



# Perspectives

The Delegates' Newsletter

Volume 29, No. 3

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# Perspectives WRITERS' GUIDELINES

Thank you for your interest in contributing to *Perspectives*. Following are guidelines we ask our contributors to follow. They simplify our jobs as editors and yours as writers and help us produce a quality publication while enabling us to get *Perspectives* out on time.

- **Write for your audience.** *Perspectives* is prepared by and for AKC Delegates who represent a wide variety of member clubs through the country. Our readers are very knowledgeable dog people.
- **Be certain that any facts in your article are accurate.** Double-check them. Clearly state when a statement is your own opinion.
- Whenever possible and appropriate, **try to include input/quotes from others who are experts on your topic.** Always attribute any quote to its original source.
- **Articles should be submitted typewritten or electronically, via e-mail.** Solicited articles should be sent to the committee member who requested the article. Unsolicited articles should be submitted to the Issue Coordinator for the upcoming issue OR the Editor.

- **We suggest articles be approximately 500 to 1500 words in length.**
- Do not rely solely on spelling and grammar check, as they do not proof word usage. **After preparing your article, read it once more before submitting it.** Use a dictionary to check word meaning and spelling.
- **Send in your article electronically, as early as possible.** Submissions will be due by the 15th of the month following each Delegates Meeting. If your article arrives after the issue deadline, it may not be used in the current issue and may be returned to you or held until the next issue.
- **A submission to *Perspectives* may not be reproduced in other publications without the written permission of the author and the *Perspectives* Editor.**
- **Any product in the name of a committee must be approved for release by the committee prior to publication in *Perspectives*.**

Again — thank you for your interest. Without you, there would not be a *Perspectives*.

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The coordinator for the **December 2016** issue of *Perspectives* will be **Monica Henderson Stoner**. Please email articles directly to her at [tsent@ix.netcom](mailto:tsent@ix.netcom). with a copy to Sylvia Thomas at [Sylvia.Thomas@rccd.edu](mailto:Sylvia.Thomas@rccd.edu) by October 15, 2016.



# Perspectives

The Delegates' Newsletter

*Perspectives* is a publication for, and written by, the Delegates, with an occasional article solicited by Editorial Board members **ONLY** from acknowledged experts in their field. It is a forum for

the exchange of ideas, for argument, for news. Through this medium, we hope to become better informed and, thereby, better equipped to fulfill our responsibilities as Delegates. Your contributions are welcome, and necessary, in making this publication a useful enterprise. Please assist the Editorial Board by submitting material via e-mail. We reserve the right to reasonably edit all copy submitted. Opinions expressed in *Perspectives* are not necessarily representative of the views of the Editor, the *Perspectives* Editorial Board, or of the American Kennel Club.

# SPEAKING FOR MYSELF

DANIEL J. SMYTH, *ESQUIRE*, Delegate, Burlington County Kennel Club  
Chair, Perspectives Editorial Committee

Opinion



The new judge's procedures, having been enacted, present to anyone attempting to get new breeds a daunting challenge in meeting the requirements of having met certain requirements and having sufficient CEUs (Component Educational

Unit) in a new breed sought. Designed to assure that the judge has adequate experience in the breed learning process to be able to judge the breed, there are many ways in which one can earn the right of being a permit judge.

First off, a CEU is a Component Educational Unit, described and laid out on a chart, similar to trying to rearrange a Rubik's cube. Work at it long enough, and a few sides will come together. Fortunately, it does not have to be perfect and the combination of CEUs needed can be accumulated in enough ways to allow the permit judge to get the right to go on to the next step.

This article is not about the CEUs, it is about one of the factors that remains constant in all applications. That requirement is the passing of the breed standard test. These well thought out tests are a challenge compelling one to thoroughly become familiar with the breed standard with an emphasis on faults and disqualifications. These tests are not the issue either.

The real issue here is a logistical one of fairness to the Delegate judge. Each time a judge takes a test, for a new breed application or a new breed is accepted to an existing group, it must be accompanied with a check for \$25.00, which is kind of initiation fee to the breed. We all understand the cost of processing judges' applications! Add to this, the cost of pursuing the illusive CEUs such as seminar and workshop attendance, or attending breed nationals, traveling to a show to do Apprentice Training, as well as the pursuit of other CEU opportunities including the very important kennel visits. It is true, education is expensive, but for the Delegate judge there is no opportunity to recoup the expense or

even a part of it.

As we know, the Delegates remain unable to charge a fee for their services. Recently, the Executive Secretary released a strong letter defining what is permissible and what is not. In this regard, educational expenses were not mentioned.

The Sporting group is a good example of the potential expense involved for a Delegate who is interested in judging that group. At the end of 2015, there were thirty two breeds within its compilation. The cost of taking the breed exams to complete that one group alone is \$800.00. Add to this the cost of travel to attend a National, or attend shows where ringside mentoring can occur for thirty two breeds, kennel visits and other learning experiences cost for transportation and lodging, it all adds up. Seminars and judge's learning weekends, are significantly expensive when you add to the cost of the seminar the expense of lodging and food. Most likely if it is extended over several days, loss of work or vacation days occur.

Okay, so at this point you are probably thinking, well they have chosen to do that and no one is making them seek this expansion of their canine education. True, it is voluntary, but what is not voluntary for the delegate body is the ability to recoup these expenses and losses. The prohibition against charging a fee, places an unequal and burdensome situation on the Delegate.

Let's remember that being a Delegate is a voluntary position that comes at an expense to most Delegates. There are some that get reimbursement, but many do not or receive a reimbursement that covers partial, but not all expenses. This expense is truly within the discretion of the party desiring to participate, but then the line is drawn. For the same party to go further and seek to use their dog experiences and knowledge and actually judge within the sport of dogs, they are compelled by antiquated thinking processes to sacrifice further. This sacrifice is becoming more and more expensive.

The prohibition against charging may have made sense a hundred years ago. Now with the changes in our organization, as well as the ability to solicit assignments, advertising and the ability to communi-

cate instantly over the internet, this rule has outlived its reasonableness.

It is disconcerting in this day of declining entries at shows, that this rule has elevated the status of the “free” Delegate judge, regardless of the quality of their judging abilities. Shows desiring to keep their budgets under control, readily admit they hire Delegates “because they are not allowed to charge a fee.”

Having come full circle, where does this leave the delegate judge? Basically he or she is unable to recoup even the basic costs of their education. Ok, I hear you mumbling that they chose to be a Delegate and they knew the cost to them personally. Well did they? Did they know that it might cost them a taxed fee by the AKC every time a new breed enters the group or for each new breed they seek to judge? It wasn't this way when this Delegate “no charge” rule went into effect. The judge's application procedures have changed, the cost of obtaining this education has changed, yet the Delegate body fails to protect its own, and allow them to fairly charge a reason-

able fee, not as a money maker, but to simply recoup the cost of getting new breeds.

As Chair of DAAC, the committee and I worry about the loss of good experienced Delegates who have to choose between their growing judge's expenses and being a seasoned Delegate. Why not realize that their exit is hurting the Delegate body?

I believe that it would be appropriate for each judge who is a Delegate to charge an educational expense as part of his/her judging expenses to each club where he/she does an assignment. Clubs are free to negotiate the contract with each judge, so there is no harm to the club. I would urge either General Counsel, the Judges Department or the By-Laws Committee to render an opinion as to the appropriate nature of such a line expense item. It is not a fee, it is truly an expense. Perhaps if some relief is given, we can hold on to some of our good and experienced Delegates, and put some component of fairness into this onerous, unfair and outdated rule.

## AKC CANINE COLLEGE: WHAT IS IT, WHERE DO WE STAND, WHERE IS IT GOING?

*J. CHARLIE GARVIN, M.D., Delegate, Dalmatian Club of America*

I have been asked to write this article for Perspectives to bring the Delegates up to date on the status and future plans for the AKC Canine College.

The origin began several years ago during the explorations and discussions of the AKC Judging Task Force. The group realized that the information a prospective judge needs to obtain to become familiar with a new breed can be challenging to acquire, expensive, time consuming, and variable in quality. An early pilot project devised an on-line simulated in ring judging experience, with the goal of enhancing, not replacing, actual hands-on evaluations.

Further experience taught that there is a wide expanse of knowledge within the AKC organization, and such knowledge would be valuable to our constituents, including judges - conformation, performance and companion, breeders, trainers, stewards, groomers, and others. The goal of this online learning center is to make the transfer of that knowledge as effective and efficient as possible, using the latest pedagogic and distance learning technology avail-



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CANINE COLLEGE™

able.

