout the United States and Canada. For more information, see their web sites, phone 800-295-4050, or snail mail PO Box 151200, San Rafael, CA 94915.

* Pads for Parkinson’s. Its mission is to train dogs to detect Parkinson’s Disease by scent. Staffed by a director of canine detection and a host of volunteers, dogs attend training up to four days per week to successfully select Parkinson’s samples from non-Parkinson’s control samples with an accuracy rating of 90% or higher. Since there is no definitive laboratory diagnosis of Parkinson’s Disease, the dogs may be able to provide an important contribution to the search for a cause or a cure. If the dogs can be proven to help with early detection of Parkinson’s Disease, this could lead to an extended active lifestyle for those afflicted with Parkinson’s, since detection prior to the tremor stage provides the greatest hope for slowing progression of the disease. Info: Telephone: 360-298-5494, or contact Lisa Holt, CNWI, PADs for Parkinson’s,
BREED COLUMNS

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Warrior Dog Foundation. This organization delivers the highest level of care in retirement for special-operations and law-enforcement K9s. Founded by Mike Ritland as a place for retirement and rehabilitation of retired “warrior K9s” slated to be euthanized, WDF provides a sanctuary of last resort. Once these retired K9 Warriors have completed their service, and for whatever reason are unable to continue on with their handler, the Warrior Dog Foundation helps transition them from an operational environment into their state-of-the-art kennel facility in Texas, ensuring the care of each individual K9 with dignity and grace that includes both mental and physical rehabilitation for the rest of their lives. Contact the Warrior Dog Foundation at 855-WAR-DOGS.

Dogs on Deployment. Founded by military, for military in 2011, Dogs on Deployment has become one of the fastest-growing and most well-respected organizations assisting active-duty and veteran military members. Dogs on Deployment’s mission is to give military members peace of mind concerning their pets during their service commitments by providing them a central network of people and resources, connecting their military members about to be deployed with volunteer foster homes willing to board their pets during their
service commitments. No pet should ever be surrendered to a shelter and risk euthanasia due to a military commitment. See videos of touching reunions of dogs and soldiers on YouTube. Find contacts for donating or applying for assistance on their website.

* Guardian Angels for Soldier’s Pet. National all-volunteer Military and Veteran Support Organization assisting active duty service members, wounded warriors, veterans, and their beloved companion animals or assistance service canines through various assistance programs. See also here and here.

* Mission K9 Rescue. This organization was formed at the end of 2013 to serve all retiring and retired working dogs such as military working dogs (MWDs), contract working dogs (CWDs), police K9s, prison K9s, and any other dogs who serve as they may fit into the organization’s mission and scope. Its focus is to assist with facilitating adoption, re-homing, rescue from shelters, and transporting to forever homes for all dogs who serve. It believes that these working dogs give everything of themselves to help mankind, and they deserve the same dedication in return. Instructions for donations are online. For more information, contact 925-246-5785, info@dogs4diabetics.com, or Dogs for Diabetics Inc., 1647 Willow Pass Road #157, Concord, CA 94520-2611.

* In Situ Foundation. Dogs can detect the presence of cancer by sniffing samples such as breath, plasma, urine and sputum (saliva). In Situ dogs, working with Duke University and University of California-Davis researchers, detect breast, ovarian, thoracic, prostate, and other cancers; some can even detect urinary tract infections (UTIs) in nursing-home patients. Perhaps you might remember Duane Pickel’s cancer-sniffing Standard Schnauzer, George, aka Ch./OTCH Tailgates George Von Pickel, UDx; George was Pickel’s bomb-detection dog who had also won nearly 400 obedience awards. Check out the In Situ FAQs. For more information, info@dogsdetectcancer.org; for mailing donations: In Situ Foundation, PO Box 3040, Chico, CA 95927.

* Vested Interest in K9s. Protecting Our K9 Officers by providing bullet- and stab-protective vests and other assistance to dogs of law enforcement and related agencies throughout the country. Protect a four-legged K9 officer and save a K9’s life—for a donation of $950 ($975 for online donations), you can sponsor a protective vest for one K9 in need; donations in all amounts gratefully accepted. Since 2009, the organization has donated:
  —more than 3,600 K9 ballistic vests;
  —800 K9 opioid reversal NARCAN Kits;
  —more than $100,000 of K9 medical insurance premiums through our Healthcare for K9 Heroes program;
  —over $25,000 in K9 medical first aid kits; and
  —three Chevy Tahoe patrol vehicles custom-fitted for a K9 unit and valued at over $50,000 each.

All the programs are funded through contributions, grants, and fund-raising events. Your generous contributions allow them to help protect our nations four-legged heroes. See the web site for more information and for instructions about donating.

Last words: Happy New Year! If you have money invested in a 401(k), 403(b), or Individual Retirement Account (IRA) from which you must withdraw a yearly Minimum Required Distribution (MRD), you might benefit by considering a Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) instead of itemizing your charitable contributions. Taxes aren’t my area of expertise, so speak with your tax attorney or accountant for more information.

—Suzanne T. Smith (Los Alamos, New Mexico), Wustefuchs88@aol.com

Standard Schnauzer Club of America

Other resources:
Training Your Diabetic Alert Dog, by Rita Martinez
Dogs Naturally magazine, “Can Dogs Sniff Out Cancer?”

www.dogsdetectcancer.org

Mother nature network, “6 medical conditions that dogs can sniff out”


“The woman who can smell Parkinson’s disease,” by Elizabeth Quigley, BBC Scotland News

NOVA, “Dogs’ Dazzling Sense of Smell”

“Can Dogs Sniff Out Cancer?” by Elizabeth Quigley, BBC Scotland News

NOVA, “Dogs’ Dazzling Sense of Smell”

“Canine Detection of the Volatilome: A Review of Implications for Pathogen and Disease Detection,” Frontiers in Veterinary Science, 2016, June 24

“The Value of Early Diagnosis and Treatment in Parkinson’s Disease,” The London School of Economics and Political Science, March 2016 (available as a PDF through Google search.)
ATTENTION DELEGATES

NOTICE OF MEETING

The next meeting of the Delegates will be held at the Doubletree Newark Airport Hotel on Tuesday, March 10, 2020, beginning no earlier than 9:00 a.m. There will not be a Delegates Forum.

DELEGATES CREDENTIALS

Kristina M. Delisi, Runnells, IA, Central Iowa Kennel Club
Andrea C. Hesser, Flower Mound, TX, Mid-Continent Kennel Club of Tulsa
Tracy Pancost, Louisville, KY, West Highland Terrier Club of America
Diane Reid, New York, NY, Briard Club of America

NOTICE

As a result of an Event Committee determination the following individual stands suspended of AKC privileges. It should be noted that this determination may still be appealed and may be reversed. Upon expiration of the appeal process, an appropriate notice describing the status of the individual’s suspension, if any, will appear in this column:

Ms. Linda Kepner (Hickory Corners, MI) Ms. Sharon Schutte (Imlay City, MI)

NOTICE

Ms. Jill Baum (Tempe, AZ) Action was taken by the Canadian del Oro Kennel Club for conduct at its November 8, 2019 event. Ms. Baum was charged with inappropriate, abusive, or foul language. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the Event Committee’s report and set the penalty at a one-month event suspension and a $500 fine. (Whippet)

NOTICE

Ms. Stephanie Lindeman (Indianapolis, IN) Action was taken by the Alaskan Malamute Club of America for conduct at its November 1, 2019 event. Ms. Lindeman was charged with inappropriate, abusive or foul language. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the Event Committee’s report and set the penalty at a reprimand at a $100 fine. (Alaskan Malamute)

NOTICE

Ms. Angela Ogle (Valparaiso, IN) Action was taken by the Miniature American Shepherd Club of the USA for conduct at its September 23, 2019 event. Ms. Ogle was charged with violations of AKC rules/regulations or club regulations. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the Event Committee’s report and set the penalty at a reprimand and a $100 fine. (Australian Shepherd, Miniature American Shepherd)
falsification or alteration of an official AKC document and judging improprieties (the judge himself/herself or complicity with a judge). (Multiple Breeds)

**NOTICE**

The Management Disciplinary Committee has suspended the following individuals for one year and imposed a $1,000 fine, for non-compliance with AKC’s care and conditions policy (unacceptable conditions, facilities and/or exhibits): Effective October 15, 2019

Mr. John Heron (Sicklerville, NJ) Siberian Huskies
Ms. Kimberly Wolff-Heron (Sicklerville, NJ) Siberian Huskies

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE RULES APPLYING TO DOG SHOWS**

**CHAPTER 11, Section 8-A – Dog Show Entries, Conditions of Dogs Affecting Eligibility**

The AKC Board has endorsed the following amendment to CHAPETER 11, Section 8-A, of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows, based on a request by Staff to the AKC Board. This will be voted on at the March 10, 2020 Delegates Meeting.

**CHAPTER 11**

**SECTION 8-A. The preceding portion of this section is unchanged.**

Any dog, that in the opinion of the Event Committee attacks a person or dog at an AKC event and is believed by that Event Committee to present a hazard to persons or other dogs, shall be disqualified by the Event Committee pursuant to this section, a report shall be filed with the Executive Secretary of The American Kennel Club. The disqualified dog may not again compete at any AKC event nor be on the grounds of an AKC event unless and until, following application for reinstatement by the owner to the American Kennel Club, the owner receives official notification in writing from the AKC that the dog’s eligibility has been reinstated.

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE RULES APPLYING TO DOG SHOWS**

**CHAPTER 9, Section 2 – Superintendents and Show Secretaries**

The AKC Board has endorsed the following amendment to CHAPTER 9, Section 2, of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows, based on a request by Staff to the AKC Board. This will be voted on at the March 10, 2020 Delegates Meeting.

**CHAPTER 9**

**SECTION 2.** Any qualified person may make application to The American Kennel Club for approval to act as Show Secretary of a dog show. There is no limit on the number of Specialty Shows for which an individual may be approved Show Secretary. An individual shall be approved as Show Secretary for the show or shows of only one group or one all-breed club and any group or all-breed show held on the same day and site of the club in a calendar year. An individual must hold a license from The American Kennel Club as Superintendent in order to be approved as Superintendent for more than one group or one all-breed club and events held the same day and site with the club in a calendar year.

**PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE 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**

The AKC Board has endorsed the following amendment to CHAPTER 14, Section 5, of the Rules Applying to Dog Shows, based on a proposal by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee. This will be voted on at the March 10, 2020 Delegates Meeting.

**CHAPTER 14**

**SECTION 5.** Event Committees shall be responsible for providing suitable equipment meeting all AKC requirements for determining eligibility with respect to height and weight at every show. Event Committees may delegate this responsibility to Superintendents/Show Secretaries. All-breed shows shall be required to have at least one complete set of wickets (two sets for shows with entries of 1,000 or more) and at least one digital scale with a platform of sufficient size to safely accommodate all weighable breeds. A certified and stamped weight is also required.
Specialty Shows and Group Shows where measurable or weighable breeds are entered shall provide the appropriate wicket(s) and/or a digital scale with a platform of sufficient size to safely accommodate all breeds that might be measured or weighed at the event. A certified and stamped weight is also required.

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE BEAGLE FIELD TRIAL RULES AND STANDARD PROCEDURES FOR BRACE, SMALL PACK AND SMALL PACK OPTION FIELD TRIALS AND TWOCOUPLE PACK HUNTING TESTS

CHAPTER 6. Section 4 – Field Trial Committee, Field Trial Secretary, Premium Lists

The AKC Board has endorsed the following amendment to CHAPTER 6, Section 4, of the Beagle Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures, based on a recommendation by the Beagle Advisory Committee and supported by the Delegate Field Trial and Hunting Test Committee for all types of field trials. This will be voted on at the March 10, 2020 Delegates Meeting.

CHAPTER 6

SECTION 4. The last sentence in this section. The premium list and/or announcements for each licensed or member field trial shall contain all the information set forth on the official AKC Event Application form as approved by the American Kennel Club, except the addresses for the judges, trial chair and club officers need only include the city and state. The premium list shall be of official size.

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

Ms. Dorothy M. Barrett (101073) CA
(619) 248-1727 kabaretcavs@yahoo.com
Cavalier King Charles Spaniels

Ms. Janene Borini (107692) CO
(719) 651-0855 peakviewgrtdanes@gmail.com
Great Danes

Ms. Melanie Clark (107776) OK
(605) 670-1889 stellarkennels@gmail.com
Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers, Rhodesian Ridgebacks, Papillons, Shetland Sheepdogs, JS

Mrs. Celine-Marie Tews (107749) CA
(209) 918-7672 shaman2r@aol.com
Siberian Huskies

APPROVED BREED JUDGING APPLICANTS

Dr. Azalea A. Alvarez (97321) FL
(954) 434-0318
minsmere954@yahoo.com
Basset Hounds, Cavalier King Charles

Mr. Gary L. Andersen (6176) AZ
(480) 991-7485 glandersen@cox.net
Balance of Hound Group (American English Coonhounds, Azawakhs, Black and Tan Coonhounds, Bluetick Coonhounds, English Foxhounds, Plott Hounds, Redbone Coonhounds, Treeing Walker Coonhounds), American Staffordshire Terriers, Border Terriers, Cairn Terriers, Staffordshire Bull Terriers

Mr. Timothy Catterson (5032) IN
(765) 529-5500 timcatterson@aol.com
Curly-Coated Retrievers, Boykin Spaniels, Field Spaniels, Giant Schnauzers, Australian Shepherds

Mrs. Sandra S. Coffman (96285) KS
(785) 582-5186 coffmantribe@gmail.com
Chow Chows, Norwegian Lundehunds, Schipperkes, Tibetan Terriers

Ms. Kathryn Cowsert (17121) CA
(925) 672-1765 kcowsert@hotmail.com
Balance Non-Sporting Group (Bichons Frises, Coton de Tulear, Dalmatians, Finnish Spitz, Poodles, Tibetan Spaniels,
Tibetan Terriers), English Toy Spaniels, Japanese Chin, Pugs

Mrs. Dawn Cox (97685) PA
(717) 965-5971
cox215@comcast.net
Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs

Mrs. Beth Downey (102539) MS
(410) 829-2455
bethdowney539@gmail.com
Rhodesian Ridgebacks, Akitas, Anatolian Shepherds, Bullmastiffs, Doberman Pinschers, Giant Schnauzers, Komondorok, Portuguese Water Dogs, Rottweilers, Samoyeds, Standard Schnauzers

Ms. Alessandra Folz (102109) RI
(401) 397-3459
alessandra.folz@gmail.com
Balance of Sporting Group (Lagotti Romagnoli, Chesapeake Bay Retrievers, Curly-Coated Retrievers, Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers, Irish Red & White Setters, Clumber Spaniels, Irish Water Spaniels, Sussex Spaniels, Spinoni Italiani)

Miss Linda George (100634) WI
(262) 542-3213
ouachitah@aol.com
Papillons, Pomeranians

Mr. Edward W. Hall (0881) NH
(603) 889-5823
somerrrijuj@aol.com
Balance of Working Group (Cane Corsos, Giant Schnauzers, Standard Schnauzers, Tibetan Mastiffs)

Ms. Cynthia Hutt (95461) CO
(720) 933-8328
lapicfern@gmail.com
Bergamasco Sheepdogs, Canaan Dogs, Cardigan Welsh Corgis, Old English Sheepdogs, Pyrenean Shepherds, Spanish Water Dogs

Mr. Robert E. Hutton (15138) KY
(502) 494-8619
brocairetoo@twc.com
Balance of Working Group (Alaskan Malamutes, Anatolian Shepherds, Cane Corsos, Chinooks, Kuvazok, Leonbergers, Neapolitan Mastiffs, Saint Bernards, Tibetan Mastiffs), Australian Cattle Dogs, German Shepherd Dogs, Old English Sheepdogs

Mr. Steven A. Kirschner (97109) IN
(219) 746-8499
sakirschner@earthlink.net
Chesapeake Bay Retrievers, Curly-Coated Retrievers

Mrs. Cindy Lane (65098) GA
(864) 316-6351
glane146@yahoo.com
Balance Non-Sporting Group (Bulldogs, Coton de Tulear, Finnish Spitz, Keeshonden, Norwegian Lundehunds, Tibetan Terriers), Miniature Schnauzers

Ms. Tina Leininger (101522) PA
whytewynd@gmail.com
Siberian Huskies

Mrs. Joan Luna Liebes (6515) CO
(719) 749-0232
joanluna@hotmail.com
Balance of Toy Group (Affenpinschers, Brussels Griffons, Chihuahuas, Chinese Cresteds, Italian Greyhounds, Japanese Chins, Miniature Pinschers, Pekingese, Toy Fox Terriers, Yorkshire Terriers)

Ms. Edweena “Teddy” McDowell (17411) KS
(913) 620-4578
mcmerle@aol.com
Airedale Terriers, American Hairless Terriers, Border Terriers, Cairn Terriers, Dandie Dinmont Terriers, Norfolk Terriers, Skye Terriers

Mrs. Debbie L. Melgreen (98655) IL
(309) 358-1233
melridge@mymctc.net
Australian Shepherds, Border Collies, Briards, Icelandic Sheepdogs, Pulik

Dr. A. Todd Miller (96991) MO
(573) 560-3383
whippetsoffomyr@icloud.com
Basset Hounds, Black and Tan Coonhounds, Pharaoh Hounds, Chinese Cresteds, Maltese, Pomeranians, Yorkshire Terriers

Mr. James A. Moses (93094) MO
(770) 329-4768
jmoses9924@aol.com
Lagotti Romagnoli, Nederlandse Kooikerhondjes, German Shorthaired Pointers, German Wirehaired Pointers, Chesaapeake Bay Retrievers, English Setters, Irish Red and White Setters, American Water Spaniels, Clumber Spaniels, English Cocker Spaniels, Irish Water Spaniels, Sussex Spaniels

Ms. Mary C. Murphy-East (36967) MN
(763) 291-2263
marmcmurph@aol.com
German Shorthaired Pointers, Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers, Cocker Spaniels, Welsh Springer Spaniels, Vizslas

Mr. Richard Powell (17447) PA
(717) 496-5033
pnymdws@aol.com
Balance of Toy Group (Brussels Griffons, Chihuahuas, Chinese Cresteds, Havanesan, Italian Greyhounds, Japanese Chins, Maltese, Miniature Pinschers, Papillons, Shih Tzu, Toy Fox Terriers)

Mr. John C. Ramirez (1814) CA
(310) 991-0241
jrami68620@aol.com
Cairn Terriers, Wire Fox Terriers, Sealyham Terriers, Shiba Inu, Old English Sheepdogs

Mrs. Sharon Ann Redmer (2711) MI
(734) 449-4995
sredmer@umich.edu
Brittany, Nederlandse Kooikerhondjes, German Shorthaired Pointers, Flat Coated Retrievers, English Setters, Gor-
SECRETARY’S PAGES

don Setters, Weimaraners
Mrs. Meghen Riese-Bassel (39151) GA
(404) 663-4485
meghenbassel@gmail.com
Balance of Sporting Group (Brittanys, Nederlandse Kooikerhondjes, Pointers, German Shorthaired Pointers, Chesapeake Bay Retrievers, Spinoni Italiani)

Mr. Jay Roden (104891) OH
(513) 207-4937
jyroden@yahoo.com
Portuguese Podengo Pequenos, Anatolian Shepherds, Boxers, Rottweilers

Mrs. Vicki Seiler-Cushman (100265) OH
(513) 638-1585
seilerv@yahoo.com
American Eskimo Dogs, Bulldogs, Dalmatians, French Bulldogs, Lhasa Apso, Poodles, Norwegian Lunderhunds, Shiba Inu

Mr. Johnny Shoemaker (19267) NV
(702) 834-6557
dsup@cs.com
Black and Tan Coonhounds, Grand Basset Griffons Vendeens, Greyhounds, Otterhounds, Petit Basset Griffons Vendeens, Scottish Deerhounds

Mr. Jon Titus Steele (55162) MI
(989) 860-9677
jonauroral@gmail.com
Cavalier King Charles Spaniels, Chihuahuas, Chinese Cresteds, Havanese, Italian Greyhounds, Maltese, Manchester Terriers, Miniature Pinschers, Pomeranians, Poodles, Pugs, Shih Tzu

