



gazette

OCTOBER 2024



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Flashlight of
Mannerhood
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

OCTOBER 2024

Volume 141, Number 10



FEATURE

Curly Centennial

Calm, confident, and wickedly smart, the thinking person's retriever celebrates 100 years in AKC.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

SECRETARY'S PAGES

MASTHEAD

AKC at 140: True Blue New Yorkers

UPDATES

AKC's new COO; AKC Agility in the UK; "Mr. Nice Guy" Ranny Green; CHF Theriogenology Awards

RINGSIDE

Pee Wee!

SLIDESHOW

Age of Elegance: GAZETTE covers of the 2000s

VIDEOS

David Fitzpatrick, Marty Greer, Wirehaired Vizslas

TIMES PAST

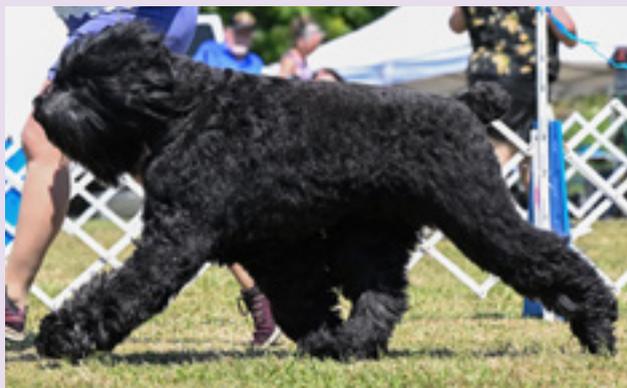
Rudiki: Perpetual Pride

DOG PEOPLE

Victor Malzoni Jr.

AKC PARENT CLUBS

BREED COLUMNS



Sporting

Brittanys
Pointers
German Shorthaired Pointers
Chesapeake Bay Retrievers
Curly-Coated Retrievers
Golden Retrievers
English Setters
Gordon Setters
Irish Red and White Setters
Cocker Spaniels
English Cocker Spaniels
English Springer Spaniels
Field Spaniels
Sussex Spaniels
Welsh Springer Spaniels
Spinoni Italiani
Vizslas
Weimaraners

Working

Alaskan Malamutes
Bernese Mountain Dogs
Black Russian Terriers
Boerboels
Boxers
Bullmastiffs
Chinooks
Doberman Pinschers
Dogues de Bordeaux
German Pinschers
Giant Schnauzers
Great Danes
Great Pyrenees
Komondorok
Leonbergers
Mastiffs
Neapolitan Mastiffs
Newfoundlands
Portuguese Water Dogs
Rottweilers
Siberian Huskies
Standard Schnauzers

BREED COLUMNS SCHEDULE

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

The logo features the Purina checkerboard icon to the left of the word "PURINA" in a white box. Below this, the words "PRO PLAN" are written in a large, gold, serif font.

PURINA
PRO PLAN

A light-colored puppy, possibly a Weimaraner, is standing on a large, textured rock. The puppy is looking off to the right with a focused expression. The background is a blurred forest with tall trees.

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The Spirit of Celebration

Last month, the American Kennel Club celebrated its 140th anniversary with three significant events. On September 16, both the Empire State Building and the Helmsley Building were illuminated in blue and white in honor of AKC and AKC Responsible Dog Ownership Day. It was a great way to honor AKC and the important work we do to advocate for dogs and their owners.

We are beyond thrilled to bring [AKC Meet the Breeds](#) back to New York City, January 25 and 26, 2025, at the Jacob K. Javits Center. This is your reminder to make sure your breed is represented.

Last year, we had more than 30,000 dog lovers attend this educational canine extravaganza to learn about more purebred dogs, responsible dog ownership,



canine athleticism and more. Attendees were thrilled to interact with the dogs, as well as breed experts, and



September 16: The AKC contingent at the Empire State Building

TOP: RUSSELL BIANCA ©AKC; BOTTOM: EMPIRE STATE BUILDING PHOTO

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



enjoyed our multiple sport and working dog demonstrations.

The participation of our clubs is a major part of our educational outreach, and we appreciate your support as we continue to spread the message of our dedication to dogs, breed expertise, and responsible pet ownership. To sign your club up, please write to meetthebreeds@akc.org. The deadline to register is November 15.

We look forward to seeing you!

And, in the spirit of celebration, congratulations are in order for the winners of the summer season of the AKC Agility League.

The League offers three

12-week long seasons a year. Teams, composed of three to eight dogs, run six courses each season. There are three field/ring size divisions: *Extended* (100 X 100 min.); *Regulation* (70 X 100 min.); and *Limited* (50 X 70 min.) and four skill levels: *Ph.D.* (International); *Senior* (Masters/Excellent); *Sophomore* (Open); and *Freshman* (Novice). The AKC Agility League is sponsored by Purina Pro Plan, YuMove, and AKC Pet Insurance.

This season's team champions are:

Extended Ph.D.: Paws on the Palouse (Pullman, Washington)
Regulation Ph.D. and

Regulation Senior: Redline Growlers (Campbellsport, Wisconsin)

Limited Senior: The FASTDoggie Era (Colorado Springs, Colorado)

Limited Sophomore: Run Fast Bark Loud Team 3 (Kingsport, Tennessee)

Regulation Sophomore: WestRover's Team2Beat (Birmingham, Alabama)

Limited Freshman: All 4 One (Salt Lake City, Utah)

Regulation Freshman: Redline Layer Slayers (Campbellsport, Wisconsin)

The Agility League continues to grow leaps and bounds. The number of teams has increased 41 percent from this time last year. To find out more about the Agility League or sign up for future seasons, visit the [Agility League webpage](#).

Until next time,
Dennis

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The gleaming blue-and-white lights atop the Empire State Building on September 16 honored a milestone in the life of a resilient longtime New Yorker, the American Kennel Club. It commemorated the 140th anniversary of the AKC, a resident of Manhattan since 1887.

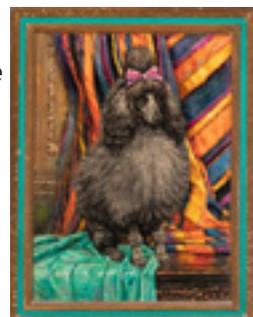
In that year, the AKC took up residence at a modest office at 44 Broadway. Subsequent downtown addresses of AKC headquarters in those early years were 55 Liberty Street and 1 Liberty Street.

Then there were moves that took us progressively uptown: 221 Park Avenue South, 51 Madison Avenue, 260 Madison Avenue,

and most recently 101 Park Avenue, where our next-door neighbor is another hearty survivor of the city's horse-and-buggy era, Grand Central Terminal.

It is humbling to be honored by your hometown in such a spectacularly public place as the top of the Empire State Building. And it adds extra incentive for us at the AKC to be good neighbors to our fellow citizens in New York and Raleigh alike.

On Our Cover:
Miniature Poodle
"Flashlight of
Manorhead"
by Frederick T.
Daws, AKC
Museum of the
Dog



EMPIRE STATE BUILDING PHOTO

Comfort Elected COO

The AKC has announced Gordon Comfort as its new chief operations officer.

Comfort attained his master's degree from Harvard University. He spent over 15 years as chief executive officer or chief operating officer and has served on the board of directors for Richland

School District and Tool Bank of Phoenix, as well as providing pro bono board development, strategic planning, and consulting for such nonprofits as Goodwill Industries, Habitat for Humanity, and ToolBox.

"I am honored to take on this role at such a prestigious organization," Comfort says.

"I look forward to working with the talented people at AKC to drive innovation and operational excellence, ensuring that we continue to support the canine community and expand the brand in meaningful ways."

Comfort is working on his Ph.D. in business technology. He is based in the AKC's Raleigh office.

Unique in New York

NEW YORK—This one-of-a-kind object—part Belgian Malinois, part helicopter—is the [AKC Museum of the Dog](#)'s latest conversation starter.

"Torque," a lifesize wooden sculpture, is the work of artist James Mellick. It honors a real-life K-9 named Torque, trained to detect electronic devices in child sexual-abuse cases.

Torque is also a crew member for a restored Vietnam-era Huey helicopter. Her soothing presence brings solace to veterans with PTSD during therapy flights in the chopper. To honor this work, the torso of "Torque" resembles the body of the helicopter.

Torque is on display at the museum through January 5.



AKC MUSEUM OF THE DOG

UPDATES



AKC Leaps Across the Pond

In August, The Kennel Club (England) hosted the annual FCI European Open. Thirty-two U.S. dogs and handlers represented the AKC and the USA.

Team AKC/USA came home with many top-20 placements, including two placements in the individual rounds for Team Classes. For full results, click [here](#).

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UPDATES

Ranny Green: “All-Around Good Guy”

Hall of Fame dog writer was everyone’s friend

Ranny Green, one of America’s best respected and longest-serving dog writers, died on September 9 after a long bout with cancer. He was 85.

Green spent 35 years at the *Seattle Times*, where he served as an editor and pet columnist. A member of the Dog Writers Association of America’s Hall of Fame, Green was a frequent contributor to akc.org among many other outlets.

On September 10 Green’s friend of more than 50 years, David Frei, eulogized him on Instagram. Here is an excerpt:

Ranny was talented, accomplished and everyone’s friend. Quite simply, he was an all-around good guy. ...

A quote from ESPN’s Stuart Scott, as he neared the end of his life battle with cancer, will live on with me and especially now. Even though Stuart didn’t know Ranny, I can’t help but feel that he was



David Frei (r.) and Ranny Green

talking about Ranny when he said words to this effect: “You don’t have to let cancer beat you. You beat cancer by how you live, why you live, and the manner in which you live.”

That was Ranny. The ultimate warrior.

I saw and heard this in him for the past 3 years of “We got this” defiance

which continued through a life that was supposed to have already been ended. I heard it from him constantly in our visits at Fred Hutch Cancer Center and Swedish Cancer Center in Seattle, and finally, at his home last Thursday.

Cancer didn’t beat you, Ranny. You just ran out of time.

COURTESY DAVID FREI

UPDATES

CHF: Theriogenology Awards Announced

RALEIGH—The AKC, AKC Canine Health Foundation, and Theriogenology Foundation have announced the latest recipients of Theriogenology Residency Program

awards. Theriogenology is the branch of veterinary medicine concerned with reproduction.

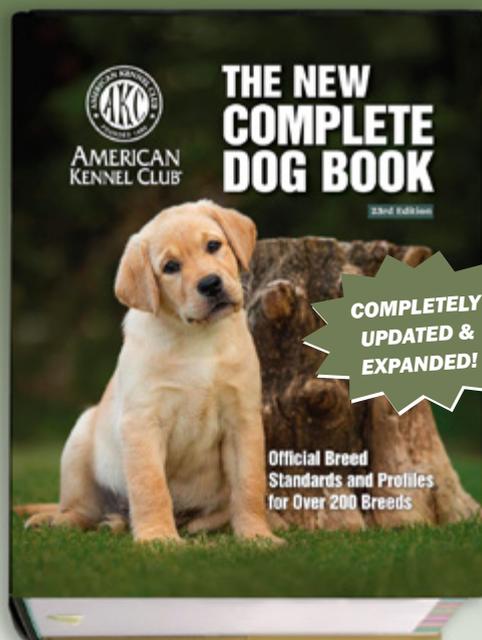
Auburn University and Virginia-Maryland College of Veterinary Medicine have received funding

for new residents starting in the summer of 2025.

Also, Dr. Joshua Trumble begins his residency training at the 2024 award recipient, The Ohio State University.

[More Information](#)

THE ONE BOOK EVERY DOG LOVER NEEDS



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:

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This **23rd 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



A new look for a new century—that was the idea behind a years-long run of AKC GAZETTE covers still recalled fondly by longtime readers, and still useful to the editors as eye-catching spot illustrations in our Breed Columns section.

The new look was characterized by a striking elegance, with little or none of the text and graphics that cluttered other magazine

covers. GAZETTE covers of the 2000s relied solely on vivid breed portraits to pull readers into the issue. Happily, there was no shortage of such images. A new generation of superb canine photographers and designers made sure of that.

This month's slideshow salutes the artists who made the first years of the new century a visual feast for dog fanciers.



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Pee Wee | St. Croix Valley KC



ST. ELMO, MINNESOTA—A delightful added attraction at the [St. Croix Valley KC](#) shows in August was Pee Wee, a pre-Juniors event for kids 5 to 9 years old. A Pee Wee team consists of a child, a parent or guardian,

and a dog. It is not a competitive class but rather an enjoyable learning experience.

Dr. Lisa M. Costello served as judge—but, actually, no child is “judged” in Pee Wee. The event is a

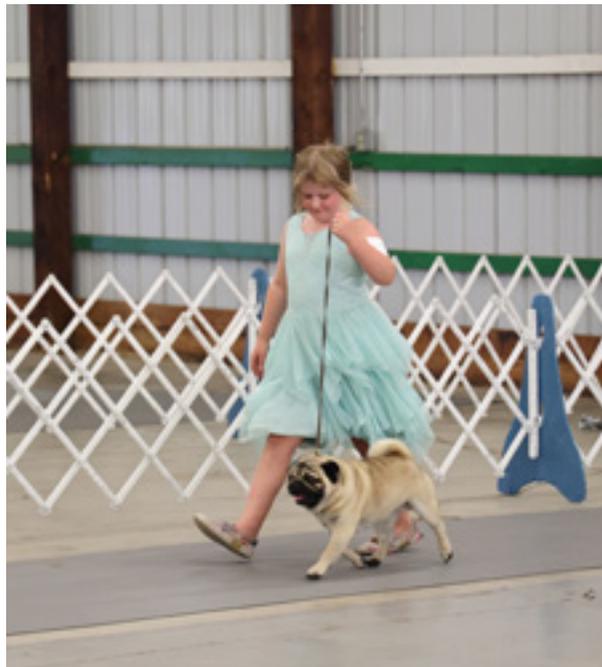
mentoring experience that prepares young handlers for what they can expect in Juniors competition. It is also, as these photos suggest, a heck a lot of fun for participants and spectators alike.

COURTESY KATHLEEN RILEY PHOTOGRAPHY

RINGSIDE

Pee Wee | St. Croix Valley KC

Photos by *Kathleen Riley Photography*



COURTESY KATHLEEN RILEY
PHOTOGRAPHY

RINGSIDE

Pee Wee | St. Croix Valley KC

Photos by *Kathleen Riley Photography*



COURTESY KATHLEEN RILEY PHOTOGRAPHY

RINGSIDE

Pee Wee | St. Croix Valley KC

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COURTESY KATHLEEN RILEY PHOTOGRAPHY

RINGSIDE

Pee Wee | St. Croix Valley KC

Photos by *Kathleen Riley Photography*



COURTESY KATHLEEN RILEY PHOTOGRAPHY



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Curly Centennial

Calm, confident, and wickedly smart, the thinking person's retriever celebrates 100 years in AKC.

BREED BACKSTORY

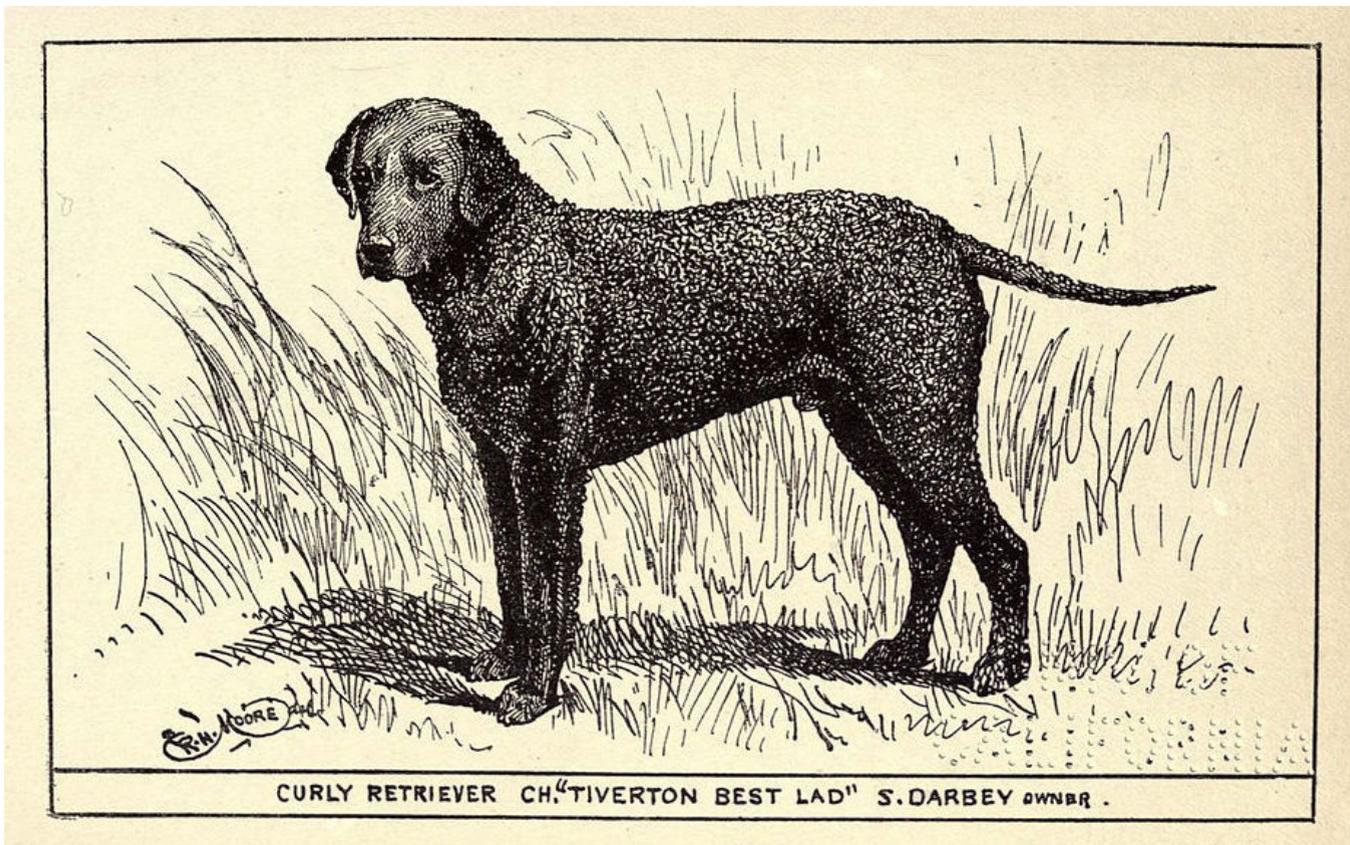
Possibly the oldest of the retriever breeds, the Curly-Coated Retriever (AKC 1924) originated in England. Most likely a descendant of either the 16th-century English Water Spaniel or the old Water Dog and the small

Newfoundland, the Curly-Coated Retriever was the first breed to be used as a retriever in England to any great extent.

Aside from work as a gundog, the breed also served as a watchdog with sufficient size to ward off poachers on 19th-century

England's sprawling estates. The *Sportsman's Cabinet*, published in 1803, describes the Curly's progenitor, the old Water Dog: "These dogs are exceedingly singular in appearance, and most probably derived their origin from the Greenland

FEATURE



Born in 1895, Ch. Tiverton Best Lad was a famous British show dog and sire.

Dog, blended with some particular race of our own. The hair on these dogs must be adhering to the body in natural elastic curls, not loose, long or shaggy, the former being considered indicative of constitutional strength, the latter of bodily weakness or hereditary debility.”

There is some evidence that the Curly may have been crossed with the old German Poodle in the early

1880s. It is believed that the Poodle was used to maintain the curl in the coat and enhance his abilities as a retriever. Others refer to possible crosses with the Irish Water Spaniel.

The distinctive coat of the Curly is composed of close, crisp curls, which are dense and tight to provide insulation during severe weather and from icy water, and as protection from penetrating undergrowth. The only

acceptable colors are black or liver, with black being traditionally the more common.

The Curly received official recognition with the Kennel Club (England) in 1854 and first appeared in the show ring in 1860. In 1896, the first British breed club was formed.

During the first world war, Curly numbers dwindled. The Curly-Coated Retriever Club of England saved the breed from near

PUBLIC DOMAIN

FEATURE



Curly in the field, 1948: "The old rumor of CCRs being hard-mouthed has hopefully died away by now."

extinction, and the Curly reached peak popularity in the years between the two world wars.

Curlies were taken to Australia and New Zealand in the late 19th century where they became very popular with hunters. In Australia, they were used for duck shooting in the swamps and lagoons of the Murray River. The New Zealand Curlies were

used on ducks and also on quail. Their performance in the field was so admired that they soon became the retriever of preference.

In 1924, a dog named Knysna Conjuror became the first Curly listed in the American Kennel Club Stud Book. The Curly-Coated Retriever Club of America, the breed's AKC parent club, was founded in 1979.

For an up-close and personal look at our centennial breed, here are selections from three GAZETTE breed columnists: our current columnist, the sagacious Ann Shinkle; Kathy Day, Curly columnist of the pivotal 1970s, a decade that culminated in the [Curly-Coated Retriever Club of America's](#) founding; and, finally, a longtime fancier and recent guest columnist, Aubrey LaCrosse.

PUBLIC DOMAIN

FEATURE

“The coat, surprisingly, picks up few burrs and is excellent at protecting the dog from punishing undergrowth and freezing water.”



ANNE SHINKLE: “A BIT MORE RESERVED”

Since acquiring our first Curly-Coated Retriever in the late '70s, I have given lots of thought to why I am so fond of this breed. David Ferguson says,

“They are the perfect combination of sporting dog and companion dog,” which is so true. One can take a Curly out in the field, and she will come home and settle down readily.

I have known of only one Curly who needed to be crated at times, due to her hyperactivity. The great majority of them are very calm in between their activities. I enjoy living with dogs that can settle well in

WIKIMEDIA COMMONS/LTSHEARS

FEATURE

the house.

This is a breed that can take advantage of many of the performance activities. My Curlies have been in tracking, agility, upland and hunt tests, all levels of obedience and rally, as well as conformation. I enjoy all these activities with mine. ...

When considering this breed, it is true that a Curly is different from other retriever breeds. They may be somewhat more reserved, and some people might mistake that for indifference. They usually do not go rushing up to strangers, but at the same time they like to meet other people and dogs if they are well socialized. David Ferguson states that one of the reasons that he switched from another retriever breed to the Curly-Coated Retriever in 1998 was that he was looking for a sporting dog that was a bit more reserved. He feels that a Curly fits that need perfectly. One fact that I appreciate greatly is that Curlies seem to be very aware of their

bodies. They do not, while playing, bash into humans as I have experienced with some other breeds. They seem to respect other dogs and people.

On the whole, Curlies are a breed that matures slowly. Training may go at a slower pace. However, once trained, they seem to remember well what they learned. If a person wishes to earn titles early, choose another breed. I am not saying they cannot do this, but one should be prepared to train at a slower pace.

KATHY DAY: "BETWEEN LABS AND GOLDENS"

Temperament-wise, Curlies are somewhere between Labs and Golden Retrievers. They are not quite as willing to please as Golden Retrievers but are not as independent as Labs. They are generally happy, calm, loving



Our August 1990 cover photo was shot by the renowned British photographer Sally Anne Thompson.

dogs with a good brain and desire to please. They are good at figuring out problems, some can get out of any crate and others must be padlocked into their runs lest they work the latch open. Yet once out, most merely seek human companionship and therefore are rarely lost.

Curlies can do quite well in obedience but must be well acclimated to show conditions so their curiosity

FEATURE

doesn't lead the astray. When working a CXR, the trainer must take into consideration their natural desire to clown around; I have seen quite a few Curlys do the down-stay on their backs with all fours waving away!

The old rumor of CCRs being hard mouthed has hopefully died away by now. I have never seen a Curly with even close to a hard mouth, and anybody who owns one of these hunting masters will echo me. CCRs are not flashy trial performers. Rather, they are steady day to day workers that seldom miss. The instinct is still there in great force, and breeders should be aware of it now before it is bred out. The coat, surprisingly, picks up few burrs and is excellent at protecting the dog from punishing undergrowth and freezing water.

As show dogs, they are one of the easier dogs to groom. Preparation for a show is just a bath. The

"As show dogs, they are one of the easier dogs to groom. Preparation for a show is just a bath."



adult coat is never combed, and only trimmed when the curls get straggly, to restore the outline.

Curlys, like other retrievers, make excellent pets. Their good nature and quiet manner make them welcome in the house, and their thick

coats and hardy constitutions make them no trouble to kennel outdoors.

They are a versatile breed—here we have a hunter, seeing-eye dog, show dog, obedience dog, even sled dog, all rolled into one.

STEPHANIELLEN PHOTOGRAPHY ©AKC

FEATURE

Parent Club Info

Curly-Coated Retriever
Club of America
Founded 1979

- [Officers/Board](#)
- [Illustrated Breed Standard](#)
- [Health Information](#)
- [GAZETTE Breed Columns](#)

AUBREY LACROSSE: “GOOD GIRL!”

The dictionary defines versatility as *capable of or adapted for turning easily from one to another of various tasks, fields of endeavor, etc.*

I have found the majority of Curlies fit this definition well, being that the breed standard reads: “The Curly is wickedly smart and highly trainable and, as such is cherished as much for his role as loyal companion at home as he is in the field.” Curlies have been bred for years

to go from the field to the fireplace along with their humans.

I don’t find Curlies to be specialists. The breed, as a whole, is good at many things. Some breeds cannot make the transition like the Curly can. Being a very trainable and adaptable breed, Curlies are very attuned to their owners. They know what their jobs should be at what time. There is a time to hunt and run and play, and also a time to be calm and quiet.

Being a lower-drive dog than some of the other retrievers, one might have to work a little harder to get the drive and flash that some competitors want. However, when asked to compete in performance events such as agility or obedience, Curlies are able to compete with the best of them. Being able to go from the dock-diving pool to the rally obedience ring and then to the breed ring is something that Curlies are good at.

Versatility in performance events can showcase this talent. Any dog who can compete in multiple venues is an asset to the breed. Breeders should take this into consideration and continue to produce dogs who can go from the show ring to the field and any other venue their owners want to participate in. Not only does this show the biddable and trainable nature of the dog, but also the stable and solid temperament Curlies should have. ...

A dog that has learned to work with and for its owner can successfully do any dog sport the handler desires. The Curlies I have personally known love to work to please me. Sure, they like their treats and to play with toys, but a sincere “Good Girl!” or some loving goes a long way. Making me happy was what made them want to perform. And I had to make sure I wasn’t faking it either! They are wickedly smart and know the difference. **GZ**

TIMES PAST

Perpetual Pride

The Afghan Hound Ch. Rudiki of Prides Hill bronze perpetual trophy was sculpted by Kay Finch in 1948.

From the *Afghan Hound Times*: “Rudiki was originally owned by his breeder, Q.A. Shaw McKean (Prides Hill), who initially exhibited him, including a very successful campaign in California in the late 1930s. Rudiki was then transferred to Mrs. Hoyt (Blakeen), who was already famous as a Poodle breeder.

“Rudiki’s success under Mrs. Hoyt equaled or exceeded that of the success she had with her famous Poodles. By 1941 Mrs. Hoyt had decided to disband her Afghan Hound kennel, and Rudiki and one of his daughters, Rudika of Blakeen, were transferred to Marion Florsheim [Five Mile Afghans].”

A gifted sculptor and proprietor of a ceramics studio that distributed her figurines to 2,000 shops and galleries around the world, Finch was the doyenne of the Afghan Hound fancy west of the Rockies. Her Southern California–based Crown Crest kennel produced scores of top-winning hounds.



The inscription Finch carved into the base of the trophy reads:

PERPETUAL TROPHY IN MEMORY OF
INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION
RUDIKI OF PRIDES HILL
THE WORLD’S GREATEST WINNING
AND PRODUCING HOUND OF ALL TIME
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HIS OUTSTANDING SHOW RECORD
OF 226 TOP WINS INCLUDES
13 BEST OF ALL BREEDS IN SHOW AND
24 BEST AMERICAN DOG IN SHOW
AUGUST 1937–DECEMBER 1941
PRESENTED BY MARION FLORSHEIM,
NEW YORK



AKC Legacy Breeder: David Fitzpatrick

"I believe in breeding for type," says the man behind the Pequest Pekes. 3:01



Happy Anniversary, WVCA!

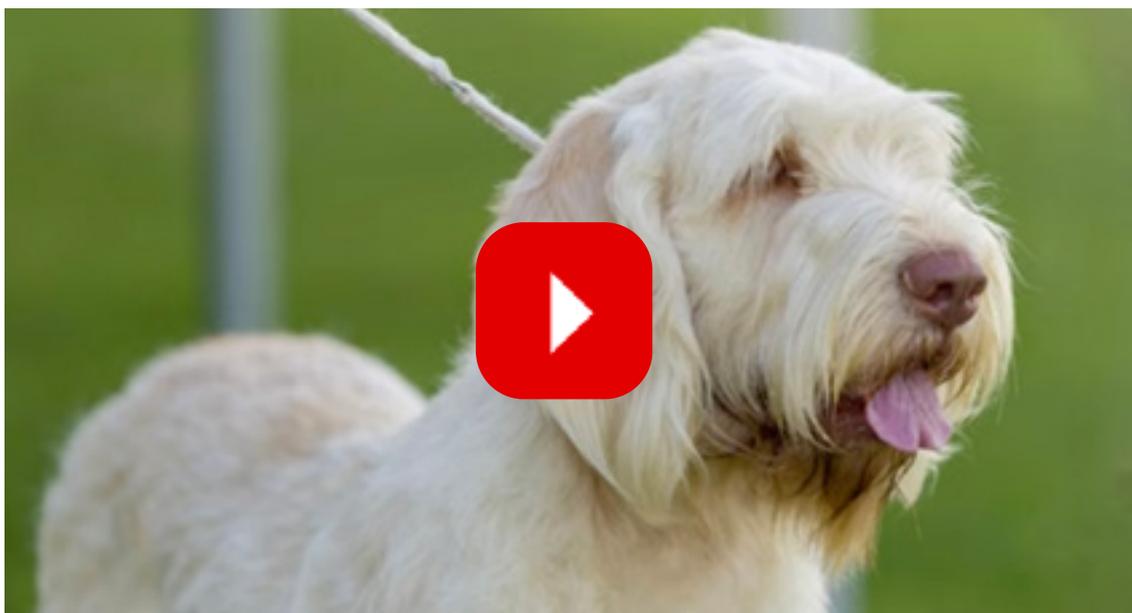
TOPEKA, KANSAS—Video from the Wirehaired Vizsla Club of America national, celebrating the breed's 10th year in AKC. 4:10

VIDEOS



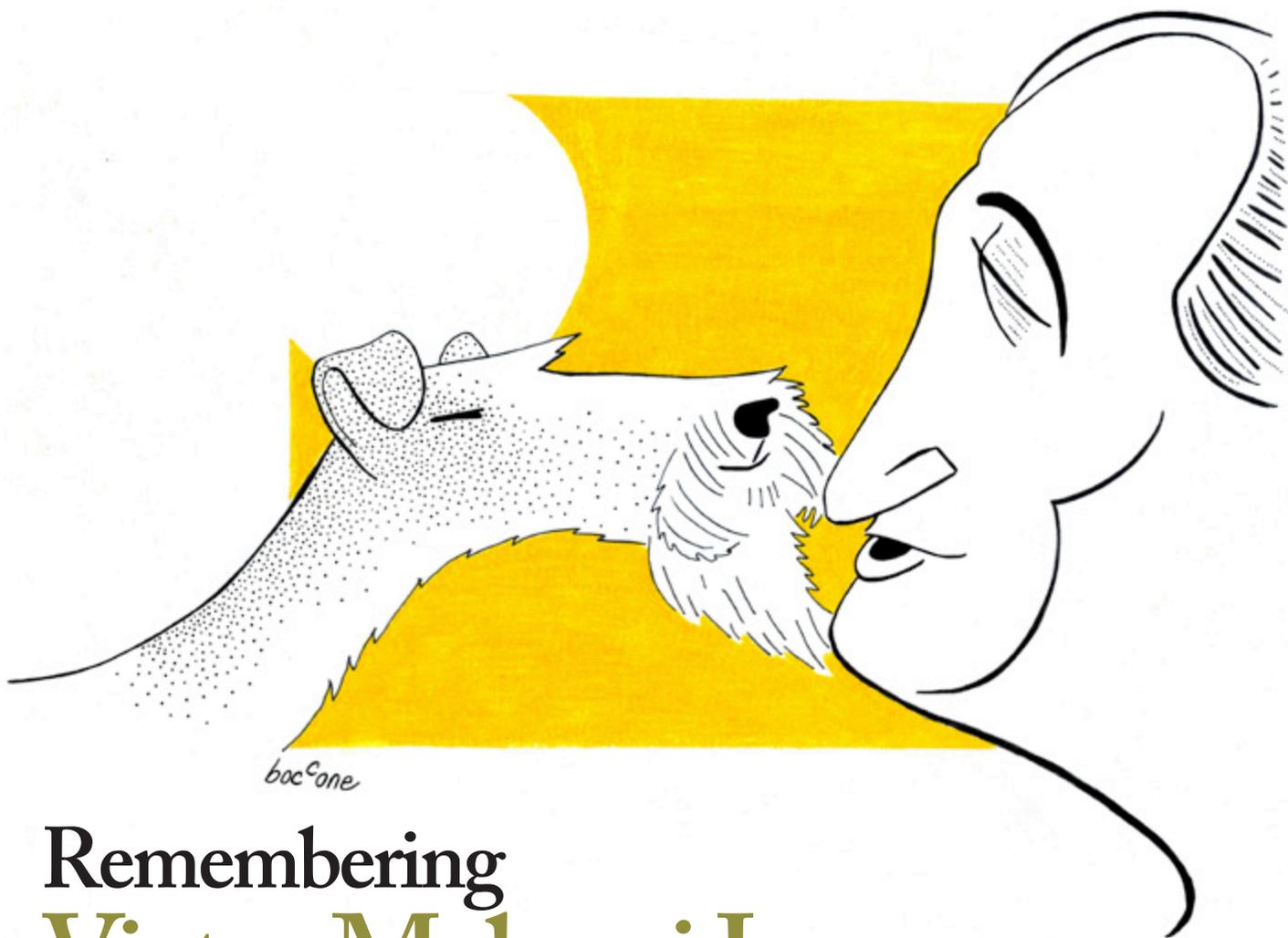
On C-sections

Dr. Marty Greer, DVM, talks with Laura Reeves about C-sections and the long-term effects and considerations on breeding dogs. 30:25



The Dogs of Autumn

A Gazette Gallery slideshow features the dog breeds eligible for AKC pointing-breed field trials. 1:31



Remembering Victor Malzoni Jr.