There have been several pilot projects developed along the way, with continuing incremental improvements. The new version of the distance-learning platform has multiple potential uses throughout the AKC infrastructure, and was recently used successfully to teach vital human resources information to numerous AKC employees. Focus groups and beta testing have been ongoing components of the project.

The next major step is the planned initial release of the AKC Canine College to the public, scheduled for September 1, 2016. Some of the important features to be included are educational seminars on the Poodle, Lagotto Romagnolo, and Irish Red and

GARVIN, *cont'd*

White Setter; on-line open book exams for all Sporting, Terrier and Toy breeds; required educational material for Bred With H.E.A.R.T. members; and training for CGC Evaluators. There will be extensive opportunities for participants to provide feedback; discovering errors and suggesting improvements will ensure that future releases will be even better. Enhanced customer service and technical support will be available for those needing additional help.

The open book breed exams that have been a part of the judge's application process for many years have been improved in this on-line version. There will still be twenty-five questions per breed, but the questions that had leading answers, such as "all of the above" or "none of the above" have been removed. There will be a larger pool of questions from which twenty-five will be randomly selected for each session. The order of questions and the order of each set of possible answers are also randomized. Missed questions are immediately identified for the test-taker, and there is no time limit. The scoring is unchanged – two wrong answers or one missed disqualification question is a failing score. Anyone who fails on the first try can take the breed test a second time as soon or as late as they choose.

To improve convenience and efficiency, there will also be an e-portfolio for approved and aspiring judges. The e-portfolio is an online storage area that will allow every judge to upload, organize, and maintain their record of all pertinent education and experiences. The contents of the e-portfolio can be shared with the Judges Operations Department with the click of a button, no longer requiring faxing, traditional mailing, or emailing to send records of experience when applying to judge.

The AKC Board has approved a three-year implementation plan that will benefit essentially every part of our AKC constituency. It is designed to be flexible, scalable, and continually improved. All aspects will be ADA compliant, and the vast majority of offerings will be suitable for all mobile devices.

Of course, the educational opportunities of the AKC Canine College are not intended to replace the in-person hands-on experiences that are vital to the understanding and appreciation of any breed. There is no substitute for being able to attend a national specialty to observe and evaluate a large number of dogs, or for hands-on learning demonstrations, or for the valuable insight that can be gained from talking with an experienced breeder or mentor. The AKC Canine College is a tool that can be used effectively and efficiently as a supplement to what has been available for years.

It is important to recognize the great assistance that has been provided by volunteers, parent clubs, breeders and their dogs, preliminary testers, and those who have offered suggestions and feedback. Their efforts will enhance the overall quality of the entire program. The outstanding work of AKC staff, especially Leslie Fetzer and her team, has transformed the concept into reality.

In summary, the AKC Canine College will allow the American Kennel Club to extend learning and certification opportunities to individuals without the limitations of geography and time. Offering courses online will allow consistency in content and quality to reach all AKC audiences.

Thank you for your continuing support, and if you have any questions about this, please feel free to contact me, [jcg@akc.org](mailto:jcg@akc.org)

*Thank you*

to the September, 2016 *Perspectives* Coordinator,  
**Sylvia Arrowwood**, and our contributing writers.

Their hard work made this issue possible.

# TOMORROW'S STARS

KATHRYNANN SARVINAS, Delegate, Dog Owner's Training Club of Maryland

PeeWees

I had the opportunity to judge the PeeWee class at the Burlington County Kennel Club (BCKC) on June 5, 2016. I really had fun with these young people who were enthusiastic and determined to do a good job. All seven of the entrants came into the ring smiling and ready to learn. These young people, the future of our sport, were alert and paid attention to the instructions and suggestions that were given to them. They were appreciative of the time I spent with them.

In addition to the members of BCKC who volunteered to help out, I utilized some of the juniors that I judged prior to the PeeWee class as my "assistants." This gave them insight into setting up the ring and some of the work that goes on prior to the show. It also allowed them to assume the roles of mentors which is a good idea since it appears the younger children readily learn from older children and may be less intimidated than when working with adults.

Of course, as exhibitors, they were thrilled to receive the pretty multi-colored participant rosettes that were given to each entrant. In this case, the rosettes and BCKC luncheon were donated by Johnny Shoemaker, who judged the day before at Huntington Valley KC, and who has taken on the role of "Father of the PeeWee classes!"

*This is not just an activity for the children, it is a fun family event,*

exhibitors in the making for a long time to come.

This is not just an activity for the children, it is a fun family event with parents and siblings present to encourage, support, and join in. Everyone gets into the spirit of the



*Big hug for a job well done!*

event. Smiles all around. A little lunch and cake afterward, all add to the makings of a memorable family event. Discussions, praise, and positivity were the operative words of the day. Ultimately the feeling of success and enthusiasm was instilled in each participant and family as they reveled in the knowledge that these PeeWee handlers had launched their involvement in the sport of dogs. They went home happy and proud.

Let's hold onto them and this spirit. All clubs should get involved. It doesn't take much and is not expensive nor time consuming, but it definitely has its rewards. Winners all around as we get novice participants, family involvement, and happy club members who will catch the infectious smiles and excitement. Invest in tomorrow, speak to your show chair about adding this event. There is no reason not to do so.



*Kathrynann Sarvinas with assistants and participants.*

PeeWees



.....  
*“Let’s hold  
onto them and  
this spirit.”*  
.....



*Family and friends supporting the youngsters.*

# ARE YOU PREPARED? IMMEDIATE CARE OF YOUR DOGS IN CASE OF PERSONAL EMERGENCY

GAIL LABERGE, Atlanta Obedience Club, Inc.

## Emergency Prep

While most of us have given great thought to what happens to our dogs after we die, do we also have preparations in place for sudden illness, accident, or sudden death? Having the care of our dogs in our wills is important, but before that will is read and

probated, it is very important that the first people to enter your home have the necessary information, readily available, to immediately care for you dogs. This information needs to be posted in a prominent location, normally where your dogs are kenneled.

## SOME INFORMATION TO HAVE IMMEDIATELY AVAILABLE IN CASE OF EMERGENCY

1. A list of at least three people who are authorized to take your dogs with them if necessary. You can have more if you prefer. This should include all phone numbers, addresses, and e-mail addresses of the individuals. The individuals should be listed in the order in which you prefer the dogs released.
2. The crate for each dog should have that dog's name on it.
3. A list containing the following information for each dog:
  - A brief description of each dog's physical appearance and a photo if possible
  - The dog's call name, and registered name.
  - The dog's age and weight.
  - The type and location of food the dog is on, how much they are given, and the daily feeding schedule. If any supplements are given, be it something as simple as yogurt, they also need to be listed.
  - If the dog is on any type of medication, that medication should be listed, along with its locations and the medication protocol. This includes Heartworm Preventive and any flea/tick treatments.
  - A description of each dog's temperament and any special considerations.
  - If you have multiple dogs a compatibility list should be provided.
  - A description of each dog's daily exercise routine.
  - A list of any special considerations necessary for the care of dogs, such as deafness, impaired vision, and other physical ailments.

None of us want to think of someone having to suddenly come in to take care of our dogs, but the above basic information will ensure that should the need arise, your dog's basic needs and routine can be provided for without traumatic interruption.

## QUICK QUESTION 4 DELEGATES

## Opinion

We asked Delegates the following question:

*AKC has made many significant changes in the last few years. What do you feel is the most important or most valuable change?*

### Monica Henderson Stoner, Saluki Club of America

For me it would be recognizing the beginners to activities, and the ones who are there for FUN with their dogs more than a constant NEED for titles. ACT, Obedience without group exercises, CAT, and the Pee Wee activities.

### Carl Ashby, United States Kerry Blue Terrier Club

In terms of a single change it has been the appointment of a Chief Growth Officer (Alexandra Aleskovsky) and, in turn, bringing in a team of folks who understand customers, how to determine their needs, and to create products and services that will provide the resources necessary to

better serve the fancy and dog owners across the country. This is impacting all parts of AKC in a very positive way from events to registration growth to our digital presence (see the June Chairman's Report) with all dog owners and lovers and we are just getting started.

### Sharon Hutchens, Shenandoah Valley Kennel Club

AKC has gotten a lot of things right in the past few years. By far the most critical are the acceptance that the animal rights threat is real and serious; the public statements implicating HSUS, not just PETA, as a major player; and the validation given the extremely talented government relations department. I know I am supposed to choose only one, but I have to add the serious work on public relations and promotion of purebred (and all!) dogs as companions. We have gone from invisible to being a "player" in the past few years.