Ms. Helen Winski Stein (6484) FL
(941) 218-1058
beaniesue@aol.com
Balance of Sporting Group (Lagotti Romagnoli, Nederlandse Kooikerhondjes, American Water Spaniels, Boykin Spaniels, English Cocker Spaniels, Sussex Spaniels, Wirehaired Vizlas)

Ms. Lee Whitter (18526) WA
(802) 369-0380
leepacm@gmail.com
German Wirehaired Pointers, Cocker Spaniels, English Cocker Spaniels, Sussex Spaniels, Spinoni Italiani, Wirehaired Pointing Griffons, Azawakh, Dachshunds, Greyhounds, Irish Wolfhounds, Otterhounds, Plott Hounds

JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP JUDGING APPLICANTS
Mrs. Stephanie Dycha (104685) IL
(815) 761-5784
dsdycha144@gmail.com
JS

Mrs. Doreen Luhrs (104893) NC
(201) 264-2940
petagroom@gmail.com
JS-Limited

Mrs. Cathie A. Turner (95598) CA
(818) 519-2141
sunbeamgr@me.com
JS-Limited

Ms. Leigh Ann Yandle (82616) GA
(704) 904-8129
leighannyandle@gmail.com
JS-Limited

Ms. Cynthia (Cindy) Collins (107395) MI
(810) 919-2306
veritygoldens@me.com
Golden Retrievers, JS-Limited

Ms. Gidget R. Hagan (104587) AK
(907) 699-9902
snowybleu@acsalaska.net
Alaskan Malamutes, Great Danes, Shiba Inu

Ms. Bella Thompson (107246) OH
belmark@embarqmail.com
Shetland Sheepdogs

Ms. Erika N. Wyatt (107433) IL
(773) 609-3647
erika@sloughi.us
Sloughis

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 JUDGES
Ms. Cynthia (Cindy) Collins (107395) MI
(810) 919-2306
veritygoldens@me.com
Golden Retrievers, JS-Limited

Ms. Gidget R. Hagan (104587) AK
(907) 699-9902
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Alaskan Malamutes, Great Danes, Shiba Inu

Ms. Bella Thompson (107246) OH
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Shetland Sheepdogs

Ms. Erika N. Wyatt (107433) IL
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erika@sloughi.us
Sloughis

APPROVED BREED JUDGES
Mr. James S. Albrecht (100017) MA
(603) 770-6933
nhbiard@aol.com
Australian Cattle Dogs, Bearded Collies, Border Collies, Canaan Dogs, Norwegian Buhunds, Polish Lowland Sheepdogs, Pumi

Mrs. Valerie J. Brown (6082) WA
(509) 554-1669
essentiadogs@gmail.com
Balance of Toy Group (Affenpinschers, Brussels Griffons, English Toy Spaniels, Italian Greyhounds, Manchester Terriers, Pomeranians, Shih Tzu), American Staffordshire Terriers, Miniature Bull Terriers, Staffordshire Bull Terriers

Mrs. Connie H. Clark (56733) CA
(831) 685-3934
mwclark1@aol.com
Chinese Cresteds, Havanese, Italian Greyhounds, Papillons, Pekingse, Pomeranians

Mrs. Bergit Coady-Kabel (100809) CA
(818) 768-4297
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American Staffordshire Terriers, Australian Terriers, Bedlington Terriers, Irish Terriers, Kerry Blue Terriers, Lakeland Terriers, Manchester Terriers, Norfolk Terriers, Parson Russell Terriers, Russell Terriers, Sealyham Terriers, Skye Terriers

Applicants and the fancy may still offer comments to Judging Operations.

Shiba Inu

APPROVED BREED JUDGES
Mr. James S. Albrecht (100017) MA
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nhbiard@aol.com
Australian Cattle Dogs, Bearded Collies, Border Collies, Canaan Dogs, Norwegian Buhunds, Polish Lowland Sheepdogs, Pumi

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Mrs. Bergit Coady-Kabel (100809) CA
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American Staffordshire Terriers, Australian Terriers, Bedlington Terriers, Irish Terriers, Kerry Blue Terriers, Lakeland Terriers, Manchester Terriers, Norfolk Terriers, Parson Russell Terriers, Russell Terriers, Sealyham Terriers, Skye Terriers

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(810) 919-2306
veritygoldens@me.com
Golden Retrievers, JS-Limited

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Alaskan Malamutes, Great Danes, Shiba Inu

Ms. Bella Thompson (107246) OH
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Australian Cattle Dogs, Bearded Collies, Border Collies, Canaan Dogs, Norwegian Buhunds, Polish Lowland Sheepdogs, Pumi

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essentiadogs@gmail.com
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American Staffordshire Terriers, Australian Terriers, Bedlington Terriers, Irish Terriers, Kerry Blue Terriers, Lakeland Terriers, Manchester Terriers, Norfolk Terriers, Parson Russell Terriers, Russell Terriers, Sealyham Terriers, Skye Terriers

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.
Dr. Daniel W. Dowling (5972) ME
(207) 785-4494
drdaniel@tidewater.net
American Eskimo Dogs, Boston Terriers, Bulldogs, Chinese Shar-Pei, Dalmatians, French Bulldogs, Lowchen, Schipperkes, Shiba Inu, Tibetan Terriers, Xoloitzcuintli

Mr. Duff M. Harris (91790) CA
(714) 425-0454
allegro6@ix.netcom.com
Norfolk Terriers, Norwich Terriers, Russell Terriers, Scottish Terriers, Skye Terriers, Soft Coated Wheaten Terriers, Welsh Terriers, West Highland White Terriers

Ms. Patricia (Pat) Hastings (5928) OR
(503) 642-3585
pat@dogfolk.com
Golden Retrievers, Alaskan Malamutes, Boxers, Bullmastiffs, Doberman Pinschers, Great Danes, Great Pyrenees, Portuguese Water Dogs, Rottweilers, Standard Schnauzers, Miniature Schnauzers

Mr. Edward Fojtik (104757) IL
(847) 254-6216
efojtik@aol.com
Airedale Terriers, Lakeland Terriers, Norfolk Terriers, Scottish Terriers, Sealyham Terriers, West Highland White Terriers

Mr. Randy Garren (17218) NC
(919) 362-9799
k9pro@aol.com
Boxers, Doberman Pinschers, Giant Schnauzers, Great Danes, Rottweilers

Ms. Krista Hansen (95865) NY
(503) 390-4864
chris@abiquadogs.com

Ms. Sylvie McGee (95341) WA
(360) 705-1233
sylvie@sylviemcgee.net
Afghan Hounds, Otterhounds, Pharaoh Hounds, Portuguese Podengo Pequenos, Anatolian Shepherds, Saint Bernards

Mr. Malcolm E. Moore (23275) AL
(334) 312-3900
arpsnit1@gmail.com
American Eskimo Dogs, Bulldogs, Chow Chows, French Bulldogs, Shiba Inu, Tibetan Terriers, Xoloitzcuintli

Mr. Richard Mullen (3052) TN
(865) 679-9124
richmullen2@aol.com
American Eskimo Dogs, Bulldogs, Chow Chows, French Bulldogs, Shiba Inu, Tibetan Terriers, Xoloitzcuintli

Ms. Lori Nelson (32409) AZ
(480) 488-3801
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Britishtys, Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers, Irish Water Spaniels, Sussex Spaniels, Spinoni Italiani

Mrs. Donna R. O’Connell (81640) TX
(214) 724-6629
tuscanydoc@comcast.net
Curly-Coated Retrievers, Welsh Springer Spaniels

Ms. Linda L. Reece (90740) VA
(757) 508-1795
hisociety1@cox.net
Nederlandse Kooikerhondjes, Clumber Spaniels

Ms. DiAnn Flory (102063) VA
(703) 408-5088
diannflory@gmail.com
Airedale Terriers, Lakeland Terriers, Norfolk Terriers, Scottish Terriers, Sealyham Terriers

Mr. Edward Fojtik (104757) IL
(847) 254-6216
efojtik@aol.com
Airedale Terriers, Lakeland Terriers, Norfolk Terriers, Scottish Terriers, Sealyham Terriers, West Highland White Terriers

Mr. Randy Garren (17218) NC
(919) 362-9799
k9pro@aol.com
Boxers, Doberman Pinschers, Giant Schnauzers, Great Danes, Rottweilers

Ms. Krista Hansen (95865) NY
(503) 390-4864
chris@abiquadogs.com

Ms. Sylvie McGee (95341) WA
(360) 705-1233
sylvie@sylviemcgee.net
Afghan Hounds, Otterhounds, Pharaoh Hounds, Portuguese Podengo Pequenos, Anatolian Shepherds, Saint Bernards

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American Eskimo Dogs, Bulldogs, Chow Chows, French Bulldogs, Shiba Inu, Tibetan Terriers, Xoloitzcuintli

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Curly-Coated Retrievers, Welsh Springer Spaniels