Victor Malzoni Jr. believed his great success as an international breeder-exhibitor was based on his global approach. “Today, in any business or activity, you have to look not only in your backyard,” said the Brazilian construction magnate, best known as an aficionado of the terrier

breeds. “We live in a globalization era, and this includes dogs.” His retired show champions, some homebred and some acquired from breeders around the world, live in luxury at his Sao Paulo home. (“What better could I be doing with my money?”)

When asked about his

legacy, Malzoni replied, “I hope in years to come I will be remembered as the gentleman from Brazil who *bred* great dogs, not just the gentleman from Brazil who *bought* great dogs.”

Malzoni died suddenly on September 5. We mourn the passing of the “gentleman from Brazil.”

BUD BOCCONE ©2024

BREED COLUMNS



Edited by [Arless Paddock](#)



"Is your club in the situation of having a substantial membership, but it seems only a few people do all the work?" asks Carole Lee Richards in this month's Weimaraner column titled "Volunteerism."

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BREED COLUMNS



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 Arless.Paddock@akc.org



THIS MONTH

Sporting

- 34 Brittanys
- 36 Pointers
- 38 German Shorthaired Pointers
- 40 Chesapeake Bay Retrievers
- 42 Curly-Coated Retrievers
- 44 Golden Retrievers
- 45 English Setters
- 47 Gordon Setters
- 49 Irish Red and White Setters
- 51 Cocker Spaniels
- 52 English Cocker Spaniels
- 54 English Springer Spaniels
- 57 Field Spaniels
- 59 Sussex Spaniels
- 60 Welsh Springer Spaniels
- 62 Spinoni Italiani
- 66 Vizslas
- 68 Weimaraners

Working

- 70 Alaskan Malamutes
- 72 Bernese Mountain Dogs
- 74 Black Russian Terriers
- 77 Boerboels
- 80 Boxers
- 82 Bullmastiffs
- 84 Chinooks
- 86 Doberman Pinschers
- 88 Dogues de Bordeaux
- 90 German Pinschers
- 92 Giant Schnauzers
- 94 Great Danes
- 95 Great Pyrenees
- 98 Komondorok
- 99 Leonbergers
- 102 Mastiffs
- 103 Neapolitan Mastiffs
- 106 Newfoundlands
- 108 Portuguese Water Dogs
- 110 Rottweilers
- 112 Siberian Huskies
- 114 Standard Schnauzers

BREED COLUMNS

SPORTING GROUP

Brittanys

IT'S A BRITTANY

In the province of Brittany, France, a dog breed evolved through the breeding by the local farmer-peasants of English and Irish Setters with a small local French spaniel. The culmination of those efforts is the breed known today in the United States as the Brittany, recognized in other parts of the world as the Brittany Spaniel.

Those early breedings resulted in the Brittany being a small, leggy pointing dog standing about 20 inches at the shoulder and weighing 30 to 40 pounds, with medium-length hair. They are the smallest of all the pointing dogs. Colors, as Maxwell Riddle described in his book *The New Complete Brittany*, “were and are white/orange, white/liver—with various concentrations of the color—tri-color, in addition roan with the two colors.” (More later about color.)

Most Brittanys are born with a full-length tail that is

docked soon after whelping. A few others are born with a natural bobtail.

The Brittany is known for its keen nose and ability to find birds; they are known to be a tough dog with excellent retrieving abilities. They are great family pets, intelligent, loyal to their master, and close-working hunting dogs—although when trained for field trials the breed ranges further, in horseback events.

It also must be considered that the French farmer/peasants were breeding with a purpose. That purpose was to develop a dog who was less likely to be found by the noble’s soldiers, who during the years of the early Renaissance (14th to 17th centuries) came to search their homes. Hunting near or on the noble’s property was forbidden.

The earliest record of the Brittany coming to the United States was in 1912. In the 1930s there were more sportsmen who had interest in the breed and brought the dogs to

America primarily for hunting purposes. The American Kennel Club formally recognized the breed in 1934. It was in 1939 that the first all-Brittany field trials were held. In 1944, final approval was given by AKC for the breed and its newly formed American Brittany Club.

In addition to its popularity as a hunting and field trial dog, the Brittany has performed equally well in the competition of the show arena. Notably, the Brittany has the greater number of dual champions than any other pointing-dog breed.

The Brittany has performed well at the AKC Pointing Breed Gun Dog Championships held each year. In 2016 the event was held at the Ames Plantation, in Grand Junction, Tennessee. There were 77 pointing dogs competing in the one-hour stake. A Brittany won that event. Previously, in the same event at the Ames Plantation in 2012, with 118 pointing dogs competing, a Brittany took fourth place.

BREED COLUMNS



SPORTING GROUP



Known for their keen nose and ability to find birds, Brittanys are also great family pets, intelligent and loyal to their master, and close-working hunting dogs.

As previously indicated, in this author’s opinion the subject of the color of the Brittanys needs further discussion. In his book *Riddle* discusses in one of the chapters “Some Thoughts on Color.” A short paragraph follows:

“The early Brittanys

in the American Kennel Club records were listed as being of various colors. Among them one finds orange-and-white, white-and-orange, liver-and-white, white-and-liver, red-and-white, white-and-red, lemon-and-white, and mahogany-and-white. There

were dogs spotted with these colors, ticked with them, and there were roans. All of these dogs had one ability in common: They could hunt. The original prejudice against any but orange-and-white or white-and-orange seems to have come from Alan Stuyvesant. And because

COURTESY DAVID A. WEBB

BREED COLUMNS

SPORTING GROUP

he was the greatest of all importers, orange-and-white came to dominate the American sporting scene. These dogs simply were numerically superior.”

There are two more short quotes from Maxwell Riddle’s book which are also important to this subject of color:

“The rule must always be to breed for type and performance, and both come in both *all* colors. Those, therefore, who hold a prejudice against one color—or *lack of color*—may be limiting their breeding success, and may be harming the breed as well.”

“Its purpose is only to try to place the question of color in its proper perspective. There are far more important matters for breeders of Brittanys to consider. These are stamina, nose, pointing instinct, intelligence and shyness, to name but a few.” (Italics by the author.)

Performance has nothing to do with *color*. Over the past few years there has

been a bias toward Brittanys with over 50-percent white—even though these dogs are easier to be seen when hunting or during field trial competition.

This author purchased the first Brittany in 1972; there has been one in our family ever since. The Brittanys have been hunted, shown, field trialed, and been fantastic family members from the beginning. I guess there may be a bias on my part toward the Brittany.

I believe probably, at this point, enough has been said about color or lack thereof. Leave it to the reader for their thoughts and consideration. ’Nuf ced!

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

Pointers

POINTERS=TRUE FRIENDS

The breed’s AKC standard states that in a Pointer’s expression “are the loyalty and devotion of a true friend of [hu]man.”

Pointers were bred to

work closely with their human and canine hunting partners, and thus are good-natured pack dogs and not lone wolves. They are polite and attentive company for human or dog. To succeed in their function (locating and holding point on birds in presence of humans and other canines), Pointers must have a keen awareness of what those in their environment are doing and if they are expecting something of them, as they are partners with their humans and any other dogs out in the field with them.

The Pointer must have the intelligence to go forward independently to search for the birds, check back in with his or her human, and wait for the human to catch up when game has been found. The Pointer must watch his or her human partner(s) closely for cues as to what is desired, but also the Pointer watches other dogs around him or her, because the Pointer’s job requires support (honor a point), not

BREED COLUMNS



SPORTING GROUP



competition (steal a point) with other dogs.

As Pointers are bred for temperaments that have them looking for and listening to their humans they hunt with, this also has made them looking for and listening to their humans

as partners in the home, on a hike, at the park, a stroll around town, and in all venues. Pointers are

The standard says, "The Pointer's even temperament and alert good sense make him a congenial companion both in the field and in the home."

made to be a true friend of humans, ready to accompany and look to help them in any way they can.

COURTESY HAYLEY THOMPSON



BREED COLUMNS

SPORTING GROUP

A partnership

Pointers must focus, as despite their keen sense of smell they must ignore other scents; confidently follow instruction to go ahead of their human as fast as they can, and zone in on the specified bird's scent; and not kill the bird but locate it and wait in position while any other dog might show up, and while their human partner comes in to take the next step. Then, they must be able to learn that the goal is to do this over and over again until the order is given to stop.

The work between dog and human is a partnership; each human and dog watch and wait for each other in a series of steps that culminate in the completion of the job. If another of their canine co-hunters has found the specified game first, Pointers are expected to honor that point and not rush into the spotlight or let their interest in the game overwhelm their stop instinct; they must also be able to have the self-control to stay in place

as a human or another dog comes up on the bird they have found first.

Thus, Pointers are bred for temperament that make them partners in work, team players in a pack, and patient and respectful collaborators—and all this has excellent spillover into the home. Typical Pointers will look to their humans for direction, be willing to go ahead, not compete with other canines, and have self-control around other animals, with capacity to learn to differentiate between what is the scent/animal that is hunted and what is not.

Pointers are eager and able to learn and work together with humans and other animals. To best fulfill the function of the breed, the Pointer must be intelligent and should be bold in the hunt but also respectful, gentle, and attentive to all around including humans, dogs, and other animals. The Pointer is devoted to his or her family and is up for doing anything with them,

whether that is snuggling, playing games, exploring, or going for a ride or a walk. A good Pointer makes a good companion.

As is noted in the breed's AKC standard, "The Pointer's even temperament and alert good sense make him [or her] a congenial companion both in the field and in the home."

—Hayley Thompson,
windlight1@aol.com
American Pointer Club

German Shorthaired Pointers

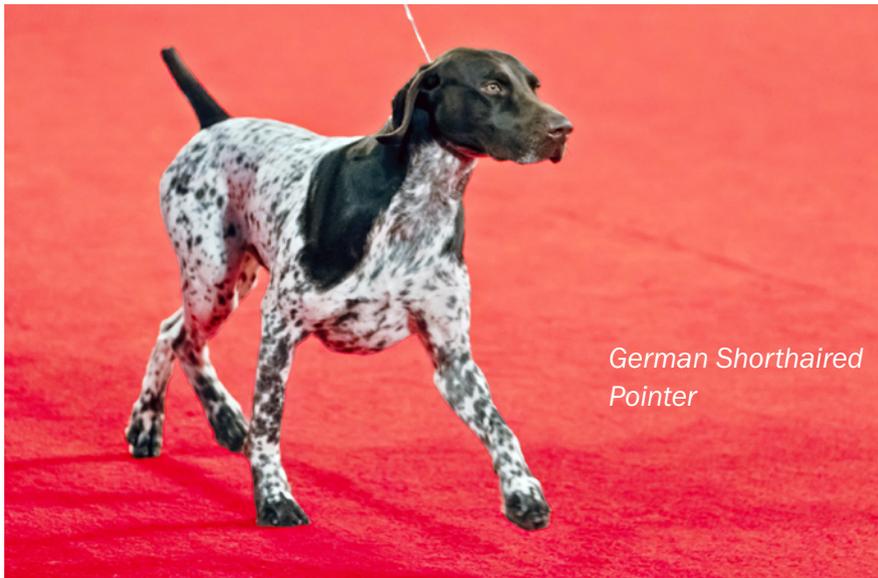
MY, WHAT A LOVELY COAT YOU HAVE ...

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.

Referred to as *Deutsch*

BREED COLUMNS

SPORTING GROUP



German Shorthaired Pointer

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. But it was a specific type of shorthaired coat they wanted.

Throughout the year, the dog would be expected to work in dense wooded areas, muddy fields, heavy underbrush, water-retrieve during all type 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 oil 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. (*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, 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 stated 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

STEPHANIELLEN PHOTOGRAPHY ©AKC



BREED COLUMNS

SPORTING GROUP

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.)*

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

WHAT IS TEMPERAMENT?

The AKC says, “Temperament has been defined as an animal’s

personality, makeup, disposition or nature.”

Each AKC breed has a national parent club. Parent clubs describe their breed’s ideal temperament in the written breed standard. The Chesapeake Bay Retriever is described as “valued for its bright and happy disposition, intelligence, quiet good sense, and affectionate, protective nature.”

Dogs in the Sporting Group have a similar function and heritage: They share a common function. They were developed to work with hunters to locate, flush, retrieve, or point birds or other game. They work with hunters and make well-rounded companions and family dogs.

The Chesapeake is a native American breed developed on the Chesapeake Bay, which is along the Atlantic Flyway. The original temperament of the breed is the art of being protective and guarding ducks and geese shot by market hunters. There were no hunting limits until 1918,

when the Migratory Bird Treaty Act was passed. The market hunters would amass as much as several hundred waterfowl a day—and the dogs would not only retrieve the birds but also guard the *pile* that was shot as the day went on. This breed is tireless and indefatigable *and* devoted to their owners and family, with protectiveness as an additional trait.

Is the temperament of the Chesapeake changing? Are they becoming more like the outgoing, friendly Golden Retriever or the Labrador Retriever, who both have AKC registration numbers in the Top Ten?

Chesapeake breeders work very hard to place their puppies in appropriate homes. Chesapeakes are not a breed for everyone, not a first dog for just anyone. This breed is very intelligent and will try to get their own way in many instances. Because of their determination and courage, sometimes they can be too much to handle for the average puppy buyer.

Chesapeakes need to have a

BREED COLUMNS

SPORTING GROUP



Top left: Ch Eastern Waters' Drummer, RN, CGC, with Katrina Palmer; Top right: Picture from the New York Times, 1953: 76th Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show at Madison Square Garden, Marguerite Horn Palmer with Ch. Tempest of Eastern Waters' (left) and Eastern Waters' Tiger Rag; Bottom left: Ch. Eastern Waters' Drummer Boy, RN, CGC, with Katrina Palmer playing ball and sharing toys; Bottom right: The "Jewel" at 13 years with Jacob Humer resting comfortably (Ch. Eastern Waters' Sea Jewel, Am/Can CD, TD, WD).

job to do—they are happiest when they are working and doing something for their

owner or with their owner. They are a bright and happy breed, and the bonus is that

they have quiet good sense. However, many dogs in today's society do not have a

COURTESY BETSY HORN HUMER

BREED COLUMNS

SPORTING GROUP

specific job other than being a “pet or companion.” There is nothing wrong with that, but some Chesapeakes do end up in a “pet home.” It might be in a housing development, where children can readily go into each other’s homes without a formal “entry” such as knocking on the door and being admitted, rather simply walking into a friend’s house. The resident dog who knows the children will happily greet them. Is a Chesapeake a breed that will accept a person or child who simply shows up and walks into their friend’s home or yard without being “invited in” by that homeowner? There are Chesapeakes who would accept this behavior, but a traditional reaction would be to bark at the intruder. After all, that is considered to be their job.

I feel that the temperament of our breed is being modified—another word that could be used is “homogenized”—meaning that in reference to other more popular breeds,

Chesapeakes are becoming more standardized and conforming and behaving like the more popular retriever breeds mentioned earlier. It is not necessarily the protectiveness that is being reduced or eliminated, but also both physical and mental drive and the energy level.

As breeders, we work very hard to socialize, train, and produce dogs who are readily accepting of the jobs we ask them to do, whether in a show ring, an agility trial, a hunt test or even a Fast CAT event. They are around other dogs and expected not to interact with them in a negative fashion. The concept of Meet the Breeds and AKC family pet programs encourage dogs to be friendly to both canines and humans.

What do you think? Is the basic protective temperament of our breed changing?

—Betsy Horn Humer,
tiderumr2@verizon.net
[American Chesapeake Club](#)

Curly-Coated Retrievers

Longtime Curly fancier and breeder Sue Davis and her young Curly bitch Veeda are the definition of versatility! This month Sue details their many accomplishments.

THE VERSATILE CURLY

In 2020 I had the opportunity to retire early during Covid. I took advantage of retirement because I wanted to spend more time with my Curly-Coated Retrievers. I had an incredibly stressful and time-consuming job, which did not leave me a lot of time to spend with my dogs except for a few weekends a month. I promised myself that when I retired, I would pursue new and fun activities with my dogs.

In 2021 I imported Veeda from Sweden. She was the daughter of a dog I had bred and exported to Sweden years earlier.

Veeda is a very energetic and spirited young girl. We began by enrolling in puppy basic obedience classes and

SPORTING GROUP



Curly-Coated Retriever cigarette card, early 20th century

earning her Canine Good Citizen title. We then started out competing in activities with which I already had experience.

I finished her AKC championship and grand championship. Then we worked on rally. We also competed in coursing ability and Fast CAT. Curlies are naturals at chasing little white plastic bags!

I became interested in Barn Hunt, and I was able to take lessons with Veeda. She loved finding rats, but the tunnels were a real challenge. We used balls and treats to get her to go through the longer

tunnels. She came to love going through tunnels, even though she is a bigger and taller dog.

We had challenges along the way, but Veeda has earned her Barn Hunt Master title, and we are now working toward her RATCH.

Because Veeda has a great nose, I decided to try nose work with her. I knew absolutely nothing about nose work, but I was fortunate enough to find a fairly local place to take lessons with an amazing instructor. Every Thursday we went to a class, and Veeda learned to distinguish the different odors.

Our biggest challenge has been distractions. Veeda loves stuffed toys, and getting her to ignore them has been difficult. We are working hard on that, and she is almost finished with her advanced nose work titles.

I love nose work because we work as a team. Nose work does not require me to run or make sharp turns, so I will be able to train and compete with her for years to come.

Veeda really enjoys dock diving. She is a natural swimmer, and I have to say this is probably her favorite thing to do. We are working with an instructor to increase the length of her jumps, which has been a real learning experience for me. Throwing a bumper correctly is harder than one might think! Timing and height and length of throw are very important. I am learning as much as she is!

We still compete in conformation, and we enter in the Owner-Handled Series. Veeda has also earned titles in Fit Dog, Retriever Dog,

BREED COLUMNS

SPORTING GROUP

CGCA, Farm Dog, and Trick Dog. In the future, I hope to work with her in field work and tracking.

The sky is the limit with the versatile Curly-Coated Retriever!—S.D.

Thank you, Sue and Veeda, for showing us an ideal partnership!

—Ann Shinkle, 649
Amelia Island Parkway, Apt. 1123, Fernandina Beach, Florida, 32034

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



Golden Retriever

Golden Retrievers

PAWS FOR PURPLE HEARTS

First, a brief step back in time. Back to 1995, when Dr. Bonita Bergin founded the concept of the first service dog. She then built upon that concept and founded the first service dog program, Canine Companions for Independence (CCI), a 501c(3) nonprofit organization that trains assistance dogs for the disabled, using primarily Golden Retrievers.

Today, Dr. Bergin’s focus

is still on canine assistance, with a program still utilizing Goldens and Labrador Retrievers: Paws for Purple Hearts (PPH).

The concept behind PPH is simple, “Warriors (veterans) train other Warriors.”

Using what is known as Warrior Canine Training Therapeutic Intervention, the program teaches Warriors with PTSD (post traumatic stress disorder), TBI (traumatic brain injury), or MST (military sexual trauma) to train service dogs for Warriors who have mobil-

ity impairments or other disabilities that a service dog can help mitigate.

PPH is the first program of its kind to offer Canine Assisted Warrior Therapy to veterans and active-duty military personnel. Launched in 2006 as a research program at the Bergin College of Canine Studies, together with the Menlo Park Veterans Administration Medical Center, PPH has since evolved and is now a separate organization with its own non-profit status.

Through the PPH

SPORTING GROUP

dog-training process, Warriors learn a broad palette of real-life skills to ease their reintegration into civilian life, back into their families and communities. It also helps suffering Warriors learn all over again how to trust and how to connect with others, both dogs and humans—feelings long suppressed during the internal struggle with the anger and negativity of war. Training a lifelong service companion for other Warriors in need helps the participant regain a sense of purpose, as in “mission accomplished!”

Scott (first names only used), a Marine Corps Chief Warrant Officer 5, and Canine-Assisted Warrior participant, stated it well:

“You work as a team, like in the military, all progressing with the same goal in mind: to make the dogs ready to be utilized by fellow veterans. Every week you look forward to coming here and being a part of something bigger than yourself.”

The number of veterans and active-duty military per-

sonnel who commit suicide fluctuates year by year but still remains high at 16 or more per day, according to the Veterans Administration 2021 annual report.

Programs like PPH can help reduce that number, but public awareness is critical to keep those programs active.

Like CCI, PPH has its own breeding program to ensure the Warriors are paired with the best and the brightest. The pups are raised (and trained) by approved puppy-raisers, according to the highest standards required by PPH. And as dog people, especially Golden Retriever owners, know, there simply is nothing more comforting and uplifting than a Golden Retriever to lick your tears.

Most non-profit organizations rely on donations, and PPH is no exception. Visit their website, www.pawsforpurplehearts.org, and if you are so inclined ...

—Nona Kilgore Bauer
nona@nonabauer.com
[Golden Retriever Club of America](http://www.GoldenRetrieverClubofAmerica.com)

English Setters

COMPETITIONS AND CELEBRATIONS

There are lots of things to celebrate as we begin to close out 2024. As I write this, ESAA members are gathered in Ohio for the national specialty. Results are starting to come in (these results were just posted; any errors will be corrected in the next column):

ESAA 2024 National Specialty

Best of Breed: Ch. Honeygait Dancin in the Moonlit Sky

Best of Winners: None awarded (WB was pulled due to illness before judging for BW, therefore BW could not be awarded.)

Best of Opposite Sex: Ch. Wingfield N Chebaco Now and Then

Select Dog: GCh.S Kaskas Meant to Be, RN, CGC, TKN

Select Bitch: GCh. Huntwood Carob Bad Alibi Awards of Merit:

GCh. Kaskas When Pigs Fly



SPORTING GROUP



English Setter, Gordon Setter, and Pointer, Gustav Muss-Arnolt

GCh.B DC AFC RACH
Winchester's Having a Field
Day, UD, RM2, RAE2,
MHA, OA, OAJ, OF, TKP

GCh.B Wingfield Fancy
Like Chebaco

GCh.S Set R Ridge
Creekscrossing Always on
My Mind

GCh. Pinehollows Eleanor
Gee I Think You're Swell,
CGC, JH

AKC NOHS: Ch.
Honeygait Dancin in the
Moonlit Sky

Best Bred-by: Carob
N Huntwood Sweet
Intoxication

Best Puppy: Wingfield N

Chebaco Now We Know
Best Veteran: GCh.B
Kaskas Caught in the Act

*ESAA National
Championship Field Trials*

In Medford, New Jersey,
the ESAA's National
Championship Field Trials
(AKC licensed) will be held
November 11–15. The event
is held under the rules and
procedures of the AKC. All
stakes are open to English
Setters only. Entries close
November 10 and must
be made online, at [www.
BirdDogStakes.net](http://www.BirdDogStakes.net).

This championship is

always important. It has helped define our English Setters for decades by showing that form does follow function. Our dogs are more than pretty, prancing show dogs.

This year is truly special, as it marks 100 years since the first AKC field trial in the U.S. That first AKC field trial was held on these very grounds in Medford, New Jersey, in 1924. The ESAA National Championship Field Trials take place on what remains of those original grounds today. The grounds are owned by the English Setter Club of America, which is licensed under the Medford English Setter Club.

The English Setter Club of America actually predates our English Setter Association of America (ESAA) by several years, but the older club followed The American Field organization. However, they have always generously been willing to rent the grounds to AKC clubs so they could run their field trials. Despite



SPORTING GROUP

any differences between the clubs, the Medford club was committed to allowing their membership a chance to run AKC events, since most of their members now have AKC dogs of various pointing breeds.

This year's field trial committee chair is Karen Lishinski. The secretary is B.J. Parsons (bjsetters@aol.com). Committee members are Frank Luksa, B.J. Parsons, Bruce Arnold, Karen Lishinski, Spencer Mooney, and Kay Fouhey.

For more information about the ESAA National Championship Field Trials, entries, the course, birds, camping, directions, or other questions, contact the secretary (B.J. Parsons) or other committee members.

We also want to wish a happy anniversary to the AKC, celebrating 140 years of being the dog's champion and foremost source for everything related to dogs. We're proud of the fact that English Setters were one of the original nine breeds recognized by the AKC

when the club first met in Philadelphia in 1884. You can read an entire [list of AKC "firsts"](#) on the website.

Here at home, I'm celebrating much simpler things, such as making progress communicating with my 6-month-old puppy. Have puppies always been this naughty? We are making progress slowly, but I try to remind myself that we will both learn to understand each other better.

I should tell you that Sophie came with nicknames from her breeder such as "the pirate" and "the vampire." I was certainly warned in advance that she was a wild thing.

When I get frustrated, I see in my mind another puppy I had about 17 years ago. She barked at me all the time. She was bossy. She didn't listen to me for a long time. She did a lot of naughty things, too. It took a long time to work out our communication. Somehow, Pearl became one of the best dogs I ever had. She could practically read my mind.

I still have a big hole in my heart from when I lost her a couple of years ago.

Thinking about Pearl and other English Setter puppies I've had over the years reminds me that it takes time to build a close relationship with a dog. No matter how intuitive or sensitive we may think our English Setters are, it often takes a while for them to become attuned to us. For that reason, I'll celebrate every small success my puppy Sophie and I have together. We have a long way to go, but I think we'll develop that good relationship in the end.

—Carlotta Cooper,
eshever@embarqmail.com
[English Setter Association of America](#)

Gordon Setters

WORKING CERTIFICATES AND HUNTING TESTS

Like a number of the sporting breeds, the Gordon was first developed to be a hunting dog. It had nearly a century of that

SPORTING GROUP

before anyone thought, “Hey, let’s have a dog show.”

Moving ahead a couple centuries into the late 1970s, the Gordons were doing well in the show ring and in field trials in the U.S. The breed originally came to this country to hunt birds and were highly popular as market hunting dogs in the late 1800s.

In the 1970s a group on the West Coast began lobbying the Gordon Setter Club of America to devise a test to prove, improve, and preserve the breed’s natural capabilities in the field short of all-out field trialing. The idea quickly picked up interest across the country, and at a board meeting in Dayton, Ohio, in May 1980, the board of governors appointed a committee chaired by Eric Backman of Connecticut with members Norm Sorby of California, Fred Engler of Kansas, and Sam Christine of Pennsylvania to develop a program.

There was a disagreement among the committee, with

Ch. Chaparral Ace’s High, CD, WDR, MH, the first setter to earn the MH title.



some fearing that the test would prove detrimental to field trials, and it took some time to overcome this. It fell primarily to Norm Sorby to write a basic standard of performance, and it fell to the field trial enthusiasts on the West Coast to run two sample tests in 1981, one in the spring and one in the fall, to make necessary changes.

One change was to offer two titles, Working Dog and Working Dog Retrieve, since the West Coast members favored retrieving, while East Coast and Midwest

folks did not. The committee knew that the western field trials required retrieving while the rest of the country did not, and the tests were most likely to be run in conjunction with the trials. All agreed that to earn a title would require three passing scores from three different set of judges at three tests.

In August 1982 the board formally approved the program, and trials that fall all included the test as part of the event.

By the end of the year two dogs in California, Ch. Chaparral Aces High,

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BREED COLUMNS

SPORTING GROUP

CD, and Ch. Chaparral Dressed to Kill, owned by Linda Sanders of Nevada, had earned WDR titles on the West Coast, and two dogs, Gordon Hill Wee Bit O'Daylight and Ch. Gordon Hill Zephyr, owned by Susan Desilver of Connecticut, had earned WD titles in the East. All four of these dogs came from kennels where the owners were determined to promote dual-purpose Gordon Setters.

The program hit its stride in 1983, when the test was offered as a companion event to the first national specialty show in May in Springfield, Ohio. The test was held at Cherry Bend Pheasant Farm near Wilmington, Ohio, with nearly 50 entries, and with a large gallery of folks watching.

By the end of the year 15 more dogs had earned titles, with the first Midwest-based dog among them, Ch. Stillmeadows Xceptional Lady, CD, owned by Leslie Simon of Ohio.

In the fall of 1984 a test was held in Southern California, and a visitor from the East Coast made his way to the test. That visitor was Hamilton Rowan, who was the head of field performance events for the American Kennel Club. "Ham" had requested a copy of the working certificate guidelines and procedures, and he was in California to witness firsthand how the dogs performed and how the tests were run. He also attended an East Coast test in the spring of 1985. Along with an AKC committee, and with the help of several other pointing-breed parent clubs, what emerged from that visit was the AKC hunting test program for pointing breeds—a program that is highly successful and popular and continues to grow since its inception in 1987.

In December 1987 Ch. Chaparral Aces High, CD, WDR, became the first Gordon Setter to earn the Master Hunter title, at

the age of 9 years and 11 months. Ace was the first setter to earn the Master title, and his picture is included with this column. Also by the end of 1987 two Gordons had earned the Senior Hunter title, and 17 had earned the Junior Hunter title.

With the growing popularity of the AKC hunting tests, the Working Certificate program faded into the background, but it was the emphasis and the idea that was needed at that time to get more Gordons back into the field where they truly belong, and doing what they truly love to do.

—James Thacker,
dunbargs@sbcglobal.net
Gordon Setter Club of America

Irish Red and White Setters

MEET THE IRISH RED AND WHITE SETTER

“Hey, where did you get that Brittany with a tail?” Or: “Is that an English Springer Spaniel?”

BREED COLUMNS



SPORTING GROUP



Irish Red and White Setter

Lynda Beam

Irish Red and White Setter owners hear lots of guesses about their dogs' identity. Irish Red and White Setters (IRWS) are rare. No wonder people aren't so sure when they see one. Sometimes a person may recognize the setter qualities, but the pearly white coat and red

patches seem to throw them.

Irish Red and White Setters have been around longer than Irish Setters, though the latter with their beautiful red coats became more popular and recognizable. According to the Irish Red and White Setter Association of America

website, www.irishredwhite-setterassociation.com, records show there were all-red dogs in Irish kennels at end of the 18th century. It is thought the all-red dogs resulted from breeding white and red dogs that had increasing amounts of red.

They are two distinct breeds. The all-red dogs flourished in the 19th century. Irish Setters took part in the first American conformation shows, while the IRWS was almost lost; World War I caused great hardship in Ireland. People could barely feed themselves, much less their dogs.