# ACT – AN INTRODUCTION TO AKC AGILITY

CARRIE DEYOUNG, Director of Agility

Agility

The Agility Course Test (ACT) is an entry level agility event designed to welcome beginning dogs and their handlers to AKC agility. There are two levels – ACT1 and ACT2. ACT is designed to be utilized by clubs and trainers as the graduation exercise for their training classes and may be held at regular AKC agility trials or as a stand-alone event at training facilities. ACT classes are open to all dogs fifteen months of age or older. The classes provide shorter courses with basic obstacles that are appropriate for dogs beginning in the sport.

ACT was officially launched in mid-May. Because the course design was tested and fine-tuned prior to launch, several clubs/training facilities knew ACT was coming and prepared accordingly. The following are reports from a couple of these early adopters.

## Idaho Capital City Kennel Club

The Idaho Capital City KC holds a variety of introductory classes for different dog events each spring. Seven week classes include conformation handling, obedience, rally and agility. Jan Skurzynski (an AKC agility judge) has been teaching the agility class for the past five years. Generally the class has between four to nine students.

With the advent of the ACT program, Jan decided to structure the class around the skills needed for ACT1 and offer the test on the last night of the class. Instead of the typical class size, the class filled all fifteen slots for the first time. The availability of an AKC title that could be achieved at the end of the class was apparently a big motivator.

Knowing what was required for an ACT1 test

allowed Jan to narrow the focus of the class and create an achievable and fun program that built quickly from week to week. An unexpected benefit resulted! Due to the enthusiasm to reach and pass the graduation test, for the first time ever, the class had a 100% retention rate from the start to the finish.

On the last night of the class they ran two rounds of ACT1 on two different courses. Four dogs achieved their ACT1 titles. The others had very good runs and are anxious to have another try at the ACT1 test the next time

it is scheduled in the area. Jan concluded by saying “ACT was a very positive experience for our students and instructors as well!!”

The club plans to continue to use ACT as a graduation exercise for new and continuing agility students.

## Dog Obedience Training Club of Rochester New York

Club member Dee Crofton (an AKC agility judge) held the club’s first ACT event in May. The event was open to all dogs in the area that had trained in agility, but had not earned a novice agility title. Two ACT1 and two ACT2 classes were offered. The event had one hundred and six runs with 75% of the dogs having never entered an agility event before!! Thirty dogs received their ACT1 or ACT2 titles.

The event was well received by participants. “Best idea and confidence builder the AKC

ever came up with,” said Christi Goodrich on Facebook after participating. Christi is a club member and has competed in obedience for thirty-five years, but had never tried competing in agility.

The club plans to hold an ACT event about three times per year to help those in the area learn more



ACT Class Exhibitor

*Best idea and confidence builder the AKC ever came up with*



ACT Class in NY

about AKC events. They hope ACT will encourage more students to enter their classes and volunteer at the club's AKC agility trials.

"Holding ACT classes at a training facility provides exhibitors a familiar and comfortable setting for their first AKC event," said Carrie DeYoung, Director of Agility. "In addition to training for ACT, exhibitors will learn to fill out an entry form, prepare themselves and their dogs for competition, become familiar with event protocol, and handle their dog while under judgment. The ACT program encourages new participants to register their dogs and give AKC agility a try. At each event we have found first time AKC

competitors stepping to the line and that is exciting for everyone."

"ACT classes provide a bridge for new exhibitors to easily become involved with AKC agility," said Doug Ljungren, Vice President for Sport and Events. "The foundation skills learned prepare a dog/owner for future success in agility and many other sports. We are excited about working together with the AKC training clubs and training facilities to introduce future generations of dogs and owners to the wonderful world of AKC sports."

More information on ACT can be found at [www.akc.org/act](http://www.akc.org/act). Questions can be directed to [act@akc.org](mailto:act@akc.org)

## MAINTAINING AND IMPROVING BREEDS

JEROLD S. BELL DVM, Cummings School of Veterinary Medicine, Tufts University

In order to understand how to maintain breeds, we have to understand the genetic forces that shape them. Natural species evolve through natural selection. Any genetic changes within a population that improve the chance of survival and ability to reproduce in the populated environment will be at an advantage and thrive. This results in a loss of genetic diversity through the disadvantaged. This loss is not detrimental to the population as it is directly related to increasing its superiority.

Dog breeds develop through artificial selection for desired phenotypes – what you can see in the

dogs. These can include conformation, behavior, working ability and health. Most breeds originally started from either a small population of related founders, or as a population of unrelated dogs that conformed to a working or conformational phenotype. Some breed lines will be discarded over time due to genetic defects, or an inability to adhere to a standard. Regardless of the breed origin, generations of reproduction within a small population produce homozygosity (the fixation of gene pairs) through close breeding. This is what causes breeds to reproduce themselves with each generation.

Genetic studies of dog breeds show that they lose on average 35% of their genetic diversity through breed formation. Genetic studies also document the increased homozygosity found in dog breeds. **Low effective population size (low number of founders) and high deep-pedigree inbreeding coefficients (homozygosity) are a natural and expected consequence of breed development.**

Breeds differ from natural populations in that only a small percentage of dogs reproduce to create the next generation. In a population sense, this represents a genetic bottleneck with each generation. Individuals chosen for breeding should represent the quality traits of the breed. Quality traits should not be lost through the absence of selection or the abandonment of quality lines.

Population expansion is an important aspect of breed maintenance. If the offspring of small population breeds are generally healthy their population can grow and expand. They are at stages of breed development where more populous breeds were earlier in their development. Breeders of small population breeds need to mentor their puppy buyers to expand their breeder base as well as the number of dogs.

Population expansion allows the creation of new “family lines.” A larger population allows average relatedness of breeding pairs (based on recent generations) to be less than the prior generation. Population contraction is detrimental to breed maintenance due to the loss of quality breeding lines and genetic diversity. **Healthy breed gene pools require expanding, or large, stable populations.**

There are times when a lot of breeding is going on and registrations are increasing, and times (such as the recent past) when less breeding is going on. However, it is the offspring that reproduce (regardless if from prolific or limited-breeding parents) that contribute their genes to the next generation. Breeding quality dogs from different “lines” and areas of the gene pool prevents the loss of genetic diversity.

The popular sire syndrome is the single most influential factor in restricting breed gene pool diversity. When a breed is concentrating on a specific

sire or multi-generational sire line, other quality male lines are abandoned. This causes a loss of genetic diversity to the breed gene pool in exchange for a rapidly increasing influence of the popular sire. Now is an important time to use frozen semen of quality dogs from the past to expand gene pools. Stored DNA (such as from the OFA CHIC repository) or semen can be used for breed-specific genetic testing that might not have been previously available.

All individuals carry some deleterious genes, which can increase in frequency with natural as well as artificial selection. More “lines” of naturally occurring species have died off due to genetic disorders or diminished fitness than those that have survived. As individuals propagate, deleterious mutations can become

breed-related disease if they are disseminated and increase in frequency.

Studies show that some breeds have more issues of specific genetic diseases with linebreeding and others do not. This depends on the genetic load of deleterious recessive genes in the gene pool. **The genetic health of dog breeds is not a direct function of homozygosity, genetic diversity, or population size; but of the accumulation and propagation of specific disease liability genes.**

Artificial selection to maintain breeds requires active selection against deleterious genes. This is easier with dominant or additive genes, as the genotype is observed in the dog’s phenotype. For recessive deleterious genes, selection involves the development and use of genetic tests that reveal the carrier state, or the identification of lines with carrier risk.

Some hereditary disorders and disease-predisposing phenotypes have been actively selected for by breeders. The most evident and widespread is the brachycephalic obstructive airway disorder, seen in extremely short-muzzled breeds. Other extreme phenotypes include excessive skin, excessive skin folds, excessive hind limb angulation, excessive size, excessive coat, dome-shaped skulls, and eyelid abnormalities. **It is important that breed standards and selection practices specifically avoid selection for extreme phenotypes that cause**

*The popular sire syndrome is the single most influential factor in restricting breed gene pool diversity*

**disease liability. For the show ring, judges' education should be directed towards rewarding moderation of disease-related extreme phenotypes.**

Regular breed health surveys should be conducted by breed clubs to monitor for the presence and changing prevalence of genetic disorders. The OFA offers on-line health surveys for breeds.