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(757) 508-1795
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Nederlandse Kooikerhondjes, Clumber Spaniels
Spaniels, Spinoni Italiani, Wirehaired Pointing Griffons
Mr. Allan Reznik (103211) AR
(949) 929-5760
reznikkallan@gmail.com
Borzois, Petits Bassets Griffons, Vendeens, Whippets, Xoloitzcuintli
Mr. Jeffrey Ryman (93219) WA
(425) 876-2213
rotor8@aol.com
American Eskimo Dogs, Boston Terriers, Finnish Spitz, Keeshonden, Lhasa Apsos, Shiba Inu
Mr. Gary Stiles (51717) WA
(360) 387-3045
lacasitas@aol.com
Balance of Toy Group (Affenpinschers, Brussels Griffons, Chinese Crested, Italian Greyhounds, Pekingese)
Mr. Gregory Szynskie (46166) CO
(303) 807-3768
gszynskie@comcast.net
Samoyeds
Ms. Pamela Waldron (56812) WA
(360) 770-2403
dergogiff@comcast.net
Dalmatians, French Bulldogs
Mrs. Sherry Webster (6863) TN
(901) 289-6299
swak@cirrushair.com
Vizslas, Beaucerons, Belgian Malinois, Belgian Shepherds, Belgian Tervuren, Canaan Dogs, Entlebucher Mountain
Dogs, Finnish Lapphunds, Icelandic Sheepdogs, Old English Sheepdogs, Spanish Water Dogs, Swedish Vallhunds
Ms. Sally Wynn (99295) TN
(615) 893-7910
wynnwynn@aol.com
Portuguese Podengo Pequenos
Mrs. Lisa Young (43070) SD
(605) 390-1135
youngsd@rap.midco.net
Basset Hounds, Greyhounds, Norwegian Elkhounds, Whippets
JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP JUDGE
Ms. Lori Baumann (107308) WI
(303) 257-7250
knightwoodgold@aol.com
RESIGNED JUDGE
Professor Douglas C. Taylor
DECEASED JUDGES
Mr. Richard Camacho
Mr. Eugene Haupt
Ms. Eileen C. MacLennan
Mrs. Sally L. Vilas
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.
Mrs. Laura J Delfino (5212) CA
(925) 917-9008
bgenora@aol.com
Obedience – Utility
Ms. Denise Lacroix (18254) MA
(508) 612-8202
denise@ledgeland.com
Obedience – Utility
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. Linda F Morris (101667) MD
(410) 430-7275
LMorris25@comcast.net
Rally – All
Dr. Brenda Riemer (104082) MI
(734) 474-8900
thyminator@yahoo.com
Obedience – Novice
Mr. Ronald E Seeley (18975) FL
(772) 971-4151
rsseeley1337@gmail.com
Obedience – Utility
Dr. Jill Warren (94859) NM
(505) 670-5590
esthete.es@comcast.net
Rally – All
EMERITUS RALLY JUDGES
Janice Carpenter (FL)
REGISTERED HANDLERS
Letters concerning registered handers and handler applicants should be addressed to the Handlers Department at 8051 Arco Corporate Drive, Raleigh, NC 27617.
The American Kennel Club will, at the request of a registered handler applicant, provide that individual with copies of letters received regarding their handling qualifications. As a result, it should be understood that any such correspondence will be made available upon request, to the registered handler or handler applicant.
It is the responsibility of all registered handlers to notify the Handlers Department of any changes or corrections to their address, phone, fax or emails. These changes are very important because they affect your handlers record, the Web site and the Handlers Directory. Please notify the Handlers Department at (919) 816-3884 or Email handlers@akc.org
NEW REGISTERED HANDLER APPLICANTS
The following persons have submitted an application for the Registered Handler Program.
Mr. Adam Bernardin
29 Pumpkin Hill Road
Chaplin, CT 06235
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:

BELLA LUNA – Australian Shepherds – Jacqueline M. Frazier
CELESTIA 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
LAZYVI – 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. Holloway

REGISTERED NAME PREFIXES GRANTED

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

AUBRIDGE – Golden Retrievers – Robin E. Baker
BOONDOCKS – Cane Corsos – Medesta D. Pigg
BORN FREE – Newfoundland sloths – Eve Caimano
CABOCHARD – Great Pyrenees – Ellie Schultz
CAZADOR – Vizslas – Roger K. Poole
DESERT HIGH – Shih Tzu – Melody A. Campbell & Edward J. Campbell
DREAMERS – Pekingese – Katherine Torchia & Catherine Danielson
FLAMINGSTAR – Chow Chows – Cathy Clapp
FREESTYLE – Australian Shepherds – Vicky L. Farrell
GOLDEN SOUL – Golden Retrievers – Nancy C. Lewine & Jennifer A. Cochran
OBSIDIAN – Australian Shepherds – Danielle R. Jasiewski
PRAIRIE CHASE – Labrador Retrievers – Tommy R. Chesbro
ROCKY MTN NORFOLK – Norfolk Terriers – Rebecca S Sheely & Joseph S. Sheely
SERAPHIM – Australian Shepherds – Leslie L. Seraphin
STEADFAST – Australian Shepherds – Jennifer L. Jennetten
SUNWYST – Havanese – Anne Stevenson & Debbi D. Foust
SWISS BLISS – Bernese Mountain Dogs – Koreen M. Speegle
TIMELESS FARMS – Shetland Sheepdogs – Gregg J. Foglia & Linda M. Foglia
ZANECA – Australian Shepherds – Connie L. Dilts
ZOLAROZA – Black Russian Terriers – Kaye Shipley & Layne S. Townsend