The IRWS is a versatile dog. Very active, they need lots of exercise. AKC events and sports provide an opportunity to keep them busy and challenged.

The IRWS is a good family pet for an active family. They are friendly and love children.

Breeders continue to keep the instinct to hunt as an important trait. Many owners enjoy taking part in hunt test and field trials with their

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BREED COLUMNS

SPORTING GROUP

dogs, as well as doing obedience, rally, flyball, tracking, agility, and other sports.

The AKC fully recognized the Irish Red and White Setter on January 1, 2009. In 2020 AKC ranked them 170 out of 195 popular breeds, down a bit from previous years.

The breed standard offers this description of IRWS temperament: “They display a kindly, friendly attitude, behind which is discernible determination, courage and high spirit.”

I hope in the future when you cross paths you will recognize our lovely breed.

—Cynthia Lancaster,
cclancaster@gmail.com

Lake Jackson, Texas

[Irish Red and White Setter Association of America](#)

Cocker Spaniels

A DELICATE BALANCE

You can find some extraordinary definitions for the phrase “a delicate balance,” including “razor’s edge,” “juggling act,” “balancing act,” a “precarious



struggle to maintain equilibrium or harmony amidst opposing forces or circumstances,” and “harmony preservation.”

One can’t help but think about this struggle for harmony when you watch the Cocker Spaniel in motion. According to the “General Appearance” section of the breed’s AKC standard, the overall dog is to be in complete balance and of ideal size. He stands well up at the shoulder.

The “Gait” section of the standard provides that a prerequisite to good movement is a balance between

the front and rear assemblies, so that the Cocker drives with a powerful rear *and* is properly constructed in the shoulders so he can reach forward without constriction in a full stride to counterbalance the driving force from the rear.

Whether you look at Cocker photos or see the dog in person or on video you understand just how delicate the balance of these features is. You want a dog to look “up on leg” *but* not look “stilted” and with a steep shoulder construction that will not allow the dog to easily extend his front legs

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BREED COLUMNS

SPORTING GROUP

and reach forward in stride. Nor do you want the dog to look “low on leg” or inelegant.

It is imperative, therefore, that as a Cocker fancier you pay attention to the shoulder-construction aspects in the standard and learn what correct shoulders feel like as you go over them.

Then, it is important to understand the angulation of the hindquarters, as well as the proper musculature of the hindquarters.

Your hands must become skilled in feeling the construction in these areas (shoulders and hindquarters), and your eyes in observing the balance (or lack thereof) of the forelegs and rear in motion. You do not want to see forelegs constricted and unable to adequately reach forward and move freely, such that the action of powerful, strong, and properly angulated hindquarters overdrives the front action. Nor do you want to see a properly constructed shoulder supply correct forward reach to the forequarters

while a rear with incorrect angles fails to correctly operate to match the reach and cannot smoothly move the Cocker forward in an effortless manner.

When the front and rear assemblies are correct and balanced with each other, they will be capable of providing the ground-covering action and endurance so important in the Cocker as a sporting dog.

Getting there is not so easy and requires your attention to the “delicate balance.”

—Kristi L. Tukua,
[American Spaniel Club](#)

English Cocker Spaniels

ADVENTURES IN BREEDER REFERRAL

I served as my local English Cocker Spaniel club breeder referral person for many years. I also encouraged, and still do, local folks who are interested in learning about English Cockers to come to my house to “meet the breed,” so to speak, and get a fully immersive experience!

Over the years, I had the usual e-mails and phone calls regarding not just puppy availability, but also questions from people who wanted to offer their wonderful male pet as a stud dog, or how to have their dog groomed, or how to get their dog to quit stealing food from the table, to name a few.

As to the question on how to keep an English cocker from stealing food—the answer is that you can’t! Having an English Cocker will encourage you to become very tidy and not leave food out where it can be reached!

As far as those who wanted help in “studding their dog out,” I would typically respond with a gentle e-mail advising them of the need for genetic testing for inherited diseases, and of the necessity of having the “girlfriend” stay with them for a week or so until the breeding was done—a girlfriend who may or may not be cooperative! For those folks more determined to make their

BREED COLUMNS

SPORTING GROUP



English Cocker Spaniel puppies

pet a daddy, usually after I described what actually takes place during a natural breeding—the KY jelly, the occasional muzzling of the bitch, the occasional need for “hands-on” assistance, and the need to supervise, if not actually hang onto both parties during what could be an hour or more tie—there would be no more desire to breed their beloved pet.

As you may imagine, over the years I had some unusual questions. One person asked me why the tails didn’t grow back after they were docked. (Dogs are mammals, not lizards.) I

have had people ask if it was possible to bathe their dog. (Yes, not only possible, but desirable! Use a dog-appropriate shampoo and lather and rinse. Just like washing your own hair.)

Back in the long-ago days when puppies were advertised in the local newspaper, which in my case was the *Washington Post*, I recall a phone call from a lady desperate to find a puppy—any kind of pure-bred puppy—for her kids. The catch was it had to cost less than \$50. I scoffed at her and said, “Good luck,” and she responded that she

had indeed found one, but it only had three legs! She was really hoping to find one with all four legs intact (and both eyes, I assume).

Then there was the person who wanted a dog that would be roughly the same color as their carpet, so that any shedding wouldn’t show as much.

But one of the strangest exchanges I ever had was with a woman who was looking for a puppy as a birthday present for her husband. Except that initially, she didn’t request information on a puppy; she asked if I knew of anyone

COURTESY TRACEY DEVETTE



BREED COLUMNS

SPORTING GROUP

with an ASCOB woodcock! The wrong breed is one thing; I would get requests all the time for ASCOB cockers, ASCOB being the acronym for Any Solid Color Other than Black, which is a color in American Cocker, but not English Cocker. However, this person didn't have the correct species, since a woodcock is a bird! (A bird that also doesn't come in ASCOB coloration.)

We went back and forth for several e-mails, with the lady insisting that yes, her husband wanted an ASCOB woodcock, and it was a dog breed—and me stating no, it is not.

I finally sent her a picture of a woodcock, and she finally realized her error. In her research, she had read that cockers were originally bred to hunt woodcocks, and she got confused on the name. I sent her to (American) Cocker Spaniel breeder referral in search of an ASCOB cocker.

And I will never forget the person who asked if the preg-

nancy X-ray would show the colors of the puppies!

We all need to be mindful that any of us could be the first contact for anyone interested in a purebred dog, and we need to be helpful and welcoming, no matter how strange the question!

—Beth Hendrick,

bhendrick@verizon.net

English Cocker Spaniel Club of America

English Springer Spaniels

DOGS MIRROR HUMAN

COMPANIONS: HEALTH, LEARNING, AND EMOTIONS

“Before you can study an animal, you must first love it.”—Konrad Lorenz

We send our own fear, anger, delight, and physical reactions straight down the leash. Scientists share more and more research observations about dogs' reactions to our facial expressions and tone of voice, our smell, and which illnesses we suffer to overcome.

In her *Scientific American* article “When Dogs Smell

Your Stress, They Act Sad,” writer Sarah Novak finds:

“Humans and dogs have been close companions for perhaps 30,000 years, according to anthropological and DNA evidence. They have evolved to read verbal and visual cues from their owners, and previous research has shown that with their acute sense of smell, they can even detect the odor of stress in human sweat. Now researchers have found that not only can dogs smell stress—in this case represented by higher levels of the hormone cortisol—they also react to it emotionally.”

Novak shares research led by Zoe Parr-Cortes (Bristol Veterinary School, University of Bristol). “For thousands of years, dogs have learned to live with us, and a lot of their evolution has been alongside us. Both humans and dogs are social animals, and there's an emotional contagion between us,” says Parr-Cortes. “Being able to sense stress from another member of the

SPORTING GROUP



English Springer Spaniel Ch. Salilyn's Macduff, Springfield KC, 1959
(Norton of Kent photo)

pack was likely beneficial because it alerted them of a threat that another member of the group had already detected.”

Science writer Russell McClendon, for Yahoo News, shares Nikola Rooney's findings. “Working dog handlers often describe stress traveling down the lead, but we've shown it can also travel through the air,” says Rooney. “Understanding how human stress affects dogs’

well-being is an important consideration for dogs in kennels, and when training companion dogs and dogs for working roles such as assistance dogs.”

McClendon's article “Dogs Can Smell Our Stress, And It Affects Them Deeply” reports many of the findings of the Bristol study in the publication *Scientific Reports*. Emotional and physical health of the dog owner can influence the health and mental well-being

of our dogs.

Dr. Keith Weingardt, in an article for *Animal Wellness* magazine, explains:

“Dogs mirror their human's health patterns. Prioritize your health for the sake of theirs. ... Research has proven this phenomenon of pets serving as mirrors—reflecting not only our emotional states, but even our physical health conditions. By recognizing the interconnected nature of the well-being of our furry friends and ourselves, and prioritizing immune support for both, we can strengthen the bond between humans and our loyal companions and engineer better health for all.”

In *Psychology Today*, Dr. Stanley Coren shares reasons for this two-way exchange, saying:

“We now understand that dogs have all of the same brain structures that produce emotions in humans. Dogs also have the same hormones and undergo the same chemical changes that humans do during emotional



BREED COLUMNS

SPORTING GROUP

states. Dogs even have the hormone oxytocin, which, in humans, is involved with feeling love and affection for others. This conclusion holds for most mental abilities, including emotions.”

Coren concludes, “This means that a dog will have all of the basic emotions: joy, fear, anger, disgust, and even love. However, based on current research it seems likely that your dog will not have those more complex emotions like guilt, pride, and shame.”

Just as dog handlers, dog trainers, and all of us who interact with dogs have our own preferences for how we learn and what kind of rewards for our behaviors affect us most, dogs, too, have multi-faceted reactions and feelings. In his *National Geographic* article “Dogs Have Feelings—Here’s How We Know,” writer Simon Worrall shares the work of Emory University neuroscientist Gregory Berns. Berns finds, “Obviously dog brains are not the same as humans. One big difference is in the

size. A dog brain is about the size of a lemon, at best, if it’s a big dog. There’s not the same real estate in there, so they can’t do some things we can do.”

Berns and his research team found that dogs do have preferences for the kinds of rewards they receive, explaining, “We showed [dogs] an object that signaled they would get food, then another one signaling that their owner would pop into view and say, ‘Good girl!’ There were a handful of dogs that preferred praise over food. There were also a couple of dogs at the other end of the spectrum. For them it really was all about the food! But the vast majority of dogs had equal responses to both food and praise.”

What can we do to help our dogs feel safe emotionally? How can we control ourselves and our reactions to cut down on anxiety reactions? How do we best help our dogs learn at optimal levels?

We must consider how *we*

are behaving in ways that do not help our dog thrive. Horse-riding teachers drill students in the art of “quiet hands” to build skills in a quiet mind and body—for the horse *and* the rider. Our dogs learn and live optimally when we show them quiet, steady emotions, self-confident, gentle voices, and poised, smooth physical reactions.

Let’s school ourselves to remember: Our dog is watching and listening all the time.

—Sarah A. Ferrell, Locust Grove, Virginia

[facebook.com/Valentine-Vishnu-Ferrell-1053487794678146/](https://www.facebook.com/Valentine-Vishnu-Ferrell-1053487794678146/)
[English Springer Spaniel Field Trial Association](https://www.englishspringerspaniel.org/)

Field Spaniels

LIVING WITH FIELD SPANIELS

Our breed is noted to be “unusually docile, sensitive, fun-loving, independent and intelligent, with a great affinity for human companionship,” and has unique individual

BREED COLUMNS

SPORTING GROUP

personalities—as so many of our canine companions do. Field Spaniels range from the serious stalwart to the downright goofball in attitude, and we often see a range of traits within one dog! Owners agree that life is sweet with our chosen breed, but not necessarily for everyone.

As an active sporting breed, the Field Spaniel likes to be a member of his family first and foremost. The breed’s sensitivity and desire to be companions to people serves them well as a medium-sized hunter companion. The Field is active in the home, busy with daily activity and part of your world.

Our dogs fare well having jobs—if made fun and using their natural abilities. While active home companions, the Field Spaniel loves the games we play, from companion events (rally, obedience, agility) to tracking and field work, as well as such things as nose work, Barn Hunt, freestyle, and lure coursing. Our dogs



Field Spaniels

enjoy learning new games with us and train well using rewarding methods and a fun, positive approach.

As with all canines, proper socialization and basic obedience training are imperative for having a life-long companion who is not only your best friend but also a dog appreciated in public. Many Field owners enjoy the breed’s biddability, or ease of teaching. We find their problem-solving ability to be amazing and enjoyable throughout a lifetime.

Know that Field Spaniels do best with work to do, be

it within your community or through sport.

Our breed has found its home in the city, the country, and everywhere in between—from walks on suburban sidewalks to hunting in rural fields. With responsible ownership and access to controllable exercise, the Field thrives with people and can do well with other animals as well.

Keeping a Field Spaniel groomed is a bonding experience and keeps our friends healthy and happy. Maintenance of the body coat is relatively simple



BREED COLUMNS

SPORTING GROUP

with good nutrition. It is single and glossy in texture, never to be body clipped. Trimming and stripping is generally limited to the head and ears, feet and pasterns, with regular care required. Breeders are helpful in showing new owners the ropes of proper care, and when raised and trained with structure, a Field makes a lovely and sensitive canine friend.

While noted as a land spaniel, some individuals are known to enjoy water whether in the outdoors or in the drinking capacity. Surprisingly, it is not always their long, pendulous ears that dip in the water, though! Many are known to be sloppy drinkers, sometimes because of enthusiasm and at times just not minding, that they are being busy—dripping water from their lips as they happily trot by! Strategic placement of water stations will help, as will various types of containers.

Another interesting trait is the occasional snoring some do. Still other individuals

make interesting sounds, but this again may range from quiet peeps to yodels to warbling outside of the typical dog bark.

When considering the lifespan of the Field Spaniel, it is exciting to see puppies and healthy young dogs in their prime. Many are living into their teens and active as well. We are fortunate to have shared improved health and longevity with our breed over the years. It is important to note that reputable Field Spaniel breeders have been working on health testing for hips, knees and elbows, eyes, cardiac, and thyroid in their stock.

Many say we have a “gene puddle” as opposed to a gene pool, and so we must breed carefully to maintain genetic diversity.

One of their best characteristics, besides being charming to behold, is their apparent silly nature, at times playing the jester in the home. Antics can be redirected and channeled into proper desired behaviors, and their humor is

much revered.

Temperaments range from outgoing to reserved and should never be aggressive. This is a breed who may take time to socialize as a puppy and in younger years, and may “size someone up” before bestowing trust and friendship upon them. They are a slow-to-mature breed, both in body and mind, but the payoff is an amazing journey of a lifetime together.

All the Fields I have known have displayed mellow moments and a spirit and joy in life that makes them fun and interesting to live with. Life with Fields will yield hair and an air of energy in your home, as well as water and humor!

Overall, the Field Spaniel combines a lot of dog into a medium package that can play many games, suited for a variety of conditions. A finer friend I have not found...

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

BREED COLUMNS

SPORTING GROUP

Sussex Spaniels

SUSSEX AND FOOD

When we started in Sussex over 50 years ago, we were not novices in dogs or in breeding and showing. We had Golden Retrievers and German Shepherds. Those two breeds were nice, normal eaters. They would eat any nice, normal food and clean their dishes every day.

Sussex were a surprise, to say the least. They are a picky breed, and what was lovely to eat yesterday, they are convinced will poison them today.

Of course, years ago there were far fewer brands of dog food. Certainly not like today, when it seems like every week or two a celebrity or want-to-be dog trainer introduces a new food with many claims about health and taste, long life, and other benefits. Meanwhile, older brands (or at least their names) are marketed as “improved” and sold to big companies which add that brand to their laundry detergent, cereal, and candy



empires while changing the tried-and-true dog food formula to cut costs.

One of our first champion Sussex would only eat any dog food if we combined it with powdered cottage cheese and water and spoon fed him.

Sussex people are very adamant what they will feed. “Oh, I would never feed *that* brand” is common. Then there is one well-known breeder who has only ever

fed a cheaper, off-brand kibble and has had lovely dogs.

Remember, no matter the cost of the food, if your dogs won’t eat it, it is a waste of money.

I tell my puppy buyers to feed a kibble that has at least 20 percent protein and 15 percent fat, but most importantly to read the ingredients and to be sure that meat is the very first ingredient—real meat, not some meat byproduct meal; that

BREED COLUMNS

SPORTING GROUP

is a way to introduce cheap, throwaway product into a food to cut costs.

It is good to feed Sussex twice a day to avoid bloat. Sussex are deep chested and slow to mature, and their long body gives ample room for the stomach to twist.

Occasionally I change kibble, add a can of cat food, or change the brand of dog biscuit, just to get them used to something different in case of their regular food not being available.

The first person you should talk to about food is your breeder. After all, he or she managed to produce your puppy, didn't they?

—Marcia Deugan,

ZiyadahReg@aol.com

[Sussex Spaniel Club of America](#)

Welsh Springer Spaniels

CANINES AT THE CAPITOL

For the first time since the COVID-19 pandemic, AKC Government Relations hosted “Canines at the Capitol” to introduce federal legislators and their

staffs to purebred dogs and the breeders/owners who love them.

Ginny, my just-turned-two-years-old Welsh Springer Spaniel, and I represented the Sporting Group at this very popular evening event on Capitol Hill. It was bittersweet for me because Ginny's great-grandmother, Mamie, represented Welsh Springers and the Sporting Group twice previously. Unfortunately, I recently lost my lovely Mamie at the magnificent age of 14½.

Since Ginny was whelped at the end of the pandemic, and because she finished her championship at a young age, she has spent more time at home than many of my Welshies, and I was apprehensive of her reaction to hundreds of strangers wanting to touch her. The knock on our breed for many years is that their “reserved with strangers” temperament can easily slide into shyness. Years of breeding away from that has, luckily, resulted

in much happier, more approachable dogs. Ginny was happy to soak up the love she received from dozens of people. Her calmness and stability, as well as her natural good looks, attracted many admirers.

As a relatively rare breed, Welsh Springers are often mistaken for English Springers or Brittanys. The most frequent comment at an event like this is some variation of “My grandmother had a dog like this when I was a kid.” As I ask about that dog, the next comment is often, “Well, hers was brown and white, but definitely the same breed!” That's when I launch into my explanation of the basics of the English Springer versus the Welsh Springer.

One person this year surprised me by knowing exactly what a Welsh Springer is and what they are bred to do. He told me about his annual grouse-hunting trips to Wales and the many Welshies he has shot over.

SPORTING GROUP



Welsh Springer Spaniel Ginny with her toy in the Cannon Caucus Room on Capitol Hill, ready to meet staff and Members of Congress

He went on to tell the Members and staff around Ginny what great bird dogs Welsh Springers are.

This leads me to another common question of whether my dog works in the field and/or if I shoot over my dog. This is the

perfect segue to a discussion of purpose-bred dogs and the characteristics that we breed toward.

Given the prevalence of the “Adopt, don’t shop” mantra from anti-breeder groups who blanket Capitol Hill, the importance of

events like these cannot be overstated.

AKC Vice President for Government Relations Sheila Goffe works hard for the fancy every day, advocating for our sport and for the right to breed dogs. In just one evening, fanciers and their dogs can show the people who write federal legislation affecting us that we are responsible, ethical breeders who love our dogs.

Ginny was featured in dozens of selfies by Capitol Hill staff. And although I don’t know for certain, I imagine their social media feeds that evening had lots of pictures of a Welsh Springer, a German Shepherd Dog, an American Foxhound, a Pekingese, a Chow Chow, and so on.

Here’s hoping that a few minds are now more open than before to the value of purebred dogs.

—Wendy J. Jordan,
wendy.jordan@capstrategiesgroup.com
Welsh Springer Spaniel Club of America

COURTESY WENDY JORDAN

BREED COLUMNS

SPORTING GROUP

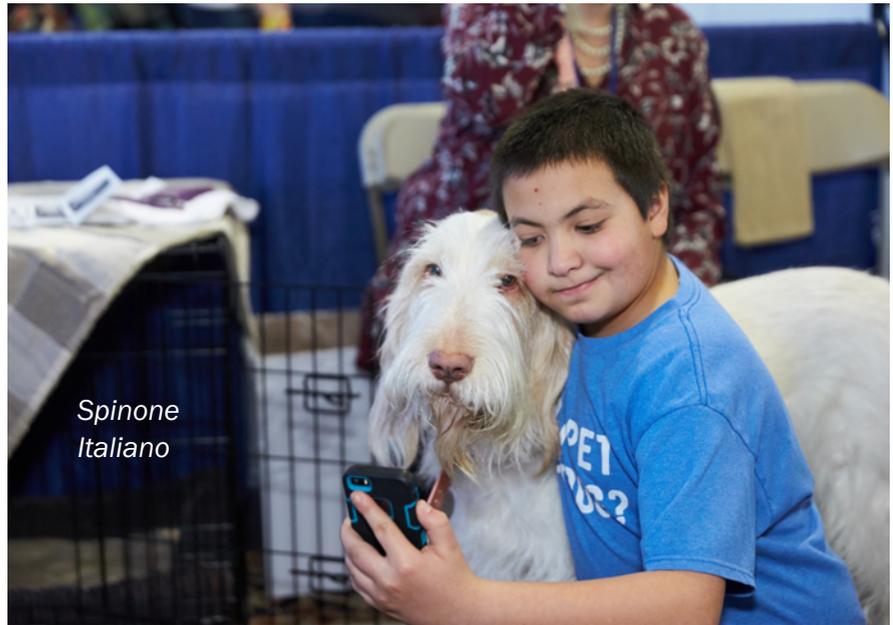
Spinoni Italiani

Lately I have been hearing the words “Spinone Americano” to describe my breed. A Spinone Italiano is a Spinone Italiano, whether in Italy or America. I am writing a multi-part article about the AKC Spinone breed standard vs. the Italian (ENCI) Spinone breed standard, using each as my guide as I compare the standards, body part by body part.

SPINONE ITALIANO VS SPINONE AMERICANO, PART THREE: EARS, TOPLINE, WITHERS, LOIN, CROUP, UNDERLINE, NECK, TAIL, FOREQUARTERS, AND HINDQUARTERS

Ears

Italian standard: Practically triangular in shape; in length they are not more than 5 cm longer than the lower line of the throat; in width they reach forward from the point of inset of the head to the neck to the middle of the zygomatic arch. The forward edge is close to the cheek, not folded, but turned inwards; the tip of



the ear is slightly rounded. Nearly always carried low, the ear should have little erection power. Cartilage is fine. The skin is covered with dense hair mixed with longer sparse hairs which become thicker at the edge.

American standard: Almost triangular in shape with a slightly rounded tip, they are set on a level with the eye; long, but not more than 2 inches below the line of the throat; pendulous, carried close to the head and with little erectile power. The leather is fine, covered with short, thick hair mixed with longer sparser hair, which

becomes thicker along the edges. The forward edge is adherent to the cheek, not curled, but turned back on itself.

Summary: The American standard describes the ear as being set on a level with the eye, but otherwise both standards are the same.

Back/Topline

Italian standard: (Back) The fore part is nearly straight then gradually rises towards the loin before sloping towards the hind-quarters. (Topline) The typical upper profile begins with the slightly marked

SPORTING GROUP

withers and continues with an almost straight fore part of the back, then merge rising towards the loin with a slight convex line until joined with the solid and well-arched lumbar region.

American standard: The topline consists of two segments. The first slopes slightly downward in a nearly straight line from the withers to the eleventh thoracic vertebra. The second rises gradually and continues into a solid and slightly convex loin without rising above the withers.

Summary: The American breed standard describes a better visual, but both are the same.

Withers

Italian standard: Not too high, top of the shoulders wide apart.

American standard: There is no distinct separate paragraph for the withers, but they are described in one sentence in the paragraph on Forequarters: The tops of the shoulder blades are not close together.

Summary: The same.

Loin

Italian standard: Slightly convex, has well developed muscles and width. The width is almost equal to the length.

American standard: The loin is described in the description of the topline, A solid and slightly convex loin.

Summary: The same.

Croup

Italian standard: Broad, long, well-muscled and oblique, forms below the horizontal an angle of 30 degrees to 35 degrees which is measured of the obliqueness of the hip bone.

American standard: Wide, well-muscled, long. The hipbones fall away from the spinal column at an angle of about 30 to 35 degrees, producing a lightly rounded, well filled out croup.

Summary: The Italian standard uses the word *oblique*, which by definition means “slanting,” and the American standard says the hipbones

fall away. Same thing.

Underline and belly

Italian standard: Almost horizontal in the sternal region, then ascends slightly towards the belly.

American standard: The underline is solid. It is almost horizontal in the sternal region, then ascends only slightly towards the belly; there is minimal tuck-up.

Summary: Pretty much the same. The American standard is confusing in that the first sentence contradicts the second sentence of which the second sentence is the same as the Italian description which says almost horizontal in the *sternal region*.

Neck

Italian standard: Powerful and muscled, clearly set off from the nape, merging harmoniously into the shoulders. The length must not be inferior to 2/3 the length of the head; its circumference reaches a third of the height at the withers.

SPORTING GROUP

The lower edge shows a lightly developed double dewlap.

American standard: Strong, thick and muscular, clearly defined from the nape, blending into the shoulders in a harmonious line. The length of the neck shall not be less than two-thirds of the length of the head. The throat is moderate in skin with a double dewlap.

Summary: The same.

Tail

Italian standard: Natural and thick, particularly at the base; without fringes; carried either horizontally or down; not wagging much during the trot.

American standard: Follows the line of the croup, thick, with no fringes. The tail is carried horizontally or down, flicking from side to side while trotting.

Summary: The Italian standard describes “not wagging much,” while the American standard says “flicking from side to side.” A difference, but not that big of a deal. I will say that

the American-bred Spinone is losing its long croup and, as a result, the tail is coming straight off the back and carried high. The Spinone is to have a long croup, with the tail following the line of the croup and carried down or horizontal. Sadly, American judges want a “happy show dog,” so they pick the Spinone with its tail carried up and high, which is wrong.

Forequarters

Italian standard: General Appearance—Seen from the front they are perfectly parallel and perpendicular to the ground. Seen in profile, the forearm is vertical and the metacarpus is slightly oblique. Shoulder—Shoulder blade powerful and long, measures a quarter of the height at the withers, and has an obliqueness below the horizontal of about 50 degrees; in relation to the median plane of the body, the points of the shoulder blades are not very close. Perfectly free in its movements, the shoulder

has well-developed muscles; the opening of the scapulo-humeral angle is of about 105 degrees. Upper arm—oblique below the horizontal with a slant of about 60 degrees directed almost parallel to the median axis of the body. It is well-muscled. Elbow—Parallel to the median plane of the body. The point of the elbow must be a little forward of the vertical line, which drops from the posterior point of the shoulder blade to the ground. The distance from the elbow to the ground is equal to 50% of the height at the withers.

Forearm—Slightly longer than one third of the height at the withers, vertical seen from the front as well as in profile. Strong bone. The hind tendon is strongly accentuated in such a way that the groove between tendon and bone is clearly visible. Carpus (Wrist)—Follows the vertical line of the forearm. Pisiform bone well protruding. Metacarpus (Pastern)—Flat and, seen from the front, follows the

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vertical line of the forearm; seen in profile, it is slightly oblique. Its length is about 1/6 of the legs' height from ground to elbow.

Forefeet—Compact, round; toes well-knit and arched, covered with short, thick hair, including the spaces between the toes. The pads, lean and hard, are more or less pigmented according to the color of the coat. Nails strong, curved towards the ground and well-pigmented but never black.

American: Shoulders—The shoulders are strong, well-muscled, long and well laid back; they are capable of moving freely and form an angle with the upper arm of approximately 105 degrees. The tops of the shoulder blades are not close together.

The upper arm is of equal length to the shoulder blade. Angulation of shoulder is in balance with the angulation in the rear.

Forelegs—The forelegs are straight when viewed from the front, with strong, oval bone, well-developed

muscles and well-defined tendons; elbows are set under the withers and close to the body. Pasterns are long, lean and flexible, following the vertical line of the forearm. In profile, they are slightly slanted. **Feet**—Front feet are large, compact, rounded with well-arched toes which are close together, covered with short, dense hair, including between the toes. Dewclaws may be present.

Summary: The Italian standard is clearly much more detailed, which is indicative of the European dog fancy's heightened attention to dog fronts. I will say that a Spinone bred in Italy *may* have a better front than an American-bred Spinone, provided the Italian breeder follows their own breed standard. I have yet to see a perfectly great front on a Spinone, whether from Italy or America—something that needs to be worked on. Both breed standards are saying the same thing, the American standard with less detail.

Hindquarters

Italian standard: General Appearance—Seen in profile, back edge of the buttock is slightly convex; good angulation of the bone segments; the hocks must be perpendicular to the ground; seen from behind the hindquarters are parallel. **Thigh**—The length must not be inferior to a third of the height at the withers; broad, slightly oblique. The back edge slightly convex. **Lower thigh**—The length exceeds only slightly that of the thigh; the obliqueness is of 55 to 60 degrees below the horizontal; lean muscles in the upper part; the furrow between the hock tendon and the bone is marked and clearly visible. **Hock joint**—The lateral sides are very broad. The distance between the point of the hock and the ground is about one third of the height at the withers. The opening of the angle of the tibio-tarsal articulation is about 150 degrees. **Metatarsus (Rear Pastern)**—Strong and lean, the length is equal to the

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distance from the hock to the ground. Observed from whichever side, the metatarsal is vertical. On the inner side there may be a simple articulated dewclaw. Hind feet—Compact, round, but more oval than the forefeet; toes well knit and arched, covered with short thick hair, including the spaces between the toes. The pads, lean and hard, are more or less pigmented according to the color of the coat. Nails strong, curved towards the ground and well-pigmented but never black.

American standard: Thighs are strong and well-muscled, stifles show good functional angulation, lower thigh to be well developed and muscled with good breadth. The distance from the point of the hock to the ground is about one-third of the height at the withers, and the rear pastern is strong, lean and perpendicular to the ground. Feet—The rear foot is slightly more oval than the forefoot, with the same characteristics.

Dewclaws may be present on the inner side of the rear pastern.

Summary: Again, the Italian breed standard is much more detailed, but both standards are saying the same thing. However, in both Italy and America there is a problem with cow-hocked Spinoni. I have had Spinone breeders and exhibitors tell me, “Oh, that’s OK, it says they can be cow-hocked”—yet “it” doesn’t. Neither breed standard allows for cow-hocks. Both the Italian and American breed standards say the same thing, using the words *perpendicular from all angles/perpendicular to the ground*. From every angle and view, perpendicular is perpendicular—and that means no cow-hocks.

Part Four of this comparison will appear in the January 2025 issue, looking at Gait, Skin, Coat, and Faults.

—Daina B. Hodges,
breeding, exhibiting, and
hunting Spinone since 2002
[Spinone Club of America](#)

Vizslas

CHAMPIONS TAKE THE LEAD: WHY SPONSORING YOUR CLASS MATTERS

Summer is specialty Show season across the country. While social media overflows with victory photos, some champions celebrate beyond their win. In a heartwarming tradition, the winners of events pay it forward, becoming the sponsors for the same class the following year.

That sense of camaraderie extends beyond the show ring. Imagine the thrill of winning your class and then eyeing your award sponsored and engraved with the name of last year’s champion. Suddenly, victory is more than a dream; it’s about fostering a legacy. Victors become mentors, offering guidance and encouragement to the next generation of competitors.

A mentoring spirit is evident at various events across the country. For instance, the Vizsla Club of America offers an Iron Dog Competition at the national

BREED COLUMNS

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“Sponsorship isn’t just about trophies. It strengthens the community’s heartbeat, creating a lineage of champions.”

specialty and companion events. Scores are accumulated in agility, obedience, rally, scent work, and conformation, and the winners are crowned with gold, silver, or bronze medals at the end of national week.

It’s fun to gather around the ringside scoreboard, theorizing how it could be done better next year—the “what ifs.” It’s a perfect example of past medalists becoming cheerleaders and strategists.

In the nine years we’ve been hosting the Iron Dog competition, each medal

recipient has sponsored the medals in the subsequent year.

Sponsorship isn’t just about trophies. It strengthens the community’s heartbeat, creating a lineage of champions. Victories become investments in the future, inspiring unity and laying the groundwork for continued success.