**Breed genetic health should be judged on breed health surveys that document the occurrence of genetic disease.**

Parent breed clubs should determine realistic pre-breeding genetic screening requirements based on the prevalence and severity of testable disorders in the breed. **Health testing requirements should be listed in the OFA CHIC and AKC Bred with H.E.A.R.T. program websites.**

Without direct selection against genetic disorders, the genetic health of breeds will decline. Breeders who refuse to do pre-breeding health screening should be directed to find a different hobby or profession that they can actually be good at. It is not ethical to breed dogs without selection for genetic health. **Selection of healthy breeding stock is the most important aspect of maintaining breeds.**

Each breeder must prioritize their selection for positive traits and against disease traits with each mating. Some breeders feel that genetic screening will reduce the genetic diversity of breeds. **The proper use of genetic screening actually increases breeding choices by allowing quality dogs at higher-risk of carrying disease liability genes to be bred:**

- Quality carriers of testable disease-causing recessive genes should be bred to normal testing mates and replaced for breeding with quality, normal testing offspring.
- Quality dogs with a less desirable phenotype (such as fair or even mild hip dysplasia in breeds with high frequencies of dysplasia) should be bred to dogs with desirable phenotypes (good or excellent hips) and replaced for breeding with offspring whose phenotype is better than the parent.
- Quality non-affected dogs from lines expressing disorders that do not have genetic tests (such as epilepsy) should be bred to mates from families or litters not expressing the disorder and replaced

for breeding with a quality, healthy offspring.

In small population breeds with high frequencies of genetic disorders, breeders are often "frozen" from breeding for fear of producing disease. This causes continued breed decline due to population contraction. Breed improvement requires selection of the best breeding choices in matings that can reduce the frequency of genetic disease. As the population and breeding choices expand, the ability to reduce the frequency of disease expands with it.

**Breed improvement involves; 1) selection of breeding dogs, 2) appropriate pairing of mates, 3) breeding, and 4) replacement of less desirable breeding dogs with more desirable offspring.**

An unfortunate development in dog breeding is recommendations designed for the preservation of rare and endangered species. These involve outbreeding (reducing homozygosity and average inbreeding coefficients) and increasing minor gene or chromosome segment frequencies. Dog breeding requires diverse lines, and not a homogenized and randomized outbred population. Outbreeding will not reduce the frequency of breed-related genetic disease, as the causative genes are already dispersed in the breed gene pool. Genetic selection for quality and against undesirable traits is what causes homozygosity and reduces the frequency of minor genes and chromosomal segments. Blindly selecting for them without knowing their effect could significantly reverse selection-based breed improvement. **Homozygosity is synonymous with pure breeds. It is not inherently correlated to impaired genetic health, and does not have to be artificially controlled.**

**Expanding populations with different breeders undertaking different types of matings and selecting on different lines, while monitoring and selecting against genetic disease provides for a healthy, diverse breed gene pool.**

Official genetic screening results should be made available to prospective breeders, and to the pet and breeding-stock purchasing public. This is facilitated through open genetic health databases like the OFA. It doesn't matter whether a breeder is a large commercial breeder, or only breeds once. It is no

BELL, cont'd

longer acceptable to say that genetic disease “just happens.” In today’s environment, not testing for documented breed-related hereditary diseases is irresponsible and unethical breeding. **Breed-specific pre-breeding health screening should become**

**as universal as equine pre-purchase examinations.**

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### BREED MAINTENANCE AND IMPROVEMENT REQUIRES:

- A large or expanding breed population
- Avoidance of the popular sire syndrome
- Avoidance of extreme phenotypes that can produce disease liability
- Monitoring of health issues in the breed
- Constant selection for quality and health

## GETTING TO KNOW YOU...BRYNN WHITE

ARCHIVIST, American Kennel Club Library & Archives

DON JAMES, Delegate, Leonberger Club of America



Brynn White and family Airedale

In the last edition of *Perspectives*, we continued a new series of “Meet the AKC Staff” articles, a chance for fellow Delegates to get to know some of the important “behind the scenes” employees of the American Kennel Club.

This month, I’m privileged to introduce you to Brynn White, AKC’s Librarian & Archivist. I think you’ll find that both on a personal and professional level, this is one very interesting woman.

Brynn is a proud native of Louisville, Kentucky. She moved to New York after receiving a BA in Film Studies from the University of Georgia. She published a variety of articles (Film Comment, Moving Image Source) on American film history, with a particular penchant for Hollywood genre and “PreCode” movies from the early 1930s, while working in the repertory programming office of the nonprofit Moviehouse Film Forum and the film department of the Museum of Modern Art.

In order to broaden her cultural and professional horizons, she completed a Master’s Degree in Library & Information Science, with certification in Archiving and the Preservation of Cultural Heritage Materials, at Queens College, City University of New York.

Before joining the American Kennel Club in February 2016, she worked with collections at the New York Society Library, New York Public Library, Louis Armstrong House Museum, and the New York Historical Society. She also managed the papers of film critics Andrew Sarris and Molly Haskell and conducted research for James Beard award-winning Southern cookbook authors The Lee Brothers. In 2015, she was the recipient of the Institute of Museum and Library Services Rare Books School Fellowship for Early Career Librarians.

On a personal level, Brynn has told me she has many and varied interests outside of her position with AKC. I decided to ask her some questions about this virtual cornucopia of activities she enjoys.

*Perspectives: Brynn, you’ve told me about some of your interests outside the job. What’s this I hear about vintage clothing and something you called*

*cocktail connoisseurship?*

I started wearing vintage and thrift store clothes like most cash-strapped college kids with a penchant for sartorial experiment, but soon developed a more serious, almost scholarly interest in the fashion of the 1920s-1940s, which are also the eras of social history, film, literature, and to a certain extent music, that I most cherish. Over the past decade I have assembled a truly incredible collection of dresses, jewelry, sweaters and more that I pair with modern elements so as not to look like a complete anachronism. This used to be done fairly cheaply through eBay and Etsy, though the well is starting to run dry, and when my waistline was more forgiving.

Some of my favorite pieces include embroidered and beaded 1920s blouses, a large costume ring that allegedly belonged to Carole Lombard, beach pajamas my friend found at an estate sale in Seattle (but lucky for me was pregnant at the time and couldn't wear them), and an extensive collection of 1930s knit dresses, including two skirt sets with dual sweaters – one for professional work by day and one for afterhours festivities. I'm always more drawn to daywear and what regular people were wearing. The 1930s and 1940s in particular have fascinating fashion elements because between the Great Depression and World War II women had to accomplish a lot with a little, to still be practical and cost efficient while also accommodating a desire to embellish and bring a little energy and ornament to tough times. I also really love 1920s sportswear, which creates marvelous silhouettes unseen before or barely since in fashion and gets overshadowed by the silly fringed "flapper" costumes people wear to Great Gatsby parties.

My summer inspiration is Renee Perle, a mysterious Romanian Jewish model who served as Mediterranean muse for famed French photogra-

pher Jacques-Henri Lartigue in the early 1930s. Like her, I wear a lot of high waisted and wide leg pants, deco celluloid jewelry, and espadrilles.

I probably look more like I'm going to spend the day on the French Riviera than commuting into the city for work. It makes getting up and going a little more fun. On that note, navigation of New York is hard enough, and I profess I've grown fond of actually having pockets and have generally gotten a little lazier with dressing up and am more into evoking or pairing different elements with new clothes. Not to mention, I am responsible for rare and vulnerable archival materials, my focus must be on protecting them not worrying about my own 80 year old dress ripping or staining!

Probably the best byproduct of my vintage clothes love is that my mother got the bug and fell in with a fantastic community of women back home in Louisville who refer to themselves as "The Baubles." The range in ages from 25 to

75 and like to go to events in their finery gloves, furs, and hats and the whole shebang, but also just festively gather after hours in each other's stores (my mother now works in one) for cocktails, hors d'oeuvres, and fun banter. I am an Honorary Bauble, and through them I've procured some of my best pieces. I'd love to host them at the AKC sometime, they would love it.

**Background in film:**

I followed my dreams and got a degree in Film Studies, and moved to New York, seemingly the only place I could apply that education to a non-academic career. Somehow, I managed to survive and get paid, however marginally, on these adolescent fantasies based off an initial internship in the Film Archiving division at the Museum of Modern Art. It was a wonderful time, working in the repertory programming offices at Film Forum in the West Village. I was able to meet many re-



*On the job reviewing 20th century scrapbook.*

markable screen legends, most sadly passed, that we hosted for special events such as Patricia Neal (my favorite memory being informing her that I was also from Kentucky, and her tossing back in her specific Southern drawl, "Honey, the place I'm from in Kentucky doesn't exist anymore!"), Eli Wallach, Sidney Lumet, and Farley Granger (who was a big dog person). I was able to go to movies for free, often double features, three or four nights a week. Suffice to say I ate a lot of popcorn for dinner. New York is incredible in offering so many options to see these movies, if you're lucky in real 35mm prints, on the big screen. You can even see silent films with live piano accompaniment almost every week. I developed a real love for obscure Hollywood genre movies, where all kinds of weird, subversive, and creative stuff slip through the cracks of something that was supposed to be a cheap programmer with mass appeal. I also did a lot of writing at the time and have published on some of these movies, my first magazine article was, somewhat humorously, a profile of the actor Lee Marvin (<http://www.filmcomment.com/article/balladofasoldierleemarin/>).