QUARTERLY MEETING OF THE DELEGATES OF THE AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB
DECEMBER 13, 2019

Dennis B. Sprung, President
PRESENT 312

Abilene Kennel Club—Melanie Steele
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 Black & Tan Coonhound Club, Inc.—Robert Urban
American Bloodhound Club—Mary Lou Olaszewski
American Bouvier des Flandres Club, Inc—Patte Klecan
American Boxer Club, Inc.—Sharon Steckler
American Brittany Club, Inc.—Mrs. Terri Hilliard
American Brussels Griffon Association—Mr. Mark F. Jaeger
American Bullmastiff Association, Inc.—
   Alan Kaller
American Chesapeake Club, Inc.—Timothy Carrion
American Fox Terrier Club—Connie Clark
American Foxhound Club, Inc.—Harold Miller
American Lhasa Apso Club, Inc.—Don Hanson
American Maltese Association, Inc.—Ms. Sandra Bingham-Porter
American Miniature Schnauzer Club, Inc.—Barbara Donahue
American Pointer Club, Inc.—Mr. Danny D. Seymour
American Pomeranian Club, Inc.—Dr. Geno Sinseros
American Rottweiler Club—Mr. Peter G. Piusz
American Shetland Sheepdog Association—Marjorie Tuff
American Whippet Club, Inc.—Karen B. Lee
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
Australian Cattle Dog Club of America—Joyce Rowland
Australian Terrier Club of America, Inc.—William I. Christensen
Basset Hound Club of America, Inc.—Dr. Norine E. Noonan
Battle Creek Kennel Club, Inc.—Mrs. Kathleen Ronald
Bayshore Companion Dog Club, Inc.—Gloria Marshall
Beaver County Kennel Club, Inc.—Phyllis Belcastro
Belgian Sheepdog Club of America, Inc.—Mary G. Buckwalter
Belle-City Kennel Club, Inc.—Carole A. Wilson
Berks County Kennel Club, Inc.—Eileen Nareika
Bernese Mountain Dog Club of America, Inc.—Sara Karl
Bichon Frise Club of America, Inc.—Mrs. Toby B. Frisch
Black Russian Terrier Club of America—Susan Sholar
Blennerhassett Kennel Club, Inc.—John McCullagh
Boca Raton Dog Club Inc.—Ronald Hammond
Borzoi Club of America, Inc.—Prudence G. Hlatky
Boston Terrier Club of America, Inc.—Mrs. Kathleen M. Kelly
Briard Club of America, Inc.—Gerard Baudet
Bryn Mawr Kennel Club—Victoria Glickstein
Bull Terrier Club of America—Ms. Jan Dykema
Bulldog Club of Philadelphia—Elizabeth H. Milam
Burlington County Kennel Club, Inc.—Daniel J. Smyth, Esq.
Cairn Terrier Club of America—Pam Davis
California Collie Clan, Inc.—Mrs. Robette G. Johns
Cambridge Minnesota Kennel Club—Mr. Wayne F. Harmon
Canaan Dog Club of America—Pamela S. Rosman
Canada Del Oro Kennel Club—Dr. Sophia Kaluzniacki
Capital Dog Training Club of Washington, D.C., Inc.—Dr. Joyce A. Dandridge
Carolina Kennel Club, Inc.—Jaimie Ashby
Carolina Working Group Association—Cathleen Rubens
Catoctin Kennel Club—Whitney Coombs
Catonsville Kennel Club—Beverly A. Drake
Cedar Rapids Kennel Association, Inc.—Robert E. Tainsh, M.D.
Central Florida Kennel Club, Inc.—Julian Prager
Central Indiana Kennel Club, Inc.—Sally Allen
Central Ohio Kennel Club—Jon Green
Chain O’Lakes Kennel Club—Barry D. Rose
Charleston Kennel Club—Terri Hallman
Charlottesville-Albemarle Kennel Club, Inc.—Mr. John J. Lyons
Chattanooga Kennel Club—Mr. David Gilstrap
Chinese Shar-Pei Club of America, Inc.—Marge B. Callharp
Chow Chow Club, Inc.—Margaret DiCorleto
Clackamas Kennel Club—Tam F. Worley
Classic Toy Dog Club of Western Massachusetts—Dr. Stephen Lawrence
Clearwater Kennel Club—Daniel T. Stolz
Clermont County Kennel Club, Inc.—Marjorie Underwood
Cleveland All-Breed Training Club, Inc.—Mrs. Maureen R. Setter
Colorado Kennel Club—Mrs. Louise Leone
Colorado Springs Kennel Club—Douglas Johnson
Conyers Kennel Club of Georgia—Michael Houchard
Cudahy Kennel Club—Mr. Don H. Adams
Dachshund Club of America, Inc.—Larry Sorenson
Dalmatian Club of America, Inc.—Dr. Charles Garvin
Dandie Dinmont Terrier Club of America, Inc.—Karen Dorn
Dayton Dog Training Club, Inc.—Barbara L. Mann
Dayton Kennel Club, Inc.—Sandra Groeschel
Delaware County Kennel Club, Inc.—Brenda A. Algar
Delaware Water Gap Kennel Club—Dr. A. D. Batherus
Dog Owners’ Training Club of Maryland, Inc.—Nancy Zinkhan
Duluth Kennel Club—Leah R. James
Durango Kennel Club—Donald E. Schwatz, V.M.D.
Durham Kennel Club Inc.—Linda C. Wozniak
Eastern German Shorthaired Pointer Club, Inc.—Robert Rynkieicz
Elm City Kennel Club—Dr. Gregory J. Paveza
English Setter Association of America, Inc.—Mr. John P. Nielsen
English Springer Spaniel Club of America—Dr. A. H. D. Butherus
Finnish Spitz Club of America—Mrs. Cindy Collins
Farmington Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—Terrie Breen
Fayetteville Kennel Club, Inc.—Teresa Vila
Finger Lakes Kennel Club, Inc.—Margaret B. Pough
Finnish Spitz Club of America—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
Galveston County Kennel Club, Inc.—Cathy De La Garza
Genesee County Kennel Club, Inc.—Mrs. Cindy Collins
Genesee Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—Virginia Denninger
German Shepherd Dog Club of America—Dr. Carmen L. Battaglia
German Shorthaired Pointer Club of America—Mrs. Barbara N. Schwartz
German Wirehaired Pointer Club of America, Inc.—Ms. Patricia W. Laurans
Giant Schnauzer Club of America, Inc.—Chris Reed
Glen of Imaal Terrier Club of America—Jo Lynn
Glen Falls Kennel Club, Inc.—Mrs. Bonnie Lapham
Golden Retriever Club of America—Ellen Hardin
Gordon Setter Club of America, Inc.—Nance O. Skoglund
Grand Rapids Kennel Club—Carol L. Johnson
Great Barrington Kennel Club, Inc.—Dr. Ellen C. Shanahan
Great Pyrenees Club of America, Inc.—Dr. Robert M. Brown
Greater Clark County Kennel Club Inc.—Ms. Karen J. Burgess
Greater Collin Kennel Club, Inc.—Barbara Shaw
Greater Fredericksburg Kennel Club—Patricia B. Staub
Greater Miami Dog Club—Dr. Azaelea A. Alvarez
Greater Philadelphia Dog Fanciers Association—Mr. Jerry A. Berkowitz
Greater Sierra Vista Kennel Club—Ms. Charlotte J. Borghardt
Greater Swiss Mountain Dog Club of America, Inc.—Catherine Cooper
Greenville Kennel Club—Gloria Askins
Greenwich Kennel Club—Donna Gilbert
Harrier Club of America—Donna Smiley
Harrisburg Kennel Club, Inc.—Sandie Rolenatis
Hatboro Dog Club, Inc.—Sally L. Fineburg
Heart of the Plains Kennel Club—Patricia M. Cruz
Heartland Dog Club of Florida—Linda Pheasant
Hockamock Kennel Club, Inc.—Nancy Fisk
Hoosier Kennel Club, Inc.—Karl H. Kreck
Houston Kennel Club, Inc.—Thomas D. Pines
Hungarian Pumi Club of America—Marlyn Piusz
Huntingdon Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—Dick Blair
Huntington Kennel Club, Inc.—Ms. Mariel A. Waterstraat
Hutchinson Kennel Club, Inc.—Barbara A. Penny
Ibizan Hound Club of the United States—Michelle Barlak
Idaho Capital City Kennel Club, Inc.—Robyn Foust
Illinois Capitol Kennel Club, Inc.—Ann L. Cookson
Ingham County Kennel Club, Inc.—Rita J. Biddle
Irish Red and White Setter Association of America—Christopher M. Orcutt
Irish Setter Club of America, Inc.—Ms. Karolyne M. McAtee
Irish Water Spaniel Club of America—R. J. Rubin
Irish Wolfhound Club of America—Eugenia Hunter
Japanese Chin Club of America—Victoria Dovellos
Kanadasaga Kennel Club—Christine Cone
Keeshond Club of America, Inc.—Richard Su
Kenilworth Kennel Club of Connecticut, Inc.—Doreen Weintraub
Kennebec Valley Kennel Club of Beverly Hills—Thomas Powers
Kennebec Valley Kennel Club of Maine—Margaret Doster
Kennebec Valley Kennel Club of Providence—Margaret Doster
Kennebec Valley Kennel Club of Rhode Island—Dr. Suzanne H. Hampton
Piedmont Kennel Club, Inc.—Dean Burwell
Plum Creek Kennel Club of Colorado—William E. Ellis
Port Chester Obedience Training Club, Inc.—Kathy Gregory
Portuguese Water Dog Club of America—Robin Burwell
Puyallup Valley Dog Fanciers, Inc.—Frances Stephens
Pyrenean Shepherd Club of America—Mrs. Nancy-Lee Coombs
Queen City Dog Training Club, Inc.—Erica Behnke
Ramuco 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
Rogue Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—Paul Bodeving
Rubber City Kennel Club—Cathy Gaidos
Sahuaro State Kennel Club—Rita L. Mather
Salisbury Maryland Kennel Club—Karen Cottingham
Salisbury North Carolina Kennel Club—Bob Busby
Samoyed Club of America, Inc.—Mr. John L. Ronald
San Antonio Kennel Club, Inc.—Nancy J. Shaw
San Gabriel Valley Kennel Club—Anthony Vasquez
Santa Ana Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—Keith Hicks
Santa Clara Valley Kennel Club, INC.—Mr. David J. Peat
Saw Mill River Kennel Club, Inc.—Mimi Winkler
Schipperke Club of America, Inc.—Betty Jo Patrick
Scottish Terrier Club of America—Helen A. Prince
Scottsdale Dog Fanciers Association, Inc.—Dr. Dawn Schroeder
Shenandoah Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—Sharyn Y. Hutchens
Shoreline Dog Fanciers Association of Orange County—Susan L. Hamil
Siberian Husky Club of America, Inc.—Ann M. Cook
Skye Terrier Club of America—Mr. Stephen P. Hersey
Skyline Kennel Club, Inc.—Gloria Shaver
Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of America—Robert Bergman
Somerset Hills Kennel Club—Harvey Goldberg
South Hills Kennel Club—Raymond P. Harrington
South Shore Kennel Club, Inc.—Linda C. Flynn
South Windsor Kennel Club—Mrs. Laurie Maulucci
Southeast Arkansas Kennel Club—Ricky Adams
Southeastern Iowa Kennel Club—Marilyn R. Vinson
Southern Adirondack Dog Club, Inc.—John V. Iota
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. Joseph Kennel Club, Inc.—Mrs. Frances H. Colonna
Staffordshire Bull Terrier Club of America—Amy J. Schwoebel
Staffordshire Terrier Club of America—Jeannette O’Hanlon
Standard Schnauzer Club of America—Dr. Harvey Mohrenweiser
Steel City Kennel Club, Inc.—Miss Susan M. Napady
Suffolk County Kennel Club, Inc.—Mr. Robert Eisele
Sun Maid Kennel Club of Fresno, Inc.—Marcy L. Zingler
Superstitution Kennel Club, Inc.—Nancy Perrell
Susque-Nango Kennel Club, Inc.—Laura Trainor
Sussex Hills Kennel Club, Inc.—Mrs. Florence Duggan
Tampa Bay Kennel Club—Mary Stok
Tennessee Valley Kennel Club—Mrs. Richella M. Veatch
Terry-All Kennel Club, Inc.—Ms. Sonja J. Ostrom
Texas Kennel Club, Inc.—Dr. Michael Knight
Town and Country Kennel Club, Inc.—Aubrey Nash
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
United States Australian Shepherd Association—Jeff Margeson
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
QUARTERLY MEETING OF THE DELEGATES OF
THE AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB
DECEMBER 13, 2019

Dennis B. Sprung, President in the Chair, called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. (National Anthem played.)

Mr. Sprung reminded the Delegates in attendance to sign in at the computer stations outside the meeting room and that the three newest AKC Lifetime Achievement Award winners would be honored during the Delegate luncheon following the meeting.

The Chair introduced the persons seated with him on the dais. Chairman, William Feeney; Vice Chair, Patricia M. Cruz; Professional Registered Parliamentarian, Joan Corbisiero; Gina DiNardo, Executive Secretary; Tony Rolland, the Court Reporter.

The Executive Secretary read the report on the Nominating Committee and the report on additional nominations as follows:

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 are three vacancies for the class of 2024 and one vacancy for the Class of 2021.

Class of 2021: Dr. Thomas Davies, Springfield Kennel Club.
Class of 2024: Jeffrey David Ball, Ramapo Kennel Club; Dr. Michael Knight, Texas Kennel Club; Karolyne 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: The Bylaws state that nominations may not be made from the floor, therefore nominations closed on November 15, 2019. In accordance with the Delegate Standing Rule, each candidate is allowed three minutes to address the body. Keith Frazier will indicate to the candidates when three minutes have expired. The Chair will introduce the candidates in alphabetical order, and no questions from the floor will be entertained. The candidate for the class of 2021 is Dr. Thomas Davies representing Springfield Kennel Club.

Dr. Davies: Good morning. The year 2020 is upon us, as amazing as that sounds. With each new year our collective responsibility is to move our sport and our organization forward collaboratively. Let’s not forget that we’re a community. If we all set out to do everything, we can to achieve our goals, we can make tremen-
dous progress for our purebred dogs. Working together everybody wins and ultimately the dogs win. Our priorities are to increase registrations and entries, grow the number of breeders producing litters, encourage our Juniors, and advance the important work of our clubs. The world is changing, but as dog fans here we must remain true to our core values. The future of our sport depends on our commitment to one another. While on the Board my every intention is to keep all eyes on the prize, a flourishing sport of purebred dogs in America. We need more teamwork and less bureaucracy, more common sense and less complaining, more solutions and more ideas. I have proposed that we conduct a comprehensive study of the issues facing our clubs and our shows. During my tenure I will take this on and I hope that you will all join me as we seek solutions and remedies. We all have the passion to affect the changes we need. We owe it to our sport and surely to our dogs to try. Thank you.

Mr. Sprung: Thank you, Tom. The first candidate for the class of 2024 is Carl C. Ashby, III, representing the United States Kerry Blue Terrier Club.

Mr. Ashby: Good morning. During our brief time together this morning I’d like to share with you the kind of Director I will be. My decisions will be driven by the mission of the American Kennel Club. I would get things done. I would question to gain insight and understanding. I would listen to and respect other points of view. I would be a team player – striving to bring people together to solve problems. I would bring creative thinking and innovative ideas. I would work to make AKC the voice of dogs in America, all dogs, with an increased public relations presence. Most importantly I would value you and your Club’s thoughts on issues. I would listen and be accessible. I would seek renewed emphasis on the AKC mission to guide our decisions or directions. My goals would be to increase our visibility engagement with the dog-owning public through registrations, event participation and public outreach to assure our clubs are getting the support they must have as the volunteer backbone of AKC. Make no mistake, I know that policy flexibility is necessary, that some policies are outdated, and that the time for action is now, and to do everything possible to rebuild our legacy event such as Conformation. These are the foundations of our mission and the future of purebred dogs bred to a standard. We must have new approaches to solve old problems. Staying in our “comfort zone” has not moved us forward as many of the old problems remain. We must find solutions that embrace the new reality that surrounds us. During my professional career I was asked to lead organizations facing difficult challenges. I found ways to meet those challenges. The skills I used then would serve you well in the AKC boardroom. I’m not the star at a cocktail party, but that’s not where the work gets done. The work gets done in the boardroom, and it gets done in the boardroom and in relationships around it. I build relationships and that is why I have been asked to serve and lead so many community organizations. I hope to talk with many of you in the weeks ahead. If you have a question or concern, please call me. The best candidate information is always from the candidate. If elected I would bring as a past Board Vice Chair a working knowledge of AKC, extensive experience in multiple dog clubs including leading events, successful bottom line business experience, and an unwavering commitment to the mission of AKC. All are required to be an effective AKC Director. Please allow me to serve you and your club with your vote in March. Thank you.