This connection transcends show rings. Two annual VCA field events—the National Field Trial (horseback), and the National Gun Dog Championships

(walking)—are where champions invest in the future by sponsoring the competition that made them legends.

Those attending one of these events and staying for the Calcutta will experience a unique blend of intense competition, wholehearted fellowship, and playful banter. The Calcutta is a thrilling fundraiser where puppy prowess is auctioned off. Bidders wager on which pup will win, driving up prices for the favorites. The pot is split, with a percentage of the money going to the winner, adding an extra layer of excitement. Such high-stakes fun can inspire future champions.

By fostering a culture of excellence, past winners become role models for aspiring athletes.

The next time you receive an award, take a moment and look at who sponsored it. That’s a champion who believes in you, in your win, and in the future of our sport.

We, the participants past, present, and future, are



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the lifeblood of our sport. Together, we shape a culture that's not just about winning but about sportsmanship, excellence, and unification. After a big win, consider penning a quick thank-you to the person who sponsored your prize. Positive reinforcement is a highly effective technique for encouraging desired behaviors.

As champions in our sport, we need to lead by example in a show of character. True victory lies in helping others achieve their triumphs, fostering humility and a sense of responsibility for future events.

When your next club event comes around, consider sponsoring the class or classes you won the previous year. Take pride in that tradition. It's a testament to your hard work and an investment in the future you helped shape.

In the words of famed basketball coach John Wooden, "Sports do not build character. They reveal it."

Dog sports are steeped in tradition. The first Westminster Kennel Club Show took place in 1877. It's America's second longest-running sporting event, next to the Kentucky Derby. Every AKC event has its calendar weekend and is creating traditions of its own each year, regardless of the venue. The heart of tradition remains the same. It's about creating a supportive environment where past champions empower the next generation.

Russ Rose, the storied Hall of Fame coach of the Penn State Nittany Lions Women's Volleyball program, said, "Respect tradition. Work hard to make the same sacrifices and contributions as those who came before."

After your next win, take the lead and foster the traditions that will keep our sport alive.

Cheers!

—Jamie Walton,
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[org](#)
[Vizsla Club of America](#)

Weimaraners

VOLUNTEERISM

It's a fragile, precarious situation when an endeavor depends on volunteer labor to accomplish its goals. When it comes to dog activities, it's expected that the vast majority of work is done on a volunteer basis. So many clubs have only a handful of the membership involved in doing all the work.

"Our club has only a few doers and a lot of dues payers." Have you heard that one before? Is your club in the situation of having a substantial membership, but it seems only a few people do all the work?

How do clubs manage to put on events? Maybe the answer involves the basic nature of volunteerism.

Early in life you're taught how to be a good loser and a good winner. But no one teaches you how to be a good volunteer or how to manage the work of other volunteers. Getting a job done with volunteers is vastly different from directing performance from paid workers.

BREED COLUMNS

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From your own experience, you're bound to have encountered some of the following "nightmare volunteers." There's the person who volunteers and then does nothing. There are the poor performers where work is done, but the quality is less than what is needed. How about the volunteer who requires so much "care and feeding" that what you get is not worth the effort? Then there's the person who has no skill in working with others and creates more

problems than they are worth.

We've all had these experiences with volunteers. I'm certain some personal memories have just flashed before your eyes.

Listing what can go wrong with volunteers is easy, but what can your club do to make the situation better?

First, take a good look at the jobs to be accomplished, and then see if the work is a good match for the designated volunteer. People do well at jobs that they like

to do. See if you're making a good match of skills with tasks.

Give good guidance on what you want accomplished. If you set a volunteer loose with sketchy instructions, you may be greatly disappointed with what is accomplished.

Lack of guidance is also frustrating to the volunteer, especially when the organization is disappointed with their resultant work.

Next, reach out to new members and give them a job, no matter how small it is. When people have a responsibility, they feel connected with an organization. Try pairing an experienced worker with a new member so a mentoring relationship is established.

Make sure you recognize the work done by your volunteers. Don't take for granted that "so and so" will always be there to do "their" job. A few well-placed "thank yous" to both new and stalwart workers go a long way to guarantee continued good work and

COURTESY KATHLEEN RILEY



BREED COLUMNS

SPORTING GROUP

club involvement.

Let me speak a little heresy in this electronic-dominated world. There’s nothing that can take the place of direct, one-on-one contact to get work done. Use email and text messages sparingly when you’re getting a new project off the ground. Rely on face-to-face contact, or use the phone to personalize and humanize your message. Remember, there’s no tone in email or text messages. No matter how much you try to drum up enthusiasm and rally your volunteers, it’s hard to do in a solely electronic format.

The dog world rides on the backs of volunteers. If dog club volunteers suddenly disappeared and we paid for all services, I wouldn’t be surprised if entry fees would have an extra zero tacked at the end of the current cost. Doesn’t that put things into perspective?

—Carole Lee Richards,
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[Weimaraner Club of America](#)

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Alaskan Malamutes

My guest columnist this month is John Dewing, of Chikara Alaskan Malamutes, one of our most respected and successful AMCA breeder-members.

CRAFTING A CHAMPION: THE ART OF SELECTING A GREAT MALAMUTE

Recently, someone asked me what goes into making a truly exceptional dog—a dog who stands the test of time. What qualities, whether definable or indefinable, make a dog legendary?

First and foremost, you need an intimate knowledge of the breed standard. For Malamutes, this means understanding the specific structure and movement essential to the breed. Equally important is awareness of the health history of these animals to ensure that each dog’s contribution to the gene pool moves the breed forward. These are the tangible skills every breeder should have in their toolkit.

However, when faced

with a litter of promising puppies, the challenge is to choose those who will best represent the breed both in the show ring and the whelping box. We look for individuals who embody the qualities we’ve worked hard to achieve: type, soundness, and temperament, along with working and survival characteristics.

The “It” Factor

Yet sometimes there’s something more—the elusive “it” factor. This pup stands out with a “look at me” attitude, compelling you to consider them. The “it” factor might manifest as stance, head carriage, expression, or a certain charisma. As a breeder, you have a mental image of the ideal Malamute, and it’s not just one feature but many small elements that add up to the whole: balance, balance, and more balance!

Malamutes are built from the ground up, requiring strong feet and legs to perform their job. Proper shoulder layback, balanced

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Clockwise from top left: Alaskan Malamute Armani at almost 4 months; at 6 months in the show ring; sweepstakes win at AMCA national; Best in Show win.



rear angulation, correct body proportions, and a strong, slightly sloping topline are all critical. Is the tail set correctly? Are the ears properly positioned? Are the head and muzzle in harmony with the rest of the dog? These are just some of the qualities we evaluate.

For example, I recently co-bred a litter with a friend and flew back to evaluate it due to the years of effort behind this breeding. Though I initially had no intention of taking a puppy home, one male caught my eye. He had the build, the beautiful head, excellent



feet and legs, and the perfect tail-set. I declared him a keeper, but it was up to my co-breeder to decide. She chose a lovely bitch for herself but ultimately kept the male to grow him out, as I suggested. When I saw him again at 4 months, he still



had “it.” By 8 months, he came to my home for socialization and show training.

Now, at nearly 3 years old and shown selectively, he has won a Grand Sweepstakes at the regional before the national, six Working Group 1s, a Reserve Best in Show,

COURTESY JOHN DEWING

WORKING GROUP

and three all-breed Best in Shows. He truly has that “it” factor!

This isn’t to say I’m a genius at picking puppies. I often believe that creating a great dog requires the vision of an artist. Once you have a clear picture of what it takes to breed or select a standout dog, trust your instincts and embrace the journey. The joy lies in nurturing young dogs and helping them reach their full potential.

Over the years, I’ve had six different Best in Show dogs. My first winners came from other breeders, where I was fortunate to have second pick. These dogs came to me because their breeders had other priorities, allowing me to select the ones I felt possessed that special “it” factor. My first and only Best in Show bitch was the second pick of her litter; I chose her based solely on a photograph because she had “it.” Three of my five best male dogs were also second picks, yet each one possessed that indefinable quality.

Here’s the takeaway: Don’t be swayed from your convictions about what makes a great Malamute. Just because a pup wasn’t the first pick doesn’t mean it’s not the right pick for you. Do the work, study the standard, and understand structure and movement as it pertains to our breed. Be discerning in your choices, and always keep the image of your ideal Malamute in mind. That way, you’ll recognize a great one when you see it! —J.D.

Sincere thanks, John Dewing!

If we could silently transport ourselves above the show ring at the start of Best of Breed at the national, and gaze down as if upon a crystal plane to see the champions below, what would we see? A host of lovely dogs to be sure: some focused, some distracted, others happy just to be there in the moment. But as we look down the lineup, we will see others alert, keyed up, keenly aware and vibrating with presence. These are

the ones we dream of and spend our lives and hearts to develop and bring into the winning career of a top special. All of the lovely dogs we finish to title deserve their wins. But some, graciously complying and joyfully fulfilling our dreams in the ring, would (truth to tell) be just as happy at home. But our true specials rise above. They want to be here! They live to be here! They define themselves, and they define our lives, and the moments they grant us, and the achievements they give us, fire our hearts to the end of time.

—Phyllis I. Hamilton,
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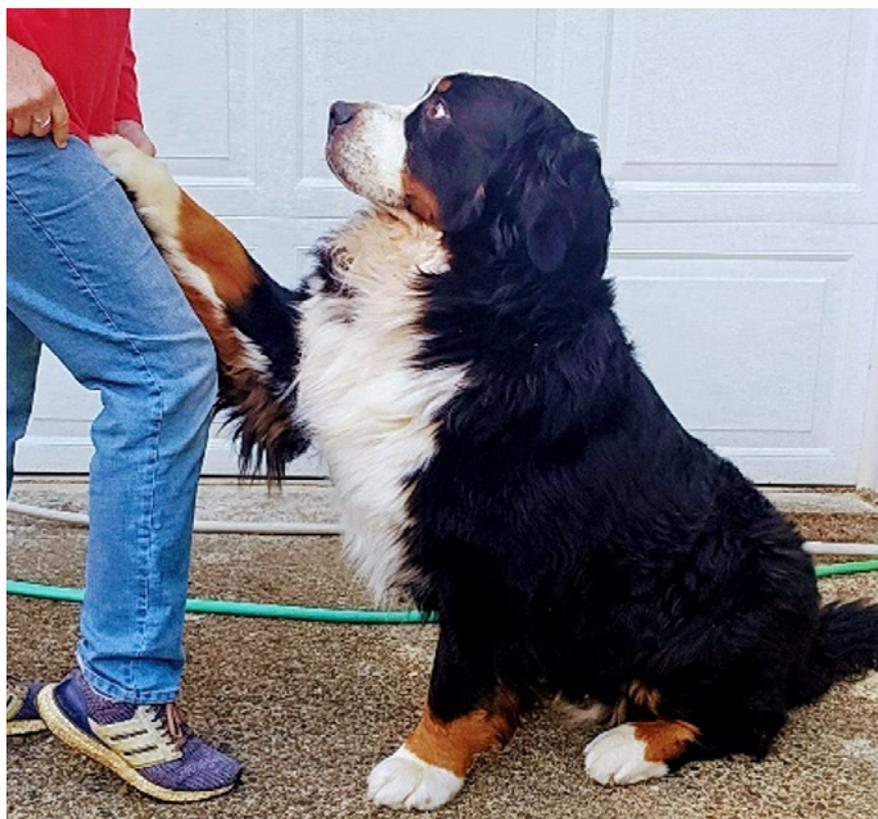
[Alaskan Malamute Club of America](#)

Bernese Mountain Dogs

STRETCH ... THE QUALITY OF LIFE

The clock is ticking for our Berners. As they age, there are physical conditions that require more scrutiny.

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Just a few minutes of gentle stretching each day can help maintain and improve your dog's mobility and range of motion. Bernese Mountain Dog James (Algrand Berni Bond James Bond, Bernergarde #156081) demonstrates two behaviors that can include stretches: a deep play-bow, and holding a "shake."

Be aware of your dog's movements. Is his gait changing? Does she get up slowly? Resist going up or down stairs? Is he slow to respond to behavior commands? Unstable on slippery floors? These can be signs of joint discomfort, or as simple as nails too long.

Clean teeth, appropriate weight, and safe nails are within our ability to control

and are contributors to healthy older dogs. Talk to your veterinarian or canine physiotherapist about your observations.

For balance and safe movement, the first line of defense is to evaluate the dog's environment. Consider the flooring of your home. Is it slippery? Some dogs choose to not move rather than risk slipping. Providing dogs with

good traction in the home helps them remain active, and reduces chances of injury. Keeping your dog's nails short is imperative. Throw rugs are a simple assist—yet they can be a trip hazard for humans too.

Some indoor traction options are:

- Nail-cap grippers
- Topical paw-pad applications

COURTESY MARJORIE GEIGER

WORKING GROUP

Traction socks

Dog boots

Introduce a lift vest *before* it is needed. Help your dog be comfortable and happy wearing it through positive reinforcement as you introduce them to it. Having a lift vest available can be a great resource if the dog is comfortable wearing it.

Before the dog becomes infirmed consider therapy. Consult with your veterinarian or canine therapist for the best exercises for your dog. Swimming, since it is a non-weightbearing exercise, can be very helpful for arthritic dogs to maintain strength and range of motion.

When it comes to health, mobility, and pain management, stretches, rubs, and massages can be beneficial. If you are unfamiliar with it, “Benefits of PetMassage™ for Dogs by Jonathan Rudinger” and “Canine Massage from Lifelearn Inc. Dogs” are two articles available from Berner University ([Berner University.org](http://BernerUniversity.org)).

You can maintain and

improve mobility and range of motion of the joints with just a few minutes of stretching and massage each day.

Be aware that older muscles can become stiffer as the muscle and collagen in connective tissues changes.

Stretches should be done gently and slowly to ensure they are well tolerated by your dog. If you are unsure of how to get started, seek medical advice.

A sample regimen is:

- nose to hip, left and right sides
- nose to toes
- sit with spine extension
- bow
- sit pretty
- assisted hind-leg stretch

These can be done on the floor and encouraged with belly-rubs.

Back into stand/stack, encouraging neck extensions.

Consider the role education has in keeping your dog fit, flexible, and feeling great. Teaching new ways to move is good physically and mentally. Movement is healing and soothing for dogs, especially circles and weaves.

Some examples of “parlor tricks” that can help:

- nose-touch to hand,
- shake
- sit pretty
- bow (puppy stretch)

These simple movement and fitness foundation exercises can be fun and enriching. The goal is to increase muscle strength and to improve performance, flexibility, focus, proprioception, and balance.

Wonderfully, there are other benefits. Dogs gain confidence and anxiety is reduced as a result of these slow movement exercises.

Slow down, and stretch your relationship with your dog.

—Marjorie Geiger,
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Bernese Mountain Dog
Club of America

Black Russian Terriers

VISUALIZING THE STANDARD, PART ONE: GENERAL APPEARANCE AND TEMPERAMENT

Over the next few columns, we will discuss a

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The overall appearance of the Black Russian Terrier, as stated in the breed's AKC standard, is that of "a robust, large, balanced, agile, and powerful dog."

piece-by-piece overview of the AKC standard for the Black Russian Terrier. My hope is for the readers to learn the ins and outs of this wonderful breed in a way they may not have realized before.

For a full, in-depth detail of the BRT, please go to the BRTCA website to purchase the beautifully done illustrated standard, at <http://www.brtca.org/shopping.html>.

The overall appearance of the Black Russian Terrier, as

stated in the standard, is that of a "robust, large, balanced, agile, and powerful dog." What comes to mind when you read this statement?

With this past summer's recent Olympic games fresh in our minds, a wonderful

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exemplar of the Black Russian Terrier would be the gymnast. At the core of a gymnast's performance lies raw power. It's evident in the explosive energy of a vault, where a gymnast catapults from the springboard with an impressive burst of speed and strength. This power is not just about muscle; it is a finely tuned combination of force and technique. The ability to execute gravity-defying moves, such as high-flying twists and somersaults, requires a unique blend of explosive strength and precise control. Every jump, flip, and swing is powered by a rigorous training regimen that focuses on building strength, endurance, and explosive speed. It's a testament to the athlete's dedication and their body's ability to channel immense energy into dynamic motion.

This is the Black Russian, the ultimate athlete.

He should give you the impression of effortless power, control of body, and grace, with additional

qualities of good bone, overall balance, and well-developed musculing. The silhouette should be clean, with a solid topline, a well-developed, deep chest that reaches the elbow, well-sprung ribs, balanced front and rear angulation, and a strong, massive head.

He should also have a dignified, self-assured, sound temperament. This is of great importance to the overall impression of the dog. The Black Russian is first and foremost a working dog. He should be intelligent and pliant. His ability to adapt to any situation and offer companionship are some of the many qualities that human companions find so endearing. This sound temperament allows for the easy "on-off" switch he must have for his guardian duties. This gives rise to the strong constitution of his protection instinct, which he should come to immediately and quickly abandon when the threat has disappeared.

The AKC standard calls for males to be 27–30

inches, with the desired height of 27–29; females 26–29 inches in height, with the desired height of 26–28. The height-to-length ratio should be 9.5:10, making the Black Russian slightly longer than square, with females allowed to be slightly longer. Often we see dogs taller than the stated standard; proportion is key here.

You should not have size without the proper substance. There should always be balance between the height and the substance of the dog. Remember, the Black Russian should be well muscled, powerful, and athletic. Lack of substance is a serious fault and should never be rewarded in the show ring. As stated in the Black Russian Terrier illustrated standard: "There are reasons desired height ranges are included in the standards; and for the Black Russian Terrier, too small a dog loses the elements of strength and power while a dog too tall loses agility and quickness among other attributes."

BREED COLUMNS

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The January column will continue discussion of the breed standard, with a look at structure and movement.

—Emily Fagan,

leighfost@gmail.com

Black Russian Terrier Club
of America

Boerboels

WHY A BOERBOEL? AND HOW DO I FIND A REPUTABLE BOERBOEL BREEDER?

Enthusiastic people have often approached me and our Boerboel, Maksim, exclaiming, “Oh, my God, he is so cool! What *is* he? Where can I get one?” Generally, these are not serious potential Boerboel buyers, and their enthusiasm only lasts until the next “cool” breed they see. However, it does raise one absolutely critical perquisite for seeking a reputable Boerboel breeder: being absolutely certain you really want a Boerboel!

If you are considering a Boerboel, please first research the breed to understand its history and the

purposes for which it was bred. A good place to start is the website of our AKC breed parent club, The American Boerboel Club (<https://americanboerboelclub.org/>).

Make sure you are confident this is a good selection for you and your lifestyle. The Boerboel is *not* a good “first time” dog. This is a very large, powerful, and agile, athletic breed—males may be 27 inches tall at the withers and weigh up to 175 pounds!

Boerboels were originally bred to protect homesteaders and their livestock in remote areas of South Africa from dangerous animals. They are very intelligent, devoted to, and fiercely protective of their families—particularly children. They have high energy needs, which makes them versatile working dogs, and/or athletic contenders in a variety of canine sports, as well as conformation showing. They do not do well as “couch potatoes” and can become very unhappy—sometimes

developing destructive habits if separated from their families for extended periods of time.

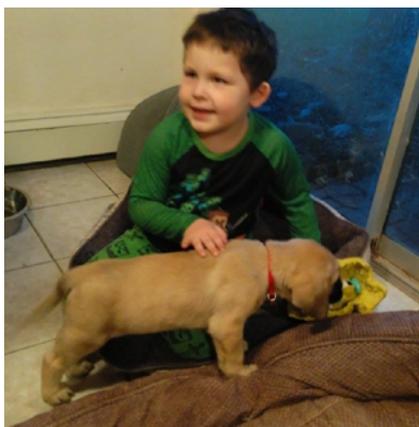
Finally, if you are thinking of “investing” in a Boerboel puppy as a way to eventually make money breeding, keep in mind that breeding is quite expensive, with heart-breaking losses. Additionally, while it may be transitory, there are currently indications that the market is becoming flooded, as breeders “dump” puppies. Hence, it is unfortunately very easy to acquire a cheap but poor-quality puppy from a bad breeder.

Where to look:

If you are certain the Boerboel is the breed for you, the ABC maintains a list of reputable breeders who have signed and adhere to a Code of Ethics. The Code of Ethics is also posted so you can gain a good understanding of what is entailed.

The American Kennel Club (AKC) also publishes lists of breeders, some of whom have been accorded

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Reputable breeders are passionate about the breed, take care in raising puppies, and are happy to answer questions about their breeding programs, bloodlines, pedigrees, and more.

“Breeder of Merit” status (please refer to the AKC puppy marketplace <https://marketplace.akk.org> for more information.

At some point in the early

stages of your search, you will probably be looking at breeder websites. Following are elements to look for on a breeder’s website:

- An introduction providing

information such as why the breeder got into breeding, and how long they have been in business.

- A statement of the breeder’s goals for their

COURTESY KAREN CORNELIUS

WORKING GROUP

breeding program, in addition to pictures, pedigrees, and achievements of their breeding stock, show championships, working titles, therapy/service dog credentials, and so on.

- Health testing that has been done. Please note: “Health testing” does not refer to routine veterinary health-checks, and is of the parents of available puppies, *not* the puppies. The Boerboel is a generally healthy breed, but is one of a few who can carry a genetic form of dilated cardiomyopathy (DCM). Hence, results of professional auscultation of the breeding pair’s hearts—or, ideally, ultrasounds—should be posted. Additionally, (OFA or PennHIP) radiographs of hips and elbows for dysplasias (abnormal seating of bones in sockets which may result in lameness and severe arthritis), as well as CERF eye certification.

- Pictures of the puppies.
- Puppies not available until 8 (or preferably 10 to 12) weeks.

- Helpful information for puppy buyers on subjects such as breed history, common health problems, feeding, vaccinating, puppy “do’s and don’ts,” and helpful links.

- The breeder should also have posted, provided a link to, or at least referenced a written puppy contract that stipulates financial terms of the sale, and both the buyer’s and seller’s respective responsibilities for the puppy. Commonly included are: any health guarantees provided for the puppy, and the procedure to follow if a health problem develops; whether the puppy is being sold on a limited or full registration; agreements regarding spaying/neutering or breeding; and where the puppy will be housed. Reputable breeders will generally include a clause that if the buyer cannot keep the puppy/dog for any reason during its lifetime, the breeder will take the puppy back.

First conversation. Prior to your first conversation with the breeder, use what

you have learned in your research to develop a list of questions. Keep in mind that many breeders are quite busy and sometimes frustrate potential buyers by not responding to emails. Phone calls are generally best, unless your potential breeder is in another country. Most reputable breeders are passionate about the breed, and happy to answer questions about their breeding programs, bloodlines, pedigrees, how they got into breeding, as well as clarifying questions about their contracts or puppy applications. Most are also willing to provide guidance in picking the “right” puppy for you, if given your plans for the puppy and your family’s lifestyle.

One question you should ask the breeder is whether they will continue to be available to provide support and guidance after the purchase of the puppy. Additionally, if the breeder does not show his or her dogs, it is important to ask how they were evaluated against the standard.

You should prepare, as

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well, for many questions about you and your family such as your reasons for choosing the breed; your knowledge and experience levels with the breed, or a similar breed; your plans for the puppy; the living arrangements for the puppy; how long the puppy will be left alone during the day; other pets; provisions for exercise; and so on. Many breeders will ask for references from your veterinarian.

Visiting the breeder. Given distances involved between you and your selected breeder, visiting prior to collecting the puppy may not be feasible. However, if you can visit, be aware that this can be a killer event for puppy-seekers, as it can be next to impossible to resist Puppy Cuteness Syndrome. Beware of finding a scenario in which puppies and adults are clearly poorly cared for, and you find yourself wanting to “rescue” a puppy. In such a case this is *not* a reputable breeder, and if you buy such a puppy, it will

encourage that person to continue their irresponsible practices. You will also very probably be in for heart-break and large financial expenditures to keep the puppy and dog she becomes reasonably healthy.

One final point: Be prepared to pay a reasonable price. Consider that when buying your puppy, you are making a long-term investment of (hopefully) ten years or longer. Reputable breeding—including acquiring excellent bloodlines, showing, health testing, providing good maternal care and nutrition, whelping and successfully raising a litter—is expensive. Reputable breeders seldom, if ever, make a profit.

—Karen L. Cornelius,
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[American Boerboel Club](#)

Boxers

LOOKING BACK, LOOKING AT STATS

It is hard to believe that I attended my first dog

show more than 50 years ago, at Old Dominion Kennel Club. I was finishing college, and my parents had bought a Vizsla puppy and were encouraged to show her by the breeder. They entered that show (one of the largest in the country) and asked me to come home from college to show Greta at a dog show. Sounded like fun to me—I had never been to a dog show.

While showing Greta, who finished quite quickly despite my lack of knowledge, I fell in love with the Boxer breed and the camaraderie and competition of dog shows. Within the year, I had graduated from college and purchased my first Boxer.

And now I sit here all these years later, thinking of how the sport has evolved and changed.

It is interesting to follow the growth and changes over the years for the Boxer breed.

In 1974, the American Boxer Club national specialty had an entry of 253 in the classes and 117 in the

WORKING GROUP



national futurity. A three-point major win required defeating 18 males or 20 bitches at that time.

The national specialty moved from the Statler Hilton in New York City—a one-day show the day before the Westminster KC show in February—to New Jersey, eventually growing to multiple days, changing to a May date, moving on to Maryland, then to Kentucky, and finally the current home, Indianapolis, Indiana. The one-day show has evolved into a weeklong event—a spectacular showcase of the breed.

In the 1980s and '90s there was rapid escalation in growth of the breed. The ABC national specialty in 1995 had a total of 582 class entries and 216 futurity entries. By 2000, the national specialty had a total entry of 745—at this time the point scale required 39 males or 50 bitches for a five-point major in Eastern shows.

After many years, the decline began. Times and lifestyles were changing. In 2008, 13,215 Boxer litters were registered. Ten years later, in 2018, we saw the number of litters registered decline to 5,279 litters. The

Boxer breed continued to rank in the top 10 breeds as far as popularity, but fewer puppies became available.

With increase in number of shows and so many other dog activities available, allowing increased owner interaction with their Boxer, participation in dog sports has greatly changed. Smaller, more frequent shows in closer geographic availability have opened more convenient options.

However, to the breeder, there is no show comparable to the national specialty. It is the yearly pilgrimage. The national specialty, always a week of spectacular Boxer activities, shows a large decline from the former years. Yet while declining in conformation participation, the Boxer has emerged as a stellar performance breed. Boxers and their owners are now highly competitive in agility, Barn Hunt, dock diving, herding and scent work, in addition to serving as support and guide companions. When challenged, the intelligence of the breed

DAVID WOO ©AKC

BREED COLUMNS

WORKING GROUP

comes through—often with a bit of comic relief added to the performance.

—Virginia Shames,
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American Boxer Club

Bullmastiffs

Our thanks to friend and fellow Bullmastiff fancier LuAnn Topp for sharing her therapy work with Bullmastiffs and for authoring this inspiring column. Here is how she describes her journey: “In 1979 I got my first Bullmastiff from Louise Sanders, who became my mentor and lifelong friend. After 25 years of pet therapy, it’s not just what I do, it’s who I am. It has been the most rewarding thing I have ever done with my dogs.”

PET THERAPY

I have had Bullmastiffs in my life for more than 45 years. I have raised and shown quite a few champions, and at 79 years old I still love to go to the dog shows—although I now limit

myself to a couple of local shows and the American Bullmastiff Association national specialty.

About 25 years ago I was introduced to the miracle of pet therapy. I certified my first therapy dog on behalf of a friend who was diagnosed with terminal cancer and was under hospice care. Since that time, I have run the gamut of hospice houses, hospitals, nursing homes, and school reading programs.

Eventually I stumbled across the “Best in Show” of pet therapy: the judicial system. We were on a waiting list for two years before being accepted into the P.A.W.S. Program of the Child Protection Center. Our dogs work for the 12th Judicial Circuit of Florida, the Child Protection Center, and the State Attorney’s Office. We are available for victim interviews, forensic exams, depositions, and criminal sexual abuse court cases.

Our Bullmastiffs are so perfect for this important

job, with their laid-back dispositions and formidable size and presence. When a child has been abused and must go into court and face their abuser, imagine how helpful it is to have a 120-pound dog at their side. During the interviews the dog helps to put the child at ease and helps to open the line of communication between the prosecutor and the victim, thus enabling them to talk about things no child wants to talk about.

The magic is real. Though we have dogs of all sizes in our program, the big dogs really have an impact on the situation.

We have participated in this program for over ten years now, and Fayre Fiona is my fifth dog in the program. We have expanded the program to include Dependency Court, Early Childhood Court, foster group homes, and boarding schools.

The one thing that all of the kids have in common is that they all miss their dogs; in some cases, more than

WORKING GROUP



LuAnn Topp and a number of her Bullmastiffs have done therapy work for 25 years in a variety of settings, from hospitals and nursing homes to schools and the judicial system. Left, LuAnn with Django; right, courtroom therapy dog Fiona, who provides comfort to children during trials, gives the judge a chance to de-stress as well.

they miss their families. We offer our services during supervised visitation. We de-stress students during final exams.

We have also extended our services to include visits with the victims advocate at the Sheriff's Department, the Department of Children and Families, and the local mental health facility.

In Dependency Court, we serve the children, the par-

ents, the grandparents, the foster parents, the victim's advocates, the guardians ad litem, the case managers, the attorneys, the bailiffs, and the judge. The magic is real.

Everyone benefits from the presence of a therapy dog. We recently attended a reunification party at the Manatee County Courthouse. It was to celebrate the return of foster children to their families, and their parents had

completed their case plans. A little girl came running up to us with a big smile on her face. She said, "I know her. That is Fiona. She comes to the All-Star Foundation." The magic is real.

On an occasion in dependency court, a little girl spent about 45 minutes on the floor with Ruby Begonia. I told her that if she wanted Ruby would go with her when she went to talk to the

COURTESY LUANN TOPP

WORKING GROUP

judge. When her turn came to talk to the judge, Ruby was asleep. She woke up from a deep sleep, looked around, got up, and pulled me to the front of the courtroom and sat down next to the little girl. The magic is real.

So, all of you Bullmastiff folks out there with wonderful dogs who want to be at the end of the leash, wanting to meet their new best friend, give some consideration to exploring the world of pet therapy. This is a great opportunity to show the world what gentle giants our Bullmastiffs are. It is a chance to make a contribution—your time—that does not get swallowed up by administration and fundraising costs.

Who among us does not love to show off our dogs. Even those retired show dogs like to have a job. When I pick up the leash and the vest and ask, “Do you want to go to work today,” Fiona comes running. The magic is real.

I am an evaluator for

Bright and Beautiful Therapy Dogs, a national nonprofit organization that provides therapy-dog teams at no cost for many different situations. What I look for in a potential therapy dog is a dog who loves to meet new people and has the stability and training to be comfortable in any situation. Is this your dog? The magic is real.
—LuAnn Topp

Thank you, LuAnn!

—Lindy Whyte,

Tryumphe@comcast.net

[American Bullmastiff Association](#)

Chinooks

ARTHUR WALDEN, FOUNDER OF THE CHINOOK BREED

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

The breed’s founder,

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

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

Arthur Walden was born in 1871, the son of Episcopal minister Rev. Treadwell Walden and Elizabeth Leighton. Walden attended Shattuck Military School in Faribault, Minnesota, and then lived in Boston. He was not a fan of city living. After completing his education, he moved to his family’s country home in Tamworth, New Hampshire. Once in New Hampshire, he became the farm manager of Wonalancet, Kate Sleeper’s 1,300-acre farm and inn.

BREED COLUMNS



WORKING GROUP



A team at Wonalancet Farm, in New Hampshire; Chinook with Arthur Walden; Chinook



Sleeper was the daughter of prominent Bostonians Charles F. Sleeper and Zilpha Thomas.

At 24, true to form, a

restless Walden wanted more adventure, and he debated whether South America or Alaska would offer more. He flipped a

coin; Alaska won. He headed north to Alaska in 1896—traveling up the Inside Passage, over the Chilkoot Pass, down the Yukon River through the Whitehorse Rapids, and downriver to Circle City.