My writing started getting waylaid a lot because I was more into the research process and learning everything I could about the subject and their time period, and I enjoyed taking care of my boss's collection of film stills and ephemera, some of which he'd rescued out of trash cans, which was an early revelation on the importance of preservation work. I accepted that I really needed to learn a trade, which brought me into the library world as I realized it would merge a lot of these interests. I have finally been writing a little more again and recently contributed to an upcoming

book on women in Howard Hawks movies. But I should probably be devoting these energies to exploring the AKC collections. The good thing about movie love, is its easy to upkeep even if it isn't your profession.

I have no regrets, particularly because while in school I got to do a study abroad program at the Cannes Film Festival. They monitor tickets being used, and will dock a company the next year if they don't redeem all of them, so if you have even a lower tier festival pass stand outside the Palais, the main theatre, with a sign, and are dressed appropriately enough (women must wear heels!), someone will give you a ticket to the red carpet screenings. We'd see thirty-four movies a day, and then sit out on the beach every night with wine and cheese or go to the Italian coast on the week-

ends to redeem the perversity of being in one of the most beautiful places on earth and sitting in a dark theatre all day. I also got to be close to or even meet some of my idols and made lifelong friends. We got to spend two weeks subsequent in a nearby town, feasting on croissants and moules et frites, just to talk about the experience. I still can't believe I got away with it, for school credit much less! My life will never be that glamorous again, but it did valuably instill me with the gump-tion to try to make it in New York City.

*Perspectives: So, I understand you're a college basketball fanatic. Does the fact that you're from Louisville have anything to do with that? If not, who's your team?*

BW: It has to do with the fact that I'm from Kentucky. While its virtually unknown in these parts, the University of Kentucky vs. University of



Left to right: Kate Flannery ("The Office"), Brynn, and Jane Lynch ("Glee" and "Best in Show")

Louisville rivalry is rooted in an intensity of epic proportions, exacerbated by the fact the former UK coach of my youth (Rick Pitino) now spearheads Louisville, which basically equivocates him to Judas. I still remember the dividing lines of the kids in my 6th grade homeroom class, the battles were so intense. My grandmother used to listen to games on the radio sitting on her grandfather's lap, and my parents, who grew up outside of the city, were raised on it, so an alliance shift was never going to happen even when they set up a life in the city. One of my earliest visceral memories is my father crying over the notorious Christian Laettner buzzerbeater in the KentuckyDuke game, and within a few years I too was leaving the room to cry in the hallway during tense games. We never went to viewing parties because we become so unhinged during games we are not suited for public consumption; our poor dog would get so upset when we were leaping up from the couch hooting and hollering that he'd bite the back of our knees. Their new dog wisely just goes to sleep and skips the shenanigans altogether.

My family is dispersed across the country. My sister, who is the only one who actually went to UK, is in Vancouver! Basketball season has proven a wonderful vessel through which we can all unite and stay in touch, texting wildly during games and sharing news and impatience over the wait until the next one. For the first time last year, my boyfriend Andy (a New Jersey boy, who has been slowly indoctrinated over the course of nine years) and I went to Nashville to meet my parents for the Southeastern Conference tournament. There they call it the "Blue Mist," because so many Kentucky fans descend upon the city whether they actually have tickets or not, as every bar and honky tonk on Lower Broadway leading up to the arena is broadcasting the game. It was such a good time it looks like it's going to become an annual tradition.

Nashville is one of my favorite cities, I am also a huge classic country music fan and a lot of the new restaurants are merging Italian and Southern cuisine, which is truly the best of culinary worlds, not to mention there are great old school meat and three kind of places. My best friend since the age of 6 also recently moved there from New

York. But she is a Louisville fan, so when we meet up with her family we speak nothing of what else we have been up to.

It also doesn't hurt that Kentucky is the "winningest" team in college basketball history, so the obsession comes with a lot of triumph, however unearned personally. And then after the NCAA tournament ends, the Triple Crown is just around the corner. The Kentucky holy trinity is bourbon, horseracing, and college basketball, and I have dealt with my homesickness by indulging in all these traditions and promoting them to the Yankees. I was even once featured in the New York Post as a Kentucky Derby party hostess (<http://nypost.com/2014/05/02/kentucky-derby-means-its-time-for-a-bourbon-revival/>) I am very passionate about correcting misconceptions, or of the times' simple ambivalence, about the South and just in general immersing in lots of different cultures. Whenever I actually get to travel, I spend weeks trying to keep my reading, viewing, and listening all in theme with the place I'm about to explore. Obviously I live in New York, and I love Los Angeles, but I'm just as excited to go anywhere in between.

*Perspectives: You live in Brooklyn. I understand your apartment there might be unlike anything else in the borough. What's the story on that?*

I live in a really incredible neighborhood in Brooklyn called Clinton Hill, where there are not only brownstones but carriage houses, wood-paneled homes, and mid18th century industrialist mansions that feel like an Edith Wharton novel. I used to live in an allegedly haunted former turn-of-the-century hotel. Our 1905 walk-up is fairly nondescript from the outside but our rental unit at the top was secretly gut renovated over the course of seventeen years by an eccentric artist biologist. He removed all of the walls, exposed beams and brick walls, built in floor to ceiling shelving (thank heavens, because we have a lot of books and records) and a lofted alcove into the bedroom, under which my 'clothing museum' is stored. He added all these strange details – decoupage texts such as Moby Dick and Thomas Hobbes onto the kitchen table, the loft staircase, and even the edge of the bath tub. Andy's office

has beer bottles mosaicked into the wall, and columns lining the doorway. We've been here for five years and still sit there and marvel at it. It looks like a movie set. We have tried to locate the former tenant and let him know that his masterwork in good hands but we haven't had any luck.

### History with dogs:

I grew up with a beloved Welsh Terrier named Kramer (and my grandparents had an Airedale and an Australian Terrier) so we would go to local dog shows just to glimpse some other examples of the fairly rare breed in person, and of course watched Westminster every year. I almost enjoyed wandering the booths as much as watching the judging in the rings, as it really offered a glimpse into this whole culture developed around the sport.

My parents have a new Welsh now, which I actually named Pimm while gazing at my liquor shelf, and I pretend that he is mine since my New York existence cannot accommodate such luxuries (though I will one day have a Welsh, and he has already been named – after James Cagney). They even inspired their next door neighbor to get a Wire Fox and now whenever I go home I am in Terrier heaven. I think you could definitely identify me as what they call a “Terrier ist.” But of course in my job I remain entirely objective!

### Ending up at AKC:

When the job posting with the American Kennel Club entered my radar I just had a feeling. I was at least hoping to get called in for an interview, so I could see the remarkable sounding Library, which exceeded my expectations in its charm, intrigue, long history, and comprehensiveness. I also had an interest in being a “Lone Arranger,” which is the cute term they've adopted in the archives world for professionals that have to shoulder collection management on their own. As challenging and lonely as it can sometimes be, I love how every day is different as I tackle various elements of my myriad responsibilities. It also brings me in touch with a wider community in my field, in which I am constantly sharing and soliciting advice. One of the great things about being based in New York is that there are so many cul-

tural institutions, and subsequently many professionals with whom to engage in discourse. I recently joined an informal group of Club Librarians, since it is a very specific organizational context, and am thrilled by the recent invitations to visit some of their exclusive turfs such as the Explorers Club and the New York Yacht Club.

I have always enjoyed subcultures, as they are populated with very passionate and knowledgeable people, so I was very interested in working with a specialized collection and researcher base. I feel like my work with the archives at the Louis Armstrong House Museum prepared me somewhat for the AKC, as jazz connoisseurs are a somewhat similarly invested community. We regularly hosted people from around the world moved to tears (I still pinch myself that at one time I got paid to clean Louis Armstrong's trumpets). My boss, who is the leading scholar of Armstrong, and I curated an exhibit in his hometown New Orleans, and I had the extreme privilege of speaking about it at their annual Satchmo Summerfest celebration last summer. I was shaking in my boots. I feared that if I didn't get all the facts straight they might riot. But it ended up being one of the best experiences of my life, with a diverse audience of nodding experts, casual fans, new initiates, and converts who were originally just trying to bask in the air conditioning. He was a remarkable man who left quite the collection of handmade collages and audio recordings that offer a unique glimpse into his inner life. Getting to revivify the past for people, keeping it alive and enriching, with the help of unique primary resources, is one of the best parts of my profession. It also didn't hurt that I got to triumphantly return outside to great music, even better food, and a jazz mass and second line parade.