Mr. Sprung: Thank you, Carl. The second candidate is Jeffrey David Ball representing Ramapo Kennel Club.

Mr. Ball: Mr. Ball: Good morning. Everyone in this room has two things in common: Their love of the dog and a knowledge that the success of the American Kennel Club is vital to the well-being of our dogs. The public feels the same way about one of these items. They love their dogs. In 2000 there were 68 million dogs in America. It has climbed to 84 million in 2018. Approximately 56 percent of the homes have dogs. The public spending on their pets went from 17 billion in 1994 to $72.5 billion in 2018. These figures should be great news for AKC, but there is problem. We are not growing. Our registrations and show entries are down. Clubs are struggling to recruit members. It seems as if our breeding and show rights are under attack every day. Many companies and organizations struggle. In fact, they project 40 percent of the Fortune 500 companies will not exist in ten years. They will fail for different reasons, but one of the main causes is they fail to change. Society is continuously evolving and therefore forces change. Competition comes in different forms and we need to adapt. A problem we have is there is still a disconnect with the public as well as many of the fancy itself. Either they do not know
who AKC is, they have the wrong impression of AKC, or they think of AKC as "them" and not "us". The truth is we are all AKC. To properly correct this problem, we need the help of the clubs. There lies the bigger problem. Clubs are struggling. Without clubs, AKC is just a registry or another business. AKC is a club of clubs first. We need to look at our policies and understand what works for one does not work for everyone. Different size clubs, different regions in the country, there are many variables to consider. We need to learn to be more flexible. My goal would be to help us collectively make a change. First, we need to help our clubs. We cannot build internal support if we have internal struggles. We need to be more accommodating and have a lot more flexibility and give the clubs and fancy ownership of the AKC. Once clubs are stabilized, we can begin to reeducate the public. As the fancy and public realize who we really are we will once again be the bigger problem. Clubs are struggling. Without clubs, AKC is just a registry or another business. AKC is a club of clubs first. We need to look at our policies and understand what works for one does not work for everyone. Different size clubs, different regions in the country, there are many variables to consider. We need to learn to be more flexible. My goal would be to help us collectively make a change. First, we need to help our clubs. We cannot build internal support if we have internal struggles. We need to be more accommodating and have a lot more flexibility and give the clubs and fancy ownership of the AKC. Once clubs are stabilized, we can begin to reeducate the public. As the fancy and public realize who we really are we will once again begin to grow. I would love that opportunity and knowledge that we have in this room. We can use creative thinking and innovation to revitalize the clubs and help them assist us in continuing our mission, upholding the integrity of the registry for the purebred dogs and breeding, as well as improve the canine lives as well as the families, and responsible ownership. Thank you.

Mr. Sprung: Thank you, Jeffrey. The third candidate is Dr. Carmen L. Battaglia representing the German Shepherd Dog Club of America.

Dr. Battaglia: Good Morning, in the 3 minutes I have, let me begin by saying I have twice been President of both my Parent Club and my local Specialty Club, I am an active member of the Atlanta Kennel Club, a breeder of German Shepherd Dogs, and have finished several himself.

I judge the herding and working Groups, several sporting breeds and remain an active Breeder of Merit. I have authored many books on dogs and published more than 70 articles which have appeared in Veterinary Journals, and in many of the leading dog magazines. I was the Assistant Dean at Emory University and the Regional Administrator for the US Department of Education. I served multiple terms on the AKC Board of Directors, chaired countless committees and was liaison to the: Parent Club, Bylaws, Canine Health, Companion Events, Herding, Earthdog & Coursing Events Delegate Committees. I am a current PAC and Reunite Board member and chair AKC’s, Dog Detection Task Force whose mission is to help increase the supply of detection dogs that are needed to protect the country. With that said, my background in business and in the dog world had prepared me for the many projects I would like to finish. For example, I chaired the committee that developed the DNA system we have today and streamlined the requirements for importing dogs. I was on the board when we added the select title in conformation and the 1 + 1 program. I helped improve the obedience point schedule. Achiever dog was a proposal I brought to the Companion Events Committee which generated over 66,000 entries. We have many good things to talk about, the AKC Museum of the Dog is in now in NY and doing well; AKC.TV is growing and beginning to make a difference. These are on some of my accomplishments, but there are other problems facing AKC. Conformation is in its 15th year of declining entries. Shows, clubs and breeds are suffering. The cluster has become the route for most clubs to survive; 50% of the stud book are now low entry breeds, and only 41% of our pups are being registered. Our clubs are getting smaller and the greying effect is taking its toll. We have come a long way and I would like to work with the board to focus on these compelling problems. I like to think of our problems this way, we have the willingness to fight and the talent to win. I will need your vote in March. I am convinced we can make things better.

Mr. Sprung: Thank you, Carmen. The fourth candidate is Dr. Michael Knight representing Texas Kennel Club.

Dr. Knight: I spent three weeks writing my speech and then I tore it up last night and decided just to talk to you. I am probably the least-known person running for this office and what I’ve heard is "who is that guy?” So, my name is Michael Knight, I have a Ph.D. in human resources, a degree in banking and finance, a degree in human resources, a degree in psychology, and a master’s in psychology. And I was taught to be a fundraiser by my grandmother. That’s part of what my family does. I own a staffing firm. I am very familiar with working with a multimillion-dollar budget, I do it every day in charity work and with our company. I cannot tell you who I will be, I can just tell you who I am already. I am the guy who will listen. I am opinionated. I have a point of view. I think we need to make changes now. I think that AKC needs to make some changes, but I think it’s already in
process. I would like to hurry that along because I think we’re running out of time. I think band aids don’t work. We need serious changes now. In our local area, in our cluster, and I’ve said some of this before. If it’s a repeat to you, I’m sorry. I took a tour of our junior high schools and we got the principals and the teachers to give us an hour in several of the junior highs. We chose junior high kids because they’re not thinking about college yet. Seniors are thinking about college or specialty schools, so we backed up and went to junior high schools to talk about dog shows and being a handler or being a breeder, because juniors haven’t made decisions about college yet. They’re not thinking about what they want to do with their lives. Their parents quite frankly aren’t pushing them yet to make those decisions. I asked the local schools, one in particular which like I mentioned earlier there are 49 junior high schools in Dallas and Fort Worth, to please come to our dog show. We expected a few kids to show up. Three school buses showed up, 96 kids came, they took a tour, they had a great time. We’re going to go to the other 49 schools and offer the same thing. And we then had a class on our programs about being a handler. We had 19 children show up with their parents, completely enthusiastic about this might be something my kid would love, even though the children brought the parents. They all left with a lot of knowledge about what AKC is, what AKC could be to them, what our local cluster could do for them. We have grown our show, like I said, to 36 specialties. We help them financially. We take our Purina sponsorship money and sink it into the Specialties because we want to grow the treasuries of the small clubs because without the treasuries they’re going to go away anyway. We have helped them with volunteer work. We help find people to help them. We don’t care if you’re in the club or not, just if you want to volunteer, we will let you help us and we will help you join us. Thank you.

Mr. Sprung: Thank you, Michael. The fifth candidate for the class of 2024 is Karolynne McAteer representing the Irish Setter Club of America.

Ms. McAteer: I have one piece of paper because I too tore up what I thought I was going to say. I am from the Irish Setter Club of America and I am a 50-year breeder of Irish Setters. I am in conformation, hunting and field trials, and I am also the chairman of a small rural all-breed club, so I think it’s safe to say I’m in it with all of you, and I’m experiencing exactly what you are. I thought it might be more interesting to tell you what I have done in the past four years since I had the honor of your votes to win a board seat. Since I stood before you four years ago and earned your support, I have joined the Board of the AKC CHF with an emphasis on communications. I am a founding member of the AKC-TV with the idea that as we celebrate our second birthday of that wonderful growing entity, we are really starting to reach out to those beyond our own fancy; that is where our growth is going to come and it’s where the saving will come of purebred dogs. I serve on the board of the PAC and focus on ways to communicate to the public that we do not want to lose what we love. That includes the dog lying down next to you in front of the hearth, and it includes the one going around a group ring. Our way to communicate is to get to the general public, and that’s my personal mission. So that is what I’ve been focusing on in the four years that I’ve sat in place. I coordinate the live streaming for this event, so you’ll see me on the floors for daytime, and at night I’m hidden in a truck choosing camera shots, so I’m hoping the general public gets to see all that, and I’ve done that for 15 years for Westminster. I am vice president of Moore County Kennel Club which I told you about when we were all talking, a small club with the same issues all of you are having. However, we have found many ways around those issues and to grow ourselves, and I would look forward to sharing those with the small clubs, in discussion. I ask for your support so I can finish some of what I started and because I do want to be a part of what I see as much needed change, so thank you all.

Mr. Sprung: Thank you, Karolynne.

The Chair called on the Executive Secretary to read the names of the Delegates seated since the last meeting:

Jennifer Amundsen, Cottage Grove, Wisconsin, to represent Badger Kennel Club

Christine Cone, Ontario, New York, to represent Kanadasaga Kennel Club

John Cornell, Richmond, Vermont, to represent Champlain Valley Kennel Club

Leslie Jaseph, Crownsville, Maryland, to represent Columbia Terrier Association of Maryland

Steven Lisker, East Rockaway, New York, to represent Akita Club of America

Susan Olsen, Chicago, Illinois, to represent Park Shore Kennel Club
Chris Reed, Port Allen, Louisiana, to represent Giant Schnauzer Club of America
Joanne Wilds, Chesapeake, Virginia, to represent Miniature Pinscher Club of America

The following Delegates, who were attending their first meeting since approval were introduced from the floor:

Alyson Casper to represent Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever Club, USA
Christine Cone to represent Kanadasaga Kennel Club
Chris Reed to represent Giant Schnauzer Club of America
Loretta ‘Sandie’ Friend to represent Virginia Kennel Club
Joanne Wilds to represent Miniature Pinscher Club of America

The minutes of the September 10, 2019 Delegates Meeting were published in the online Gazette and the complete transcript is posted on the delegate’s portal on AKC’s website. There were no corrections and the minutes were adopted as published.