Walden tried his hand at many jobs: prospector, logger, stevedore, river pilot, and his favorite job, “dog punching” (hauling freight by dogsled). He wrote a book about his adventures in Alaska, calling it *Dog Puncher*

COURTESY KATHLEEN RILEY

WORKING GROUP

in the Yukon. The text is full of colorful descriptions of Walden's adventures and is still considered a classic tale of the northland frontier.

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

Walden brought various dogs to Wonalancet Farm and began breeding dogs that possessed his ideal combination of strength, speed, endurance, and good-natured temperaments.

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

Mastiff mix that Walden picked up as a stray.

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

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

—Kathleen Riley,

kathleenrileyphotography@gmail.com

[Chinook Club of America](#)

Doberman Pinschers

DOBERMANS CAN DO IT ALL: JUMP IN AND MAKE A BIG SPLASH!

The Doberman Pinscher is an incredible blend of stubborn and trainable. Often frustrating when they decide to do it their way, which they often do, but once they “get it,” the results are spectacular. The official AKC standard describes the breed like this:

“Compactly built, muscular and powerful, for great endurance and speed. Elegant in appearance, of proud carriage, reflecting great nobility and temperament. Energetic, watchful, determined, alert, fearless, loyal and obedient.”

The home page of the website of the breed's national parent club, the [Doberman Pinscher Club of America](#), adds the following adjectives: “a fun-loving, exceptional athlete ... perceptive, intuitive, and sensitive.”

These descriptors mean that Dobermans can do it all, and they ultimately

WORKING GROUP



Doberman Pinscher Rancho Dobe's Storm, Greenwich KC, 1951

excel. In addition to conformation, obedience, rally, and agility, other events are attracting Doberman owners. Dobermans do therapy work (the AKC offers titles acknowledging the important services these dogs provide); earn tracking titles, awarded when dogs accurately follow a scent-trail; they do nose work, also using the keen canine sense of smell to help human partners locate various targets; Barn Hunt—high prey-drive Dobermans love this activity, where dogs search

and locate live rats (which are safely hidden and untouchable); Coursing Ability Tests, where dogs chase a mechanically operated lure across a field; Schutzhund/IPO, a physically and mentally challenging three-part working dog sport; herding, where dogs are judged on their ability to round up and corral livestock; freestyle dancing; and dock diving!

Dock diving is one of the fastest-growing, fun, and exhilarating dog sports. In May 2014, the AKC

became associated with the North America Diving Dogs organization (NADD) in recognizing titles earned at NADD trials. The first Doberman to place in a dock diving event was in the 2013 Eastern Regionals Purina Incredible Dog Challenge, in the Fetch-It.

To get started in dock diving, you first need to teach your dog how to swim. A life vest—one designed for deep-chested dogs—is strongly encouraged while mastering the proper swimming technique.

As in any sport, make sure you work with an experienced trainer; you can contact NADD or another dog diving organization for referrals.

Next the dog is taught how to jump off the dock and use the ramp to exit the pool. Finally, the dog retrieves the bumper or ball from the water. The handler and dog need to synchronize the dog's run off the dock with the throwing of the bumper. Timing is essential, and it takes a lot of practice.



BREED COLUMNS

WORKING GROUP

One of the really “cool” things about Dobermans participating in this sport is the reaction of other breed owners. Initially, some would move their dogs out of the Doberman’s path to the dock. Others might snicker and comment about how funny it is to see Dobermans being entered in this sport, not expecting success. Yet Dobermans have taken to the water, diving and retrieving, just as they excel in lure coursing and other sports.

An additional benefit is that people see Dobermans in another open trial environment being well-behaved, smart, and talented. Several mention that being around them and watching them has changed their perception of the Doberman—for the better. Each time the public watches Dobermans in performance and dog sports, it helps the breed be viewed in a positive light. They see the modern Doberman—an athletic partner and companion, not the caricature

often portrayed in movies as aggressive or to be feared.

Check out dock diving or other dog sports—you’ll have a blast, and you might discover something new to do with your Doberman!

More information can be found at <https://northamericadivingdogs.com>.

Special thanks to Mary Ann Byrns for her contribution to this column.

—Leslie Hall,

pajant@aol.com

[Doberman Pinscher Club of America](#)

gladiator, and hunter. As a working breed, he has proved versatile at many tasks including draught work, weight pulling, agility, obedience, and even lure coursing!

In order to be capable of these activities, athleticism is a prerequisite, and it cannot be emphasized enough in identifying how important it is to the Dogue de Bordeaux’s conformation to the AKC breed standard.

A good portion of the breed’s present AKC standard defines what the proper attributes of the running gear should be that would facilitate the breed’s athletic capabilities. Powerful legs with strong bone structure, shoulders having “powerful prominent muscles,” slant of shoulder blade being “45 degrees to the horizontal,” thighs being “well developed and thick,” and angle of hock joint “moderately open” all denote features that contribute to “good drive from the hindquarters, and good extension of the forelegs, especially at the

Dogues de Bordeaux

ATHLETIC

The Dogue de Bordeaux Society of America developed an acronym, HEARTS, defining major points of our breed, consisting of Head, Expression, Athletic, wRinkle, Trots like a Lion, and Substance. This column focuses on “Athletic”—a vitally important attribute of the breed.

The Dogue de Bordeaux’s functional roots trace back to his roles as a guardian,

WORKING GROUP



Dogue de Bordeaux

trot, which is the preferred gait. He is capable of great speed over short distances by bolting along close to the ground.”—AKC standard for the Dogue de Bordeaux

A literature review offers a multitude of references attesting to the Dogue de Bordeaux’s athleticism. Professor Raymond Triquet, who established the modern-day FCI Dogue de Bordeaux standard and considered “the father of the breed,” wrote in his book, *The Saga of the Dogue de Bordeaux*, “the Dogue de Bordeaux is also able to spring very quickly, close to the ground, for instance,

to catch a sparrow, or, with forelegs wide, to play and change direction at speed.”

Referencing judging he has done in Europe and Asia, Triquet further states:

“I drew the attention of the veterinarian in charge to the mobility of the shoulder, which enables the front leg to reach for the ground far ahead, while the head is lowered in direct line with the topline, which inclines forward slightly. That this beautiful gait is not seen more often in the ring is because, in general, our dogues aren’t well trained, and their handlers even less so, and because the

rings are too small. You have to go to Moscow to see those immense rings. In the hall with 60 Dogues de Bordeaux, I too had all the space required to judge their movement.”

World-renowned British author Colonel David Hancock, M.B.E., was a career professional soldier in the British Army. While assigned to 22 countries, he devoted his free time to studying their dogs and ancestries. He developed a photo/image library of over 5,000 depictions of dogs (Charwynne Dog Features) that are used by national and international magazines and film companies. As an author, advisor, judge, and researcher, he has devoted over 50 years to the study of dogs.

Col. Hancock has several recognitions from the Dog Writer’s Association of America, among the many tributes to his works. In his book *The Mastiffs—The Big Game Hunters*, he makes the case that mastiffs, called “powerful, heavy

COURTESY REE SMYTH



BREED COLUMNS

WORKING GROUP

hounds, were invaluable in times when, before the invention of firearms, man needed to catch and kill game.” He goes on to say, “Scenthounds could track, sighthounds could chase, terriers could unearth, and setting dogs could indicate unseen game. But when big game was hunted, powerful, fearless dogs were needed to risk their lives so that the quarry was either slowed down, pulled down or ‘held’ for the hunters. Just as in warfare infantrymen are needed to close with the enemy and destroy him, so too in the hunting field are strong-jawed, powerfully muscled, awesomely determined dogs needed to actually get hold of the quarry. This was the task of the mastiffs, with their enormous physical strength, immense courage, considerable fortitude and the remarkable gripping capabilities afforded by their mighty, broad mouths.”

The common denominator that a Dogue de Bordeaux needed to func-

tion as a working breed in his historical utilization as a guardian, gladiator, and hunter is that the breed must be athletic—in most cases, it was literally the difference between life or death. The breed must be capable of supple, agile movement with good reach from the forelegs and powerful drive from the hindquarters.

This athleticism is no less important for the breed’s contemporary activities in conformation, obedience, agility, draught work, weight pulling, lure coursing, and/or just a pleasant stroll with their human companions in a variety of settings.

I was fortunate to be able to make contact with Colonel Hancock through several emails we exchanged. I can’t think of a better way to summarize what we’ve covered in this article other than to use the following statement from Colonel Hancock during one of our email exchanges:

“Your breed has a past as a hunting mastiff in the stag and boar hunt, as a seizer of

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

—Victor C. Smith, AKC Delegate, Judges’ Education Chair, DdBSA

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[Dogue de Bordeaux Society of America](#)

German Pinschers

HOW TO HAVE FUN WITH YOUR DOG

In my last column I talked about performance titles and dog sports and the many, many events you can do with your dog.

Some of those events are competitive. Agility, for example, has regional, national, and even international competitions. The top dog and handler teams perform at a level many of us can only dream of. It’s fun to watch, and it’s exciting

WORKING GROUP



to see what really good dog and handler teams can do.

On the other hand, many of us, including me, are pretty sure that will never be us. And that's OK. What we mostly want to do is have fun with our dogs.

The beauty, to me, of most dog sports is that it's possible to aspire to be the best in the country, or even the world—and it's equally possible to aspire to nothing greater than a lovely weekend with your dog and other like-minded dog owners.

I brought home my first German Pinscher almost 16 years ago. I had always owned Rottweilers, a breed I loved and still do love, but

I wanted a dog that I could pick up in an emergency if I had to. A shorthaired breed that was generally healthy, a smart, independent thinker, and a general all-around companion. The medium-sized German Pinscher seemed to fit the bill.

I knew that I wanted to continue to do some of the performance and obedience sports I'd done with my Rottweilers, and though there were not many German Pinschers involved in those activities 16 years ago, they seemed to me, as a breed, to be well suited.

German Pinschers may not be typical sport dogs, but their adaptability, their

keenness and intelligence, their conformation, and their willingness to try make them versatile dogs and capable of enjoying most sports.

As the number and variety of dog sports has grown, German Pinschers have excelled at some level in nearly all of them. Some newer sports, like Fast CAT, are non-competitive in that they're not about defeating other dogs but about the individual dog and that dog's skills, and, mostly, for both dog and handler to have fun.

Dog sports are a way to have organized fun with your dog, like softball leagues or swim meets. They're fun for lots of reasons—to learn new skills, to test your abilities as a team, to spend time with other people and their dogs. But they're not necessary.

To have fun with our dogs, the main criteria is to go out with your dog and have fun.

—Deb Coates,

charmingbillie@gmail.com

[German Pinscher Club of America](#)

WORKING GROUP

Giant Schnauzers

A BUSY FALL FOR GIANTS

This fall has been very busy for Giant enthusiasts, with two major nationwide events being held on back-to-back weekends.

The Giant Schnauzer Club of America (GSCA), the AKC parent club for the breed, held its annual national specialty in partnership with the Standard Schnauzer Club of America over five days in late August at Purina Farms in Gray Summit, Missouri. Events included national and regional conformation shows, sweepstakes, obedience, rally, agility, Barn Hunt, Fast CAT, CGC evaluations, and the club's first competitions for scent work and Fetch.

Other activities included education seminars for judges and members, a pizza party, general meeting, and of course the annual awards banquet and fundraising auction. Thanks to all the exhibitors, everyone who donated, and especially to

the committee members who worked so hard to plan and execute this year's event, 2024 was one of the biggest and best GSCA nationals ever.

Because five days of Giant fun just wasn't enough, many intrepid folks headed immediately to Binghamton, New York, for Schnauzer Fest, the annual championship event hosted by the Working Riesenschnauzer Federation (WRSF).

WRSF is the only American Working Dog Association member club for the Giant Schnauzer in the U.S. and hosts Utility and Tracking Dog Trials (IGP) and other related events following Fédération Cynologique Internationale standards and guidelines.

Schnauzer Fest is a working dog trial that follows FCI rules, with judges from Europe. If the judge is also a Kormeister, a breed survey called the Korung is offered. This year's event lasted four days with food, raffles, a working trial, an awards banquet, a conformation show, great camaraderie, and beau-

tiful competing working and conformation dogs.

Mr. Soren Roggenbau, FCI/PSK judge and Kormeister from Germany, officiated the annual working dog trial and tested the Giants in the breed survey. And Ms. Varena Ahrendts, FCI/PSK judge from Germany who also breeds and shows Pepper-Salt Giants, judged the Sieger conformation show. Both judges had a great weekend—as did all who participated, organized, and volunteered.

Thank you to all the GSCA and WRSF members, many who participated and supported both events, for showcasing the versatility of our wonderful breed. And special thanks to the following for making the GSCA National and Schnauzer Fest so successful:

- GSCA National chair: Robin Henderson
- Schnauzer Fest chair: Rebecca Letson
- Schnauzer Fest co-chair: Michelle Testa

But as there is never

BREED COLUMNS



WORKING GROUP



The Giant Schnauzer Club of America held its annual national specialty in conjunction with the Standard Schnauzer Club of America in late August at Purina Farms in Gray Summit, Missouri; immediately following, fanciers gathered in Binghamton, New York, for Schnauzer Fest, the annual championship event hosted by the Working Riesenschnauzer Federation (WRSF).

COURTESY BRENDA SYLVESTER AND GSCA



BREED COLUMNS

WORKING GROUP

any rest for the weary, it's already time to start working on both events for 2025.

For more information on these events or the organizations, please visit:

- [GSCA](#)
- [WRSF](#)

—Mary E. Falls,

www.classicgiantschnauzers.com

com

[Giant Schnauzer Club of America](#)

Great Danes

Former longtime Great Dane columnist Paddy Magnuson shared in 2009 the following remembrance of her first American Dane, whom she considered “a true representative of the Apollo of Dogdom.”

A “GREAT” GREAT DANE

Our Great Dane Michael joined our family at 8 weeks, quickly adapting to the active lifestyle of a sports-oriented family. He was 18 months old when I moved from New Jersey to California. My job entailed living during

the winter months in La Jolla, California, and during the summer months in Yellowstone National Park, in Wyoming. In the park he was the perfect companion, whether on the job or on the hiking trails.

Traveling so much, there is no doubt his presence deterred some potential troublemakers during our trips. Once while traveling East, unable to reach our planned lodging before dark, we settled for a small motel in a North Dakota town. We got Michael settled, and I blocked the room door open. I was getting things out of my car trunk when a very large man suddenly appeared, inquiring whether I needed help. Scared to death, aware that with my small frame this guy figured he had easy pickings, I assured him that no help was needed. Yet he didn't leave. Then came the sweetest sound I ever heard: a loud, rumbling, snarling growl. Michael was standing in the light of the doorway, his lips drawn back

showing every tooth in his head. My big, gentle giant looked like the Hound of the Baskervilles! The man uttered a loud, vulgar expletive, and swiftly disappeared into the darkness. Michael bounded to the car, and hugs, kisses, and tears of relief ensued.

In La Jolla he became team mascot for the Balboa tennis and badminton clubs, and was allotted space court-side. Members could leave their valuables next to him while they played. He had a sixth sense regarding whom to trust. He made many friends young and old at the beach as well, with kids scheduling time to run and play with him.

Michael had many special talents. When my sister was hospitalized in Corpus Christi, Texas, I rented an apartment nearby. Michael stayed in the car while I was inside the hospital, and I came out to walk him every couple of hours. He quickly became an attraction for the youngsters in the children's hospice wing who could



see us walking outside. A week into our stay, I was asked, “Would it be safe to let the children pet him?” Michael became a therapy dog overnight! From then on until we left two weeks later, we had morning and afternoon sessions with the young patients, who pet and hugged Michael. Those who were able to walk with him, hanging onto his collar. Michael loved it and was very gentle. Many tears were shed the day we left.

Although he never was

shown, Michael had beautiful conformation. He came into my life because I loved the breed and needed an athletic companion, friend, and protector with whom to share my life—a job he did with grace and dignity. He personified the joy a dog’s presence can bring. I was very fortunate to enjoy his company for 12-plus years. He was, indeed, an “Apollo of Dogdom,” in the truest sense.—*P.M.*

[Great Dane Club of America](#)

Great Pyrenees

Our guest author is Lana Kaiser, MD, DVM, Professor Emeritus, Michigan State University. Part One of this article appeared in the July issue, which can be found [here](#).

THE GREAT PRETENDER: ADDISON’S DISEASE IN GREAT PYRENEES PART TWO

Last time we talked about Addison’s disease, how it is diagnosed, and a bit about lifelong treatment. Once diagnosed, dogs with Addison’s disease can live a full and normal life when the missing hormones are replaced.

Earlier in August I had the opportunity to talk with Dr Steven Friedenber, DVM, Ph.D. Steve is a veterinary geneticist at the University of Minnesota Canine Genetics Laboratory. His research interests include Addison’s disease in Standard Poodles and Portuguese Water Dogs. He mentioned that there is *no* evidence that Addison’s disease in Pyrenees (or any

WORKING GROUP

other dog breed) is caused by vaccination, and there is no reason to believe the mutation responsible for Addison's in juvenile Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers is responsible for Addison's in Great Pyrenees. In addition, there is only minimal evidence that this endocrine disorder is an autoimmune disorder.

In our conversation he noted that to identify the causative gene(s) responsible for a disease, there needs to be a coordinated approach and a sustained effort. To develop a "test," you must first know the gene(s) involved, and finding those genes can be a long process.

As someone who spent much of the early 2000s working with geneticists to identify multiple lethal recessive mutations in different breeds of cattle, I have a sense of how complicated and confusing this can be. I also have a sense of the humans' emotional toll and response when they discover that their prized



A 7.5-year-old Great Pyrenees with Addison's disease, diagnosed at 18 months and "living her best life." Dr. Lana Kaiser notes it is important for people to realize that Addison's is not a death sentence, and that dogs with the condition can live a normal life.

bull with thousands of units of semen sold across the U.S. and Canada carries a lethal recessive mutation. It can be devastating to find that an animal in your line, a line you have worked so hard to create, carries a genetic mutation that causes a disease. While it may be human nature to initially "pretend it doesn't exist" the mutation will increase in the population

until it can no longer be ignored.

So basically, nothing about a gene hunt is easy, but with the tools we have now we are often able to identify the mutation(s) before serious damage occurs to the breed.

So how does a "gene hunt" work? First you need to precisely define the phenotype. Phenotype is considered the "observable traits" (for example,

COURTESY DR. LANA KAISER, MD, DVM

WORKING GROUP

in cattle, red vs black hair coat). However, in clinical medicine the definition of phenotype is expanded to encompass the presentation of a disease, including the morphologic, physiologic, biochemical, and developmental properties.

The phenotype in Addison's disease is a lack of the adrenal hormones cortisol and aldosterone. To identify the gene(s) responsible for Addison's in Great Pyrenees we will need samples and a full pedigree from dogs with a confirmed diagnosis of Addison's, as well as dogs without the disease (controls). Since Addison's usually develops in younger dogs, the controls would be dogs greater than 9 years of age.

Although the ideal sample for extraction of DNA is whole blood, DNA can also be extracted from cheek-swabs and frozen semen. Once sample are obtained and DNA extracted, they are coded (so the phenotype and pedigree are "attached" to the sample) and stored in minus-70 degrees F.

Mutations are changes in DNA—DNA is made up of small "building blocks" called nucleotides (aka "bases"). Genes are defined by a specific group of nucleotides—any change in the nucleotide sequence can result in a mutation that can cause a change in phenotype (i.e. disease). This can be as simple as a switch of a base pair, or as complicated as increases or decreases in the number of bases in multiple genes.

As you can see, depending on the gene(s) and mutation(s) this can be a relatively straightforward or totally convoluted complicated process.

Once sufficient samples are collected, the real work begins. Basically, the DNA from all samples is compared using sophisticated computer software looking for genes or regions where there is a difference between "normal" dogs and dogs with Addison's. This is a tedious, time- and computer-intensive process.

So, what is required to

begin a "gene hunt?" In addition to samples and pedigrees, there needs to be a dedicated, sustained, and coordinated effort on the part of the breed club, foundation, breeders, and the researchers. Working with veterinary professionals to provide education and awareness on Addison's disease to breeders, owners, and enthusiasts is also important.

Additionally, when a gene hunt begins, breeders and owners should be encouraged to donate (blood) samples of both affected and unaffected dogs.

In addition to the sustained and coordinated effort, there needs to be an initial financial contribution to fund the laboratory work involved in extracting DNA, storing samples, developing a data base, and connecting samples and pedigree information in a database.

After that initial work, there are many canine-oriented granting agencies willing to fund genetic research once the breed has

WORKING GROUP

indicated full support. These include Morris Animal Foundation, the AKC Canine Health Foundation, OFA, and intramural grants; in addition, graduate students and post-doctoral fellows can apply to the NIH for support.

Dr. Friedenberg indicated that people are free to reach out, but he gets so many e-mails from “random people” that he doesn’t always have a chance to answer them. Folks in the GPCA Health Committee and Board of Directors can reach out if they want to discuss the prospects of a study. (https://research.nhgri.nih.gov/dog_genome/canine_genome.shtml) —Dr. Lana Kaiser

Dr. Friedenberg can be reached at fried255@umn.edu. Dr. Kaiser can be reached at kaiser@msu.edu, and Dr. Park at kmpark15@gmail.com.

Thank you, Dr. Kaiser.

—Karen Reiter, GPCA
GAZETTE columnist

[Great Pyrenees Club of America](#)

Komondorok

THE STATE OF THE SPORT IS ALWAYS CHANGING

The dog show sport is always maturing, especially in our comeback from the pandemic. For Komondors, these sport-wide and cultural changes are merged with changes within our breed, and we need to roll with these for the breed to survive.

For Komondors, unrelated to the larger changes in the sport, in the past few years we have had the smallest entries in memory. Our national specialties used to draw 30 or more, with majors assured. In the past five years our nationals have been lucky to draw majors, and we failed at that in 2022, and only made a major one day this year.

What happened? Several of our active breeder have justifiably retired from active breeding. Luckily, we have a few younger breeders who are stepping up, but not at the same overall numbers.

Culturally, I think people are more prone to quick

satisfaction in their leisure activities. Komondors make us wait years for coat maturity to allow attention in the groups. It is no surprise for a handsome toy breed to place in the group as a puppy. Cute Samoyed and Golden puppies can place also, if they make it out of their breeds. Young and fuzzy Komondors could place, but it is rare. I’ve heard judges worry that they may be placing a dog who might not cord. We know that is an unneeded worry, but it is there.

The new, nice thing about group placements is that they all can result in championship points. If you place in a group now, you are credited with the highest points that were awarded in the breeds you beat. This used to be only for Group 1; now it is for any placement. I know of two class Komondors who got majors or at least points this way.

One major change to dog shows in the past decade is the dominance of multi-day clusters. Our biggest

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Part of the Best of Breed lineup at the Komondor Club of America national specialty in 2001

Komondor entries lately have been at Louisville, a five-day cluster. That will likely be the case again next year, as our national specialty is there again next March. This works for making big shows, and I hope we can coordinate entries to make good Komondor numbers at places other than just the national weekend!

On the other extreme are the new “four shows in two days” weekends. These have a 600-dog entry limit and are lots of fun. I’ve both exhibited at and judged these shows and think they are a plus. They are an opportunity for

multiple group placements for experienced dogs. For new exhibits, the duplication helps in their training.

In the big, empty western part of the country, the AKC has helped us by instituting three-day weekends for a host club. These only occur if there are no other events within several hundred miles, so the rule doesn’t really help in the crowded East. On the other hand, exhibitors back East usually have a few choices on a weekend within sensible driving distance. From Colorado, where we live, an eight-hour drive to our nearest shows is common.

Overall, shows have gotten smaller, and the championship points schedule has followed the show size down. I only remember a few times when Komondors were not 1 for 1 in points per entry, but now many breeds have joined us there. This seems to be a cultural effect, and unfortunately a result of the “doodle” craze. Dog-loving people who might join are spirited away by the undeserved reputation of these mutts.

Our well-televised dogs shows and good programming on AKC.TV are good strategies to combat this. I hope we can win the battle in the future.

—Eric Liebes,
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Komondor Club of America

Leonbergers

DOWN AND BACK, PLEASE (PART 2 OF THE “ILLUSTRATED TROT” SERIES)

Continuing with the question of what exactly is being evaluated

COURTESY ERIC LIEBES

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during the motion or movement part of the evaluation within the conformation show ring, this article will address part of the evaluation of the trot as viewed from the front and rear, as the handler trots the dog away from the judge down the diagonal center mat and then back toward the judge.

Just as with the side view of the trot, there are a number of structural features being evaluated during this phase of the show ring process. And while there are some variations between breeds, and even some acceptable variations from dog to dog within a breed, there are still certain features that judges are looking at when the dog is in motion when viewed from behind and when viewed from the front. These motions are often referred to as “coming and going,” and in the ring may be referred to as the “down-and-back.”

Despite their size, Leonbergers are actually quite light on their feet. That isn't to say that they should

float along like a toy breed, but neither should they plod heavily or tire easily.

The Leonberger is an athletic breed despite its size, and its trot should be athletic and relaxed, fluid and competent. As such, the footfall (or paw-prints) of the Leonberger tends to converge toward the center line at the trot when viewed from behind or in front.

Sounds great. But what exactly is the center line? This refers to the direct line between the judge and the turn-around point at the opposite corner of the ring, along the diagonal mat. Think of it as the line along which the dog's spine travels as propelled by the feet. When the handler moves the dog down that diagonal mat to the opposite corner, then turns the dog and moves back toward the judge, the judge is watching the dog as he or she trots away and then back toward the judge. Knowing the anatomy of the breed and the general range of motion of the limbs should help the judge

evaluate the dog's structure and soundness. Deviations, such as the rear consistently being to one side or the other of the center line, elbows popping out to the sides, or hocks angling inward on each step, should be compared with the overall motion.

Though they are a large breed, Leonbergers have a relatively normal and common trot pattern. The efficiency of the trot in canine motion allows the dog to propel himself forward with little pressure or angulation of the joints.

The illustrated standard for the Leonberger shows how the footfall tends to move in toward the center line, but depending on how fast the dog is gaiting, the footfalls might even be more toward the center than depicted. Ultimately, however, the feet will not land directly onto a center line.

I think of the inside edges of the feet as landing along the edge of a center line, so that not the entire foot lands on the center line. If you

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*Correct Movement
Coming and Going*



“The Leonberger is an athletic breed despite its size, and its trot should be athletic and relaxed, fluid, and competent. ... the foot-fall (or paw-prints) of the Leonberger tends to converge toward the center line at the trot when viewed from behind or in front.”



trot a Leonberger through a water puddle and then across dry concrete, you will see how the footprints near but do not align with

the center line.

Efficiency, fluidity, and elasticity are all words that accurately describe a sound adult Leonberger when in

motion at the trot, viewed from the front and the rear. Nothing exaggerated, nothing pinched or restricted. The coat of a mature adult Leonberger may obscure some of the motion, but in general the fluid and natural swing forward and propulsion rearward should be easily visible in the ring.

It should be noted that Leonbergers are *dogs*—

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WORKING GROUP

complex, living creatures who can have a moment or two of distraction in the ring during the trot. They may turn their head left or right due to something they hear, see, or smell, which could cause a momentary deviation from their otherwise natural gait pattern. The experienced judge will overlook a blip such as that and rely instead on the overall range of motion throughout.

—Shannon White,
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 Leonberger Club of America

Mastiffs

A HEAD IS A HEAD IS A HEAD... OR IS IT?

Every standard contains a description of the appropriate head for the breed, but some breeds are specifically known as “head breeds.” In Mastiffs, a great head is the hallmark of the breed.

Mastiffs are an ancient breed that has been represented in one form or another for thousands of

years. Mastiffs as we know them today were first exhibited at the Birmingham show in England in 1860, with a recorded entry of six. Since that time, the standard has been the tool by which Mastiffs have been judged.

In 1883, the Old English Mastiff Club (OEMC) developed a standard that superseded all previous standards. This standard incorporated body proportions but also included structural ratios that addressed head measurements and type. This included breadth to length of head, length of muzzle to length of entire head, and circumference of muzzle to skull.

By 1886, the OEMC standard provided a scale of points for judging, in which 40 points were awarded to head type, 40 points to body, and 20 points to general appearance. The 1890 OEMC Standard was adopted by the Mastiff Club of America (MCOA) in 1929.

The AKC’s *Complete Dog*

Book from 1992 references the Mastiff as a giant dog with a short coat, a heavy head, and a short muzzle.

No matter the source, the Mastiff head is generally the focus of the breed in overall appearance and emphasis.

Forty years ago, the emphasis solely on head type resulted in dogs with good heads that could barely make it around the ring. The lack of soundness, reach, drive, and quality of movement prevalent during those years was almost incomprehensible. As a result, gait was added to the MCOA standard in 1981, and the Scale of Points reduced the points for head type to 32, with 20 points being awarded for general character, symmetry, height, and substance, and the remaining 48 points being designated to judging the rest of the dog’s structure. The written portion of the standard still focused almost 50 percent of the verbiage on the head type alone. Subsequently, the scale of points was eliminated entirely.

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Mastiff

Today, “merit judging” has become the buzzword of current practice. We know that “form follows function,” but have we become so fixed on recognizing merit that we are failing to keep faults in perspective? Obviously, recognizing the positive qualities of the dog is essential, but we must consider whether the faults prevent the dog from doing what he is bred to do. Although Mastiffs no longer run with horses to defend their owners in battle, cross the Alps

with Hannibal, or fight in the Roman arena, their form should still exhibit power and balance. They are massive, never coarse, but with substantial bone. They are not light boned or elegant.

Balance that includes good or moderate front angulation and matching bend of stifle is a must, powering the dog’s movement with equal reach and drive. A Mastiff should never have straight stifles and piston-like rear movement. Depth of body and spring of rib provide

room for lung capacity for the dog to work tirelessly under normal conditions.

While the headpiece is certainly the crowning touch of the Mastiff, a Mastiff does not walk on his head. He walks on his legs. When the legs and structure are not there, a glorious head does not outweigh form. The hallmark head is best recognized when it sits on a dog whose body is balanced, harmonious, and structured to perform.

—Catherine Angus
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Neapolitan Mastiffs

**PASSION, ZEST, ZEAL—
INGREDIENTS THAT DRAW IN
CLUB MEMBERS**

Emotions are catching. And it is important to remember that.

We all want to have good members in our clubs. Enthusiastic, working members. Trouble is, you can’t get people to join just by saying, “Come join my club—we

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need help! There's lots to do. It can be lots of fun." All true, but not motivating.

People will only be intrigued if we show them our positive passion. Our keenness, our excitement. If we show all that plus how worthwhile our work is, that's what will appeal to others. And they will want to join, and will want to work, because that is the price to pay to be one of the "cool kids."

And sure, we do need to be honest about problems, barriers, and issues—after all, those are part of life itself. But don't lead with discussion of club problems! When someone wants to talk about problems, show a positive plan, a direction, a set of goals. And show how one's work can make a difference.

We often hear talk about how people don't want to work anymore. I don't think that's true. People *do* want to work—but it is hard to motivate someone if they don't see how their work will make a difference, or if they perceive that bad

energy abounds. No one wants to be part of a group if nasty gossip is a regular result. Who wants to stick their neck out and try to do something new and different if they are afraid they will be attacked? In situations like that it's easier to stand back and watch, even though approvingly, from a distance. Sadly, it is even easier to join the unhelpful side and join in the negativity.

So it is critical for club leadership to always, always, always be positive, and to never let negativity invade your hearts and dominate your discussions.

Managing a club is essentially a project. There are goals, objectives, strategies, plans, and action. And running the dog show is another project, essentially is one of the key strategies.

It is also critical to understand that nothing stays the same. Technology changes, attitudes change, laws change, and buildings change. This means you can never assume that what worked yesterday will work

tomorrow. It might, but it might not. You must be able to assess what did work (and what didn't) and plan for tomorrow, whether using the same tool or tweaking things to be more effective.

I managed various teams and projects at different levels when working for a software company (in a different decade, indeed, a different century). I believe that successful projects have "wins" at three levels:

First is a win for the project. For a computer company, it is easy to see that a major goal of most of our projects were that the product be made "better" more appealing, and able to satisfy more customer needs. In running a dog club, the win might be being able to demonstrate the important need for the club, to show all of its goals, to show how club activities reach toward those goals, and especially to be able to illustrate the positive nature of participation. And make this clear to current, new, and prospective members.