Managing the life of one remarkable man was hard enough, but now I am responsible for an 18,000 volume library and hundreds of linear feet of archives of individuals, of clubs, and of the AKC's own organizational history. I am trying to learn as much as I can about this world and about my collections as I deal with the problems shared by all archives today – backlogs of unprocessed material and limited storage space – as our collec-

tions grow, our staffs and resources shrink. I want to stress that this is an iterative and collaborative process. The Archivist used to double as the AKC Historian, but considering the size and complexity of the collection that's just not entirely possible, management has to take precedence. Obviously, the more I develop my subject expertise (which is inevitable as I go along), the better I will be at my job, but I learn so much from my researchers. I depend on them and the clubs to help determine what the prevailing information needs and priorities are within the rich history and resources of this sport. No one knows the breed and the history, functions, and values of the club better than you. As the Archivist I am here to help guide you in determining preservation priorities what materials will be most valuable decades down the line?

### Tips for Clubs:

We must all think about future use. We can't just save everything, and we also need to save it the right way. Large collections of show ribbons are probably not worth our limited space and labor. Select ribbons for prominent dogs or breeders may have artifactual or aesthetic value, so they are not totally off the table, but they must be curated. Photographs without labels are virtually useless if we can't identify the subject or date, or the photographer who holds the rights so that we could republish it. Sometimes it is about context, making sure to maintain documents among others that help complete the narrative. With archival records, unlike books, we don't catalog individual items most of the time, not only because we never could, but because their value is collective. But what is the best way to do this? How will a bunch of handwritten pedigrees serve a future research function – if they are arranged alphabetically by kennel or dog name? Chronologically? These are the things I have to think about as an archivist, and what I need donors to also consider.

Ideally, I would like to experiment with a pilot program in which I guide Club representatives in the preliminary curation, arrangement, and rehousing of their archives before they donate them to the AKC for final professional oversight, entry into our databases, and longterm storage. Not

only does it help with my backlog, but it assures the most knowledgeable party, the creators of the records, are conducting the first initial review and are thinking critically about what they are depositing. But do rest assured, I am establishing workflows so that when we do get new material it is adequately rehoused in archival boxes, and given at least a cursory inventory so we know what we have, and that it is accessible and safe even if it hasn't received formal, holistic treatment yet. Even better, of course, is when the club provides a detailed inventory themselves and we require at least a cursory one in order to create a Deed of Gift so we know what we are legally accepting for deposit. Those are the early steps in accepting a club's records into the Archives.

### Advocating for the Library & Archives:

One of the biggest misconceptions my field has to combat is that everything is on the internet, when in reality the same, sometimes false, information gets regurgitated over and over, while other stories and subjects that aren't accessible through a Google search get ignored. It should also be reiterated that just because something is on the internet today, doesn't mean it will be there tomorrow. Websites get redesigned and pages disappear; mastheads change and suddenly no one has a record of who sat on the board of directors just five years before.

Preservation has to be proactive, and nothing can be taken for granted. Here at the AKC we are doing as much as we can, but it is important to remember there are hundreds of clubs and it can't be assumed that materials are being maintained. It is a responsibility that we must all shoulder.

These are some of many compelling arguments that libraries are not quaint spaces losing relevance, and that the AKC's one of a kind collection is more vital than ever. However, people must know going in that research is hard work, particularly on this subject. The Library used to be staffed by five librarians who knew the collection like the back of their hands, so sometimes I don't have great or updated documentation on what we have and where it is, and thus a fair amount of detective work may be involved. Most of these peri-

odicals are not in digital databases, while many of the books don't even have indexes. Piecing together the performance record of a dog prior to 1985, when the AKC commenced electronic record keeping, is not for the faint of heart. Meanwhile, most records have been maintained by dog name, but often now, decades later, people are interested in breeders and other individuals as the main access point. It breaks my heart when I have to turn down research inquiries that would be too taxing on my limited time, but I try to do as much as I can to get them started and provide what I can. One of my long-term initiatives is to determine how the AKC Library & Archives can better take advantage of new twenty-first century digital tools so that important information becomes easier to access, and to pursue funding options for making these projects a reality. The internet may be my occasional enemy, but it is also my greatest ally.

The best advice I have to delegates is to start writing things down! Assemble information, interview veterans of the breed and field, solicit captions for photos from people who were there, collect materials at events... I can't be on the ground at the frontlines collecting for the Archives. Some of the best resources we hold are monographs written by impassioned folks who could devote the time to research, or documented things while the memories were fresh and the witnesses were around. You can never assume things will be remembered, or that things can be easily pieced back together.

In the meantime, what is most important is that a lot of the information is here, in this facility, sometimes it just has to be excavated with a trip to New York and a little blood, sweat, and tears. Equally valuable is that it is all in one place, which is a compelling reason for donating to the Archives as we assemble the greatest paper (and increasingly, digital) trail of the sport of the pure breed dog. At first glance, a shelf of out of date training manuals seems like a candidate for deaccessioning. But again, it is about their collective informational value, not about how much a single one would sell (or likely, not sell) for on a used book website. It is the only place in the country,

or perhaps even the world, where someone could review all of these books together to trace the history of approaches to dog training. All of our books, by the way, can be searched through the Library's online catalog CAIUS: <http://a40015.eosintl.net/A40015/OPAC/Index.aspx>. The inventories for the archival and special collections are a little more scattered and incomplete, but I'm working hard to standardize them and get them all in one place so that it's more searchable for both myself and researchers.

That being said, I need researchers to reinforce this value so that we can continue to command resources and investment in the Library & Archives. Contrary to some recent reports, the Library is open to the public Monday through Friday, from 9 to 4:30. Appointments are in no way exclusive and are only required for consultation of archival and special collections materials.

This is an almost universal policy in repositories as these materials need to be located and pulled (sometimes from offsite storage) and require special handling and supervision. They are further recommended for nonarchival materials so that I, as the solo staff person, can be present (I take lunch breaks and vacations too!) and best prepared to assist visitors with their research interests. I am planning to conduct more outreach work, promoting the collections and sharing highlights with the broader audience achievable through the internet.

Suffice to say, these are a lot of goals and duties for one person, but I like to think, and hope you do as well, that the collection is in good hands!

That's our introduction of Brynn White, AKC's Archivist. I promised you an interesting story and I think you'll agree, we're lucky to have her. I think it's very important for many of our club Delegates to get to know Brynn. Many of our clubs are beginning to realize that the store of historic documents and artifacts maintained by club members must be protected in a safe and secure environment both now and in the future. It's good to know that AKC provides archival services and a talented archivist like Brynn to help our clubs preserve their valuable history.

# MATTERS MUCH, MATTERS LITTLE

BRUCE VORAN, Delegate, Myrtle Beach Kennel Club

Opinion

For a canine mortal sentient being, there is little caring for titles or diets, grooming, presentation or much else except that it is. Today and the now are all that exists. Phobias and habits indicate that there indeed was a yesterday. Tomorrow makes no sense.

To each individual human mortal sentient being, labor, hope, faith, pride, integrity, the sport of purebred dogs, the health and well-being of canine sentient beings matter much or little. Each human mortal sentient being for whom such matters matter much or little faces the vagaries of the stuff of life. The stuff of life's wisest prophecy is that life should be lived as if it were the last for someday that will be true and, as such, is neither silly nor foolish!

Pride, expectations, joy, hope, feelings of accomplishments, responsibilities come with each day for human mortal sentient beings as does sadness, weariness, loneliness, pain and loss. Full of possibilities and of wisest and silliest resolves from yesterdays, a day's decisions and directions aimed at tomorrow seem to matter much as if time flows endlessly away into an abundance of tomorrows. There are no tomorrows, only a repetition of today! The yesterday's wisest and silliest are daily exposed!

AKC, as a monolithic structure collectively made up of human sentient beings, is responsible for resolves that may or may not address AKC's Mission Statement which reads: "AKC is dedicated to upholding the integrity of its registry, promoting the sport of purebred dogs and breeding for type and structure." Some resolves made in the course of business at AKC may be wise and some silly. Some of these resolves here listed, I leave it for discussion and perhaps musing to decide which are wise and which are silly?

**ACT 1 and 2;  
Dollars for Scholars  
Digital Gazette and Perspectives  
IT innovations  
Judge Approval Process/variations over the years  
Disaster Trailers  
AKC Canine College  
AKC Classifieds  
Breeder of Merit Program  
Grooming day/care businesses  
Large scale breeding program inspections  
Grand Championship Titles  
Dollar Awards at AKC National Championship  
Others (the list is not comprehensive)**

The business model says that tomorrow matters and those acting within the model make resolves today for tomorrow. The phobias and habits of yesterday that affect the canine sentient beings today ring as a reminder that yesterday's resolves come to bear on today for the human sentient being as well in the monolithic structure they inhabit.