Mr. Sprung advised that the Chairman’s report would be distributed to all delegates via email following the meeting and would be available on the Delegate Portal and on AKC.org.

Mr. Sprung delivered the President’s Report as follows:
I’d like to congratulate everyone as we join together celebrating America’s National Champion in Conformation, Agility and Obedience. With over 11,000 entries, this is the largest dog event ever held in the United States. Additional good news to share is that litter registrations are increasing for the fifth consecutive year, and individual dog registration is up for the sixth consecutive. The number of unique breeders continues to grow. Aggregate entries through October are plus 60,000. Together, we are on target to achieve the highest number of entries in AKC’s 135-year history. Show breeders are the pillars of our sports, and in support of that AKC’s Board of Directors designated 2020 as the Year of the Breeder. I am happy to announce that we will offer a free litter registration to the winner of Best Bred-by at every All Breed and Group show and each Parent Club’s national specialty. In October I emailed to the delegate body research on All-Breed shows, and last month shared with each of you a report about our public relations initiatives which keeps enhancing our brand and reputation. I’ll continue to provide you with ongoing information. On December 2nd the social media department reached their goal of 300,000 Instagram followers. This huge growth enables more conversations, education and engagement with fanciers and the dog loving public. We are experiencing ongoing success with our educational outreach on many fronts.

Mr. Sprung called on Ashley Jacot, Director of Education, to deliver a presentation on two current Education initiatives.

Ms. Jacot: Thank you so much for having me here today. I’m really looking forward to telling you about two of the many initiatives that education uses to share our mission. William Butler Yeats once said that "Education is not the filling of a pail, but the lighting of a fire.” I was a classroom teacher for several years before working for the American Kennel Club and I’ve seen the fire that’s lit in children when they learn something new. I’ve been fortunate to see that again in my work with the American Kennel Club. I’ve seen children come to their very first dog show as part of our AKC Patch Program and leave wanting to be a junior. I’ve seen their parents meet a breed that they never even new existed and ask how to find a breeder in their area. We believe in play an important role in their children’s learning. It’s a great way to reach an audience that’s very important to us. Little 10 Robot made this app for us. They were founded in 2017, and they have created many learning apps for children. In addition to their library they’ve also created apps for the Walt Disney Company. As of August 2019, Little 10 Robot’s apps have...
been downloaded more than 2.2 million times and have reached more than 850,000 classrooms all over the country. So how does this app work? Players will tour the country competing in the AKC agility events as they work their way to the AKC National Championship. Players will take 12 different tours across the map and eventually end at the AKC National Agility Championship in Perry, Georgia. The math facts that they choose will determine where in the country they go. The game will feature 15 playable dog breeds, and the children can unlock up to 60 additional breeds using a motivational system. The more challenging levels they play, the more breeds they will unlock. Players will be able to practice math facts in addition, subtraction, multiplication and division, and as the math facts appear on the screen, the faster the children answer, the faster the dog will complete the obstacles. As the player dances through the game, they unlock additional breeds. Each card features information about the breed as well as two different angles of the dog. Sixty total breeds were chosen ranging from the most popular to the more rare. Little 10 Robot created these dogs using geometric shapes and researched each breed’s standard for accuracy. As the player dance advances through the game, the dog will travel more challenging obstacles such as A frames and weave polls. And once the course is finished, the results appear on screen with scoring that is correct to the sport of agility. I have a little preview here for you.

(Video played)

Ms. Jacot: Thank you. We’re very excited about this. The next program I want to tell you about is the AKC PupPal program. The AKC PupPal program provides children in need of uplifting with a photo of and a letter from a canine friend. Any child is eligible to receive a note, including children who are struggling with illness, those who have lost a parent or a sibling, children who are missing a deployed parent, or who otherwise are struggling through a difficult time. Our department seeks from dog owners photos of their dog and information about them. We utilize that information as well as information provided by the child’s parent to match children with dogs that share similar interests and personality traits. We then write the letter and mail it to the child on behalf of the dog. This is Leo whose picture and information is being shared here with permission from his parents. Leo has a very serious chronic medical condition. He requires constant treatment. He was paired with Darla, a chihuahua who also has a chronic medical condition. Leo’s mom sent us this picture and told us that Leo received his PupPal after a very difficult day of treatment and when he opened it and saw Darla, that was the first time he had smiled that entire day. We have received more than 250 requests from children just like Leo, some who are struggling with illness, some terminal or chronic, those who have a missing parent, a deployed parent, these who have just recently lost a parent or a sibling. The children who have been assigned to PupPal range in age from two to 15, however, any child is eligible. They’re facing very serious issues, and a PupPal really helps to brighten their day and help them make a connection to someone when they’re needing it the most. So, who are our dogs? We’ve received more than 2,000 submissions for dogs. We receive approximately 75 per day, and this is just since this program launched in late September. Eighty-one percent of the submissions represent 142 recognized breeds. Seven percent are FSS or miscellaneous – excuse me – twelve percent are FSS and miscellaneous, and seven percent are All-American dogs. The dog owners represent a really diverse group of individuals. Forty-five percent have previously or currently compete in AKC sports. Fifteen percent have a dog registered with the AKC but have had no further interaction. Two percent are other, meaning that they may have attended a dog show or seen one on TV. And then 38 percent are completely unfamiliar with the American Kennel Club, and the PupPal program is their very first time interacting with us. Where are the dogs from? We have dogs from all 50 states, the District of Columbia and Puerto Rico. We also have dogs from Norway, Canada, Australia, Ireland, Scotland, Wales and Croatia, and we get more every day from all over the world. It’s really easy to get involved in this program. Parents can submit their child, and dog owners can submit their dog online using a simple form on the AKC PupPals website which you’ll see right here on the right-hand side of the screen. If you’d like to sign your dog up this weekend, you can come by the public education booth on Saturday and Sunday. Children receive their letters in seven to ten business days, and dogs who participate receive a certificate in the mail as well as a bandana. You can see this is my dog Boone wearing his PupPal bandana. So how do these initiatives help us accomplish our goals? They help increase awareness to purebred dogs and the sport of purebred dogs amongst parents, teachers and children. They help
provide us an opportunity to combat the negative message that animal rights groups spread in schools and in our communities. And they provide us an opportunity to make an impact on children and their families and share with them the value that purebred dogs bring to their lives. Thank you so much for your time today. Please feel free to reach out to me, and also please feel free to grab an AKC Math Agility flyer when you turn in your registration badge. Thanks so much.

Mr. Sprung: Thank you, Ashley. The Chair called on Joe Baffuto, Chief Financial Officer to give the Financial Report.

Mr. Baffuto: Good morning Everyone! Thank you very much for joining us here today amidst the celebration of events that comprise the AKC National Championship presented by Royal Canin! Before we continue to enjoy in all the festivities with such great people and most especially the wonderful dogs from all around the world – I am here to provide you with unaudited standalone financial results of The American Kennel Club through October 31, 2019.

Taking a macro review, I’ll begin with our year to date revenues and expenses. Through our most recent month-end closing, we have recorded nearly $65.0 million dollars in Total Revenue and $60.7 million dollars in Total Expenses, for an Operating Income of almost $4.3 million dollars. In comparison to our prior year audited results where we recognized $62.0 million dollars in Revenue with $62.4 million dollars in Expenses for an operating loss of just under $500,000 dollars.

A key headline to specifically showcase is that our total year to date revenue comparison presents an overall increase of $3.0 million dollars or 4.8% from that of October 31, 2018. Let’s discover where our finest successes have been.

Core Registration Volumes through October 31. We have registered grand totals of 215,000 litters and 499,000 dogs over 10 months this year. Our litter volume has increased by 3% from 209,000 in 2018, while our dog registrations have risen by 1.5% from 492,000 at October 31, 2018. We continue to remain optimistic in our objectives and as we approach the remaining two months of the fiscal year, our ambitious goals remain to exceed milestones of 250,000 litters and 580,000 dogs which both would mark improvement over the 2018 year.

Let’s measure our Major Revenue Sources and their increases year over year. Registration related items. Specifically, Dogs. We have recorded an additional $482,000 in revenue this year which is a 3.2% increase from 2018. Our Litter Revenue increase of $287,000 dollars reflects an even better growth at 4%. Reg Transfers have garnered an additional 14% or $193,000 dollars above last year. Pedigrees also have displayed a modest 2% increase which has equaled $87,000 dollars of additional revenue. Outside of Registrations, our next largest areas of revenue increases include a number of various programs throughout the organization: AKC.TV year-to-date has produced added revenue of $614,000 dollars which we expect to positively continue through the end of our fiscal year. Royalties & Sponsors have generated an annual increase in revenue of more than $482,000 in revenue this year which is a 3% as compared to the ten months of 2018.

Monies spent on Consultants have decreased by more than $1 million dollars since our prior year. This is primarily due to the relocation of both our AKC headquarters and AKC Museum of The Dog that took place during 2018. Our AKC.TV program which is flourishing tremendous growth during 2019 has incurred increased costs of $825,000 dollars this first full inaugural year.

Equipment and maintenance costs have been controlled by $486,000 dollars or 40% as compared to last year. Postage and supplies costs company-wide have declined by greater than $385,000 over the first ten months this year. Our year-to-date contributions are comparatively
below last year by $305,000 dollars. However, we do expect to match last year’s support efforts by calendar year-end.

Aside from our operating results analysis, we will briefly glance at our investment portfolio results. For the 10-month period ending October 31, 2019 our portfolio has unrealized gains of $12.7 million dollars or a 14.6% return. The portfolio has outperformed its benchmark of 13% by 1.6%. If this performance continues throughout our fiscal year this could very well afford us record breaking results.