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Neapolitan Mastiff, June 2004,
Chet Jezierski painting

In running a dog show—a major club activity, but in the end just one of many—the win could be to be able to document how the show resulted in learning, changing, and growing. Perhaps there was something new done that was successful, or perhaps there was something not successful but you tried and learned. Also, often that experience can be tweaked for next time to be even better.

Second is a win for the process itself. Document how something was done, so next

time it is easier for the next “new” team, especially the new ones. Outline problems you had and how to prevent them so that the next group doesn’t have to go through the same difficulties.

Doing a project is like building a wall. Each layer stands on the layers below that. Each layer must be solid for the next one to succeed and for the wall to get taller. Each project should be able to contribute something solid so the next project and project team benefits from this one. A win for a dog club or show would be a clear understanding of how things get done.

The third win might be the most important of all: a “win” for the team members, your club membership. Sometimes just enjoying being part on a well-oiled team is a motivating accomplishment. But never stop showing club members how the project, the work, affected *them* personally, and how their work directly and actually contributed to

the whole picture of why we have a dog club.

At the end of the project for your club, every member should be able to say, “I was part of that. I made a difference!” And they take that with them.

So if we want to attract new members, actual workers, we need to remember how we felt when we first joined and be able to generate that feeling in new and prospective members. And this means consistently demonstrating our own:

passion, enthusiasm, hunger, eagerness, fervor, gusto, zeal, zest, excitement, keenness ...

If you can do this, while you are remembering that the dog show is only one club activity (a critical one, but not the only one), you will find it hard to feel helpless or apathetic yourself.

See, emotions are catching!
—Margaret R. (Peggy)

Wolfe,

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United States Neapolitan Mastiff Club

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Newfoundlands

NEWFS ON THE NET

In his unfinished 1920 “Letters from a Dog to Another Dog Explaining and Accounting for Man,” Mark Twain combines wit and great appreciation for the noble Newfoundland. Translated from “the doggerel,” the letters to a colleague are written by Newfoundland Smith, an educated gentleman. His writing is interrupted when Newfoundland Smith is called to rescue a drowning boy. A drunken father punishes the big dog after his son falsely claims the Newfoundland pushed him into the river. Newfoundland Smith observes, “This creature (the human) has invented a heaven. And from it has excluded all the animals but himself” and concludes, “All things considered, a Man is as good as a Dog.”

Fast-forward a century, to our age of the internet and social media, where Newfoundland dogs continue to be portrayed in both

comedic and noble roles. I hesitate to send people to the internet, which is full of misinformation posted by bad breeders. Please do not be fooled by these websites; do your research and find a reputable breeder through the Newfoundland Club of America website, the regional Newfoundland clubs, or the Newfoundland Ambassadors (see <https://www.ncanewfs.org/index.html>).

That said, many of us enjoy seeing pictures and hearing stories about our favorite breed. A recent Facebook post used an AI image to introduce the topic of dogs and other animals responding to a total eclipse. Posts often pose veterinary questions, including cystinuria genetic testing. (The owner found wonderful veterinary care for her dog and was unaware of the disease’s prevalence in Newfoundlands.) Another thread described search efforts and a generous reward for Bunny, a Newfoundland who

escaped from a garden on her way to the Crufts Dog Show in England. Poignant posts asked for advice on when to say goodbye to an older, incapacitated dog.

Here are a few popular Facebook groups and Instagram pages to check out. Most require you to agree to courtesy standards and prohibit the selling of products.

On Facebook:

- [Newfoundland Club of America](#): Website for all things Newf, from health to breeders to training. Also true of the regional club Facebook pages.

- [The Newfoundland Dog Owners and Lovers Group](#): A large group (16.2 K members) discussing various Newf topics.

- [The Ephemeral Newfoundland](#): Memorabilia and wonderful artwork celebrating the Newfoundland in history.

- [Newfoundland Dogs](#): With 1.9K followers, provides education, information, and advice.

- [Goofy Newfy](#): With 8.3K members, specializes in fun

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Vintage printed material posted in “The Ephemeral Newfoundland” Facebook group; Lance the Newf; several more of the many Newfs (and their canine friends) on social media

pictures and advice.

- [Newwise](#): With 3K members, focuses on health and training.
- [Newf-L](#) is a forum for issues and discussions.
- [The Best Newfie Group Ever](#) has 16.4K members

and offers pictures and discussion.

On Instagram:

- [Oliver.the.newfie](#) has 40K followers and lots of great pictures. Oliver has his own business cards! Stickers of Oliver can be found in

New Jersey, New York, Paris, Florida, and elsewhere on the planet.

- [Hugo_the_Newfie](#): With 64K followers, includes categories such as Walkies and Friends.
- [Newfoundlandmoments](#)

COURTESY MARYLOU ZIMMERMAN / KRISTEN PETERSON / LAUREL RABSCHUTZ

WORKING GROUP

has 24K followers.

- [Tedthenewfoundland](#) features a 5-year-old Newf who has 17K followers. Includes TikTok music videos about holidays, camping, snack time, and “derp face.”

- [Onefloofynewfie](#) has 6K followers and pictures of Huckleberry, the traveling Newf, posed by state signs and in national parks.

[My Brown Newfies](#) by Jen Costello is a fun, informative blog with lots of helpful tips.

In addition to information and advice on these sites, plenty of humorous pictures are uploaded, including images created with artificial intelligence.

I can just imagine Gentleman Newfoundland Smith writing, “We used to be wolves, wild and wary, but then we noticed you had sofas.” (The quote is attributed to Francesco Marciuliano, author of *I Could Chew on This and Other Poems by Dogs*.)

—Katie Dolan,

katie@katiedolan.net

[Newfoundland Club of America](#)

Portuguese Water Dogs

THE MARK OF CABRAL

The history of the Portuguese Water Dog is long, with some references to the breed going back to the 1200s. However, the modern PWD owes its existence to the work of several Portuguese dog fanciers who, with great effort, reestablished the breed in the first half of the 20th century.

The PWD was used historically by fisherman to catch fish that escaped nets, carry messages between boats, recover overboard items, guard the catch, and even perform rescues.

With the advent of mechanization of gear and radios, the dogs’ purpose was diminished, and the breed fell into disfavor. In 1934 two specimens were presented at an international exposition and caught the attention of Dr. Vasco Bensaúde, a wealthy shipping magnate and dog fancier, who decided to reestablish the breed.

Bensaúde set about obtaining specimens of the

breed from the Algarve region of Portugal to create the Algarbiorum kennel. As a result of his breeding program, he produced a line of dogs that were black with little white and had good working skills. Dogs that were cream, white, or grey and those of small size or lacking in robust structure were eliminated from his program and sent to others in Portugal and Europe.

One such dog, a grey female, was used by Antonio Cabral, DVM, to establish a second main lineage of PWDs—the Alvalde kennel—with a dog he obtained from the Algarve.

The Algarve male he used for his first breeding with this grey female from the Algarbiorum kennel was of a lighter stature than the typical Algarbiorum dogs. The resultant Alvalde dogs often had a triangular patch of differently colored hair—usually white—usually a few inches from the base of the tail. This is known as the “Mark of Cabral,” or sometimes the “Kiss of Cabral.” It is

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The “Mark of Cabral” is sometimes seen as a patch of differently colored hair—usually white—a few inches from the base of the tail. It is not found in all PWDs, just those descended from a specific line.

not found in all PWDs, just those coming downline from the Alvalde dogs.

This area is actually the location of the supracaudal gland, sometimes called the “violet gland” for the volatile terpenes it excretes that are similar to those found in violets. The gland was first described in the late 1600s as a group of bristly hairs that smelled like violets or a lichen called orris-root (Shabadash & Zelikina, 2004).

This gland is found in a variety of mammals, such as foxes, jackals, wolves, badgers, and domesticated dogs and cats. It is comprised of a cluster of lobular sebaceous (oil) glands, alternating with tubules of apocrine glands (sweat, pheromones), and because of their visual similarity to liver cells, they are known as “hepatoid glands.”

The cell structure in these glands varies in canids and has created confusion in determining whether the

secretions are lipid based (as would be common in sebaceous glands) or lipo-protein-based (as would be common in hepatoid merocrine glands).

In some mammalian species, the glands cause a loss of melanin (coloration). The cells of these glands have receptors for both androgens and estrogens as well as growth hormone, and the growth and function of the glands are regulated by the dog’s sexual hormones. In wild canids, the secretory ducts of the glandular lobes open into dilated hair follicles; this is not the case in the domesticated dog (Shabadash & Zelikina, 2004). In the domesticated dog, the gland is typically ovoid in shape.

Behavioral observations on wild canids (fox and wolves) indicate that sniffing of the gland is used in greeting rituals, examinations by the opposite sex, and examination of rutting males (perhaps as a sexual attractant and cue of readiness to mate). Domesticated dogs

COURTESY KARL L. LAVALLI, PH.D.

BREED COLUMNS

WORKING GROUP

also sniff the tail in greeting rituals. Secretions are stronger in odor in solitary species of canids, and less intense in gregarious species like the domesticated dog (Shabadash & Zelikina, 2004).

In both males and females, whether intact or altered, the glands can become enlarged due to excessive secretion of androgen hormones, and then can cause a condition known as “stud tail” or “tail gland hyperplasia,” where the enlarged cells compress the hair follicles, causing hair loss in the ovoid patch. Secondary infections can then occur if oil secretions block the hair follicles, creating oil fur and scaly skin (Hinsperger, 2024).

All PWDs have these glands, but only those coming from the Alvalde lineage will have the “Mark of Cabral,” and often that “mark” will be a white patch, suggesting that Antonio Cabral bred a lineage with loss of melanin in this glandular area. —Kari L. Lavalli, Ph.D.

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[Portuguese Water Dog Club of America](#)

Rottweilers

THE ROTTWEILER IS NOT A “HEAD BREED”

Contrary to what some may believe or espouse, the Rottweiler is not a “head breed,” meaning that the judging of our breed is not primarily based on the dog’s headpiece.

Unlike other breeds, such as the Dogue de Bordeaux and the French Bulldog, the Rottweiler is, first and foremost, a working dog. His structure, muscle and mind must be able to hold up to a long day of work—herding, driving, carting, guarding property and livestock, babysitting the children,

bringing stock back to the barn, holding a bull at bay, guarding his owner from robbers and predators, and then sleep contently, so as to be up and ready the next day—and yet with an always-listening ear for ne’er-do-wells.

They must be carefully bred for temperament: thinkers and not reactive—a hallmark behavioral trait of our breed.

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

WORKING GROUP



Rottweiler

and a weak underjaw.

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

A massive head is heavy to carry, weighing the dog down and compromising his ability to work a full day. Too short a muzzle interferes with cooling and breathing,

shortening how long the dog can be useful. A dog that is overheated, short of breath, or exhausted by mid-morning is useless. It is better to award good, balanced structure with expansive, ground-covering movement and strong musculature than a pretty head on a weak or unsound body.

While there is no doubt that an impressive head is indeed head-turning (pun intended), it must sit upon a neck of medium length and notable strength, inserting

correctly into a well angulated shoulder assembly, allowing the dog to easily reach forward on strong, upright pasterns. Eyes are almond shaped, not round or bulging, with well-fitting lids, dark brown in color. You should be able to see or feel the muscle of the mandibular jaw, often demonstrated by good, strong cheeks. A large, black nose with large holes for breathing is mandatory for scenting and cooling.

The Rottweiler head is clean and efficient, designed for work.

Above all else, never forget that what's inside the head is the most important aspect of our breed. Pretty is and pretty does—and this breed must be able to work, think, make decisions, and display discrimination. Please do not award or use a dog in your breeding program that is fearful, shrinking away, avoids being touched, or in any way appears stupid or timid.

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

COURTESY LYNDA BEAM

WORKING GROUP

Siberian Huskies

Our guest columnist this month is Kevin Snyder, DVM, MS, DACVO. Kevin is the current chair of the Genetics and Health Committee for the Siberian Husky Club of America. He and his family breed Siberians under the Treeline kennel prefix.

SPS1 AND SHPN1: WHAT THEY ARE AND WHY WE NEED TO TEST FOR THEM

Shaking puppy syndrome, Type 1 (SPS1) and Siberian Husky polyneuropathy, Type 1 (SHPN1) are two recently identified neurologic diseases that affect the Siberian Husky breed. With the help of passionate breeders, owners, and researchers from the University of California-Davis and University of Minnesota, we are now able to directly test a dog's genetic status for SPS1 and SHPN1. This means that these two specific diseases are preventable with genetic testing. The Siberian Husky Club of America (SHCA)

and SHCA Trust financially supported the collaborative research to identify a genetic cause of these diseases.

SPS1-affected puppies first show identifiable signs around 2–3 weeks of age when they begin to walk. Clinical signs observed are tremors, incoordination, and difficulty walking. All SPS1-affected dogs studied have experienced sudden death prior to 2 years of age. SPS1 is inherited as a *fully penetrant* autosomal recessive disease, meaning a dog needs two “bad” copies of the gene, one from each parent, to be affected with this lethal disease.

SHPN1-affected dogs show a juvenile disease onset with symptoms typically present by 9 to 11 weeks of age (and, by definition, before 2 years of age) with clinical signs consisting of muscle weakness and gait abnormalities. SHPN1 affects the communication in peripheral nerves that send sensory information from muscles to the brain/spinal cord and back,

resulting in abnormally rapid transmission of electrical signals. SHPN1 dogs are increasingly immobile, developing muscle tremors and atrophy leading to loss of strength in the extremities. Important to note that SHPN1 is not caused by the same mutation found in a clinically similar disease called Alaskan Malamute polyneuropathy (AMPN), nor to a similar disease in Alaskan Huskies called Alaskan Husky encephalopathy (AHE).

SHPN1 is inherited as a *partially penetrant* autosomal recessive disease. Like SPS1, a dog needs two “bad” copies of the gene, one from each parent, to be affected. But unlike SPS1, with SHPN1 not every dog with two bad copies of the gene will develop severe disease; clinical signs may vary depending on the individual, but their quality of life will always be affected.

Testing for SPS1 and SHPN1 is needed only once in a dog's lifetime and tests directly for the



genetic mutations involved. The dog's genetic status does not change over time. By contrast, the other two health tests we require in our breed—hip dysplasia screening and eye exams—are used to try to decrease the odds of producing the disease in a subsequent generation. These phenotypic tests assess whether a dog is affected but does not screen the genetics of the individual.

In our initial batch of genetic test results for SPS1, out of roughly 900 Siberians 0.5% were affected, 12.6%

were carriers, and 86.9% were clear. For SHPN1, 1.7% were affected, 15.9% were carriers, and 82.3% were clear. Those numbers came from breeders actively submitting samples to the research group. In a random sample of Siberian DNA used from the OFA-CHIC database, 9.5% of the tested dogs were SHPN1 carriers. The SPS1 and SHPN1 variants have been found in dogs from the U.S., Canada, Finland, the U.K., and Australia. Dogs used for various purposes

from different pedigrees in both predominantly show and predominantly racing pedigrees have come back as carriers for SPS1 and SHPN1.

While we understand that breeders may have not personally encountered/recognized these diseases, and currently the numbers of affected and carriers are low, it is important to do all we can to prevent these diseases and to keep affected individuals from being produced. The SHCA has made updates to its recommended breed



BREED COLUMNS

WORKING GROUP

testing acknowledging the *lethal and debilitating* nature of SPS1 and SHPN1. The updated health testing addendum can be viewed on the SHCA website.

It is important to note that eliminating carrier dogs from breeding programs is *not* recommended at this time. It is the duty of SHCA members to adhere to the SHCA Constitution and “advance the health, wellbeing, and proper care of the breed.” It is *every* breeder’s duty to protect their dogs’ health and welfare and to prevent suffering.

With these objectives in mind, we must do everything in our power to ensure that Siberians are not afflicted with these two, now highly preventable, diseases that are either lethal (SPS1) or debilitating to the point that a dog cannot perform its original function in harness and has decreased quality of life (SHPN1).

—Kevin Snyder, DVM, MS, DACVO

Thank you very much, Kevin! I hope our breeders

will take advantage of the testing now available to screen these terrible diseases from our breed.

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

their playful, spirited personalities and great comedic senses compensate your efforts. (For good advice on exercising your dog, see <https://www.vetbabble.com/dogs/getting-started-dogs/exercising-dog/>.)

Their strong, independent streaks, varying degrees of stubbornness, legendary intelligence, and craftiness can make handling SS difficult for first-time dog owners. Quoting late longtime SS breeder Sam Lothrop’s “single most important criterion for selecting prospective puppy families: ensure one family member is smarter and more stubborn than the dog.”

Standard Schnauzers demand being part of all family activities. They are good with children and other pets, devoted to their family, protective of the ones they love, and, recognizing children mean no harm, tolerate rough play from kids. Friends near Pittsburgh had two pre-teen boys and toddler Kelly. Charley (SSCA Leading Producer Ch.

Standard Schnauzers

This concludes the “Life Phases of the Standard Schnauzer” series begun in the [January 2024](#) AKC GAZETTE (“So You Have a New Puppy”) and continued in the [April](#) and [July 2024](#) issues (“Adolescent Standard Schnauzers Can Be Fun ... or Not!” Parts One and Two).

STANDARD SCHNAUZERS—THE BREED THAT HAS EVERYTHING PART ONE

Adult Standard Schnauzers (SS) have everything desired in a family dog—health, beauty, intelligence, desire to please. Requiring only clean water, proper diet, exercise, training, grooming, and adequate stimulation for their awesome reasoning abilities,

WORKING GROUP



WB Larissa (R) and RWB Flash (L) at Plum Creek KC of CO with judge Mrs. Jane Treiber, Dr. LaRon Smith, and Suzanne Smith; Murphy (Wolfe Tone Wüstefuchs Wunder) in his Halloween bandana.

Wüstefuchs Karl) enjoyed roughhousing and playing tackle football with the boys. He let Kelly drag him around by his beard, always gentle, never snapping at her when her tiny fingers strayed close to his eyeballs.

Because of their medium size (in America, 17–19 inches at the withers, 30–45 pounds for females; 18–20 inches, 35–55 pounds for males—see the [AKC breed standard](#)), SS fit comfortably into studio apartments or mansions alike. Not plagued by motion sickness, SS are easy travelers, adapting to

any size vehicle.

Portrayed by artists over several centuries, Standard Schnauzers were bred in Germany during the Middle Ages as all-purpose farm dogs to guard farmers and their families; warn predators away from farm animals, property, and market wagons; herd livestock; and protect buildings, fields, and crops from birds and vermin.

As hunters' companions, SS flush birds from fields and retrieve game on land or from water. In groups, several SS can bring down an elk in Colorado, hunt doves

in Pennsylvania, pursue wild boar in West Texas, and track bear in Wyoming.

Most SS respond with enthusiasm to the question “Do you want to go...?” even before you can finish the question—well, except for Flash (Asgard Bliss' Big Bang Wüstefuchs), a homebody who makes a run for her safe den (AKA her crate) if she thinks “go” means “go to a dog show.” In contrast, Larissa (Centara Nautical North Star Wüstefuchs) loves going anywhere she might get a chance to chase squirrels.

Every five years, the

COURTESY LARON SMITH AND SUZANNE T. SMITH

WORKING GROUP

Standard Schnauzer Club of America's (SSCA) health surveys show SS to be among the healthiest breeds. Descended centuries ago from gray Wolfspitz and black German Poodle ancestry, SS are non-allergenic, having no dander and a non-shedding double coat (soft undercoat with a harsh, wiry, weather-resistant outer coat) that is easily kept neat with regular brushing.

SS coats are either dominant pure black for both layers or recessive salt-and-pepper (S&P) outer coat with a lighter-colored undercoat. This agouti-type S&P coat has white or light-colored hairs banded with black on both ends, becoming finer and fading close to the body, particularly when clipped. The proportion of black to white in the individual hairs determines coat darkness.

Both black and S&P coats require hand stripping (painless organized shedding of dead hairs) to maintain their characteristic texture, color, and resistance to dirt,

brambles, and weather. All is lost with clipping, so if you plan to show your SS or you value a clean house, don't clip—strip!

Standard Schnauzers are not prone to wild barking, but they are territorial. Pay attention when SS do bark or get excited: Our SS alert us to bears rummaging in trash cans, deer eating our apple crop, squirrels devouring my deck plants, or delivery persons leaving us packages.

SS are fearless, not easily frightened, superb guard dogs with the fabled courage of much larger dogs. Their booming big-dog barks and large gleaming teeth make SS fearsome canine deterrents to anyone up to wickedness.

SS tolerate other pets, but they naturally chase those creatures that centuries of evolution have identified as prey: rabbits, squirrels, other rodents, small animals, and occasionally birds. (<https://www.akc.org/dog-breeds/standard-schnauzer/>)

Known as “the dog with

the human brain,” SS adjust to almost any environment or activity but do not thrive living away from humans either as kennel dogs or as solitary outdoor dogs. These highly intelligent, clever, reasoning canines need family, love, training, and mental stimulation to keep them happy. (Try puzzle toys—<https://iheartdogs.com/best-dog-puzzle-toys/>)

Training, especially early training, is an absolute must to stimulate your SS mentally and to strengthen the canine-human bond. Training is vital. Left to their own devices, those wily, creative thinkers can conceive of more undesirable activities than you can dream up. Training fills inventive SS heads with something besides mischief.

This article will continue in the January 2025 issue.

—Suzanne T. Smith, Los Alamos, New Mexico
WustefuchsSS@aol.com,
<https://GoodFoodGreatDogs.com>

Standard Schnauzer Club of America



SECRETARY'S PAGES

MISSION STATEMENT The American Kennel Club is dedicated to upholding the integrity of its Registry, promoting the sport of purebred dogs and breeding for type and function.

Founded in 1884, the AKC and its affiliated organizations advocate for the purebred dog as a family companion, advance canine health and well-being, work to protect the rights of all dog owners and promote responsible dog ownership.

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ATTENTION DELEGATES

NOTICE OF MEETING

The next meeting of the Delegates will be held at the Rosen Centre Hotel, Orlando, FL on **Friday, December 13, 2024**, beginning no earlier than 10:30 a.m. It will follow the Delegate Forum which will begin at 9:00 a.m

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

American Hairless Terrier of America

DELEGATE CREDENTIALS

Sara Gildersleeve, Lake Katrine, NY,
Rockland County Kennel Club

Sylvie McGee, Olympia, WA,
Nisqually Kennel Club

Teresa Marley, Indian Wells, CA,
Sir Francis Drake Kennel Club

Leslie Savoye, Lafayette, CA,
Contra Costa Kennel Club

Allison Schultz, Badger, MN,
Bracco Italiano Club of America

Dale Suzanne Tarbox, Columbus, NC,
Great Dane Club of America

NOTICE

As a result of an Event Committee deter-



gazette

Click here to read the
October 2024 issue!

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

Mr. Michael Darnell (Perry, MI)
Ms. Alma King (Dripping Springs, TX)
Mr. Gordon King (Dripping Springs, TX)
Ms. Julia Thomas (Herriman, UT)

NOTICE

Ms. Priscilla Boland (Rincon, GA). Action was taken by the Houston Kennel Club for conduct at its July 19, 2024 event. Ms. Boland was charged with inappropriate public criticism of a judge, not disruptive, but demonstrating lack of sportsmanship. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the Event Committee's report and set the penalty as a reprimand and imposed a \$50 fine. (Bedlington Terriers, Dandie Dinmont Terriers)

NOTICE

Ms. Susan Cox (Windsor, Ontario). Action was taken by the Columbiana County Kennel Club for conduct at its August 2, 2024 event. Ms. Cox was charged with inappropriate, abusive, or foul language. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the Event Committee's report

and set the penalty as a reprimand and imposed a \$100 fine. (German Pinschers)

NOTICE

Ms. Amanda Lofland (Mount Gilead, OH). Action was taken by the Dan Emmett Kennel Club for conduct at its April 20, 2024 event. Ms. Lofland was charged with failure to properly control at an event. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the Event Committee's report and set the penalty as a three-month event suspension and imposed a \$500 fine, effective May 5, 2024. Ms. Lofland appealed the decision to an AKC Trial Board. The AKC Trial Board denied the appeal and affirmed the penalty. (Papillons)

NOTICE

Ms. Ania Kelly (Jackson, NJ). Action was taken by the Columbiana County Kennel Club for conduct at its August 2, 2024 event. Ms. Kelly was charged with personal property damage. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the Event Committee's report and set the penalty as a reprimand and imposed a \$100 fine. (English Cocker Spaniels, Whippets)

NOTICE

Ms. Cynthia Papierniak (Oak Park, IL). Action was taken by the Greater Racine Kennel Club for conduct at its August 8, 2024 event. Ms. Papierniak was charged

with failure to properly control a dog at an event. The Staff Event Committee reviewed the Event Committee's report and set the penalty as a reprimand and imposed a \$200 fine. (Lhasa Apsos)

NOTICE

The AKC's Management Disciplinary Committee has suspended Mr. Chad Lanier (Live Oak, FL) for a lifetime of all AKC privileges, imposed a \$10,000 fine, prohibited him from being on the grounds of AKC events, and can administratively remove his name of registrations, for violating AKC's *Personal Conduct Policy*, effective September 10, 2024. (Belgian Malinois, German Shepherd Dogs)

NOTICE

The AKC's Management Disciplinary Committee has suspended Mr. Ryan Thomas (Woodstock, IL) for a lifetime of all AKC privileges, imposed a \$10,000 fine, and AKC can administratively remove his name from registrations, for violating AKC's *Judicial or Administrative Determination of Inappropriate Treatment* policy, effective September 10, 2024. (German Shepherd Dogs)

PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO THE RULES APPLYING TO DOG SHOWS – CHAPTER 16, SECTION 2

The AKC Board has endorsed the

following amendment to **Chapter 16, Section 2**, of the *Rules Applying to Dogs Shows*, proposed by the Dog Show Rules Committee. This will be voted on at the December 13, 2024 Delegate Meeting.

CHAPTER 16 CHAMPIONSHIPS SECTION 2

A dog which in its breed competition at a show shall have been placed Winners and which also shall have won its group class at the same show shall be awarded championship points figured at the highest point rating of any breed or recognized variety of any breed entered in the show and entitled to winners points in its group, or if it also shall have been designated Best in Show, shall be awarded championship points figured at the highest point rating of any breed or recognized variety or of any breed entered and entitled to winners points in the show.

A dog in its breed competition at a show which has placed Winners, and which also has finished second, third, or fourth in its group competition at the same show shall be awarded championship points figured at the highest point rating of any breed or recognized variety of any breed entered in the show and entitled to winners points in its group, exclusive of any breed or variety that placed higher in the group class.

A dog in its breed competition at a show

which has placed Winners, and which has been awarded Reserve Best in Show at the same show shall be awarded championship points figured at the highest point rating of any breed or recognized variety of any breed entered in the show and entitled to winners points in its group, exclusive of the group for which Best in Show was awarded.

The final points to be awarded under this section shall not be in addition to but inclusive of any points previously awarded the dog in its breed competition or under the provisions of this section.

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. Julie R. Babcock (116033) NV

(702) 496-3761

babbysbulldogs@gmail.com

Bulldogs

Ms. Lisa Cornett (115751) CA

swiftswas@gmail.com

American Staffordshire Terriers

Mr. Mark Darwish (115389) SC

wishmar123@gmail.com

Cane Corsos, American Staffordshire Terriers, Staffordshire Bull Terriers

Mrs. Corri Long (116251) SC

(843) 693-9690

lowriderbulldogs@hotmail.com

Bulldogs, JS-Limited

Ms. Jennifer Stagg (116437) WI

(262) 993-5119

integrityaussies@yahoo.com

Australian Shepherds

Ms. Linda M. Whisenhunt (107111) WA

(805) 558-0500

jacobsonwhiz3@gmail.com

Great Pyrenees

Miss Katherine A. Wright (116177) NY

(646) 628-0899

ruthven.terriers@gmail.com

Norfolk Terriers, Russell Terriers

ADDITIONAL BREED JUDGING APPLICANTS

Mr. Philip R. Briasco (66406) FL

(352) 427-6992

aranisle@cfl.rr.com

Balance of Toy Group (Poodles)

Ms. Anna May Fleischi Brown (6300) IL

(217) 415-2176

stedelweis@aol.com

Biewer Terriers, Pomeranians, Pugs, Russian Toys

Mrs. Valerie J. Brown (6082) WA

(509) 554-1669

essentiadogs@gmail.com

Boxers, French Bulldogs

Mr. Joseph Buchanan (104137) PA

(610) 931-3670

kennelaleema@gmail.com

American English Coonhounds, Plott Hounds, Redbone Coonhounds

Mr. Dean Burwell (103997) SC

(803) 628-8323

daen@pawgate.com

Australian Terriers, Cesky Terriers, Smooth Fox Terriers

Ms. Teresa (Garrod) Campbell (99323) IN

(317) 371-6697

luvshowdogs@yahoo.com

Barbets, Portuguese Podengo Pequenos, Dogues de Bordeaux, American Hairless Terriers, Chihuahuas, Manchester Terriers, Silky Terriers, Lhasa Apsos, Lowchen, Entlebucher Mountain Dogs, Pulik

Mrs. Kathleen V. Carter (6164) CO

(303) 425-6756

ckathy219@gmail.com

Entlebucher Mountain Dogs, Lancashire Heelers, Pulik, Pumik

Mrs. Robin Casey (92447) WY

(307) 514-1519

sgborzoi@aol.com

Basenjis, Beagles, Black and Tan Coonhounds, Cirnechi dell'Etna, English Foxhounds, Grand Bassets Griffons Vendeens

Mr. Wayne R. Cavanaugh (5571) MI

(269) 760-2552

wcavanaugh317@gmail.com

Balance of Sporting Group (Barbets, Bracci Italiani, Nederlandse Kooikerhondjes, Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers, American Water Spaniels, Boykin Spaniels, Irish Water Spaniels, Welsh Springer Spaniels, Spinoni Italiani, Wirehaired Pointing Griffons, Wirehaired Vizslas), Irish Wolfhounds

Ms. Mary Dukes (99597) NC

(951) 283-4770

putupyr@aol.com

Bracci Italiani, Nederlandse Kooikerhondjes, Pointers, Curly-Coated Retrievers

ers, Italian Greyhounds, American Eskimo Dogs, Dalmatians, Shiba Inu

Dr. Bev Sigl Felten (65674) WI

(414) 828-2449

beverlyfelten5@gmail.com

Barbets, Nederlandse Kooikerhondjes, Chesapeake Bay Retrievers, Irish Red and White Setters, Boykin Spaniels, Irish Water Spaniels, Sussex Spaniels, Wirehaired Pointing Griffons, American Staffordshire Terriers

Mr. David Fitzpatrick (27307) PA

(717) 586-0961

dcfitz7@aol.com

Balance of Non-Sporting Group (Bichons Frises, Finnish Spitz, Norwegian Lundehunds, Schipperkes, Shiba Inu)

Mrs. Nancy Griego (90264) NM

(505) 681-8020

nrgakc@spinn.net

Lancashire Heelers, Polish Lowland Sheepdogs, Shetland Sheepdogs

Krista Hansen (95868) NY

(585) 457-7106

camlochcollies@aol.com

Black and Tan Coonhounds, Bluetick Coonhounds, Irish Wolfhounds, Treeing Walker Coonhounds, Whippets

Mr Fred Hyer (94219) MI

(616) 874-3647

fred@hyerluv.com

Basenjis, Black and Tan Coonhounds, Ibizan Hounds, Portuguese Podengo Pequenos, Whippets

Mrs. Pat M. Jenkins (9451) UT

(435) 770-0334

pmj16@msn.com

Balance of Non-Sporting (Bichons Frises, Chow Chows, Cotons du Tulear, Norwegian Lundehunds, Schipperkes)

Mr. Gregg G. Kantak (94722) MD

(202) 492-1876

greggkantak@yahoo.com

Dalmatians, French Bulldogs, Keeshonden, Schipperkes

Mr. Kristofer Kelso (40630) CT

(203) 520-3861

kelsojk1@gmail.com

Irish Water Spaniels, American Eskimo Dogs, Lhasa Apsos

Martha C. Lageschulte (106091) CO

(303) 929-9064

starqust.mcl@gmail.com

Great Danes, Greater Swiss Mountain Dogs, Rottweilers

Miss Sandra Lex (7136) CN

(416) 252-9957

sandralex@rogers.com

Balance of Terrier Group (American Hairless Terriers, American Staffordshire Terriers, Bull Terriers, Cesky Terriers, Irish Terriers, Miniature Bull Terriers, Miniature Schnauzers, Parson Russell Terriers, Rat Terriers, Russell Terriers, Staffordshire Bull Terriers)