It is wise, rather than silly, for Delegates, Board Members and/or Staff to gather and consider what matters much and what matters little. The challenge is to remember the past, plan for the future, but live for today.

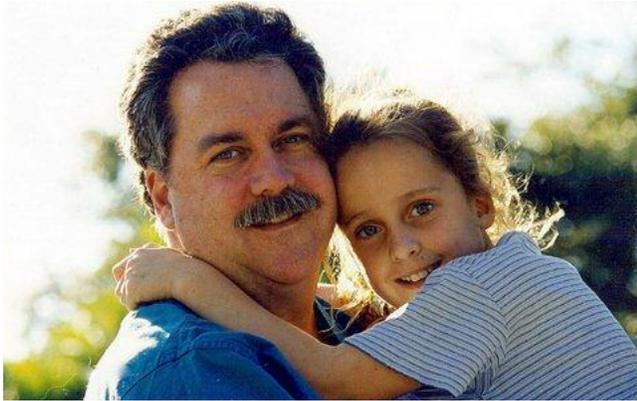
In the best possible world, careful planning, thinking, and vetting among those who have the advantage of years of experience seems a reasonable and wise approach. The Mission Statement resides in the past and lives in the present. The challenge is to make decisions today that are the wisest so that the Mission Statement remains viable in an endless succession of the present. The silliest of resolves made today may insure that it will not.

*Some resolves made in the course of business at AKC may be wise and some silly*

# GETTING TO KNOW YOU: MEET DR. ROBERT TANISH

SYLVIA THOMAS, Delegate, Kennel Club of Riverside

Delegates



Bob and daughter Kelsey

If I were to ask you if you know anyone who is the father of triplets and twins or the coordinator of an artificial insemination program for cattle or a helicopter pilot in the movie “Apocalypse Now” or someone who has donated over fifty puppies for assistance and companion dog programs, what would you say? After you read this interview about one of our newest delegates, you’ll be able to answer YES to all of the above. That’s right, the description fits Dr. Robert Tanish perfectly and that’s not all. Read on to find out more about this wonderful addition to the Delegate body!

## ***How did you become involved in dogs? How long ago was that?***

I received my first Border Collie in 1956 when I was two years old. My family originated in Scotland and my dad taught me at an early age there was no better breed of dog on earth. There was a cattle farm adjacent to my childhood home in Rhode Island where I learned the basics of herding (and life) from my tri-colored best friend “Lucky.”

## ***What breed(s) do you have and how did you choose your first breed?***

I currently have four adult Border Collies living at my home. Two of them belong to my daughters who are newly graduated physicians, just starting their internships. My kids bring their dogs back to me when their schedules get hectic. They incentivize this ruse by saying it is early training for grandparenthood and I willingly fall for it every time. Until last year we also had Golden Retrievers for over thirty-five years. As I mentioned earlier, my father

chose a Border Collie for me.

## ***Where does your dog interest lie and why? Are you involved in conformation, obedience, or other performance events?***

I try to breed dogs that can do all they are meant to do so my Border Collies train and compete in agility, conformation, obedience and herding. I have owned or bred approximately eighty Border Collies with agility, conformation, obedience and herding titles. This includes a Border Collie Society of America (BCSA) National Specialty Best of Breed winner and the first Westminster Kennel Club Best of Breed winner. I have also bred approximately fifty Golden retrievers with Conformation, Obedience, Hunting and Tracking titles. Over the past twenty years, my children and I donated over fifty puppies to assistance dog programs (Canine Companions for Independence, Seeing Eye, Guide Dogs for the Blind) and Search and Rescue organizations in four states.

## ***Do you actively exhibit and/or breed your dogs? Yes.***

## ***Do you judge? If so, what breeds or groups do you have?***

I was the first American breeder-judge approved for Border Collies and am also approved for Golden Retrievers and Junior Showmanship.

## ***What club do you represent?***

The Cedar Rapids Kennel Association.

## ***When did you become a delegate? What was your interest in becoming a delegate?***

I became a delegate in June, 2016. The reason for becoming a delegate was to have a voice in discussions regarding the rights of purebred dog ownership and legislation at local, state and national levels.

## ***Tell us a little about the club you represent? Large? Small? What’s on the minds of your members? How do club members feel or view the AKC?***

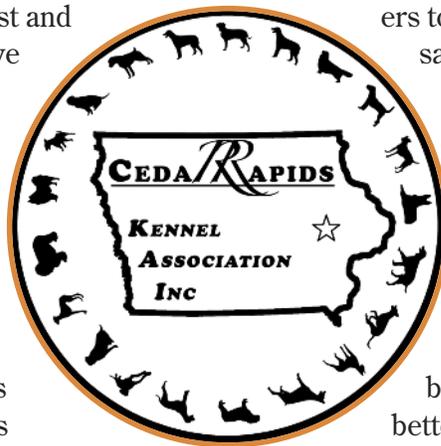
I believe the best answers for these questions would come from our club’s president, David Mc-

Donald. David is a registered lobbyist and a passionate, articulate representative for the rights of responsible canine enthusiasts. Here are the answers in David's words:

The Cedar Rapids Kennel Association (CRKA) is located in eastern central Iowa and is over 128 years old. We are a small, but active club that conducts fun matches, sponsors educational meetings, runs an annual CERF eye clinic, as well as supporting different charitable functions and organization which promote the canine community. Some of our education programs include a canine ambassador program for youth and our members' activity support the local 4H and FFA chapters. The organization holds a yearly four-day show which takes place at Iowa's beautiful Amana Colonies over Labor Day weekend. It includes conformation obedience, and rally trails. This cluster show is shared with the Tri-City Kennel Club.

Our members see a recurrent need by the canine community to improve education and communication with dog owners, breeders, and the community around us. This ensures the health of the sport. We are today's stewards of the breeds and industry until the next generation assumes that role. We strongly feel that all clubs and members should strive to educate and involve the youth so they will desire to be involved with purebred dogs who were bred for a purpose. That ensures the future of the dog fancying community and the breeds themselves.

Education is important in light of the continued nation-wide anti-breeder and owner legislative initiatives. An educated public and electorate will ensure that only responsible laws prevail. We understand that our voice is not relevant if it is not heard. The CRKA's dedicated members have worked tirelessly to share their story – all the ways responsible breeders and owners make a positive difference in the lives of dogs, dog owners, and in Iowa as a whole. This is important in Iowa where the animal rights organizations have focused great effort and money in recent years on dogs and livestock producers. The CRKA members have worked with oth-



ers to successfully take back the conversation from those that wish to restrict the rights to own, breed, and exhibit dogs.

The CRKA has been overwhelmingly pleased with the services, materials, and organizational support, the AKC provides. They have provide a successful platform over the years that allows our members and organization to succeed and better enjoy our pursuits. The AKC is “the go to” source of knowledge on just about anything dog related. One that we can trust. We are especially thankful for the support that the AKC Government Relation Team has provided to those in Iowa and other states. They work diligently to protect the rights of all dog owners, breeders, and fanciers.

***How has the sport changed since you got your first dog? What do you think is the most pressing issue facing our sport? Why?***

Having an AKC registered dog was once a source of pride among dog owners. The AKC brand was equated with health, quality and overall excellence. The preeminence of the AKC name and brand has diminished in recent years and just does not carry the same level of distinction once associated with having an AKC registered dog. In fact, some would say the opposite is true now. If you do not own a dog rescued from a shelter, that is not a mixed breed (or even purebred) you are made to feel guilty or villainous. The insufferable arrogance of people who say, “I only get dogs from a shelter” is the result of marketing ploys, the most effective being Sarah McLachlan’s “Eyes of an Angel” commercial for the SPCA. I believe the AKC must reclaim the greatness once associated with owning an AKC registered dog. That responsibility begins with dog breeders producing outstanding puppies that live long, healthy lives.

***Given the many fronts and issues AKC is facing (anti-dog legislation, declining registrations, reduced revenue, competition with other registries), do you have any ideas about what***

*it should do?*

I am still learning and will offer my opinion when I am educated and better informed on these issues. But I believe the AKC should always “take the high road” and lead by example.

*If it was possible to change something or start something new that would solve something having to do with AKC, dog shows or events or anything related to the sport of purebred dogs, what would it be?*

Get back to me in a year or two and then my opinions on making changes will be more relevant.