The Balance Sheet of the AKC still exhibits plenty of financial strength and capacity. With $153.4 million dollars in Total Assets and $84.1 million in Total Liabilities we are successfully sustaining just over $69 million in Total Net Assets, which remains unchanged from last quarter’s report and just under a $20 million dollar increase from our December 2018 audited financial results. Thanks to everyone on the Board, Management and Staff, and the Delegate Body for contributing to these exceptional results throughout 2019!

I look forward to providing you a full year report on 2019 at our next meeting in March. Enjoy this wonderful weekend ahead, and to all I wish a Happy Holidays and Healthy New Year in 2020!

Mr. Sprung: Thank you, Joe.

The first vote is on Rules Applying to Dog Shows, Chapter 3, Section 22, Dog Show Classifications, which would allow dogs registered with an acceptable foreign or domestic registration to participate in Miscellaneous, making the language applying to registration numbers consistent with Chapter 11, Section 1. The amendment was proposed by staff with support from the Dog Show Rules and the Parent Club Committees and brought forward with approval from the AKC Board of Directors. There was a vote with two-thirds in the affirmative and the amendment was adopted.

The next vote was on Rules Applying to Dog Shows, Chapter 11, Section 8-A, which removes the requirement for an injury to have occurred for an Event Committee to disqualify a dog that has attacked a person or dog at its event, and it believes presents a hazard to persons or other dogs.

Without an objection, the vote was withdrawn so that Staff circulate a comprehensive Q&A and also respond to Delegate inquiries about the process to follow if the rule change was adopted. The amendment will be republished in two issues of the AKC Gazette and the Delegates will vote on it at the March 2020 meeting. The full text is on the worksheet previously emailed.

The next vote is on the Rules and Standard Procedure for Pointing Breeds, Chapter 14, Section 20, which allows for a National Walking Gun Dog Championship for Weimaraners. The amendment was proposed by the Weimaraner Club of America and brought forward with the approval of the AKC Board of Directors.

There was a vote with two-thirds in the affirmative and the amendment was adopted.

The Chair called on the Executive Secretary to read the proposed amendment to 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.

Ms. DiNardo: This amendment to 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, eliminates the italics, rewords the section to follow if the rule change was adopted.
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. The amendment will be published in two issues of the AKC Gazette and the Delegates will be asked to vote on it at the March 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 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.

Ms. DiNardo: This amendment to the Beagle Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedure 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 chairs and club officers.

Please note this change also applies to the following:

• Beagle Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures for Brace, Small Pack and Small Pack Option Field Trials and the Beagle Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures for Large Pack Field Trials, Chapter 6, Section 4
• Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedures for 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

The amendment will be published in two issues of the AKC Gazette and the Delegates will be asked to vote on it at the March 2020 meeting. The full text is on the worksheet previously emailed.

The Chair acknowledged the Delegates who have served for 25 years.

Mr. Sprung: This medallion is in recognition of meritorious and long-term contributions to the sport. The program enables us to recognize our core constituency and allows a grateful American Kennel Club the opportunity to honor our own.

The following Delegates were called forward:

James S. Corbett, Tualatin Kennel Club (in attendance)
James R. Dok, Gig Harbor Kennel Club (not present)
Daniel J. Smyth, Esq, Burlington County Kennel Club (in attendance)

Ms. LaBerge: Good morning, everyone. At the request from many of you for our caricature artist that would draw you and your dog is back this year – it can also be done from a picture if you do not have your dog with you. This is the last opportunity for a caricature as we have something new scheduled for next year. The artist is there today through Sunday, go over, sign up at the AKC PAC booth, which is next to the AKC Government Relations booth. This is a fundraiser for the PAC and a $50 donation will receive a larger drawing than last year. We are raising our funds now and we are earmarking who is going to receive those funds running for office at the first of the year. Election is coming in the late fall of 2020, but we have to have our donations out earlier than that in order to help them impact their election campaign. We are strictly authorized for the Federal Election Commission to only look at a candidate’s view on canine issues, and that’s what we do in choosing those we support. I want to say something, and I am, Michael, I am stealing something you said when you spoke this morning. He talked about how children can’t speak for themselves. Your dogs can’t speak for themselves, and they depend on us every day to protect them, and one of the ways that you can protect them is to support the PAC and support us in helping to elect those who think like we do on legislative issues. If you don’t want to do the caricature, we’re more than happy to just take a donation. I said to the Board at a meeting, “What we really need to say is trust us on this, we’re protecting you and your dogs. Give us your money.” They thought that was a little direct. Sheila is at her table outside – I don’t know what we’d do without Sheila Goffe, she is an amazing woman, and she will take your donations.

Ms. LaBerge: Thank you. Sheila needs to hear that. She works really hard for all of us, and loves the dogs as much as we do, and is a great breeder herself. If she is
The immediate issues facing small dog events should be treated as a business and cautioned about the acceleration of a decreasing market. He encouraged the subcommittee to take fast action on this initiative.

Don James, Delegate for Leonberger Club of America:
Don spoke on behalf of Sylvia Thomas, the Editor of the Perspectives Delegates magazine who was on a judging assignment. He thanked those Delegates who contributed to the December issue. He offered printed copies for those that could not access it online using the Delegate Portal. Don announced that a special January edition of Perspectives would concentrate on the candidates for the upcoming Board election in March. Submissions for the regular March issue are due on January 15, 2020 to coordinator Sylvia Arrowwood of the Perspectives staff. Lastly, he apologized for the unintentional omission of David Hopkins (Delegate for English Springer Spaniel Field Trial Club of Illinois 1997-2019) from the Perspectives column in tribute of Delegates who have passed away. The online version of the issue was corrected.

Pat Laurans, Delegate for German Wirehaired Pointer Club of America:
Pat shared the success of the AKC Pet Disaster Relief program. She reported that as of December 1, 2019, 410 clubs were participating. $1,812,927 in donations have been received. $450,000 was funded by AKC Reunite, for total funds raised $2,262,927, resulting in 72 trailers that have been delivered to 28 states. Currently 6 trailers are in the pipeline to be built which would total 78 trailers. Pat thanked the Delegates and their clubs for their donations and praised the Reunite staff for the program and hard work.

Karen Gunzel, Delegate for Trenton Kennel Club:
Karen announced that on May 3, 2020, Trenton Kennel Club will host its 100th All-Breed Show. The show will be held at Mercer County Park, West Windsor, New Jersey which is approximately 30 minutes from the AKC Delegate meeting site in Newark, New Jersey. Club member Deanna Lonabaugh will act as Show Chair for the 50th year. To mark this milestone all Best of Breed winners will be awarded a commemorative Trenton Kennel Club medallion. This 100th show medallion will also be awarded to all group placements and best junior and to the fastest dogs in our lure coursing events. The Best in Show trophy will be presented by Trenton, New Jersey’s Mayor, the Honorable Reed Gusciora, and (it is hopeful that) AKC President, Mr. Dennis Sprung, will present the Best in Show medallion. Attendees will enjoy trays of cookies and beverages from morning through lunch. During group judging at ringside a full buffet will be available to all. Each and every exhibitor will receive a special gift from the Trenton Kennel Club. With the assistance of AKC Delegates and Staff, one of the AKC Reunite disaster relief trailers will be on display (Jeffrey Ball, Delegate, Ramapo Kennel Club). The entire day will be covered by AKC.TV (Gina DiNardo, AKC). Event notifications will be sent via email blast (Glenn Lycan, AKC). Vintage photos will be featured on the club Facebook page and website (Bud Buccone, AKC). The Trenton Kennel Club 100th show will also offer Trick Dog, CGC and the AKC Patch Program.

Donna Smiley, Delegate for Harrier Club of America:
Donna thanked AKC Reunite for their service during multiple earthquakes in Southern California. She explained that she lived in a little desert town called Ridgecrest, California. On July 4th, 2019 they were hit by a major earthquake followed by a larger 7.1 the next day. Despite no loss of human life, there was devastation to the town and its livelihood. Their two local veterinarians left the area. The people without a place to live couldn’t keep their dogs. This rescue group, East of Eden K-9 took them in but was struggling. As an AKC Delegate, Donna contacted the Delegate’s group on Facebook and asked AKC to help. AKC Reunite sent $5,000 via PayPal to East of
Eden. When the East of Eden K-9 Founder, Linda Miller found out that there was relief money she broke into tears. Donna was able to convey the message that AKC supports ALL dog efforts.

Hearing no further business, the Chair adjourned the meeting.
(Time noted: 11:42 a.m.)

*The opinions expressed by the speakers may not necessarily reflect those of The American Kennel Club.*
PARENT CLUB LINKS

SPORTING GROUP

- American Water Spaniel
- Boykin Spaniel
- Brittany
- Chesapeake Bay Retriever
- Clumber Spaniel
- Cocker Spaniel
- Curly-Coated Retriever
- English Cocker Spaniel
- English Setter
- English Springer Spaniel
- Field Spaniel
- Flat-Coated Retriever
- German Shorthaired Pointer
- German Wirehaired Pointer
- Golden Retriever
- Gordon Setter
- Irish Red and White Setter
- Irish Setter
- Irish Water Spaniel
- Labrador Retriever
- Lagotto Romagnolo
- Nederlandse Kooikerhondje
- Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever
- Pointer
- Spinone Italiano
- Sussex Spaniel
- Vizsla
- Weimaraner
- Welsh Springer Spaniel
- Wirehaired Pointing Griffon
- Wirehaired Vizsla

HOUND GROUP

- Afghan Hound
- American English Coonhound
- American Foxhound
- Azawakh
- Basenji
- Basset Hound
- Beagle
- Black and Tan Coonhound
- Bloodhound
- Bluetick Coonhound
- Borzoi
- Cirneco dell’Etna
- Dachshund
- English Foxhound
- Grand Basset Griffon Vendéen
- Greyhound
- Harrier
- Ibizan Hound
- Irish Wolfhound
- Norwegian Elkhound
- Otterhound
- Petit Basset Griffon Vendéen
- Pharaoh Hound
- Plott
- Portuguese Podengo Pequeno
- Redbone Coonhound
- Rhodesian Ridgeback
- Saluki
- Scottish Deerhound
- Sloughi
- Treeing Walker Coonhound
- Whippet
PARENT CLUB LINKS

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
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/