Ms. Kathryn Madden (92226) NY

(516) 885-4860

madterv@gmail.com

Vizslas, Wirehaired Vizslas

Mrs. Sherry Patton (110239) TX

(318) 518-6542

4everbts@gmail.com

Balance of Non-Sporting Group (Bichons Frises, Cotons du Tulear, Finnish Spitz, Keeshonden, Norwegian Lundehunds, Schipperkes, Shiba Inu)

Ms. Margaret (Maggie) Peat (6409) CA

(415) 309-0103

maggiepeat@gmail.com

Petits Bassets Griffons Vendeens, Whippets

Mr. Joseph Reno (6407) NJ

(908) 561-7098

Hicrest121@aol.com

Dalmatians, Lhasa Apsos, Lowchen, Shiba Inu, Tibetan Terriers, Xoloitzcuintli

Mrs. Charlene Rutar (94495) IN

(317) 989-3120

whiteriver.gsp@gmail.com

Balance of Non-Sporting (Bichons Frises, Chow Chows, Cotons du Tulear, Tibetan Spaniels)

Mr. Jeffrey P. Ryman (93219) WA

(425) 876-2213

jeff_ryman@hotmail.com

Australian Shepherds, Beaucerons, Bergamasco Sheepdogs, Collies, Entlebucher Mountain Dogs, Lancashire Heelers, Norwegian Buhunds

Ms. Johannah Winn Ryman (96233) WA

(360) 568-5525

johannahryman@gmail.com

French Bulldogs

Dr. Vicki Sandage (98425) KY

(606) 922-9552

sandfoxdvm@gmail.com

Beagles, English Foxhounds, Greyhounds, Harriers, Salukis, Sloughi

Mrs. Helene Stearns (101598) PA

(570) 595-3097

cairns@aberdeencairns.com

Australian Terriers, Cesky Terriers, Dandie Dinmont Terriers, Irish Terriers, Kerry Blue Terriers, Parson Russell Terriers

Mr. Wood Wornall (95931) DE

(805) 264-3304

woodwornall@hotmail.com

Balance of Non-Sporting Group (Finnish Spitz, Keeshonden, Norwegian Lundehunds, Shiba Inu, Tibetan Spaniels), Affenpinschers

JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP JUDGING

APPLICANTS

Ms. Chante Gonzales (116451) WA

gonzaleschante42@gmail.com

JS

Mrs. Pamela Schroeder (108285) WA

(778) 834-0059

pam@schroeder.bc.ca

JS

PERMIT JUDGES

The following persons have been approved on a **Permit** basis for the designated breeds in accordance with the current judging approval process. *They may now accept*

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

NEW BREED PERMIT JUDGES

Ms. Jodie Berry (115757) MA

jodie@willaby.net

Staffordshire Bull Terriers, JS- Limited

Mr. Phillip (Phil) Booth (115975) NY

(517) 518-2641

philboothphs@gmail.com

Brittanys, Lagotti Romagnoli, Pointers, German Shorthaired Pointers, German Wirehaired Pointers, Chesapeake Bay Retrievers, Flat Coated Retrievers, Golden Retrievers, Labrador Retrievers, English Setters, Gordon Setters, Irish Setters, Irish Red and White Setters, Clumber Spaniels, Cocker Spaniels, English Cocker Spaniels, English Springer Spaniels, Field Spaniels, Spinoni Italiani, Vizslas, Weimaraners, Giant Schnauzers, Smooth Fox Terriers, Dalmatians, Australian Shepherds, JS

Mr. Kenneth D. Granacki (115845) FL

(541) 280-2863

kgranacki86@gmail.com

Samoyeds

Gina Hayden (115521) CO

(661) 301-8430

ginahayden111@gmail.com

Salukis

Kelly Leonard (111922) MI

(734) 846-8015

kleonard734@gmail.com

American Foxhounds, Irish Wolfhounds, JS

Mr. Kevin E. Lind (112598) MD

(202) 440-2225

kevin.e.holmes@me.com

Standard Schnauzers, Affenpinschers

Melanie Mercer, DVM (114545) MO

(214) 641-6578

vetmel1300@aol.com

Irish Wolfhounds

Michelle Lee Ricklefs Cazett (115431) IA

(641) 521-5032

atpbulldogs@gmail.com

Bulldogs

Heather Stevenson (115693) CA

heather@oakbrooksamoyeds.com

Samoyeds, JS

ADDITIONAL BREED PERMIT JUDGES

Mrs. Vicki Allenbrand (91374) KS

(678) 429-4609

blackjackdogs@earthlink.net

Azawakhs, English Foxhounds, Greyhounds, Harriers, Ibizan Hounds, Pharaoh Hounds, Whippets

Mr. Gary L. Andersen (6176) AZ

(480) 991-7485

glandersen@cox.net

Australian Cattle Dogs, Belgian Malinois, Belgian Sheepdogs, Belgian Tervurens, Briards, Lancashire Heelers, Old English Sheepdogs

Mr. Kurt D. Anderson (18749) CT

(203) 640-6460

kurt.kmander@gmail.com

Australian Shepherds, Shetland Sheepdogs

Ms. Bridget J. Brown (102665) AL

(205) 515-8753

jackeye@bellsouth.net

Barbets, Golden Retrievers, Clumber Spaniels, Sussex Spaniels, Welsh Springer Spaniels, Vizslas, Wirehaired Pointing Griffons, Wirehaired Vizslas

Regina Lee Bryant (105299) CA

(209) 327-8778

catoriaussies@gmail.com

Beaucerons, Entlebucher Mountain Dogs

Mr. Stuart Cairns (101695) OH

(717) 659-9308

stgeorgebt@gmail.com

Wire Fox Terriers

Sandra Carter (106237) OR

(407) 509-5109

sandrajeancarter1960@gmail.com

Cairn Terriers, Miniature Bull Terriers, Bulldogs

Mrs. Pam Davis (95305) PA

(610) 564-8401

davispcjg@aol.com

Russell Terriers

Mary Lynne Elliot (100062) CO

(303) 289-2517

ml@vedauwoorr.com

Plott Hounds

Ms. Marie Ann Falconer (51642) TN

(413) 433-6474

mylaone10@aol.com

American English Coonhounds, Black and

Tan Coonhounds, Bluetick Coonhounds, Redbone Coonhounds, Treeing Walker Coonhounds

Mr. James A. (Jim) Fehring (90519) OK

(918) 630-9229

jamesafehring@gmail.com

Great Pyrenees, Komondorok, Leonbergers, Newfoundlands, Samoyeds, Tibetan Mastiffs

Mrs. Sioux Forsyth-Green (100789) NC

(910) 603-7655

siouxf93@gmail.com

Balance of Sporting Group (Bracci Italiani, Nederlandse Kooikerhondjes, Curly-Coated Retrievers, American Water Spaniels, Boykin Spaniels, Wirehaired Pointing Griffons)

Mr. Patrick D. Jones (95071) MT

(405) 855-5940

ravindals8@gmail.com

American Eskimo Dogs, Shiba Inu

Mrs. Nancy Lovelady (97313) NV

(510) 502-3708

jwnsl@sbcglobal.net

Black and Tan Coonhounds, Bloodhounds, Bluetick Coonhounds, Harriers, Plott Hounds, Redbone Coonhounds, Treeing Walker Coonhounds

Ms. Lew Olson (24173) AR

(713) 303-5639

lewolson@earthlink.net

Bull Terriers, Miniature Bull Terriers, Miniature Schnauzers

Mrs. Janet Parcel (104351) IL

(630) 830-5823

westieldy@comcast.net

German Shorthaired Pointers, Cesky Terriers, Smooth Fox Terriers, Lakeland Terriers, Manchester Terriers, Miniature Schnauzers, Norfolk Terriers, Skye Terriers

Mr. John C. Ramirez (1814) CA

(310) 991-0241

jrami68620@aol.com

Whippets, Pembroke Welsh Corgis

Cmdr. Pamela J. Rhyner-Hirko (93132) TX

(361) 331-0030

dediciwhippets@yahoo.com

Ibizan Hounds, Rhodesian Ridgebacks

Ms. Darlene Steele (109821) VA

(815) 325-2429

927rossans@gmail.com

English Setters, Irish Red and White Setters

Ms. Jan A. Sutherland (97231) CA

(213) 819-6218

moonrysn@hotmail.com

Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retrievers

Dr. Oleg Voloshin (101869) MD

(301) 379-8847

voloshino@yahoo.com

Afghan Hounds, Azawakhs, Plott Hounds

Mrs. Janet Warner (103607) NM

(253) 255-6796

janagram@aol.com

Spinoni Italiani

Ms. Cynthia Woodward (105631) TX

(501) 425-3454

cyndrwood@yahoo.com

Mastiffs, Siberian Huskies, Border Terriers, Smooth Fox Terriers, Wire Fox Terriers, Manchester Terriers

JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP PERMIT JUDGES

Mrs. Blair Aguiard Commisso (95685) LA

absoluteast@gmail.com

JS

Mr. Justin Dannenbring (46593) MT

(951) 733-1618

orionkennelsofca@aol.com

JS-Limited

Mrs. Allison Fitzgerald Kennedy (115771) VA

(540)292-7280

allison.f.kennedy8@gmail.com

JS

Ms. Ingrid Lyden (100953) WA

(253)632-6918

nakiska@comcast.net

JS

CONFORMATION JUDGES: RESIGNED BREED OR JUNIOR SHOWMANSHIP

The judges below have notified AKC to resign their privileges for the following:

Mr. Thomas Baldwin

Junior Showmanship

Ms. Karen J. Hynek

Junior Showmanship

RESIGNED CONFORMATION JUDGES

Cheryl D. Anderson
 Ms. Valerie Hamilton
 Ms. Judy Lowther
 Ms. Diane Young McCormack
 Erika K. Moureau
 Ms. Marcia P. Tucker

EMERITUS CONFORMATION JUDGES

Mrs. Loraine Boutwell
 Ms. Marleen C. Burford
 The Rev Dr. C. Patrick Ormos
 Mr. Roger D. Orton

DECEASED CONFORMATION JUDGES

Mrs. Nancy Harper-Mulvaney
 Mrs. Debra Ann Hokkanen
 Mr. Douglas R. Holloway, Jr.

REGULAR STATUS APPROVED OBEDIENCE/ RALLY/TRACKING JUDGES

The following persons have completed their Provisional Judging assignments and their names have been added to the list of **regular approved** judges for the class indicated.

Karen Schroeder (95401) PA

(724) 327-2411
 lindestargold@aol.com
 Obedience – Utility

NEW PROVISIONAL OBEDIENCE/RALLY/ TRACKING JUDGES

The following persons have been approved as a judge on a **Provisional** basis for the

class/test indicated in accordance with the Provisional judging system. *They may now accept assignments.*

Dr. Norine E Noonan (98363) FL

(703) 627-1042
 liveoakpoodles@hotmail.com
 Obedience – Novice

Jenny Thorp (115983) OR

(541)221-8613
 agilityrott@yahoo.com
 Tracking – TD/TDU

Lisa Klein (111467) WA

(360) 798-7079
 bignlildogs@gmail.com
 Tracking – TDX

Carolyn Fuhrer (102135) ME

(207) 790-0847
 carolynfuhrer@gmail.com
 Tracking – VST

Reegan Ray (102663) CA

(619) 855-7387
 rreegan@aol.com
 Tracking – VST

EMERITUS OBEDIENCE/ RALLY/TRACKING JUDGES

Marlene Buford (DA)

Obedience & Rally

REGISTERED HANDLERS

Letters concerning registered handlers 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 individuals have submitted an application for the Registered Handler Program.

Ms. Hailey J. Carusi

13 Huguenot Road
Oxford, MA 01540

Ms. Vesta M. Rash

16 Nursery Lane
Lancaster, PA 17603

Ms. Erin Sposito

56 Gilead Road
Andover, CT 06232

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.

DEMAVAND- Siberian Huskies- Michael Jennings

DESERT WIND- Belgian Malinois- Valerie Albright

ENDEAVOR'S- Poodles- Leah Blake

ENDERS GAME- German Shorthaired Pointers- Jame M. Yates

INDABA- Rhodesian Ridgebacks- Carol Noel

IRONDALE- Boxers- Wendy R. Bettis & James M. Bettis

KARITONAVA- Borzoi- Kimberly A. Horn Janek

SHADYOAKS- Rhodesian Ridgebacks- Chelsea D. Lyons

SOLIDROCK- Bullmastiffs- William F. Herr

TOPSHELF- Dachshunds- Candice M. Summers

REGISTERED NAME PREFIXES GRANTED

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

5STARR- Vizslas- Lisa M. Starr

A2Z -Old English Sheepdogs- Christine Winter & S. Curt Winter

AKANNI- Rhodesian Ridgebacks & Borzoi
– Amy L. Balthrop

ARCH ROCK- Weimaraners- Laura S.
Hightower

CHEZ NOUS- Briards- Polly C. Currier &
Edward B. Currier

DESERT WILLOW- Papillons- Mary L.
McClane & Samantha L. Epperly

FALLING STAR- Shi Tzu- Dr. Troy Clif-
ford Dargin

FIREHAUS- Rottweilers- Susan L. Abel

FIRE WHIRL- Dalmatians- Winter K.
Pearsall & Daniel J. Pearsall

LAKE-EFFECT- Poodles- Leesa D. Grat-
kowski

LECHIC – Border Collies and Chihuahuas
– Whitney B. Legrand.

LONDONDERRY- Bulldogs & French
Bulldogs- Ann <. Hubbard & Marianne
McNichol

NOR'EASTER'S – English Setters-
Michaela L. Masi & Taylor C. Masi

PONDSIDE- Labrador Retrievers- Diane
M. DeDominicis

PRIDENJOYZ- Cane Corso- Kristen
Sauers

SAGAMORE- Miniature American Shep-
herds- Cassy C. Janssen

TARTANSIDE- Collies- John G. Buddie &
David A. Supplee

VOM FLUSSTAL- Rottweilers- Deborah-
A. Bram

VRS- Australian Shepherds- Alison Gocke
& Mile Cikara

WESTWOOD- Belgian Tervuren- Camilla
A. Echeverria

WHITE GLOVES- Beagles- Barbara A.
Ferneyhough



**QUARTERLY MEETING OF THE DELEGATES
OF THE AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB
SEPTEMBER 10, 2024**

Dennis B. Sprung, President
PRESENT 286

Afghan Hound Club of America, Inc.—*Ms. Constance Butherus*

Airedale Terrier Club of America—*Aletta L. Moore*

Albany Kennel Club, Inc.—*Corey Heenan*

American Belgian Malinois Club—*Carol J. Shields*

American Belgian Tervuren Club, Inc.—*Teresa Nash*

American Bloodhound Club—*Mary Lou Olszewski*

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

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

American Bullmastiff Association, Inc.—*Howard Gussis*

American Cavalier King Charles Spaniel Club, Inc.—*Claire Parker*

American Cesky Terrier Fanciers Association, Inc.—*Mr. Brian P. Meindl*

American Chesapeake Club—*Heidi Henningson*

American Chinese Crested Club, Inc.—*Neil Butterklee*

American Foxhound Club, Inc.—*Harry Miller*

American Lhasa Apso Club, Inc.—*Don Hanson*

American Maltese Association, Inc.—*Ms. Sandy Bingham-Porter*

American Manchester Terrier Club—*Roberta Berman*

American Pointer Club, Inc.—*Mr. Danny D. Seymour*

American Pomeranian Club, Inc.—*Dr. Geno Sisneros*

American Rottweiler Club—*Mr. Peter G. Piusz*

American Sealyham Terrier Club—*Barbara Shapiro*

American Shetland Sheepdog Association—*Marjorie Tuff*

American Whippet Club, Inc.—*Karen B. Lee*

American Wirehaired Pointing Griffon Association—*Cindy Grodkiewicz*

Anatolian Shepherd Dog Club of America—*Edward Collins*

Anderson Kennel Club—*Laura A. Rockwell*

Anderson Obedience Training Club, Inc.—*Ms. Patricia A. Sample*

Atlanta Kennel Club, Inc.—*Ann Wallin*

Atlanta Obedience Club, Inc.—*Gail A. LaBerge*

Augusta Kennel Club, Inc.—*Catherine Iacopelli*

- Australian Cattle Dog Club of America—*Joyce Rowland*
- Australian Terrier Club of America, Inc.—*William I. Christensen*
- Baltimore County Kennel Club—*Lucy C. Campbell*
- Basenji Club of America, Inc.—*Katie Campbell*
- Bayshore Companion Dog Club, Inc.—*Susan Soviero*
- Bearded Collie Club of America, Inc.—*Mr. Robert M. Lamm*
- Beaumont Kennel Club, Inc.—*Carl Holder*
- Bedlington Terrier Club of America—*Howard Solomon*
- Bell Vernon Kennel Association, Inc.—*Mike Kriegel*
- Berks County Kennel Club, Inc.—*Kathleen Kurtz*
- Bichon Frise Club of America, Inc.—*Mayno Blanding*
- Black Russian Terrier Club of America—*Susan Sholar*
- Border Collie Society of America—*Lisa M. Pruksa*
- Borzoi Club of America, Inc.—*Prudence G. Hlatky*
- Briard Club of America, Inc.—*Diane Reid*
- Bronx County Kennel Club—*Alexa Samarotto*
- Brookhaven Kennel Club, Inc.—*Marie A. Fiore*
- Bryn Mawr Kennel Club—*Victoria Glickstein*
- Bucks County Kennel Club, Inc.—*Priscilla Gabosch*
- Bull Terrier Club of America—*Jane Messineo Lindquist*
- Bulldog Club of America—*Link Newcomb*
- Burlington County Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mr. Daniel J. Smyth, Esq.*
- Butler County Kennel Club, Inc.—*Barbara Ioia*
- 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—*Matthew Townsend*
- Carroll Kennel Club—*Mrs. Rachann E. Mayer*
- Catoctin Kennel Club—*Joseph Fitzgerald*
- Catonsville Kennel Club—*Beverly A. Drake*
- Central Indiana Kennel Club, Inc.—*Sue Meachem*
- Central Ohio Kennel Club—*Rebecca Campbell*
- Chain O'Lakes Kennel Club—*Jason Hoke*
- Charleston Kennel Club—*Terri Hallman*
- Chinese Shar-Pei Club of America, Inc.—*Marge B. Calltharp*
- Chow Chow Club, Inc.—*Margaret DiCorleto*
- Classic Toy Dog Club of Western Massachusetts—*Dr. Stephen Lawrence*
- Clearwater Kennel Club—*Daniel T. Stolz*

Clermont County Kennel Club, Inc.—

Marjorie Underwood

Clumber Spaniel Club of America, Inc.—

Kelly E. Lease

Colorado Kennel Club—*Mrs. Louise Leone*

Colorado Springs Kennel Club—*Mr.*

Douglas W. Johnson

Columbia Kennel Club, Inc.—*Nili Young*

Columbia Missouri Kennel Club—*Jefferson*

Sossamon

Columbia Terrier Association of

Maryland—*Leslie A. Jaseph*

Conroe Kennel Club—*Jane Bates*

Conyers Kennel Club of Georgia—*Dr.*

Yves Belmont

Dachshund Club of America, Inc.—*Mr.*

John Brading

Dalmatian Club of America, Inc.—*Dr.*

Charles Garvin

Dandie Dinmont Terrier Club of America,

Inc.—*Richard Yoho*

Dayton Kennel Club, Inc.—*Leah H. Schiller*

Del-Otse-Nango Kennel Club—*Stephanie*

A. Crawford

Delaware Water Gap Kennel Club—*Dr. A.*

D. Butherus

Devon Dog Show Association, Inc.—*Meg*

Weitz

Doberman Pinscher Club of America—

Glen Lajeski

Dog Fanciers Association of Oregon,

Inc.—*Patti L. Strand*

Dog Obedience Club of Hollywood, Inc.—

Alyson Casper

Dog Owners' Training Club of Maryland,
Inc.—*Margaret Kudirka*

Durango Kennel Club—*Donald E.*

Schwartz, V.M.D

Durham Kennel Club Inc—*Mr. Jack E.*

Sappenfield, II

Eastern Dog Club—*Frederick R. Vogel*

Eastern German Shorthaired Pointer Club,

Inc.—*Robert Rynkiewicz*

Elm City Kennel Club—*Dr. Gregory J.*

Paveza

English Cocker Spaniel Club of America,

Inc.—*Mrs. Beth Hendrick*

English Setter Association of America,

Inc.—*Dr. Brenda J. Parsons, D.V.M.*

Evansville Kennel Club, Inc.—*Heidi Kilgore*

Fargo-Moorhead Kennel Club—*Sarah*

Ford

Farmington Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—

Terrie Breen

Field Spaniel Society of America—*Lori Carver*

Finger Lakes Kennel Club, Inc.—*Margaret*

B. Pough

Finnish Spitz Club of America—*Kim*

Raleigh

First Dog Training Club of Northern New

Jersey, Inc.—*Mary D. Curtis*

Flat-Coated Retriever Society of America,

Inc.—*Neal Goodwin*

Fort Worth Kennel Club—*Harold Tatro III*

Framingham District Kennel Club, Inc.—

Gale Golden

Furniture City Kennel Club, Inc.—*Merry*

J. Millner

Galveston County Kennel Club, Inc.—

Cathy De La Garza

Garden State All Terrier Club, Inc.—*Mr.*

Richard L. Reynolds

German Pinscher Club of America—

Barbara L. Visinski

German Shepherd Dog Club of America—

Dr. Carmen L. Battaglia

German Wirehaired Pointer Club of

America, Inc.—*Joan Payton*

Giant Schnauzer Club of America, Inc.—

Chris Reed

Gig Harbor Kennel Club—*James R. Dok*

Glens Falls Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mrs.*

Bonnie Lapham

Gloucester County Kennel Club, Inc.—

Barbara Breidenback

Gloucester Kennel Club of Virginia—

Debbie Hockaday

Golden Retriever Club of America—*Mrs.*

Ellen Hardin

Gordon Setter Club of America, Inc.—

Nance O. Skoglund

Grand Rapids Kennel Club—*Mrs. Carol L.*

Johnson

Greater Clark County Kennel Club Inc—

Ms. Karen J. Burgess

Greater Collin Kennel Club, Inc.—*Barbara*

Shaw

Greater Fredericksburg Kennel Club—

Helen Norton

Greater Ocala Dog Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Penny*

DiSiena

Greater Philadelphia Dog Fanciers

Association—*Mr. Jerry A. Berkowitz*

Greater Swiss Mountain Dog Club of

America, Inc.—*Joanne Schottinger*

Greenville Kennel Club—*Gloria Askins*

Greenwich Kennel Club—*Donna Gilbert*

Greyhound Club of America—*Kathleen B.*

Whitaker

Harrisburg Kennel Club, Inc.—*Sandra L.*

Rolenaitis

Hatboro Dog Club, Inc.—*Sally L. Fineburg*

Heart of the Plains Kennel Club—*Patricia*

M. Cruz

Hendersonville Kennel Club—*Elizabeth*

Ann Brown

Hockamock Kennel Club, Inc.—*Nancy Fisk*

Houston Kennel Club, Inc.—*Thomas D.*

Pincus

Hungarian Pumi Club of America —*Nancy*

Nelson

Huntingdon Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—

Susan Ratz

Huntington Kennel Club, Inc.—*Ms. Marile*

A. Waterstraat

International Kennel Club of Chicago,

Inc.—*Mr. D S. Pfeil*

Irish Red and White Setter Association of

America—*Christopher M. Orcutt*

Irish Setter Club of America, Inc.—*Ms.*

Karolynne M. McAteer

Irish Water Spaniel Club of America—*Dan*

Sayers

Irish Wolfhound Club of America—

Eugenia Hunter

Japanese Chin Club of America—*Ms. Cecilia Resnick*

Keeshond Club of America, Inc.—*Richard Su*

Kenilworth Kennel Club of Connecticut, Inc.—*Doreen Weintraub*

Kennel Club of Beverly Hills—*Thomas Powers*

Kennel Club of Buffalo, Inc.—*Margaret Doster*

Kennel Club of Northern New Jersey, Inc.—*Dr. Suzanne H. Hampton*

Kennel Club of Riverside—*Sylvia A. Thomas*

Kuvasz Club of America—*Agi Hejja*

Labrador Retriever Club, Inc.—*Tony Emilio*

Ladies' Dog Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Arna B. Margolies*

Lake Shore Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Diana L. Skibinski*

Lakes Region Kennel Club, Inc.—*Deborah L. Kreider*

Lancaster Kennel Club, Inc.—*Carolyn M. Vack*

Land O'Lakes Kennel Club, Inc.—*Jan Croft*

Lawrenceville Kennel Club, Inc.—*Robert N. LaBerge*

Lehigh Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—*Cindy Meyer*

Leonberger Club of America—*Don James*

Longshore-Southport Kennel Club, Inc.—*Michaelann Mako*

Los Encinos Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mr. Desmond J. Murphy*

Louisville Kennel Club, Inc.—*Debra H. Owen*

Magic Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—*Ruth Crumb*

Mahoning-Shenango Kennel Club, Inc.—*Jessica Ricker*

Manatee Kennel Club—*Judy Seltrecht*

Marion Ohio Kennel Club, Inc.—*Lynn Garvin*

Maryland Kennel Club—*Gary Sarvinas*

Mastiff Club of America, Inc.—*Mary L. Speer*

Mid-Continent Kennel Club of Tulsa, Inc.—*Mr. Marc Crews*

Middleburg Kennel Club—*Beth Wilder*

Miniature American Shepherd Club of the USA—*Cynthia Weight-Carter*

Miniature Bull Terrier Club of America—*Dr. Marci Cook*

Mispillion Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mr. Todd Clyde*

Mississippi Valley Kennel Club—*Gretchen Bernardi*

Montgomery County Kennel Club—*Ms. Ida E. Weinstock*

Monticello New York Kennel Club, Inc.—*Barry A. Hoovis*

Morris Hills Dog Training Club, Inc.—*Eleanor Campbell*

Mount Ogden Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Karen Park*

Mt. Baker Kennel Club, Inc.—*Jane F. Ruthford*

Myrtle Beach Kennel Club—*Sylvia Arrowwood*

National Beagle Club—*Eddie Dziuk*

National Capital Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mr. Alfred J. Ferruggiaro*

National Shiba Club of America—*Maggi Strouse*

New England Dog Training Club, Inc.—*Lucy Grant-Ruane*

Newfoundland Club of America, Inc.—*Julie Poulin Siefert*

Norfolk Terrier Club—*Susan Schneider*

North Shore Kennel Club—*Holly E. Johnson*

Northeastern Maryland Kennel Club—*Ann M. Schultz*

Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever Club (USA)—*Brenda W. Dorman*

Obedience Training Club of Hawaii, Inc.—*Beverly H. Conroy*

Old Dominion Kennel Club of Northern Virginia, Inc.—*Susan D. Sorbo*

Olympic Kennel Club, Inc.—*Tim Ufkes*

Orange Empire Dog Club, Inc.—*Bradford Yamada*

Otterhound Club of America—*Joellen Gregory, D.V.M.*

Pacific Coast Pekingese Club—*Frank Meister*

Pasanita Obedience Club Inc.—*Mrs. Betty M. Winthers*

Pasco Florida Kennel Club—*Renee L. Popkey*

Pekingese Club of America—*Steven Hamblin*

Penn Treaty Kennel Club, Inc.—*Bettina M. Sterling*

Pharaoh Hound Club of America—*Dominic P. Carota*

Philadelphia Dog Training Club, Inc.—*Larry Wilson*

Piedmont Kennel Club, Inc.—*Dean Burwell*

Plainfield Kennel Club—*Sheila Gallizzo*

Plum Creek Kennel Club of Colorado—*Marlene Groves*

Port Chester Obedience Training Club, Inc.—*Kathy Gregory*

Providence County Kennel Club, Inc.—*Kristen Burgoyne*

Putnam Kennel Club, Inc.—*Berna H. Welch*

Puyallup Valley Dog Fanciers, Inc.—*Frances Stephens*

Queensboro Kennel Club, Inc.—*Cameron Capozzi*

Rhode Island Kennel Club, Inc.—*Grace Wilkinson*

Rhodesian Ridgeback Club of the United States, Inc.—*Mary L. Elliott*

Rio Grande Kennel Club—*Mary E. Ferguson*

Riverhead Kennel Club, Inc.—*Michael Capozzi*

Rockford-Freeport Illinois Kennel Club—*Barbara L. Burns*

Rogue Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—*Paul Bodeving*

Rubber City Kennel Club—*Cathy Gaidos*

Salisbury Maryland Kennel Club—*Karen Cottingham*

Samoyed Club of America, Inc.—*Gary Griffin*

San Antonio Kennel Club, Inc.—*Nancy J. Shaw*

San Gabriel Valley Kennel Club—*Dorinne Waterman*

San Mateo Kennel Club, Inc.—*Harvey M. Wooding*

Santa Maria Kennel Club, Inc.—*Amita Forde*

Saratoga New York Kennel Club—*MaryLou Cuddy*

Saw Mill River Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mimi Winkler*

Schipperke Club of America, Inc.—*Lee A. Stusnick*

Scottish Deerhound Club of America, Inc.—*Dr. Robert S. Dove, D.V.M.*

Scottish Terrier Club of America—*Helen A. Prince*

Seattle Kennel Club, Inc.—*Jeff Ryman*

Shenandoah Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—*Sharyn Y. Hutchens*

Shoreline Dog Fanciers Association of Orange County—*Susan L. Hamil*

Siberian Husky Club of America, Inc.—*Ann M. Cook*

Silky Terrier Club of America, Inc.—*Leeann Podruch, D.D.S.*

Skye Terrier Club of America—*Brice Wonders*

Skyline Kennel Club, Inc.—*Gloria Shaver*

Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier Club of America—*Sally Sotirovich*

South Jersey Kennel Club, Inc.—*Jean Edwards*

South Shore Kennel Club, Inc.—*Linda C. Flynn*

South Windsor Kennel Club—*Mrs. Laurie Maulucci*

Southern Adirondack Dog Club, Inc.—*John V. Ioia*

Space Coast Kennel Club of Palm Bay—*Mrs. Glenda Stephenson*

Spinone Club of America—*Karen Luckey*

Springfield Kennel Club, Inc.—*Dr. Thomas M. Davies*

St. Bernard Club of America, Inc.—*Susan Weigel*

St. Croix Valley Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Deborah J. Wilkins*

St. Louis Collie Club, Inc.—*Isabel Ososki*

St. Petersburg Dog Fanciers Association—*Chris Murphy*

Standard Schnauzer Club of America—*Dr. Harvey Mohrenweiser*

Staten Island Kennel Club, Inc.—*Marjorie Martorella*

Steel City Kennel Club, Inc.—*Miss Susan M. Napady*

Suffolk County Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mr. Robert Eisele*

Sun Maid Kennel Club of Fresno, Inc.—*Marcy L. Zingler*

Susque-Nango Kennel Club, Inc.—*Laura Trainor*

Sussex Hills Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Florence Duggan*

Taconic Hills Kennel Club, Inc.—*Marylyn DeGregorio*

Talbot Kennel Club—*Ann S. Wallace*

Tampa Bay Kennel Club—*Mr. Eugene R. Biller*

Tennessee Valley Kennel Club—*Mrs. Richella M. Veatch*

Texas Kennel Club, Inc.—*Dr. Michael Knight*

Topeka Kennel Club, Inc.—*Diana J. Komarek*

Toy Dog Breeders Association of Southern California—*Mrs. Marla Meindl-Capozzi*

Trap Falls Kennel Club, Inc.—*Christopher L. Sweetwood*

Trenton Kennel Club, Inc.—*Marty Smith*

Trinity Valley Kennel Club—*Debby Fowler*

Twin Brooks Kennel Club, Inc.—*Patricia C. Sarles*

Two Cities Kennel Club—*Eduardo T. Fugiwara*

United States Kerry Blue Terrier Club, Inc.—*Mr. Carl C. Ashby, III*

United States Lakeland Terrier Club—*Maria Sacco*

Upper Potomac Valley Kennel Club—*Robert Lachman*

Utah Valley Kennel Club—*Kelly D. Reimschiessel*

Valley Forge Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Carol Fisher*

Vancouver Kennel Club—*Jolyne Lea*

Vizsla Club of America, Inc.—*Mrs. Kathy A. Rust*

Wampanoag Kennel Club, Inc.—*Christine Gonsalves*

Washington State Obedience Training Club, Inc.—*John J. Cadalso, Jr.*

Waterloo Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Jan Ritchie-Gladstone*

Waukesha Kennel Club, Inc.—*Marthina L. Greer*

Welsh Springer Spaniel Club of America, Inc.—*Richard Rohrbacher*

Welsh Terrier Club of America, Inc.—*Bruce R. Schwartz*

Westbury Kennel Association, Inc.—*Peter J. Festa*

Western Reserve Kennel Club, Inc.—*Mrs. Ann F. Yuhasz*

Whidbey Island Kennel Club Inc—*Laura Myles*

Wilmington Kennel Club, Inc.—*Bonnie Bieber*

Winston-Salem Dog Training Club, Inc.—*Jane Fitzin*

Woodstock Dog Club, Inc.—*Karen Derwey*

Yorkshire Terrier Club of America, Inc.—*Pamela A. Langstein*



**AMERICAN KENNEL CLUB
DELEGATES MEETING
SEPTEMBER 10, 2024**

Dennis B. Sprung, President in the Chair, called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. ET.