*When it comes to dogs, what one thing is still on your “bucket list?”*

Without being presumptuous or solicitous, and with the greatest humility, I would like to judge Border Collies and Golden Retrievers at the Westminster Kennel Club Show.

*What can you tell us about yourself that we wouldn't already know?*

- I am the father of twins and triplets.
- I am a Pediatric Anesthesiologist.
- Prior to attending medical school I coordinated a cattle artificial insemination program as a U.S. Peace Corps volunteer in the Philippines.
- I am one of the helicopter pilots in the movie “Apocalypse Now.”

*Anything else on your mind you want to share?*

Thank you for providing the opportunity to introduce myself to your readers.

I'd like to thank Bob for this terrific interview and for introducing himself. I can hardly wait to meet him personally. At our next and future meetings, please take a moment to find Bob, introduce yourself and welcome him. I know you'll agree with my impression, Cedar Rapids Kennel Club and the Delegate body are fortunate to have him among us. We will all benefit greatly from Bob's involvement and participation!

## SO GLAD WE HAD THIS TIME TOGETHER

*“The time has come,” the walrus said, “to talk of many things:  
Of shoes and ships — and sealing wax - of cabbages and kings”*

*— Lewis Carroll*

Change can come with sadness and regret, or can be glorious and challenging. Change is upon us within the *Perspectives* Editorial Committee as we say good bye to our long time members, contributors and special friends **Dr. Gerry Meisels** and **Crecia C. Closson**. Both have decided it is time to say adieu.

For many years our committee has had the good fortune and honor to experience their comments and unrestrained input in discussing important topics and procedures for producing our Delegate-run periodical.

Their contributions, dedication, and hard work over the years will linger in the meeting room for many years to come. We thank them both and extend our most sincere wish for happiness and success in their future endeavors. We are sad they are leaving, and regret the years flew by so fast. At the same time, we are happy for them as they take on glorious new challenges. Crecia and Gerry, we want you both to know that we thank you for a job well done. Good Luck!

*— Daniel J. Smyth, Esquire, Chair Perspectives Editorial Committee*

# PERSPECTIVES INDEX

MONICA HENDERSON-STONER, *Delegate, Saluki Club Of America*

As a resource and service to the Delegate Body, an index of past *Perspectives* articles has been prepared which includes all articles published for the years, 2006-2016. As a sample and preview of the index, years 2006 and 2007 are available here. In 2017, the 2006 issues will be removed from the Portal.

## Now is your last opportunity to download all or some of the articles. Easy for me to say, but how do I download?

First go to [AKC.org](http://www.akc.org). You'll need to sign in at some point, might as well do it now. Then go to Clubs/Delegates/Delegate Portal. Scroll down. To DELEGATE INFORMATION. The last link in that grouping is the newsletters. This link will take you to the login page. Once your email and password have been input, you'll be on the *Perspectives* page.

<http://www.akc.org/delegate/delegates-portal/perspectives/>

Once you are on the *Perspectives* page, choose an issue, click on that link. The newsletter will open on the web. You will need to 'right click' then indicate 'save as.' At this point you will choose somewhere on your own computer to save your *Perspectives* issues. Now you can read at your leisure. The complete index of *Perspectives* articles from 2006-2016 will be posted to the Delegates' Portal. This index will remind you of past articles you might want to reference, or possibly articles you have not seen before.

June 2006 Perspectives, Crecia Closson, Coordinator	
By Laws Committee	Judith Daniels
Strengthen the Delegates Body	Richard L. Byrd & Judith Daniels
Don't Want Me Any More	Sam F. Burke
Judge, or Judge Not	William Feeney
Judge's Policy?	Claire K. (Kitty) Steidel
The Plan	James Crowley
Perceptions, etc	Nina Schaefer
Introduction to Spaniel Field Trials	Alice Berd
Problems in Spaniel Field Trials	K.L. Koopman
Rally	Patricia Sample
The Bottom Line	James Corbett
Elixir or Elitist	Harvey A. Mueller
Only a Dog Club	Barbara Wicklund
Local Politics	Bob Nazak
Collegial Procedure	David H. Hopkins
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Successful Clubs	Barbara H. Furbush
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Breed Specific Research	Erika Werne
Honoring a Passion for Canine Health	Susan LaCroix
Personality in Dogs	Amanda C. Jones

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Group Realignment	Karen Burgess
<b>September 2006 Perspectives, Sylvia Arrowwood</b>	
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USDA Examining Standards for Microchipping	Jim Holt
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So You Want to Own Your Own Show Site	Mary Manning
Current Trends in Dog Show Statistics	Bobby Christiansen
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AKC Financial Performance, A Management Perspective	Carl C. Ashby
Dogs of Pompeii	Sylvia Arrowwood
War Dogs Honored in New Jersey	Helmi Konderock
Breed Promotion: Are Parent Clubs Promoting Their Breeds	Cindy Stansell
Gimme A Second and You Gotta Second	Sylvia Arrowwood
June, 2006 AD HOC Delegates' Legislative Committee	Nancy Fisk
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Getting to Know You - Pamela Rosman	Crécia Closson
Our Amazing Canines	Lynn Worth
Canine Health Discoveries	Erika Werne
Dog Legislation	Walter Bebout
Legislative Committee Meeting	Nancy Fisk
Recouping the Unrecoverable	Daniel J. Smyth, Esq.
Ethics: Big Implications	David Keene
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Is an Overhaul Overdue?	Dr. Carmen L. Battaglia
Judging in Australia	Patricia A. Gellerman
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<b>March 2007 Perspectives, Blackie Nygood, Coordinator</b>	
Candidate's Statement	Dr. Carmen Battaglia
Candidate's Statement	Dr. Patricia Haines
Candidate's Statement	Judith A. Hart
Candidate's Statement	Kenneth Marden
Candidate's Statement	Patti Strand
Candidate's Statement	Cindy Vogels
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Making Dog Shows Attractive	Robin L. Stansell
Basset Hound Field Trials	K. Reilly & K. Engle
FAST—Fifteen and Send Time	Maureen Setter
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Louisville Lowdown	Judy Melear
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The Goodwill of a Good Will	Daniel J. Smyth, Esq
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Veterinary Outreach	Eddie Dzuik
History of the Territorial Policy	Michael Liosis
Meet Me at the Emeet	Sylvia Arrowwood
Who Are These People?	Crecia Closson
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Lions and Tigers and Mutts	Dick Blair
Mixed Breeds: A Mixed Bag	Kenneth Marden
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Obedience Team Invitational	Patty Sample
Positive Effects of Tethering	Nancy Russell
All-American Dog Competition	Barbara Lopez
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AKC CHF to Present Conference	Erika Werne
TSA and Their Dogs	Lynn Worth-Smith
A Legislative Plan	Pat Reynolds
Baby Steps in Legislation	Ann Lettis
Owner vs Guardian	Steve Gladstone
Perception, Legislation and AKC	Dr. Patricia Haines
Language Makes A Difference!	Patte Klecan
The DPCA-ARC Challenge	Jan Cooper
The First Legislative Caucus	Judith Daniels
<hr/>	
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AKC Mixed Breeds Program	Joan Confort
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<b>December 2007, Carol Williamson, Coordinator</b>	
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What Will AKC Look Like in 2012?	James Stevens
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Persuasion vs. Protest	Sylvia Arrowwood
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Amateur Owner Handler Class?	Ann Lettis
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Encouraging Newcomers	Sherry E. Wallis
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# BOARD & DELEGATE MEETINGS 2016

All meetings, except December, are in the NYC/NJ area. The December meeting is in Orlando, FL.

JANUARY 2016						
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31						

## January

- 11 Board Meeting
- 12 Board Meeting

## July

- 11 Board Meeting
- 12 Board Meeting

JULY 2016						
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FEBRUARY 2016						
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## February

- 11 Board Meeting
- 12 Board Meeting

## August

- 8 Board Meeting
- 9 Board Meeting

AUGUST 2016						
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MARCH 2016						
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## March

- 7 Delegate Committee Meeting
- 8 Delegate Meeting

## September

- 11 Delegate Committee Meeting
- 12 Delegate Meeting

SEPTEMBER 2016						
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APRIL 2016						
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## April

- 11 Board Meeting
- 12 Board Meeting

## October

- 10 Board Meeting
- 11 Board Meeting

OCTOBER 2016						
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MAY 2016						
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## May

- 9 Board Meeting
- 10 Board Meeting

## November

- 7 Board Meeting
- 8 Board Meeting

NOVEMBER 2016						
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JUNE 2016						
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## June

- 12 Delegate Committee Meeting
- 13 Delegate Meeting

## December

- 15 Delegate Committee Meeting
- 16 Delegate Meeting

DECEMBER 2016						
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