The National Anthem was sung by Anthony Caputo, AKC Broadcast Manager.

The first order of business was the vote for the Delegate Standing Committees. (Voting.)

The meeting recessed for the Delegate Forum. The topic was “Paws and Progress: Exploring Developmental Orthopedic Challenges and Sports Injuries in our Canine Companions,” presented by Dr. Bryan T. Torres, Associate Professor, Orthopedics and Sports Medicine, College of Veterinary Medicine, University of Georgia.

The Chair called the meeting back in session at 10:30 am.

The Chair introduced the persons seated on the dais: Dr. Thomas Davies,

Chairman; Dominic Palleschi Carota, Vice Chairman; Joan Corbisiero, Professional Registered Parliamentarian; Gina DiNardo, Executive Secretary; Shari Cathey, Court Reporter.

Condolences were offered in the recent passing of members of the Delegate Body and former AKC Staff:

Viola Burgos, on August 6, 2024. She was the Delegate for the Naugatuck Valley Kennel Club since May of 1995.

Kathleen "Marby" Kelly, on August 30, 2024, Delegate for the Boston Terrier Club of America since December of 1985.

Deborah Ann Hokkanen, on September 3, 2024, Delegate of Worcester County Kennel Club since April 2007.

Alfred L. Cheauré, on August 24, 2024. He served as the 19th President of the American Kennel Club from 1996 to 2003.

The Executive Secretary read the names of Delegates seated since the last meeting: **John Brading**, Pittsboro, NC, to represent Dachshund Club of America **Alyson Casper**, Davie, FL, to represent Dog Obedience Club of Hollywood **Anita Forde**, San Luis Obispo, CA, to

represent Santa Maria Kennel Club

Jan Ritchie Gladstone, Stokesdale, NC,

to represent Waterloo Kennel Club

Robert Lamm, East Windsor, NJ, to rep-

resent Bearded Collie Club of America

Chris Murphy, Elizabethtown, KY, to

represent St. Petersburg Dog Fanciers

Association

Desmond J. Murphy, Monroe, NY, to

represent Los Encinos Kennel Club

Karen L. Smith, Fallbrook, CA, to repre-

sent Great Western Terrier Association of

Southern California

Jefferson Sossamon, Columbia, MO, to

represent Columbia Missouri Kennel Club

Robin Springer, Klamath Falls, OR, to

represent Klamath Dog Fanciers

Cynthia Weight-Carter, Lakeside, CA,

to represent Miniature American Shepherd

Club of the USA

Berna Hart Welch, Monson, MA, to

represent Putnam Kennel Club

Brice Wonders, Oxford, PA, to represent

Skye Terrier Club of America

The following Delegates, who were attend-
ing their first meeting in-person since their
approval were introduced from the floor:

John Brading to represent Dachshund

Club of America

Alyson Casper to represent Dog

Obedience Club of Hollywood

Anita Forde to represent Santa Maria

Kennel Club

Robert Lamm to represent Bearded
Collie Club of America

Sue Meachem to represent Central
Indiana Kennel Club

Chris Murphy to represent St. Petersburg
Dog Fanciers Association

Desmond J. Murphy to represent Los
Encinos Kennel Club

Karen Park to represent Mount Ogden
Kennel Club

D. Scott Pfeil to represent International
Kennel Club of Chicago

Jefferson Sossamon to represent
Columbia Missouri Kennel Club

Cynthia Weight-Carter to represent
Miniature American Shepherd Club of the
USA

Berna Hart Welch to represent Putnam
Kennel Club

Brice Wonders to represent Skye Terrier
Club of America

The minutes of the June 11, 2024 Delegate
Meeting were published on the online July
2024 *AKC Gazette*, and the complete tran-
script was posted on the Delegate Portal on
AKC's website. There were no corrections
and the minutes were adopted as published.

The **Big Apple Working Group Club**
was duly elected as a member of the The
American Kennel Club.

Dr. Thomas Davies delivered the

Chairman's Report as follows:

Good morning, everybody. Thank you all for being here as we assemble for important votes and to commemorate a tragic date in our nation's history. As Dennis will shortly remind us, 9/11 was a day that made us all see the world in a new, sobering reality. We cannot take anything for granted, and we must always move forward to honor the people and traditions we wish to uphold. At the AKC, we cannot and do not depend on "business as usual." We need to innovate continuously to grow our sports and keep our constituents engaged.

I would like to give you some examples of how Staff is bringing new events to the purebred dog fancy and the fabulous world of AKC Sports.

The inaugural NOHS Regional show is scheduled for September 21, 2024, marking the start of a series of eight competitions that will highlight owner-handled dogs. This new pilot program, approved earlier this year by the Board of Directors, is a nationwide series to recognize and reward outstanding owner-handled dogs. The NOHS Regional event window aligns with the qualification period for the 2025 NOHS Finals in Orlando, with winners at each regional earning double qualifying points for the finals. The series begins with the Arapahoe Kennel Club in

Colorado and continues with seven more events across the country, concluding in Enumclaw, Washington next August.

NOHS is great for the sport. It began in 2012, with 71 All-Breed Events offering NOHS competition, and by 2023, there were 3,275 Conformation Events that offered it. The growth has been exceptional. We know that clubs offering NOHS yield higher entries; exhibitors are willing to travel further to compete in NOHS. Exhibitors today know the NOHS scale by heart and track their dogs' standings religiously! Clubs and exhibitors have been asking for NOHS-only events for some time, and we are delighted to be able to start offering it with this new series of regional shows. The clubs hosting these shows are working hard to celebrate this special bond between show dogs and their owners. We applaud their commitment and eagerly look forward to celebrating their success with them.

Another new event to spotlight is the first ever and inaugural AKC Rally Championship Invitational (RACH), which will be held in Orlando, Florida in December 2024 at the Orange County Convention Center. This will be a two-day event held on Thursday, December 12 and Friday, December 13, 2024.

AKC debuted Rally as an official AKC event

in January 2005 and growth since then has been steady and strong, with more than 138,000 entries in 2023. We awarded the first championship title in the sport, known as the RACH, in late 2018. The Companion Events Department responded to the many requests from Rally exhibitors for a national invitational to shine a spotlight on the best RACH dogs in the nation. 305 Rally Champion dogs will receive invitations to this first Championship. The top six dogs in each breed will be invited based on the number of triple qualifying scores earned during the qualifying period. The qualifying period is September 1, 2023 through July 30, 2024. Stop by the Companion Events area of the venue this December and cheer on these dedicated competitors.

There are also Agility updates to share. The inaugural AKC International Sweepstakes Championship is coming up on October 12 and 13, 2024 at North Carolina State University.

We created this event in response to the many requests from Agility enthusiasts to compete on international, FCI-style courses. The courses are longer, faster and said by some, to be more challenging. We at the AKC never shy away from challenges with our dogs!

Also, just ten days ago, the AKC Agility League celebrated its 2nd Annual National Championship at the Purina Farms Event Center outside St. Louis. Agility League participants play year-round locally, and this event gives them all an opportunity to come compete together on the same playing field. This year's event more than doubled in size from 2023, with more than 330 dogs and 1200 runs over the three days. Team champions were named in four skill levels. The camaraderie in the air was electric – with creative contests for crating area decorations and team shirts – and a great time was had by all. To build excitement and engagement in your Companion Events Clubs, consider creating an Agility League Team and bring on the fun!

Talk to your club members and fellow exhibitors about these new events and please share feedback with Staff. We hope these opportunities will allow veteran and new handlers alike to challenge themselves, accomplish more goals and enjoy many more wonderful experiences with dogs at their sides.

As I am sure you are aware, the Board of Directors has appointed a Chief Operating Officer. This position has not been filled for several years, and Board and Staff have decided that the position should be filled. The new COO will report for duty next week

in Raleigh. He is Gordon Comfort and comes to us with outstanding credentials. A formal introduction will occur at the December Delegate Meeting. In the meantime, should you meet him, please welcome him to the fold.

On a final note, I would like to share a personal anecdote. Fifty years ago, in March of 1974, I attended my first Delegate Meeting. At that meeting the Delegate Body voted to change the Bylaws of The American Kennel Club and allow women to serve as AKC Delegates.

So, today, instead of old white men sitting around in leather chairs, drinking bourbon and puffing on smelly cigars, we have you – our marvelous group of Delegates representing and serving our sports. Please don't misunderstand me, I certainly don't mean to suggest that all old white men don't well represent and serve our organization and sports well. Thank you.

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

This next week will be an emotional roller-coaster. Tomorrow is the 23rd anniversary of the attack on America. That 9/11, we were here together in this very room when the planes hit. There are still 53 Delegates who were serving that day. If you are in the audience today, it would be an honor if

you will please stand up to be appreciated. Thank you. Two AKC employees, Paula and I, were also here.

I'll never forget the relentless collaboration and caring for one another on the day that changed the world, plus the non-stop work of Staff led by our own incomparable Paula. Out of the ashes came an opportunity for The Great American Kennel Club to step up and play an important role in the recovery. Less than 48 hours after the attack, AKC delivered directly to the smoldering Ground Zero the much-needed portable x-ray machine for dogs that were injured in the rubble of the Twin Towers, along with donations of multiple cartons of film, aprons and gloves. As a result of witnessing those ashes, DOGNY was born. This fundraising and public art initiative raised \$3.5 million in donations over a six-month period, being the largest outreach in our history up until that time. Those funds were then given by AKC to each human/canine search and rescue team that came to the three states to help our nation. Credit to Daphna Straus, Co-Chairs Ron Menaker, Karen LeFrak and our major corporate sponsors, Hartz, Federal Express, Iams, as well as Dr. Davies' Springfield Kennel Club being the very first to support the sculptures.

Next week, will be the historical day of September 17th. In 1884, 140 years ago,

The Great American Kennel Club was founded. Now we will watch a video tribute. (Video played.)

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

Thank you, Dennis. That was an excellent presentation, and good morning to all Delegates. We always appreciate your time and your support, and we thank you for your participation.

Today, I'll be presenting key performance indicators of both non-financial and financial results, which are unaudited for the period ending June 30, 2024.

This chart represents year-to-date totals for litter and dog registrations. 2024 continues to be a year of transition following the COVID years. Litter registrations total 129,217, which is 17 percent lower than the same period in 2023. Dog registrations total 285,785, which is 14 percent lower than the same period in 2023. Usually, I comment about online registrations together, but I'm going to break those totals out for you today. Online litters are 84 percent of total litter registrations, and online dog registrations are 87 percent. Still very strong and still trending consistently with the COVID years. We thank our breeders, obviously you, the Delegate Body, our Board of Directors, and Staff

for supporting this registration program.

The second quarter results for sports and events are a different story. As of June 30, 2024, events total 14,675, which is 11 percent higher than the same period in 2023. As you can see, our entries total 1,894,320, which is 4 percent higher than the same period of the prior year.

Year-to-date, we have operating results following the Board-approved spending plan for six months ended June 30, 2024, of \$2.5 million on operating revenues of \$47 million. This is 67 percent lower than the same period last year, where our net operating income was \$7.8 million on operating revenues of \$52.2 million. Over these two periods, we're seeing a decline of operating revenue by 8.4 percent. As we see, registration and event fees total \$32.6 million, or 68 percent of total operating revenues for these six months. Advertising, sponsorship, and royalties total \$9.8 million, or 20 percent, and product and service sales total \$5.5 million, or 11-percent of total operating revenues.

Operating expenses for the six months ended June 30, 2024, total \$46.8 million, and are 3 percent higher than the same period in 2023. Staff expenses total \$23.7 million, which is 51 percent of our total

operating expense budget. Professional fees and fulfillment expenses total \$15 million, which is 32 percent of total operating expenses. Since my time here, I've noticed that we manage expense control very well, and continue to manage these program costs within our budget alignment. AKC continues to support our charitable affiliates with annual donations for these six months and plan for the rest of the year, to equal 5 percent of operating revenues.

This is aligned with the Board's approved policy. Non-operating expenses are reported to the Board with monthly financial results.

Our statement of financial position, which is our fortress of the organization, shows total assets as of June 30 at \$264 million. Investment reserves comprise the largest portion of AKC's balance sheet, and investment performance for these six months was positive at 6.2 percent. The asset allocation strategy approved by the investment policy statement, which is a governance document, helps with the market volatility. Please remember that the liability section is primarily comprised of long-term obligations for retirement and lease obligations.

All of the financial results presented today

follow generally accepted accounting principles. I thank you for your time. I appreciate your dedication, and as always, I'm available to answer any questions you may have. Thank you.

The proposed rule changes to **Chapter 9, Section 11**, and **Chapter 11, Section 12** of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* were voted on as one amendment.

The first vote was on the proposed amendments to **Chapter 9, Section 11** of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Superintendents and Show Secretaries* and **Chapter 11, Section 12** of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Dog Show Entries, Conditions of Dogs Affecting Eligibility*, which deletes “where there is no Superintendent” for greater clarity that Show Secretaries for any event, including one where the services of a Superintendent are also used by the club, must adhere to the eligibility requirements defined by Chapter 11, Section 12 of the Rules. It also deletes “where there is no Superintendent” for greater clarity that the eligibility restrictions for Show Secretaries and members of their household apply to any event they service, including one where the services of a Superintendent are also used by the club.

These amendments were proposed by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee and brought forward with approval by the AKC Board of Directors.

There were no questions or discussion.

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

The proposed rule changes to **Chapter 10, Section 2** and **Section 5** of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows* were voted on as one amendment.

The next vote was on the proposed amendments to **Chapter 10, Section 2** and **Section 5** of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Show Veterinarians*, which adds the obligation for the Show Veterinarian to examine a dog referred by the event committee for examination to those who may become ill or injured at a show and adds the obligation that any cost associated with the examination of a dog by the Show Veterinarian is to the owner or owner's agent of the dog. It replaces veterinarians with Show Veterinarians for consistency. It deletes the requirement for a club to be responsible for any expenses incurred in the examination of a dog it remands to determine if its presence endangers the health of other dogs. It also assigns responsibility for any expenses to the dog's

owner or agent.

These amendments were proposed by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee and brought forward with approval by the AKC Board of Directors.

There were no questions or discussion.

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

The next vote was on the proposed amendment **Chapter 15, Section 1** of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Protests Against Dogs*, which inserts that a dog remanded for examination by an event committee may only return to compete that same day, weekend, circuit, or cluster if the Show Veterinarian has examined the dog and determined its presence does not endanger other dogs.

This amendment was proposed by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee and brought forward with approval by the AKC Board of Directors.

There were no questions or discussion.

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

The last vote was on the proposed amend-

ment to **Chapter 14, Section 4** of the *Field Trial Rules and Standard Procedure for Retrievers*, which will standardize the rotation and make every stake to be conducted in the same fashion when it comes to the running order.

This amendment was proposed by the Retriever Field Trial Advisory Committee and brought forward with approval by the AKC Board of Directors.

There were no questions or discussion.

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

The Chair called on the Executive Secretary to read the proposed amendment to **Chapter 16, Section 2** of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Championships*.

Ms. DiNardo: This amendment is to **Chapter 16, Section 2** of the *Rules Applying to Dog Shows – Championships*, which inserts verbiage to award championship points to a class dog awarded Reserve Best in Show. Points earned would be based on the highest number of points awarded in any breed from all groups excluding that from which Best in Show advanced.

This amendment was proposed by the Delegate Dog Show Rules Committee and

brought forward with approval from the AKC Board of Directors.

It will be published in two issues of the *AKC Gazette* and you will be asked to vote on it at the December 2024 Meeting. The full text is on the worksheet previously emailed.

There were no questions or discussion.

The Chair called on Vice Chairman Dominic Palleschi Carota to recognize AKC Delegates who have served for 25 years.

Mr. Carota: Good morning, everyone. We will now honor Delegates with 25 years of service. The medallion that I will be presenting today is in recognition of meritorious and long-term contributions to the sport. This program enables us to recognize our core constituency and allows a grateful American Kennel Club the opportunity to honor our own.

If the following Delegates are here, please come up to the podium to accept your medallion. For those that are not here, the medallion will be mailed.

- Karen Burgess, Greater Clark County Kennel Club.
- Joanne Jaytanie-Duncan, Peninsula Dog Fanciers Club
- Dianne E. Franck, Langley Kennel Club

- Bob LaBerge, Lawrenceville Kennel Club
- Jeanette Nieder, Merrimack Valley Kennel Club
- Geraldine M. Shastid, Panhandle Club of Texas

(Awards presented.)

The Chair called on Dr. Tom Davies to recognize clubs celebrating 100 years of membership in the American Kennel Club.

Dr. Davies: As you know, the American Kennel Club honors our Member Clubs on their centennials. We have two clubs celebrating 100 years of membership:

- Gordon Setter Club of America, Delegate Nance Skoglund
- Queensboro Kennel Club, Delegate Cameron Capozzi

If the Delegates are here, please come up and receive your plaque commemorating your century of AKC membership.

(Awards presented.)

The Chair called on Mari-Beth O'Neill, Vice President of Sports Services for a presentation on behalf of AKC and the Junior Task Force Committee in support of 4-H Canine Clubs.

Ms. O'Neill: Good morning. This is our second presentation to clubs who are

working and supporting 4-H in their community. This has proven to be interesting because I now get phone calls, "Do you know what our club's doing?" Which is what I hope to hear more of so there will be more presentations in the future. But in the interim, I'd like today to acknowledge the Anderson Obedience Dog Training Club that supports the Madison County 4-H Dog Obedience. This club allows their 4-H members to train in their classes at no charge. 4-H members are always invited to attend any educational seminars that are sponsored for free. 4-H members and their families are always invited to attend our annual anniversary and awards dinner. 4-H members who have earned an AKC title in Conformation, Companion or Performance Events or recognized and awarded plaques. And 4-H members are not charged for Junior or Youth membership. We have 4-H members and leaders who are involved with instructing and helping other 4-H members.

Our second club that we are acknowledging today is the Olympic Kennel Club. Olympic Kennel Club has supported 4-H groups continuously since 1980, having the local club assist with set-up, tear-down, and all forms of participation and putting on their events. And most recently, they've engaged with the Eastside 4-H Hush Puppy Group to help coordinate the annual sanc-

tion match to which all proceeds from the match support the annual King County Fair. Congratulations to the Olympic Kennel Club.

If your club is doing things to support 4-H in their community, please share with me. Thank you.
(Certificates presented to Delegates.)

The Chair called on Chris Sweetwood, Delegate from Trap Falls Kennel Club, to provide an update on the AKC PAC.

Mr. Sweetwood: Good afternoon, everyone. At the last meeting, I came up here and invited you to please donate to help us get the results we need. We'll be in D.C. next week, and it's a lot easier if we go in there to get bills passed with your support. As you well know, we have a wonderful prize trip to Costa Rica. We still have some tickets available. As an added incentive, whoever purchases the most tickets today, for the top two, we have some nice cooler bags so while you're lying on the beach, you can sit there and watch the surf and have a chilled beverage. I would really appreciate it if after this meeting is over that you'll please help us out. Thank you very much, and I hope to see you outside at the donation table.

The Executive Secretary read the report on

the Nominating Committee as follows:

Ms. DiNardo: Next is the update on the Nominating Committee. At the July 2024 meeting, the Board of Directors appointed the following Delegates to the Nominating Committee to select four candidates for the Class of 2029:

- Karolynne McAteer, Chair – Irish Setter Club of America
- Joellen Gregory – Otterhound Club of America
- Don Hanson – American Lhasa Apso Club
- Maggi Strouse – National Shiba Club of America
- Mary Lou Olszewski – American Bloodhound Club

Alternate:

- Marjorie Tuff – American Shetland Sheepdog Association

The recommendations of the Nominating Committee must be submitted by October 15, 2024.

The Chair called on Karolynne McAteer, Delegate from the Irish Setter Club of America, Chair of the Nominating Committee.

Ms. McAteer: The Nominating Committee has been hard at work. It is rare that you have double digits to

interview, and we have a little bit more work to do. We will certainly deliver our proposed slate by October 15th to Ms. DiNardo.

Mr. Sprung presented the 2023 AKC Lifetime Achievement Award video. The program was created in 1999, to recognize those individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the sport of purebred dogs on a national level. Voted on by AKC Member Clubs, the winners for 2023 in Conformation, Michael Canalizo; Companion Events, Curt Curtis; Performance Events, Laurie Soutar. (Video played.)

The Chair informed the Delegates that the December 13, 2024, Delegate Meeting will be held in Orlando, Florida at the Rosen Centre Hotel prior to AKC's National Championship. Hotel information was previously emailed to the Delegates and posted to the Delegate Portal on AKC.org.

Lunch was served following the meeting's conclusion on the Terrace.

Delegates were not required to turn in your badges. New badges will be printed in December. Delegates were given an option to recycle the badge holders and lanyards.

The Chair called on the Executive Secretary to read the names of the Delegates who will serve on the Committees that did not require a vote.

Ms. DiNardo:

Delegates who self-nominated and will serve on the All-Breed Clubs Committee are:

- Marc Crews
- Margaret DiCorleto
- Margaret "Peggy" Doster
- Laurie Maulucci
- Timothy Ufkes
- Grace Wilkinson

Delegates who self-nominated and will serve on the Herding, Earthdog, Coursing and Scent Work Events Committee are:

- Carol Fisher
- Kathleen Gregory
- Robert LaBerge
- Maria Sacco

Delegates who self-nominated, and will serve on the *Perspectives* Editorial Committee are:

- Sylvia Arrowwood
- Florence Duggan
- Dr. Geno Sisneros
- Monica Henderson Stoner
- Sylvia Thomas
- Margaret "Peggy" Wolfe

The following Delegates spoke during New Business:

Gale Golden, Delegate from the Framingham District Kennel Club and Board member of the Ladies Dog Club, discussed the difficulty of clubs coordinating available dates and venues in a small state like Massachusetts, the Northeast or similar geographic areas. She noted that the AKC Board has agreed to help find alternative ways for clubs to coexist while we continue working to build our sports.

Douglas Johnson, Delegate from the Colorado Springs Kennel Club, who spoke on behalf of the Parent Club Committee announced the four recipients of the Pat Laurans Difference Maker Award for the quarter. The honorees were Mari-Beth O'Neill, Susan Hamil, Patti Strand and Larry Sorenson.

Matt Townsend, Delegate from the Carolina Working Group Association, shared the idea of the AKC having a second nationally televised show with the focus on reinforcing preservation breeding and celebrating elementary breeds. He, along with Karen Burgess, the Delegate from the Greater Clark County Kennel Club will be moving forward with this event concept. Interested Delegates are welcome

to contribute.

Kathy Gregory, Delegate from the Port Chester Obedience Training Club remarked on the gratification of including veteran dogs at the Long Island Doberman Pinscher Club Specialty, which featured a veteran parade. 20 veteran dogs participated, and it was impressive that four of the Doberman were 14 years old and three were still able to trial. She encouraged the Delegates to showcase veterans at their specialties.

Alyson Casper, Delegate from the Dog Obedience Club of Florida and Coordinator for the December issue of *Perspectives*, asked the Delegates to submit articles to the newsletter by October 15, 2024.

The Chair called on Ernest Obubah from KPMG to read the Teller's Report results on the vote for the Delegate Standing Committees.

Mr. Obubah: Here are the results: For the Bylaws Committee, the following three candidates were elected for three-year terms:

- Sylvia Arrowwood
- Jan Ritchie Gladstone
- Dr. Gregory Paveza

Also, for the Bylaws Committee, the follow-

ing candidate was elected for a one-year term:

- Chris Marston

For the Canine Health Committee, the following three candidates were elected for three-year terms:

- Susan LaCroix Hamil
- Margaret Pough
- Dr. Robert Tainsh

For the Companion Events Committee, the following four candidates were elected for three-year terms:

- Jack Cadalso
- Gail LaBerge
- Patricia Sample
- Laura Trainor

For the Delegate Advocacy and Advancement Committee, the following four candidates were elected for three-year terms:

- Marylyn DeGregorio
- Mary Lou Olszewski
- Dan Stolz
- Mimi Winkler

Also, for the Delegate Advocacy and Advancement Committee, the following candidate was elected for a two-year term:

- Marile Waterstraat

For the Dog Show Rules Committee, the following four candidates were elected for

three-year terms:

- Joe Fitzgerald
- Jason Hoke
- Barry Hoovis
- Tom Pincus

Also, for the Dog Show Rules Committee, the following candidate was elected for a one-year term:

- Matthew Townsend

For the Field Trial and Hunting Test Events Committee, the following three candidates were elected for three-year terms:

- Florence Duggan
- Karen Luckey
- Chris Orcutt

For the Parent Clubs Committee, the following four candidates were elected for three-year terms:

- Don Hanson
- Don James
- Peter Piusz
- Robin Stansell

Also, for the Parent Clubs Committee, the following candidate was elected for a one-year term:

- Harvey Wooding

The organizational meetings of the newly elected Delegate Standing Committees were scheduled to begin at 1:15 p.m. in the

Salem-Warren Room.

The Board of Directors were instructed to reconvene in the Gloucester Room immediately following the meeting.

Hearing no further business, the Chair adjourned the meeting.

(One sharp rap of the gavel.)

(Proceedings concluded at 12:04 p.m. ET.)

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

PARENT CLUB LINKS



SPORTING GROUP



American Water Spaniel



Barbet



Boykin Spaniel



Brittany



Chesapeake Bay Retriever



Clumber Spaniel



Cocker Spaniel



Curly-Coated Retriever



English Cocker Spaniel



English Setter



English Springer Spaniel



Field Spaniel



Flat-Coated Retriever



German Shorthaired Pointer



German Wirehaired Pointer



Golden Retriever



Gordon Setter



Irish Red and White Setter



Irish Setter



Irish Water Spaniel



Labrador Retriever



Lagotto Romagnolo



Nederlandse Kooikerhondje



Nova Scotia Duck Tolling Retriever



Pointer



Spinone Italiano



Sussex Spaniel



Vizsla



Weimaraner



Welsh Springer Spaniel



Wirehaired Pointing Griffon



Wirehaired Vizsla

PARENT CLUB LINKS



HOUND GROUP



Afghan Hound



American English
Coonhound



American
Foxhound



Azawakh



Basenji



Basset Hound



Beagle



Black and Tan
Coonhound



Bloodhound



Bluetick
Coonhound



Borzoi



Bracco Italiano



Cirneco dell'Etna



Dachshund



English Foxhound



Grand Basset
Griffon Vendéen



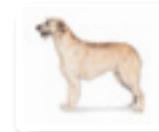
Greyhound



Harrier



Ibizan Hound



Irish Wolfhound



Norwegian
Elkhound



Otterhound



Petit Basset
Griffon Vendéen



Pharaoh Hound



Plott



Portuguese
Podengo Pequeno



Redbone
Coonhound



Rhodesian
Ridgeback



Saluki



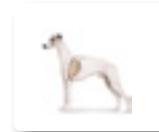
Scottish
Deerhound



Sloughi



Treeing Walker
Coonhound



Whippet

PARENT CLUB LINKS



WORKING GROUP



Akita



Alaskan Malamute



Anatolian Shepherd Dog



Bernese Mountain Dog



Black Russian Terrier



Boerboel



Boxer



Bullmastiff



Cane Corso



Chinook



Doberman Pinscher



Dogo Argentino



Dogue de Bordeaux



German Pinscher



Giant Schnauzer



Great Dane



Great Pyrenees



Greater Swiss Mountain Dog



Komondor



Leonberger



Kuvasz



Mastiff



Neapolitan Mastiff



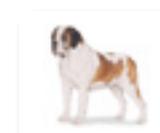
Newfoundland



Portuguese Water Dog



Rottweiler



Saint Bernard



Samoyed



Siberian Husky



Standard Schnauzer



Tibetan Mastiff

PARENT CLUB LINKS



TERRIER GROUP



Airedale Terrier



American Hairless Terrier



American Staffordshire Terrier



Australian Terrier



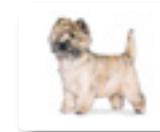
Bedlington Terrier



Border Terrier



Bull Terrier



Cairn Terrier



Cesky Terrier



Dandie Dinmont Terrier



Fox Terrier (Smooth)



Glen of Imaal Terrier



Irish Terrier



Kerry Blue Terrier



Lakeland Terrier



Manchester Terrier



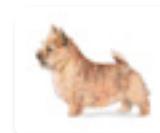
Miniature Bull Terrier



Miniature Schnauzer



Norfolk Terrier



Norwich Terrier



Parson Russell Terrier



Rat Terrier



Russell Terrier



Scottish Terrier



Sealyham Terrier



Skye Terrier



Soft Coated Wheaten Terrier



Staffordshire Bull Terrier



Welsh Terrier



West Highland White Terrier



Wire Fox Terrier

PARENT CLUB LINKS



TOY GROUP



Affenpinscher



Biewer Terrier



Brussels Griffon



Cavalier King Charles Spaniel



Chihuahua



Chinese Crested



English Toy Spaniel



Havanese



Italian Greyhound



Japanese Chin



Maltese



Manchester Terrier (Toy)



Miniature Pinscher



Papillon



Pekingese



Pomeranian



Poodle (Toy)



Pug



Shih Tzu



Silky Terrier



Toy Fox Terrier



Yorkshire Terrier

PARENT CLUB LINKS



NON-SPORTING GROUP



American Eskimo Dog



Bichon Frise



Boston Terrier



Bulldog



Chinese Shar-Pei



Chow Chow



Coton de Tulear



Dalmatian



Finnish Spitz



French Bulldog



Keeshond



Lhasa Apso



Löwchen



Norwegian Lundehund



Poodle (Miniature)



Schipperke



Poodle (Standard)



Shiba Inu



Tibetan Spaniel



Tibetan Terrier



Xoloitzcuintli

PARENT CLUB LINKS



HERDING GROUP



Australian Cattle Dog



Australian Shepherd



Bearded Collie



Beauceron



Belgian Laekenois



Belgian Malinois



Belgian Sheepdog



Belgian Tervuren



Bergamasco



Berger Picard



Border Collie



Bouvier des Flandres



Briard



Canaan Dog



Cardigan Welsh Corgi



Collie (Rough)



Collie (Smooth)



Entlebucher Mountain Dog



Finnish Lapphund



German Shepherd Dog



Icelandic Sheepdog



Lancashire Heeler



Miniature American Shepherd



Mudi



Norwegian Buhund



Old English Sheepdog



Pembroke Welsh Corgi



Polish Lowland Sheepdog



Puli



Pumi



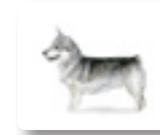
Pyrenean Shepherd



Shetland Sheepdog



Spanish Water Dog



Swedish Vallhund



AKC REGISTERED HANDLERS

The American Kennel Club Registered Handlers Program establishes criteria and standards for responsible, knowledgeable professional handlers. All handlers enrolled in the Program have met these criteria and made the commitment to follow the guidelines and Code of Ethics as set forth by the AKC.

For additional information concerning the Registered Handlers Program, click here:

<http://www.akc.org/events/handlers/>

For information on upcoming RHP Handling Clinics

<http://www.akc.org/events/junior-showmanship/junior-clinics/>

<http://www.akc.org/events/handlers/adult-clinics/>